



Mahragan  
Alkeraza  
2019

# ARISE & BUILD

Nehemiah 2:20



“Therefore we His servants will arise and build.”  
Nehemiah 2:20

**Gr. 5-6**  
English Edition



# ARISE & BUILD



**H.H. Pope Tawadros II**

Pope of Alexandria &  
Patriarch of the See of St. Mark



**H.G. Bishop Mina**

Bishop of Mississauga,  
Vancouver and Western Canada



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## INTRODUCTION

### Mahragan Alkeraza 2019

As we celebrated the conclusion of last year's Mahragan with the distribution of the trophies for the first, second and third place winners, we were grateful for God's blessings for a successful 2018 Mahragan. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said during the Awards Ceremony in Egypt, "I am happy to see the activities of the Youth Bishopric, I am glad that our beautiful Church that is 2000 years old is full of young youth and I am proud to see the creative work and achievements of the youth."

Last year, in addition to the usual participation from Egypt and Sudan, we had a great worldwide participation from 192 Churches representing more than 20 countries and 8 languages.

The theme for Mahragan 2019 is "Therefore we His servants will arise and build.." (Nehemiah 2:20). This year, God is asking each one of us to grow in Christ. To do this we will learn about the following topics:

- 1- Our Lord Is The Good Shepherd
- 2- Our Success Is Guaranteed With Him
- 3- We Are His Children And We Are Rooted In Him
- 4- We Raise Up Through God's Grace
- 5- Build A Stone Foundation



We hope that all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

May God bless Mahragan Alkeraza this year and the efforts of all the participants and coordinators, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Tawadros II.

✠  
My best wishes for a happy  
Festival  
✠  
Bishop Mousa



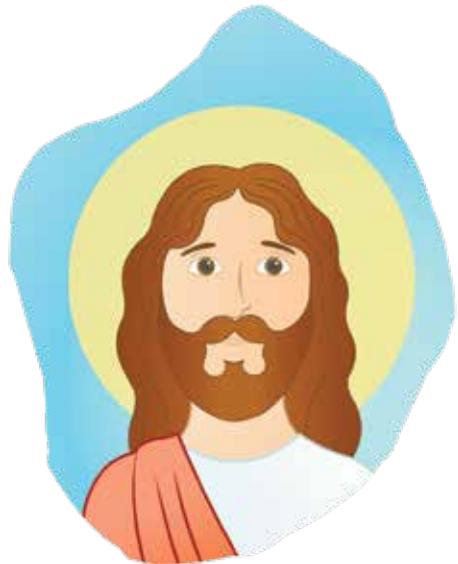
## God Our Faithful Shepherd

### The Attributes Of God

The attributes of God can be categorized into two groups:

Some attributes of God are also present in humans, however these attributes are unlimited in God but limited in us. Some examples are wisdom, power, knowledge, love, tolerance, mercy, giving and beauty.

There are other attributes that are unique to God alone.



### **1. God Is Not Limited**

God is everywhere in heaven and on earth.

He is present in all places at all times (Omnipresent). He has no beginning, and has no end (eternal).

He is unlimited in each of His attributes. He is all powerful and all knowing (Omniscience).

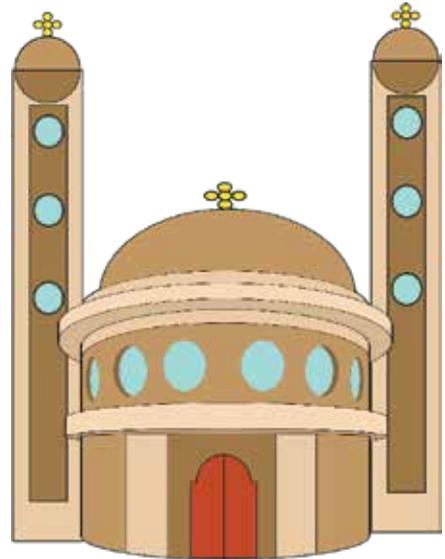


## **MEMORY VERSES:**

***“Do I not fill heaven and earth?”  
says the Lord”*. Jeremiah 23:24**

***“Even from everlasting to  
everlasting, You are God”  
Psalm 90:2***

***“Great is our Lord and mighty  
in power; His understanding is  
infinite” Psalm 147:5***



Sometimes the church building is in the shape of a circle, to remind us that God is infinite and eternal, meaning He has no beginning and no end, just as the circle has no beginning and no end.

## **2. God Is The Creator**

God alone is the Creator. He created everything, the universe and everything in it. The word “create” means to make something out of nothing so this attribute is unique to God alone.

While the human mind is able to make new things from existing matter created by God, the human mind cannot create something out of nothing, so the term Creator is reserved for God alone.



For example, when a carpenter makes a chair, he uses wood taken from trees that God created. He also uses his mind, which God gave him, to make the chair beautiful.

God also gave life to all living creatures. So who Created God?

