



Where  
your  
treasure  
is,  
your heart  
will be  
also.

Luke 12:34



TO TITHE IS TO SHARE  
TO TITHE IS TO CARE

Dear Student,

As an Orthodox Christian, we care about our faith and our church. One way we do this is by contributing to the weekly collections. We aim to bring in ten percent of what we earn and receive. This is called a "tithe."

These pages are arranged for each month between September and May. They feature four saints who exemplify the traits of stewardship, thankfulness, dedication to God, and trust- four traits that help us care for our faith.

We need to care. We need to share.  
To tithe is to share. To tithe is to care...

*Have a hand in your church*



#### Acknowledgements

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# The Habit of Tithing

Since the time of Jesus, the people of God have tithed. In fact, 18 centuries before Jesus, Abraham tithed, in thankfulness to God who had helped him win a battle. This is recorded early in the book of Genesis, which is the first book of the Bible.

A tithe is  $1/10$  of all we earn, or receive as gifts. It isn't difficult to figure out. If you earn \$1, you keep \$.90, and bring \$.10 for the collection. If you earn \$10, you keep \$9 and bring \$1 for the collection.

When you do this, you are being a good steward of what God has provided for you--all we have comes from God and is given to us for our wise management. You also trust God to provide for your needs. Finally, you have taken a step on the road to realizing that your whole life is to be given to God.

When we tithe, we build stronger churches, and more churches. We share because we care...



## Do the Math



Choose all of the following that apply to you:

1. Think about your allowance and determine what  $1/10$  would be.
2. Think about what your wages are and determine what  $1/10$  would be.
3. When you receive money as a gift, think about what  $1/10$  would be.



# Saint Helena--Exemplar of Stewardship



**G**od gives gifts to each of us.

To some He gives many talents, to others beauty, and to some, great riches. Most of us, if we are Believers, try to do the best we can to use God's gifts wisely. The Empress Helena was one who had been given wealth, and was a good steward of what she received from God.

Helena, or St. Helen, was born in about the year 250 A. D. She was probably born in the city of Drepanum, in a province of the Roman Empire. It is believed she was the daughter of the innkeeper there, who bettered her station in life by marrying a Roman soldier of some importance, when she was about twenty years old. Several years later, she gave birth to her son, the famous Constantine the Great.

In 293, Helena's husband Constantius was made a ruler. He was persuaded to divorce his Christian wife in favor of someone more suitable in station to his new position. Helena continued on alone to raise her young son Constantine, who, fourteen years later, became an Emperor upon the death of his father.

Helena had always prayed fervently for the conversion of her son to Christianity, but these prayers were not answered for another six years after he was elevated to his new position. Finally, at around the year 312, her prayers were answered. Because of a vision, and miracle Constantine experienced in battle, he converted to Christianity.

Perhaps due to his new belief in Christ and his teachings, Constantine became acutely aware of the important part Helena had played in his life. He bestowed upon her the Imperial title "Augusta (Empress),"



