

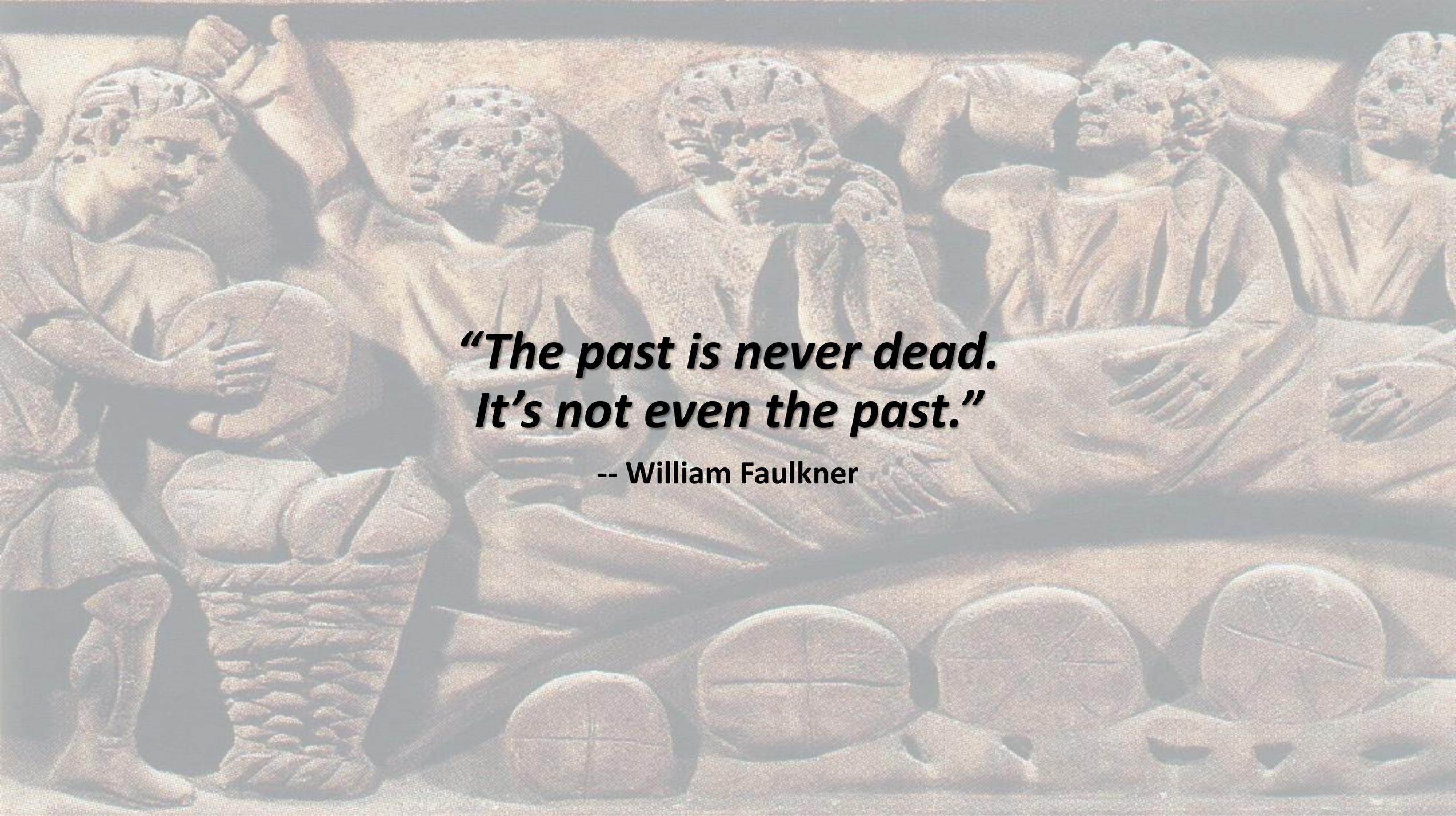
**A 6-PART STUDY OF CHURCH HISTORY  
PRESENTED BY AL MCCAULEY**

# **THE CHURCH THROUGH THE AGES**



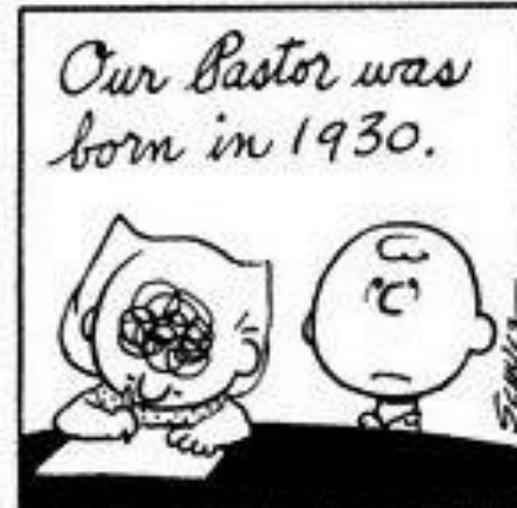
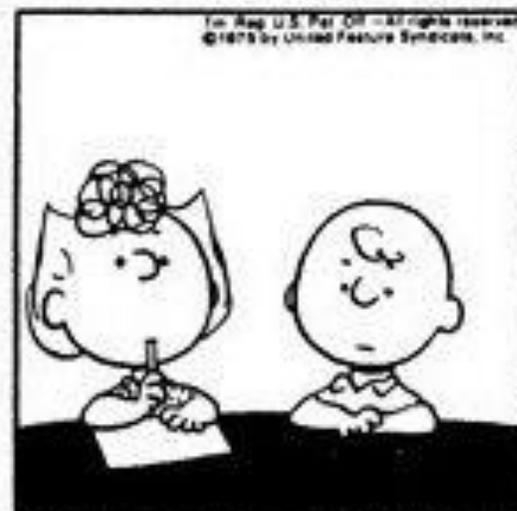
**The Early Church (33-476 A.D.)**

