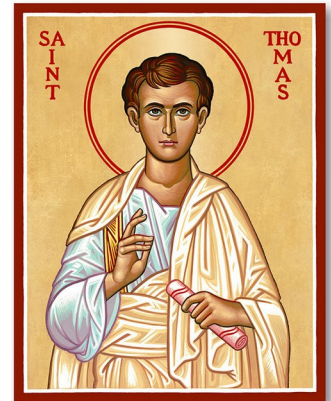


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Icon of St Thomas

Did St Thomas take Christianity to India?

The whole of the New Testament in the Bible is written in ancient Greek. That ancient Greek is called Koine Greek. Even parts of the Old Testament are written in Koine Greek such as the book of Daniel. When Christianity came Greek was used worldwide. It was the trading language even widely used in the Roman empire. Even today in places like Sicily you find Greek temples and Greek writing all over the place.

English tends to be the worldwide trading language today, it was Greek when Christianity came. Greek civilisation did know how to get to India.

Marco Polo was an Italian merchant, explorer and writer from the Republic of Venice who travelled through Asia along the Silk Road between 1271 and 1295. The first part of his journey was to India before he discovered the silk road to get past the Himalayas to China.

We even know that Jesus could speak Greek when needed.

In John chapter 12 at verse 20 it says:

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

So Jesus *did* speak with the Greeks.

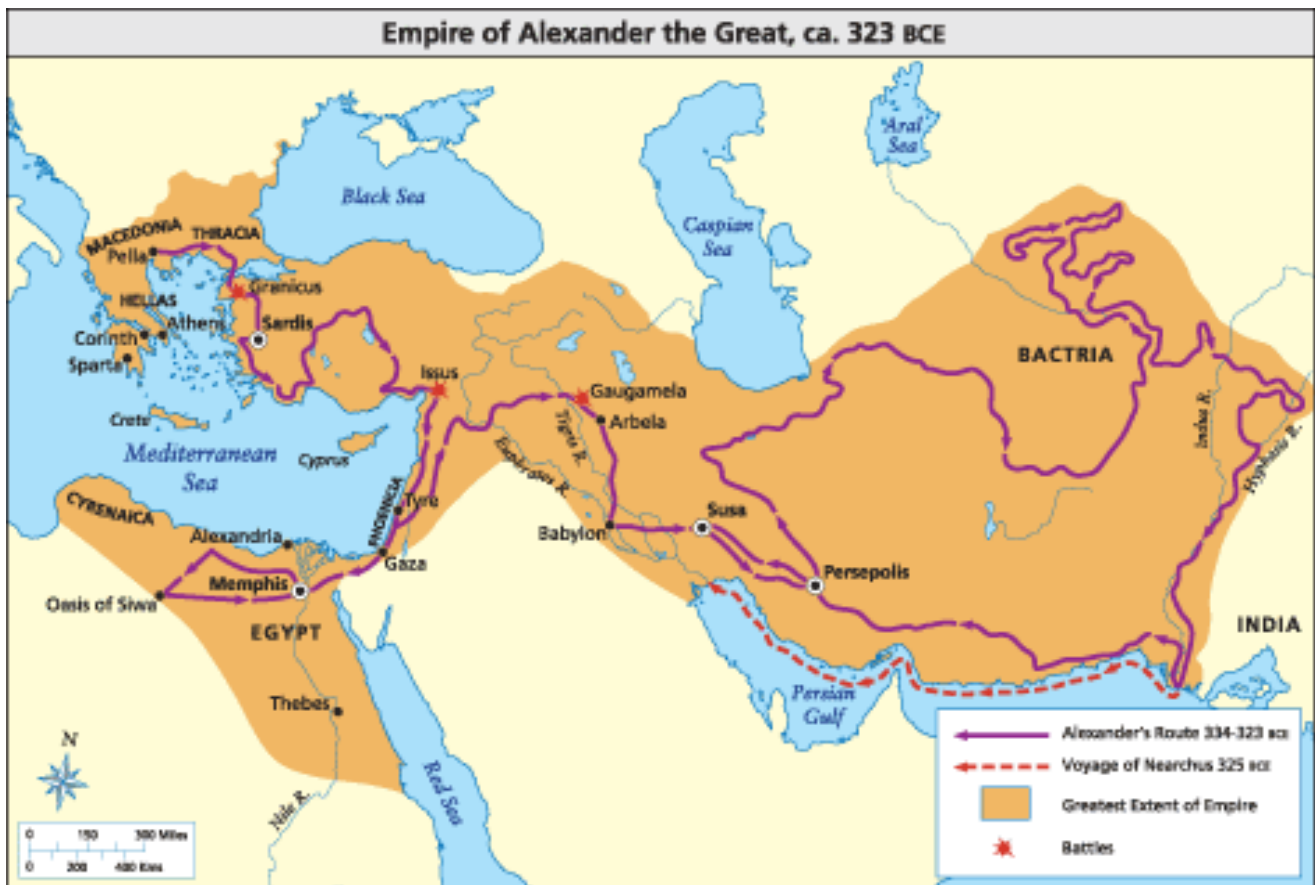
If you follow the world map of where Greek was spoken it closely relates to the spread of Christianity.

It is said that Alexander the Great conquered the world:

The map below shows what is thought to be the extent of the empire of Alexander the Great which goes beyond the Indus river into India. So it is not any surprise that St Thomas may indeed have gone to India. At that time it was thought that the world ended there in India.

In the Dark Ages history become vague in places. We don't know for certain how the Apostle St Thomas ended his life. One of the great masters, Peter Paul Rubens painted the martyrdom of St Thomas but we don't know the details at all.

What we can say is that St Thomas almost certainly did get to India, the rest is less certain.



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According to traditional accounts of Saint Thomas by Christians of modern-day Kerala in India, Saint Thomas travelled outside the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel, travelling as far as the Tamilakam which is in South India, and reached Muziris in Tamilakam, modern-day North Paravur and Kodungalloor in Kerala State, India in AD 52. (see Johnson, Lynn; Zacharia, Paul, 19 February 2016) and "The Surprisingly Early History of Christianity in India". Smithsonian Magazine.

In 1258, some of the relics were brought to Ortona, in Abruzzo, Italy, (see "Co-Cathedral Basilica of St. Thomas the Apostle". GCatholic.org.) where they have been held in the Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle. He is regarded as the patron saint of India among its Christian adherents, and the Feast of Saint Thomas on July 3rd is celebrated as Indian Christians' Day. The name Thomas remains quite popular among the Saint Thomas Christians of the Indian subcontinent.

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