

Outline of course

Mark Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity* (Baker, 1997; 3rd ed. 2012).

“*All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me*’.

Nothing could now happen to the followers of Christ that lay outside the reach of his sovereignty; no experiences that the church underwent, no matter how glorious or how mundane, were irrelevant to the living Word of God.”

“*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations*’.

‘[S]urely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age’.

‘[Y]ou will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth’.”

Outline of course

Noll, *Turning Points*, asks, why study Church History?

1. Irreducibly historical character of Christianity. Prophecies fulfilled; Christ's earthly life; acts of God in time and space.
2. Interpretation of Scripture in the Church over time.
3. Understanding Christianity in different cultures (*contextualization*).
4. "God sustains the church despite the church's frequent efforts to betray its savior and its own high calling...."

Response: Gratitude / Humility

Outline of course

“*Turning Points: God’s Faithfulness in Christian History*”

Turning points= often after crises or deep challenges breakthroughs of new understanding of Gospel & God’s providence in history.

1. Birth of Christianity AD 30-312.

*establishing Christian teaching & organization

2. Development of Early Christianity AD 300-600.

*Augustine, monasticism, mission in Europe

3. Renaissance Search for God and Self AD 1200-1500.

(Mendicant orders, mystics, Modern Devotion, Christology & Art)

*personal devotion

*recovery of Jesus as suffering servant

Outline of course

4. Reformation of Church & Doctrine: Luther & Calvin 16th c..

*reform doctrine & practice

5. Post-French Revolution/ 19th century.

Free churches, *le Réveil*, American Awakenings/Revivals, Social concerns—Salvation Army, Social Gospel...)

*revival & recovery after Enlightenment & wars

6. Missions to the World 1910-1970s:

From Edinburgh to Urbana; Wycliffe to Jesus Movement.

*contextualization of the Gospel in the world

Outline of course

Questions:

Where is Christ in each generation?

How are Christians influenced by the world around them?

Romans 12:

“1. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

We are all products of our time: our generation, our culture.....

Outline of course

How do we discern true Christian (communal/ covenantal/ personal) commitment (beyond institutional involvement)?

Church attendance, language (buzz words) of expression, actions, piety & devotion,

What is normative practice? (normative= should be practiced for all time). Yet all Christians are part of a particular culture(s) and a time (era). GOD is faithful!

As we have heard in several sermons this Fall 2015:

Why does God appear to be silent at times?

Outline of course

How do we KNOW?

A. Internal = *Divine Revelation in scripture* (human authors inspired by God) & *ministry of the Holy Spirit*.

B. External = *Early Christian sources.... & Non-Christian historical sources* :

Josephus, *Jewish Antiquities*, mentions Jesus, and the condemnation of one James by the Jewish Sanhedrin. This James, says Josephus, was “the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ.”

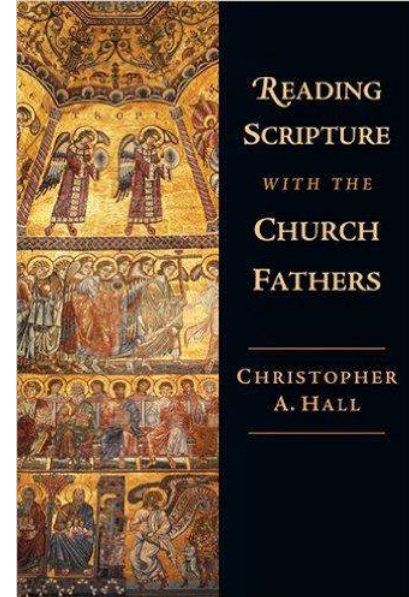
Roman historian **Tacitus**: Emperor Nero blamed Christians for fire destroyed Rome A.D. 64: “Nero fastened the guilt . . . on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of . . . Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome....”

See F. F. Bruce, *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the New Testament*. Eerdmans, 1974.

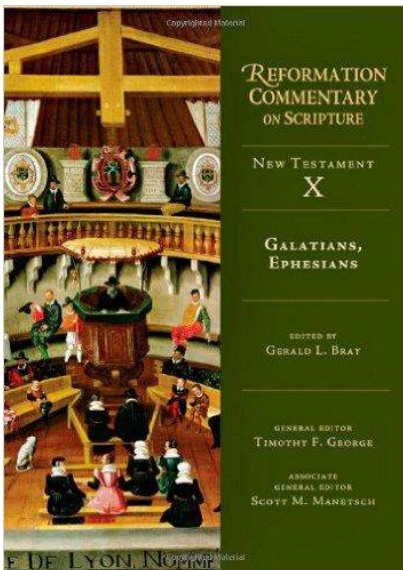
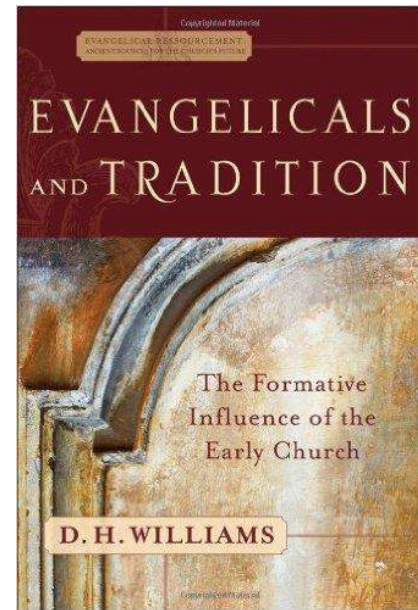
Outline of course

Getting out of our own culture to past interpretations.

Christopher A Hall, *Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers*. IVP, 1998.



Daniel H. Williams, *Evangelicals and Tradition: The Formative Influence of the Early Church*. Baker, 2005.
Tradition, Scripture, and Interpretation: A Sourcebook of the Ancient Church. Baker, 2006.

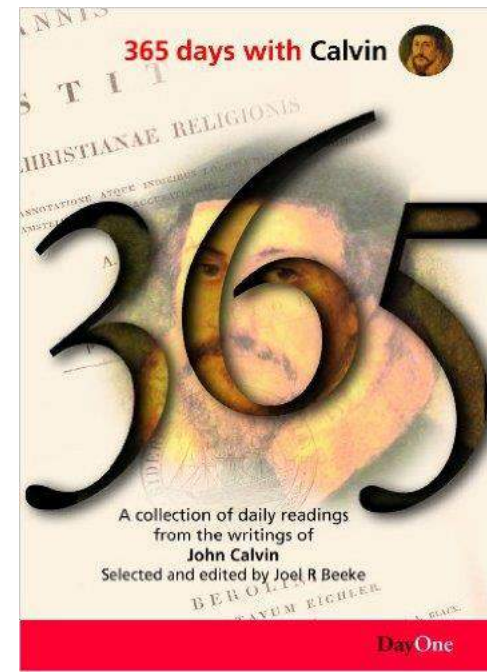
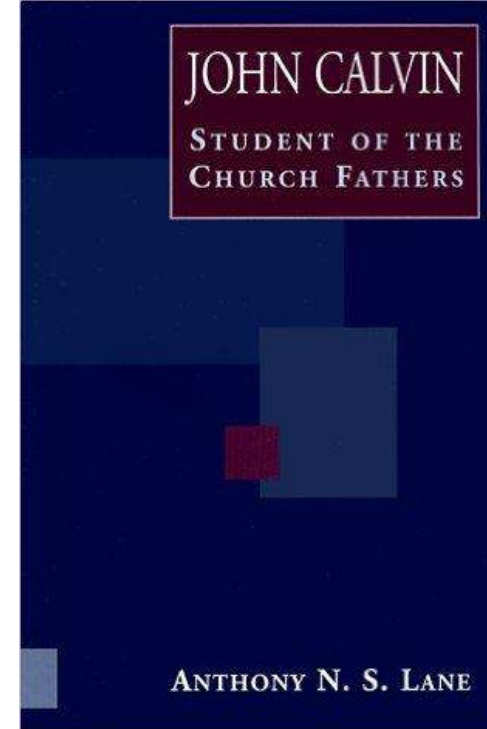


Gerald L. Bray, ed. *Galatians, Ephesians* (Reformation Commentary on Scripture). IVP, 2011.

Outline of course

Anthony Lane, *John Calvin Student of the Church Fathers*. Baker, 1999. [London School of Theology, see YouTube as well]

John Calvin, *365 Days with Calvin: A Unique Collection of 365 Readings from the Writings of John Calvin*, ed. Joel Beeke. Day One Publications & Reformation Heritage Books, 2008.



