



Universiteit  
Leiden

The Netherlands

**Conversion and conflict in Palestine : the missions of the  
Church Missionary Society and the protestant bishop  
Samuel Gobat**

Leest, C. van der

**Citation**

Leest, C. van der. (2008, June 18). *Conversion and conflict in Palestine : the missions of the Church Missionary Society and the protestant bishop Samuel Gobat*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/12957>

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/12957>

**Note:** To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

## Conversion and Conflict in Palestine

© Charlotte van der Leest – 2008

ISBN 978-90-9023203-4

**Conversion and Conflict in Palestine**  
**The Missions of the Church Missionary Society and the**  
**Protestant Bishop Samuel Gobat**

Proefschrift  
ter verkrijging van  
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,  
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus prof.mr. P.F. van der Heijden,  
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties  
te verdedigen op woensdag 18 juni 2008  
klokke 15:00 uur  
door  
Charlotte van der Leest  
geboren te Breukelen  
in 1973

## Promotiecommissie

- Promotoren: Prof.dr. H.L. Murre-van den Berg  
Prof.dr. E.G.E. van der Wall
- Referent: Dr. I.M. Okkenhaug (Universiteit van Bergen, Noorwegen)
- Overige leden: Dr. J.W. Buisman  
Prof.dr. E.J. Zürcher

A research visit to Rome was funded by the Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut Rome (KNIR)

Cover: Louis Haghe, 'Cana', a lithograph after a watercolour by David Roberts (Plate 33 from *The Holy Land*, vol. 1, 1842; part of the larger series *The Holy Land, Idumea, Arabia, Egypt and Nubia (1842-1849)*) © Trustees of the British Museum

# Contents

<b>Abbreviations</b> -----	<b>9</b>
<b>Map</b> -----	<b>11</b>
<b>Introduction</b> -----	<b>13</b>
<i>Research questions</i> -----	14
<i>Outline</i> -----	15
<i>State of the question</i> -----	18
<i>Sources</i> -----	23
<i>Names and denominations</i> -----	27
<b>1. Christians and the Protestant missionary interest in nineteenth-century Ottoman Palestine</b> -----	<b>29</b>
Introduction -----	29
Christians in the Ottoman Empire and the European Protectorate -----	30
Reform under Egyptian rule and the establishment of European consulates -----	35
The Tanzimat era: a period of Ottoman reforms -----	36
<i>The Hatt-ı Sherif of Gülhane of 1839</i> -----	36
<i>The Crimean war (1853-1856)</i> -----	37
<i>The Hatt-ı Hümayun of 1856</i> -----	41
Evangelical Protestant interest in the Holy Land -----	44
Early Protestant endeavours: establishment of a Protestant mission in Jerusalem --	46
Concluding remarks -----	50
<b>2. The Protestant bishopric in Jerusalem</b> -----	<b>53</b>
Introduction -----	53
Christian Bunsen and the development of the ‘Jerusalem bishopric plan’ -----	54
<i>Bunsen’s Roman years and attitude towards Roman Catholicism</i> -----	54
<i>Bunsen’s British ally: Lord Anthony Ashley Cooper</i> -----	58
<i>Frederick William IV: Bunsen’s kindred spirit in Prussia</i> -----	60
The establishment of the Protestant bishopric in Jerusalem-----	64
Nomination of the first bishop and the Jerusalem Bishopric Act-----	68
Concluding negotiations: The “Statement of Proceedings” -----	69
British, Prussian, and Ottoman objections to the bishopric -----	73
Concluding remarks -----	79

