

The General features of Architecture and art of pilgrim churches in the Holy Land in the Middle Ages (comparative study)

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Abstract:

The pilgrimages of the Christian world were centered in cathedrals and churches along the pilgrim routes of the Compostela Cathedral, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and the Holy Land. The Holy Land is the oldest and most important of them.

The Research Problem: Were the Holy Land churches considered pilgrimage churches in the medieval Christian world? Do religious beliefs have an impact on the architectural designs of worship places? What is the role of Bible in building these churches?

Research Objectives:

Presenting the Holy City (Jerusalem), its names, and the first Mother Church in history.

Emphasizing the role of Emperor Constantine and his mother St. Helena in establishing the Christian religion and Jerusalem churches

Reviewing the pilgrimage churches in the middle Ages in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Galilee Al-Tabgha, Tabar, Beit Hasda, Anya, Mount of Olives, and the Via Dolorosa

Comparing the architecture and arts of these churches with each other to describe and analyze their artworks with regards to their general characteristics

Ascertaining the role of the Bible in recording the most important events and religious figures, their impact on the construction of Jerusalem churches

Define the rituals of the pilgrimages in the eastern Christian world

Designating similarities and differences between Jerusalem churches and middle Ages churches

Methodology: a historical, descriptive and comparative analysis

Importance: a sufficient, comprehensive study of a complete triple series of pilgrimage churches and cathedrals in the Christian world

Keywords:

Churches, Hajj, Holy Land, Gospel, Middle Ages

Introduction and Historical Background:

The Holy Land was built on the Mount of Olives, which was known as the Epiphany. It was known in the past by several names: the first being Jebus relating to the Jebusites, then Jerushalem after the Canaanite Shalem; the goddess of peace. It was later known by other names such as: the Hebrew Yerushalayim; which means peace, Jerusalem, Elijah Captolina, the golden city, the prosperous city, the holy city, the City of Peace, Jerusalem, Holy Jerusalem, **Bayt al-Maqdis** (Home of Jerusalem), the City of David, the City of Zion or the City of God (Psalm 46: 4).

The word Jerusalem is the common historical name. It is located in the center of the Jewish Territory, on a high plateau at an altitude of 750 meters above sea level. It is on a fortified

natural site, surrounded by valleys on three sides. On the eastern side, it's surrounded by Kidron Valley, the Gaidon Valley on the on the west and the Hinnom Valley on the South. David seized the city from its original inhabitants and made it the capital of his kingdom and Solomon built the Temple in it, and this is how it became the holy Jewish city (Psalm 122: 3-7). Later in time, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it along with Solomon's temple in 586 BC, and the city's people were taken captive to Babylon. However; Ezra and Nehemiah released its people from captivity after they both returned from exile. Afterwards, Zer Babylon built the Second Temple in the city.

The research begins with a review of the history the Church of Jerusalem (the mother church); how it was founded, the birth of the church, and the history of the churches of Jerusalem through ages

Then, the researcher reviews the general features of the architecture arts of the Pilgrimage (Hajj) churches in the Holy Land in the Middle Ages in a historical, descriptive, and comparative analysis, covering the following:

1. Nazareth: The Latin Church of the Annunciation - Saint Joseph Church.
2. Ein Karem: Church of Saint John the Baptist - Church of the Visitation
3. Bethlehem: The Great Church of the Nativity - the Church of the Milk Grotto - the Shepherds Field Church.
4. Galilee: Cana of Galilee: the Church of the Mujezathe (the miracle).
5. Al-Tabghah: Church of Multiplication of the Bread - Church of the Beatitudes.
6. Mount Tabor: the Church of the Transfiguration
7. The Pool of Beit Hasda: St. Hanna Church - Beit Hasda Church.
8. Beit Anya (House of Poverty or bethany): the Al-Eizariya Church.
9. The Churches of the Mount of Olives: The Church of Our Father who- the Church of the Tear - the Church of the Cave of the Gethsemane - the Church of Conflict - the Church of the Tomb of the Virgin Mary - the Church of the Ascension
10. The Churches of Mount Zion: Mount Zion is one of the mountains that make up the Jerusalem mountain range, and it has three important holy places: the Attic of Zion (the House of Mark), the Church of the Rooster (the House of Caiaphas the High Priest) and the Church of the Assumption of The Virgin (the House of the Beloved John).

The sequence of Holy Passion Week events was explained briefly to link those events of the Bible with those holy places.

• **Churches of the stages of the crucifixion (Via Dolorosa):**

The most important churches of the Stages of the Crucifixion are: Monastery and Church of Judgment, Church of the Flagellation (Church of the imprisonment of Christ) and Church of the resurrection (Church of the Holy Sepulcher).