Outline of course

Noll, *Turning Points* Psalm 90: 1, 12....19

*“Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout the generations.....*

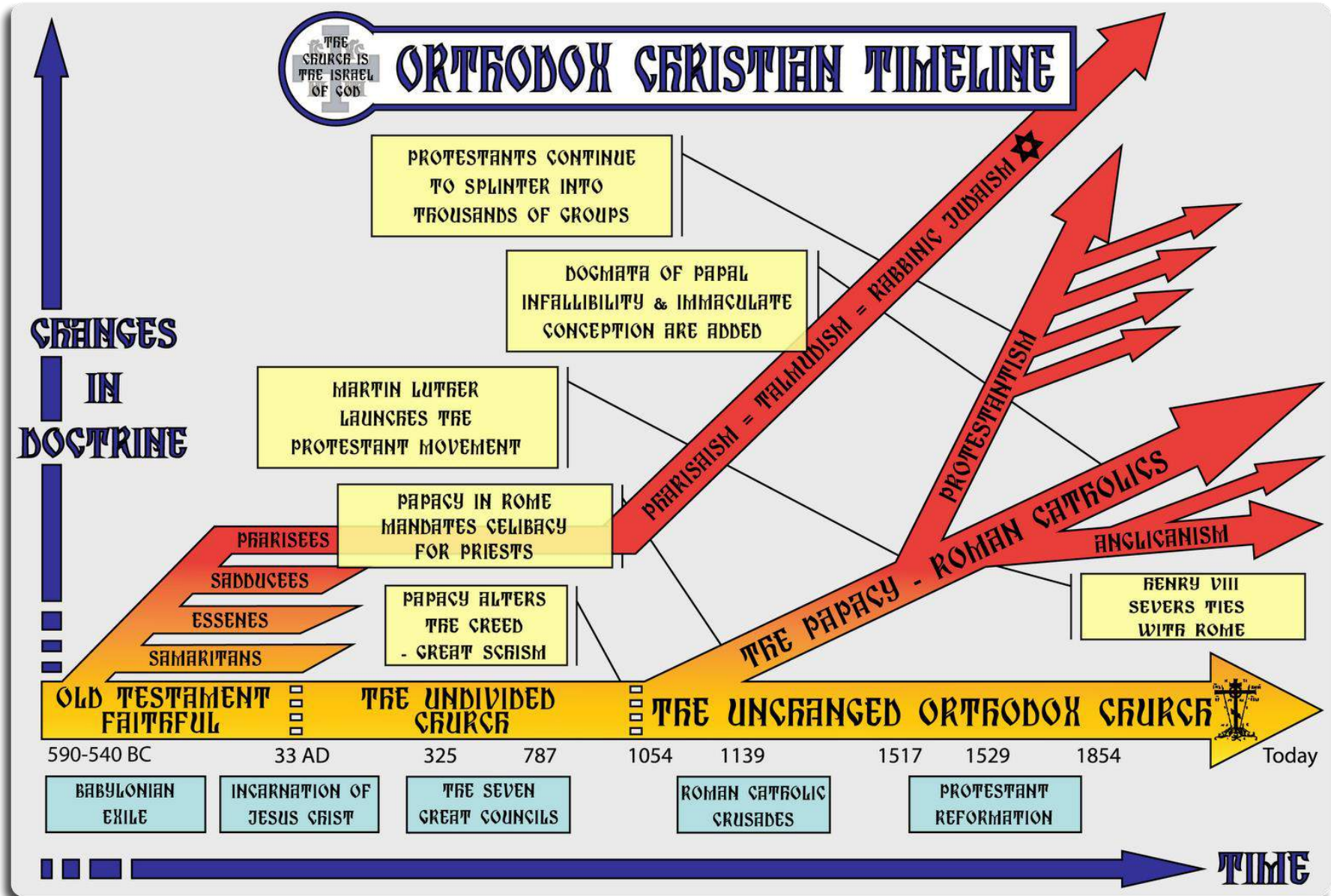
*Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom. ...*

*Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.*

*May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendor to their children.*

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.”*

An Eastern Orthodox Perspective

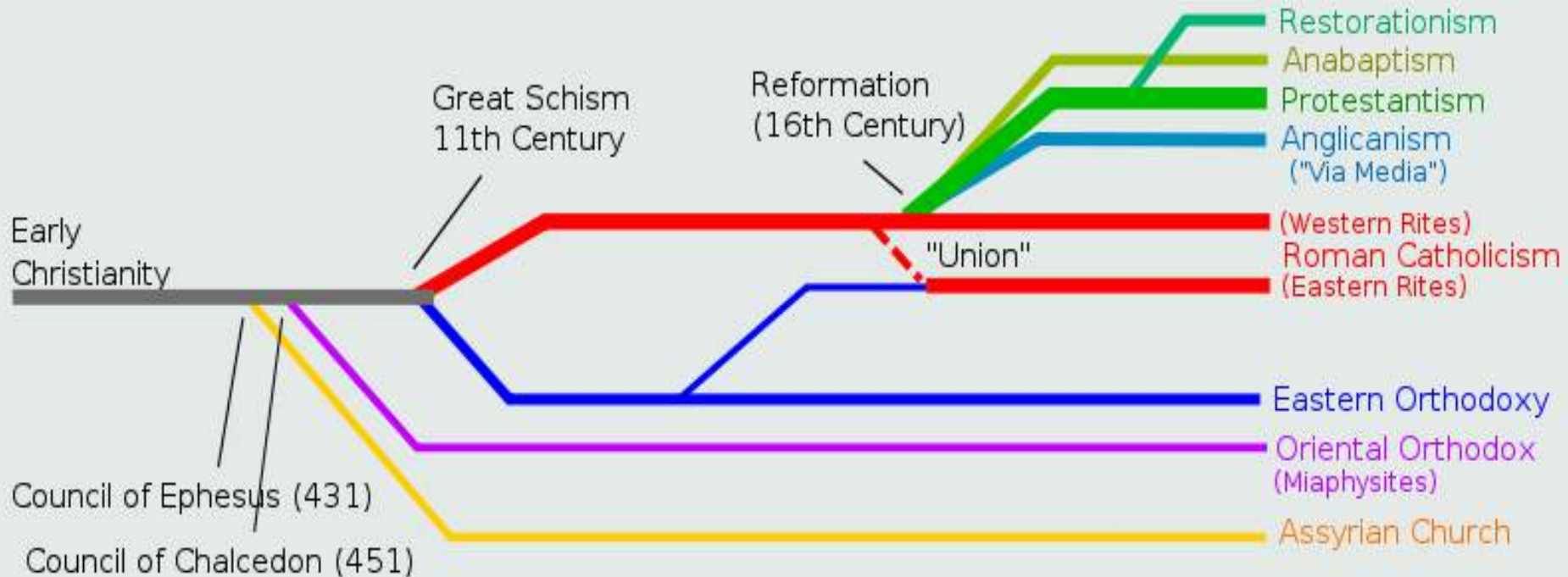


Protestant Perspectives

Typical Protestant perspective: not long after founding of early church it developed unorthodox practices; only small remnant of real Christians survived until Reformation 16th c. Second group Protestants further claim it was not enough & “Second Reformation” necessary (17th 18th 19th c.).

Calvin & “Reformed” did not fully reject Church, but claimed to reform doctrine & practice. Calvin eagerly studied many medieval theologians.

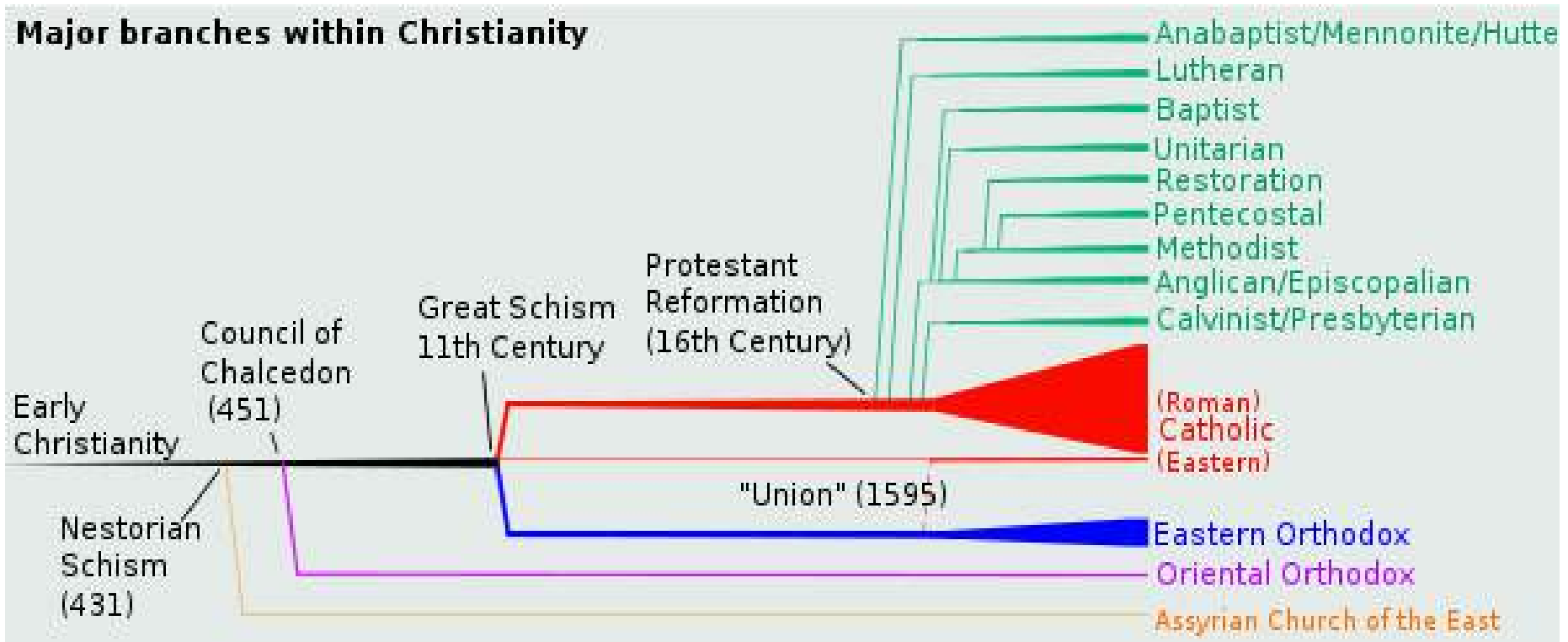
Major branches within Christianity



Timeline of Christianity

1550 onward many divisions

Major branches within Christianity



Development of Early Christianity A.D. 30-350



Late Roman Empire, A.D. 117



Jesus of Nazareth

Joseph & Mary of Nazareth,
Galilee, travelled to Bethlehem,
Jesus born.

