

MALANKARA JACOBITE SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



TEXT BOOK CLASS – V

2009



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PREFACE

We are thankful to our Lord Almighty in helping us and guiding us through the work of these Sunday school books. These books are the translations of the “Padamanjari” published by Malankara Jacobite Syrian Sunday School Association.

Children of our community, unable to read and write Malayalam were finding it very difficult to study and understand the faith of our church taught in Malayalam. Even in Kerala, children studying in CBSE and English Medium schools are not able to assimilate Malayalam. Circumstances forced us to have English version for the text books. Now the syllabus has changed that caused the second edition of the text books.

A number of persons contributed to this noble venture. We take this opportunity to thank them all. Let God bless every person who contributed to make these books available to His children. We are happy to submit these books in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ .

We are also grateful to St.Peters Jacobite Syrian Church Baharin who helped us for publishing these text Books in English.

**Puthencruz
17.08.2009**

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TEXT BOOK FOR CLASS V
(English)

Prepared by :
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PART I

Lesson 1

PRAYER

Holy art thou O God
Holy art thou Almighty
Holy art thou Immortal
+ Crucified for us, have mercy on us. (Repeat 3 times)

Lord have mercy upon us ,

Lord be kind and have mercy.

Lord accept our prayers and entreaties, Have mercy on us.

Glory be to thee, O God

Glory be to thee, O Creator

Glory be to thee, O Christ

The King who does pity the sinners, Thy sinful servant. Barekmore

Lord's Prayer. (St Mathew 6:9-13.)

Our father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thine will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil one: for thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory for ever and ever. Amen

(Malayalam)

Daivame Nee Parishudhankunnu

Balavane Nee Parishudhanakunnu

Maranamillathavane Nee Parishdhanakunnu

Njangalkuvendi Kurishikkappettavane

(+)Njangalodukarunacheyyaname. (Repeat 3 times)

NjangaludeKarthave Njangalodu Karuna Cheyyaname. Njangalude Karathave Kripayundayi Njangalodu Karuna Cheyyaname. Njangalude Karthave njangalude Namaskaravum Shushrushayum Kaikkondu Njangalodu Karuna Cheyyaname

Daivame Ninakku Sthuthi Srishtithave Ninakku Sthuthi. Papikalaya Thante Adiyarodu Karuna Cheyyunna Mishiha Rajave Ninakku Sthuthi. Barekmore.

Lord's prayer

Swargasthanaya Njangalude Pithave. Ninte Thirunamam Parshudhamakappedename. Ninte Rajyam Varename. Ninte Thiruvishittam Swargathilepole Bhumiylum Akename. Njangalkava shyamulla Appam Innu Njangalkku Tharename. Njangalude Kadakkarodu Njangal Kshamichathupole Njangalude Kadangalum Papangalum Njangalode Kshamikkaname. Pareekshayilekku njangale praveshippikk

aruthe. Pinnayo Dushtanilninum njangale Rakshichukollaname. Enthukondennal Rajyavum Shakthiyum Mahathwavum Ennekkum Ninakkullathakunnu. Amen

Hail Mary Full of grace, our Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women. Blessed is the fruit of your womb; our Lord Jesus Christ. O! virgin Mary! Mother of God pray for us, the sinners all times and the hour of our death.

Kripa Niranja mariame Ninakkusamadhanam. Njangalude Karthavu Ninnodukoode. Sthreekalil Nee Vazhthappettavalakunnu. Ninte Udaraphalamaya Karthaveshu Messiha Vazhthappettavanakunnu. Daivamathavaya Vishudha Kanyaka Morth Mariyame Papikalaya Njangalkkuvendi Ippoohum Eppoohum njangalude Maranasamayathum Daivamthampuranodu Apekshichukollaname. Amen.

Psalm 51

O God! have mercy on me according to your kindness: according to the multitude of your mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. I have sinned against You and done this evil before Your sight. You might be justified when you speak and be clear when you judge. Behold, I was shaped in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward part; and in the hidden part You shall make me to know wisdom. Purge with hyssop, I shall be clean: wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness: that the bones which have broken may rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins and blot out my inequities. Create a clean heart in me O God: and renew Your spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors your ways and sinners shall be Converted unto you. Deliver me from the blood guiltiness, O God! You God of my salvation, my tongue shall sing aloud of your righteousness. Oh Lord, open my lips and my lips shall show forth your praise. For you do not desire sacrifice, else, I would give it: You do not delight in burnt offerings. The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit: a broken contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. In your pleasure do good to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness with the burnt offerings and whole burnt offering: and then bull offerings shall be offered on your altar.

Daivame ! Ninte Kripayin Prakaram Ennodu Karuna Cheyyaname. Ninte Karunayude Bahuthvathin Prakaram Ente Papangale Mayichukalayaname.

Ente Anyayathilninnu Enne Nannayi Kazhuki, Ente Papangalilninnu Enne vedippakkaname. Enthennal Ente Athikramangal Njan Ariyunnu. Ente Papangal Eppoohum Ente Nere Irikkunnu.

Ninakku Virodhamayithanne Njan Papam Cheythu. Ninte Thirumunbil Thinmakal Njan Chaithu. Ennal Ninte Vachanathil Nee Neetheekarikkappedukayum, Ninte Nyayavidhikalil Nee Jayikkukayum Cheyyum. Enthennal Anyayathil Njan Ulbhavichu. Papangalil Ente Mathavu Enne Garbham Dharikkukayum Cheythu.

Ennal Neethiyil Nee Ishttappettu; Ninte Njanathinte Rahasyangal Enne Nee Ariyichu. Ninte Soppa Kondu entemel Nee Thalikkaname; Njan Vedippakkappedum. Athinal Enne Nee Venmayakkename; Thalгойekal Njan Venmayakum.

Ninte Anandavum Santhoshavum Kondu Enne Thripathiyakkename, Ksheenathayulla Ente Asthikal Santhoshikkum. Ente Papangalil Ninum Ninte Thirumugham Thirichu, Ente Athikramangalellam Mayichukalayaname.

Daivame! Vedipulla Hridayathe Ennil Srishttikkaname! Sthirathayulla Ninte Athmavine Ente Ullil Puthuthakkaname. Ninte Thirumunbil Ninnu Enne Thallikkalayaruthe; Ninte Parishudhathmavine Ennil Ninnu Edukkayam Aruthe.

Ennalo Ninte Anandavum Rakshyaum Enikku Thirichu Tharaname. Mahathvamulla Ninte Athmavu Enne Thangumarakaname. Appol Njan Athikramakkare Ninte Vazhi Padippikkum. Papikal Ninkalekku Thiriyukayam Cheyyum.

Ente Rakshayude Daivamaya Daivame ! Rakthapathakathil Ninum Enne Rakshikkaname . Ente Navu Ninte Neethiye Sthuthikkum. Karthave Ente Adharangal Enikku Thurakkename. Ente Vay Ninte Mahathvangale Padum.

Enthennal Balikalil Nee Thirumanassayilla. Homabalikalil Nirappayathumilla. Daivathinte Balikal Thazhmayulla Athmavakunnu. Daivam Nurungiya Hridayathe Nirasikkunnila.

Ninte Ishttathal Shiyonodu Nanma Cheyyaname. Urshaleminte Mathilukale Paniyaname. Appol Neethiyodukoodiya Balikalilum Homa Balikalilum Nee Ishttappedum. Appol Ninte Balipeedathinmel Kalakal Baliyayi Karerum. Daivame Sthuthi Ninakku Yogyamakunnu Barekmor.

EKBO

O Lord, kindly bend your ear, listen to our prayers and give us answer. Kindly have willingness to accept our prayers and worship. Sthoumencalos Kuriyelaison

Karthave! Karunayode Ninte Chevi Chayichu Njangalude Prardhana Kettu njangal odutharamarulicheyyaname. Njangalude Shushrushayum Prardhanakalum Dayavode Kaikolluvan Ninakkishttamundakukayum Cheyyaname. Sthoumencalos Kuriyelaison

QOLO

O Lord! Our prayer may become incense-like in your presence. It may rise up to your presence like the incense flame. Just as the sweet smell of incenses are pleasing you, the prayers, worships, supplications and praises from us, the unworthy ones may be accepted graciously and our prayers be granted. Barekmore.

Karthave! Njangalude Prardhana Ninte Sannidhiyil Sugantha Vargam Pole Impamayi Bhavikkaname. Suganthadhoopam Pole Athu Ninte Sannidhiyillekku Uyarumarakename.

Suganthavargangalude Vasana Ninakkimbamayirikkunnathupole, Ayogyaraya Njangalude Namaskarangalum Prardhanakalum, Apekshakalum, Sthothrangalum, Preethiyode Nee Kaikkollukayum Njangalude Yachanakalkku Marupadi nalkukayum Cheyyaname. Barekmore.

To St. Mary

O Virgin Mary! You may prevent the troubles being caused to us from the whirlpools and waves coming from all sides of this worldly sea. O Mother! As you have bold and free entry to the presence of God, pray for us, for granting mercy, deliverance from sins, healing to the sick, relief to those in stress and return of those who have gone to distant places.

Kanyakayaya daivamathave! Ellabhagangalil ninum njangalkku vannukoodunna upadravangaleyum ee loka samudrathinte olangaleyum chuzhalikaleyum nee tadayaname Mathave! Daivasannidhiyil ninakulla dhairyamaya praveshanam moolam daivam njangalku karunayum papamochanavum, rogikalkku saughyavum, njerukkathilirikkunnavarkku ashvasavum, akale poyirikkunnavarkku thirichuvaravum nalkuvanayittu njangalkku vendi apekshikkaname.

To The Saints

O Martyrs! during the period of deluge, as Noah the just, hid the life stalk which entered the ark along with him You may protect the world from the waves and the whirlwinds which surround it.

Sahadenmare! Jalapralayakalathil Neethimanaya Noah Thannodukoode Pettakathi nakathu Praveshicha Jeevajanthukkale Athinte Ullil Marachu Kondaprakaram Ningal Lokathe Chutiyirikkunna Thiramalakalil Ninum Chuzhalikalil ninum Athine Marachu Kollaname.

To the Particular Saint

(St. Thomas, the disciple) those who are up above, wondered at your gracefulness. Your beatified name is glorified among those who are down here. Messiah, your master has glorified and sanctified your memory. May your prayer be with us.

(Marthoma Sleeha) Ninte Shobha Melullavare Vismayippichu, Ninte Shreshtamaya Namam Thazheyullavarude Idayil Pukazhthappedunnu. Ninte Yajamananaya Mishiha Ninte Nalla Nadapadikalekkandu Ninte Ormaye Bahumanichu Shreshtathappe duthiyirikkunnu. Ninte Prardhana Njangalodukoode Undayirikkaname.

Prayer of Repentance

O Lord God! You are pure and You love those who are truthful. Give us always pure hearts. Remove from us futile and bad thoughts which you do not like. Lord, open the doors of mercy to us also, just as you opened the door, to the thief. Accept our repentance also just as You accepted the repentance of tax collector and the sinful woman. O merciful Lord! You will be pleased with those sinners coming to You after repentance. You sanctified Simon even after abandoning you. Likewise our sins and debts may also be remedied. O Lord! apprehending that there is no leniency in your last judgment, we the trespassers worry the most. When the frightening account books are opened and our

trespasses are read out Your kindness may become strong and that may help us with your righteousness and also we may get deliverance from sin. Lord, we admit that we had committed sin. Kindly have mercy on us.

Paramardhikale Snehikkunna Nirmalanayirikkunna Daivamaya Karthave! Njangalkku Ellaypozhum Nirmala Hridayathe Tharename. Ninakkishttamillatha Vyardha Vichrangaleyum Dushchinthakaleyum Njangalil Ninnu Neekikalayenname. Karthave! Kallanu Nee Thurannu Kodutha Prakaram Ninte Karunayude Vathil Njangalkkum Thurannu Tharename. Chun gakkarentyum Papiniyaya Sthreeyudeyum Anuthapathe Kaikkondathupole Njangalude Anuthapatheyum Kaikkollanname. Manasantharappettu Thante Adukkalekku Varunna Anuthapakkaril Preethippedunna karunasamboornanaya Karthave! Ninne Upekshichu Paranjathinte Shesham Shemaone Nee Punyappeduthiya Prakaram Njangalude Kadangaleyum Papangaleyum Pariharikkaname.

Karthave! Ninte Anthyamaya Nyayavistharathil Mughapakshamillathathine Orthu Kuttakkaraya Njangal Ettam Dukhikkunnu. Bhayangarameriya Kanakkupusthakangal Thurakkappettu Njangalude Kuttangal Vayikkappedunna Samayathu Ninte Kripa Prabalappettu Ninte Neethiyal Njangale Sahayikkaname. Kuttakkaraya Njangalkku Papamochanam Labhikkukayum Cheyyumarakenname. Karthave! Njangal Papam Chaithupoyi Ennu Njangal Sammathi kkunnu. Dayavode Njangalodu Karuna Cheyyanname.

