

## 6. Baptizm of Kyivan Rus'

Kyiv is the cradle for the Eastern Orthodoxy, and in the time of Kyivan Rus', of Eastern Christianity.

Kyiv is the direct inheritor of Byzantine Orthodoxy and was officially Christianized in 988 by Kyivan Prince Volodymyr the Great.

This event was depicted in the Primary Chronicle (*The Tale of Bygone Years*) the main aim of which was to inscribe Kyivan Rus' into a European Christian context.



URL: <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/30934082.html>



It was an important event for Kyivan Rus' as a state, and it is a significant event for Kyivans, Thus, there is a monument to Volodymyr the Great in Kyiv, and there is the Volodymyriian Hill in the old town.

URL: <https://the-city.kiev.ua/ua/excursion/ekskursiya-vladimirskaya-gorka-151>

Religious symbols play a significant role for Ukrainians until nowadays, even for those who follow them as a tribute to traditions rather than faithfully belief. Thus, religious symbols are taken seriously. On the 17th of January 2022, when the full-scale war was already on its way and the war at Donbas got escalated, terrible news bothered Ukrainians - the cross on the top of Kyivan Sofia (Saint Sofia Cathedral) was blown down by the wind.

*“Everyone at work was saying that this is a terrible sign. It was odd because the level of religiosity (at work) is equal to zero”* (FM, 30 y.o., 20.01.2022, Kyiv, online conversation).



Saint Sofia Cathedral (1011-1018) is not only a famous landmark of Kyiv, but also is of high importance in cultural, religious, and political contexts. It is one of the symbols of Ukraine. Consequently, the blown-down cross caused lots of beliefs and prophecies. Lots of people said that it is a sign of a Russian full-scale invasion.

URL:  
<https://st-sophia.org.ua/en/home/>

There are other religious signs during the full-scale war.

Thus, on 21.03.2022 icons in Chernihivska and Lvivska regions icons started myrrh-streaming, and in the Chernihivska region, three icons at once started myrrh-streaming. Myrrh-streaming is an important sign in Orthodoxy and can be interpreted in various ways. It is necessary to mention that Chernihiv is under constant missile strikes and shooting. In this case, myrrh-streaming in Chernihiv was interpreted by the local clergyman as a good sign.

The news is taken from:

<https://tsn.ua/ato/u-chernigovi-ta-na-lvivschini-zamirotochili-ikoni-svyaschenniki-rozpovili-scho-ce-oznachaye-2015599.html?fbclid=IwAR3I58m8ePz6sB6I56ONzqpoI7IK-IgNhEKXWP2VrbmzlbqwNPbTyle9d9M>

Despite Kyiv being the progenitor of Eastern Slavic Orthodoxy, it was stolen by Moscow Dutchy.

Same as the Crimea peninsula was annexed in 2014, Kyivan Orthodox metropolity started to be annexed in 1685 and was liquidated in 1722 by a simple substitution of Kyivan to Moscow.

Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church appears in 1596 from the Union of Brest when it wanted to be separated from Moscow's influence. Greek-Catholic Church considers itself as a successor of Kyivan Metropolity and was persecuted during Soviet time as Nazis and extremists because most Ukrainian rebellions and partisans were of Greek-Catholic religious affiliation.

At that time this church was considered a truthful Ukrainian church, until January 2019, when Ukraine gained its Tomos from the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (autonomous).



**Київ Москову хрестив,  
Київ Москову і відспіває**



Now Ukrainians can say confidently that justice was re-established. That is why there is a popular meme about the fact that *Kyiv baptized Moscow, Kyiv is going to be the one to sing a funeral service over Moscow:*