

erblast Welches ist der Stadt Hannouer meines lieben Vaterlandes Wapen.



ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY

STEVE NICHOLAS, WORD OF LIFE BIBLE INSTITUTE, JEJU ISLAND, KOREA



A. Scope of the Course

The history of Christianity in Asia is as old as the history of Christianity itself. But while much has been told about Christianity as it went west from Jerusalem to Antioch and then to Ephesus, Rome and the Western world, not enough has been told about how Christianity went east from Jerusalem to Antioch and then to Edessa, to Ctesiphon, to Madras, India, to Nishipur, Iran, to Merv, Turkmenistan, to Heart, Afghanistan, to Karakorum, Mongolia, to Beijing, China and to hundreds of towns and cities in between and especially along the Silk Road throughout the first 1000 years of church history. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to this “missing half” of church history and how Christianity came to Asia.

B. Purpose

Word of Life Bible Institute seeks to equip its students with the ability to live lives of maximum effectiveness and influence for the Lord. A practical, working knowledge of how Christians have done this in the history of the Asian church is very helpful in accomplishing that objective.

C. Course Goals: In exams and assignments, students will be expected to...

1. Locate key cities and towns in Asian church history and understand their significance.
2. Understand how the 1907 Korean Revival happened.
3. Identify the reasons Asian Christianity rose and fell from AD 100-1500.
4. Identify key leaders in Asian Church History.

D. Procedures/Assignments for the Course

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Read the assigned section of <i>The Korean Pentecost</i> (48 pages). | 25 Points |
| 2. Complete a map of Asia marking key cities in Asian Church History. | 5 Points |
| 3. Maintain a journal of 10 insights learned in class and 5 insights learned from reading | 15 Points |
| 4. Statistical Information on Asian Countries | 5 Points |
| 5. Answer three quizzes (10 questions each) and one final exam (20 questions) | 50 Points |
| | 100 Points |

E. Academic Honesty

The professor expects all work that appears under the student's name to be the student's own work (Galatians 6:4) and evidence should prove that the student has not plagiarized (stolen) the material. If an incident of cheating is established, the professor will give the grade of zero (0%).

F. Recommended Bibliography

Atiya, Aziz Suryal, *A History of Eastern Christianity*, rev. ed. Kraus Reprint, (1980).

Blair, William and Bruce Hunt, *The Korean Pentecost*, Banner of Truth, (1977).

Budge, E.A. Wallis, *The Book of the Bee*, The Oxford Clarendon Press, reprint (1886).

Charbonnier, Jean-Pierre, *Christians in China: AD600-2000*, Ignatius Press, (2007).

Gillman, Ian and Kilmkeit, Hans-Joachim, *Christians in Asia Before 1500*, University of Michigan Press, (1999).

Keevak, Michael, *The Story of a Stele*, Hong Kong University Press, (2008).

Lee, Samuel, *Rediscovering Japan, Reintroducing Christendom*, Hamilton Books, (2010).

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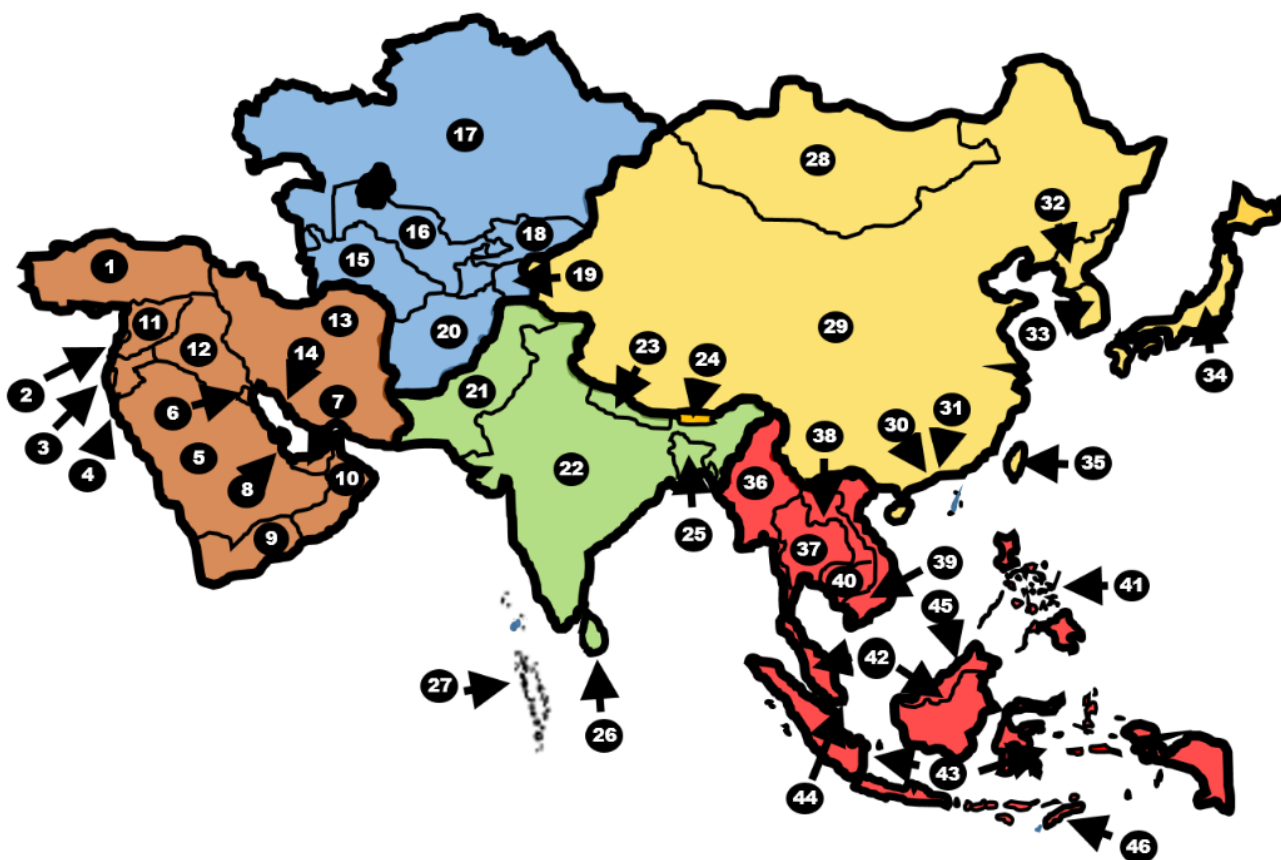
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- Philip, T.V., *East of the Euphrates: Early Christianity in Asia*, Christian Sahitya Samithy, (1998).
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- Shimun, Theodore d'Mar, *The History of the Patriarchal Succession of the d'Mar Shimun Family*,
- Spence, Jonathan, *The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci*, Penguin Books, (1985).
- Stewart, John, *Nestorian Missionary Enterprise: The Story of a Church on Fire*, Christian Literature Society, Madras, India, (1928), pp. 339.
- Toynbee, Arnold J., *A Study of History*, 10 volumes, Oxford University Press (1987)
- Vine, Aubrey R., *The Nestorian Churches*, London, Independent Press Ltd, (1937).
- Wigram, W. A., *An Introduction to the History of the Assyrian Church*, London: Assyrian International News Agency, (1909).
- Wiltsch, John. *The Geography and Statistics of the Church*, London: Bosworth & Harrison, (1859).
- Young, John M.L., *By Foot to China*, Grey Pilgrim Publications, (1984).
<http://www.aina.org/books/bftc/bftc.htm>
- Zernov, Nicolas, *Eastern Christendom*, London: Weidenfield and Nicolson, (1961).

