

# The First Church Schism

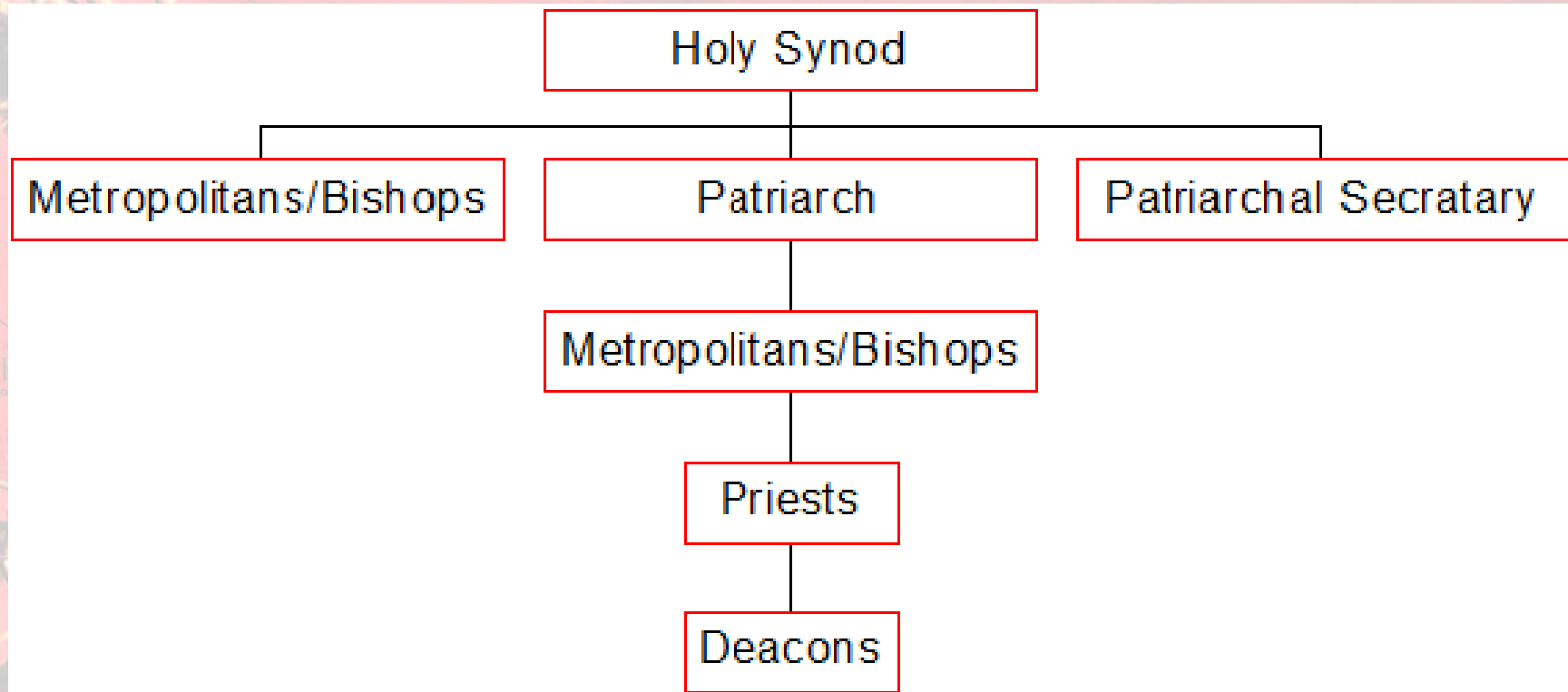


# Outline

- ✝ Coptic Church Hierarchy
- ✝ Ecumenical Councils
- ✝ 2<sup>nd</sup> Council of Ephesus
- ✝ Council of Chalcedon
- ✝ First Schism
- ✝ Oriental Orthodox Churches



# Coptic Church Hierarchy



✝ Local Council (Holy Synod)

✝ Ecumenical Council (All Churches)