**The First Christians: The Age of Apostles and Martyrs**



***“The past is never dead.  
It’s not even the past.”***

**-- William Faulkner**



# Why Study Church History?

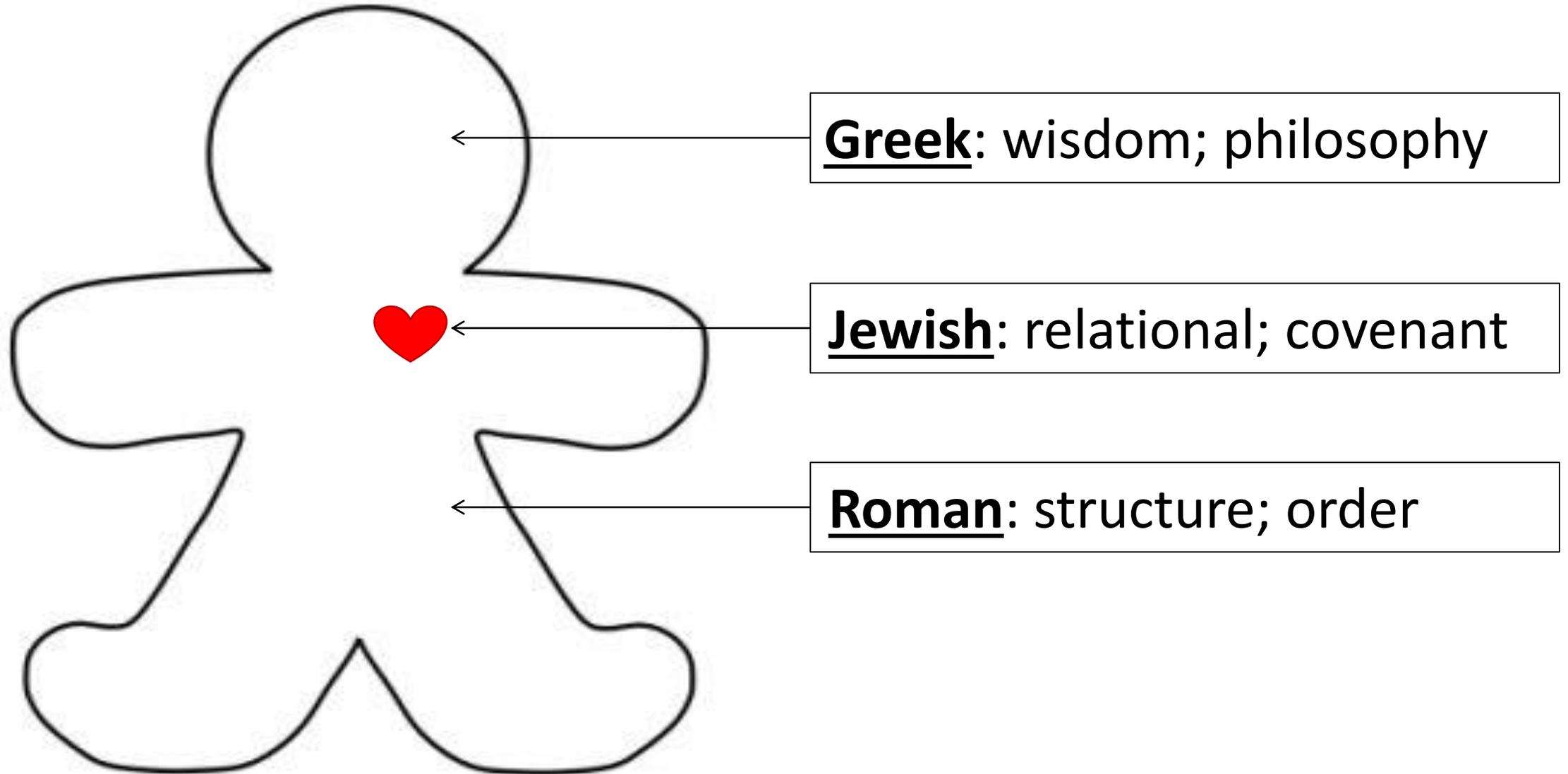
**Liberation** – from self-centeredness and pessimism to see the long view