G. Recommended Websites

- Assyrian Church of the East (<http://www.cired.org>)
- Electronic Qu'ran (<http://www.hti.umich.edu/k/koran/>)
- The Syro-Malabar Church (<http://www.thesyromalabarchurch.org>)
- The Syro-Malankara Church (<http://www.malankara.net>)
- Overview of Indian Christianity (<http://www.indianchristianity.org>)

ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY

Blank Map for Regions and Countries of Asia

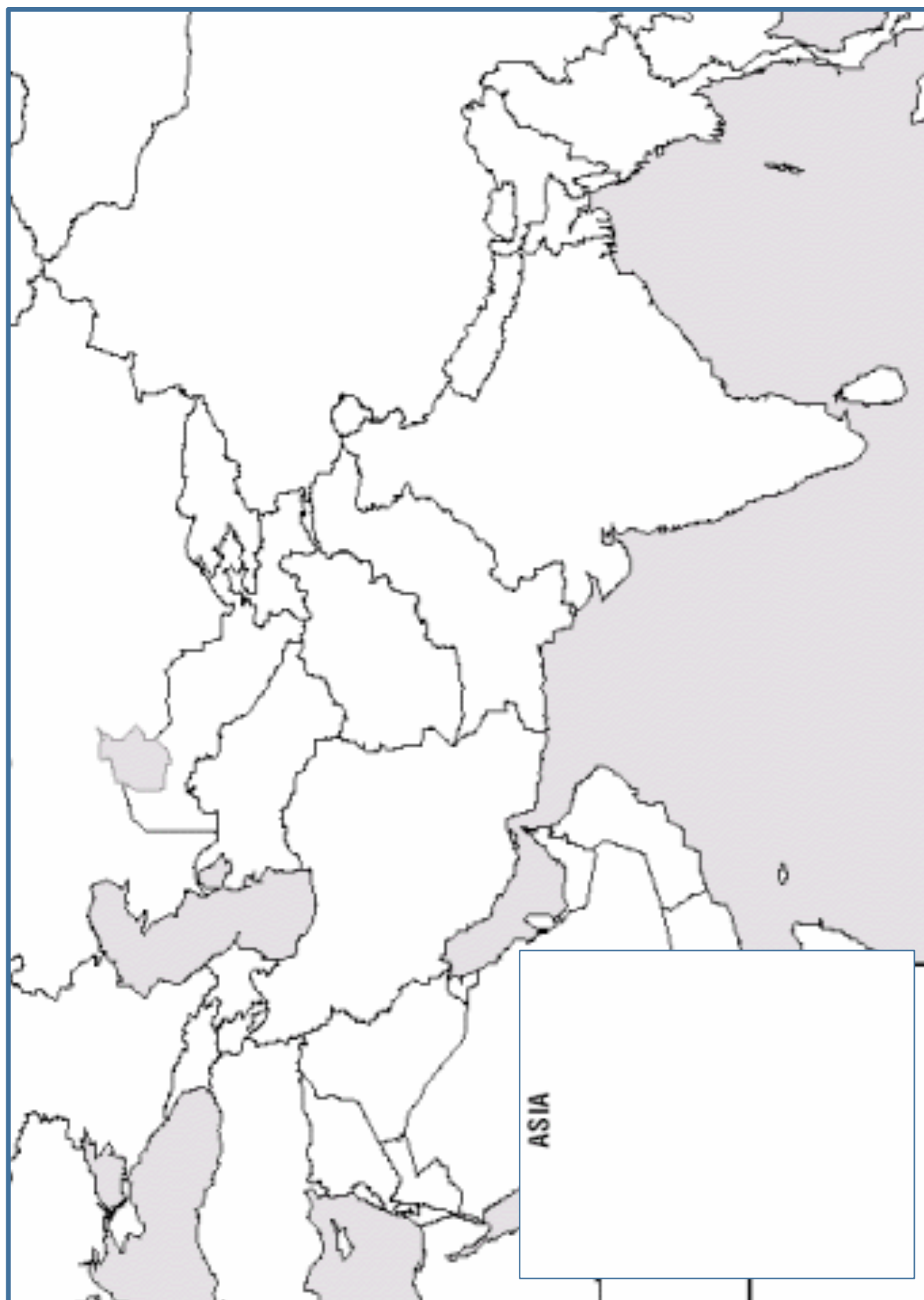


Name the Region and Country!

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| R1 _____ | 13 _____ | 24 _____ | R5 _____ |
| 1 _____ | 14 _____ | 25 _____ | 36 _____ |
| 2 _____ | R2 _____ | 26 _____ | 37 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 15 _____ | 27 _____ | 38 _____ |
| 4 _____ | 16 _____ | R4 _____ | 39 _____ |
| 5 _____ | 17 _____ | 28 _____ | 40 _____ |
| 6 _____ | 18 _____ | 29 _____ | 41 _____ |
| 7 _____ | 19 _____ | 30 _____ | 42 _____ |
| 8 _____ | 20 _____ | 31 _____ | 43 _____ |
| 9 _____ | R3 _____ | 32 _____ | 44 _____ |
| 10 _____ | 21 _____ | 33 _____ | 45 _____ |
| 11 _____ | 22 _____ | 34 _____ | 46 _____ |
| 12 _____ | 23 _____ | 35 _____ | |

ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY

Blank Map for Key Cities in Asian Church History



ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY Session 1

Introducing Asia



_____ is a part of western Asia.

“In earliest history, the first Christian centers, Jerusalem, Antioch and Ephesus were in Asia. The first known church _____ was in Asia, the first NT _____ was in Asia. The first Christian _____; the first Christian _____; the first Christian _____ were all in Asia.



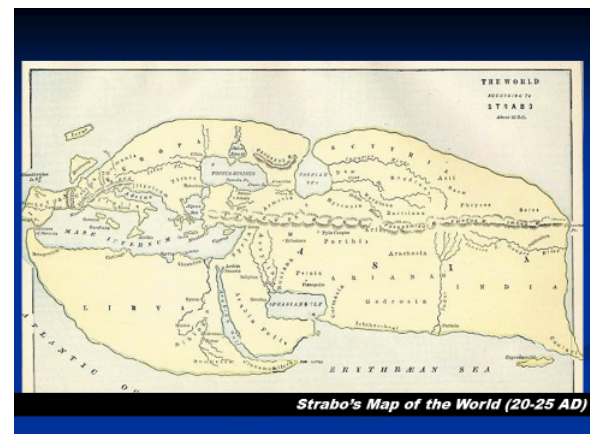
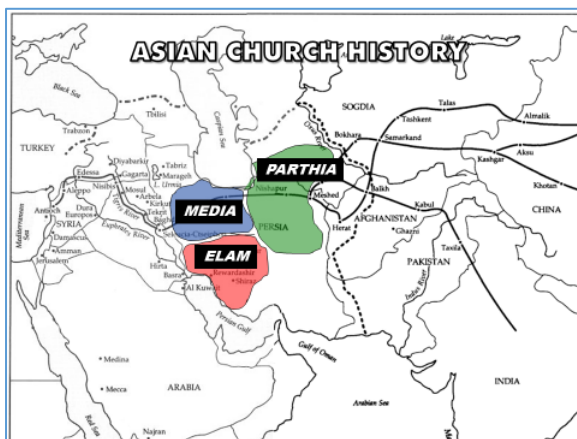
The “Church of the East” is not in Eastern _____ but east of _____ in _____.





