

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



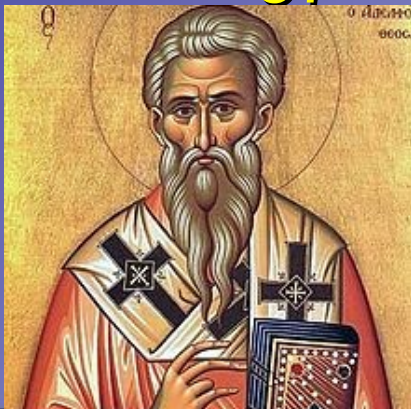
The Ancient Church

- So what's the timeline of the Church within the New Testament itself?
 - 6-4 BC Jesus born in Bethlehem
 - 28-29 Jesus begins His ministry
 - c. 33 Jesus is crucified and resurrected
 - 33-36 the Disciples become the Apostles
 - 44 the first Apostle (James) is martyred
 - 44-49 Barnabas and Saul are commissioned
 - 47 Thomas goes east and plants churches
 - 49 Claudius expels all Jews from Rome
 - 50 the Council of Jerusalem is held
 - 50-53 Paul and Barnabas are sent out again
 - 54 Three more Apostles are martyred (Philip, Bartholomew, and Andrew)



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 - 54 Three more Apostles are martyred
 - 57 Paul returns to Jerusalem (with a collection for the church there)
- Read Acts 21:18-25
 - How did James handle this situation?
 - Remember—this is still less than 25 years after the Resurrection, so things are still in flux



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- Read Acts 21:18-25
- Glance at Acts 21:26-35
 - Paul is arrested in Jerusalem, leading ultimately to his ministry to and death in Rome



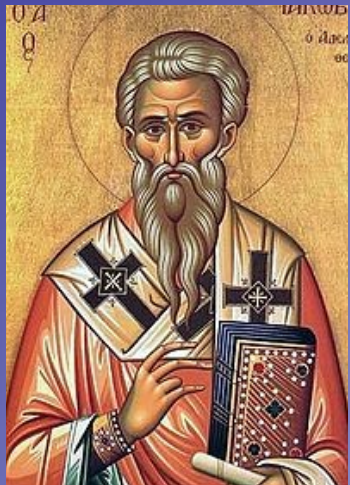
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 - 57 Paul returns to Jerusalem
 - 60 Paul appeals to Emperor Nero in Rome
 - As a result, even some in Caesar's own household become Christians (see Philippians 4:22)
 - Note: Matthew is killed with an axe while preaching in Ethiopia



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 - 62 James is stoned to death in Jerusalem under orders of the High Priest Ananias—but the charges are so flimsy and James is so well-liked by the general populace that Ananias is deposed as a result



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- Note: tradition says that a disciple named Thaddeus evangelized King Abgar V in Osroene, making it the first Christian kingdom



The Ancient Church

- So what's the timeline of the Church within the New Testament itself?



64

Nero allows Rome to burn

- This way, he can *re-build his* version of it
 - He blames the Christians as scapegoats for the destruction



The Ancient Church

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64

Nero allows Rome to burn

- Paul is beheaded, Peter is crucified (upside-down), and multitudes of Christians die *horribly* for four years



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - It was at this point in history that the Church began using its first major symbol—a stylized fish called an *ichthus* (ἰχθύς)... but *why* a *fish*?
 - 1) It was an acrostic—

ι	for ἰησους (“Jesus”)
χ	for χριστος (“Christ”)
θ	for θεος (“God”)
υ	for υιος (“Son”)
ς	for σoter (“Saviour”)



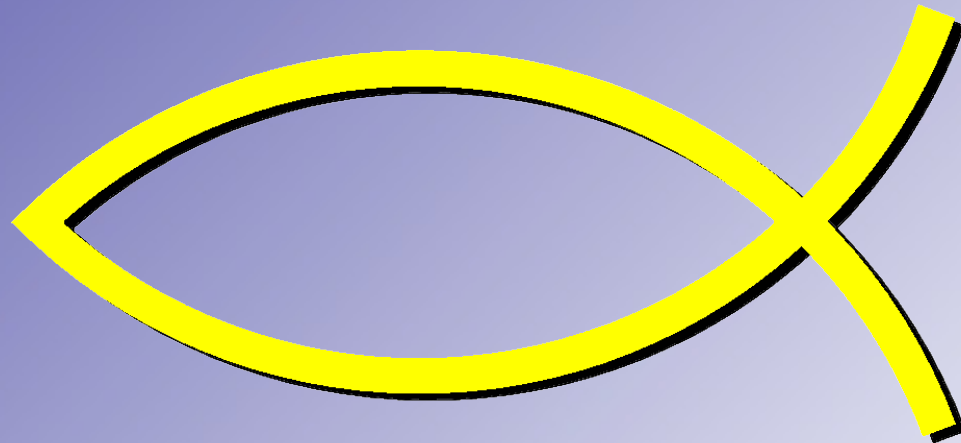
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 - 2) It was a “password” to use to safely recognize other Christians
 - If you thought someone else *might* be a brother, it was dangerous to just publicly go up and ask him



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 - 1) It was an acrostic
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 - If you thought someone else *might* be a brother, it was dangerous to just publicly go up and ask him, so you'd draw a simple, innocuous arc in the dirt—and if he was a *Christian*, he'd *finish* it—



- That way, everyone stayed alive...



