



نحن أيضا إذ لنا سحابة من الشهود مقدار
محيطة بنا ...

(متى 12:1)

The Intercession of
the Saints and Angels

Intercessions

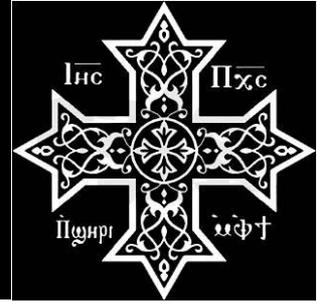


“Intercede”



- Latin:
 - Inter- Between
 - Cedere- Go
- English
 - Intercede: To act or interpose on behalf of someone in difficulty or in trouble

We pray to God, not to the Saints



- We do not pray to the saints; we ask for their prayers to God and their help, for they have completed their struggle, are with God, and closer to Him than our struggling, sinful selves
- Our talk with St. Mary is a talk between children and their mother, imploring her to intercede for us as she is the queen sitting on the right hand of the King.

Why Do We Ask for Intercession?





- "...pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16
- "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains..." Col 4:2-3



- “Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me...” Romans 15:30

Summary



1. We don't Pray to the saints but to God
2. Intercession is Biblical

God asks for intercessions





- “And the Lord said to Moses, Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves...They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it ...Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. Then Moses pleaded ...and said: Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people ...Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants...So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.” Exodus 32:7-14

Abraham and King Abimelech



- **Genesis 20:7**
- 7 Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he *is* a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore *her*, know that you shall surely die, you and all who *are* yours."
-

Summary



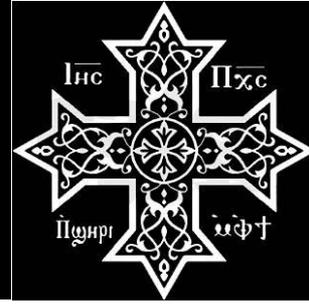
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2. Intercession is Biblical
3. God Asks for Intercession

The saints know our condition

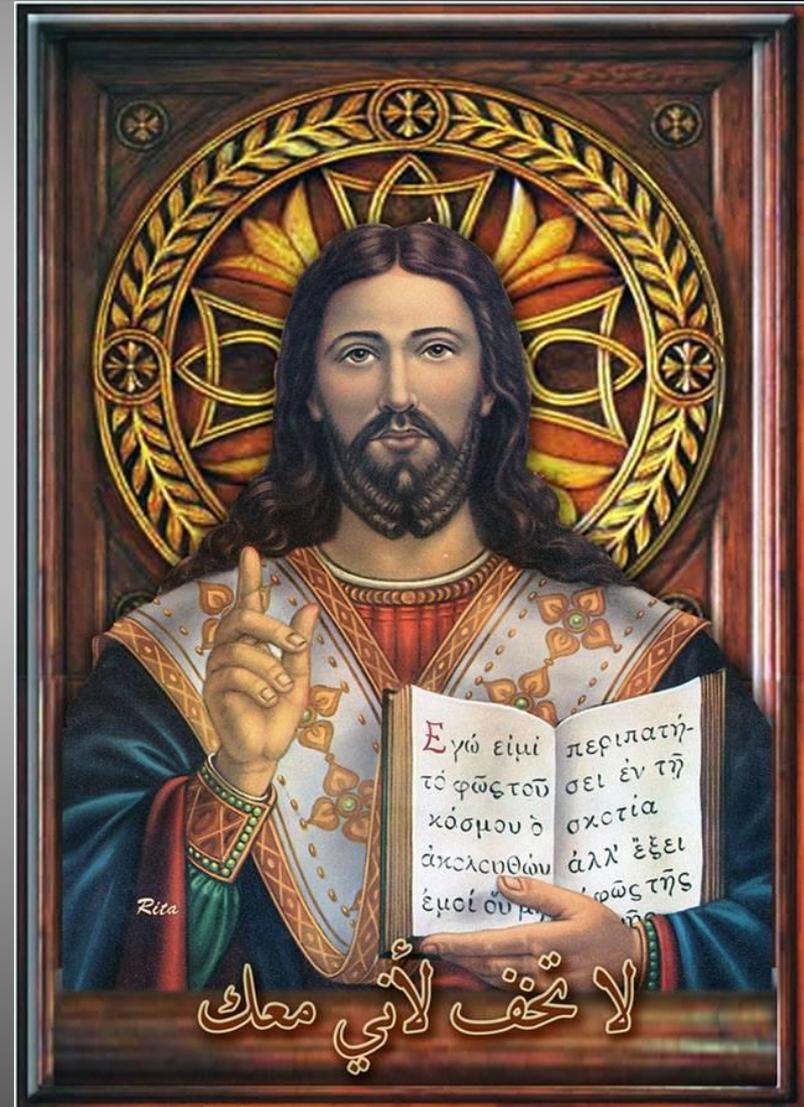




- “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” Luke 15:7



- Rev 8:3-4 “An angel came and stood at the altar in heaven with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar before the throne; and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God”





- Rev 5:8 “ Each of them had a harp and golden bowls full of incense (which are the prayer of the saints).”





