

# ***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 Rise of Christendom

## ■ The Constantinian Line 337

Constantine died at the age of 65

■ Prior to this, he commissioned 50 Bibles from Eusebius to be constructed and delivered to the church he founded in Constantinople in 330 (now known as the Church of the Holy Apostles)

■ This is the first time that we know of where the whole Bible as we know it was collated and bound together

■ This is also probably the source of the collection now known as the Codex Sinaiticus—one of the best, most complete copies of the Greek New (and Old) Testament

■ The leaves of the Codex Sinaiticus were rediscovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century at a monastery on Mount Sinai—supposedly, in a trash bin about to be burned



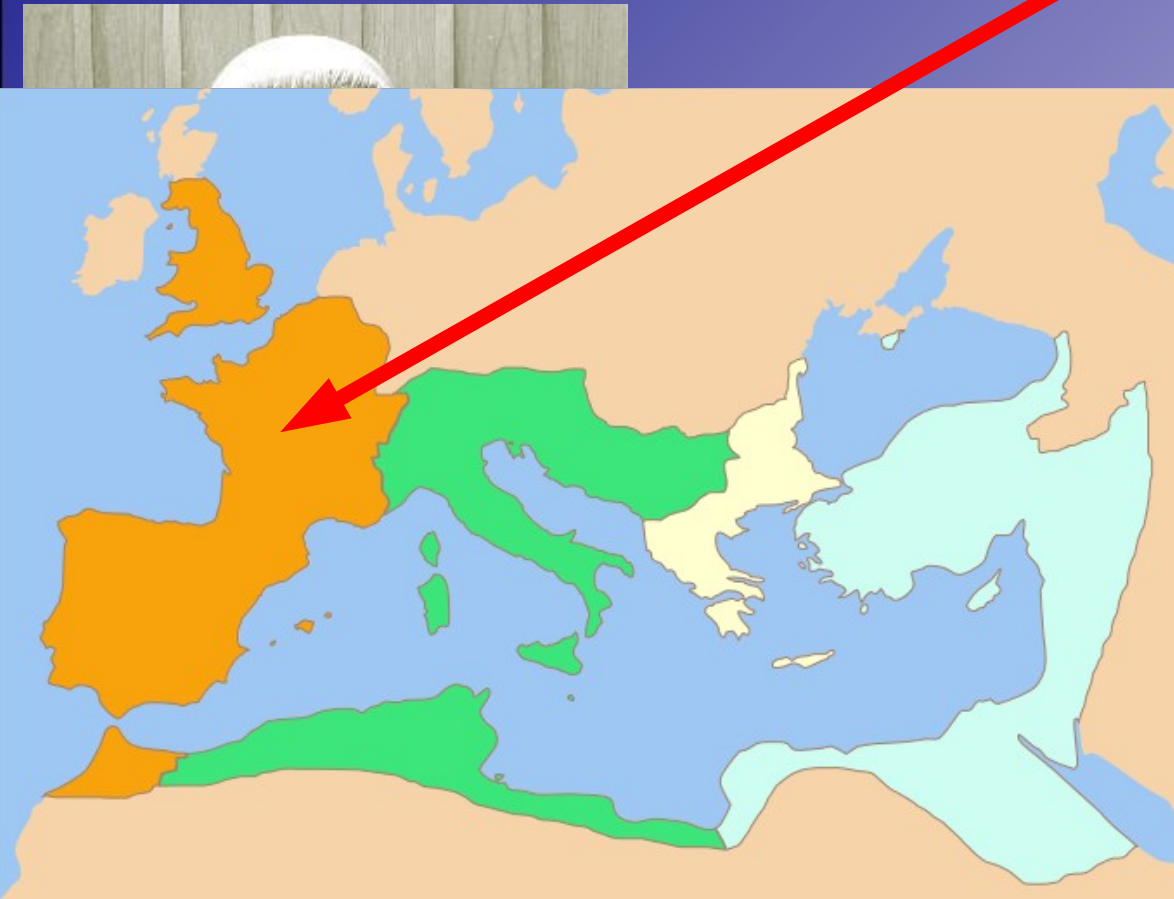
# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- **The Constantinian Line**

