

# Olga Viking Warlord & Saint

circa 900 -970 AD

And a brief overview of churches in  
Norway and in Russia after her times



- Olga was Princess of Kievan Rus by Marriage to Prince Igor
- Igor and Olga had a son, Prince Sviatoslav, c. 943
- Igor was brutally murdered by the Drevlians while attempting to collect tribute in 945
- Olga became regent and therefore ruler because Sviatoslav was too young to rule
- Olga exacted revenge from the Drevlians with a series of atrocities
- Details in Wikipedia: “Olga of Kiev”

#### Atrocity 1:

- Drevlians sent 20 negotiators to Kiev to tell Olga that they had murdered Igor.
- Negotiators proposed that Olga marry the Drevlian Prince.
- Olga sounded agreeable but asked them to spend the night in their boat.
- While Drevlians were in their boat, Olga had her men dig a trench
- Drevlians had the honor of being carried in their boat next day to Olga
- Boat was dumped in trench; Drevlians were buried alive.

### Atrocity 2:

- Olga sent word to Drevlians that she wanted to meet their distinguished men.
- When they arrived, Olga had a bath drawn for them and sent them to the bath house
- After they were in the bath house, Olga had it set on fire from the doors
- The men were burned to death.

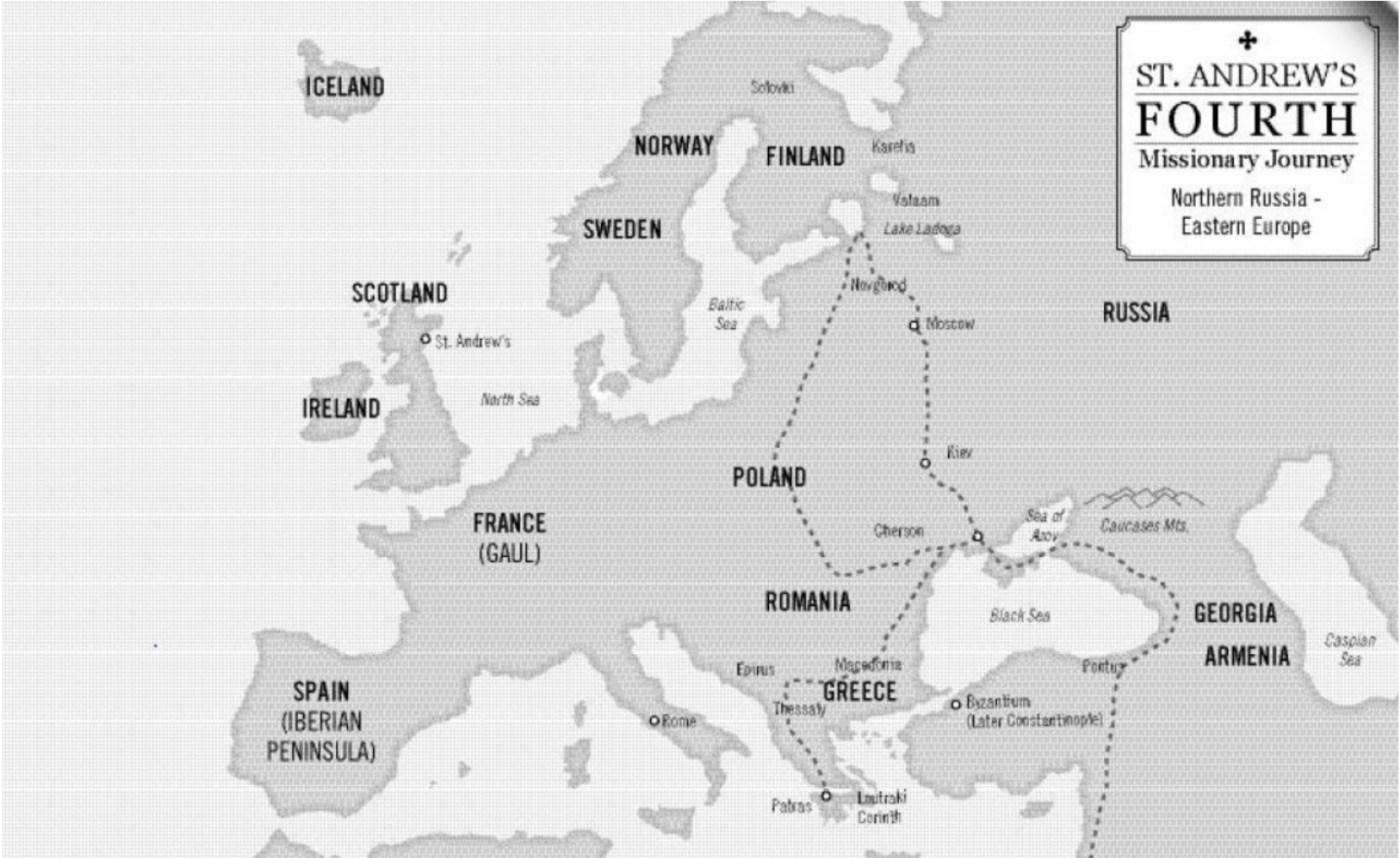
### Atrocity 3:

- Olga agreed to go to the Drevlians and weep over Igor's grave and hold a funeral feast
- Olga asked the Drevlians to prepare great quantities of mead for the funeral feast
- She actually went to the grave and wept
- At the feast, the Drevlians drank heavily — just as Olga planned
- After the Drevlians were good and schnoekered, she had her retinue kill them

#### Atrocity 4:

- Olga waged war on the Drevlians and won most of her battles
- She laid siege to the capital city of Iskorosten. Siege lasted a year.
- She offered to end the siege if they paid tribute of 3 pigeons and 3 sparrows from each house.
- They paid the tribute. Olga had her army attach a piece of sulphur bound with small pieces of cloth to each bird.
- The pieces were set aflame and the birds were released. They returned to their nests within the city, and that caused the city to be set ablaze.
- As people fled the burning city, the soldiers killed some of them and enslaved others.

