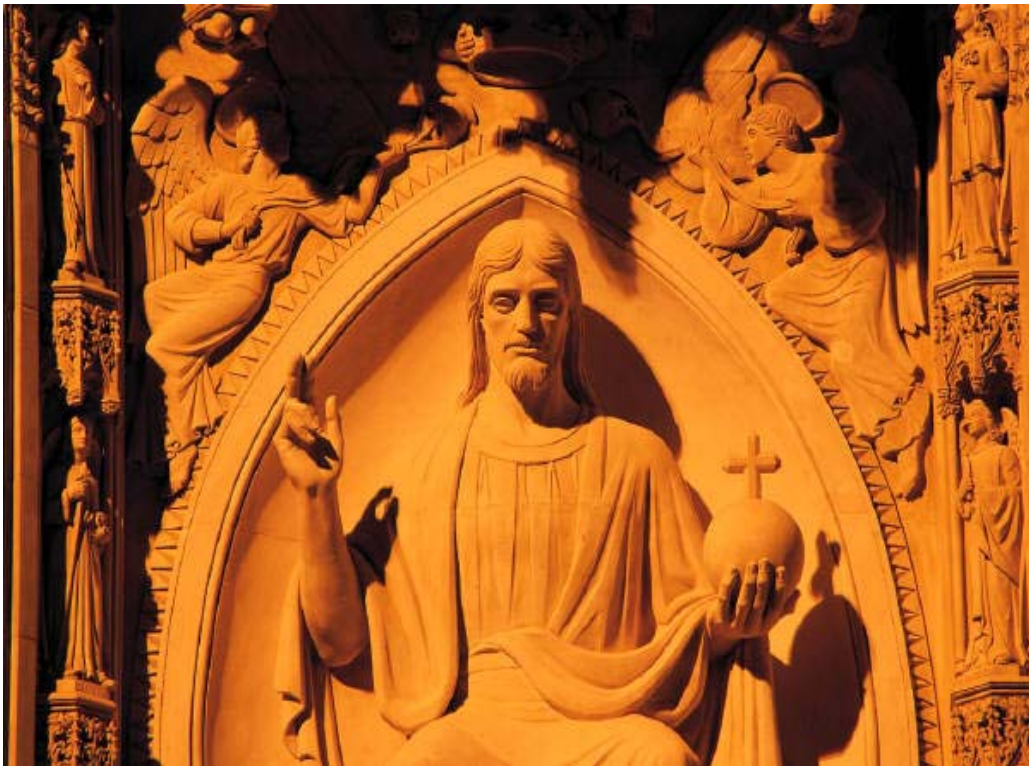


*HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY*  
*STUDENT MANUAL*



BY  
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**2009/2010**

# ⊕ HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY ⊕

## STUDENT MANUAL

### **An Overview of Church History in Three Units:**

#### **UNIT I**

##### **EARLY, IMPERIAL, AND MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY:**

**Jewish Background, Historical Sources  
The Nascent Church, Loss of Our Roots  
Ante-Nicene and Post-Nicene Patristics  
Theological Controversies and Councils  
The Imperial Church, Constantianism  
The Medieval Christian Synthesis**

#### **UNIT II**

##### **THE REFORMATION OF THE CHURCH:**

**Renaissance Humanism and the Dissolution of the MCS  
The Pre-Reformers, The Protestants, Religious Wars,  
The Catholic Counter-Reformation, Aftermath**

#### **UNIT III**

##### **THE ENLIGHTENMENT ERA UP TO THE PRESENT DAY:**

**Deism, American Revolution, Denominational Fission  
Nineteenth Century Expansions and Challenges  
Twentieth Century Crises, Post-Christian Culture  
Christianity in a Postmodern World, The FAITH from Age to Age**

## THE GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF CHURCH HISTORY

### The "Era" and Important Issues To Be Studied:

### The General Timeframe:

**"Second Temple Period Judaism"** \_\_\_\_\_ **6<sup>th</sup> C. B.C.E. up to the Year of Destruction 70 C.E.**  
 The Intertestamental Period  
 Jewish Sectarians under Extreme Pressure of Hellenism  
 Messianic Expectations Heightened

**"The Nascent Witness Community"** \_\_\_\_\_ **The 1<sup>st</sup> C. (Focus on ~49 to ~90)** ⇐✱  
 Jesus, Disciples, & Apostles, *Shavuot* & Mission  
 The 'Parting of the Ways' and Loss of Roots (Discussion covers from 30s to about 135 CE)

**"Early Christianity"** \_\_\_\_\_ **2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> C. (100s & 200s)**  
 Ante-Nicene Patristics, Martyrs,  
 Apologists, Heresies, *Adversus Judaeos*

**"The Imperial Church"** \_\_\_\_\_ **The 4<sup>th</sup> C. (Focus on 312 to c. 388)** ⇐✱  
 Constantine, Reactions to 'favored & official' Xty,  
 Council of Nicea, Post-Nicene Patristics

**"The Medieval Church"** \_\_\_\_\_ **5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> C. (400s through 900s)**  
 Fall of Western Roman Empire, Barbarian Kingdoms Convert  
 The Primacy of Rome's Bishops (Papacy), Eastern-Byzantine Xty

**"The Late Medieval Church"** \_\_\_\_\_ **11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> C. (1000 to 1200s, esp. 1215)**  
 East–West Schism, 'Holy' Crusades & Inquisition  
 Scholasticism, New Monastic Orders  
 The Absolute Apex of Papal Power

.....End of Unit I...Begin Unit II.....

**"The Pre-Reformation"** \_\_\_\_\_ **14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> C. (1300s & 1400s)**  
 Decline of Papacy, Conciliar Movement  
 Renaissance Humanism; Pre-Reformers and SCRIPTURE  
 Dissolution of the Medieval Xn Synthesis

**"The Protestant Reformation"** \_\_\_\_\_ **The 16<sup>th</sup> C. (1500s, esp. 1517!)** ⇐✱  
 Erasmus, Luther, Zwingli, Anabaptists

**"Reformation – The Next Generation"** \_\_\_\_\_ **16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> C. (1500s and 1600s)**  
 Calvin, Anglicans, Puritans, RCC 'Counters' at Trent, Religious WARS!

.....End of Unit II...Begin Unit III.....

**"The Enlightenment Era"** \_\_\_\_\_ **17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> C. (1600s and 1700s)**  
 'Age of Reason' and Science, Religious Rationalism,  
 Deists and Pietists attempt to reform the reformation!  
 The American and the French Revolutions

**"The Nineteenth Century"** \_\_\_\_\_ **1800s through to WWI (1914–1918)** ⇐✱  
 Global Missions, Darwinism, Liberalism, Many New Religions and Sects,  
 Pagan and Christian Revivals, Vatican I

**"The Twentieth Century"** \_\_\_\_\_ **WWI to 'Y2K'**  
 Liberals vs. Fundamentalists, Neo-Orthodoxy, Evangelicals, *Charismatics*, Vatican II  
 Holocaust and the Rebirth of Israel, Jewish-Christian Relations and Reconciliation,  
 Our Hebraic Heritage, Messianic Judaism, 'The Jewish Roots Movement'

**"The New Millennium"** \_\_\_\_\_ **21<sup>st</sup> C. to ☁ ?**  
 Extreme Challenges Today...We Desperately Need Our True Roots!

# RESOURCE LINKS FOR DEEPER STUDY AND EXPLORATION



## ONLINE RESOURCES for Further Exploration of the FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH


The Cutting Edge of Biblical Research - Judaic Studies - Hebraic Heritage Scholarship  
Reputable Institutes & Ministries Offering Resources for Scholars [S] and Non-scholars [NS]

### **These organizations come HIGHLY recommended:**

- [NS] 1. [www.bridgesforpeace.com](http://www.bridgesforpeace.com) Excellent educational and charitable ministry in HQ'd in Israel.
- [S] 2. [www.gospelresearch.org](http://www.gospelresearch.org) Explore the invaluable work of Biblical linguist / historian Dr. Brad Young
- [S] 3. [www.hakesher.org](http://www.hakesher.org) The work of Lenore and Ken Mullican. *Kesher* means connection to the Biblical roots of our faith! Specializing in Biblical Languages.
- [S] 4. [www.haydid.org](http://www.haydid.org) *Ha Y'Did* means The Friend. The site serves as a link to many good scholars. Offers an authorized workbook to accompany your textbook *Our Father Abraham*.
- [S] 5. [www.jerusalemerspective.com](http://www.jerusalemerspective.com) HQ'd in Israel, this unique organization has pioneered research on the cultural/textual background for the Synoptic Gospels that is unsurpassed in the 'history' of New Testament Studies! With extremely knowledgeable Orthodox Jews *and* evangelical Christians working in cooperation...the vibrant 'perspective' is as authentic as it gets! Now THIS is what we call a "Jesus Seminar"!  
Dr. David Bivin, author of *Understanding the Difficult Words of Jesus*, is a founding scholar.
- [S- NS] 6. [www.jcstudies.com](http://www.jcstudies.com) The Center for Judaic Christian Studies. Dwight Pryor, the founder, is also the most respected and beloved 'rebbe' in our Judaic Studies community. Beyond scholarship, his materials are inspirational for the maturing disciple!
- [S] 7. [www.csbr.net](http://www.csbr.net) The Center for the Study of Biblical Research. Offers a variety of study programs, hosts conferences, has a treasure trove of materials, stays up on the latest research from Israel, *and* utilizes the latest technology! Check it out!
- [S- NS] 8. [www.restorationfoundation.org](http://www.restorationfoundation.org) Author, pastor and Bible scholar Dr. John Garr is the founder of this organization, and the publisher of RESTORE Magazine. **Restore** is a great resource for delving into **all** the implications of becoming re-rooted into and fed by our Hebraic Heritage. Beyond the theological & historical aspects... 'Restoration' has many exciting practical, communal and spiritual benefits!
- [Very S!] 9. [www.hebraiccenter.org](http://www.hebraiccenter.org) The Hebraic Heritage Christian Center is a new (but *many* years in the making!) Online College offering dynamic courses from the most trustworthy professors in the various fields. (All committed to and steeped in the Hebraic worldview of Jesus and the Apostles!) Graduate and undergrad degrees in Biblical Studies are available. **Most Highly Recommended!**

These are the most widely respected people, and the ones with which the instructor is most familiar. But there are *other* good ones. (Contacting these sites will provide you with links to *many* others.) On your own however, beware that NOT every organization or ministry found with the search-words **Jewish** or **Hebrew** or **Roots**, *etc.* will have the same integrity and quality as those listed above. **Avoid** groups like Jews for Jesus, Chosen People Ministry, and most denominationally controlled entities.

## WEBSITES for Further Study OF GENERAL CHRISTIAN HISTORY


 [www.thepaolas.com/Emperors](http://www.thepaolas.com/Emperors) Take a visual tour through the Imperial Hall of Fame!  
See photos of sculptures and inscriptions, etc. (For Unit I background)

 [www.paulistpress.com](http://www.paulistpress.com) Respected publishers of Roman Catholic scholarship.

 [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org) Find out about the Greek Orthodox Church...and *why wouldn't you want to?*  
Click on "Our Faith" for history and theology. Click "Online Chapel" and learn to chant!

Remember that from an Eastern perspective...all the *schisms and problems* came from the Western Church...the Roman Catholic Church – from whence came those *Protestant* heretics! Also, many Protestants sick of the LACK of reverence in worship services are attracted to the mystery and traditions of Eastern Orthodoxy. Even the only son of Arch-Reform-Protestant Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer, (Franky) converted "back to the one true and pure un-split Church – The Orthodox Church"!

To read similar "convert testimonies" you can check the next site...


 [www.orthodoxinfo.com/inquirers](http://www.orthodoxinfo.com/inquirers) This is a "missionary effort" aimed at the non-Orthodox!


One convert 'came out' of a varied Protestant background that covered the gamut (Anglican, Evangelical, Charismatic, *and* Calvinist-Reform-Presbyterian!) Quote: "I became convinced that Greek Orthodoxy was the fullest and most pure expression of the Apostolic Christian Faith I could find. I believe it is the true ancient Church – the *very criterion* of Christianity."


**IF ONLY** someone had reminded Franky Schaeffer and this other convert that the original Apostles were all Torah-true Jews! If they really want to return to the most authentic expression of Christianity...

**Our TRUE ROOTS are found in Jerusalem, *not* Constantinople!**

Note: Franky had already left home when I lived in Switzerland with the Schaeffers at the L'Abri community! JB ☹

 [www.ccel.org/fathers](http://www.ccel.org/fathers) Christian Classics Ethereal Library has e-editions of some of the vast writings (sermons, commentaries, apologetics, *etc.*) of the Ante-Nicene and Post-Nicene Church Fathers whom you will 'learn to love but read critically'!

 [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org) Here you can find selected writings by the late Pope John Paul II and the present Pope Benedict XVI. They may not be 'infallible' but they love Christ and can write beautifully!

 [www.iclnet.org](http://www.iclnet.org) The Internet Christian Library was the original Christian internet site! (Formerly the Institute for Christian Leadership.) Here you'll find Early Church Documents (creeds, canons, encyclicals, *etc.*)

 [www.christianitytoday.com/ch/byperiod](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/byperiod) This is CT's Church History page; it has lots of *easy-to-read* articles.

A warning for you as you search the **World Wide Web** for sites related to 'Christian' History...

I can promise that you'll encounter a lot of bizarre entities...including a group called *The Nazarene Way!*

This sect 'follows' not *the* Nazarene (Jesus!)...but the way of the *Essenes!*

**BEWARE** of sites that seem to be pushing a certain pre-determined theological system *or* to be promoting their own denominational traditions **rather than** being **open** to 'ongoing reform' **and** being **willing** to 'reconsider *all* systems and traditions' *via* a balanced Hebraic-Biblical approach!

**ALSO**, stick with organizations that are academic, peer-reviewed and **scholarly**. 🎓

**IF** you find anything that may be of interest to the rest of the class, please print a **Home Page** and **share it with us**.

THESE CHOICE ITEMS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

📁 On Loan from the Instructor *by special request* 📁

📖 Several Back Issues of the Journal called: *Restore!* 🕯️

**BIBLICALLY HEBRAIC MODELS FOR LEADERSHIP**

**THE CHURCH'S ROOTS IN TEMPLE AND SYNAGOGUE**

**HEBRAIC FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN PRAYER**

**HEBRAIC PARADIGMS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**HOLY SCRIPTURE; CHRISTIANITY'S LEGACY FROM JUDAISM**

**HOLY SCRIPTURE; OUR JEWISH HERITAGE**

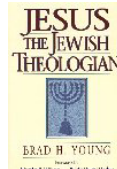
**RECOVERING CHRISTIANITY'S HEBREW HERITAGE**

**RESTORING THE JEWISH ROOTS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH**

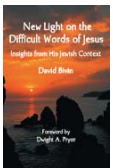
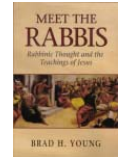
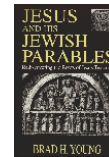
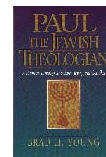
📖 Some Interesting Books:

*A Theological / Historical Turning Point: Jewish – Christian Relations in the Twentieth Century* By Jan Boville

*Jesus the Jewish Theologian* By Dr. Brad Young



Also...

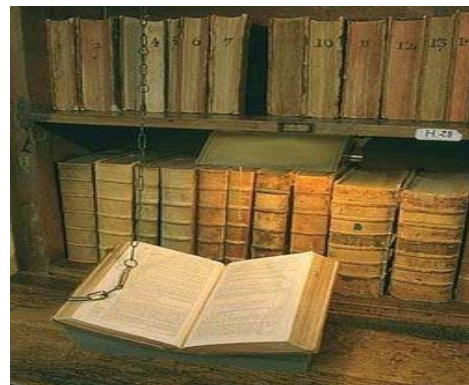


*New Light on the Difficult Words of Jesus: Insights from His Jewish Context* By David Bivin

*Restoring Our Lost Legacy: Christianity's Hebrew Heritage* By Dr. John Garr

**Materials Abound!** Dozens more Books & Journals  
And Literally *Hundreds* of Scholarly Articles, Papers &  
Critical Reviews from your Instructor's Private Horde

*Can be made available to you upon request.* ✍️



# UNIT I

## THE EARLY, IMPERIAL, and MEDIEVAL CHURCH



**In the Six Sessions of Unit I we will traverse**

***From:***

**The Jewish ★ Background of Christianity...**

*“The Foundations of Our Faith”*

***To:***

**Late ✠ Medieval Times and...**

*“The Medieval Christian Synthesis”*

(From the Intertestamental Period up to the 13<sup>th</sup> century!)

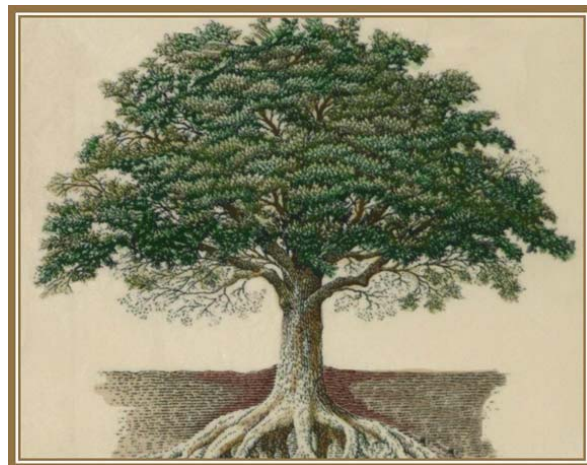
# Session 1 Our Introductory Session:



## Sources for the Study of Christian History

*Focusing particularly on:*

### Christianity's Jewish **Roots**



“Our Olive Tree Connection”

## THE OLIVE TREE OF ISRAEL IS THE ROOT OF THE CHURCH

**Gentile Christians are...**

**'Wild branches grafted in'**

**"Do not be arrogant!**

**You do not exist apart from**

**the root that supports you!**

**You should be thankful for the mercy  
shown to you and be full of mercy!"**

**You are to *extend* Israel's Hope**

**and Israel's Torah**

**to the Nations,**

**'bringing them to the God of Israel'**

**making them talmidim...'**

**Jews who stumbled are...**

**"Beloved for the sake of the fathers**

**Their 'hardening' is partial and temporary,  
and God is able to graft them back in again!**

**Therefore, *show mercy* to them!**

***Learn from them.***

**They are still a witness to God.**

**The Peoplehood, Promises, and Scriptures**

**of Israel are the OLIVE TREE**

**This Covenant is True because God's Character is Trustworthy**

**YAHWEH IS FAITHFUL!**

***YESHUA ha MASHIACH***

***The Salvation of Yahweh***

**The cultivated**

**Olive Tree of Israel**

***is* the Root supporting**

**the true Witness Community**

**Theirs *IS*, not *WAS*...**

**the adoption as sons,**

**the divine glory, the Torah,**

**the COVENANTS...**

**"Oh the depth of the riches of the  
wisdom and knowledge of God!**

**How unsearchable his judgments,  
and His paths beyond tracing out!**

**...From Him and through Him**

**and to Him are all things.**

**To Him be the Glory Forever!**

***Amen!"***

## FOR SESSION ①

**May we understand that Biblical & Intertestamental Judaism comprise not only the *historical background* for the Early Church...but our God-given *theological heritage* and *ecclesiastical foundation* as well.**

We cannot correctly interpret the Apostolic Writings (NT) without a fair knowledge of this dynamically complex and colorful world. We need to appreciate the Judaic Worldview of Yeshua and His followers.



For **HISTORY**, we will discuss actual **SOURCES**, primary and secondary, utilized by historians to reconstruct and *tell the story* of Early Christianity.

For **THEOLOGY** we will discuss the need to rethink our own self-understanding by grasping the inspired meaning of the Apostle Paul's '**OLIVE TREE**' metaphor found in Romans 11.

One of our textbooks is *Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith*. Marvin Wilson wrote it to move the Church toward a renewed **Biblical Vision**. Biblical Vision means being able to *see* and then to *be* — as God wants us to! What obedient Bible-believing Christian wouldn't desire *that*?!

Think about what a truly renewed Biblical Vision and Lifestyle would involve: closer intimacy with God, personal holiness, and maturity as disciples...so as to joyfully fulfill His will and purposes. It means having a more vivid revelatory worldview *and* a more profound witness in the world...hallowing His name in all we do.

For the Church to **enhance and equip** that *vision and life* instead of **getting in the way of it** by aggrandizing *itself* (its own "P.R." & programs) and even 'substituting' for such a life... the vision must be fully **Biblical!**

***And that has to mean Hebraic!***

Now, everyone seems to agree that Christianity needs 'renewal.'

**But how do we 'get renewed'?** Bigger Glitzier Churches? Emotional Revivals? More Celebrity Endorsements? Mystical Union? *More* man-made rationalistic Systems of Theology? More divisions, splits & Denominations? More Conservative Activists and 'Right-Wing' Politics? How about more TBN Prosperity teachings?

**NO!** I think we'd better begin by reading the Bible the Bible's way. At least that would be a start toward seeing *and living* Biblically. Those who care about the purity and integrity of the Church realize that it *should* be a Bible-based entity...A living organic Body, *not* a success-driven corporation...Community, not institution.