**Appreciation** – in how God continually works His will through the life of the Church

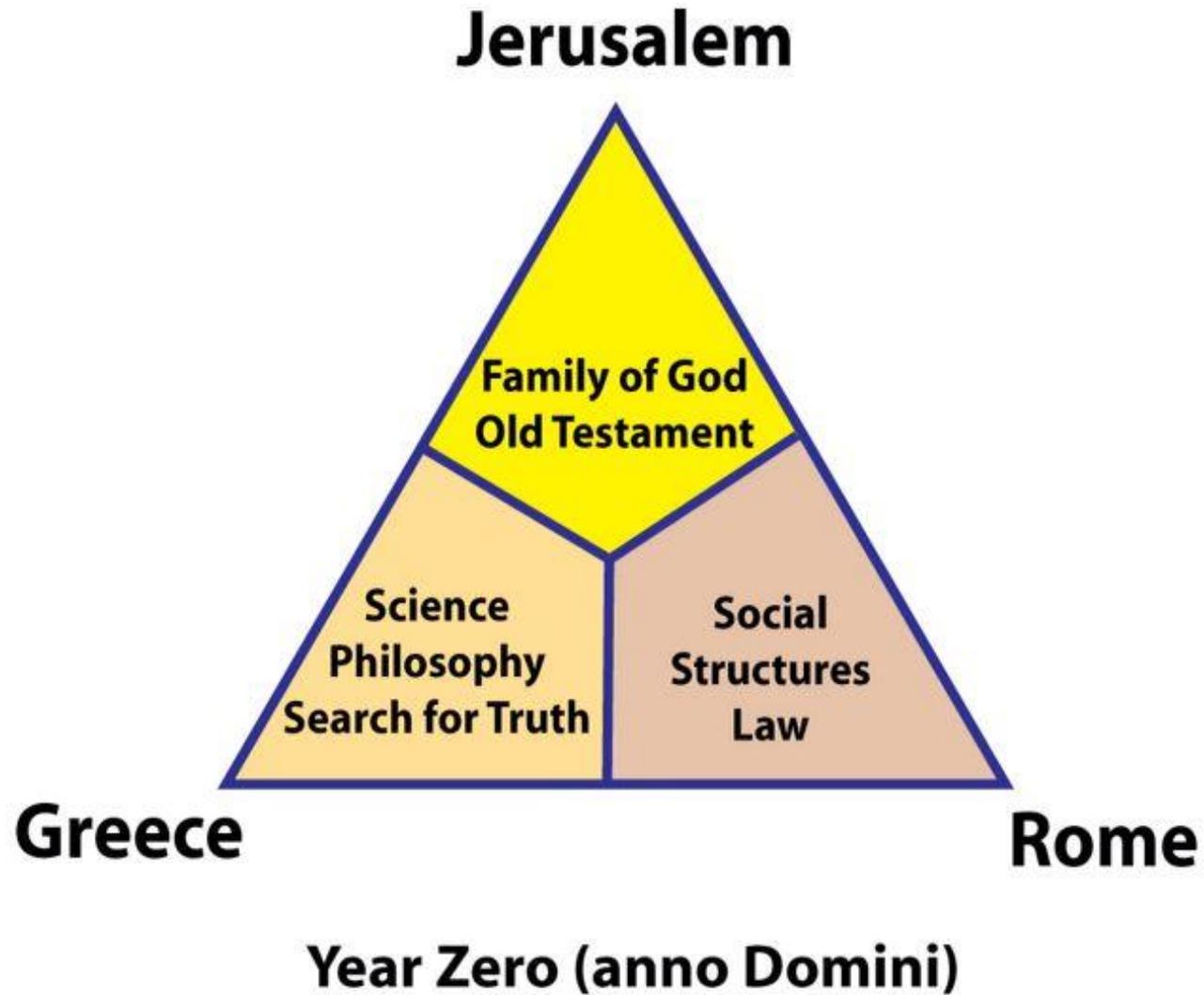
**Promotion** – of spiritual growth, and a developing and deepening of faith

**Participation** – more fully witnessing Jesus in word and deed for the sake of His Kingdom

# Christianity



# Jesus came in the “Fullness of Time” (Gal. 4:4)



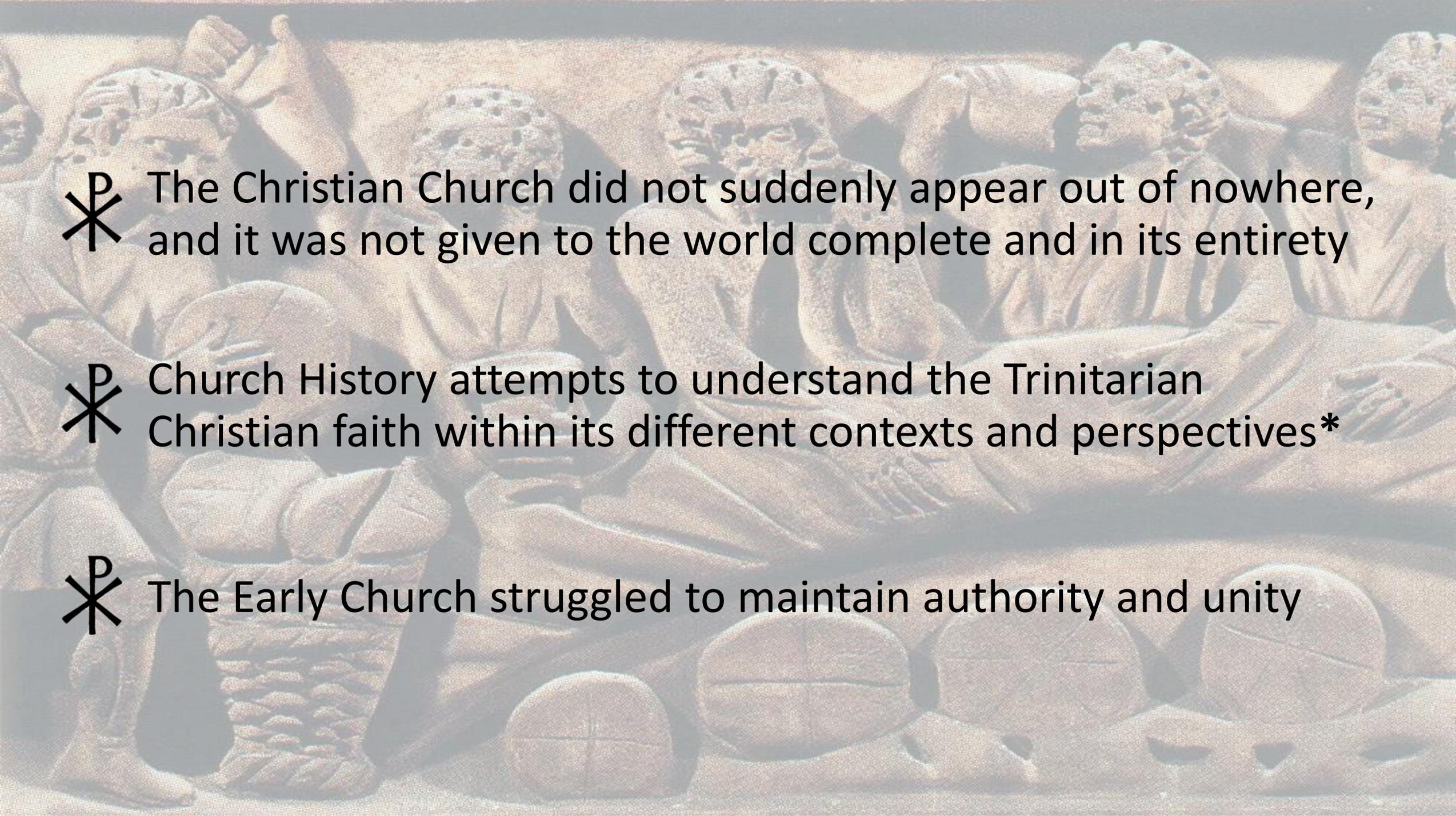
ישוע הנצרי ומלך היהודים

Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων

IESVS NAZARENVS REX IYDAEORVM



*“There I go—still writing ‘B.C.’ on my checks.”*



\* The Christian Church did not suddenly appear out of nowhere, and it was not given to the world complete and in its entirety