All this happened BEFORE she converted to Christianity





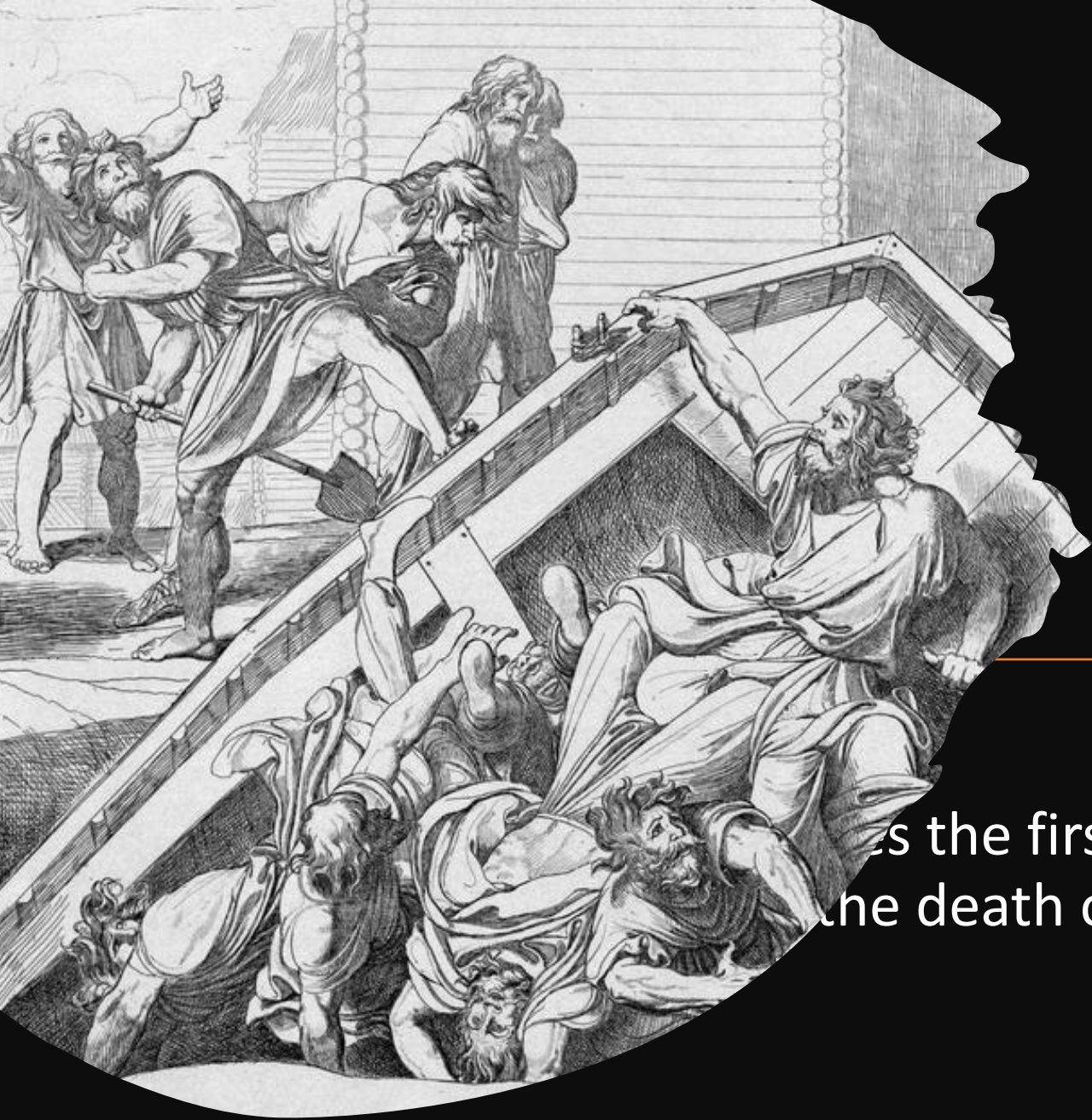
Reins

945 AD

Prince Igor (after the death of his regent Oleg) is murdered by tribe of tribute (tax) payers.

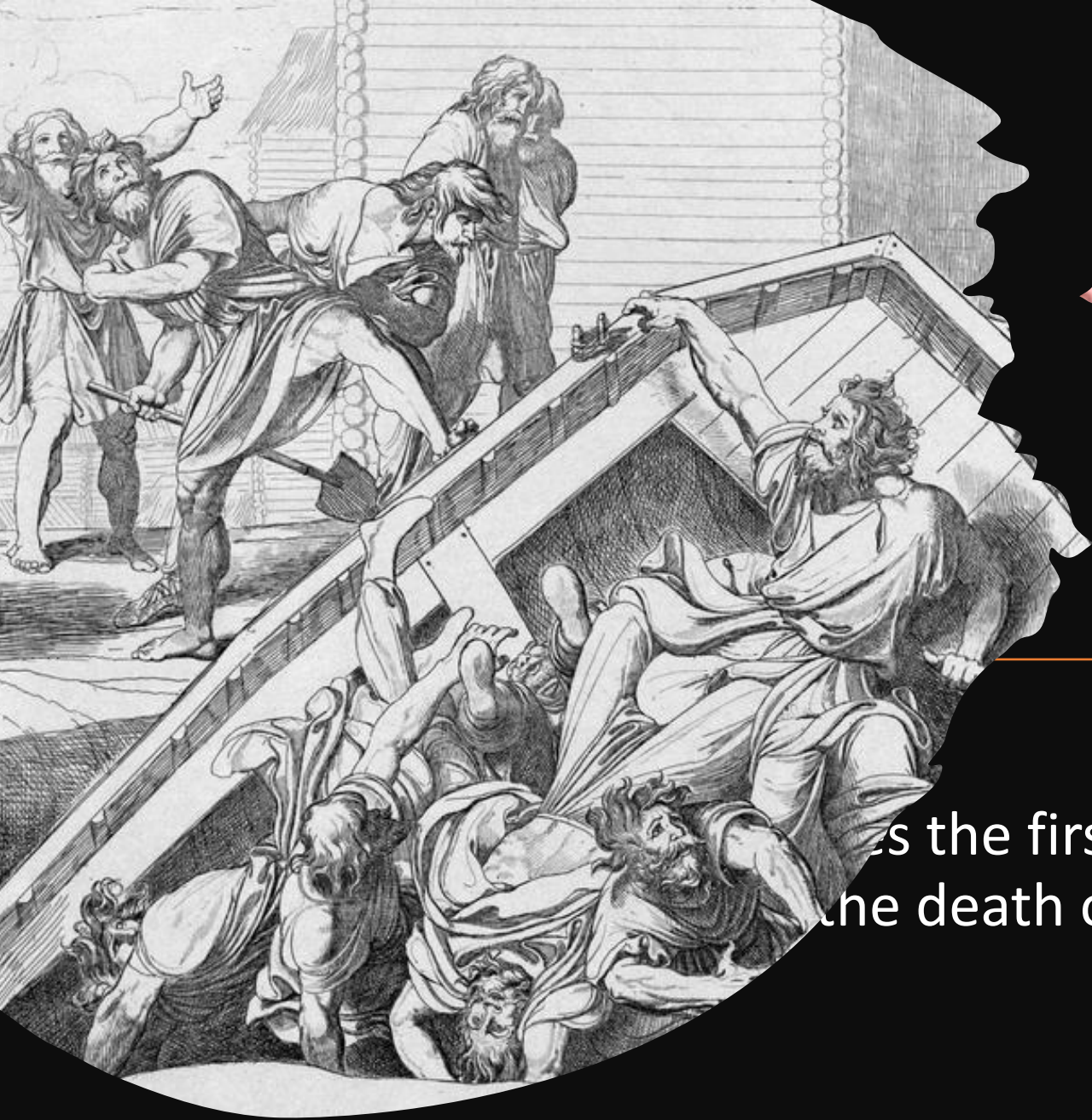


Olga, Igor's wife, becomes the first woman ruler of Kievan Rus, and seeks revenge for the death of her husband.

