

## The Feasts of the Cross

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

### Aim

✠ To know about the 2 feasts of the Cross in the Coptic Orthodox Church.

### Key verses

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)*

### Lesson

Our Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates 2 feasts of the cross. The first one is on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Baramhat/19<sup>th</sup> of March. And the other is on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tut/27<sup>th</sup> of September.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> story:

- The holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ was found by the great [queen Helen](#), the mother of the first Christian Roman Empire, [Constantine](#), on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tut/27<sup>th</sup> September [328A.D.](#) and the story was as follow.
- Queen Helen saw a vision in which the Lord asked her to go to Palestine to look for the holy cross. When she went there, the people told her about an old Jew man who knows about the place of the cross. In the beginning he refused to tell her anything, but she forced him to talk, so he said that the cross is buried under a big mount of rubbish as it was the commandment of the Jewish priests at the time of Jesus!
- After they removed the mount of rubbish they found 3 crosses, very similar to each other. At the same time there was a dead man carried to be buried near by the place. So she stopped them and put the 1<sup>st</sup> cross on the dead man, but nothing happened, the same was with the 2<sup>nd</sup> one. But when she put the 3<sup>rd</sup> cross on the dead man, he was raised up and they knew that is the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> story:

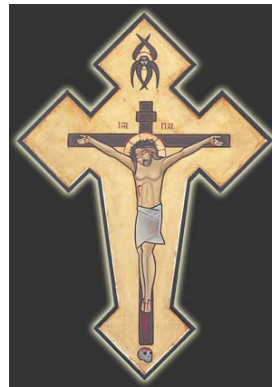
- About 300 years later, on [615A.D.](#), Persia attacked Jerusalem and stole the holy cross. Then on 10<sup>th</sup> Baramhat/19<sup>th</sup> March [629A.D.](#), the Christian Empire [Heraclius](#) attacked them back and got the holy cross back to Jerusalem, then on [636A.D.](#) transfer it to Constantinople.
- Then they cut the holy cross into small pieces and distributed it to all the churches everywhere, and our Coptic Orthodox church in Egypt has a piece of the cross.

## The Feasts of the Cross

### Why was the cross specially?

There are 9 reasons:

1. Shedding the blood (Heb 9:22).
2. His body was complete without missing any member and even there was no broken bone (Ex 12:46).
3. Carried the curse (Deut 21:23).
4. Hanged up between heaven and earth to reconcile them (Eph 2:14-16).
5. Opened His arms on the cross to save the entire world (John 3:16).
6. He died standing and resurrected with the marks of the cross.
7. The cross is a throne has 4 directions, like the throne of God carried by 4 living creatures, and there are 4 gospels.
8. On the cross, the church came out of His side in the blood and water (Eucharist & Baptism).
9. The cross became the sign of Christianity.



**Glory is to God forever. Amen.**