337

Constantine died at the age of 65

- Among other factors, Constantine's death left the world in a state of flux
  - He divided his empire up between his sons Constantine II





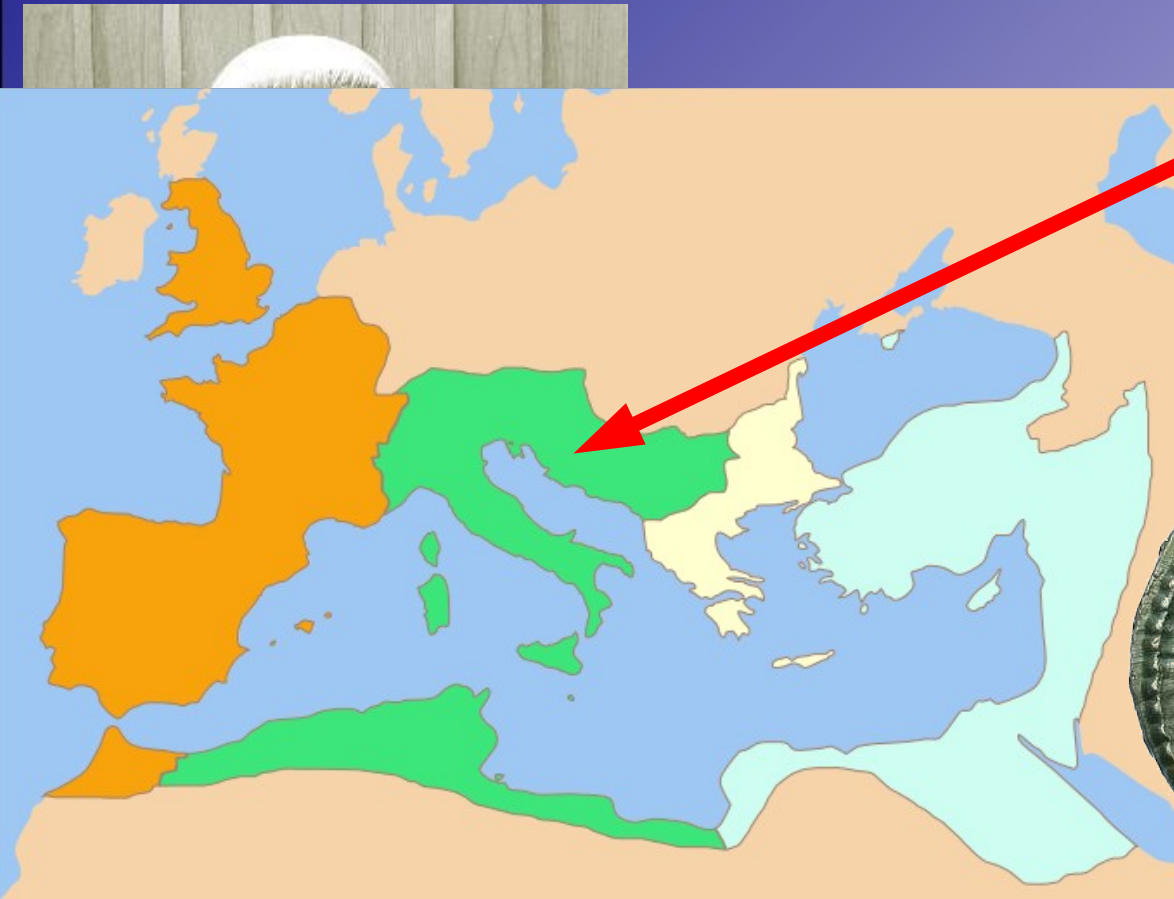