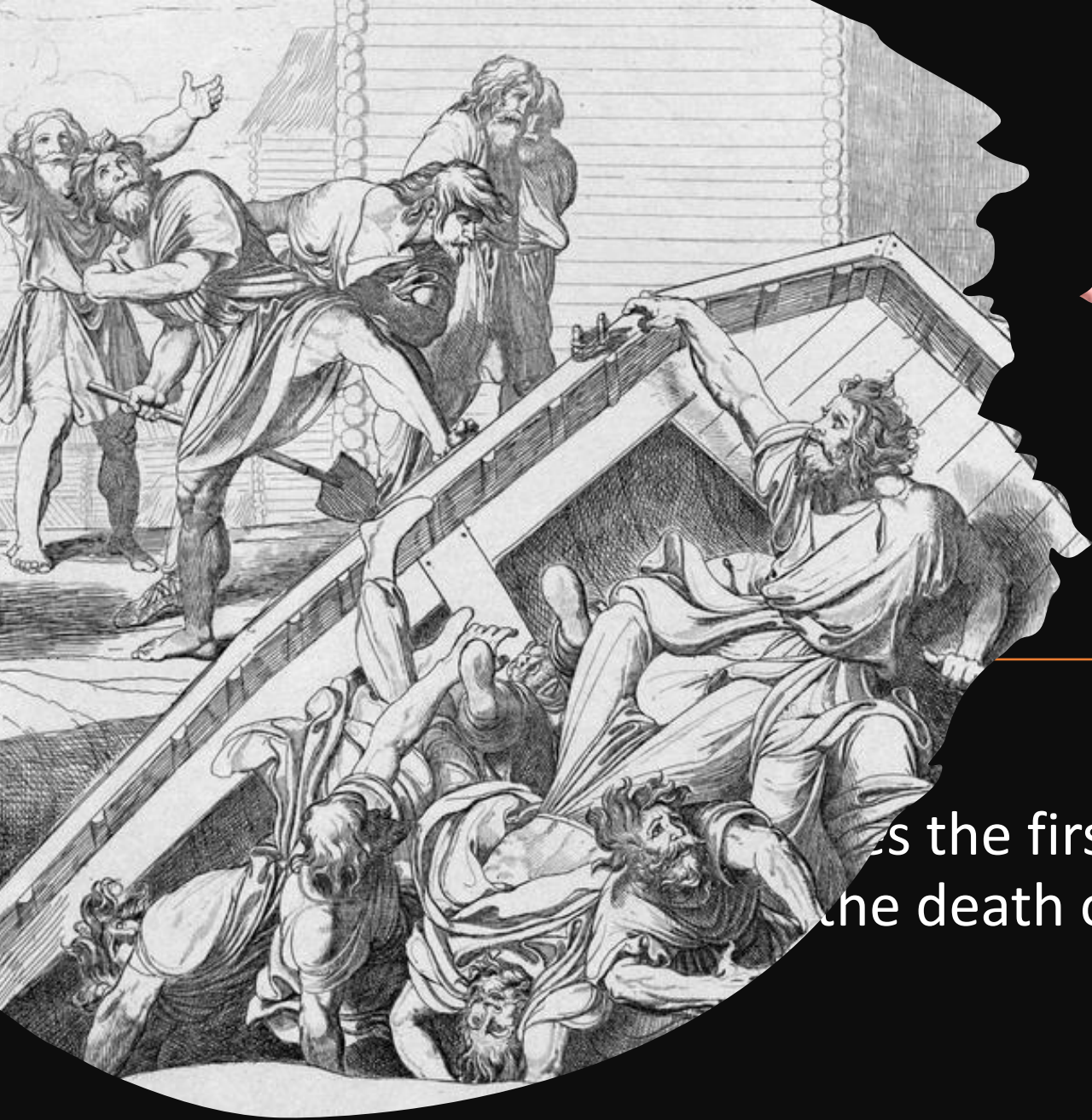


...s the first woman ruler of Kievan Rus,  
...the death of her husband.





...the first woman ruler of Kievan Rus,  
...the death of her husband.



...es the first woman ruler  
...the death of her husband





Olga is invited to visit Constantinople, by the Byzantine Emperor, Constantine, who teaches and baptizes her. She becomes Christian. Her grandson, Vladimir, makes Christianity the religion of Kievan Rus in 988.





## The Lemko church of Saints Vladimir and Olga

It is unclear when Olga was canonized, but [John Fennell](#) argued that this was most likely in 1284, together with Vladimir, when [Metropolitan Maxim](#) summoned the bishops to a council,<sup>[35]</sup> and was recorded the next year visiting "all the Russian land (i.e. Suzdalia, northeast Russia), teaching, instructing and administering," and spreading news about their canonization, including in Novgorod and Pskov.<sup>[36]</sup> A northern Russian manuscript from the 15th century mentions that "when Vladimir unearthed the body of Olga, his grandmother [and discovered that it was] uncorrupted, [he then] placed it in a wooden coffin in the Church of the Tithe".<sup>[37]</sup> In 1547, nearly 600 years after her 969 death, the [Russian Orthodox Church](#) officially named Olga a saint, [equal-to-the-apostles](#).<sup>[29][35]</sup>



