



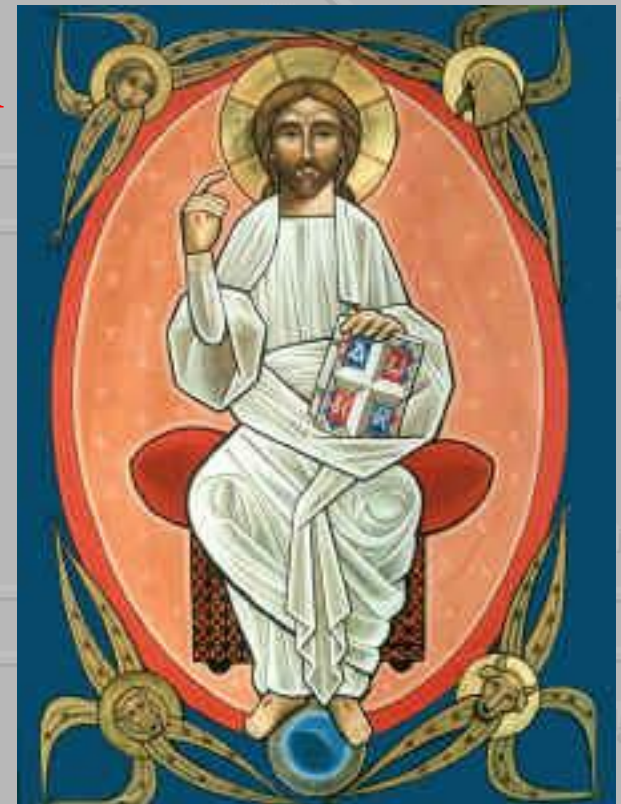
# Introduction to the New Testament of the Holy Bible

# St. Mary & St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church Carmel, IN

Bible Written by over 40 men

Over a period of 1500 Years

From 1400 B.C. to 110 A.D.





# The Forty Writers of the Bible



Were

- Shepherds
- Kings
- Fishermen
- Peasants
- Doctors
- Tax-collectors  
(Matthew)

# THE BIBLE

“Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Spirit of God” (2 Peter 1:21)

- 73 books
- 40 different writers
- Almost 1500 Years
- Over 10,000 events
- One Story
- Unity of Theme
- No contradictions
- All the scripture has God as the author, written by people moved by God.



# The New Testament

Of the 73 books, 27 were written soon after the death of Jesus



# The Map Showing Israel Much of the events occurred in Israel





# Comparison between Old and new Testaments

## The Old Testament

– 46 books

- All written in the 1500-year period before Jesus' birth
- “**Testament**” means “**covenant** or **agreement**”
- The Old Covenant is an agreement that God made with the nation of **ISRAEL**
- The **Old Testament** was written in **Hebrew** – the language of Israel

## The New Testament

– 27 books

- All written **AFTER** his death
- 48-120 A.D.
- The New Covenant is an agreement that God has made for **ALL NATIONS**
- The **New Testament** was written in **Greek**

Even the Fathers of the nation of Israel were told by God that one of their descendants would one day be born and bless the entire world

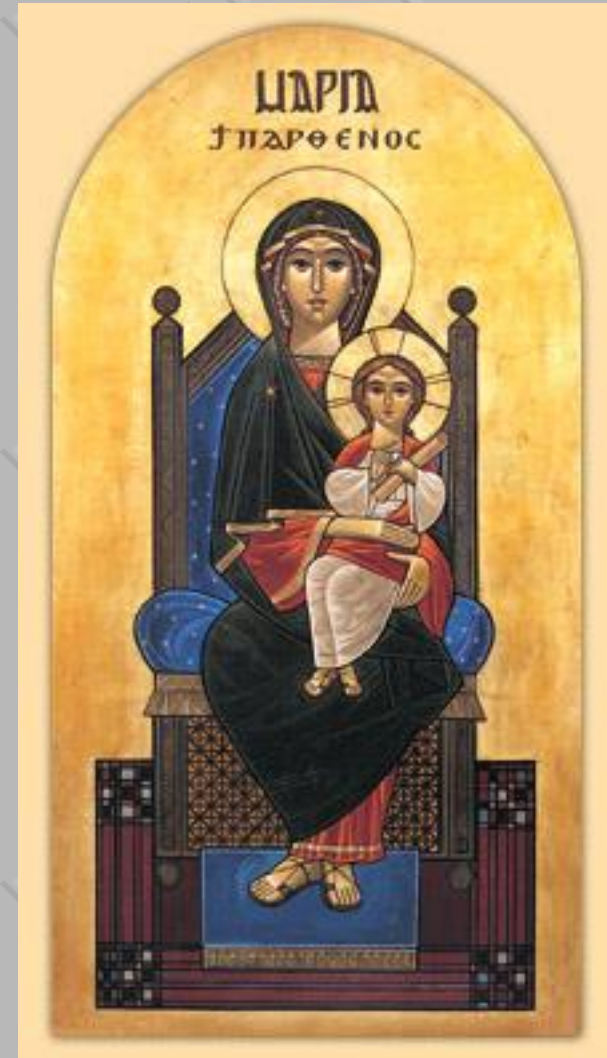




# THE STORY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

was

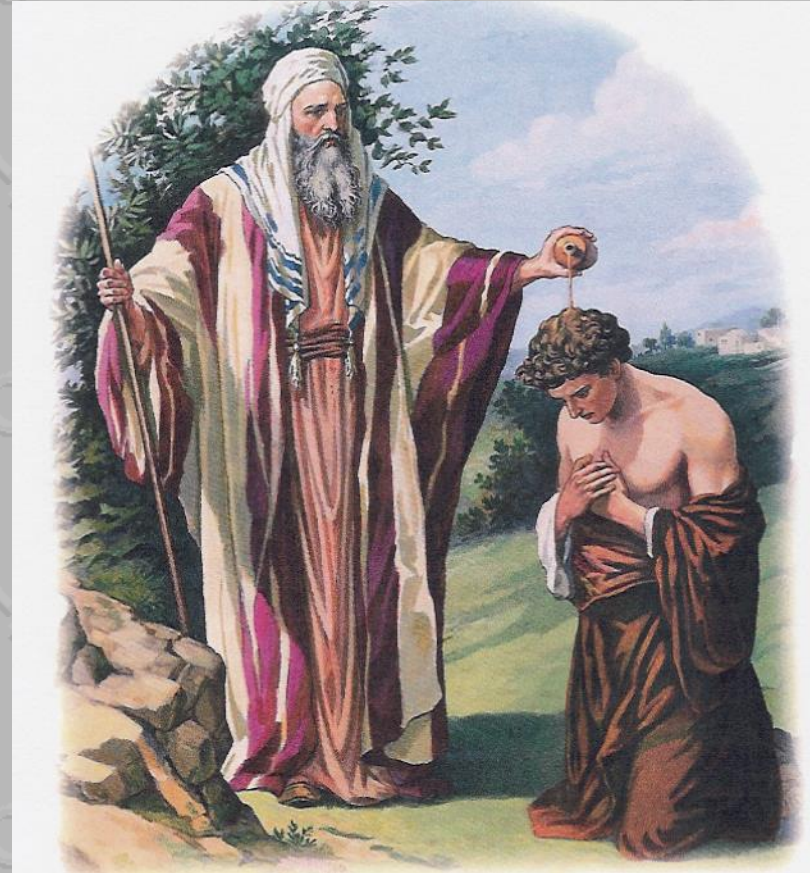
**Someone is coming**



THE MESSAGE OF THE PROPHETS  
OF THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS

**The CHRIST is coming**

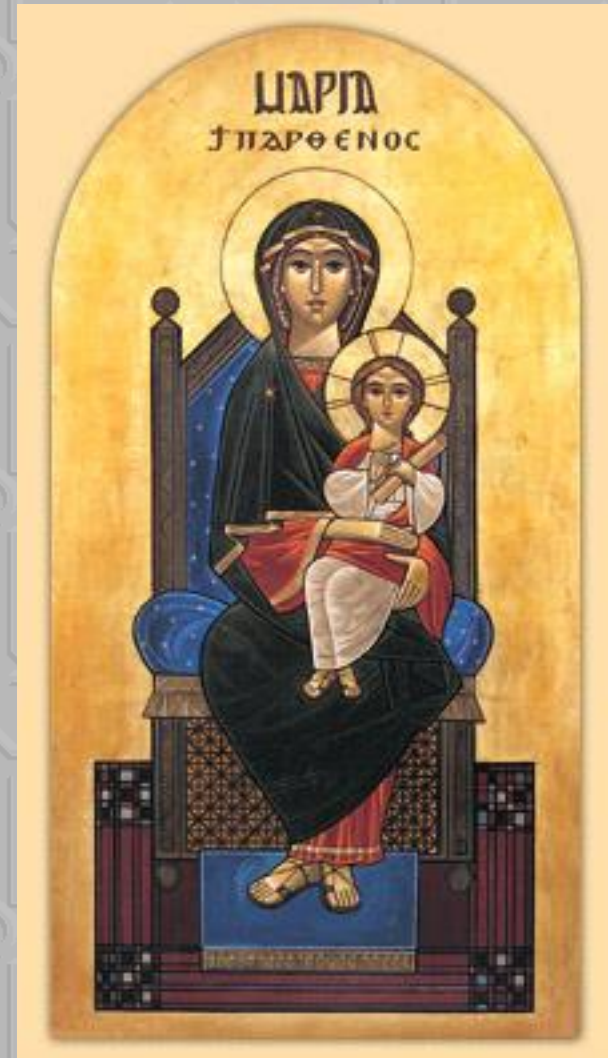
All the Prophets,  
Priests and Kings of  
Israel were  
**ANNOINTED**  
with oil when they  
took their office