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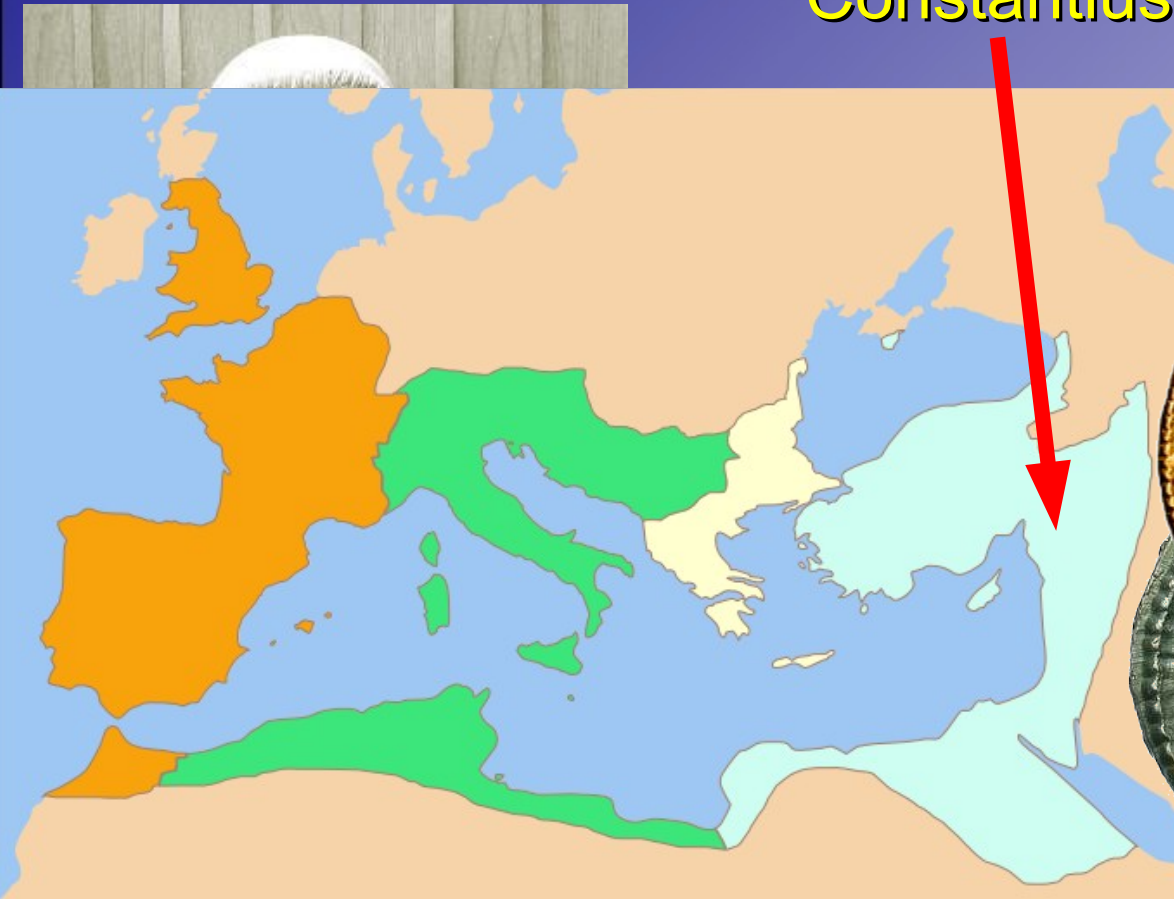
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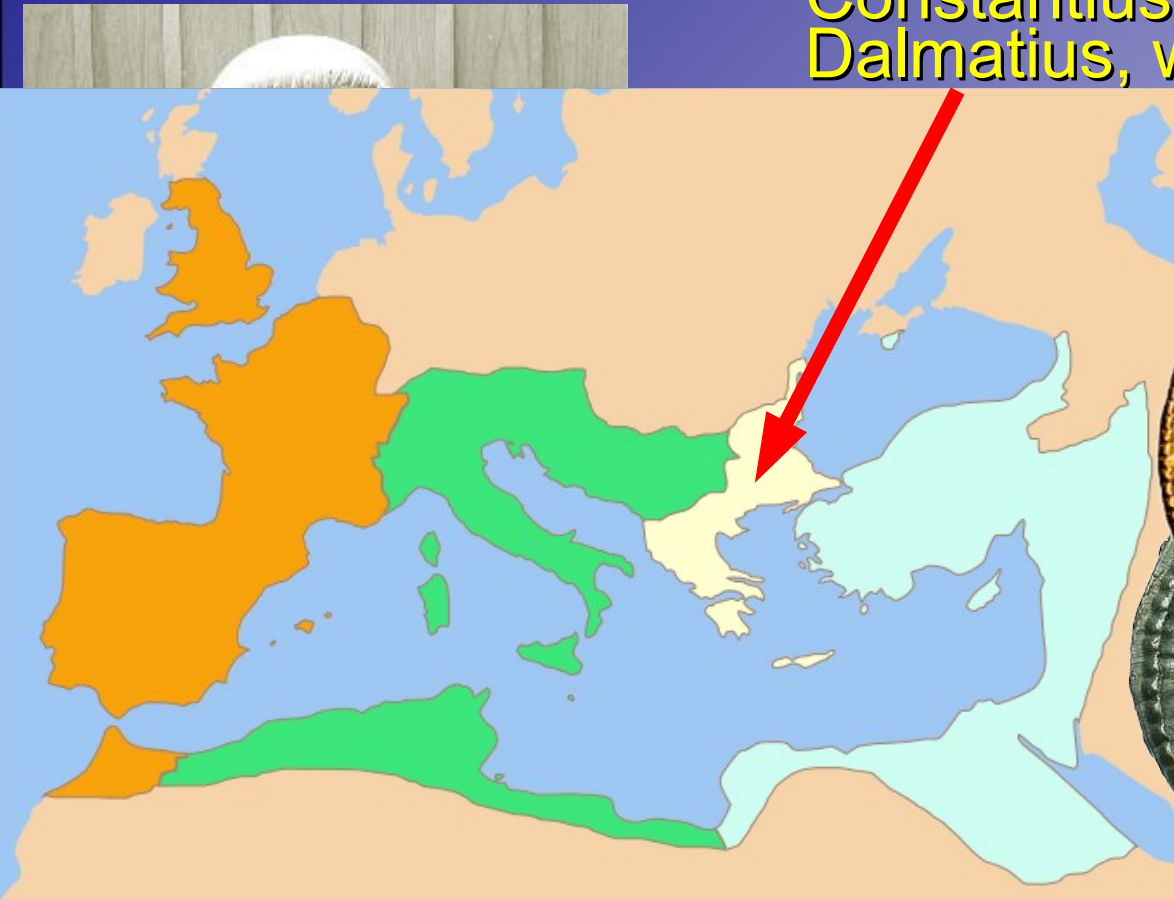
- **The Constantinian Line**

