



*Einladung zum Vortrag*

**FROM AKSUM TO LALIBELA:  
THE LONG ROAD OF ETHIOPIAN CHRISTIANITY**

In the early 4<sup>th</sup> century the Kingdom of Aksum, in the northern part of modern Ethiopia, was a rich and powerful state, whose leadership used to control the trade route passing through the southern Red Sea. In the port of Adulis groups of Greek-speaking Alexandrian merchants were propagating the ideas of the Gospel and eventually the Aksumite rulers adopted the new faith. From that moment for at least a millennium Christianity has become one with the culture and the history of Ethiopia, at least on the plateau, well after the collapse of Aksum in the mid-7<sup>th</sup> century. After a few centuries of troubles, Christianity was still the religion of a new dynasty, the Zagwe, ruling Ethiopia from 1137 to 1270 and having its capital city in Lalibela, 400 km south of Aksum. Moving from Aksum to Lalibela the Zagwe went in search for a new arrangement of the Ethiopian State and for their own legitimation as Christian leaders, inaugurating a long period of competition between the secular power and the religious authority.



*Yemrehana Krestos Church, 11<sup>th</sup> century AD*

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