

Contents

Acknowledgments *xii*

Introduction *xiii*

Preface to the Second Edition *xvi*

Maps

Strabo's Map of the World, A.D. 19 *xvii*

West Asia and the Sassanid Empire, ca. A.D. 600 *xviii*

East Asia and T'ang Dynasty China, ca. A.D. 800 *xx*

West and West Central Asia under Islam:

 The Abbasid Caliphate, ca. A.D. 800 *xxii*

 The Mongol Empire at its Greatest Extent, under

 Kublai Kahn, ca. 1260–1300 *xxiv*

 Asia, ca. 1500 *xxvi*

Part I: From the Apostles to Muhammad

SECTION ONE:

THE FIRST TWO HUNDRED YEARS

Chapter 1: Asia and the World of the First Century 3

 Greco-Roman Asia 6

 Iranian (Persian) Asia 10

 Sinic (Chinese) 13

 Indian Asia 16

 Notes 20

Chapter 2: The First Missions to India 24

 India and "The Apostle to Asia" 25

 The Acts of Thomas 26

 The Tradition Evaluated 29

 The Mission of Pantaenus (ca. 180 or 190) 36

 Notes 39

Chapter 3: The Church of the East: The Syrian Period	45
The Abgar and Addai Tradition	46
The Tradition Evaluated	50
"The First Christian Kingdom"	56
Bardaisan of Edessa	64
The Assyrian Christians of Arbela	70
Tatian the Assyrian	72
Tatian and the Encratites	75
Asceticism and Asian Missions	77
Notes	80

SECTION TWO: THE EARLY SASSANID PERIOD IN PERSIA (225–400)

Chapter 4: The Sassanid Revolution and the Church	91
Rome and the Sassanid Shahs	92
Church Life in Third-Century Persia	94
The Sons and Daughters of the Covenant	97
Missionary Outreach	100
Notes	101
Chapter 5: The Clash of Religions: Christian, Zoroastrian, and Manichaean	105
Notes	112
Chapter 6: First Steps Toward a National Persian Church	116
Tiridates and the Conversion of Armenia	118
The Episcopacy of Papa and the Synod of Seleucia	120
Jacob of Nisibis and the Beginnings of Monasticism	122
Aphrahat the Persian	125
Notes	130
Chapter 7: The Great Persecution (340–401)	136
Notes	145

SECTION THREE: THE LATER SASSANID PERIOD IN PERSIA (400–651)

Chapter 8: The Reorganization of the Persian Church	149
The Synod of Isaac (410)	151
The Synod of Yaballaha (420) and Further Persecution	157

The Synod of Dadyeshu (424) and the Independence of the Asian Church	161
Notes	164
Chapter 9: The Great Schism	168
The Nestorian Controversy	170
“Nestorianism” Examined	175
Notes	180
Chapter 10: The Controversy Spreads into Asia	185
Edessa, Rabbula, and the Monophysites	186
Chalcedon and Schism in Africa	190
The Persian Church Becomes Nestorian	193
Barsauma of Nisibis	194
The Synod of Acacius (486)	197
The School of Nisibis	200
Controversy and Decline	204
Mission into Central Asia	207
Notes	209
Chapter 11: Patriarch and Shah	216
The Synod of Mar Aba (544) and His Reforms	217
Chosroes I and Mar Aba	220
Abraham of Kaskar and Monastic Revival	225
Notes	228
Chapter 12: The Decline of the Persians (622–651)	230
Shah over Patriarch	231
The Controversy over the Teachings of Henana	234
The Breakdown of the Patriarchate	242
The Spread of Monophysitism in Persia	243
The Nestorian Counterattack	247
The Fall of the Sassanid Dynasty	251
The Late Flowering of the Persian Church	254
Notes	257
 SECTION FOUR: CHRISTIANITY IN SOUTH ASIA 	
Chapter 13: Indian Christianity and Its Relation to Persia	265
Notes	270
Chapter 14: The Christian Kingdoms of the Arabs	272
Notes	281

*Part II: Outreach: The Ends of the Earth
(From Alopen to the Crusades)*

- Chapter 15: The First Christian Mission to China 287
- How Old Is Chinese Christianity? 288
 - Alopen and the First Christian Mission (635–649) 291
 - Beginnings of Persecution (656–712) 293
 - Recovery of the Church (712–781) 295
 - Disappearance of the Nestorians from China (781–980) 302
 - Notes 314
- Chapter 16: Christianity and Early Islam (622–1000) 324
- Muhammad and the Christians 326
 - Christianity and the Koran 329
 - Christianity Under the Patriarchal Caliphs (632–661) 333
 - Christianity Under the Umayyad Caliphate (661–750) 340
 - Christianity Under the Early 'Abbasids (750–850) 348
 - Timothy I and the Caliphs 349
 - The Decline of the Church (850–1000) 357
 - Notes 361
- Chapter 17: The Survival of Christianity Under Medieval Islam
(1000–1258) 374
- The Beginning of a New Millennium 375
 - The Breakup of the 'Abbasid Caliphate (1000–1258) 377
 - Christians During the "Persian Renaissance"
(945–1055) 378
 - Christianity in Asia Under the Fatimids of Egypt
(969–1043) 381
 - The Rise of the Turks (992–1095) 384
 - The Crusades (1095–1291) 386
 - Notes 391

*Part III: The Pax Mongolica:
From Genghis Khan to Tamerlane*

- Chapter 18: The Mongols and the Recovery of Asian
Christianity 399
- Christian Keraites and Shamanist Mongols 400
 - The Mongol Empire 404

The First Franciscan Missions to the Mongols	405
William of Rubruck	409
Notes	414
Chapter 19: The Mongols and the Church in Persia	421
Hulegu and the Christians	422
Ilkhans and Patriarchs in Mongol Persia	425
Bar Hebraeus and the Jacobites	428
The Travels of the "Monks of Kublai Khan"	430
Intimations of Weakness in Persian Christianity	435
Notes	436
Chapter 20: Christianity in Mongol China	442
Sorkaktani and the Line of Dynastic Succession	443
The Polos at the Court of Kublai Khan (1266–1292)	445
Nestorian Church Organization	448
Prince George of the Onguts	450
The Religious Policies of Kublai Khan	451
John of Montecorvino and the Roman Catholics	456
The Outer Limits of Nestorian Advance	459
Notes	462
Chapter 21: The Eclipse of Christianity in Asia	470
The Second Disappearance of the Church in China	471
The Conversion of the Persian Ilkhanate to Islam	475
Tamerlane, "Scourge of God and Terror of the World"	480
Notes	488
Chapter 22: The Church in the Shadows	495
The Middle East	497
St. Thomas Christians in the Middle Ages	498
Conclusion	503
Notes	509
Appendix: The Nestorian Monument's Theological	
Introduction	513
Notes	516
Bibliography	519