

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE EVANGELISM OF CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA

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THE APOSTLES SENT

- Peter is the founder of the Church in Antioch. He probably went to Rome and was crucified head downward during the reign of Nero (54-68).
- According to tradition, Andrew is the founder of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.
- John went to Asia Minor and settled in Ephesus. Later he was exiled to Patmos, an island.
- Bartholomew was flayed to death at Albanapolis in Armenia.
- Thomas evangelized the Parthians. The Syrian Christians of Malabar are called "St. Thomas Christians" and were evangelized by the Apostle Thomas, who was martyred and buried at Mylapore near Madras.



FIVE PATRIARCHAL CITIES

- Jerusalem
- Antioch
- Alexandria
- Rome
- Constantinople



THE GREAT SCHISM OF 1054

- Michael quarreled with Pope Leo IX over church practices in which the Roman Church differed from Constantinople, particularly the use of unleavened bread in the Eucharist. Dissenting opinions were also exchanged over other theological and cultural issues, ranging from the issue of **papal supremacy** in the Church to the ***filioque clause*** and other disagreements between the patriarchates.
- The letter of Pope Leo IX, addressed both to Patriarch Michael I and Archbishop Leo of Ohrid, was in response to a letter which attacked the customs of the Latin Church that differed from those of the Greeks. **Leo IX in his letter accused Constantinople of historically being a center of heresies and claimed in emphatic terms the primacy of the bishop of Rome over the patriarch of Constantinople.**

ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA



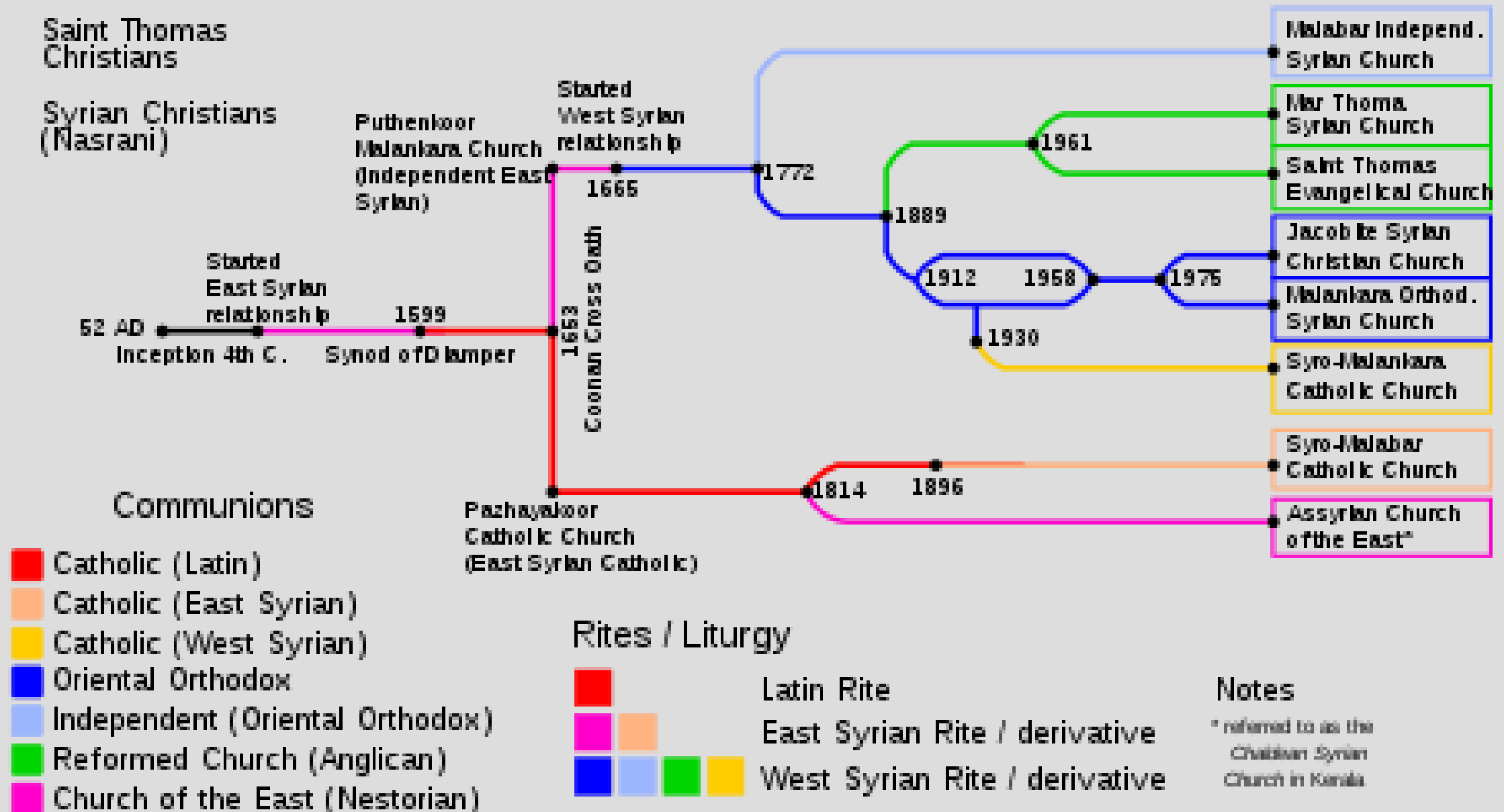
- St Thomas arrived to the Malabar region of India in A.D. 52, which is present-day Kerala
- Christianity is believed by 2% of the Indian population.
 - Protestants (60%)
 - Catholics (33%)
 - Orthodox (7%)
- St Thomas evangelized for 20 years and established Christianity along the Malabar coast until he was martyred by Hindus in A.D. 72

