

Church History

EVENTS THAT SHAPED THE MODERN DAY CHURCH

AD 54 – 1600'S

Course Introduction

This course is a survey of church history that will put a emphasis on major events that have shaped Christianity as we know it today.

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There will be events that are important that we will not be able to cover.

Course Introduction

Handouts

Discussion

Outline

Sources

History of the Christian Church

- Philip Schaff | 1910

Studies in Early Church History

- Henry Thorne Sell

Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers

- Philip Schaff | 1886

Historic Creeds and Confessions

- Rick Brannan | 2001

Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps, and Reconstructions

The Story of Christianity Volume I

- Justo L. Gonzalez | 2010

131 Christians Everyone Should Know

- Christianity Today | 2000

The Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land

- Avraham Negev | 1990

Pocket Dictionary of Apologetics and Philosophy of Religion

- Evans C. Stephen

Church History in Plain Language 4th Edt.

- Bruce L. Shelley | 2013

Ancient & Medieval Church History

- Dr. David Calhoun – Covenant Theological Seminary

Others....

Course Introduction

As we examine the history of the Christian church we will see many good things that took place to further the kingdom of God

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But unfortunately there were also many dark times and events, where it was difficult to see the Holy Spirit at work.

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But unfortunately there were also many dark times and events, where it was difficult to see the Holy Spirit at work.

But all of the events of the past (both good and bad) have brought us to the present state of the “church”.

Course Introduction

But we must remember that regardless of how often man twisted the Scriptures, did evil in the name of the Lord, or used the church for their own agenda that the Spirit of God has persevered and could not be extinguished.

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Isaiah 40:8

“The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever”

Course Introduction

But if God's Word remains forever and has never changed, then why has the "church" changed?

Why are there so many different beliefs surrounding Christianity?

Course Introduction

While God's Word has never changed something has...

Course Introduction

While God's Word has never changed something has...

- **Our interpretation of Scripture has changed**
- **Our opinion has changed**
- **Our culture has changed**
- **Our perspective on the infallibility of Scripture has changed**
- **Our perspective on the influence of tradition has changed**

Course Introduction

While God's Word has never changed something has...

- Our interpretation of Scripture has changed
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These factors have affected the “church” ever since it was established by Christ.

Course Introduction

Benefits of studying church history

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- **Ancient Christians went through very similar circumstances that affect the modern day Christian.**

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Benefits of studying church history

- It will provide clarity as to why the church is so divided today.
- Ancient Christians went through very similar circumstances that affect the modern day Christian.
- **Understanding the past gives clarity to the present and future.**

The Landscape of the Church Today

The Landscape of the Church Today

Pew Research says that 70% of the American population identify themselves as Christians.

The Landscape of the Church Today

Pew Research says that 70% of the American population identify themselves as Christians.

However when you break down this 70% you find that there are numerous groups who call themselves Christians that have very different beliefs on what being a “Christian” is.

Christians Decline as Share of U.S. Population; Other Faiths and the Unaffiliated Are Growing

	2007	2014	Change*
	%	%	%
Christian	78.4	70.6	-7.8
Protestant	51.3	46.5	-4.8
<i>Evangelical</i>	26.3	25.4	-0.9
<i>Mainline</i>	18.1	14.7	-3.4
<i>Historically black</i>	6.9	6.5	-
Catholic	23.9	20.8	-3.1
Orthodox Christian	0.6	0.5	-
Mormon	1.7	1.6	-
Jehovah's Witness	0.7	0.8	-
Other Christian	0.3	0.4	-
Non-Christian faiths	4.7	5.9	+1.2
Jewish	1.7	1.9	-
Muslim	0.4	0.9	+0.5
Buddhist	0.7	0.7	-
Hindu	0.4	0.7	+0.3
Other world religions**	<0.3	0.3	-
Other faiths**	1.2	1.5	+0.3
Unaffiliated	16.1	22.8	+6.7
Atheist	1.6	3.1	+1.5
Agnostic	2.4	4.0	+1.6
Nothing in particular	12.1	15.8	+3.7
Don't know/refused	0.8	0.6	-0.2
	100.0	100.0	

Source: Pew Research Center, "U.S. Religious Landscape Study," 2014. *Change from 2007 to 2014. **Other world religions include Sikh, Jain, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, and other. Other faiths include other world religions, other Christian, and other non-Christian faiths.

Christian	70.6%
▶ Evangelical Protestant	25.4%
▶ Mainline Protestant	14.7%
▶ Historically Black Protestant	6.5%
Catholic	20.8%
▶ Mormon	1.6%
▶ Orthodox Christian	0.5%
Jehovah's Witness	0.8%
▶ Other Christian	0.4%

Christian	70.6%
Evangelical Protestant	25.4%
▶ Baptist Family (Evangelical Trad.)	9.2%
Methodist Family (Evangelical Trad.)	< 0.3%
▶ Nondenominational Family (Evangelical Trad.)	4.9%
▶ Lutheran Family (Evangelical Trad.)	1.5%
▶ Presbyterian Family (Evangelical Trad.)	0.8%
▶ Pentecostal Family (Evangelical Trad.)	3.6%
Episcopalian/Anglican Family (Evangelical Trad.)	< 0.3%
▶ Restorationist Family (Evangelical Trad.)	1.6%
▶ Congregationalist Family (Evangelical Trad.)	< 0.3%
▶ Holiness Family (Evangelical Trad.)	0.7%
▶ Reformed Family (Evangelical Trad.)	< 0.3%
▶ Adventist Family (Evangelical Trad.)	0.6%
Anabaptist Family (Evangelical Trad.)	0.3%
Pietist Family (Evangelical Trad.)	< 0.3%
Other evangelical/fundamentalist family (Evangelical Trad.)	0.3%
Nonspecific Protestant Family (Evangelical Trad.)	1.5%

Christian	70.6%
▶ Evangelical Protestant	25.4%
Mainline Protestant	14.7%
▶ Baptist Family (Mainline Trad.)	2.1%
▶ Methodist Family (Mainline Trad.)	3.9%
▶ Nondenominational Family (Mainline Trad.)	1.0%
▶ Lutheran Family (Mainline Trad.)	2.1%
▶ Presbyterian Family (Mainline Trad.)	1.4%
▶ Episcopalian/Anglican Family (Mainline Trad.)	1.2%
▶ Restorationist Family (Mainline Trad.)	0.3%
▶ Congregationalist Family (Mainline Trad.)	0.5%
▶ Reformed Family (Mainline Trad.)	< 0.3%
Anabaptist Family (Mainline Trad.)	< 0.3%
Friends Family (Mainline Trad.)	< 0.3%
Nonspecific Protestant Family (Mainline Trad.)	1.9%

The Landscape of the Church Today

Mainline Churches:

- American Baptist Churches (USA)
- Episcopal Church
- Evangelical Lutheran in America - Uses “Evangelical” but are mainline
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- United Methodist Church
- United Church of Christ

The Landscape of the Church Today

Mainline Theology: - Note “common” views but may differ

- Theologically and politically liberal
- Neo-orthodoxy – The Bible is man’s interpretation of Jesus’s/God’s actions. It is not inspired by God and it is a human document that is prone to errors and may not be literally true (opposite of Biblical Literalism).
- Ecumenism – Promote worldwide unity among all religions. See it as OK to have a joint prayer or sermon with a Muslim imam or Hindu.

The Landscape of the Church Today

Evangelical Churches:

- New Site Baptist Church
- Evangelical Presbyterian Church & various other branches
- Evangelical Methodist Church & various other branches
- Vast number of churches and denominations that have an evangelical orthodox perspective.
- Water tend to get "muddy" do your homework!

The Landscape of the Church Today

Evangelical Theology:

- Theologically conservative
- Salvation is through a personal faith experience in Jesus Christ commonly referred to being “born-again”.
- Orthodoxy/Biblical Literalism - The Bible is the revealed Word of God and it is completely inspired. God through the Holy Spirit guided the human authors to write what He divinely willed. The Bible is inerrant, meaning there are no errors.

The Landscape of the Church Today

What about on a global scale?

10 Countries with the Largest Number of Christians

<i>Countries</i>	ESTIMATED 2010 CHRISTIAN POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS CHRISTIAN	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD CHRISTIAN POPULATION
United States	246,780,000	79.5%	11.3%
Brazil	175,770,000	90.2	8.0
Mexico	107,780,000	95.0	4.9
Russia	105,220,000	73.6	4.8
Philippines	86,790,000	93.1	4.0
Nigeria	80,510,000	50.8	3.7
China	67,070,000	5.0	3.1
DR Congo	63,150,000	95.7	2.9
Germany	58,240,000	70.8	2.7
Ethiopia	52,580,000	63.4	2.4
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	1,043,880,000	40.4	47.8
Total for Rest of World	1,140,180,000	6.3	52.2
World Total	2,184,060,000	31.7	100.0

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding. See Appendix C for details on the range of estimates available for China.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • *Global Christianity*, December 2011

The United States has the highest percentage of the world's Christian population.

Christian Population by Region, 1910

Regions	ESTIMATED 1910 CHRISTIAN POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT WAS CHRISTIAN	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD CHRISTIAN POPULATION
Americas	165,890,000	95.9%	27.1%
Europe	405,780,000	94.5	66.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	8,560,000	9.1	1.4
Asia Pacific	27,510,000	2.7	4.5
Middle East-North Africa	4,070,000	9.5	0.7
World Total	611,810,000	34.8	100.0

Source: Pew Forum analysis of data from the Center for the Study of Global Christianity. Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life
Global Christianity, December 2011

Christian Population by Region, 2010

Regions	ESTIMATED 2010 CHRISTIAN POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS CHRISTIAN	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD CHRISTIAN POPULATION
Americas	804,070,000	86.0%	36.8%
Europe	565,560,000	76.2	25.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	516,470,000	62.7	23.6
Asia Pacific	285,120,000	7.0	13.1
Middle East-North Africa	12,840,000	3.8	0.6
World Total	2,184,060,000	31.7	100.0

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life
Global Christianity, December 2011

Even though Christianity began in the Middle East-North Africa, today that region has the lowest concentration of Christians (3.8% of population) and the smallest number of Christians of any major geographic region.



What groups are declining?

Christian affiliation in general has been declining.

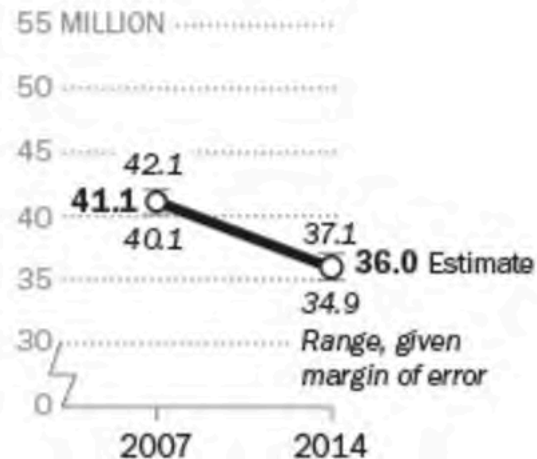
Total Christians declined by 7%

Mainline and Catholics took the biggest hit.

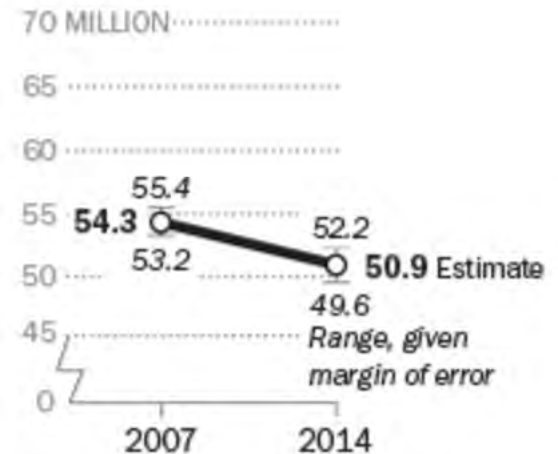
Estimated Number of Christians Declines



Five Million Fewer Mainline Protestant Adults Than in 2007



Declining Number of Catholics

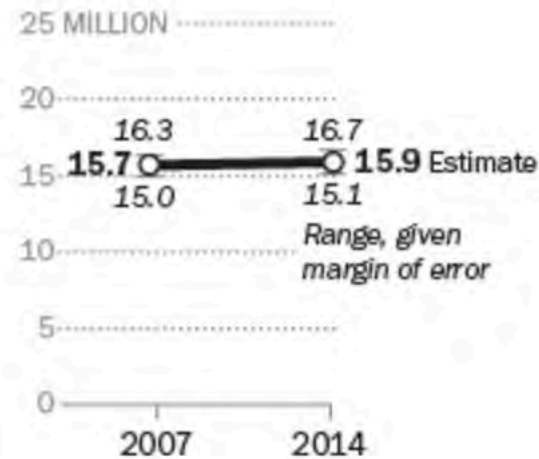


What groups are growing?

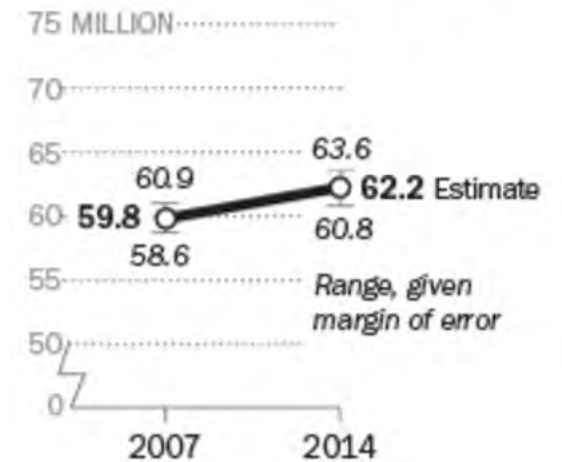
The historically black protestant church has been stable.

