

Rel 222-Islam

Origins of Islam-social and religious context

Byzantine Empire (396-1453)



Sassanian Empire (224-651)



Arabian tribes and cities



Religious affiliations and communities in Arabia and environs in late antiquity

- Zoroastrian-official state religion of Sassanians under Ardeshir I (d. 241)
- Manichean-Persian prophet Mani (d. 276)
- Mazdean-Persian prophet Mazdak (d. ca. 528)
- Sabian
- Christian sects after Theodosius declares Christianity official religion of Roman Empire (380)
 - Monophysite (Jacobite)-condemned at Chalcedon (451)
 - Gnostic
 - Dyophysite
 - Melkite
 - East Syrian (Nestorian)
- Polytheist
- and more!....Jewish-Christians, dissociated (non-organized) devotees—hunafa', etc.

Muhammad b. Abdullah

- ~570-632 CE
- Experienced “revelation” ~610
- Migration (*hijra*) to Yathrib (later, Medina) from Mecca in 622/Year 1 Hijri
- Followed by early caliphs
 - Abu Bakr (r. 10-12/632-634)
 - ‘Umar b. al-Khattab (r. 12-22/634-644)
 - ‘Uthman b. Affan (r. 23-35/644-656)
 - Ali b. Abi Talib (r. 35-39/656-661)