

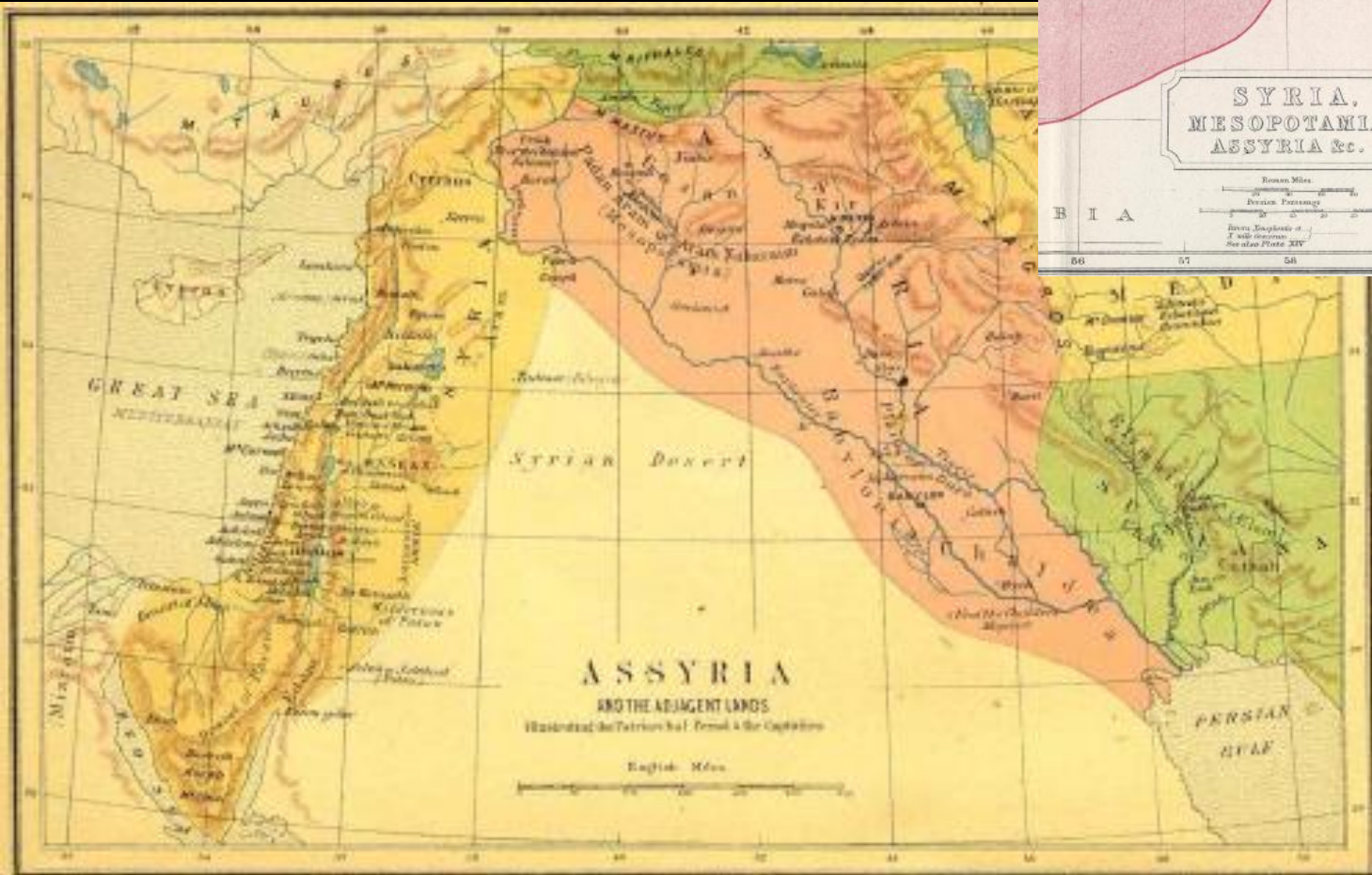
Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Origins, Art, and Ideas