Born: c.7–2 BC

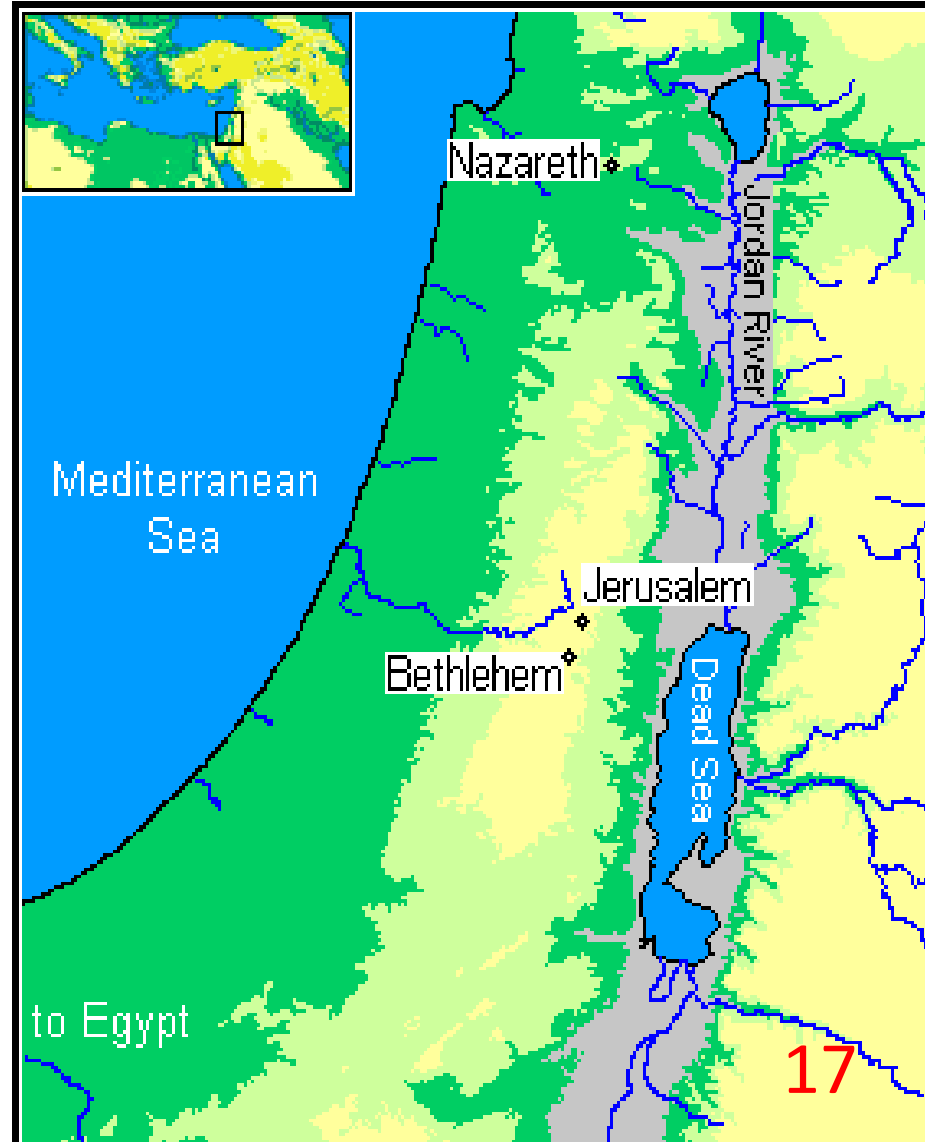
Died: c.33 AD

Jesus = Latin *Jesus* ;

Hebrew-Aramaic יְהוֹשֻׁעַ = Joshua,
i.e. “Yahweh delivers.”

Real name =

Joshua bar Joseph (son of Joseph)
& Mary (Davidic line)



Who was Jesus? Claims=

1. **Scripture:** Matt. 2:1-6 quotes Micah 5:2 – Jesus= Messiah: “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.”

2. **Nature:** “star” 3 kings/ wisemen “magi” to Jesus. Matt. 2:2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

(Rembrandt →)

Jesus of Nazareth



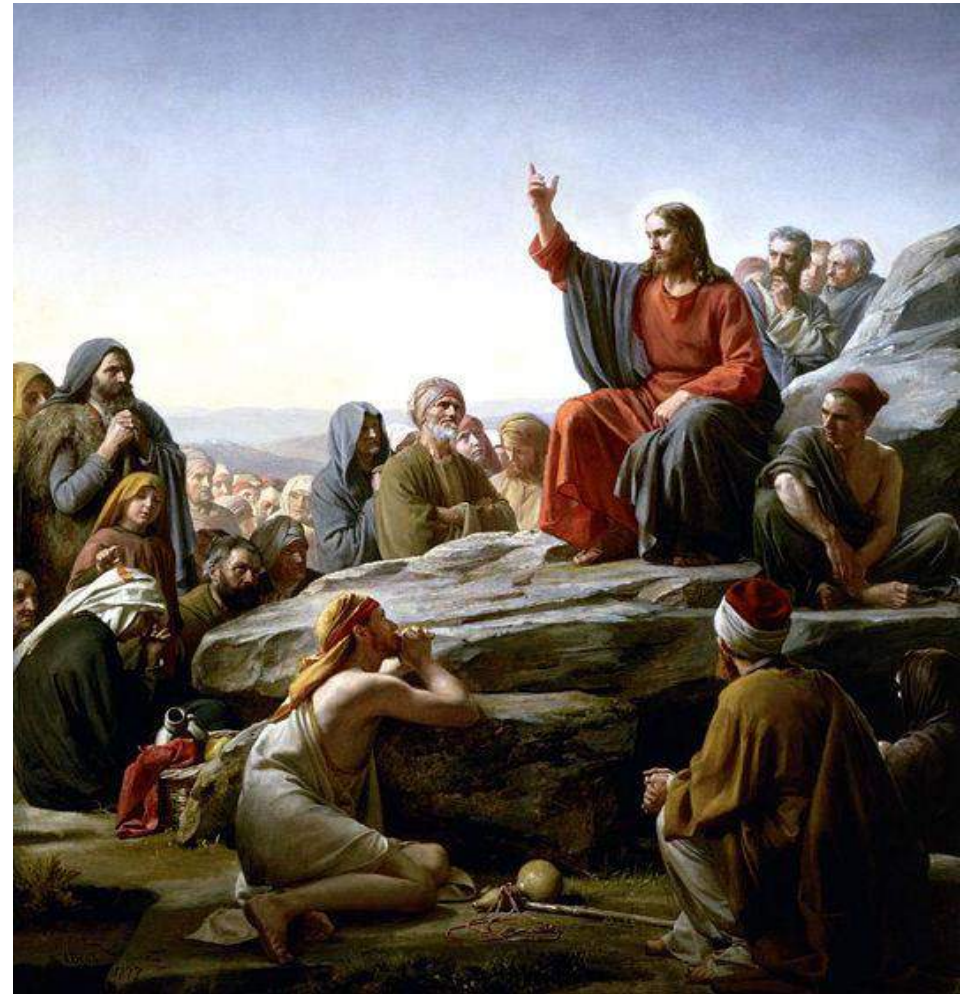
Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ

Jesus (=name) Christ (=title):

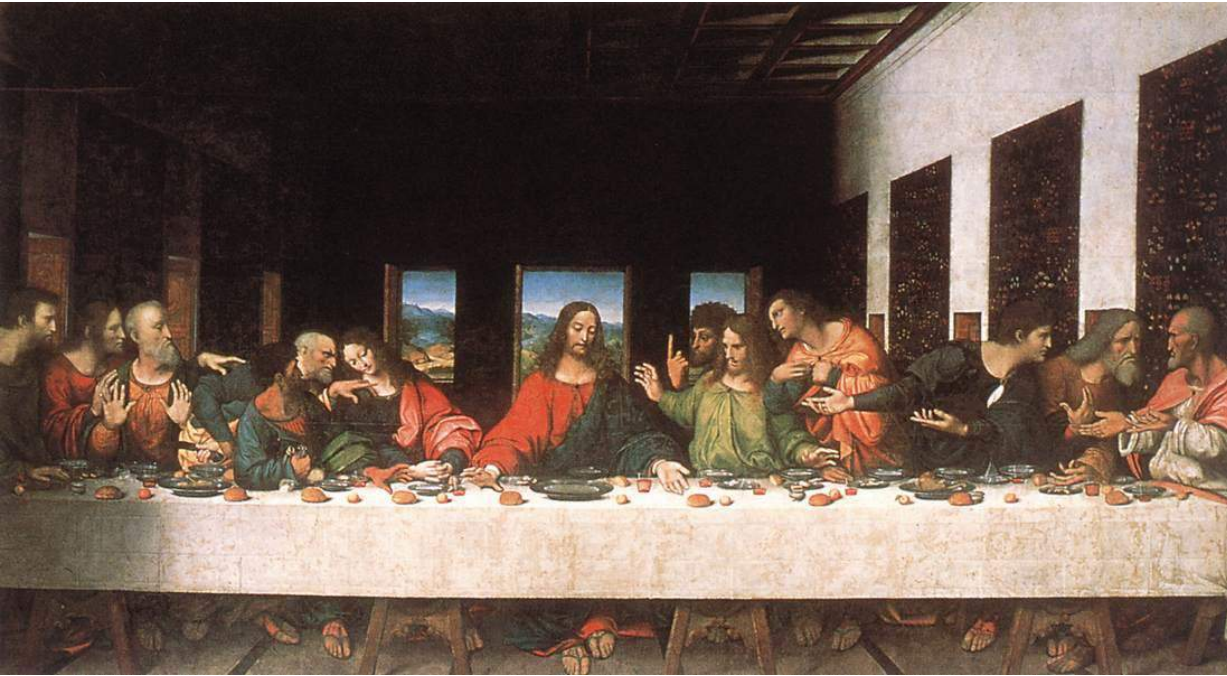
Christ = Χριστός *Christós* (Greek)
= Hebrew “**messiah**” (anointed one as savior & liberator)

Gospels: came “give his life as a ransom for many” & “preach the good news of the Kingdom of God.”

Ministry: Jesus teacher; miracles: healings, exorcisms, walking water, water into wine, raised several dead = Lazarus (John 11:1–44, Matt. 9:25, Luke 7:15).



