# CHURCH HISTORY II

# Decline of Axum

- Since it was a long and slow process, the exact reason behind the decline of the Aksumite kingdom is not precisely clear.
- During this period, Ethiopia lost its trade routes. Among other underlying causes of its decline.
- The reasons are:-

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- Shift of power Southward:- In the words of Henze, there is evidence that the once fertile agricultural lands around the city were becoming exhausted.
- Forests had been cut for consumption and as a result, the climate seems to have worsened.
- This situation necessitated a power shift from Axum to the South-around Hayq in Wollo.

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- The Economic Situation:-Two principal lines of communication linking Axum captured by the hands of the enemies of Axumites. Jihad against Ethiopia started, and captured Massawa, Dahlak Islands, etc.
- In spite of so called Muhammad's declaration that there should be no holy war (Jihad) against Ethiopia, the friendly relation of Ethiopia with

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- Internal troubles-the Bejjas:- The Bejja tribes in the North-East established separate kingdoms under their own rulers.
- Some scholars believe Axum ceased to be the capital city as early as the Mid-century.
- Archeology provides evidence of collapse of the large buildings of the capital and decline in its population, but whatever the condition, the city retained symbolic and religious importance-as it has ever since-in Ethiopian life.

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- Lack of spiritual guidance:- Eventually the internal situation in Ethiopia was undermined by the absence of bishops.
- Relationship between Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church and the Coptic Orthodox Church were so great and multifaceted.

- Who is Judith/ዮዲት? Why she became so cruel and destructive?
- There are many and different opinions and historical narrations concerning Judith.
- A manuscript used by Sergew Hable Selasie, starts a story about Judith:Gudit, Yodit or Judith, Queen, also known in Amharic as 'Esato and in Teltal as Ga'Ewa, was a rebel leader to whom the downfall of the ancient Aksumite Empire.

- Then she married lasta ruler his name called Zera Yacob.
- She converted him to Jewish religion.
- On the time Axum rulere was Degnaxan. When he died his son Anbesa Wedem comes as successor of him.
- She was powered her as governor on 862 E.C.
- Then she persecute and destructed Christian followers and churches respectively.
- After 23 years she powered she went to

- Many Christians migrated to the southern parts of Ethiopia.
- Tabote Tsion/Ark of the Covenant was taken to an island near Zeway. The place in which the Ark resided, holds the name “Debre Tsion” till this time.
- After she return to Axum and powered for 17 years again then she died.
- Gudit totally ruled for 40 years.