



The impression that Ireland was a remote, isolated place in antiquity is outdated. Latest evidence suggests it was part of an active trade network along Atlantic-Mediterranean seaways. During the Neolithic and Bronze ages, the sea was a corridor for trade, communication, ideas & beliefs - easier, faster & more economical than overland routes.

In reality this made ancient Ireland 'central & accessible' - it's west coast & islands part of a continuous maritime corridor, from the Mediterranean to Scandinavia. Seagoing Irish had intense cultural affinity & contact with other communities along this long seaboard. The result was; shared maritime heritage, language & religious beliefs.

Against this backdrop, Alf Monaghan traces the origin and spread of Pre-Christian eastern religious beliefs to Ireland, and their impact here. In this context too, the influence of Egyptian Christianity on the early Irish Church, is easily understood.

This is a fascinating 'backstory' to his earlier talk; *'Monastic Ireland - A Gift of the Nile!'*

## ALF MONAGHAN

Alf, from Carrick-on-Shannon, has spent most of his life abroad.

He has worked as an Economic Adviser to governments & development agencies in; Northern Europe, Central America, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, South & West Africa.

His years in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Cyprus, Jordan & Egypt, triggered a deeper interest in the origins of belief and religion.