Jesus of Nazareth, Crucifixion & Resurrection



12 Disciples at “Last Supper.” Record of his death:

1. Pilate condemned Jesus; →
2. crucified (c. 33);
3. after 3 days he arose = Resurrection.



Saul of Tarsus (c.5-67 AD) to Paul: conversion c. 35-36 AD

Acts 9:

[1-2] *“All this time Saul was breathing down the necks of the Master’s disciples, out for the kill. He went to the Chief Priest and got arrest warrants*

[3-4] *...outskirts of Damascus, he was suddenly dazed by a blinding flash of light. As he fell to the ground, he heard a voice: “Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me?”*

Caravaggio, Peter’s conversion →



Saul of Tarsus to St. Paul

[5-6] He said, “Who are you, Master?” “I am Jesus, the One you’re hunting down. I want you to get up and enter the city...[17-19] So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, “Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

“Apostle of the Gentiles”



St. Paul in the Hellenistic World

Christianity in Hellenistic world;

Paul used Greek philosophy & **reason**. Equated “God” to Athenian statue

“TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.”

Acts 17:22-32: “what therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man....”

altar to Unknown god, Athens →



St. Paul in the Hellenistic World

Plato's cave analogy used powerful, meaningful language of the day

Paul: 1 Cor. 13:12: *“Now we see through a mirror dimly (glass darkly), but then face to face....”*

John: John 1:5: *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

Qualifies **reason**: *Romans 8:6*

“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

Thus, divine reason over human reason.

St. Paul's Missionary Journeys

THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

MAP 13



Paul's Missionary Journey & Letters

Paul's letters → books NT

A. To Celts:

Galatians

B. To Greeks:

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

Thessalonians(2)

Corinthians(2)

C. To Romans:

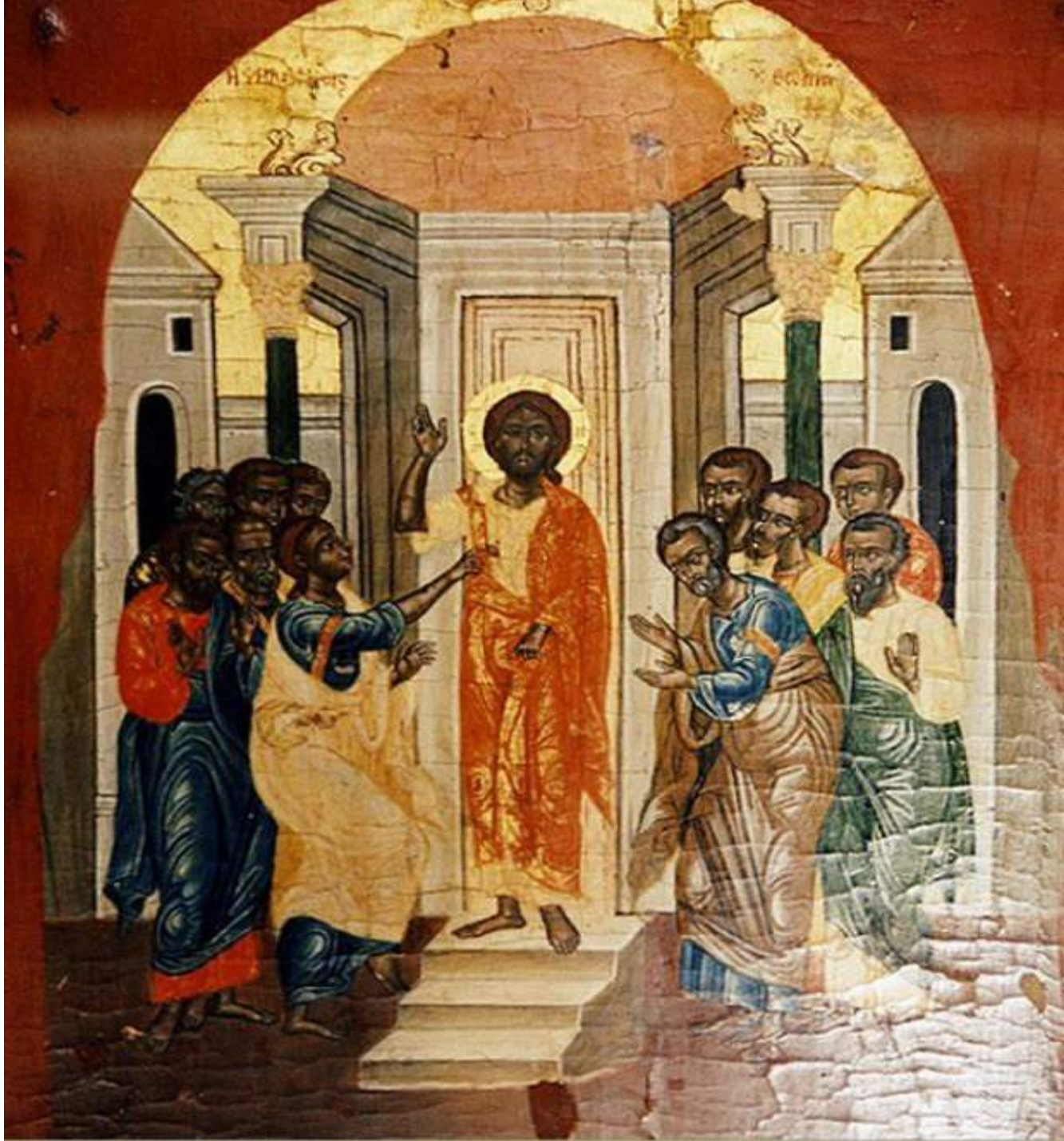
Romans



Christ & disciples.
Painted panel in
Coptic museum,
Cairo

Coptic Christians

today: c.16 million:
c.12 million Egypt +
c.3-4 million abroad
(Diaspora)



Coptic Christians

Contributions:

1. Birthplace of monasticism: 1st = hermits imitated

Jesus's 40 days in desert. **St. Anthony the Great** (c. 251–356).

Biography by Athanasius of Alexandria inspired Christians w/ how Anthony overcame temptations.

Monasticism = called “**white martyrdom**” no blood shed;

underlines *pilgrimage* through this world= “not my home.”



Coptic Christians

2. *Didascalia* = famous catechetical school Alexandria
early Christian scholars showed reason &
revelation, philosophy & theology compatible.

Most famous = **Origen**; said he wrote more books
than anyone could read. Origen evangelized Jews in
Palestine w/message that Jesus fulfilled all promises
of God in OT. Exposition of Bible, day by day, chapter by chapter, was
an effective evangelistic technique.

PROBLEM: Teachings extremely controversial

pre-existence of souls, final reconciliation of all creatures, including
perhaps even devil (*apokatastasis*), subordination of Son of God to
God the Father.



Tertullian (c. 160-c. 220 AD)

Carthage: wealthy, educated citizen exercised all passions (gladiators, sex, food). Struck w/ courage Christian martyrs & converted.

Totally rejected philosophy; **NO** value to Christian theology; became great **apologist**, book *Apologeticum pro Christianis*.

“Father of Latin Christianity”: pushed “apostolic succession” proof correct doctrine & practice.

Promoted very strict discipline & practice; abstaining from “worldly” pleasures. Underlined responsibility for developing spiritual life.

Coined phrases:

1. “What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?”
2. “Trinity” used in Nicene Creed.



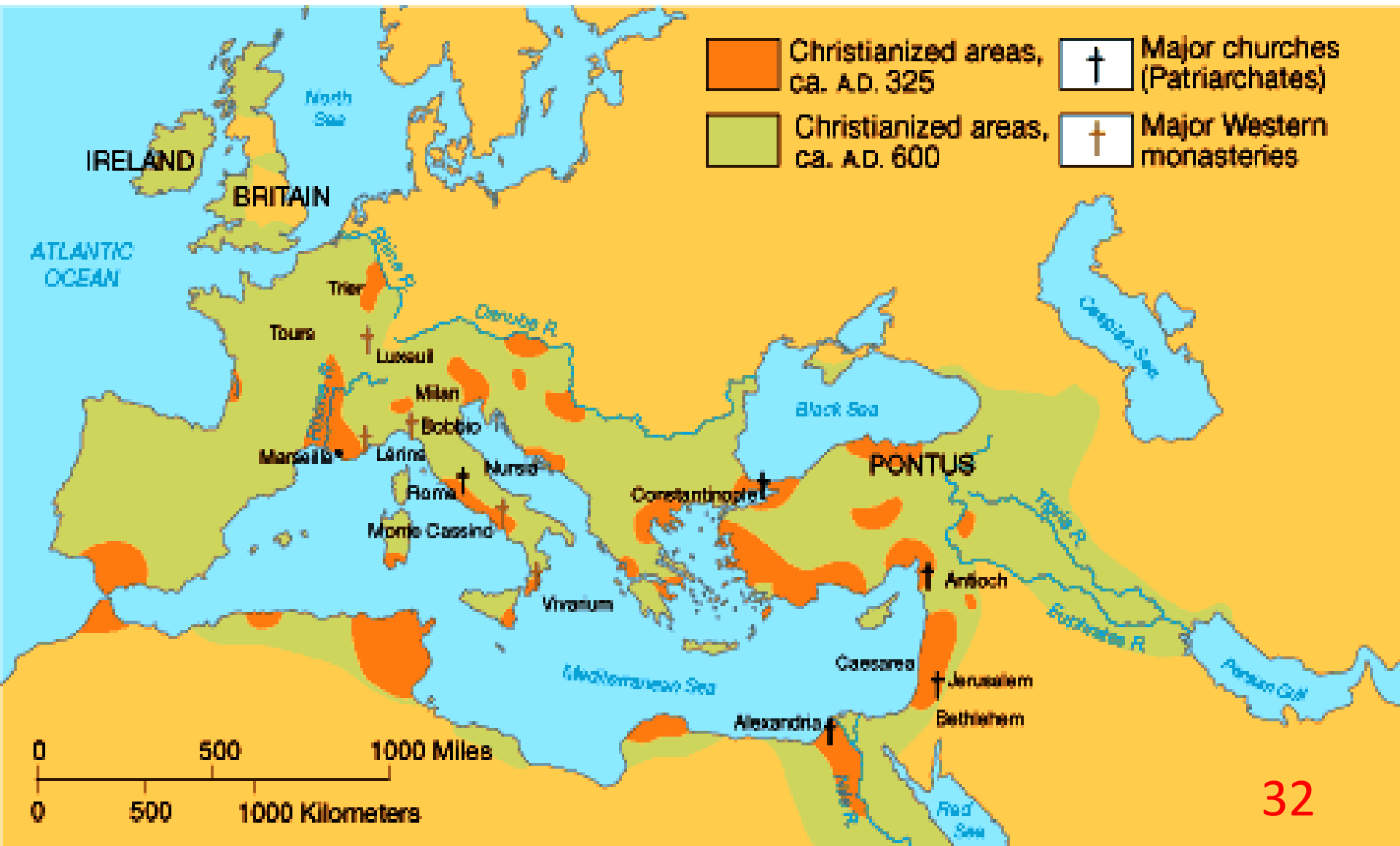
Tertullian, *De praescriptione haereticorum* (*On the prescription of heretics*), chap.7

