



KNOW YOUR HOLY BIBLE



2021 YOUTH CALENDAR

† My beloved children st. Barhomios youth.

The theme of last year calendar was "the 12 small prophecies" in which we had some information about the 12 small prophecies in the Holy Bible, and the prophets who wrote them. In this year we will start a series of studies in the Holy Bible, as an introduction for all its books of the old & new testaments to know our bible, the Word of God for our Life & Salvation. Any person who wants to be in Heaven after this earthly life will find that the only way to achieve that is reading the Holy Bible daily and keeps in mind that the Bible is his life and his meditation. The Holy Bible is the roots of our faith and the centre of the church's life. For this important fact I will specify this year's calendar and some following years to have a general look to the books of the Bible starting from the 1st book in the old testament "the book of Genesis" going ahead to all the books till the last book in the new testament "Revelation" leaving the 12 small prophecies which we studied last year. In this study I will introduce the author of each book, the main characteristics of the book, the symbols in it for our Lord God & Saviour Jesus Christ and a spiritual benefit for each month.

I encourage you my beloved children to read the Holy Bible daily, Learn verses off by heart, apply them in your life as our Lord taught us:

"The Words I speak to you they are spirit and life" (John 6:63)

† Happy new year to you, 23 KAIK 1737 Martyr, Fr. John Sorial, Fr. Tadros
01 January 2021 AD, Fr. Bakhomios Erian El-Bakhouni

2021

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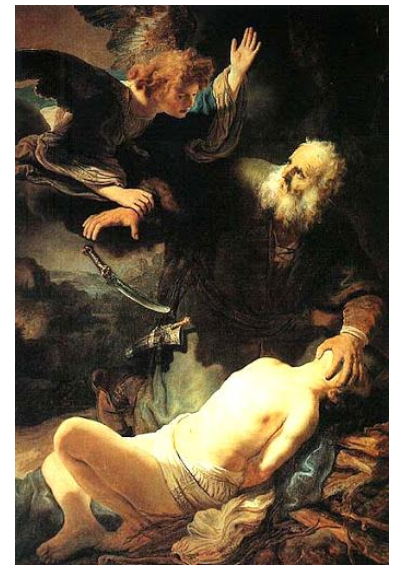
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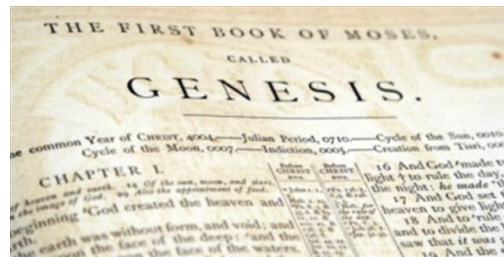
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JANUARY



THE BOOK OF GENESIS PART 1-DO GOOD TO YOURSELF

- ✚ The word 'Genesis' came from the first Coptic word in the Coptic origin of the Book: Coptic: Γενεσις = (Genesis) = Genesis (English) and it means, 'in the beginning'. From this came the English word (gene), which is the beginning of the baby in the womb of the mother. Moses the Arch prophet is the one who wrote it and took the information from the documents that Joseph left in the palace of Pharaoh. The Holy Spirit inspired him to know the details of the beginning of creation, which happened before his time.
- ✚ The Book of Genesis talks about the beginning of time and how the Lord God created everything in the world which we live in, it is a part of the whole universe created by God. It shows us how God in His love created and prepared everything for the comfort of the Human before creating him. Also, the book shows us how God existed life from nonexistence and created the living humans, animals, birds, fish and creatures, which we all see and enjoy.
- ✚ Before creating the world, the Lord created the Heavens and the heavenly powers, who are the angels, and this was in the first day of creation.
- ✚ In the fourth day of creation, God created the sun, the moon, and the stars and that was the beginning of counting the 24-hour day which we are living; accordingly, the first 3 days of creation were long spans of time, which is unknown to anyone of us and by understanding this, there is no contradiction between the holy Bible and science.
- ✚ In the book of Genesis, we clearly see God the lover of mankind, Who Loved man and prepared everything for his life and gave him the commandment. But the man broke the commandment of God, goes into disobedience and the result is that he suffers. **For example:** 1) God put Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden in full peace, they listened to the devil and fell in sin and the Lord kicked them out (read Genesis chapter 3) 2) God spoke to Cain warning him from the sin he was about to commit and gave him room to repent to be accepted, but Cain did not listen and killed his brother (read Genesis Chapter 4). God made His commandments very clear to all the people and there were very righteous people living among them like Enoch the righteous, but the majority of people committed sins, which made the Lord want destroy them all by the flood in the days of Noah (read chapters 6-8).