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Constantine died at the age of 65

- Among other factors, Constantine's death left the world in a state of flux

- He divided his empire up between his sons Constantine II, Constans I, and Constantius II, and his nephew Dalmatius, who died a few months later under mysterious circumstances





# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- **The Constantinian Line**

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- Among other factors, Constantine's death left the world in a state of flux
  - He divided his empire up
  - Dalmatius' territory was then divided between Constans and Constantius with Constantine II serving as guardian over both



# *The Rise of Christendom*

## ▪ The Constantinian Line

337

Constantine died at the age of 65

- Among other factors, Constantine's death left the world in a state of flux
- There was *constant* warfare on all fronts
  - Vandals and Franks in Gaul
  - Sarmatians and Alemanni in Pannonia
  - Persians in Asia Minor

- In fact, the Persians, under Shapur II, invaded the Christian kingdom of Armenia and attempted to force them to accept Zoroastrianism as their religion—torturing thousands in the process
- But Constantius eventually drove the Persians back out of Armenia after several years of hard fighting





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  - Constantine II even decided to invade Italy because he didn't appreciate Constans gaining Dalmatius' lands

but Constans repelled his invasion, and Constantine himself died in the battle (other accounts suggest that Constans *goaded* him into fighting, then had him assassinated)



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but Constans repelled his invasion, and Constantine himself died in the battle leaving 17-year-old Constans in charge of two-thirds of the Roman Empire





# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- **The Constantinian Line**