For the Departed Ones.

Lord ! may there be good memory about those faithfuls who passed away after consuming Your sanctified body and blood. O Messiah ,when You come in glory with your angels, may our departed souls praise your Godliness; standing on your right side, with brightness on their faces. Moriyorahemelainnovodarain.

O Messiah ,Our Lord ! may Your door of mercy not be closed against our faces. O Lord! we confess that we are sinners. Have mercy on us.

O Lord! for our death being obliterated with your death, may Your love bring You down from your position near to our place and show mercy to us.

Holy art thou, O God—etc

Karthave! Punyappeduthunnathaya Ninte Vishudha Sareeratheyum Rakthatheyum Anubhavichittulla Vishvasikalaya Marichupoyavarekkurichu Nalla Smaranayundaku marakenname. Misiha Karthave Ninte Malaghamarodu Koode Mahathvathil Nee Varumbol Njangalude Marichupoyavar Mughaprasadathodukoode Ninte Valathubhagathu Ninnukondu Ninte Daivathvathe Sthuthikkumarakenname. Moriyo —

Njangalude Karthavaya Yeshumisiha ! Ninte Karunayude Vathil Njangalude Nere nee Adaykaruthe. Karthave Njangal Papaikalakunnu Ennu Njangal Ettuparayunnu. Njangalodu Karunayundakaname.

Karthave Ninte Maranathal Njangalude Maranam Manjupokuvanayittu Ninte Sneham Ninte Sthanathu Ninnu Njangalude Adukkalekku Ninne Irakkikkonduvannu Njangalodu Karunayundakenname. Daivame Nee Parishudhanakunnu — Ithyadi.

PART II
OLD TESTAMENT
Lesson 2
THE PENTATEUCH-A SIMPLE STUDY

Objective: To learn that Lord God is the creator of all.

The first five books of the old testament are known as The Pentateuch. They are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. This group of books, known as Pentateuch was known among the Jews as laws or code. The church fathers had also used this name. Besides the name 'the Law', this was also known as 'the Law of Moses' (Esra 3:2, II Chronicles 23:18). In the new testament, for indicating the Pentateuch, words such as "Moses" (Luke 16:31), "Moses has said" (Mark 7:10), "Moses has reminded" (Luke 20:37), "Moses wrote" (Romans 10:5) can be seen.

The books included in the Pentateuch

The names of books included in the Pentateuch indicate their contents.

Genesis: -This word has the meaning 'beginning', 'birth' 'origin' etc. This book tells mainly about the origin of everything. How did the Universe come into existence? Who created this? How did the sky, earth, water, birds, animals, trees, plants etc. come into existence? How did human beings originate in this world? The answers to all these questions are available in detail in the Genesis. The 1st and 2nd chapters of this book speak mainly about the origin of everything. God created and maintains everything. Without the knowledge and consent of the God, nothing in the world can come into being or perish.

Exodus: -"Exodus" has the meaning 'journey' or 'setting out'. The subject matter dealt within this book is mainly the journey from the slavery in Egypt to Canaan, the promised land.

Leviticus: -Levi is the third son of Jacob. Priesthood was given to the family of Levi. This tribe is also called the tribe of Priesthood. The book of Leviticus deals with the worship, orders, procedures and about the Levi tribe.

Numbers: . This book mainly deals with the number of tribal fathers on the basis of paternal generation. This book tells the history of the people of Israel for about forty years, starting from Mount Sinai till their arrival in the valley of Moab, the border of Canaan, the promised land. The beginning and of this period had a census, in order to count and find out Israelites above 20 years, fit and efficient enough for fighting. (Ref: chapters 1,2,6.) This book therefore came to be known "Numbers"

Deuteronomy: -This book is also called the 'repetition of Law'. This means 'repeated law'. This book got the name Deuteronomy because the important rules given till then were repeated and stressed and those requiring interpretation were further explained and sub divisional rules were given.

Exercise

1. Which are the books included in Pentateuch ?
2. In whose name is the Pentateuch known ?
3. What are the other names given to the Pentateuch? Explain with reference from the Bible ?

4. State briefly the reason for getting the name Pentateuch ?

Home work

1. Write in the correct sequence, the names of 12 tribal fathers and their mothers
(Refer to Genesis 28:30-35)
2. What is the name of Jacob's daughter ? What is her mother's name ?
3. Prepare a brief description about creation after reading chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis.

Lesson 3

THE PENTATEUCH -A SIMPLE STUDY(CONTD)

Objective: To learn that there is God who listens to those who lament

Introduction: We studied in the previous lesson about the books known as 'Pentateuch' in the Holy Bible and how they got their name. Let us learn in a little more detail about its contents.

Children of Abraham form as a race

The children of Jacob known as Israel assume the form of a separate race through a historic event. That historic event is the deliverance from the slavery in Egypt. It is this historic event that decides their self-realisation and their position in history .

Jacob and his family in Egypt

Jacob and his family reached Egypt through Joseph the 11th of his twelve sons. We had studied in the lower classes the story of Joseph who was sold as a slave and later, became a minister in Egypt. By the effort of Joseph, who became minister, Jacob and his children were brought to Egypt and they settled there with the consent of Pharaoh. They lived there happily.

Successors of King Pharaoh, to whom Joseph was unknown, made Israelites their slaves..They withdrew all the privileges enjoyed by Israelites. They engaged them in hard labour and made them suffer . They were suppressed as a group of slaves and were denied food and dwelling facilities. In these circumstances, the Israelites cried with broken hearts to the God of their forefathers. On hearing their lamentations, God intervened, for their liberation. He delivered them from the powerful grips of Pharaoh, through Moses, their leader. God delivered them from slavery, made them cross the Red sea and led them to the Canaan, the land in which flow honey and milk. This journey of deliverance was the journey that helped in the formation of the race called Israel . This deliverance was social, religious and political.

The Divine Vision of Israel

Israelites had believed that they were set apart as God's people with the direct intervention of God Almighty in history and that they were specially selected by God as His people. The Israelites were learning and experiencing this divine care of God from the time of His intervention in the personal life of Abraham (Hebrew 7::1-14) and all the subsequent events.

The Israelites realized that God delivered them from slavery, not because of their virtues or any special quality. But only because of God's never ending love and mercy. They realized that God who delivered them from the slavery of Pharaoh without any weapon, was almighty. They understood that God who leads the exodus is merciful taking care of His children, keeping them under His wings, listening to the cry of the oppressed and liberating the slaves. They understood a God entirely different from other gods around the area. This difference also elucidated the true form of God. The qualification of 'Holy' is the speciality of only this God. The dense cloud, smoke, fire, thunder and lightning, the great sound and the blazing and not consumed bush .that appeared on the mountain top confirm this Holiness.

The Israelites understood this God as the creator, Almighty, merciful, deliverer, Holy and the Lord of Hosts

Codification of The Pentateuch

Although it is generally known that this book was written by Moses, it doesn't mean that each word in this book was written by Moses himself. The pentateuch includes those written by Moses himself as well as the laws and codes given by him orally which was later codified and written down. It took about 500 years from 10th century BC to 5th century BC for these books to take shape .The subject matter of the Pentateuch is a very ancient history. We can see the hands of priests, prophets and Kings in the compilation of this book.

Four main sources had influenced the composition of the Pentateuch. These sources include oral laws, practices and the written documents of rules and regulations. They are

1. Yahwist tradition. This tradition is indicated by the letter 'J' (the first letter of Jehovah)
2. Elohist Tradition. This tradition is specified by the letter 'E'.
3. Deuteronomistic Tradition. This is indicated by the letter 'D'.
4. Priestly Tradition. The letter 'P' is used to indicate this tradition.

These traditions are together known as 'JEDP'. The Pentateuch, known as the Books of Moses, is written by rationally compiling the JEDP traditions. The influence of Moses, the man of God and the intervention of the Holy spirit can be clearly seen throughout this book. You can learn in detail about the "JEDP" tradition in the higher classes.

Exercise:-

1. What is the historic event that caused the formation of Israel as a race ?
2. Give the name of the leader whom God chose to liberate the Israel from the slavery of Pharaoh ?
3. In what all names did the Israelites recognize God ?

Lesson 4

FROM GENESIS TO ABRAHAM

Objective:- To learn that God will ruin those who violates the commands of God.

Introduction:- The books in the old testament can be divided into five important parts on the basis of their contents. This will be helpful for recollecting quickly the events occurred during the old testament period.

1. The period from Genesis to the selection of Abraham. This portion consists of chapters 1 to 11 of Genesis.
2. The history of fore fathers starting from the selection of Abraham till the Israelites reaches Egypt. This portion consists of chapters 12 to 50 of Genesis.
3. The history of liberation from Egypt, till the Israelites reach the gate of Canaan, the promised land. This include the books from Exodus and Deuteronomy.
4. The period from the capture of Canaan by Israelites under the leadership of Joshua till their captivity in Babylon. This part consists of the books from Joshua to II Chronicles.
5. The period from the return from captivity till the time just before the birth of Jesus Christ. These events are described in the remaining books of the old testament.

The prominent personalities of the I period

Adam: Father of human race. The only man, whom God created from soil with his own hand.

Eve: Mother of human race. Created from the rib bone of Adam.

Cain: The first son born to Adam. The first assassin in the world. The one who killed his brother

Abel: Son of Adam. The first martyr.

Hanok: Lived as the dear one for God. God took him.

Noah: The one who could find mercy in the eyes of God. Witness to the great flood.. Made the ark to escape from it.

The important events

Creation of Universe:- God created sun, moon, stars and everything. by His word

Creation of Human race:- God created Adam and Eve and blessed them to increase and spread all over the world the earth.

The first offering:- Cain and Abel made offerings to God. God was pleased with Abel's offering. He was not pleased with Cain's. Angered at this, Cain killed Abel.

The Great Flood:- Because of the sins of mankind, God punished the world with a great flood. There was incessant rain for forty days and forty nights. Noah and his family and representatives of all animals escaped by getting into the ark.

The Tower of Babel:-As against the command of God to increase and fill the earth, men built a city and a tall tower reaching upto the sky in order to keep themselves together. God confused their language as their action was against His command.They fought against each other and scattered all over earth. Thus different languages originated .

Excercise:-

1. How many books are there in the Old Testament?
2. How can we classify the Old Testament on the basis of the contents ?
3. Who were the prominent personalities of the first period ?
4. What were the important events of the period ?

Lesson 5

ABRAHAM TO MOSES

Objective:- To learn that God protects those who have faith in Him.

Introduction:- The basis of this lesson is the portion in the Bible from chapter 12 of the book Genesis to chapter 1 of the book Exodus. God spoke to Abraham that the earth would be filled with his children.Since Abraham believed this he became the father of several races.

Important Events

Sacrifice of Abraham (Genesis chapter 22)

Issac was born when Abraham was 100 years old.When Issac was about 12 years old God wanted Issac to be offered as a sacrifice.Abraham was ready to sacrifice without any hesitation.But God intervened in time and saved Issac.God protects those who obey Him with full faith and without questioning His commands.

God nominates Moses

Eventhough Israelites were living happlily in Egypt,in the course of time after the demise of Joseph, Pharaohs to whom Joseph was not known came to power.He began to torture Israelites and made them slaves. Israelites prayed to the God of their fathers,about their sufferings. God listened to their lamentations.For their deliverance, God raised Moses as the leader.God miraculously saved infant Moses from the order of Pharaoh to kill all the male children born to Israelites.However, Moses was brought up in the palace of Pharaoh and God delivered the of Israelites; through Moses.

Exercise

1. Prepare a brief description about the sacrifice of Abraham (see Genesis: chap 22)
2. What was the condition of Israelites at the time of birth of Moses?

(Answer should not exceed 1paragraph) (Exodus: chap 1-4)

Lesson 6

EXODUS

THE SYMBOL OF CARE BY LORD GOD

Objective:- To understand God's wonderful and proper care.

Introduction:- The book Exodus tells the history of liberation of Israel from the slavery in Egypt. God delivered them in order to worship Him. By making them cross the Red sea and reach the other coast, God delivered the children of Israel from all bondages and purified them.

Sinai Covenant

Sinai covenant is one of the most important events in the life of Israelites. In their journey to Canaan, the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites on the Mount Sinai. The essence of the promise was: "If you obey my commands I shall be your God and you shall be my people". They agreed. From that day onwards, they became the people of God. The conditions of the covenant are the commandments given to them by God through Moses. The tabernacle and the ark in it were the symbols of God's presence with them. The tabernacle was covered by cloud. This indicated the presence of God. Thereafter Israelites continued their journey looking at the cloud.

Amazing Protection

Pharaoh's empire was one of the largest in the world. Pharaoh was the title of the kings of Egypt. Nobody was allowed to question the decisions of the Pharaoh. Seeing the increase in the population of Israelites, Pharaoh feared that in the course of time, they might conquer his land. So he decided to eradicate them. That was why he decided to make them slaves and to kill their newborn male children. But in the midst of this; God wonderfully brought up Moses in the palace. Pharaoh was not aware of the fact that it was his own terminator who was being brought up in the palace as the adopted son of his daughter.