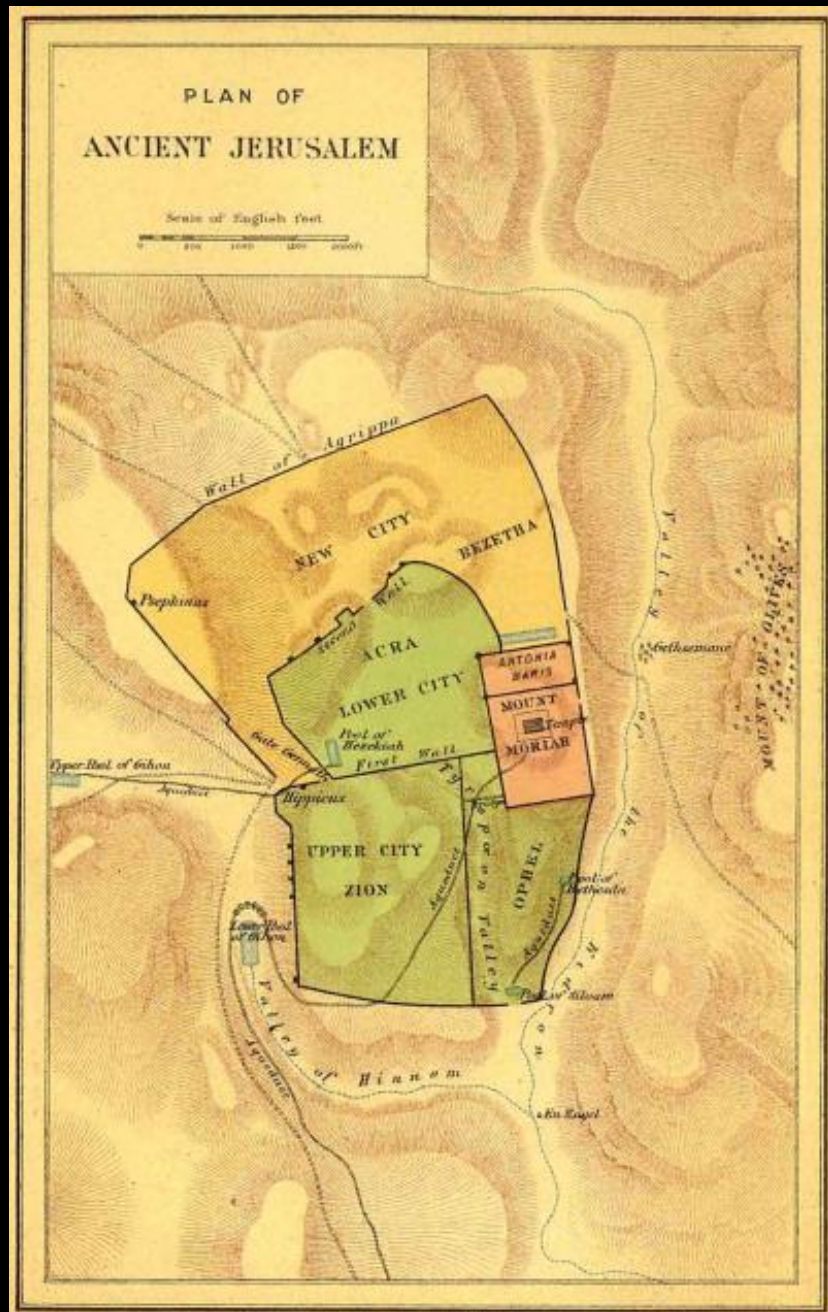
Key Ideas: Religions of the Book

- Monotheistic: one God created and rules the universe
(all develop within polytheistic societies)
- Word of God is revealed in writing: Hebrew Scriptures/Bible, Christian Bible, Islamic Qur'an
- Build on beliefs and traditions of one another
- Religious art objects are used for teaching purposes
- All three incorporate elements from other cultures

Judaism: Origins and Ideas

- Abraham travels to Canaan (c. 1800 BCE), the land promised to God's chosen people. Story told in the *Torah*.
- God reveals his laws (Ten Commandments) through Moses, which are placed in the Ark of the Covenant (13th c. BCE).
- Twelve tribes unify and build temple in Jerusalem (11th-10th c. BCE). First temple destroyed by Neo-Babylonians; rebuilt under Persians.
- After series of conquerors, Israel comes under Roman rule (63 BCE, later called Palestine by Romans).
- Roman (future) emperor Titus destroys second Temple (70 CE); period of dispersal into other lands (diaspora).
- Jewish people await the arrival of the Messiah, “the anointed one.”





Rome, *Arch of Titus*, 81 CE,
marble over concrete core



Jewish Art and Culture

- Very little art survives from the early period; a few wall paintings in Roman catacombs and excavated synagogues (Syria) reveal beliefs and practices.
- Early art and architecture reflect traditions from Rome (fresco, mosaic) and the Near East (strong outlines, flat colors).
- Synagogues are sites of worship, learning, and social gatherings.
- Precious objects were/are made to celebrate the major events of the Jewish calendar: Sabbath, Passover, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Purim, Hannukah, Sukkot, etc.

Early Jewish Art



Interior of house-synagogue from Dura-Europos, 245 CE

Early Jewish Art

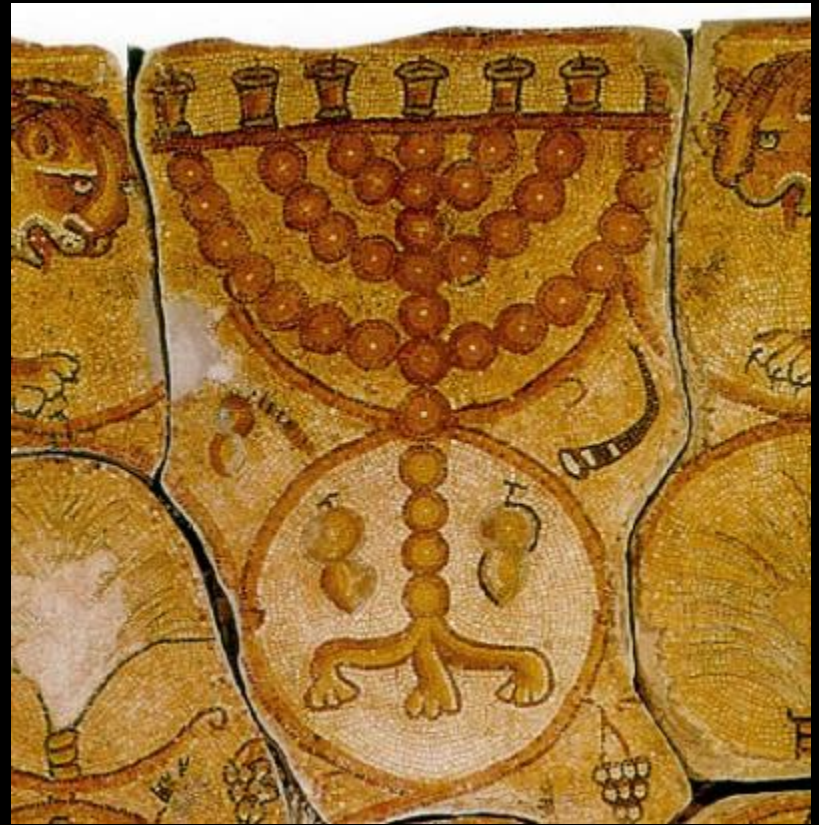
The Finding of the Baby Moses, in Dura-Europos house-synagogue



