# Muslim Conversion to Christianity in the Islamic World, 700-1000 AD

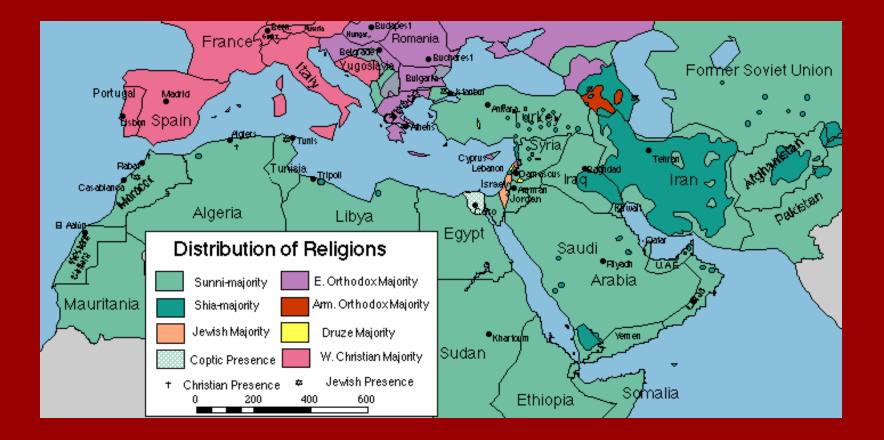
Krisztina Szilágyi

Converting the Isles THE ISLES and the WIDER WORLD

University of Cambridge 19-21 September 2013

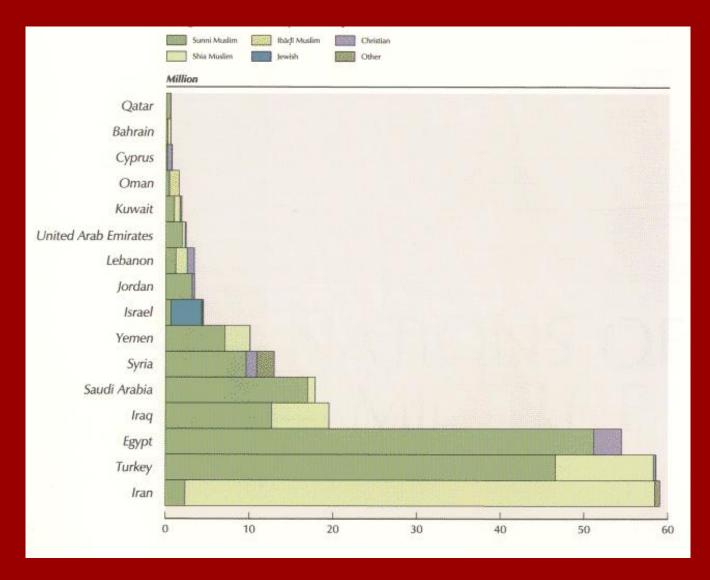
Wadi I-Natrun (Scetis)

# **Religions in the modern Middle East**



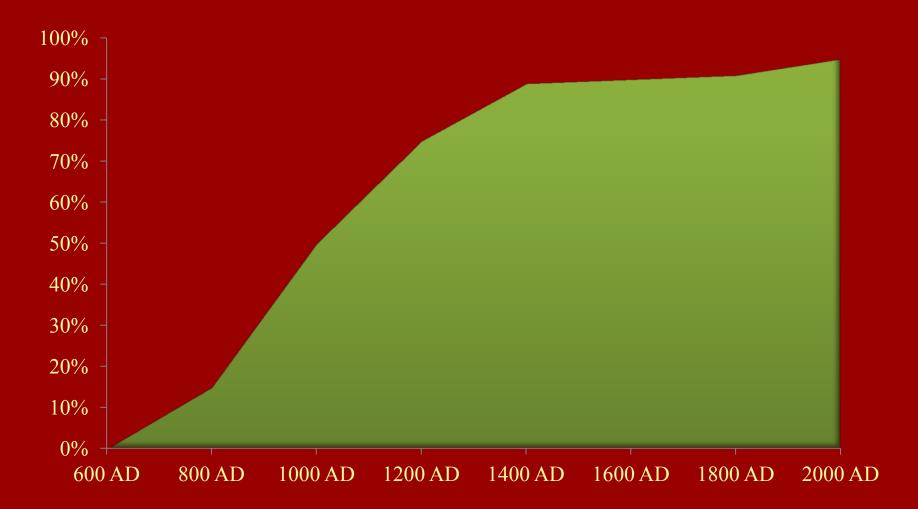
Source: http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/religmap1.html

