



## ST. ABGAR, THE FIRST CHRISTIAN KING

ST. ABGAR WAS KING OF EDESSA (NOW URFA) WHICH WAS AN INDEPENDENT KINGDOM AT THE BORDER OF HISTORIC ARMENIA.

DURING THE REIGN OF KING ABGAR, MANY ARMENIANS LIVED IN EDESSA AND SOME SOURCES EVEN MENTION THAT HE HIMSELF WAS AN ARMENIAN.

ST. ABGAR IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE FIRST KING TO BELIEVE CHRIST WAS THE SON OF GOD.

AT THE TIME OF JESUS, HE WROTE TO HIM AND ASKED HIM TO COME AND HEAL HIM FROM A TERRIBLE DISEASE. THE SAVIOR REPLIED TO THE KING THAT HE NEEDED TO COMPLETE HIS MISSION IN ISRAEL, HOWEVER, JESUS PROMISED TO SEND A MESSENGER TO CURE HIM AND DELIVER TO HIM THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.

AFTER THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST ST. THADDAEUS, ONE OF THE TWELVE DISCIPLES OF JESUS TRAVELED TO EDESSA, PREACHED THE GOSPEL, HEALED THE KING AND ALL THE SICK IN THE CITY. BELIEVING IN CHRIST, THE INHABITANTS OF EDESSA WERE BAPTIZED AND BECAME CHRISTIANS. LATER ST. THADDAEUS TRAVELED TO ARMENIA TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO KING SANADUK OF ARMENIA.

KING ABGAR'S FAITH AND TRUST IN THE LORD HELPED TO SPREAD CHRISTIANITY IN EDESSA AND IN ARMENIA.