Miraculous Liberation

When Moses was a grown-up; God deputed him for the liberation of Israel. God emboldened Moses when he said that he did not possess the ability and courage for that. God assured him that He would be with him and said he may take his brother Aaron also for assistance. Accordingly, they went to the Pharaoh and informed the same. The command of God was as follows; "Thus says the Lord: Israel is my firstborn son. I said to you, 'Let my son go that he may worship me.' But you refused to let him go; now I will kill your firstborn son." Exodus 4.22,23) When Moses informed of God's command to Pharaoh, his response was, "Who is the Lord, that I should heed him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go." (Exodus 5.2)

Pharaoh and the people who disobeyed His command were severely tortured by God. God gave them ten severe plagues. The first-born son of Pharaoh was killed. The first-born sons of all the families of Egypt were also killed. But none in the family of Israel was killed. Pharaoh was dismayed at this astonishing event and let Israel go. Before leaving Egypt, the Israelites requested for the gold and silver ornaments and dresses from the people of Egypt. God made the Egyptians show pity on the Israelites.

They gave them all that they requested for. It was along with all these things that they set out for the journey. Actually they deserved these articles because the due wages were not given to them, when they were serving the Egyptians, as slaves. Now God made them give the Israelites what was due to them. God's plans are miraculous. There is none capable of understanding it..

Exercise

1. What is the condition laid down by God for being His people ?
2. What was the evidence of God's being with the Israelites ?
3. What was the title name of the King of Egypt ?
4. What was the reason for Pharaoh to make the Israelites slaves ?
5. What was God's command to Pharaoh? What was Pharaoh's reply ?

Homework Assignment:: Find out and write the ten plagues in Egypt ? (Refer Exodus chapters 4-12)

Lesson 7

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Objective: To understand that observance of laws is necessary for the good of mankind

Introduction

The Israelites after their liberation from slavery continued their journey to Canaan under the leadership of Moses. They experienced and realized the wonderful care of God even at the time of crossing Red Sea. After crossing the Red Sea they praised the Lord under the leadership of Miriam, the sister of Moses, by singing and beating Tambourines. They continued their journey to the Promised Land in a festive mood. Lord was moving in front of them in a pillar of cloud during daytime and in a pillar of fire during the night (Exodus chapters 14 & 15)

Ten Commandments (Exodus chapter 20)

When Israelites reached the valley of Sinai, God commanded Moses to camp there. God called Moses to come up to the mountain. Through Moses, He gave Israelites various directions such as how the future life of the Israelites should be, what all laws should be observed etc. These are known as the Ten Commandments.

1. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. .
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them
3. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
4. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

5. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's house;

The ten commandments can be classified into three groups.

The first 1 to 4 of the commandments specify how the relation between man and God should be and what should be done for that. The commandments 6 to 10 specify how the relation between man and man should be. The 5th commandment connects together the above said two groups. The loop that connects the two groups is parents. The essence of the 5th commandment is that for getting long life, we should respect our parents. It is God who gives us long life. So man should keep good relationship with God.

Parents should be given respect for getting long life. For getting one thing; the other thing have to be done. God will bless us with long life, if we respect our parents. These commandments are equally and always applicable to all people everywhere and at all times. These commandments are therefore called universal laws.

Exercise

1. What is the name of the sister of Moses?
2. How was God moving in front of the Israelites ?
3. Which are the ten commandments?
4. Why the ten commandments are called universal laws ?
5. Into how many groups can the ten commandments be classified ? Which are they ?

Lesson 8

MANNA AND QUAIL

Objectives: - To learn that the God miraculously nourishes those who rely on him.

Introduction:- The number of those who set out for Canaan under the leadership of Moses from the slavery of the Egyptians ; was about 6 hundred thousand (six lakhs) men besides women and children In the book of Exodus, the astonishing story of feeding all these people and leading them is given in detail. Among the people who started their journey from Egypt only Joshua and Caleb crossed Jordan and entered the promised land. All the people except these two died in the desert between Red sea and Jordan. Their sin alone was the reason for that.

The Israelites started grumbling after three days of crossing Red sea. Without getting

water they walked along the Shur desert and reached Marah. There was water at Marah but the water was bitter. Israelites started complaining from here. They grumbled against Moses. 'What shall we drink?' they asked (Exodus 15:24). After this, Moses cried out to the Lord. The Lord God showed him a piece of wood. God commanded Moses to throw it into the water. The water became sweet. Israelites drank the sweet water and were satisfied.

Two months passed since they started their journey. On the way they had dates and water from the springs. They reached the Wilderness of Sin on the 15th day of the second month. There they did not get food. Their second grumble started here. They said how nice it would have been if they had died at the hands of the Lord in the land of Egypt when they sat by the flesh pots and when they ate bread to the full; for Moses had brought them forth into this wilderness to kill the whole assembly with hunger. The Lord heard this murmur and gave them bread from heaven for eating sumptuously. This bread is called Manna (Exodus 16:1-4).

The Lord continued the raining of Manna until Israelites reached Canaan and started farming and had their first harvest. The Lord gave them quails also along with manna. They continued their journey happily, consuming manna and flesh of the quail.

The nature of Israelites was such that they grumbled at the very same time of eating manna. During the course of getting manna, itself people happened to be the victims of the Lord's wrath. The reason for this is given below. The Lord had also given instruction regarding mode of collecting Manna.

The Lord spoke the following to Moses: 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.(Exodus 16:4-5).

The Lord had commanded that one omer each should be collected for everyone. More than this should not be collected and kept for the next day. The quantity required for a day should be collected on the same day. On the sixth day, twice the daily measure should be collected. The Lord had also told that there would be no Manna on the 7th day, it being Sabbath.

But some among them collected more and kept for the next day; defying the Lord's command. On the next day, it was found to be covered with mould. The Lord had commanded that there would be no Manna on the seventh day. Ignoring Lord's command some of them went out of the camp for collecting manna but they found nothing. When the people ignored the command of the Lord, He got angry with them.

Jar deposited with Manna

The Lord God commanded that , manna should be preserved and kept as an everlasting testimony to the heavenly care. The command was as follows: Moses said, 'This is what the Lord has commanded: "Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, in order that they may see the food with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt."' And Moses said to Aaron, 'Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the Lord, to be kept throughout your generations.' As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the covenant, for safe-keeping.Fill one omar of manna to be kept for your generations, that they see the bread

wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness when I brought you forth the land of Mesraim. And for being laid for testimony, Aaron preserved it as commanded by the Lord.(Exodus 16:32-34).This is called the Jar filled with Manna.

The people who started their journey from the wilderness of Sin reached Rephidim. There was no water for them to drink there.They grumbled again. Lord saved them by giving them water from the rock.(Exodus 17:1-7)In this way, even for minor matters, Israel grumbled and sinned against the Lord. It is because of these types of continuous sins of the Israelites that they had to perish in the wilderness.

Exercise

1. Name the place where Israelites grumbled for the first time since they started the journey after crossing the Red sea?
2. What is the name of the place where the Israel, for the first time, got manna and quail ?
3. What are the directions regarding the collection of Manna ?
4. What is the command of the Lord regarding the preservation of Manna ?

Lesson 9

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIESTHOOD

Objective:- To learn that divine worship should be conducted by the persons ordained by the Lord and should only be according to the norms laid down by Him.

Introduction:- Priesthood is a subject spread over in the books Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. The Lord had commanded earlier to Moses how Tabernacle and thereafter Sanctuary for the Lord to dwell in should be built and, what all should be therein and who should do service in it. Moses arranged everything accordingly (Exodus chapter 25-27).The Lord had also given specific commands to Moses regarding the ministry of Priests(Exodus chapters 28-30)

Setting apart the tribe of Levi

The Lord set apart Levi, the third son of Jacob; and his tribe as the tribe of Priesthood. The Lord commanded that only persons from this family should do ministry in the sanctuary. The Lord ordered to Moses that Levites should be set apart from the other Israelites and cleansed and given as an offering for the Lord's service. The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Take the Levites from among the Israelites and cleanse them" "and Aaron shall present the Levites before the Lord as an elevation-offering from the Israelites, that they may perform the service of the Lord". "Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the other Israelites, and the Levites shall be mine". "Moreover, I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the Israelites, to do the service for the Israelites at the tent of meeting, and to make atonement for the Israelites, in order that there may be no plague among the Israelites for coming too close to the sanctuary".(Exodus 8:5,6,11,14,19,20)

Priesthood

After separating the tribe of Levi for the ministry of sanctuary, the Lord set apart Aaron and his sons for the ministry of priesthood. The Lord commanded Moses, “Then bring near to you your brother Aaron, and his sons with him, from among the Israelites, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. You shall make sacred vestments for the glorious adornment of your brother Aaron”.(exodus 28:1,2). After setting apart Aaron and his sons for the ministry of priesthood, the Lord commanded Moses that they should be anointed. Those who did not get anointed should not do the ministry of priesthood. Lord commanded to Moses: “Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting, and shall wash them with water, and put on Aaron the sacred vestments, and you shall anoint him and consecrate him, so that he may serve me as priest. You shall bring his sons also and put tunics on them and anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may serve me as priests”

Priesthood made perpetual

Israelites did as the Lord commanded to Moses that who all should do the ministry of priesthood to the Lord. Only Aaron and his sons should do the ministries like sacrifices, in the presence of the Lord. Priesthood was given made as perpetual priesthood to the generations to come. “and anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may serve me as priests: and their anointing shall admit them to a perpetual priesthood throughout all generations to come.”(Exodus 40:15). Moses did all that the Lord commanded him to do.

Exercise

1. Which tribe was set apart for the ministry in the sanctuary ?
2. To whom was given perpetual priesthood ?
3. Who are the sons of Aaron ?
4. Why are holy garments made for priests ?

PART 3

NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson 10

JESUS WHO TAKES CARE OF THE HUNGRY

Bible portions St Mathew 14:13-21 ; St Mark 6:35-46 ; St Luke 9:12-17; St John 6:5-14

Objective: - The Lord is capable of knowing the needs of His devotees and fulfilling them.

One day Jesus and his disciples went by the sea of Galilee to a deserted place , away from the people, for taking rest. But knowing this, the multitude of people followed Jesus on foot. Even though He was tired; seeing the large multitude of people, Jesus felt compassion for them and preached the kingdom of God and healed the sick.

When it was evening, the disciples approached Him and they pleaded that the people might be dispersed so that they may collect food from the villages around. Jesus said to the disciples, “You give them something to eat”. They said, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?.” Jesus asked, “How many loaves have you?” “Five, and two fish” said Andrew. Jesus ordered the disciples to bring them there for Him. He commanded the multitudes to be seated on the grass in rows of fifty each and then took the five loaves and two fishes, looking upto heaven, He blessed and broke them and gave them to his disciples to be distributed. The disciples done as He commanded. All of them ate and were satisfied . Jesus commanded to collect the remaining fragments without wasting them. They collected the remaining twelve basketful of fragments. And those who ate were about five thousand besides women and children. This is the only one miracle recorded in all the four gospels.

We can learn many things from this miracle done by Jesus. St ark has recorded that when Jesus said you might give them to eat, the disciples made some worldly calculations, without remembering the presence of God (St Mark 6:37). There is nothing impossible to God. What has the Lord demanded? “ Bring them here to me”. The boy submitted for the Lord, what he had kept for him and the great miracle happened. What the boy had kept for him only, became useful for him as well as to the society as a whole. Similarly if we also submit our possession such as wealth, knowledge, health etc to God, He will perform wonders through us. By this complete submission; God will bless not only us, but also the society to which we belong.

The command of Jesus to the disciple “you give them to eat” points to the social commitment the Christian church should have. Jesus takes care of the hungry . Jesus commands to feed them. Today, this should be the prime duty of each Christian.

The remaining fragments of bread were collected without being wasted. From this, we can learn that we should not waste anything that the miraculous hands of God do for us. Excess spending and wasting is not correct.

Jesus commands that the people be seated in rows of fifty each. Through this, He teaches that everything should be done in a systematic and orderly manner.

Verse to be memorised.

Psalm 107.9 - "For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things".

Exercise

1. Which is the miracle that is recorded in all the four gospels?
2. What is the reason for the request of the disciples to disperse the multitude?
3. What command did He give the disciples when they requested Him to disperse the people ?
4. Which disciple found the boy having 5 loaves and 2 fishes
5. What did Jesus do with the bread and fish before distributing them?
6. What do we learn from collecting the remaining pieces of bread?

Lesson 11

RAISING THE SON OF THE WIDOW.

Bible Portion:- St Luke 7:11-17

Objective: - We must take care and help the orphans and destitutes.