## The Lemko church of Saints Vladimir and Olga

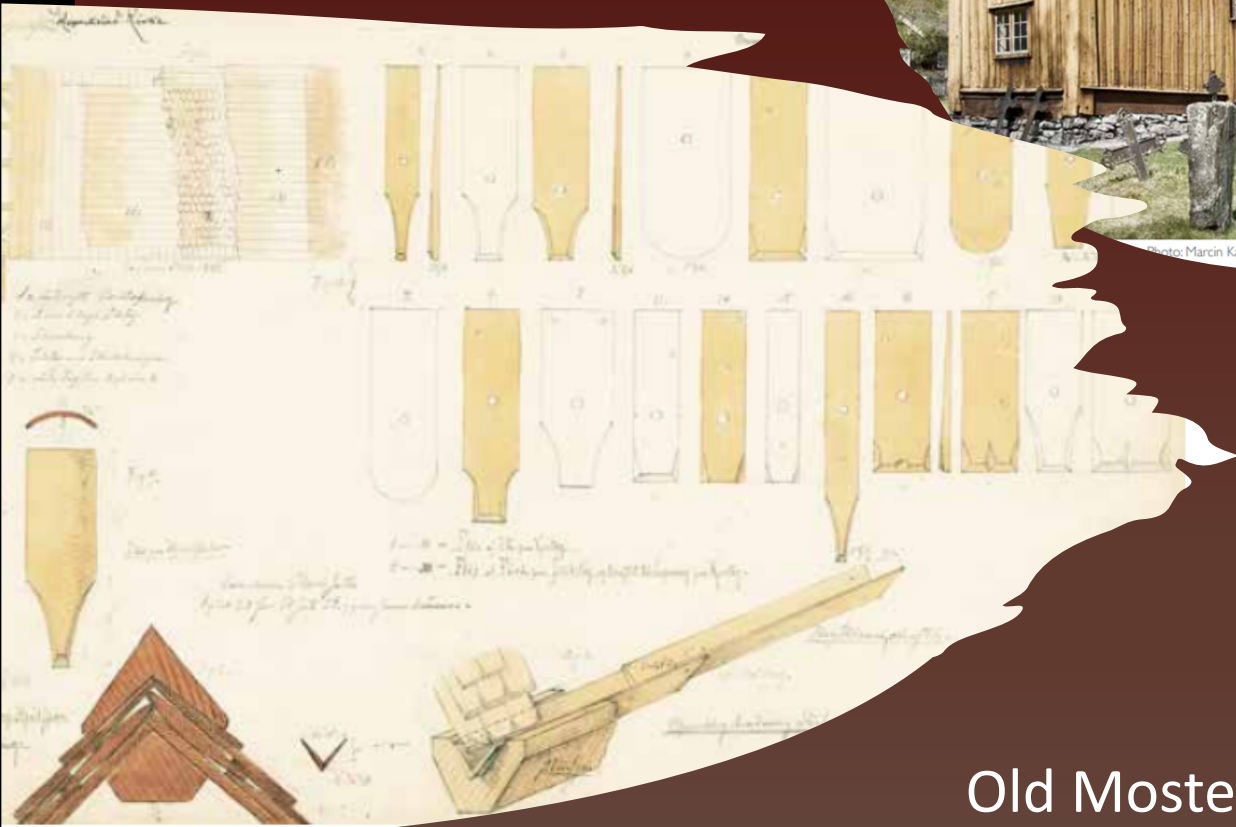
Olga was the precursor of the Christian land, even as the day-spring precedes the sun and as the dawn precedes the day. For she shone like the moon by night, and she was radiant among the infidels like a pearl in the mire, since the people were soiled, and not yet purified of their sin by holy baptism. But she herself was cleansed by this sacred purification .... She was the first from Rus' to enter the kingdom of God, and the sons of Rus' thus praise her as their leader, for since her death she has interceded with God in their behalf.<sup>[34]</sup>



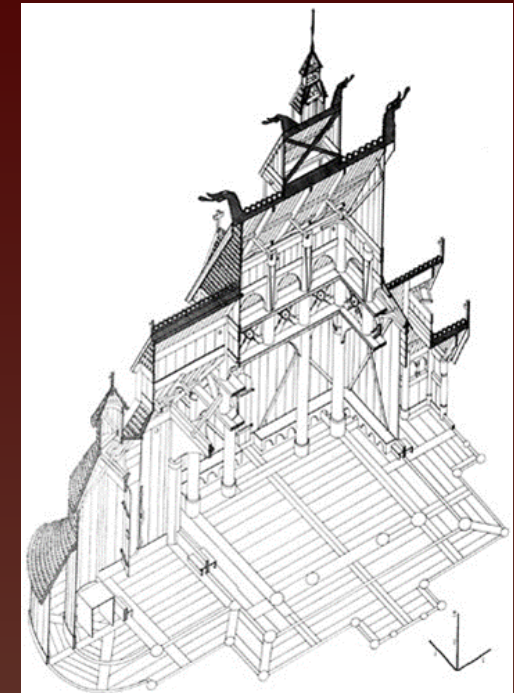
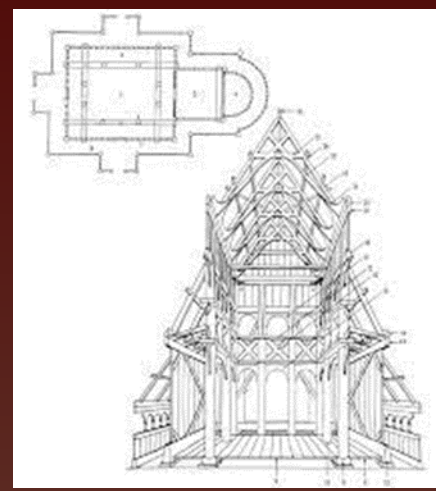
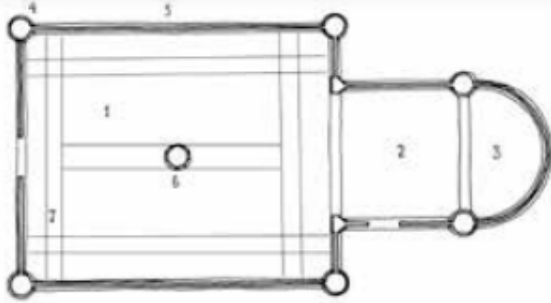
Old Mostel 1024



Photo: Marcin Kaliński 2011.