# **Religions in the modern Middle East**

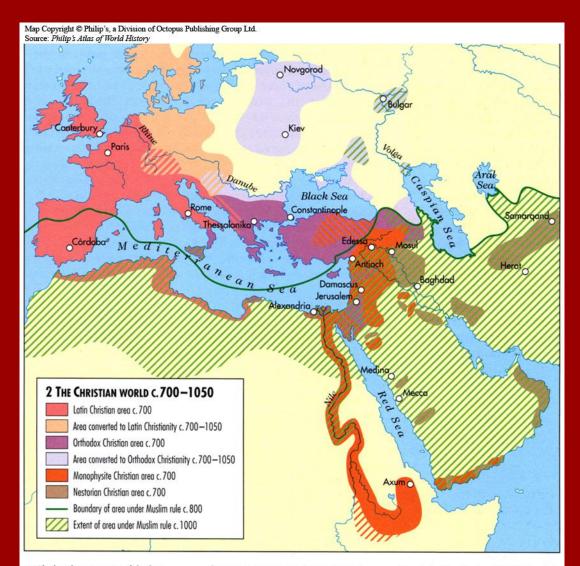


#### Source: http://mideastchange.blogspot.co.uk/2013/02/past-to-present-political.html

# **Islam in the Middle East**



# **Christianity in the medieval Middle East**

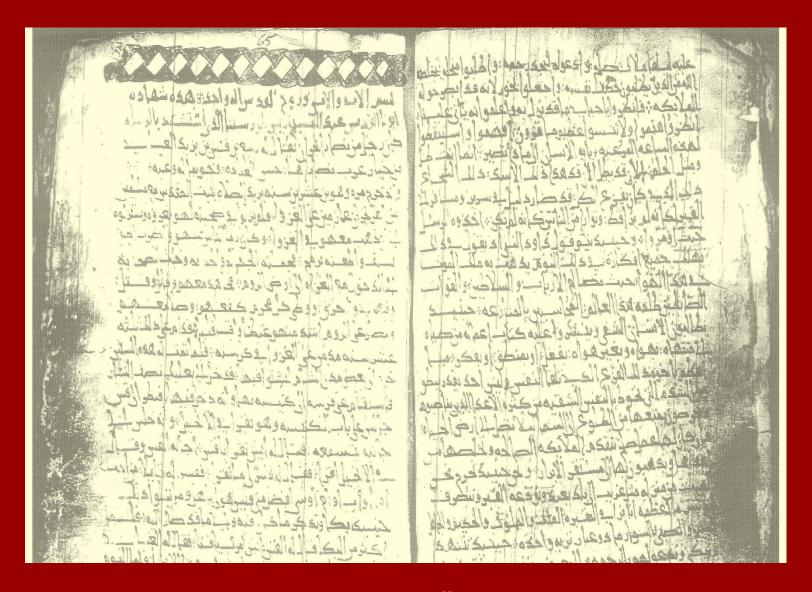


▲ The last three centuries of the first millennium AD saw the steady development of a deep and lasting cultural divide — between an Eastern, Greek-rooted Orthodox tradition and a Western, Latin-based Catholic culture. Both lost both lands and devotees to Islam in the Near East and North Africa, but resilient Christian communities continued to survive in these areas under Muslim rule.



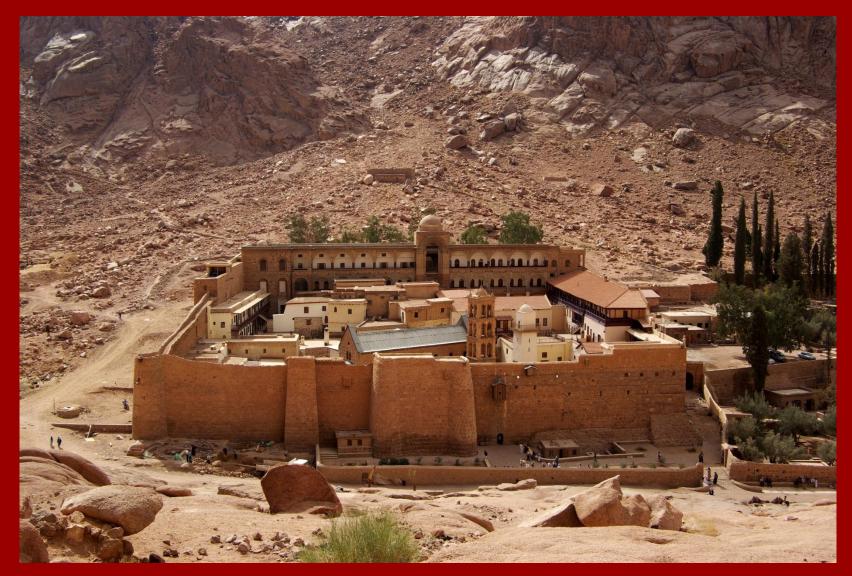
Source: http://www.freeworldmaps.net/middleeast/physical.html