It was like an  
inauguration ceremony

The Prophets of Israel  
predicted that one day  
God would anoint a  
world leader with his  
Spirit

Acts 10:38: How God anointed Jesus of  
Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with  
Poiwer, who went about doing good and  
healing all who were oppessed by the devil,  
for God was with Him

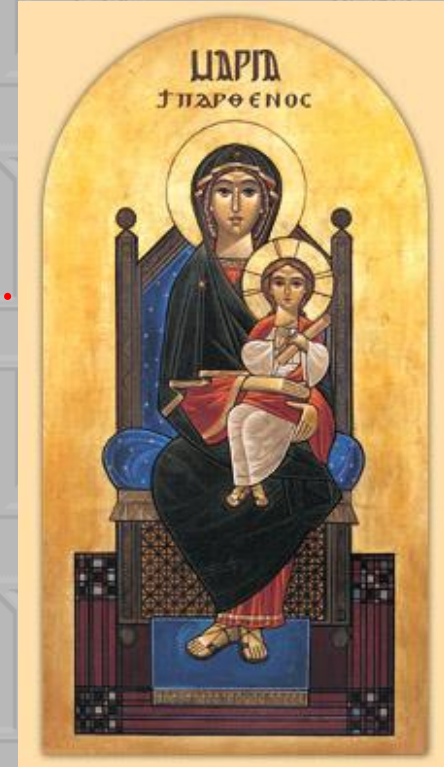


# New Testament

## General Information

Divided into 4 sections: The Gospels, the Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation. The epistles are two subsections: (1) epistles written by St. Paul, and (2) the catholic epistles written by other apostles.

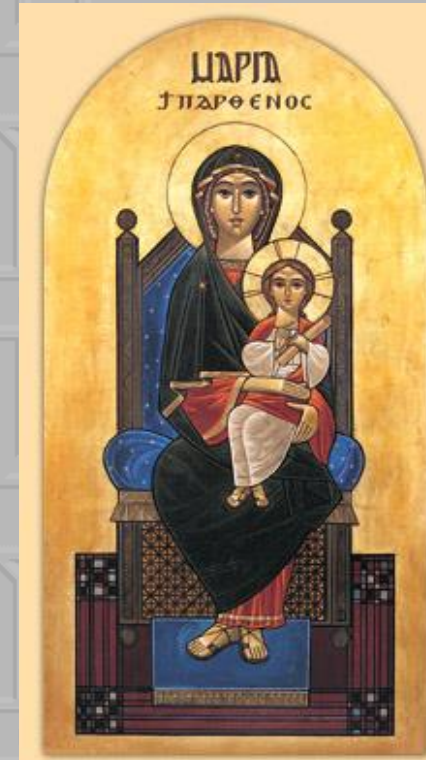
- ❖ All 27 books written after the death of Jesus.
- ❖ Out of 40 men wrote the Holy Bible, only 8 wrote the new testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, Paul, James, Peter, Judas)
- ❖ First four books (the Gospels) tell an independent account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus



# The New Testament: Section I

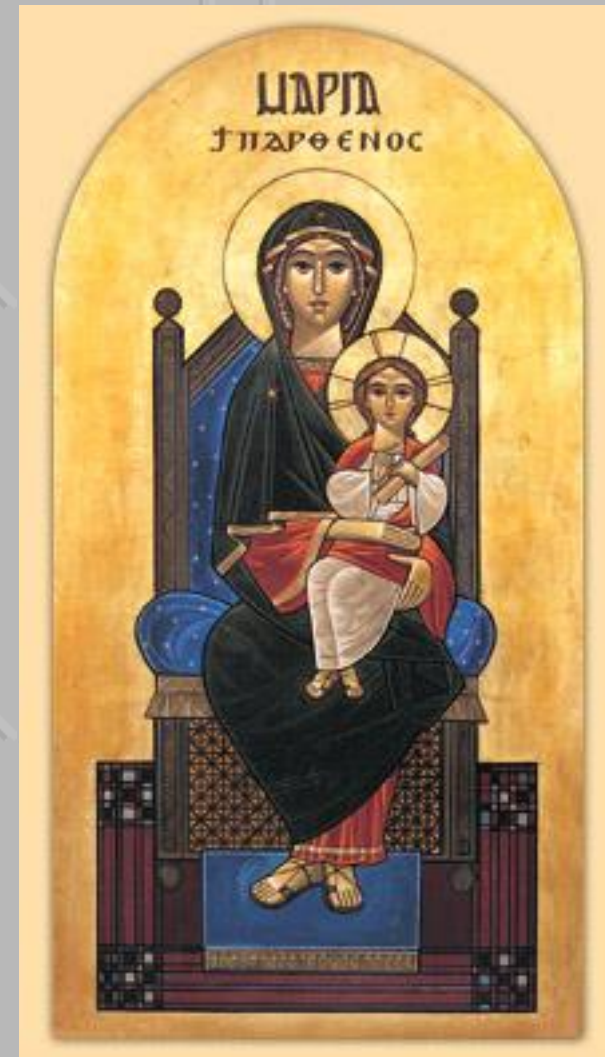
## The First Four Books

- Called the four gospels (gospel is a Greek word for “good news”)
- Named after the authors – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Three were eyewitnesses, Luke learned much from of the eyewitnesses. His Gospel was based on eyewitnesses (much from the Holy Tradition: from St. Mary and St. Paul).
- Jesus lived & died in 30 A.D., all 27 New Testament books were written while eyewitnesses were still alive until the Gospel of John that was written near the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century



## New Testament

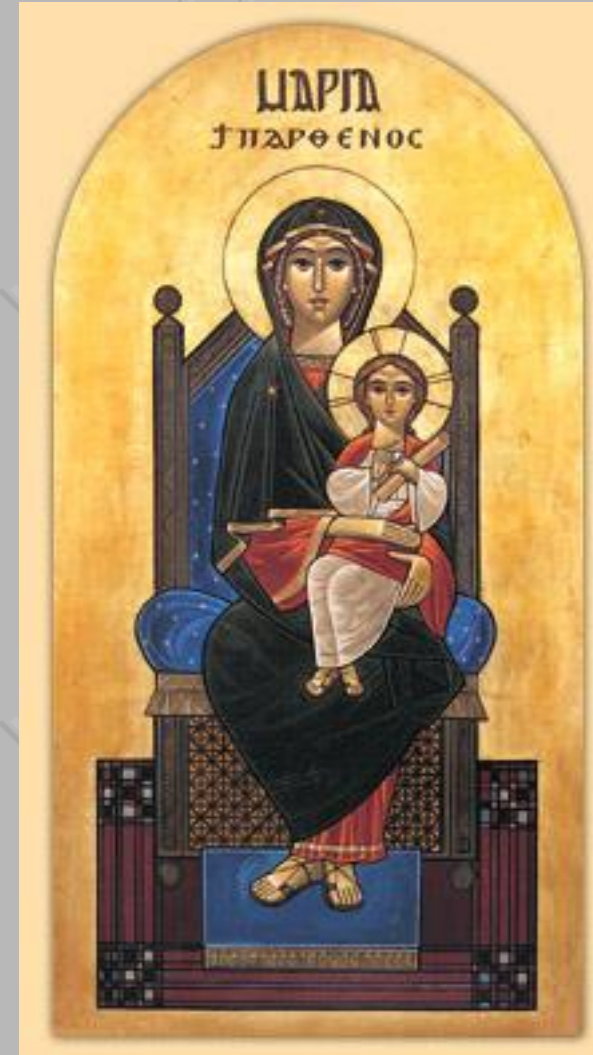
- ❖ The Four Gospels give evidence that **Jesus is the Christ** (the anointed from God), the one predicted in the Old Testament in various books.
- ❖ Shows how prophecy was fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus



# The Four Gospels

## Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

- Tell the purpose of Jesus' coming
- Reveal his perfect life and service
- Gives the true source of his teaching
- Gives evidence that he is the Son of God and deserves our worship
- Help us understand why his own nation killed him