Rome, Villa Torlonia, *Menorahs and Ark of the Covenant*,
Jewish catacomb, 3rd century, wall painting



Maon, *Synagogue floor*,
c. 530 CE, mosaic



*Etrog (citron fruit) box,
20th c., silver, enamel,
98.136.18*



*Hanukkah lamp, 20th c.,
silver, 98.136.6a,b*



*Dreidel, about 1900, brass,
nickel alloy, 98.136.1*



Early Christian and Byzantine Art

3rd – 15th century

Christianity: Origins and Ideas

- Jesus Christ, identified as the Messiah by his followers, born as a Jew in land subject to Roman rule.
- Jesus's public ministry is directed toward Jews and Gentiles. Preaches "good news" of salvation for all who believe.
- Christians believe Jesus is God in human form; after a short ministry, he is executed by the Romans and ascends into heaven.
- Follower Paul and other disciples establish Christian church and bring Jesus's teachings to surrounding non-Jewish world.
- Christianity "legalized" and becomes Roman state religion by 4th c. CE; Constantine permits religious tolerance; gives Christianity his support.

Christian Art and Culture

- Early imagery presents Christ as “good shepherd” and commemorates the faithful.
- Works of art created to teach stories from the Christian Bible (story of Jesus told in New Testament Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).
- Early art and architecture reflect traditions from Rome (fresco, mosaic, basilica or central plan).
- Images change as understanding of relationship between God and humans changes.
- Large churches built to be filled with works of art.

Early Christian Art



Left, Catacombs of Callixtus, Rome, 3rd century CE. Top, Cubiculum of Leoni, Catacomb of Commodilla, Rome, Late 4th century.