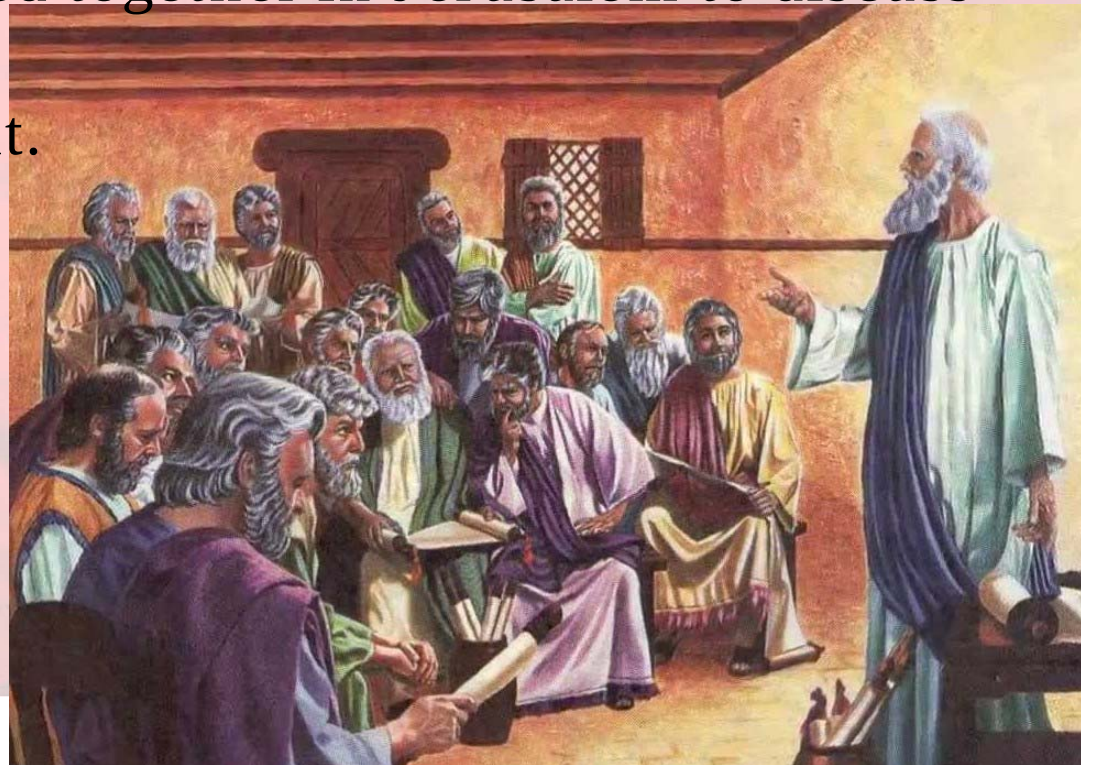
# First Church Council

## † The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:6-14,22-23,28-29)

✦ St. Paul started to preach to the gentiles

- *The "Jewish" brethren: gentiles must go through the same customs that the Jews went through before they can become Christians*

✦ The Apostles all gathered together in Jerusalem to discuss this matter, and took a decision on it.



## *How Issues Are Discussed*

- ✚ When a certain question comes up, the Holy Synod meets to discuss issues and makes decisions.
  - ✚ A Christian believer asks the priest.
  - ✚ The Priest is responsible for providing an answer.
    - *He may need to check with his bishop, or the Pope*
    - *The issue may be raised to the Synod.*
  - ✚ The believer should accept the church laws
    - *The Holy Spirit guides the Church, but his own opinion may not be correct*
- ✚ What happened around the 4th/5th Century?
  - ✚ Individuals (clergy) came up with their own interpretations (heresies), and insisted that they were right and the church was wrong!

# *The Three Ecumenical Councils recognized by the Oriental Orthodox Churches*

| Council           | Nicea                                  | Constantinople                         | Ephesus                                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Year              | 325 A.D                                | 381 A.D.                               | 431 A.D                                            |
| Number of Bishops | 318                                    | 150                                    | 200                                                |
| Heretic           | Arius, an Alexanderian priest          | Macdonius, Patriarch of Constantinople | Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople             |
| Heresy            | Divinity of Christ                     | Divinity of the Holy Spirit            | Two natures of Christ, and the "Theotokos"         |
| Hero of Faith     | St. Athanasius, a deacon of Alexandria | St. Timothy, Pope of Alexandria        | St. Cyril, the Pillar of Faith, Pope of Alexandria |
| Outcome           | First part of the Creed                | Second part of the Creed               | Introduction to the Creed                          |