✚ The Benefit:

I hope that we can learn from this and listen to the voice of God and not the voice of the devil and avoid committing the sin, that we do not fall under punishment and perish in hell after this life. (Deuteronomy 30:15): "Behold I have made in front of you today life and goodness, death and evil; stretch your hand whatever you take of them will be yours".



FEBRUARY

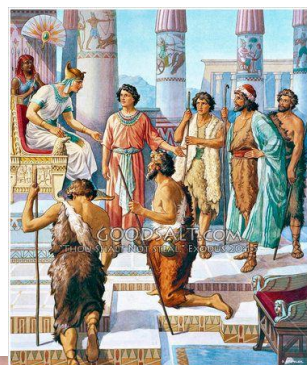


BOOK OF GENESIS PART 2 – BE STRONG AND DO NOT WEAKEN

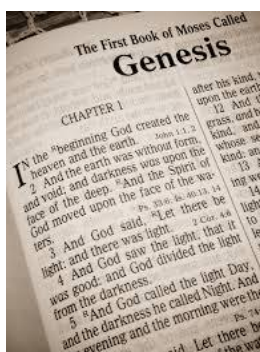
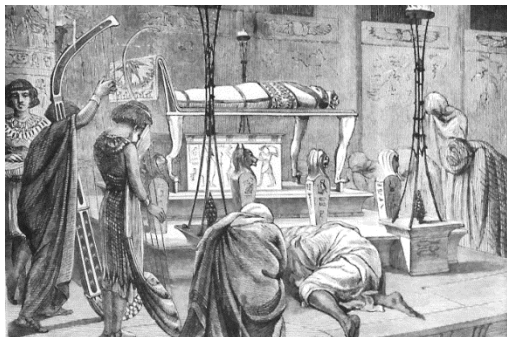
- ✚ He who studies the book of Genesis with understanding will find in it symbols, events and personalities all pointing to our Lord Jesus Christ and Him coming from Heaven on earth incarnating for our salvation. You also find the teachings of our Lord and the practises of the church in the new Testament. Also, the sacraments of the church are in the book of Genesis, hidden between the verses and events. I can say here that a deep study in the book of Genesis with understanding, you will find the whole New Testament in this book in a symbolic way, hidden between the verses, events and personalities.
- ✚ We also see in the book of Genesis, the weakness of mankind and how easy sometimes the humans fall in sin under the trials of the devil. On the other hand, we see God the Lover and the Forgiver, Who forgives His children, covers them and even protects them from the result of sin. This happened with some of the great fathers like Abraham -the father of fathers; It happens when the human is not cautious and does not abide to the commandment of the Lord God (read chapter 12)
- ✚ The book of Genesis also tells us the full history from the beginning of mankind on the earth and the history of all the first generations since Adam and Eve till the era of Joseph the righteous, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham - the father of fathers. This history includes two main eras: 1. The primitive history, which is the era from Adam till the tower of Babylon and the confusion of tongues (read chapters 1-11). 2. The era of the fathers the patriarchs (the fathers of fathers), which starts from Abraham till the death of Joseph the righteous in Egypt (read chapters 12-50)
- ✚ We see in the stories and events of that history, a lot of very beneficent teachings to our spiritual life, as it gives us the real picture of the human nature, their understanding, their life, their weak and strong points.

✚ The Benefit:

My beloved children, we see in the history of the first generations that Cain did not listen to the Lord and he became the first murderer in the world. Abraham the father of fathers weakened and was afraid for his life and lied, while he was a very righteous person. These are only 2 examples out of so many and in all of them, we find that God the Lover of mankind always warns and wants us to do the good, even when we weaken and mistake, He is happy to forgive us, but only when we recognize our sin and confess them. (1 John 1: 8 – 10): *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1:20 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us".*