The tradition from the _____ is that the _____ magi (listed by name and with the names of their fathers came from the modern city of _____ to Bethlehem to see Jesus. When they returned to _____ they brought the story of Jesus with them.

The known world of the first century was mainly _____ Asia, _____ Africa and _____ Europe.

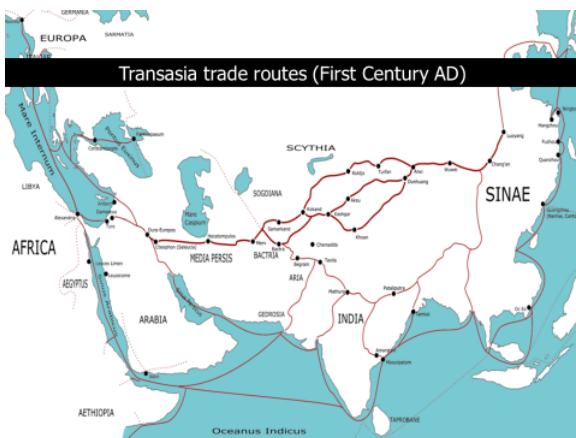
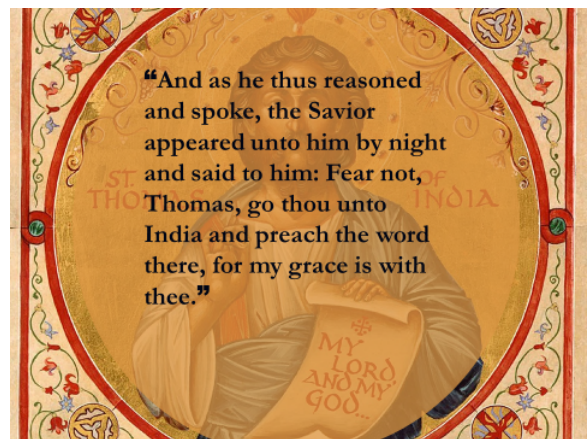
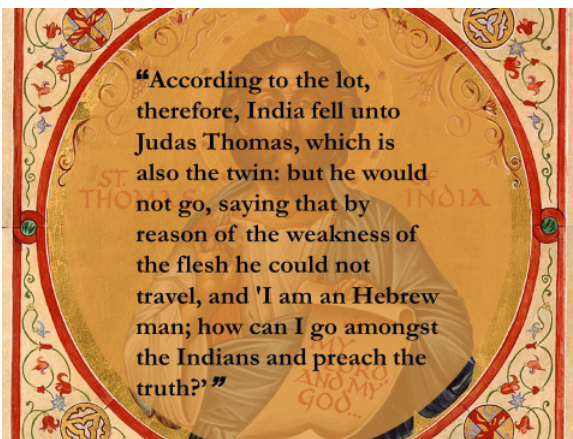
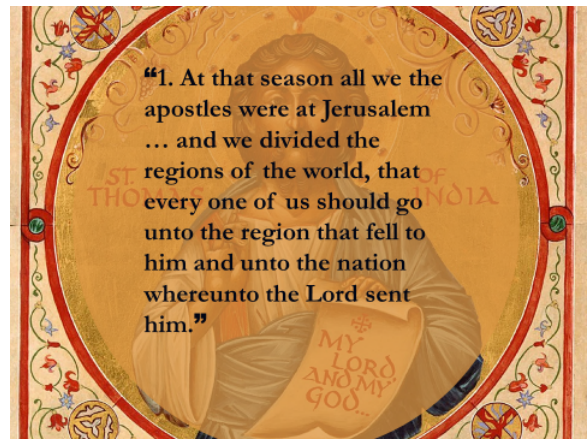
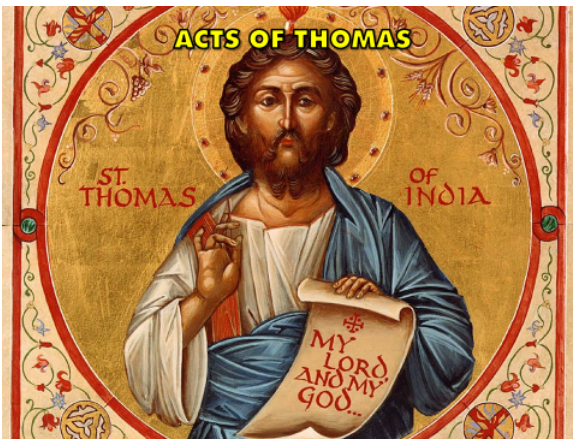


In the first century the number of Jews living in the Persian world, mostly in or near _____, may have been _____ people.

Thomas in India

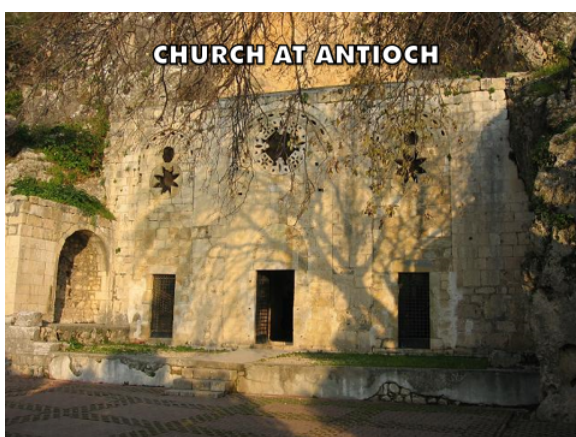


One of the oldest and strongest traditions is that in 52AD (between Paul's _____ and _____ missionary journeys) the apostle _____ took the gospel to _____ and even to China.



In the first century one ship was going to _____ from _____ every _____ days.