## *The 2nd Council of Ephesus (449 A.D.)*

- ✠ Eutychus, an Archimandrite in Constantinople, defended the faith against Nestorius
  - *He taught that the natures of Christ (God and man) were completely separate.*
- ✠ In his zeal, he fell into another heresy: Christ's natures were completely united, so that his Humanity was dissolved in His Divinity (like a drop of vinegar in the sea)
- ✠ A local council was held in Constantinople, and excommunicated Eutychus
- ✠ King Theodosius called for an ecumenical council in Ephesus, with Pope Dioscorus of Alexandria as head of the council

# The 2nd Council of Ephesus (449 A.D.)

- ✠ Tome of Leo
- ✠ Pope Dioscorus Accepted Eutychus back
- ✠ Pope Leo of Rome accused Dioscorus of being “Eutychian” because:
  - *He spoke of “one Nature”*
  - *Accepted Eutychus who was “lying”*
- ✠ St. Dioscorus used St. Cyril’s formula:
  - *Miaphysis (One Nature out of two)*



## *The 2nd Council of Ephesus (449 A.D.)*

- ✠ When the Roman delegates returned, Leo asked the King to hold another council in Rome
  - *The king refused since the matter has already been taken care of in Ephesus*
- ✠ After King Theodosius died, his sister Pulcheria and her husband Marcian reigned Rome.
- ✠ Pope Leo asked her to hold the council, and she agreed because she did despised Pope Dioscorus
  - *Pope Dioscorus had rebuked her for her sin: while being a nun, she married*

## *Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)*

✝ The council was held for personal, more than theological reasons

✧ Intention: Condemning Eutychus

✧ In actuality:

- *A personal attack on St. Dioscorus (Eutychus was not present)*
- *Attempt to establish Rome as supreme see*
  - *When Pulcheria insisted on Chalcedon instead of Rome, Leo did not even attend.*
- *When Pope Dioscorus arrived, he was told that the council was to be delayed for five days*

## *Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)*

✝ The council was held in Pope Dioscorus' absence, (while he was under guard in his residence)

✚ He was condemned of *Eutychianism*

✚ He was excommunicated, and deposed.

✚ When he arrived to the council, the bishops rose up against him and tore up his beard.

- *He gathered up his beard and sent it to Alexandria saying: "Behold, the price of Orthodoxy"*
- *St. Dioscorus issued an anathema*
- *He was exiled to the island of Gagra, where he reposed*

## Tome of Leo

✚ Doctrine: “two natures” of Christ

✚ Instead of St. Cyril’s “One nature of God the Word incarnate”

✚ Nestorius himself praised the Tome of Leo!

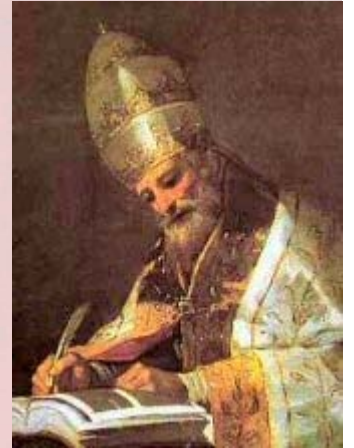
- *“Christ is no longer One but divided against Himself”*

✚ St. Dioscorus refused it

- *After the unity, Christ was “One nature out of two”*
- *He was Accused of backing Eutychus’ “one nature” formula*

