

Church History



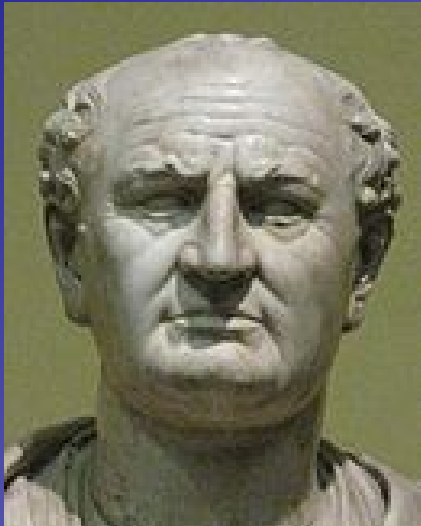
Church History

- *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



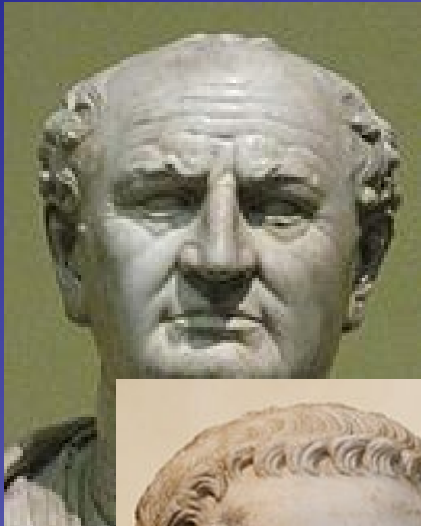
The Ancient Church

- How does the Church grow and change after the death of the final Apostle?
95-100 The Church continues to be (re)defined
 - Vespasian had instituted the Fiscus Iudaicus after the destruction of the Temple (in 70 AD)
 - It required all Jews in the Empire to pay a tax to support the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus on Capitol Hill in Rome
 - Why would he do that? And how would that have gone over?



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 - Vespasian had instituted the Fiscus Iudaicus after the destruction of the Temple (in 70 AD)
 - Domitian had expanded the tax to people *suspected* of being Jews (or who even *lived* like Jews)
 - Why would *he* do that? And how would *that* have gone over?
 - (Remember: Domitian had named himself “censor for life” for Rome back in 85)



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- In 96, Nerva modified the Fiscus Iudaicus to disinclude Christians—focusing only on those who *actively* practised Judaism
 - Why would *he* do that? And how would *that* have gone over?
 - This is the first official Roman statement that suggested Christianity was a separate religious system
 - But it wasn't officially *recognized* as such until 313 and the Edict of Milan



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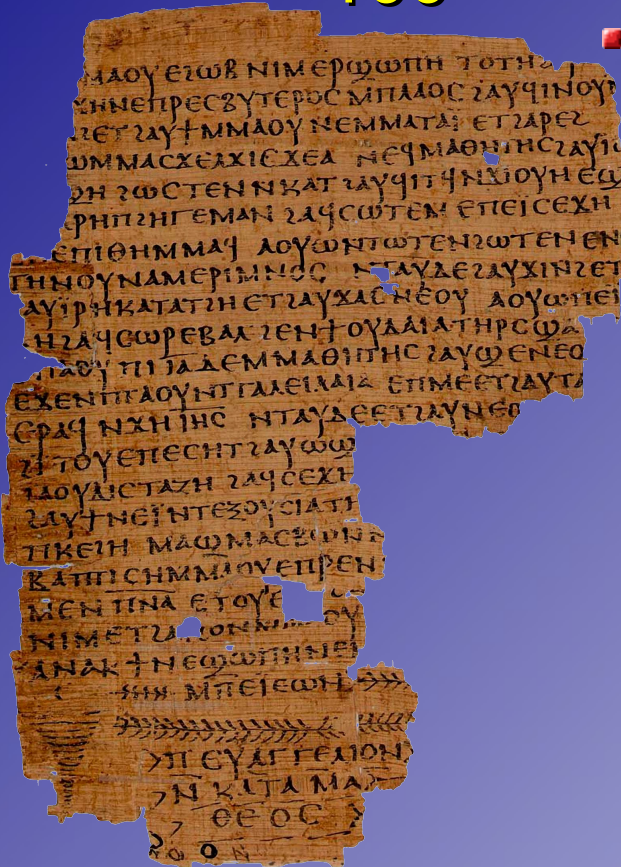
- How does the Church grow and change after the death of the final Apostle?