337

Constantine died at the age of 65

340

Constans ruled two-thirds of the Empire

343

**Constans and Constantius began to chafe**

- **Constans became more and more powerful, and more and more corrupt**
  - He hired barbarians as his personal guard, over the Roman Praetorians, and allowed them free reign over his people to demonstrate his power—as one commentator put it, “he has invaded his own empire”
  - He also flagrantly displayed his homosexuality with a constant stream of favorite lovers in court



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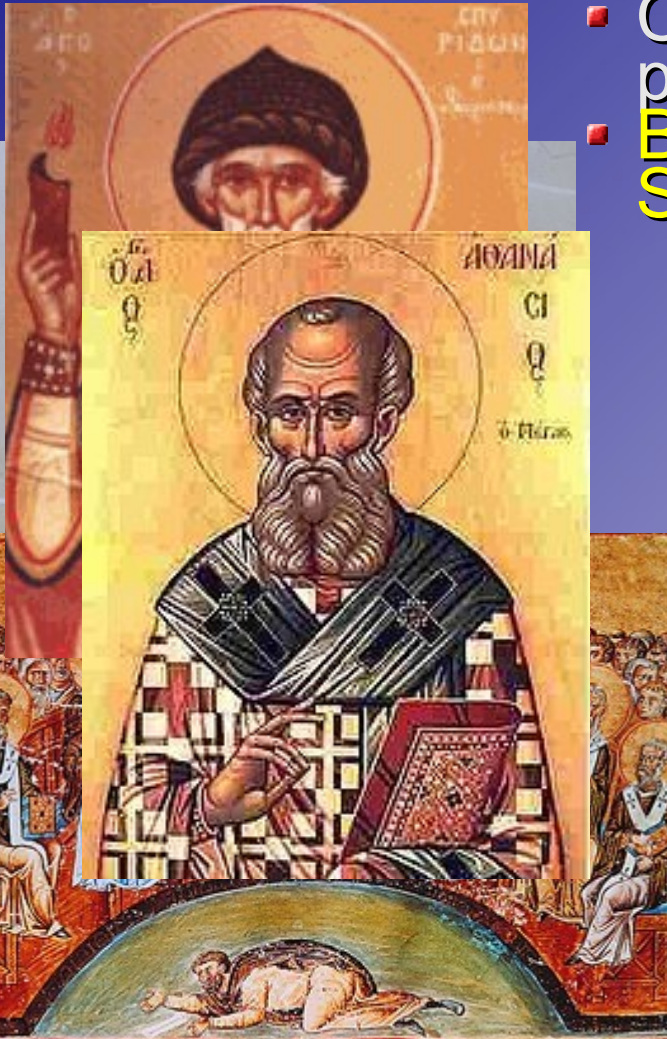
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Constans ruled two-thirds of the Empire

343

Constans and Constantius began to chafe

- Constans became more and more powerful, and more and more corrupt
- But he also called together the Council of Sardica to deal with Arianism again
  - Constans supported *orthodoxy*, and recalled Athanasius from his exile (Constantine I had exiled him in 327)
  - Constantius supported *Arianism*, and commanded that Athanasius and anyone *following* him should be summarily put to death
  - Instead of *settling* the Arian dispute, the Council of Sardica actually served to officially put Christians *at war* with one another
  - FYI—Athanasius was nonetheless welcomed warmly by his bishopric upon his return to Alexandria





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**Magnentius took over**

- Sick of Constans' excesses and cruelty, Praetorian captain, Magnentius, took over

- Constans fled, but was soon assassinated in Gaul—because *nobody liked him*

- But *most* people liked Magnentius, since he was a war hero in Gaul and consistently tolerant toward *all* ethnicities and religions—including the pagans



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- Sick of Constans' excesses and cruelty, Praetorian captain, Magnentius, took over
- **Constantius turned back from his war against Persia to attack Magnentius finally pushing him back to southern Gaul where Magnentius was finally forced to commit suicide in 353**





# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- **The Constantinian Line**

- 337 Constantine died at the age of 65
- 340 Constans ruled two-thirds of the Empire
- 343 Constans and Constantius began to chafe
- 350 Magnentius took over
- 353 Constantius now ruled the *whole* Empire
  - He named Claudius Silvanus military governor of Gaul, then moved East to

