# **Church History**



## Church History

- Introduction to Church History
- The Ancient Church
- The Rise of Christendom
- The Early Middle Ages
- The Age of Crusades
- The Renaissance
- Conquest and Reformation
- The Age of Enlightenment
- The Age of Revolution
- The Modern Age
- The Postmodern Age

- AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- AD 4th-5th centuries
- AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
- AD 11th-13th centuries
- AD 14th-15th centuries
- AD 16th century
- AD 17th-18th centuries
- AD 19th century
- AD 20th century
- AD 21st century



The Second Century saw the beginnings of power struggles with Rome, and the endings of power struggles with Judaism 117
Hadrian becomes emperor after Trajan He's a strong and ethical leader who expands the borders of Rome Note, however, that Rome ends halfway up the island of Britain



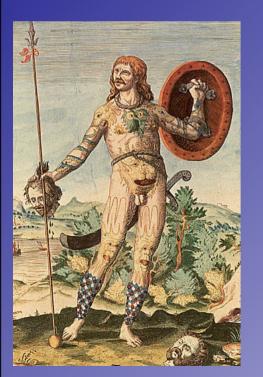
Publius Aelius Traianus Hadrianus Augustus (aka "Hadrian")





Funky little teaching moment—
Rome was at its military height at the beginning of the Second Century, and only two people groups really refused to be conquered—the Picts and the Jews

The Picts (from the Latin "picti," or "painted ones") were a savage tribe of headhunters who lived in what is now called Scotland (Ironically, "Scotland" was named after the Scoti, the Irish Celts who later raided the coastline so successfully that they eventually supplanted the Picts)

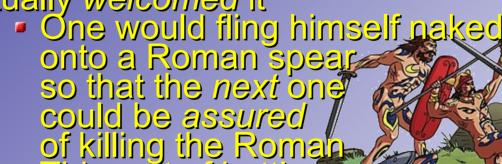




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The Picts worshipped death and darkness, and so not only were they not afraid to die, but they actually welcomed it



of killing the Roman

This sort of battle
by attrition completely
snocked the Romans
and actually frightened them



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So Hadrian built a wall across the entire island in 122 and declared that "here ends Rome," abandoning Scotland to the savages
Remnants of Fladrian's Wall can still be seen today





Funky little teaching moment—
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The Jews were another matter—they refused to let go of their Judaism
They stood against Rome and Christianity
In 120, Rabbi Tarfon (from Jamnia) called on all synagogues to burn every scrap of Christian writing they could find (even though that would require burning the name of God that's written in them)
Polycarp responded in his Letter to the Philippians by saying, "Everyone who does not confess that Jesus Christ has

come in the flesh is an antichrist, and whoever does not confess the testimony of the cross is from the devil..."



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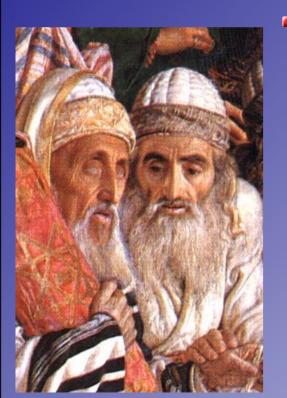
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Hadrian visited the ruins of Jerusalem, which had been burned by Titus in 70 AD
He decided to rebuild it as a Roman

outpost for his troops, rechristening it, "Aelia Capitolina" (named after himself

and Jupiter)

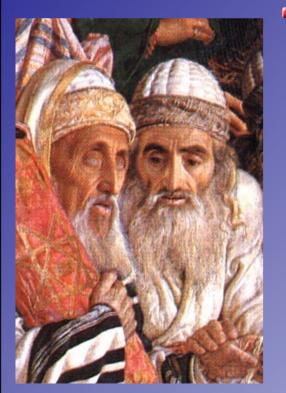
He built a temple to Venus on top of the tomb of Christ to thwart Christian worship, and a temple to Jupiter on top of the ruins of Herod's Temple to thwart Jewish worship

How well did that go over?



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Hadrian visited the ruins of Jerusalem, which had been burned by Titus in 70 AD
Note: it's telling that, according to rabbinic tradition, Hadrian had planned to rebuild Jerusalem and its Temple for the Jews, but then a mean-spirited Samaritan convinced him to do otherwise...





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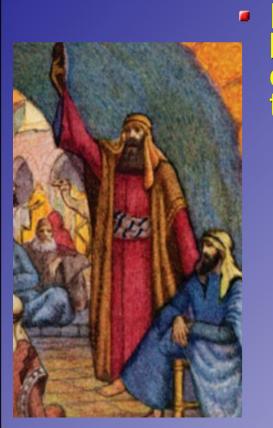
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In 132, the Jews again rebelled against Rome, led by Simon bar Kokhba (whom many rabbis declared the true Messiah... ironically, breaking their own rule from the Council of Jamnia)

Bar Kokhba took the title Nasi Israel ("prince of Israel" and announced a new "Era of the redemption of Israel," even minting his own

new coins

Rome was surprised, and it took time to call in more troops and root out the leadership (think Vietnam)—so Bar Kokhba ended up ruling for two and a half years



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But Hadrian decided to end the Jewish problem once and for all

580,000 Jews were killed, and over 1000

towns were destroyed

The study of the Torah was prohibited (and one was ceremonially burned on the Temple mount), and Jewish scholars were executed Jews were forbidden to enter Jerusalem, and Judea was officially renamed "Syria Palæstina" (after the Philistines)



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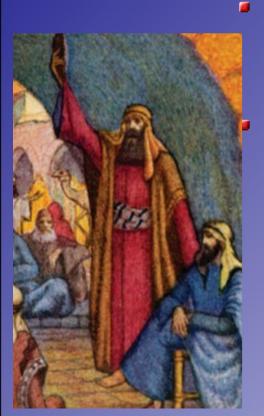
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And, one more time, the Jews were forcibly dispersed from their own homeland. There is no significant Jewish presence in Judea from 135 to 1948—that's 1,813 years...
This essentially breaks apart any central power structure for Judaism, and removes them from the board in terms of their

persecution of Christianity



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Hadrian becomes emperor after Trajan So how does all of this set the stage for Christianity in the Second Century—or in the Twenty-First Century?