\* Church History attempts to understand the Trinitarian Christian faith within its different contexts and perspectives\*

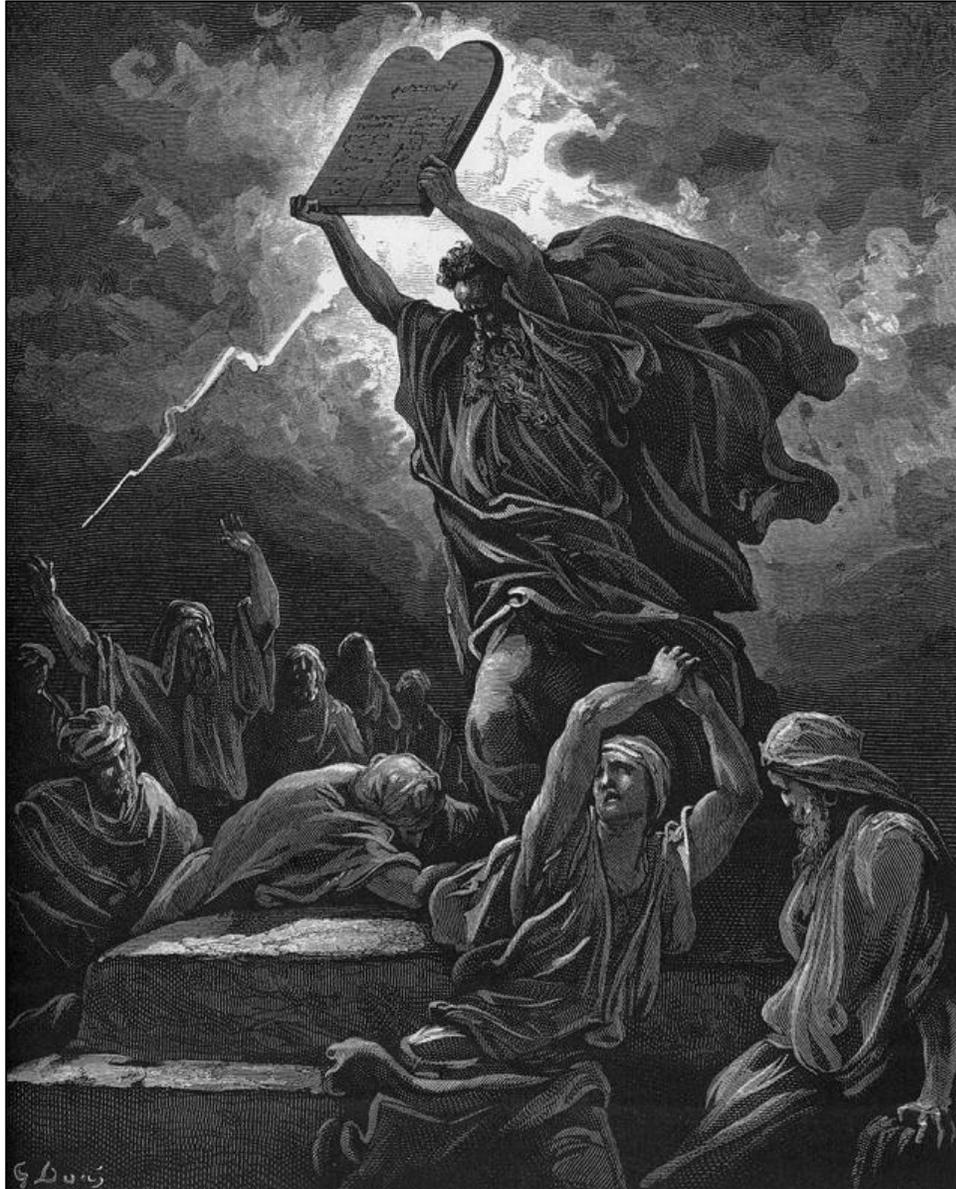
\* The Early Church struggled to maintain authority and unity

