

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022  
HIEROMARTYR BABYLAS, BISHOP OF ANTIOCH  
HOLY PROPHET AND GODSEER MOSES

GREAT VESPERS

***LORD I CALL:*** *Four stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 3 (spiral bound vespers book), followed by three for the martyr and three for the prophet*

***HIEROMARTYR BABYLAS, tone 6:***

You dyed your sacred vestments in your holy blood  
and entered into the Holy of Holies as a saint, O glorious Babýlas.  
You are manifestly deified,  
glorified and radiant in martyrdom,  
revealed to be living the angelic life through most pure communion.  
Therefore we honor you, O truly blessed saint, //  
and with love celebrate your most holy festival.

Shackled with iron, O all-wise Saint Babýlas,  
you were not hindered as you traveled the path to the heavenly city,  
bearing the sacred wounds as adornments.  
You entered as a true victor,  
an invincible martyr and witness,  
and a sacred celebrant of holy rites.  
With the Angels you sing the divine song in purity://  
“Holy, Holy, Holy, O Trinity, One in essence!”

With a staff of divine knowledge  
you governed the rational flock, O blessed Hierarch,  
and tended them faithfully in a green pasture.  
You saved them from the wild beasts,  
and gave joy to God, Who shepherds you from on high.  
Proclaiming Him before the ungodly, O holy Babýlas,  
you rejoiced as you were slaughtered like an innocent lamb,  
together with the guileless children. //  
With them you were sacrificed as a fragrant burnt offering.

***PROPHET MOSES, tone 4:***

Instructed in the divine mystery, O all-glorious God-seer Moses,  
and the wonders of His ineffable beauty and glory,  
you prophesied of this in shadows and figures.  
Therefore through immaterial things and imageless symbols,  
You brought us the concepts of the first original divine Radiance.  
Pray to God that all who honor you may also be deified,  
and that He guard us against the Pharaoh, //  
by His promise and grace!

Having excelled in virtues,  
you were close to the God of All in visions.  
In the midst of the whirlwind, the darkness, and the cloud,  
you were fully glorified.  
Therefore, you received the tablets of the writing of God,  
and shone clearly with grace like an Angel  
through both your spiritual and bodily eyes.  
You covered the blindness of false beliefs,  
and by your words granting God’s revelation to the faithful. //  
Pray that we may be saved!

You conversed with the fiery and divine love of God,  
O thrice-blessed Moses,  
beholding Him one on one and face to face.  
Gazing upon your own Creator,  
you clearly beheld His splendor from the back,  
and, through a crevice in the rock,  
you learned of the future manifestation of the Word in the flesh.  
Therefore, like the pillar of fire that went before the people,  
you also go before those who are wise in God, //  
and save those who faithfully glorify you.

***GLORY...for the Martyr, tone 6:***

The Church has acquired your sacred feats and struggles  
as an accessible stairway mounted on high, O Hieromartyr Babýlas.  
May you keep her secure and unassailable by the mighty wolves.  
The Church proclaims your valor,  
and magnifies you and the children //

who were slain with you for Christ, O blessed saint.

***NOW AND EVER...the Dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 3***  
*(spiral bound vespers book)*

***APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 3 (spiral bound vespers book)***

***GLORY... for the Martyr, tone 6:***

Standing before the tyrant's judgment seat,  
and witnessing for true piety,

You cried out, "Behold, here am I and the children whom God has  
given me!"

You were crowned with them in the heavens,

O Hieromartyr Babylas://

Pray unceasingly that our souls may be delivered from the snares of  
the enemy!

***NOW AND EVER...the Resurrection Theotokion in tone 6***

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,

was born of you, O most pure Virgin.

By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.

Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God!

Rejoice, O celestial Joy!

Rejoice, O Lady://

the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!

## **TROPARIA**

**Resurrection, tone 3**

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

**Saint Babylas, tone 4**

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
you became a successor to their throne.

Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine  
contemplation, O inspired one of God;

by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith,  
even to the shedding of your blood.

Hieromartyr Babylas, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

**Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 4**

The mystery of all eternity,

unknown even by Angels,

through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:

God incarnate by union without confusion.

He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,

by which He resurrected the first-created man,//

saving our souls from death.

