

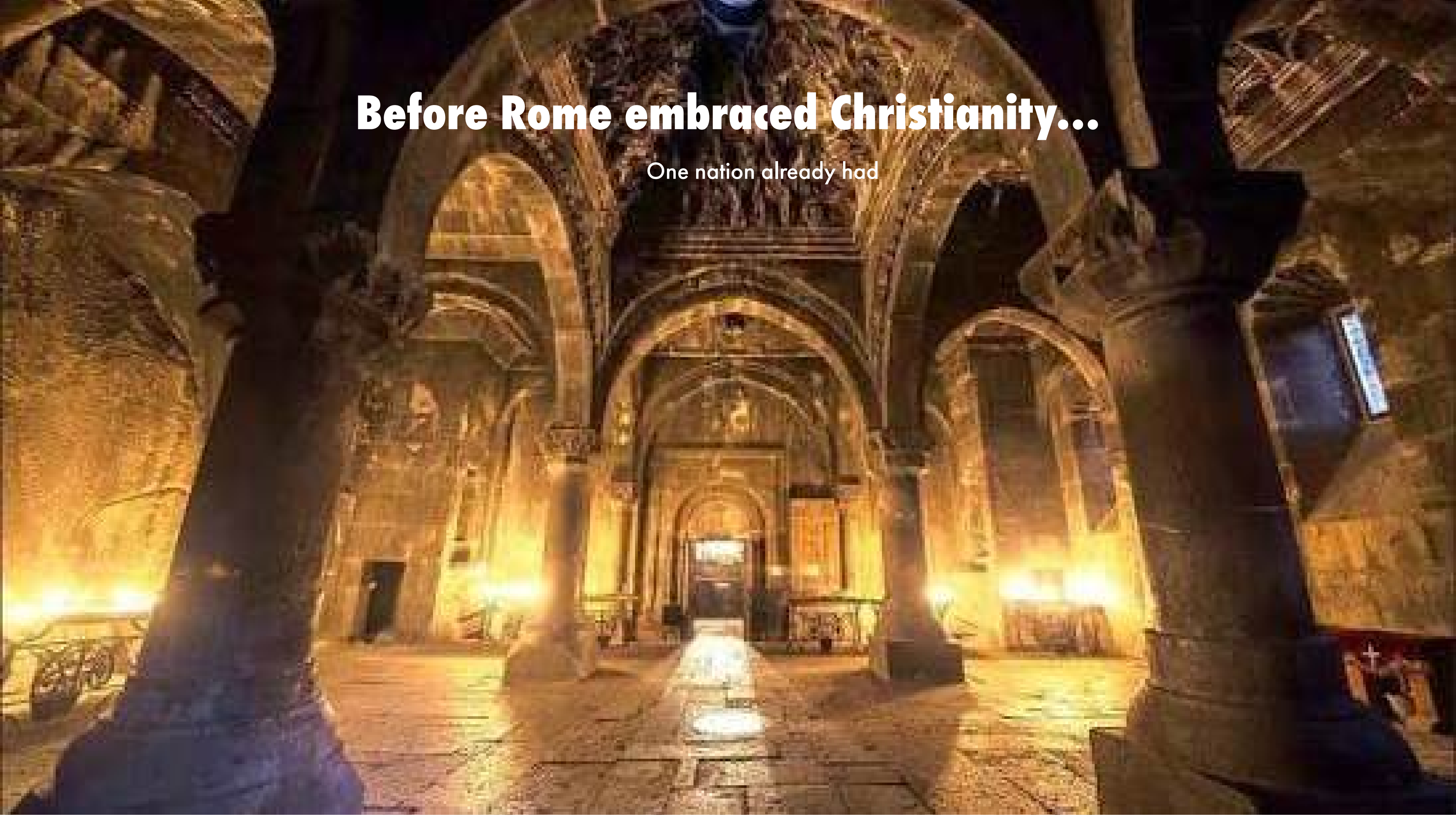
SECOND HOLY LAND

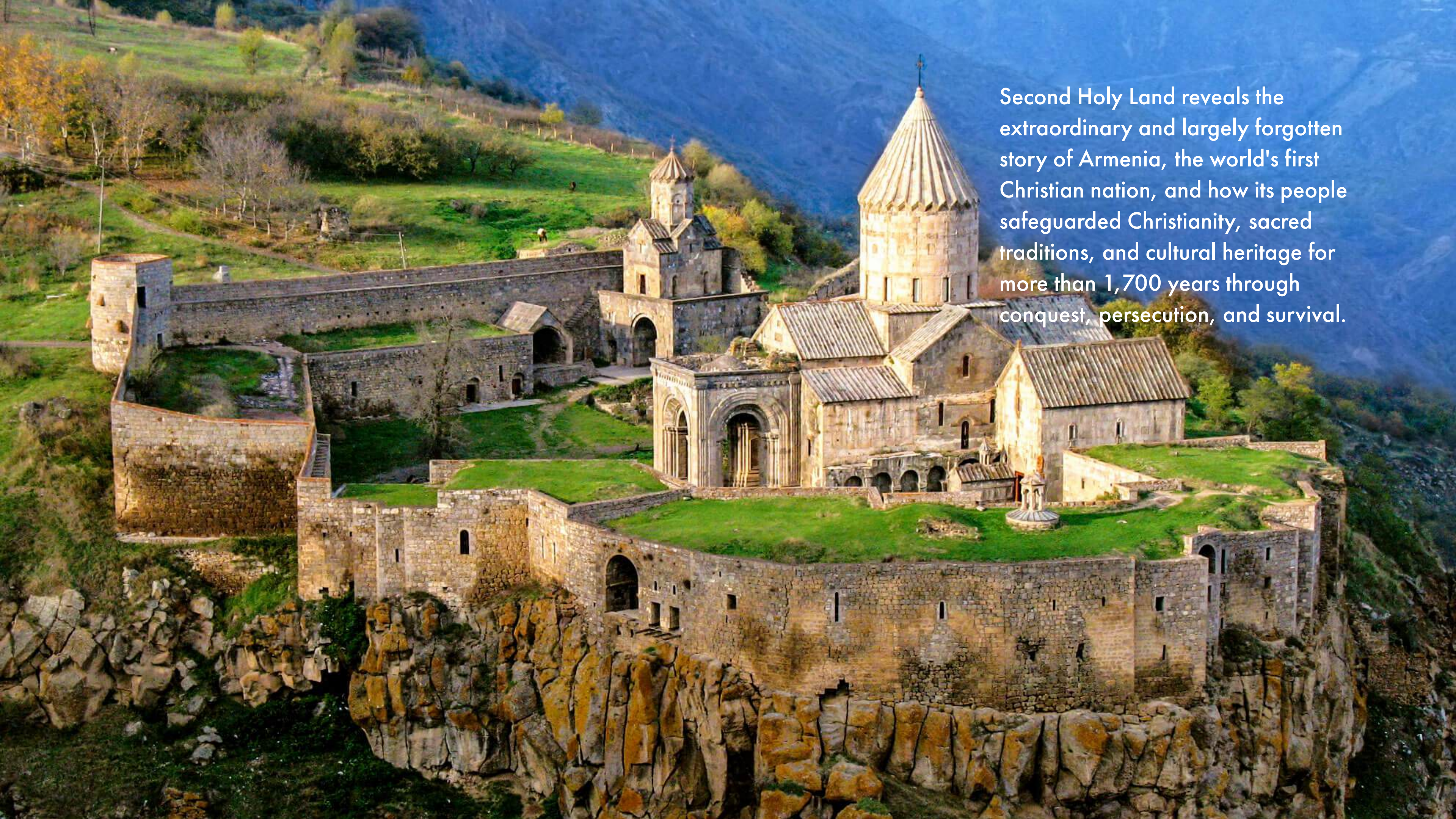
The Forgotten Story of Armenia, the World's First Christian Nation