Tertullian claims Paul:

“names *philosophy* as that which he would have us be **on our guard against**.
... ‘See that no one beguile you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, and contrary to the wisdom of the Holy Ghost.’ ... at Athens,
... had in his interviews become acquainted with that human wisdom which pretends to know the truth, whilst it only corrupts it,... **What indeed has Athens to do with Jerusalem?** What concord is there between the Academy and the Church? what between heretics and Christians? ... ‘the Lord should be sought in simplicity of heart’. Away with all attempts to produce a mottled Christianity of Stoic, Platonic, and dialectic composition!”

5 Principal Cities (religious authority):

Alexandria; Jerusalem; Antioch; Constantinople; Rome



Christianity to Asia

Well-known Eusebius of Caesarea (early 4thc.) & Saint Jerome (late 4thc.) report missionaries to India.

12 Disciples/ Apostles:

Thomas the Apostle: Muziris, India AD 52; baptized several people, founding Saint Thomas Christians or Nasranis.

Saint Bartholomew: India 1stc. (left Gospel of Matthew there).

Others:

Saint Pantaenus the Philosopher: Greek theologian in Catechetical School of Alexandria (c.AD 180) to India.

Olopun, Syrian monk: stone stele (AD 781) records to capital of **China** in 635 AD (Tang Dynasty, Chang An or Xi'an) but disappears c. AD 800 w/ fall of Tang.

Spread of Christianity Roman Empire

| YEAR | Number | Percentage of Roman Empire |
|-------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 100 : | 7,500 | 0.0126% |
| 150: | 41,000 | 0.07% |
| 200: | 220,000 | 0.36% |
| 250: | 1.7 million | 1.9% |
| 300: | 6.3 million | 10.5% → Constantine 312 |
| 350: | 34 million | 56.5% |

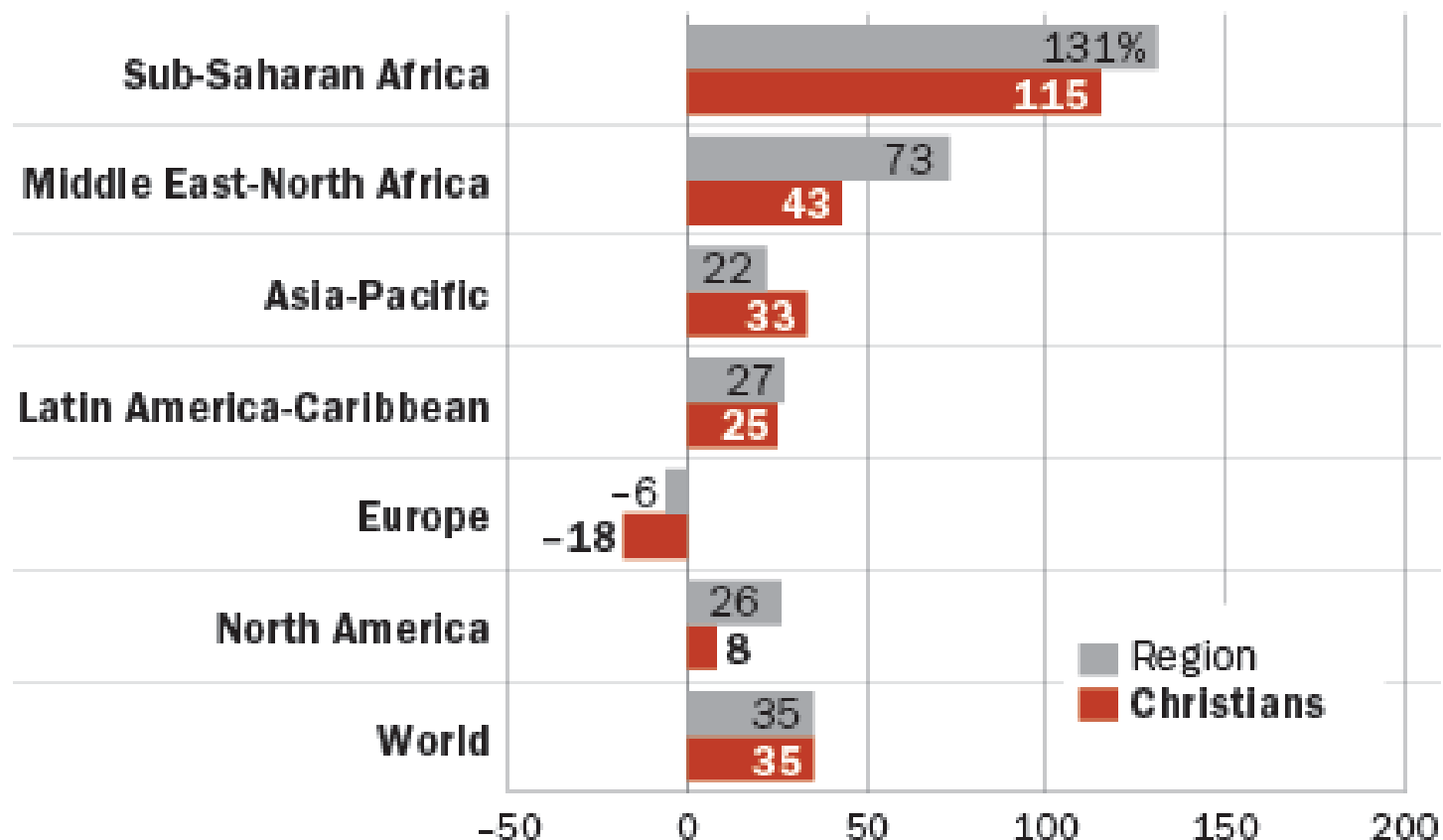
See Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries* (Princeton UP, 1996; Harper, 1997).

TODAY

1. [United States](#) 229,157,250
2. [Brazil](#) 169,213,130
3. [Mexico](#) 106,204,560
4. [Nigeria](#) 80,510,000
5. [Philippines](#) 78,790,000
6. [Russia](#) 67,640,000
7. [China](#) 67,070,000
8. [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) 63,150,000
9. [France](#) 55,948,600
10. [Italy](#) 55,832,000
11. [Ethiopia](#) 51,477,950
12. [Germany](#) 50,752,580
13. [Colombia](#) 44,502,000
14. [Ukraine](#) 41,973,000
15. [South Africa](#) 40,243,000
16. [Spain](#) 38,568,000
17. [Poland](#) 36,526,000
18. [Kenya](#) 33,625,790
19. [Argentina](#) 33,497,100
20. [United Kingdom](#) 33,200,417

Christian Population Growth Compared With Overall Growth in Each Region, 2010 to 2050

% increase in population size



Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Spread of Christianity Roman Empire

Sociological Questions:

Appeal of Christianity: **Ekklesia** (Athenian= all citizens; not based birth, wealth, but residence)= followers Jesus Christ (“Church” later English). Matt. 16:18: “...upon this rock I will build my church...” [Gk. “Ekklesian”; Latin “ecclesiam”]

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”
(Galatians 3:28)

Contrast Rome & Christianity

1. From Social Inequality (female infanticide) to Equality: Church= **Ekklesia** (all equal in God’s sight) & Dignity of Human Life (*imago dei*);
2. From Emperors as gods—plurality of impersonal gods—to one God of Love.

Spread of Christianity Roman Empire

3. From little Social Care to Family: *Ekklesia*=

Matt.25:40 “...done to least of brethren, you have done to Me”;

Acts 4:32-35: “...whole congregation of believers was united as one— one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. ...They shared everything. ... Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the price of the sale to the apostles and made an offering of it.”

4. Promise of salvation & afterlife to **ALL who believe**. Unique to Christianity that

a. open to all

b. resurrected body. Death= sleep.

How Did the Early Christians Describe Themselves?

The Epistle to Diognetes, c. AD 130

“For the Christians are distinguished from other men neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which they observe. For they neither inhabit cities of their own, nor employ a peculiar form of speech, nor lead a life which is marked out by any singularity.

The course of conduct which they follow has not been devised by any speculation or deliberation of inquisitive men; nor do they, like some, proclaim themselves the advocates of any merely human doctrines. But, inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities, according as the lot of each of them has determined and **following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life.**”

How Did the Early Christians Describe Themselves?

The Epistle to Diognetes, c. AD 130

They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men and are persecuted by all. ...

When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life; they are assailed by the Jews as foreigners and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred. To sum it all up in one word -- what the soul is to the body, that are Christians in the world.”

See www.christianity.com

Persecution of Christians

Roman State Religion = fulfilled state duties; state dependent on will of gods!

