

The Wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

New
Testament
Reading

“For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith. For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.”

1 Corinthians 1:21-23



When Jesus came to earth as a baby, the Jewish people had been watching and waiting for the promised Savior for centuries. They had read and learned what the prophets of the Old Testament had foretold about the Messiah and they waited expectantly.



What they *didn't* expect was for the promised Messiah to come as a baby who would be born in a stable, to a poor family. They didn't expect Him to be a newborn sleeping in a manger, or to grow up learning carpentry in the little town of Nazareth.



They expected a *king* in fine robes, with lots of money, and a fine house. They thought He would come and rule and put the corrupt leaders in their places.

So how much more surprised were the people to realize that Jesus, the poor boy who grew up quietly, lived humbly, and was later crucified on a cross, was *actually* the Son of God - their long-awaited Messiah. This is the wisdom of God. God uses love, humility, and quiet to do more than we can imagine.

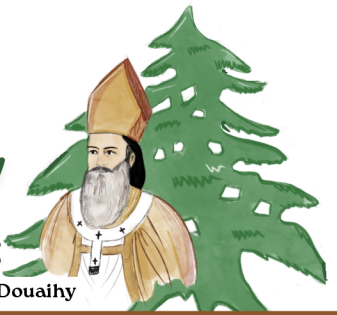


So the next time you feel confused about your life or unsure why things are the way they are, remember, God has a plan, and it may not be what we expect.

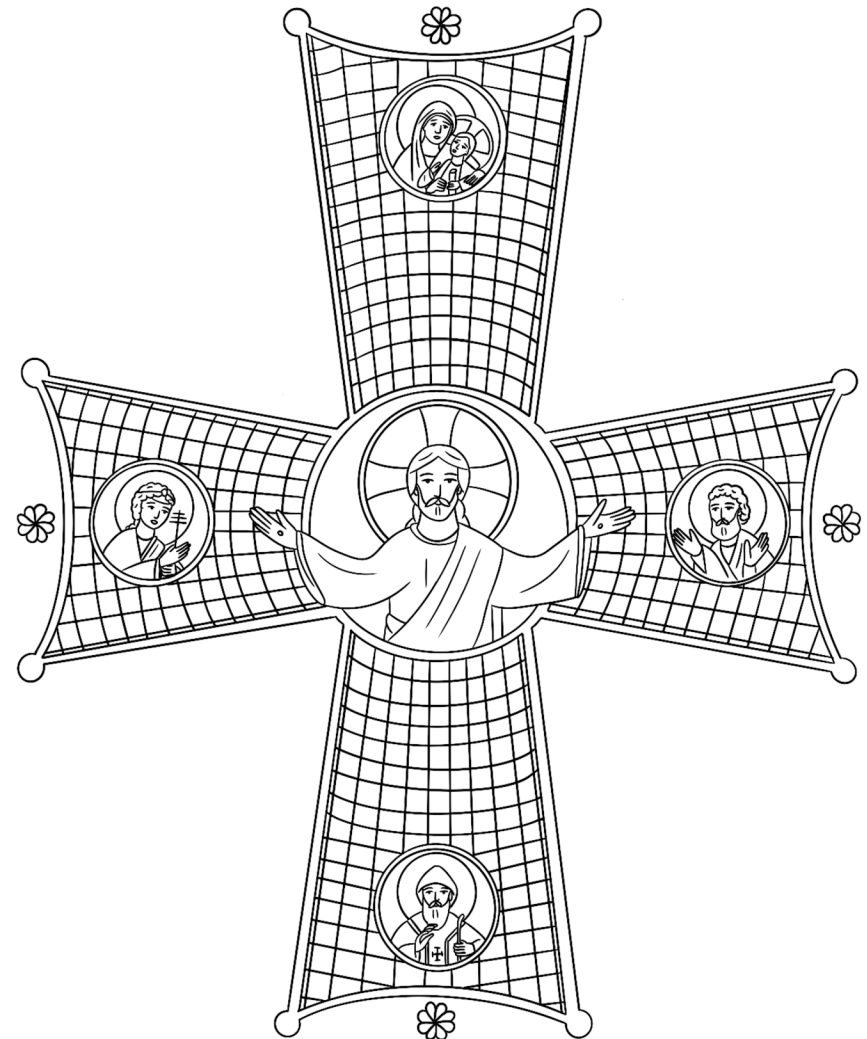
Answer: Blessed are you, O Holy wood of the cross.

