



# HOW LOVELY

By: A Mighty Arrow  
St. George Church Daytona Beach, FL

“How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.” Psalm 84 praises the tabernacle of the Lord and shows how eager the soul is to be in the courts of the Lord.

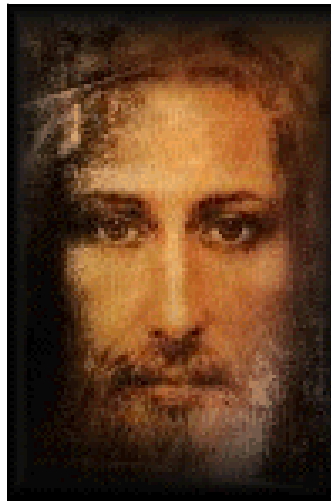
Looking deeply into these words makes us tremble, be fearful, and initiates the following questions:

- Do I have these feelings?
- When going to church, how many times do I feel like I will meet the King of Kings?
- Is the church a lovely place to go to?
- How many times do I feel a longing for the church?
- Does my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God?

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III once said, “It is nice to go to church and visit the house of the Lord, but how many times do you meet the Lord of the house?” It is great to develop the habit of going to church. But to pursue it as a routine in our life, might necessitate a moment of reflection to re-evaluate the routine. In our life, we like to do things purposefully. Otherwise, we would be wasting our time and would be leading a meaningless life.

So, going to church should serve many purposes, some of which should be:

1 - To meet the Lord Himself and to be one of those who can hear—”I love those who love Me, and those



who seek Me diligently will find Me” (Proverbs 8:17).

2- To enlighten our way and to help us in our tribulations. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

3- To strengthen our relationship with the Lord and to get to know Him more. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).

4- To become more familiar with the heavenly atmosphere and the presence of our Lord in his magnificent glory.

St. John the beloved, lived with the incarnate Lord (in the flesh) and knew Him very well. But when he saw His glory...read what happened to him...”and when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me: Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last” (Revelation 1:17).

5- To add more friends, meaning saints, to our friendship list and to learn their language, the language of the heavenly hosts. This way, we can join





them in chanting and praising the Lord... (and they do not rest day or night, saying, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come’” (Revelation 4:8). In this way, they will intercede on our behalf and welcome us when we see them.

6- To get acquainted with the archangels, angels, and all the heavenly hosts. In this way, we will not be surprised when... “the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the Throne of His Glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.” (Matthew 25:31-32)

7- To strengthen our hope for a joyful, pleasant and everlasting eternal life and to help us practice it on earth. Then, we will be worthy to hear... “come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34).

O Lord, please help us to understand how lovely Your tabernacle is. Enlighten our souls to overcome all the tribulations and let our heart and flesh cry out for Your salvation.

Our savior Jesus Christ, we know that our lives are like “a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (James 4:14). But we are sure, that “without You we can do nothing” (John 15:5).

### Did you Know..

**I**raq is the second most mentioned country in the Holy Bible. However, that is not the name that is used in the Holy Bible. The names used in the Holy Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar, and Mesopotamia. The word Mesopotamia means between the two rivers, more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The name Iraq means “country with deep roots.”

Indeed, Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Holy Bible. Here’s why:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The garden of Eden was in I raq.                                   | 12. Daniel was in the lion’s den in I raq.  |
| 2. Mesopotamia - now known as I raq - was the cradle of civilization. | 13. The three Hebrew children were in the fire in I raq (which means that Jesus was in I raq, too, as the 4th person in the fiery furnace.) |
| 3. Noah built the ark in I raq.                                       | 14. Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the “writing on the wall” in I raq.   |
| 4. The Tower of Babel was in I raq.                                   | 15. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into I raq.   |
| 5. Abraham was from Ur, which is in Southern I raq.                   | 16. Ezekiel preached in I raq.  |
| 6. I saac’s wife Rebekah is from Nahor, which is in I raq.            | 17. The wise men were from I raq.   |
| 7. Jacob met Rachel in I raq.   | 18. St. Peter preached in I raq.  |
| 8. Jonah preached in Nineveh - which is in I raq.                     | 19. The “Empire of Man” described in Revelation is called Babylon, which was a city in I raq.   |
| 9. Assyria - which is in I raq - conquered the ten tribes of I srael. |   |
| 10. Amos cried out in I raq.  |   |
| 11. Babylon - which was in I raq - destroyed Jerusalem.               |   |