Nain was a city near Nazareth in Galilee. One day Jesus and his disciples were going to Nain from Capernaum. As they reached the gate of the city, they saw a funeral procession passing by. That was a procession for the burial of the dead body of the only son of a widow. A large crowd had accompanied the procession. That mother was weeping at the departure of her only hope. The Lord, who consoles those who are heartbroken and have hopelessness, felt compassion for the bereaved. He consoled her by saying "Do not weep". He came near and touched the coffin. Jesus ignored the law of the Jews that those who touch the coffin will become impure. The carriers of the coffin stood still. Jesus said "Young man, I say to you, rise!" When the dead one heard the words of Jesus, he sat up and began to speak. The Lord presented the young man to his mother. Thus the funeral procession was transformed into a procession of joy. Great fear came upon all and they praised the God saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favourably on his people!" This news spread in Judea and nearby areas.

The things that we should learn from this miraculous deed:

- 1) The dead ones also can hear the voice of God and react accordingly. Through this incident, Jesus proved that he is the one who has the authority over life and death.
- 2) God is always ready to wipe out the tears of those who are weeping.
- 3) The society also rejoice and praise the God along with the mother who got back her son. It should be possible for us also to praise the Lord and rejoice when the God does good to others in our society as He did to the Nainites.

verse to be memorized:

St John 14:1 - "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."

Exercise

1. Name the place where Jesus raised the son of the widow ?
2. How did Jesus raise the son of the widow ?
3. What are the ideas that we should learn from this miracle done by Jesus ?
4. Give two instances from the New testament to prove that dead ones can hear the voice of God ?

Lesson 12

GIVES SIGHT TO THE BLIND

Bible Portion: -St John 9: 1-41

Objective: - Trust in God without losing hope.

Four important incidents of giving sight to the blind by Jesus are recorded in the holy Bible.

1. Gives eye sight at Capernaum, by touching on eyes. (St Mathew 9:27-30)
2. At Jericho, gives eye sight by touching on eyes (St Mathew 20: 29-34, St Mark 10:46-52, St Luke 18:35-43)
3. At Bethsaida; gives eyesight by spitting into the eyes of the blind. .(St Mark 8:22-26)
4. In Jerusalem; gives eye sight by spitting on the ground, mixing it with mud and spreading on the eyes of the man, who was blind from birth. (St John 9:1-41).

Even though the Lord healed many blind men, the instance miracle of healing the man, who was blind from birth, alone in the gospel of St. John, has been recorded in detail. This occurs in Jerusalem on a Sabbath day at the time of feast of Tabernacle.

While Jesus was going out of the temple He saw a man who was blind from birth. Then the disciples of Jesus asked, “ Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?.” Jews believed that, sin would be rewarded with diseases and sufferings. It was because of this, the disciples asked so. In reply Jesus said, “ Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.” Saying this Jesus spat on the ground and made mud with saliva; and spreading this on the eyes and said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.”. He went, washed, got sight and came back.

His neighbors and those who had seen him before, asked each other “is this not the man who used to sit and beg ?”. Among those people, there were groups saying, that it was he and others saying it was someone like him. They asked about that to himself. To this he answered, “I am the man”. To their question “ How were your eyes opened” he told them “a man called Jesus made mud and spread on my eyes and said to me go to the pool of Siloam and wash; So I went and washed and I received sight. When they asked, “ Where is He?” he said, “ I don’t know.”

They brought him to the Pharisees. They also asked how he got sight. He repeated the same reply that he gave to his neighbors about Jesus. Some among the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because He does not observe Sabbath.”, and others said “ How can a man who is a sinner do such signs.” Thus a split arose among the Pharisees themselves. Again they asked to that man “ what

do you say about Him ? It was your eyes he opened.” The man said, ‘He is a prophet.’

The Jews scolded his parents and asked them. “Is this your son who you say was born blind? How does he see now?”. To this they replied. “ We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But by how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. He is of age, ask him, he will speak for himself. His parents said this because they were afraid of Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one who confessed that Jesus as Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. They again called the man who had been blind and said to him “ Give glory to God, We know that this man is a sinner. To this he answered, “ Whether He is a sinner or not, I don’t know .One thing I do know, that though I was blind now I see” When they asked, “How did He open your eyes?” he answered them “ I have told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” They reviled him and said,” We are disciples of Moses; we know that God spoke to Moses. But as for this man ,we do not know where He is from?”. They cast the man out of their communion.

Jesus heard that they cast him out and found him in the temple. He asked him “ Do you believe in the son of God. To this he asked, “Who is He, sir ? Tell me so that I may believe in Him.” Jesus said “ You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he”. The man said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped Him.

Jesus found the man and encourages him who had lost courage, after long trials and casting out from the communion.. He confirms him in his faith. The man who got sight, when faces Jesus, he believes and worships Him. Mor Ivanios, the gold tongued, has said about this as follows: “ Jews cast him out of the temple, the Lord of the temple found him ”. The man’s being witness to Christ expelled him out of the communion and the same helped him to come nearer to Christ. God will be faithful to those who are faithful to Him.

There is another message that we must learn from this miracle. It is not because of sin alone that diseases and sufferings occur, but may a time when God’s actions might be visible in us and His name might be glorified through that . So instead of seeking reasons for our sins, pains, diseases etc, we must trust in God and gain strength from Him without being disappointed.

Verse to be memorized

St John 9:38 - Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind’

.Exercise

1. At which place did Jesus give sight to the blind by spitting on the eyes?
2. What was the background for the question of ‘disciples,’ who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind
3. Why did the parents say , “He is of age, ask him, he will speak for himself”
4. How did Jesus give sight to the man who was blind from birth ?

Lesson 13

BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

Bible portions: St Matthew 18: 1-4 ; St Mark 9:33-37 ; St Luke 9:46-48

Objective: To learn that it is not our knowledge, ability or wealth that decides our place in the kingdom of heaven; God expects a humble mind and innocent heart from us.

One day, the disciples of Jesus came to Him and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”. Jesus called a little child and put him in the midst of them and said, ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’ Become like children means nurturing child like innocent nature in our life. What are the specialities of child like nature? Humility, sympathy, life devoid of worries and anxieties, purity of mind, complete faith in parents etc. St Mark has recorded that there was a dispute among the disciples about who is greatest among themselves. Lord was aware of their inner mind and it might be because of this, Christ said ‘become like children’.

The one who wish to become a leader should be a servant. We should be interested in serving and helping others instead of mastering and ruling over. The Lord says again “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.” We are respecting and welcoming the Lord when we welcome with love and respect one who is humble and holy. Our Lord teaches us about necessity of helping and protecting those people in our society who are weak and helpless.

The historians of the church have recorded that the child whom the Lord took in His arms later became the Patriarch of Antioch, Ignatius Noorono

Verse to be memorized

St Luke 18:17 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’

Exercise

1. Who will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven as Jesus taught the disciples?
2. What are the specialities of nature of children?
3. What is the meaning of ,’Become like children’
4. Who was the child whom the Lord took in His arms?

Lesson 14

THE FISH THAT GAVE COIN

Bible portion: St Mathew 17:24-27

Objective: -No dispute should arise because of us.

According to the law, any Jew above twenty years of age had to pay half a shekel for the needs in the temple (Exodus 30:11-16,38:25-26). This was the temple tax. At the time of Christ, Greek coins were more prevalent in Jerusalem. 2 drachma or 1 didrachma coin or 2 soosa. was equivalent to half a shekel.(1 shekel=4 soosa (penny); 2 didrachma=1 stater)

When Jesus and disciples were in Capernaum, collectors of temple tax came to Peter and asked, “Does your teacher not pay the temple tax?”. Jesus was not present in their group at that time. Peter said, ‘yes He does’. When Peter reached the house where Jesus was staying, He asked in advance” What do you think, Simon ? from whom do Kings of the earth take toll or tribute ?. From their children or from others?” Simon said , “From others”. Jesus said to him, “Then the children are free. However, so that we do not give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook ; take the first fish that comes up ; and when you open its mouth, you will find a coin (Stater); take that and give it to them for you and me..”

The messages to be learnt from this incident are: -

1. We must be prepared for compromises in unavoidable circumstances in order to avoid disputes.
2. We must pay our contributions for church.
3. The Lord of nature will act beyond nature the fish that gave Stater (Esthera).

(*‘Malsyamatheki Esthera’*)

4. “Give it to them for you and me” Lord will take care of us when we obey Lord’s commands.

Verse to be memorised:

Romans 13:1. - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.

Exercise

1. What were the rules of Jews regarding payment temple tax ?
2. Jesus says to give the temple tax. Why ?
3. How did Peter earn the coin for payment of tax ?
4. What are the messages that we learn from this lesson ?
5. We sing ‘Malsyamatheki Esthera’ What is the occasion of this song in the Holy Qurbana ?
(All may sing together this song)

Lesson 15

THE PRAYER OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

Bible portion: St Luke 18:1-14

Objective: To learn how our prayers should be.

Pharisees: - Pharisees is a religious fundamentalist group that existed in Palestine during the period from 2nd century B.C to 1st century AD. Pharisees had interpreted the piety of the laws in their literal sense and also practiced accordingly in life. They were the most radical sect in the Jewish religion. St. Paul was a Pharisee. The most important observances of Pharisees were prayer, tithes and sabbath. They were very conscious in conducting the prayers at the fixed time. They had given prominence to the meretricious observances.

Tax collectors: -The tax collectors were those who were collecting tax for the Roman Empire. The right for collecting tax had been given by auction. The common people will not be aware of the bid amount. Many of the tax collectors had been collecting tax unjustifiably. So the people hated them. Moreover, the Pharisees saw them as unholy since they failed to observe the prescribed laws. Zacchaeus who climbed on the wild fig tree and St Matthew (who wrote the gospel) were tax collectors.

The Lord has told several examples and parables in order to teach the people the basic principles about kingdom of God. All these helped the people to have clear ideas on the same. Jesus told this parable against those people who boast themselves as the just, and blame all others.

One day, two men entered the temple to pray. One of them was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and prayed “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.”

But the tax collector standing far off, not even trying to raise his eyes, prayed,beating his chest “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

Jesus told the disciples that it was the tax collector went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee ; “for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

What was the difference in their prayers? Here Jesus compares the Pharisee who justifies himself and the tax collector who repents and prays. The Pharisee not only justifies himself but also blames the tax collector.The statement of the Pharisee that he pays tithes in all his possessions indicates his spiritual vanity. The Pharisee is not trying to pray but trying to inform God how much just he is.

How does the tax collector pray? He stands far off with the humble thought that he is not fit enough even to raise his eyes to heaven. He confesses that he is a sinner.. Because of this worry he stands in the presence of God beating his chest asking for mercy .His prayer reaches God because of these reasons .

From this, we can understand that, if our prayer should be found just, there should be certain basic principles in our prayers.

1. God will not accept the prayers with the vanity that I am complete..

2. The prayer blaming others like that Pharisee, is not acceptable before God.
3. Instead of self-justification, we should confess all our sins before God and seek his mercy..

Verse to be memorized:

St Luke 18:14. - “For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted”.

Exercise

1. Who were Pharisees ?
2. People hated tax collectors. Why ?
3. Name the tax collector who wrote a gospel ?
4. “Compare the prayers of the tax collector and the Pharisee ?”
5. The tax collector became righteous before God. Why ?

Lesson 16

THE TALENTS

Bible portion: St Mathew 25:14-30; St Luke 19:12-26

Objective: The gifts from God should be utilised for the benefit of others and for the glorification of God’s name.

A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return. Before leaving, he called his servants and gave them ten minas/pounds and said to them to do business until he returns. When he returned after receiving the kingdom, he called each one to know how much he gained by trading. The first man came saying, “Master your mina has gained ten minas”. The king said to him “well done good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities. The second came saying, “Master your mina has earned five minas”. To this, the king said “ You also rule over five cities.” Another one came saying, “Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a piece of cloth, for I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.” And the king said to him “I will judge you by your own words, you wicked slave! You knew, did you, that I was a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then when I returned, I could have collected it with interest.” He said to those who stood by “Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds”. But they said to him, “Lord, he has ten pounds!”. To this the king said, ““I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away”.

Jesus says this parable on his way to Jerusalem. People had a false impression that His journey to Jerusalem was for establishment of his worldly kingdom. Jesus said this parable also for correcting this false impression.

The noble man’s journey to the distant place is an indication of the ascension of Jesus to heaven. We are the servants. The return of the noble man after receiving kingdom indicates the second coming of Jesus. The reward to the servants indicates the Lord’s judgment.

The messages we should understand from this parable are:-

1. The Lord has given the capital to His servants to work without getting lazy/idle. The capabilities that we have received is the capital (talents).
2. His servants have the freedom to work or to remain lazy.
3. The reward will be given on the basis of utilization of capabilities. If they are utilized efficiently, more rewards will be given. If not, the capabilities already received will be taken away.

Make use of the gifts faithfully and boldly. When the gifts (capabilities) are utilized, they will increase. Their neglect is equivalent to they being lost.

Verse to be memorised: Revelations 22:12 “See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work”.

Exercise

1. When did the Lord teach the parable of talents (minas) ?
2. What did the master give to the servants when he went to a far country ?
3. What were the rewards received by the servants, from the master on his return ?
4. Who do the master and servant represent ?
5. What is the neglect of gifts conferred by God equivalent to ?