**No one. God is eternal and everlasting in nature.**

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

***“For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it.”***

***Isaiah 45:18***

Our church teaches us to thank God for all His creation. The midnight praises are full of prayers of thanksgiving to God for His creation and His love for mankind. In the second Hoos, we sing, “Thank God for He is good, Alleluia; His mercy endures forever.”

### **3. God Is The Pantocrator**

Nothing can happen, big or small, except with God’s permission. There is no such thing as coincidence or luck. God controls everything in the universe with His wisdom, with an amazing order and accuracy. He manages all the creatures and takes care of them. Some examples are:



- a. The accuracy of the environment and the interaction of all its components with each other in a marvelous order.
- b. The accuracy of nature, nights followed by days, the seasons of the year and their order.
- c. The accuracy of the human body, how all the organs in the body work together in order and harmony.

As the verse says:

### **MEMORY VERSE**

***“But you, our God are gracious and true, patient and in mercy ordering all things.” Wisdom 15:1***

Everything that happens in the world is with God’s permission, in His wisdom even the things that we might think are not good for us turn out to be for our good. For example, problems, diseases, accidents and even the events that happen and lead to the martyrdom of children and entire families, such as the 21 Coptic martyrs of Libya, the martyrs





in St. Peter's church and St. Samuel's monastery. We must trust that God is in control of everything. He did not create evil, evil is a result of our free will, but God allows everything to happen for a reason and for our own good. We might not understand now the reason but we will understand eventually. God always does what is best for us.

The church reminds us that God is the Pantocrator, when we look at the "Bosom of the Father". In the altar towards the East there is a concave  called "the Bosom of the Father" where there is an icon of our Lord Jesus Christ sitting on His throne. He holds the globe in His left hand because He is the Creator and is in control of everything. And He holds a rod in His right hand because He is the Good Shepherd. We call this icon "The Pantocrator".

#### **4. God does not change**

God does not change in His attributes, His words, His promises, His love, as the verse says:

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

***"For I am the LORD, I do not change." Malachi 3:6***



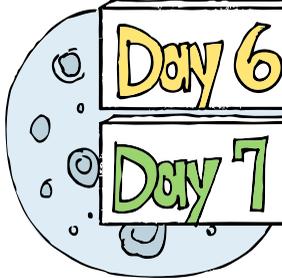
Even when Our Lord Jesus Christ was incarnated and became man, there was no change in His divine nature by its union with the human nature. The union was without mingling, without confusion, and without alteration.

The church, in its prayers, always refers to God's qualities. For example, in the Agpeya prayers, during the conclusion prayer of every hour, we pray:

"Who at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth is worshiped and glorified; Christ our God, the good, the long suffering, the abundant in mercy, and the great in compassion, who loves the righteous and has mercy on the sinners of whom I am chief, who does not wish the death of the sinner but rather that he returns and lives."



## Creation Day By Day

 Day 1	
Day 2	
Day 3	
 Day 4	
Day 5	
Day 6	
 Day 7	

Read the story of creation in Genesis of how God made the world and fill in the blanks of what He did on each day.



## God Created Heaven & Earth

Connect these words (go from one dot to the next) to make the first sentence in the Bible. On which day of creation did God make the object you've drawn?



To get a message, cross out every third letter.

**ANTDGAODOMANDENTWEOGERETATBLIDGHOTSO,  
THEEGDRESATKERJLIMGHETTTHORAUDETOSHESDAEY,  
AONDCTHOELAESSEKRLGSGHTGTORRUSLEDTHU  
ENAINHTO: HEMMAZEQTHGESFTAIRSEALISO.**