# Pentecost

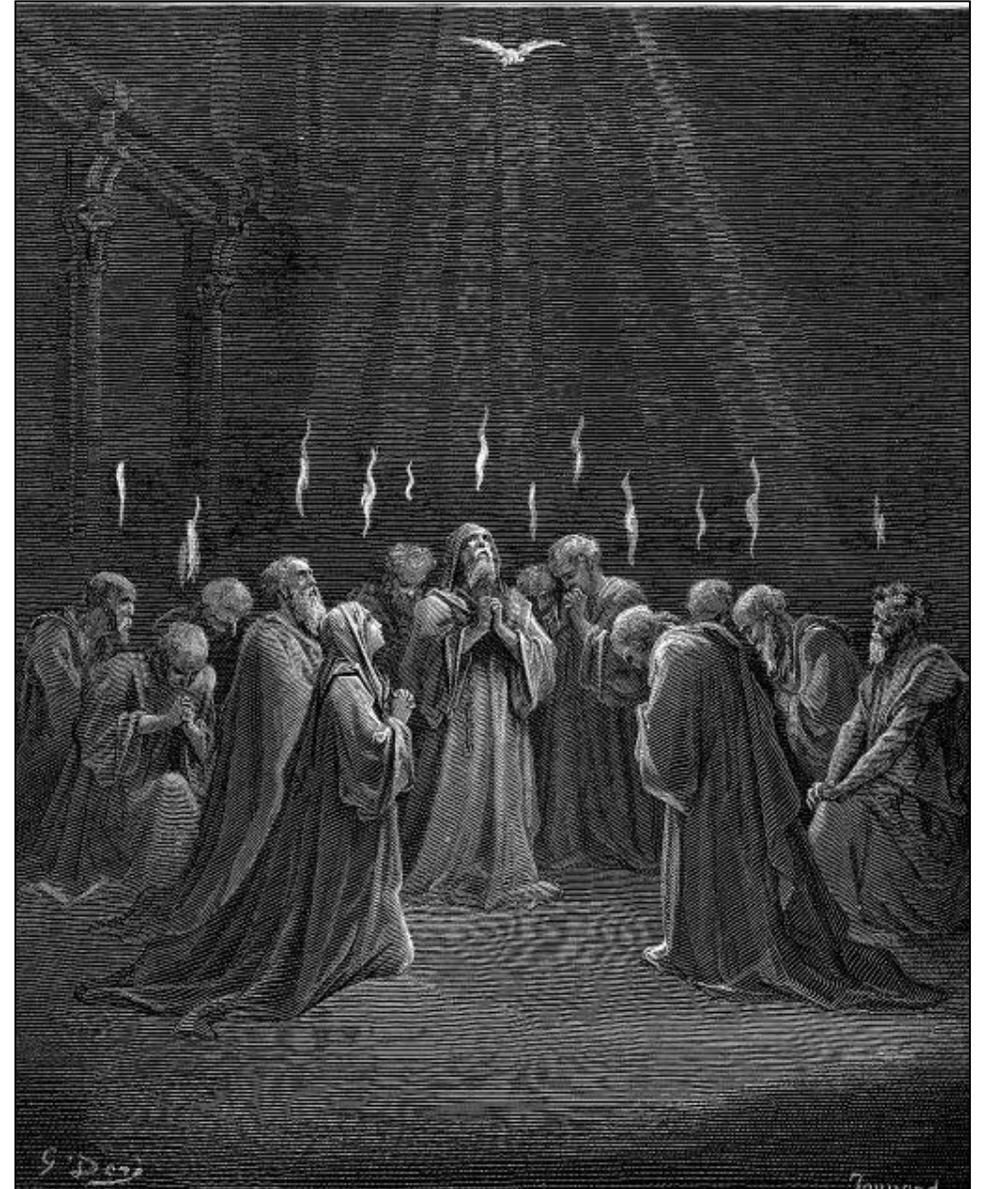
“Birthday” of the Church: 1<sup>st</sup> time the apostles act independently of Christ