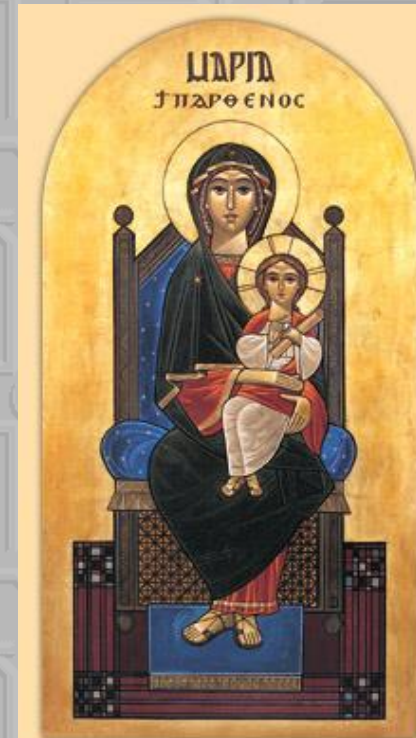
# The Four Gospels

**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**

**Do not Contain everything Jesus did**

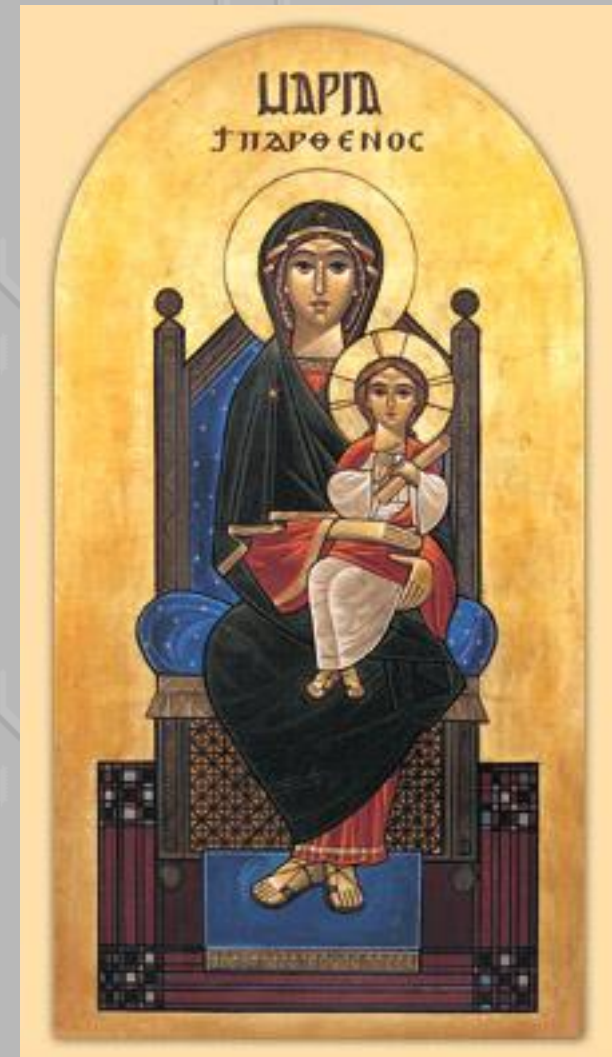
(John 21:25) Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

(John 20:30-31) Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



## New Testament: Section II

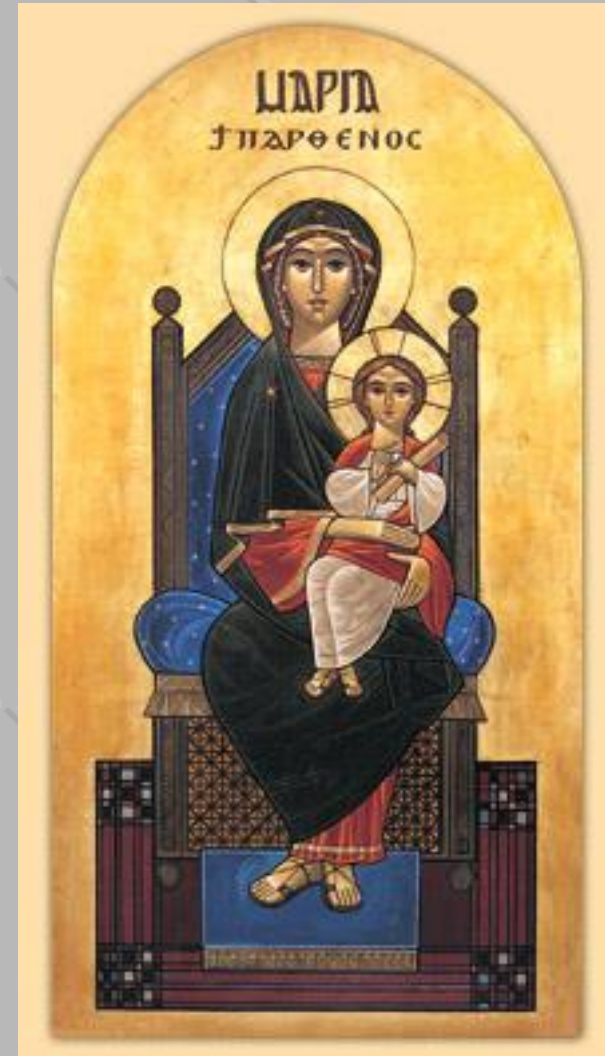
- ❖ Fifth Book – Acts, written by Luke. It tells the story of the first 30 years of Christianity



## New Testament: Section III

### books 6-26

- ❖ Are letters written by apostles to various churches and individuals
- ❖ Instructions in spiritual life are found here



# New Testament: Section IV (Book # 27)

❖ Visions by St. John  
regarding the heavenly  
Jerusalem.

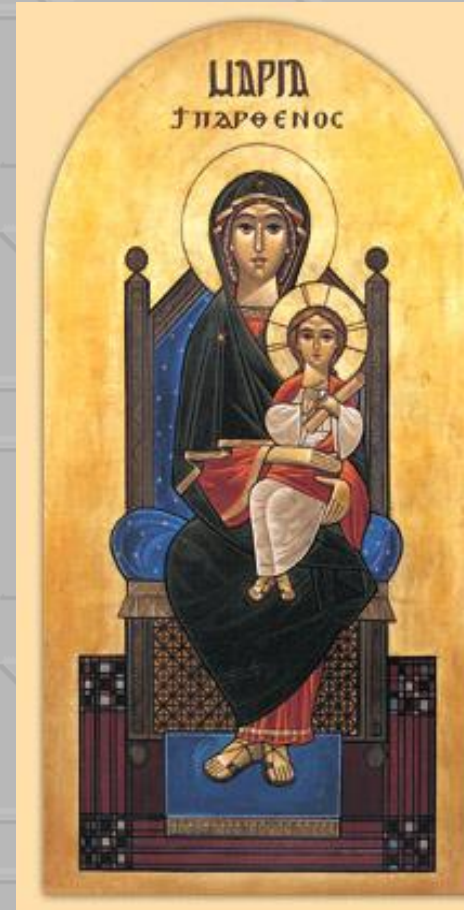


# Introduction to the New Testament: Emphasis

on the subjects of the 4 sections

## Section 1: The Four Gospels

- It tells about the life of our Lord Jesus Christ: His birth, start of His service, His Baptism, His death, His resurrection.
- Did not list every thing
- No contradiction
- Much are common
- Every book speaks to a set of people from certain perspectives, to introduce the Lord in perfect views.



# Section 2: The Book of Acts

This section covers:

- The church journey at early days starting from the ascension into heavens until the prison of St. Paul at Rome.
- This is the only book did not end with the conclusion “Amen”, since we still have continuation to the acts. In that we may consider:
  - The church history is a continuation to the Book of Acts
  - The Book of Synaxarium is a continuation to the book of Acts.



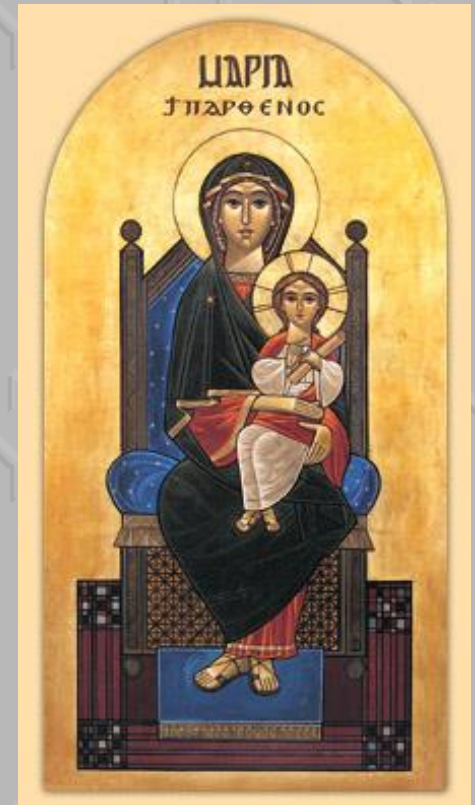
# Section 3: The Epistles

- 14 Pauline epistles (written by St. Paul) totaling 100 chapters
- The Catholic epistles
  - James (1)
  - Peter (2)
  - John (3)
  - Judas (1)



# Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

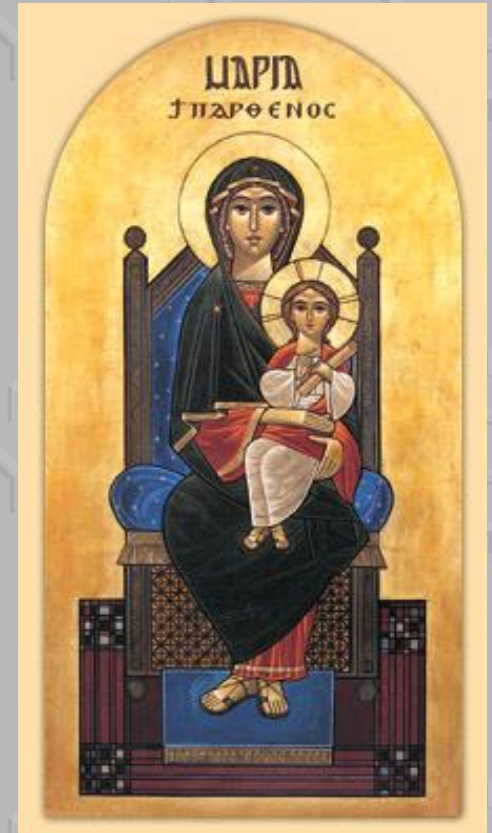
- They give instructions, guidance, and explanations from a spiritual father like Peter, Paul, or John to the church or to individuals such as to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon
- They cover principles of Christianity and spiritual practicing





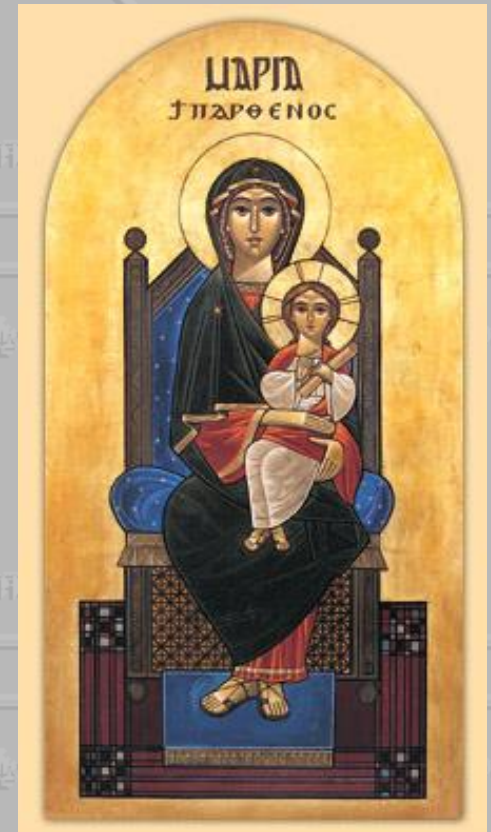
# Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

- The Catholic Epistles are the epistles written by other apostles (not Paul)
- They emphasize important theme: faith, love, and hope. Some give comfort messages at the time of tribulation and sending warnings against false teachers.



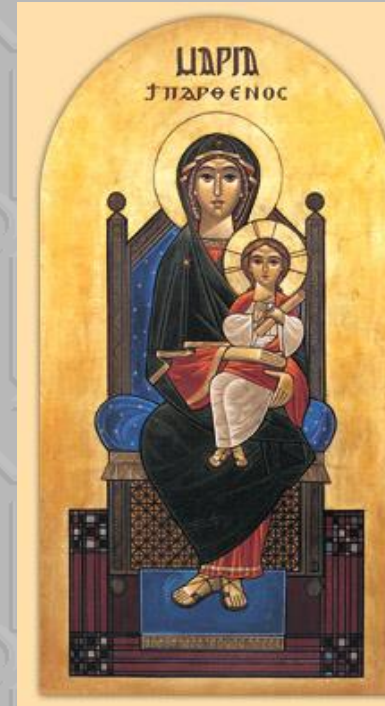
# Section 4: The Book of Revelation

- St. John saw visions while he was in prison at Patmos (an island in Greece).
- These visions carry important messages to the churches regarding tribulations they face on earth, and the beauty of heavens. This gives hope to the followers of the Lord.



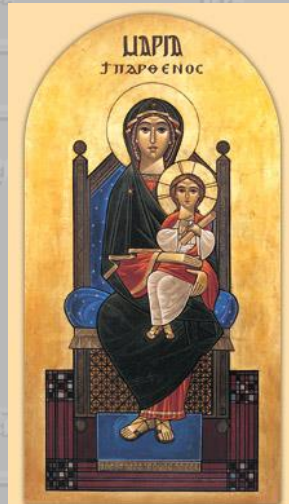
# Further Details on Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels

- The meaning of the Gospel is “good news” joyful messages:
  - God loves you,
  - God called us
  - God saved us
  - God is the head at heavens, and we are His body on earth. He pulls us all to Heavens
  - God became united with us
  - God always look for us
  - God loves to live with us
  - God always listen to us
  - God guards us and guides us
  - God protects us from evil
  - God is good



# Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels: The Gospel of Matthew

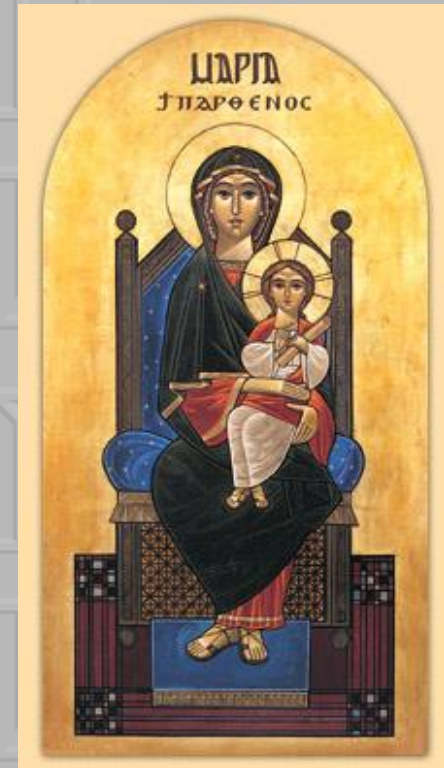
- Was written to the Jews and to deal with Jewish thoughts and culture
- Approach: Link both old and new testaments, speak of kingdom, give examples and explanation, and more importantly, who will enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Appropriate approach followed in his messages:
  - The Lord is the Messiah that we waited for
  - He came from the Jewish origin:
    - Birth certified from David the Prophet
    - His father was Ibrahim, the promised descendant
  - Witnesses from David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, among others. He emphasizes as David said so and so. This approach is accepted by the Jewish culture
- Matthew used Parables for explanation
- He used events that are linked to the old testament
- Prophecies from old testament were fulfilled in Christ the Lord



# Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels

## The Gospel of Matthew Cont.

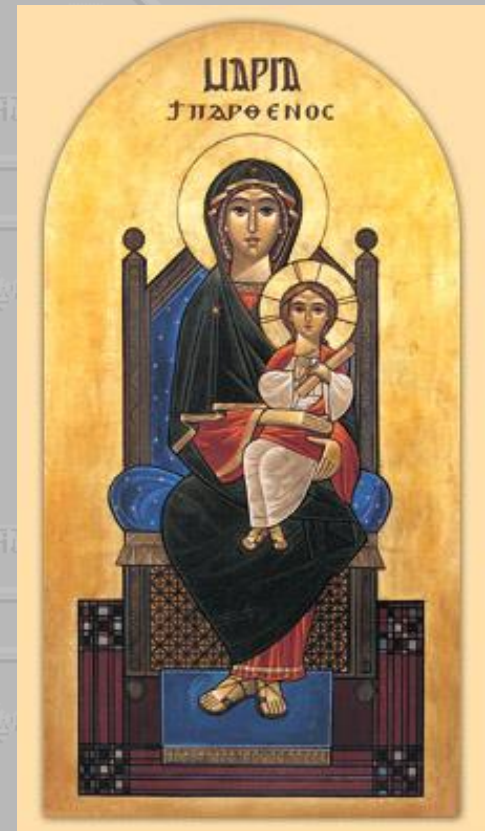
- More of teaching styles: full of sermons and detailed parables. Look at the sermon on the mountain Matt 5, 6, 7
  - Parables in Matt 13
  - He proves the divinity of Christ, his Crucifixion, and ascension Matt 16
  - Matt 25: who will enter the heavens, parable of the talents, virgins, who were called to the wedding
  - Covers many miracles and explained them



# Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels

## The Gospel of Matthew Cont.

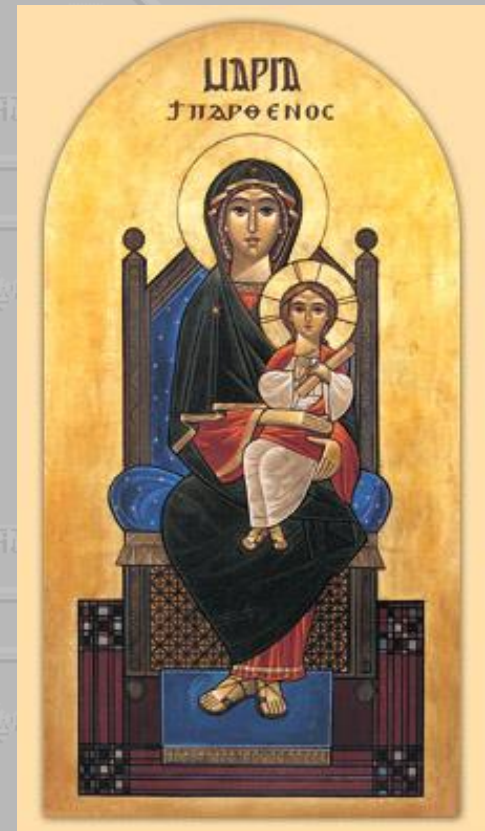
- The Jewish culture is seeking kingdom. So he introduced Jesus as king, but His kingdom is the Kingdom of Heaves (not earthly king)
  - Ask for the Kingdom of Heavens and His righteousness, and the rest will be added to you (Matt 6:33).
  - Jewish approach Jesus is the son of man, from Jewish origin. He is the King of Heavens



# Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels

## The Gospel of St. Mark

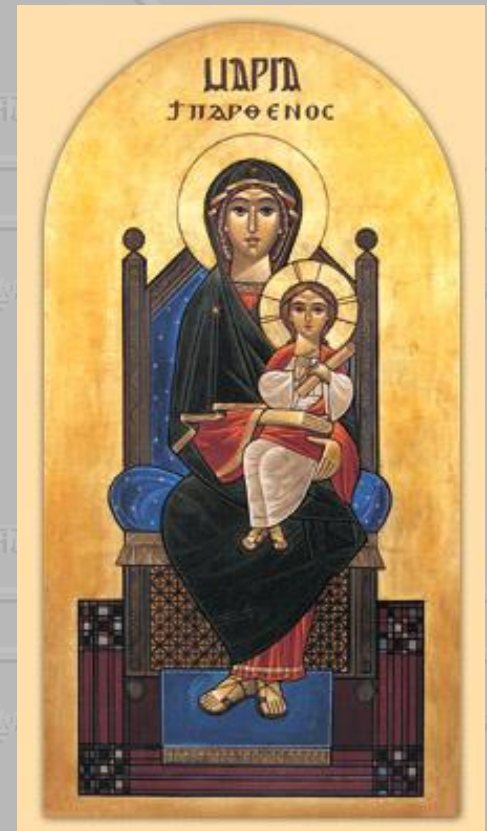
- This was written to the Romans who always love power.
- Followed different approach from Matthew.
- The Romans did not know old testament
- They are not interested in details or sermons.
- They admired strength and seek powerful men
- Therefore, Mark introduced the Lord with description of power and greatness: absolute power, power on the nature, etc
- He started his Gospel with a powerful statement: A voice crying in the wilderness, prepare the ways of the Lord.
- It is the oldest Gospel.
- He lists events quickly. Good approach to reach out the romans. Of course, the Holy Spirit directed them.
- About 80% common with the three Gospels but from different views and different directions that are suited from the readers.
- The last third of the Gospel covers the passion of the week. This is similar to St. John's Gospel.



# Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels

## The Gospel of St. Luke

- He was a disciple of St. Paul
- He was among the 70 apostles.
- Was Greek
- Wrote his Gospel to the Greek, suited for the Greek culture
- Luke was a physician and artist. Of high research caliber (accurate in investigating matters). Therefore, we find in his style:
  - Accuracy in description
  - Details of the events or diseases as being a physician.
- Luke did not live the time when Jesus was there, rather he investigated accurately the events from eye witnesses.
- He was the writer to the book of Acts, following the events in very details

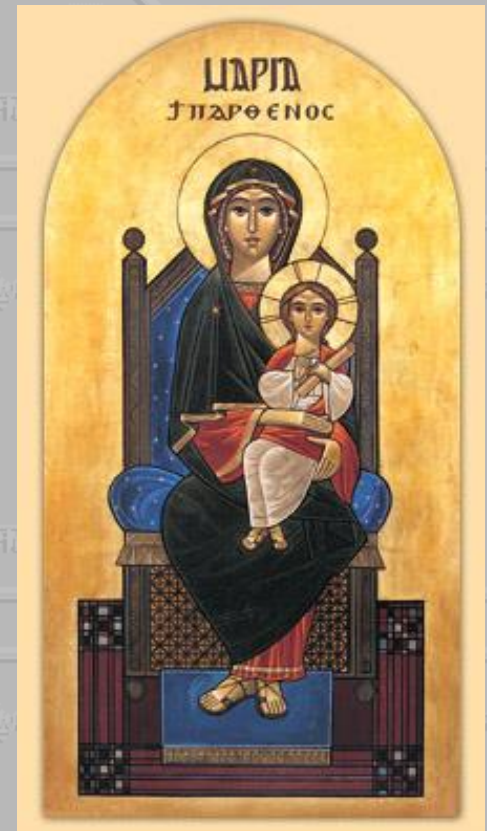




# Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels

## The Gospel of St. Luke Cont.

- He is more of an Historian who recorded the events accurately as heard from St. Mary and St. Paul. He served with St. Paul. Much of this Gospel was originated from the Holy Tradition
  - His style was appropriate to Greek when responding to the events of passion
  - Greek want to know many stories without details
  - Greek like to see idealism. They were affected by philosophers: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Therefore, St. Luke presents the Lord as the perfect man who respect women, children, elders,
  - Idealism was also handled via comparison (good and bad, right or wrong):
    - The good Samiritan
    - The pharisee and tax collector
    - Simon the leper and sinner woman
    - The rich and Lazarus
    - Watchful and non watchful



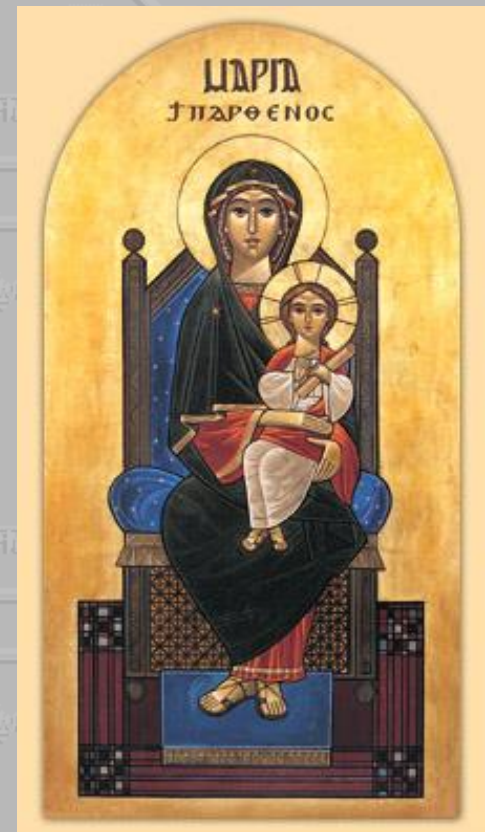
# Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels

## The Gospel of St. Luke Cont.

- The prodigal son with the details and enthusiasm of the description.
- The details given for the story of Zececos
- The two disciple from the city of Emmaus whom the Lord appeared to them

### Important Note:

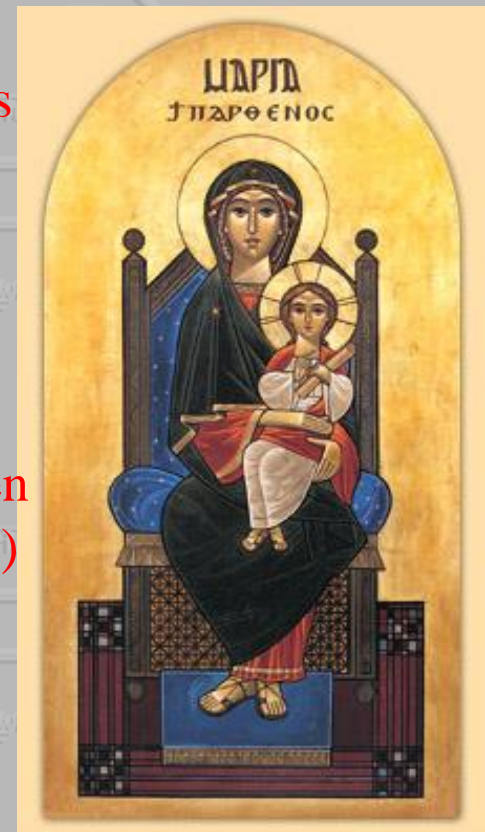
- The three evangelists wrote their books around year 65.
- The pictures of spreading the word was already there. By the end of the century, all those who were eyewitnesses have gone to heavens except St. John, who started at a younger age than Jesus, and continued to the age of 90's.



# Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels

## The Gospel of St. John.

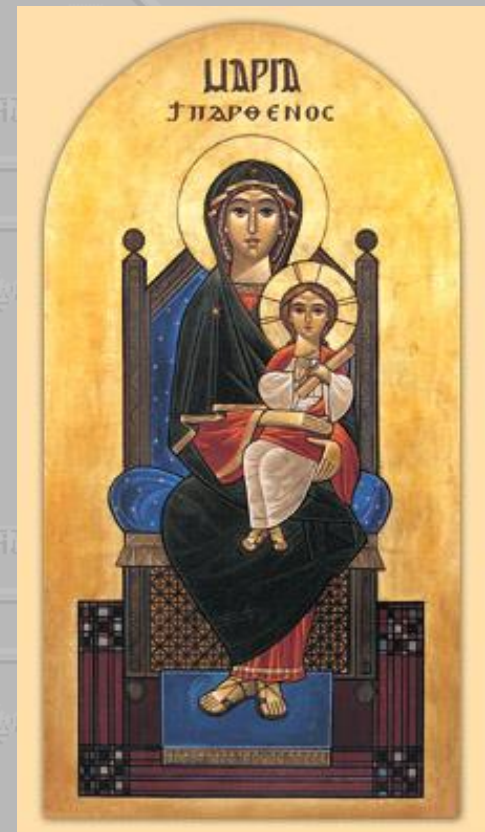
- John was not planning to write a Gospel. However, the guidance of the holy Spirit directed him to write his Gospel.
- At the end of the first century after all disciples and apostles left to heavens, the devil started attacking the church, misleading the church with a serious issue: is Christ truly is God and son of God? Is He real person? Who said that? Etc.
- Only St. John was still alive at that time.
- St. John wrote his Gospel to emphasize that Jesus is God true God of true God
- His Gospel was different from the other three, it was written to insure the divinity of Christ. When he started (chapter 1) he talked about the eternal birth from the father. In the beginning there was God..
- The wedding of Cana Galilei, proving the divinity of the Lord
- The discussions with Nikodemus . If not born from above, will not see the kingdom of heavens



# Introductory on Section 1: The Four Gospels

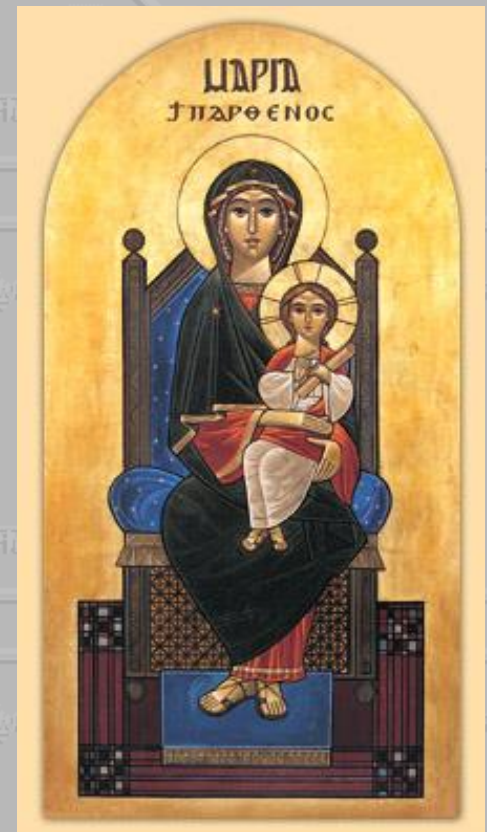
## The Gospel of St. John Cont..

- The Samaritan woman: the source of life and living water
- John 5: The paralyzed man and healing through the power of God
- John 6: the bread of life
- The good shepherd
- The last one third of his Gospel covers the passion week., The good Thursday took by itself three chapters because of the importance of His words about the holy spirit and his promises with the grace of the new testament



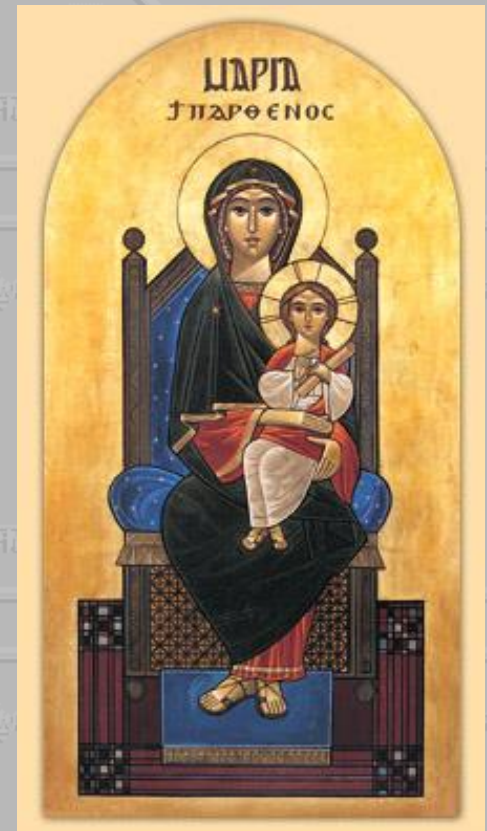
# Introductory on Section 2: The Book of Acts

- It is written by St. Luke who accompanied St. Paul in his ministry, around 60's
- This book records the events of the church ministry Two parts: (1) from Jerusalem and Galilei (2) until it takes the church to a second stage with preaching the whole world
- Part 1: The pentecost (the descendant of the holy spirit), Sermons (Peter), martyrdom of St. Stephen, The faith of the city of Samaria via St. Phillip, the faith of St. Paul from Tarsus (Saul)
- Part 2: The faith of Cornelius by St. Peter indicating the start of the ministry to the gentiles (nation). Then Paul continued his three journeys in Asia and Europe (13-15, 16-18, 19-21) continued until the Paul's martyrdom in Rome. Paul started at Antioch



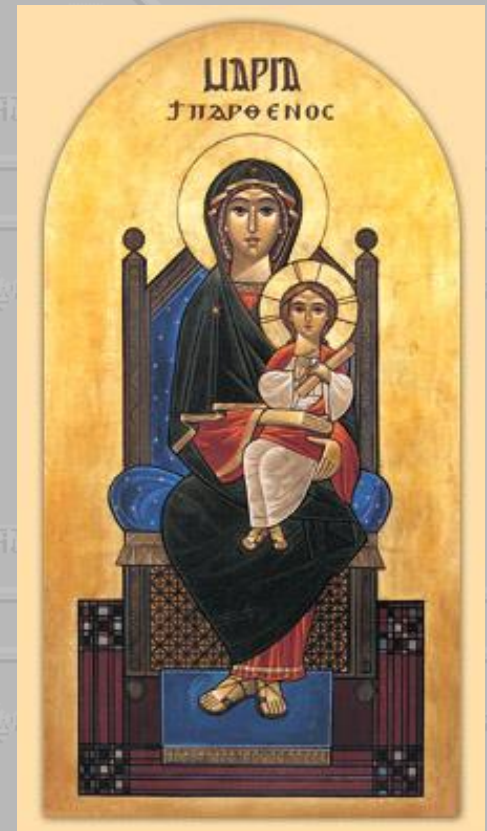
# Introductory on Section 2: The Book of Acts

- The second part of the book of Acts covers St. Paul's persecution, the churches he established, the sermons he delivered, and the priests he ordained.
- Chapter 15, was excluded from the trip because he returned back to Jerusalem with the apostles, the elders of the church to the first ecumenical council regarding the salvation of the gentiles. The idea of the salvation is by Jesus Christ not by the Law of Moses. The Law and circumcision are unable to save men. Only by faith and baptism in the name of Jesus, salvation can be received.
- St. Paul was in prison multiple times, the last was in Rome where he was judged by Nero. This sets the end of the book



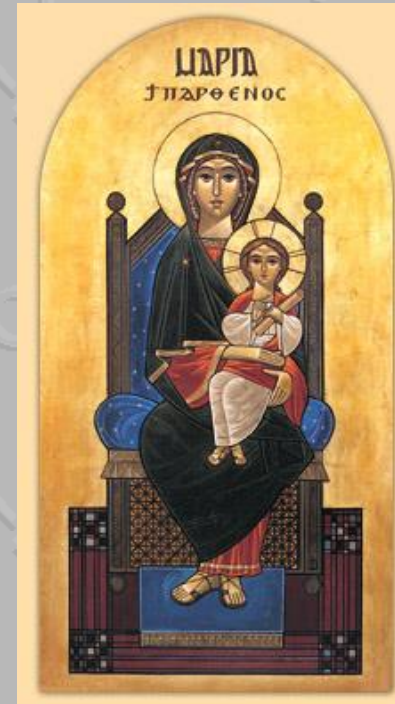
# Introductory on Section 2: The Book of Acts