Lesson 17

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Bible portion: -St Luke 16:19-31

Objective: -To learn, how our approach to the fellow beings should be.

This is a parable said by the Lord, in order to teach how the approach of the rich people to the poor should be. This is recorded only in the gospel of St Luke.

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s lap. The rich man also died and was buried.

In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus in his lap. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” ’

This parable taught by Jesus contains two things:

1. The approach of the rich man to Lazarus and the life in this world.
2. The condition after death.

1. The rich man and Lazarus: -

The name of the rich man is not mentioned. But his life style has been explained. He wore purple and fine linen, used only by the high priests. He had been living a luxurious life. Let us assume that he might have forgotten to fast two days a week. He did not consider Lazarus who laid at the gate of his palatial house. He led a selfish life, without giving any consideration for Lazarus.

The name of the poor man was mentioned as Lazarus. His body was full of sores. Dogs were licking his sores. He was helpless and had none to rely on. Perhaps his own people might have abandoned him. He filled his stomach with the crumbs of his master. (In those days, rich people cleaned their hands after eating with pieces of bread. Afterwards these crumbs were thrown out. This was Lazarus's food)

Both of them die. Angels carry Lazarus to the lap of Abraham, whereas the rich man goes to the Hades. In his life he had not abused Lazarus, did no harm to him and did not drive him out from there. Then what sin did the rich man do? It is not that he did wrong things, but he did not do what he was bound to do. That was the evil thing that made him eligible for hell. The rich man should have given consideration to Lazarus. God finds fault with the rich men for neglecting the Lazaruses. The rich men are bound to help the poor.

2. The condition after death.

When Lazarus died, the angels carried him to the lap of Abraham. When the righteous ones die, they take rest in the lap of Abraham. They remain in peace and happiness expecting the everlasting happiness that they will get after the last judgment. But the spirits of the evil ones remain in hades worrying over the everlasting hell after the judgment. Because of the mere fact that we are the sons of Abraham, we may not be eligible to sit in his lap.

Even after his death the rich man sees Lazarus sitting in the lap of Abraham. He begs for water. He pleads to save his brothers. All these show the sense of the dead ones in the post death condition. There is also another peculiarity .If those lying in the hades can have so much concern about their own people, how much more concern the holy ones who lead life of rest, will have?

The verse to be memorized:

St James 4:17 - "Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin".

Exercise

- 1, What was the life style of the rich man ?
- 2, In which gospel does the parable of the rich man and Lazarus is recorded?
- 3, For what did the rich man plead that Lazarus may be sent to his home?
- 4, What was the sin done by the rich man?
- 5, What can be learnt about the post death conditions from this parable?

Lesson 18

CURE TO THE SICKMAN OF BETHZATHA

Bible Portion: - St John 5:2-16

Objective: The Lord's presence will give optimism in any condition of despair.

Jesus went to Jerusalem on the occasion of a feast of Jews. There was a pool called Bethzatha. The word 'hzatha' in Syriac means 'mercy'. Bethzatha means 'place of mercy' or 'house of mercy'. Many diseased persons were laid near Bethzatha. They lay awaiting the stir of water in the pool. Occasionally an angel would enter and stir the water. The first person to enter the pool after the stirring of the water was made cured. On that day, as Jesus was passing by, He found a man who was sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus came to know that he was lying there for many years. "Do you want to be made well?" , Jesus asked him. The sick man said, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Immediately Jesus said to that sick man "Stand up, take your mat and walk" At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk..

That was on a Sabbath. So the Jews told the man who was cured that, it was illegal to carry the bed. But he answered them, 'The man who made me well said to me, "Take up your mat and walk." They asked him, 'Who is the man who said to you, "Take it up and walk"?' The man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. . Afterwards Jesus found him out. He said to him "See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you." When the man knew that it was Jesus who cured him, he went back and told the Jews that it was Jesus who cured him.

What all can be learnt from this incident, which is recorded only in the gospel of St John. That sick man was helpless .He might have been abandoned by all. , When there is nobody to help, the lord will come there as the helper.

The Lord asks the sick man whether he wants to be cured or not. We must submit our needs before God. Through this, Jesus shows the need and glory of prayer. He answers, " yes Lord" without realizing that it was Jesus who was asking or knowing that He was capable of giving cure. The question of Jesus, gives him hope when he was in despair. Lord's presence will give us capacity to move forward, in any desperate conditions. The command to take up his bed and walk gave new vigour to him who had been bed ridden for thirty-eight years..

The sick man, does not care to know who was the man, who cured him. But Jesus finds him out. Relieves him from sin. Commands to him not to do sin more. Jesus teaches that repetition of sins intentionally is more dangerous than the first sin. The Lord teaches that the blessings given as gifts are great and that our lives should be in accordance with them.

After realising that it was Jesus who cured him, he takes courage to come back and witness Jesus before the society. We must have courage to say that God is the cause of all the blessings in our life.

Verse to be memorized:

Isaiah 45:4 - "For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me"

Exercise:

1. What is the meaning of the word Bethzatha ?
2. How did the diseased persons get cure in the Bethzatha pool ?
3. Why did Jesus ask the sick man “ Do you want to be made well” ?
4. What was the reason for the Jews to abuse the man who had been cured ?
5. What instruction does Jesus give the cured person at the temple ?

PART 4
True Faith
Lesson 19
LENT AND FASTING

I Meaning and Biblical bases

The syriac word for lent and fasting is “Soumo”. The lent is observed with prayers, forsaking food, fasting and with restrictions in food. As the Lord God commanded Adam, not to eat the yield of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17) the law of fasting commenced in Eden. Therefore, God Himself commanded and fixed lent for the growth and nurture of the spirit in man.. As mentioned in the Holy book, fasting is another form of lent and both are two sides of the same coin. Real lent is one with fasting. (Isaiah Chapter 58)

The malayalam word for fasting is ‘*upavasam*’ which means ‘live with’ (upa=with, vasam=live). That is to live with God. Fasting is described in the old and new testament as a noble lent. Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights (Exodus 34:28). Prophet Elijah fasted for 40 days (1 King 19:8). Prophet Isaiah commands how the fasting should be observed. Old testament says that during the time of God’s wrath; as remedy for sin offerings were made and fasting observed. (Isaiah 58:6-7) eg: Prophecy of Jonah- people of Nineveh

It is recorded in the New Testament that Lord prayed and fasted for forty days (St Mathew 4:2). Jews taught that Satan can be won over only by fasting and prayer (St Mathew 17:21). Apostle St Mathew tells how the fasting must be observed (St Mathew 6:16-18) The Apostle had observed fasting and lent (Acts 13:2,27:10). Therefore fasting and lent are those taught by our Lord, as ideals and entrusted to us and are observed by the Holy church from its beginning.

II. The Lents in the Holy Church

Canonically, the Holy church has 5 lents

1. Nineveh Lent or ‘moonu Nombu’

This lent teaches us the fact that the sinner need not lose hope but that God grants remission of sin as a reward for his lent and fasting.

When the people of Nineveh listened to the cry of Jonah they sat in ashes praying and fasting and they repented. They were redeemed from their sins. It is in the remembrance of this the three-day’s lent is observed in the church.

2. The lent of fifty days (Great Lent) ‘valiya nombu’

This recalls the victory of our Lord over Satan after His lent for 40 days. As was done by our

Lord, we too observe lent for 40 days and gain strength. 10 days lent is also observed in continuation of the lent for 40 days. So this is known as 50 days lent(Great lent).

3.Sleeha Lent

This lent is observed in remembrance of the renunciatory lives of the Apostles who were the builders of the Holy church. This lent is observed for 15 days in such a way that it concludes on 29th June. The day of feast celebrated in memory of St Peter and St Paul.

4.Soonoyo Lent

Soonoyo lent is observed in memory of the assumption of St Mary, the Holy mother. This lent is observed for 15 days in such a way that it concludes on 15th August.

5. Yeldo Lent

Yeldo lent is observed in commemoration of the birth of our Lord. This lent is observed for 25 days and concludes on 25th December.

III. The way of observance of lent

The procedure of observance of all the above lents should be same with restrictions in food with fasting and prayers at prescribed times. On the days of fasting the prohibited food items should be avoided. We should gain strength in spirit, identifying our sins, then confessing them and receiving Holy Eucharist.

Besides the afore said fastings, all Wednesdays and Fridays are days of fasting. The Holy church has exempted from the observance of fasting on the Wednesdays and Fridays from Easter to Pentecost.

The observance of fasting is on the basis of Biblical provisions as well as the Canons of the Church. Non-observance of fasting is a sin. The lack of control over bodily desires and addiction for food are sins.

Fasting is Biblical in accordance with the Christian theology and is Canonical. Against this people with vested interest are making propaganda with bad motives; with a view for revolting against the Apostolic Church. Lent and fasting assist every faithful in his/her Christian pilgrimage of faith for being taken to the Kingdom of God.

Now a days there is the practice of celebrating the feast of the birthday of Holy mother of God with fasting and lent from 1st to 8th September.

Exercise:-

1. What is the syriac word for lent and fasting ?
2. When does Soonoyo lent conclude ?
3. What is biblical basis of Great Lent ?
4. What is the purpose of observance of Yeldo Nombu ?
5. Write briefly about the Lents of Holy Church ?

Lesson 20

HOLY SACRAMENTS - GENERAL DESCRIPTION

1. Origin of the word, meaning, definition

The word 'Koodasa' has originated from the Syriac origin 'Kadesh'. The meaning of this word is 'that which purifies'. In English Language Koodasa is known as 'sacrament'. This means 'pureoath'. In Greek language, the word "mysterion" indicates the Holy sacraments.

Several sects of the Church have defined sacrament in several forms. The oriental Church, without attempting to define sacrament; teaches that they are the "the crux/the nucleus". In the Taksa of St James, it is mentioned about sacrament as "the crux/ nucleus" or "the mystery". It is because the blessings, which are inner and spiritual, are experienced by the faithful through a matter (thing) inexplicable and invisible to human intelligence.

The Holy sacraments are the visible Holy performances of the invisible gifts of blessings that are essential for the salvation of the human race; as commanded and fixed by our Lord.

2. The aim and inner meaning of the performance of the Sacraments

'Sacrament' is the way through which we are linked to Jesus Christ and the Church, which is His body. "The Lord commanded as follows, "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven (St Mathew 10:32-33) The readiness to stand for Christ in public, is the right and position of the Christian.

The Sacraments confirm our faith and strengthen it. During the Old Testament period the pillar of fire and pillar of cloud strengthen the Israelites in faith and helped them to understand the invisible God. Likewise in the New Testament Church the Sacraments help us to have faith in the mercy of the Lord. The Sacraments are highly necessary for living and thriving in the life of faith.

Since the sacraments are performed in the society, they strengthen and confirm the relation between man and man and man and God. These Sacraments strengthen the social aspect of life.

3. Sacrament-as seen in the Old & New Testaments

In the Old Testament, there were many signs and symbols in existence as the forerunner of Sacraments. The covenant of circumcision made by God with Abraham is such a sign of that sort. The sacrifices, the washing with water and the anointing with oil; all these can be viewed as the forerunner of the New Testament sacraments. In the Old Testament anointment of Kings and Priests with oil was usual and through that God's blessing was received.

Exercise

1. What is the Syriac origin of the word, Koodasa (sacrament) ?
2. Define Sacrament ?
3. Why Sacrament is called Mystery ?
4. Write briefly, the purpose and inner meaning of performance of Sacrament?

Lesson 21

HOLY SACRAMENTS - GENERAL DESCRIPTION (CONT'D)

1. The Constituents of Sacraments

The gift of blessings will be obtained only from the Holy Sacraments performed in accordance with the procedure prescribed/ fixed by the Church and by the priests ordained and appointed by the Holy Church. For the Sacraments, there are four constituents such as, the performer, the materials/ objects for performance, the image of performance and the receiver.

The Performer: -

The person responsible to perform the Holy Sacrament is the performer. Only those appointed after valid laying of hands (*kaivepu*) are empowered to perform Holy Sacraments. "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord" (St James 5:14). The God Himself is the performer.

The Materials/Objects For Performance: -

The materials required for the performance of Sacrament are the objects for performance. For example, the material for baptism are the water, Olive oil, Holy Mooron etc.

The Image Of Performance:-

The prayers and the processes, joined together; as commanded by the Church for the performance of the Sacrament is the image of performance. For each Sacrament, there is separate image of performance.

Receiver:-

The receiver is the one who receives the sacrament with faith and reverence.

2. Sacrament and gift of God's grace

The receiver gets the gifts of blessings of God through the Sacraments. The Priest who is appointed as the performer is the minister of Christ and the steward of the divine mysteries. It is necessary for the receiver to have faith and preparation for getting gift of God's grace. It will not be received due to the lack of faith and preparation on the part of the receiver. It so happens that the gift of blessings will not be received simply because there is anointment of Holy Spirit on the priest or because the Sacraments are solemnized in the name of Christ.

