

# ***Church History***



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21<sup>st</sup> century



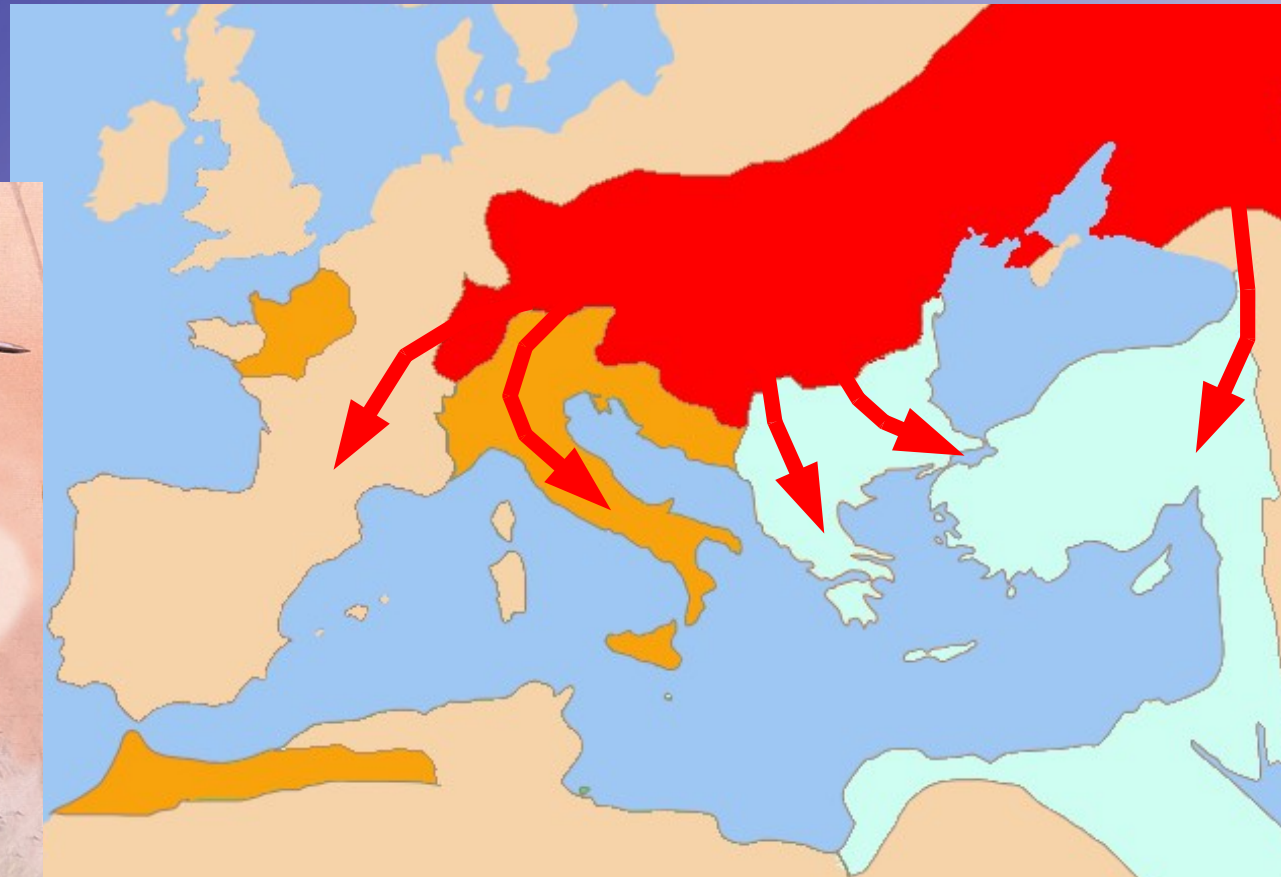
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- *The Ancient Church* AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries
  - *Constantine: The Thirteenth Apostle*
  - *The First Ecumenical Council*
  - *The Constantinian Line*
  - *The Establishment of Christendom*
  - *The Second Ecumenical Council*
  - *Fathers of the New Church*
  - *Things Fall Apart... (part 3)*



# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- The Fall of the Roman Empire took a while  
410
  - Alaric and his Visigoths sacked Rome
  - But by far, the most increasingly powerful and dangerous group of barbarians were the Huns, whose empire dwarfed Rome and who were continually encroaching on Roman territory





# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- The Fall of the Roman Empire took a while
  - 410 Alaric and his Visigoths sacked Rome
  - 420 Jerome completed his Latin Bible
    - The whole point of which was to create a version which the common man could read—though within a century or two, it actually became the symbol of *keeping* the Bible from the common man



# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- The Fall of the Roman Empire took a while
  - 410 Alaric and his Visigoths sacked Rome
  - 420 Jerome completed his Latin Bible
  - 431 Third Ecumenical Council was convened
    - And declared the Eastern Nestorius a heretic for his “Jesus had two absolutely separate natures” doctrine

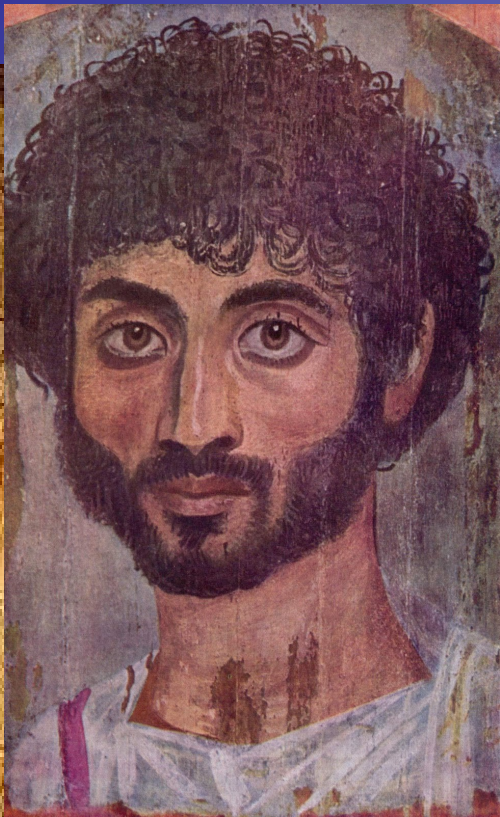
**Man** Nestorianism **God**





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    - By arguing that Jesus had *two* aspects to Him that combined to form a *third, new* nature



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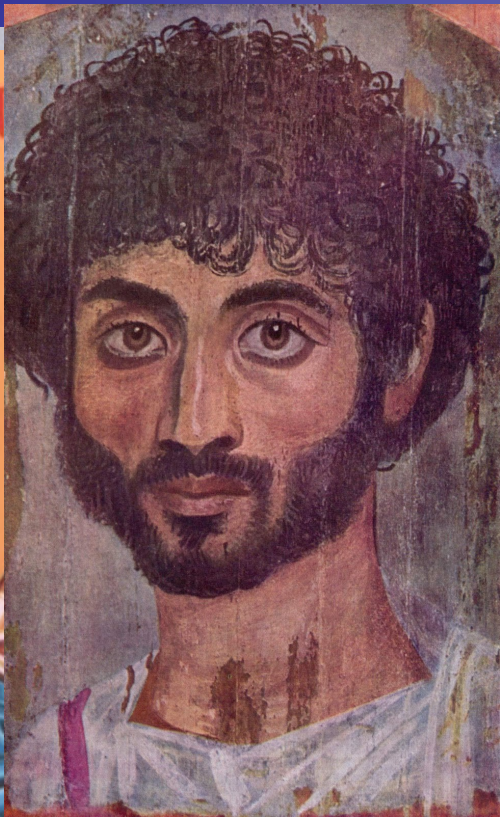
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    - Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria (chief opponent of Nestorianism) and the Southern churches *loved* this answer to the problem
    - But Pope Leo I and the Western churches *hated* it, and argued that Jesus was fully God and fully human, with no separations



**Man** Hypostatic Union **God**

- Eutyches was declared a heretic in 447



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    - **The Southern churches under Archbishop Dioscorus of Alexandria supported Eutyches and murdered Archbishop Flavian of Constantinople—who had declared Eutyches a heretic at the council in 447**





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    - (NOTE: This is more commonly referred to as the Council of Chalcedon)

