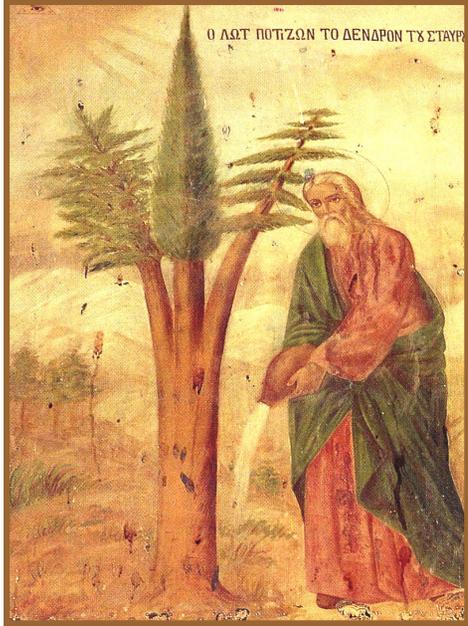


I will make the place of my feet glorious." (Isaiah 60:13) According to this tradition, after Lot fled from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, his uncle Abraham gave him a triple seedling, consisting of a cypress, a plane and a pine. Lot took the seedling and planted it in the wilderness, where the three trees continued to grow together. Lot, badgered by the devil who wished to prevent the tree from growing, traveled back and forth to the Jordan River to get water for the tree. Many years later, when Solomon was building the Temple (here the legends converge for a brief moment), the tree was cut down and the wood was used in the construction of the bridge. When Herod was rebuilding the Temple, this wood was taken out and discarded, and was later taken up again to be used for the Cross of Jesus. The first part of the verse from Isaiah refers to the three different woods being used in the building of the Temple. The interpretation of the final phrase, "I will make the place of my feet glorious," is that it is a reference to the foot rest to which Jesus' feet were nailed on the Cross. Tradition says that the place where the tree grew was outside of the city of Jerusalem and where the Monastery has stood since the 5th century. ******(excerpted from://fullhomilydivinity.org)

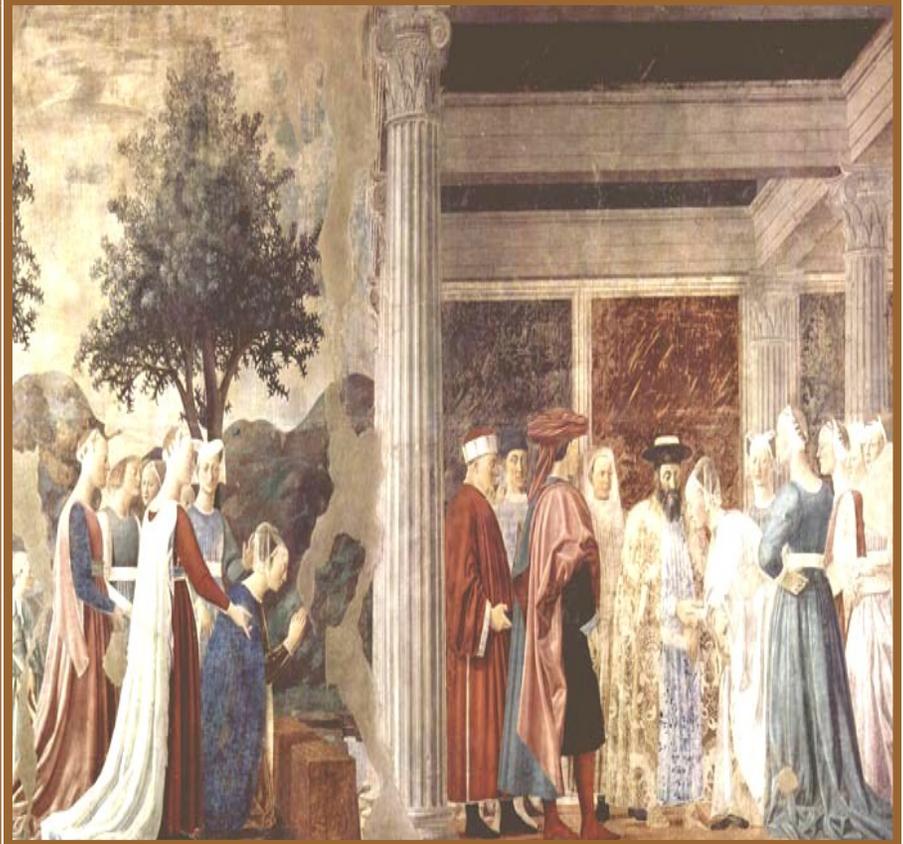


LOT

**USING WATER FROM
THE JORDAN RIVER
IS DEPICTED WATERING THE TREE
THAT WAS TO BECOME
THE WOOD USED FOR THE CROSS
OF THE CRUCIFIXION**