We did not create an organization to promote "Christianity" and sell the Bible...the divine acts revealed in Scripture created the "Church" and we are supposed to BE that!

**The Lord wants to 'build a body' not embody a building!**

Those who have a high view of Scripture (as to its inspiration and authority) will want to read it authentically, interpret it correctly, and obey it faithfully. So how can a mere 300-level history-survey course assist toward nurturing the Church with a renewed "Biblical Vision"?

**We will begin by acknowledging our true foundations!**

Christianity has a deeply rooted Hebraic heritage. And this fact is more than the *obvious* original historical link...it is a profound theological, spiritual, *and* practical truth! To delve into the original church is to find a thoroughly **Jewish Reality**. Not as a negative foil, or an incidental backdrop now obsolete and irrelevant.

What we can discover is: *a living connection...a nourishing root.*

Therefore, what better introductory illustration can we use than that of Paul's horticultural metaphor of the...

### Olive Tree!

The imagery in Romans 11 is not about chopping a rotten diseased tree down and planting an exotic new species, or replacing an OLD plant with a NEW one, although that's how some preachers preach!

The imagery offers us a beautiful paradigm of connectedness, nurture and unfathomable grace!

To appreciate Paul's metaphor, let's look at the Biblical significance of this wonderfully fruitful tree:

When you first look at this tree, it may not seem particularly beautiful.

The ole things don't impress like the stately pine, the mighty oak, or the wistful willow! *But look closer.* See the shimmering 'evergreen' leaves. Smell the delicious fruit. Feel the gnarled but sturdy trunk...*and* notice those amazing **roots!**

These trees have extensive root systems and are known for their tenacity and longevity. Olive trees can sprout from roots that are 2000 years old.

They seem almost indestructible and can adapt to almost any condition.

You'll see them thriving in rocky or rich soil, on hills or in valleys.

What was the first plant to sprout after the flood...what did the dove bring back to Noah's ark?! (Genesis 8:11)

The Olive Tree has been a vital part of Israeli culture for 8000 years!



It was one of the *Seven Species* God promised to the Israelites in the Promised Land! (Dt. 8:8)

[w/ Wheat, Barley, Grapevines, Fig-trees, Pomegranates, & Date-honey] And although the diet of modern Israelis has changed...the olive symbolizes *continuity* with their covenantal home more than any other fruit or grain.

We can also appreciate these humble looking trees for their generous productivity!

They give not only food to eat, but are sources of wood, pulp, and oil...used in a great number of ways.

You appreciate the tree's shade in the hot Judean sun, and when you are cold, warmth from fires built with its wood or even pulp from the olive-presses. The exquisite light & dark wood is *still* made into an array of decorative objects. And ripe succulent olives were a dietary staple even among the poor.

And the **OIL!** This soft golden nectar is lovely for cooking, and it lowers your cholesterol! Olive oil was also used for lamp-lighting, in ceremonial anointing, as a soothing medicine, even for 'beauty treatments' such as soaps and skin conditioners.

The Olive Tree and its 'product-line' have been an essential part of Biblical culture. Solomon sent the King of Tyre more than 100,000 gallons of olive oil. By Yeshua's day it was the main export from the Jerusalem area. Naturally, Jewish tradition would **attach symbolic meaning** to this tree and its harvest. It represents hope and joy, prosperity and fertility, strength and wisdom. And of course, what does an olive branch symbolize?

Thus, it's no wonder biblical authors use the **Olive Tree** to illustrate spiritual truths and practical realities:

Psalms 52 speaks of David's confidence even when under malicious attack, saying:

"I am like a thriving olive tree in God's house; I trust in the faithfulness of God forever and ever."

Psalms 128, promising joy to all who fear Yahweh and follow his ways, says:

May Yahweh bless you from Zion; may you share the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. (v.5)

"Your sons (shall be) like olive saplings around your table." (v.3)

This blessing would have been a vivid image to anyone who had seen an old olive tree that may have had ten new shoots growing up out of the root system. It would have been like saying: 'May your children be healthy, many, and dutiful to you!'

When the Lord spoke to Israel through the prophets, whether he was chastising them or wooing them back to Him, the olive tree was used to refer to the nation:

"The Lord named you verdant olive tree, fair, with choice fruit." (Jer.11)

"Return, O Israel to the Lord your God....I will heal (your) affliction and generously take (you) back in love.

Your beauty shall be like the olive tree's." (Hosea 14)

Yeshua often went to the Mount of Olives (just east of the old city of Jerusalem) and it was in *Gat Shemen* that he spent some of his last hours. *Gat Shemen* means Olive Vat or Press. ("Gethsemane")

Given this rich cultural and time-honored spiritual identification between Israel and the Olive Tree...do you think it's a coincidence that Paul uses it in his letter to the mixed Roman church? Both Jews and Gentiles in Rome would have been quite familiar with the Olive Tree's remarkable life-enhancing features! Paul wanted to make an unmistakably profound point about the relationship between the Church and Israel. This luscious picture may well exceed our systematic theologies, but it abounds with life-giving lessons, warnings and praises!

## DISCUSSION POINTS

### **1. Gentiles are wild branches who are now mercifully grafted into a well-cultivated, deeply rooted tree.**

And they need to be sustained and 'nourished' by that vital connection. (*OFA*, pp. 14, 15)

### **2. The Root of the Olive Tree is God's irrevocable covenant with Israel.**

Some theologians have tried to "switch metaphors" here and insert that Jesus or Christendom is the root. They try to equate the olive tree to the "root of Jesse" (Isa. 11) or even the "root of David." (Rev. 5) But the context and flow of Romans 11 make it clear that the tree *is* Israel. God had promised that through Israel salvation and blessings would come to the nations, and Paul saw that day had come!

### **3. Do the wild branches support the root or does the root support the branches?**

(Think of 'support' as: to bear, carry, lift up, provide for, nourish...think of "Life Support"!)

Paul makes it clear to the "in-grafted" ones that:

"You do not support the root, but the root supports you." (Ro. 11:18b)

### **4. What then, should the attitude of Gentiles be?**

**Boastful arrogance...self-sufficiency... 'Triumphalism'?** God Forbid!

Did we find salvation because **we** are so worthy and good? What did **we** bring to the faith community from our own heritage? (paganism!) Did we find Israel's God and latch on by our own 'smarts'? No!

**The point is God's mercy! Our response should be gratitude.**

We who were once far from God have new "family connections"! (*c.f.* — Eph. 2:11; I Cor. 12:2)

And notice this! A faithful remnant of Israel **remains** as part of the trunk. All of the original believers, all of the disciples and followers of Yeshua were Jews.

### **5. But what should believers' attitudes be toward 'the ones who stumbled'?**

Although later Church Fathers would viciously preach such things, did Paul declare that...

*"God has cut them off forever; they are damned and beyond expiation.  
God rejects them because they rejected and murdered Jesus;  
God hates them and so should good Christians."*

**NO!** They are beloved. Their 'breaking off' is only partial and only temporary, *and* God is able to graft them back in! Meanwhile...our attitude toward them (and our tangible actions) should be:

**Be HUMBLE. Show them MERCY. Move them to ENVY. Think...how might we move them to *envy*?**

By misinterpreting their own Scriptures in way that 'disinherits' them?

(Christians can take all the blessings, but the Jews can keep all the curses & harsh prophetic utterances!)

By devising a false theological dichotomy between Law and Grace, and repudiating the Torah?

By bearing *false witness* against Judaism...calling it a carnal, legalistic, dead religion?

By vilifying Jews as "Christ-killers" and perpetuating a long wretched legacy of theological antisemitism?

(Then becoming a state religion and actually persecuting them?)

By targeting them with aggressive conversionary efforts that amount to making them non-Jews? Of course not! All that *is* in fact what did happen. Most of Christian history offers nothing Jews could even recognize (as being Biblical or Godly) much less envy. But we will study that later in the course. (***Adversus Judaeos***)

For now, what can we learn from the **OLIVE TREE** that can nourish us and help move *us* toward a...

### ***RENEWED BIBLICAL VISION AND LIFE?!***

First, let us **be in awe** of God's mercy to us. May we never be arrogant toward the **ROOT**.

Let's explore our Hebraic heritage, not just to honor our 'Jewish Family Connections' but to deepen our own understanding of God. To love what God loves is to partly grasp His character and purposes.

And may we as Christians be willing to admit and boldly declare:

**The Church does NOT exist apart from God's Irrevocable Covenant with Israel.**

That is a *radical* statement to make. Tragically, vast numbers of Christians *have not* and *still do not* believe it. But as Dr. Wilson says:

"The Church, firmly rooted in Hebraic soil, finds **its true identity in connection with Israel.**

The Church is fed, sustained and supported by that relationship." (*OFA*, p.13)

**(A grafted branch should bear fruit very similar to the parent tree, not some exotic new foodstuff!)**

And, (I paraphrase) "One may say that for a Gentile to have a right relationship to God he must humbly accept *and rightly interpret* a Jewish Book, believe in and follow a Jewish Messiah, and be grafted into Jewish Salvation History."

**Someone who harbors arrogance against Jews, Judaism and Israel effectively cuts himself off from the root!  
Someone humble and grateful for being 'grafted' can be obedient to God and can help renew the Church.**

The most exciting 'happening' in the Church today is the removal of our age-old Gentile blindness, repentance for our sins against the Jewish people, and the restoration of our true root.

*Why* is it, perhaps, that we haven't heard more about our own 'roots'? The answer will become obvious when we study the "Parting of Ways" and the development of anti-Judaic traditions.

Furthermore, I find **no theological system** throughout Christian history that faithfully grasped the depth of our **connection** to Israel. *Covenant Theology* is categorically wrong. *Dispensationalism* has serious flaws.

But who said they were the only choices anyway!? All traditions need to be re-attached to the true root!

We *all* need to honestly review Christian history and to humbly rethink our theology in terms of this beautiful Olive Tree metaphor.

But lest anyone think *their* 'new teaching' is going to be the end-all...notice how Paul closes his own discussion...with an exclamation of praise for the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom.

**"Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!  
From Him and through Him and to Him are all things.  
To Him be the glory forever! Amen!"**



**'May Yahweh bless you from Zion; may you share the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!  
*Let us trust in the faithfulness of God forever and ever!***

**PATRIARCHAL PERIOD**

**(2000 – 1900 BCE)**

**Abraham**

**Isaac**

**Jacob**

**Joseph**

**EGYPT**

**(1800 – 1550 BCE)**

**Slaves** (after 1550?) (*Scholars debate the dating of Ancient events*)

**MOSES**

**(c. 14<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> c. BCE)**

This is the historical background for the **three great pilgrim feasts** of Israel:

1. **Pesach /Passover** – commemorate **deliverance** from slavery in Egypt
2. **Shavuot** – commemorate the giving of the **Torah**  
Sinai is extremely important, the People receive a “constitution” that is the basis for normative Judaism – then – the 40 years of **wandering**... living in ‘booths’ or “sukkot”, like mini-tabernacles! This is commemorated by:
3. **Sukkot / Tabernacles** – Praise God for His provisions. This is a *messianic* feast!

**THE PROMISED LAND**

Joshua enters land promised to Abraham, as a loose confederation of 12 tribes

Joshua’s conquest:

**(c. 13<sup>th</sup> c. BCE)**

**Period of JUDGES** (*e.g.*, Gideon, Samson and Deborah)

**(12<sup>th</sup> c. BCE)**

Lead against traditional enemies like Moabites, Edomites, Philistines!

c. **1000 BCE** People want a **king** like other nations – anointing of Shaul, David, Shlomo

“First” Temple, built by Shlomo (Solomon)

**(961 BCE)**

**Period of the FIRST JEWISH COMMONWEALTH**

**(1020 – 586 BCE)**

As Jeremiah foretold... Babylonians conquer, and Jews are in exile – sing *Psalms 137!*

50 years later the Persians under Cyrus defeat Babylonians and allow a return, but many stay.

The ideologically motivated return and rebuild...

**Period of the SECOND JEWISH COMMONWEALTH**

**(530 BCE – 70 CE)**

This period – also called “classical” or the “Second Temple Period,” is especially significant for us. Both Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism emerge from this world – a world of religious fervor, tremendous diversity, and conflict with Hellenism! ‘Torah-true’ Jews resisted the Hellenizing forces.

**ALEXANDER THE GREAT** – His vast conquests and...

**(320 BCE)**

Spread of “Hellenism” – (Greek philosophy, language and culture)

At this time, even in Israel, to be “modern” was to be Hellenized! (Just as today, to be modern would be to be “westernized” or perhaps “Americanized”!)

(Examples – names like *Menelaus* and *Jason* instead of *Menachem* and *Joshua*)

After Alexander died, the Ptolemies and Seleucids fight over Judea. The Seleucid **Antiochus IV** looted the Temple (**167 BCE**), outlawed Jewish practices and forced Jews to sacrifice swine to Greek god Zeus in the Temple. This triggered the Maccabean revolt. The Maccabees won, and set up the Hasmonean dynasty. The rededication of the Temple is commemorated at **Hanukkah**.)

**(142 BCE):** Hasmonean Period. But with a corrupt priesthood and in-fighting... the **Romans** intervene! — *They came, they saw, they stayed!*

**(63 BCE):** Roman General Pompey captures Jerusalem. Rome now administers Judea and appoints vassal king – **‘Herod the Great’**. Herod is a fantastic builder! [[See the amazing port in Caesarea, the fortress at Masada, a “mountain” at Herodian! and the gem – he rebuilds/refurbishes the Second Temple! Even his enemies praise the magnificence of Herod’s work.]]

**In the Second Temple Period** we see a **clash of worldviews!!** (Greco-Roman vs. Jewish)

This clash unleashed a **diverse spectrum of responses**. What happens personally when your beliefs are contradicted by a harsh reality? (Example – you are “chosen” by a sovereign, loving God, but your nation is oppressed by the Romans!) What happens nationally? -----

1. Run away to the desert in a separatist community and await the end! --- Dead Sea Sectarians
2. Say Romans are superior so blend in with them and cooperate! --- Sadducees, Aristocracy
3. Reinterpret Torah, live holy lives, the Messiah is coming! --- Pharisees
4. Say Messiah *has come* in Yeshua, so follow him! --- Jewish believers in Jesus ... “The Way”
5. Let’s fight off those Romans and free ourselves --- the Zealots

This is oversimplified, but these are the *main* **‘Jewish Sects’ of the late “Second Temple Period”** (for further study, see historian **Josephus**.) Each group has subdivisions and variety of views, but at least we get a feel for the pressures and tensions of this very “taxing” period! Tensions peak in:

**66 CE** -- The First Jewish Revolt (The Jewish War)

**70 CE** -- Romans destroy the Temple

**132 CE** -- Second Jewish Revolt – “Bar Cochba” (son of the Star, Num. 24:17), a cruel but charismatic rebel leader is hailed as Messiah, and endorsed by Rabbi Akiva, and wins victories over the Roman 2<sup>nd</sup> legion...but...

**135 CE** -- Bar Cochba is killed in *Betar*. Romans brutally crush the rebellion, Jews are killed or banished and their ancestral link to Jerusalem and Israel is deliberately expunged by Romans.

**Jerusalem** is renamed *Aelia Capitolina* and a Temple to Jupiter is built. Judea is renamed “*Philistina*” after the Jews’ ancient enemies—the Philistines-- that’s where the word Palestine derives from. Rome did this to deliberately try and *erase* the God-given connection to the Land. Pagan Romans dominated the region until c. **320**. Roman Christians dominate and churches are built (Helena, the emperor’s mother, “finds” Christian sites!) Christians dominate until Moslems conquer in **640**. Mosques are built. **1099-1187** is the Crusader Period. Then Moslems re-conquer under Saladin. From **1517 to 1917**, the Land is under the Turks. They plunder the land, but Jews begin “*Aliyah*” (which means ‘to go up’ – to immigrate to Israel.) Thus began the restoration of the ravaged Land already in the 1800s. The Ottoman Turks are defeated in WWI and lose their empire.

In **1917** the **British** set up a mandate in “Palestine” and **promise** a Jewish Homeland, but rule with malice and treachery. [They drastically curtail or even *prevent* Jewish ‘*aliyah*’ (immigration) during the unimaginably catastrophic “WW II – Holocaust – Aftermath” years (1939 to 1947.)]

**1948 – ISRAEL IS REBORN** Miraculously, the modern Nation of Israel is declared. ***Am Yisrael Chai!***

# ANCIENT SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

## ☰ Lecture Outline for Unit I: Session 1 ☰

### The Importance of Sources:

- ☐ *Historiography* [The scholarly use of sources when writing history]
- ☐ Distinguish real history from memorializing and mythologizing.
- ☐ Touch the very real earthiness and historical ‘rootedness’ of Christianity!

### Primary and Secondary Sources: There are a wide variety of styles.

Questions to ask: **origins, purpose, audience, and transmission.**

**The Main Categories:** ✍ *Literature* - (Group accordingly: Jewish Pagan Christian)

☪ **Non-Literary** - (archeology: burial sites, pottery, inscriptions, coins, *etc.*)

### Partial List & Brief Description of Sources:

**1. Jewish Sources** – Explore the diverse, vibrant world of Judaism that gave rise to Jesus and His “Kingdom Movement.” Focus on the Intertestamental period and its development beyond the “OT.” The ***world of the sages*** is especially vital for understanding Jesus’ teaching methods, *etc.*

1. Torah = The Teaching of God!! (Torah, Neviim, Ketuvim = TNK (“O.T.”))
2. Oral Torah, Oral Tradition  
Mishnah (to repeat) + Gemarah (to complete) = Talmud (to learn)
3. Midrash = to search out diligently
4. Targums = Aramaic paraphrases
5. Siddur and much more! (The prayer book, *etc.*)
6. Apocrypha (‘hidden away’)
7. Pseudepigrapha (‘falsely ascribed to’)
8. “LXX” (Septuagint)
9. D.S.S. (Dead Sea Scrolls)
10. Josephus Flavius – Jewish historian

**2. Pagan Sources** – For the Greco-Roman Empire into which Christianity spread.

1. Pliny the Younger and Emperor Trajan
2. Tacitus
3. Seutonius
4. Coins and inscriptions, *etc.*

**3. Christian Sources** –

1. Apostolic Writing / “N.T.” – but interpreted carefully, and all this can help with that!  
‘Sacred’ but reliable! ‘Hebraic Study’ helps refute liberal scholarship, form criticism, *etc.*
2. Martyrologies and others
3. ‘Patristics’ = Greek & Latin Church ‘Fathers’ (father was a term of fealty to the bishops and it came to be used to refer to the prominent teachers, leaders, and the *defenders of the faith*.  
How might we categorize the Patristic Writings? **See chart on “The Church Fathers”**
4. Early Christian Art and Symbolism

# More Materials for Unit I Session 1



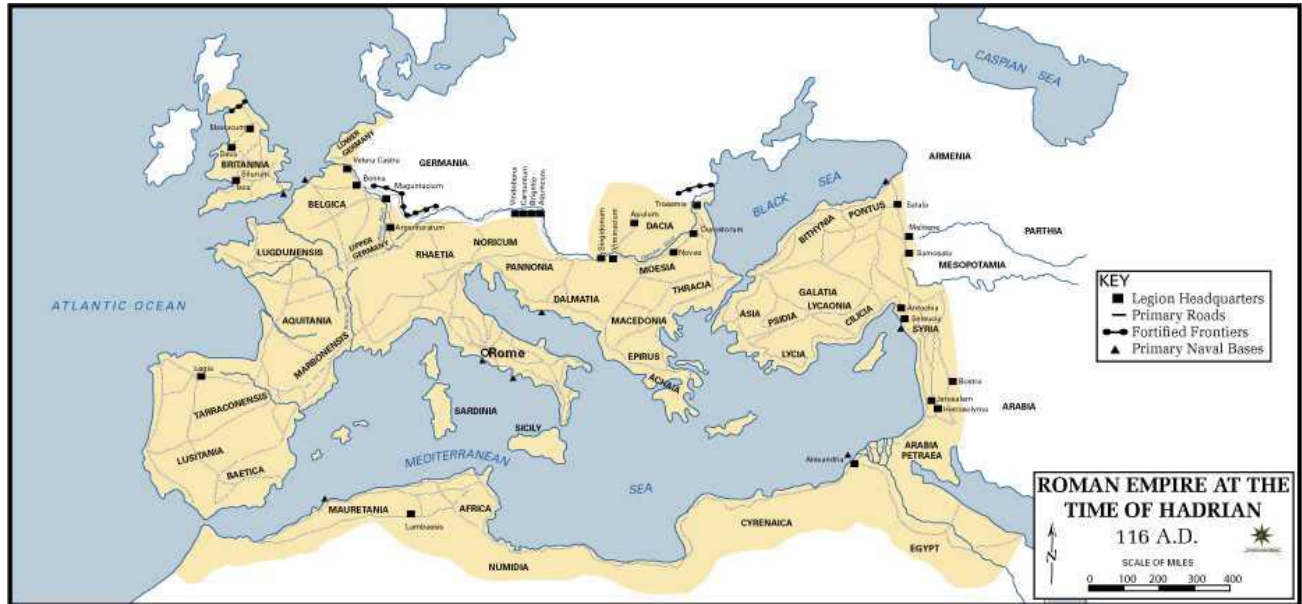
Maps



Articles



Illustrations



Geographical Tour: A Tour of Empire



Please do not refer to First Century Israel as "Palestine"  
 That name was not applied to the Land until the Second Century  
 By the Pagan Roman Emperor Hadrian

## THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

### THE LORD GOD IS A TEACHER AND REDEEMER!

Have you ever considered that our wonderful God is a Teacher! (*Torah* means *teaching, guidance, instruction*...He wants to guide our every step as we walk in His ways in the light of His truth. **Oh what a gift of grace and love the Torah is!**)

And what a great teacher He is! He uses memorable visual aids and even 'tasty & textury' reminders to show us His plan of redemption. Nothing demonstrates this better than the 'Jewish Festivals.' (**Biblical Holy Days**)

The "Jewish Festivals" are **not** just for the Jewish People! *Whose* feasts are they really?! Look in the Torah at **Lev. 23: 2, 4.**

**"The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, ...these are MY feasts...which you shall proclaim at their appointed times."**

Messiah YESHUA (Christ Jesus) not only observed these holy days and celebrated these festivals...but did you know that every redemptive work He did happened on one of these very days? This is not a coincidence; it is a demonstration of God's sovereignty and His redemption of the world through Messiah. Therefore, it will be a great blessing to us if we learn about these feasts and understand their deep, far-reaching significance.