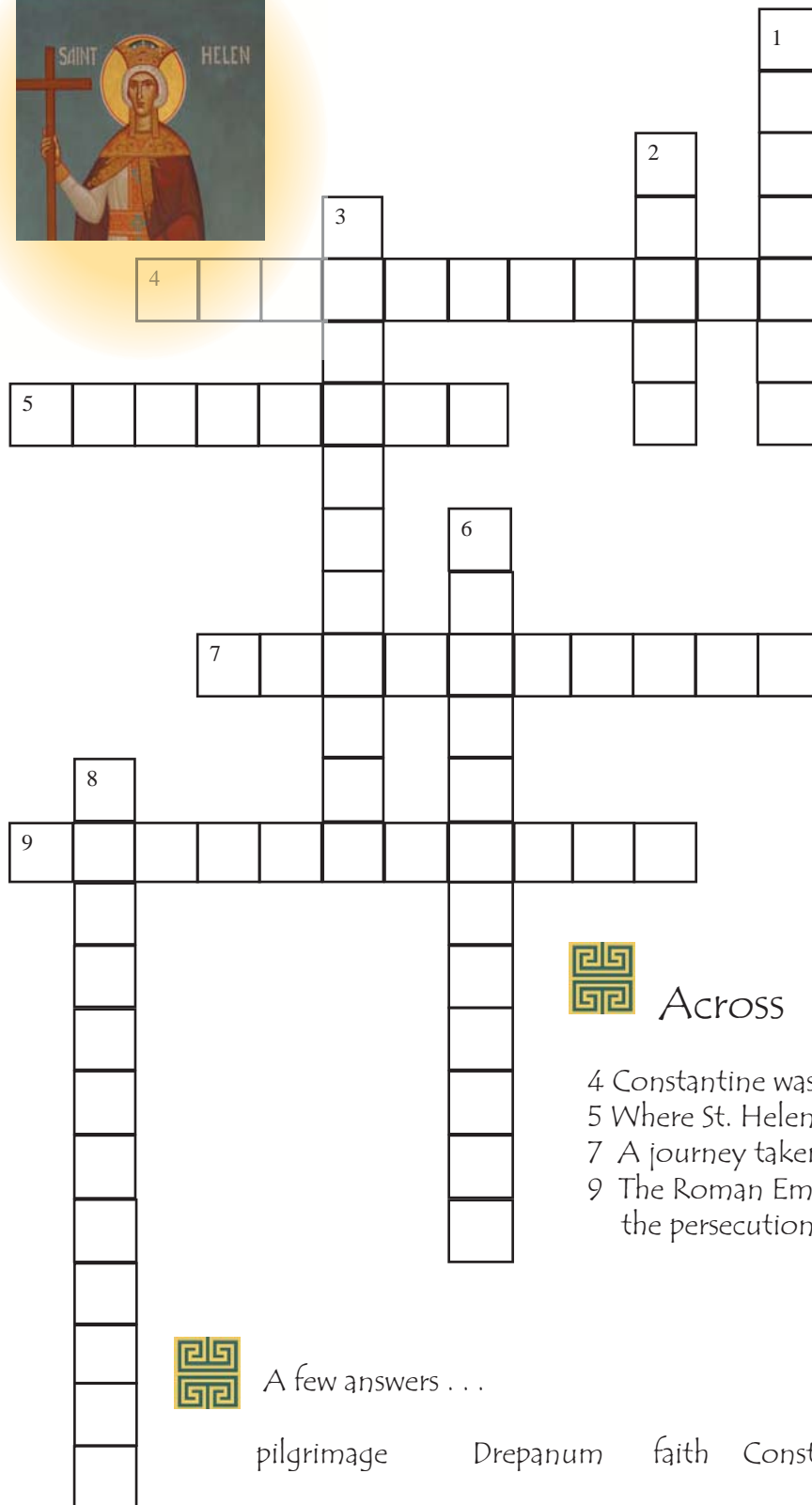
Constantine became Emperor of the Roman Empire. He ended persecution of Christians. At the then very advanced age of sixty, Helena determined to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, a fact recorded by the historian Eusebius. Rather than using her resources on herself, she used much of her wealth performing many acts of charity, including building new churches, not only around the Roman Empire, but also especially in the Holy Land, to benefit the new

Christian communities there. In Jerusalem, she sought the site of Calvary and the Holy Sepulcher, finding there a pagan temple under layers of rubble. While being torn down under her supervision, the remains of the tomb, and the three wooden crosses of the Crucifixion were found. On this site, Helena used her personal funds to build the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

She sought out other holy sites, including the cave at Bethlehem and the Mount of Olives, and on each, built a church. Because of she was a good steward, she discovered the true cross. Icons of St. Helena always portray her holding a cross. Saint Helen's feast day, along with that of her son, is May 21st. She is also remembered on the Feast Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14.

# Saint Helena--Exemplar of Stewardship

Using the clues below, and her story, complete the crossword.