- Rich Man and Lazarus. “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things; and likewise Lazarus evil things but now he is comforted and you are tormented” (Luke 16:25).
- How did our father Abraham come to know the evil things which poor Lazarus suffered?!
- How could he say about the rich man’s family, “They have Moses and the prophets” though our father Abraham had departed earth hundreds of years before Moses and the other prophets?



- St. Paul knew that savage wolves would come in among the Ephesians after he departed from them
- ²⁵ “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ **For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.** ³⁰ **Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.** ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. – Acts 20:25-31

Summary



1. We don't Pray to the saints but to God
2. Intercession is Biblical
3. God Asks for Intercession
4. The Saints know our condition

The saints are not dead but
they are alive





- “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.” John 11:25
- But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” (Matt 22: 31, 32)



- For we have one Church, a connected one. Part of which is on earth (striving church) and part in heaven (triumphant church)
– H.H. Pope Shenouda
- The Appearance of Moses and Elijah with the Lord Christ in the Transfiguration Mark 9:4
- “...so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” Romans 12:5

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Redemption



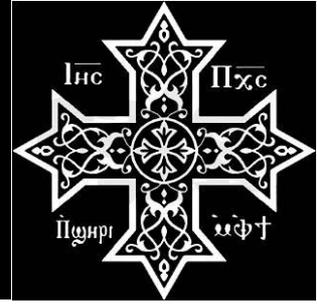
re·demp·tion

/riˈdempʃən/ 