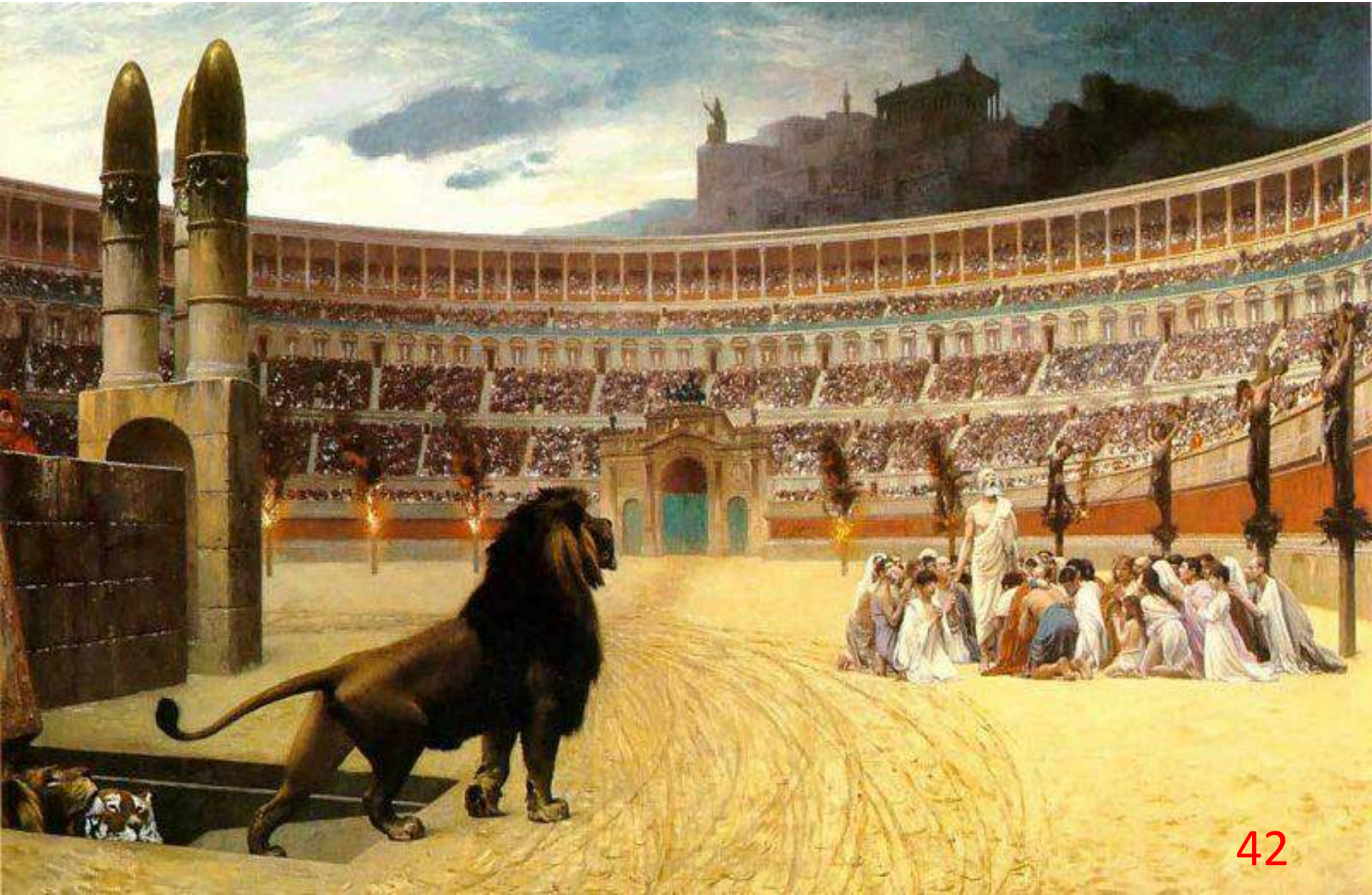
Christianity = fulfilled individual & community needs. Accused of :

1. **Atheism** = disbelief in Roman gods (& Emperor) & taught corporate unity above the state.
2. **Cannibalism** (eating Eucharist)
3. **Corrupting morals** (not patriotic = venerate Emperor)
4. **Corrupting family** (marriage, place of women)

Persecutions (under Emperors): few 1st -2nd c; increased by 3rd c.

1. Nero: 64+ sporadic/ localized
2. Domitian: 81-96 sporadic
3. Marcus Aurelius: 177+
4. Diocletian: 284-305 goal of total extermination

Persecution of Christians



Emperor Nero

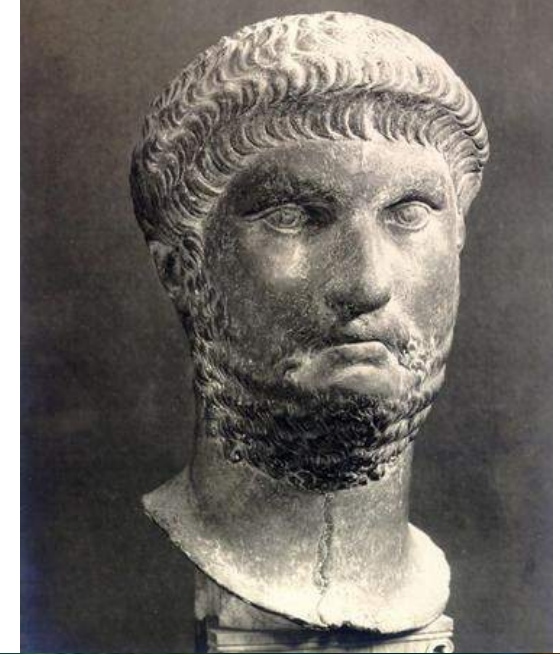
Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (37–68AD)

54 -68: diplomacy, trade, increase cultural capital of Empire.

Tyrant: political & familial executions= mother & adoptive brother. Advisor Seneca murdered.

FIRE: 64 AD fire merchant area Rome; summer winds spread 6 days- 70% city ruined!

Blamed Christians. Tacitus, (*Annals* XV.44)→ Nero ordered Christians thrown to dogs, others crucified or burned as lights.

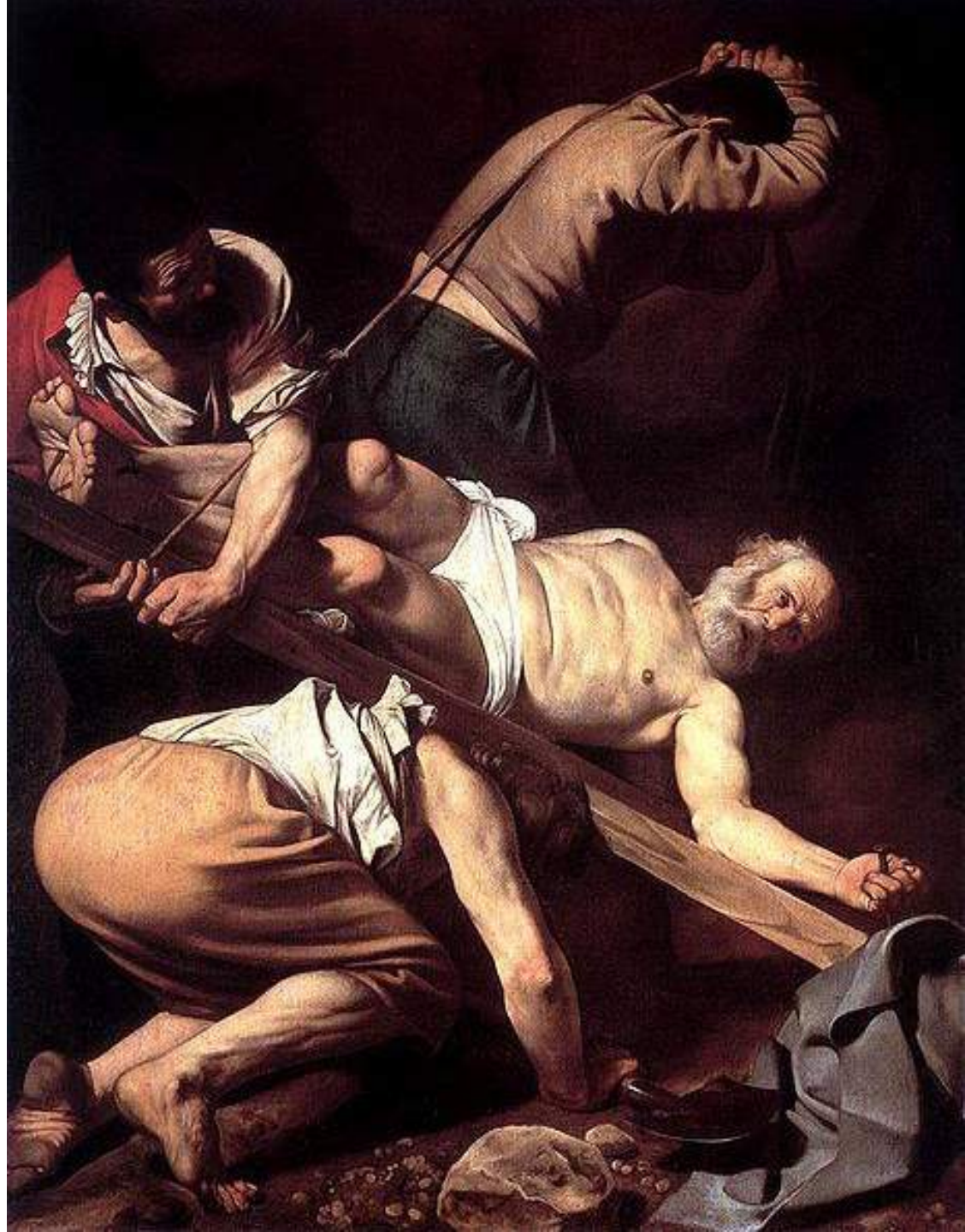


The Crucifixion of Saint Peter

Michelangelo Merisi da
Caravaggio (1571-1610)
painting 1601

intensely emotional
realism= formative
influence Baroque school.

use **chiaroscuro** or
Tenebrism= shift from light
to dark w/little
intermediate value.