## With Him Our Success Is Guaranteed

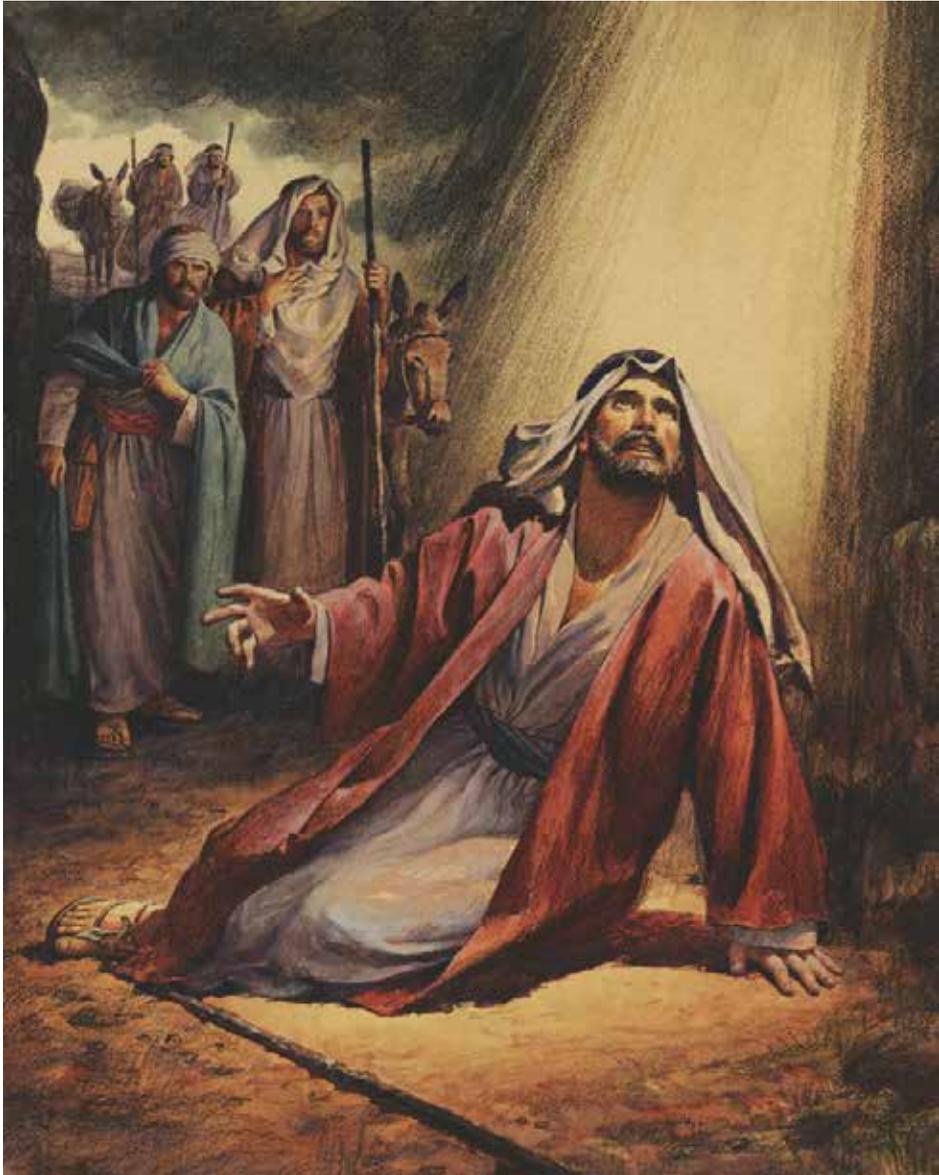
St. Paul The Apostle - Synexarium 5 Abib

St. Paul was born in Tarsus, a small province in Asia Minor (now Turkey) which was a major center for Greek culture. He had a Roman citizenship and a Greek education. He was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin and came to Jerusalem as a youth to continue his education, studying under Gamaliel, one of the most famous Jewish teachers of the first century.

He was a Pharisee, which is a group of very strict Jewish leaders who taught the rites of worship and strictly observed the written and traditional Law. He had two names: a Jewish name "Saul" which means "asked for" and a Roman name "Paul" which means "small"

St. Paul was very fanatic at the beginning, but he was doing this out of ignorance, thinking that he was pleasing God. He put all his efforts into persecuting the Christians. At the time of the stoning of St. Stephen, he guarded the clothes of those who stoned him and was in agreement with his stoning.

The Lord Jesus appeared to him on his way to Damascus to arrest the Christians.





Jesus told him: Saul, Saul why are you persecuting Me?

Saul replied: Who are you Lord?

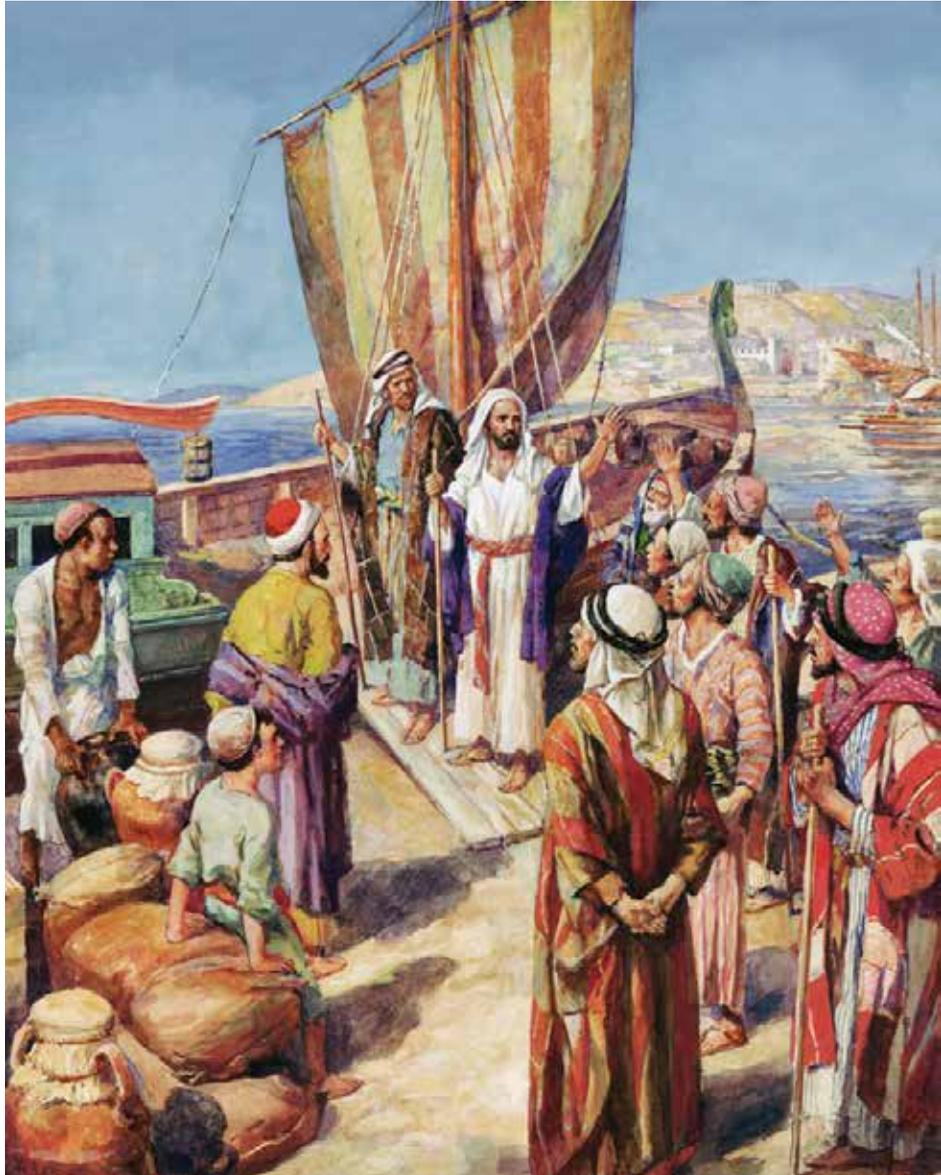
He answered: I am Jesus whom you are persecuting it is hard for you to kick against the goads."