MARCH



THE BOOK OF GENESIS PART 3-YOU NEED TO REALISE THE FACT OF LIFE

- ✚ As I mentioned before that in the book of Genesis, we find the New Testament and the practises of the church life in the New Testament. **For example:-** we can see the 7 sacraments of the church in the book of Genesis. **(1)** Sacrament of Baptism (Noah's ark in the water -**read chapters 6-8**)
(2) The sacrament of Confirmation (the prayer and offering the sacrifice of Noah -**read chapter 9**).
(3) The Sacrament of Holy Communion (Melchizadek the priest of the most High, offering bread and wine to Abraham and accepted his tithes) – **read chapter 14**. **(4)** The Sacrament of Repentance and forgiveness (the talk of the Lord God to Cain – **read chapter 4**). **(5)** The Sacrament of the anointment of the sick, which is the prayer for the sake of others (the prayer of Abraham for lot to be saved) - **read chapter 18**. **(6)** The Sacrament of Marriage – Isaac and Rebecca (**read chapter 24**).
(7) The Sacrament of Priesthood (Melchizadek, the priest of God the Most High **read chapter 14**).
- ✚ We see clearly in the book of Genesis, the big difference between the work of the Lord God with us the humans and our work the humans, which in a lot of times contradict with the Lord and causes us trouble; this sad thing is continuous in the life of all generations on the earth. We see that the Lord God is the Life and the giver of life and He made it clear since the first human Adam, that the result of disobedience and sin is death. Sadly, many times the human choses the sin and puts him/herself under punishment and death and we see this very clearly in the book of Genesis.
- ✚ To realise this concept, if you look to **chapters 1 and 2** in the book of Genesis, you will see the Lord God creating all creation and existing them alive from nonexistence, then creating the human and breathing in him the breath of life from His own Spirit. Then the book of Genesis takes us along in the life of different humans on earth and sadly you see the book ending by "Joseph the righteous dead in his coffin" and this is the last verse in the book. So, the book starts by the first verse, "in the beginning God created Heaven and earth..." and it ends by the last verse, "Joseph in his coffin".

✚ **The Benefit:**

As I explained above, God always give life and the human by his misbehaviours causes death. As we have all fallen in the judgement of death forever because of sin, the Lord God in His love came to us, died on the cross, was buried and rose from the dead to grant us the power of the Resurrection and life forever with Him in Heaven when we obey His commandments. My beloved children, I hope and pray that you chose life and not death (**John 3:16**): "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life".



APRIL



THE BOOK OF EXODUS PART 1- NOTHING COMES FOR FREE

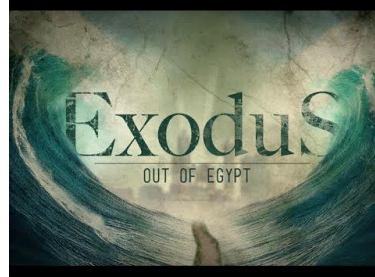
- ✚ The word 'Exodus' came from the Coptic word *Coptic: Δοξοδος (Zoxados) = Exodus (English)*, which means exiting out. This book tells us about the people of Israel exiting out of Egypt, after they suffered bitter slavery from Pharaoh and the Egyptians for so many years (400 years), since the death of Joseph the righteous till the service of Moses the arch prophet.
- ✚ The people of Israel were badly humiliated in Egypt and were used as slaves in very hard labour, making the bricks and building the cities for Pharaoh. They were crying from the bitter slavery; the Lord heard their cry and wanted to save them so He appeared to Moses the arch prophet in the desert of Sinai, where he escaped out of Egypt and sent him to get them out of Egypt, leading them to the **land of promise (Canaan)**, a land that flows with milk and honey so that they can live in freedom.
- ✚ Moses the Arch prophet when he was born, there was an order from Pharaoh to the midwives to kill any male that was born from the Jews. Moses' mother put him in a basket, covered it with Bitumen and left him in the river. The daughter of Pharaoh saw the basket, took it and opened it, she found a male child and was very happy as she was barren and took him to be her son. So, Moses grew up in the palace of Pharaoh and was supposed to be the next Pharaoh, but when he realised his Hebrew origin he started to defend his people; he found an Egyptian hitting a Hebrew and he killed the Egyptian. When it was known in the palace of Pharaoh he became in danger, so he escaped out of Egypt to the desert of Sinai. In Sinai, the Lord God appeared to him, as he saw in a distance a tree full of fire but not burning and when he approached the place to look to it, the Lord God spoke to him and sent him to save His people and get them out of Egypt

✚ The Benefit:

Moses the Arch prophet, being on a top of a high life in the palace of Egypt and will later on be a Pharaoh - at that time Pharaoh for the Egyptians was like God but when he realized his origin, he preferred the service of the Lord God rather than the great luxuries in the palace of Pharaoh. St. Paul mentioned this clearly in (Hebrews 11:24-27) *"By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him Who is invisible".* Moses sacrificed all these great luxuries for the sake of the Lord and now he is great in Heaven. what are you ready to sacrifice in your life for your own salvation to be in Heaven?