Christian Martyrdom

“martyr” = witness

“The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians” (Tertullian).

Killed by stone (St.Stephen);
crucifixion (St.Peter); wild animals;
burned at stake; beheaded (St.Paul).

below **St. Andrew's Cross**, also
St. Patrick's Saltire; Scotland, Low
Countries, Russian navy,
Confederate flag, etc.)



Martyrdom of St. Andrew



Early Christian Worship: Eucharist & Catacomb

One of earliest Christian hymns= *Gloria Patri* → “Glory Be to the Father”
Psalms continued to be sung from Hebrews through Middle Ages—often no musical instruments.



Early Christian Symbols

Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour

Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, Θεοῦ Υἱός, Σωτήρ"

[*lēsous Christos Theou Yios, Sōtēr*]

Acronym = Greek word for fish



Constantine: 312 Conversion Christianity; 325 Council of Nicea =
Nicene Creed; 330 moved capital Rome to Constantinople

Constantine won Battle
of Milvian Bridge &
accepted Christianity.



below : “Chi Rho” =
“CR” in Christos;
Cathedral “Hagia
Sophia”



Major Christian Questions

Question One: How is Christianity Different than Judaism?

(first followers of Jesus all Jewish & accept complete Hebrew scripture)

1. **Jesus “Messiah”** & “Christos.” Jews rejected claim.

325 AD → Nicene Creed= Jesus Christ, Son of God; thus TRINITY

2. **Freedom from Mosaic Law** (OT)?:

1 Cor. 8 exempts Christians from dietary, ritual laws.

Christians → natural law: Romans 1:19 “*what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*”

Christians accepted “*imago dei*” concept.

KNOW God’s law in scripture & nature.

Major Christian Questions

3. Separate People like Jews?

NO: Christians are “**Twin Citizens**”: Live as Roman citizens, don’t violate God’s law if Rome asks too much.

Matt.22:15-21: “...Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Rom. 13:1-7: “...be subject to the earthly authorities.”

YES: Tertullian taught separation.

John 18:36: “My kingdom is not of the world.”

2 Cor. 6:17: “Come out from among them and be ye separate...”

Major Christian Questions

Question Two: How Does Greek Philosophy Help Explain the Nature of the World?

Stoics: **force (divine spark) in people** discern natural law = Logos.

Christians : natural law as faculty/ability inherent in people (*imago dei*).

What role “pagan” philosophy in Christian theology?

Like Jewish roots, some philosophy becomes foundation theology, but transformed w/ Christian meaning.

CONTRAST:

A. **Tertullian** rejected all Greco-Roman philosophy.

B. **Augustine** used some Greco-Roman philosophy, stern warnings w/ some conclusions.

FAITH ?

Major Christian Questions

Faith “*blind*”? → not thinking, but pure hope—don’t know; or emotions & feelings.

Early Christian **Faith** [Latin= *fides*] = **knowing and acting**.

Greek πιστις / *pi'stis* = faithfulness, **fidelity**, loyalty, commitment, trust, belief, **proof**.

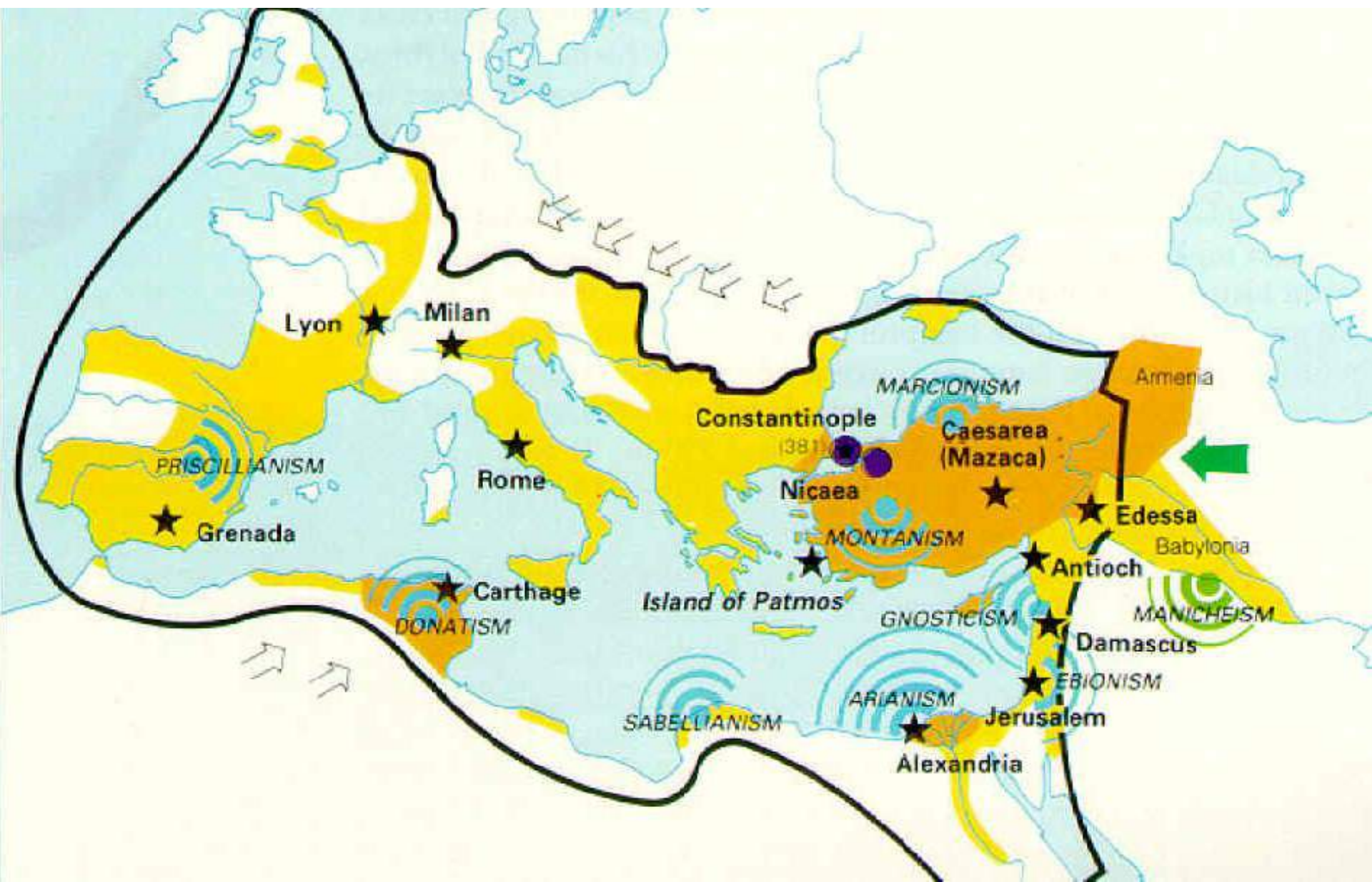
1. Paul’s *Letter to Hebrews* 11:1, faith= “**assurance** of things hoped for, conviction of things not seen.”

2. “things seen” = belief Jesus= Son of God (Logos): saw miracles, heard teaching, saw after resurrection.

Faith= summary of truths revealed in Bible & Jesus’ life.

Aquinas: “the act of the **intellect assenting to a Divine truth** owing to the movement of the will, which is itself moved by the grace of God.”

Orthodoxy & Heresy in early Church 200 AD



Spread of Christianity Roman Empire

Noll, *Turning Points*.

Canon: Scripture as the measure of belief and faith. Hebrew bible/Old Testament = God's Word to Jews & earliest Christians. Gospel records of Jesus' life and ministry & letters of Paul = scripture?

Episcopacy: governance and authority in the church. Religious institution grew out of Jewish practice, but expanded.

Creeeds: summary of belief (correct interpretation of scripture). By 2nd century numerous new religious beliefs based on some Christian principles, but most considered heresy.

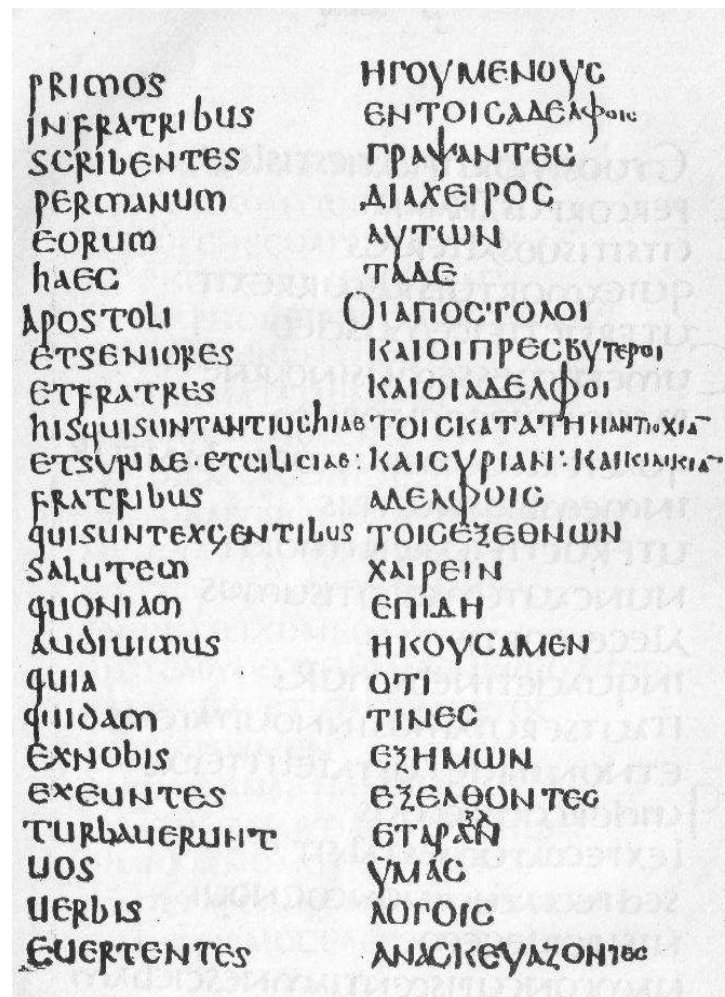
The Bible: Hebrew (OT) & New Testament

New Testament: **27 books** called
“canon” = rule, measurement

Final agreement AD 367 Athanasius' list.

