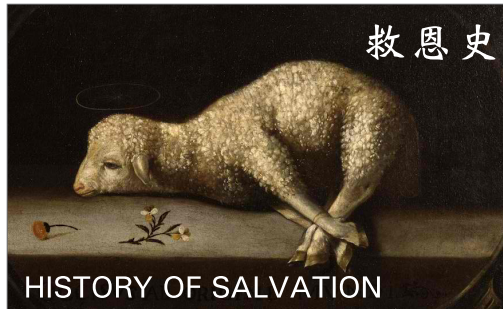




AN APPEAL FROM THE CHALDEAN CATHOLIC PATRIARCH OF BAGHDAD

# Mosul Christians: Whither?



Patriarch Louis Raphael Sako

TO ALL who have a living conscience in Iraq and all the world

To the voice of moderate brother Muslims who have a voice in Iraq and all the world

To all who have a concern that Iraq could remain a country for all His Children

To all leaders of thought and opinion

To all who announce the freedom of the human being

To all protectors of the dignity of human beings and of religion

## PEACE AND MERCY FROM GOD!

The control exercised by the Islamist Jihadists upon the city of Mosul, and their proclamation of it as an Islamic State, after several days of calm and expectant watching of events, has now come to reflect negatively upon the Christian population of the city and its environs.

The initial sign was in the kidnapping of the two nuns and 3 orphans who were released after 17 days. At the time, we experienced it as a flash of hope and as a clearing of the sky after

the appearance of storm clouds.

Suddenly we have been surprised by the more recent outcomes which are the proclamation of an Islamic state and the announcement calling all Christians and clearly asking them to convert to Islam or to pay the jizyah (the tax all non-Muslims must pay while living in the land of Islam) – without specifying the exact amount. The only alternative is to abandon the city and their houses with only the clothes they are wearing, taking nothing else. Moreover, by Islamic law, upon their departure, their houses are no longer their properties but are instantly confiscated as property of the Islamic state.

In recent days, there has been written the letter 'N' in Arabic on the front wall of Christian homes, signifying 'Nazara' (Christian), and on the front wall of Shiite homes, the letter 'R' signifying 'Rwafidh' (Protestants or rejecters). We do not know what will happen in future days because in an Islamic state the Al-sharia or Islamic code of law is powerful and has been interpreted to require the issuance of new I.D.s for the population based on religious or sectarian affiliation.

This categorization based upon religion or sect afflicts the Muslims as well and contravenes the regulation of Islamic

thought which is expressed in the Quran which says, "You have your religion and I have my religion" and yet another place in Quran states, "There is no compulsion in religion". This is exactly the contradiction in the life and history of the Islamic world for more than 1400 years and in the co-existence with other different religions and nations in the East.

With all due respect to belief and dogmas, there has been a fraternal life between Christians and Muslims. How much the Christians have shared here in our East specifically from the beginnings of Islam. They shared every sweet and bitter circumstance of life; Christian and Muslim blood has been mixed as it was shed in the defense of their rights and lands. Together they built a civilization, cities, and a heritage. It is truly unjust now to treat Christians by rejecting them and throwing them away, considering them as nothing.

It is clear that the result of all this discrimination legally enforced will be the very dangerous elimination of the possibility of co-existence between majorities and minorities. It will be very harmful to Muslims themselves both in the near and the distant future.

Should this direction continue to be pursued, Iraq will come face to face with human, civil, and historic catastrophe.

We call with all the force available to us; we call to you fraternally, in a spirit of human brotherhood; we call to you urgently; we call to you impelled by risk and in spite of the risk. We implore in particular our Iraqi brothers asking them to reconsider and reflect upon the strategy they have adopted and demanding that they must respect innocent and weaponless people of all nationalities, religions, and sects.

The Holy Quran has ordered believers to respect the innocent and has never called them to seize the belongings, the possessions, the properties of others by force. The Quran commands refuge for the widow, the orphaned, the poor, and the weaponless and respect "to the seventh neighbor."

We call Christians in the region to act with reason and prudence and to consider and to plan everything in the best way possible. Let them understand what is planned for this region, to practice solidarity in love, to examine the realities together and so be able together to find the paths to build trust in themselves and in their neighbors. Let them stay close to their own Church and surround it; endure the time of trial and pray until the storm will be over. ■

(Text courtesy of *Aid to the Church in Need*)



## 救恩 HISTORY OF 以色列時 Time of I

### 第十一章 Chapter 11

#### 第十災的警告

The 10th Plague is announced

法郎決定殘害男嬰

Pharaoh decides to kill male babies

「上主這樣說：半夜時，我要走遍埃及。凡埃及國，從坐寶座的法郎的長子，直到推磨的婢女的長子，以及牲畜的一切頭胎，都要死亡。」

"Thus says the LORD: About midnight I will go forth in the midst of Egypt; and all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sits upon his throne, even to the first-born of the maidservant who is behind the mill; and all the first-born of the cattle."