MAY



THE BOOK OF EXODUS PART 2-STUBBORNNESS = IDOL WORSHIPING

- ✚ After the Lord ordered Moses to take his brother Aaron, stand before Pharaoh and ask him to let the people go out of Egypt, to worship the Lord in the desert of Sini. Pharaoh was rebellious and stubborn against the Lord's request; the Lord brought the plagues upon the Egyptians and it happened that after a plague hits the Egyptians, Pharaoh calls for Moses saying, "I am sorry forgive me, ask the Lord to lift the plague away and I will let you go". After Moses prayed and the plague is taken away, Pharaoh becomes stubborn and refuses to let the people go and this happened 9 times in the 9 different plagues.
- ✚ Because Pharaoh was rebellious and stubborn, the Lord said to Moses, "there will be one more plague and Pharaoh will let you go" - this was the 10th plague, which was sending an angel who in one hour of the night killed every first born of the Egyptians - both humans and the animals of the field.
- ✚ In the plagues we learn a very clear lesson, how the Lord God cares for His people. We see in the plagues that the hit comes on the areas where the Egyptians were living but not on the specific areas where the people of Israel were living. **For example**, in the plague of the darkness, it was absolute darkness on the whole land of Egypt, that no one of the Egyptians was able to move for 3 days but in the Land of Goshen where the people of Israel were, there was normal light.
- ✚ The tenth plague was the final hit for Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go, which was killing all the first born of the Egyptians and the way the Lord saved His people was that He ordered them through Moses to slaughter the lamb of the Passover, paint the two door posts and the top post with the blood, so the angel of destruction sees the blood and passes over that house without hurting anyone. This was from where came the concept of **'the lamb of Passover'**.

✚ The Benefit:

Let us learn from this that continuing to be stubborn and rebellious against the Lord God and His commandments is not good for you at all; it might work for some time, but it will come to a stage that the Lord will give you a hit that is unrecoverable. This is what happened in the Old Testament. As for the New Testament, disobeying the Lord God might cause us trouble in our life on earth but the most important thing is that it is storing for us eternal punishment after our life on earth, unless we repent from it and change our lives. That is why Samuel the prophet said to Saul the first king of Israel (1 Samuel 15:22) *"Then Samuel said: "Does the Lord has great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams".*



JUNE

THE BOOK OF EXODUS PART THREE- THE LORD FIGHTS FOR HIS CHILDREN

- Continuing the Happenings in the book of Exodus: 1 After the Lord had stuck the first born of the Egyptians and the people of Israel went out of Egypt - all of them with their cattle, taking the goods of silver and gold from the Egyptians, they started walking in the desert of Sinai, guided by the Lord God. Pharaoh did not learn his lesson from the last plague of striking the first born and he wanted to return the people of Israel back, so he took his army and ran after them; by the time he reached them, they were at the red sea. The people of Israel seeing the sea in front of them and Pharaoh and his army behind them were troubled. Moses cried to the Lord and the Lord told him to, "hit the red sea with your rod; a dry land will appear, walk in it to cross the sea". Moses did this, and the land appeared in the sea. The waters stood like wall on the right and left. They started crossing and Pharaoh followed them. The Lord appeared like a pillar of fire separating the two camps. After the people of Israel reached the other side, the Lord ordered Moses to put the rod on the sea again and the waters returned as it was. Pharaoh and all his army drowned in the red sea. The people praised the Lord with one accord saying, "Let us praise the Lord for He is glorified with glory".
- In the deserts, the Lord fed the people by sending them food from heaven - the Manna, which when they collect, grind, and bake it becomes like pancakes with honey. When they were thirsty, the Lord ordered Moses to hit a rock and the Lord got for them plenty of water to drink and to fill their vessels.
- After the people crossed the sea, the first thing the Lord ordered Moses was to go up the mountain, fast and delivered to him the two tablets of the 10 commandments. He ordered the people to be sanctified and never approach their wives for three days, before the day the Lord will appear on the mountain. When the Lord appeared on the mountain, all the mountain trembled with earth quacks and was filled with fire and smoke and the people were afraid and told Moses, "we cannot see the Lord God, we return to our tents and whatever the Lord tells you we will do". Moses stayed on the mountain for 40 days with the Lord, abstaining from food to receive the 10 commandments written by the finger of God.

The Benefit:

It is very shocking what humans do, that in spite of what Pharaoh saw from the plagues of the Lord until the killing of the first born of all the Egyptians, was still stubborn and listened to his own mind, did not fear the Lord and went with his army to return the people back. Here the Lord reached His limit and destroyed him and all his army in the sea. We learn from this that the Lord has limits in being patient with us but when we push beyond the limit, the Lord can apply severe punishments and also it will lead us to the terrible end in hell fire.



