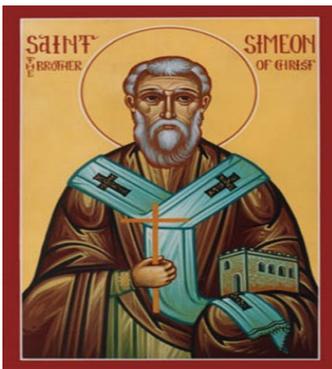


Vespasian and Domitian had commanded all to be put to death who were of the race of David. Saint Simeon had escaped their searches; but Trajan having given the same order, certain heretics and Jews accused him, as being both of the race of David and a Christian, to Atticus, the Roman governor in Palestine. The holy bishop was condemned by him to be crucified: who, after having undergone the usual tortures during several days, which, though one hundred and twenty years old, he suffered with so much patience that he drew on him a universal admiration, and that of Atticus in particular, he died in 107, according to Eusebius in his chronicle, but in 116, according to Dodwell, bishop Loyde, and F. Pagi He must have governed the church of Jerusalem about forty-three years.

The primitive disciples of Jesus Christ were entirely animated by His spirit, and being dead to the world and themselves, they appeared like angels among men...Their resolution never failed them, their fervor never slackened. Such wonderful men wrought continual miracles in converting souls to God... When shall we begin to study to crucify our passions and die to ourselves, that we may lay a solid foundation of true virtue and establish its reign in our hearts?



*(excerpted from: //www.bartleby.com)

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Saint Simeon

Bishop of Jerusalem

Feast Day: February 18



**Saint Simeon
a blood relative of Jesus**

Saint Simeon, Bishop of Jerusalem

*Saint Simeon was the son of Cleophas, otherwise called Alpheus, brother of Saint Joseph, and of Mary, sister of the Blessed Virgin. He was therefore nephew both to Saint Joseph and to the Blessed Virgin, and cousin-german to Christ. Simeon and Simon are the same name, and this saint is, according to the best interpreters of the holy scripture, the Simon mentioned, who was brother to Saint James the Lesser, and Saint Jude, apostles, and to Joseph of José. He was eight or nine years older than our Savior. We cannot doubt that he was an early follower of Christ, as his father and mother and three brothers were, and an exception to that of Saint John, that our Lord's relations did not believe in him. Nor does Saint Luke leave us any room to doubt but that he received the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost with the Blessed Virgin and the apostles; for he mentions present Saints James and Jude, and the brothers of our Lord.

Saint Epiphanius relates that when the Jews massacred Saint James the Lesser, his brother Simeon reproached them for their atrocious cruelty. Saint James, bishop of Jerusalem, being put to death in the year 62, twenty-nine years after our Savior's resurrection, the apostles and disciples met at Jerusalem to appoint him a successor. They unanimously chose Saint Simeon, who had probably before assisted his brother in the government of that church.

In the year 66, in which Saints Peter and Paul suffered martyrdom at Rome, the civil war began in Judea, by the sedition of the Jews against the Romans. The Christians in Jerusalem were warned by God of the impending destruction of that city, and by a divine revelation commanded to leave

it, as Lot was rescued out of Sodom. They therefore departed out of it the same year, before Vespasian, Nero's general, and afterwards emperor, entered Judæa, and retired beyond the Jordan to a small city called Pella; having Saint Simeon at their head. After the taking and burning of Jerusalem, they returned thither again, and settled themselves amidst its ruins, until Adrian afterwards entirely razed it. Saints Epiphanius and Eusebius assure us, that the church here flourished extremely, and that multitudes of Jews were converted by the great number of prodigies and miracles wrought in it.

Saint Simeon, amidst the consolations of the Holy Ghost and the great progress of the church, had the affliction to see two heresies arise within its bosom, namely, those of the Nazareans and the Ebionites; the first seeds of which, according to Saint Epiphanius, appeared at Pella. The Nazareans were a sect of men between Jews and Christians, but abhorred by both. They allowed Christ to be the greatest of the prophets, but said he was a mere man, whose natural parents were Joseph and Mary: they joined all the ceremonies of the old law with the new, and observed both the Jewish Sabbath and the Sunday. Ebion added other errors to these, which Cerenthus had also espoused, and taught many superstitions, permitted divorces and allowed of the most infamous abominations... The authority of Saint Simeon kept the heretics in some awe during his life, which was the longest upon earth of any of our Lord's disciples. But, as Eusebius says, he was no sooner dead than a deluge of execrable heresies broke out of hell upon the Church, which did not openly appear during his life.