## Down

- 1 The wife or widow of an emperor
2. belief without proof; also used for "trust"
- 3 The saint who is an exemplar of stewardship (2 words)
- 6 The faith of those who follow Christ
- 8 The name of the church that St. Helen built (2 words)

## Across

- 4 Constantine was ruler of the \_\_\_\_ .
- 5 Where St. Helen lived
- 7 A journey taken for religious reasons
- 9 The Roman Emperor who ordered that the persecution of Christians cease

A few answers . . .

pilgrimage    Drepanum    faith    Constantine



# Patriarch Jacob--Exemplar of Thankfulness



**One of the hardest things to do,** or so it seems, is to be thankful. Many of us somehow feel that what we have and are is simply because we “deserve” it, not because God has given us gifts for which we ought to thank Him. Certainly, our culture gives us this message. Gratitude is not a response we are encouraged by the media to have. Many do not ever learn this virtue, but some do, such as the patriarch Jacob of the Old Testament.

As we read in Genesis, Jacob (also known as Israel) was the son of Isaac and Rebecca. Like many of us, much of his youth was spent in ceaseless competition with his brother, Esau. Jacob tricked his father into thinking he was Esau, and stole Esau’s rights as the firstborn. Because of this, Jacob had to flee to Haran, the land of his mother, to live with his uncle Laban.

While Jacob was traveling to his uncle, he stopped to sleep for the night at Bethel, and while he slept, he dreamed. He dreamed of a ladder that stretched between heaven and earth, with God standing above the ladder. When Jacob awoke, he said, “Surely God is in this place--it is the gate of Heaven. If the Lord keeps me safe, and provides for me until I return home, I will give a tenth of all the Lord gives me back to Him.”

Jacob indeed reached his uncle safely, and worked for him for seven years. He had

been promised the hand of Rachel, Laban’s daughter in marriage if he would work the seven years, but Laban gave him his older daughter Leah, instead, as it was the custom that the eldest daughter be married first in a family. For Rebecca, whom he loved, Jacob had to work another seven years.

In spite of the underhanded treatment of his uncle, and the backbreaking work he had to perform for him, Jacob did not complain, but thanked God for what he had. Finally however, the conditions Laban put upon Jacob’s growing family seemed to indicate he should leave, and he, his wives and their children left in secret, headed for the Promised Land. Laban pursued them, catching up with them at Gilead.\* He tried to get them to return, but they finally

separated amicably.

When Jacob and his family arrived at the Promised Land, he made offerings to God, as he had promised. There, his wife Rachel gave birth to Benjamin, one of Jacob’s favorite sons. She died in childbirth. Still, Jacob gave thanks to God. At all times, Jacob gave God the best tenth of what he had.

We remember Patriarch Jacob on the Sunday before the Nativity, the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of Christ.

\*Gilead means “treaty,” or “understanding.”





