

St. Thaddeus & St. Bartholomew



The apostles, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, were the first evangelizers of Armenia, and were martyred there, giving the Armenian Church its apostolic identity. Thaddeus came to Armenia about 43 AD to preach Christianity. He was martyred in southeastern Armenia. His tomb lies in the Armenian monastery of St. Thaddeus (Iran) where a chapel was built in the third century. Bartholomew is believed to have arrived in Armenia about 66 AD. He was martyred in Hadamakert (City of Adam), southeast of Lake Van whose present day name is Baskale. According to tradition Thaddeus was sent to Armenia from nearby Edessa by Abgar (uncle of King Sanatruk of Armenia) to evangelize. Thaddeus converted Sandookdht, the king's daughter. Sanatruk, hostile to Christianity, martyred both Thaddeus and his daughter Sandookhdt. Earliest dates of persecutions against Christians, including Armenians, were recorded in 110, 230, and 287 by the writers Eusebius and Tertullian

A monastery was built on the traditional site of the martyrdom of St. Bartholomew. At an unknown date after the Armenian Genocide, the monastery came under Turkish military control and its entire site now lies within an army compound and is inaccessible to visitors. The dome of its church was still intact in the early 1960s, but the whole structure is

now very heavily ruined and the dome is entirely gone. It was formerly considered one of the most important pilgrimage sites of the Armenian people.

St. Bartholomew Monastery in the Van Province of southeastern Turkey. (Photo 1911)



St. Thaddeus Monastery in northwest Iran. In July 2008 it was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.



Windows installed during construction in 1965. Inscriptions read: St. Thaddeus: In Memory of our father, Dr. Hagop Beshlian by his sons, George and William St. Bartholomew - In Memory of Setrak Ajamian by His Wife, Azniv

Sources:<http://www.armenianprelacy.org/index.php/liturgical-calendar/saints-days/138-saints-thaddeus-and-bartholomew>