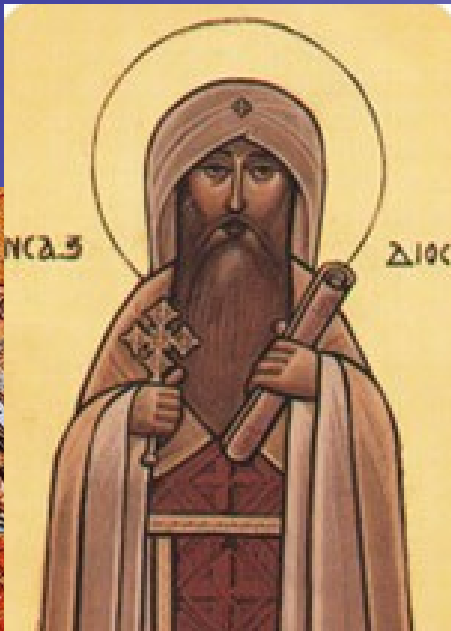




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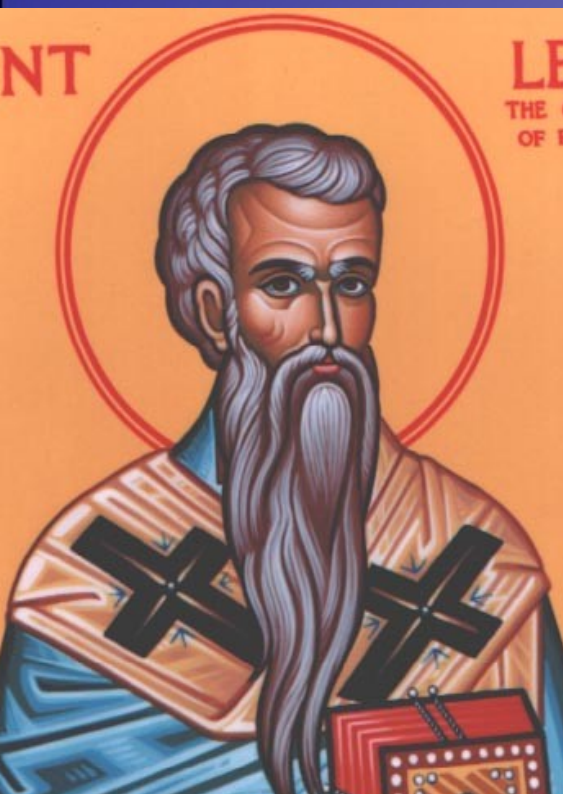
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  - Archbishop Leo of Rome (i.e.; the “Pope”), Archbishop Dioscorus of Alexandria, and Archbishop John of Antioch (both now called “Patriarchs”) all held competing doctrinal positions—“hypostatic union,” “monophysitism,” and “dyophysitism,” respectively
    - And that disagreement was obviously getting violent—particularly in such chaotic, violent times as the fall of Rome
    - So pretty much every bishop was there in attendance—though Dioscorus had excommunicated Leo of the West (and *murdered* Flavian of the East), so *he* wasn't given a seat on the council itself, and had to sit out in the audience



# ***The Rise of Christendom***

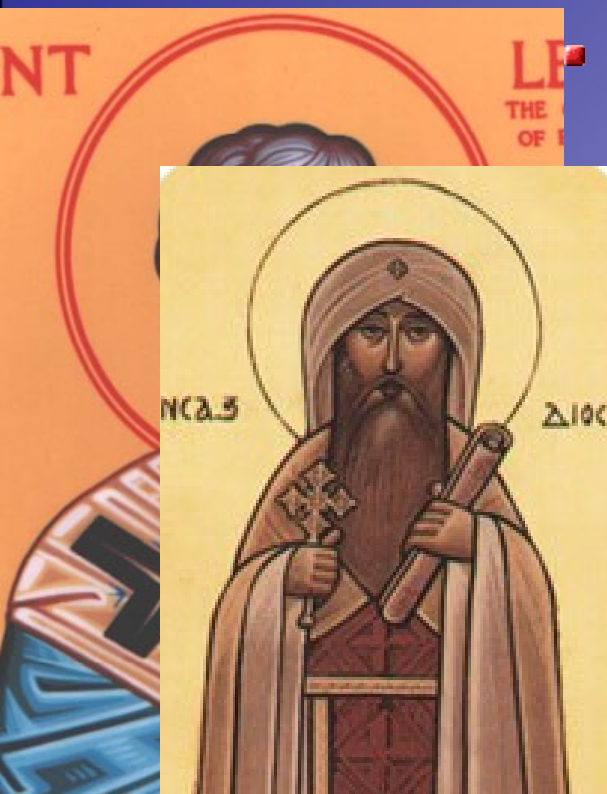
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    - Most of the discussion centered around the Tome of Leo as a basic starting point—was it an accurate description of the orthodox position?
      - If it's not, then debate must follow to figure out what the accurate position should be
      - If it is, then there's no need for future debate, and the Tome should be the gauge for deciding the orthodoxy of Christologies (Tellingly, much of the discussion kept devolving into shouting matches between bishops, and they kept having to adjourn the sessions and pick them up the next day to avoid outbreaks of violence)