A Documentary Feature Film
Vic Gerami

Before Rome embraced Christianity...

One nation already had



An aerial photograph of the Monastery of Gegharkunik in Armenia. The monastery is built on a steep, rocky cliff. It features a large, multi-story stone church with a prominent conical roof and a cross on top. The church is surrounded by a high stone wall. The surrounding landscape is green and hilly, with some trees and a blue sky in the background.

Second Holy Land reveals the extraordinary and largely forgotten story of Armenia, the world's first Christian nation, and how its people safeguarded Christianity, sacred traditions, and cultural heritage for more than 1,700 years through conquest, persecution, and survival.



A Story Hidden in Plain Sight

Since the arrival of the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew in the first century, Armenian Christianity has reached far beyond the borders of Armenia.

From the Caucasus to Jerusalem, from Isfahan to Venice, Armenians built churches, preserved sacred manuscripts, and safeguarded one of the world's oldest Christian traditions.

For nearly two thousand years, Armenia's story has also been Christianity's story.

The Birth of a Christian Nation

In AD 301, Armenia became the first nation in history to adopt Christianity as its state religion.

More than a century before the Roman Empire embraced Christianity, Armenia made a decision that would shape its identity, culture, and destiny for the next 1,700 years.

Faith became the foundation of a nation.

AD 301



The Mountain of the Covenant

According to the Book of Genesis, Noah's Ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat after the Great Flood.

For millennia, Mount Ararat has stood as one of the Bible's most enduring symbols of renewal, hope, and new beginnings.

Rising above the Armenian Highlands, it remains inseparable from Armenia's spiritual identity and its place in the story of Christianity.



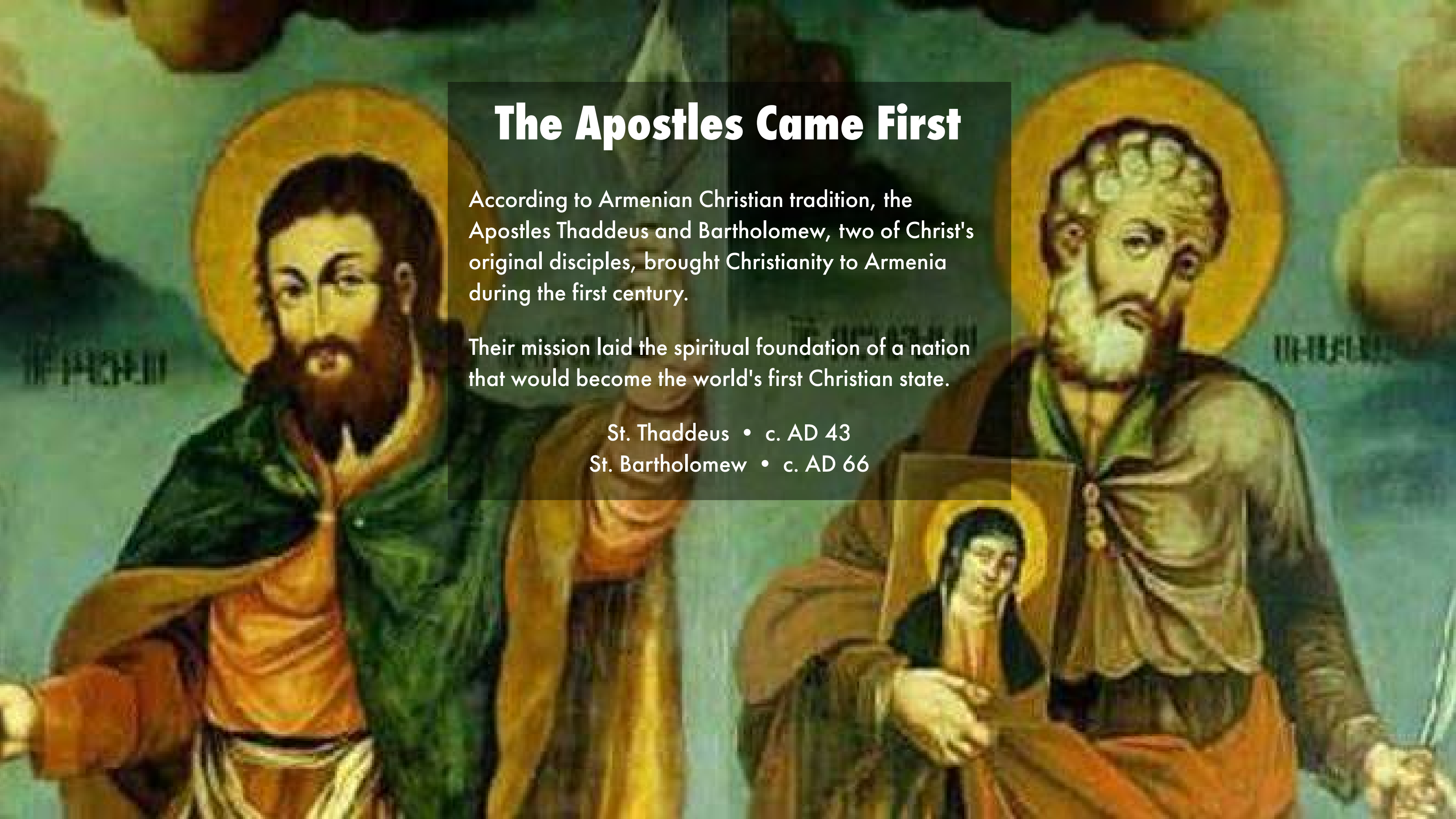
The Apostles Came First

According to Armenian Christian tradition, the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew, two of Christ's original disciples, brought Christianity to Armenia during the first century.

