

History of the Indian Orthodox Church Part I

1. **St. Thomas the Apostle- One of the Twelve Apostles to whom was given the task of Evangelizing the East. Preached in Persia and India where he was martyred at Mylapore outside of Madras. The Catholicate of the East, the “Nestorian” Patriarchate, and the Chaldean Patriarchate all trace a lineage to him.**
2. **Persia- Region which, in addition to Malankara Church, traces a lineage to the Apostle Thomas. He is traditionally considered the founder of the Church in Edessa where he sent the Evangelist Thaddeus (Addai). From this Apostolic Succession comes the Catholicate of the East.**
3. **Maliankara- Original name of the island off the coast of Kerala where St. Thomas is traditionally said to have landed in 52 A.D.**
4. **Seven Churches founded in Kerala- Churches traditionally to have been founded by St. Thomas on his missionary journey: Cranganore, Parur, Palayoor, Kokkamangalam, Niranam, Quilon**
5. **Jews of Malabar- Existing Jewish community in Kerala which came from the Middle East along the same trade routes St. Thomas is said to have travelled. Community is still in existence today.**
6. **Dormition of the Virgin Mary/Soonoro- Traditional story about the falling asleep of St. Mary and her body being taken up into Heaven. Part of that tradition includes St. Thomas, who was unable to see the Mother of God before her death, being given her girdle upon her being taken up.**
7. **Martyrdom of St. Thomas- Traditionally held to have been at Mylapore, outside of Chennai, December 21st, 72 A.D. His relics were transferred to Edessa on July 3rd, 232 A.D., the date of which is used frequently as St. Thomas' feast day.**
8. **“The Acts of St. Thomas”- 3rd Century Syriac text outlining the missionary journey of St. Thomas to India which, though Gnostic and considered heretical by some, sheds light on the accepted traditions of St. Thomas at the time.**
9. **St. Thomas' Journeys to North India- According to some traditions, St. Thomas at some point encountered a King Gondophares, of the Indo-Parthian Kingdom, which includes modern day Punjab. This is also mentioned in the Acts of Thomas.**
10. **The “St. Thomas Christians”- Christians of Kerala who trace their worship and spiritual lineage to the Apostle Thomas as well and the Syriac Tradition.**

- 11. Pantaneaus/Cosmas Indicopleutes- Missionaries/Exploreres who verifiably made contact with the Church in India in the Centuries following the Apostolic Age.**

- 12. Thomas of Cana 345 A.D.- Persian (some say Armenian) merchant who brought a large community of Syriac Jewish Christians from Edessa to Kerala including clergy to establish a community in Kerala. Granted land and privileges by the Chera King, and continued to remain a distinct community in Kerala referred to as "Southists."**

- 13. Malankara Nazranis- "Nazarene," being a term generally referring to Jewish Christians (Christians of Jewish heritage who continued in certain aspects of Judaism), was applied to the Syrian Christians of Kerala who either had real or spiritual Semitic heritage**

- 14. Northists- Native Syrian Christians, claiming descent from the converts made by the Apostle Thomas, not of the community of Thomas of Cana**

- 15. Southists- Descendents of the Syriac Community who arrived with Cana Thomas (Knananya)**