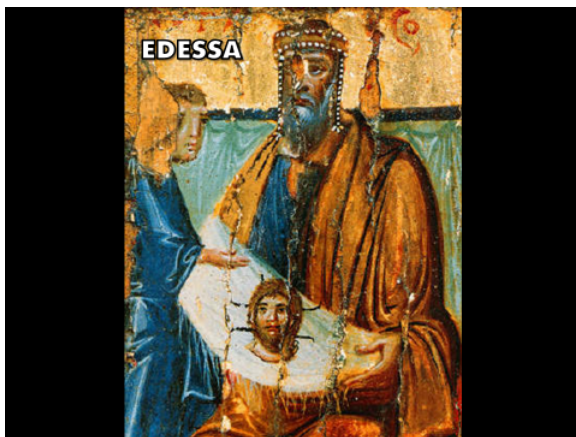
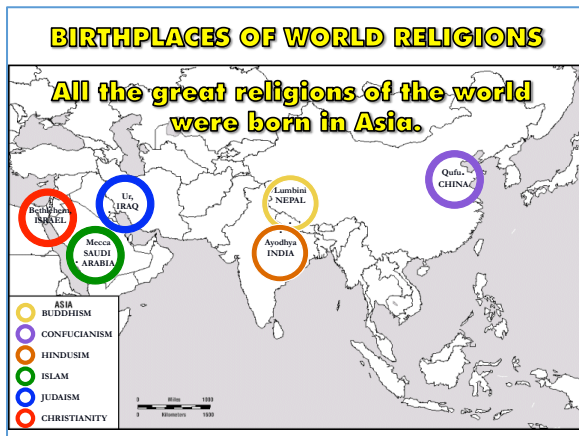
The Church at Antioch



The focus of Western Christianity went from _____ to _____ and then to _____.

According to tradition when Jesus had a little child sit on His knee in Matthew 18 it was _____ who later became the third bishop of _____.

ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY Session 2

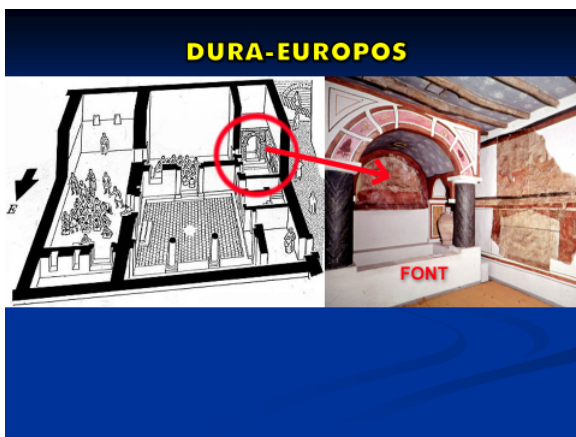


The Council of _____ had 318 church leaders attend and only 8 were from the West. Most were from the East.

According to the historian Eusebius (263-339AD) _____ V, King of Edessa sent an artist to Jerusalem to paint a picture of Jesus for him.

_____ is the first country to officially be called a Christian nation (301AD).

King Miran declared that the country of _____ (_____) was a Christian nation (327AD).



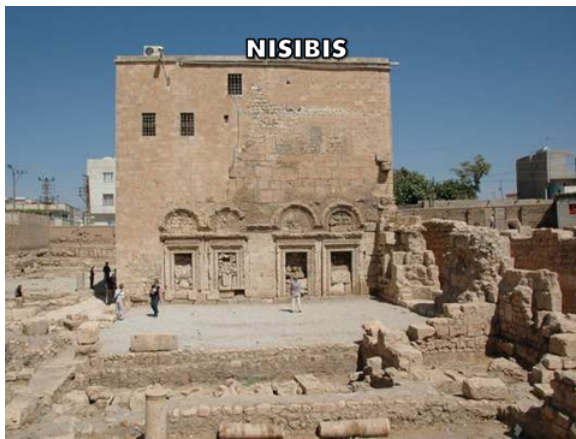
The oldest Christian _____ that dates 232AD is in Dura-Europos.



The first man known to bring structure to the Church of the East was _____.

In the _____s AD _____ was the largest city in the world.

Sometimes the schools of _____ / _____ are called the world's oldest university with its schools of theology, philosophy and medicine.



NISIBIS



THE ROMAN-PERSIAN WARS

Shapur I triumphs over Roman Emperor Valerian, Naqsh-e Rostam, Iran.



CHRISTIANITY UNDER CONSTANTINE

Constantine statue in York, England

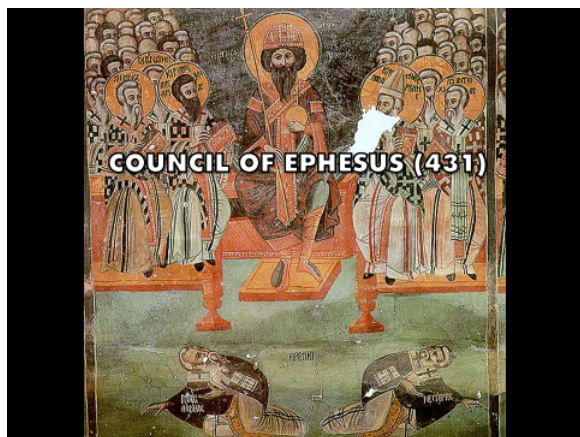
From the 200sBC thru the 600sAD _____ and _____ were fighting over Asia.

Constantine brought freedom to Christians in the _____ but because they were fighting Persia in the name of Christ the Christians in the _____ suffered greatly.

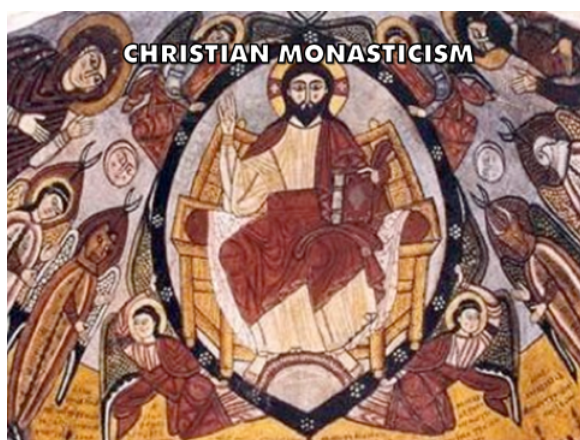


ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY Session 3

The Early Days



_____ became known as the heretic who believed Jesus had two natures inside of Him.



African believers - _____
Asian believers - _____

Christian monasticism began in _____.

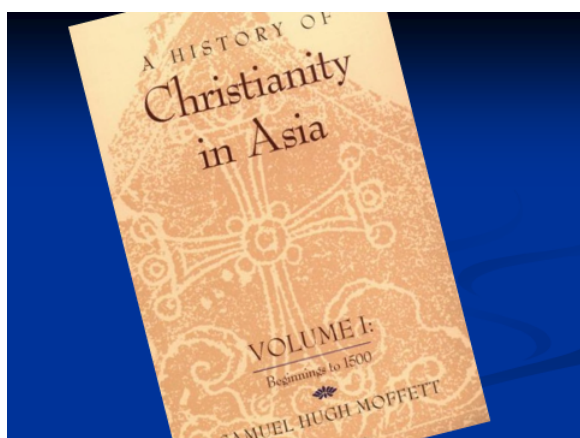
In 372 in Egypt there were almost as many monks living in the _____ as there were people living in _____.

The word *Mar* is the Syriac word for _____ or _____.