1. **Gospels**: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John =
story of Jesus
2. **Acts of the Apostles** = story of early
Church [history]
3. **Pauline letters** to churches (14)
4. other books: Hebrews written to
Jewish Christians

Jerome trans. Greek/Aramaic to
Latin = *Vulgate* 382-405



Nicene Creed, 325 AD

Using terms & concepts in our culture/civilization to describe the Gospel. *Use but not abuse. Start with but transform.*

Stoic **LOGOS** explains Jesus' divinity & humanity? Yes, and No.
Dominant form/ structure of belief in Rome = Stoicism
"Stoa" = porch of philosophers. School of **Stoicism**, Athens: Zeno, 3rd BC. Goals: (self-knowledge)

Eudaimonia = happiness, *flourishing*, well-being (Aristotle)

Logos = Universal reason; the One; essence of world (rational providence) → substitute = fire (original energy) personified in deity/god (not a real person or entity).

Stoicism: structure of thought

Logos : known through **Reason** (i.e. individual thought), but reason in group (*arête* = virtue for group).

Humans (animals) = emanations from Logos, divine spirit (fire) in them (*daimôn*). Suffering = positive effect on soul.

Aristotle: one practices recollection → since emanation, one has already heard but forgotten.

Oneness of all humanity (fraternity & brotherhood).

Origen came closest to linking Christ to Logos, and was condemned for this.

Orthodox Christianity, however, used word *Logos*, but at a certain point distanced themselves from any further analogies.

Nicene Creed, 325 AD

Trinity affirmed: God= One Being (essence) Three Persons

1. God Father (in heaven)
2. Jesus= fully God & fully man (came to earth; then heaven)
3. Holy Spirit (also lives in Christians)

“**Logos**” Greek for *Word*, but more in the sense of will, desire, one gives one’s word.

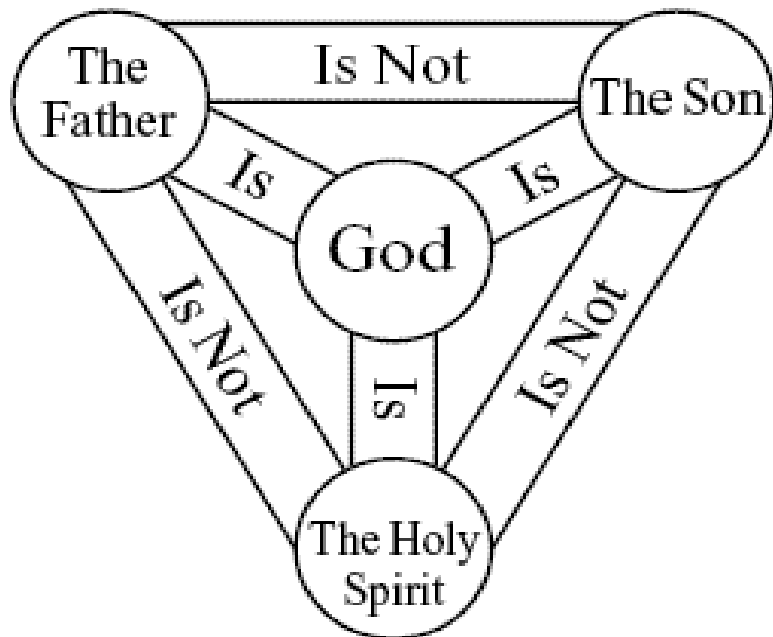
John 1:1= Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ **λόγος**, καὶ ὁ **λόγος** ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεός ἦν ὁ **λόγος**

“*In the beginning was the **Logos**, and the **Logos** was with God, and the **Logos** was God.*”

1:14 “*And the **Logos** became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*”

Nicene Creed, 325

“The God who is *logos* guarantees the intelligibility of the world... the aptitude of reason to know God...and the reasonableness of God....”
(Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI)



Episcopacy in Early Church

Question of apostolicity (Jesus → disciples/ apostles → ?)

Bishops (*episkopoi*)

Deacons (*diakonoι*)

Presiding officers (*hēgoumenoi*)

Elders (*presbyteroi*)

But, exactly what role is a matter of interpretation.

Roman Catholic= scripture (OT/NT) & early bishops. Since so many heresies, necessity of strict authority. Also, Matt.16:18-19 “¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

RC → great faith that early church had very few errors.

Strict apostolic succession

Episcopacy in Early Church

Protestant = recognize church offices in general (teachers, elders, deacons) but see early church hierarchy more out of pragmatic necessity for times.

Matt.16:18-19 = not reference to Peter, 1st bishop of Rome, w/ all powers given to one person, but “keys” = salvation based on confession.

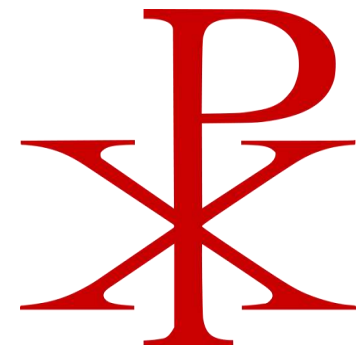
Greek *petro* / *petra* (= same roots Peter & rock); Latin *petrus* / *petram*. Thus, a monarchy in church office. Protestant → rock = confession Jesus is Lord.

Episcopacy in Early Church

Reformed = authority & office still very important as extension of biblical authority & work of Christ in His church. Bishop & Elder synonymous = same office. Corporate & covenant communities are church.

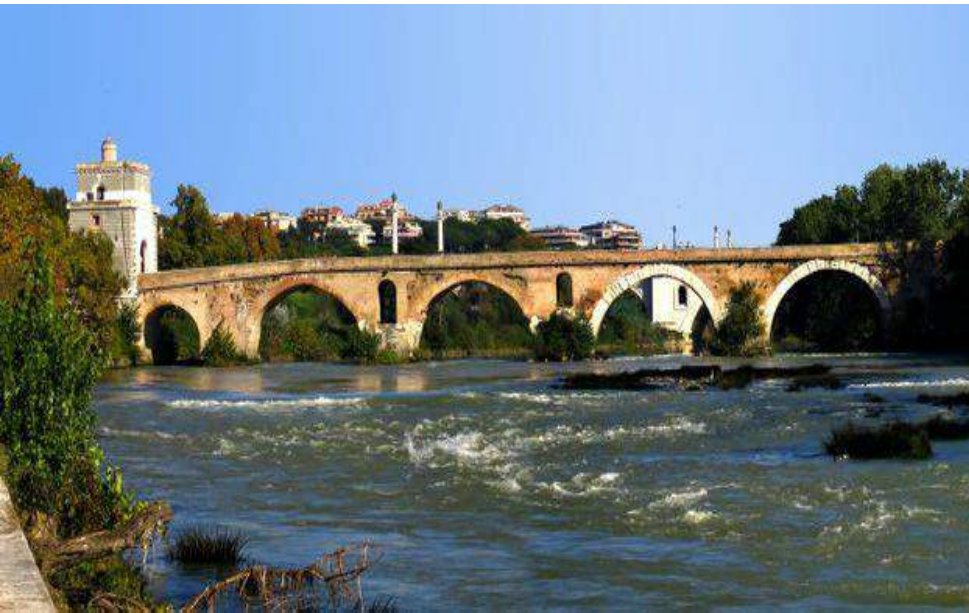
Non-denominational American Evangelicals = often authority & office taught, but less important. Personal & individual relationship w/ Christ paramount.

Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity, 312 Battle of Milvian Bridge



Constantine looked at sun before battle - saw cross of light w/Greek *Εν Τούτω Νικα* (**by this, conquer**); commanded troops to place Chi-Rho on shields= victorious!

(below: Milvian bridge today)



Emperor Constantine's new capital: from Rome to Constantinople →
became Byzantine Empire (395–1453).
West (Latin) left weakened, vulnerable to barbarians.



A Christian Roman Empire

Created “Christendom” after AD 312.

“*Domus*” Latin for household → house (territory & institution); hold (leadership & authority over). Kingdom; freedom; serfdom.....

Most of middle ages (400-1300) w/no unified state, Roman, Catholic, western, Latin-speaking Church wielded both “swords” (temporal & spiritual); contrast to eastern, Greek-speaking Orthodox Church that had an earthly-temporal emperor & a spiritual Patriarch.

However, the dream of one, holy Christian empire played out in attempt to create “Holy Roman Empire” in central, western Europe (German lands) from 962-1806.



A Christian Roman Empire

Official sanction & support for Christianity led to:

GOOD (?)

- ❖ Widespread “conversions” in Europe supported.
- ❖ Strong, organized institution (w/beautiful churches, monasteries, schools, etc.)
- ❖ Once state (Roman Empire) fell Christendom became the backbone (preserved law, order, culture).

BAD (?)

- ❖ Increased hierarchy, power struggles, greed
- ❖ Questionable “real” conversions & practice
- ❖ Role of Church in physically punishing individuals & groups (Inquisitions)

410 AD Rome Sacked

Goths (Visigoths=barbarian tribe) triumph. Rome tried to pay ransom; did not work. Goths sacked Rome, destroyed infrastructure, set up barbarian kingdom; enemies of eastern Byzantine Empire. Eventually unorthodox, **Arian Christians**.

