

Church History



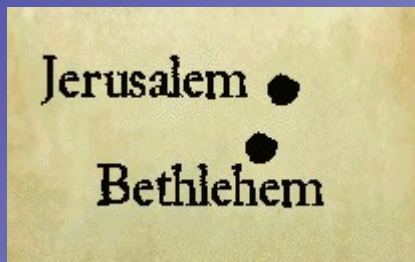
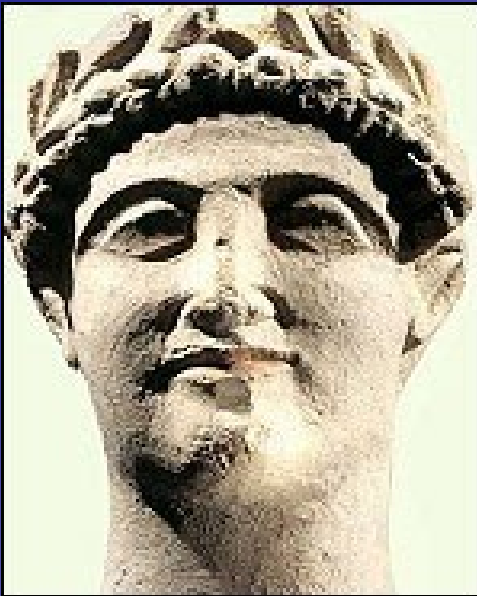
Church History

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



The Ancient Church

- So what's the timeline of the Church within the New Testament itself?
 - 6-4 BC Jesus born in Bethlehem
 - Read Matthew 2:1-3
 - Herod died c. 4-3 BC, so he would've had to have been visited by the Magi *before* then
 - Bethlehem is only 5 miles from Jerusalem (so it shouldn't have taken them long to find Him), and Jesus is called a *παιδίον* ("little child") in a house in vs. 11, rather than the *βρέφος* ("infant") that the shepherds found in a stable in Luke 2:16
 - So odds are that He would have *had* to have been born a couple of years prior to 4-3 BC



The Ancient Church

- So what's the timeline of the Church within the New Testament itself?
 - 6-4 BC Jesus born in Bethlehem
 - 28-29 Jesus begins His ministry
 - Read Luke 3:1-3
 - Tiberius began his reign in 14 AD
 - ∴ John began his ministry c. 28-29 AD
 - Read John 2:13-20
 - Herod began the reconstruction some time c. 20-22 BC
 - ∴ Jesus began His ministry c. 27-29 AD
 - Read Luke 3:23
 - If Jesus were born c. 6-4 BC, then He would be “about thirty years old” c. 27-29 AD
 - He spent the next three years discipling twelve men and ministering to thousands



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- So what's the timeline of the Church within the New Testament itself?
 - 6-4 BC Jesus born in Bethlehem
 - 28-29 Jesus begins His ministry
 - c. 33 Jesus is crucified and resurrected
- Read Matthew 27:1-2
 - Pontius Pilate was prefect over Judea from 26-36 AD, so it had to be within that window
- Read Acts 18:12
 - Junius Annaeus Gallio was proconsul in Achaia from 51-52 AD
 - Working backwards through Paul's ministry, this court case was 16-18 years after his initial conversion
 - ∴ Paul was converted (soon after Christ's crucifixion) c. 33-36 AD
- Read Luke 23:44-46
 - Note: an eclipse fell on April 3, 33 AD—the only Passover on a Friday within that window of opportunity



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28-29 Jesus begins His ministry

c. 33 Jesus is crucified and resurrected

33-36 the Disciples become the Apostles

- Read Acts 2:2-4

- The Holy Spirit comes upon the whole assembly on Pentecost

- Peter gives his first sermon and kick-starts the Church in Acts 2:14-47, just as Jesus foretold in Matthew 16:18

- Note: Matthew 16:18 is the first time that the word ἐκκλησία (“called out assembly”) is used—i.e.; the Church



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- Read Acts 2:2-4

- Read Acts 6:1-5

- The Church has grown enough that the Apostles can no longer effectively manage the ministry, so they appoint men called Deacons to help out (from the word *διάκονος*, meaning “servant”)