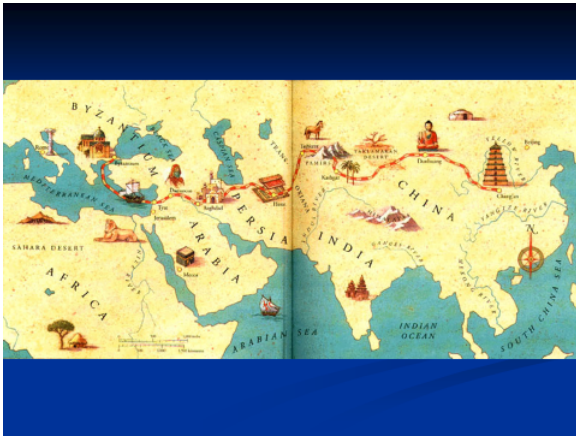
The Church of the East called their leaders _____, similar to rabbi.



King Shapur II asked Mar Awgin to build churches and monasteries all over Persia. Mar Awgin sent out _____ disciples as missionaries.



Christianity had become, next to _____, the second most powerful religious force in the Persian Empire.



The backbone of Christian growth was the _____
 _____. From Baghdad to Beijing it was lined
 with _____.



Ancient _____ was briefly the largest city in the
 world in the _____s.

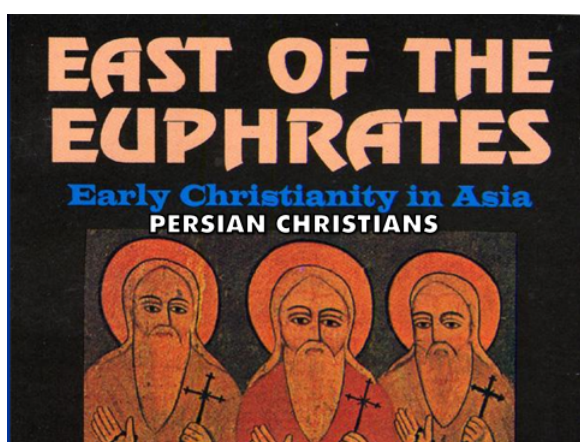


ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY Session 4

The Parthian & Sassanid Empires



Ruling over the Church of the East was the _____ Empire (247BC-224AD) and then the _____ Empire (224-651AD).



Differences between Persian and Roman Catholic Christians

ROMAN CATHOLIC

PERSIAN

-
-
-



By the year _____ AD there were still more followers of Christ _____ of Damascus than _____ of Damascus.



One reason the Persian government said they moved their capital from Ctesiphon to Baghdad in 762AD was "because it will put us in touch with lands as far as _____."

In _____ AD _____ was probably the largest city in the world.

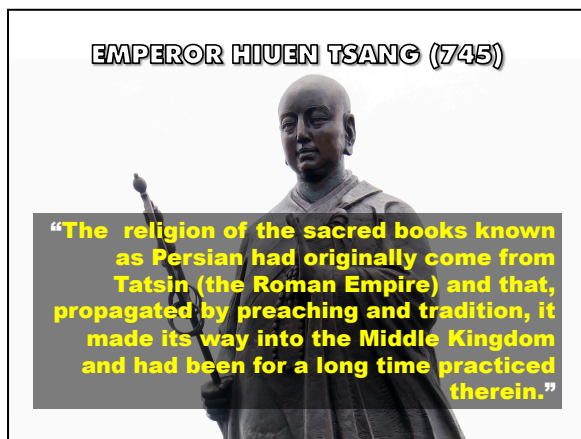


ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY Session 5

China

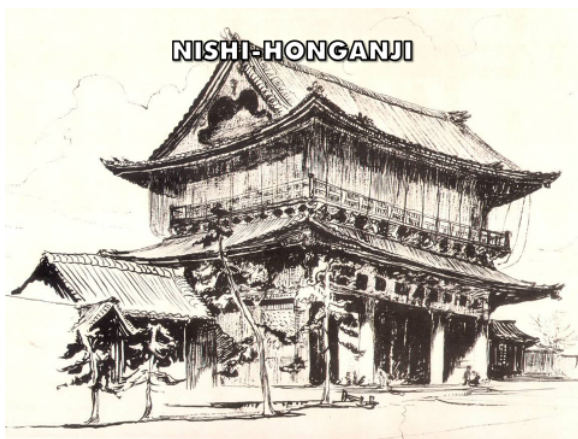


The Nestorian Stele (monument) is in the Beilin Museum in _____, _____. There is a copy of it in the Vatican Museum in _____, on the Campus of George Washington University in Washington, DC, USA and at the Shingon Buddhist Temple on Koya Mountain in _____.



Two ancient Christian _____ were discovered in southern Siberia and near the city of Bishkek (modern day _____ stan) in 1885.





According to Teshima the original Lecture Hall of the Koryuji Buddhist Temple erected in 603AD was not _____ but _____.

The World's Window on Japan
The Japan Times
Online

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Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Religious sites, relics indicate Christ beat Buddha to Japan

By ROB GLIHOOLY
Staff writer

In 1949, former Kyoto University professor Sakae Ikeda wrote a letter in a Japanese newspaper requesting help. "Whoever may want to help reintroduce Nestorianism . . . to Japan . . . is requested to write me," the letter pleads.

The idea of "reintroducing" Nestorian Christianity here might seem surprising taking into account the official history textbook line that Christianity was introduced here by Francis Xavier in 1549.

Yet, Ikeda is one of a number of scholars who claim the Nestorian Church, or Church of the East, arrived in Japan over 1,000 years before St. Francis was even born.

"Through the Church of the East," Ikeda continues in his letter, "the missionary activities of the Christian faith flourished in



Recommendations

- Book is behind bullying of mixed-race children | The Japan Times Online 20 people recommend this.
- Fukushima says have Japanese media's ties to tap | The Japan Times Online 22 people recommend this.
- World's oldest dog dies at age 26 1/2 | The Japan Times Online 129 people recommend this.
- Japanese must tap their 'inner Israel' | The Japan Times Online 14 people recommend this.
- Nuke crisis caused by Japan, not quake: Kan | The Japan Times Online 3 people recommend this.
- Book is behind bullying of mixed-race children | The Japan Times Online 430 people recommend this.

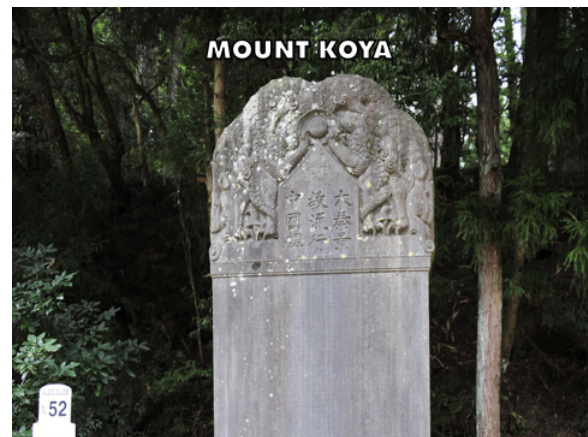
Facebook social plug-in

Poll: Most read stories | Editors' picks

A piece of your mind

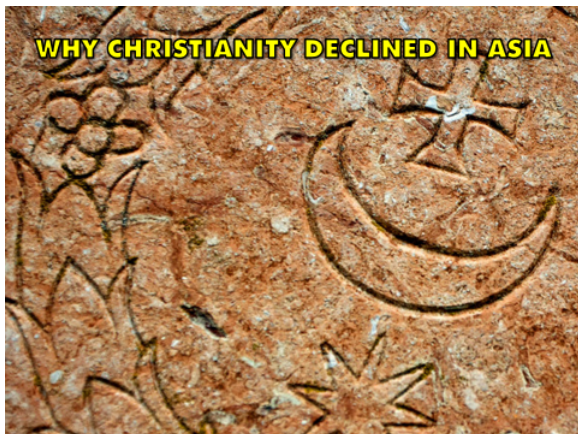
An island to sell

Tokyo governor Shintaro Ishihara has announced his intention to buy three of the disputed