Old Mostel 1024

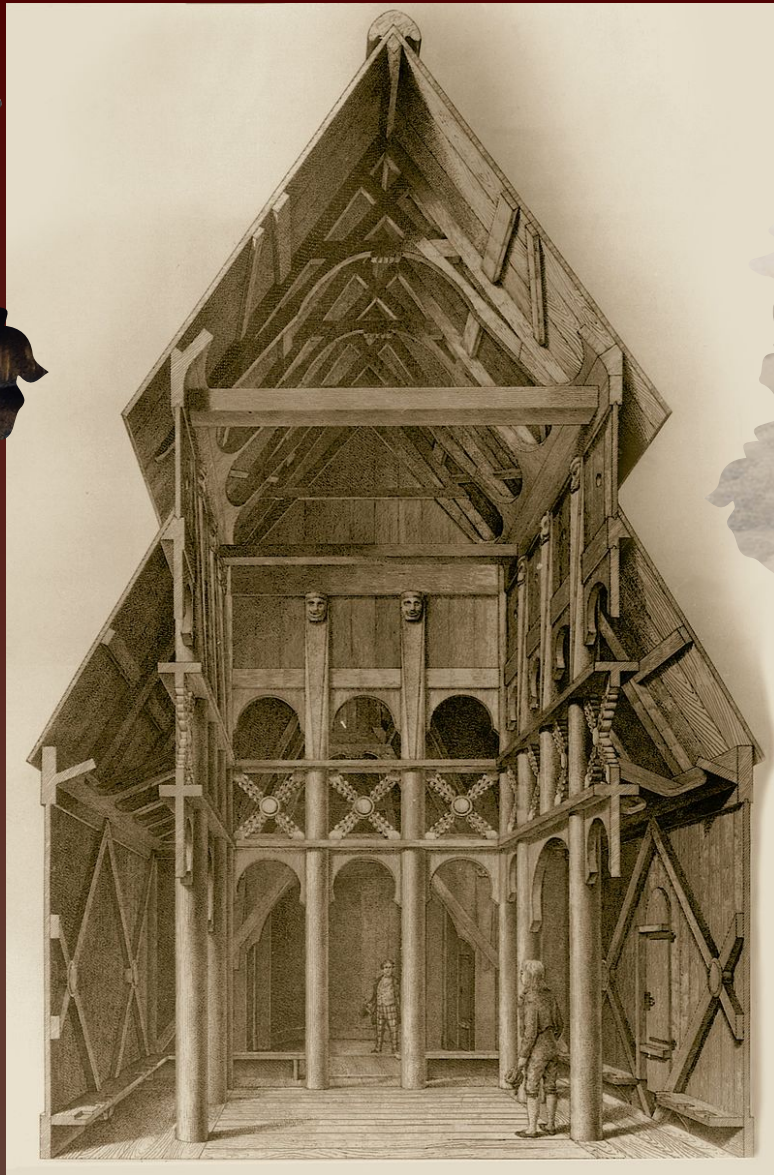


**Stave Church construction:**  
 Ring of wood (sill plate/girder) set on a stone wall/foundation. Vertical interlocking wood staves on the exterior.

...tral mast, for example Uvdal stave church. 1) nave, 2) chancel, 3) apse, 4) ...  
 ...m, 9) rafter, 10) tie beam. Based on a drawing by Håkon G...

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Borgund Stave Church was built sometime between 1180 and 1250 AD