They are also not received simply because of the righteousness of the Priest nor of the good quality of the receiver. But it is received freely by the grace of God by virtue of immense faith of the receiver. Ostracized Priests should not perform any Sacrament and the true faithful should not participate in any such Sacraments performed by them.

3. How many Sacraments

There are seven Sacraments in the Holy Church. They are Holy Baptism, Holy Mooron, Holy Eucharist (Qurbana), Holy Confession, Holy Matrimony, Holy Priesthood, and Anointment of the sick with Holy Oil. A brief description about each Sacrament is given below: -

Holy Baptism

The Lord who resurrected instituted this Sacrament, before His ascension. (St Mathew 28:18-19). This Sacrament came into practice on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 1: 37-39). The demise of our old

life and the birth into the heavenly life is occurring through the Holy Baptism. Through this, gifts of blessings like rebirth, justification, and acceptance as son are received.

Holy Mooron

This Sacrament is performed as a mark of anointment of Holy Spirit. The Holy Mooron is the perfume and fragrance of Messiah and the sign and seal of accomplishment of true faith and benedictions of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Eucharist (Qurbana)

The Holy Qurbana, known as the queen of Sacraments was instituted by our Lord (St Luke 22:19,20), (1 Corinth 11:23). Forgiveness of sins, redemption from debts and everlasting life are obtained through the Holy Qurbana.

Holy Confession

Jesus conferred on His disciples the authority to forgive sin. This authority is prevalent in the Church through the disciples. Holy confession is the Sacrament of giving forgiveness from sin.

Holy Matrimony

Holy Matrimony is a Sacrament instituted by God. Considering that it is not good for man to remain single, God gave him a woman as companion to live with him. He also commanded that both of them would, thereafter, be one. (Genesis 2; 18-25). Through this Sacrament, man gets the boon of grace to build up a divine family in mutual love and respect; under the upbringing of God.

Holy Priesthood

Priesthood is a Sacrament instituted by God(Exodus 28). Only those who have obtained Priesthood have the authority to perform other Sacraments

Anointment of sick with Holy Oil.

When Jesus deputed the disciples for preaching Gospel they had healed the sick, by anointing them with oil.(St Mark 6:13). Forgiveness of sin and cure from disease are obtained through this Sacrament.

The Sacraments can generally be divided into three.

1. The Sacraments, which can be received only once:

Holy Baptism, Holy Mooron, Holy Priesthood.

2. The Sacraments, which can be obtained only if interested in:

Holy Priesthood, Holy Matrimony.

3. The Sacraments, which can be repeated:

Holy Qurbana, Holy Confession, Holy Matrimony, Anointment of the Sick with Holy Oil.

Exercise

1. Which are the constituents of Holy Sacrament ?

2. Which are the materials/objects of Holy Baptism?

3. How many Sacraments are there ? Which are they ?

4. Which are the Sacraments that received only once ?

Lesson 22

HOLY BAPTISM

1. Origin of the word and meaning

The word '*mamodisa*' (*baptism*) has originated from the syriac word 'mamoodeso'. This word has means such bath, purification, etc. Baptism is one of the Sacraments instituted by Jesus Christ. This is the Sacrament, by virtue of which, one gets entry into the Church. One is reborn from water and from Holy Spirit by virtue of Holy Baptism. One should not obtain other sacraments without having baptism. In the Old Testament Baptism is seen performed as an observance while in the New Testament as an experience of rebirth.

2 The gifts of benedictions obtained through Baptism

1. Acceptance as son (Galatians 3:27-29)
2. Forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38,22:16, 1Peter 3:21)
3. The gift of Holy Spirit is obtained. (Acts 2:38,8:17)
4. Becomes a member of the Church of Christ (1Corinth 12:13)

3. The features of Baptism of Holy Church

In the Holy Church, Baptism of infants is usually performed. But in the case of anyone who has come of age and has not been baptized and expresses his/her desire to join the Church, there is the practice of admitting that person also to the Church after baptizing him/her. Just as there is bodily birth for man only once, the rebirth in Holy Spirit through Baptism is also for once only (Hebrew 4:5). If infants are baptized, there must be a Godparent to witness on behalf of the infant. The witness must be a man for male child and a woman for a female child.

Godparents

It is the responsibility of the Godparents to witness faith on behalf of the infant and bring it up in Christ. The priest entrusts the infant to the Godparent after the Baptism.

The materials for performance in Baptism

The materials for performance in the Baptism are warm water, cold water, olive oil and Holy Mooron.

The procedure for performance of Baptism

The water for Baptism is prepared by mixing hot water and cold water, moderately. Normally Baptism is performed in the Baptism tub. But where there is no convenience for that, other convenient things such as basin can be used. Baptism is given in the name of Father and son. The one who obtains baptism (the God parent) gives two promises.

1. Forsakes Satan and everything that belongs to him.
2. Accepts Messiah and believes in all the teachings entrusted by Him.

Olive Oil

The Olive oil used in Baptism is the symbol of grafting us, who were wild olive, to Christ, the true olive. (Romans 11:17)

The name given in Baptism

The names given in baptism are that of a saint. By this, the ideals, prayer, protection and intercession of a Holy saint is obtained. Usually the name of the Godparent is given to the baptized.

Holy Mooron is anointed after being baptized. This is for becoming the Son of God by the Holy Spirit through Christ.

Placing of Crown

This indicates that the baptized has become free from Satan and sin.

Receives Holy Qurbana

Along with the Baptism, Holy Mooron and Holy Eucharist (Qurbana) are given. Usually these three Sacraments are given together. By receiving the Holy Qurbana, the baptized becomes the organ of Messiah and becomes perfect in divine gifts.

Exercise: -

1. What is the syriac origin of the word Mamodisa? What is its meaning?
2. Which are the divine gifts received through Baptism?
3. Write briefly the order of performance of Baptism in the Holy Church?

Lesson 23

HOLY MOORON

1. Origin of the word, meaning, Biblical basis

The word Mooron originated from the syriac word 'moor'. The meaning of this word is scented oil. Since very ancient time the oil for anointment was made, adding myrrh and other perfumes (Exodus 30:23, Proverb 7:17, Psalms 45:9). The wise who came from the east to see infant Jesus, offered Moor (Myrrh).

In the Old Testament, where priests, prophets and kings were ordained, anointment oil was used (Exodus 30:22-25), 1 Samuel 10; 1, 16:13, 1 King 1:39, 2 King 9:6). Through anointment the prophets had received Holy Spirit (Isaiah 61:1). In the new testament The anointment of the Christians is described as a mark (seal in many references (2 Corinth 1:21-24; Ephes 1:14, 4:30; 1 John 2:20).

2. The specialities of this Sacrament

1. It is perfumed scent of messiah.
2. It is the sign and seal (mark) of true faith.
3. It is the fulfillment of the good gift of Holy Spirit.

3. The purpose of anointment of Holy Mooron

1. For everlasting life.
2. The permanent mark of soldiers of Messiah

3. To become unbeatable in adverse circumstances.
4. To outlive the adverse forces.
5. To perform the journey in this world with God's grace..

4. The Christian and the anointment with Mooron

The name Christian is irrevocably related to the anointment with Mooron. The word Christ is originated from the word "Christose". It means "anointed". "Christoi" is the plural form of "Christose". "Christoi" means the anointed ones. That is; the Christian who is the follower of Christ, is the anointed.

The most important use of the Holy Mooron is for Holy Baptism. The gift of Holy Spirit is received through the anointment of Holy Mooron.

5. The preparation of Holy Mooron and performance of the Sacrament.

The oil for Mooron is formulated by mixing 10 different spices with pure olive oil. After completing all the Sacramental prayers, in accordance with the Law, the oil having the scent of sweet fragrance is sanctified. This is followed by this is the invocation of the Holy spirit into it. This Sacrament is performed by the H.H. Patriarch who is the Supreme head of the Holy Church or by H.B the Catholicose who is authorised by the Patriarch. 12 Priests wearing Holy gown carrying censors, 12 full deacons carrying 'marvahasas' and 12 sub deacons with lighted candles take part in this Sacrament.

Sacrament of Mooron has two parts.

The first part is the festal procession held inside the tent; carrying the oil of Mooron.

The second part is the invocation of the Holy spirit into the oil of Mooron, after keeping the Holy oil of Mooron on the Holy Altar.

The latest Sacrament of the Holy Mooron was the one performed within Malankara Church on 25th Sept 2004, at the Mar Thoman Cheriya Pally, Kothamangalam by the H.H.Patriarch , with the H.B Catholicose as co- performer. This was when the Holy Patriarch visited the Malankara Church.

Exercise: -

1. What is the meaning of the word Mooron ?
2. Who performs the consecration of Mooron Sacrament ?
3. What is the relation between Christian and anointment of Mooron ?

PART 5
CHURCH HISTORY

Lesson 24

THE LORD ESTABLISHES THE HOLY CHURCH

Our Lord, who took incarnation, established the Holy Church for continuing His activities of salvation.”And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”(St Matthew 16:18).Our Lord established the Church on the rock, that being the true faith as testified by St. Peter, the head of the disciples. The true faith testified by Simon Peter is that ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of living God’(St.Matthew 16:16).

The disciples were shocked at the crucifixion of Christ. They felt a sense of helplessness. They rejoiced in the resurrection of the Lord. The resurrected Christ appeared several times to the disciples and consoled and strengthened them. But they had apprehension and fear to witness Christ. On the fortieth day of His resurrection, Christ gathered the disciples on the Mount of Olives and authorised them to go all over the world and preach the Gospel.

The Lord convinced them that the whole strength required for their activity would be provided by the Holy Spirit. He commanded them to remain in Jerusalem itself until they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. After that Jesus ascended to heaven. The disciples went back to Jerusalem.

On the tenth day of ascension of the Lord, they assembled in the Upper Room (mansion of St Mark) and were praying for the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, there occurred the shower of Holy Spirit on the 120 persons including the Apostles as promised by the Lord. God gave Ten Commandments to the Israelites to live according to the will of God through Moses. It was Holy Spirit that God gave the Holy Church on the day of Pentecost for following the path of Christ. The Holy Spirit strengthened the Apostles and gave them spiritual strength to witness Christ. The first members of the Holy Church were 120, consisting of Apostles and disciples. On hearing the preaching of St Peter, 3000 persons, joined the Holy Church on the same day. Later as a result of the preaching at the portico of Solomon 5000 more people also joined the Holy Church. It was St Peter who admitted , the family and friends of Cornelius from among the Gentiles to the Holy Church

The disciples also followed the very course of Christ who was anointed to preach to the poor; to preach deliverance to the captives and to preach acceptable year to the world. It was the Holy Spirit that gave strength and mental power.

Their first field of activity was Jerusalem. They preached divine words. In the name of God, they healed the sick, raised the dead and baptised those who believed.

Exercise

1. What is the purpose of establishment of the Holy Church?
2. Write the verse St Mathew 16:18?
3. What was the faith testified by Peter?
4. When and at which place the shower of Holy Spirit occurred on the Holy church?
5. The disciples also followed the course of Christ. What was the course of Christ?

Lesson 25

THE HOLY CHURCH GROWS

The martyrdom of St Stephen and the subsequent change of mind of Saul caused the growth of the Holy Church. The Holy Spirit acted through the Apostles. As a result, so many people believed, got baptized and became members of Holy Church. The Apostles and disciples preached gospel sustaining severe torments and difficulties and persecutions. As a result of the death of the martyrs and sacrifices of the saints, prayers and gospel work, many people believed in Christ and joined the Holy Church.

The hard work of St Paul was of great help for the growth of the Holy Church. The missionary journeys of St Paul resulted in the spread of gospel activities and thereby many people joined the Church. The early Church grew by learning the teachings of Apostles, observing fellowship, breaking of the bread and with prayers. They accepted the life style of Apostles as models and prayed and praised the Lord and lived as members of the Holy Church.

Synod of Jerusalem

Those who were baptized and joined the Holy Church in the early days belonged to the Jewish community. Subsequently, many from the gentiles also accepted the path of Christ. The Jews who were baptized and joined the Holy Church were already circumcised in accordance with their religious formalities. So a few of those Jews insisted that those from the gentiles who joined the Holy Church should be admitted only after they were circumcised. For taking a decision on this issue the Apostles held a Synod in AD 51 at Jerusalem. The unanimous decision of this Synod was that the gentiles need not be circumcised. The apostles had been taking important decisions by holding meetings in Jerusalem.

Persecutions during the time of Apostles

Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70. The Roman soldiers under the leadership of Titus the son of Nero, the Roman Emperor, surrounded the city of Jerusalem, massacred the Jews and took possession of Jerusalem. The Christians had to suffer inexplicable persecutions and suppressions from ten Roman Emperors, starting from Nero (AD 56-68) to Diocleshan (AD 284-305). Apostles became martyrs as witnesses to the Lord except apostle St John who had a natural death in AD 96.