*Catacomb of Commodilla, Rome,
late 4th century CE*



*Catacomb of St. Priscilla;
Rome, early 3rd century CE*



Early Christian Art



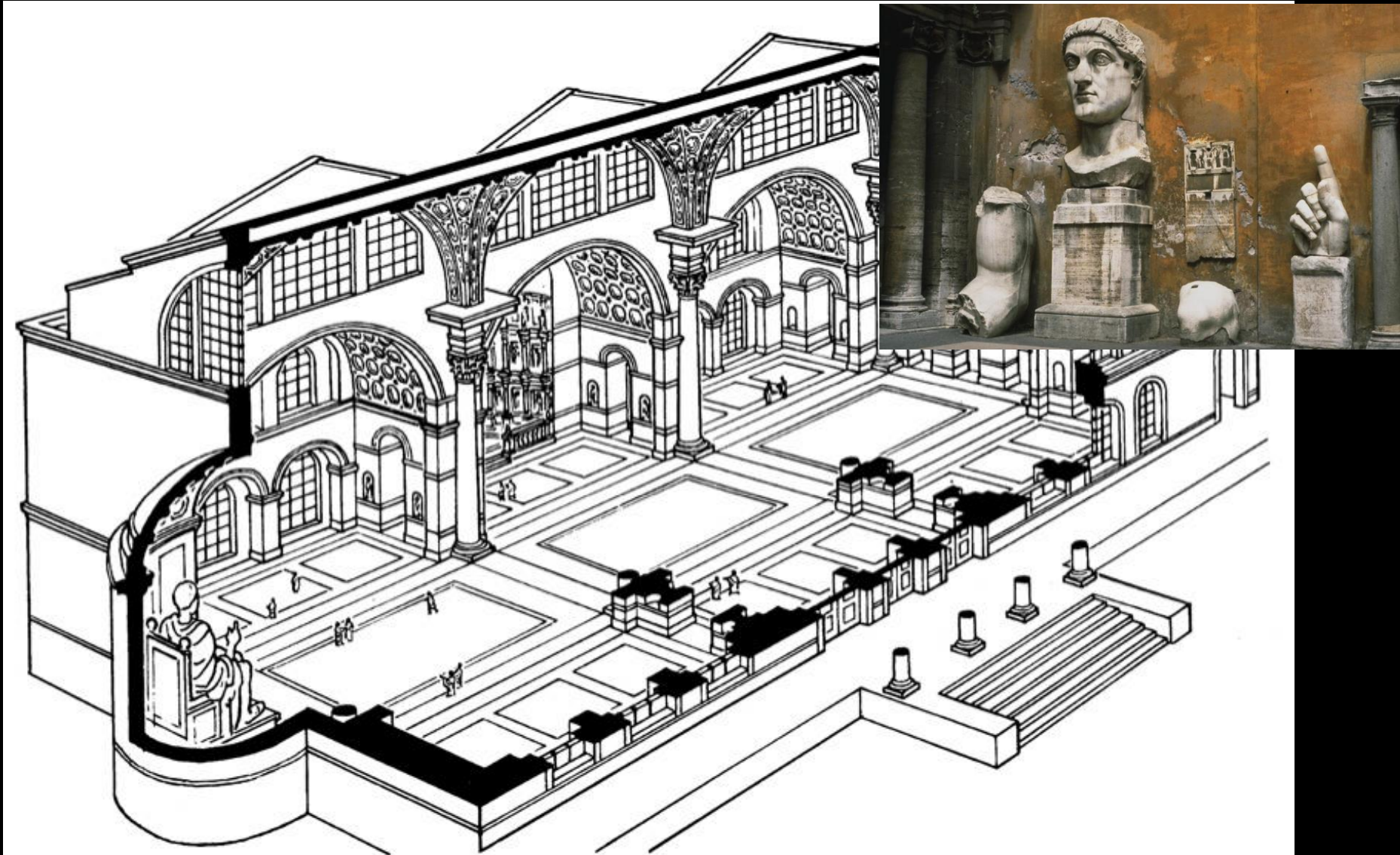
The Good Shepherd

In the earliest depictions of Christ, he is young and beardless, with NO markers of divinity.