JULY

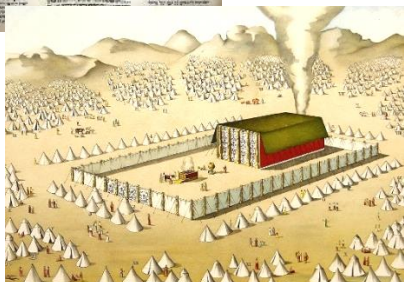


THE BOOK OF EXODUS PART 4- THE LORD IS EVERYTHING IN OUR LIFE.

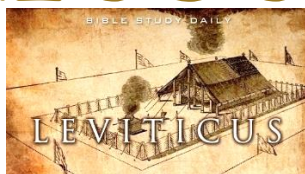
- ✚ The symbols of the New Testament in the book of Exodus includes: **1** Slaughtering the lamb of the Passover and putting the blood on the posts of the door, to save that house from destruction; symbolises to our Lord Jesus Christ the true Lamb of God, Who shed His blood for our salvation. His blood on the cross forgives our sins and without that, there is no forgiveness for our sins. The forgiveness of sin is by the blood of our Lord when we wholeheartedly believe in Him and practise His sacraments, as the Lord taught the Apostles and they delivered it to the apostolic churches through the fathers over the generations. **2** The first thing that happened after they got out of Egypt is that they were confronted with the Amalekites, who were very mighty tall people. Moses sent Joshua with the men to fight Amalek while he was on top of the mountain praying. It was long and while his hands were lifted up praying, Joshua conquers and when Moses gets tired and puts his hands down to rest, the enemy starts to conquer. So Aaron and Hur sat down next to Moses and kept lifting Moses's hands up until Joshua finished the war.
- ✚ Amalek was a symbol to the devil fighting us and the only way to conquer the devil is when we struggle with the grace of our Lord supporting us by the prayers and by this, we conquer the devil. This is mentioned in the book of (Exodus 17:16): "for he said, because the Lord has sworn: the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation".
- 3** The people of Israel were walking on dry land in the middle of the red sea; the waters were under them and at their right and left and a cloud from above was covering them. This is a symbol to baptism - by the immersion in the waters. St. Paul mentioned this in (1CORINTHIANS 10:1-2): "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea...". Pharaoh symbolised to the devil running after the people of God, fighting them but through baptism, they were saved from Pharaoh. Then to walk in the deserts to reach the land of promise symbolises after Baptism when we walk in the world in sojournership, struggling with the support of the grace of God until we reach heaven. **4** When Moses hit the rock to get water for the people to drink for their life; the rock was symbol to our Lord Jesus Christ, Who waters us with the waters of life. St. Paul mentioned this is in (1 Corinthians 10:4): "and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ".

✚ The Benefit:

We notice here that the first thing the Lord ordered Moses to do after they came out of the slavery in Egypt and crossed the red sea saved from Pharaoh, was to go up the mountain to receive the commandments and to build the tabernacle, the house of the Lord. From this we learn that after we were saved from the devil by baptism and being in the world, we have to continue all the time to attend the church, listen to the Word of God, that we can be saved and reach Heaven, which is symbolized by the land of promise (Canaan).



AUGUST



THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS SECTION ONE

YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS TO CHANGE WHAT THE LORD ORDERED

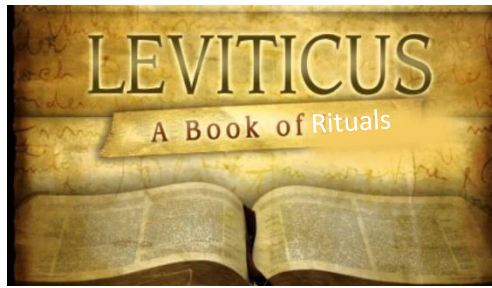
- ✚ The name Leviticus Coptic: ΔΕΛΕΤΙΚΟΣ = (Levitikos) = Leviticus (English), came from the name of (Levi), the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham - the father of fathers. When Jacob was troubled and afraid, the Lord appeared to him, wrestled with him, made him to win and then blessed him and changed his name to 'Israel' (read Genesis 32:28). Jacob Israel had 12 sons, who became the 12 tribes of Israel and eventually the nation of Israel. The third son of the 12, his name was Levi and the Lord chose him that he and all his male children over all the generations, be dedicated for the service of the house of the Lord and were called 'the Levite's' - among them were priests and helpers (deacons) for the service of the Lord in the tabernacle, which eventually became the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.
- ✚ The book of Leviticus talks about the service of the priesthood in the tabernacle, the conditions and rituals of the sacrifices, the offerings, all ritual prayers and all the matters related to the service of the Lord in the tabernacle, which after became the house of the Lord and became the church in the New Testament. The book is called 'Leviticus' relating to Levi, the son of Jacob the great grandfather of all the servants and priests of the Lord in the Old Testament.
- ✚ We see in the book of Leviticus that the Lord highly emphasised the importance of keeping the rituals of the service exactly as He delivered it to Moses the arch prophet and never accepted any mistake in the service. In the Old Testament, any mistake done was punished by death on the spot. **For Example**, the Lord appointed Aaron by a divine sign to be the high priest and his 4 male children were the first 4 priests serving in the tabernacle with their father. The two elder sons Nadab and Abihu entered the holy place and offered service in the wrong way, different from what the Lord ordered; then fire came out of the alter and killed them in a moment. Aaron with the feelings of the father, moved towards his sons to carry their bodies out but Moses stopped him and told him to finish his service first and then care for his sons. So Moses called 4 of the Levite servants to carry the two bodies out (read Leviticus 10:1-7).
- ✚ The main service in the tabernacle was around the 5 main offerings (the sacrifice of burnt offering, the sacrifice of peace offering, the offering of the holy bread, the sacrifice of sin and the sacrifice of iniquity), all of these sacrifices, our Lord fulfilled it in His body on the cross for our salvation. These were the main services along with the other different services.