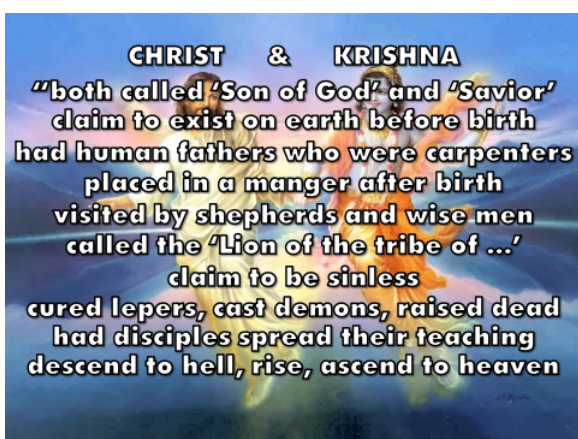
ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY Session 6

Why Christianity Declined in Asia

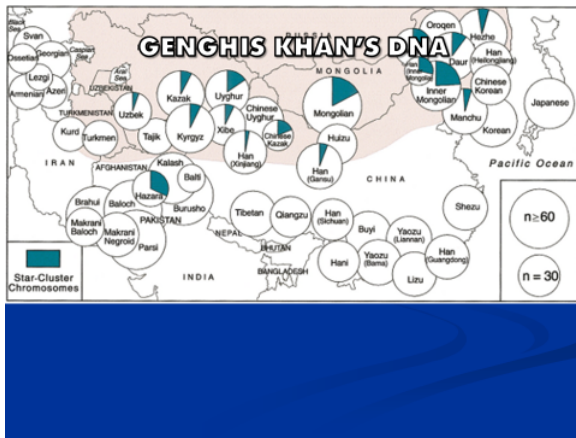


Why Christianity Declined in Asia

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



Genghis Khan's empire was ____ times larger than the empire of Alexander the Great, ____ times larger than the size of the Roman Empire and ____ times larger than the size of the USA.



According to DNA testing about 16 million or one in every _____ Asian men come from Genghis Khan.



_____ Khan was the second most famous among the Mongols.

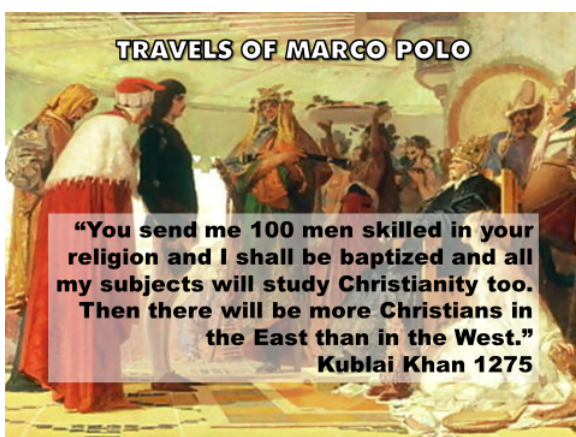
Kublai conquered _____ by 1259.

Kublai failed to take _____ in 1274 & 1281.

Kublai introduced _____ to China.



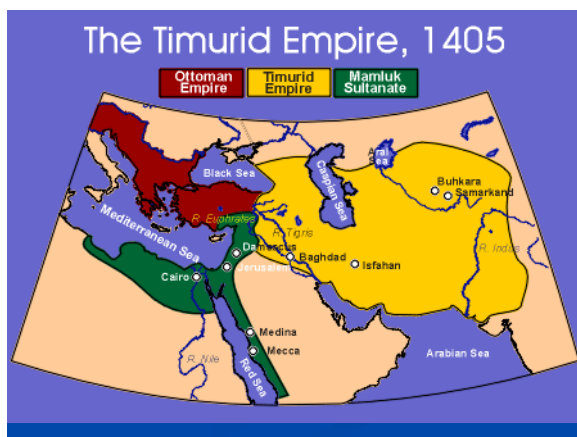
It was because the _____ of Genghis Khan started _____ each other that brought an end to the _____ Empire.



"You send me 100 men skilled in your religion and I shall be baptized and all my subjects will study Christianity too. Then there will be more Christians in the East than in the West."
Kublai Khan 1275

ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY Session 7

Why Christianity Declined in Asia



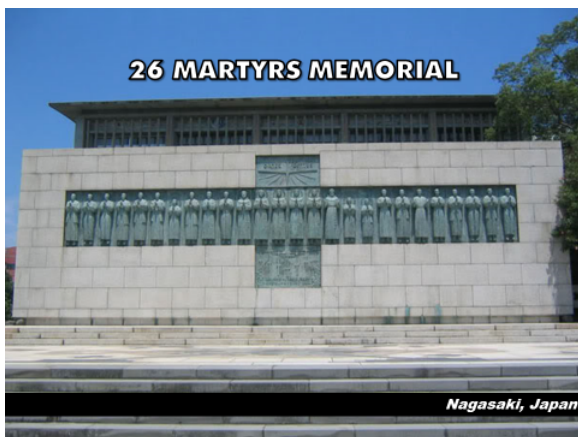
Under Tamerlane every _____ built on stone was completely leveled to the ground (_____ of them).

Under Tamerlane the number of Asian Christians fell from _____ to _____ million.



After 1500 years of Christianity in Asia only two small groups were left ... in _____ and in the mountains of _____stan.

The Christian Century in Japan (1549-1650)



In 1597 in _____ 26 Japanese Christians and foreign missionaries (including 3 young boys) were tied to _____, speared and left to _____ for ____ months.



In 1866 _____ “hidden Christians” (*kakure krishitan*) came out and almost half joined the Catholic Church again.

Reasons for Protestant Growth in Japan (1889)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1.