The Evangelical Protestant group is growing.

Size of Historically Black Protestant Tradition Has Been Stable



Number of Evangelical Protestants Growing

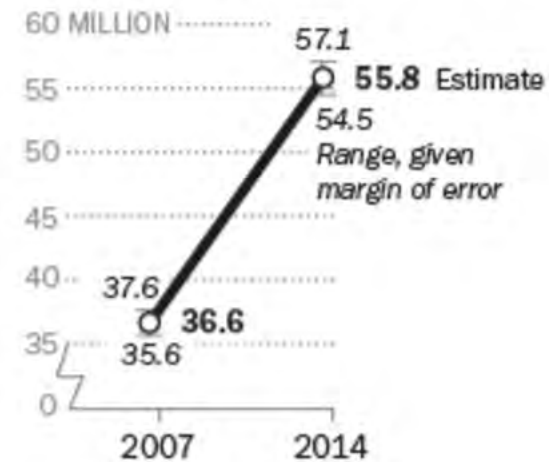


What group
above all is
making the
most
significant
increases?

What group above all is making the most significant increases?

The unaffiliated adults (religious none's) have seen the most significant increases.

Rapid Growth of Religiously Unaffiliated



The lack of Christians among millennials is very concerning

Generational Replacement Helping Drive Growth of Unaffiliated, Decline of Mainline Protestantism and Catholicism

	Silent generation (born 1928-1945)	Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964)	Generation X (born 1965-1980)	Older Millennials (born 1981-1989)	Younger Millennials (born 1990-1996)
	%	%	%	%	%
Christian	85	78	70	57	56
Protestant	57	52	45	38	36
<i>Evangelical</i>	30	28	25	22	19
<i>Mainline</i>	22	17	13	10	11
<i>Historically black</i>	5	7	7	6	6
Catholic	24	23	21	16	16
Other Christian groups	3	3	4	3	3
Other faiths	4	5	6	8	8
Unaffiliated	11	17	23	34	36
Don't know/refused	1	1	1	1	1
	100	100	100	100	100

2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. Figures may not add to 100%, and nested figures may not add to subtotals indicated, due to rounding.

The "other Christian groups" category includes Mormons, Orthodox Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses and a number of smaller Christian groups.

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The Church According to Scripture

The Church According to Scripture

There were no denominations in the Biblical church.

The Church According to Scripture

There were no denominations in the Biblical church.

The bible does not say anywhere what type of denomination the church was supposed to be.

They were all Christians who were part of the same universal church.

The Church According to Scripture

What is the meaning of the word “church”?

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What is the meaning of the word “church”?

What do you say when someone says “Where is your church?”

- **Physical address? Church name?**

The Church According to Scripture

What is the meaning of the word “church”?

The Greek word for church in the New Testament is “ekklesia” which means “those called out” or an “assembly”

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The Greek word for church in the New Testament is “ekklesia” which means “those called out” or an “assembly”

When applying this to Christians it is those who are true believers that gather together. It is the people!

The Church According to Scripture

What is the meaning of the word “church”?

So “church” in the Bible is not a physical building but it is a group of true Christians.

A gathering of believers who have come together for the purposes of God

The Church According to Scripture

There are 2 groups of people or 2 distinctions that are considered a biblical “church”

The Church According to Scripture

Universal/Invisible Church

- **All Christians regardless of denomination are part of the universal church.**

The Church According to Scripture

It is invisible because only God knows its boundaries.

- **2 Timothy 2:19**

- **“Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, having this inscription: The Lord knows those who are His...”**

The Church According to Scripture

Universal/Invisible Church

- **A true Christian can be a member of the universal church but not necessarily be associated with a specific local congregation.**
- **We are saved by God's Grace through faith, NOT our church membership.**

The Church According to Scripture

Universal/Invisible Church

- **We must NEVER think that only our church or denomination are the only ones going to Heaven and that are true Christians.**

The Church According to Scripture

Universal/Invisible Church

ALL TRUE Christians are members of the same universal church (God's household)

Ephesians 2:17-19

“When the Messiah came, He proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household”

The Church According to Scripture

Local Church

The Church According to Scripture

Local Church

- **This is what we commonly refer to when we say “church”. It is our local congregation.**
- **A local church that is a “true church” is part of the universal church of Christ.**

The Church According to Scripture

Local Church

- **Local churches who are “true churches” can be made up of true Christians (those part of the universal church) and those that are not. (You can be a member of a true church but still be lost.)**

The Church According to Scripture

Local Church

- The local church can be very small even a group of 3-6 people.

Philemon 1-3

“to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your home”

Colossians 4:15

“Give my greetings to the brothers in Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her home.”

The Church According to Scripture

Local Church

- **The local church or congregation is Biblical and God desires for all Christians to have fellowship with one another.**

The Church According to Scripture

Local Church

- The local church or congregation is Biblical and God desires for all Christians to have fellowship with one another.
- **This is how God intended His glory and truth to be proclaimed to the world.**

The Church According to Scripture

Local Church

- **Ephesians 3:10-11**
- **“This is so God’s multifaceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens. This is according to His eternal purpose accomplished in the Messiah, Jesus our Lord.”**

The Church According to Scripture

Local Church

- **When the church was obedient and they had fellowship, God grew the church and many came to know Christ.**
- **Acts 3:41-47**

The Church According to Scripture

The First public sermon

The Church According to Scripture

The First public sermon

- **Peter gave the first public sermon to the lost.**
- **Acts 2:22-24**
- **Acts 2:32-40**

The Church According to Scripture

The First public sermon

- Peter gave the first public sermon to the lost.
- Acts 2:22-24
- Acts 2:32-40

What were the main points Peter preached about?

The Church According to Scripture

What were the main points Peter preached about?

- **Jesus is Lord (God) and the Messiah who was crucified and resurrected.**
- **Jesus now sits at the right hand of the father in Heaven.**
- **Repentance, forgiveness of sins**
- **Receiving of the Holy Spirit**

The Church According to Scripture

What were the main points Peter preached about?

- **Baptism by obedience (not required for Salvation)**
- **Salvation is available for ALL who believe (Acts 2:21)**

These truths are critical and foundational to our Christian beliefs.

The Church According to Scripture

Actions of the first Christian congregation

The Church According to Scripture

Actions of the first Christian congregation

- **Acts 2:41-47**

The Church According to Scripture

Actions of the first Christian congregation

- Acts 2:41-47
- **Preach/teach the Gospel in its entirety**
- **Baptize and acknowledge believers in Christ.**
- **Make Christians into disciples.**
- **Repeat**

Christianity and Judaism

Christianity and Judaism

Even though the Jews were God's chosen people that we read about in Scripture. Those who follow Judaism today are not Christians.

Christianity and Judaism

Christianity Perspective

- **A Christian takes into account the events of the Old and New Testament of Scripture as God's divine truth.**

Christianity and Judaism

Christianity Perspective

- A Christian takes into account the events of the Old and New Testament of Scripture as God's divine truth.
- **Christians believe that the Old Testament was a foreshadow for the coming Messiah, which was fulfilled through Jesus Christ.**

Christianity and Judaism

Christianity Perspective

- **That God established the priests, sacrifices and the temple for His divine purpose, however these were temporary.**

Christianity and Judaism

Christianity Perspective

- That God established the priests, sacrifices and the temple for His divine purpose however these were temporary.
- **Christians recognize the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the New Testament as God' inspired Word that shows us who God is and the redeeming work of Jesus on the cross.**

Christianity and Judaism

Judaism Perspective

- **The unbelieving Jews (both in Biblical and modern times) do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

Christianity and Judaism

Judaism Perspective

- The unbelieving Jews (both in Biblical and modern times) do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- **They do not believe that he was the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament.**

Christianity and Judaism

Judaism Perspective

- The unbelieving Jews (both in Biblical and modern times) do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- They do not believe that he was the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament.
- **They have mixed views – Jesus was either a good teacher at best or worse, a false prophet.**



Christianity and Judaism

Judaism Perspective

- **In fact the unbelieving Jews in the biblical times thought the Jews who believed in Jesus were a heretical sect within Judaism.**

Christianity and Judaism

Judaism Perspective

- **The Jews followed the law as it has been given in the Old Testament primarily the Torah or Pentateuch which is the first five books of the Old Testament.**
- **The rest of the Old Testament was also Scripture to them and it was known as the Hebrew Bible.**

Christianity and Judaism

Judaism Perspective

- They also recognize the “Mishna/Talmud” which is their oral law or tradition.
- This was oral because it was never written down (until 200 A.D.). It was additional instruction on how to live a Jewish life and interpret the written law (Torah/Scripture)
- Jesus’s perspective on their tradition - Mark chapter 7

Christianity and Judaism

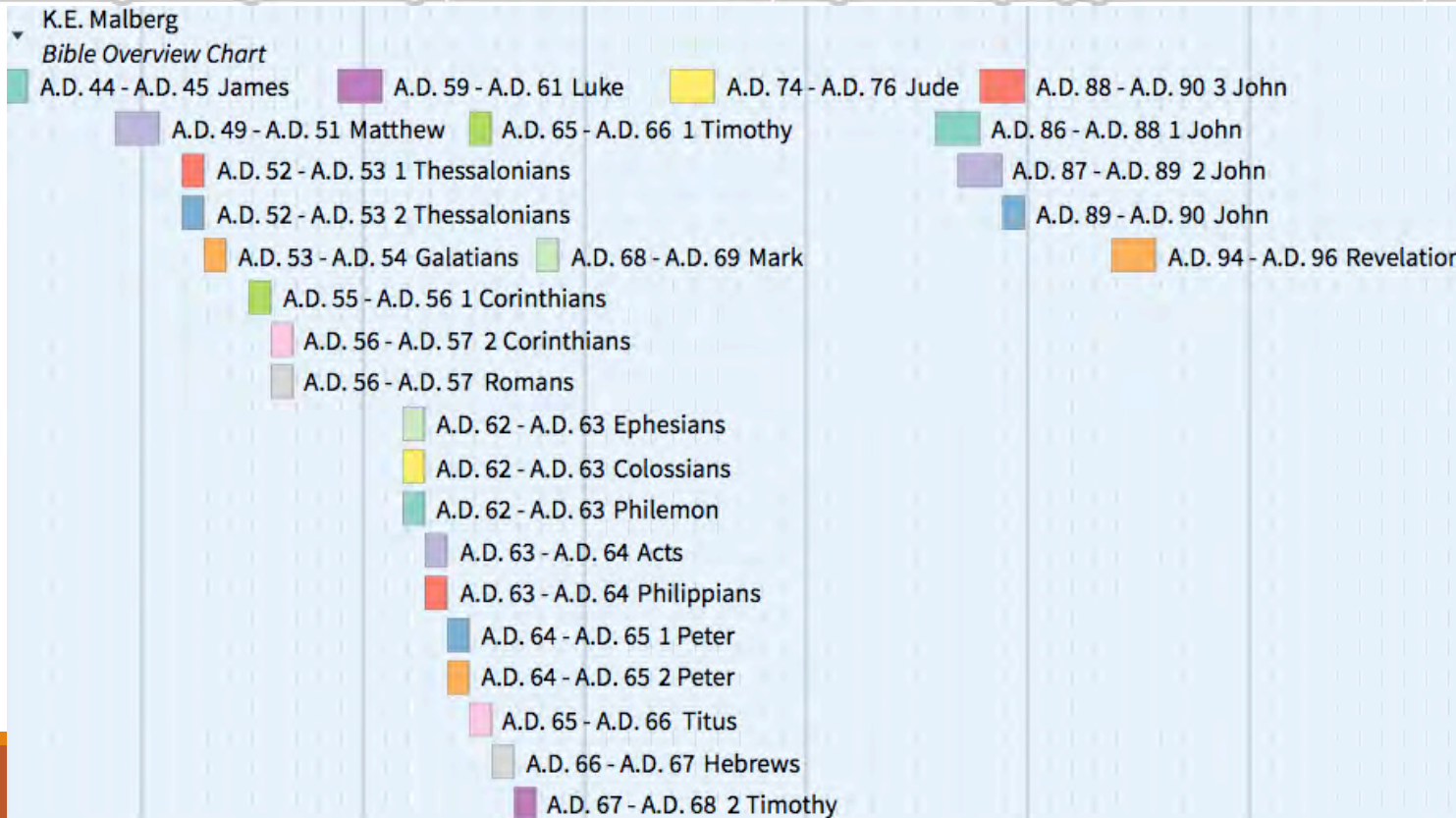
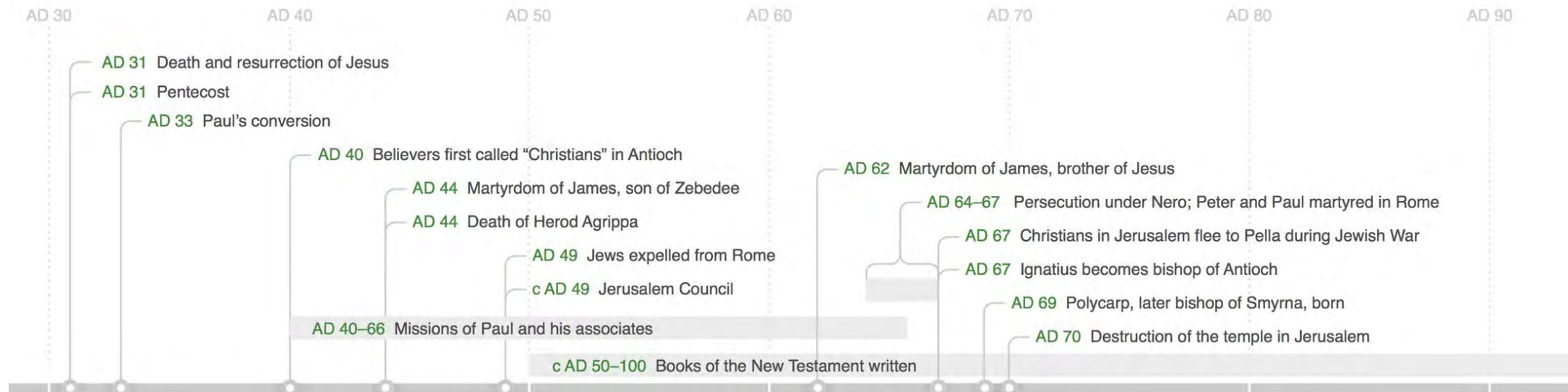
Judaism Perspective

- **There were Jews who believed in Jesus Christ who then became Christians or Jewish-Christians.**
- **But there were many who did not and still do not even today. The lies instilled by Satan and the Jewish leaders of the day directly influenced their unbelief.**
- **Matthew 28:11-15**

Christianity in the 1st Century

Christianity in the 1st Century

Timeline Overview



Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

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These Jewish Christians did not see Christianity as a new religion but as a continuation or completion of Judaism.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

The first Christians were Jewish Christians (also called Hebrew Christians or Judeo-Christians).