Saul asked: "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

The Lord then told him to go to Ananias in Damascus and he will tell him what he must do.

He was without sight for three days until Ananias came and laid his hands on him. He received his sight at once and was then baptized. This was when his whole life changed.

After he believed, he spent a period of three years in the desert of Arabia to re-read the Torah and understand the books from a new perspective. After his retreat in the desert of Arabia, he went back to Damascus and started to preach in the synagogue that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God. After that, the Jews started to persecute him.





He then went to Jerusalem to preach about the Lord Jesus and they tried to kill him there. The believers were worried about him so they helped him escape Jerusalem and go back to Tarsus, where he stayed for 5 years.

St. Barnabas then came to him and took him to serve in Antioch with him. He served there for about a year then went back to Jerusalem.

He left Jerusalem with St. Barnabas and St. Mark and went to Antioch. There he started his missionary trips. He went on three missionary trips and preached to the gentiles. He was called the "Apostle of the Gentiles".

One day, he went to Athens, Greece, which was considered the capital of wisdom at that time. There, he found idols and altars for pagan worship everywhere. He started to preach to the Jews there about the Lord Jesus. At that time, many philosophers and poets lived in Athens.

Some of the Greek philosophers heard him and were astonished to hear him preaching about a new God. They brought him to a place called Areopagus, which was the hill where the city council of





Athens met with scholars to discuss different issues and points of views. They asked St. Paul to talk to them about the new doctrine of which he spoke. God gave him the wisdom to convince them. He started by praising them because they were religious. He told them that he had seen an altar with the inscription “to the Unknown God” and that he was there to proclaim to them the God that they did not know, the God who made the world and everything in it. He said:

## **MEMORY VERSE**

***“Though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:27-28***

Some believed and left the worship of idols. His continuous relationship with God was the source of all his wisdom. God gave him the wisdom to deal with every situation and to differentiate in the way he preached to the Jews and the gentiles so they can both accept the faith.

For the Jews, he used the books of the Old Testament because they believed in them, to show them how they spoke about the Lord Jesus. For the gentiles, like the Greek, he used quotes from their philosophers.



St. Paul was a tent maker and spent all his income on providing for himself and for those who served with him. At the end of his third and final missionary trip, because of his preaching to the gentiles, he was rejected by the Jews. When they saw him in Jerusalem, they were very angry and turned the people against him. They dragged him out of the temple and beat him.

The Roman commander arrested him. St. Paul was asked to defend himself and he gave a speech that made the Jews very angry. The commander wanted to put him in prison and gave an order that he should be beaten, but St. Paul objected and said: "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" Acts 22:25. By doing so, he defended his right as a Roman citizen, as it was unlawful for him to be flogged without a sentence.

St. Paul took care of his spiritual children, sending them many letters with greetings and spiritual lessons, 14 of which are in the New Testament. St. Paul fulfilled the verse that says:

### **MEMORY VERSE**

***“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” 3 John 1:2***

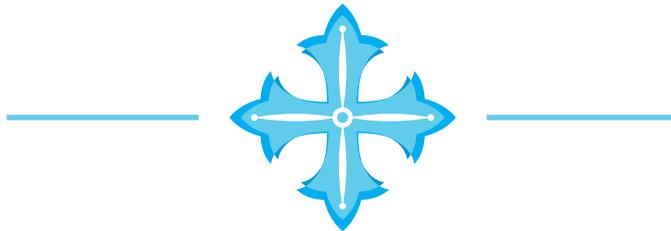


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St. Paul is one of the greatest preachers of the Christian faith. The church celebrates his feast on the 5<sup>th</sup> month of Abib which is the Feast of the Apostles. He lived the verse that says:

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

***“It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” Galatians 2:20***





## Review Of St. Paul's Life

After you answer each question, search for the answer in the hidden word grid below.

