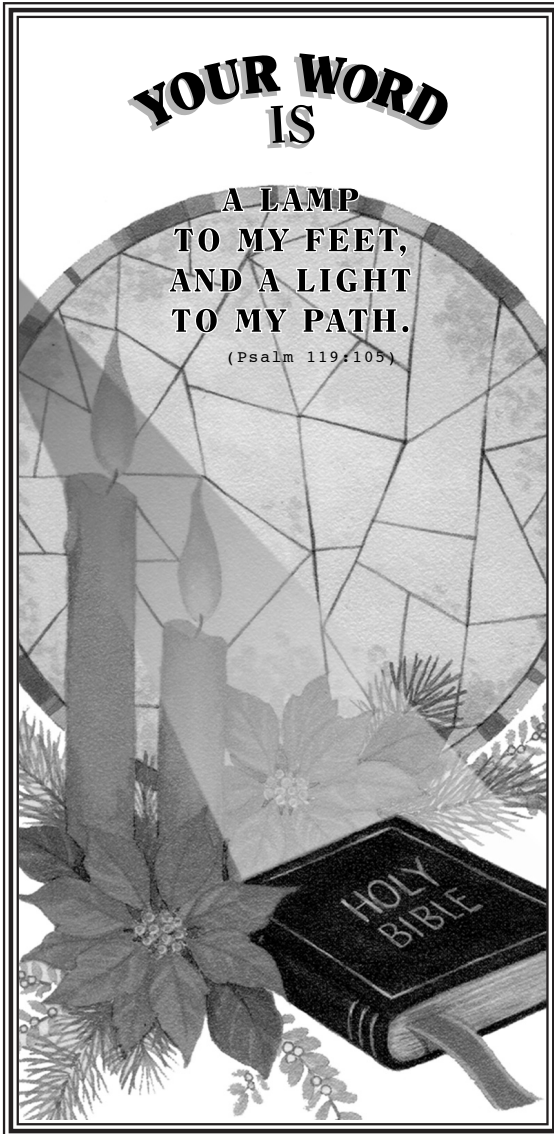




2100 W. Frontage Rd. • Palatine, IL. 60078

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The Holy Bible

The word “Bible” comes from the Greek word “Biblia” which means “Books”. Hence the term “The Holy Bible” simply means “The Holy Books”. Sometimes “the Bible” is referred to as “the Scriptures” or “the Writings.”

A Book of God

The Bible is described as “Holy” because it pertains to God the Holy. It makes an absolute claim to be the Word of God. St. Peter the apostle says: “... prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2Peter 1:21)

An Inspired Book

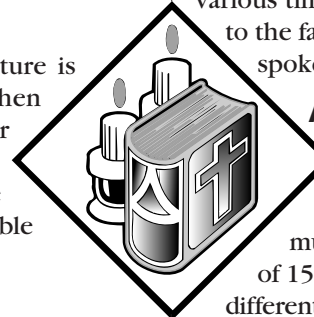
St. Paul the apostle says that: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” St. Paul then adds: “and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete...” (2Tim. 3:16, 17). That is, the Bible is the foundation of our spiritual life.

A Two Testament Book

The Bible comprises 66 books, of which 27 books form what we call “the New Testament”: It begins with the Gospel according to St. Matthew, and ends with St. John’s book of Revelation.

The remaining 39 books form what we call “the Old Testament”. It begins with the prophet Moses’ book of Genesis and ends with the prophecy of Malachi.

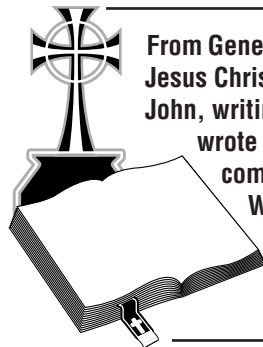
The Old Testament is fashioned from God’s revelations through the prophets of old. The New Testament claims to be God’s Word directly communicated to mankind through his Son Jesus Christ. We rely on what God directed his apostles to preserve of Jesus’ sinless life, deeds and teachings. St. Paul sums it up as “God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...” (Heb. 1:1,2)



A Single Volume

Both testaments contain different writings: Law, history, genealogies, prophetic oracles, poetry, parables, letters, apocalypses and much more. They were written over a period of 1500 years, by 40 independent writers living in different countries, cultures, and time periods. Among those writers were kings, fishermen, prophets, a physician, a tax collector and others...

All writings are brought together to form one single volume, which we call “The Holy Bible.” It is the most important collection of books, which describe the relation of God to humanity as its creator and, after the fall, as its Savior.



