

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient, decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are at the top, some at the bottom, and some are clustered around the text. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE?

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KRAFT AND JACOB HIATT PROFESSOR OF  
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# JESUS AND HIS FOLLOWERS

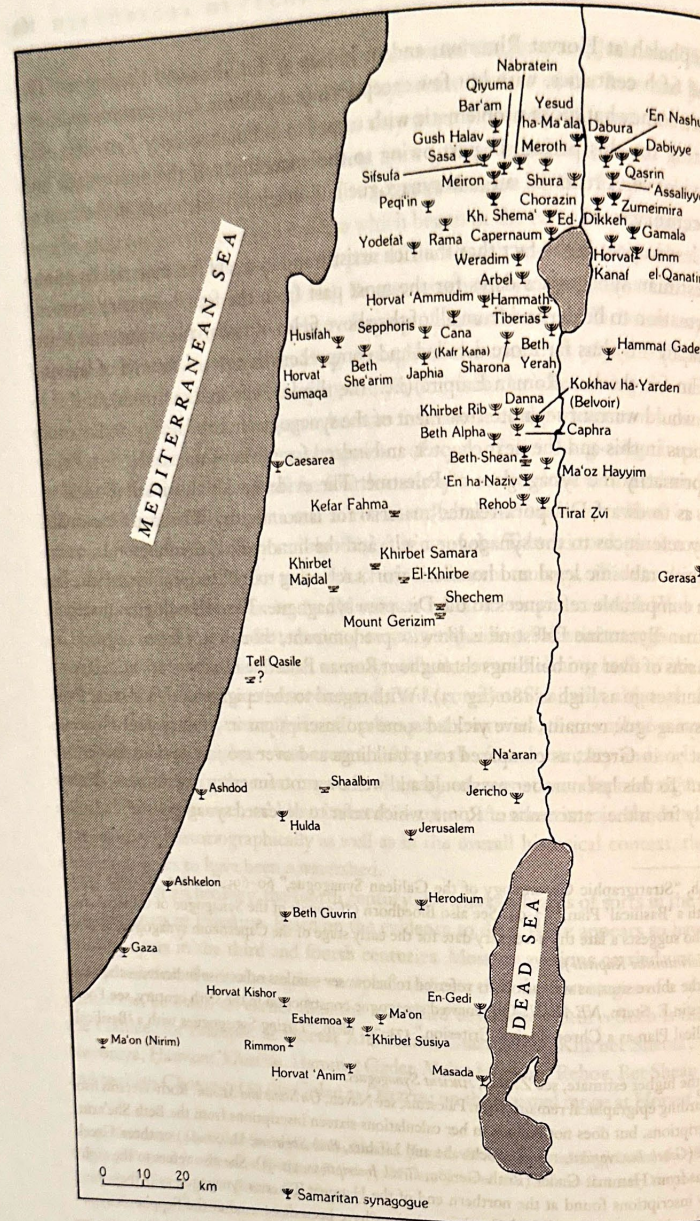
FROM NAZARETH IN GALILEE, LIVED AND TAUGHT MAINLY IN  
GALILEE

ALSO TRAVELED TO OTHER REGIONS

WENT ON PILGRIMAGE FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE PASSOVER,  
WHERE THE ROMAN RULER HAD JESUS CRUCIFIED



# MAP OF SYNAGOGUES IN ROMAN- BYZANTINE PALESTINE LEE LEVINE. THE ANCIENT SYNAGOGUE



13. Map of excavated synagogues of Roman-Byzantine Palestine.



# ISRAEL EXPLORATION SOCIETY'S MAP OF EXCAVATED CHURCHES IN ROMAN/BYZANTINE PALESTINE





EUSEBIOS OF CAESAREA (CA. 260–265–CA. 339–340)

FIRST CHURCH HISTORIAN

LIKE OTHER EARLY CHRISTIAN LEADERS: IN CONVERSATION  
WITH RABBIS, LIKELY IN GREEK





# CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY (4<sup>TH</sup> C./6<sup>TH</sup> C.) BETHLEHEM

كنيسة المهد



**I**nitium euangelii ihu xpi  
pilati di

Sicut scriptum est in esai  
propheta  
ecce mitto angelum meum  
ante faciem tuam qui praeparabit viam tuam

**Q**uod clauantis in deserto  
parate viam dni

rectas facite semitas eius

**F**uit iohannes in deserto  
baptizans

et praedicans baptismum  
penitentiae  
in remissionem peccatorum  
et crediebatur ad illud  
omnis iudeae regio  
et hierosolymite uniuersi  
et baptizabantur ab illo in  
iordane flumine confiten  
tes peccata sua

