



Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

First bishop of Crete: the Holy *Titus* (Associate of Paul and disciple of Jesus)



Titus (Greek Ἅγιος Τίτος, Agios Titos = holy Titus; † 105 on Crete), which in the Bible is referred to be a pupil of Paul the apostle, was the **first bishop of Crete and is considered as patron saint of the Cretan church**. Later on he was counted as one of Jesus 70 disciple. His biographical data is unknown (therefore see also at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostle_Titus], based on early church legend he died around 96 or 107 AD with approximately 94 years on Crete (source: wikipedia).



Titus is mentioned several times within the true epistles of Paul. From these letters it is reconstructable for sure that Titus was a Gentile Christian, who could successfully support Paul in particular delicate tasks. Thus Titus (see fig. left: as mosaic) accompanied Paul to the Apostolic Council in Jerusalem. Furthermore he was probably involved in defusing the crisis in Corinth, when Paul was in violent controversy with the Corinthian municipality. Finally Titus was put in charge of collecting the collect of the municipal by Paul.

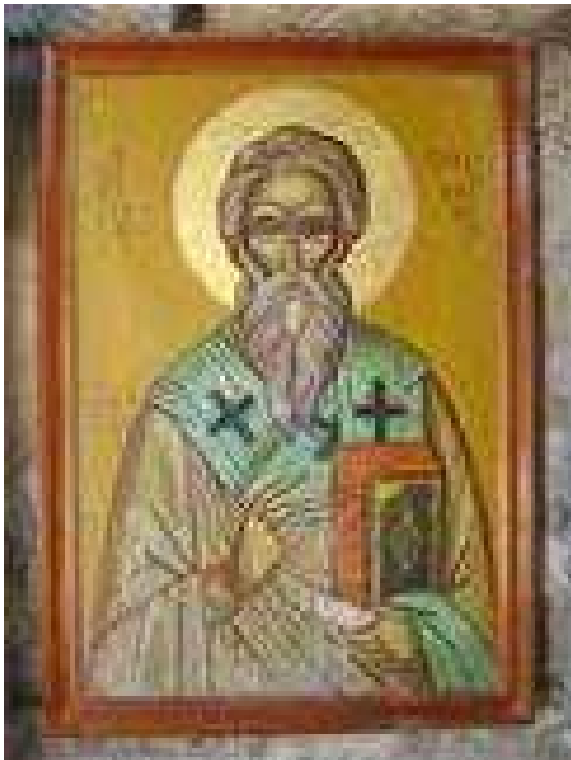
From the Epistle to Titus, whose data are however not historically confirmed, follows that Titus later should have worked as missionary on Crete. According to the Epistle of Saint Timothy Titus missionized in Illyrian. According to tradition he was the first bishop of Gortyn on Crete.

The letter of the Paul to Titus is a book of the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Since Medieval times it is divided into 3 chapters and

is one of the shortest books of the Bible. The letter itself indicates to have been written by the Apostle Paul. However the authorship of Paul is today often controverted.

Although Titus is vaunted as solid assistant, a reference of Titus is missing in the Acts of the Apostles. This was so far not explained convincingly. Hypotheses like those, Titus is a brother of the Lukas or Titus is identical to Timothy and carried two names, remain speculative.

Based on the orthodox tradition Titus was born on Crete and is believed to be a descendant of the mythical King Minos. It originated from a wealthy family, a relative was a Roman stadtholder of the island Rustillo. He travelled to Jerusalem and became a witness of Passion of Christi. Later as bishop of Crete he created the nine dioceses Knossos, Ierapitna, Kydonia, Hersonissos, Eleftherna, Lampi, Kisamos, Kantanos and Gortyna.



He let build the Episcopal church in Gortyn (see also our leaflet # 060-05/E at: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/060-05E.pdf]) and he was buried there. Agios Titos church was established there in the 6th Century, from which still ruins are preserved. 961 AD Chandakas became the island capital (= Iraklion (Greek Ηράκλειο), outdated also Heraklion, in the Middle Ages Chandakas, in the time of the Venetian rule Candia., thereafter Turkish Kandiye, Greek Megalokastro). Therefore a new main church was established there and the remains of Titus were transferred there. The church was destroyed several times and developed again. With the fire in the year 1544 only the head of the Titus could be protected. 1669, after the Turks had conquered the city, the relic was brought to Venice and returned only on the 15.May 1966. The relic is kept today, like also the Paul letter to him (see fig. left), in the Agios Titos basilica (see fig. right) in Iraklion.



Today's bishop's see of Crete is Spili (South Crete); therefore see also our leaflet No. 379-12/E at: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/379-12E.pdf].