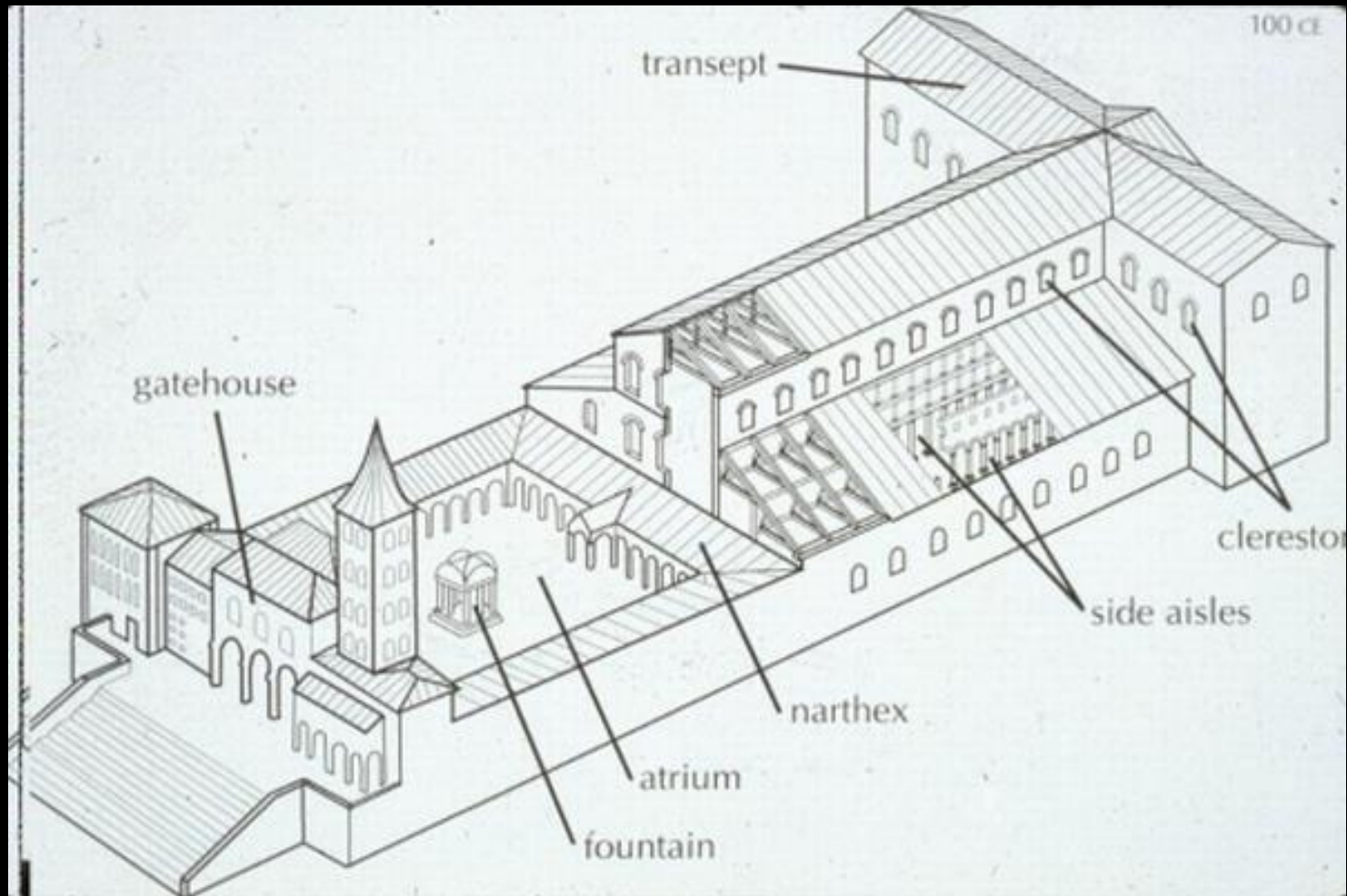


Roman Civic
Architecture: Basilica
Nova

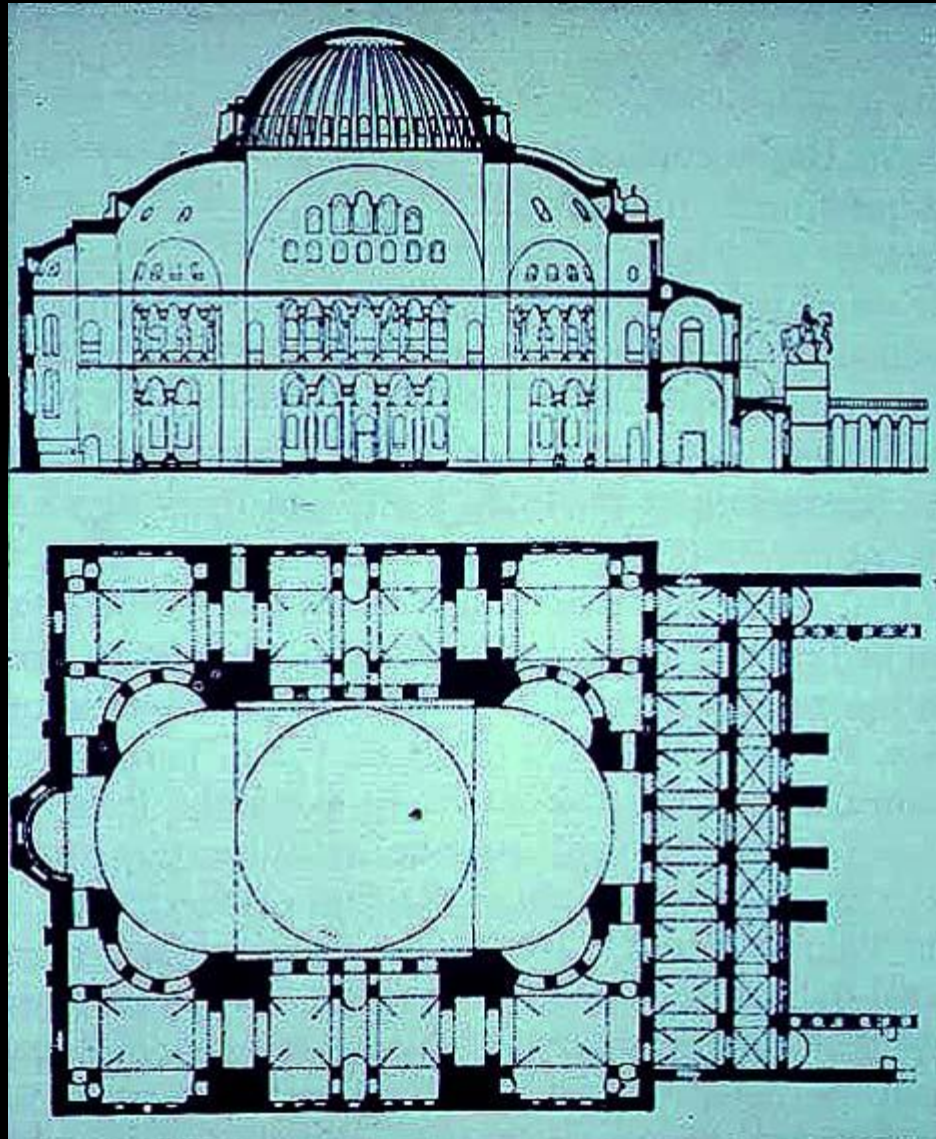
6-67: Basilica Nova, built by Constantine. A basilica is an all-purpose administrative building with nave, apse, and clerestory.