Their mission laid the spiritual foundation of a nation that would become the world's first Christian state.

St. Thaddeus • c. AD 43

St. Bartholomew • c. AD 66



The Holy Lance

According to Armenian Christian tradition, the Apostle Thaddeus brought the Holy Lance to Armenia nearly two thousand years ago.

Today, it is preserved at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, where it remains one of Christianity's most revered relics.

AD 43



AD 66: The First Christian Church

Then

In AD 66

Apostle Thaddeus founded the world's first Christian church, centuries before Christianity became the religion of an empire.

St. Thaddeus Monastery

AD 66



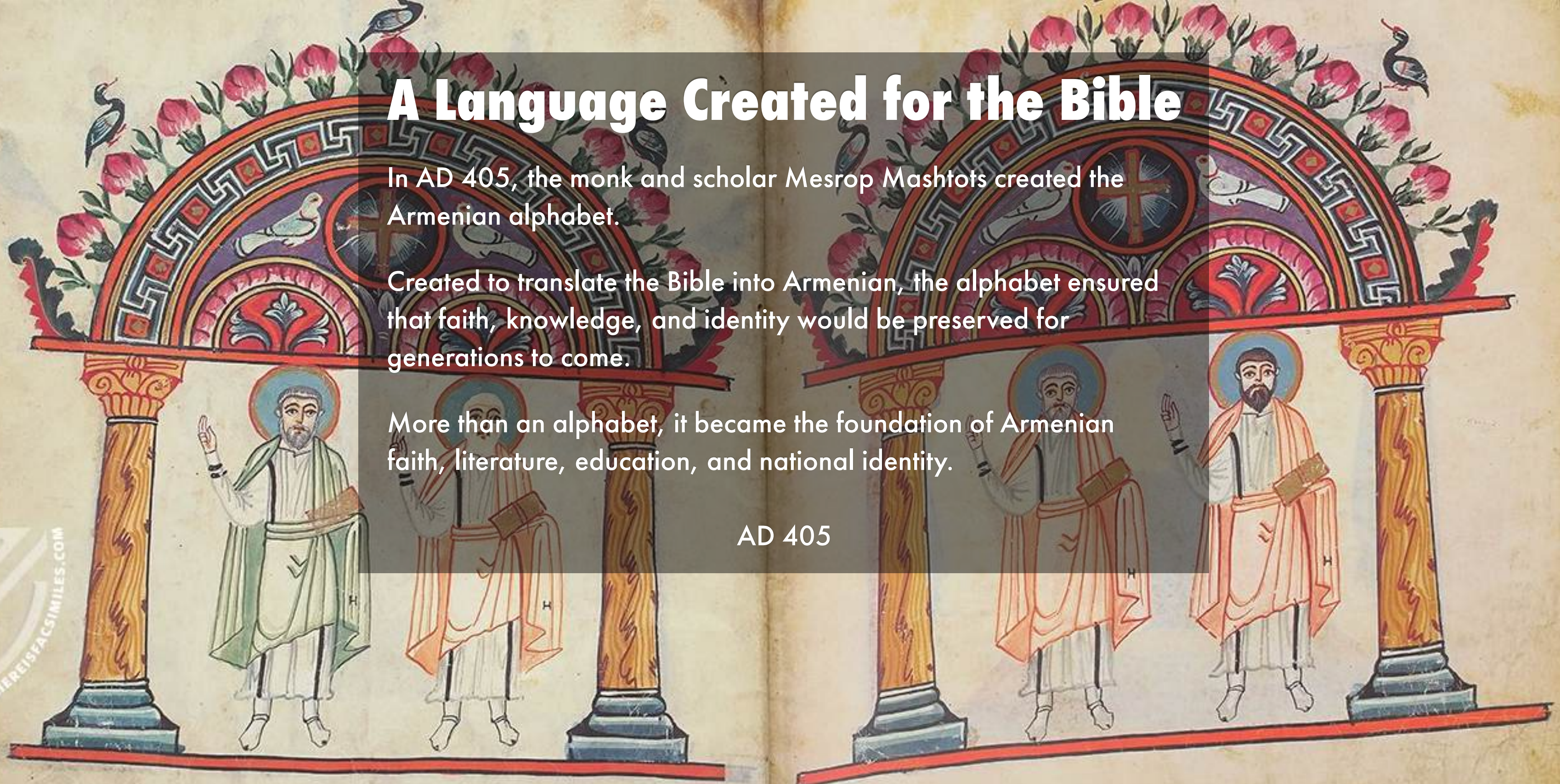
A Language Created for the Bible

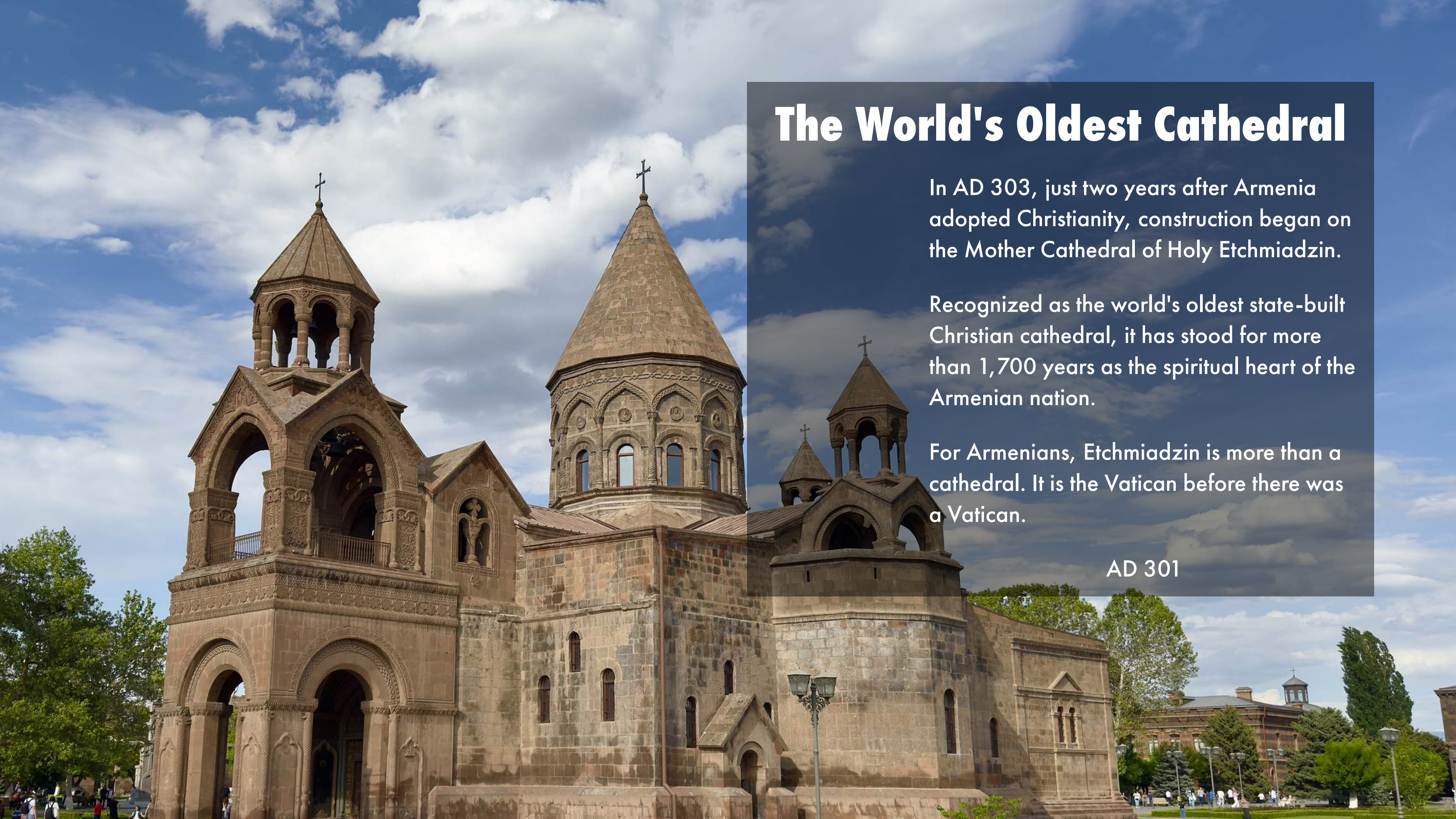