The Ancient Church

- So what's the timeline of the Church within the New Testament itself?
 - 65 Jude and Simon (the Zealots) die together in Beirut—Jude is crucified and Simon is sawed in half



The Ancient Church

- So what's the timeline of the Church within the New Testament itself?
 - 65 Jude and Simon (the Zealots) die
 - 66 the Sicarii mount a guerilla war against the Romans in Judea
 - They strike from King Herod's old fortress atop Mount Masada, on the shores of the Dead Sea, and gain followers



The Ancient Church

- So what's the timeline of the Church within the New Testament itself?

65

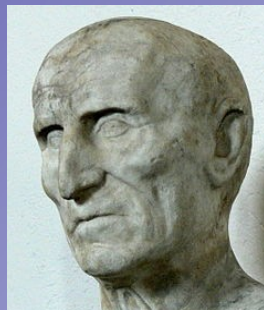
66

68

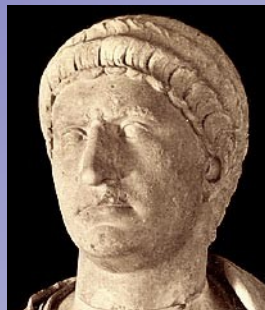
Jude and Simon (the Zealots) die
the Sicarii mount a guerilla war against
the Romans in Judea

a very unpopular Nero finally dies

- Too wimpy to commit suicide as he had planned, he forces his slave to kill him
- Christian persecution by Rome finally lightens up as they deal with internal problems
 - Rome goes through four emperors over the next calendar year—



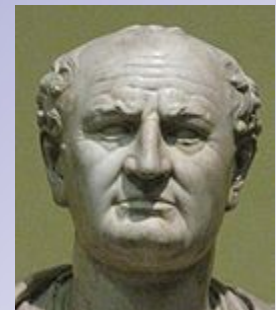
Galba



Otho



Vitellius



Vespasian



The Ancient Church

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66 the Sicarii mount a guerilla war against the Romans in Judea
68 a very unpopular Nero finally dies
70 sensing weakness in Rome, the Sicarii and the Zealots start a civil war in Judea to expel the Roman occupation

- Roman general Titus lays siege to Jerusalem and destroys the Temple

- More than one million people die, and 97 thousand are taken captive and enslaved by Rome



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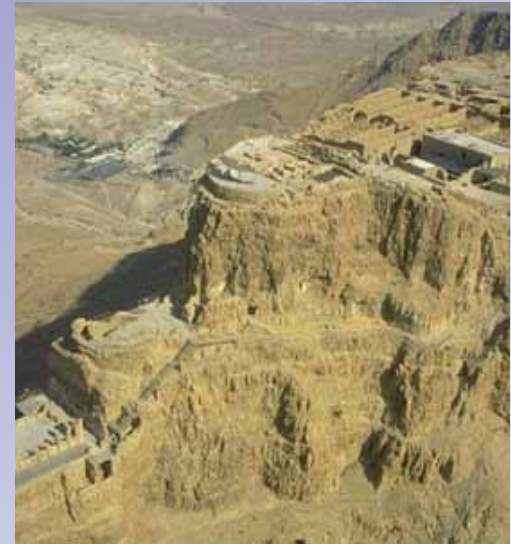
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- Roman general Titus lays siege to Jerusalem and destroys the Temple
 - How would this have affected Judaism in general and the early Church in particular?
 - Titus said of his victory: "There is no merit in vanquishing people who have been forsaken by their own God..."



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 - Roman general Titus lays siege to Jerusalem and destroys the Temple
 - Note: thousands of refugees fled to the wilderness and joined the Sicarii at Masada



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72

- Thomas is murdered in India
 - In Madras, India, King Misdeus becomes infuriated when Thomas converts his wife and whole family to Christianity
 - The king has his soldiers spear Thomas to death
 - Misdeus' son, Juzanes, becomes the first deacon of the church in Madras



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 - 72 Thomas is murdered in India
 - 72-73 Roman general Flavius Silva lays siege to Masada and finally takes it
- The Romans spend months by the Dead Sea, building an earthen ramp up to the fortress so that they can batter through the walls
 - Inside, they find that that Sicarii have all killed themselves rather than be captured by the Romans—the Revolution is over



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 - 85 Jewish council meets at Yavne (*Jamnia*)
 - The council—led by Rabbi Johanan ben Zakai—decides two crucial issues:
 - 1) Officially closes the canon of the Hebrew Scriptures
 - 2) Officially condemnes any Jew who claims that the Messiah has already come
 - Christians are thus “excommunicated”



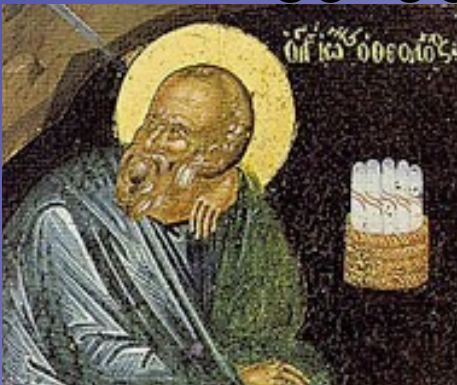
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 - 85 Jewish council meets at Yavne (*Jamnia*)
 - 89 -96 Domitian becomes emperor of Rome
 - He declares himself “censor for life” (and thus controls the public morals of Rome)
 - Christians undergo new persecution as “atheists” (since they do not believe in the Roman gods)



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- Under Domitian's reign, James the son of Alphaeus is clubbed to death in Egypt, and a young Polycarp becomes John's disciple while he is in exile on Patmos
 - Roughly 100 AD, John writes down his Revelation (the Bible's final book)



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- So now that we're at the end of the Biblical record, how would you summarize what's gone on so far in the history of the Church?