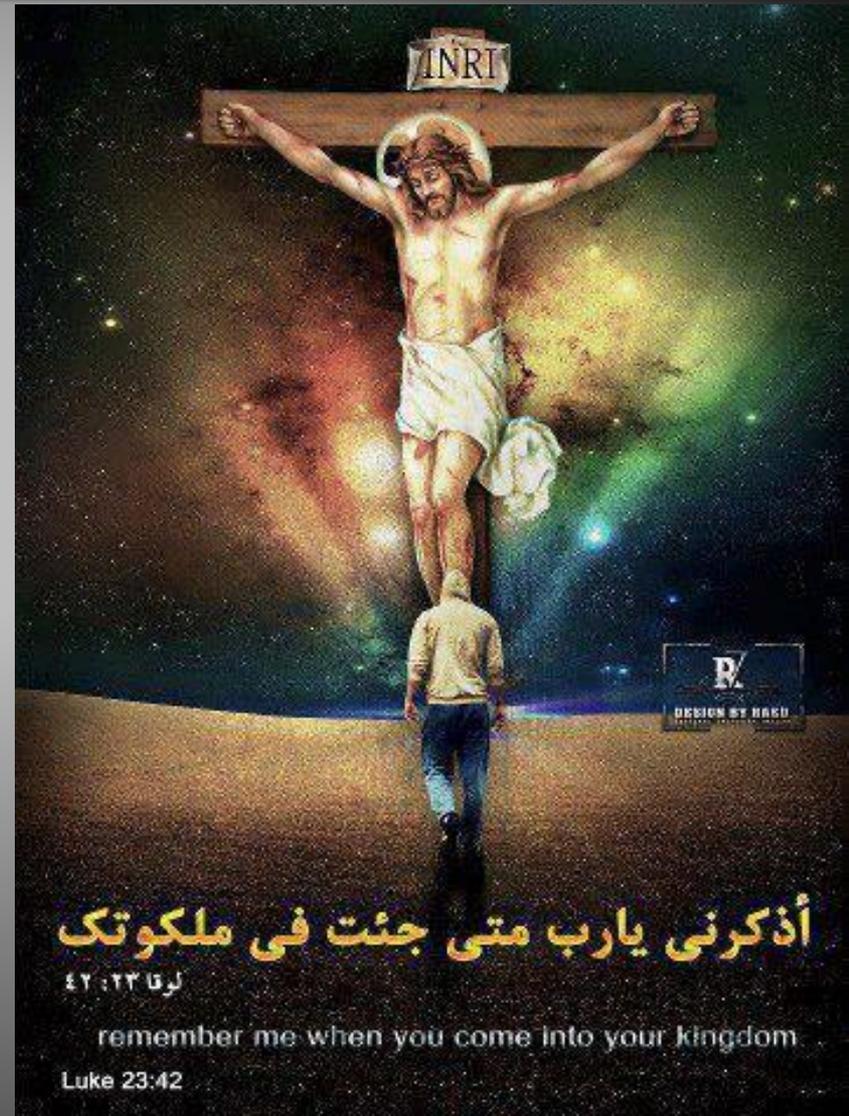
noun

1. the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.
"God's plans for the redemption of his world"
synonyms: [saving](#), freeing from sin, [absolution](#) [More](#)
2. the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.
synonyms: [retrieval](#), [recovery](#), [reclamation](#), [repossession](#), [return](#) [More](#)

Christ is the only mediator



- Christ is the **ONLY** mediator, and forgiver of sins
- 1 Tim 2:5-6 "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all.."
- Even though we enlist the prayers of the saints God is the only one that can save us and redeem us.



Church Fathers



- “Remember me, you heirs of God, you brethren of Christ; supplicate the savior earnestly for me, that I may be freed through Christ from him that fights against me day by day” (The fear at the end of life) Saint Ephraim the Syrian



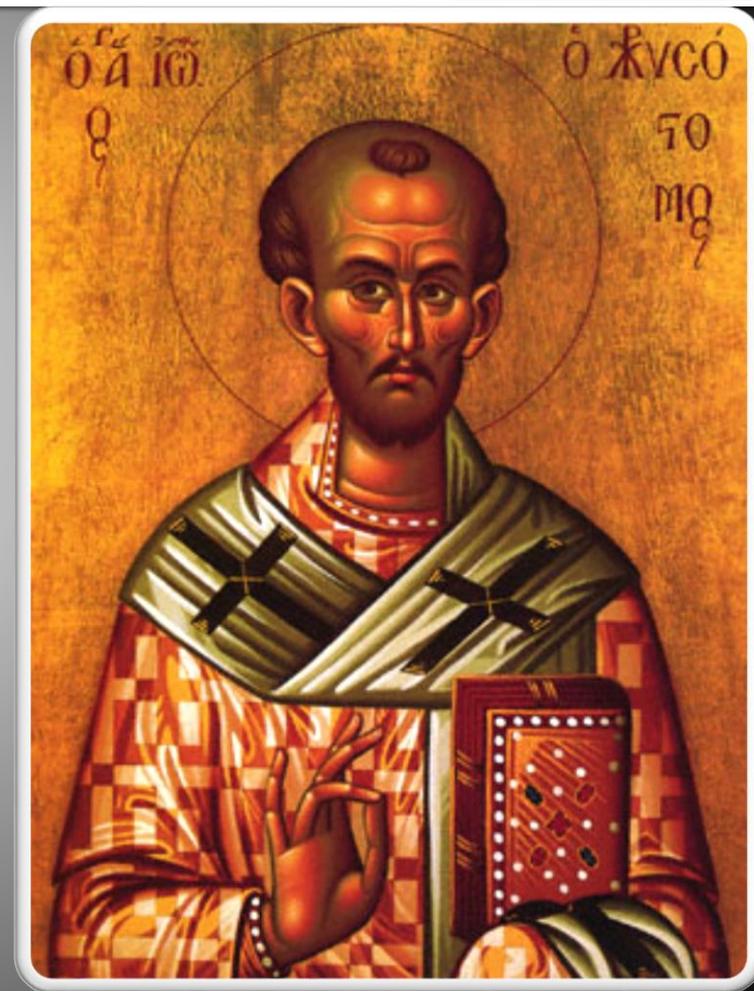


- As this, O Lord, is the command of your Only-Begotten Son, that we share in the commemoration of your saints, graciously accord, O Lord, to remember all the saints who have pleased you since the beginning: our holy fathers the patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles, the preachers, the evangelists, the martyrs, the confessors and all the spirits of the righteous who were consummated in the faith. (Liturgy of St. Basil)

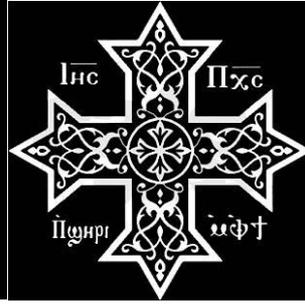


- “When you perceive that God is Chastening you, fly not to his enemies..... But to his friends, the martyrs, the saints, and those who were pleasing him, and who have great power in God”

