

19. THE GOSPEL IN AFRICA'S NEIGHBOR-COUSIN—SAUDI ARABIA

To A.D. 600

PAUL IN ARABIA AFTER HIS CONVERSION

The first Christians appeared in Saudi Arabia around 100 A.D. By 244, the Christian hierarchy was established there. Missionaries from Alexandria Bible School evangelized there. Anthony, father of Monasticism, visited the imprisoned Christians there. Nestorian missionaries reached Arabia in 431. Monophysite missions to Yemen began in 570 and in 578 An-numan III, the last of the Lachemids (Arab princes) was also converted to Christianity. In 629 the Persian monk and theologian Marutha was placed over the East. He had 15 suffragan bishops in Arabia. Christianity there was later eradicated in the seventh century by Islam.

The Bible was not translated into Arabic until 680 (in part). The whole Bible was completed in 750.

In 1897 Samuel Zwemer (1857-1952), known as the Apostle to Islam, said that Arabia and indeed the whole world could easily be evangelized within the next thirty years if it were not for the wicked selfishness of Christians.