
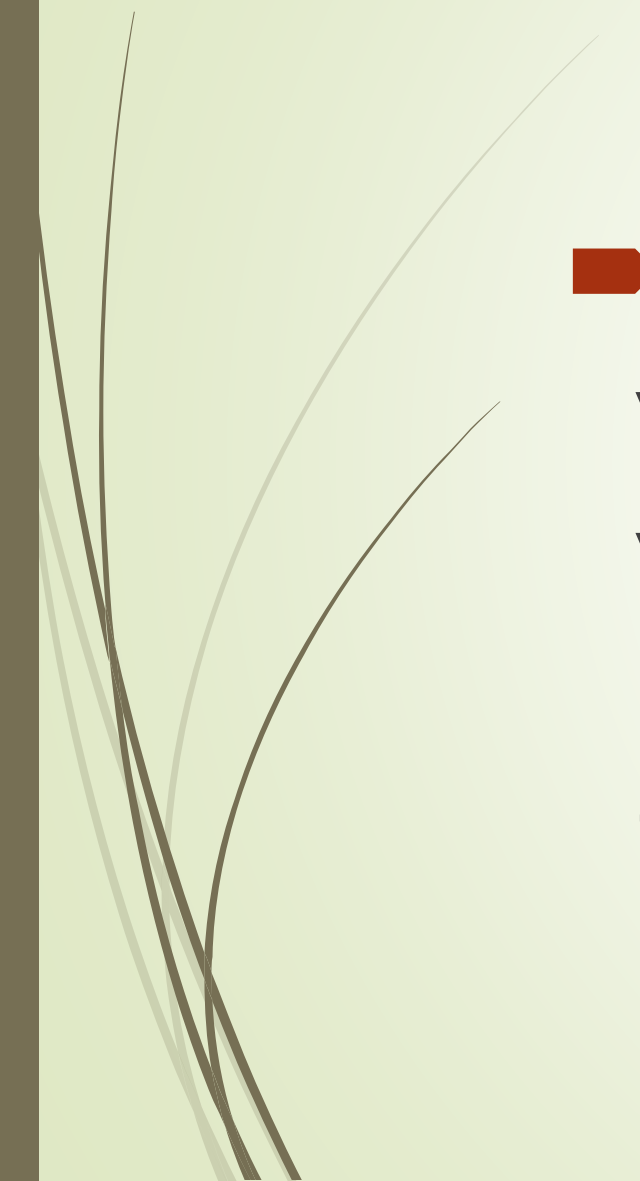




The 5th to the 9th Century

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- At the end of the talk, there will be time to share God's work in our lives or in the lives of people around us, or in how the Lord supported His Church

If you- my sons and daughters
keep my commandments
that I teach you
Then the church will
survive and be
strong for ever and ever


If Your Sons Keep My
Covenant And The Statutes
I Teach Them, Then Their
Sons Will Sit On Your
Throne For Ever And Ever.”

Psalms 132-12

BibleWordings.com



Probably , this is how the church survived for 1600 yrs



Problems, prayer, easing of the problems, till the next wave of troubles

Christianity in Egypt post Chalcedon

- ➡ The emperor appointed a rival Pope on Egypt and gave him the administrative role of ruling Egypt,
- ➡ A wave of persecution carried on for almost 2 centuries between the Political parallel leader and the Copts

And Saint John
the forerunner,
baptist, and
martyr; Saint
Stephen the
archdeacon and
protomartyr; the
beholder-of-God,
the Evangelist
Mark, the holy
apostle and
martyr;

the patriarch
Saint Severus; our
teacher
Dioscorus; Saint
Athanasius the
Apostolic; Saint
Peter, the holy
martyr and
archpriest;

Saint John
Chrysostom; Saint
Theodosius; Saint
Theophilus; Saint
Demetrius; Saint
Cyril; Saint Basil;
Saint Gregory the
Theologian; Saint
Gregory the
Wonderworker;
Saint Gregory the

ΖΕΝ ΟΥΜΕΘΜΗ

Νεμ παςιος
Ιωαννης
πιπροδρομος
αβαπτιςτης οτος
αμαρτυρος: Νεμ
παςιος
Στεφανος
πιαρχιαδακονος
οτος
απρωτομαρτυρος
: Νεμ πιεωριμος
νεταγσελιςτης
Παρκος
πιαποστολος
εθοναβ οτος
αμαρτυρος.