**E**rat iohannes astitus  
pilis camelis  
et zona pellucida circa  
lumbos eius  
et lucas et camel siluestre  
edebat

et praedicabat dicens  
uenit fortior me post me  
cuius non sum dignus pro  
cuius ambulo aere corrigi  
am calceamentorum eius  
eco baptizauit uos aqua  
ille uero baptizabit uos  
spu sco

**E**t factum est in diebus illis  
uenit ihu anazareth calilae  
et baptizatus est in iordane  
ab iohanne  
et statim ascendens de aqua  
auduit apertos caelos  
et spu tanquam columba  
descendentem et manen  
tem in ipso

et uox patris est de caelis  
tuus filius meus dilectus  
in te complacui

**E**t statim sps expellit eum  
in desertum  
et erat in deserto quadra  
ginta diebus et quadragin  
ta noctibus

et tentabatur a satana

**E**ratque cum bestiis  
et angeli ministrabant illi

**P**ostquam autem traditus  
est iohannes

uenit ihu in calilaeam  
praedicans euangelium

regni di

et dicens quoniam impletum  
est tempus

et appropinquauit regnum  
penitentiae et credite  
euangelio

**E**t praeteriens secus mare  
calilaeae

auditis monachum et andream  
fratrem eius

mitentes retia in mare  
erant enim piscatores

**E**t dixit eis ihu  
uenite post me

et faciam uos fieri piscato  
res hominum

et protinus relictis retibus  
secuti sunt eum

**E**t progressus inde pasilla  
auduit iacobum zebedaei

et iohannem fratrem eius

et ipsos in nauis componen  
tes retia

et statim uocauit illos

et relicto patre suo zebe  
dæo in nauicam mercen  
tariis secuti sunt eum

**E**t ingressi sunt capharnaum  
et statim sabbatis ingressus

VULGATE

EDITED AND REVISED BY  
JEROME, PAULA, AND HER  
DAUGHTER EUSTOCHIUM  
IN BETHLEHEM  
(LATE 4<sup>TH</sup> C.)

CODEX AMIATINUS (CA.  
700)





EMPEROR JULIAN ATTEMPTED TO REBUILD JEWISH  
TEMPLE (361–363)

CHRISTIAN LEADERS: NO: DESTRUCTIONS WAS  
PUNISHMENT FOR JEWISH REJECTION OF CHRIST

SOME JEWS: NO: A GENTILE SHOULDN'T  
PARTICIPATE IN ITS REBUILDING





# GREEK ORTHODOX ST. PORPHYRIOS CHURCH ANNEX IN GAZA BOMBED ON OCTOBER 20, 2023, 18 KILLED



Palestinians search the destroyed annex of the Church of St. Porphyrios after an airstrike on Oct. 20.  
Dawood Nemer/AFP via Getty Images

# WHO WAS ST. PORPHYRY (CA. 347–420?)

BISHOP OF GAZA

*LIFE OF PORPHYRY (AFTER 450–6<sup>TH</sup> C.?)*

–EMPEROR ARCADIUS SENT TROOPS TO HELP PORPHYRIOS  
DESTROY STATUES AND TEMPLES OF APHRODITE, MARNAS,  
HELIOS, ETC.

–PORPHYRIOS BUILT LARGE CHURCH OVER THE MARNEION  
(TEMPLE OF MARNAS); PRESENT CHURCH 1150–1160



# CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE, JERUSALEM (4<sup>TH</sup> C—)

كنيسة القيامة



Photo by  
Gerd  
Eichmann



## 4<sup>TH</sup>-C. MONASTERIES ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, JERUSALEM

MELANIA THE ELDER (CA. 350–CA. 410) FUNDED AND  
FOUNDED ONE FOR WOMEN, INCLUDING HERSELF, AND  
ONE FOR RUFINUS OF AQUILEIA

*RUFINUS TYRANNIUS OF AQUILEIA (CA. 345–CA. 410)*  
TRANSLATED GREEK CHRISTIAN WRITINGS TO LATIN

# CHURCH OF THE MULTIPLICATION/TABGHA, GALILEE



4<sup>TH</sup> C. CHAPEL

5<sup>TH</sup> C. MOSAICS, CHURCH

7<sup>TH</sup> C. DESTROYED BY PERSIANS  
OR IN ARAB MUSLIM CONQUEST

REBUILT A NUMBER OF TIMES

BERTHOLD WERNER, PUBLIC  
DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA  
COMMONS