✚ The Benefit:

From what I mentioned above, we learn the importance of the rituals of the church and the importance of keeping them exactly as the Lord delivered them to the Holy Apostles and down the track to the fathers - from generation to generation. It makes me very sad to see some churches let go in the proper rituals of the church, meaning to save time; let alone the churches of other denominations, among whom some have cancelled the rituals. The holy bible is very clear of the importance of this, so let us keep the treasures of our holy fathers.



SEPTEMBER



THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS PART 2- BE HOLY AS I AM HOLY

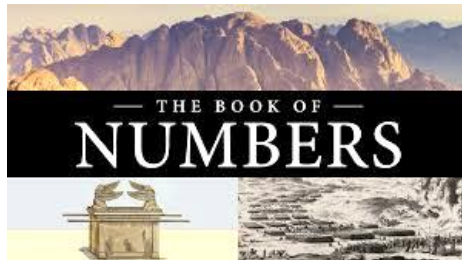
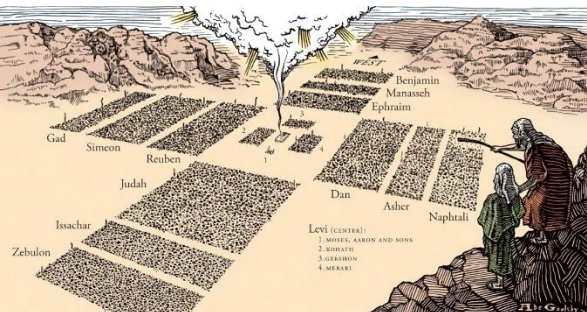
- Added to the rituals of the service explained in the book of Leviticus, in it also the Lord set rules and canons, which goes into all aspects of the life of His people. The Lord here appears to be the Father, the King, the Guider and the Organiser to all the details of the people's life; highly caring for their wellbeing, their peace and protecting them from diseases and different harmful matters. Basically, He is a father, Who carries for His children, surrounds them and protects them from all sides to have the best wellbeing in life.
- In this regard, we find the Lord putting rules and cannons for the lawful and unlawful foods / the clean and unclean animals / birds and fish / canons for giving birth and delivering the child / canons for the person if struck with leprosy / canons for the person who has a discharge etc... While all these rules and canons seem to be like guidelines for the body to be in wellbeing, but studying them deeply, you find a great deal of deep spiritual meanings and it all refers to our salvation.
- In the Book of Leviticus, you find the Lord highly emphasis to His people to be holy and here the Lord highlights the necessary practices needed for the priests, the servants, the elders, and laymen how to be holy before the Lord. You notice that the words (holy and sanctification) were repeated 87 times in the book of Leviticus. After the Lord mentioned all the rules, He briefed it in one verse saying, **"be holy for I am Holy"** (Leviticus 11:45).
- We also see that the Lord mentioned details about feasts and how the people celebrate them joyfully. Here we notice how our Lord is loving; as He ordered the people to practise what makes them holy and also all the rituals, but He also cares to make them celebrate festivals to rejoice, eat and drink before the Lord and here the Lord is making a great balance for the life of the people i.e., to give and take.
- In chapter 16, it tells us about the great day of atonement, which is once a year for the forgiveness of all sins and this equals to the holy great Friday in our Church, where the Lord forgave us all on the cross

The Benefit:

Our Lord since He created us, cares for all our needs in life and this is obvious with our fore parents Adam and Eve, how the Lord made the garden of Eden perfect with everything they needed. The Lord continues over all the generations to be a great loving father, caring for His people to be in the best wellbeing in their life. What I have seen over the years, is that those who are in the Lord are happy and satisfied all their lives and those who stray from the Lord are suffering and here I wonder why they do this?! Please my son/daughter put yourself under the Lord all your life, you will be happy and satisfied and you will make your way to heaven.



