

## **POINTS TO-GO – LESSON 4**

### **The entrance of Turks into the Middle East:**

After being neighbors to the Muslim world (8th century), and acting as military slaves in the Muslim Middle East (since the 9th century), there was mass migration of nomadic Turkish tribes into the Middle East around the year 1000.

### **Military slaves (Mamluks) turned Sultans:**

Turkic slaves from the Asian Steppes formed a powerful Abbasid army in the 9th century. When Turkish tribes conquered Baghdad in 1055, Turks became political and military leaders of the Middle East, till the 20th century (i.e. the Ottomans).

### **The changes in Asia Minor:**

Prior to the end of the 11th century Asia Minor was thoroughly Hellenized and Christian, but since 1071 the region slowly transformed into a Turkish-

Muslim cultural environment. Politically, the Byzantines declined and local Turkish-Muslim principalities rose to power.