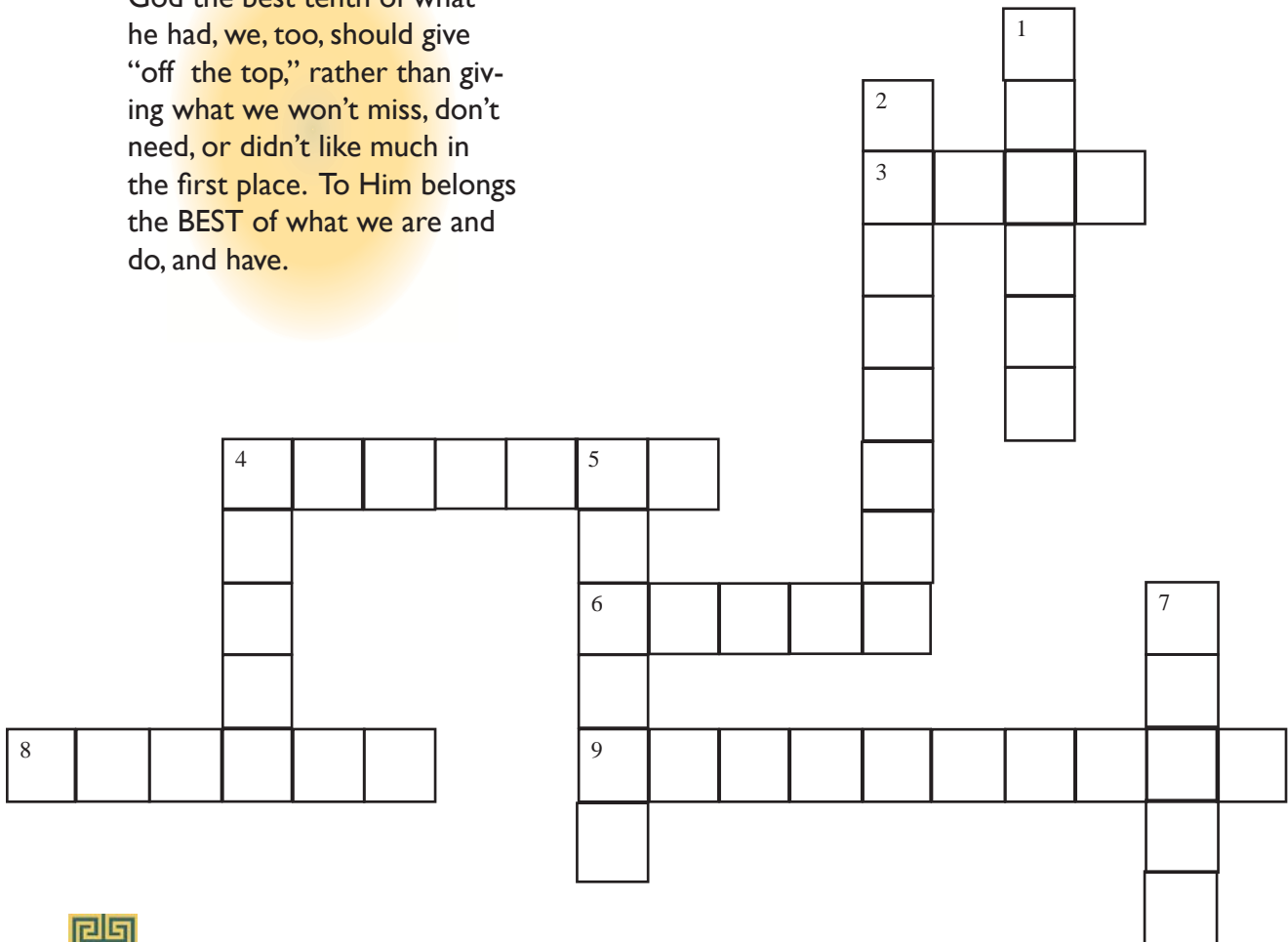
# Patriarch Jacob--Exemplar of Thankfulness



Using the clues below, and his story, complete the crossword.

## Like Jacob, who offered

God the best tenth of what he had, we, too, should give "off the top," rather than giving what we won't miss, don't need, or didn't like much in the first place. To Him belongs the BEST of what we are and do, and have.



## Across

- 3 Jacob's brother
- 4 giving a tenth of all income back to God
- 6 Rachel's father
- 8 Jacob's incentive
- 9 the male head or leader of a family



## Down

- 1 response to what God has given you
- 2 a younger son of Jacob
- 4 "I will give a \_\_\_\_\_ of all the Lord gives to me."
- 5 means, "treaty" or "understanding"
- 7 the patriarch who is an exemplar of thanksgiving



# St. Artemius--Exemplar of Dedication to God



**A**rtemius was born in a small Russian village in 1532. Like most Russians then, he was the child of poor peasants who worked land someone else owned.

Artemius probably had little or no schooling, and from the earliest age helped his father farm the land. In those days, every family member worked so all might eat.

From what we know about him, St. Artemius showed all of the Christian virtues.

He was a quiet, obedient son from an early age. He loved God. He served God as we are called to do, through the work God has given us, and the life we are to live in the best way that we can.

One day, St. Artemius was out working in the fields with his father as usual. A wild storm came up, and in a freak accident, he was killed by a bolt of lightning. This happened on June 23rd, 1545, when he was only about 12 years old.