Cedar
Kids

The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy



Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Vol 2, No. 55



Your cross, O Lord,
is the key to paradise
and unlocks its gates for us
that were closed by Adam's sin.

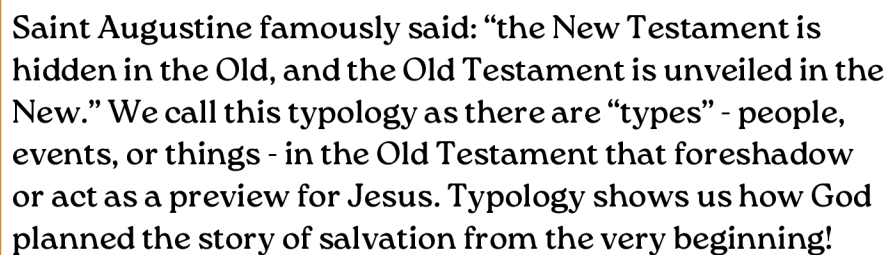




John
12:20-32

In the beginning of Jesus's public ministry, when he met the Pharisee Nicodemus, he told him that just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus is now in Jerusalem where he will soon suffer and die on the cross and he tells the people: "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

What is Jesus trying to say to the people? Well, the good and devout Jewish people would understand the story of Moses and the bronze serpent. While Moses was leading the people through the desert to the Promised Land, the people grumbled against God and were struck by seraph serpents - poisonous snakes that killed them. God then told Moses to make a bronze serpent, put it on a pole, and raise it up. Anyone who looked at the bronze serpent would be saved.

A black silhouette of a person in a long robe, standing on a small mound and pointing their right hand towards a tall, thin pole. A serpent is coiled around the top of the pole. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a night scene or a desert landscape.

During the time of Jesus, the cross was a brutal and harsh form of punishment. But when Jesus was raised up on the cross, he transformed it into the gate to salvation. It was on the cross where Jesus willingly died to pay the penalty for human sin, and restored the gap between God and humanity. It is no longer a symbol of torture, but rather a bridge to eternal life.

Did you know?

TYPOLGY

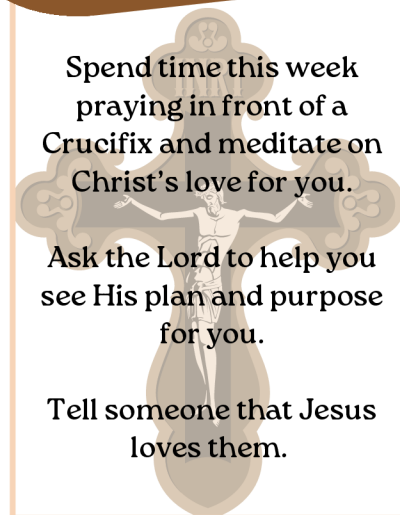
An important part of reading the Old Testament of the Bible is to understand the use of typology. A “type” is a person, event, or thing in the Old Testament that points forward to someone or something in the New Testament, especially Jesus Christ. Typology helps us to see the awesome and incredible plan God had for us from the beginning.

What you can do

Spend time this week
praying in front of a
Crucifix and meditate on
Christ's love for you.

Ask the Lord to help you
see His plan and purpose
for you.

Tell someone that Jesus
loves them.



Crack the Code

Crack the code by writing the correct letter above each cross. Hint: the secret message comes from a Maronite prayer for today's feast day.