**The Hieromartyr Babylas** and with him the 3 Youths Urban, Prilidian, Epolonius and their Mother Christodoula died as martyrs under the emperor Decius (249-251). During his stay in their city of Antioch, the emperor arranged for a large festival in honor of the pagan gods. At the same time, the holy and God-fearing Bishop of Antioch, Babylas, was serving the Divine Liturgy in church; he prayed for his flock and taught it bravely to undergo all the tribulations for the faith in Christ. After his abominable idol-worship, Decius, curious to witness the Divine Mysteries, decided to enter the church and by his visit to defile the Sanctuary of the Lord. News of this reached the bishop, and he went out to meet him and blocked the path to the church because he was unwilling to permit impiety in the temple of God. When the emperor tried to get closer to the church doors, St. Babylas shoved him away with his hands, so that the emperor had to abandon his intention. He wanted to take revenge on the saint right away, but seeing the large throng of Christians, he feared a riot. The next day the angry emperor gave orders to set fire to the Christian temple, and to bring Bishop Babylas before him. When asked why he should insult the imperial dignity, and not allow the emperor into the church, nor respect his position, the holy bishop answered, "Anyone who would rise up against God and want to desecrate His sanctuary, is

not worthy of respect, but has become the enemy of the Lord." The emperor demanded that the holy bishop worship the idols and in so make up for his offence against the emperor, or else face execution. After convincing himself that the martyr would remain steadfast in his faith, he commanded the military commander Victorinus to put him in heavy chains and lead him through the city in disgrace. The holy martyr replied, "Emperor, for me these chains are as venerable as your imperial crown is for you, and suffering for Christ for me is as acceptable as the imperial power is for you; death for the Immortal King is as desirable to me as your life is to you." At the trial with Bishop Babylas were three young brothers, who did not forsake him even in this most difficult moment. Seeing them, the emperor asked, "Who are these children? " "These are my spiritual children," the saint replied, "and I have raised them in piety, I have given them an education, cultivated them with guidance, and here in a small body before you are these great young men and perfect Christians. Test them and see." The emperor tried in all sorts of ways to entice the youths and their mother Christodoula to renounce Christ, but in vain. Then, in a rage, he ordered each of them to be whipped with a number of blows corresponding to their age. The first received twelve blows, the second, ten, and the third, seven. Dismissing the mother and children, the torturer again summoned the bishop, telling him that the children had renounced Christ. But the lie quickly unraveled and did not succeed. Then he commanded all the martyrs be tied to a tree and burned with fire. Seeing the stoic bravery of the saints, the emperor finally condemned them to death by beheading with the sword.

**The Holy Prophet and God-Seer Moses** was of the tribe of Levi, the son of Abram and Jochabed (Exodus 6:20). His life is described in the Bible (Exodus 2 through Deuteronomy 34:12).

Moses was born in Egypt around 1689 B.C. When Pharaoh ordered all male children of the Hebrew slaves to be killed (Exodus 1:22), Moses' mother placed him in a basket of papyrus coated with pitch, and set him adrift on the Nile. Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him as her own son.

At the age of eighty, Moses fled to Midian, where he spoke to God in the Burning Bush on Mt. Horeb (Exodus 3:2). God chose Moses to lead His people from the slavery of Egypt. They crossed the Red Sea as if it were dry land, and for forty years they wandered in the desert.

Arriving in the land of Moab, Moses went to the top of Mt. Nabau, or Nebo (Deuteronomy 32:49), which is called Phasga (Deut. 34:1). There, according to the will of God, he died in 1569 B.C. at the age of 120 without entering the Promised Land.

The first two Biblical Odes are attributed to Moses: "Let us sing to the Lord..." (Exodus 15:1-9), which was sung on the shores of the Red Sea after the Hebrews had crossed it. "Attend, O heaven..." (Deut. 32:1-43) was sung in the land of Moab, a few days before Moses' death. He is also regarded as the author of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament).

The holy Prophet Moses performed many miracles during his lifetime, and also after his death. He appeared on Tabor with the Prophet Elias at the Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6).

On the day that St John of the Ladder (March 30) was installed as abbot of Mt. Sinai, the Prophet Moses was seen going around and giving orders to the cooks, stewards, and servants. When the guests had gone and the monks were sitting at table, they wondered what had become of the stranger who had been giving orders. St John said, "Our Lord Moses does nothing strange by serving in the place which belongs to him."

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