

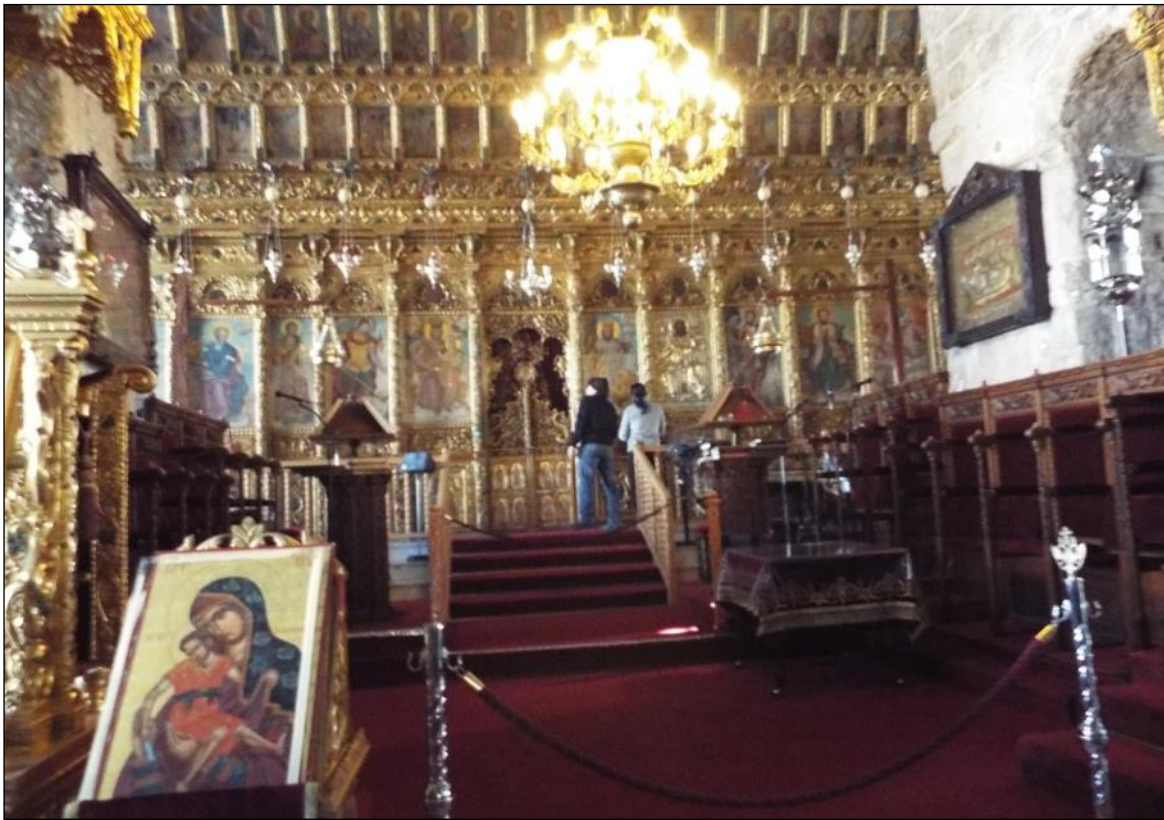
LARNACA

The city of Larnaca is located southwest of Salamis, on the southeastern coast of Cyprus. The Greek Orthodox church building in Larnaca is dedicated to Lazarus, the friend of Jesus whom he raised from the dead at Bethany (Jn. 11). Jesus miraculously reversed the decomposition of Lazarus' body and reanimated it so that Lazarus could walk out of the tomb alive. The tradition of Lazarus' second burial at Larnaca brings up the point that although Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus eventually died a second time—although the event is not recorded in the Scriptures. In contrast, Jesus was raised never to die again (Rom. 6:9). The Church of St. Lazarus was constructed at the end of the ninth century over his traditional tomb, and the bell tower was added in the nineteenth century.

According to legend, Lazarus came to Cyprus and was the first bishop of Kition (now Larnaca). While it is possible that Lazarus came to Cyprus, the legend assumes a corruption of the pattern for church government established in the New Testament. As noted in the *Salamis* section, churches were led by a *plurality* of elders in the first century. The Greek Orthodox believe that St. Lazarus helps those who are struggling with depression. However, the dead are unable to assist the living or intercede for them (see Lk. 16:27-31). According to the New Testament, our prayers should be directed to God the Father through Jesus Christ, who is the one mediator between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:14-16).



Church of St. Lazarus



Above: Inside the Church Building / Below: Casket Supposedly Containing Lazarus' Skull





The Traditional Tomb of Lazarus

(It was reportedly found in A.D. 890 with the inscription "Lazarus, four days dead, friend of Christ."
The Church of St. Lazarus was built over the tomb.)

In ancient times, Larnaca was known as Kition. The settlement of this site dates back to at least the thirteenth century B.C. by the Mycenaeans. Later, in the ninth century B.C., it was controlled by the Phoenicians. The site was known for its fleet of warships. Kition is related to the name Kittim in the Old Testament. However, the name Kittim sometimes indicates the whole island of Cyprus or the Mediterranean peoples in general (see Gen. 10:4; Num. 24:24; Is. 23:1, 12; Jer. 2:10; Ezek. 27:6; Dan. 11:30). Archaeological finds from ancient Kition can be seen in the Larnaca District Museum.