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    - In the end, Leo's Tome was decided to be a fair description of orthodoxy
    - And Dioscorus was tried and condemned—but for *heresy*, not for *murder*
      - But since neither Dioscorus nor any of his supporters showed up for what they considered a sham trial, the verdict did little to alleviate the feelings of schism within the Church





# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - The Council of Chalcedon wrote this confession:  
“Following the holy Fathers, we all with one consent teach people to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a rational soul and body; consubstantial with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence (*ὑπόστασις*—*hypostasis*), not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten God, the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.”



# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - The Council of Chalcedon wrote this confession
  - Almost immediately, the Church splintered
    - Western churches taught Chalcedon's conclusions
    - Southern churches taught monophysitism
    - Eastern (Nestorian) churches taught dyophysitism
    - Celtic churches kinda did their own thing



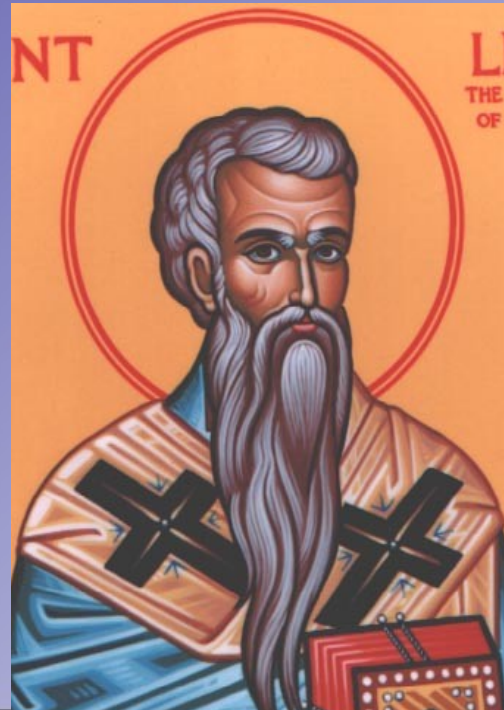
- Not working together at Chalcedon hurt the Church in ways that *never* truly healed





# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- Funky little teaching moment<sup>2</sup>—
  - Interestingly, Pope Leo couldn't be at the Council of Chalcedon, even though he was the Pope, and his "Tome of Leo" was the core, driving argument because he was too busy dealing with Attila, who was in the process of marching on Rome in 450





# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- Funky little teaching moment<sup>3</sup>—
  - Attila had been growing his empire, but had scrupulously avoided attacking Rome head-on
    - He realized that he could get away with being a constant annoyance better and longer than if he became a clear and present enemy
    - Hitler followed the exact same strategy 1500 years later, nibbling away at Europe for as long as weaker leaders would *let* him



# *The Rise of Christendom*

- Funky little teaching moment<sup>3</sup>—
  - Attila had been growing his empire, but had scrupulously avoided attacking Rome head-on
  - Emperor Theodosius II came up with the brilliant idea of trying to assassinate Attila... and *failing*...
  - In retaliation, Attila threw his forces at the Eastern Roman Empire, conquering hundreds of small cities, before Theodosius gave him a very, very large sum of gold to placate him
  - But the campaign taught Attila that Rome was weak enough that invasion was not only possible, but financially *worthwhile*
  - But the final straw that brought the Huns down on Rome was one petulant girl...