For the Christian church the first three centuries were the period of persecution, suppression and torture. In the beginning the torture was from the Jews. Jewish religion was one of the religions having legal validity in the Roman Empire. As most of the Christians at the early stage were Jews, the Romans had no discrimination between Christians and Jews. In some occasions Romans protected Christians from Jews and on other occasions they tortured Christians under the persuasion from Jews. When so many people from the gentiles joined the Christian church, the enmity of Jews increased and the Romans started considering Christian church as an illegal one. Emperors Nero (AD 54-68) and Domitian (AD 81-96) tortured the Church at the time of apostles. The city of Rome was burned to ashes during the period of Nero. Alleging that the Christians were responsible for this, Nero executed many of them. It was during his time that the Apostle Peter was crucified and St Paul was beheaded.

Domitian, who claimed Godliness for himself, issued a proclamation that all should worship him, and those who disobeyed would be killed. The Apostle, St. John was exiled to Patmos island. This Holy Father wrote the book of Revelation during this period.

Persecutions after the period of Apostles

St Ignatius of Antioch, St Clement of Rome, St Polycarpus of Smyrna, and St Irenaeus were the four Holy fathers who suffered tortures for the expansion of Holy Church during the period from AD 96 to 200.

There were mainly three persecutions between AD 200 to 325. Roman authorities persecuted the Christians for the following three major issues

1. Large number of people converted to Christianity and the number of Christians increased.
2. Conversion took place in different parts of Roman Empire and the presence of Christians began to be felt in all places.
3. The Christian Church, though numerically small were zealous in religious faiths and grew as a well organised movement. Naturally the Romans feared that the Christian church will grow into a danger to the Roman Empire.

It was during the time of Septimius Severus (AD 193-211) that a royal proclamation was issued for persecuting Christians. The religious conversion was declared illegal. In places like Alexandria, Egypt and Africa the torture was extremely cruel. Homicide, burning in fire, giving as feed to animals etc are some of the cruelties done to the newly converted. During that period St Leonides, father of Origen; St Irenaeus and several others were martyred. It was during the period of Emperor Diocletian (AD 303) that the most merciless and terrible persecution in the history of the Christian Church occurred. It lasted for 10 years. Christian worship was banned. The Christian Churches were smashed and destroyed. The religious books were burnt to ashes. Priests were driven out. The believers were imprisoned for long period after snatching away the religious books from them. It was during this time that the martyrs like St George (AD 303 April 23), St Kuriakose (AD 304, July 15) and the 40 martyrs of Sebasteia were killed. It was with the Milan proclamation by the Emperor Constantine in AD 313 that the persecution against the Christian Church came to an end.

The Holy Bible is being formed

The Holy Bible was formed during the period from AD 200 to 325. Before that, the Old Testament books were read during worships. But by this time (AD 200 to 325), the subjects taught by the Lord orally and those told and written (gospels) by the disciples about the Lord began to gain prominence along with the Old Testament. The Bible as seen today was composed/formed in the third and fourth centuries.

The Christian Church became Royal Church with the arrival of Emperor Constantine. He brought about several rules and laws and reforms favourable to the Church. It was Emperor Constantine who declared Sunday as a public holiday. Christian Church was recognised as one of the official religions of the empire. The Priests were exempted from taxes. It was Queen Helen, his mother, who gave leadership for finding out the cross of our Lord. The Holy Church celebrates Sept 14 as feast of Cross (Sleebea) in memory of the discovery out of the cross of the Lord. The pitiable end of the emperors who persecuted Christians was a lesson to Constantine.

Exercise

1. How did the members who join the early Church lead their life?
2. What was the decision of the Synod at Jerusalem?
3. The person who gave leadership for the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70?
4. The Emperor who executed the disciples St Peter and St Paul?
5. The place at which St John wrote the book of Revelation?
6. Name four Holy fathers in the early Church who suffered tortures and became martyrs?
7. Why did Roman authorities began to torture Christians?
8. During whose period was the most cruele torture in the history of the Christian Church?
9. What were the services done by Emperor Constantine to the Holy Church ?

Lesson 26

UNIVERSAL SYNODS

The synods of Nicea, Constantinople and Ephesus which formulated the true creed of the Holy Church are the only three synods included in the universal aynods of the Holy Church. These councils declared the creed of the church and made declarations about the Holy Trinity, the personality, nature and incarnation of Christ.

The universalSynods are the councils of the Holy fathers held for formulating the basic theology of the church and to refute heretic teachings that affect the Church as a whole. The regional synods are the meetings of the church fathers of each particular region for considering matters pertaining to that region.

Synod of Nicea

In the synod convened by Constantine, the Roman Emperor in AD 325, in the city of Nicea, 318 church fathers had participated .The Holy synod was held for discussing the heresy of Arius that Christ is not God, He is a creation of the Father, He is the one after the father and that He is not everlasting . The decision of the Holy Synod was “Christ the only begotten son of God, who was begotten of the father and before all worlds, light of light, true God of true God, begotten not made and one substance with His father; by Him all thing were made”. The suggestion Homo Ousios (one substance with His father) of deacon Athanasios was the one accepted.

In the Synod at Nicea, decision regarding the day of the feast Passover (Pesaha) was also taken. The decision was: celebrate the feast of Easter on the first Sunday after the full moon after vernal equinox(March 21) and the feast of Passover should be adjusted accordingly..

The Emperor, Constantine the great passed away in AD337.

The Synod of Constantinople

In the 2nd universal synod convened by emperor Theodosius in AD 351, 150 fathers had participated .The teaching of the Bishop Macedonius, rejecting the Holy spirit, was refuted and de-

clared as heretic and the clause “And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of light to all, who proceeds from the father, who together with the father and the Son worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets and Apostles” was included in the creed of Nicea. As for the Syrian Church, the second Canon(decision) of this synod is very important .It is stated in this decision that the Patriarch of Antioch is the supreme authority over all the east and that all episcopos of all the east shall be subordinate to him. Even though neither the Pope of Rome nor his representatives had participated in this synod, they also have recognised this synod as universal synod.

Synod of Ephesus

In AD 431 emperor Theodosius convened this synod at Ephesus is the third universal synod. This was presided over over by Mor Coorilose, the Patriarch of Alexandria. Nestore who was the Partriarch of Constantinople questioned the unity of nature of Godand man in Christ and taught that Virgin Mary should be called only as the mother of Christ. The Holy Synod rejected this and gave complete form to the creed by adding ‘ and was incarnate.... And of the Virgin Mary, the mother of God.’

The true faith of the Holy Church is that the two characters - Godliness and humanness combined in an inseparable manner by the joining together of Godliness and humanness except sins with all the characterestics of both, without Godliness being changed into humanness or humanness being changed into Godliness or being mixed together or being formed a new one by mixing the two.

The cause for the convening the second synod of Ephesus in AD 449 was to refute the false teachings of Eutyches, a priest, opposed Nestore.

Exercise

- 1) What is mean by universal synod ?
- 2) What was the declaration at the Synod of Nicea ?
- 3) How many fathers participated in the synod of Nicea ?
- 4) What was the decision of synod relating to feast of Passover ?
- 5) Who convened the synod of Nicea ?
- 6) Who convened the synod of Constantinople and when ?
- 7) Why was the synod of Constantinople held ?
- 8) Which clause was added by the synod of Constantinople, to the creed of Nicea ?
- 9) Which synod gave the authority to the Partriarch of Antioch over the entire east ?
- 10) What was the reason for holding the synod of Ephesus ?
- 11) Who presided over the synod of Ephesus ?
- 12) What was the resolution of synod relating to Holy Virgin Mary ?
- 13) What is the true faith of the Holy Church regarding Godliness and humanness in Christ ?

Lesson 27

THE SYRIAN MIGRATION

The Syrian migration took place in AD 345. As the name indicates bishop Joseph of Edessa, priests and some Christian families from Syria reached Kodungalloor, the harbour of that time; under the leadership of Thomas of Cana, a business man. The Christians who were present here received them gladly. The arrival of Episcopa and priests gave new awakening to our ancestors, who were remaining without spiritual leadership.

Thomas of Cana presented gifts to Cheraman Perumal, who was the ruler of the state and made him know about the needs of Christians. Special statuses were granted to the Christians. They were given these written on copper plates. It is called '*chepped*'. The ruler gave land properties as free of tax to them. He also gave them wealth and helpers as a reward for the assistance given to the ruler in the battle. The Kananites of today are the successors of those who came under the leadership of Thomas of Cana. There are two groups of Kananites now. One is Jacobite Kananites under the supremacy of throne of Antioch and the other is with Roman Catholic Church.

Exercise

1. The Syrian migration was in AD——
2. Who was the leader of the Syrian migration ?
3. What is 'Chepped' ?
4. The successor generations of Syrian migration are now called——
5. Name the Episcopa who was there among the migrants ?
6. What was the reward, received by the Christians for helping the ruler in the battle ?

Lesson 28

THE PATRIARCH, ST ELIAS III

AD 1867-1932

St Ignatius Elias III was the Patriarch of Antioch and all the East who demised in India and entombed in India. The tomb of the Saint is at the Mor Ignatius Dayaro Church, Manjanikara. The demise of the Father was on 13th Feb 1932. The Holy Church remembers the Saint in the Fifth Tubden / Diptych of the Holy Qurbana. To attend the the feast of the saint, tens of thousands of the faithful come to the tomb of the Saint on foot.

The holy father came to Malankara to seek a permanent peace by settling the rift that existed in Malankara Church as Bava Party and Metran Party. The doctors advised Holy Father not to take any long and tedious journeys since he was a heart patient. The 75-year-old elder sister pleaded with tears, not to undertake the journey. Bava's reply was "One day we will die even if we are here, Death may occur while in India. We are sacrificing our life, for our children in Malankara..

The Holy Father was born in Mardin, on 13th October 1867. V.Rev Abraham Cor-Episcopa was the father. Mother's name was Mariam. His name in the boyhood was Nassiri. When became deacon, the name given was Elias. He had four brothers and three sisters. The H.H. Patriarch Peter III made him Deacon and Kassiso. While residing in the Kurkuma Monastery he completed his education. He worked very much for solving the problems in the parish and to avoid the troubles caused to the Christians by the Government of Turkey. For the welfare of the people he established churches, schools, hospitals etc

He was ordained as Bishop by the name Elias Mor Ivanios, by his H.H. the Patriarch, Abdulla II in 1908. In 1917, he was and installed as the Patriarch by the name, Ignatius Elias III. The late lamented Elias Mor Julius, Thomas Mor Dioscorus of the Knanaya diocese and Michael Mor Dionysius were ordained as Metropolitans by St Elias III Father. The then British Viceroy in India, Lord Irwin requested holy father to come to India. During his stay in Malankara for one year the Holy Father visited many churches such as Thrikkunnathu Seminary, Aluva, Kurrumpumpadi, Karingachira, Panampady, Kothamangalam, Puthencruz, Malecruz, Kolencherry, Kottayam, Chingavanam, Ranni, Kallissery etc. The Holy Father made many attempts for making peace in malankara through mediators and directly. Much worried over the attitude of opposite party; of being elusive to the attempts for peace, the holy Father reached St Stephen's Church, Manjinkara, Omallur. . Moran Elias III Father made his own life meaningful, by his self-sacrifice for the obtaining peace in the Malankara Church just as his beloved Lord Christ; who gave himself as sacrifice for the human race. His smiling face, friendly words, magnanimity, broadmindedness etc are especially memorable. May the prayers of the Saint protect us.

Projects

- 1.Prepare a note on the reception accorded to the pilgrimage to Manjanikkara on behalf of the church/ Sunday school / location of cross etc.
- 2.Walk as a participant of the pilgrimage from one reception point to the next point.
- 3.Pray for an opportunity for visiting the tomb of the Saint and praying there.

Exercise

- 1.The date on which St Elias III demised
- 2.Where is Elias III entombed ?
- 3.The Diptych (Tubden) in which the name of St Elias III is remembered ?
- 4.What was the mission of the visit of St Elias III to India ?
- 5.What did St Elias III tell his sister who requested him to avoid the journey ?
- 6.Who invited the Holy Father to India?
- 7.What was the name given to St.Elias at the time of metropolitan ordination ?
- 8.The metropolitans ordained by St.Elias to Malankara
- 9.Name any three churches in Kerala, visited by Holy Father
- 10.Give any three qualities of holy Father, which are memorable.?

Lesson 29

YELDHO MOR BASELIOS BAVA

Yeldho Mor Bselius is the Holy father entombed in the Holy sanctuary of Mor Thoma Cheriapally, Kothamangalam. He demised on 3rd October 1685. The grand old Holy Father died on the 13th day of his arrival at Kothamangalam.