Rome, Reconstruction drawing of Old St. Peter's Basilica, c. 320-27



Central plan, Church of Hagia Sophia, 532-37



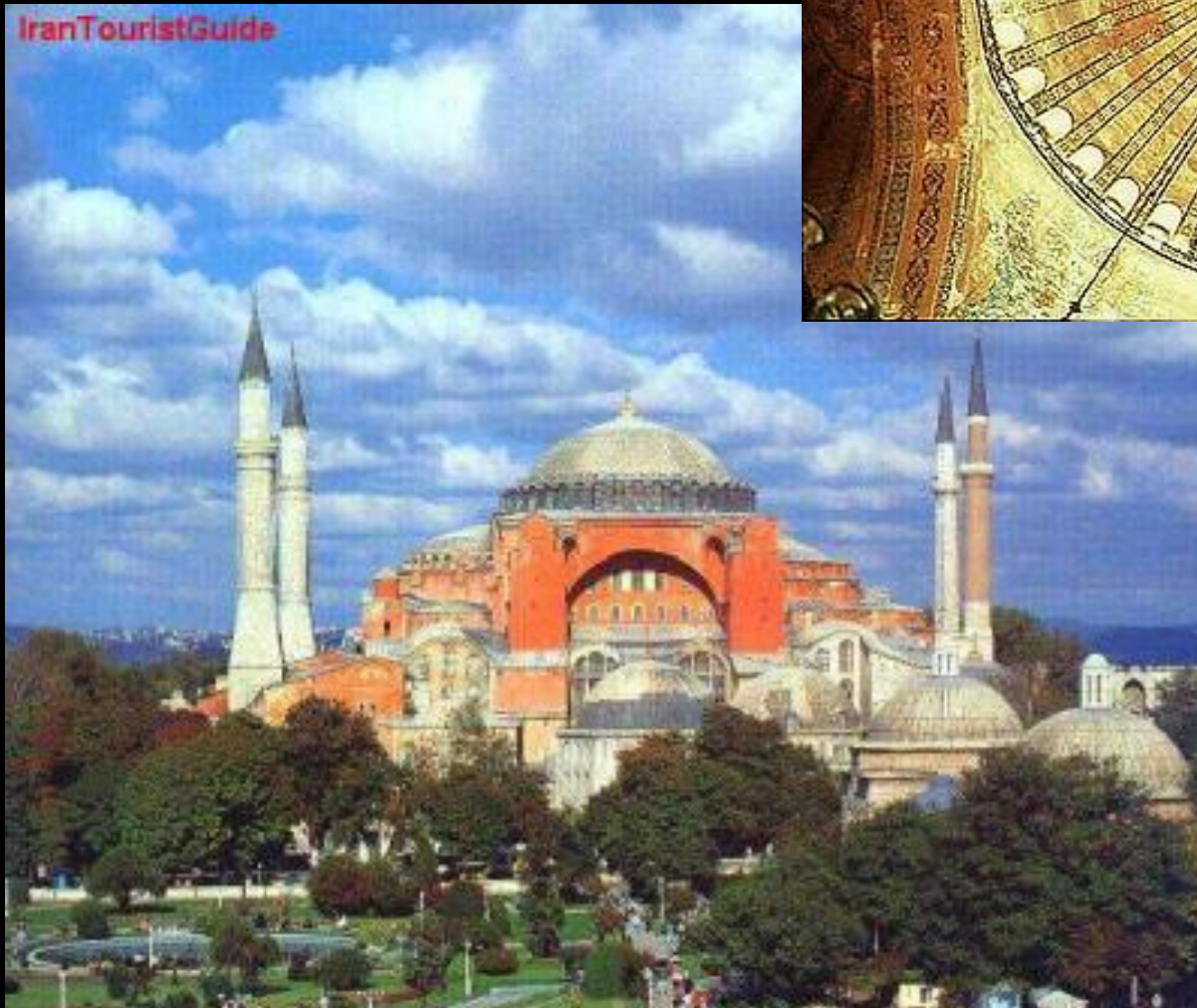
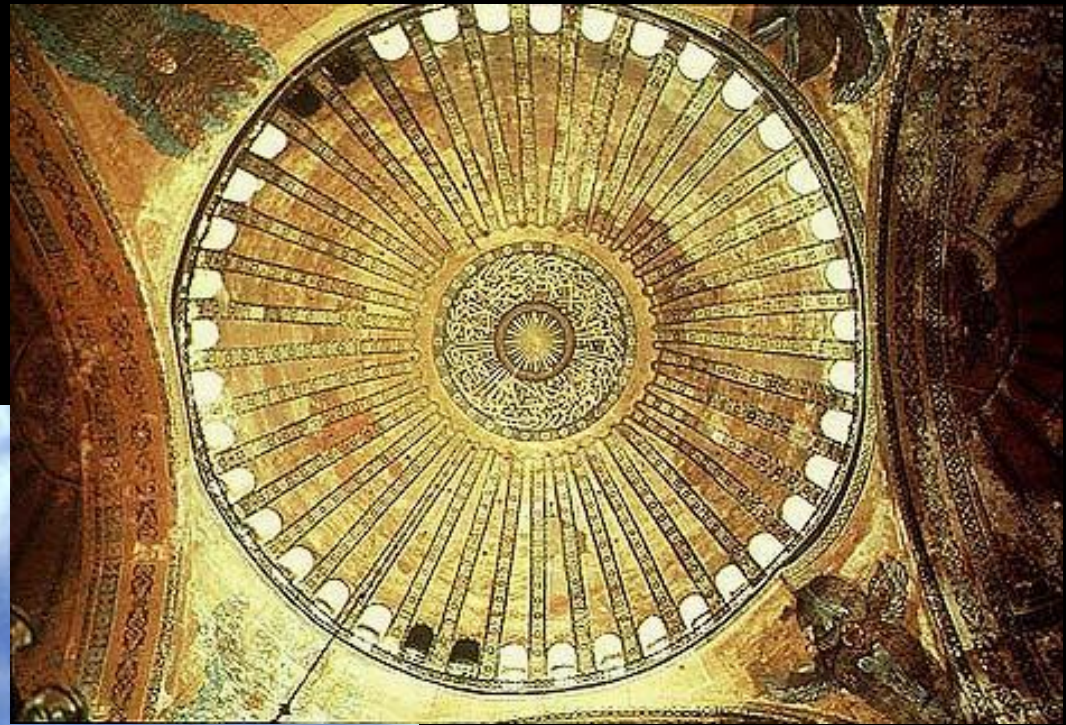
Byzantine Empire: 5th – 15th century



Byzantine Empire

- Western Roman Empire collapses 476 CE (sacked by Germanic peoples).
- Eastern Empire flourishes in 6th c. with capital at Constantinople (formerly Byzantium).
- Extensive use of mosaics (influence of Greek and Roman world) to represent splendor of rulers who preside over church and state.
- Figures shown as formal and static within timeless, supernatural world; rulers take on holy status.
- Muslim Ottoman Turks reclaim Constantinople in 1453, rename it Istanbul. Eastern church leadership moves to Russia.