Exodus 20



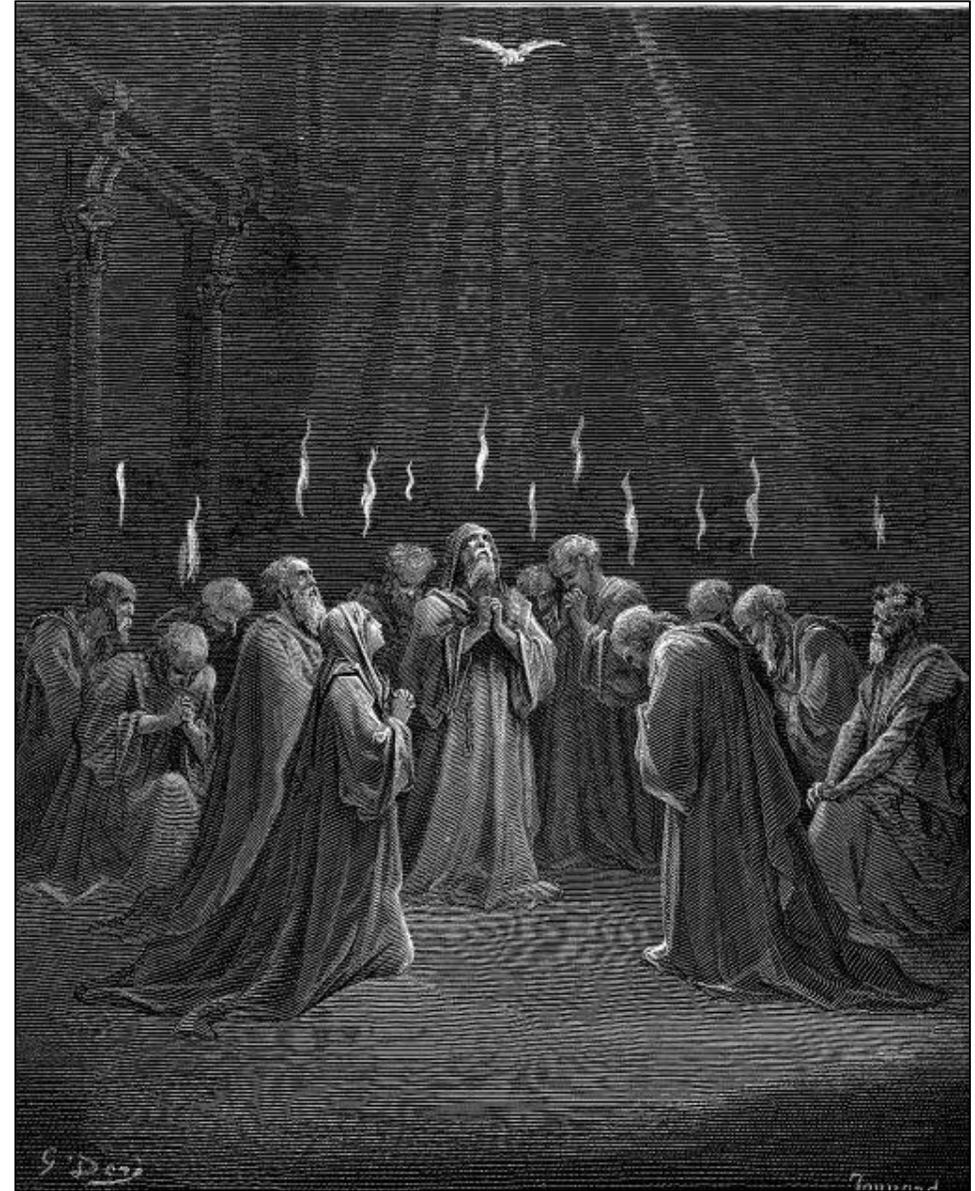
Acts 2:1-4



Genesis 11:1-9



Acts 2:1-4



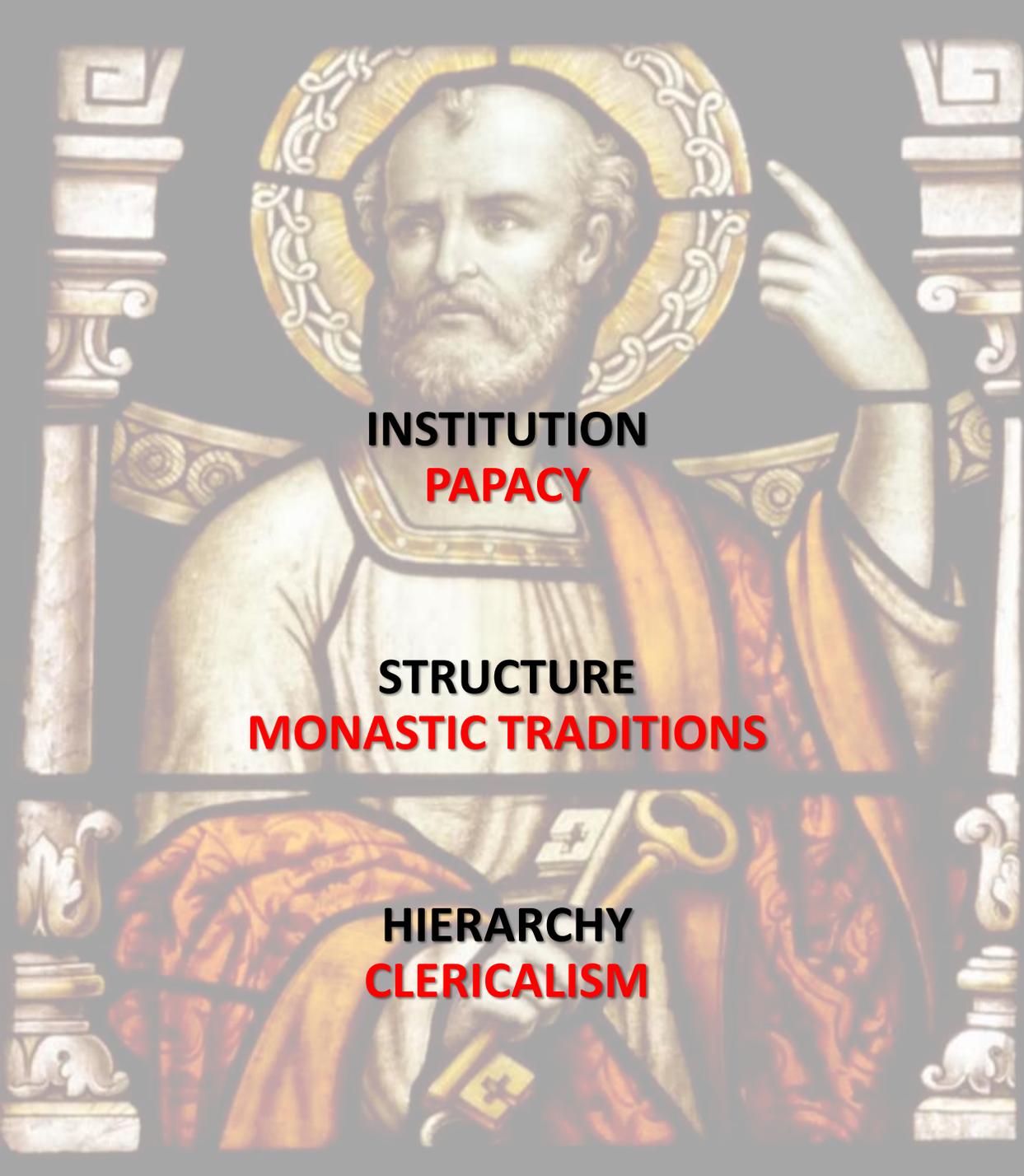
# Saints Peter & Paul



A stained glass window depicting two saints, Peter and Paul, seated in ornate Gothic-style chairs. Saint Peter is on the left, wearing a white and gold robe with a red sash, holding a large golden key. Saint Paul is on the right, wearing a white and red robe, holding a sword. Both have beards and halos. The background features decorative architectural elements like columns and arches.

**Saints Peter & Paul are the enduring archetypes in the life of the Church and represent its two dynamic functions: *institution* and *evangelization*.**

***Institution* and *evangelization* are not mutually exclusive. History shows us that when both roles are in balance, the Church is at its best.**