These Jewish Christians did not see Christianity as a new religion but as a continuation or completion of Judaism.

Therefore they did not abandon their Jewish practices or traditions.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

These Jewish Christians even welcomed the Gentiles into the faith. They knew that the prophets prophesied that all nations would be brought together when the Messiah came.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

These Jewish Christians even welcomed the Gentiles into the faith. They knew that the prophets spoke of all nations would be brought together when the Messiah came.

The Holy Spirit showed Peter the truth that the Gospel was for EVERYONE not just the Jews.

- **Acts 10:34-35, 43-48**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

There was disagreement among the Jews initially concerning the Gentiles. The Pharisees thought it necessary for the Gentiles to become Jews. But Peter declared that we are saved by Grace through faith and justified by God.

Acts 15:5-11

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

While the first Christians and members of the universal church were Jewish, they were soon overwhelmed by the Gentiles.

The Jews were having a harder time accepting the truth of Christ, but the Gentiles were being converted in masses.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

By A.D. 64 the Christians of that day had separated themselves from the traditional Jewish practices of circumcision, dietary laws and viewing the Sabbath on Saturday (switching to Sunday the day of the resurrection).

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

The first time this transitioned to Sunday is recorded for us in the Bible in the Book of Acts. This event took place in approximately A.D 56.

Acts 20:7

- **“On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread,...”**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

By A.D. 64 the Christians of that day had separated themselves from the traditional Jewish practices of circumcision, dietary laws and viewing the Sabbath on Saturday (switching to Sunday the day of the resurrection).

There was now a hard line in the church between the Jewish synagogue and the Christian Church.

Both groups sought distinction between one another.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

The resentment between the Christians and Jews was so extensive that the Jewish leaders added a prayer that stated how they are thankful that they are not like the Nazarenes!

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Jewish Christians and the Gentiles*

The resentment between the Christians and Jews was so extensive that the Jewish leaders added a prayer that stated how they are thankful that they are not like the Nazarenes!

To this day there is still this conflict between Judaism and Christianity.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

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Living in the 1st century A.D for the Christian was to live in the Greco-Roman World

This is a world that is significantly influenced by Greek culture but being under Roman rule.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Living in the 1st century A.D for the Christian was to live in the Greco-Roman World

This is a world that is significantly influenced by Greek culture but being under Roman rule.

- **The major Greek influence (Hellenization) originated by the work of Alexander the Great. (356-323 B.C.) after his conquest of the Persian empire among others.**



- The Greek culture began its influence on the Jews however during the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities (721 and 597 B.C.). This was known as the Dispersion and Scripture refers to these Jews as Hellenists.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

God used the Dispersion to spread the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

God used the Dispersion to spread the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire.

When we look at what the Israelites did to become exiled, it was their sin and disobedience to God. But even in exile God used this to further His kingdom.

God used this as an opportunity to put the Scriptures in the Greek language (Septuagint).

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Since the Jews were dispersed throughout the land, they became integrated into Greek culture. They soon forgot their native Hebrew language and instead spoke, read Greek and Aramaic.

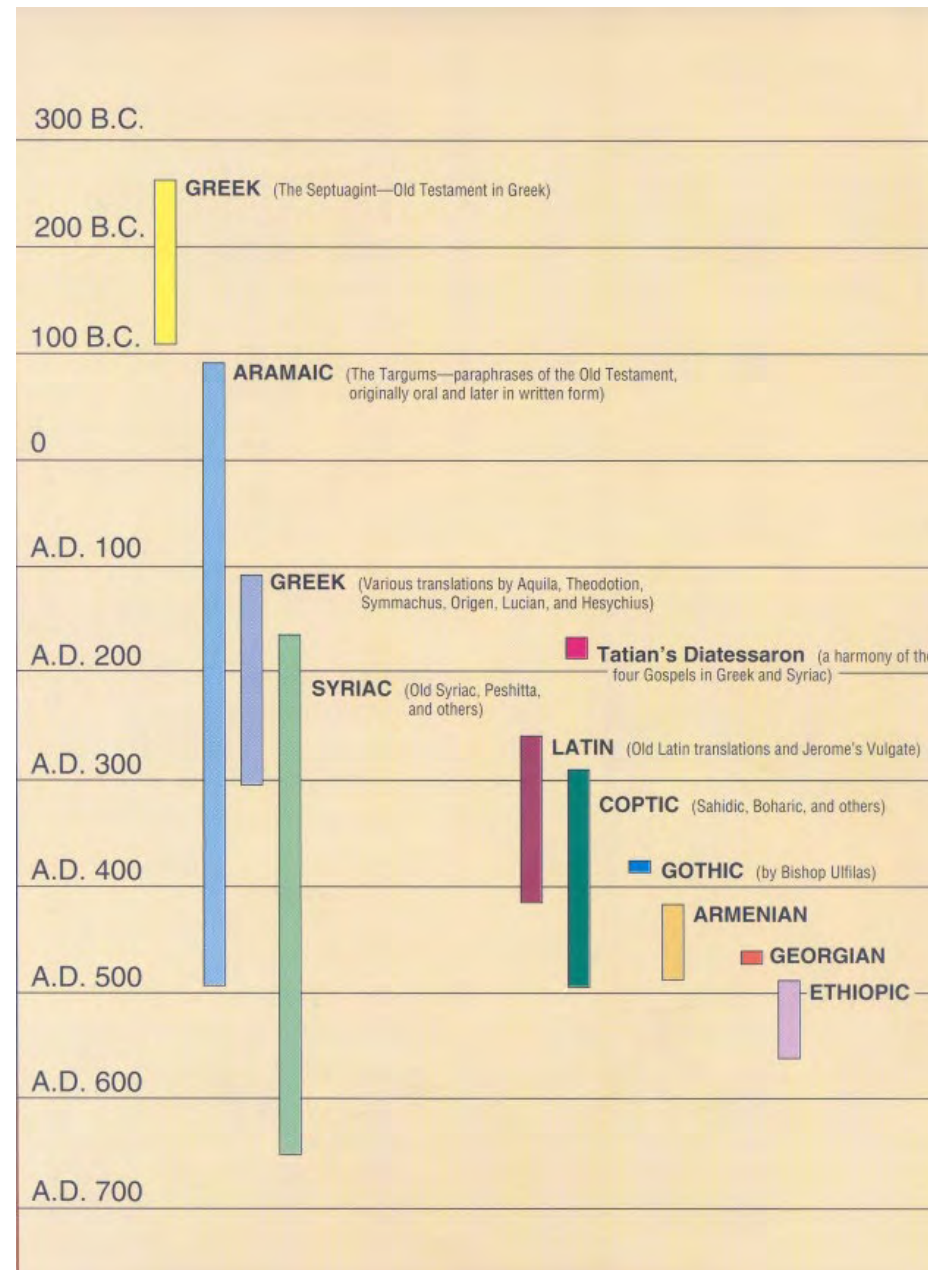
Greek was a very common language that everyone could read. So while they may have spoken Aramaic the best language to write something down in and have it understood by all would be Greek.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

So it didn't take long for them to translate the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) into the Greek language. This translation became known as the Septuagint.

The Septuagint was translated by 70 Jewish scholars in Alexandria of Egypt in 200 B.C. It is also known as the LXX attributing the Jewish scholars.

Ancient Versions of Biblical Text



Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Having the Old Testament now in the common Greek language made it easy for anyone to read and understand the Scriptures.

In fact when the OT is quoted by New Testament authors it is from the Greek LXX and not the Hebrew.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

The Septuagint also included the Apocrypha, which are additional books that are not recognized by the Hebrew Bible. More on this later 😊

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Influence of pagan philosophy

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Another challenge for the Jew and Christians of the times was the influence of pagan philosophy.

Ancient Greek philosophy had been around since the 6th century BCE. It was central to understanding life for many in the Greek culture.

- **Subjects: political philosophy, ethics, metaphysics, ontology, logic, biology, rhetoric, and aesthetics.**
- **Famous philosophers: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

We see that Paul had to deal with these philosophers on several occasions in the Book of Acts.

- **Acts 17:18-21**

Christianity certainly had to (in a sense) “compete” with these philosophers and to show them how the Scriptures are truly the basis for all knowledge and understanding.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Though not only did they have to “compete” they also began to embrace it and use it as a way to give credibility to Christianity.

- The popular philosophers of the day for example like Plato and Socrates had criticized the many gods that the people were worshiping.
- They also affirmed that there was a higher being of authority and truth and that the soul was immortal.
- Since these philosophers were so popular the Christians would use these types of similarities to give credibility for Christianity.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Though some took this too far as was the case with Philo of Alexandria.

- **Philo sought to prove to the philosophers that the Hebrew scriptures agreed with pagan philosophy.**
- **That since the Hebrew Scriptures came first that the philosophers drew from them.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Though some took this too far as was the case with Philo of Alexandria.

- **However, where he went “to far” was when he sought to prove that the God of the Hebrew Scriptures was the same as the One of the philosophers. That if you took the Scriptures to be speaking figuratively and understood by allegorical interpretation it would make since.**
- **This of course is to take away the literal and plain meaning of the Scriptures and to turn them into something they are not.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Prior to the Roman government, Christians were persecuted by the Jews.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **The persecution of the Christians by the Roman government began from the time of Nero in A.D. 54 and lasted until the conversion of Constantine who was the first Christian Roman emperor (4th century).**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- The persecution of the Christians by the Roman government began from the time of Nero in A.D. 54 and lasted until the conversion of Constantine who was the first Christian Roman emperor (4th century).
- **This persecution began when the Romans began to see Christianity as a separate religion from Judaism.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

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- This persecution began when the Romans began to see Christianity as a separate religion from Judaism.
- **The line separating the two was becoming very visible. You were either Christian or Jewish.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **The Romans had been giving the Jews numerous exceptions to their laws to accommodate them. With their previous run-ins with the they found it easier to let the Jews do their own thing.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- The Romans had been giving the Jews numerous exceptions to their laws to accommodate them. With their previous run-ins with the they found it easier to let the Jews do their own thing.
- **The Romans decided they were NOT going to have another group with “exceptions”.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **The Roman government sought to have peace among its empire especially when it came to religion.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- The Roman government sought to have peace among its empire especially when it came to religion.
- **They found that (especially with the Jews) if you interfere with peoples beliefs there can be uprisings.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **To instill order, the Roman government introduced two concepts called syncretism and emperor worship.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Syncretism**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Syncretism**
 - **Incorporated the various aspects of the religions into one.**
 - ***“All god's are really the same, people just give them different names.”***

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Syncretism**
 - Incorporated the various aspects of the religions into one.
 - *“All god's are really the same people just give them different names.”*
- **The Roman empire was polytheistic (worshipped multiple gods)**
 - **Zeus, Hermes etc. | Acts 15:11-13**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Syncretism**
 - **But the Christians proved to be stubborn, and didn't like this concept.**
 - **They insisted on their monotheistic view of there only being 1 God.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Emperor Worship**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Emperor Worship**
 - **The Roman empire was OK with you worshiping your “god” so long as you showed a sign of your loyalty to the emperor.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Emperor Worship**

- The Roman empire was OK with you worshiping your “god” so long as you showed a sign of your loyalty to the emperor.
- **This later took place in the form of burning incense before the emperor’s image and saying “Caesar is lord”.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Emperor Worship**
 - **A certificate was presented showing that you had performed this task.**
 - **Disobedience was treason or show disrespect. Either of which brought punishment.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by the Roman Government

- **Except for the Jews as they were given an exemption.**
- **Roman emperor Claudius (41-54 A.D.) provided this exemption.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by occupation.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by occupation.

- **Christians who were teachers, masons and tailors found persecution for their beliefs.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution by occupation.