In AD 405, the monk and scholar Mesrop Mashtots created the Armenian alphabet.

Created to translate the Bible into Armenian, the alphabet ensured that faith, knowledge, and identity would be preserved for generations to come.

More than an alphabet, it became the foundation of Armenian faith, literature, education, and national identity.

AD 405





The World's Oldest Cathedral

In AD 303, just two years after Armenia adopted Christianity, construction began on the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Recognized as the world's oldest state-built Christian cathedral, it has stood for more than 1,700 years as the spiritual heart of the Armenian nation.

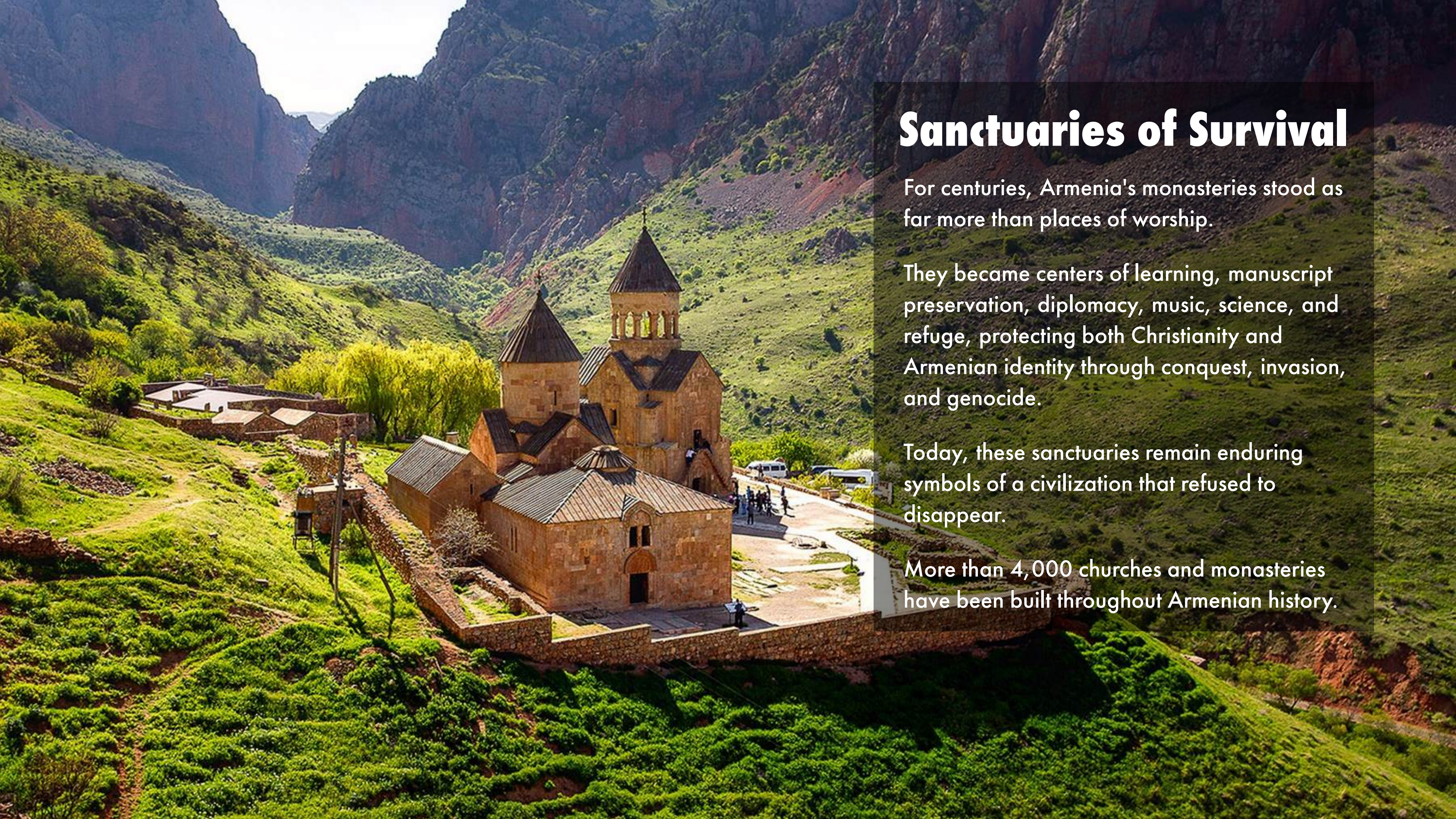
For Armenians, Etchmiadzin is more than a cathedral. It is the Vatican before there was a Vatican.

AD 301

Jerusalem's Armenian Legacy

Armenians have maintained a continuous presence in Jerusalem since the first century. By the fourth century, they established the Armenian Quarter, one of the Old City's four historic quarters. For nearly two thousand years, Jerusalem has been both Christianity's Holy Land and an enduring Armenian home.





Sanctuaries of Survival

For centuries, Armenia's monasteries stood as far more than places of worship.

They became centers of learning, manuscript preservation, diplomacy, music, science, and refuge, protecting both Christianity and Armenian identity through conquest, invasion, and genocide.

Today, these sanctuaries remain enduring symbols of a civilization that refused to disappear.

More than 4,000 churches and monasteries have been built throughout Armenian history.



An Island of Knowledge

For more than three centuries, San Lazzaro degli Armeni in Venice has stood as one of the world's foremost centers of Armenian scholarship, cultural preservation, and Christian learning.

In 1816, the English poet Lord Byron studied Armenian at the Mekhitarist Monastery of San Lazzaro, where he worked alongside Armenian monks, helping introduce Armenian language, literature, and culture to the English-speaking world.

Byron later praised the beauty and richness of the Armenian language, a sentiment often summarized by the famous saying, "Armenian is the language to speak with God."

San Lazzaro degli Armeni
Venice, Italy

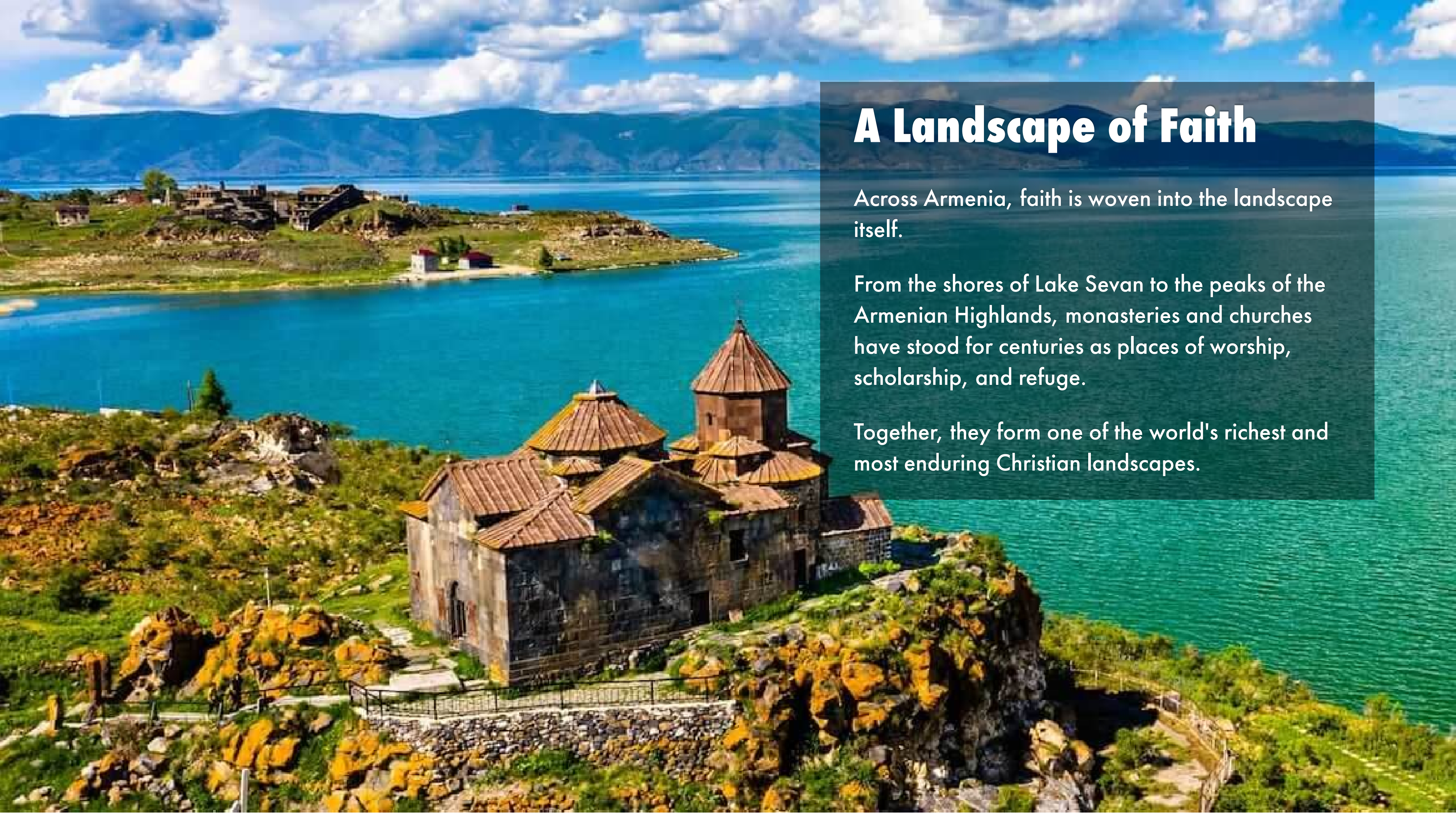
A Faith That Endured

For more than seventeen centuries, the Armenian Apostolic Church has remained at the heart of Armenian identity.

Through kingdoms and empires, genocide and exile, communism and independence, generations of Armenians have preserved one of the world's oldest continuous Christian traditions.

It is not simply history. It is a living faith.





A Landscape of Faith

Across Armenia, faith is woven into the landscape itself.

From the shores of Lake Sevan to the peaks of the Armenian Highlands, monasteries and churches have stood for centuries as places of worship, scholarship, and refuge.

Together, they form one of the world's richest and most enduring Christian landscapes.

A photograph of Pope Francis and the Catholicos of All Armenians walking through a crowd in Yerevan, Armenia. Pope Francis is on the left, wearing a white zucchetto and a white cassock with a red and gold sash. The Catholicos is on the right, wearing a black korymbos and a black cassock with a white and gold sash. They are both smiling and looking towards the right. The background is filled with a large crowd of people, many of whom are holding up cameras and smartphones to take pictures. Several Armenian flags are visible in the crowd. The scene is set in front of a large, historic building with arched windows.