1. Who did Paul watch get stoned to death? [Acts 7:59] \_\_\_\_\_
2. In which city was the apostle stoned? [Acts 8:1] \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who saw a blinding light? [Acts 9:4] \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who appeared to Saul on his way to Damascus? [Acts 9:5] \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the name of the street? [Acts 9:11] \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who baptized Saul? [Acts 9:17] \_\_\_\_\_
7. Where was Saul born? [Acts 9:11] \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who was the owner of the house where Paul stayed? [Acts 9:11] \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many days was Saul blind? [Acts 9:9] \_\_\_\_\_
10. Which book of the Bible has the story of Saul's conversion? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Saul's name was changed to \_\_\_\_\_
12. Where was Saul headed? [Acts 9:3] \_\_\_\_\_

S	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	S
T	A	L	M	P	U	J	G	H	O	U
E	N	U	Q	T	S	U	F	S	O	C
P	A	E	L	L	E	D	E	U	S	S
H	N	E	D	U	J	A	B	S	A	A
E	I	R	S	A	T	S	O	R	M	M
N	A	H	Y	P	S	T	C	A	A	A
X	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	A	D



## St. Paul and the Athenians

Are the statements below TRUE or FALSE?  
Read about Paul in Athens and color in the appropriate box.



TRUE	FALSE

Paul thought large statues and temples were important for worshipping God.

Paul praised the Athenians for being very religious because they worshipped false idols.

People in Athens called Paul names like "babbler" and "seed picker." All the people of Athens believed in Paul's teachings about God and Jesus.



## We Are His Children And We Abide In Him

St. Abba Hoor - Synexarium 4 Baouna

A monk is a person who loves God so much, and because of his great love, he spends the rest of his life with Him. He leaves the world and all worldly things, and lives in a monastery to pray and worship God.

Monasticism is just one of the ways to live with God, but there are different ways to live with God, and each person may live for God differently according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and their father of confession in a way that suits them best.

For someone, that could be monasticism, but for another, it could be marriage or consecration. Consecration is to dedicate one's life to serve God. Consecration could be without marriage, in which the person dedicates all their life for the service or with marriage, serving God along with their family. Whatever path we choose, we must live for our Lord, and be faithful.

Monasticism has a great role in the church. Monks and nuns pray for the peace of the world and the church; in fact, prayer is the primary



role of monks and nuns. Secondly, they preserve the faith and the doctrine. The Fathers of the desert have a great role in defending the faith, for example the only two times that St. Anthony left the desert was to defend the faith. Also, our fathers the monks have a wealth of teachings and sayings that are useful to us in our spiritual life. Finally, some monks become Patriarchs and Bishops who are ordained to shepherd the people.

## The Life of St. Abba Hoor

### A- The Icon Of A Family Standing In Prayer

We learn about the life of St. Abba Hoor, he was born to a Christian family in the city of Bahgour in Kena. His father, John and his mother, Sophia, raised him and his younger sister, Eriny, in the fear of God.



### B- The Icon Of St. Abba Hoor

#### Sitting Listening To A Man Who Is Teaching Him

His father wanted him to learn about the church teachings since



his youth and assigned a deacon to teach him. Abba Hoor grew up from his youth following the church teachings and spent much time in prayer. He longed to devote himself to live with the Lord and desired the monastic life.

### **C- The icon of the saint traveling in the desert**

When Abba Hoor was 14 years old, his father died. After some time, his mother also died. Abba Hoor stayed with his sister until she got married. Afterwards, he decided to follow the monastic life. He left all his possessions and went to the wilderness of Shiheet in Wady El Natroun.

### **D- The Icon Of The Saint Wearing The Holy Eskeem And Beside Him An Elder Monk**

When Abba Hoor arrived to the wilderness of Shiheet, he met with a saint monk called Ghalinokos and stayed with him. After a while, he ordained him as a monk and put on him the holy Eskeem (A piece of leather trimmed and





adorned with crosses). Abba Hoor was dedicated in his prayers and his spiritual struggle. He stayed with St. Ghalinokos until his departure and learned from him.

## **E- The Icon Of An Angel Talking To St. Abba Hoor**

The angel of the Lord appeared to St. Abba Hoor more than once. The first time was after the departure of his teacher. He told him to go to a place called the mount of El-Amoud (A mountain in El-menia where Abba Hoor's monastery is located). There he lived a life a prayer and spiritual struggle. Many people heard about him and went to see him.

## **F- The Icon Of The Saint Surrounded By His Disciples**

He became the spiritual father of many monks, two of which were Abba Phis and Abba Babnouda, who learned from him the life of holiness and the true relationship with God.





