

GABR'EL (d. c. 1458)

Gabr'el (Gabriel) arrived in Ethiopia in 1431 of the Ethiopian calendar (A.D. 1438-1439) with another metropolitan, Abuna Mika'el III. They had both been consecrated together by the Coptic patriarch JOHN XI (1427-1452) and were the successors of Abuna Bartalomewos.

According to tradition, only one [bishop](#) could be appointed [metropolitan](#) of Ethiopia. Consequently, it is probable that Gabr'el and Mika'el III were supposed to exercise this duty in succession (i.e., one after the [death](#) of the other). In reality, they reigned jointly by dividing their territorial jurisdiction. By order of the negus, Gabr'el took charge of Shewa and Mika'el of Amhara.

For the most part, the information available is the same concerning these two metropolitans (see the biography of Mika'el III, above). It must be added that it was Abuna Gabr'el who conferred the priesthood upon the monk Abakerazun, disciple and successor to the monk Estifanos, head of the heretical and political Estifanosite movement that shook the [Ethiopian church](#) during the fifteenth century.

After the [death](#) of Abuna Mika'el III, Gabr'el was the sole [metropolitan](#) until his [death](#) around 1458. The church of Ethiopia then remained without an *abun* for approximately twenty-three years, until the arrival of Abuna Yeshaq II in that country.

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