OCTOBER

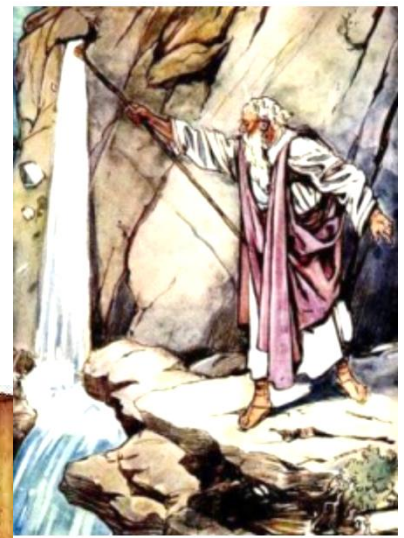


THE BOOK OF NUMBERS SECTION ONE- ALWAYS THANK THE LORD

- ✚ The book of Numbers is called so because it starts by counting the number of the descendants of Jacob Israel, who firstly came to Egypt in the time of Joseph the righteous and how they multiplied and became a nation. Also, the number of those who came out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses the arch prophet.
- ✚ The book of Numbers explains all the stages of the people crossing the wilderness of Sinai after the crossing of the red sea, by the power of the Lord and how the Lord saved them from Pharaoh. It also explains all the cities and countries they passed through, all the events that happened there, all the wars they were exposed to and the great work of the Lord with them to give them victory; keeping in mind that they were exhausted people from a long walk and haven't enough weapons to face the big armies of those great cities.
- ✚ **Reading chapter 2** in Numbers, you see how amazing the Lord organised them in all their travel, putting the 12 tribes - 3 tribes in each direction (east, west, north and south) in the shape of a cross. So, if you look to them from above while walking and travelling, you will see the sign of the cross, where there was a great number of humans organised like a cross and travelling to reach the land of promise (as shown in the above picture).
- ✚ You also see the great care of the Lord for His people in that He fed them with the Manna, a food from Heaven as they came out of Egypt having nothing with them and when they bake it, it tastes like pancakes with honey.
- ✚ We see in the book of Numbers, in spite of the great work of the Lord and care for His people and after all what they saw the Lord did with the Egyptians, with Pharaoh and saved them out and gave them their food, they never appreciated it but rebelled against the Lord, desiring the onions, the leeks, the meat and the fish they used to eat in Egypt. The Lord had great long suffering with these people who kept rebelling against Him but when it came beyond the limit, the Lord had to punish.

✚ The Benefit:

We see here that the Lord organized the people and their crossing to walk in the desert coming out of the slavery in Egypt, crossing the desert of Sinai to reach the Land of promise and here we see a great symbol. The slavery under Pharaoh symbolizes the slavery under the devil in sin; crossing the red sea symbolizing baptism, walking in the desert of Sinai is our sojournship on the earth till the point of death and them walking in a shape of a cross means we need to carry the cross all our life, until we reach Heaven symbolizing to Canaan. That is why our Lord said, "he who wants to be My disciple, let him deny himself, carry his cross and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)"



NOVEMBER

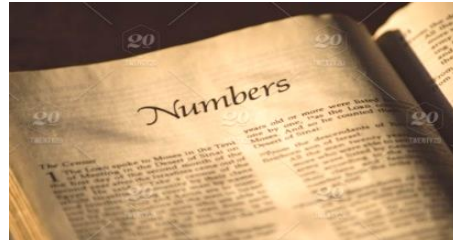
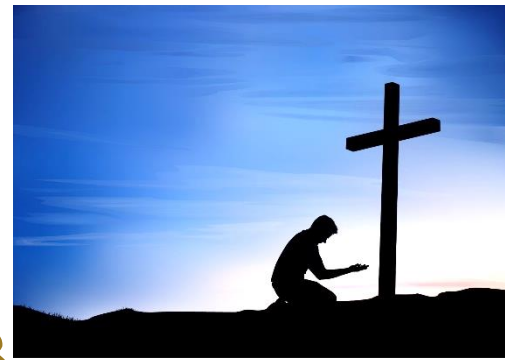
Numbers

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS SECTION TWO - FOR HOW LONG??