- Christians who were teachers, masons and tailors found persecution for their beliefs.
- **The teacher had to teach about false god's, the mason had to build idols and the tailor was asked to make robes for pagan worship.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **Nero was the emperor of Rome from 54-68 A.D.**
- **On June 18th 64 A.D. a great fire broke out in Rome which destroyed 80% of the city.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **Historians differ on the actual cause of the fire, it was either accidental or perhaps intentional by Nero himself.**
- **Nero was seen as a being a bit “mad” and that he wanted to rebuild Rome to his liking so he had it destroyed.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **However what we do know is that Nero being under intense scrutiny for possibly being the instigator of the fire proceeded to blame the Christians.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- However what we do know is that Nero being under intense scrutiny for possibly being the instigator of the fire proceeded to blame the Christians.
- **Apparently many Christian and Jewish residences survived the fire so it made them easy targets.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **With blame being put upon the Christians this opened the floodgate for severe persecution.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **Notes from Roman historian Tacitus (A.D. 56-117)**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **Notes from Roman historian Tacitus (A.D. 56-117)**
- **In spite of every human effort, of the emperor's largesse, and of the sacrifices made to the gods, nothing sufficed to allay suspicion nor to destroy the opinion that the fire had been ordered. Therefore, in order to destroy this rumor, Nero blamed the Christians, who are hated for their abominations, and punished them with refined cruelty. Christ, from whom they take their name, was executed by Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius...**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- Notes from Roman historian Tacitus (A.D. 56-117)
- Stopped for a moment, this evil superstition reappeared, not only in Judea, where was the root of the evil, but also in Rome, where all things sordid and abominable from every corner of the world come together. Thus, first those who confessed [that they were Christians] were arrested, and on the basis of their testimony a great number were condemned, although not so much for the fire itself as for their hatred of humankind.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **The persecution began because of false blame, but this was not the real reason why the persecution was so severe.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- The persecution began because of false blame, but this was not the real reason why the persecution was so severe.
- **It was because of their perception that Christians hated humankind.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- The persecution began because of false blame, but this was not the real reason why the persecution was so severe.
- It was because of their perception that Christians hated humankind.
- **This seems quite odd since we know the opposite is true. Christians show great love for one another**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **So where was the breakdown? Why where the Christians seen this way?**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- So where was the breakdown? Why were the Christians seen this way?
- **This was because Christians withdrew themselves from society and did not participate in social activities.**
 - Theater, army, literature and sports.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- So where was the breakdown? Why were the Christians seen this way?
- This was because Christians withdrew themselves from society and did not participate in social activities.
 - Theater, army, literature and sports.
- **The Christians withdrew because all of these activities intertwined with pagan worship.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **The Christians could only worship and serve the one true God.**
- **So because of this decision in the eyes of the Romans the Christians hated humankind.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- The Christians could only worship and serve the one true God. So because of this decision in the eyes of the Romans the Christians hated humankind.
- **In fact they Christians were even called atheists because they worshiped an invisible God.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- Tacitus also recorded:
 - Before killing the Christians, Nero used them to amuse the people. Some were dressed in furs, to be killed by dogs. Others were crucified. Still others were set on fire early in the night, so that they might illumine it. Nero opened his own gardens for these shows, and in the circus he himself became a spectacle, for he mingled with the people dressed as a charioteer, or he rode around in his chariot...

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **Tacitus also recorded:**
 - **All of this aroused the mercy of the people, even against these culprits who deserved an exemplary punishment, for it was clear that they were not being destroyed for the common good, but rather to satisfy the cruelty of one person.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- **There is also much agreement among historians and tradition that Peter and Paul were both martyred because of the Nero persecution.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under emperor Nero.

- There is also much agreement among historians and tradition that Peter and Paul were both martyred because of the Nero persecution.
- **Paul being a Roman citizen was beheaded.**
- **Peter was crucified upside down because he did not deem himself worthy to be crucified in the same way as Christ.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under Domitian

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under Domitian

- **Domitian ruled shortly after Nero from 81-96 A.D.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under Domitian

- Domitian ruled shortly after Nero from 81-96 A.D.
- **He proclaimed himself divine and forced his subjects to call him “Lord God”**
- **He revived the persecution against the Christians and even had members of his own family killed (Flavius and Domitilla Clemens)**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

Persecution under Domitian

- **However it is this very persecution that is believed to have sent John to the island of Patmos to write the book of Revelation.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

The Pliny and Trajan Letters – A.D. 110

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

The Pliny and Trajan Letters – A.D. 110

- **These are a series of letters regarding Christians between Pliny the Younger (governor of Bithynia) and emperor Trajan.**
- **There purpose was to discuss his “Christian problem” and how to deal with them.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

The Pliny and Trajan Letters – A.D. 110

- **It was law at this time that to be a Christian was illegal.**
- **The Christian population was growing so much that the pagan temples were almost deserted and there were few buyers for the animals used for sacrifice.**
- **This was a problem and so he began to do something about it.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

The Pliny and Trajan Letters – A.D. 110

- **He obtained a list of all Christians and began pulling them all in for questioning.**
- **If they admitted to being a Christian he gave them an opportunity to recant or be put to death.**
- **They could pray to the Roman gods, burn incense before a image of the emperor and curse Christ.**
- **If they did these things he would let them go.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

The Pliny and Trajan Letters – A.D. 110

- **He soon found that there were many many Christians and of all different ages. He being a “just” man sought to know more about them.**
- **The rumors about Christians at the time was that they were cannibals, participated in orgies and incest.**
- **“Eat of my body and drink of my blood, greet each other with a holy kiss, calling each other brothers and sisters”**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

The Pliny and Trajan Letters – A.D. 110

- **However what Pliny found was that the Christians did the following:**
 - **Gathered together before daylight to sing a song to Christ as God.**
 - **They bound themselves with an oath to not commit a crime – theft, robbery, adultery.**
 - **They would separate and partake of a meal, common yet harmless (which is not the characteristic of a nefarious superstition)**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Greco-Roman World*

The Pliny and Trajan Letters – A.D. 110

- **But even after finding out the Christians seemed harmless it was still illegal.**
- **He received guidance from emperor Trajan to not seek them out, but if they were brought before him and accused then give them the opportunity to recant. If they do not, then proceed with executing them.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Jerusalem was the epicenter for the spreading of Christianity.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Jerusalem was the epicenter for the spreading of Christianity.

- **After receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the apostles stayed in Jerusalem just as Jesus had commanded them.**
- **This was approximately 5 years.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Jerusalem was the epicenter for the spreading of Christianity.

- After receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the apostles stayed in Jerusalem just as Jesus had commanded them.
- This was approximately 5 years.
- **We may wonder why that was? Why did Jesus keep them there for so long?**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Jerusalem was the epicenter for the spreading of Christianity.

- **Jerusalem was the hub where Jews from all providences came together.**
- **It was an excellent place to be able to stay stationary and yet reach a wide audience. It proved to be very effective.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The first outreach for Christian evangelism began because of persecution.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The first outreach for Christian evangelism began because of persecution.

- **After the death of Stephen (AD 36) severe persecution broke out against the Christians. This gave them urgency to leave Jerusalem (not the apostles) and to bring their new found faith to other places.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The first outreach for Christian evangelism began because of persecution.

- After the death of Stephen (AD 36) severe persecution broke out against the Christians. This caused them to leave Jerusalem (not the apostles) and bring their new found faith to other places.
- **Tertullian – Christian scholar/theologian 2nd-3rd centuries.**
 - *“The blood of Christians is the seed of the church”*

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The first outreach for Christian evangelism began because of persecution.

- **God used the persecutions of Saul to spread the Christians throughout the land.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The first outreach for Christian evangelism began because of persecution.

- God used the persecution by Saul to spread the Christians throughout the land.
- **Acts 8:1**
 - **“Saul agreed with putting him to death. On that day severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria.”**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The first outreach for Christian evangelism began because of persecution.

- God used the persecution by Saul to spread the Christians throughout the land.
- **Acts 8:4**
 - **“So those who were scattered went on their way preaching the message of good news.”**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The first outreach for Christian evangelism began because of persecution.

- God used the persecution by Saul to spread the Christians throughout the land.
- **Acts 11:19**
 - **“Those who had been scattered as a result of the persecution that started because of Stephen made their way as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the message to no one except the Jews.”**

Acts 11:19 – Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch



Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The Church in Antioch

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The Church in Antioch

- **After the Christians were dispersed from Jerusalem, a group of unnamed “men of Cyprus and Cyrene” founded a successful church in Antioch.**
- **Acts 11:19-21**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The Church in Antioch

- After the Christians were dispersed from Jerusalem, a group of unnamed “men of Cyprus and Cyrene” founded a successful church in Antioch.
 - Acts 11:19-21
- **Antioch was the administrative capital of the Roman province of Syria with a population of 500,000 making it the 3rd largest city in the empire. This was a GREAT location for a budding new church.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The Church in Antioch

- **The church in Jerusalem heard about Antioch and they sent Barnabas (and ultimately Paul) to establish a relationship.**
- **Acts 11:22-24**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The Church in Antioch

- **At Antioch is the first time that the followers of Jesus were called “Christians”**
- **Acts 11:26b “...The Disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.”**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The Church in Antioch

- At Antioch is the first time that the followers of Jesus were called “Christians”
 - Acts 11:26b “...The Disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.”
- **Interestingly “Christians” were first used as a derogatory label by their opponents. However they gladly accepted it.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The Church in Antioch

- **In time Antioch succeeded Jerusalem as the center of missionary outreach because of the work of Paul (AD 44).**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The missionary Journeys of Paul

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Acts 13:4-14:28



Paul's Second Missionary Journey Acts 15:36-18:22



Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey Acts 18:23-21:17



Paul's Journey to Rome

Acts 27:1-28:31



Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

The missionary Journey's of Paul

- Throughout his journeys Paul wrote his letters which was actually God's divinely inspired Scripture.



Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Paul finished his life in Rome

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Paul finished his life in Rome

- **The last Word of Scripture about Paul was that he was able to minister for 2 years unhindered as a prisoner under house arrest.**
 - **Acts 28:30-31**
- **While it is likely that he was martyred by Nero after these two years, God had used Him to proclaim the Gospel and to write God's inspired Word for the world to read.**

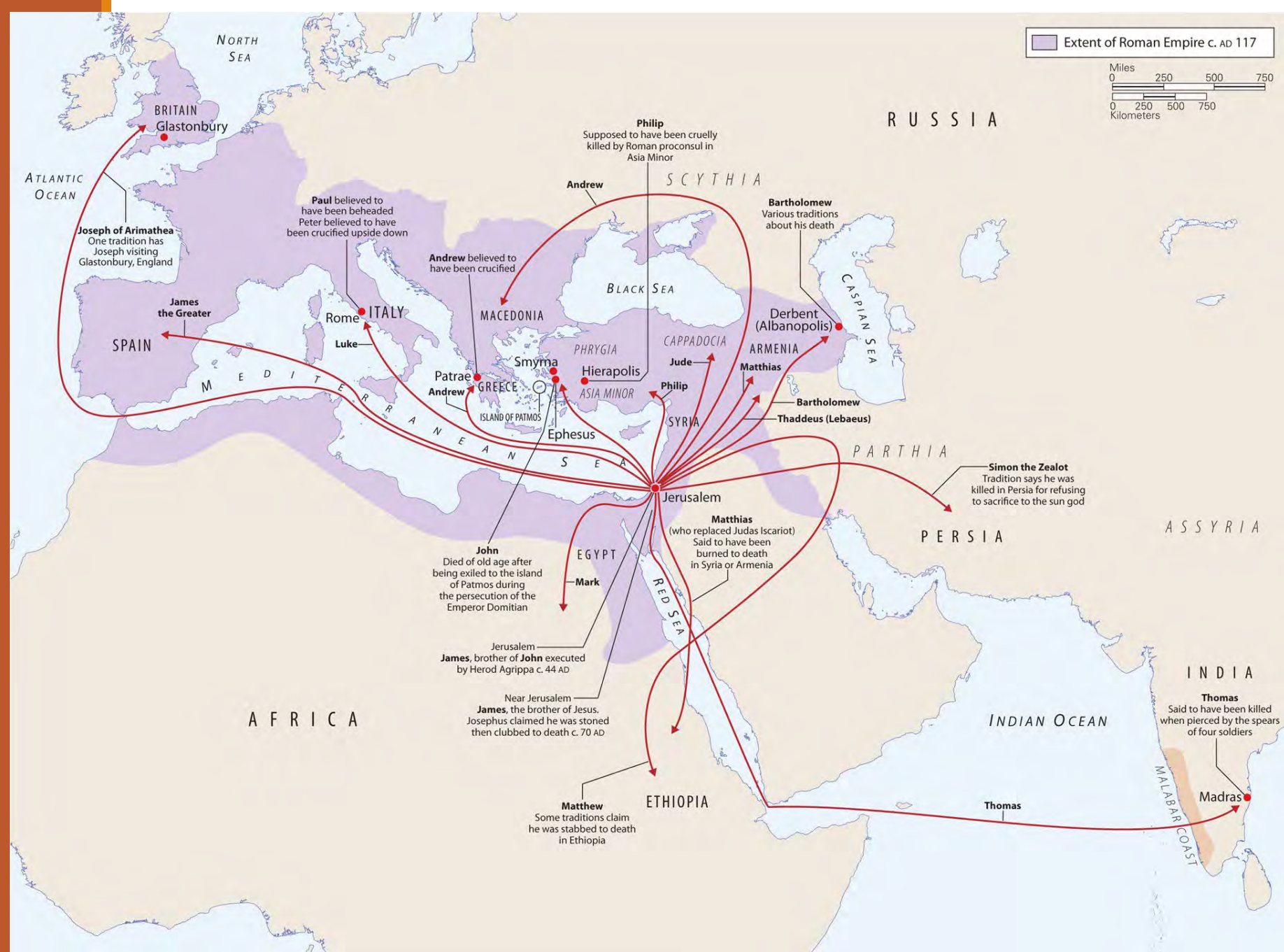
The last book of the Bible, was written by John during his exile to the island of Patmos A.D. 94-96.

The seven Churches of Revelation



Tradition and the Apostles

Tradition isn't the most reliable source, but this is what is recorded regarding where the apostles ended up prior to their deaths.



Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Tradition and the Apostles

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

There are also numerous stories that are difficult to verify about these Apostles and their impact to the area's in which they proclaimed the Gospel.

- **James the Greater (Saint James and also Santiago) is seen as the founding apostle for the church in Spain.**
- **That in A.D 40 he traveled there to proclaim the Gospel but wasn't having that much of an impact.**
- **Then it is told that the Virgin Mary (whom was still alive) appeared to the Apostle James (river Ebro near Saragossa) on a Jasper pillar to encourage him and told him to build a church (in her honor) on that site around the Jasper pillar.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

When Mary disappeared, the pillar remained, and tradition holds that a church was built and dedicated to Mary.