<b>3. Bishop Alexander and the mission to the Jews</b> -----	<b>83</b>
Introduction -----	83
Michael Solomon Alexander: consecration and arrival in Jerusalem-----	84
Christ Church: the first Protestant church in Palestine -----	88
The LJS hospital: conflict between the leaders of the Jewish community and the LJS-----	91
Foundation of new missionary institutions-----	92
Conflicts between Prussia and Bishop Alexander-----	94
Death of Bishop Alexander-----	97
<b>4. Samuel Gobat: A change of direction</b> -----	<b>99</b>
Introduction -----	99
Samuel Gobat: from Basler Mission student to CMS missionary -----	100
Prussia’s choice of a new bishop -----	104
Opposition to Gobat’s appointment in Britain -----	107
Change of the missionary aim of the bishopric -----	109
Change of mission scene: the CMS and German institutions -----	115
Effects of Gobat’s change of policy -----	122
Concluding remarks -----	132
<b>5. The Roman Catholic presence during the Gobat years</b> -----	<b>135</b>
Introduction -----	135
Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land -----	135
First discussions about the restoration of the Latin patriarchate -----	140
The re-establishment of the Latin patriarchate -----	143
Patriarch Valerga and the French reaction to his nomination -----	146
Bishop Gobat’s first reaction to Valerga -----	149
Roman Catholic missionary efforts during the Valerga years -----	151
Concluding remarks -----	156

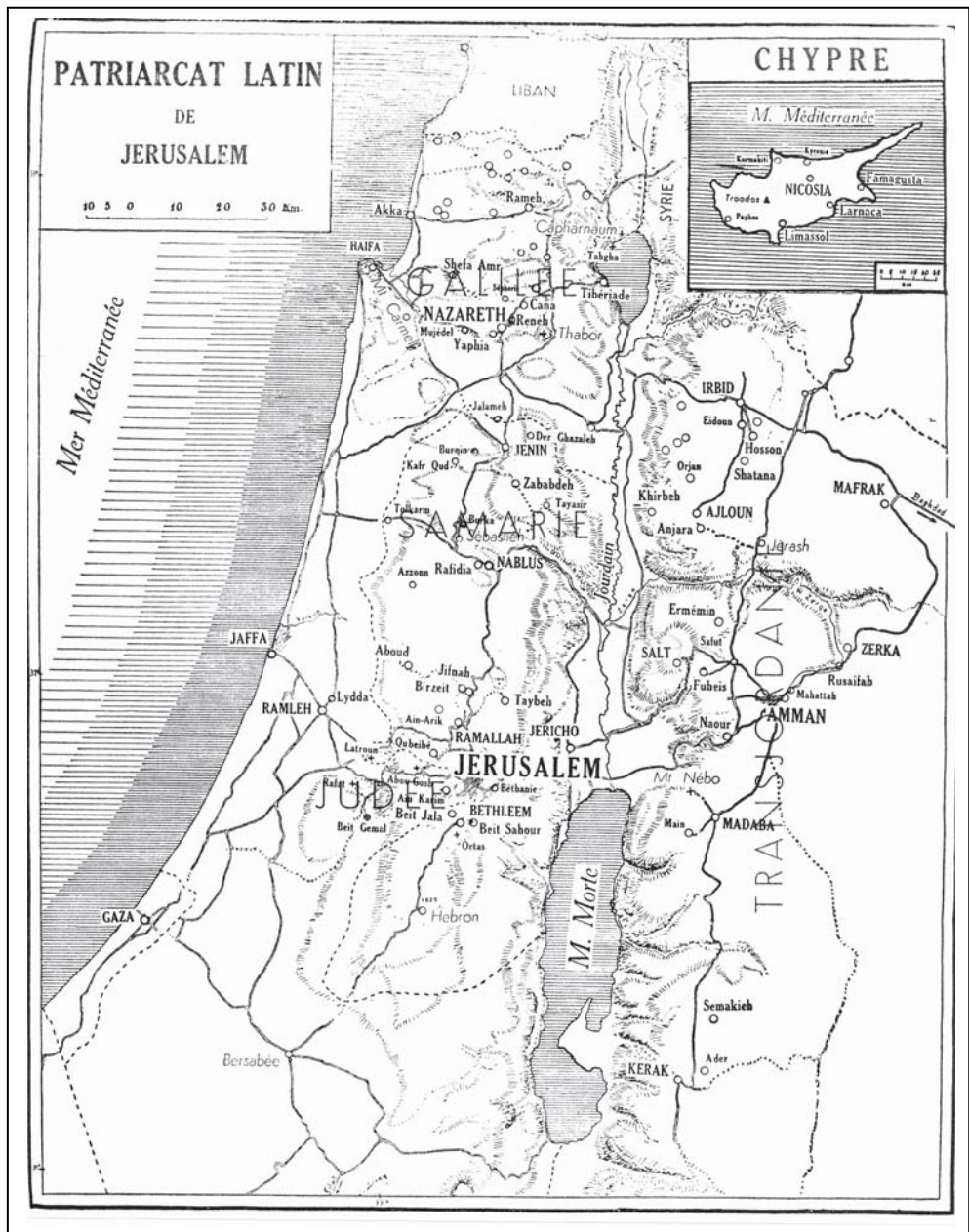
<b>6. “True Christianity”: expectation versus reality-----</b>	<b>159</b>
Introduction -----	159
Making converts: the missionaries’ expectations-----	160
Conversion narratives: reality of the mission field-----	161
<i>‘Full-life stories’</i> -----	162
<i>Deathbed narratives</i> -----	166
<i>Group conversion stories</i> -----	168
Reaching the people: mission methods-----	172
Proclaiming the Gospel: topics of conversation -----	176
Material support: an obstacle to making true converts -----	180
Concluding remarks -----	183
 <b>7. Gobat and the CMS missionaries: educational principles and activities-----</b>	 <b>185</b>
Introduction -----	185
Survey of Protestant schools -----	187
Biblicism: the Protestant “Bible Schools”-----	192
Evangelical education: opportunity for making converts-----	196
Teaching doctrines and discussing the Bible: polarization through education -----	199
Reactions of the other churches to the Protestant schools -----	203
Concluding remarks -----	208
 <b>8. Rivalry and riots between Protestants and Roman Catholics-----</b>	 <b>211</b>
Introduction -----	211
The Nazareth riot of 1852: anti-Catholic and anti-Protestant polemics -----	212
Excommunications and book burnings-----	217
Corruption and fights: Protestants emphasizing Roman Catholic wickedness -----	219
Protestant criticism of the Ottoman authorities -----	221
Rivalry between Protestants and the Sisters of Nazareth-----	225
A “peaceful crusade”: Roman Catholic anti-Protestant polemics-----	230
Concluding remarks -----	236
 <b>Conclusion -----</b>	 <b>237</b>