We'll learn that God has given us beautifully specific instructions for **how** we should come together and worship Him. 'Praise & Worship' fads stemming from the whims of a self-centered culture are *not* the Biblical way! Neither is the sacramental-ritual pattern established by Greco-Roman Church Fathers who had already severed themselves from their Jewish Roots!

No, the God who created the world and sanctified time, that same Holy God not only has a plan of redemption, He has His own calendar! If we look at this yearly cycle and its 'appointed times,' we may even detect an overall pattern of redemption history...past, present *and* future! And, those of us 'from the nations' other than Israel (i.e.- *Gentiles*) who are grafted into the history and hope of Israel through the covenant in Yeshua...even we can joyously participate in these "**MO'ADIM**." ["Appointed times."]

### THE SEVEN FEASTS:

1. PASSOVER (*Pesach*)
2. UNLEAVENED BREAD (*Hag Ha Matzot*)
3. FIRSTFRUITS (*Hag Ha Bikkurim*)
4. PENTECOST (*Shavuot*)
5. TRUMPETS/SHOFAR (*Yom Teruah*, later called *Rosh ha Shanah*)
6. ATONEMENT (*Yom Kippur*)
7. TABERNACLES/BOOTHES (*Sukkot*)

### THERE ARE MANY LAYERS OF MEANING IN EVERY FEAST!


Just take one, **PESACH** for example! Read the dramatic story of the Exodus from Egypt in Exodus 12.

Find out more about *how* Passover is celebrated. What is a *Haggadah*? What happens at a *Seder* meal? Discuss these great themes:

Divine Intervention in history; Salvation; Deliverance from bondage; Liberation to become the People of God, *etc.*

### PROPHETIC MEANING of the FEASTS OF THE LORD:

1. PASSOVER (*Pesach*) **Fulfilled** — Yeshua is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for us.

2. UNLEAVENED BREAD (*Hag Ha Matzot*) **Fulfilled** — Yeshua, the Bread of Life, was without sin.   
God performed the Matzah ceremony on the very day that Yeshua was buried.

3. FIRSTFRUITS (*Hag Ha Bikkurim*) **Fulfilled** — Yeshua is Risen! He is our promise of resurrection unto eternal life and we will be with Him forever!

4. PENTECOST (*Shavuot*) **Fulfilled** — The Holy Spirit empowered the Witness Community.

5. TRUMPETS/SHOFAR (*Yom Teruah*, later called *Rosh ha Shanah*) **Yet To Be Fulfilled** —   
Yeshua is Coming Again!

6. ATONEMENT (*Yom Kippur*) **Yet To Be Fulfilled** — God will cleanse and accept Israel.

7. TABERNACLES/BOOTHES (*Sukkot*) **Yet To Be Fulfilled** — God will establish His Tabernacle in Jerusalem and His Righteous Kingdom shall have no end!  
**SHABBAT JOY AND SHALOM FOREVER!!**

# WHAT IS GNOSTICISM?

No scholarly consensus on its **exact origins**. (Maybe *pre-Christian*, but flourished in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> c. *and* endured for centuries.)  
Was wildly **diverse** as to its communities, expressions, lifestyles & teachers. Thus ‘Gnosticism’ refers to a variety of Hellenistic Era religious groups, not one unified movement. [See: Cerinthus; Marcion; Basilides; Valentinus...]  
Had been known to us mostly through writings of the early Church Fathers (who were writing *against* them.)  
Gnostic challenges and competition necessitated Scripture’s **canon-setting** for Christianity.  
Now, due to the *Nag Hammadi* cache (53 treatises) found in Egypt in 1946, much more is known.

We are especially interested in the nature of the **Gnostic Worldview**, how their teachings were never *entirely* eliminated from Christian culture, and most of all...  
how we must respond to today’s widespread infatuation with the **Gnostic Gospels**.

They are wrongly deemed **more ‘original’ (thus ‘truer’)** than the NT regarding salvation and **‘The Christ!’**  
‘They offer the truest meanings of Jesus’ teachings, which were repressed by the imperious Church hierarchy.’

We are also concerned that **Gnosticism as an approach to spirituality** is enjoying a revival today.  
Look at Carl Gustav Jung’s *via* Joseph Campbell’s impact on Oprah and the ‘New Age’, for example.

As a belief system or worldview it is based upon radical Platonic ontological **DUALISM**:

[**Spirit** is pure, righteous and good ... and **Matter** is impure and punitive.]

In such ‘Spirit *vs.* Matter; Good *vs.* Evil; Light *vs.* Darkness’ models we can see similarities with Manichaeism and other *dualistic* religious systems.

Beliefs & practices center on the idea of **Salvation *via* Knowledge**...[*gnosis*]

**Not just any knowledge, but secret, esoteric knowledge about the supreme Spirit Being.**

This enables the human spirit (as a spark of divinity) to escape this bodily prison...which may only be *illusory*...having *lesser* reality! (Hmm...what does that sound like!?)

For a Gnostic disciple, the goal of life is to discover reality *via* hidden spiritual insights while denigrating bodily experiences and perceptions. A Gnostic abhors ‘literal’ interpretations and dusty historical facts. Gnostics may be either severely ascetic (deny body) or libertine (body isn’t real anyway!)

**Philosophically**, this dualism relates to our old problem of **APPEARANCE *vs.* REALITY!**

A Gnostic would deem True Reality to be radically *other than* and far *superior to* the way things “appear” to us in the evil material world. Thus: The Only True Reality is Pure, untainted SPIRIT.

**Theologically**, this dualism has disastrous results for **Biblical interpretation**. Take two simple examples:

**CREATION.....Good or Evil?**

A Gnostic teacher, interpreting in a Greek-dualistic frame (rather than through the God-given lenses of Hebraic Holism) says that the world of history and phenomenal experience was actually created by a lesser god...an evil god!

Human spirits are trapped here and must be released to rejoin the True God of Pure Spirit.

**JESUS CHRIST.....Jewish Redeemer or Docetic ‘Way-Shower’ and ‘Spirit-Guide’?**

A Gnostic sees Jesus as more of an *avatar* sent to awaken us to the fact that we are divine beings.

**The Christ** didn’t really become a man, for he ‘emerged’ from pure spirit and bodies are inherently evil.

He only *appeared* like a man, so as to deliver his spiritual esoteric teachings.

He also came to repudiate and condemn the earthy ‘carnality’ of Judaism.

Even if you already knew all of the above information, what follows is too often neglected. Yet it is absolutely essential for us to recognize the inherently **Anti-Judaic** nature of all such esoterica.

**Gnostic Christianity is virulently anti-Judaic and antisemitic!**

Since the God of the Jews is himself deemed to be evil, so is the religion *and* so are the People!  
Gnostic Christianity tears ‘**God the Father**’ and ‘**Jesus the Christ**’ apart from each other. This denies God as the Creator. It denies incarnational redemption, and profanes The Holy One of Israel. Such radical dualism pits the “OT vs. NT” covenants *against* each other. It destroys the rich theological continuity of the Biblical narrative, thus setting up grossly exaggerated dichotomies and antitheses such as:

‘Judgment vs. Love    Judaism vs. Christianity    Israel vs. Church  
Works vs. Faith    Law vs. Gospel    Wrath vs. Grace’...etc.

Bishop **Marcion** (In Rome, c 140-160) rejected all of the Hebrew Scriptures (OT) and many of the Apostolic Writings (NT) as too “Judaistic.” He was excommunicated, but his movement lasted for many centuries. We need to be aware and understand the appeal of Perennial Neo-Marcionism! (They have websites if you dare!) Educated Christians do know something about the Neo-Gnostic challenge to the true Gospel of *Christ*. But, they are usually ignorant about the deeply *anti-Judaic* nature of Gnosticism. They also fail to see the theological correlation between Replacement Theology and Gnostic anti-historical interpretations of scripture. Again, without being firmly rooted in **the Olive Tree of Israel** and the **historic community** of our faith... we cannot have a fully Biblical worldview. We must keep the **Judeo** in Judeo-Christian Biblical Theism!

**Whenever Christians are arrogant toward Jews and Judaism...whenever Christians downplay the Hebrew Scriptures or allegorize them away...wherever Christians teach that the Church replaced Israel...  
...Then I’m afraid Gnosticism is alive and well...and Marcion is in our midst.**

We should realize that anti-Judaic Gnostic Christianity is embraced by Neo-pagan ‘New Age’ syncretism. We should also be astutely aware of *why* that is the case! This insight is a key aspect of a truly Biblical WV!  
**If** we come to realize the demonic nature of antisemitism: hatred toward the Jews (God’s Chosen People)...  
**Then** we can discern Satan’s ploy to enfeeble the Church by deceiving it into rootlessness. And we will recognize *why* all efforts to syncretize and ‘paganize’ Christianity today will include infecting it with anti-Judaism and antisemitism!

Satan’s ploys aren’t really *new*...but we always seem to fall for the ‘**Neo.**’



Marcion



Seeking Higher Light



Gnostic Bumper Sticker



Gnostic T-Shirt



ayin      vav    shin    yod    ← ↻

This inscription of the name **Yeshua** was found on an ossuary from the first century.

We may not realize it, but Yeshua was a fairly popular name at this time.

One study shows it as tied for 5<sup>th</sup> place in name usage.

Family members would scratch their loved one's name onto their burial ossuary... a limestone box which was used to bury bones...a typical middle-class burial style.



The use of a Hebrew name in this manner may suggest that Hebrew was used by common people, not just by scribes and priests.



As you know, names have great meaning as to nature and destiny in Hebrew culture.

Yeshua is from *Yashab*'-- to save, salvation. The salvation of Yahweh!

Our Lord was well-named Yeshua!



He indeed, in the name of His father *Yahweh*, would *Yoshia* His people!

# ΙΧΘΥΣ



The **FISH** was an early Christian symbol for many reasons. (Part of the staple diet, profession of some disciples, good analogy!)

**ICTHUS** (the Greek word for fish) makes an acrostic:

**J**esus **C**hrist, **S**on of **G**od, **S**avior



Ι	Ιησους	=	Jesus
χ	Χριστός	=	Christ
θ	θεός	=	God
ύ	υιός	=	Son
ς	σωτήρ	=	Savior

Demonstrate how early Christians might have used the symbol to ‘identify each other’ without alerting the Romans.



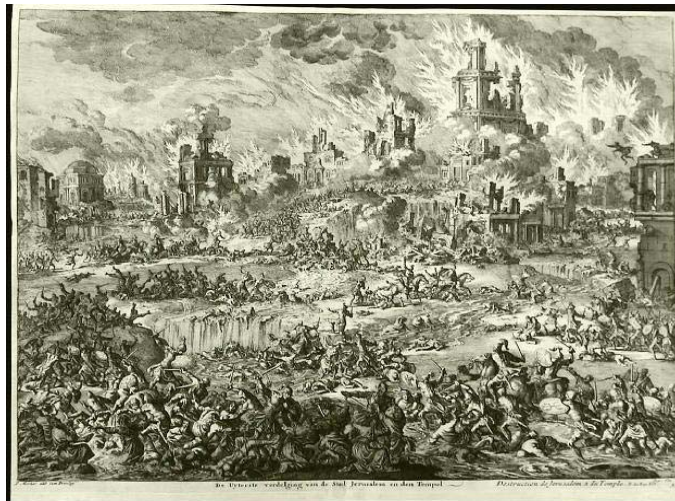
Some Christians even ‘sign’ their e-mails with:



# Session ②

## *The Parting of Ways*

The **Context** for...



and the **Content** of...



*The Adversus Judaeos Tradition*

## SPECIAL TIMELINE FOR 'PARTING OF THE WAYS'

- |-- 6/4 BCE     **Birth of *Yeshua* (Jesus)**
- |-- 1<sup>st</sup> c. CE
- |--             Ministry and Teaching of Jesus
- |
- |-- 30/33 †     **Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus**
- |--             ✠ ***Shavuot* (Pentecost)**
- |-- 35             Martyrdom of Stephen
- |             Hellenistic-Jewish Believers scatter
- |             ‘Gospel’ now spreading beyond Judea // But, Zealot activities are also increasing.
- |--40
- |             The **Conflicts** reflected in the Apostolic Writings are ‘family squabbles’ or ‘in-house debates,’  
(And should never be interpreted anti-Jewishly!)
- |--49             **The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)**
- |--50             ‘Mission’ to Gentiles *c.*50 CE
- |--51             Claudius expels Jews (*and* Jewish Christians) from Rome (for riots over *Chrestus*)
- |--54             Claudius dies, succeeded by Nero
- |--57             **Paul writes Epistle to Romans** (already warning Gentile Believers *not* to despise the Root)
- |--62             James (*Yacov*) the Just is martyred. (Peter & Paul martyred *c.* 64-68?)
- |--64             Fire in Rome, Nero blames Christians (now, in distinction to Jews)
- |             Beginning of Persecutions. Sense the tensions building. Difficult to enjoy commonalities.
- | - 66 — 70 🌟 **THE FIRST JEWISH REVOLT**
- |--66             Jewish Believers flee to Pella. (A move seen by some as disloyal)
- |             Pharisees survive destruction in Javneh. Rabbinic Judaism survives and develops...
- |             Now a further wedge between Jewish Believers & Jews:
- |--70             Temple is destroyed...loss of a locus for commonality
- |             Emperor Vespasian 69-79; Titus 79-81 **“JUDEA CAPTA”** [see coins and Arch of Titus]
- |--73             **Masada**—The Dramatic Last Stand!
- |--81-96         Domitian persecutes *both* Jews and Christians. Tensions are increased.
- |--90             *Birkat ha Minum??* *c.* 90, An “expulsion” of Jewish Believers from Synagogue??
- |--132 🌟 **THE SECOND JEWISH REVOLT—*Bar Cochba* acclaimed as “Messiah”!** Last Straw!
- |             Hadrian builds *Aelia Capitolina* replacing Jerusalem, and **renames Judea “*Palestina*”**
- |--135             Jews are forbidden to enter Jerusalem on pain of death.
- |             The Bishop lists from this point on all have Gentile names...
- |             Geographic Shift **away** from Israel...Centers in Antioch, Alexandria, Carthage, and **Rome**

By the early Second Century the **breach** between Jews and Christians is more or less complete. Jewish Believers were finding it increasingly difficult to maintain *their* own distinct identity and were marginalized. The church becomes increasingly Gentile not only in membership & leadership, but tragically also in character. Without Jewish presence in the Church, a negative stance toward the Torah develops. Christian apologists & theologians tout the ***Adversus Judaeos*** themes of **Decide** and **Replacement Theology**, *etc.* The church is also plagued by Gnosticism and Marcionism. Bishops will take on increasingly important roles, and a hierarchy develops. Pagan persecution of Christians continues (on and off) until the 4<sup>th</sup> century. When Christianity becomes legal and then official, the anti-Jewishness does not abate.

**Then, nowhere in subsequent Church History do we find any attempt to heal the first and worst schism of all... Christianity’s deliberate severance from her own God-ordained family heritage. *That is, until now I pray!***

## ‘JUDEA CAPTA’



In 70 CE, Jerusalem was in ruins, the Temple was rubble, and the Romans celebrated their victory with great pomp and circumstance. In Rome, there were carnivals and gladiator spectacles for weeks. Vanquished Jewish warriors were paraded through the streets in chains. Roman Legionnaires proudly paraded with Holy vessels from the Temple. See the bas relief sculpture on the ARCH OF TITUS depicting this triumphal processional.

Notice the Menorah! It is an official emblem of Israel... a symbol designed by God Himself! Vespaian’s proudest commemoration was minting various coins, in brass, bronze and silver.



Usually his profile was on one side while the other side depicted Judea as a woman sitting under a palm tree, with her hands bound.

[ **IVDAEA CAPTA** or **IVDAEA DEVICTA** ]

(Judea has been Captured or Defeated)

[ **SC** = *Senatus Consultum* By Decree of the Roman Senate ]

These **JUDEA CAPTA** coins, minted for propaganda as was the custom, would certainly remind other Roman subjects what happens to people who rebel against the Imperial Power. Vespasian minted these coins until 79, the Titus did for three more years, and his brother Domitian until 96!

A happy footnote: In 1948, the world witnessed the prophetic miracle of the Rebirth of the Modern State of Israel (thus ending the longest ‘exile’ in their history, dating back to Roman times!) In 1958, for the ten year anniversary, Israel minted her first official State medallion.



Read the ‘flip side’ and you’ll see:  
**ISRAEL LIBERATA!**

*Am Yisrael Chai!*

# The Context and Content of *Adversus Judaeos*

## The Theological and Legal Degradation of Jews and Judaism

For Session ② but continuing in Sessions ③ and ④ and beyond...

### What does the term *Adversus Judaeos* mean?

Technically, it is a literary genre referring to Patristic tractates written to refute and denigrate Judaism so as to 'prove' the truth of Christianity. Several specific documents were entitled, for example:

*"Testimonia Adversus Judaeos"*

### What is the Context in which it originally developed?

**See: "The Parting of Ways"** When Christians were finally recognized by the Roman authorities as being distinct from Judaism (which was a 'legal' religion in the empire) they encountered persecution and ridicule. This made them want to convince the Pagans that they, the Christians, were the real "True Israel"! Also, once the 'epicenter' of Christianity moved away from Jerusalem (after the Jewish Revolts) and as it spread naturally around the empire...it became 'Gentile' in character as well as in 'membership.' Church Fathers allegorized the Hebrew Scriptures to 'spiritualize' God's covenant with Jews.

### What are its recurring themes, abstractions and expressions?

The Jews never knew or loved God...they were a faithless people who constantly disappointed God. JUDAISM IS LEGALISM. Judaism is a dead, carnal religion...an abomination to God. Old Testament heroes were *Hebrews*, not Jews...they were in fact "Christians." The Jews failed at keeping their covenant therefore God abolished it or transferred it to gentile Christians. Jews as a religion and as a nation are *finished*...proof of this is the destruction of the Temple and the dispersion of the people. THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS THE NEW AND TRUE ISRAEL. ("Supersessionism" or "Replacement Theology") God has rightly rejected the Jews because they rejected Him. They are eternally cursed by God, and therefore beyond expiation. God hates the Jews. Jews are the "Synagogue of Satan"...they serve the Devil...they are demonic, evil and harmful. THE JEWS MURDERED GOD. JEWS ARE THE CHRIST-KILLERS. (The "Deicide Charge") JEWS CONTINUE TO CRUCIFY THE SAVIOR IN THEIR ONGOING REJECTION OF CHRISTIANITY. Jews rightly suffer for their crimes against the Lord. Christians honor God by punishing Jews. If Jews continue to survive as a people, it is only to provide a "negative witness" (by their abject, despicable condition) to the superiority of Christianity.

In sessions to follow we will discuss these questions about *Adversus Judaeos* Theory and Practice:

How widespread was it?

Did the *Adversus Judaeos* posture relax at all when Christianity was no longer illegal?

When did this negative theology become verbal and even physical abuse?

Did Christian Theology & Church Canon Law influence Imperial Edicts concerning Jews?

Did the discrimination against Jews continue into Medieval Christendom?

Are any of the above themes still heard in Christian teaching/preaching today?