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100- “Creative” writings flourish

- The Apocryphon (“hidden writing”) of James, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, the Gospel of James, the Gospel of Thomas, the Secret Gospel of Mark, the Epistle of Barnabas, etc.

- (not to be confused with the Gospel of Barnabas, written in the 5th century)

- (which is not to be confused with the Gospel of Barnabas that was written in the 14th century by a Muslim writer, swiping the earlier book's title in an attempt to be retroactively acceptable to Christians)



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- (there was even an *Acts of Paul and Thecla*, written about a young woman who was supposedly converted by Paul and went through a series of “Perils of Pauline”-type adventures, saved each time by miraculous acts of God)

- She was an absolute fabrication, but was venerated as a saint for centuries
- She is still venerated by the Eastern Orthodox Church, with nunneries and societies named after her—and the Catholic Church still holds a feast day for her every September 23



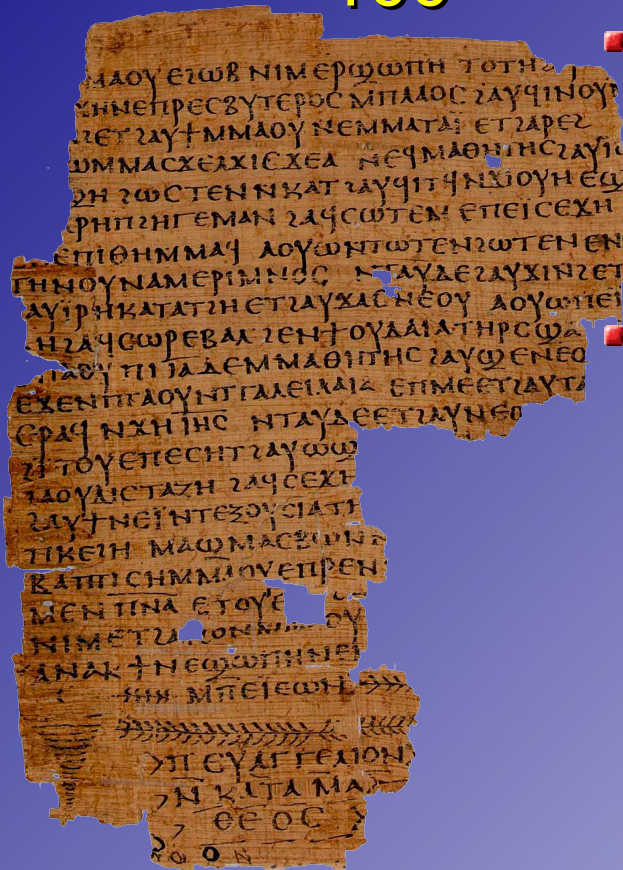
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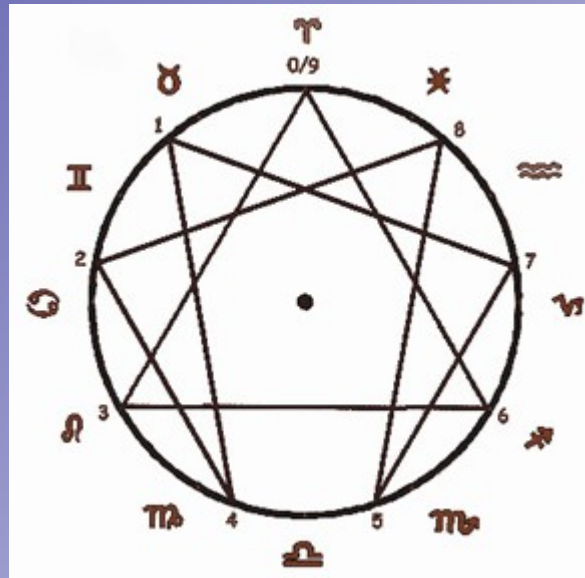
- The Apocryphon (“hidden writing”) of James, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, the Gospel of James, the Gospel of Thomas, the Secret Gospel of Mark, the Epistle of Barnabas, etc.