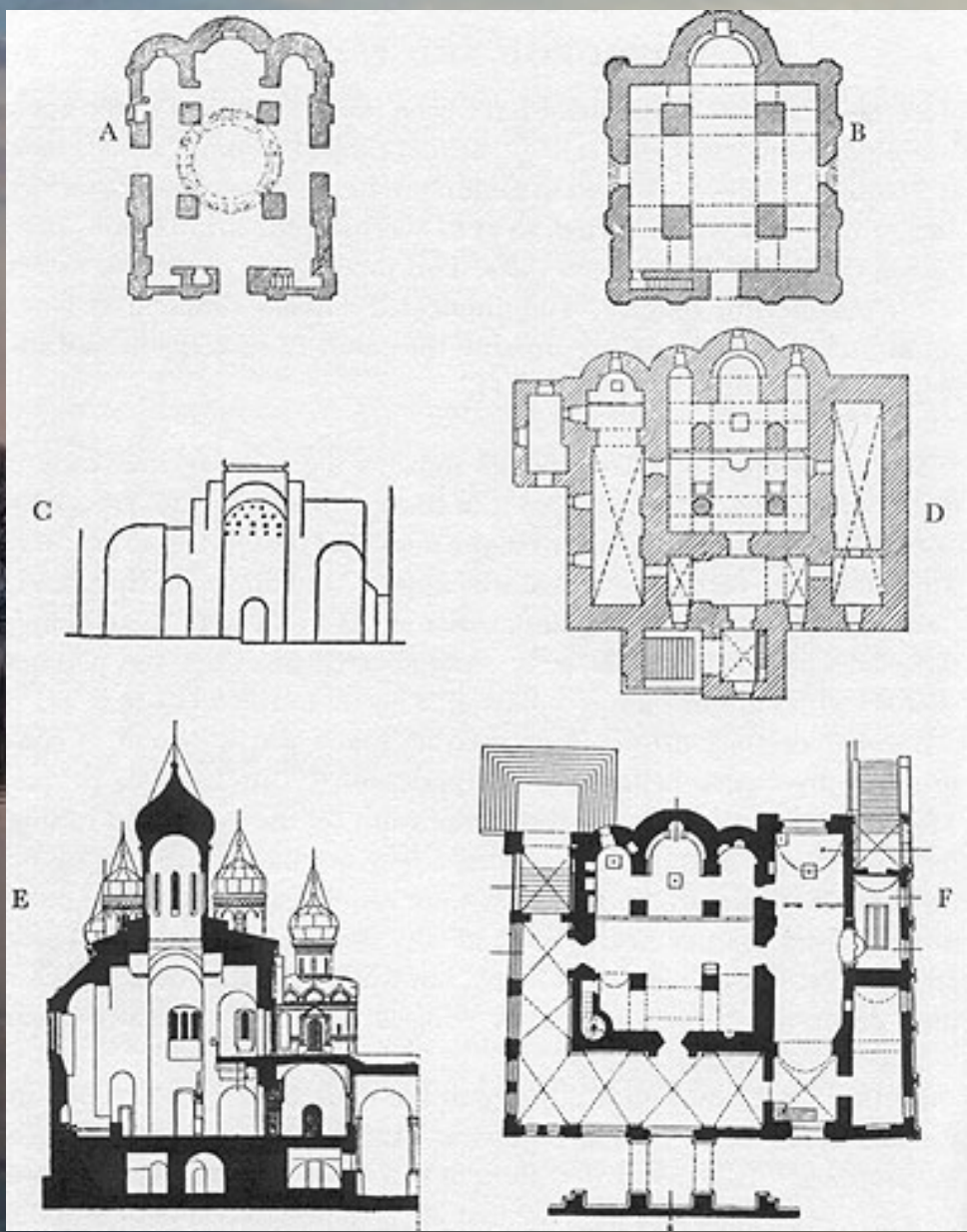


Stave style church

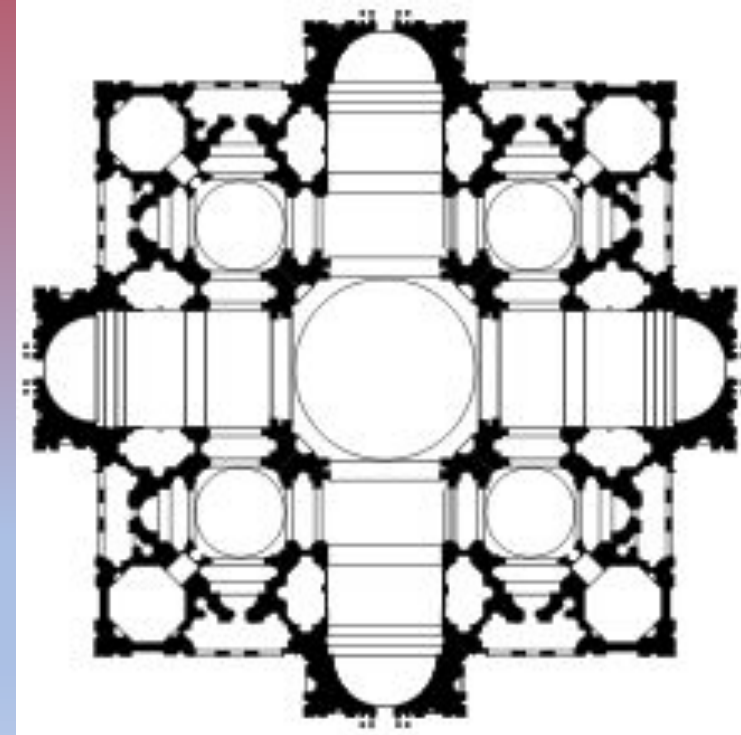
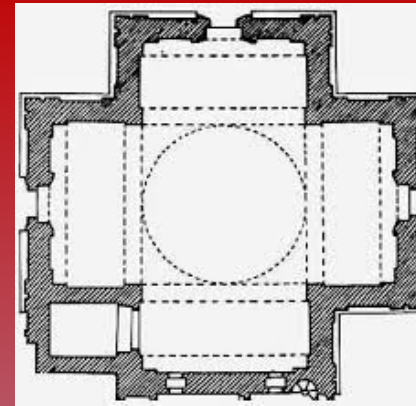
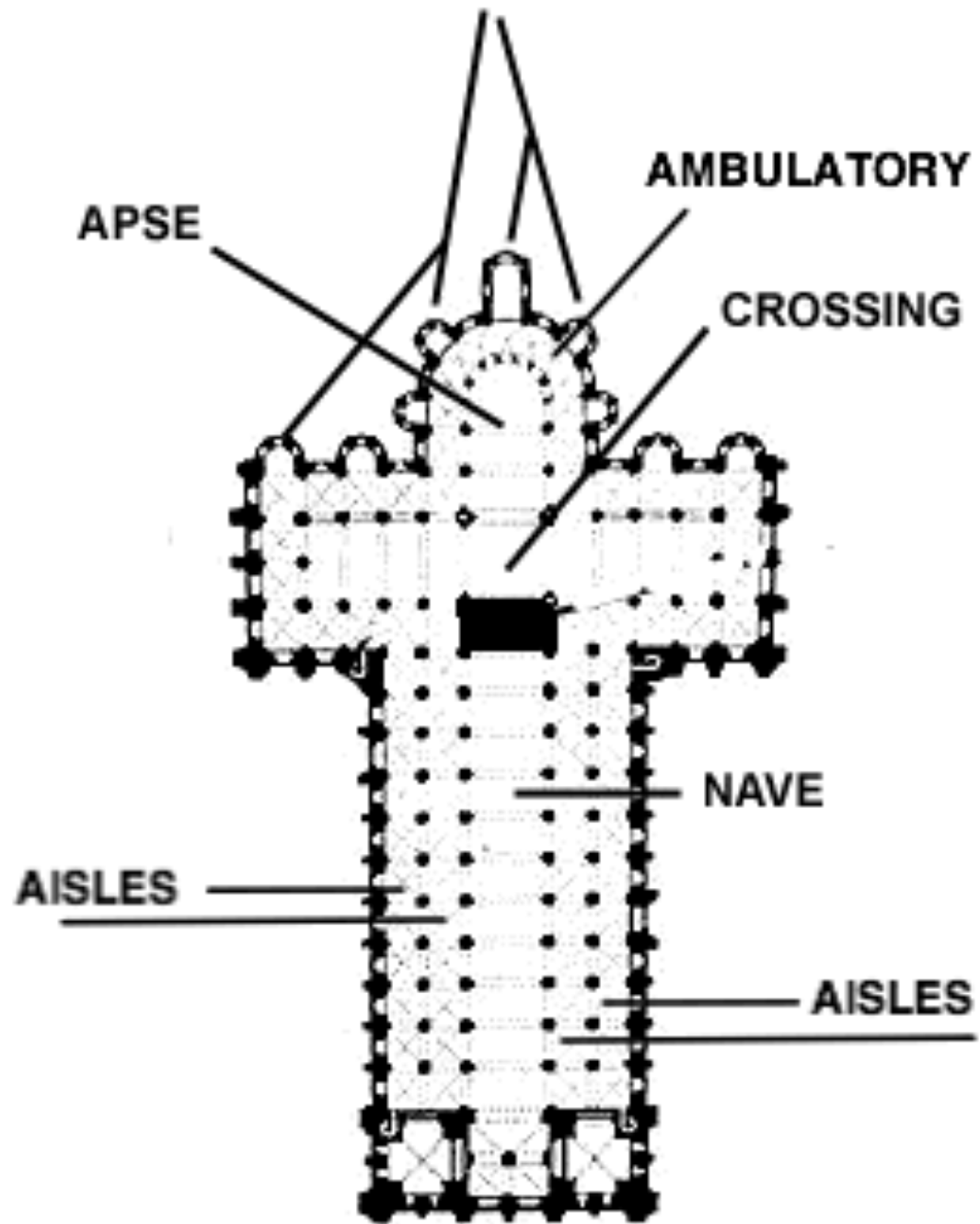