God gave him the gift of performing miracles to glorify His name. St. Abba Hoor prayed with faith trusting in God's promises.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

***“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” Matthew 21:22***

#### **G- The Icon Of The Saint Praying And A Queen In Front Of Him**

One of the miracles that was performed through the prayers of Abba Hoor was the healing of the queen, the wife of king Theodosios the Great, after her repentance and confession. This is why this icon shows him holding a small bottle of oil in his hand and water to anoint the queen and bless her.

#### **H- The Icon Of The Saint Laying On His Bed Surrounded By The Monks**

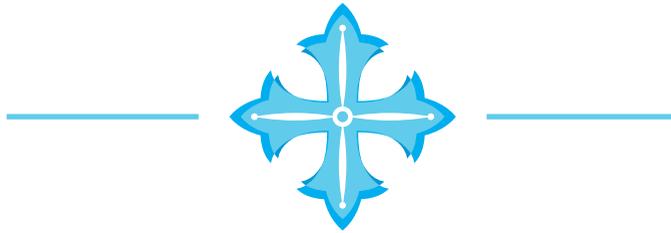
After many years of struggle, Abba Hoor fell sick. He gathered all the monks around him and told them that he will depart after 8 days. He asked them to





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keep the body of his disciple St. Babnouda beside his body. He departed in peace on the 4th day of the month of Baouna. At the time of his departure, the place was filled with incense. They buried his body in the church under the altar in the monastery which is now called by his name. May his prayers be with us, Amen.





## Let's Arise Because We Are Good

### The Sacrament Of Repentance And Confession

The result of sin is separation from God. If we stay in our sin, the consequence is death. But when we repent and confess through the Sacrament of Repentance and Confession, God forgives us and accepts us as He said:

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

***“The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” John 6:37***

Repentance is returning to God by changing our way.

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

***“Return to Me, and I will return to you.” Malachi 3:7***

The Sacrament of Repentance and Confession is one of the church's seven sacraments. In this sacrament, our sins are forgiven when we repent and confess our sins in front of a priest. Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself instituted this sacrament. The priest gives us the absolution when he says “God absolves you” telling the confessor that God has forgiven him. The priest



does this through the authority that was given to him by our Lord Jesus when He said to His disciples after His Resurrection:

“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” John 20:21-23

The priest takes our sins and puts them on our Lord Jesus and our sins are washed by His blood that He shed on the cross. True repentance + Confession to a priest = forgiveness of sins. There are steps that we should do before, during and after confession.

## **Before Confession**

### **1- True repentance**

- a. Have faith in the Lord Jesus and in His love knowing that He will forgive you.
- b. Admit your sins and repent from all your heart.





- c. Be determined not to repeat the sin again.
- d. Stay away from the source of the sin.

## **2- Prepare for confession**

- a. Pray and examine yourself.
- b. Ask God to reveal to you your sins.
- c. It is better to write down the sins before confession to remember them.

## **3- Confession in front of God**

- a. Pray and ask God to forgive you.
- b. Ask God to help you not to repeat the sin.

## **4- Reconciliation**

Apologize to the person you have wronged, in humility, asking them to forgive you.

### **During Confession**

1. Do not be afraid or shy and say your sins without hiding anything
2. Do not try to find excuses for yourself or justify your sins.
3. Ask the priest about the things you need an answer for, so he can help and guide you... but do not go into lengthy stories and small details.



4. After confession, the priest puts the cross on your head and prays the absolution, during this time you should pray Psalm 50 “have mercy on me O God”.

### **After Confession**

1. Pray and thank God for His forgiveness.
2. Ask God to help you to follow the priest’s guidance and to not return to the sin again.
3. Take Communion.

### **Obstacles in the way of repentance**

Sometimes, the devil puts obstacles in our way to prevent us from repentance:

1. He makes us doubt God’s forgiveness because our sins are either too big or too many
2. He makes us believe that our sins are too small and do not need repentance
3. He makes us delay our repentance
4. He makes us feel ashamed of our sins.





We must know that there is no small or big sin, all sins need repentance and confession. Also, there is no big sin that God cannot forgive. God accepts all sinners who come to Him in repentance, confessing their sins.

### The blessing of repentance and confession

1- Forgiveness of sin:

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9***

2- Hope in eternal life:

Through the Cross, the door of paradise was opened to us and through the sacraments of baptism, repentance, confession and communion, we declare that we are the children of God and we believe in His redemption and thus have a place in the Kingdom of Heaven

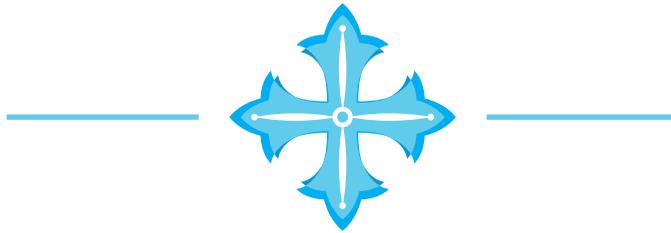




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3- We return to our Father: When the prodigal son returned to his father, his father accepted him with joy. He said "My son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! And they began to be merry" Luke 15:24.

