

# THE HOLY CROSS

WHY THE CROSS?

# SYMBOL OF DEATH



- Form of capital punishment in the Roman Empire
- Extreme pain, torture, and manners of death
- Meant to be a public sign of humiliation, fear, and authority



In the camp of Israel  
The bronze serpent was set up  
As a sign and surety  
Of the Cross, which brings forth life  
(Friday Matins)



I have lifted up my  
eyes to the hills – from  
where will my help  
come? My help is from  
the Lord, who made  
heaven and earth.”  
– Psalm 121:1-2

“Then the people came to Moses, and were saying, “We sinned, for we spoke against the Lord and against you; therefore, pray to the Lord, and let Him take away the serpent from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a serpent for yourself and put it on a signal pole; and it shall be, if a serpent should bite someone, when the one bitten looks at it, he shall live.” So Moses made a copper serpent and put it on a signal pole; and it happened, when a serpent bit anyone, and he looked at the copper serpent, he lived.” - Numbers 21:7-9



“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.”  
– *John 3:14*

“The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”  
– *John 12:23-24*

“The Cross is the sign of peace  
And the sign of victory  
By the Cross we have been saved  
And in it we all glory”  
(*Marriage Service – Blessing of Crowns*)



“What bridegroom died for his bride, apart from our Lord? What bride sought out a slain man to be her husband? Who, from the world’s beginning, ever gave his blood as the bride price, apart from the Crucified One, who sealed the marriage with His wounds?...Wives are separated from their husbands by death, but this bride is joined to her Beloved by death!”  
– *St. Jacob of Sarugh*



**“I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your seed and her seed. He shall  
bruise your head, and you shall be on guard for  
His heel.”**

*- Genesis 3:15*

**“He became man without change and was  
crucified for us, Christ, Who is our Lord and  
God; He trampled death by His death and  
destroyed our death.”**

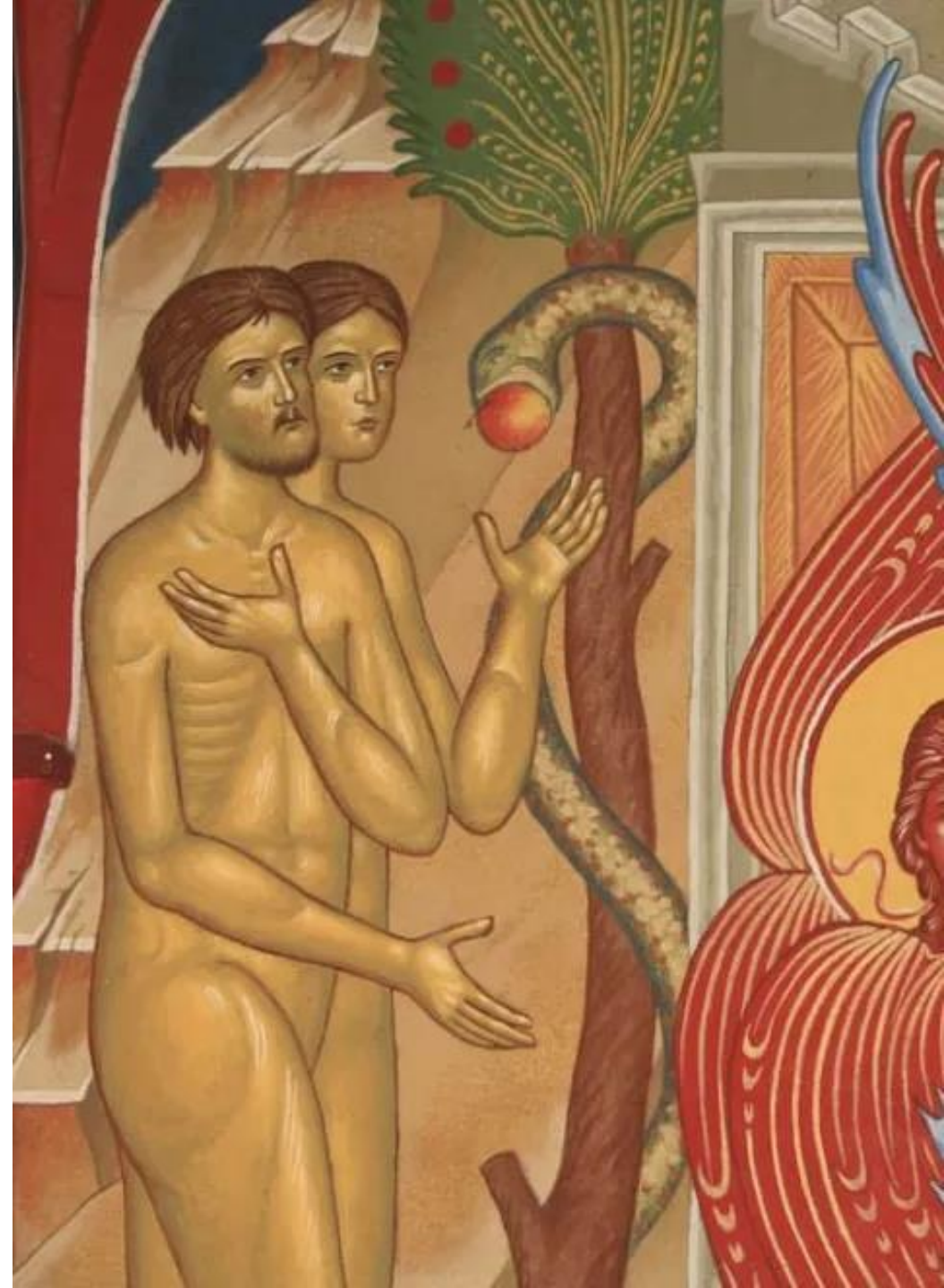
*(Ma'nitho of St. Severus)*

**“The tree of life in Eden, which was placed in  
the garden, was a type of the Lord's Cross from  
which the fruit of life grows.”**

*(Good Friday – Exaltation of the Cross)*

**“On Friday the Lord of creation stretched His  
hands on the Cross and of His own will tasted  
death and not the fruit Adam ate, He restored  
Adam.”**

*(Friday Ramsho)*



# Life to Death

*(Genesis to Crucifixion)*



*(Crucifixion to the Kingdom)*

# Death to Life

- “This therefore do thou engrave upon your mind, and embrace the salvation of our souls. For this cross saved and converted the world, drove away error, brought back truth, made earth Heaven, fashioned men into angels. Because of this, the devils are no longer terrible, but contemptible; neither is death, death, but a sleep; because of this, all that wars against us is cast to the ground, and trodden under foot.” – *St. John Chrysostom*
- “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.” – *Galatians 6:14-15*
- “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” – *Galatians 2:20*



THE RESURRECTION



“We fear not the evil one  
Because the Lord is with us  
We are clothed in His armor  
And in it we all glory”  
(*Sleebo Quqlion, Intercession of the  
Cross*)

“Therefore humble yourselves under  
the mighty hand of God, that He may  
exalt you in due time, casting all your  
care upon Him, for He cares for you.  
Be sober, be vigilant; because your  
adversary the devil walks about like a  
roaring lion, seeking whom he may  
devour.”  
- *1 Peter 5:7*

“On this rock I will build My  
church, and the gates of  
Hades shall not prevail  
against it.”  
- *Matthew 16:18*