Church of Hagia Sophia/
Aya Sofya, Istanbul, Turkey,
532-37

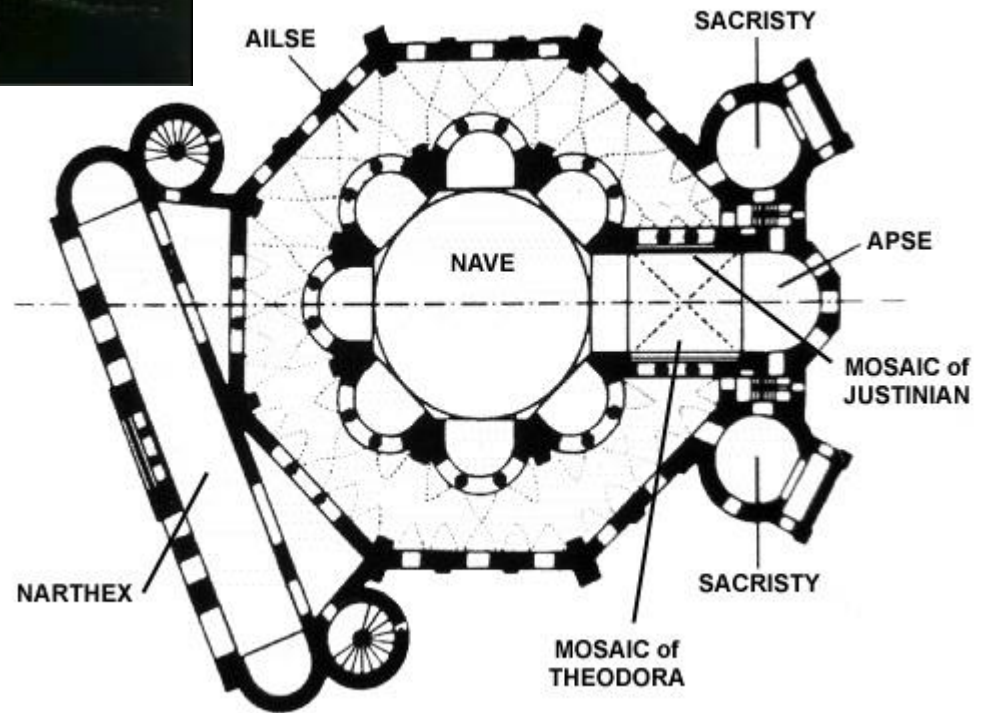


Hagia Sophia, interior





Church of San Vitale,
Ravenna, Italy, 526-47



Empress Theodora and Attendants, south apse wall mosaic, Church of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy, c. 547



Emperor Justinian and Attendants, north apse wall mosaic, Church of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy, c. 547



Cathedral of San Marco, Venice,
begun 1063



Archangel Michael, icon, 10th c.,
originally from Constantinople,
brought to Venice



Virgin of Vladimir, icon,
Constantinople, 12th c., tempera
and gold on panel



Segna, Madonna and Child,
c. 1310, tempera and gold on
panel, 87.64



Coptic Christianity (1st-9th c. CE)

- Christian community founded by apostle Mark in Alexandria, Egypt, around 42-62 CE
- Coptic world includes Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Christians.
- Modeled on aspects and rituals of ancient Egyptian religion: ankh, ancient Egyptian symbol of eternal life, adopted as their cross; retain resurrection rituals associated with Osiris.
- Christian monasticism, so important to Medieval Europe, had beginnings among the Copts.
- Arabs conquer Egypt in 7th c., many Copts convert to Islam.

Coptic altar, Temple of Isis, Cairo



Coptic, *Sanctuary Curtain*, 5th-6th c. CE,
linen and wool, tapestry weave, 83.126



Egyptian *ankh*, carried
by Sekhmet (and Isis)



Graeco-Egyptian, *Figure of a Ram*, 5th century CE, 62.53



Roman, *Cinerary box with cover*, 1st c. CE, marble



Islamic Art

600-1000 CE

Istanbul, Hagia Sophia (6th c.), Allah medallion



Islam: Origins and Ideas

- Muslims (“believers”) are followers of Islam, established by the Prophet Muhammad (c. 570-632 CE).
- Sacred book is the *Qur’an/Koran*: the word of God as recited by the angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad.
- Muhammad begins his teachings 7th c. in Mecca. Persecution forces him north with followers. Eventually controls Western Arabia.
- Up to 15th c., Islam spreads from Atlantic to Indian Ocean, across Central Asia as far as Samarqand, to deserts of Africa.
- Islamic peoples preserved much of the knowledge of Greco-Roman tradition, which had been lost to Europe until the Middle Ages.
- Islamic lands were center of trade between East and West: silk, textiles, spices, and exquisite art objects. Islamic civilization prospers between collapse of Roman/Byzantine Empire and rise of European nation-states.



Turkey, Whirling dervishes



Muslim expansion 7th-15th centuries



Five Pillars: Practices of the Faith

- Shahada – profession of faith
- Salat – ritual prayer, 5 times per day
- Zakat – charitable giving
- Sawm – fasting during Ramadan (dawn to dusk)
- Hajj – pilgrimage to Mecca