### 第十二章 Chapter 12

#### 天主建立逾越節

God institutes the Passover

「羔羊應是一歲無殘疾的公羊 ... 各家都應取些血塗在吃羔羊的房屋兩門框和門楣上。... 你們應這樣吃：束著腰，腳上穿著鞋，手裏拿著棍杖，急速快吃：這是向上主守的逾越節。這血在你們所住的房屋上，當作你們的記號：我打擊埃及國的時候，一見這血，就越過你們去，毀滅的災禍不落在你們身上。這一天將是你們的紀念日，要當作上主的節日來慶祝；你們要世代代過這節日，作為永遠的法規。」

"Your lamb shall be **without blemish**, a male a year old... Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. ... In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is **the LORD's passover**. The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance for ever."

#### 第十災、殺長子

The 10th Plague: Death of the First-born

「夜間法郎召梅瑟和亞郎來說：『你們和以色列子民都起身離開我的百姓走罷！照你們所要求的，去崇拜上主罷！也照你們所要求的，帶著你的羊群牛群去罷！也為我求祝福。』」

"And he summoned Moses and Aaron by night, and said, 'Rise up, go forth from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said.'"

1. 逾越節（以色列從奴隸中解放出來）  
Passover (Israel is freed from bondage)  
預像 | Figure or Symbol
2. 最後晚餐 Last Supper  
建立新的逾越節 | Institution of New Passover
3. 十字架的祭獻（我們從罪的奴隸中解放出來）  
Sacrifice of the Cross (We are freed from bondage of sin)  
實現 | Fulfillment
4. 彌撒聖祭 Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
延續十字架的祭獻 | Perpetuate the Sacrifice of the Cross



### 逾越節 PASSOVER 出谷紀



亞當與厄娃  
Adam and Eve

公元前？  
? BC

亞巴郎  
Abraham

公元前1800  
1800 BC

民長  
JUDGES

王帝  
KINGS

先知  
PROPHETS

公元前？  
? BC

諾厄  
Noah

聖祖  
PATRIARCHS

公元前1300  
1300 BC

梅瑟  
Moses

公元前1200  
1200 BC

以色列十二支派  
Twelve Tribes

公元前1000  
1000 BC

達味  
David

公元前920/930  
920/930 BC

以色列（北國）建都撒瑪黎雅、猶大（南國）建都耶路撒冷  
Israel (North) with Samaria as capital and Judah (South) with Jerusalem as capital

# 恩史 OF SALVATION

代 (五)  
Israel (V)

節  
OVER  
Exodus



## 感恩祭的預像

「耶穌與宗徒在逾越節餐宴上舉行這最後晚餐時，給猶太人的逾越節賦予了決定性的意義。事實上，新的逾越，就是耶穌通過死亡和復活到達父那裡，這在最後晚餐中提前實現，且在[今天的]感恩祭中慶祝。感恩祭完成猶太人的逾越節，並提前實現教會在天國的光榮中最終的逾越。」  
(《天主教教理》1340)

A Figure of the Sacrifice of the Eucharist

"By celebrating the Last Supper with his apostles in the course of the Passover meal, Jesus gave the Jewish Passover its definitive meaning. Jesus' passing over to his father by his death and Resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist, which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the kingdom."

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1340

「所以弟兄們！我以天主的仁慈請求你們，獻上你們的身體當作生活、聖潔和悅樂天主的祭品：這才是你們合理的敬禮。」  
(羅馬人書 12:1)

"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." - Romans 12:1

耶路撒冷及聖殿被毀  
Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple  
巴比倫侵略猶大 (南國)  
Babylon invades Kingdom of Juda

Temple rebuilt  
重建聖殿

羅馬人  
Romans

公元前586/587  
586/587 BC

歸國  
RETURN

公元前63  
63 BC

放逐巴比倫  
EXILE

公元前721/722  
721/722 BC

亞述侵略以色列  
(北國)  
Assyrians invade  
Kingdom of Israel

公元前538  
538 BC

波斯滅巴比倫  
Persians defeat  
Babylonians

公元前300  
300 BC

馬其頓人 (希臘)  
Macedonians (Greeks)