# The life of Qays/`Abd al-Masih



MS Sinai Arabic 542, ff. 64v-65r.

Image retrieved from http://www.e-corpus.org/eng/notices/96558-Microfilms-manuscrits-Mt-Sinai.html



# Monastery of St Catherine on the Sinai, Egypt

Source: Berthold Werner through http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\_Sinai

# The life of Dahhak/Bacchus

60 AD HYAC. AMASTR. LAVD. NOTA eum vexillo. Hic verò , Quia lapides far vulg. elenabuntur , מתנססות על-אדמתו per terram eius ; quod aliis, Pro vexillis era tanquam vexilla erecta erunt ; qua tan metaphora paulò l'ngius petita videtur vt gnaai ( fic furgentes, & quasi in figue erecti lapides seu tituli ) dicantur vexil quæ magisvidentur figna quafi ambulaton Targ. Ionathan , Quoniam eliget cos lapides fanctuarij. Putem rous LXX. magus tendiffe vim participij, quod motume quem importare videtur, & qualis in ven fub quo mouer acies ac petit hoftem ja magis ipfam naturam lapidis attendin cuius potius fit, vt vno fixus loco fit, quam participij illius fignificationem qua restrinxerint. Aptè verò in Hyacintho, o gregis duce Viroque Apostolico ac An strensium ciuitatis Apostolo, quod ficla fanctus xuxionous (qui voluatur procedate ac praeat ) quafi diuino dictum oraculo cetæ nostro vsurpatum eft.

BIOE KAI AOAHEIE TOY OEIOY צי ויצ אילדעפיה שמיצטי, דע אילדעטיהסאשיהה in TOIS Reovois mult in Paraiston, Gti Eiphuns vai Kargartis The Girozet, gar ipoge Baoixear.

#### VITA ET CERTAMEN SANCTI AC NOVI-MARTYRIS BACCHI, QVI NOSTRIS TEMPORIBVS in Palæstina martyrio functus est, Irene & Constantino religiofisfimis Imperatoribus.

I The intom the andrew Oizorealwaves, ois North intorsaora me-MAXEN ETTEL Day CH Tal sadia tiva Th adrates Distrup.

grum fpe-Aaculo dea' Anbrach z' equi lectantur ; quibus damnole, nec peccatilabis puræ, equorii stationescum primis animo funtac cure, fi que in stadio Athle-

VI Circen-

fum ludo-

61

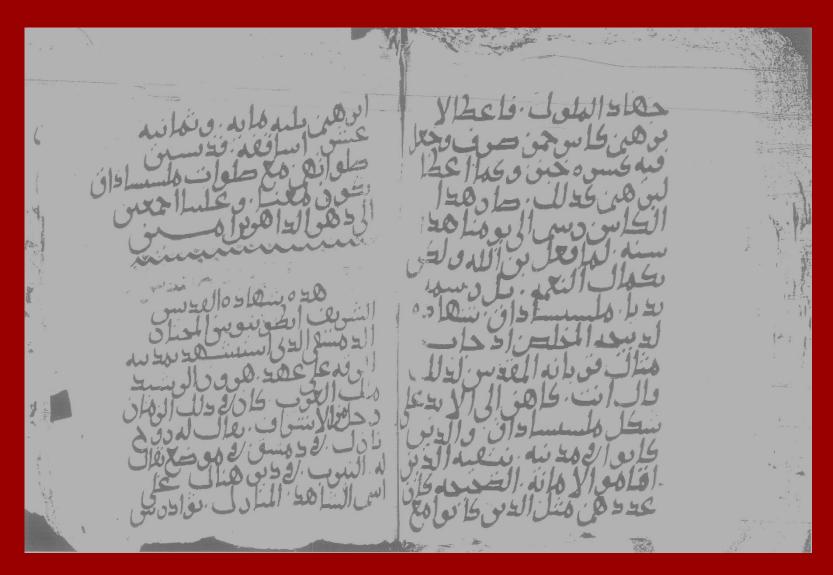
From the first and only edition of the text: François Combefis, *Christi martyrum lecta trias* (Paris, 1666), pp. 60-61.