A Legacy That Endures

In 2016, Pope Francis made a historic pilgrimage to Armenia, honoring the world's first Christian nation and calling it "the first among the nations to embrace Christianity."

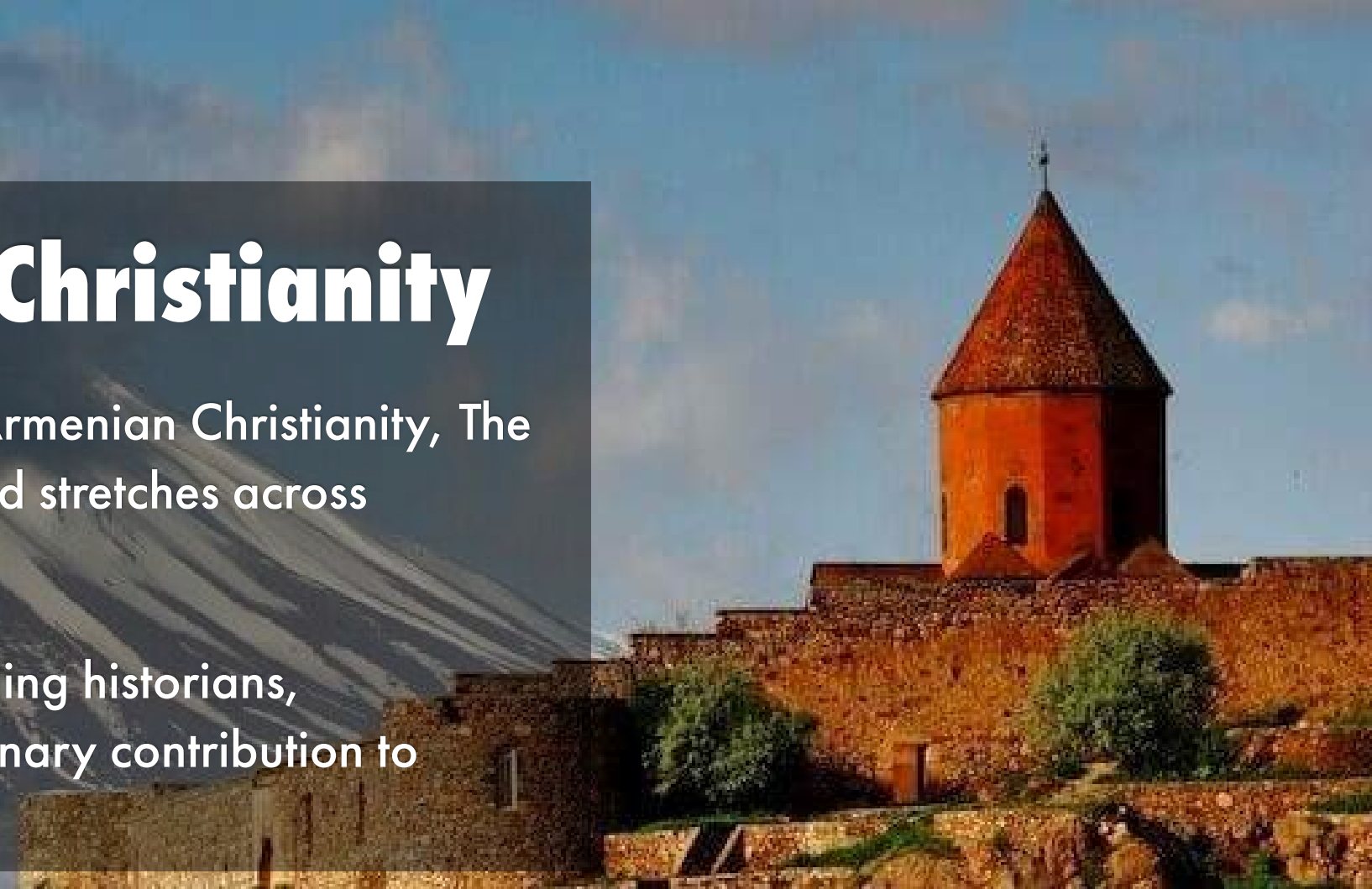
His visit reaffirmed Armenia's enduring place in Christian history. More than seventeen centuries after embracing Christianity, Armenia's story continues.

Pope Francis
Republic Square, Yerevan
June 25, 2016

An Epic Journey Through the Birth of Christianity

Filmed across Armenia, Jerusalem, Italy, Iran, and other historic centers of Armenian Christianity, The Second Holy Land uncovers a story that spans nearly two thousand years and stretches across continents.

Through breathtaking cinematography, rare access, and interviews with leading historians, theologians, archaeologists, and clergy, the film reveals Armenia's extraordinary contribution to Christianity and world civilization.



Bringing History to Life



Second Holy Land combines breathtaking cinematography, rare access to sacred sites, and compelling interviews with leading scholars and clergy.

Filmed across Armenia and historic centers of Armenian Christianity, it explores nearly two thousand years of faith, resilience, and cultural legacy.

More than a documentary, it is a cinematic journey through one of Christianity's greatest untold stories.

A Global Audience

Second Holy Land is a story with global relevance.

While rooted in Armenia's remarkable history, the film speaks to anyone interested in Christianity, history, archaeology, culture, faith, and civilization.

Designed for theatrical audiences, streaming platforms, public television, museums, universities, churches, and educational institutions, the documentary will introduce millions to one of Christianity's most extraordinary and overlooked stories.

History • Faith • Culture • Education



Why I Must Tell This Story

For more than two decades, I have dedicated my career to uncovering overlooked stories, confronting historical erasure, and amplifying voices that deserve to be heard.

As an Armenian-American journalist, documentary filmmaker, and founder of the Truth and Accountability League (TAAL), I have interviewed more than 100 members of Congress, world leaders, historians, and human rights advocates, while producing award-winning journalism and documentaries seen worldwide.

Second Holy Land brings together my experience to tell one of Christianity's most extraordinary and overlooked stories.