EARLY EVANGELISM

The first converts to Christianity in India were:

- Malabar Jews
 1. During the reign of King Solomon (~950 BC)
 2. Destruction of the First Temple and Siege of Jerusalem (~587 BC)
 3. Destruction of the Second Temple of Jerusalem (70 AD)
- Lower caste Hindus

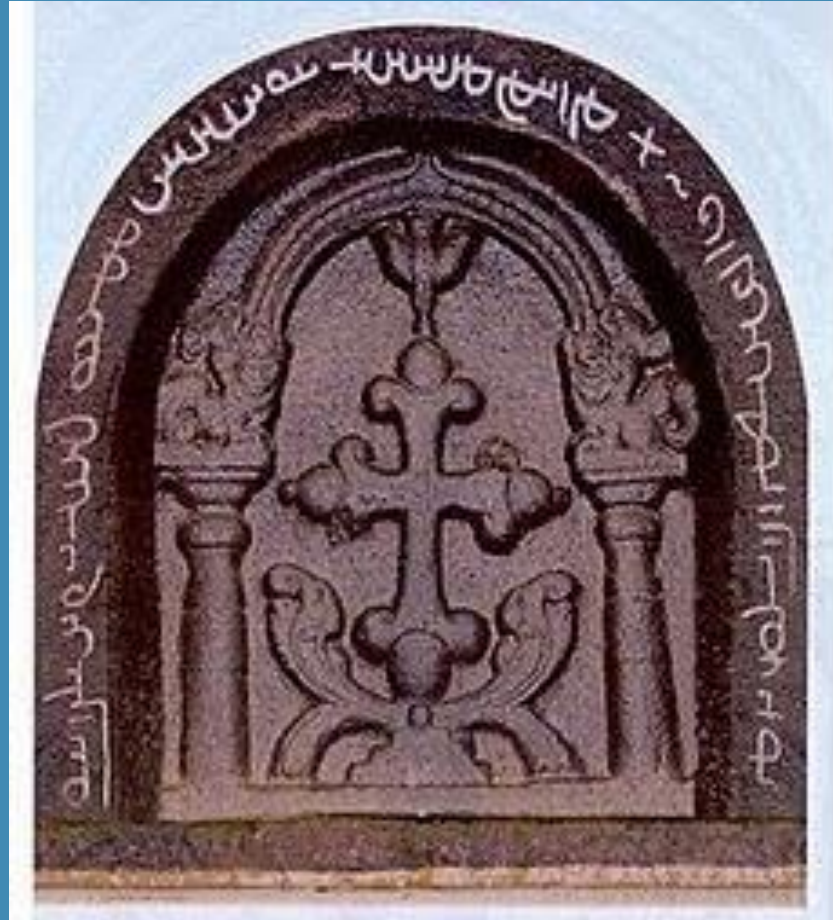
History and Evolution of Saint Thomas Christians



CULTURE AS THE DEFINING FACTOR FOR EVANGELISM IN INDIA

- The drawing force of Christianity include the teachings of Christ, almsgiving, and rejecting slavery, etc.
- Religious acceptance in coastal areas with focus on education and empowering women, etc.
- As you go inland and towards central and northern India, these teachings are rejected by Hindus. Persecution continues in those regions to this day.

ST THOMAS CHRISTIANS OR NASRANI



APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION



COMMON ELEMENTS OF INDIAN IDENTITY ACROSS RELIGION



WESTERN ICONOGRAPHY



EASTERN ICONOGRAPHY



CONFESSION IN THE WEST AND EAST



FOR MORE INFORMATION

I. PLEASE VISIT OUR ST THOMAS
PARISH IN PHOENIX

2. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL
ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS



- APUNNOOSE@SVOTS.EDU
- Services are conducted in our native tongue of Malayalam and English
- Full English services are conducted on the first Sunday of the month