# Monastery of Mar Sabas in the Judean desert

Source: http://www.zastavki.com/eng/World/Israel/wallpaper-7612.htm

# The life of Rawh/Anthony



MS Sinai Arabic 513, ff. 362v-363r.

Image retrieved from http://www.e-corpus.org/eng/notices/96558-Microfilms-manuscrits-Mt-Sinai.html

# **The Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem**



# The Holy Sepulchre



# The life of Muzahim / George

alilia

MS Coptic Museum Hist. 469, ff. 318v-319r. Image courtesy of the Brown Collection of Brigham Young University.

The Monastery of Mar Mina in Maryut



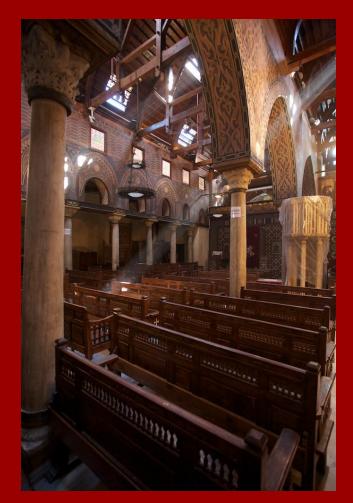
# The life of Ibn Radja'

STRIEN D'ALEF بنود والرساله GAMS 01004

MS Sbath 1004, ff. 85v-86r. Image courtesy of the Fondation Georges et Mathilde Salem (Aleppo) and the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library.