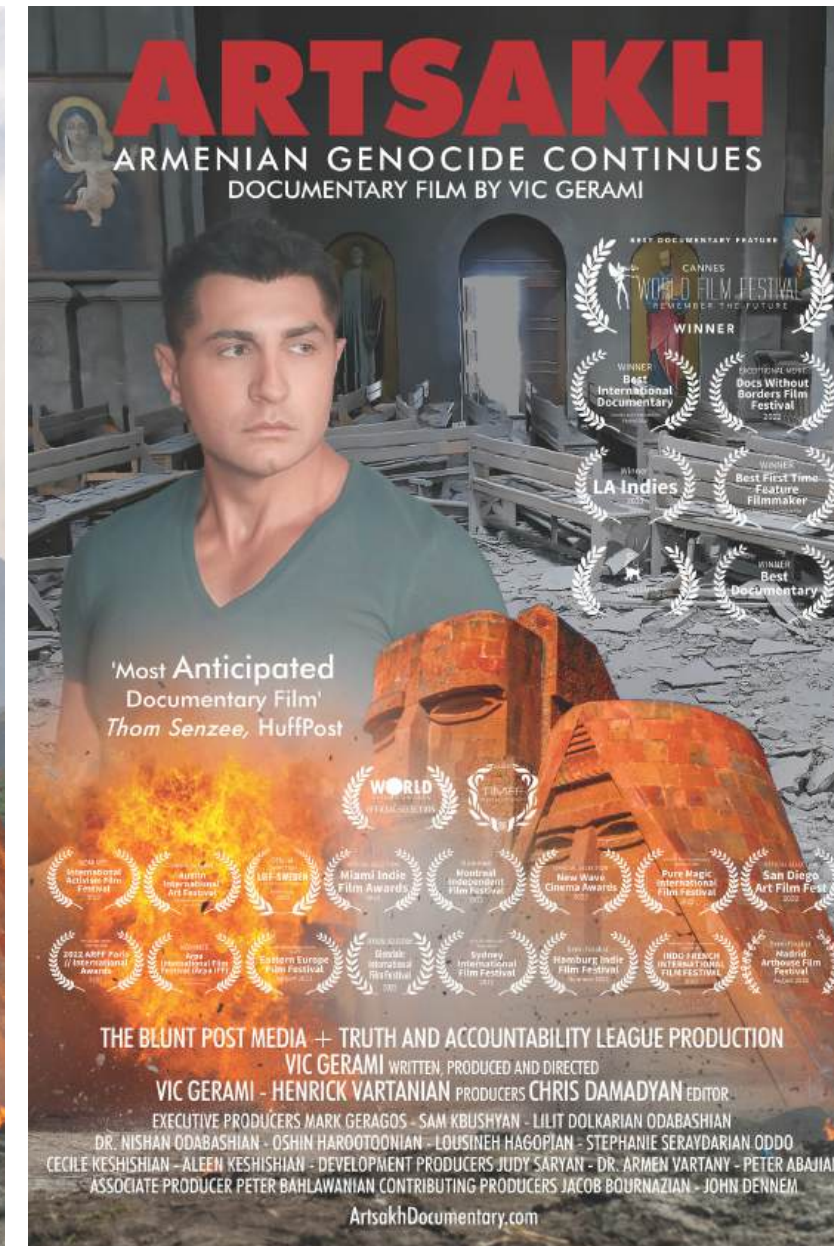
Award-Winning Filmmaker • Journalist
Founder & Chair, TAAL • 100+ Congressional Interviews



Previous Films

Motherland

An award-winning documentary exploring the complex relationship between Armenians and LGBTQ+ identity, selected by more than 80 international film festivals and recognized for its courageous storytelling.



ARTSAKH: Armenian Genocide Continues

An investigative documentary chronicling the ethnic cleansing of Artsakh's indigenous Armenian population, featuring interviews with members of Congress, diplomats, scholars, journalists, and international experts.

80 International Film Festival | 42 "Best Documentary Feature" Awards | Congressional Screening
3 International Premiers | University & Government Screenings

Documentary Structure

ACT I

The Birth of the First Christian Nation

The Apostles, King Tiridates III, Gregory the Illuminator, and Armenia's adoption of Christianity.

ACT II

Guardians of the Faith

The Armenian alphabet, sacred manuscripts, monasteries, Etchmiadzin, the Holy Lance, Jerusalem, Venice, and the global Armenian Christian legacy.

ACT III

Faith Through Fire

From the Armenian Genocide and Soviet persecution to the destruction of Armenian Christian heritage in Nakhichevan and the Artsakh Genocide, the film reveals the extraordinary resilience of a people who have fought for nearly two thousand years to preserve their faith, identity, and sacred heritage.

ACT IV

A Living Legacy

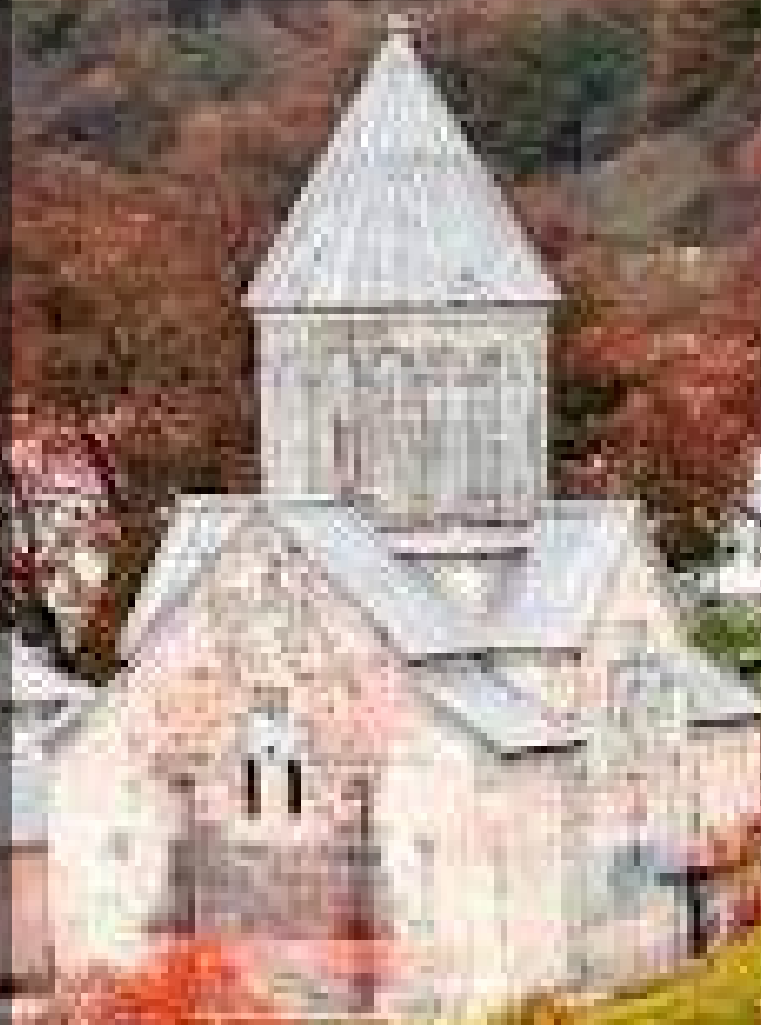
From the Armenian Genocide and Soviet persecution to the destruction of Armenian Christian heritage in Nakhichevan and the Artsakh Genocide, the film reveals the extraordinary resilience of a people who, despite centuries of persecution, continue to safeguard one of the world's oldest living Christian traditions.