# *Adversus Judaeos* Theology...



*"Ecclesia et Synagoga"*

Depicting Proud Christianity as Triumphant Over Abject Judaism



*"What could be more pitiful than those who anger God not only by transgressing the Law but by keeping it..."*

Wrote the 'Sainted' Bishop John Chrysostom

## ...Becomes *Anti-Jewish* Legislation



Bishop Ambrose Chastises  
Emperor Theodosius



*"Raze their Synagogues, Burn their Talmuds;  
For 'No Jew Loves God!'"*

## BAD THEOLOGY PRODUCES SINFUL ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS: THEOLOGICAL *JUSTIFICATION* FOR ANTI-JEWISH *LEGISLATION*

Consider what we have already learned about the **loss** of our true Hebraic Heritage and the willful subsequent development of the *Adversus Judaeos* Tradition. Now see how the Christian ‘Teaching of Contempt’ incited unholy actions, and ‘Theological False Witness’ justified legal degradations. Peruse the following pages and discuss the intent and impact of these abusive Christian decrees. NOTE: This is only a partial listing.

- 306 **Council of Elvira** forbade intermarriage and extra-marital intercourse between Jews and Christians.  
 “ forbade Christians to eat meals with Jews. (Penalty was excommunication of family.)  
 “ forbade Christians from having their ‘crops blessed’ by Jews. (There are traditional blessings to be said upon planting and harvesting...remember that the Berachot ‘bless the Lord, not things! That is a typical Christian misunderstanding!)
- 313 **The Edict of Milan** granted freedom of worship to all religious groups. Christians were the prime beneficiary of this edict, as their persecution ceased and they began the road to dominance. Judaism was still a legal religion but as we will see...the Imperial authorities often gave in to prejudiced Christian leaders in either restricting or not enforcing Jewish rights.
- 315 **Constantine** forbade Jews to retrieve apostates *from* Judaism and outlawed conversion *to* Judaism. (Death Penalty.)
- 325 **Council of Nicea** (famous for ratifying Nicene Orthodoxy and condemning Arius’ views) also declared that ‘Easter’ must always be on a Sunday and never be set by the date of, or coincide with, Passover. Jews were forbidden to reside in Jerusalem.
- 339 **Constantius** decreed the Death Penalty for intermarriage. Forbade the circumcision of slaves. Forbade Jews to own Christian slaves. (Though sad that slavery itself wasn’t abolished, the intent here was to cause economic disadvantage to Jewish communities.)
- 341 Leaders in **Antioch** forbade their congregants to share in the Jewish Passover or even enter a synagogue! (This indicates that some ordinary Christians *wanted* to! Good for them for trying to love their neighbors. But the ‘Bad Theology’ taught by their leaders had tragic results. Eventually, Jews couldn’t even **be** neighbors!)
- 357 **Constantius** rules that non-Christian converts to Judaism should have their property confiscated.
- 360 **Council of Laodicea** forbade Christians to share any festival with Jews or even accept gifts from Jews on Christian Feast days. (Similar Laws recur throughout the centuries.)
- † Note that by 381 Christianity is made the official state religion under Emperor Theodosius I.
- 388 **Theodosius** orders Christians in Callinicum to rebuild a synagogue they had destroyed at the instigation of their bishop. But “**Saint” Ambrose** pressures the emperor in a long letter to rescind the order. (The synagogue was not rebuilt. This shameful incident set a terrible precedent!) The letter makes for interesting reading as it contains many typical *Adversus Judaeos* themes and self-righteously “justifies” Christian *injustice* perpetrated upon Jewish communities. This event is *not* found most Church History textbooks and biographies of our blessed Church Father & hymn-writer Bishop Ambrose.
- 415 **Bishop Cyril** expels Jews from Alexandria. (Where there had been a thriving community for centuries!)

418 Jews were excluded from all public offices and dignities in the empire.

439 **Theodosius II** excluded Jews from advantageous civic duties yet still required the burdensome ones. Forbade the building of synagogues-or they would be confiscated and given to the church. Laws were renewed that prohibit conversion to Judaism. The Jewish Patriarchy was abolished. The legal & social status and the religious freedoms of the Jews suffers considerable decline as the result of these discriminatory restrictions.

465 **Council of Vannes** (in Gaul) orders Christian clergy to avoid Jewish Feasts. (Pity! They might have learned something about the **roots** of true Christian Faith!)

† Around this time the Western Empire falls. The Papacy asserts its authority as supreme. In the East, 'Christendom' continues for another millennium as the "Byzantine Empire."

534 **The Code of Justinian** enacted many anti-Jewish constraints, even declaring Judaism illegal! Jews were deprived of civil rights and property-ownership was severely limited. Even to repair a synagogue was prohibited. (This made Judaism appear spectral and obsolete!) The Code was an Eastern rule-of-law but it *did influence* Western XTY. These discriminations were the precursor to Medieval abuses such as "Forced Baptisms" and Expulsions. And worse, the loss of civil rights meant the Jews had *no recourse* for justice or protection.

535 **Synod of Clermont** forbade Jews to hold public office.

538 **Council of Orleans** forbade Jews to appear on the streets during Holy Week! forbade Jews to employ Christian servants.

546 **Byzantine Emperor Justinian** forbade Jews to celebrate Passover if it fell before Easter! Guards were posted in synagogues to prevent Jews from reciting their great affirmation of faith: the "**Shema**"! (Dt. 6: 4)

589 **Council of Narbonne** forbade Jews to work on Sunday.

590 **Gregory the Great** brilliantly crafts the Papacy into the most powerful institution in the Western World. Many times throughout this history we see that popes and kings try to **protect** the Jews from violence. Sometimes, '*segregation*' was justified '*for their protection.*' Still, Jews were *not* given equal rights. And the '**BAD THEOLOGY**' had already done its damage or there would have been no violence from which to protect them!

612 In Spain, Visigoth **King Sisebut** gave Jews an ultimatum: "**Be baptized or be exiled.**" Many fled, but the ones who 'converted' and their descendents were vulnerable to suspicion and targets for abuse. Later, with the cruel Inquisition, these poor '*Conversos*' could be arrested simply for changing linens on a Friday or abstaining from pork. And arrest led to torture and death.

614 **Council of Paris** required baptism for any Jew seeking public office.

627 **Eastern Emperor Heraclius** forbade Jews to enter Jerusalem, encouraging harassment of Jewish Communities all around the Holy Land. (Heraclius was famous for marching barefoot into Jerusalem to return the 'true cross' to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which had been sacked by Persian Muslims! Seen as Precursor to Crusades.)

629 **Dagobert** orders the Jews of France: "**Be baptized or be exiled.**"

632 **Eastern Emperor Heraclius** commanded the *forced baptism* of all Jews, but Islamic Invasions prevented the order from being enforced. Historically, Jews have enjoyed more tolerance and fared much better under Islamic Rule than they have anywhere in 'Christendom.' This is a powerful indictment to face, but we must. It is the *direct result* of our anti-Judaic theologically motivated triumphalistic laws!

- 633 **Council of Toledo** (4<sup>th</sup>) barred Jews (and even Jewish Christians) from public office and from owning Christian slaves.  
Ordered Jewish children to be raised by *and as* Christians, and ordered converts to Judaism to adopt Christianity instead.
- 638 **Council of Toledo** (6<sup>th</sup>) decrees all Jews remaining in Spain be forcibly baptized. Repeated at the 8<sup>th</sup> council in 653.
- 658 **Council of Toledo** (9<sup>th</sup>) actually required Jews/Conversos to spend Christian Festivals *in the presence of* Christian authorities!
- 681 **Council of Toledo** (12<sup>th</sup>) instigates the burning of Talmuds. (The Clergymen should have read them instead!)
- 692 **Trulanic Synod** forbade Christians from seeing Jewish physicians.
- 694 Judaism outlawed in **Visigoth Spain**.

† The 9<sup>th</sup> Century (Carolingian Era) might have been an early “Enlightenment”! (End of the Dark Ages)

- 800 – 845 Under Charlemagne the Jews were treated with some dignity, and old restrictions were lifted. This decency continued with his son Louis, who had a special magistrate to defend Jews against the intolerance of the clergy! What a turning point this *might* have been!  
But this honorable equanimity incensed the anti-Jewish Archbishop of Lyons, **Agobard**.  
He wrote several letters recommending all the old restrictions, and justifies the dishonor saying:  
“It seems unworthy of our faith that the sons of light should associate with the sons of darkness, and that the Church of Christ, which ought to present herself for the kisses of her celestial spouse without blemish or wrinkle, be disgraced by contact with the defiled and repudiated Synagogue. In the Day of Judgment, Sodom & Gomorrah will be pardoned sooner than they...for they are accursed!”  
Thus, we see the [Bad Theology = Bad Law] phenomenon continue apace:
- 845 **Council of Meaux** renewed anti-Jewish laws that went back to **Theodosius II**.  
The 9<sup>th</sup> century produced a ‘striking’ Christian custom: *Hit a Jewish person in the face on Good Friday!*

† † The long-coming split between Eastern and Western Christendom was finalized in 1054.

- 1096 – 1291 ✠ **ERA of the CHRISTIAN CRUSADES** Previous centuries had been chaotic for much of Europe. There had been frequent violent actions perpetrated by Christian mobs on Jewish communities. Now with the launching of Church-sanctioned “Holy Wars,” violence meant deadly massacres. Thousands of Jews were murdered *in the Holy Land and* along the way by men wearing the cross. Crusading hordes from Rouen were reported *by the chronicler Guibert d’Nogent* as saying:  
“We desire to combat the enemies of God in the East; (Muslim infidels)  
but we have under our eyes the Jews, a race more inimical to God than all the others.”  
This ‘fervent’ era also gave rise to popular superstitions and false accusations against the Jews.  
[We will discuss the despicable “**Blood Libel**” or “**Ritual Murder Charge**” in another Session.]
- 1050 **Council of Narbonne** forbade Christians to live in Jewish homes.
- 1078 **Council of Gerona** required Jews to pay tithes to the Church.
- 1179 **The Third Lateran Council** prohibited Jews from being plaintiffs or witnesses against Christians in court.
- 1205 **Pope Innocent III** proclaims that Jews are *bound* to perpetual subservience due to the crucifixion.  
This degrading concept goes all the way back to **Augustine** and even before!

1215 **The Fourth Lateran Council** dogmatized the teaching of “**Transubstantiation**.” This fostered the absurd *libel* known as “**Desecration of the Host**,” which caused the murder of many Jews. The council also required Jews to wear distinctive clothing or badges. This was to mark them for **ostracism** but it also set them up for public **abuses**.

This council, with the **Church & Papacy** at the height of power under **Innocent III**, established the most infamous institution of all: “**The Holy Inquisition**.” (A traveling court to weed out all dissent.)

1222 **Council of Oxford** prohibited the building of synagogues.

1244 Wagonloads of Talmuds and other Manuscripts were burned in Paris...this wretched practice continues.

1267 **Synod of Vienna** forbade Jews to challenge Catholic dogma when conversing with simple Christians. forbade Christians to attend any Jewish ceremonies.

1267 **Synod of Breslau** mandated the isolation of Jews in designated (poorer) quarters of towns and cities. The Medieval practice of forcing Jews into ‘ghettos’ would spread all over Europe.

1279 **Synod of Ofen** prohibited Christians from selling or renting property to Jews, and excluded Jews from farming and from public office. Reason given? “It is dangerous for Jews to live together with Christian families and come in contact with them in the courtyards and houses.” Jews (both men *and* women) were made to wear red sashes on their outer garments and were not to appear without them. (This impacted the Jews of Hungary, Poland, Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia and Galicia.)

1555 **Pope Paul IV** decreed that all Jews must be confined in isolated quarters and kept under strict curfews. Sometimes they were locked in at night! The ‘**Ghetto**’ decree was the logical consequence of so many prior laws that restricted, segregated, and impoverished the Jews. Even when clerics reasoned that it was for the Jews’ protection, it had a terrible psychological effect on Christians, *making it seem like Jewish people were aliens with whom to avoid contact!*

A Jewish Ghetto still existed in Rome until the Papal rule of the city ended in 1870!

In a 1939 **Nazi** order this wretched practice was re-instated. For a side-by-side comparison of edicts passed by Church Councils *and* anti-Jewish policies enacted by the Third Reich (a disturbing chart to study) see Raul Hilberg. Hitler was well aware that he was ‘finishing’ what the Church had started.

The 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> century – **Mass Expulsions**: There were many local ‘evictions’ and several mass expulsions (forced emigration of all Jews out of a realm) throughout the Medieval and Reformation Eras.

The most famous was probably from Spain. Remember too, that expulsions were typically preceded by incarceration and the seizure of their belongings. (See Esther 3: 8, 9!) Again, this is merely a partial list:

1066 Banished from Granada. 1079 Banished from Ireland. 1179 Expelled from Bohemia.

1182 Philip Augustus of France expels Jews from his provinces. In 1198 lets them return on payment in silver.

1254 Louis IX expels Jews from France.

1275 The Queen Mother requests expulsion of Jews from several shires.

1287 Imprisonment (and seizure of property) for Jews remaining in England. 1290 Mass Expulsion.

1306 Expulsion from France...again in 1394.

1310 **Synod of Mainz** declares: Conversion to Judaism, even by a forcibly baptized Jew, is a heresy punishable by death. Expelled in 1438. And from Augsburg in 1439.

1347 – 1350 During the terror of the “**Black Death**” (Bubonic Plague) superstitious mobs blamed the Jews and accused them of poisoning Christian wells. Thousands of Jews were murdered (entire villages were massacred) even though Pope Clement VI defended Jews against the charges!

1365 Expulsion from Hungary.

1370 Jews in Austria incarcerated and ‘divested’ of any wealth (robbed!) Expulsion in 1460.

1381 Expulsion from Strasbourg, 1387 from Basel, 1423 from Cologne, 1424 from Zurich and Fribourg.... *Massacres, Deprivation of Rights and Expulsions continue into the 16<sup>th</sup> century and beyond.*

Although the terrifying ‘**Office of the Inquisition**’ had been operational around Europe for a few centuries, the most well-known deployment of it was in **Spain**. (That’s why we say: “The Spanish Inquisition.”)

1480 and following – Thousands of Jews were tortured and burned at the stake. This was not one isolated outburst of misguided fervor, it was a calculated and protracted assault on Jews and on the forcibly baptized “*conversos*” (who were spitefully called *Marranos* – swine!)

1492 Jews are expelled from Spain, 1497 from Portugal.....and all of the above crimes continue all over Catholic Europe and the Orthodox East.

Perhaps now, ‘**Bible-believing**’ Protestants would return to the true roots of Christianity and repent of the unspeakable “arrogance to the root” and be obedient in “showing mercy...” **But, did they?**

† 1517 marks the beginning of the Protestant Reformation with Martin Luther’s defiance.

1543 Luther publishes *On the Jews and their Lies* which has done inestimable damage to European Jewry.

[**Note:** Portion on **Luther’s Antisemitism** is for Unit II. **Anti-Judaic Preaching Today** will be presented for Unit III. Below is the **Conclusion** to this Special Chronology.]



### Concluding Remarks:

The church has done its invidious work: ‘**God is finished with this despised race of Christ-killers.**’ Even later in history, when Christianity no longer exercised direct influence over society... anti-Jewish sentiments had been so embedded that they easily mutated into deadly modern strains of antisemitism. From Patristic *Adversus Judaeos* to Christendom’s edicts and actions...all the way down to present-day interpretation of ‘all Jewish suffering’ as somehow being ‘justly deserved’...we can, if we take the time and bear the burden, trace the Christian “Teaching of Contempt” as our shameful ‘Legacy of Hatred.’

Note the deadly progression from theological false witness to genocide summed up here:

“You have no right to live among us **as Jews...**”

“You have no right to live **among us...**”

“**You have no right to live...**”

One estimate states that fewer than 20% of Jews were able to survive **as Jews** in Christian Europe from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The chronology above shows why.

Against such persistent self-justifying and self-righteous efforts to make the world *Judenrein*, the survival of Judaism is a blessing to the world. Jews who survived *as Jews* have given human history the most admirable testament of Biblical faith. May we learn from them and honor their ongoing witness.

And for the ‘sins of our own fathers’ may we profoundly grieve and repent. **Amen**

# Session ③

## CONVERSION OF THE PAGAN ROMAN EMPIRE From *Persecution* to *Power*



The Roman Coliseum



The Triumphal Arch of Constantine

This session considers the tremendous changes and consequences for Christianity with the dramatic conversion of the soon-to-be-supreme...

*CAIUS FLAVIUS VALERIUS AURELIUS CLAUDIUS CONSTANTINUS MAGNUS*

Hereafter simply referred to as:

## CONSTANTINE THE GREAT OR CONSTANTINE I



The *Triumphal Arch* was a characteristic Roman structure and such monuments could be seen throughout the Empire. This one celebrated Constantine’s “envisioned” victory over rival Maxentius at the Battle of Milvian Bridge October 28<sup>th</sup>, 312. In all humility, Constantine dedicated the monument in 315 with a speech about how he had “saved the Roman republic by greatness of mind and the impulse of divinity.”



Visitors still marvel today



Details



A 19<sup>th</sup> c. engraving



Another view

Constantine placed a colossal statue of himself in his Basilica near the Roman Forum. The impressive statue was almost forty feet high. (He really was “the Great”!!) *His Immensity* is still admired, albeit in ‘disjointed’ pieces, at the *Palazzo dei Conservatori*.



The important question to ponder as we study Constantine is not so much whether his conversion was true and genuine, but what was the momentous impact of his actions on the 4<sup>th</sup> c. church?

And a good discussion question might follow:

What are the monumental remains of:

***Constantinianism***  
in Christianity today?





# CHRISTIANITY AND THE ROMAN EMPIRE



<u>THE EMPEROR</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS</u>
<b>Augustus</b>	27 BCE – 14 CE	<b>Yeshua</b> is born in Bethlehem
<b>Tiberius</b>	14 – 37 CE	Pontius Pilate is Proconsul in Judea (26 – 36 CE) <b>Yeshua</b> is crucified in Jerusalem
<b>Caligula</b>	37 – 41 CE	
<b>Claudius</b>	41 – 54 CE	Paul's Travels and Epistles (Gentile Mission, Xty Spreads) The JERUSALEM COUNCIL c. 49 Jews expelled from Rome c. 51
<b>Nero</b>	54 – 68 CE Fire in Rome 64 CE	Christians are persecuted Death of James (62 CE) Peter and Paul (c. 64 – 68 CE)
<b>'Year of Four Emperors'</b>	69 CE	66 – 70 Jewish Revolt (Masada Last Stand – 73) Jewish Believers flee to Pella
<b>Vespasian</b>	69 – 79 CE	The Temple is destroyed on <i>Tisha b'Av</i> 70 CE
<b>Titus</b>	79 – 81 CE	
<b>Domitian</b>	81 – 96	Persecutes both Jews and Christians Apostle John exiled c. 95
<b>Nerva</b>	96 – 98	
<b>Trajan</b>	98 – 117	Outlines a general policy in letters to Pliny (c. 111) Do not seek Xns out but if they are accused and won't recant, they should be punished. Martyrdom of St. Ignatius c. 107
<b>Hadrian</b>	117 – 138	Crushes the "Bar Cochba Revolt." Builds temple to Jupiter in Jerusalem. Derisively renames Israel "Syria Philistina" (Palestine)
<b>Antoninus Pius</b>	138 – 161	Martyrdom of Polycarp c. 155
<b>Marcus Aurelius</b>	161 – 180	This 'Philosopher-King' considers Xns obstinate! Justin martyred 165.
<b>Commodus</b>	180 – 192	Interlude of peace for Xns
<b>Civil Wars</b>	193	
<b>Septimius Severus</b>	193 – 211	Promoted state worship under <i>Sol Invictus</i> and <b>prohibited</b> conversions to Xty!

There were eleven emperors from 211 to 249 in the rampantly syncretistic pagan empire. Christians enjoyed relative peace during these years and grew in number and in status. It was even rumored that Emperor Philip (c. 244) had become a Christian! **But then a storm of terror hit...**

**Decius** 249 – 251

Persecution in the first three centuries had been sporadic and localized until the reign of **Emperor Decius**.

Christians were taught not to seek martyrdom but to accept it with dignity and joy if 'chosen' for it.

*(The 'blood-witness' of martyrdom actually helped the church to grow, according to many historians.)*

By the 3<sup>rd</sup> century the empire was suffering widespread strife and turmoil (famines, plagues, wars, invasions, etc.)

And who do you think will get the **blame** for these disasters and misfortunes?

The fateful year **250** was reckoned by pagans to be the **Millennial Anniversary** of the founding of **Glorious Rome**. Those 'atheistic' Christians, having forsaken the ancient gods, were blamed for all the turmoil! Now, **Decius** demanded empire-wide sacrifices to the old gods and required a certificate (*libelli*) to prove compliance! He wanted to create 'apostates' not martyrs, and indeed, many Xns made pagan sacrifices or bought certificates! (The ones who were tortured for the faith were called '**confessors**' and would take a key role in deciding later what the church should do with those who had 'lapsed'.)

**But...back to the timeline...we are now approaching the most auspicious Fourth Century!!**

<u>THE EMPEROR</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS</u>
From 251 to 284 there were fourteen emperors!		Another interlude of peace and growth...except when Valerian reinstated Decius' policies. (257 – 260)
<b>Diocletian</b>	<b>284 – 305</b>	An Edict in 303 launches massive persecutions: Xns forbidden to meet, and are deposed, arrested and tortured. Books and buildings burned.

The division of the empire into distinct Eastern and Western portions, which will have significant consequences for later Church History, goes back to Diocletian's administrative reorganization of the empire so as to insure succession of leaders without civil wars. Each half was to have a "junior" Caesar and an 'Augustus'! See who ends up Pontifex Maximus!

<b>Galerius</b>	<b>292 – 311</b>	Forces Diocletian to abdicate. Chaos and persecution continue...
<b>Maximinus Daia</b>	<b>305 – 311</b>	Persecutes, tortures and maims Xns.
<b>Maxentius</b>	<b>306 – 312</b>	He was defeated by.....

Meanwhile, the brilliant son of Constantius Chlorus, who had been Caesar in the west...was carefully awaiting his time to 'realize his destiny' and was gathering strength and loyalties. Out of all the upheavals of the early 4<sup>th</sup> c. one man waged a series of military campaigns and emerged supreme. The rest, as they say, is history...Church History!

<b>Licinius</b>	<b>307 – 323</b>	Constantine makes an alliance with him in 313, but then defeats him and controls the east by 324.
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**Galerius dies in 311 and on his deathbed he issues the Edict of Toleration thus ending the Great Persecution.**

## CONSTANTINE

c. 306 – 337

Here are a few important dates and events:

**312** – Famous showdown at Milvian Bridge near Rome. Maxentius is defeated and killed. Constantine attributes victory to this "sign" he dreamed or envisioned before the battle.



He saw the **χρῖ ρο** (Christ's 'monogram') and heard: **In this sign conquer.**

**313** – Alliance with Licinius and the **EDICT of MILAN**. Ends persecution and returns property to Xns. Xty isn't made official however. Edict allows citizens to take the religion they prefer! Sadly though, synagogues were outlawed. Constantine begins to favor Xty. Clergymen are exempted from municipal duty and military service.

**315** – Some pagan customs offensive to Xns were abolished. But sadly, the ancient privileges enjoyed by the Jewish communities were revoked.

**316** – Emancipation of Xn slaves.

**321** – Bequests to churches are legalized. Constantine lavishes gifts of gold and impressive properties upon Xn bishops. Churches can now amass tremendous wealth.

☀ **SUN**day is declared a legal holiday in conformity with the worship of Apollo.

**324** – **Constantine the Great** is now supreme ruler of the whole empire. He issues a general exhortation (*but not law*) for all citizens to embrace Xty... people flock to churches!

**There is great rejoicing! No more persecution! Christianity is coming to power! We won, we won! However... Not everyone is thrilled with the newfound prestige, wealth, power and comfort of the Church! Discuss Reactions:**



**The Fourth Century is one of the most volatile & pivotal in our chronology (only the First and Sixteenth would be more fascinating!) Here we briefly mention varied responses to the Church's new status...  
...and then continue with the Timeline of Emperors & Events.**

**A Schismatic Reaction:** Starting with a disputed bishopric, some North Africans claimed to be the 'True Church' and had extreme resentment for the Imperial-backed leadership. The Donatists became more radical the more they were oppressed. Emperor Constantine even threatened to go to Africa and set things in order! Donatist clergymen were banished, but the schism went on for centuries. It never truly healed. The weakened church of North Africa would not be able to withstand the onslaught of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. Islamic Invasion!

**A Monastic Reaction:** Some Christians renounced the newfound wealth and privilege as a temptation to be resisted. Also, still extolling the ideal of 'martyrdom' as the ultimate expression of faith, they sought a kind of 'living martyrdom' and thus pursued the monastic life. Both forms of monasticism (communal & solitary) had significant increases at this time.

**A 'Heretic' Reaction!:** Obviously, false teachings had plagued the church before, but now with more time to 'disagree amongst ourselves' in the highly syncretistic Greco-Roman culture...controversies would rage and present a grave threat to Christian Unity. The most famous one emerged from Alexandria, where a brilliant, fervent and rationalistic priest named **Arius** taught that Jesus the Son was **not** co-eternal with God the Father (which *does* make good 'sense!') This problem also lasted for years, but it gives us the perfect lead-in to the next "Very Important Event."

**With great pomp & circumstance, Constantine convenes (and presides over) the First Ecumenical Council.**

**325 The Council of Nicea** The orthodox position is affirmed and Arius' view is anathematized. (Arian bishops were banished, but the conflict lasted well into the next century.) With later modifications, the **Nicene Creed** became one of the most widely recited creeds in Church History.

**But** this 'orthodox' council also separated "**Easter**" from its true connection with **Passover**.

**And** Constantine separated Jews from Jerusalem with a ban. Conversion to Judaism was now punishable by death!

**The anti-Jewish theology** & attitudes *already engendered* by Church Fathers now have the force of Imperial Law.

*Just one example:* In **300** a Christian council in Spain **forbade fellowship** with Jews by threat of excommunication.

*Now*, the '**Christian Emperor**' of an increasingly Christian empire could decree:

**"Christians should have nothing in common with this odious people the Jews."**

Tragically, the Jews suffered increasing legal-deprivations, economic-degradations, and personal abuse at the hands of the Church. This is also tragic for us! Christian congregants were robbed of their true spiritual heritage, were denied the pleasure of fellowship with Jews, were prevented from obeying Paul's admonitions, and were even forbidden to obey the first and great commandment to love their neighbors! Later decrees would make sure that Jews were **not** neighbors!

[See: "**Bad Theology = Bad Law**" for a timeline listing the continued violence *such as* Expulsions, Ghettos and Massacres.]

**328 – Arius** is recalled from exile and Arianism will **not** go away...as we shall see...!

**325 – 329** Constantine's 'sainted mother' **Helena** travels to the Holy Land and receives 'revelations' about where things had occurred. Magnificent churches are built on those sacred tourist sites. She even found nails from the cross of Christ!

**330 –** The emperor recreates old **Byzantium** as a "New Rome" for his capital and calls it... (as you might have guessed) **CONSTANTINOPLE!**

This will have far-reaching significance for Church History. (Strengthens the Eastern part of the empire while the Western part declines...which only makes the Roman church more independent and important!) From this point on we will see tensions building between **E** and **W Xty** which eventuate in the Schism of 1054.



**337 – Constantine** receives baptism on his deathbed and dies...having changed history like few politicians ever do! The vast but fracturing empire is divided between his three sons...and naturally, discord ensues!

**337 – 361 Constantius** favors Arianism, orders bishops to condemn **Athanasius** (the "champion of Nicene orthodoxy") and reject the Nicene Creed. By **350** he is sole emperor, and *that* decade was a heyday for Arian Christians.

**361 – 363 Julian** If success for Arianism were not enough, now Constantius' cousin **Julian** becomes emperor and seeks to restore Paganism to its former preeminence! He tries to impede the rise of Xty but does not resume persecution. He promises to allow Jews to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. (Xns later claim that God punished him with an untimely death for his apostasy, and legends arose of 'miraculous sabotage' to the rebuilding effort! Xns seemed more upset about Julian's kindness to Jews than about his paganism!)

**363 – 364 Jovian** A synod in Alexandria in **362** tried to find theological compromise. When **Jovian** came to power he favored the church and extends tolerance to all parties. But he died under 'mysterious' circumstances.

Now things in the empire will become even more confusing! The rancorous **Arian vs. Nicene** conflicts persist, barbarian invaders from the north (Huns, Goths, etc.) are encroaching upon the empire, and Rome's bishops are bolstering *their* authority.

Two brothers have a "co-Augustus" reign:

**364 – 375 Valentinian I** in the **West** **Jovian's** tolerant policies are generally followed but from **371**, **Valens** suppresses Nicene Xns. In **373**, Athanasius dies in Alexandria. When the bishopric of Milan is open, the civil governor is made bishop just to avert a riot! (**Ambrose!**)  
**364 – 378 Valens** in the **East** Valens is killed in the **378** Battle of Adrianople against the Goths.

**375 – 392 Valentinian II** and his *pro-Arian* Mother **Justina** rule. **Ambrose** bravely defies the 'wicked' Empress.

**375 – 383** Valentinian's son **Gratian** rules the **West**. The best thing he did was appoint **Theodosius** to rule the **East**. Ambrose was able to influence emperors to support orthodoxy. Unfortunately, he did **not** always use his persuasive eloquence for the righteous cause, as we shall see!

**379 – 395 THEODOSIUS I "THE GREAT"** Now we come to the crescendo of this crucial century!

The pivotal reign of Theodosius is hailed as the great victory of XTY over Paganism *and* of the "catholic-orthodox" faith over heresy! (Here, **catholic** means universal and **orthodox** means right doctrine.)

About sixty-eight years after **Constantine's Vision** convinced him of the power of the Christian God, Theodosius makes Christianity 'official,' with all the entitlement and enforcement of a state religion. (And all the problems!)

**A few more key events and our timeline – overview of Christianity & the Roman Empire will conclude.**

**380 – Theodosius** is the **first** emperor baptized into the Nicene faith. He gives up the pagan title of Pontifex Maximus. He issues an edict that all citizens "steadfastly adhere to the religion of the bishops in lineage from St. Peter."

**381 –** He prohibits pagan sacrifices for 'divination' and magic, and he petitions to have their temples confiscated. He also outlaws sectarian, schismatic and 'heretical' churches. And, he convenes an important council.

The **381 COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE** ratifies Nicene orthodoxy and anathematizes (condemns) heretics.

Canon # 3 declares the Bishop of Constantinople to have **equal** rank with the Bishop of Rome! (More **E vs. W** friction!!)

**388 –** The synagogue in Callinicum is destroyed by Xns at the instigation of their bishop, and sacred objects are stolen. **Theodosius**, admirably, orders the bishop to return the articles and to rebuild the place of worship. But, in a long letter threatening the emperor's very salvation, **Ambrose demands** that the order be rescinded. Theodosius gives in to Ambrose's "fiery" rhetoric. The synagogue was never rebuilt. This set a shameless precedent, justified many such actions and sent the message that abusing Jews is a permissible, even laudable thing for Xns to do!

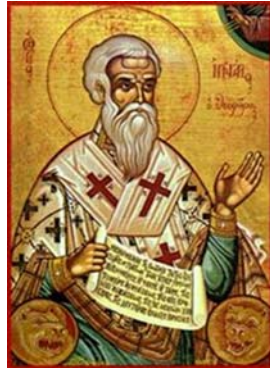
**391 –** Theodosius closes pagan temples and prohibits all public sacrifices. In **392** even *private* pagan rituals were outlawed. But pagans were *not* excluded from holding office, and the emperor appointed several to lofty positions. The laws against paganism were *not* enforced consistently. Pagan worship continued for many generations, especially in rural areas. The Great Christian Emperor Theodosius never lost favor amongst pagans and after his death he was deified (enrolled as "among the gods"!)

**395 – Theodosius I dies**, and is succeeded by his sons **Arcadius (in E, 395 – 408)** and **Honorius (in W, 395 – 423)** and his grandson **Theodosius II (408 – 450)**. **The empire divides never again to reunite.**

More strictures contra **PAGANISM** were passed and it eventually disappeared as a viable religion. **Or, did it?** Did it merely **seep into** Christendom? Is a pagan inclination still in our midst? **Discuss!**

# Session 4

ANTE-NICENE & POST-NICENE



PATRISTIC LITERATURE

“CANON, CREED AND CLERGY”



**“ANTE-NICENE Patristics”** simply refers to those **Church Fathers** who were prominent **before** the **Council of Nicea** (325)

The word ‘patristic’ has its origins in the use of ‘father’ (*patres* in Latin) to express loyal obedience to the bishops in authority. From the **3rd** century on, it was increasingly used to describe the ‘champions of orthodoxy.’ (As against the many ‘unorthodox’ teachings!)

Even the word ‘Pope’ comes from Papa! It seems a bit ‘patriarchal’ to study only these Church *Fathers*. Happily, Justo Gonzalez is appreciative of the many contributions that women have made to the development of Christianity! Below is a very basic outline to **help categorize the voluminous** writings of these leaders and thinkers.

Notice that the first division is between the **West & East** ‘wings’ of Christianity.

**WEST / Latin**

**EAST / Greek**

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**The Post-Apostolic Fathers:** (Some textbooks dub them *the Apostolic* because some of them were reputed to have actually known the real Apostles!)

**Timeframe:** The Late First Century through Middle of Second Century

**General Purpose:** To edify, interpret, instruct; literature was ‘issued-based,’ and these writings were read-aloud in public worship!

Clement of Rome -  
Clement was considered ‘canonical’ on some lists!  
Do not mix this Clement up with Clement of Alexandria

Ignatius -  
Polycarp -  
Pseudo-Barnabas -  
Epistle to Diognetus -  
Shepherd of Hermas -  
Didache (Manual of Discipline) -

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**The Apologists:**

**Timeframe:** Mid-Second century through the Early Third century

**General Purpose:** To explain, meet challenges...and **to defend and define**

Tertullian -

Justin Martyr -  
Tatian -  
Athenagoras -  
Theophilus -

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**The Polemicists:**

**Timeframe:** Late Second Century through the Third Century

**General Purpose:** To argue, refute, ‘systematize’ doctrines, (systematic theology begins...)

Tertullian - (**vs.** Praxeas)  
Irenaeus - (**vs.** Gnostics)  
Cyprian - (on ‘episcopacy’)

‘Alexandrian’ **vs.** ‘Antiochene’ Schools  
(allegorical **vs.** grammatico-historical)  
Clement of Alexandria -  
Origen of Alexandria -

Then, the most renowned **POST-NICENE FATHERS** to remember are:

**West: Ambrose & Augustine**

**East: Chrysostom, Jerome, Basil, & Gregory**

## REVIEW OF THE FIRST FOUR CENTURIES AND PATRISTIC ECCLESIOLOGY

**In the first century** we note the expectations for and birth of the Messiah. We cherish the person, life, and teachings of **Yeshua**. We remember His atoning death and celebrate His glorious resurrection. We marvel at the birth and infilling of the nascent **witness community**, and study their 'acts.' We try to see them as the renewed covenant people of God, Hebraic in worldview, true to Israel, under **Jerusalem** leadership, and commissioned to take the Good News to the nations (gentiles.) And they did.

Moving on into the second century, we traced the gradual and multi-level "**parting of ways**" between Jewish followers of Jesus and the Jews who did not accept the messiah...but eventually between Gentile believers and Jewish believers and ultimately between "Christians" and all Jews. We examined both the context for and the content of the whole **Adversus Judaeos** tradition. We lament the loss of the original roots and the denigration of the true heritage, and we see the deliberate **dissociation** as the first and worst **Schism** in Church History.




**In the second and third centuries** (sometimes called "Early Xty" but it isn't 'early' enough to be our deepest roots!) we saw the development of **Patristic** leadership and theology. It would take several graduate-level courses to even begin appreciating the depth and scope of this literature! We merely tried to categorize them. We *can* make some broad generalizations about these 'formative' centuries:

**Christianity** grew, reached beyond Judea, survived **persecutions** from the pagan empire...  
...**defended** itself to learned pagans, refuted false accusations, created 'apologia' for the faith...  
...**defined** itself as 'apart from' and then 'having replaced' Judaism and Israel...  
...**defined** itself against heretical tendencies such as Gnosticism...  
...**developed** leadership that was male-dominated and hierarchical...

and, as it proceeded into the pivotal fourth century,  
...**took on** more and more of the Greco-Roman worldview (and worldliness, in some cases!)  
...**developed** Theology, Ideology, Hermeneutical Methodology, and Sacramentalism...  
...**withstood** terrible persecutions and developed Martyrologies... *...until, lo and behold!!!*

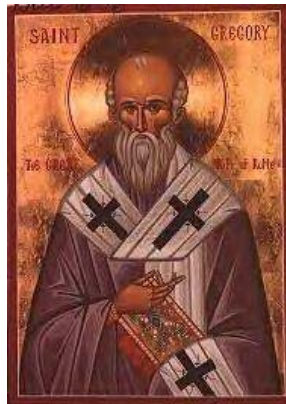
**In the fourth century**, a pagan emperor favors the Christians! (**Constantine the Great**) Christianity eventually becomes "**Christendom**"...the Kingdom of Christ realized on earth. But it was 'eventual'! There were decades of bitter theological and political controversies, infighting, violent schisms and stupendous challenges to the **Unity** of the Church... In this incredibly complex and colorful culture...Christianity *finally* became the official Imperial Religion by the 380s under **Theodosius the Great**.

**Three factors holding the Church together through all these tumults and delineating the definitive contours of the Christian Faith were:**

-  **Canon** – We needed to settle which writings were legitimate, inspired and "Biblical"!
-  **Creed** – We needed to formulate the essential doctrines and core beliefs. We had to negotiate as to what comprised the 'non-negotiables'! (Here we could add **Council!**)
-  **Clerical Hierarchy** – We needed overseers, authorities to resolve problems and we especially needed 'Church-sanctioned' instructors to teach new proselytes!  
We needed 'Bishops'! (And *eventually*, we got a '**Papa**' above all Fathers!)



Martyrdom of Ignatius



Gregory



Jerome

For better or worse, the ante-Nicene and post-Nicene Patristics **are** the esteemed **Fathers of Christian Theology and Ecclesiology**. We can admire them as men. We are in awe of those who were willing martyrs. **And, we can be grateful** for their hammering-out & handing down an “orthodox” faith to generations that followed.



But that doesn't mean we can't read them critically. They were **not** infallible. They were **not** sinless. Most tragically, they were detached from the Jewish communities and were “arrogant to the root.”



May we be humble. May we be willing grieve over the consequences of their sins. May we learn from their mistakes! And let us always remember that the real 'Fathers of our Faith' all had Hebrew names! Our story is blessedly connected (**grafted!**) to the history and hope of Israel...because of the mercy and the covenant-faithfulness of the God of Israel. Our ecclesiological foundations are found in Zion. Our spiritual progenitors are Jewish.

“Not everything Jewish is Biblical, but everything Biblical is Jewish!”  
Shouldn't that have *some* influence on how we interpret those scriptures?

## TWO GREAT CREEDS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

### THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe** in **God the Father** Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth;  
And in **Jesus Christ** his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the **Holy Spirit**,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe** in the **Holy Spirit**; the **holy catholic church**; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the **life everlasting**.

*Amen*

### THE NICENE CREED

**I believe** in one **God, the Father Almighty**,  
**Maker of heaven and earth**, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord **Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God**,  
begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven,  
and was **incarnate** by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;  
and was **crucified** also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He **rose again**, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven,  
and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He **shall come again** with glory,  
to judge the quick and the dead; whose **kingdom** shall have no end.

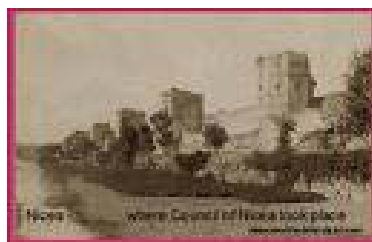
**And I believe** in the **Holy Spirit**, the Lord and Giver of Life;  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

**And I believe** in one **holy catholic and apostolic Church**.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.

*Amen.*

**And**— whoever shall say that **there was a time when the Son of God was not**,  
or that before he was begotten he was not,  
or that he was made of things that were not,  
or that **he is a different substance** or essence from the Father,  
or that he is a creature, or subject to change...

All that so say, the Catholic and Apostolic Church **anathematizes** them.



## FOR OUR DISCUSSION ON THE CREEDS

**FILL—IN THE BLANKS:** (Use Gonzalez, pp. 63, 64; and pp. 162-165)

The “Apostle’s Creed” was probably composed where? \_\_\_\_\_. When? \_\_\_\_\_c.

It was then called a “\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

It clearly refutes the \_\_\_\_\_ heresies, which taught that:

God did not \_\_\_\_\_ the world; and that Jesus was not really \_\_\_\_\_; and that the ‘truth’ was given to a select few and not the whole church.

One use of this simple creed was during a believer’s \_\_\_\_\_. What interesting, but fictitious, tradition circulated about this creed’s origination?

---

The “Nicene Creed” originated in \_\_\_\_\_ as a direct response to \_\_\_\_\_

which taught that Jesus the Son was not fully \_\_\_\_\_ (that he was a created being, not co-eternal with the Father.)

Highlight the phrase which caused a controversy and rift between the Western and Eastern church.

Which of the two creeds is the most ‘universally’ used? \_\_\_\_\_

Both creeds duly and rightly stress the Divine-Human nature of *Jesus*.

However, did you ever notice an important ‘omission’?!

The creeds skip from His birth to His death...(from the miraculous virgin birth to His suffering, death & resurrection) without even mentioning His earthly ministry!

They say nothing about His Life and Example, and most of all His Teaching!

His Torah-filled teachings which true disciples are supposed to obey and teach others to obey! This is not to dismiss these time-honored creeds...God forbid!

But it does give us yet another conversation starter!

Do we have a religion *ABOUT* Jesus but not *OF* Jesus?

Do we stress *Creed* over *Deed*?

What can we do to keep the real Jesus central to our Faith **and** to our Practice?

[See Mt. 28: *not just* v.19 but v.**20**...and John 8: *not just* v.32 but v.**31** !]





## SAINT AUGUSTINE

354 – 430

Bishop of Hippo Regius, North Africa

Inexhaustible champion of Catholic Orthodoxy

*Roma locuta est; causa finita est*

Rome has spoken; the matter is concluded.

The Session 4 Lecture will focus on *Ambrose* and *Chrysostom*, but doubtless the most stellar Church Father of all was the ‘flamingly’ brilliant *Aurelius Augustinus*.

*His* voluminous works reveal a subtle and restless mind using its profound powers of reasoning to address *every* question you can imagine, and *every* controversial issue of his era!

*He* is deemed the most influential Christian between the Apostle Paul and the Reformer Martin Luther!

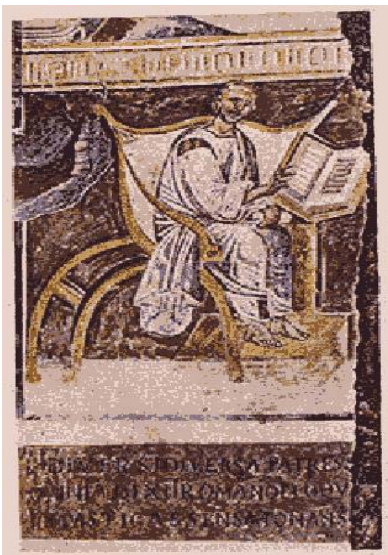
*But* speaking of his era, Augustine is the perfect segue into our next session because he “set the theological agenda” for...

### Medieval Christendom!

*In fact*, he influenced every realm of Western Thought for several centuries to come!



Famous Depiction by Botticelli



Oldest Surviving ‘Portrait’ of Augustine  
In the Lateran Palace, Rome, c. 6<sup>th</sup> century

*He* wrote so copiously and creatively that opposite sides of various conflicts would later claim his patronage! This is intriguing:

Some claim that the **Reformation** represented the *revolt* of Augustine’s Doctrine of Grace and Election *against* his Doctrine of the Catholic Church.

*Ironically* however, his Theory of Predestination is not truly biblical, whereas his doctrine of the **Church** (the invisible and visible) contained:

“germs which fructified at the Reformation.”

F.F. Bruce. *The Spreading Flame*, p. 339

**More portraits of the Last Classical & First Medieval Mind on next page:**

Augustine was so 'canonized' by the Church that **portraits** of him often adorned the saint with: His heart aflame with truth, or the Holy Spirit shining upon him (doves or sunrays) and some even show books by heretics stomped beneath his feet!

It has been said that Augustine's luminous **mind** launched *Scholasticism*...

And his devout **heart** launched *Monasticism*.

Note that the one can become vain disputation and the other, vain mystical detachment!

Christianity truly needs the dynamic balance that can be found in the holistic Hebraic-Biblical worldview!  
Only that can 'restrain the vain' and modulate our perpetual tendencies toward polarized excesses!



# Session 5

The Western Roman Empire *Falls*  
*and*

*Medieval Christianity Rises*

(Describe the “*Medieval Christian Synthesis*”)

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PAPACY EMERGES



**Jesus Giving Kingdom Authority to the Apostle Peter thus Ordaining the Papacy**

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PAPACY...

Is one of the most revered, powerful, and influential offices in history, secular *or* religious. It has also been one of the most coveted, violently contested and most controversial!

For a huge portion of Christians, the Pope is the preeminent leader of the true Church.

With all due respect, the late **Pope John Paul II** was one of the most venerated religious figures *and* most important world leaders of the Twentieth Century. When he was elected on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1978 he was deemed the 263<sup>rd</sup> occupant of the Seat of St. Peter.

His successor was his 'theological watchdog' Cardinal Josef Ratzinger, who was elected on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and took the title **Benedict** (Blessed) **XVI**.

This is his Holiness' *formal* title:

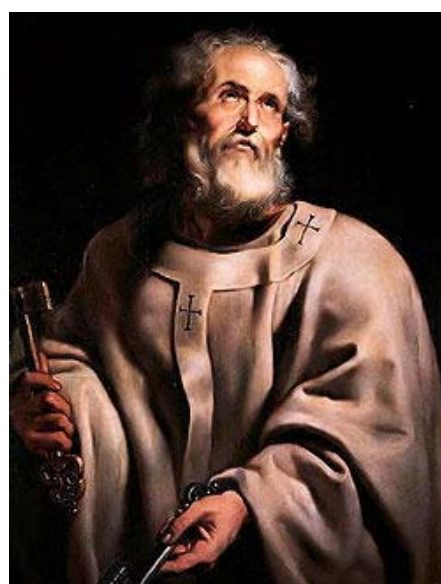
BISHOP OF ROME, VICAR OF JESUS CHRIST, SUCCESSOR OF THE PRINCE OF THE APOSTLES, SUPREME PONTIFF OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, PATRIARCH OF THE WEST, PRIMATE OF ITALY, ARCHBISHOP AND METROPOLITAN OF THE ROMAN PROVINCE, SOVEREIGN OF THE STATE OF VATICAN CITY, AND SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD.

The lecture for this session will trace the evolution of the pontifical bishopric: ...the complex historical process by which Rome's bishops took ascendancy over all. [ "Roman Catholic" is an oxymoron." Explain what that means! ] ☺

In the discussion, quite seriously, it will be asked:

How do we know that Jesus *didn't* confer 'papal powers' to His "top apostle" Peter, and intend that all Roman Bishops serve in an unbroken holy succession thereafter? What assumptions *support* the Petrine Theory?

Since Catholics cite **Matthew 16: 18** to justify the papacy, perhaps we should have a closer peek at the pericope! It certainly appears to be focused on Peter!



TO SAINT PETER THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM WERE GIVEN

**BUT IS THIS WHAT JESUS HAD IN MIND?**



**POPE GREGORY THE GREAT**



This is the magnificent **Basilica of St. Peter** in Vatican City.

It *is* awe-inspiring! What is even *more* awesome, however, is that our Lord Jesus Christ did establish a Church on earth. This entire course urges us to consider the very foundations of that 'called out' assembly, and to hear afresh the very Words of our Redeemer...all the better to Do His Will. We need **Bedrock Truth** in these perilous & perplexing times. May this session be a humble contribution to that reclamation, and may it embolden our proclamation!

The Lecture Outline for "Upon What Rock?" follows....

## LECTURE OUTLINE FOR: “UPON WHAT ROCK?”

### The *Petros* – *Petra* Wordplay in Matthew 16: 13 – 19

Upon What “**ROCK**” Did Yeshua Build His Congregation?

פֶּטְרָא

פֶּטְרוֹס

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’<sup>14</sup> And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’<sup>15</sup> He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah,<sup>\*</sup> the Son of the living God.’<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are **Peter**,<sup>\*</sup> and on this **rock**<sup>\*</sup> I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’

Describe this poignant scene—

Who was the ‘Top Talmid’?

What was the “right answer” to Yeshua’s question?

What was Yeshua’s response?

What language was He speaking?

Now...Explain the *Petros* – **PETRA** wordplay:

To what actual **PETRA** was Yeshua alluding?

[Which might then answer: What is the **Biblical** Bedrock for Christianity?]

The **Catholic** claims: “The **Papacy of course!** As the context clearly points to Saint Peter!”

The **Protestant** cries: “No, it **can’t** mean the Roman Pope! It must refer to Peter’s Statement!”

But this soon turns into Systematized Stone-cold Doctrinaire Theology! (& “**Paper Popes**”) Oy Vay.

**Can a *Midrash* on Numbers 23: 9 and Isaiah 51: 1 give us a clue?**

**Hint:** Our secondary textbook title is- \_\_\_\_\_

# Session 6

## THE “MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN SYNTHESIS”

The Final East – West Schism

The Apex of Papal Power and Prestige:

The Fourth Lateran Council, 1215

Transubstantiation and the Infamous “Blood Libel”

The Mendicant Orders

The Bloody Crusades and Inquisition

Gothic Architecture: Sermons in Stone

Scholasticism and Thomas Aquinas



Depiction of Jews suffering another massacre at the hands of Christian Crusaders

What follows is an **excerpt** from the History of Philosophy Manual. It may help to paint the general backdrop of 'the Story of Christianity' for this era. It is important to get a sense of the Medieval 'Tapestry' of Life...for it starts to **unravel** in our next session!

**CHRONOLOGY:** 5<sup>th</sup> c. — 13<sup>th</sup> c.    **GEOGRAPHY:** Western Roman Empire, Europe, British Isles

To summarize several long-past centuries is impossible, especially a complex phenomenon such as the **fusion of Christian, Greco-Roman and Gothic cultures** that evolved into **EUROPE** over those intriguing centuries. Centuries that saw such an admixture of darkness and light!

*We use a rather scholarly term to denote this era:*

## **“THE MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN SYNTHESIS”**

*And we briefly describe it this way:*

Against the complex **social-political backdrop of:**

- ↳ The crumbling classical empire ('Fall' of the Western Roman civil authority)
- ↳ The rise-to-power of the Roman Catholic Church (Filling the vacuum left by the 'Fall')
- ↳ An illiterate population and a scarcity of books; widespread superstition
- ↳ An agrarian Feudal Society (the first major culture NOT to have slavery as its economic base)

The **Medieval Worldview** was a brilliantly harmonious **synthesis of:**

- ↳ The Aristotelian/Ptolemaic geocentric model for **Physics and Astronomy**
  - ↳ Platonic and Neo-Platonic **Metaphysics**
  - ↳ **“CHRISTIANITY”** (Which by this era had *already* lost its Hebraic Roots and had developed doctrines in a Greek philosophical framework and established polity emulating Roman Govt.)
  - ↳ Christian Neo-Platonic **Spirituality** (Mystical Traditions; Monasticism, etc.)
  - ↳ **Scholastic Theology** (Brilliant but often arid blend of Aristotelian Logic and Church dogma; the Medieval synthesis of “Reason Serving Faith”)
- ↳ Now picture all of that under the powerful and eventually centralized **Authority** of the clerical hierarchy...the pinnacle of which was the Papacy.

A quaint & picturesque way to describe the **MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN SYNTHESIS** is:

The earth, created by God as **center-stage** for the grand human drama of **Salvation or Damnation!** Salvation was preferable, of course...and was exclusively mediated by **Holy Mother Church** *via* its clerical hierarchy *and* its holy sacraments. You simply could *not* have **God as Father** *unless* you had the **Church as Mother**. **'EXTRA ECCLESIA NULLA SALUS'** (Outside the Church there is **no** Salvation!)

~ Wrote St. Cyprian in *On the Unity of the Church* (And Augustine said it too!)

You may try to characterize the **MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN SYNTHESIS** by evaluating some pros and cons:

*Seen positively...*It provided a cohesive worldview in chaotic times. It gave mankind an orderly sense of place. It was an ingenious integration of Piety and Learning bringing *all* human knowledge (art, science, music, everything!) to the service of the Holy Church.

It had a cultural—intellectual **UNITY** mankind has not seen since! It was a happy marriage between Greek Philosophy and Christian Theology. It was at least...a “Christian” Age! Right? Hmm. **Or...**

*Seen negatively...*It was a Christianized totalitarianism led by often corrupt immoral clergymen who didn't really care for the poor flock and perpetuated an unbiblical and 'extra-Biblical' Theology thus ruthlessly enforcing, not true Unity, but **UNIFORMITY** under the *wrong* (certainly not infallible) authorities of: Pagan Metaphysics, Geocentric Physics, Church Canon Law, Sanctimonious Dogmatism, and the pompous Roman Papacy fanatically assisted by the merciless Inquisition! And of course they were **still antisemitic!**

**PIA FRAUS! DEUS AVERTAT! SPERO MELIORA!**

We better move on to Gothic Architecture:

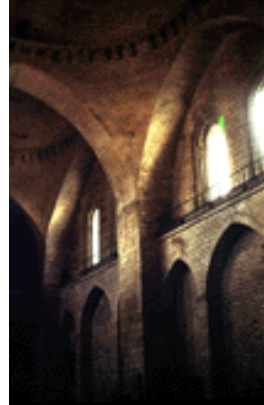
# MEDIEVAL CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

The ROMAN BASILICA (used for judicial, governmental and commercial purposes in Roman society) became the ‘model’ for Christian Churches in the Imperial and early Medieval periods.

A beautiful example of a “ROMANESQUE” cathedral is:  
*Ste. Maria* (c. 1130) in Souillac, France.



Exterior



Interior



Cross-Section

**Romanesque** churches were fortress-like with thick walls and small windows, so they were rather dark inside. But they gave a sense of solid sturdy protection from the world!



Example from Spain



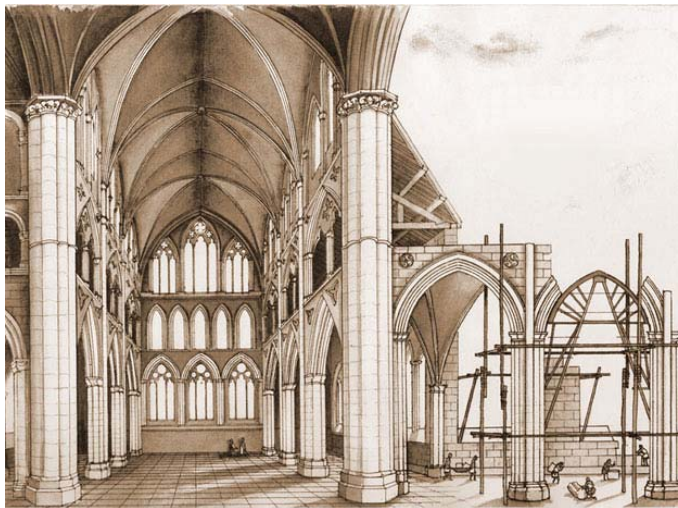
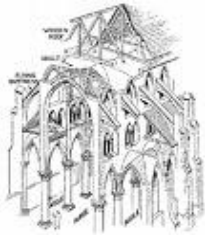
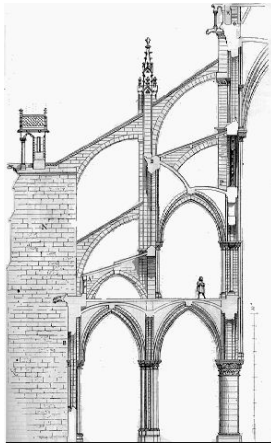
Scotland

**GOTHIC** architecture was the **first new style** to emerge since the ancient world! The style developed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and dazzled with exquisite features such as:  
Pointed arches and vaults, flying buttresses, delicate tracery, towers and spires,  
...and those gorgeous “Rose windows.”

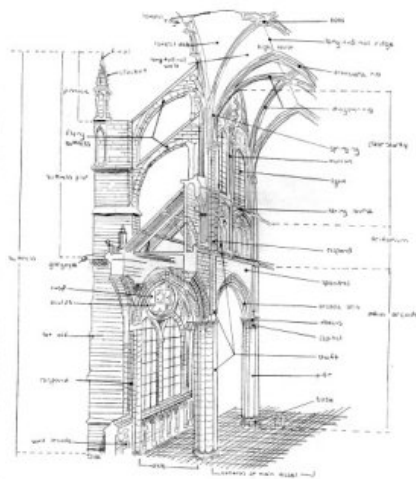
In the Medieval era, town halls, palaces, courthouses, and even bridges & fortresses reflected the impressive new Gothic style. But, as in all other aspects of society, the **Roman Catholic Church dominated!**

Light is 'radiantly' symbolic of religious experience...*hmm*, illuminating isn't this?!  
And light is exactly what these Gothic architectural structures provided!

*Can you name the salient features?*



Chartres





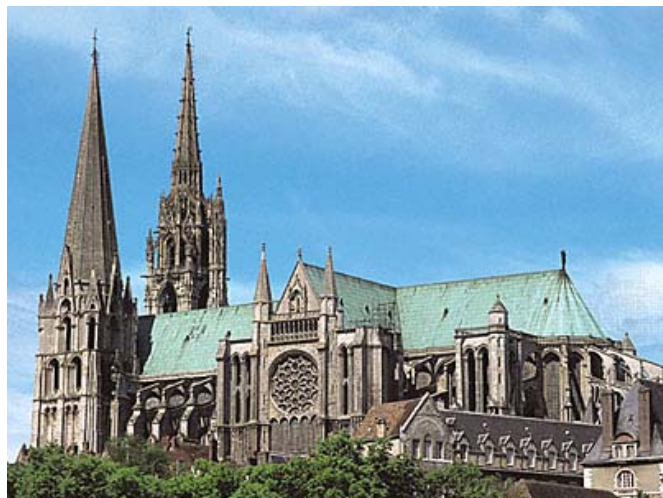
Now these are some flying buttresses!  
(Bordeaux, France)

Now these are some spires!  
(Cologne, Germany)

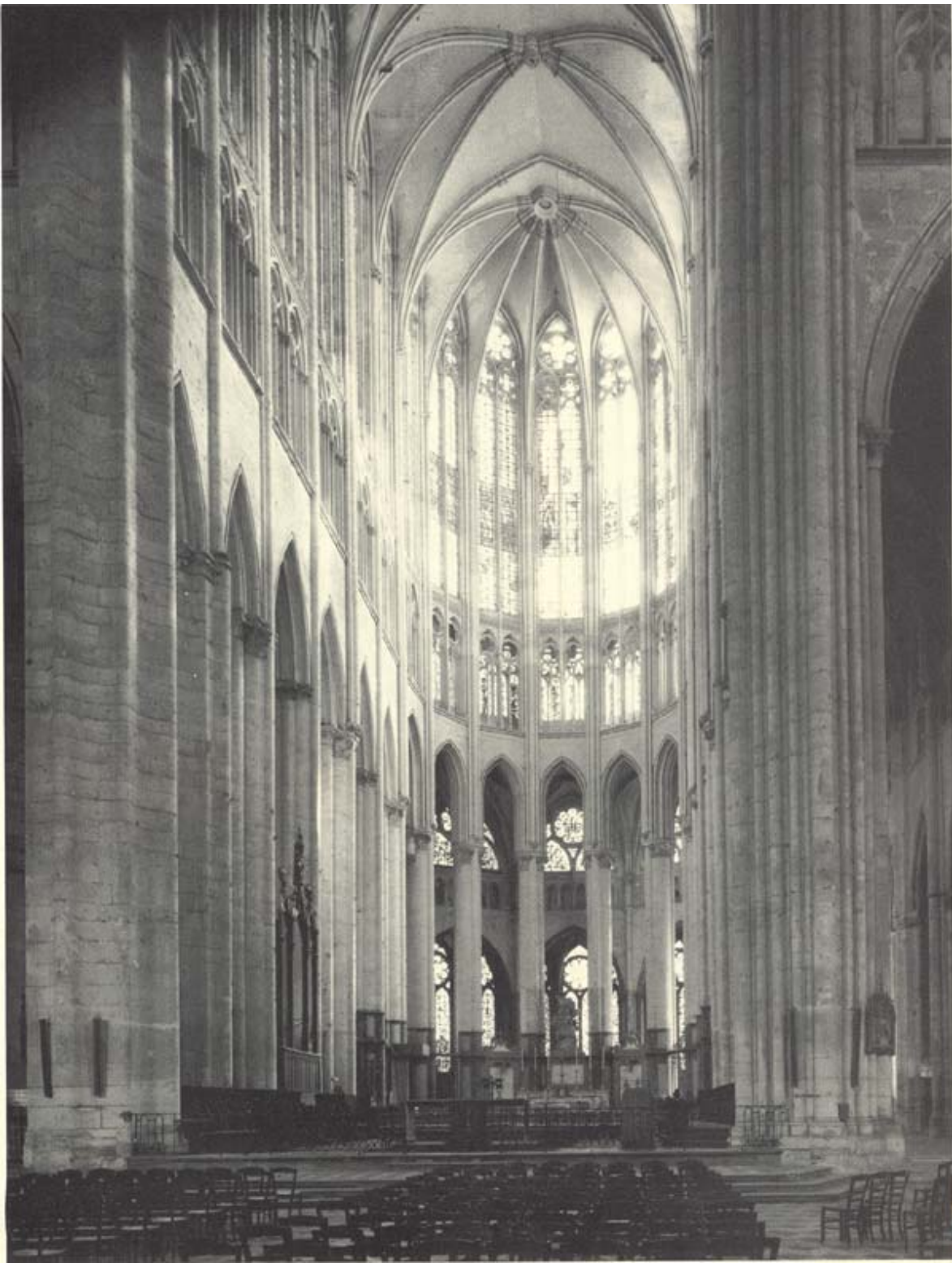
And the 'Grande Dame' of all: Notre Dame, Paris



Unless you prefer the one at Chartres!



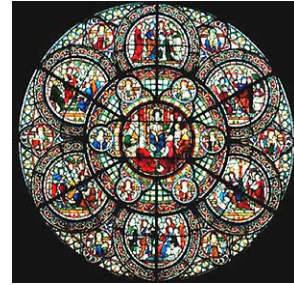
Imagine how *you* would feel upon entering these ethereal sanctuaries to receive the Holy Eucharist



Would you feel reverent? Unworthy? Fearful? Comforted? Inspired? Mystified?  
In touch with God in Heaven? Partaking of the Miracle of the Body and Blood of Christ?



Now that you are feeling pious after pondering Medieval Architecture, here's a quiz for you. And because the instructor feels propitious and merciful, the answers are given freely!



Questions:

1. Compare the **Romanesque** and **Gothic** styles:

Same basic floor plans...the Gothic developed out of the Romanesque. But Gothic Cathedrals had additional height afforded by the new ways of supporting weight...and became increasingly elaborate...adding spires too and seeming to reach the...well let's mention the stunning effects...

2. What *dazzling effects* could be wielded by the new style and how did those effects serve the 'Medieval Christian Synthesis'?

The effect was to let in more light, and to 'let the spirit soar to heaven above,' and to keep man 'in awe' and feeling like a small 'pawn on God's chessboard.' All of these things served the worldview of Medieval Christianity. (This is a world made by God for man merely as an antechamber to the Afterlife...a place to 'earn heaven' *via* the mystical sacraments dispensed by the hierarchy of the church.)

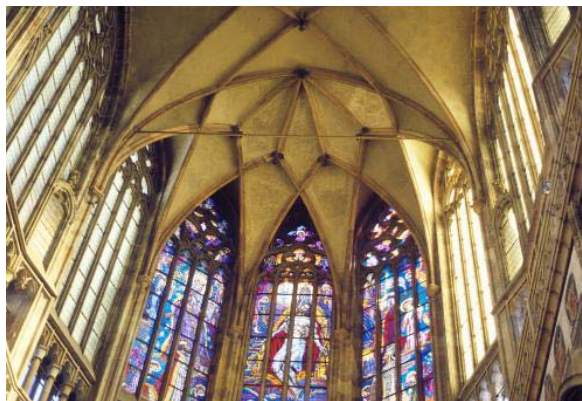
3. In what ways were these structures "**Sermons in Stone**" for the illiterate?

Sculptures, carvings, and stained glass windows 'taught' Biblical stories for people who could not read. (The Chartres Cathedral has more than 2000 sculpted figures.) Gothic Cathedrals could also have more stained glass windows because the walls did not have to support all the weight.

4. What powerful theme is usually ignored in studies of Medieval architecture?

Although it is *typically ignored* whenever Christian History is taught, we have a problem with arrogant Triumphalism! The very same anti-Jewishness we have seen promulgated by patristic theology, canon law, pulpit sermons, and crusader violence was also duly reflected in these inspirational buildings.

A classic example is the ever-present theme of "**Church Triumphant and Synagogue Trowned.**" Examples will follow, but first something **fun**:



Pretend *you* are Biblically illiterate and see if you can 'read' these lessons in stained glass!



What do the four scenes around the Crucifixion depict?



Name that Parable!

***ECCLESIA***



***SYNAGOGA***

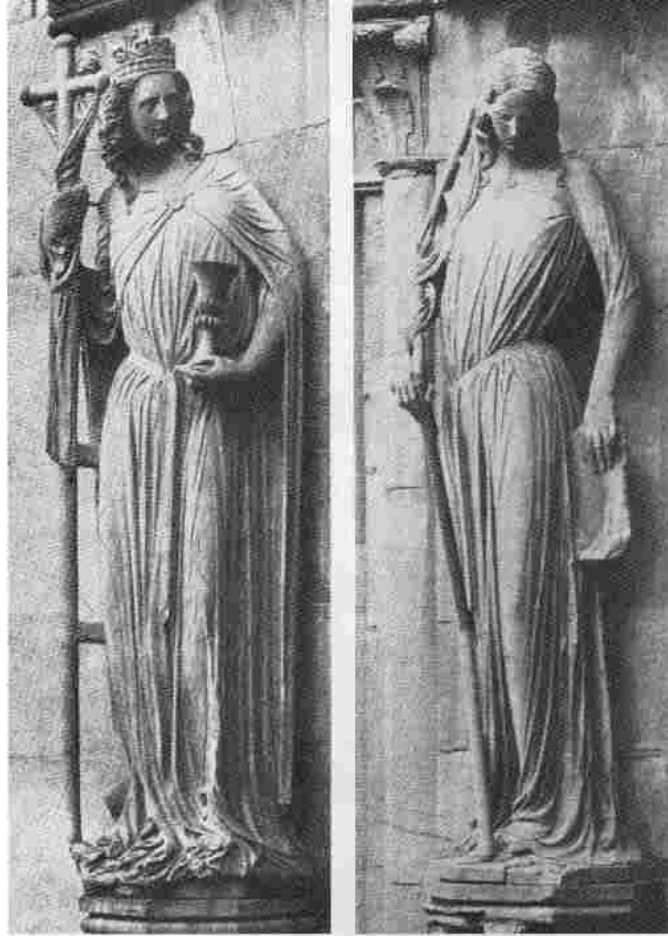
In sculpted figures, stained glass, wood carvings, and paintings in Medieval Churches all over Europe you can find 'hard evidence' that the attitude of contempt toward Judaism engendered by Christian Theologians was 'set in stone.'

In a striking 'posture of superiority' **Ecclesia** is depicted strong, proud, upright and victorious. She is usually holding a cross, staff, or Chalice, and wearing royal robes and a crown.

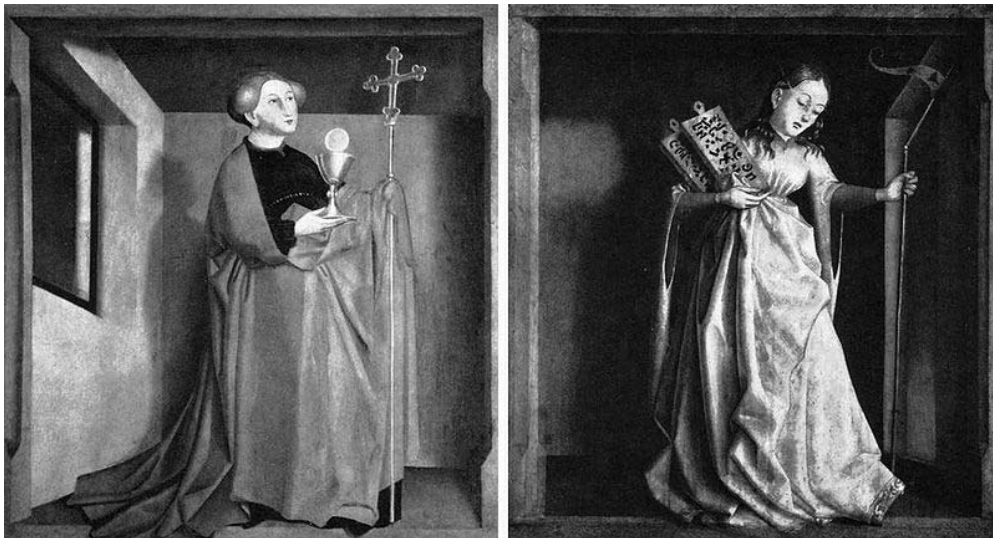
In sharp contradistinction, **Synagoga** is depicted as vanquished, downcast, holding a *broken* staff or even a *broken* tablet of the law! She is blindfolded. There are many variations of course but the point is always the same: Jews are finished, they have no authority...they are blind and can have no knowledge of God. As the Church Fathers taught, Jews are now rejected by God.

Examples:





Strasbourg, France c. 1230



Basel, Switzerland c. 1440



Notre Dame



By vilifying Jews, stealing from them, and...  
By treating them with hateful cruelty, and...  
In bearing false witness against Judaism...  
It is Ecclesia who holds God's Law upside-down.  
It is the Church that has become blind to its own sin!

We can not leave Session 6 without mentioning Thomas Aquinas as a ‘Cathedral of Scholastic Theology’!

## SCHOLASTICISM

The term itself comes from the Latin- *scholasticus* - **to take time for study**...from which we get our words school, scholar, and scholastic. (And we all know how studying does take a lot of time!)

You can remember what ‘Scholasticism’ means by thinking of it as: **Theology from the Schools!**

Early in this era, such ‘scholarship’ dwelt in the Monasteries, later in Cathedral Schools, and it reached its anthesis in the Universities. Universities were, of course, “Christian” institutions ...with all curricula prescribed and the professors licensed by, guess who, the Roman Catholic authorities.

Scholasticism is the pinnacle of Medieval Thought...so much so that the word has become synonymous with Medieval Theology. And no scholar did it better than...

## THOMAS AQUINAS (1225—1274)

‘Should old Aquinas be forgot?’ Hardly. More doctoral dissertations have been written on him than any other philosopher. Catholic theologians are actually still called **Thomists** (or Neo-Thomists!)

This saint was the ultimate *synthesizer* of Faith and Reason, including Plato’s rationalism *AND* the newly rediscovered writings of Aristotle! Works which were first *banned* and then *reconciled* with Christianity. That brilliant synthesizing was primarily accomplished by Old Aquinas!

No wonder Thomas created the most comprehensive system of Christian Theology *ever* conceived!

He wrote more than 40 volumes...even some hymns. His leading works are two encyclopedic projects:

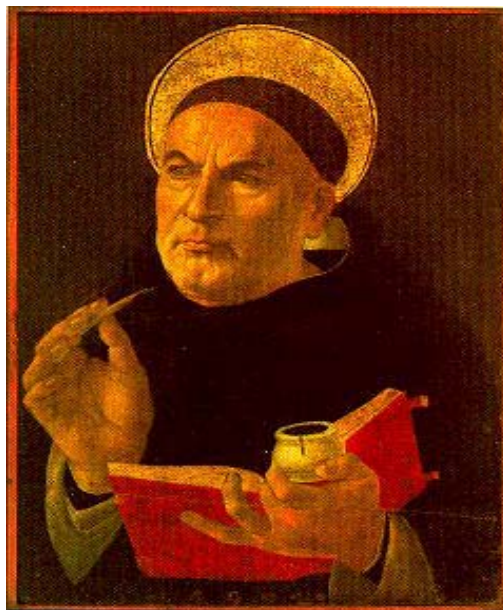
### *Summa Theologica* and *Summa contra Gentiles*.

These tremendously **systematic** works comprise a massive “architecture of thought.” He wrote about ‘everything there was’ (*at that time*.) His prolific output was helped by the fact that he could dictate manuscripts to several different secretaries at a time.

If there is anything you ever wondered about Theology...just ask Thomas!

When in 1323 someone challenged his “canonization as a **saint**”... (saints, as you know, are supposed to have performed a **miracle** or two!)

...the Pope said that ‘every question Thomas answered in the *Summa Theologica* was a miracle’!



## THE WORKS OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS “A MASSIVE CATHEDRAL OF MEDIEVAL THOUGHT”

Thomas' *Summas* comprise an impressive intellectual-spiritual edifice that really has been compared to the Gothic cathedrals! Not just by me. To wit:

“Like them, Thomas' work is not only a mirror held up to late medieval society but also a beacon unto it.”

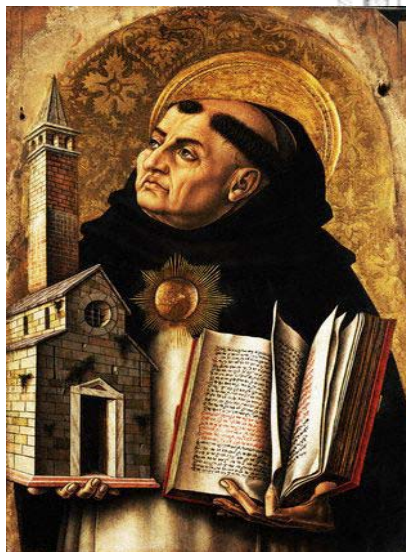
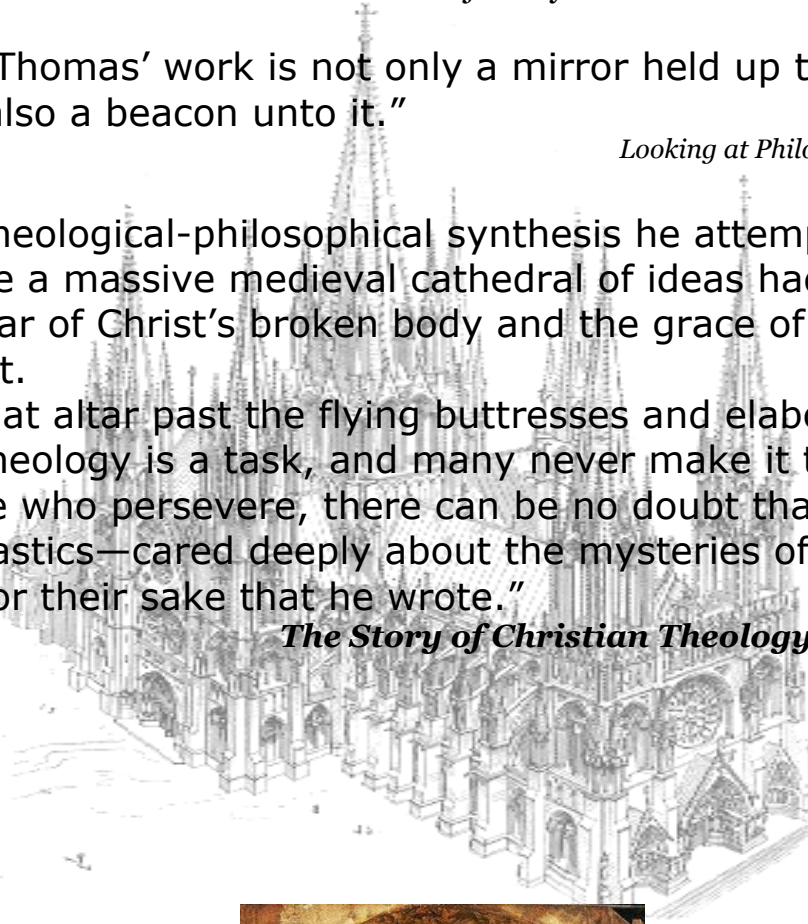
*Looking at Philosophy* by Donald Palmer

“The great theological-philosophical synthesis he attempted to construct like a massive medieval cathedral of ideas had at its very heart the altar of Christ's broken body and the grace of redemption found upon it.

Getting to that altar past the flying buttresses and elaborate vestibules of Natural Theology is a task, and many never make it there.

But for those who persevere, there can be no doubt that Aquinas—if not all scholastics—cared deeply about the mysteries of salvation and that it was for their sake that he wrote.”

*The Story of Christian Theology* by Roger E. Olson



## “LEARNING FROM SACRED HISTORY”

### UNIT I DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SHOULD BE INSERTED HERE

In an honest study of Church History we are given the opportunity to rethink what the ‘**CHURCH**’ actually is. And we may ask: Does Christianity truly ‘imitate’ Christ? *Is the Church what He called it to be? **Has it, in significant ways, lost its ‘WAY’?***



Many vital discussion questions and even controversial issues arose from this foundational Unit. Several will be given to you, but you should also have been keeping a list of your own. Here are a few quotes for your thoughtful consideration:

“History is that sole high-place from which people can clearly see their own age.” ~ G. K. Chesterton

“We must resist the temptation to believe in the **Church** as *a-thing-in-itself*. The first believers didn’t. They believed in the power of God to work in and through them in spite of their own unworthiness.” They believed in the Risen Lord and His imminent Return. They believed in the Kingdom of God as His Kingship – His rule and reign in their lives. They believed that all of life could reflect His glory. Yes, they believed in the power of the Holy Spirit to work in and through them...whether they were in prison or at home, at work or in study, in contemplation or confrontation. Their whole lives were His. But, never make an idol of the ‘Church’ as *a-thing-in-itself*. Never elevate a ‘ministry’ or a minister. Never believe in the infallibility of any one Doctrinal Tradition. Never give absolute allegiance to a so-called ‘Christian Nation.’ Never put redemptive hope in anything less than the Redeemer.

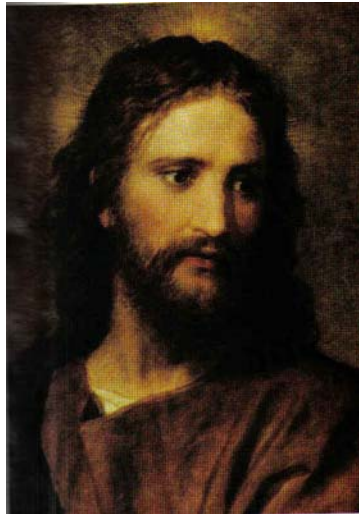
**The Lord Alone is to be hallowed, worshiped and glorified.**

“The Church is not to recognize other events, powers or images *alongside Jesus* as divine revelation.”

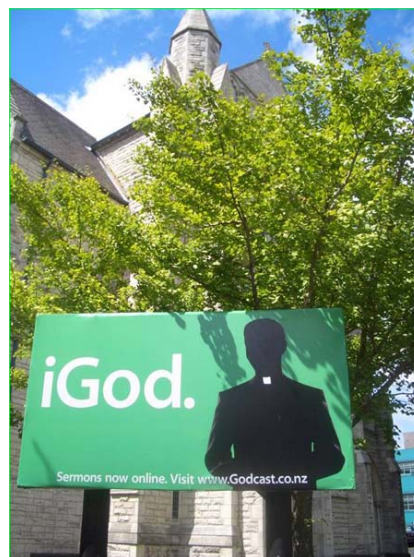
(From the German Confession of 1934)

“The idea of universal history presupposes the Judeo-Christian idea of the unity of God and His will for human destiny. Any view of history which undervalues divine revelation starts from mere Deism and consistently ends in Atheism.” ~ paraphrased from Philip Schaff

“If the Christian Faith is true, it is the central point of reference for the historian’s work. It had its inception in unique but historic events: The Birth, Life, Teaching, Calling, Death and Resurrection of Jesus the Christ, God Incarnate. And it is the purpose of God to consummate all things in Christ. He is the focal point of all history. The Alpha and the Omega.” ~ paraphrased from Kenneth S. Latourette



“How shall we labor with any effect to build up the church, if we have no thorough knowledge of her history? History is, and ever must be, next to God’s word, the richest foundation of wisdom, and the surest guide to all successful practices.” ~ paraphrased from Philip Schaff



“There is nothing wrong with **looking ahead**, but it is terribly important that it is done in connection with **looking inside**, into the Church’s own nature, and **looking back** at her past. If the **Church** does this, she is less likely to ‘take her cues’ from Madison Avenue and the postmodern pop-culture market place.” ~ paraphrased from Joseph Sittler

# HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY UNIT I EXAM

## ((THE EARLY CHURCH))

**TRUE OR FALSE?** [Qs 1 – 30 are worth 1 point apiece] Be sure to read the entire sentence!

1. The Christian message as reflected in the NT quickly switched emphasis from *history* to personal *spirituality* and ‘ahistorical’ *theology* so as to be *universal* in scope.
2. Gonzalez says that the story told in **Acts** is ongoing and will not really close until the end of history.
3. Church history is a history of **sinners** as well as **saints**.
4. The first followers of Jesus were *part of & connected to* the **monolithic** world of **2nd Temple Period Judaism**.
5. The existence of widespread & established Jewish **Diaspora** communities **helped** the new “Christian” faith to successfully spread and ‘take hold.’
6. The “**Hebrew – Hellenist**” conflict in Acts 6 was a Jew vs. Gentile clash.
7. The earliest persecution of believers was aimed *mostly* at the **apostles**, because most attempts to squelch a movement go after its leaders.
8. As to worship, one of the first things the early believers did was to institute the solemn **sacrament** commemorating **Christ’s passion** and death.
9. The very first “**mission**” thrust was to Jews beyond Judea by Jewish Hellenist believers who were fleeing Jerusalem.
10. **Paul** was a real ‘pioneer’ missionary because most places he went had no believers at all.
11. Acts does not tell us what happened to Peter & Paul, and the **tradition** we have is based on local legends.
12. In the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century, Romans, Jews and “Christians” all saw conflicts between the latter two as an **internal** Jewish affair because believers were seen as a **Jewish sect**.
13. **Ignatius’** letter shows that he saw his martyrdom as a shameful and meaningless waste of life.
14. **Persecution**, (even torture & martyrdom) of Christians was systematic and constant throughout the pagan empire until the 4<sup>th</sup> century.
15. **Theology** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries developed as a necessary response to pagan accusations, misunderstandings and objections to Christian belief & practice.
16. The heretic **Marcion** compiled his own **NT canon list** to deliberately disagree with the *already* widely accepted and established canon of scripture.
17. **Marcion** was not only anti-*Jewish* and anti-*Hebrew Scriptures*, but was also anti-*creation*!
18. History of Christian literature shows that **systematic theology** came first, followed by epistles & treatises addressing **specific pastoral concerns & practical issues**.
19. Emperor **Septimius Severus** promoted the worship of **Sol Invictus** because he saw a **vision** that helped him put an end to a series of civil wars.
20. Emperor **Decius**, wanting to restore beleaguered Rome to its ancient glory & **gods**, went after Christians so as to create, not martyrs, but **apostates** (from Christianity.)
21. Gonzalez believes that with all the many sources extant, we can have a **fair, accurate, and detailed account** of everything truly **important** that happened in early Christian history.
22. The pagan critics were quite wrong in their accusations & attitude toward Christian “rabble,” for the vast **majority of Christians** (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> c.) belonged to the **higher echelons** of society.

23. The **'theology'** of the poor & less educated classes, though sometimes naïve, could be more **biblical** than that of sophisticated **Christian philosophers**.
24. From the earliest times and throughout most of its history, the Christian Church has celebrated **Communion** as the central and highest act of worship.
25. The significance of the **Catacombs** was: as secret subterranean hiding places to go, so as to avoid arrest.
26. By the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, Church governance was all male, but the NT indicates that **women** preached and did indeed hold positions of **leadership**.
27. The **female monastic life** developed earlier than male monasticism, and may be traced back to the special role of **"widows"** in the early church.
28. Early Christianity was mostly a **rural** and agrarian culture. (Most Christians were hicks & lived in the sticks!)
29. There was a heated dispute in the Church as to *when* to celebrate the Lord's **Resurrection**, and some believed it should naturally coincide with the **Jewish Passover**.
30. **Diocletian** had **reorganized the empire** by quadrants with "Jr. and Sr." emperors so as to insure orderly succession and avert civil wars...and someone named Constantine began his rise to ultimate power amidst the *failure* of that plan.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE** [Qs 31 – 45 are worth 1 point apiece]

31. Which one is **NOT** a reason for the tremendously vibrant **diversity** within Intertestamental Period Judaism?
  - A. The so-called "silent years" had been tumultuous, and there had been significant theological developments.
  - B. There were different reactions to the Hellenizing forces and foreign occupation.
  - C. Jews had no choice but to branch out into different religious "denominations" after the Temple was destroyed.
  - D. Complex religions tend to give rise to a variety of interpretations and expressions, a phenomenon that may become exaggerated under pressure...sometimes even to extremism.
32. Which **sect** would be most likely to **comply with the Romans** and try to maintain the "status quo"?
  - A. Essenes/Qumranites
  - B. Sadducees
  - C. The "Theraputae"
  - D. Pharisees
33. Of the following tenets, which ones were **held by all Jews** regardless of their other differences?
  - A. Respect for the Written Torah *and* the Oral Traditions
  - B. Eschatological hope/God's deliverance unto justice and peace
  - C. The God of Israel is the only God, and He should be hallowed and obeyed in all of life.
  - D. B and C, but not A.
34. The very earliest believers in Jesus did **NOT** consider themselves to be following or founding a **new religion**...
  - A...however, they did wish to reject the Torah and renounce their Jewish identity.
  - B...as they were still loyal Jews practicing Judaism who just became convinced that the Messianic promise had been fulfilled.
  - C...because they were confused and still burdened with their inherent legalism, afraid to let go of Judaism.
  - D...because new religions were not very popular in those days.
35. An **ancient extant source** valuable to us for showing **how pagans viewed Christians** is:
  - A. Tacitus' description in *Annals* 15
  - B. Nero's epic poem entitled "*Rome On Fire*"
  - C. Nero's infamous and cruel Edict "*Contra Christiens*"
  - D. Seutonius' account in his chronicles
36. Correspondence between Gov. **Pliny** and Emp. **Trajan** implies that the *real* "**crime**" of being a Christian was:
  - A. Their Eucharist rituals had become cannibalistic.
  - B. They worshipped an Invisible Being yet sang hymns to a real man, so they must have been insane.
  - C. Refusing to worship pagan gods (and the Emperor) they seemed obstinately contemptuous of Roman authority.
  - D. They were a poor, subversive lot who kept to themselves and practiced incest.

37. How is it that **Ignatius** was allowed to receive fellow Christians as visitors when he was on his way to being executed?
- Those visitors pretended not to be Christians so the guards wouldn't arrest them along with Ignatius!
  - Trajan's policy was in effect—(Persecution was only for those accused who then refused to recant, not for all Christians.)
  - Ignatius was so holy that he led the soldiers to Christ and they wouldn't arrest fellow believers.
  - The soldiers, though not Christian, had respect for leaders so they let Ignatius see friends along the way.
38. **Heresies** soon arose in Church History mainly because: (the cause *other* than: due to sin and pride!)
- Christianity was politically harmful so many pagan Romans infiltrated the Church so as to destroy its message.
  - There were many divergent *interpretations* of the Christian message in that syncretistic Gk-Rom. culture.
  - There actually weren't heresies, only *alternative expressions*—"Heresy" is a prejudicial, bigoted word.
39. **Gnosticism** probably came from a basic *worldview concept* such as:
- Greek *dualism* of matter and spirit, where *matter* is evil or unreal and *spirit* is the most real and pure.
  - Eastern spiritual *monism* that says "all is one-spirit" so there *is* no such thing as matter.
  - Hebraic *holism* that believes in spirit, but also says that God created matter as good.
40. Christian Gnostics saw **Jesus** as:
- Spiritually born of a virgin, but *not* crucified and resurrected.
  - A "*messenger*" from the spirit realm who only *seemed* to have a human body.
  - The very *incarnation* of the ultimate Spirit Being, sent to bring secret knowledge to the most spiritual.
41. The **reaction to heretical movements & teachings** developed into this 'three-pronged' response:
- Confessionals, Clerical Ordination, and Crusades—or—Piety, Patriarchy, and Purity!!!
  - Councils, Catechisms, and Concords (Apostolic Accords)—or—Talk, Teach and Theologize!!!
  - Canon, Creed, and Church Authority (Apostolic Succession)—or—Bible, Beliefs and Bishops!!!
42. In the context of responding to heresies, the word "**Catholic**" was used to mean what?
- "Universal"—as in '*all people* can be saved, so we should be careful who we condemn as heretics.'
  - "According to the whole"—as in 'based upon the faithful witness of *all* the apostles, and fully offered to all.'
  - "According to Rome"—as in—'based upon what the bishop of Rome decides.' (Thus—"Roman Catholic")
43. Which of these **problems** seriously **disrupted Church unity** after the persecutions by Emperor Decius?
- The huge challenge of how to evangelize (gain new members) after such a trial had befallen the church.
  - The dire need to quickly replace all the church leaders who had either fled, denied their faith, or died.
  - The vexing question: how to reinstate those who had 'lapsed' & who should do it—'confessors' or bishops?
44. **Where** were Christians most likely to **gather for regular worship** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> century?
- Private homes or 'house churches' that were remodeled for that function.
  - Cemeteries and especially mausoleums belonging to prominent Christians.
  - Large basilicas in cities, and small chapels in villages.
  - Monasteries or privately owned gardens and villas.
45. Which of the following were **NOT set practices** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> century church?
- The annual celebration of Jesus' birth on December 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Baptism, accompanied by considerable symbolism and ritual...and regular fasting & penance.
  - Evangelistic meetings led by professional traveling missionaries, usually held in amphitheatres.
  - A and C were not set practices.

[Keep Going! The **EARLY CHURCH** portion of the Exam continues to Q 78!]

**MATCHING** [We are still “Early Church”...All the Qs in *this* portion (1 – 78) count **1 point** apiece]

[**A** = Herod Agrippa] [**B** = Pella] [**C** = Celsus] [**D** = Stephen] [**E** = Philo] [**F** = Tatian] [**G** = Justin] [**H** = LXX]

- 46. A Hellenist—Jewish Believer **martyred** in Jerusalem. He gave the Sanhedrin a Jewish “history recital” before dying!
- 47. When Christian apologists tried to show scriptural agreement with, but superiority to, Greek Philosophy... they had a precedent in **this** Jewish writer, a contemporary of Jesus.
- 48. The predominantly **Gentile town** to which Jewish believers fled around 62 to 66 C.E.
- 49. His *Address to the Greeks* was an **attack** on their rhetoric & supposed ‘wisdom’ as inferior to Christian truth.
- 50. From the legend that seventy ‘*inspired*’ scholars in Alexandria had **translated** the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek.
- 51. The grandson of “ \_\_\_ the Great”...he **ordered the arrest** of James, the brother of John, and the arrest of Peter.
- 52. His concept of the pre-incarnate **Logos** provided a way to accommodate Greek wisdom with Christian philosophy, thus making Socrates and Plato into quasi-Christians!
- 53. His **criticism of Christianity** reflects the view many cultured pagan intellectuals had—that Christians were ignorant, primitive, low-class, and that their beliefs were contradictory and nonsensical.

**MORE MATCHING** [Use **each** of these Church Fathers **twice** (Qs 54 – 61) Use their first initial]

[ **I** = IRENAEUS ] [ **T** = TERTULLIAN ] [ **C** = CLEMENT of Alexandria ] [ **O** = ORIGEN ]

- 54. Justin Martyr used the *Logos* idea to show pagans the truth of Christianity, but \_\_\_ used it to call Christians to the truth of Philosophy!
- 55. His speculative views on God, spirits, creation, cycles, and salvation were really more Platonic than Biblical.
- 56. Being the first Church Father to write in Latin, he can be considered the founder of Western Theology.
- 57. He fought heresies and coined formulas on the trinity and Christology that became the hallmark of orthodoxy, yet ironically, he had joined a radical ‘end-time’ sect!
- 58. He taught “divinization”...meaning that God’s purpose is to make us more and more like Himself.
- 59. Christians who have only ‘faith,’ or who adhere to the literal sense of scripture, are like children content with milk...said\_\_\_, who used reason and allegorical interpretation so as to be a “true Gnostic.”
- 60. Gonzalez relates his “grand vision” of redemptive history, and says that he refuted Gnosticism, but Miss Boville laments that the textbook totally ignores his triumphalistic “supersessionism” (Replacement Theology).
- 61. A prolific genius, he compiled the *Hexapla* and could dictate 7 different works at a time to as many secretaries.

**SHORT ANSWER – FILL IN** [You’ll eventually inscribe all answers *legibly* on the Answer Sheet]

- 62. A **positive** feature of the Roman Empire for the spread of Christianity was: \_\_\_\_\_
- 63. A **negative** aspect of the Rom. Emp. (a threat to Christianity) was: \_\_\_\_\_
- 64. Along with apostles Peter & John, \_\_\_ was a great “pillar” of the Church, and the **leader** of the Jerusalem *kehilah*.

Name two **religious** options and two **philosophical** traditions that could be found in the 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman Empire:

- 65. \_\_\_\_\_ 66. \_\_\_\_\_ 67. \_\_\_\_\_ 68. \_\_\_\_\_

Name two factors that (even if gradually) caused the Roman authorities to recognize Christians *as distinct from* Judaism, [and thus begin to **persecute** them as a *religio prava* (illegal) whereas Judaism was a *religio licita* (legal)]:

- 69. \_\_\_\_\_ 70. \_\_\_\_\_

Name three Roman Emperors under whom Christians suffered the worst (most systematic, sustained and widespread) persecution:

- 71. \_\_\_\_\_ 72. \_\_\_\_\_ 73. \_\_\_\_\_

List two “crude rumors” pagans mistakenly believed about Christian **practice**:

- 74. \_\_\_\_\_ 75. \_\_\_\_\_

List two specific intellectual criticisms against (or attempts to refute) Christian **beliefs**:

- 76. \_\_\_\_\_ 77. \_\_\_\_\_

- 78. Name or draw one of the earliest Christian **symbols**: \_\_\_\_\_

## ((((THE IMPERIAL CHURCH)))

**TRUE OR FALSE?** [Imperial Qs (1 – 14) are worth **5 points** apiece so answer carefully!]

1. After Constantine's 'conversion,' Christian **worship** began to be greatly influenced by **Imperial customs**.
2. **Constantine** had a tremendous *immediate* effect on the life of the **4<sup>th</sup> century** church but there is **no** residual **impact** upon the church of **today**, since things have evolved, says Gonzalez.
3. **All** believers at the time, understandably, saw **Constantine's 'favoring the Church'** as God's **blessing**, and as **proof** of the truth of Christianity, and as the **goal** of all history!
4. Although **Gnosticism** had been officially rejected by the church, the influence of its 'Spirit—Matter Dualism' can be seen in the severe **asceticism** of many in the monastic movement.
5. **Ambrose's election** to the important bishopric of Milan typified the lengthy and elaborate 'ministerial ordination' process that had developed by the 4<sup>th</sup> century.
6. **Ambrose's brilliant allegorization** of "crude" Scripture passages helped Augustine accept Christianity!
7. When the 'greatest theologian of all time' **Augustine** died, the Western **Empire** and the Imperial **Church** were both at the zenith of power, prosperity and peace.

**MATCHING:** [Match these **people** to the right **description** below: Use "A,B,C, etc]" (5 pts ea.)

**A. Eusebius of Caesaria**

**B. Pachomius**

**C. Donatus**

**D. Athanasius**

**E. Macrina**

**F. John 'Chrysostom'**

**G. Jerome**

8. Through convincing a sibling to break from the world and serve God, this ascetic known as "**the Teacher**" could actually be considered the founder of Greek monasticism, says Gonzalez.
9. This famously '**golden-mouthed**' **preacher** who became the Bishop of Constantinople truly *was* pious and courageous...but Gonzalez *neglects* to mention that he was 'dragon-mouthed' when it came to preaching virulent **hatred** for Jews.
10. Perhaps he was not the sole founder, but he *can* be credited with being the most significant early **organizer of 'cenobitic' monasticism**.
11. Without this erudite compiler, who also articulated "**Official Theology**," our knowledge of the early **history** of Christianity would be reduced by half!
12. The stormy '**Champion of Nicene Orthodoxy**' during the Arian controversy that racked the church.
13. A **rival** for the important **bishopric** of Carthage, this 'rigorist/purist' led the **schismatic** movement for nearly half a century.
14. Most famous for the Latin "**Vulgate**" translation, this man's initial attitude toward Hebrew and his abhorrence for sex (and extreme bodily austerity in general!) are symptomatic of this phenomenon: Christians **gaining** the Platonic influence while **losing** the Hebraic worldview.

## (((EARLY MEDIEVAL)))

**TRUE OR FALSE?** [These Qs are worth **4 points** apiece]

1. None of the **barbarian** invaders (who set up **kingdoms** after the W. Roman Empire crumbled) knew anything about Christianity, so the **Church** once again had to go **underground**.
2. **Isidore of Seville**, the most enlightened man of his time, presided over a **council** that restored rights to Jewish people and reunited families.
3. France is named after the pagan “**Franks**”, whose **King Clovis** converted to Christianity in 496.
4. The greatest ruler of the early Medieval era, **Charlemagne**, who was crowned ‘Emperor’ by the Pope, came from a non-royal lineage.
5. The institution of the **Papacy** arose during the early Medieval era, partly to preserve orthodox Christianity and convert the new pagan kingdoms, but also to create a unified “**Christendom**.”
6. The “**Donation of Constantine**” was a 4<sup>th</sup> century document that was rediscovered in the Medieval era and then insured that the **Popes** could retain their ‘Emperor-given’ rights to own and **rule Rome**.
7. **Monasticism** in the **West**, for the most part, functioned as the ‘right arm’ of Popes and other ecclesiastical leaders.
8. **Monasticism** in the **East** tended to be more ascetic, solitary and ‘in tension’ with the church hierarchy.
9. The 7<sup>th</sup> century rise & spreading conquests of **Islam** created a major theological challenge for Christianity, but did **not** disturb its established **geographical** success and its ecclesiastical **unity**.
10. The final **East — West Schism** was a ‘long-time-coming’ **political debacle** which really had **nothing** to do with **Creedal** disputes.
11. The “**Chalcedonian Definition of Faith**” became a great standard of **orthodoxy** and put a lasting **end** to the numerous **Christological debates**.
12. The Persian Church had spread farther East, thus you can actually still find “**Nestorian**” Christians scattered around even **today**.
13. The history of the early Medieval era reveals a shameful **absence** of any genuine attempt by clerics to ‘**reform**’ the Church and repudiate the many **corrupt** practices such as **Simony**.

**MATCHING** [4 points each. Use neat capital letters A, B, C, etc.]

A. Benedict B. Gregory the Great C. John of Damascus D. Justinian E. Michael Cerularius

14. **This** great **Emperor** restored **Byzantine** military glory by reconquering N. Africa, and even Italy for a while. He is also famous for his **codifying** of the entire system of **Law**.
15. When **this** 11<sup>th</sup> century **Patriarch** was **excommunicated** by Rome, we ended up with TWO separate “Christianities”— (and... *still* separate are the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church)
16. **His** ‘take’ on the “**Iconoclast vs. Iconodule**” debate was: that since God had ‘become visible’ (in Jesus)...what could be wrong with making images for use in Christian worship?! ☺
17. The monks and nuns of the **Cluny** movement devoted themselves to practicing **this** man’s “**Rule**” concerning ceremonial worship, but ignored the instructions on physical labor!
18. **This** 6<sup>th</sup> century “patriarch of the west” considered St. Augustine (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> c.) infallible and yet **exaggerated Augustine’s speculations** such that they developed into doctrines like: Purgatory, confession, penance, the Mass as sacrifice, and prayers for the dead!

**((Finally....LATE MEDIEVAL))**

**Fill — In** [Be Precise. Fill-in ALL of the Blanks (as some Qs have more than one blank.) **4 points ea.**

19. Urban II, at Clermont, launched the First Crusade, and the crowd responded with cries of \_\_\_\_\_.
20. The Crusades were not just isolated campaigns, but a ‘spirit’ of misguided zeal & conquest that was more or less constant from the year \_\_\_\_\_ to the year \_\_\_\_\_.
21. As if the reprehensible violence were not enough, Miss Boville also considers it *blasphemous* that Baldwin (in 1100) and other Crusaders took *this* title for themselves: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
22. A fascinating consequence of the Crusades was a renewed interest in the human Jesus and His Passion. But there was also an increase in the ‘*veneration*’ of all sorts of \_\_\_\_\_!
23. At the close of the Crusades, *Medieval Christianity* reached an apex, not only in the two main institutions (papacy & monasticism), but also in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Everyone knows about St. Francis of Assisi and his mendicant Order, but not many know about his persecuted forerunner \_\_\_\_\_ or his contemporary, St. \_\_\_\_\_.

*Fill-in Qs continue....*

25. \_\_\_\_\_ is the doctrine about communion that says the bread & wine become the body & blood of Christ. This was promulgated in \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.
26. From Monasteries to Cathedral Schools...to 13<sup>th</sup> century Universities, a distinctive method of theologizing developed that is aptly called \_\_\_\_\_.
27. \_\_\_\_\_ developed the famous ontological argument, not really to 'prove' God's existence as much as to understand more deeply what he already believed.
28. \_\_\_\_\_'s controversial book \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ showed that on many theological questions, various authorities (like the early Church Fathers) were NOT in agreement!
29. Thomas Aquinas' brilliant theology had to contend with a philosophical *shift* taking place at the time...with a resurgence of \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_. (Name the 2 philosophers/philosophies)
30. One medieval way of teaching Christian stories to the illiterate is still an impressive sight to behold today. I'm referring to \_\_\_\_\_.

**You are finished with the T/F, Multiple Choice, Matching and Fill-in!!  
Now ... On to the Essay Questions.**

*Happy and Blessed is he (or she) who can finish this exam on time.*



***Bless You for Persevering!***

## ∞ ESSAY QUESTIONS ∞


 **CHOOSE ONLY**  **TWO Qs** 

**But** notice that one choice has to be one of the first two Qs:

1. The original church was completely Jewish, ethnically *and* in character, but by the second century the church was predominantly Gentile *and* was becoming decidedly **anti-Jewish**. **What happened?!**  
**List and briefly explain:** Some key factors in the separation of Gentile Christians from Judaism **and even from** Jewish Believers. (Use Wilson, *OFA*) “The Parting of the Ways”
2. **List** some themes from the “*Adversus Judaeos*” tradition found in the Church Fathers. ...  
**Briefly explain** why they are not Biblical. (Use Wilson *OFA*, Online Manual, and Articles On Loan.)

 ONE OF YOUR TWO CHOICES MUST BE EITHER Q#1 OR Q#2. 

THEN YOUR OTHER CHOICE CAN BE CHOSEN FROM Qs 3 – 6 BELOW: 

3. **Comment on:** the ‘genuineness of **Constantine’s conversion**’ to Christianity by making a **List of:** Several facts/factors **both for and** against the alleged genuineness.
4. **List:** Some outward, obvious **changes** to Christian worship and lifestyle — PLUS — a few **theological** changes & compromises resulting from Imperial ‘favors’ lavished upon the Church.
5. **Make a chart comparing** the **East** and **West** Wings of the Church.  In your chart...  
**List:** Several basic differences between western and eastern Christianity.
6. Although Church Power reached a zenith in the **13<sup>th</sup> century**, its prestige did not last.  
**LIST and briefly explain:** Several factors in the **fracturing** of the papal-led ‘unity’ of the Church **and** the **unraveling** of the ‘**Medieval Christian Synthesis.**’ (worldview and culture)

Your Essays are worth **16 points** each.

Type or print **very** legibly...and attach your essay page to the Answer Sheets provided for the other Qs.

**This COURSE UNIT I EXAM is DUE on \_\_\_\_\_ See Syllabus Schedule, *NO Lates accepted!***

**Do Not Procrastinate!** In fact, you *can* be working on exam **as you keep up** with the weekly readings.

 Answer Sheets will be given in class. (Remind me! And let me know if you need more!)