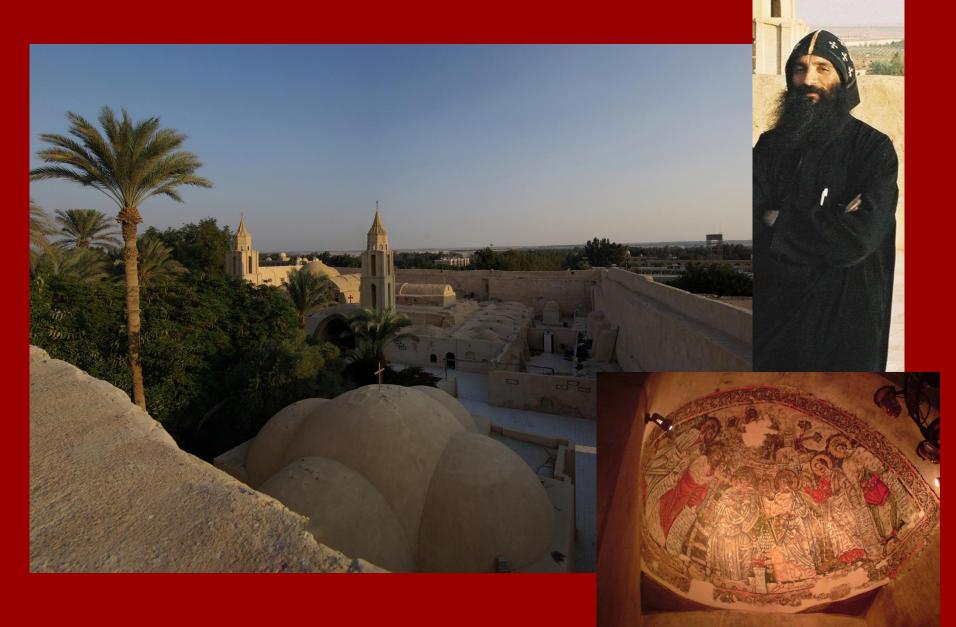


# The Hanging Church in Cairo

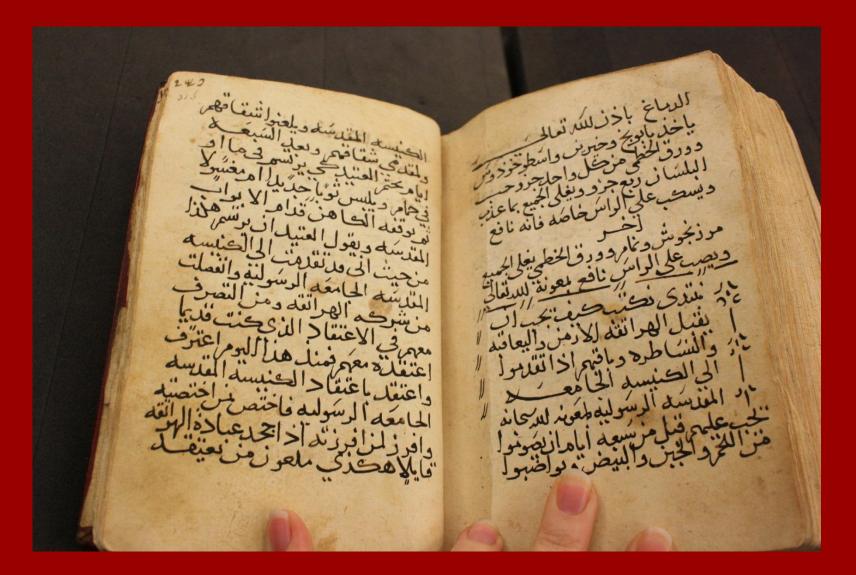


Source: Berthold Werner and Carsten Whimster through http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Hanging Church

# Wadi I-Natrun (Scetis)



# **Orthodox ritual for converting heretics**



MS Bodleian Hunt. 478, ff. 312v-313r. Image courtesy of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

# **Coptic ritual for recanting apostates**



MS Bodleian Marshall Or. 50, ff. 87v-88r. Image courtesy of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

### Ibn Radja', The Book of al-Wadih



MS Sbath 1004, ff. 111v-112r. Image courtesy of the Fondation Georges et Mathilde Salem (Aleppo) and the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library.

# Ibn Radja', The Book of al-Wadih

بسم الاب اب الدهور والابن ابن النشور وروح القدس محيى من فى القبور الواحد بالتتليت المتلت بالتوحيد رب الارباب والاه العالم والاحقاب الدى خلقنا من تراب وصورنا فى الاحشا والاصلاب وجعل لنا الاسماع والابصار والافيده والافهام وجعلنا من خير الانام

ما امنا به عيانا وشاهدناه يقينا وفضلنا بدلك على جميع خلقه وعرفنا سبل الحق وازال عنا طرق الجهل وارانا اتار قدرته وبدايع صنعته ومواقع حكمته وزادنا بها ايضاحا وبيانا على ربوبيته والاهيته بمنه ورحمته وجعل لنا الانجيل اماما نهتدى به وسراجا نستضى بنوره ومويلا يرجع في امور ديننا اليه ووزيرا نعتمد في طاعة ربنا عليه وهو حبل الله المتين وسراجه المنير وسايق اوليايه وقايدهم الى جنات النعيم

فنعمة الله جل جلاله بنا سابغه وحجته علينا ظاهره بالغه نحمده على انعامه المتظاهر ونشكره على احسانه المترادف ونرغب اليه في تتبتنا على ما اهدانا له وتوفقنا من القول والعمل لما يقرب منه حتى يختم لنا خاتمه صالحه ويجمع لنا بفضله خير الدنيا والاخره انه رووف رحيم In the name of the Father, the Father of the epochs, the Son, the Son of the resurrection, and the Holy Spirit who revives those entombed, the One in Trinity, the Three in Unity, the Lord of lords, God of the world and the ages, who created us from dust, who formed us in wombs and loins, who gave us ears, eyes, hearts, and minds, and who made us into the best of mankind.

We believed in Him without seeing Him with our own eyes or witnessing Him with certainty and He favored us over all his creation for that. He showed us the paths of truth and removed from us the ways of ignorance. He showed us the signs of his power, the wonders of his making, and the vestiges of his wisdom and bestowed them on us as manifestation and demonstration of his lordship and divinity in his grace and mercy. He gave us the Gospel as a leader to guide us, as a lamp to illuminate us with its light, as a refuge to consult it in matters of our religion, and as a vizier for us to lean on in the obedience of our Lord. It is God's firm rope, his luminous lamp, leading his saints and guiding them to the gardens of pleasure.

The blessing of God, may his glory increase, abounds on us and his proof is manifest and profound for us. We praise Him for his manifest favor and thank Him for his successive good deeds. We ask Him to help us stand firmly in what He bestowed on us and succeed in the words and the deeds that bring us near Him until He seals us with his noble seal and gathers for us the good of this world and the next in his grace. He is merciful and compassionate.

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#### Ibn Radja', The Book of al-Wadih

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# Thank you for your attention!

The Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem © Eduarch Iricinschi

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