A Cinematic Journey Through History

Second Holy Land will combine breathtaking aerial cinematography, intimate access to sacred sites, rare historical artifacts, and compelling interviews to create a cinematic experience unlike any previous documentary about Armenia and Christianity.

Through sweeping landscapes, ancient monasteries, priceless manuscripts, and the voices of leading historians, theologians, clergy, and archaeologists, audiences will embark on an unforgettable journey spanning two millennia.

History • Faith • Culture • Civilization





Beyond the Screen

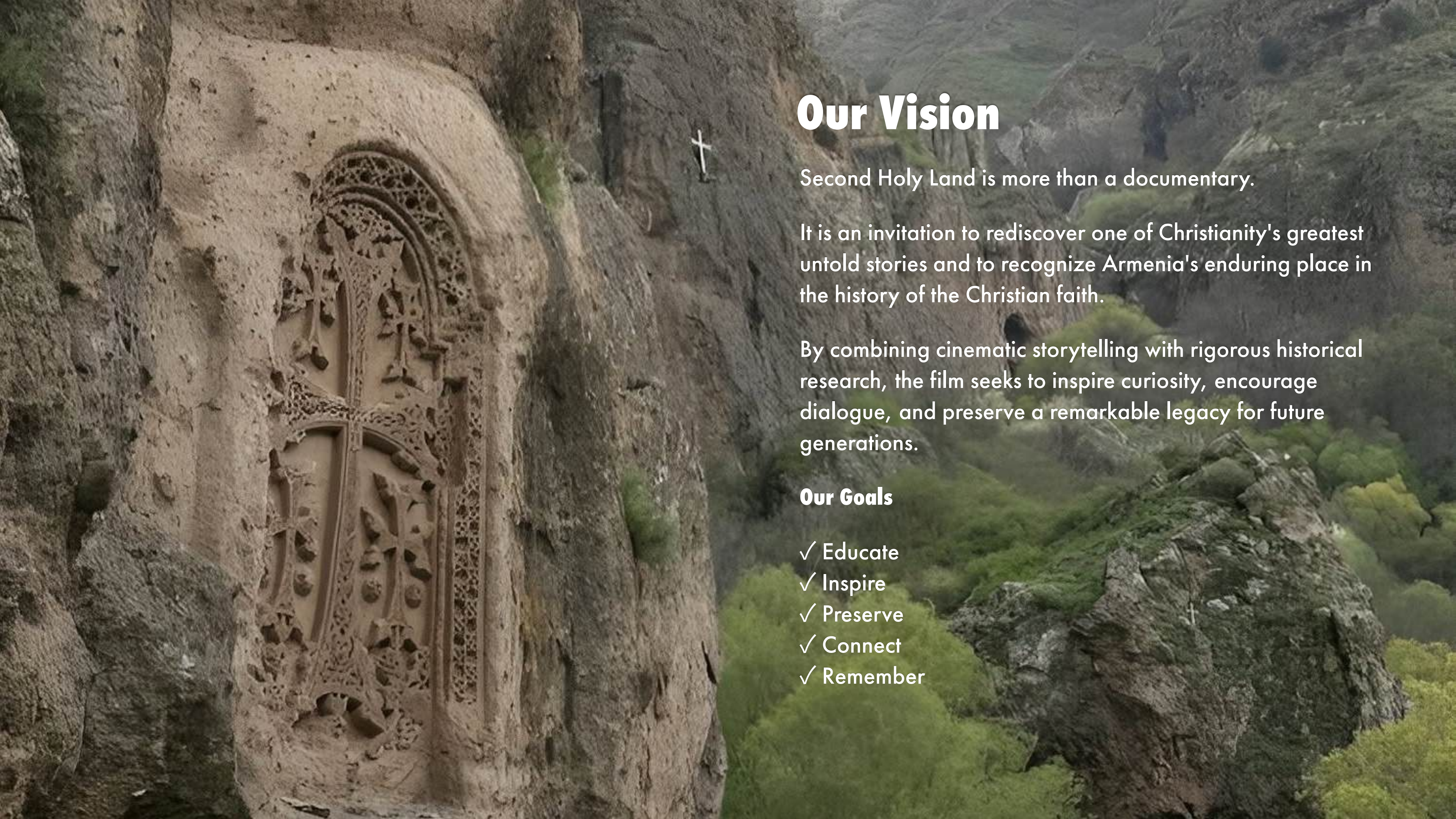
Second Holy Land will reach audiences far beyond the festival circuit, bringing one of Christianity's most extraordinary and overlooked stories to theaters, public television, streaming platforms, classrooms, museums, and churches around the world.

Distribution & Impact

International Film Festivals | Theatrical Screenings | PBS & Public Television
Streaming Platforms

Universities & Educational Institutions | Museums & Cultural Centers
Churches & Faith Communities

A documentary created to educate, inspire, and preserve one of Christianity's greatest untold stories



Our Vision

Second Holy Land is more than a documentary.

It is an invitation to rediscover one of Christianity's greatest untold stories and to recognize Armenia's enduring place in the history of the Christian faith.

By combining cinematic storytelling with rigorous historical research, the film seeks to inspire curiosity, encourage dialogue, and preserve a remarkable legacy for future generations.

Our Goals

- ✓ Educate
- ✓ Inspire
- ✓ Preserve
- ✓ Connect
- ✓ Remember

A Living Legacy

For more than 1,700 years, the Christian faith has been passed from one generation of Armenians to the next.

Second Holy Land is more than a documentary about history. It is a story of living faith, enduring hope, and a legacy that continues to inspire the world.

Together, we can bring this extraordinary story to audiences around the globe.

Educate. Inspire. Preserve



SECOND HOLY LAND

How Armenia Shaped the Story of Christianity

Some stories shape civilizations. This is one of them.

Vic Gerami

Award-Winning Filmmaker | Journalist

Founder & Chair, Truth and Accountability League (TAAL)

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SecondHolyLand.com

TruthAndAccountabilityLeague.org

TheBluntPost.com

Partnership Opportunities

We welcome conversations with:

- Executive Producers
- Foundations & Philanthropic Partners
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Educational Institutions
- Broadcast & Streaming Partners
- Individual Donors & Sponsors

Let's bring this extraordinary story to the world

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