Νεμ
πιπατριαρχης
εθοναβ Σενηςρος:
Νεμ πενσαδ
Διοσκορος: Νεμ
παςιος
Αθανασιος
πιαποστολικος:
Νεμ παςιος
Πετρος
ιερομαρτυρος
πιαρχιερες.


Νεμ παςιος
Ιωαννης
πιχρυσοστομος:
Νεμ παςιος
Θεοδωσιος: Νεμ
παςιος Θεοφιλος:
Νεμ παςιος
Δημητριος: Νεμ
παςιος
Κυριλλος: Νεμ
παςιος Βασιλιος:

والقديس يوحنا السابق
الصابغ والشهيد،
والقديس استفانوس رئيس
الشماسة وأول الشهداء،
وناظر الإله الإنجيلي
مرقس الرسول الطاهر
والشهيد.

والبطريرك القديس
ساويرس، ومعلمنا
ديوسقورس، والقديس
أثناسيوس الرسولي،
والقديس بطرس الشهيد
الطاهر ورئيس الكهنة.

والقديس يوحنا ذهبي
الفم، والقديس
ثاودوسيوس، والقديس
ثاوفيلس، والقديس
ديمتريوس، والقديس
كيرلس، والقديس
باسيليوس، والقديس

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- While **Pope Sawiris** was in Exile in Egypt for over 20 years, Pope **Theodosios** was also in exile for almost 30 years in Asia Minor.
 - However the two Popes were corresponding and of the same faith



P Benjamin only came out of hiding when it became clear that **Amr** has fully occupied Egypt

➡ “ Verily in all the lands we have taken, I have never seen a man of God like this man

➡ **He was excellent of speech, calm and dignified- God's Grace to His servants**

➡ **Amr asked for his prayer, and he did**



The Popes carried the brunt of sufferings

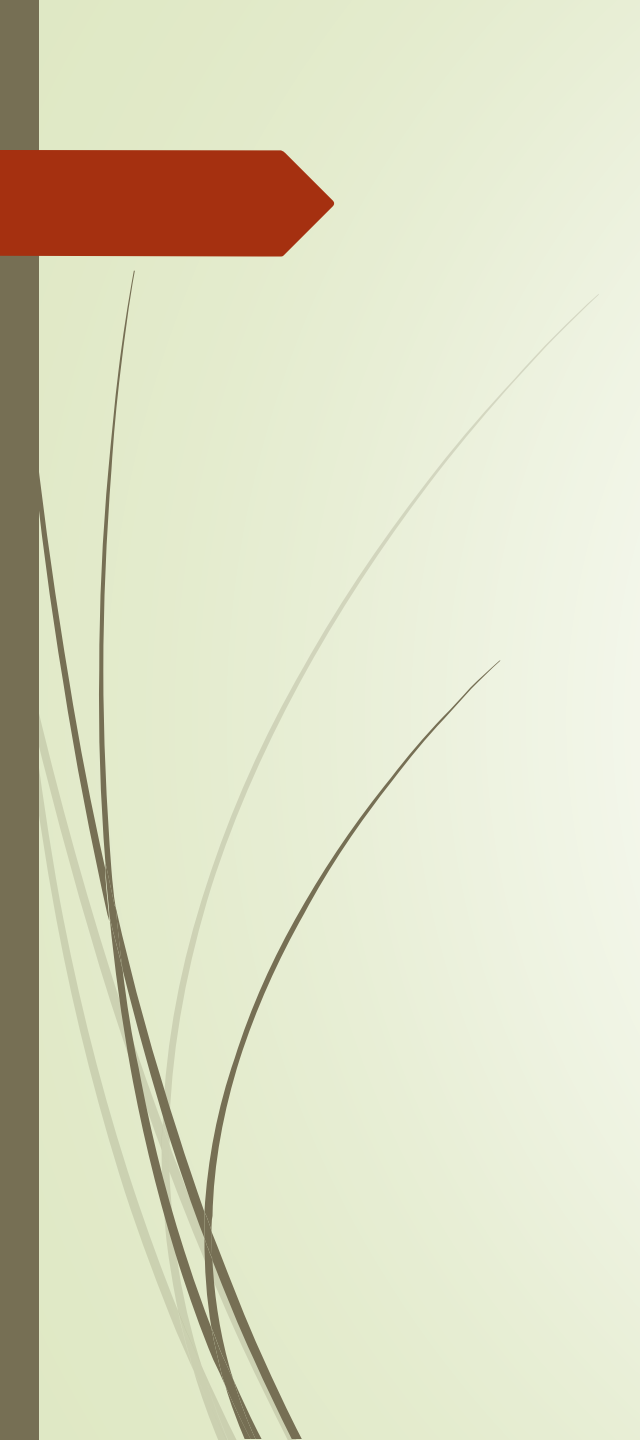
- God put us apostles on display, like those condemned to die in the arena, we have been made a spectacle to all human beings
- The Islamic armies were forever in need of more money, **the Pope of the day was considered the one to collect money from his flock**

