

# The Opened Paradise and the Prepared Kingdom

This article was written by His Grace Bishop Moussa Bishop of Youth, Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate.



## The Opened Paradise

The Lord opened Paradise after He accomplished the redemption on the Holy Cross. He did not wait till the day of His Glorious Resurrection, but instead opened it on the evening of Good Friday, as He told the repentant thief who was crucified on His right side: "Today you will be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:3)

In this way, the children of the new covenant have become greater than St. John the Baptist. For St. John the Baptist passed through Hades, as he was martyred before the accomplishment of redemption and the opening of Paradise. As for those born under the new covenant, they go to Paradise immediately, without passing through Hades.

## The Prepared Kingdom

"In My Father's house are many mansions." (John 14:2) God's Kingdom is inside you—that was God's promise be-

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-His Grace Bishop Moussa

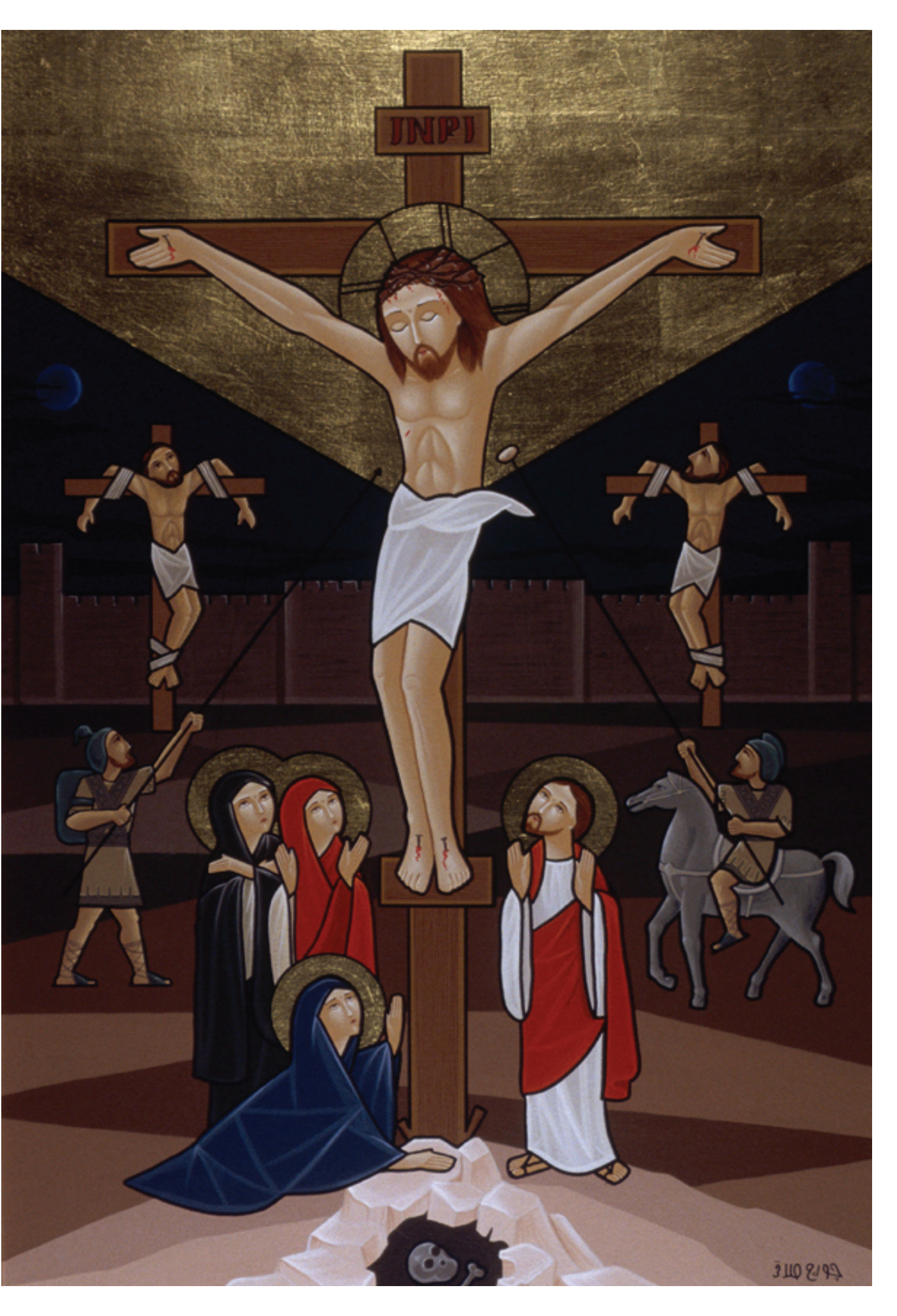
fore His Glorious Ascension into Heaven. There are many houses there, and He went to prepare them for us. He will come back to take us to live with Him, and in Him, ever after.



Therefore, our holy fathers prepared themselves for the Kingdom. They linked themselves to the eternal future before preparing themselves for the ephemeral earthly one. They loved death, yearned for martyrdom, despised material things, and elevated themselves above earthly matters.

May their prayers be with us all.





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