



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ©
* Knights of Malta *

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Chancellor's Update

Son of Man

As rumors of war increase in the Middle East people keep asking us for a peace plan that will work after thousands of years of failure. The only answer we can give to these people is to remind them of the answer given by Our Lord before ascending into heaven, “Go forth and teach all nations”. Unless we convert the Jews and Moslems we are bound to fail. We ask our readers to go back and reread the December 2018 and January 2019 Updates as preparation for St. Ephraem’s homily on the Transfiguration of our Lord for the Second Sunday of Lent. Our Lord knew how important this topic is that the Son of Man appears 82 times in the gospels. Our Lord realized that if the Jews did not accept his humanity, they would fail to accept Him as the messiah. Here is a portion of St. Ephraem’s homily explaining Christ’s humanity and divinity.

“The events of His life, and His own divine powers, teach those who can learn that He is true God, and His sufferings openly proclaim Him true man. And if this does not convince those who are weak and foolish of mind, they shall suffer punishment on the day of His dread judgement. For if He were not flesh, for what reason did Mary bring Him forth? And if He was not God, who then did Gabriel call Lord?

“If He was not flesh, who then lay in the manger? If He was not God, to whom did the angels coming on earth give glory?

“If He was not man, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes? If He was not God, whom then did the Shepherds adore?

“If He was not man, whom did Joseph circumcise? And if He was not God, in whose honor did a new star appear in the heavens?

“If He was not man, whom did Mary nourish at the breast? And if He were not God, to whom did the Magi offer gifts?

“If He was not man, whom did Simeon take in His arms? And if He was not God, to whom did Simeon say: *Dimiss me in peace?*

“If He was not man, whom did Joseph take and fly with him into Egypt? And if He was not God, in whom was the prophecy fulfilled: *Out of Egypt have I called my son?* (Mt. ii. 15; Os. xi. 1).

“If He was not man, whom did John baptize? And if He was not God, of whom did the Father from heaven say: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased?* (Mt. iii.17)

“If He was not man, who fasted and hungered in the desert? And if He was not God, to whom did the descending angels minister?

“If He was not man, who was invited to the wedding feast at Cana of Galilee? And if He was not God, who changed the water into wine?

“If He was not man, in whose hands were the loaves of bread placed? And if He were not God, who fed and filled from five barley loaves and two fishes the multitude in the desert, five thousand men, not counting the women and children?

“If He was not a man, who slept in the boat? And if He were not God, who was it rebuked the winds and the sea?

“If He was not man, who was it ate with Simon the Pharisee? And if He were not God, who forgave the woman her sins?

“If He was not a man, who sat by the well weary from the journey? And if He was not God, who gave the Samaritan woman the water of life; and who rebuked her, she that had already five husbands?

“If He was not of our flesh, who wore the garments of a man? And if He were not God, who then was it that wrought signs and wonders?

“If He was not a man, who spat upon the earth, and made mud from the clay? And if He were not God, who caused eyes to see because of the clay? (Jn. ix).

“If He was not man, who wept at the tomb of Lazarus? And if He were not God, who by his command alone called forth the four days dead?

“If He was not a man, who was it sat upon an ass's colt? And if He were not God, before whom did the crowd march to give Him glory?

“If He was not a man, whom did the Jews make prisoner? And if He were not God, who commanded the earth, and it threw them flat to the ground?

“If He was not a man, who was beaten with blows? And if He were not God, who healed the ear which Peter had cut off, and who restored it to its place?”

This is how St. Ephraem tried to convince the people of the Middle East.

This is the solution, the conversion of the Middle East! One should read the whole homily.

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