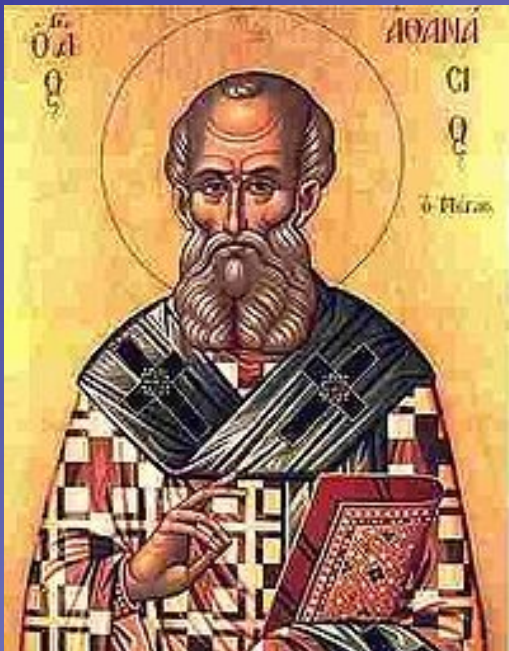
deal with Shapur II again

- He also *again* exiled Athanasius, who fled to a succession of homes and monasteries in Upper Egypt to hide



# ***The Rise of Christendom***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - As a result, Athanasius was able to write several books—including *The History of the Arians*, in which he equated Constantius with the Antichrist
    - “After all these things, and now that the impiety has reached such a pitch of audacity, who will any longer venture to call this [Constantius] a Christian, and not rather the image of Antichrist? For what mark of Antichrist is yet wanting? How can he in any way fail to be regarded as that one?”
    - Thus, Bishop Athanasius and the emperor officially anathematized each other





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deal with Shapur II again

- Constantius began an empire-wide purge of all anti-Arians, while he dealt with Shapur II

- The supposedly “Christian” emperor of Rome institutionalized the killing of other [“heretical”] Christians —what *precedent* did this set?



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- deal with Shapur II again
- Constantius began an empire-wide purge of all anti-Arians, while he dealt with Shapur II
- **He also had Silvanus crack down on the growing presence of Manicheism in Gaul—which continued to grow in size and strength**
  - There was even a *monastery* in Rome





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- 355 **Silvanus declared himself Emperor in Gaul**
  - He was quickly killed by another general

but it forced Constantius to significantly reduce his persecution of orthodox Christians to deal with the issue

- Constantius had Silvanus replaced in Gaul by his cousin, Julian—the last of the Constantinian line



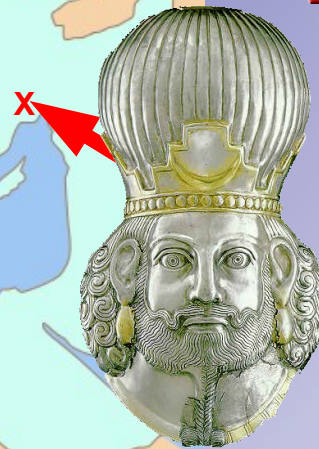
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- 353 Constantius now ruled the *whole* Empire
- 355 Silvanus declared himself Emperor in Gaul
- 360 **Julian declared himself Emperor in Gaul**

- Before Constantius could turn back from Shapur II to attack Julian, he fell ill and died in Cilicia

- To avoid more civil war, Constantius declared Julian to be his lawful heir to rule the whole Roman Empire





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- 360 Julian declared himself Emperor in Gaul

- Julian—though trained as a theologian under Eusebius—had renounced his Christian faith in 350 to become a follower of Helios, the Sun god (like his paternal grandfather, Constantius I)
  - As emperor, he re-installed the Sol Invictus cult in Rome, supported paganism, and oppressed Christianity
  - He thus became known in history as “Julian the Apostate”



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- At the far end of the known world, the Rouran Empire was expanding, breaking the strength of the Eastern Jin in China and driving barbarian tribes like the Huns westward, toward Rome...

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