<b>Appendix</b> -----	<b>243</b>
I    Overview of the Protestant schools run by Gobat and the CMS-----	243
II   Franciscan presence in nineteenth-century Palestine-----	246
III  Patriarchal Missions established in the period 1848 - 1879 -----	247
<b>Bibliography</b> -----	<b>249</b>
Primary sources-----	249
Secondary sources -----	251
<b>Samenvatting</b> -----	<b>269</b>
<b>Index of Names</b> -----	<b>275</b>
<b>Curriculum Vitae</b> -----	<b>279</b>

## Abbreviations

AP	Aberdeen Papers
BC	Bliss Correspondence
Birmingham/UL	University Library, Special Collections Department, Birmingham
BP	Blomfield Papers
CM O	Church Missionary Archives, Original Papers of the Mediterranean and Palestine Mission 1811-1934
CMJ	Church Ministry among the Jews
CMS	Church Missionary Society
FES	Female Education Society (or Society for Promoting Female Education in the East)
FP	Fraser Papers
JEMF	Papers of the Jerusalem and East Mission Fund
LJS	London Jews Society (or London Society for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews)
London/BL	British Library, Manuscript Collections, London
London/LPL	Lambeth Palace Library, Archbishops of Canterbury Archives and Manuscripts, London
Oxford/BL	Bodleian Library, Department of Special Collections and Western Manuscripts, Oxford
Rome/AGOFM	<i>Archivum Generale Ordo Fratrum Minorum</i> (General archives of the Order Friars Minor), Rome
Rome/ASCPF	Archives of the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples or <i>de Propaganda Fide</i> , Rome
RP	Rose Papers
SCTS	<i>Scritture nei Congressi Terra Sancta</i>
TP	Tait Papers
TS	Terra Sancta
WP	Wordsworth Papers





Map : 'Le Patriarcat Latin de Jérusalem', in P. Médebielle, *Le Diocèse Patriarcal Latin de Jérusalem*, Jerusalem, 1963.