- Why do all of these writings start popping up at this point? And why are they all pretending to have been written years earlier, by famous Christians?



The Ancient Church

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Many of these “new” gospels and epistles offer their readers a new and secret (i.e.; “juicy”) knowledge that puts them “in the know.”
 - These are often referred to as *gnostic* gospels (from the Greek word, γνῶσις or “*gnōsis*,” meaning “knowledge”)—a name given to them by Irenaeus, bishop of Lyon and a disciple of Polycarp.



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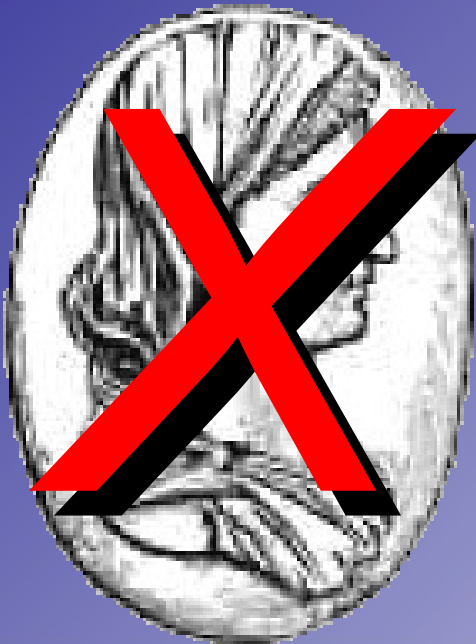
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 - Though Marcion went the *opposite* direction and claimed that the Jewish god of the Old Testament is in *opposition* to the “new” god, Jesus
 - Jesus was the *antithesis* to YAHWEH and *perfect*, so He *couldn't* have been born like a regular *person*, or have been a fleshly part of YAHWEH's sinful Creation



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 - Though Marcion went the *opposite* direction and claimed that the Jewish god of the Old Testament is in *opposition* to the “new” god, Jesus
 - Origen's defense *against* Marcion (declaring the Old Testament a *Christian* book) ironically still served to alienate the Church even more from Judaism



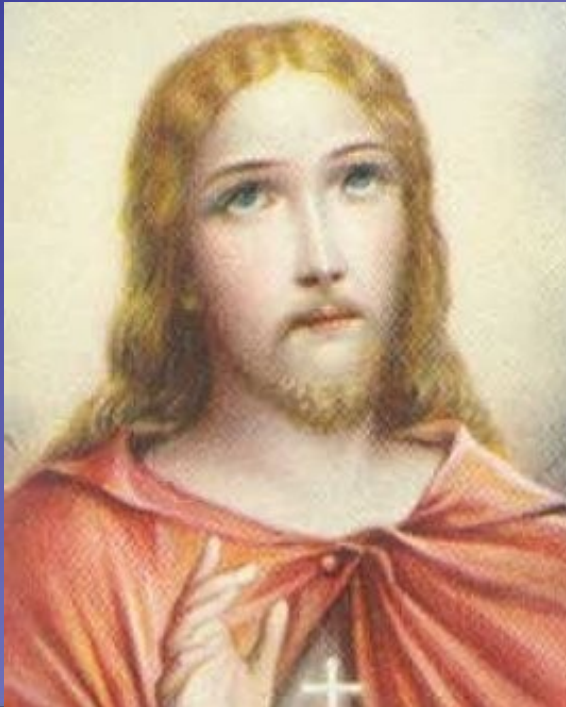
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 - Some personified knowledge or secret wisdom (σοφία or “*sophia*”) into a goddess in her own right
 - Wisdom and knowledge are thus “good,” and the mundane and physical are thus “bad”
 - Ironically, that made *Satan* into a hero of the faith, since he introduced Eve and Adam to the Tree of Knowledge



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