

HYMN Part A
Rooting The Early Coptic Church Songs
Through A Jewish Perspective:
Historical And Liturgical Appraisal

Contact: Emile Tadros, M.A. (Christian Studies)
McMaster Divinity College
emile.tadros25@gmail.com

Class date: October 27-28, 2017

Course Description:

This course is an initial attempt to shed light on mutual interaction between Coptic and Jewish tradition by demonstrating a Jewish impact on the early stage of the Alexandrian Church as seen in the Coptic Morning Service. It explores possible influence of the Jewish rituals and prayers including the writings of the late Second Temple Era (200 BCE –70 CE) on some of the origins of fundamental Coptic rituals. The Coptic Morning Service holds almost identic texts, order of prayers (hymns), and, many major Jewish thematic interrelations.

Purposes:

Knowing:

That the students have a firm and thorough intellectual grasp of the content of the Coptic and Jewish Morning Service (hymns and prayers), literary form, historical context and theological teaching (Halakah, Heb). Knowing the Halakhic details provide an essential source in explaining the strictness of the Coptic Church in following its liturgical rules.

Being:

That the students gain an academic growth for Coptic hymns history and sourcing accurate facts within the early Alexandrian Church history. Assess the certainty of being born church (First Century CE) in a Jewish Alexandrian community. Evidence found within this study should indicate awareness that indeed Coptic Church liturgy with its hymns were delivered in an apostolic (Jewish) setting. More appreciating Christ missionary vision and the New Testament events related to early Christian missions in Diaspora (i.e. Egypt).

Doing:

That the students acquire competency in understanding the source of the connected elements that exist between the Torah, the transfer of Jewish liturgical customs, hymns and songs themes to the new born church of Alexandria during the first century CE.

Title of each lecture

1. Alexandrian Judaism: Backbone of the Early Egyptian Church
2. Historical Apostolic (Jewish) evidence in the origin of the Alexandrian Church
3. Parallels between Jewish and Coptic Morning Services: Prayers and hymns
4. (Time availability?) Thematic interrelations in Jewish and Coptic Morning Services: Prayers and hymns

Bibliography

I. Possible Jewish Core at the heart of Egyptian Christianity (1990-2010)

Wilken, Robert Louis. *Judaism and the Early Christian Mind: A Study of Cyril of Alexandria's Exegesis and Theology*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971.

Kasher, Aryeh. *The Jews in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt: The Struggle for Equal Rights*. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1985.

Klijn, Albertus. "Jewish Christianity in Egypt." In *The Roots of Egyptian Christianity*, edited by B. Pearson and James Goehring, 161-78. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2007.

Pearson, Birger Albert. "Earliest Christianity in Egypt: Further Observations." In *The Roots of Egyptian Christianity*, edited by B. A. Pearson and James Goehring, 97-112. Washington: The Catholic University of America Press, 2007.

Roberts, Colin. *Manuscript, Society, and Belief in Early Christian Egypt*. London and New York: British Academy by Oxford University Press, 1979.

Griggs, C. Wilfred. *Early Egyptian Christianity: From Its Origins to 451 CE*. Leiden and New York: Brill, 1990.

Cannuyer, Christian. "L'Ancrage Juif de la Première Eglise d'Alexandrie." *Le Monde Copte*, 23: 31--46. (French).

Modrzejewski, Joseph. *The Jews of Egypt: From Rameses II to Emperor Hadrian*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997.

Broadhead, Edwin Keith. *Jewish Ways of Following Jesus: Redrawing the Religious Map of Antiquity*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010.

Paget, James Carleton. *Jews, Christians and Jewish Christians in Antiquity*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010.

II. Coptic Authors: Probability of the existence of Christianity in Alexandria prior to St Mark's mission

El Masry Iris. *Story of the Copts: The True Story of Christianity in Egypt*. Los Angeles: St. Antony Monastery, 1987.

Isizoros, Bishop. *Al Kharida AI Nafeessa Fi Tareikh AI Kenissa [The Precious Pearl of the Church History]*. Cairo: A1 Mahaba Press, 1991. (Arabic).

Girgis, Waheeb. (Anba Gregorios) *Al Kalamat Al Younanya Al Mostakhdamafi Al Logha Alkeptya [Greek Words in Coptic Usage]*. Cairo: Society of Anba Gregorios, 2010. (Arabic).

Muftah, Ragheb, et al. "Coptic Music." In *Coptic Encyclopedia*, 6:1715--47.

More bibliography is available upon student topic research.

Research Assignment

1. **25% - Class Participation:** *Research Topic Research Topic* will be determined *in situ*.
2. **75% - Research Paper Minimum 10 pages. (English or Arabic)**

HYMN Part B

Contact: Cantor Tharwat, St Didymus Institute, Egypt
Virgin Mary & St Athanasius Church - Mississauga

Course Description:

This course covers the basic knowledge about all Coptic hymns, reading and learning different parts of the Holy Liturgy book and the Holy Psalmody Book. This course will also teach the difference between church tunes (annual, seasonal, joyful, and sorrowful) and the chanting of some church hymns

Assignment

1. **25% - Class Participation**
2. **75% - Oral Examination.**