✚ In the book of Numbers, we find that the people of Israel rebelled and winged against the Lord and Moses His servant so many times, as a result they suffered punishments, but they did not learn their lesson. We'll mention here some of the rebellings: ①. (In chapter 11) - they winged in a way to make the Lord upset and caused a great fire to occur, which consumed a lot of them; they begged Moses who prayed, and the fire stopped. ② Straight after that in (chapter 11: 10-15, 30-35), they winged again, desiring to eat meat and the Lord gave them plenty of meat for a month because of their desire but while the meat was in their mouth, a plague came and killed many of them. They begged Moses again who prayed, and the plague stopped. ③ (In chapter 14) - by the order of the Lord, Moses sent 12 spies to report about Canaan and how they can get into the land. Only two of them were honest in their report and the other 10 were dishonest, who stirred the people. Consequently, the people rebelled and wanted to stone Moses and Aaron and here the Lord interfered with a severe punishment, decided forbidding them from entering the land of promise. Only their children and the two honest ones (Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who gave the correct report) were to enter the land of promise. ④ (In chapter 20), they winged again because of the water and the Lord ordered Moses and Aaron to talk to the rock to get them water but because of the people's great anger, they made Moses mistake and hit the rock and it got water but Moses and Aaron were punished because they did not apply literally the Word of the Lord, which was to speak to the rock. ⑤ (In Chapter 21:4-9), they rebelled again and badly winged, to the extent that the Lord sent on them serpents to bite them for death; they begged Moses to ask for forgiveness and the Lord ordered Moses to put a red bronze serpent on a high pole so that he/she who was bitten by the serpent and looks to the red bronze serpent on the pole will be healed.

✚ The Benefit:

It really amazes me how the Lord is a Gracious and Lover of mankind and how we the humans quickly forget His goodness to us, rebel, wing and as a consequence suffer, then we cry in tears begging the Lord to forgive us and the Lord forgives, then we forget and continuously do the wrong over and over again. I wonder when will the human learn to repent properly, stop the continuous repeated mistakes he/she does and be a genuine and good son/daughter to our Lord? It reminds me of what the Lord said to the Jews in Jerusalem, *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!'"* (Matthew 23:37-39). I pray and hope that we learn.



DECEMBER

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS SECTION THREE-WHERE IS MY POWER?

- ✚ In the book of Numbers, there are so many things we can learn concerning the church, the priesthood and how important the Lord honours His servants, defending them.
- ✚ 1. In (chapter 12: 1-16), we find that Mariam the sister of Moses the arch prophet spoke badly about Moses, without anything wrong Moses did to her. The Lord interfered to defend His honest servant Moses and punished Mariam with Leprosy, in which she stayed for a full week isolated from the whole congregation until Moses out of his love, begged the Lord to forgive her.
- ✚ 2. In (chapter 16), we find three people (Korah, Dathan and Abiram) rebelling against Moses and Aaron and gave themselves the rights to practise priesthood, without being appointed by the Lord. They made themselves censers and went to the tabernacle to offer incense. The Lord interfered and made the three of them go out in a big area with their families and in front of the whole congregation, ordered the earth to open and swallowed them alive and the earth closed back on them. Everyone seeing this feared the Lord and realised that the priesthood should only be authorised by the lord.
- ✚ There are a lot of symbols to our Lord Jesus Christ and His salvation in the book of Numbers. We will mentioned here an important one of them:
The deadly serpents and the red bronze serpent hung on a high pole : - As I mentioned, as the people rebelled in (chapter 21), the Lord sent to them deadly serpents to bite them and when they regretted and begged Moses to pray for them, the Lord ordered him to hang a bronze serpent up on a high pole that whoever was bitten, looks to it will be healed. The red bronze serpent symbolises to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; let us understand this further: In the beginning with Adam and Eve, the devil deceived Eve through the serpent to disobey the Lord and eat from the forbidden tree of knowing good and evil. She also made Adam eat and this caused them both and all mankind descending from them to be kicked out of the paradise (the garden of Eden) and to fall under the judgement of death forever. Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ in His great love, came from Heaven, took our humanity, accepted all sufferings and was hung up on the cross. All his body was red by the blood from all over and by His death on the Cross, He crushed the devil and saved us from the punishment of the eternal death. It became over all generations that whoever looks to the cross of the Lord is saved from the devil, exactly as this symbol that whoever is bitten by the serpent (the devil) looks to the bronze serpent and is healed (it means saved).

✚ The Benefit:

- ✚ The cross is my life, the cross is my salvation, the cross is my power, the cross is my protection and healing. Carry the Cross all your life and make it in front of your eyes wherever you go, it will save you from sins, protect you and support you to crush the devil and strengthen you to climb up the steps to heaven. This is the end for this year. Please heed the teachings of the year and apply them in your life. God be with you. Glory be to Him forever. AMEN