The Arabic Preaching of James, the Brother of Jesus

1 It came to pass when the disciples were assembled to divide the cities of the world amongst themselves, the Lord Jesus the Christ appeared in the mist of them and said unto them: “My peace be unto you, O my sincere disciples! As my father hath sent Me into the world, so I send you, that ye may preach in the inhabited earth about the knowledge of My Heavenly Father.” Then the disciples prayed together, the Lord being in the midst of them. And they cast lots; and the lot fell upon James, that he should preach the Holy Gospel in Jerusalem and in all its district. Then he worshiped the Lord and said: “Thou knowest, O Lord, that the Jews seek to slay us, when we preach about Thy resurrection and Thy Holy Gospel. And I do not resist Thy command, nor the lot which hath come out for me; but I know that the Jews will not hearken to my words which I shall speak unto them. And I entreat thee, O Lord, that Thou wouldest send me unto the Gentiles like my brethren. And I will do all that Thou dost command me. And I will endure all that may befall me of suffering for Thy name’s sake.”

2 Our Lord answered and said unto James: “Thou must needs preach in the place which came out as thy lot. Behold, Peter, My chosen one, I have made him care for you. And thou must needs become Bishop of Jerusalem. And thy words shall be listened to, and thy good conflict shall be accomplished; and thy grave shall be in it. Arise then, and fulfill what I have commanded
thee.” James said unto him: “Let my father Peter be a helper unto me: and I will endure all that may befall me, for the sake of Thine honored Name.” And the Lord gave them the salutation of peace, and ascended to heaven in glory. And the disciples were filled with joy by the power of the Holy Ghost; and they prayed upon the Mount of Olives.

3 Then Peter said unto the disciples: “Go with us with our brother James that we may seat him upon the throne of the bishopric.” And Peter arose, and all who were with him, and they stretched out their hands and prayed, and said: “O God! Who rulest all things, Governor of the whole creation! Hearken unto us. We know that Thou art not far from us: nor from whatsoever word we entreat of Thee. Give to our brother James power to govern Thy nation which Thou hast committed unto him to rule according as Thou hast commanded.” And when they arrived, they saluted one another, and brought James into Jerusalem. And he preached in the name of the Lord Jesus the Christ; and many of its people believed in his proclamation of the Gospel.

4 And when some of the Jews saw James preaching in the name of the Christ they would fain have killed him. And they found no way to do it, because of those who believed in the Lord by means of him. And when he knew this, he went out to the villages which were around the city, and preached the gospel to them in the name of the Lord Jesus the Christ. And when he was going into one of the villages he found an old man, and said unto him: “I wish thee to let me lodge with thee.” The old man said, “Come in and rest until tomorrow.”
And the disciple went with him to enter his house. And, behold, there was on the road a man possessed with a devil. When the devil saw James the disciple, it cried and said: “What has thou to do with me, O disciple of Jesus the Christ? Hast thou come hither to destroy me?” He said unto him: “Shut thy mouth, O thou unclean spirit, and come out of the man.” And straightway it came out of the man like fire. And when he saw this wonder, he fell at the feet of the disciple, and said: “I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter my house; but teach me what I should do, that I may be saved; I and all my household.”

And when the disciple praised the name of God, our Lord Jesus the Christ, and said, “I thank Thee, O my Lord! Thou hast made my way easy.” And he returned to the old man, and spoke unto him the words of salvation; and he exhorted him, and taught him the name of the Lord Jesus the Christ. And he went into his house, and the old man gathered his people together: and the disciple preached unto them, and taught them the faith: and baptized them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost: and made them partakers in the Holy Mysteries—the Body of the Lord and His pure Blood.

And the people of the village heard of it; and they brought before him all the sick of divers diseases: and the possessed: and he healed them all. And he appointed unto them a presbyter and deacons. And he appointed unto them the old man as bishop, and committed unto him the Gospel of the Lord Jesus the Christ; and he went out journeying into all the country round about Jerusalem to preach in it. And when they believed, he returned unto Jerusalem; and they all came into his presence, praising the Lord Jesus the
Christ, and His Father, and the Holy Ghost, the Holy Trinity, henceforth and for ever and ever. Amen.