**INSTITUTION**  
**PAPACY**

**STRUCTURE**  
**MONASTIC TRADITIONS**

**HIERARCHY**  
**CLERICALISM**



**EVANGELIZATION**  
**MISSIONARIES**

**CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT**  
**FRIARS**

**PROCLAMATION**  
**MYSTICS**

# Peter's Confession of Christ

Matthew 16:13-19

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

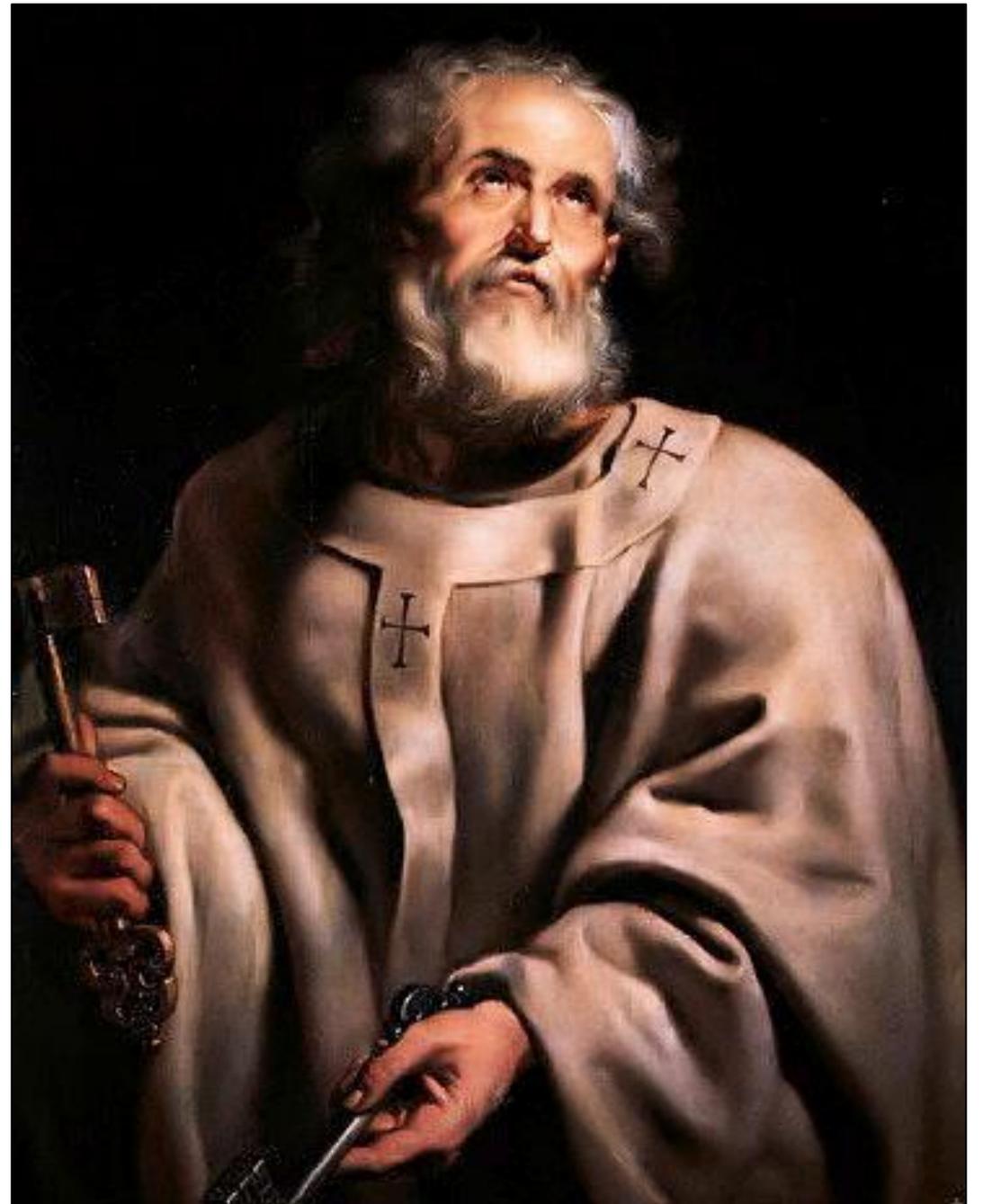
<sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

<sup>16</sup>Simon answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

<sup>18</sup>"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this **rock I will build My church**; and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.

<sup>19</sup>"I will give you the **keys** of the **kingdom of heaven**; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