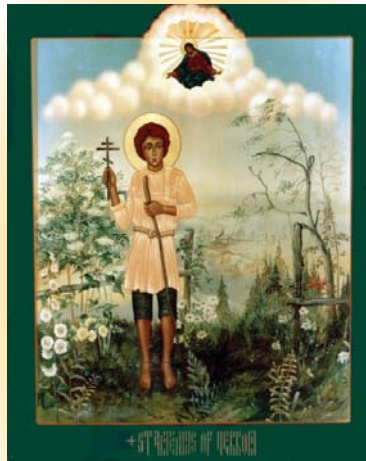
Even though the people of Russia were Orthodox, many of them were very superstitious. When someone died like this, people thought it might be because that person was wicked, or had committed some horrible act and was being punished.

So, St. Artemius was not given the usual Orthodox funeral, and was not even buried. Instead, he was just left laying in a clearing, with a few pine branches laid over him. Years later he was found in the field; his body had not decayed. This is typically a sign of a holy person.

As Orthodox, we do not judge whether a person is holy or not by the manner of

their death. Through prayer, and the touching of his relics, many have become believers, and many have been healed.

St. Artemius feast days are October 15, and June 23. There is a shrine to St. Artemius at Antiochian Village Camp.





## St. Artemius--Exemplar of Dedication to God



**S**o, soon you'll graduate and begin to leave your mark in the world. What will it be? A cure for cancer? Starring in a movie? Breaking a sports record? Maybe you'll write a novel, or produce an album. Maybe your life will become a novel, or perhaps it is already!

*From a different angle, when the story of your life ends, how will you be remembered? Do you want people to remember what you did, or who you were--or is there a difference?*

*Being "dedicated to God" may seem like a grown-up decision, and not a phrase many teenagers want to have associated with themselves . . . why?*

*St. Artemius was a child who brought many to God in his short time on earth. He didn't have the chance to make an "adult" commitment. A monastery was built on the site of his relics. What do you think it is like for him now, in heaven, to meet the many others he brought to salvation?*

*Waiting to get through the teen years before making a decision to place God first, to be dedicated to God, is like . . .*



## St. Constantine--Exemplar of Trust

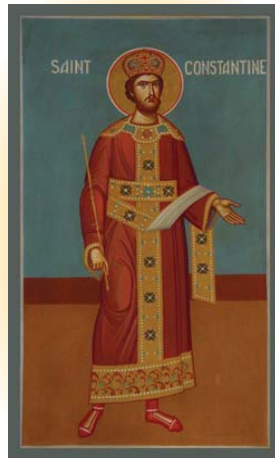


Constantine was the son of St. Helen, and the general, Constantius. In the year 312, Constantine was marching into battle one day, not sure whether he could win or not, for his foes were very powerful. Marching at the head of his troops, Constantine saw before him a vision in the hot Italian sun: a cross with the words upon it in Latin, "Hoc Vinces" ("By this Sign You Will Have Victory)."

This was clearly a sign from God. Then, the following night, Christ appeared to Constantine in a dream, telling him of the power of the cross.

Constantine now felt confident, for he had seen God's power and glory. He had his troops make a banner; on it was the cross. He had his soldiers place crosses upon their shields. With the cross in front, Constantine led his troops into battle and vanquished the mighty enemy. He knew, however, that it was not he who had been responsible for the victory. When he returned to Rome in triumph, he placed that same banner of the cross in the hands of the Senator's

statue which stood in the square. This symbol of faith and trust was a sign of how he would reign over his kingdom.



After this, Constantine ruled his kingdom well. He not only stopped all persecution of Christians, but eventually made Christianity the empire's religion. He gave freedom to all religions, and made laws that greatly improved the status of women, slaves, criminals, and children.

Out of his new faith came a greater trust in his Creator, and with God's help he

was able to rule his kingdom well for over thirty years. Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey was the city from which Constantine ruled. The very famous basilica, Hagia Sophia, was built in Constantinople.