4- You receive the absolution and the solution: As Pope Shenouda III: "In confession, we obtain absolution from our sins and solutions to our problems."





## Prodigal Son Word Search

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32 (NIV).

H I R E D N D M Y E S T A T E  
C W Y Y E X W R E W N M G I O  
Q O H B E O T E G E E B Q D H  
F T M J N N P M P Q T A B A F  
S A S P U O T S Y N C F L P W  
T T T O A S D T L Z A Z G T R  
A O C H O S R T W P I G S G H  
R I O L E E S C F E O M N F N  
V M E K P R A I O P F I E E X  
I K S O S I X O O D R R K A F  
N Q R O K R E G D N F E T S O  
G P A R N F X Z O D Q E S T U  
Z H A X Q S T O M A C H E E N  
G D L N D B H I K I S S E D D  
Z S Y T W Z C E L E B R A T E

WEALTH	ESTATE	COUNTRY	PIGS	FOOD
COMPASSION	HIRED	FOUND	FEED	RING
CELEBRATE	STARVING	PROPERTY	FEAST	SONS
KISSED	FATHER	STOMACH	SPENT	LOST

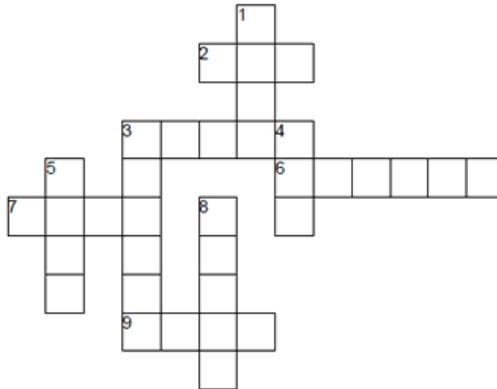


## ACTIVITY

### Prodigal Son Crossword

So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. Luke 15:20 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32



#### ACROSS

2. Farm animals with pink, brown, or black skin, short legs, and a flat nose.
3. A large special meal to celebrate something or honor someone.
6. A large amount of money and other valuable possessions.
7. To not be able to be found. (I \_\_\_\_ my dog.)
9. A piece of jewelry, generally made of precious metal and worn on the finger.

#### DOWN

1. To touch or press your lips against another person as a greeting or to express love.
3. A male parent.
4. The number that is equal to one plus one.
5. Your male children.
8. When something which was lost has been relocated. (I \_\_\_\_ my dog).

TWO  
FEAST

KISS  
FOUND

RING  
LOST

WEALTH  
PIG

FATHER  
SONS



# Build A Strong Foundation

## Nehemiah And The Building Of The Walls Of Jerusalem - Book of Nehemiah

The Story Of Nehemiah Begins After the captivity.

### **What Is Captivity?**

In the beginning, the people of Israel were one kingdom ruled by one king. The kingdom was later split into 2 kingdoms: The northern kingdom, which is known as Kingdom of Israel, with Samaria as its capital. And the southern kingdom, which is known as Kingdom of Judah, with Jerusalem as its capital.



The people of Israel left God and started to sin and worship idols so God delivered them as captives to other nations. Captivity is when another king from a foreign country comes with his army and takes over another country. He takes all the goods



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in the country and takes the men and youth to his country to work for him. This is what happened to the people of Israel. First, the northern kingdom was taken into captivity by the Assyrians (2 Kings 17:6), then afterwards, the southern kingdom was taken into captivity by the Babylonians. After a period of Babylonian captivity, the king of Persia came, and overtook the kingdom of Babylon.



The people of Israel returned to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity, as God promised in the prophecies. They returned in 3 different groups over many years.



Group	Leader	Time	Accomplishment	Number
<b>First</b>	Zerubbabel	After 70 years of captivity	Building the house of God. (The Temple.)	50 000
<b>Second</b>	Ezra	After about 80 years from the return of the first group	Took care of God's Law (spiritual revival)	1500
<b>Third</b>	Nehemiah	After about 12 years from the return of the 2nd group	Building the city of God (The Walls of Jerusalem)	A few people

Nehemiah, the son of Hachaliah, was from the people of Israel born during the captivity. His name means "God comforts". He was the king's cupbearer, which was a great job, since whoever did it had to be trusted by the king because he offered him his personal drink.



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One day a man named Hanani came to Nehemiah with some men from Judah. They told him that the people who were left from the captivity were in great distress. He also told him that the Walls of Jerusalem were broken down and its gates were burned. Nehemiah was very sad. He fasted and prayed and asked for God's help that God may give him favour in the king's eyes.



Afterwards, Nehemiah went to the king to offer him his drink as usual. Nehemiah's face



was sad and it was not acceptable that a servant appears in front of the king with a sad countenance. However, Nehemiah found favour in the eyes of the king and the king asked him the reason of his sadness. Nehemiah told him that it was because of the condition of the city of his fathers. When the king



learned the reason of Nehemiah's sadness, he said to him "What do you request?"