ARE CHURCHES IDOLATROUS SITES? HALAKHAH

ONE MAJOR VIEW: YES

JEWS MAY NOT ENTER CHURCHES

(RAMBAM, SHACH, TOSAFOT ON 'AVODAH ZARAH)

ANOTHER MAJOR VIEW: NO

JEWS MAY ENTER CHURCHES

(ME'IRI [1249 – 1306] ON 'AVODAH ZARAH)



# CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AS IDOLATROUS SITES: 2015



# SIDDUR ASHKENAZ WEEKDAY, SHACHARIT, ALENU

“WE THEREFORE PUT OUR HOPE IN YOU, ADONOI OUR GOD, TO  
SOON BEHOLD THE GLORY OF YOUR MIGHT IN BANISHING  
IDOLATRY FROM THE EARTH, **AND THE FALSE GODS WILL BE  
UTTERLY EXTERMINATED** TO PERFECT THE WORLD AS THE  
KINGDOM OF SHADAI.”

עַל כֵּן נִקְוֶה לָךְ, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, לִרְאוֹת מְהֵרָה בְּתַפְאֶרֶת עֲזָךְ, לְהַעֲבִיר גְּלוּלִים  
מִן הָאָרֶץ וְהָאֱלִילִים כָּרוֹת יִכְרְתוּן; לְתַקֵּן עוֹלָם בְּמַלְכוּת שְׁדֵי.



# CALIPH 'UMAR IBN AL-CHATTĀB CONQUERS PALESTINE (634)

GRANTS RIGHT TO CHRISTIANS , BUT LIMITS WHAT THEY  
MAY DO








# LATIN CRUSADER KINGDOMS IN PALESTINE (1095–1290)

CRUSADERS KILLED PALESTINIAN MUSLIMS AND  
CHRISTIANS

NUMBER OF CHRISTIANS WENT DOWN





I'LL NOT GO FURTHER WITH THE HISTORY, ON  
WHICH WE HAVE SEVERAL EXPERTS AT BRANDEIS

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES HAVE LIVED IN PALESTINE  
SINCE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> C.

# WHO ARE THE CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE TODAY?

GREEK ORTHODOX

ANTIOCHENE AND OTHER ORTHODOX

MARONITES (“ARAMAEANS,” WHICH ALSO INCLUDES SOME  
OTHERS)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

MANY DENOMINATIONS WITHIN PROTESTANTISM



# WHO ARE THE CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE TODAY?

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS  
(MORMONS)

EVANGELICALS FROM THE U.S., E.G., AT JERUSALEM  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GERMAN THEOLOGY STUDENTS, STUDIUM IN ISRAEL

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX

# ARMENIAN CHRISTIANS

*A controversial real estate project threatens the world's oldest Armenian diaspora community. But they refuse to move.*

Armenian  
Christians in  
Palestine since  
the 4<sup>th</sup> C.  
Here: Armenian  
Quarter in Old  
City of  
Jerusalem



Protest against the contentious land deal in the Armenian quarter of Jerusalem on June 30 2023 [Al Jazeera]



On November 5,  
2023

“Xana Gardens  
Ltd. ...showed up  
with Danny  
Rothman (aka  
Danny  
Rubenstein)—the  
Australian owner  
of Xana Gardens  
Ltd. and  
allegedly  
demanded the  
Armenians’  
expulsion.”

*Armenian Weekly*  
November 16,  
2023



Bulldozer in the Cows Garden (Photo: Khatchig Bekarian)





# IMPORTANT PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT LEADERS

DR. HANAN ASHRAWI

BISHOP MUNIB YOUNAN

REV. DR. NAIM ATEEK

REV. DR. MITRI RAHEB

REV. DR. MUNTHER ISAAC

DR. TALA RAHEB

AREEJ MASOUD





REV. DR. MITRI RAHEB  
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF  
DAR AL-KALIMAH UNIVERSITY  
BETHLEHEM

A HISTORY OF LACK OF SELF-DETERMINATION






AREEJ MASOUD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND LEAD EDUCATOR AT  
KHAYARI/MY CHOICE: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND  
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

HOW DOES A CHRISTIAN IDENTITY SUPPORT A  
PALESTINIAN IDENTITY?







REV. DR. MUNTHER ISAAC, PASTOR  
DEAN OF BETHLEHEM BIBLE COLLEGE

A CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS