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  - **Western Emperor Valentinian III had been on relatively good terms with Attila for years**
    - He paid the Huns a large annual tribute, and even hired them as mercenaries to keep the other barbarian tribes at bay





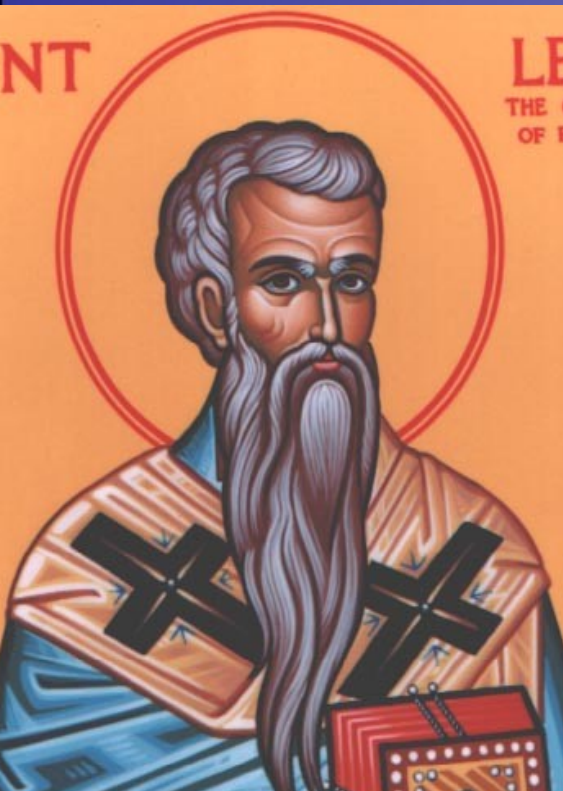
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  - Valentinian had promised his sister, Honoria, to be married to an influential senator
    - But she didn't love the man, so she came up with a sneaky plan to thwart her brother's plan—she sent a letter to Attila, asking him to help her, and sent her *ring* along with the letter
    - Attila took this as a proposal for marriage... and accepted it, demanding half of the Roman Empire as a dowry
    - When Valentinian exiled Honoria and refused to honor her proposal, Attila defended her honor by attacking Rome



# ***The Rise of Christendom***

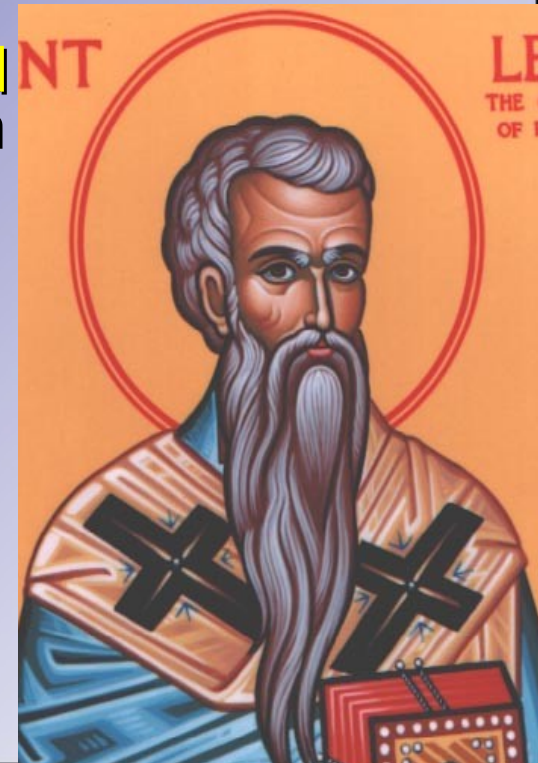
- Funky little teaching moment<sup>3</sup>—
  - Attila laid waste to the weak Western Roman Empire, working his way east through Gaul...  
...until he ran into Flavius Aetius at Châlons
  - Aetius had convinced the Visigoths under Theodoric that it was to their mutual benefit to work together against Attila
    - Attila's army of 700,000 men met Aetius' army of 300,000 and *lost* (half due to the strategic genius of Aetius, and half due to the fury of the Visigoth troops when Theodoric was killed in the battle)
    - Attila retreated, then reformed his army over the next year to march on Rome itself...  
...where he ran into Leo