✚ Council: against Eutychianism

✚ St. Dioscorus: against Nestorianism



## *The First Schism*

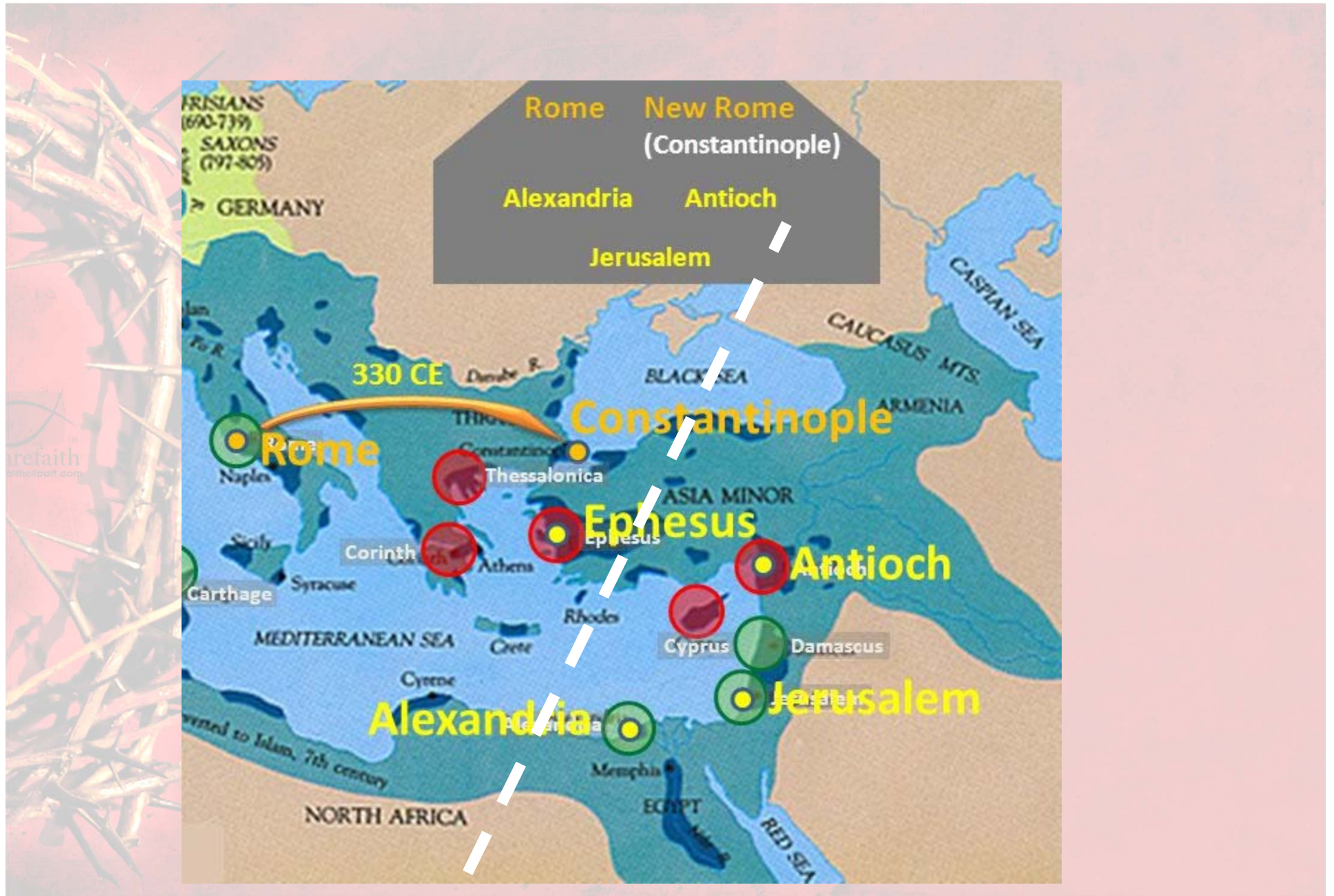
✝ After this event, the church split into two parts

✧ Non-Chalcedonian (East): Alexandria, Jerusalem and Antioch

✧ Chalcedonian (West): Rome and Constantinople

✧ The Body of Christ was divided...





## *Why the Church split*

- † *In the first three councils, the church was of one thought and one spirit.*
- † *It was lead by the Spirit of Love, and was able to stand against all the heretics and defeat them.*
- † *When jealousy and dispute entered into the council of Chalcedon, the church was divided.*



# *The Non-Chalcedonian Orthodox*

✝ Orthodox: straight, upright, true  
unchangeable faith

✧ Cleaves strongly to the Apostolic faith,  
presented by Christ to His Apostles

✧ Kept in the church through tradition, canons  
of the apostles, the fathers, ...