- St. Paul was in prison most likely three times of a total 5 years. Two years was in Rome
- The four letters he wrote from prisons: Philippian, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon
- Near the end of his days (he knew it), he sent to his dear disciple, Timothy, who was like a son to him). He asked him to come and see him for his days are getting close. He told him “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith, finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge will give to me on that day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved his appearing



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles

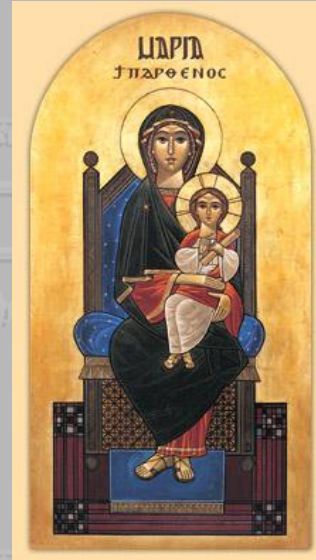
- These letters are truly treasures in the Bible, they carry unique messages: They address relationship between family members within the family, church members within the church, societal issues members in the community with the Kings and rulers, etc.
- They were written to give guidance to a congregation, and individuals sometimes. Examples for individuals include Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.
- First one was written to the Romans (in Roma). At that time, he did not go to Roma. Circumstances that led to his writing was: the Jews who were converted to Christians there confused the gentiles, telling them the necessity of the Law and Circumcision for the salvation.





# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont; to the Romans

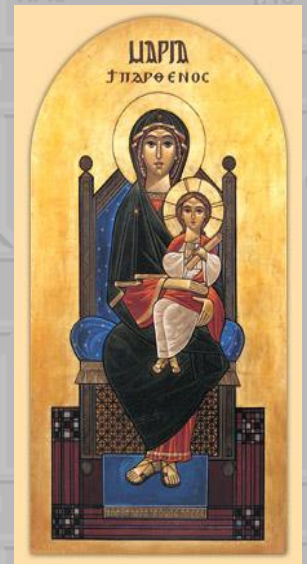
- St. Paul wrote to the Romans instructing them with the correct faith: the righteousness of Christ lead to salvation. The righteousness of the Law is not sufficient to save. Christ died to save all. Without faith in Christ those who still under the Law are still under judgment. He was preaching the faith: the righteousness of Christ leads to salvation



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Corinthians

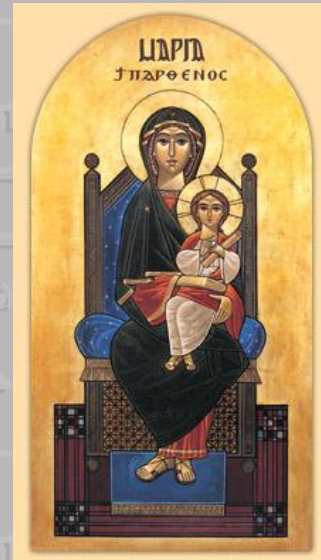
- St. Paul served in Corinthian and established a good church. He faced much problems there:
  - Corinthians I: When he left them, strange ideas and thoughts entered into the Christian Jews there. This includes division, (groups) against each others, issues with the communion, issues with adultery, eating meat, etc.
  - There were all kind of people brought their own religious beliefs. The religious background of Corinth was a mix of Greek, Roman, and Oriental. There was very little understanding of the ways of this new religion in town, Christianity. The Christian teachings went against the principles of everything they knew of religion.
  - Corinthians II. Another issue was raised, suspecting in St. Paul Apostleship. He defended his apostleship to the Corinthians in order to preach the word of God there.



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Galatians

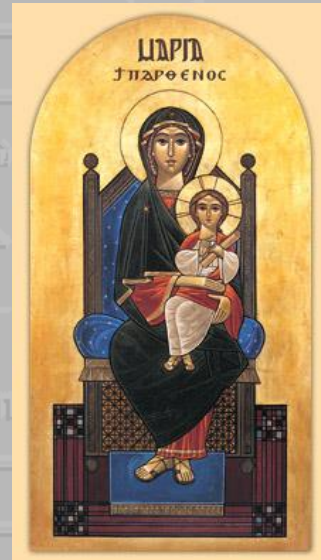
- **The issue : Judaization** . St. Paul explained to them being under the Law will belong to Hagar, her son was not the son of the promise. but the we belong to Sarah and Isaak, the son of the promise with the faith that led to salvation. The faith in Christ is the way not the latterly faith following of the Law.



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Ephesians

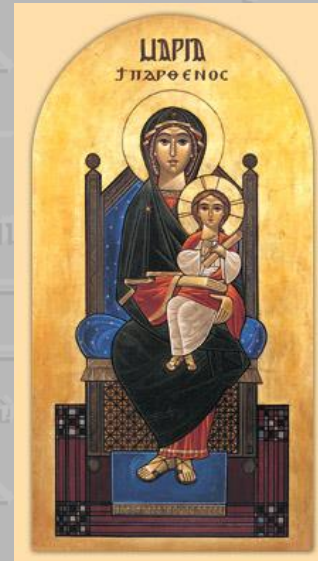
- He wrote it from the prison in Rome
- He was joyful in prison after 30 years of service in many countries.
- He sent it to them to encourage them : Christ is holy and how we become holy. Christ is the head in heavens, and we are the members in earth. He is pulling us up to heavens.



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Philippians

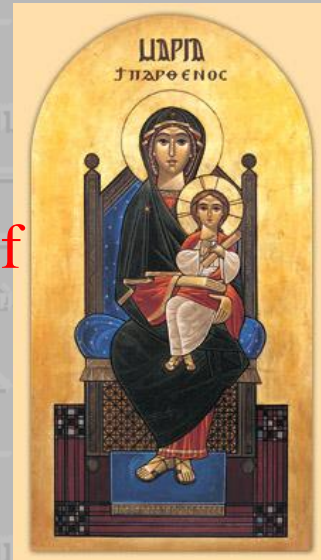
- It is a city in Greece
- He wrote it from prison
- It was the first city he served in Greece
- Had a good memory of events in his life
- The prison of Phillippe who believed in Christ at Paul's hands
- This epistle was written around 61-62 close time with Colossians, Ephesians, and Philemon.
- When Paul and Sillas were in prison. The guard was impacted by Paul and Sillas when they were praying. Then an earthquake occurred in Jail. The chains were loosened. See Acts 16. Paul baptized him with his family.



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Philippians

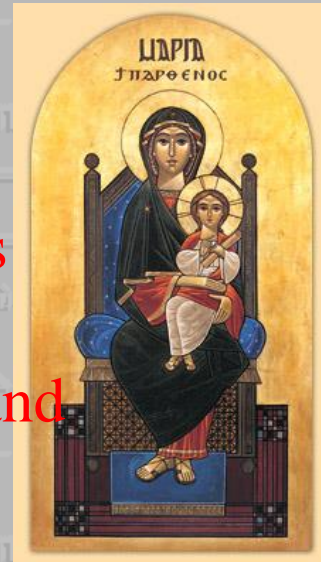
- He sent to them to make them comfortable that he will continue serving. It is not for him that he departs .  
Rejoice. Focus on the service
- I haven't forgotten the good days I spent with you.
- Rejoice and I say again rejoice.
- It is the epistle of joy for being persecuted in the name of the Lord.



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Colossians

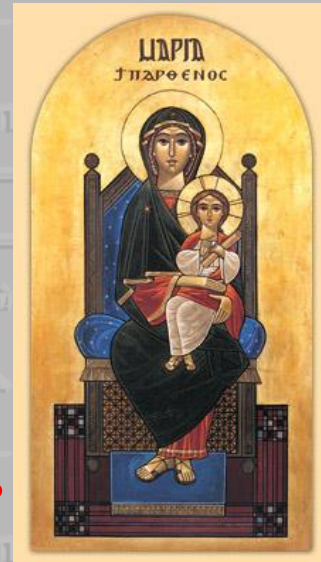
- Had special circumstances. One of his disciples came to him in prison and told him a group came in and started confusing the people there: was Christ the son of God?. Therefore, the first two chapters were focusing on the divinity of the Lord, and how Christ was resurrected by his own divinity power. The resurrection of Christ gives salvation to the whole world. He is God who loved the humanity and offered himself a sacrifice to save Adam and his descendants



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Thessalonians 1

- It is in Greece.
- They accepted the faith of Christ quickly
- Among the first epistles he wrote.
- They were exposed to persecution
- He sent to them to encourage them to hold on the faith they received from him. The Lord in his second coming will give every one according to his deeds. You will be rewarded for the good faith in you.
- He will come to them again whenever the circumstances allow

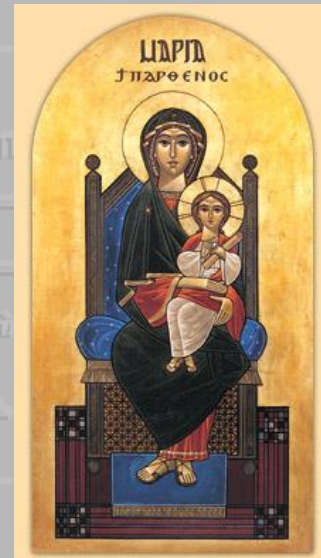




# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Thessalonians II

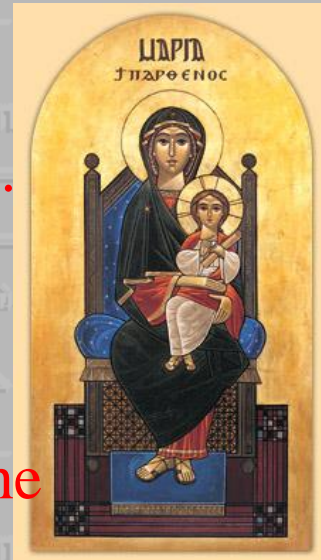
- They thought Christ is coming soon. So, they stopped working. He wrote to them:
  - He informed them to keep working and be ready, however Christ will not come before the anti Christ appears
  - We all have messages on earth during our lives. No worry about when Christ is coming. He will come in his second coming on the cloud and separate the good from bad.



