

The *Mar Iša'ya Church* **where was found** **the Oldest Known Manuscript** **of the Anaphora of Addai & Mari**

In the days of Patriarch Ezechiel (570-581 A.D.) of the Church of East (Assyro-Chaldean), a monk called Išo'yahb bar-Qusri, from Mosul, built a monastery and the temple of Mar Iša'ya, in which he was later buried. The site being later deserted, it has become an inhabited area, now called Ras al-Kur. The Monastery was then turned into a Cathedral in the 7th c. for Mosul Assyro-Chaldean Archbishops.

Prior to 1694, three other churches were added to the original temple of Mar Iša'ya bearing the names of Mar Gurguis, Mar Yuḥannan, and Mar Quriaqos.

Nothing has been left of the ruin save two decorated mortar stones kept in the temple of Mar Išo'yahb.

After joining the temple of Mar Gurguis to the big temple, written and decorated pieces, originally belonging to the temple of Mar Gurguis, were transferred in 1694 to the next room. Though being collapsed, the temple of Mar Yuḥannan has still got its historical value, for the home of Martyres dates back to the Atabeg era. While the doors other niches of Mar Yuḥannan and Mar Gurguis date back to the restoration of 1694. **The church preserves an old prayer book (*Hudra*) in Syriac from the 10th c.**, and a Byzantine Icon from Palestine dating back to the 18th c.



(Joseph HABBI, *The Churches of Mosul*, Baghdad 1980)