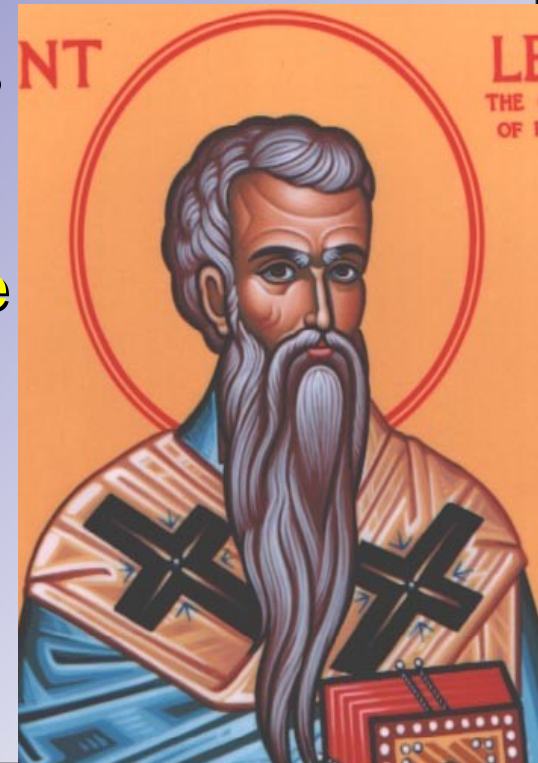
# *The Rise of Christendom*

- Funky little teaching moment<sup>4</sup>—
  - Attila's forces laid waste to Italy as they went, and Aetius couldn't get enough troops to do much more than slow him down, since the Visigoths *liked* the idea of Attila attacking Rome
  - But on the outskirts of Rome, Attila was met at night by Pope Leo, who told him that Rome was the city of God—and reminded him that Alaric had died very soon after sacking Rome in 410
  - Thus, a superstitious Attila agreed to pull his army back and negotiate peace with Valentinian without sacking Rome again



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  - Of course, it helped that Italy had been experiencing famine, and thus Attila had no provisions to keep up a prolonged siege
    - And that Leo offered him a very, very large sum of gold to placate him





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  - Ironically, Attila *still* died soon afterwards—possibly by natural causes, possibly poisoned by his most *recent* captive bride (a Gothic princess named Ildico) on their wedding night
  - Legend says that he was laid to rest in a coffin of gold, silver, and iron
    - His men dammed up the River Tisza at a remote spot, buried the coffin in the riverbed, then released the water to cover the grave
    - They then committed suicide so that no one alive would know the location of the coffin





# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- The Fall of the Roman Empire took a while  
455 The Vandals sacked Rome instead
  - Attila's ravaging of the Western Empire—though not destroying it completely—weakened Rome so much that they were ripe for the plucking, and King Genseric took advantage of it



- Among the items that they looted were the spoils of Jerusalem, brought to Titus in Rome by Vespasian, way back in 70 AD
- Pope Leo convinced Genseric not to *destroy* Rome, but the looting went on for 14 days—and was so thorough that we get our word “vandalism” from their abuse of the city and its people





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  - Believe it or not, things went downhill from here
    - A succession of emperors failed to maintain order of any kind, and Rome lost most of its outlying holdings, imploding into Italy
    - In 475, the elderly Roman general, Orestes, siezed the throne and installed his own son, Romulus Augustus, as the Emperor, in one last bid for stability for the Empire
      - But no one—not the other generals, not Constantinople, not the various barbarian tribes, *no one*—supported him



# *The Rise of Christendom*

- The Fall of the Roman Empire took a while

455

476

The *Vandals* sacked Rome instead

Odoacer was named King of Italy

- Finally disgusted with Roman Imperial rule altogether, the various barbarian tribes united under the banner of a former Roman soldier from the Germanic tribes named Odoacer
  - They killed Orestes and marched on Ravenna, forcing Romulus to step down but instead of placing Odoacer on the Imperial throne, they declared him the king of a new, independent, Italian *kingdom*
  - The Western Roman Empire had officially ceased to exist, completely taken over by the Germanic barbarians
  - And the Eastern Roman Empire began referring to itself by its more ancient name again—the *Byzantine Empire*
    - The Roman Empire had finally fallen...