Mecca, Saudi Arabia, *Great Mosque with Ka'ba*

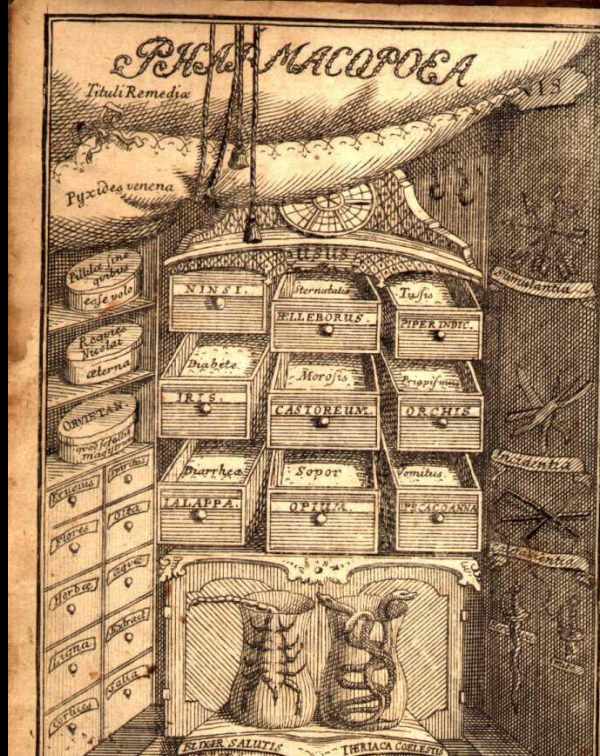


Certificate of completion
of pilgrimage



Islamic Art and Culture

- Made for religious practices and settings as well as secular purposes
- Made by and for Islamic peoples of many cultures; incorporates diverse traditions
- God is unique and cannot be represented in figural form; humans and animals can only be created by God
- God is worshipped without intercessors (no saints)
- Little or no narrative in the Qur'an to depict
- Qur'an is a guide to political, social, and cultural matters: Islam is a religion and a way of life



CAROLI LINNÆI
Archiat. Reg. & Med. ac Botan. Prof. Upsal.
Naturæ Curioforum DIOSCORIDIS secundi,
**MATERIA
MEDICA,**

LIBER I. DE PLANTIS.

Secundum

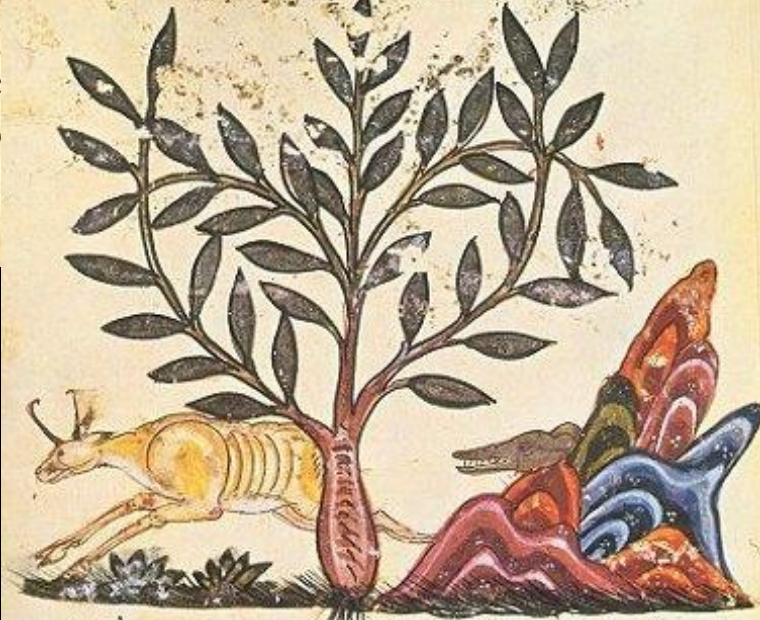
Genera,	Differentias,	Synonyma,
Loca,	Durations,	Culturas,
Nomina,	Simplicia,	Præparata,
Qualitates,	Modos,	Potentias,
Vires,	Usus,	Composita,

Digestus.

Cum Privilegio S. R. Mtsis Suec. & S. R. Mtsis Polon. ac Electoris Saxoni

نقاله فان اوسن الؤمن الؤلام الؤى نفا الؤلام الؤى اؤاوا واصل هذا

Typis ac sumpt



النبات اذا شرب يقطع اسهال البطن ويدر البول ولا يجففت

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Bergqvist sculp.



Jerusalem, Dome of the Rock,
begun 692





Córdoba, Spain, *Great Mosque*,
begun 785-86



Córdoba, Spain, *Great Mosque*, dome, 965



Córdoba, Spain, *Great Mosque*, dome, 965



arabesque



Hispano-Moorish, *Lion Statuette*, 11th-12th c.,
gold, 72.12





granulation



filigree

Iran (Persia), *Large Bowl*, 10th century, 2003.98.2



Iran, *Bowl*, 10th-11th century, 2002.89.2



Iraq, *Bowl*, 9th c., earthenware with painted cobalt blue designs, 32.32.3-5



China , *Blue and white dish*, 13th c., porcelain
with blue decor, 87.62



China , *Blue and white dish*, 13th c.,
porcelain with blue decor, 87.62



Iran, *Blue and white dish*, 18th c.,
earthenware with blue and black
decor, 86.44

فَتَهُ لِمُؤَدِّعِيهِمْ وَمَا كُفِرُوا فِيهِمْ إِلَّا مَا
فَسَفِهَتِ يَتِيمَهُمْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ مِّنْ ذُرِّيَّتِهِمْ وَإِنَّمَا
جِئْتُمُوهُم بِعِلْمٍ فَتَعَفَوْا عَلَيْهِمْ فَنَارَكُمُ الْعَالِمِينَ
وَنَدَّبْنَا بِمَا آرَدْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ صِغِيرَةً وَإِنَّمَا جِئْتُمُوهُم



Persia, Abbasid dynasty,
*Page from the Koran, 9th-
10th c., 51.37.7*

Egypt, Mamluk dynasty, *Page from
the Koran, mid-14th c., 51.37.21*

