Subject: The York Rite: Chapter   Date:_____

The first concordant body of the York Rite Masonic Organization is the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The name 'chapter' is the group of royal arch masons just as a lodge is a group of Master Masons. The organization is known as "capitular" masonry with the name from two recognized meanings; the first that 'capitular' is a Latin derivation of the word chapter. The second that it relates to the capstone of a column or wall and is the last stone laid, thus chapter was originally intended to be the cap or last chapter of the Masonic story.

One of the oldest references to Royal Arch masonry comes from 1744, but the actual known first time the Royal Arch degree is performed comes on December 22, 1753 in Fredericksburg VA. Unlike general masonry it then traveled backwards to England and Europe and became popular around 1758. The royal arch degree is said to be the second half of the Master Mason degree, and that a Master Mason has not yet received the full Masonic story without the Royal Arch. The lessons of Chapter mainly relate to the rebuilding of Solomon's Temple and its characters, and use symbols and moral lessons to further the knowledge of enthusiastic and active members.

Adoniram Chapter #73 is the local chapter based in London chartered October 18, 1856, and falls under the Ohio Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The Royal Arch is a prerequisite to the Knights Templar or Commandery group of the York Rite. Also the Past Master degree is a requirement of the Grand lodge of Ohio to be installed as the Master of a Lodge, and may be obtained through traditional chapter exemplification, or through a Grand Lodge Sanctioned Convocation of Past Masters for the newly elected master.   The Royal Arch Chapter consists of four degrees: Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and the Royal Arch degree.

Source: Chandler 138 website
            Everything freemasons book
            Idiots guide to Freemasonry