600s



15

Focused on China



भारत INDIA

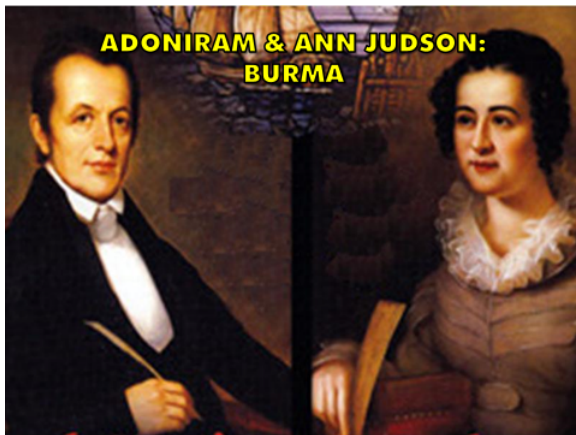
1993

विलियम कैरे WILLIAM CAREY

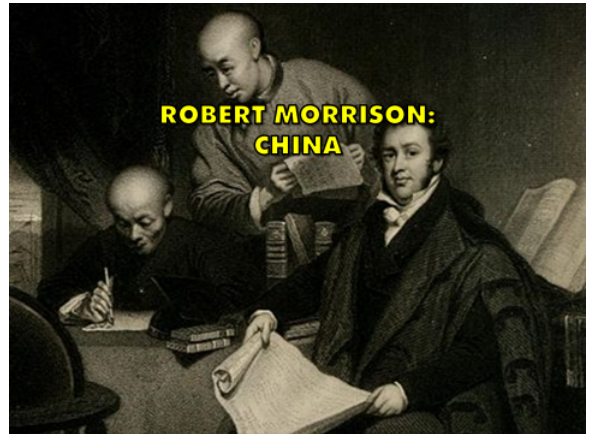
_____ copied the Chinese and allowed them to bow and/or worship at their ancestor's _____. So in 1773 the _____ dissolved the Jesuits.

William Carey was called ‘the Father of _____’.

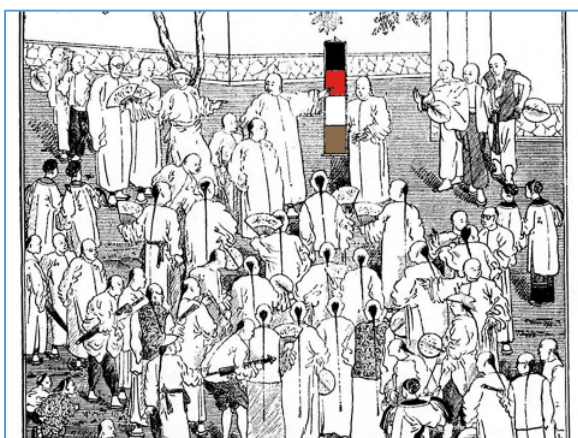
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**ADONIRAM & ANN JUDSON:
BURMA**



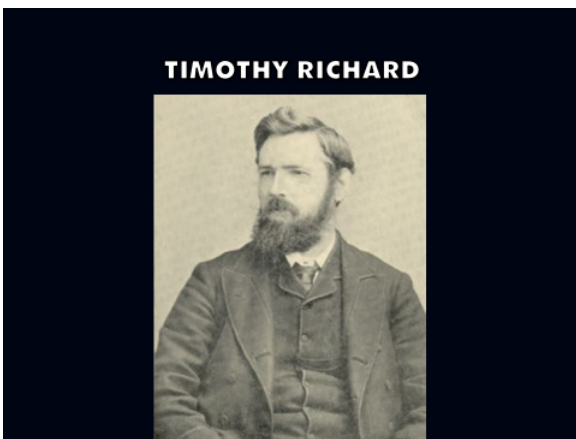
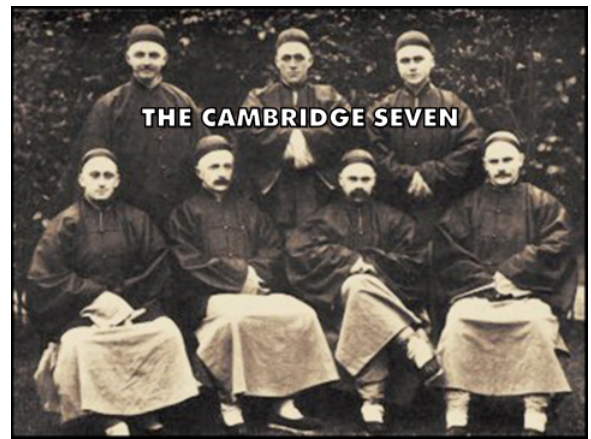
**ROBERT MORRISON:
CHINA**



_____ copied the Chinese and allowed them to bow and/or worship at their ancestor's _____. So in 1773 the _____ dissolved the Jesuits.

William Carey was called 'the Father of _____'.

Hudson Taylor used the _____ in _____.

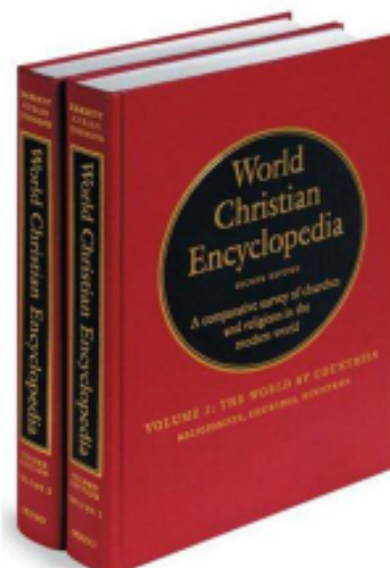


4 Church Planting Emphasis

1. _____ to Chinese Ways
2. _____ Chinese Leadership
3. _____ the Best Evangelists
4. _____ the Chinese

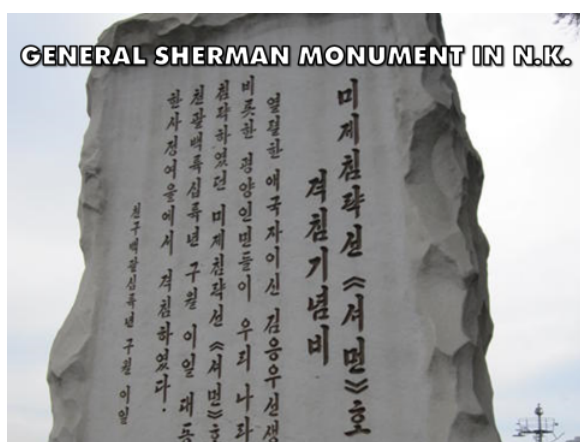
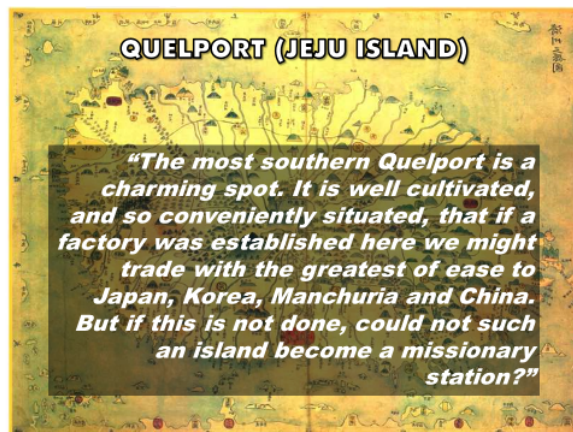
| | 1900 | 2000 |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| FOLK RELIGIONS | 376,300,000 (79.7%) | 360,000,000 (28.5%) |
| BUDDHIST | 60,000,000 (12.7%) | 106,000,000 (8.4%) |
| MUSLIMS | 24,000,000 (5.1%) | 19,000,000 (1.5%) |
| CHRISTIANS | 1,670,000 (0.4%) | 89,000,000 (7.1%) |
| - ROMAN CATHOLIC | 1,200,000 (0.2%) | 7,000,000 (0.6%) |
| - PROTESTANT | 436,000 (0.1%) | 71,000,000 (6.0%) |
| - ORTHODOX | 34,000 | |