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Timothy 1, 2

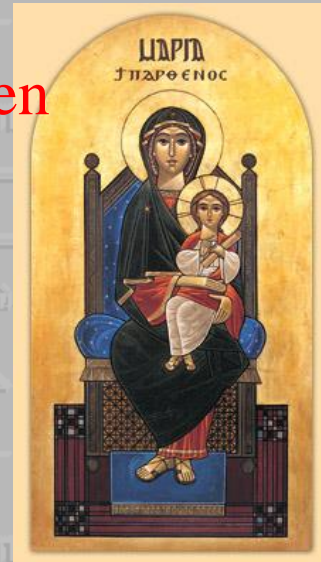
- The first epistle: It is written to individuals
- As a Shepherd to his disciple, giving him advice and direction in the service regarding priests, deacons, etc.
- An epistle from a father to a son.
- The second was about farewell (goodbye or valediction). He knows his life is getting near the end
- Timothy was a Bishop (the closest disciples to him was Timothy and Titus)
- He told Timothy. I have fought the good fight finished the race kept the faith and finally there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge will give me on that day , and not to me only but also to all who loved his appearing



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Titus

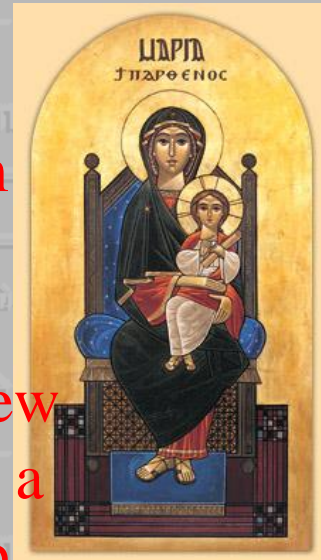
- He was another disciple to St. Paul
- Was the Bishop of Krete (in Greece)
- Krete was a difficult community and hard to deal with.  
This regards the good work, disciplines, relations between people in the church and community.
- The Lord is our example and our teacher
- The Lord works in the church



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Philemon

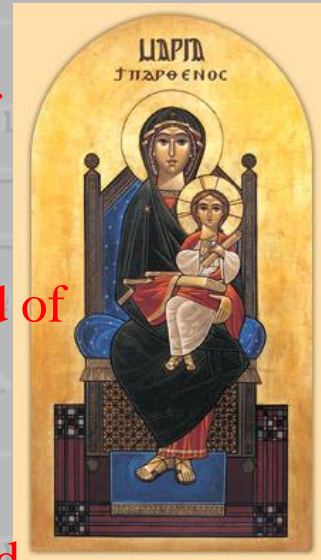
- Was a personal issue
- Was master and had a slave his name was Anathemas
- The slave stole something and escaped, then was put in prison.
- St. Paul met him in jail in Rome . St. Paul preached him and sent him to Philemon and requested that Philemon forgive him.
- Anathemas regretted what he did to his master. Both grew in spirit, and tradition says that both became Bishops as a result of the service offered by St. Paul and following up with them.



# Introductory on Section 3: The Epistles Cont.

## Hebrews

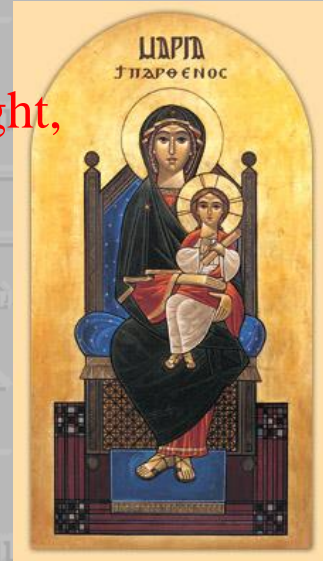
- Had a different taste of service.
- Those are the Jews who believed in Christ, they came back and started losing their faith because of the persecution from the other Jews.
- St. Paul instructed them, that the old testament will not complete without the new testament and the salvation is only via the blood of Christ
- In this epistle, St. Paul was comparing Christ with the angels of the Lord, Joshua, Moses, and every thing in Judaism such as priesthood of Aaron, showing that these matters will not offer life unless with the faith of Christ. The righteous by faith will live.
- It gives the link between the two testaments
- That Christ is the true sacrifice, and He is our intercessor we moved from the symbol and frame to the real life with Christ
- Priesthood of Melchizedek



# Introductory on Section 3: The Catholic Epistles:

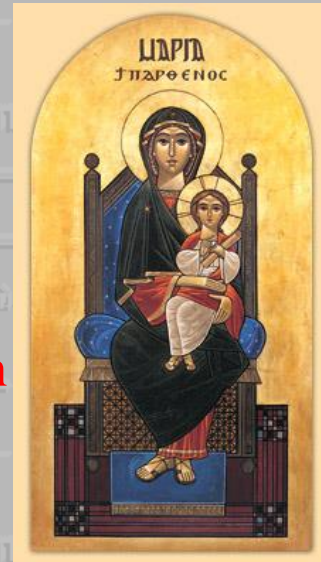
## James

- He is James, the son of Alphaeus (the brother of the Lord) not James, son of Zebedee (who was martyred by that time).
- He was the first Bishop to Jerusalem. He was a Bishop for 30 years
- It is a practical life epistle
- He speaks about rightlessness, the righteous tongue, the spiritual fight, The practical strength through the faith



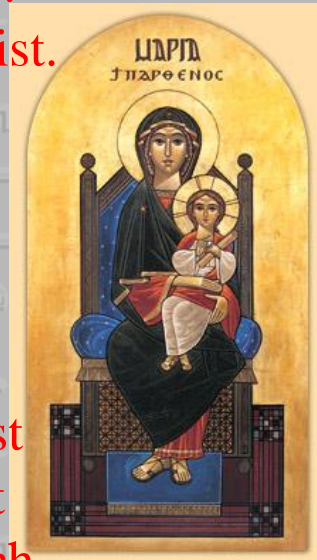
# Introductory on Section 3: The Catholic Epistles: Peter I, II

- He focuses on the understanding of the church, and how we are as members in one body through faith and baptism
- He gave instructions for spiritual lives to men, women, children, masters and slaves, etc.
- Spiritual strive and carrying the cross.
- Instructions to priests and shepherds of congregation. They are responsible before God for your service to the community
- A message of goodbye like in case of Timothy
- Think always in Christ and the faith turned to the saints and hold on and wait for Christ. Keep the faith you received.



# Introductory on Section 3: The Catholic Epistles: John I, II, III

- He focuses on the divinity of the Lord. Without the faith of suffering of God we can not enter the kingdom of Heavens.
- The love between the brothers. The ultimate love is to die for others.
- When we reached the love to this degree, we know the work of Christ.
- The light that is in our lives is the light of the Lord
- John II, and III cover personal messages emphasizes the faith, and insure the divinity of Christ
- It is written to the world (catholic epistle)
- To those who face troubles
- He wrote to confirm his disciples with love and faith and to steadfast them in the true faith. Warning them from the strange teaching that entered the church. The anti Christ will come (E.g. The heretics such as Jesus is the son of Mary not God), ..etc





# Section IV: The Revelation

- Different nature
- It is a group of visions that St. John saw while he was in prison at Bathmos island
- Messages to the churches he established in Asia minor.
- He moves between big comparisons: heavens, angels, saints, praises, as compared to evil Satan etc on earth
- Christ will conquer, then evil beasts from land and sea
- He goes to heavens then come down to earth
- Christ is with us
- Amen come O Lord
- Heavenly Jerusalem
- Focus is God will prevail on his second coming
- Judgement
- Hope
- Announcement of Jesus Christ
- The future tells the big tribulation
- A message of comfort about the future of the church via various ages
- Preparation of the church for the second coming