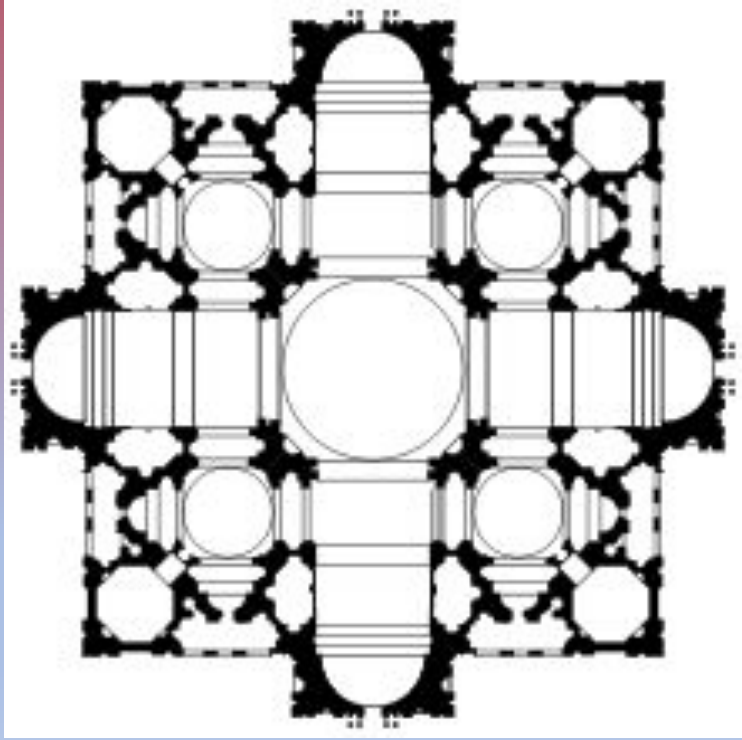
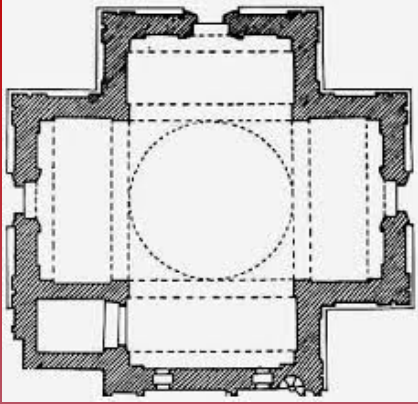
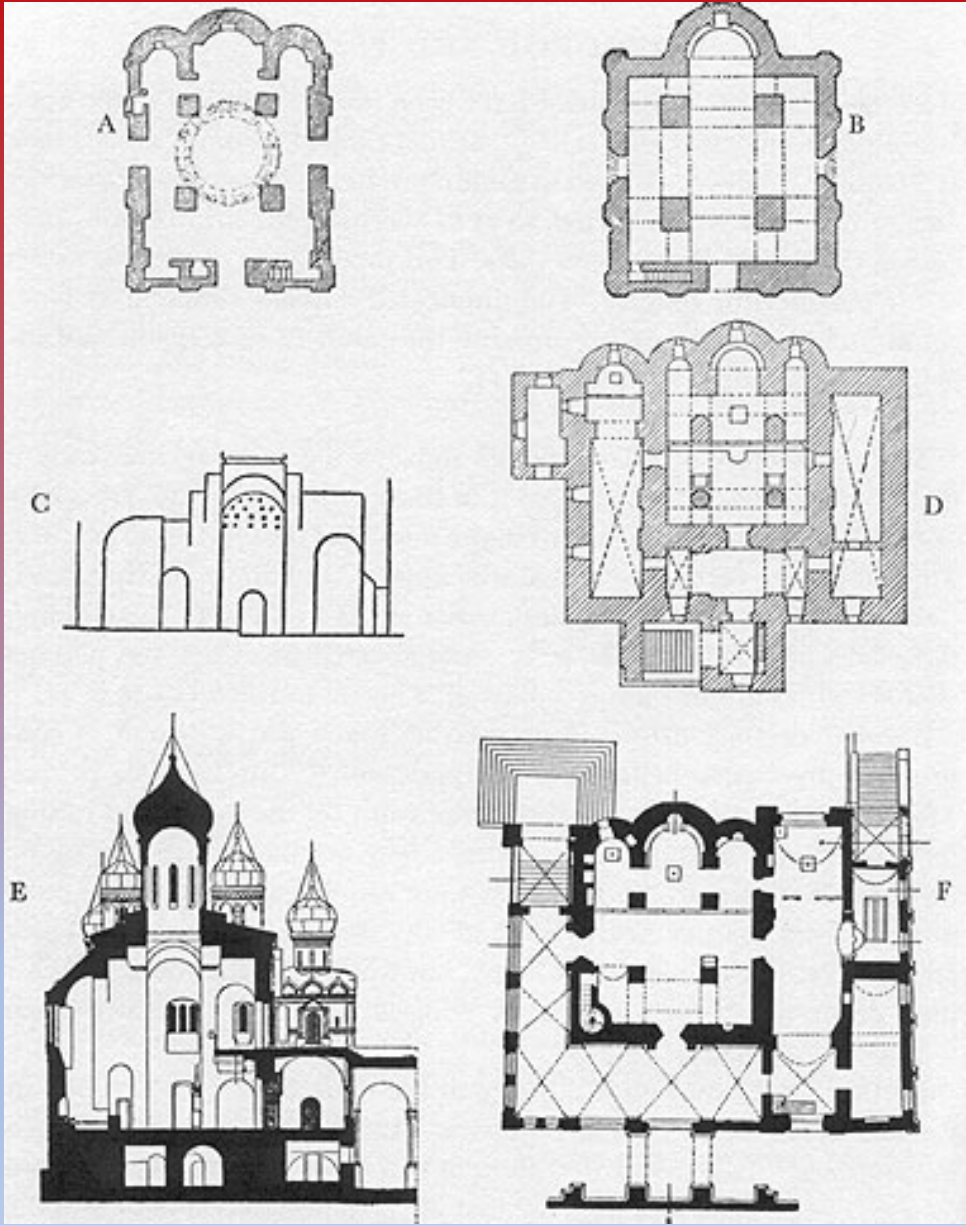
Stave style church