God saved the church from a nasty man

- **Al Asbagh**, was about to take power from Abd Al Azziz, he taxed the monks, put financial demands on bishops, **spat on the icon of St Mary carrying baby Jesus**. He became feverish in the night, only became conscious to tell that he was bound in chains, and brought naked before Christ enthroned in his glory, he fell into **coma again and died in the morning**

Pope Mark 2nd


- ➔ **Peaceful time for 2 consecutive Popes, built churches**, renovated St Mina's Pilgrimage church
- ➔ **Started businesses** to pay the taxes required, Vineyards, Mills, and oil presses
- ➔ 2 Businessmen acted as a go between the church and the state, one of them was Saweris !




The gates of hell shall not
prevail against God's
church, The churches
enemies are defeated and
the church is rescued

Saeed Ibn Kateb Al Farghani

- ➡ **A brilliant engineer**, in Ibn Tolon's era (880)
- ➡ Built a reservoir, connected fresh water to the royal palace, Ibn Tolon came to the site to inspect. There were a heap of stones, his horse stumbled over the stones, and he fell
- ➡ **So he put Saeed in prison** . The harsh middle ages




While in prison , he got to know that Ibn Tolon is planning to build a huge mosque, it would require **300 columns** to keep the roof. Surely , **the columns would come from knocking down a large number of churches**




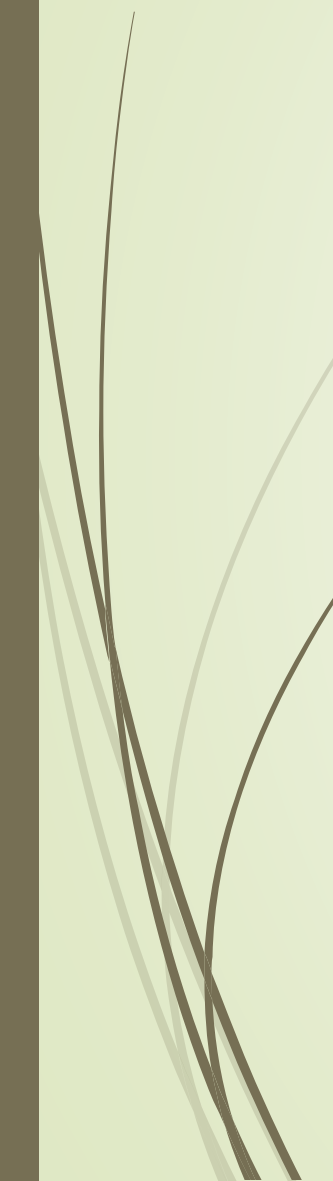
He made a model of a mosque from leather, another ingenious design that required, **only 2 columns** which were built from stones




The design was applied in Europe
200 yrs later, building a large
structure with no supporting
columns