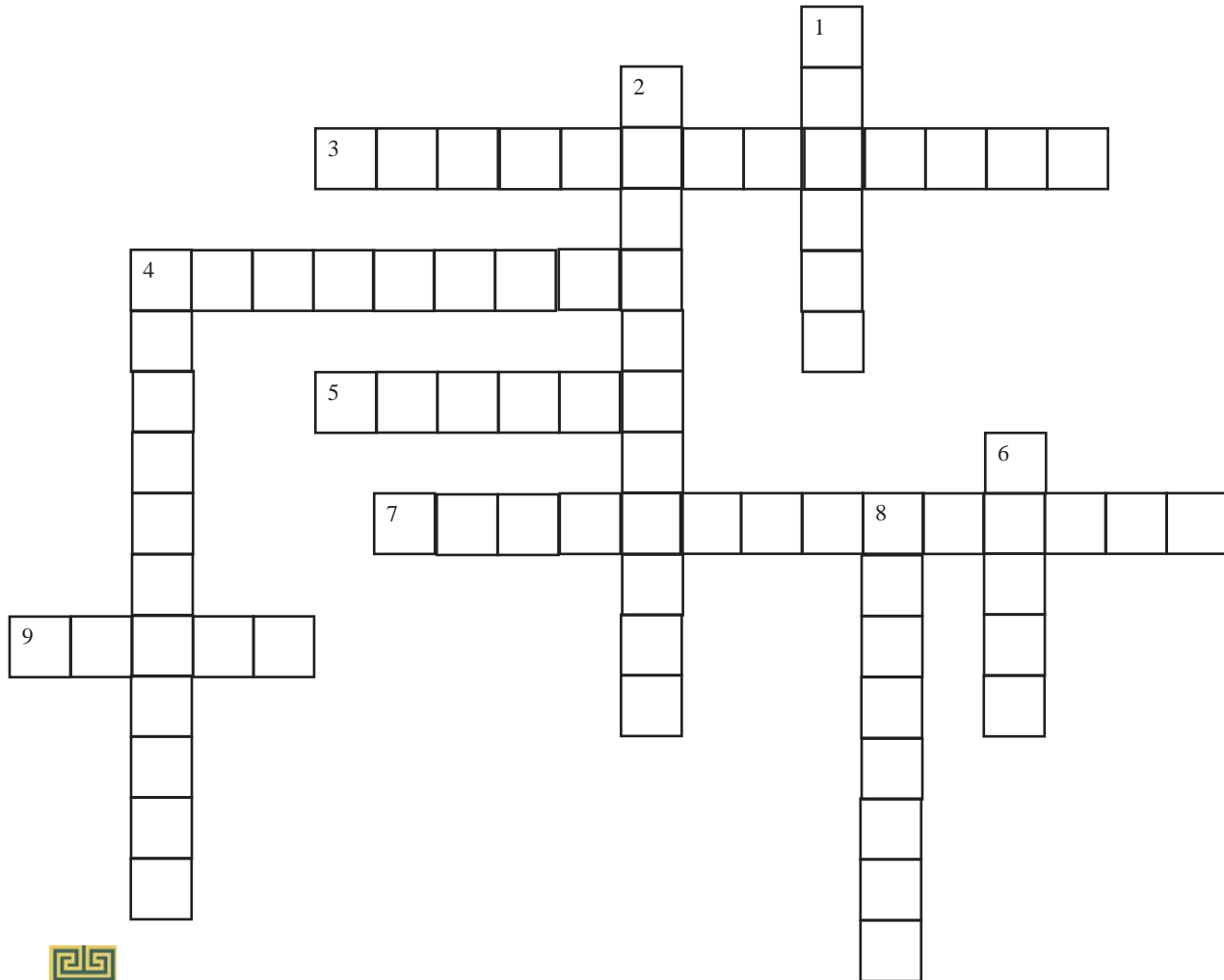
Constantine shares his feast day with his mother, St. Helena, and iconographers often depict both on an icon. Their feast day is May 21st



# St. Constantine--Exemplar of Trust



Using the clues below, and his story, complete the crossword.



## Across

- 3 How Constantine ruled well (3 words, include apostrophe)
- 4 Latin for, "by this sign you will have victory" (no space between words)
- 5 The emperor's mother
- 7 The city of the Eastern Roman Empire from which the Emperor ruled
- 9 The sign of victory placed on the shields of the army



## Down

- 1 What Constantine saw before marching into battle
- 2 The emperor who trusted God
- 4 The name of the basilica in the capital city
- 6 The name of the empire
- 8 The present-day name of the capital city

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