To this day this is known and celebrated as “Virgen del Pilar” or “Our Lady of the Pillar” to remember and venerate Mary.

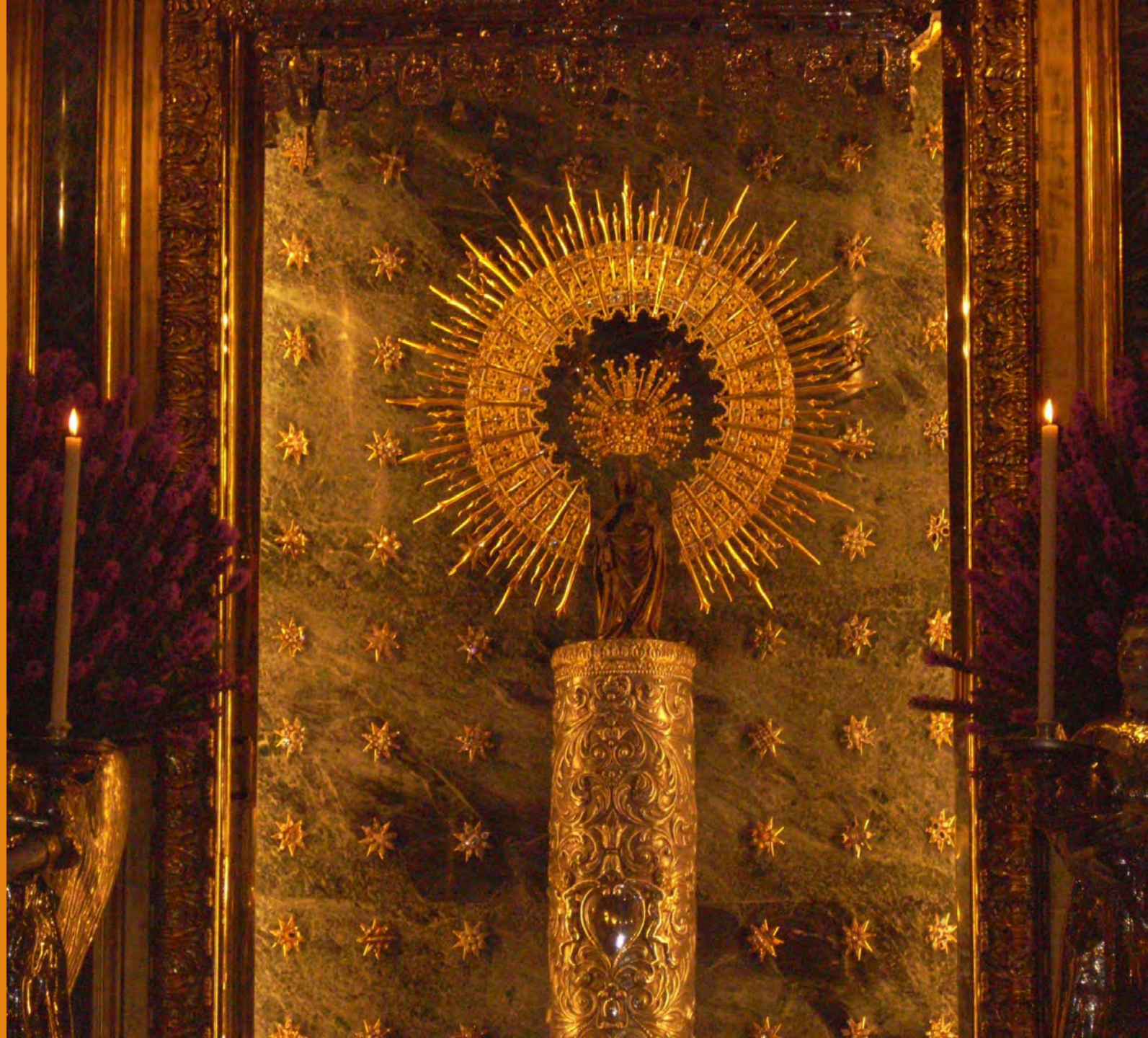
The Roman Catholic church has rebuilt the original church on multiple occasions and today they claim that that the pillar of Jasper is the one in which was given to them by Mary.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

On top of the pillar of Jasper they have placed a 15” statue of the Virgin Mary holding Christ and it is seen as a exceedingly important relic.

Also, the Apostle James is known as Saint James which in Spanish is “Santiago”.

Christianity in
the 1st Century
– *Expansion of
the Church and
Christianity*



Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Thomas is believed to have been the one who started the church in India.

- **Though it includes a tale that while in India a king named Gondophares was looking for an architect. Thomas volunteered even though he wasn't one.**
- **The king found out that Thomas was giving portions of the building funds to the poor, so he had him thrown in prison.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *Expansion of the Church and Christianity*

Thomas is believed to have been the one who started the church in India.

- **But while there the king's brother Gad died but subsequently came back from the dead. He told a story of seeing a heavenly place that was being built upon the money that Thomas had given to the poor.**
- **On the spot this led to the conversion of the king to Christianity and Thomas was released and lived on until dying as a martyr.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

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The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70 when the Roman general Titus (later emperor) led his armies to destroy it after a major revolt from the Jews.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70 when the Roman general Titus (later emperor) led his armies to destroy it after a major revolt from the Jews.

It began when Gessius Florus (the procurator of Judah) began seizing silver from the temple. Florus was responsible for the financial affairs of Roman government in the Judah area.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

Florus was not well liked by the Jews because of this and he really didn't like them either.

He began seizing the silver when the tax revenue was low.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

As this went on the Jews repeatedly refused his demands which infuriated Florus

So out of retaliation Florus sent troops into Jerusalem and massacred over 3600 citizens.

This triggered a massive revolt from the Jews against the Romans. The Jews then began expelling and killing the Romans from the cities.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

Cestius Callus (Roman governor for the region) sent 20,000 soldiers to besiege Jerusalem. But after 6 months he failed.

Then Emperor Nero sent in Vespasian (general) to take care of the opposition in the surround areas like Galilee which were easier to overpower.

Vespasian had great success and defeated all opposition except for Jerusalem.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

During this time however Nero died and Vespasian was appointed to be the new Emperor.

Vespasian's first action as emperor was to appoint his son to lead the ongoing war against the Jews.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

The work of Vespasian put Jerusalem in isolation.

Their defenses held for a time but their defenses soon began to break down due to lack of resources and starvation.

The Jews would fight all day and attempt to repair the walls at night.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

In time the 3 walls fell one by one until they city had been conquered.

The Roman soldiers were so angry with the Jews that they burned the temple to the ground against the generals wishes.

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

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The Roman soldiers were so angry with the Jews that they burned the temple to the ground against the general's wishes.

The destruction of the temple was foretold by Jesus

- **Matthew 24:1-2, Mark 13:1-2, Luke 21:7-36**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

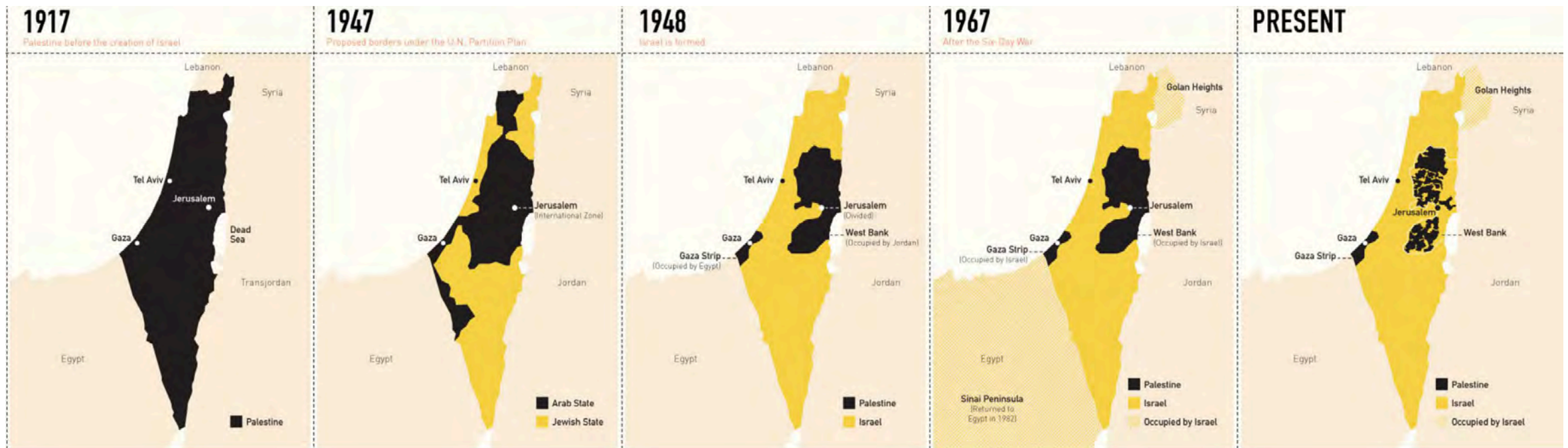
Aftermath of the temple's destruction

- **The Christians did not participate in the war and this helped solidify the line between Jews and Christians.**

Christianity in the 1st Century – *The Destruction of the temple in Jerusalem*

Aftermath of the temple's destruction

- This was the end of the Jewish state until modern times in 1948



Christianity in the 1st Century – *The End of the Apostolic Age*

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Christianity in the 1st Century – *The End of the Apostolic Age*

With the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70 this has become to be known as the end of the Apostolic Age.

Most of the apostles are dead and the churches they had planted have passed the leadership onto a new generation.

While it is the end of the time of the apostles, it is only the beginning for the great movement of Christianity!

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

This is the time period after the death of the apostles but before the council of Nicene that took place in A.D. 325.

It was a very pivotal time for the church. The apostles and those who had direct contact with Jesus had passed away. It was now up to the next generation to carry on the great commission.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

This period of time is also known as “The Age of Catholic Christianity”

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This period of time is also known as “The Age of Catholic Christianity”

However, “Catholic” does not refer to Catholicism but instead it means “universal”

- **Catholic/Universal: Designates a person who belongs to the universal Christian church.**
- **When the Christians first used the word “catholic” it did not have the same meaning that it has today with Roman Catholicism.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

The term “catholic” was first used by Ignatius who was the bishop of Antioch in the early 2nd century.

- Ignatius – *“Wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the catholic church”*

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

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By the end of the 2nd century “catholic” was widely used to refer to the “universal church” which consists of all true believers regardless of their local congregation.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

These early Christians still viewed themselves as part of the same body of Christ, they were simply extensions of the original teachings of Jesus and His apostles.

Christianity at this time had great unity and they were one unit. There were no denominations or sects of various beliefs.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

The Christians during this time period were being obedient to Christ and were obeying His commands. They were spreading the Gospel regardless of persecutions and they were showing true biblical Christian love to one another.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

Tertullian (2nd-3rd century Presbyter, Author) Was once a pagan but converted to Christianity. It wasn't by apologetics or fierce preaching, but because of the love that the Christians demonstrated in their walk.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

Tertullian (2nd-3rd century Presbyter, Author) Was once a pagan but converted to Christianity. It wasn't by apologetics or fierce preaching, but because of the love that the Christians demonstrated in their walk.

They were showing the world the identifying “mark of the Christian”

- **John 13:35**
- **“By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

The results of the Christians obedience brought great growth to the universal church of God.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

The Spread of Christianity Geographically

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312

The Spread of Christianity Geographically

- **Early Christian missionary work followed a similar path to that of the apostle Paul by spreading west of Antioch (Syria) to Italy and Spain.**
- **It then moved to Asia Minor (Turkey), France, Britain, Egypt and other parts of North Africa.**
- **Christianity had spread throughout all of these countries in less than 300 years.**

Spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire, to A.D. 600



DIRECTIONS

RESET



Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – *Early Christian Worship*

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

- **These early Christians would meet on the first day of the week (Sunday) to break bread and celebrate the resurrection of Christ.**
- **Communion was very common and took place frequently as to them it was a great act of Worship to God.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

In the beginning a full meal was part of the worship service where communion was taken at the end, but by the 3rd century the full meal was set aside

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

In the beginning a full meal was part of the worship service where communion was taken at the end, but by the 3rd century the full meal was set aside

- **This was likely because of large numbers but also to quell the rumors about the Christians and their "love feasts". These Christians who came together and loved one another and ate together were thought to be doing something of a "sexual" nature.**
- **The "great one another with a Holy Kiss" and Christians addressing one another as brother and sister was also misunderstood by external observers.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

One of the better recordings we have of early worship came from Justin Martyr a 2nd century apologist.

The day that is commonly called Sunday all those [believers] who live in the cities or the field gather, and in their meetings as much as time allows is read from the memoirs of the apostles or from the writings of the prophets. Then, once the reader is through, the one residing offers a verbal exhortation, urging us to follow these beautiful examples. Immediately after this, we all stand as one and raises our prayers, after which—as I have already said—bread, wine, and water are offered, and the president, as he is able also sends to God his prayer and thanks giving, and all the people respond, “Amen.” Now follows the distribution and partaking of the nourishment that has been consecrated by thanksgiving, →

And they are sent by means of the deacons to those who are not present. Those who can and will, freely give what seems best to them, and the offering is given to the president. With this he helps orphans and widows, those who are in need because of illness or any other reasons, those who are in prison, sojourners, and, in short, the president provides for any who are in need. We hold this general gathering on Sunday, because it is the first day, in which God, transforming darkness and matter, created the world, and also the day in which Jesus Christ, our Savior, rose from the dead.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

From his letter and other various early Christian writings we can summarize a average Christian worship "service"

- **Service began with reading from Scripture (memoirs of the apostles being the letters and Gospels) with commentaries to give assistance with explaining the meaning.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

From his letter and other various early Christian writings we can summarize a average Christian worship "service"

- Service began with reading from Scripture (memoirs of the apostles being the letters and Gospels) with commentaries to give assistance with explaining the meaning.
- **Prayers and singing from hymns.**
- **This first part of the service lasted for several hours because having a copy of Scripture was quite rare so this was the only opportunity Christians had to hear the Word.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

From his letter and other various early Christian writings we can summarize a average Christian worship "service"

Then they would dismiss those who were not baptized to have communion.