From Genesis to Revelation the Bible’s writings revolve around “the salvation” accomplished by our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross to redeem the human race. All writers, from Moses, writing about 1400 B.C. to John, writing as late as A.D. 90’s, do agree, despite the fact that they came from different backgrounds, wrote in three different languages, and their work span hundreds of years. How could they possibly come to the same conclusion? ... We might wonder. Yet they did.

What all Bible writings agree on, is that God has a “Salvation plan” for the whole world. Salvation, summarized by the well known verse: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) ... **And that what the Bible is all about.**

Church News

August 18 - 21, 2000



Our church held spiritual meetings from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. They included sermons, praises, and prayers. On August 22nd an early Divine Liturgy service was held to celebrate the feast of the assumption of the blessed Virgin, St. Mary's



June 8 - August 20, 2000

Three of our fine youths; John Soliman, Jenny Farag and Ramez Milad, went to South Africa to serve the needy in the remote areas of the region. They joined the mission sponsored by the Mother Church under the guidance of H.G. Anba Antonious Markos, Bishop of African Affairs. H. G. works diligently to establish new Coptic churches and charitable organizations. May the Lord bless his efforts, so they yield the desired fruits.



August 28 - 30, 2000.

H.H. Pope Shenouda III, headed a Seminar for the Clergy and their wives at St. Mary Spiritual Vineyard in Boston. Among the subjects H.H. talked about was; "Prayer" as the core of the priest's service. H.H. also stressed the "Importance of Establishing Coptic Schools" especially in the areas where there is a high concentration of Copts. H.H. answered all the questions presented to him. H. G. Anba Moussa talked about "The Importance of Implementing Youth Programs."



October 3, 2000

H.H. Pope Shenouda III, promoted Fr. Isaac Tanios, priest of St. Mary Church to the priestly order of "Hegemon" at St. Anthony church in the Papal residency in Cairo. Among those who participated in the ceremony was H.G. Bishop Youannis and a number of monks from Anba Paula Monastery.

Saint Jerome

A Man Who Loved The Bible



Saint Jerome was one of the wisest men that ever lived. When Christ spoke to his heart, he went to the desert, and became a hermit. He spent his time praying and reading the Gospel. He mastered the original languages of the Bible; Hebrew, Latin and Greek. His knowledge enabled him to translate the Bible so everyone could read it.

When the Pope summoned him to Rome, he obeyed. But he always wanted to return to the land where our Lord had lived, so he left Rome and went to Bethlehem.

He wrote letters to people all over the world to tell them about the Lord Jesus Christ and His absolute truth.

Translating the whole Bible, by himself, from Hebrew and Greek to modern Latin, which is known as the Vulgate, was St. Jerome's greatest miracle. He also wrote clear explanations and commentaries on the Gospels. He prayed and God taught him every thing he wanted to know, all which he taught to others. His Feast is September 30th. May his blessings be with us all, Amen.

Congratulations To:



From the bottom of our hearts we would like to congratulate H.H. Pope Shenouda III for winning the UNESCO prize for Peace and Tolerance for the year 2000.

May the Lord grant him health and keep his life for many years to come.

- Michael Yousef and Cheri Bassaly.
- Dr. Emad Basta and. Mary Alexander.
- Robert Sever and. Nancy Ekdaui.

For becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their lives and make their marriage honorable and blameless.

- Ebab Riad and. Maggie Abd El Malek.
- for their engagement. May the Lord crown their undertaking with joy and happiness.

- Medbat and. Nabed Rizkalla for the birth of their daughter Nadine.

- Alfred and. Deborah Hanna for the birth of their son Nathanael.

- Mourad and Basma Rufael for the birth of their son Peter.

- Bahaa and. Nermine Elias for the birth of their daughter Marina.

- Dr. John and Iva Agaiby for the birth of their daughter Leah.

- Ashraf and Mariam Youssef for the birth of their daughter Jessica.

May the Lord bless the new born to grow in grace and stature before God & men.

CONDOLENCES TO:

- Dr. Nadeem Youssef for the passing away of his mother the late Mrs. Affifa B.Morgan.

- Mohsen Kustandi for the passing away of his mother the late Mrs. Ayda Kustandi.

- Rev. Fr. Rewis Awadallah, and his mother, for the passing away of his father the late Deacon Helmi Awadallah.

- Dr. Magdoleen Nessin for the passing away of her cousin's husband the late Dr. Adel El-Sobky. May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.