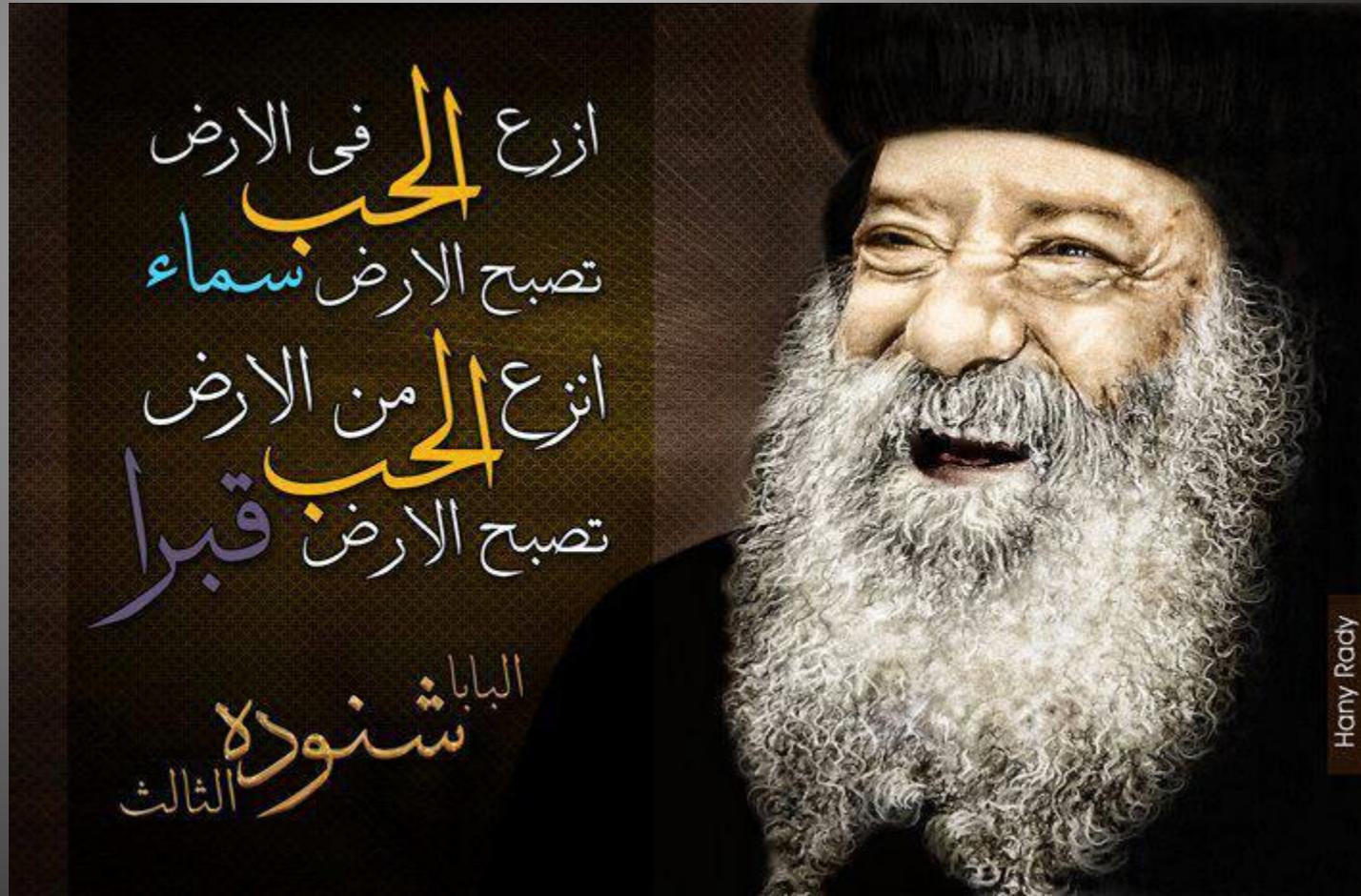
-St. John Chrysostom



Pope Shenouda



■ Sermon





- “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (1 Epistle of John 2: 1 -2)

Summary



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2. Intercession is Biblical
3. God Asks for Intercession
4. The Saints know our condition
5. The Saints are not dead, they are alive
6. CHRIST IS THE ONLY MEDIATOR

If you would like to learn more



- The Holy Bible
- INTERCESSION OF THE SAINTS
 - BY: H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III
 - <http://www.stmaryscopticorthodox.ca/content/articles/basics/intercession.pdf>
- St-takla.org
- Comparative Theology by HH Holiness Pope Shenouda III
- Sermon by Fr. Abraham Wassef