- **Without baptism one could not receive communion.**
- **Communion would begin with the kiss of peace and then bread and wine were brought forth with prayer.**
- **Then an offering would be collected to give to the needy.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

It was also common for them to gather at the catacombs.

- The Christians very early on owned burial grounds (catacombs) to bury their dead and also the dead of others who could not afford a proper burial.**
- They would also meet there to remember the martyrs on the anniversary of their deaths to have communion.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

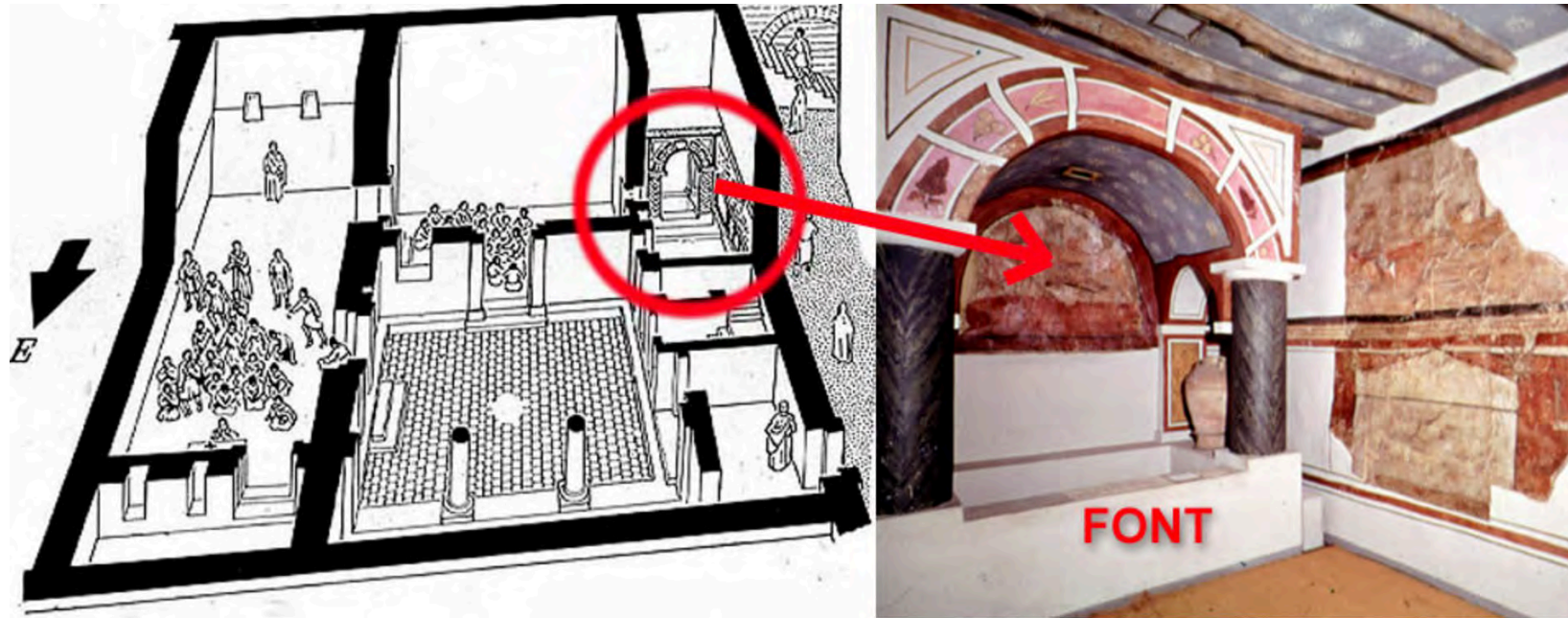
It was also common for them to gather at the catacombs.

- **It is these meetings of communion at the catacombs that started really disturbing rumors about the Christians.**
- **The Christians were underground around dead bodies and reading Scripture about eating of the body and drinking of the blood.**
- **This was of course what Jesus asked of us to do in communion, but to a pagan eavesdropper they sounded like cannibals!**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

More frequently than the catacombs the Christians met in homes and some that were designated solely for worship.

- Baptistery of the church at Dura-Europos built before A.D. 256



Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

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Ante-Nicene
Period – A.D. 70-
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Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

Baptism

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

Baptism

- **New Christian believers were not baptized right away.**
- **The Christians wanted to be sure that the new believers truly understood their commitment and beliefs before being baptized.**



Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

Baptism

- New Christian believers were not baptized right away.
- The Christians wanted to be sure that the new believers truly understood their commitment and beliefs before being baptized.
- **So they had a time of instruction called "catechumenate", which by the 3rd century lasted up to three years.**
- **During this time of training they were taught the doctrine of Scripture so that when the time came for their baptism they would truly understand what it meant to be a Christian.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

Baptism

- Baptisms were held primarily once a year on the day of Christ's resurrection.
- There were 2 modes of baptism that were done, the one most preferred was immersion in running water. If running was not available then immersion in a standing pool. Then lastly if water was not readily available the one being baptized could kneel down and be poured 3 times.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

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- **Granted this differs depending on who you ask...there is GREAT disagreement on the “proper” mode of baptism today.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Early Christian Worship

Baptism

- **This was all done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**
- **Baptismal Creed**

- **Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?**
- **Do you believe in Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who was born of the Holy Ghost and of Mary the Virgin who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and died, and rose again at the third day, living from among the dead, and ascended into heaven and sat at the right of the Father, and will come to judge the quick and the dead?**
- **Do you believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Church, and the resurrection of the flesh?**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

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Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

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At this time it was generally understood what one was to believe, was based on the teachings of Jesus and the apostles.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

However there were many false teachers who were spreading lies about the truth and were causing division among the Christians. So it became necessary to establish what they believed.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

The need to have established doctrinal beliefs was necessary because if they weren't established it was difficult to point out those who were twisting the truth.

The importance of knowing “what you believe and why” was critical for the early church just as it is for the modern day Christian.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **The early false teachers and beliefs that attempted to stifle the church.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Gnosticism**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

Gnosticism

- **This was the biggest heresy that threatened the early church.**
- **The founding lies of the Gnostics are still held in some of the modern day false religions.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Gnosticism**
- **They believed that they were given “secret” teachings from Jesus that was not given to the Jews.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers.

- **Gnosticism**

- **They believed in dualism meaning the world is divided into 2 cosmic forces (good and evil).**
- **The God of the Old Testament is evil and created this likewise evil material world.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Gnosticism**

- **Our good spirits have been trapped in this evil world and our souls need knowledge to escape.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Gnosticism**

- Our good spirits have been trapped in this evil world and our souls need knowledge to escape.

- **Lots of similarities with Mormonism**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Gnosticism**

- **There are many god's and over time they produced a god who created the world which was an evil act.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

◦ **Gnosticism**

- **Jesus was a lesser deity and was not God Almighty and they deny his humanity.**
- **They reject His Jewish beginnings, the Torah, that He is the “Son of God, He did not perform miracles and was not resurrected.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Gnosticism is referenced in Scripture**
- **1 Timothy 6:20-21 (ESV)**
- **“O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.”**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Gnosticism led to the false (lost) Gospels**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

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- Gnosticism led to the false (lost) Gospels
- **Gnostics created their own versions of Christian literary works that would support their beliefs.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers.

- Gnosticism led to the false (lost) Gospels
- Gnostics created their own versions of Christian literary works that would support their beliefs.
- **This is what the Jehovah Witness's do today with their translation of the Bible. (No Hell)**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- Gnosticism led to the false (lost) Gospels
- **This included – Book of Thomas, Gospel of James and the Secret Book of John.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- Gnosticism led to the false (lost) Gospels
- **These gnostic writings sought to give an alternative version of Christianity and Jesus.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- Gnosticism led to the false (lost) Gospels
- These gnostic writing sought to give an alternative version of Christianity and Jesus.
- **Jesus had relations with Mary Magdalene and they kissed.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Marcion – 2nd Century False Teacher

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Marcion – 2nd Century False Teacher

- **Marcion (2nd century) perhaps posed an even greater threat to the church than the Gnostics.**
- **His views were similar, but he took it a step farther in that he actually established churches and his own “scripture”, that lasted for several centuries.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Beliefs:

- **The world is evil and therefore so is its creator (or he is ignorant).**
- **Yahweh made the world and is the God of the Old Testament. However, Yahweh has no relationship with Jesus, and He is subordinate to a “supreme father”.**
- **Yahweh out of ignorance or evil intent, made the world and put humankind in it.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Beliefs:

- **The supreme father of the Christians is far above Yahweh and is a God of love, not judgment.**
- **The supreme father loves all and gives salvation to everyone, there is no judgment in the end.**
- **Jesus wasn't actually born but He just appeared to have been.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Marcion – 2nd Century False Teacher

- **His false teachings captivated people for centuries leading them astray.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Other heretical beliefs**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Other heretical beliefs**
- **Montanism – Belief in continuing revelation that God still calls prophets and priests in the modern day and reveals His divine revelation just as He did with the apostles. - Mormonism**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Other heretical beliefs**
- **Docetism – Jesus’s humanity was merely an illusion and He was not “born of the virgin” because he was never really human.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Other heretical beliefs**
- **Arianism**
 - **Named after Arius (3rd century) an elder of Alexandria**
 - **Denied the full deity of Jesus.**
 - **That Jesus was a created being, a secondary God. -
(Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormon's)**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Counterfeit Christianity?**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Counterfeit Christianity?**
- **Because of the discovery of the gnostic gospels there are those who sought to proclaim that the modern day version of Christianity was really false and that the Gnostic versions were the truth.**



Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Counterfeit Christianity?**
- **Thomas Jefferson held this belief:**
 - **That Matthew, Mark, Luke and John passed along a corrupt version of Jesus. That one who was “enlightened” could see the true Jesus.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Counterfeit Christianity?**
- **The Da Vinci Code movie portrayed this perspective.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **Counterfeit Christianity?**
- **The Da Vinci Code movie portrayed this perspective.**
- **Portrays some of the Gnostic beliefs especially the relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

False Teachers

- **The need to clearly establish the Orthodox beliefs was necessary to identify and eradicate the false teachers.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Establishment of theology

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Establishment of theology

- Theology comes from two Greek words:
 - Theos – meaning God
 - Logos – meaning word (Word of God) or reason (cause or explanation).

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Establishment of theology

- **Theology is simply the study of God.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Establishment of theology

- Theology is simply the study of God.
- **Theology is man's understanding of what God has revealed to us so that we can express it to others.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Establishment of theology

- **One who studies theology is a theologian.**
- **All Christians are technically theologians if we study our Bible and seek to know more of God.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Establishment of theology

- The first few centuries produced several theologians who were apologists (defenders) of the faith.
- Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Origen, Clement and Polycarp.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Apologists

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Apologists

- **Christian apologists came about as a way to refute the false information and misunderstanding of what it means to be a Christian.**
- **Why the term can be confusing, they were not “apologizing” for being a Christian but providing evidence and answering the difficult questions.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Wild Examples:

- **Christians gathered to celebrate a “love feast” which was thought to be of a sexual nature.**
- **Christians called each other brother and sister including their spouses. It was thought they were involved with incest.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Wild Examples:

- **They thought communion consisted of Christians literally eating human flesh and drinking blood.**
- **Christians were known to pick up abandoned infants, they assumed this is what they were eating.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Beyond these extreme examples, for those who did take time to study more said that they found Christianity to be for those who were ignorant.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Beyond these extreme examples, for those who did take time to study more said that they found Christianity to be for those who were ignorant.

- **The intellectuals of the day passed off Christianity as something only worthy for those of the simplest minds. That those who were intelligent and sophisticated were too far above it.**
- **They felt that the only converts to Christianity would have be those who were the lowest of society both socially and intellectually.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Apologists came about to refute these and also those who did ask the hard questions that needed to be answered.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Celsus (2nd century), an intellectual of the day, who disregarded Christianity asked these questions:

- **If Jesus was the Son of God, why did he allow himself to be crucified?**
- **Why did He not destroy all his enemies?**
- **Why would God even visit earth?**
- **Does he really know everything?**
- **Why leave this life that is certain for a life that is uncertain (afterlife)?**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Answering these questions and responding to the “intellectuals” of the day became the job of the apologists.

They sought to show that you can be intelligent, you can be a philosopher and yet still be a Christian.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Terms given to right and wrong beliefs

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Terms given to right and wrong beliefs

- **Orthodoxy-**
- **At its core orthodoxy means right belief or practice.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Terms given to right and wrong beliefs

- **Orthodoxy-**
 - At its core orthodoxy means right belief or practice.
 - **It also refers to the right belief that is officially embraced by the church.**
 - **If you follow the established beliefs of the church the you are “orthodox”.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Terms given to right and wrong beliefs

- **Heresy**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Terms given to right and wrong beliefs

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 - **A heresy is simply a “wrong” belief.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Terms given to right and wrong beliefs

- **Heresy**
 - A heresy is simply a “wrong” belief.
 - **A teaching held by a religious party which denies some aspect of established doctrine.**
 - **If someone stated that “Jesus is not the Son of God” then they would have committed a heresy and would be labeled a heretic.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Terms given to right and wrong beliefs

- **Heresy**
- **As you can imagine in our modern day there are church's who hold a specific belief that they consider orthodoxy while another would consider it a heresy.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Terms given to right and wrong beliefs

- **Heresy**
 - As you can imagine in our modern day there are church's who hold a specific belief that they consider orthodoxy while another would consider it a heresy.
 - **The Roman Catholic Church considers Martin Luther and Protestantism heresy.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Source of truth during the first two centuries.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Source of truth during the first two centuries.

