

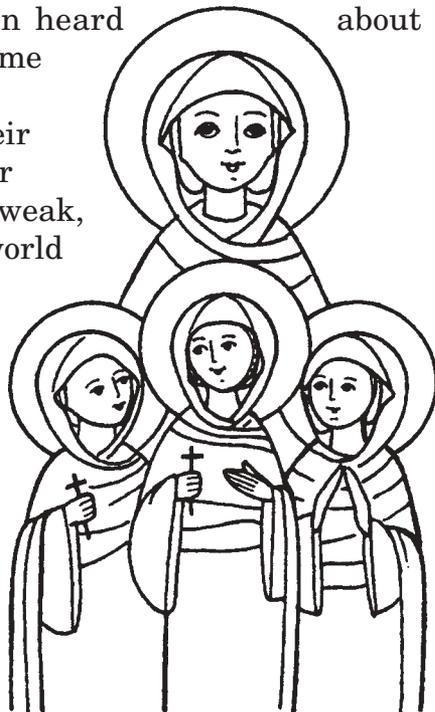


Saints Pistis, Helpis, Agape And their Mother Sophia

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There once was a lady named Sophia. She was from a rich and noble family in Antioch. Sophia had 3 girls whose names were Pistis, which means faith, Helpis, which means hope, and Agape, which means love.

When the girls began to grow up, their mother took them to Rome so they can learn how to worship and fear the Lord. Emperor Hadrian heard about them and asked that they come before him. Sophia told her daughters to be strong in their faith. She said, “Let not your determination grow faint or weak, and let not the glory of the world entice you, lest you lose the eternal glory. Be patient and persevere until you meet your Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, with Whom you will enter into the eternal joy.”



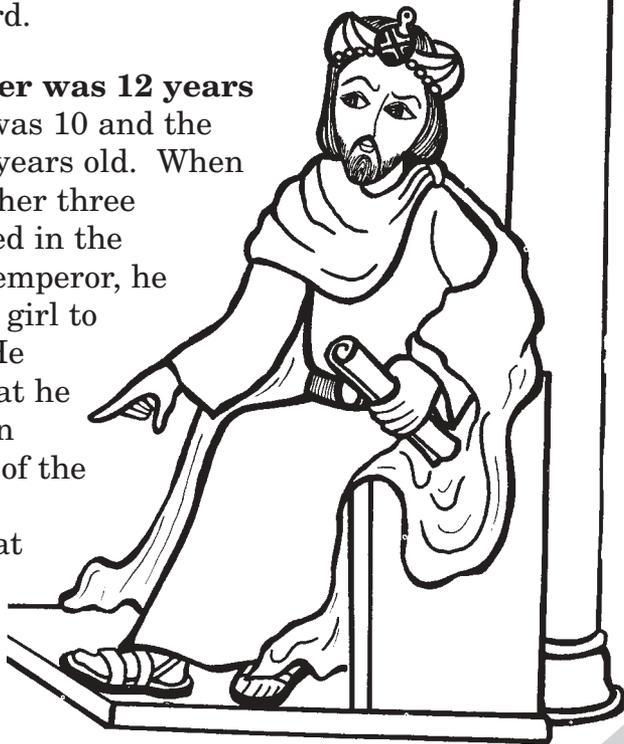
**She was telling
them to be
strong and**



not to give up no matter what the king offered them; whatever the gift he promised, it will not be as wonderful as going to Heaven to be with the Lord Jesus Christ.

She was also telling them that if the emperor punished them for believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, that they remain strong. No matter what pain the emperor will cause them, no matter how much he made fun of them, in the end, there will be only joy and happiness because they will be with Jesus Christ, their Lord.

The oldest sister was 12 years old, the second was 10 and the youngest was 9 years old. When the mother and her three daughters arrived in the presence of the emperor, he asked the oldest girl to worship idols. He promised her that he would give her in marriage to one of the great men of his kingdom and that he would make her very rich. But she said no.



The king got so mad and ordered her to be tortured and beaten with hammers. But the Lord was with her and He saved her and strengthened her and everyone was



astonished and glorified God. This made the king even more angry and he ordered that she be beheaded.

The king also beat the second daughter and put her in boiling water and she was also beheaded.

Fearing that the youngest daughter would be weakened, the mother encouraged her to be strong. The king ordered that she be placed in the pressing wheel and she cried to the Lord for help. Jesus Christ, our Lord, sent an angel and broke the wheel.

The emperor ordered that she be thrown into the fire. The daughter prayed and made the sign of the Cross on her face. Then she threw herself in it. All those who were watching saw three men in white robes surrounding her, and the fiery furnace was as cold as the morning dew. Everyone was amazed and many believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The emperor then ordered that her sides be pierced with hod rods, but the Lord strengthened her and she did not feel the pain. At last she too was beheaded.

Their mother took their bodies outside the city and while weeping prayed that her daughters ask the Lord to take her soul also. The Lord granted her wish and her spirit went immediately to her Creator.

Some believers came and carried their bodies and buried them with great honor. We celebrate their martyrdom on the 30th day of Tubah.