# RADIATING CHAPELS





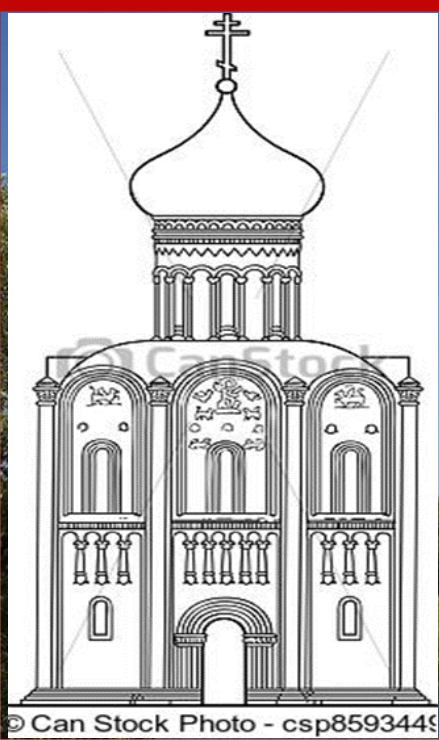


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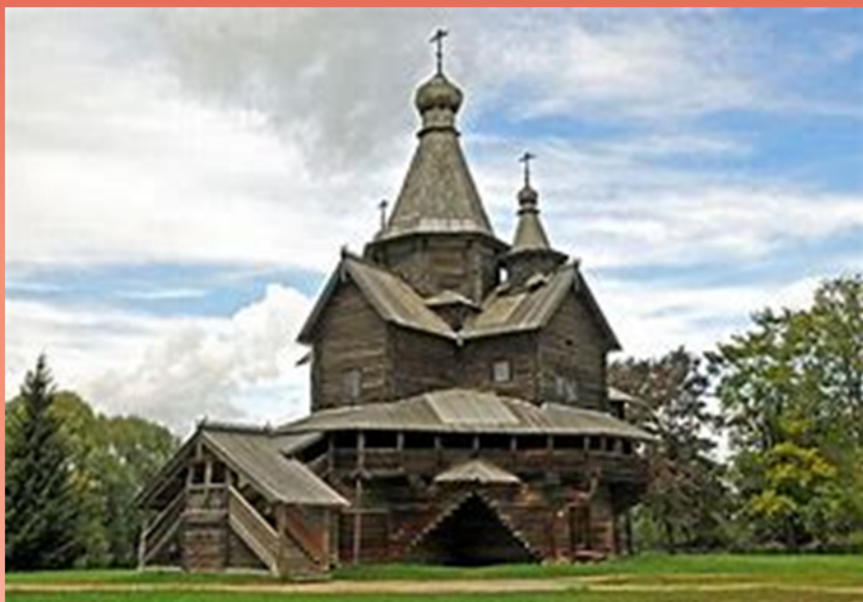
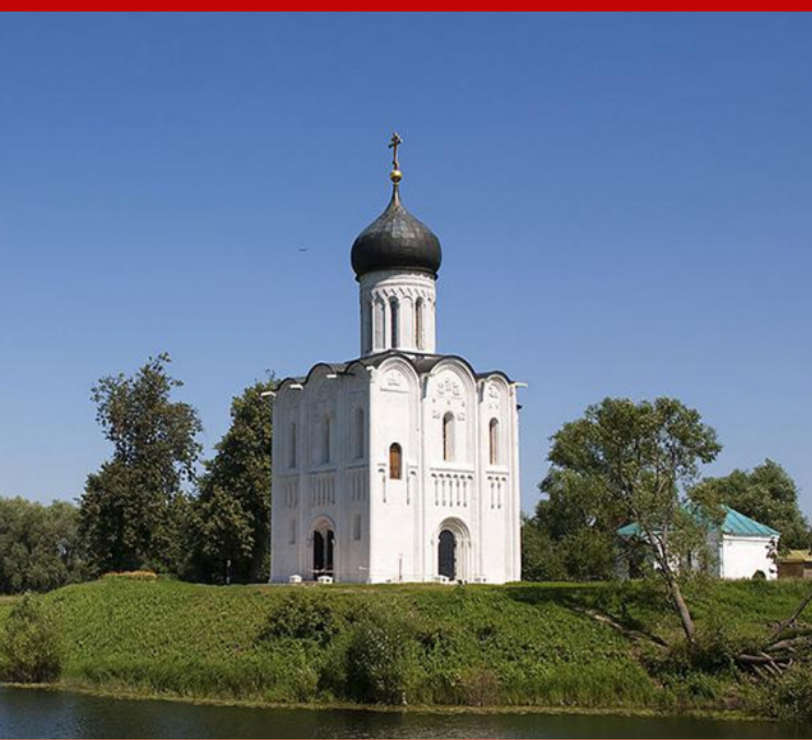
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Greek cross style church





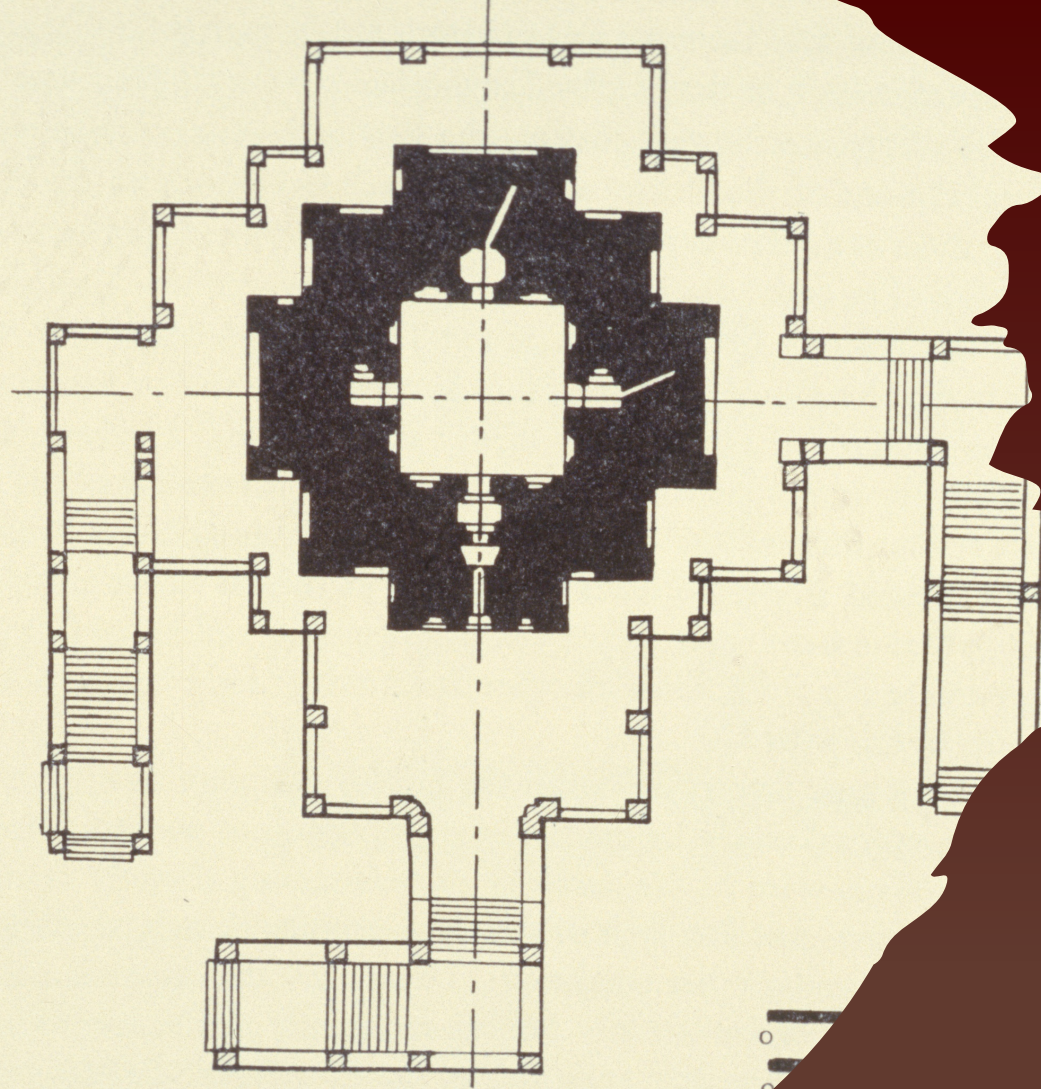


Figure 18. Kolomenskoe. The A

...a balance is avoided, both by the position  
...stairways to the galleries...



Kolomenskoe  
Stone church in a wood style