

## HOW DID DANISH VIKINGS BECOME CHRISTIAN EUROPEANS?

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The lecture presents some of the most significant archaeological finds in Denmark from the transition from the pre-Christian period into the Early Middle Ages. Christianity was introduced in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and attempts of regular mission followed in the 9<sup>th</sup> century from the Frankish Empire. The official acceptance of Christianity by the Danish king Harald Bluetooth came later, in the 960s. This crucial decision was documented in a most unusual way on the king's great rune stone as a part of the royal Jelling Monuments. These will form the core of the presentation followed by a view of some of the possible intentions behind their layout. On this background, it shall be discussed how and when the descendants of the Vikings may have ended up as really Christian Europeans.

