Topic 4: Religions Along the Silk Road

1. How Buddhism Moved into China
   a. Early translators and pilgrims
      i. An Shigao, the Parthian, arrives in Luoyang 148 CE
      ii. Kumarajiva, b. 344 from Kucha, taken to Luoyang 402 CE
      iii. Chinese Pilgrims go to India >260CE
      iv. Faxian, 5th c. CE travels to Dunhuang and farther west
      v. Xuanzang, the great traveler, b. 602

   b. The Han Dynasty moves into Central Eurasia
   c. Daoism helps bridge Chinese classical tradition and Buddhism
   d. Patronage by the Northern Wei dynasty (386- CE)
   e. Large cave sculptures
      i. Bamiyan, ca 534 CE
      ii. Datong: Yungang caves
      iii. Binglingsi caves
      iv. Luoyang

2. Nestorian Christianity
   a. The Nestorian stele of 781 CE

3. Zoroastrianism and Manichaeanism
   a. Manicheans in Dunhuang
   b. Manicheans and Sogdians