He came here at a time when the Portuguese people were making relentless attempts to make the faithful Jacobites of Malankara join the Roman Catholic Church. They were causing troubles and torture to the Jacobites because they were upholding and firmly retaining Jacobite faith. St. Abdul Jaleel Mor Gregorios who demised in 1665 and entombed in the St. Thomas Church, North Parur and Marthoma II were the two fathers who made tireless efforts to keep and retain the holy faith in the Jacobite faith. After the demise of Mor Gregorios, Marthoma II made a request to the H.H. Patriarch of Antioch for one Metropolitan and four Malpans in order to teach and keep up the true faith of the church. Yeldo Mor Baselios, the Maphriana (Catholicos) of the East who had arrived at the throne of the HH Patriarch for the Sacrament of the Holy Mooron, came to know about the pitiable condition of Malankara. Mor Baselios, though he was very old got ready to go to the faithful of Malankara. who were wandering like a folk without a shepherd. Holy Father reached Thalassery after a very tedious sea travel. Holy Father and accompanying group travelled in disguise being afraid of the torture from the Portugese.

From Thalassery, they reached Kothamangalam through mountain path. Holy Father travelled on foot for many days through thick fores having cruel animals. It was the zeal of faith and insatiable desire to uphold the true faith that inspired the Father to reach Malankara, traveling through the mountain paths in which even today, the people are afraid to tread on. The Father who arrived at Kothamangalam, ordained and raised the Episcopo Mor Ivanios Hidayathulla who accompanied him, as Metropolitan.

St. Baselios who lived in the soil of Malankara only for 13 days gave a new life and spiritual impetus to the Malankara Church. The tomb of the Saint became a spring of blessings to the faithful. The miracles that happened during the short period of life of the Saint in Malankara and that are happening after the demise till this day benefit not only Jacobite Syrian Christians but also people belonging to various communities and religions. The journey of true faithful who travel on foot to participate in the feast of the Saint remind us about the sacrifice of the Father; who traveled on foot from Thallassery to Kothamangalam through thick forest. The Father will not decline to those who pray; he is the fort and refuge of the faithful.

Exercise

1. The date of demise of Yeldho Mor Baselios ?
2. In which Church Yeldho Mor Baselios is entombed?
3. The circumstances under which Yeldho Bava came to India?
4. What does the pilgrimage to Kothamangalam remind us?
5. The Metropolitan ordained by Baselios Bava in Malankara ?

Lesson 30

THE SAINT GREGORIOS (KOCHUTHIRUMENI)

1848-1902

Chathuruthil Geevarghese Mor Gregorios, the great Saint was ordained as Metropolitan by H.H.Patriarch, Peter III. Mor Gregorios metropolitan, was the key organiser of the Mulanthuruthy Synod which is known as the *Magna Carta* of the Malankara Church. The Holy Father was known as *Kochuthirumeni* (Young metropolitan) as he was raised to the position of Metropolitan at the age of 28 years only and he was the youngest by age, among those ordained at that time.

Geevarghese Mor Gregorios, the Kochuthirumeni was born to Kochumathai, Chathuruthil and Mariam, Kalarikkal; of the MarThoman parish, Mulanthuruthy, as their youngest son in 1848, by the name Kochaipora. He grew as the greatest Saint and intercessor of the Jacobite Syrian Church. He passed away on 2nd Nov 1902 and entombed in the Parumala Seminary. He became Deacon at the age of 10, priest at the age of 17. In the next year he became Cor-episcopo and became Ramban (Monk/ Dayaroyo) at the age of 24. He was ordained as Metropolitan in the Church at North Parur. Kochuthirumeni stood firm with Pulikkottil Mor Dionysius Thirumeni, against the renewal ideas of the Metropolitan, Mathews Mor Athanasius of Palakkunnathu.

He built a Seminary and Church at Parumala, as he got the required land as a gift to the see of Antioch. It was Kochuthirumeni who served as secretary to the H.H. Patriarch as a translator in the Mulanthuruthy Synod convened by the Patriarch and in the Sacrament of Holy Mooron performed, in continuation of that. The Kochuthirumeni, translated, printed and published the book 'The Action and Procedures of the Jacobite Syrian Church' written by the H.H. Patriarch, Peter III. It was under the leadership of Kochuthirumeni that Fr Alvares of the Roman Catholic Church who came to the faith of Syrian Church and another Priest by name Renivilathi, were ordained and installed as Episcopos in the name Alvares Mor Julius and Renivilathi Mor Thimothios. "The travelogue" *Oorsalem Yathra Vivaranam* written by the st. Gregorios after visiting the Holy Land is a gift to the Malayalam literature.

The holy father had practiced strict fasting and Lent. Following Anthonias as model, the Thirumeni led a life of prayer and giving of gifts and alms, as of his earnings. Through his life, the Thirumeni put into practice, that 'giving is better than taking' and 'doing is better than saying'. Thirumeni was a person gifted with many wonderful talents. Many among the last generation who were contemporaries of the Thirumeni have become witness to this. Many are getting relief by the prayer of intercession of the Saint. Those who pray and celebrate feasts of the Saint also receive favours for the matter they pray for. The Saint's Tomb and relics have been transformed into a spring of strength. There are many Churches and institutions in the Holy Church in the name of the Saint. The Qurbano, performed on 101 altars at Puthencruz in association with the death centenary celebrations of St. Gregorios was a historical event. The number of those praying for the intercession of the Saint is increasing day by day.

Exercise: -

1. What is the name given to the Kochuthirumeni at child hood ?
2. Describe the services to the Church by the Kochuthirumeni ?
3. What was the contribution of the Kochuthirumeni to literature ?
4. What was the duty/responsibility of the Kochuthirumeni in the Mulanthuruthy Synod ?
5. Who were the Metropolitans ordained, by the leadership of Kochuthirumeni ?
6. When was Kochuthirumeni ordained as Metropolitan and at where ?
7. Write a note on the field of activities of the Kochuthirumeni after visiting - Mulanthuruthy, Vettickal and Perumpally; his place of birth.

PART 6
SONGS OF THE HOLY QURBANA

1. Yachikkendum Samayamitha
Mochikkum Nazhika Ithuthan
Ithunamaskarathin Samayam
Ithu Thanne Karuna Samayam
2. Unnatha Padaviyileriyitha
Innipol Pattakkaran
Anubhavicheedunnorkkayi
Anushtikkunnee Qurbana
3. Priyare Ithu Karunayudeyum
Alivinteyum Samayam Than
Sathyasnehathode sama-
Dhanam Nalkum Samayam Than
4. Doorasthar Sameepastharumay
Thammil Nirakkum Samayam Than
Athinal Sodarare Varuvee-
Norupol Karunayiranneedam
5. Nadha! Kripa Cheytheedaname
Nadha! Kripa Cheyyuka Kanival
Nadha! Neeeyutharamaruli
Adiyarodu Kripa Cheyyaname
6. Nallavane Njungalude Balahee-
Nathayodutharamarulaname
Namellavarumothorumi-
chattahasichura Cheyyenam
(Be tharodilok)
1. Anpudayo-ne- Ninvathil
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Muttunnu- Da-sarnadam
Kuiye-la-yison
2. Avasyathal Yachikkum
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Adiya-re-Thalledalle
Kuriye-la-yison

3. Alivodu Shishichadiyare
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Arisham Neeki Kakkaname
Kuriye-la-yison

4. Vathil Thura-nnee- Prardhanayin
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Nadam ke-tte-keedaname
Kuriye-la-yison

5. Ninne Vilikkunne Nadha
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Ninnuthavikkay Balaheenar
Kuriye-la-yison

6. Nallavane- Ka-runyathal
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Nalkaname- Ya-chippukale
Kuriye-la-yison

7. Kartave- Karunyathal
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Kanivadiya-ril-Cheyyaname
Kuriye-la-yison

8. Nanmanira-njo-neyente
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Thinmakale-Nee-yorkaruthe
Kuriye-la-yison

(Srofednooro)

1. Srappikale Kandeshaya
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Beskudishayil Ninmunbil
Kuriye-la-yison

2. Chirakukala-ra-rullavaray
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Eritheeya-ma-thmakkalavar
Kuriye-la-yison

3. Kanaivan Nin- Daivathvam
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Mughamavarmoo-du-nniruchirakal
Kuriye-la-yison

4. Eriyayvan-Nin-Jwalayathil
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Iruchiraka-le-kalukalum
Kuriye-la-yison

5. Attahasi-kku-nniruchirakum
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Kottiyavar-ni-nnittevam
Kuriye-la-yison

6. Parishudhan- Nee- Parishudhan
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Parishudhan Nee Daivasutha!
Kuriye-la-yison

7. Parishudhan Nee Ninpakkal
Halleluah-U-Halleluah
Nin Bahumanam Sthuthyamaho
Kuriye-la-yison

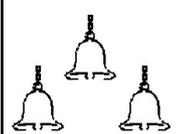
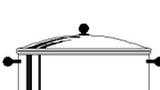
Rakshakane Nin Gathrathe Bhakshichum Nin
Vilayerum Raktha Kasa Panam Cheythum
Mritharayore nasham-neekki Jeevippi-
Chaniyenam Ninne Nokkunnavaril kanthi-Barekumor
Mrithare Jeevippanezhunnallum Raja
Mukilazhakinmelaghoshithanayeedunnu
Nayavanmar Than Munkombin Nadam Ketti-
Ttangiyaninjethirelpanay Poyeedunnu
Moriyora hem Melainu Adarine.

Part 7

Syriac Studies

1. Syrian language should be written and read from right to left.
2. An ‘Olaf’ to be added to the words end with ‘O’ and ‘A’. Such ‘Olaf’ do not have a separate pronunciation.
3. Olaf is pronounced only when it comes to the beginning of a word. It is not pronounced when it comes in between without
4. In the letters of a word, if the ... comes continuously, the last ..., is pronounced short and others longly.
5. If letters without ... comes in between, the ... before that will be short.
6. If the last letter in the word is without ... the ... of the letter before that has to be pronounced longly.
7. The ... “h’boso” comes in a letter mostly there will be “yuood” after that. This “yuood” will not be pronounced.
8. Sometimes olaf is seen after a letter containing the “h’boso”. This olaf is not pronounced.
9. The ... “vav” will be seen usually after” Assosso”. This “vav” will not be pronounced.

ക്ലാസ്സ് V

1. സുറിയാനി വലത്തു നിന്ന് ഇടത്തോട്ട് എഴുതുക, വായിക്കുക.	
2. ഒ, എ ശബ്ദങ്ങളിൽ അവസാനിക്കുന്ന വാക്കുകളുടെ അവസാനത്തിൽ ഒരു ഓലാഫ് ചേർക്കണം. ഇങ്ങനെ വരുന്ന ഓലാഫിന് പ്രത്യേകം ഉച്ചാരണമില്ല.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  (സാഗെ) മണി Bell </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  (സാഗെ) മണികൾ Bells </div> </div>
3. ഓലാഫ് ഒരു പദത്തിന്റെ ആരംഭത്തിൽ വന്നാൽ ഉച്ചരിക്കുന്നു. പുള്ളിയില്ലാതെ ഇടയിൽ വന്നാൽ ഉച്ചാരണമില്ല.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  (ആബൊ) പിതാവ് Father </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  (മോനൊ) പാത്രം Vessel </div> </div>
4. വാക്കിലെ അക്ഷരങ്ങൾക്ക് തുടർച്ചയായി ഉച്ചാരണപുളികൾ വന്നാൽ അവസാനത്തെ പുളി ഹ്രസ്വമായും മറ്റുള്ളവ ദീർഘമായും ഉച്ചരിക്കണം.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  (ലേശോന്നൊ) നാക്ക് Tongue </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>

<p>5. ഇടയ്ക്ക് പുള്ളിയില്ലാത്ത അക്ഷരങ്ങൾ വന്നാൽ അതിനു മുമ്പുള്ള പുള്ളി ഹ്രസ്വമായിരിക്കും.</p>	<p>  (ശെമ്ശൊ) സൂര്യൻ Sun </p>
<p>6. പദത്തിന്റെ അന്ത്യാക്ഷരം പുള്ളിയില്ലാത്തതായാൽ അതിനു മുമ്പുള്ള അക്ഷരത്തിന്റെ പുള്ളി ദീർഘമായി ഉച്ചരിക്കണം.</p>	<p>  (സ്തോദ്) വേലി Hedge </p>
<p>7. ഹ്ബോസൊ പുള്ളി ഒരക്ഷരത്തിന് വന്നാൽ മിക്കവാറും അതിനു പിന്നാലെ യൂദ് ഉണ്ടാകും. ആ യൂദ് ഉച്ചരിക്കാറില്ല.</p>	<p>  (സ്തീബൊ) സ്തീബ Cross </p>
<p>8. ഹ്ബോസൊ പുള്ളി ഉള്ള അക്ഷരത്തിനു ശേഷം ചിലപ്പോൾ ഓലാഫ് കാണുന്നു. ഈ ഓലാഫിനും പ്രത്യേക ഉച്ചാരണമില്ല.</p>	<p>  (ഖീഫൊ) കല്ല് Stone (Rock) </p>
<p>9. അസോസൊ പുള്ളിയ്ക്കു ശേഷം സാധാരണയായി വാവ് ഉണ്ടാകും. ഈ വാവ് ഉച്ചരിക്കാറില്ല.</p>	<p>  (കുബൊ) കുട Umbrella </p>