✝ Names:

✧ Non-Chalcedonian Orthodox Churches:  
Oriental Orthodox Churches

- *Non-Chalcedonian: Did not accept the council of Chalcedon*

✧ Chalcedonian Orthodox Churches: Eastern  
Orthodox Churches

# *Non-Chalcedonian Orthodox Churches*

- ✝ Coptic Orthodox
- ✝ Syrian Orthodox
- ✝ Armenian Orthodox
- ✝ Indian Orthodox
- ✝ Ethiopian Orthodox
- ✝ Eritrean Church

✝ *All these churches are one family, one in faith, and in the communion of the mysteries.*



# Syrian Orthodox (Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East)

✝ The Jacobites (St. Jacob Baradaeus also known as Jacob Bar-Addai)

✝ See of Antioch (location - Damascus)

✝ First church to be established, outside Jerusalem

- *The disciples, who were dispersed ... traveled to Antioch*
- *"The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." (Acts 11)*
- *St. Paul & St. Barnabas preached there*
- *St. Peter also visited it, and is considered its first bishop*
- *Suffered at the hands of the Chalcedonians*

✝ Very strong ties with the Coptic Church

- *Patriarch: Mar Ignatius Aphrem II*
- *Use Syriac (and Arabic) Language; Liturgy of St. James*



# Armenian Orthodox Church

✝ Preached by St. Thaddaeus & St. Bartholomew

✧ Country became Christian in 301 AD through the preaching of St. Gregory the Armenian

✧ First country to adopt Christianity as official religion

✧ Council of Devin (506 AD): declared their Orthodox faith, and refused council of Chalcedon

✧ Keep their Armenian Language in Prayers

✧ Catholicos of All Armenians: Karekin II

✝ One Faith with Coptic, but:

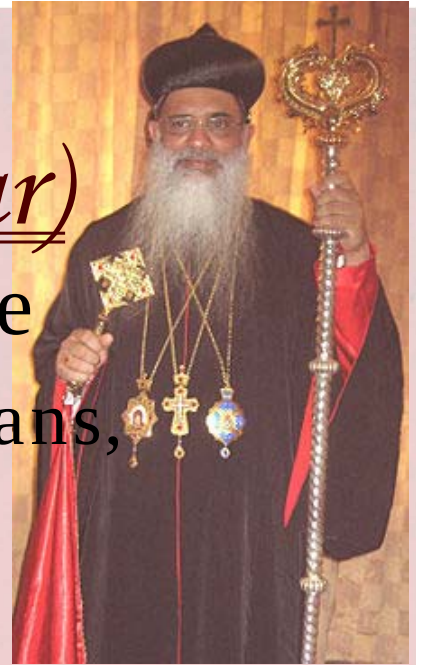
✧ Celebrate “Theophany” on Jan. 6

✧ Use unleavened bread



# Indian Orthodox (Syrian Orthodox of Malabar)

- ✝ Preached by St. Thomas the Apostle
- ✦ Missionary visits by: Syrians, Nestorians, Jesuits
- ✦ In 1653, chose Orthodox Faith
- ✦ First Catholicos, Mar Thoma I, ordained by the Patriarch of Antioch
  - *Catholicos of the East: Baselios Mar Thoma Paulose II*
  - *Conflicts between the Syrian and Indian Churches caused an administrative split, but the two groups coexist calmly*
- ✦ Kept the rituals they received from the Syrian Church



# *Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church*

- ✝ Worship of the “One God” started when their queen returned from her visit to King Solomon
  - ✧ Her son, King Menelik I, visited his father, returned
    - *Azarias, the son of the High Priest*
    - *The Ark of Covenant*
- ✧ Christianity entered through the baptism of the eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)
  - *Pope Athanasius ordained their first Bishop, Frumentius (Abba Salama)*
  - *Pope Kyrillos VI ordained the first Patriarch for Ethiopia*
  - *Current Patriarch: Abuna Mathias*
- ✧ 14 liturgies which they claim they received from the Coptic Church



# *Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo* *Church*

- ✝ Was part of the Ethiopian Church, until 1994: Coptic Holy Synod accepted their request to be independent
- ✝ H.H. Pope Shenouda III ordained 5 Bishops, one of whom was Patriarch, Abune Phillopos.
- ✝ Current Patriarch: Abune Antonios



## Quiz

- ✝ What's the highest authority in the Coptic Church?
- ✝ What are the dates of the first 3 Ecumenical Council?
- ✝ What year did the first schism happen?
- ✝ What are the 6 Oriental Orthodox churches?