

# 10 Facts about Christianity & the “Amazing Armenians”

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**Fact #1 - Noah's Ark on Armenia's Mt. Ararat:** The Biblical resting place of Noah's Ark was Armenia's Mt. Ararat.

**Fact #2 - Two Apostles in Armenia:** Two Apostles of Jesus Christ, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, preached Christianity in Armenia.

**Fact #3 - Divine Liturgy for Over 1,700 Years:** For over 1,700 years, the Divine Liturgy — the Badarak — (the Armenian sacred worship service) has remained the center of faith, identity, and daily life for Armenian Christians. Generations of Badarak faithful continue to serve as inspirational role models—not only to Armenian Christians but to all who honor the sacred teachings of the Bible, including those of the Old Testament.

**Fact #4 - First Christian Nation 301 A.D.:** Converted by St. Gregory the Illuminator, Armenia became the first Christian nation in 301 A.D.

**Fact #5 - Armenian Bible Since 405 A.D.:** In 405 A.D., Armenian Saint Mesrob Mashtots was among the first in the world to translate the Bible, which is beautifully referred to as "The Breath of God" ("Astvatsashunch").

**Fact #6 - Armenian Christian Quarter in Jerusalem Since 4<sup>th</sup> Century:** Established in the 4<sup>th</sup> century by Armenian monks, Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter, which includes the Cows' Garden, is a sacred treasure of global Christian heritage and represents the longest uninterrupted Christian presence in the Holy Land.

**Fact #7 - Tomb of Jesus Christ Custodian Since 638 A.D.:** In 638 A.D., Armenian Christians became one of three custodians for the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, which encompasses the final five Stations of the Cross, including Station 14, the tomb of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Fact #8 - Tomb of Holy Mother Mary Custodian Since 14<sup>th</sup> Century:** In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Armenian Christians became the sole custodian of the Church of the Sepulchre of Saint Mary in Jerusalem, which is the Tomb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Mother of God.

**Fact #9 - Church of the Nativity and Fourth Station of the Cross Custodian Since 1800's:** In 1852, Armenian Christians became one of three custodians of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. In 1881, Armenian Christians became the custodians of the Armenian Church of Our Lady at the Fourth Station of the Cross in Jerusalem, where Jesus met his mother, Mary.

**Fact #10 - Armenian Christian Genocide from 1915 to 1923:** Guided by their Christian faith and with their bibles, Armenian Christians amazingly persevered the Armenian Christian Genocide committed by Turkey from 1915 to 1923 to exterminate the Christian population of present-day Turkey from approximately 20% in 1915 to 0.2% today, killing 1.5 million Armenian Christians.

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