- **The Bible (as we know it) did not yet exist as a complete book during the first and second century.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Source of truth during the first two centuries.

- **While the Bible had yet to be officially “canonized” the early church did have the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible), the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and numerous letters from Paul.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Source of truth during the two centuries.

- **They early church looked to the Gospels and Paul's letters as truth even though they did not fully realize that these documents were Gods' inspired New Testament.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Source of truth during the two centuries.

- **The canonization would come later towards the end of the 4th century.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

The primary “truth” that was proclaimed and protected in the early church was Christological.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

The primary “truth” that was proclaimed and protected in the early church was Christological.

- **Christology is the study (person and nature) and truth of Jesus Christ as recorded in the canonical Gospels and the epistles of the New Testament.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

The primary “truth” that was proclaimed and protected in the early church was Christological.

- **The chief truth that took priority for the early church was to clearly define who was Jesus Christ.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

The primary “truth” that was proclaimed and protected in the early church was Christological.

- The chief truth that took priority for the early church was to clearly define who was Jesus Christ.
- **Why do you think this was important?**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

The primary “truth” that was proclaimed and protected in the early church was Christological.

- **The Gospels proclaimed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, He was crucified, was buried and resurrected.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

The primary “truth” that was proclaimed and protected in the early church was Christological.

- **It is critical that this truth was proclaimed and wasn't twisted.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Apostles' Creed

- **The first statement of faith or beliefs that cover the core doctrine of Scripture.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Apostles' Creed

- **The Apostle's Creed was not actually written by the apostles regardless of the name.**
- **It was given this name because it came from the truth they proclaimed in their teachings and letters (Scriptures)**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Apostles' Creed

- The Apostle's Creed was not actually written by the apostles regardless of the name.
- It was given this name because it came from the truth they proclaimed in their teachings and letters (Scriptures)
- **Its exact date or origin is unknown but was prior to the Council of Nicene where it was expanded upon.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary. Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell The third day he rose again from the dead. →

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

Apostles' Creed

He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost I believe a holy catholic church; the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins. The resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

The primary “truth” that was proclaimed and protected in the early church was Christological.

- **This seemingly simple creed emphasized what was most important to the early Christians which was Jesus Christ and His deity.**

Ante-Nicene Period – A.D. 70-312 – Establishment of Basic Doctrine

The primary “truth” that was proclaimed and protected in the early church was Christological.

- **This was necessary because without a proper understanding of Jesus (Christology) there was no Christianity!**

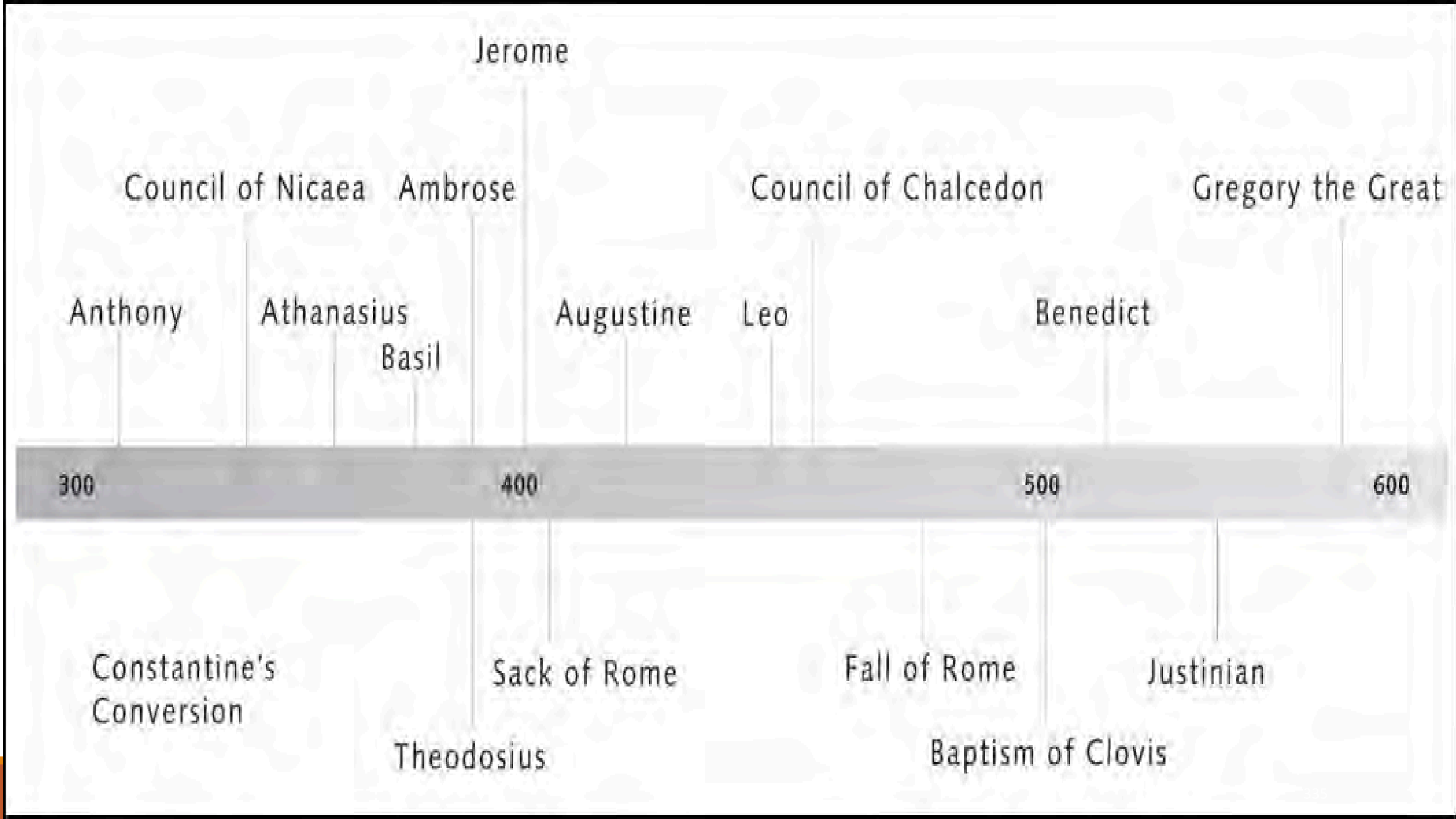
The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Significant Events:



The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction:

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction:

- **Prior to 312 A.D. Christians were persecuted and arrested for simply being a Christian.**
- **To be a Christian meant you had the possibility of being killed because of your beliefs.**
- **Christians were not able to freely worship in public**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction:

- **However, there was an amazing turn of events with the conversion of Emperor Constantine to Christianity.**
- **Christians came out of the shadows and were now able to worship in the open.**
- **Christianity was no longer just a religion for the poor but it was the religion of those in the palace.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction:

- **While this was a good thing we will see this also brought in new problems for Christianity.**
- **When the church and state merge together you now have “interference” in the affairs of the church**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

- **Before this great time period of having a Christian emperor, there was one more persecution that would prove to be greater than Nero's.**
- **Satan sought to purge Christianity from the empire.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

- **Prior to Constantine taking control of Rome he was preceded by Diocletian who took the throne in 284 A.D.**
- **Diocletian had brought structure to a crumbling empire because within the 3rd century there were 30 emperors who had claimed the throne. As soon as an emperor took power he was soon killed.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

- **He took power and he split control of Rome into 2 pieces (East and West) that were ruled by an Augusti (Emperor) and a slightly subordinate Caesar.**
- **West- Maximian and Constantius**
- **East- Diocletian and Galerius**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

- **In 303 A.D during the last two years of his reign he turned on the Christians. He purged his army, destroyed buildings, prohibited Christian worship, burned the Scriptures and tortured the bishops.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

- **He forced his fellow rulers to follow suit especially Galerius who tried very hard to eradicate Christianity.**
- **In 305 Diocletian stepped down as emperor but the persecution continued under Galerius (who was promoted to emperor).**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

- **This was the persecution of persecutions. It is only by the divine providence of God that Diocletian ultimately failed.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

- **In 311 Galerius (on his death bed) came to the realization that even with the extreme persecutions he had failed to eradicate and convert the Christians back to the pagan religion.**
- **The Christians even in the face of death, stood firm and Christianity survived.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

- **The last official act of Galerius was to issue an edict of toleration for Christians. This essentially brought an end to the last and worst persecution of Christians by Rome.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

The Diocletianic Persecution (303-311)

- **Ironically the worst persecution of the Christians ultimately led to the greatest support and growth of Christians in the Roman Empire.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

The rise of Constantine

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The rise of Constantine

- **Constantine was the son of Constantius who was a Roman army officer that eventually became Caesar in the west in 293 AD.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The rise of Constantine

- **Constantine was introduced to Christianity at a young age by his mother Helena.**
- **While the exact date of his conversion is not known history shows us the impact it had on his life.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The rise of Constantine

- **Constantine didn't stay in the West for long however, he was sent east as a military officer under the emperor Diocletian and Galerius.**
- **In 305 Constantine's father Constantius was promoted to emperor and so he returned to serve under his father.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

The rise of Constantine

- **However, his father soon died in 306 which set off a series of civil wars within the roman empire.**
- **The armies under Constantius immediately recognized Constantine as the senior western emperor.**
- **However, Galerius only wanted to recognize him as a Caesar, so this obviously stirred civil conflict.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

Constantine conquers the East and rises to power



The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

- Constantine conquers the East and rises to power
- **In 312 AD after the death of Galerius Constantine advanced across the Alps to attempt to overcome his rival Maxentius to capture Rome.**
 - **It was this battle that Constantine put his trust in the God of the Christians.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

- Constantine conquers the East and rises to power
- **He met his enemy at the Milvian Bridge which was just outside of the walls of Rome.**
 - **This was an interesting choice by Maxentius because all wars previously took place within the fortified city of Rome.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Constantine conquers the East and rises to power

- **Maxentius was a pagan and he consulted his soothsayers/oracles before battle.**
- **His oracles provided him a prophecy saying “the enemy of the Romans” would perish. Bolstered by this he left the safety of the city and ran out into battle.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

- Constantine conquers the East and rises to power
- **Was the divine providence of God at work?**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

- Constantine conquers the East and rises to power
- **Constantine (just prior to his attack) had a dream where he saw a cross (or Chi-Rho) in the sky and the words “In this sign conquer”.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

Constantine conquers the East and rises to power

- **Chi-Rho (XP) or labarum, which is a Christogram:**
- **A Graphic symbol of Christ.**
- **Symbol was formed from the first two letters (X and P) of the Greek word for Christ.**
- **Greek:**

χριστός (*christos*).



The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Constantine conquers the East and rises to power

- Constantine (just prior to his attack) had a dream where he saw a cross (or Chi-Rho) in the sky and the words “In this sign conquer”.
- **When he awoke he determined this was a sign from God and proceeded to put the symbol on the shields of the soldiers.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

- Constantine conquers the East and rises to power
- **This convinced him to advance and he was successful in battle and he defeated the greater army (4x larger) of Maxentius.**
 - **So was this God's divine providence?**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

- Constantine conquers the East and rises to power
- **Constantine looked upon his success as proof of the power of Christ and the superiority of the Christian religion.**
 - **Eventually by 324 AD Constantine became the sole ruler of both west and the east and Christianity became the religion of the empire.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

Issues with the state being “Christian”

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Issues with the state being “Christian”

- **Believers previously were persecuted. So those who were Christians were likely “true Christians” because to claim to be one was to risk death.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

Issues with the state being “Christian”

- **With the state and the emperor being Christian you had those attending church and claiming to be Christians only for political purposes.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Issues with the state being “Christian”

- **Constantine ruled Christian bishops as he did his civil servants and he required obedience to his official pronouncements even if it contradicted or interfered with purely church matters.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Issues with the state being “Christian”

- **So while having the backing of the state was good there are problems when the state trumps Christian teachings.**
- **The teachings of the Bible are always supreme to the Christian.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

Concerns when the church has the power of the state.

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Concerns when the church has the power of the state.

- **In 380 under emperor Theodosius he rewarded Christians but gave political and social penalties for non-Christians.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Concerns when the church has the power of the state.

- **Belief in Christianity was a matter of imperial command.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

“It is Our Will that all the peoples we rule shall practice that religion which the divine Peter the Apostle transmitted to the Romans. We shall believe in the single Deity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, under the concept of equal majesty and of the Holy Trinity. We command that those persons who follow this rule shall embrace the name of Catholic Christians...

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

“...The rest, however, whom We adjudge demented and insane, shall sustain the infamy of heretical dogmas, their meeting places shall not receive the name of churches, and they shall be smitten first by divine vengeance and secondly by the retribution of Our own initiative.

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

Concerns when the church has the power of the state.

- Belief in Christianity was a matter of imperial command.
- **What problems do you see with this?**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Concerns when the church has the power of the state.

- Belief in Christianity was a matter of imperial command.
- What problems do you see with this?
- **Could it produce “pretend” Christians?**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Concerns when the church has the power of the state.