The research focuses on the two major churches of the Nativity and the Resurrection (the Holy Sepulcher), as they embody the two most important events on earth and they are the core of the Christian faith.

The research was concluded by studying the pilgrimage rituals on the Holy Land.

Conclusions and recommendations:

1 – From a historical and artistic perspective, the research is a thorough, descriptive and comparative study the pilgrimage churches in the Holy Land during the Middle Ages; which

is one of the three most important areas of pilgrimage in the Christian world. The researcher previously published a study with the title: Cathedrals and Churches of the Pilgrimage Roads of the Cathedral of Santiggio de Compostela. She is currently preparing another research which focuses on the Pilgrimage Cathedral of Saint Peter in Rome (now in the Vatican), and it will be finalized and published soon. Accordingly, she will have a full view of the trio-integrated- series of cathedrals and pilgrimage churches and their rituals in the Christian world, in both east and west. This will allow her to compare cathedrals and pilgrimage churches and their rituals with each other to highlight the conceptual differences in the Christian religious belief and their reflection on the architecture and arts of cathedrals, churches and monasteries, whether eastern or western. After the formation of the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD; which is considered the most important councils, a split resulted which led to the separation of the Eastern Orthodox Churches (Coptic, Armenian and Syriac) from the Roman Catholic and Byzantine Orthodox Churches.

Eastern Orthodoxy means the straight path in Arabic. It is a Christian doctrine that, according to its followers roots back to the Christ, his apostolic and priestly successions. Eastern Orthodoxy church is in agreement with the traditions and the writings of the Church's Fathers, Councils, along with the Bible. They also adhere to the rituals, the seven sacred sacraments and the hierarchical arrangement of authority. The churches that include the Divine Liturgy in each of the Catholics are the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Church of the East, some Anglican churches and some Lutheran churches, while the Protestant denominations are not committed to holding masses.

2- The pilgrimage churches were classified in the Holy Land, where the researcher found in discrepancies the classifications among some historians and scholars of the history of architecture and art between the churches of the Middle Ages (the topic of the researcher and her essence subspecialty), Coptic churches and churches of other denominations such as the Catholic, Armenian, Syriac, Latin and Franciscan.

The researcher recommends conducting research on Coptic monasteries and churches - for example, but not limited to the following:

- The Sultan's Monastery in the Four Incarnate Church on the upper floor and the Archangel Michael in the basement, the Coptic Orthodox Church of the Virgin, Majdalania Church, Saint Anthony Monastery, Dermar Gerges for Nuns, Queen Helana Church, Coptic Temple and the Church of Virgin Mary in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
- Coptic churches in common with other sects: The Tomb of the Virgin Church in Gethsemane, four altars in the Church of the Nativity, the eastern side of the Church of the Ascension in the Mount of Olives.
- Coptic churches and monasteries outside Jerusalem: Monastery and Church of Saint Antonius in Jaffa and the other in Jericho, Monastery and Church of St. Mar Zakka and St. Andrew in Jericho, and Monastery and Church of St. Mar John on the Jordan River.
- Churches of the Syriac Orthodox and the tomb of Joseph the Rami and Nicodemus - the Church of the Blessed Sacrament or the so-called Latin Church of Mary Magdalene - the Franciscan Fathers Monastery.

3- The extent of the contribution of the Crusaders and the Crusade campaigns to the construction, rebuilding and restoration of most of the churches of the Holy Land from the

beginning of the first campaign in 1096 AD until 1291 AD, after the Persians had destroyed most of the monasteries and churches in 614 AD has been determined (Refer to study: History of the Art of the Crusades in the Middle Ages).

4- The most important events, topics, religious figures, and autobiography of the Christ alongside his work, teachings, miracles, crucifixion, death and resurrection were recorded and authenticated in efforts to study the level of the connection of the construction of churches with the Bible and the extent of the influence of the Christian faith on architectural formulations.

5- The rituals of Pilgrimage in the churches of the Middle Ages in the Holy Land have been studied.

The researcher recommends to conducting further studies and researches in the Holy Land, which represents a composite of the three monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: the Jewish quarter, especially the Temple, the Wailing Wall, and the Islamic Quarter, on top of which are the Dome of the Rock Mosque and the Al-Aqsa Mosque as well as Al-Omari Mosque, the gates of Jerusalem: (the column - the new - the watchful - Hebron - Zion - Moroccans - Golden - the tribes). There are opportunities for conducting these studies in the fields of art history, architecture history, literature, archeology, criticism, and artistic appreciation as well as aesthetics.

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