



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Southern United States

From the desk
of His Grace
Bishop Youssef



My Beloved Youth,

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God, Amen.

Within this issue of the Mighty Arrows (Vol. 7 No.3) you will discover more fully how the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ affects the lives of us today. From within the Old Testament lives of Enoch and the Prophet Elijah you will discover that they did not only exist in Old Testament Days, but they continue to exist today, and will exist in our God given tomorrows. The message of their earthly lives is essential and applicable to our life today. Enoch and Elijah the prophet were men who walked with God. They spent their entire earthly lives pursuing a close relationship with God.

Both Enoch and Elijah's faith were found pleasing to God. Their life spent on this earth was recorded through tradition and written documentation as productive and as examples for others. God did not allow either man to taste death as both were "taken up."

The Lord Jesus Christ's Ascension confirmed and made even more powerful a new covenant with His teachings and ministry that would prove to transform the lives of the apostles. Not only did His example transform lives in the day the Lord Jesus Christ was upon the earth but it continues to transform lives today. A wandering Teacher proclaiming the Kingdom of God, His personal earthly death, His personal Glorious Resurrection from the dead and His Glorious Ascension into the Heavens remains a central part of our unchanged faith today.

The Lord Jesus Christ's promise "***I am with you always, to the close of the age***" (Matthew 28: 19-20) continues to be one counted upon by the faithful.

As you read this issue, ask yourself what is the message of the multiple ascensions recorded in the Holy Bible. Look within yourself and seek to understand the impact of the Glorious Ascension upon the history of the world and the message it brings home to us today.

Learn the need for quiet meditation and Holy Bible study that will compliment and increase your church worship. It is poignant to remember that as the Roman guards slept in their ignorance, the Lord Jesus Christ rose in triumph from His tomb.

As He ascended into Heaven, the joy of the apostles must have been immeasurable. They were with the Lord Jesus Christ in the quiet minutes of His earthly life, they were taught His teachings personally and contemplated upon the teachings collectively and individually. The apostles kept these teachings and memories within their heart, and they felt the great joy that learning and spiritual exercise could bring to their worship of Him.

The apostles' joy did not cease when they could no longer see the Lord in His Glorious Ascension. It is recorded that they....

"...returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God." (Luke 24: 52-53)

May we all experience ascension of our spiritual lives and hearts to God,

God bless you,

Bishop Youssef

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