CHINA STATS



ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY Session 9

The Korea Stories

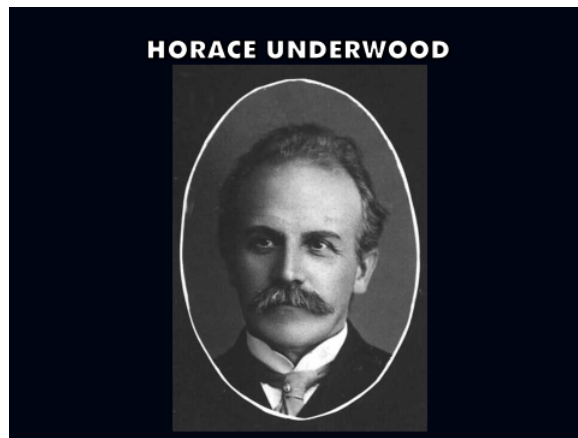
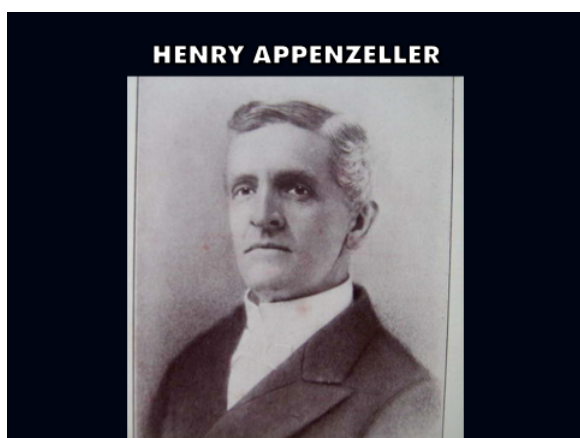
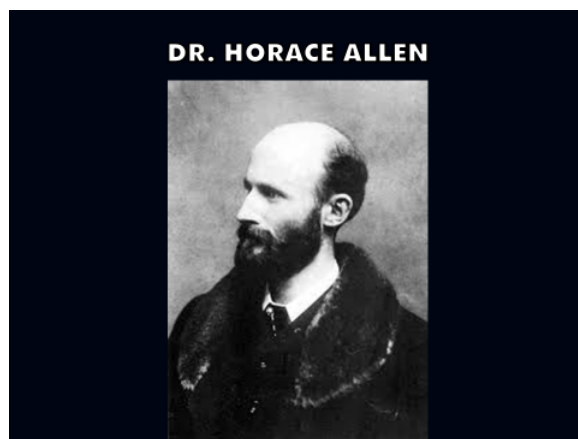
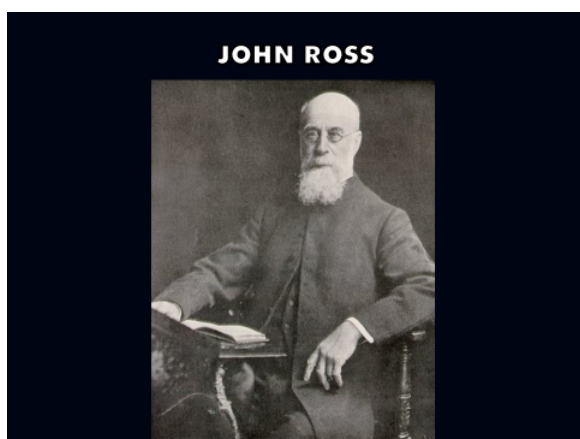


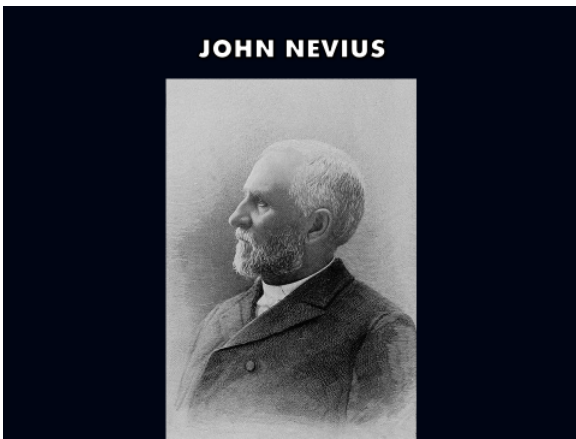
Hendrick Hamel was the first _____ to _____ about Korea with firsthand knowledge.

Robert Thomas was the first Protestant missionary _____ to Korea.

John Ross _____ the first complete copy of the Korean _____.

Dr. Horace Allen _____ Prince _____'s life.





John Nevius not only emphasized evangelism and Bible study but taught the 3-self principles of church growth:

SELF _____

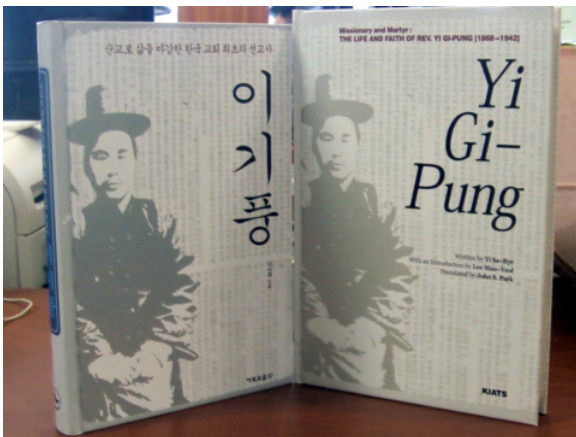
SELF _____

SELF _____



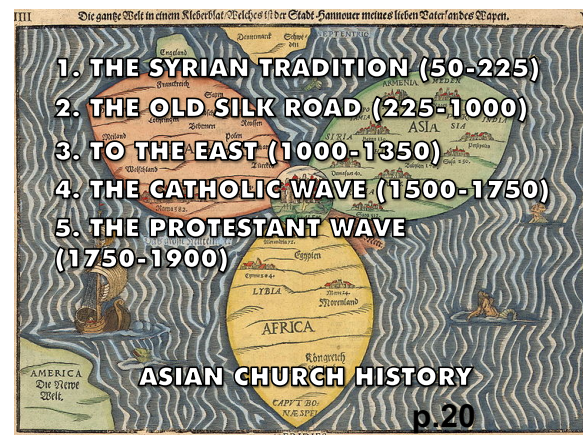
The Pyongyang Revival included _____, a _____ to be close to God, _____ of sin with a _____ mind and being _____-centered.

Yi Gi-Pung was Korea's first _____ and he went to _____.



5 Generalizations about Asian Church History in the 1800s.

1. A TIME OF _____
2. A TIME OF _____
3. A TIME OF _____
4. A TIME OF _____
5. A TIME OF _____



ASIAN CHURCH HISTORY Session 10

Overview & Thoughts