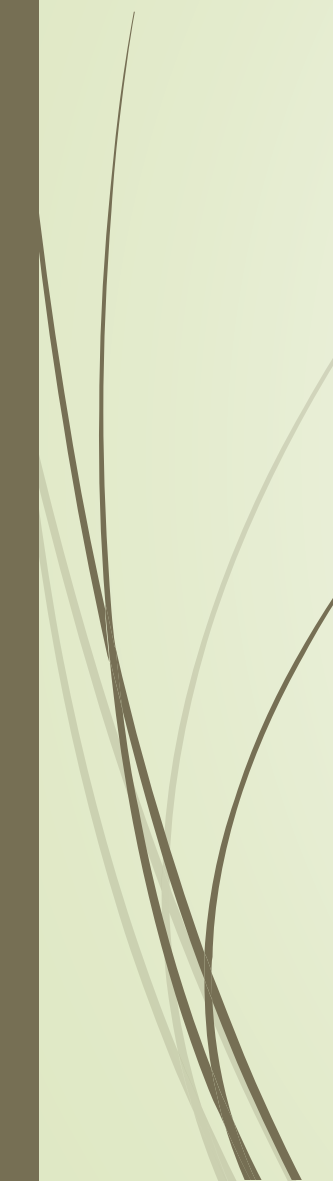
Ibn Tolon liked the design, the
mosque was built. Then came the
day of the grand opening

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- The same principle of designing a large building with no columns was applied by Christopher Wren when he designed the great Naval college in Greenwich in 1750AD. He was criticised, you can't design such a large building with no columns
 - He was sure of what he was doing, to appease them, he put 2 columns at the entrance of the hall
 - But at the grand opening, people noticed at once that there was a 3 inches difference between the columns and the roof, in other words, the columns were decorative only and were not needed to support the ceiling
 - Saeed did all this 1000 years before






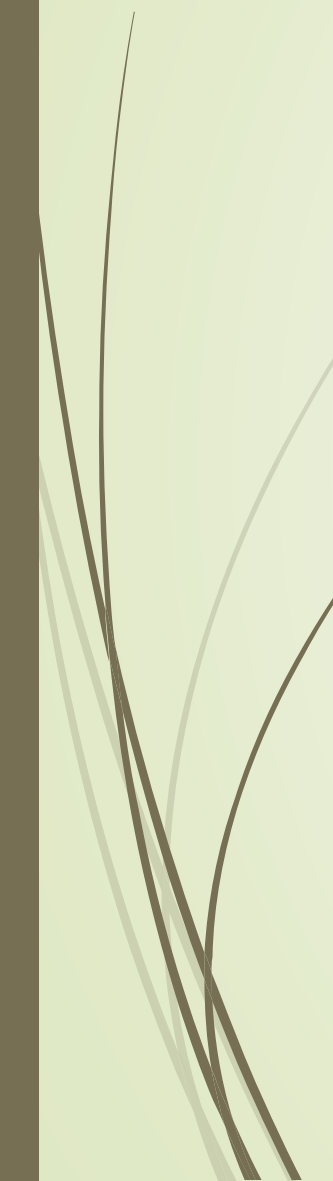
His courtiers said , you cannot walk
shoulder to shoulder with a Christian
opening the mosque

- ➔ **He called Saeed, either you convert
to Islam or I will kill you**
- ➔ **He kept the faith and was martyred**

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- ➡ Thank God the harshness of the middle ages and the persecution on the church has lessened, nevertheless, the difficulties that face Christians exist in Egypt and Syria

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- 20 yrs ago Saudi was a very strict Muslem country. No churches were allowed
 - My brother in Law was working in Saudi, my niece was in 1st yr university, she travelled to Saudi to visit her Dad
 - She was found a cassette tape with Christian songs, the tape was confiscated, and she was stripped by female police officers and searched in case she had any further Christian material

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- A friend was working in Saudi, he brought a whole box of prayer books with him. As a blessing he also put the coverings cloth of that was around the relics of St Mechorius Abu Sefain. Copts met together in private flats to pray
 - In the airport, he was asked by a suspecting police officer, get the keys out of your pocket and open the case. Searching the case, the books would have been confiscated, there was a real possibility of him losing his job and being deported to Egypt

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- The most unexpected happened
 - Another officer appeared , ordered my friend, put the keys back in your pocket
 - He then told the searching officer, I know this man well
 - My friend said I have never seen that officer
 - The searched bags were marked clearly after they were searched
 - As my friend went through customs, another officer commented this bag has not been searched
 - The officer who accompanied my friend said, I know him, I can guarantee him
 - The protecting officer took my friend through customs, and then disappeared, who was He ??