- Belief in Christianity was a matter of imperial command.
- **Is this the Christianity of the Bible?**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

Introduction of wealth to the church

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction of wealth to the church

- **With the marriage of the emperor and church you now have a significant influx of wealth within the church.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction of wealth to the church

- **Constantine used this wealth to build a Basilica to Peter in Rome.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction of wealth to the church

- Constantine used this wealth to build a Basilica to Peter in Rome.
- **Today a Basilica is a name given to an important church that has been given special ceremonial rights by the Pope.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction of wealth to the church

- **In the case of the Basilica of St. Peter, Catholic tradition hold that it is built upon the burial site of the Apostle Peter.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

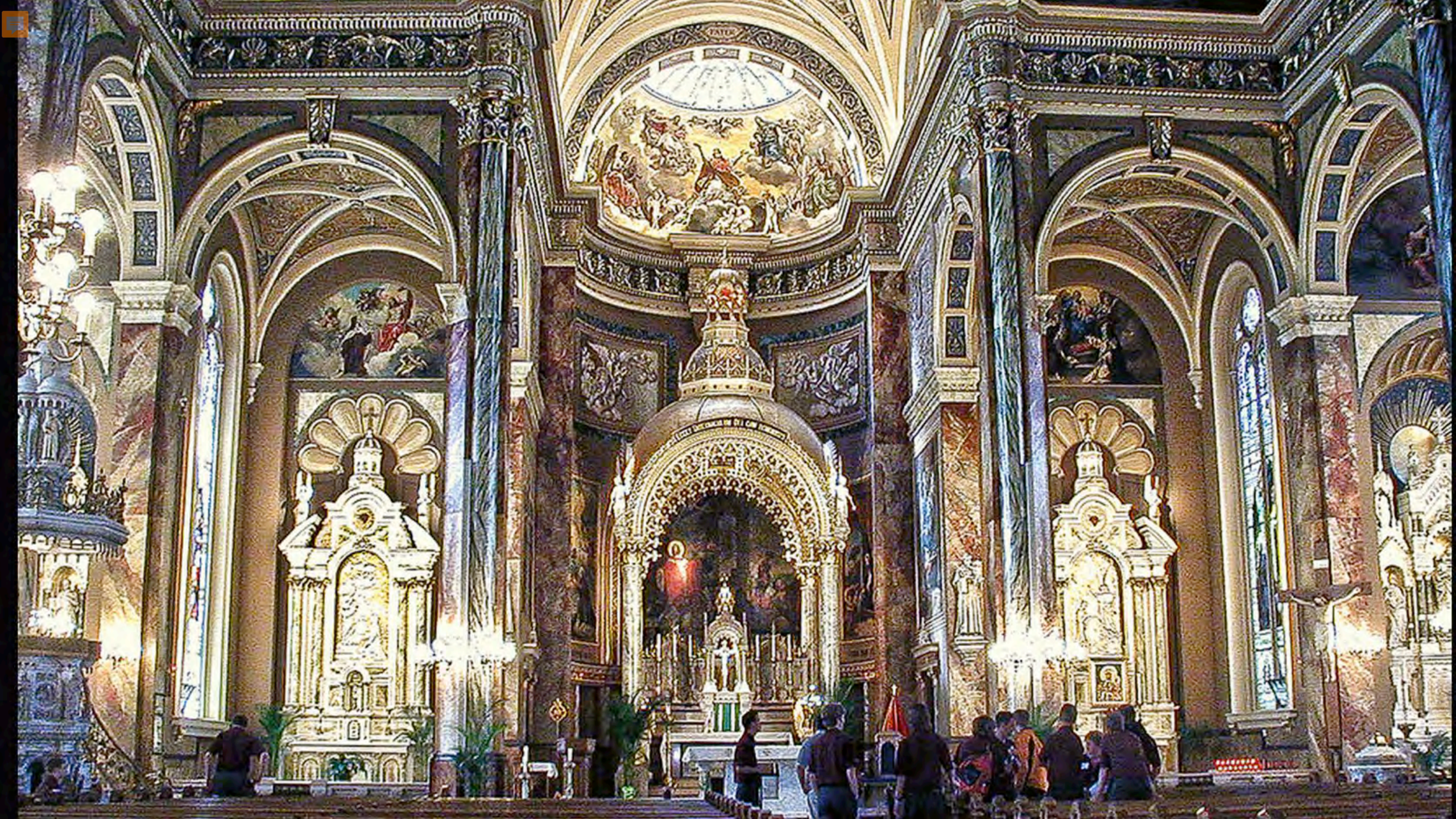
Introduction of wealth to the church

- **These Basilica's are very large and ornate and cost millions of dollars to build.**









The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction of wealth to the church

- These Basilica's are very large and ornate and cost millions of dollars to build.
- **While wealth in the church can be used for good, it can also be used to focus too much on material beauty and less on helping the poor and helpless.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Introduction of wealth to the church

- These Basilica's are very large and ornate and cost millions of dollars to build.
- While wealth in the church can be used for good, it can also be used to focus too much on material beauty and less on helping the poor and helpless.
- **This is one of the concerns that Martin Luther had with the Roman Catholic Church included in his 95 thesis.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 325 A.D

- **In 325 Constantine called the bishops of the various churches together for a meeting to discuss matters of church doctrine.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- In 325 Constantine called the bishops of the various churches together for a meeting to discuss matters of church doctrine.
- **He was receiving requests from various Christians demanding that he use the power of the state to banish others from the church because of their differences in doctrine.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- **This was discouraging for Constantine because he viewed Christianity as universal and there should be unity.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- This was discouraging for Constantine because he viewed Christianity as universal and there should be unity.
- **This is still a time period where Christianity is still generally under the same umbrella.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- This was discouraging for Constantine because he viewed Christianity as universal and there should be unity.
- **The beginning of the separation of the church due to Roman Catholicism and the papacy began in the 5th century under Leo.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- **He sought to get the various leaders of the church together to sort out their differences which is why he called the council of Nicaea.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- He sought to get the various leaders of the church together to sort out their differences which is why he called the council of Nicaea.
- **The primary issue for discussion was the relation between Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit or as we know it the Trinity.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- **Various churches were dealing with the influence and heretical teachings of Arius whose beliefs are referred to as Arianism.**



The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- Various churches were dealing with the influence and heretical teachings of Arius whose beliefs are referred to as Arianism.
- **Arianism held that Jesus was creation and a lesser being than God.**



The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- **Arius believed that the Logos (Jesus) was created by God. Instead of the orthodox view of Scripture that the Logos (Jesus) is eternal.**
- **Arius believed that Jesus opened the door to salvation because of His obedience to God but not because He was divine.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- **This view was rejected by most of the bishops however Arias was gathering a large following in his church and among the people.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- This view was rejected by most of the bishops however Arias was gathering a large following in his church and among the people.
- **It was easier for a gnostic to understand his teachings of Jesus and God if they were separate instead of the explanation of the Trinity.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- **During the council Arius tried to push his views but he was quickly denounced and rejected. A creed was signed by all 300 bishops in attendance except for 2 (Arius and another) to establish their belief in the Trinity.**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- **An insertion to the Apostles Creed was made to further clarify their belief of the Trinity.**
- **“True God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father.”**



The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- An insertion to the Apostles Creed was made to further clarify their belief of the Trinity.
- “True God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father.”
- **They also stated that God was really “three persons and one substance” which is the Trinity.**



The Age of the Christian Roman Empire A.D. 312-590

Council of Nicaea – 323 A.D

- **The truth of the Bible giving us the relation between God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit rightfully was the belief of the early Christians.**
- **This came to be known as Nicene Orthodoxy**

The Age of the Christian Roman Empire

A.D. 312-590

Other councils:

- **Through the year's other councils met to further establish the church's stance on Christology and the rejection of heretics.**

Christology of the Early Councils

“In Jesus Christ, true deity [against Arius] and full humanity [against Apollinaris] are indivisibly united in one person [against Nestorius] without being confused [against Eutyches].”

Council	Year	Accused Heretic	Accused Heretic Failed to Affirm . . .	Accused Heretic . . .
Nicaea	325	Arius	Full deity of the Son	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught that Son is begotten/created/a created being. • Son is not eternal or coeternal; “there was a time when he was not.” • Son does not share in the Father’s essence or nature. • Son is a lesser god.
Constantinople	381	Apollinaris	Full humanity of the Son	Taught that Jesus had a human body and a lower soul; his human higher soul—his rationality or mind—had been replaced by the divine word or logos; this logos was steady and immutable.
Ephesus	431	Nestorius	The union of the divine and human natures	Held only a moral or volitional union between divine and human; danger inherent in typically Antiochian conjunctive Christologies (illustration: man and woman choosing to be married).
Chalcedon	451	Eutyches	The distinctiveness and coexistence of the divine and human natures	Held to a mingling of both into one; danger inherent in typically Alexandrian unitive Christologies (illustration: drop of honey added to the ocean).

The Beginnings of the Church in the East

The Beginnings of the Church in the East

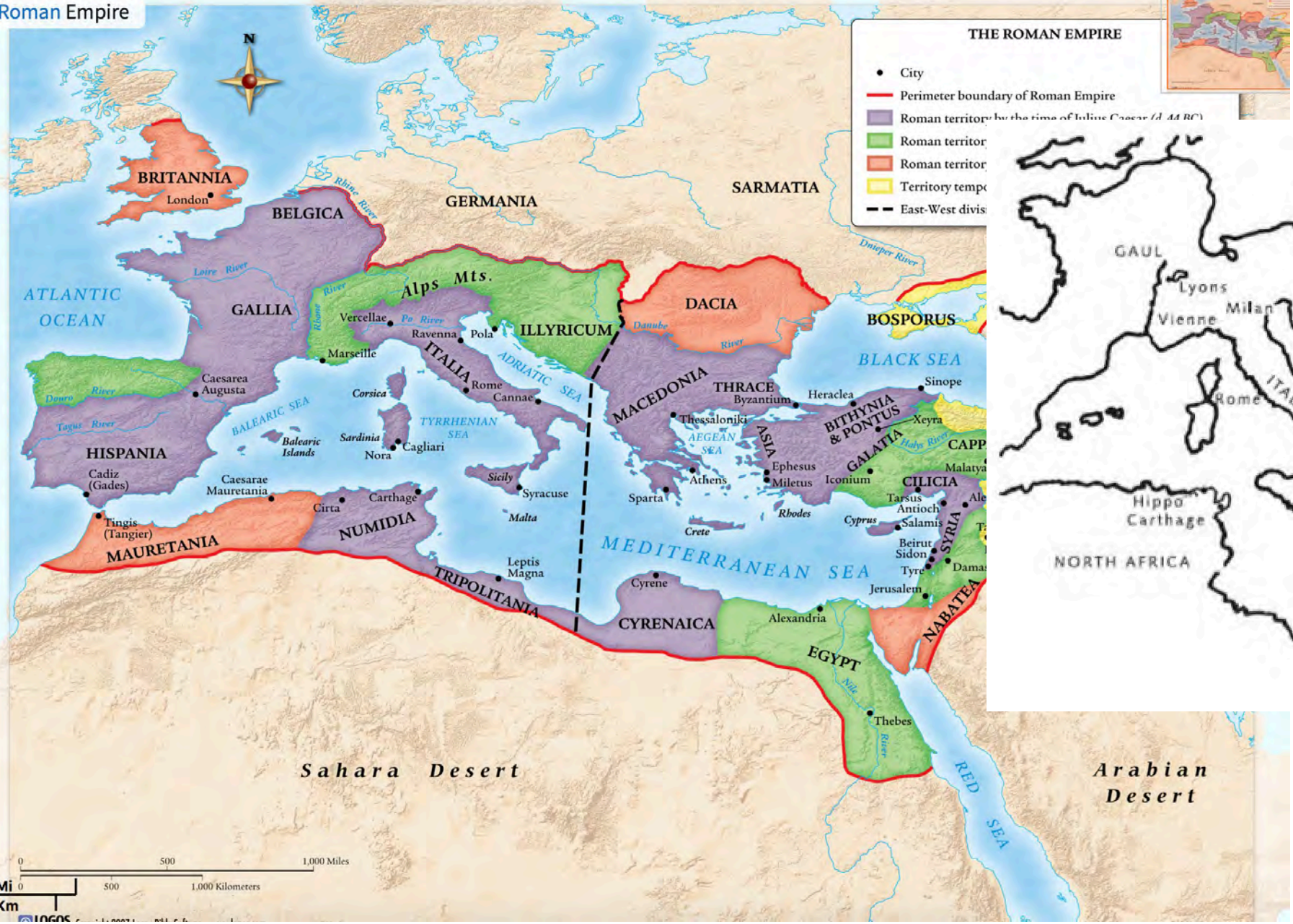
While Rome had been seen as the unofficial head of the church, Constantine soon changed this.

The Beginnings of the Church in the East

In 330 Constantine moved his imperial residence to the “New Rome” which was to the ancient city of Byzantium which was renamed to Constantinople.

With the imperial residence now being in the East that is where the political power was now centered, which would have an effect on the “head” of the church.

The Roman Empire



The Beginnings of the Church in the East

Since Constantine was a Christian and his successor Theodosius made Christianity the state church, it was obvious that the influence and perception as to the head of the church would change from Rome to Constantinople.

The Beginnings of the Church in the East

This was seen very clearly when in 381 Emperor Theodosius called the council of Constantinople and only invited the bishops from the East so ignoring Damasus who was the Bishop of Rome.

The Beginnings of the Church in the East

The council promoted the bishop of Constantinople to a position of authority just after the bishop of Rome because the emperor's city was considered the "New Rome".

The Beginnings of the Church in the East

Damasus the bishop of Rome, objected to the action and later a synod in Rome (382) made it their official belief that:



The Beginnings of the Church in the East

“The Holy Roman Church takes precedence over the other churches, not on the ground of any synodal (council) decisions but because it was given the primacy by the words of our Lord and redeemer in the Gospel, when he said, “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.” – Matthew 16:18

The Beginnings of the Church in the East

While he acknowledged that the East was responsible for sending the apostles, but that was not as significant as the martyrdom of both Peter and Paul.

Since Peter and Paul both died in Rome their merit counted towards the church.

The Beginnings of the Church in the East

This set the first mention of the “primacy” (authority) of the Roman Church which was a prelude to Leo.

We also have the beginnings of the great conflict that ultimately led to the “East-West Schism” in the 11th century.