- Note that the names of the first Deacons are all *Greek* names



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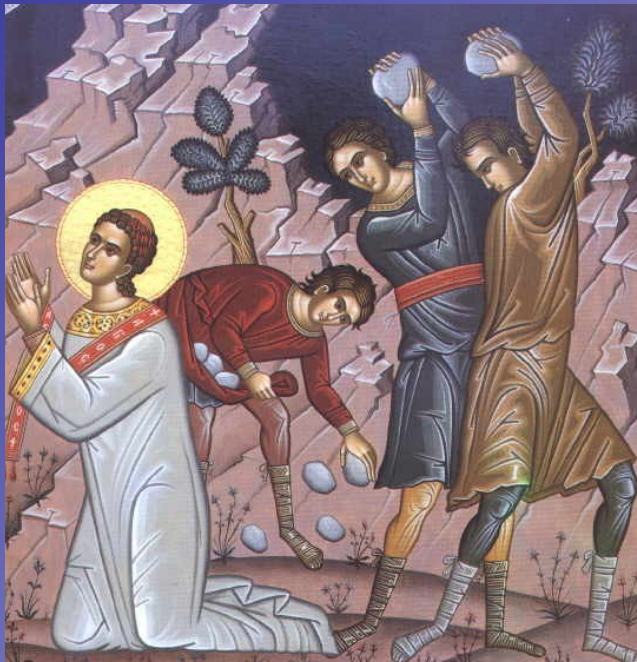
- Read Acts 2:2-4

- Read Acts 6:1-5

- Glance at the rest of Acts 6-7

- Stephen becomes the first martyr in 7:57-60 at the hands of the Sanhedrin (an assembly of twenty-three judges appointed in each city in Israel)

- Note: The first sentence in 8:1 tells us that a young Pharisee named Saul of Tarsus (i.e.; Paul) was there, giving approval



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- **Read Acts 8:1-4**

- Ironically, Saul's persecution of the Church actually *spreads* the Church beyond the confines of Jerusalem

- Even through his *antagonism*, at the very *beginning*, Saul is being used by God to grow His Church



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- Read Acts 8:1-4

- **Glance at Acts 8**

- Can Samaritans (i.e.; only *pseudo-Jews*) actually become Christians?

- Can God-fearing Gentiles like the Ethiopian eunuch actually become Christian?

- **Note:** The eunuch went back and started a church that continues to this day—the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (“*tewahedo*” means “unified” in Ge’ez)



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- Can Samaritans (i.e.; only *pseudo-Jews*) actually become Christians?

- Can God-fearing Gentiles like the Ethiopian eunuch actually become Christian?

- **Can God-fearing, *uncircumcised Romans* like the centurion actually become Christian?**

- What is the message of the vision God gave Peter in Acts 10:11-16?



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- Read Acts 8:1-4

- Glance at Acts 8

- **Glance at Acts 9**

- Saul receives a vision from Jesus while on the road to Damascus and is blinded. Upon his healing by Ananias, he is baptized into faith in Christ

- Can an anti-Church *persecuter* like Saul *really* become Christian?

- Who was willing to trust Saul enough to support and disciple him?



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 - 33-36 **the Disciples become the Apostles**
 - Read Acts 2:2-4
 - Read Acts 6:1-5
 - Glance at the rest of Acts 6-7
 - Read Acts 8:1-4
 - Glance at Acts 8
 - Glance at Acts 9
 - **Read Acts 11:1-2**
 - Why are the other Christians so *upset* by Peter's actions?
 - Remember, Christianity is another sect of *Judaism* (like the Pharisees or the Essenes), right?
 - But then Peter told them the whole story of Acts 10...



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- Glance at Acts 9

- Read Acts 11:1-2

- **Read Acts 11:18-26**

- *Χριστιανός*—from *Χριστός*, which is itself simply the Greek word for *מָשִׁיחַ* (*Mašiah* or “anointed one”), right?

- What is so *important* about this?

- So what were they called *before* that?

- What precedent(s) seems to be getting set here at the beginning?