Before he answered, Nehemiah prayed to God to help him with his request. Nehemiah said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

The king asked how long the journey would be and when he will return. Nehemiah told him the time and the king agreed to send him and gave him everything he asked for. The king also sent with him captains of the army and horsemen to help him.

Nehemiah began to implement his plan. So Nehemiah did the following: He gave the king's letters to the governors to allow him to pass





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through their cities and go to Jerusalem and finally arrived at Jerusalem.

Three days later, he took with him some of the men, and toured the city, to examine all the burnt gates and the broken down wall. After he saw all the ruin, he said to the priests and the governors: "Come and let us build the Walls of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach" Nehemiah 2:17 People were encouraged by the words of Nehemiah.



Once Nehemiah began to implement his plan, obstacles and oppositions arose. A group of leaders from neighboring





countries tried to stop the building of the wall. They claimed that Nehemiah and the people were rebelling against the king of Persia by building the wall. They said this to instil fear within the people and to stop them from building. Nehemiah began to encourage the people and said to them:

### **MEMORY VERSE**

***“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build.” Nehemiah 2:20***

He asked everyone to build the destroyed part of the wall in front of his house. The enemies started to make fun of the work. Nehemiah prayed and trusted that God will be with them. The people worked together and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height.

The enemies became very angry and prepared for war to stop the building. While the people who worked

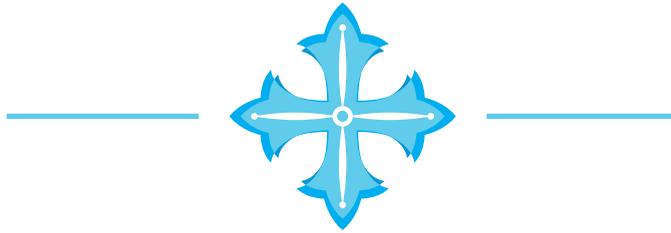




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were few and felt that they were unable to complete the work, Nehemiah prayed and trusted that God will help them.

He encouraged the people and set guards amongst them to protect them against their enemies. Every one of the builders had his sword ready by his side even as he was working. At last, the wall was finished in 52 days.

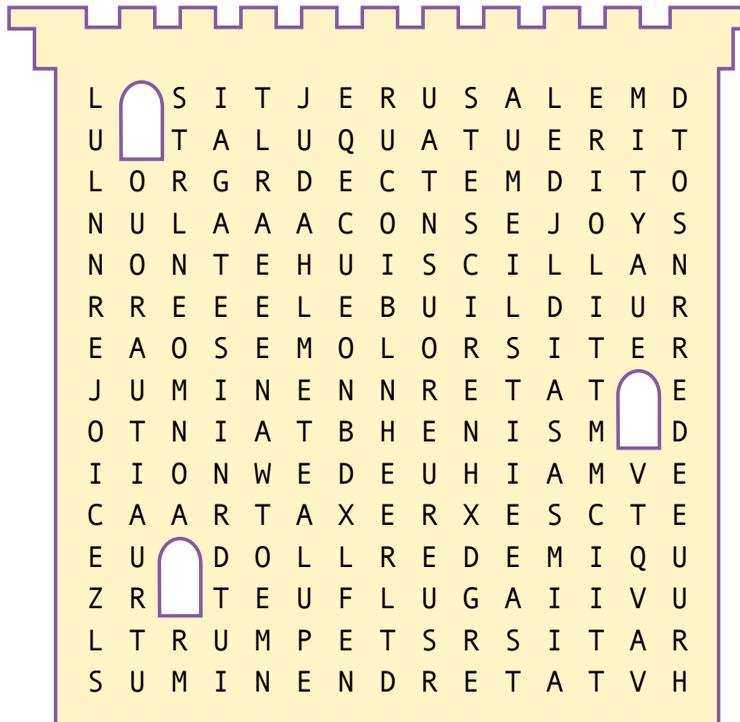




# Nehemiah Word Search

## Nehemiah and the Wall Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



- |            |           |       |          |          |
|------------|-----------|-------|----------|----------|
| ARTAXERXES | GATES     | JOY   | NEHEMIAH | TRUMPETS |
| BUILD      | JERUSALEM | JUDAH | REJOICE  | WALL     |



## Memorization

## BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelation



## Memorization

# PSALM 137

I will confess You, O Lord, with my whole heart, for You have heard all the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will chant to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, and confess Your name, on account of Your mercy and Your truth; for You have magnified Your holy name above all. The day in which I call upon You, hear me speedily; You shall exceedingly look upon my soul with power. Let all the kings of the earth, O Lord, confess You; for they have heard all the words of Your mouth. And let them sing in the ways of the Lord; for great is the glory of the Lord.

The Lord is high, and He regards the lowly; and He knows the existing things from afar off. If I walk in the midst of affliction, You shall revive me; You have stretched forth Your hands against the wrath of enemies, and Your right hand has saved me. O Lord, You shall reward on my behalf: Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever: do not overlook the works of Your hands.  
ALLELUIA.



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A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing, spanning the width of the page.



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