Origin of the Wood used in the Crucifixion of Jesus



**THE QUEEN OF SHEBA
VENERATING THE
WOOD OF THE CROSS
OF THE CRUCIFIXION**

**CONSTANTINE
MEETS THE
QUEEN OF SHEBA**

The Origin of the Wood used in the Crucifixion of Jesus

*The Monastery of the Cross used in the crucifixion of Jesus is located near the Nayot neighborhood of Jerusalem, Israel. It is located in the Valley of the Cross, below the Israel Museum and the Knesset. It is a Greek-Orthodox monastery, built as a fortress. According to tradition, it is the site of the tree that was used to build the Cross of the Crucifixion.

The Holy Tree, according to the tradition and the local paintings in the Monastery, was based on a triplet seeding (olive + cypress + cedar) that Abraham gave to Lot. Lot planted the tree at this site and watered it with waters he fetched from the Jordan River. The tree was later used to create the Holy Cross on which Jesus was crucified. A room inside the Monastery marks the site of the tree.

The cross was later buried in the grave of Jesus (Holy Sepulchre). Fragments of the cross were found by Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine who discovered the vault in her visit (326 A.D.). They were transferred to Rome and are on display in "Santa Croce in Gerusalemme" (Church of the Holy Cross in Rome).

The Monastery was initially built in the Byzantine period, during the 5th century A.D. It was repaired by Caesar Justinian in the mid 6th century. The Monastery was destroyed during the Persian invasion (614 A.D.). In 796 the Arabs butchered all the residing monks. It was rebuilt in the 11th century by a Georgian Monk, and enjoyed better times during the times of the Crusaders. The site was a large center in the 13-14th century, and hosted hundreds of Georgian monks, scholars and poets.

After the Crusaders left the city (1267 A.D.) the site was under the control of the Mamelukes, who added a mosque inside the complex. During the times of the Mamluk ruler Baibars (1260-1277) the Church was demolished and the monks removed, but were permitted to return in 1305 after pressure from Byzantine. During the 16th century the Arabs demanded to convert it to a mosque, on the grounds of the existence of a mosque in the 13th century, but this attempt was blocked. At the end of the 17th century the Monastery changed control from the Georgians to the Greek-Orthodox church.

*(excerpted from //www.biblewalks.com)

Traditions about the Origin of the Wood of the Cross

**There are two different traditions about the origin of the wood of the Cross. The more familiar, Western tradition, relates that as Adam lay dying, he instructed his son Seth to go to the gate of the Garden of Eden, and to ask the cherubim guarding the entrance for a seed from the Tree of Life. This seed was placed in Adam's mouth after he died and was buried with Adam. The seed germinated and grew into a great tree which gave shelter to creatures of all kinds. In time, the origin of the tree and even the fact that it had grown over the grave of the first human being was forgotten. When the time came for Solomon to build the Temple in Jerusalem, wood was needed and he directed that this great, sturdy tree be cut down to be used in the construction. This was done, however, the wood from the tree was never suitable for the places it was needed. A board was either too short or too long, no matter how carefully it was measured. At last, the wood was discarded. A few years later, a bridge was being built for one of the approaches to Jerusalem and the discarded wood was incorporated into the project. When the Queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon, it was necessary for her to cross this bridge. As she did, she heard a voice with a message which she reported to her host. She told Solomon that the wood of this bridge would be the means by which a new kingdom and a new order would be established in Jerusalem. Fearing that he would be overthrown and his kingdom taken from him, Solomon had the bridge torn down and the wood thrown into a cistern outside the wall of Jerusalem. There it lay for nearly a thousand years until it was once again put into service in the making of a cross for the execution of a man who claimed to be King of the Jews and became again what it had always been: the Tree of Life.

The Eastern tradition of the origins of the wood of the Cross is much simpler and rests on the interpretation of a prophecy in the Book of Isaiah: "The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and