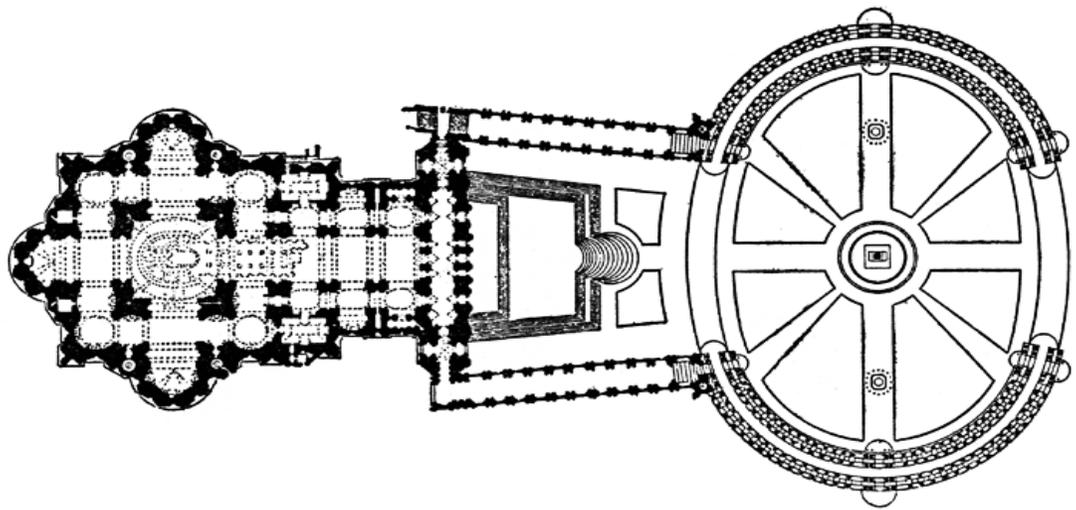


# Conclave: “with key”



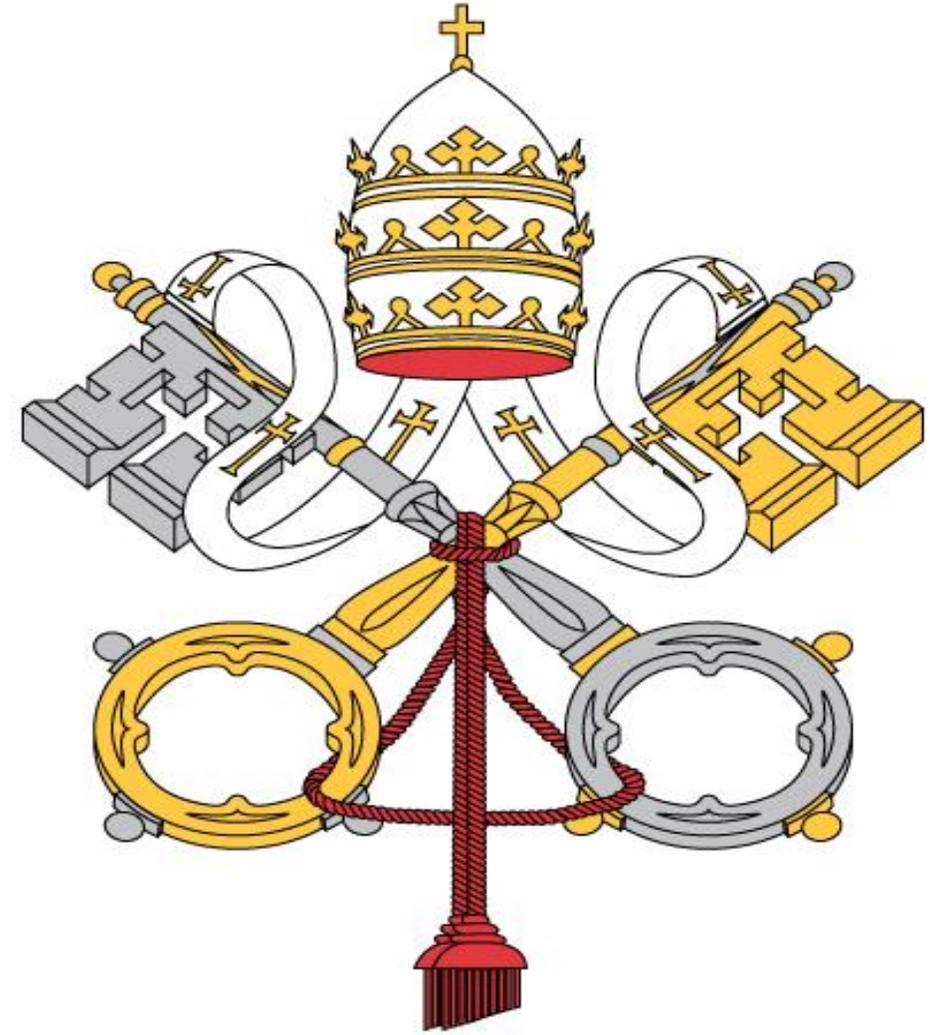






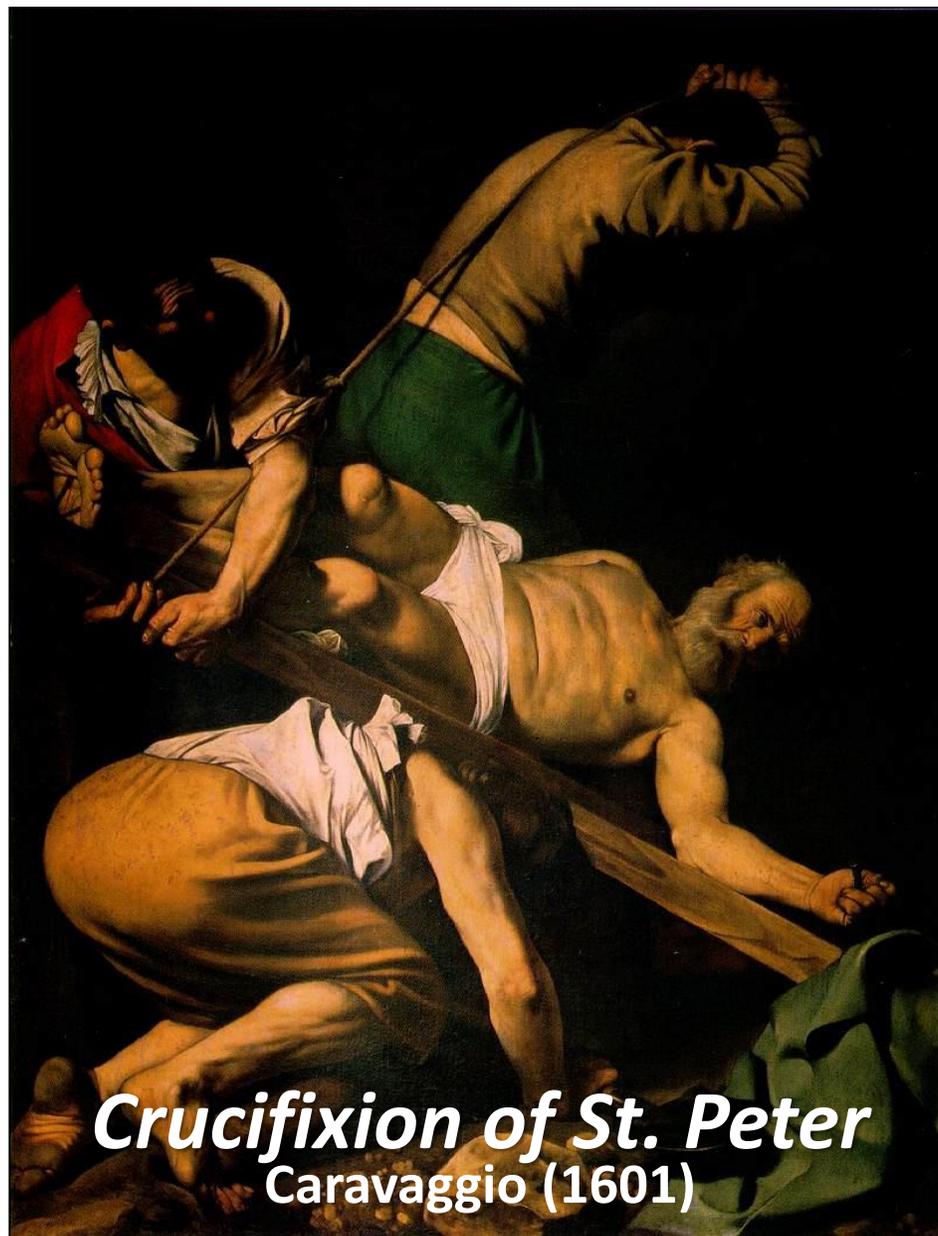








# Peter Crucified – 64 A.D.



*Crucifixion of St. Peter*  
Caravaggio (1601)

# Roman Army Destroys Jerusalem – 70 A.D.





**“Roman” Catholic**

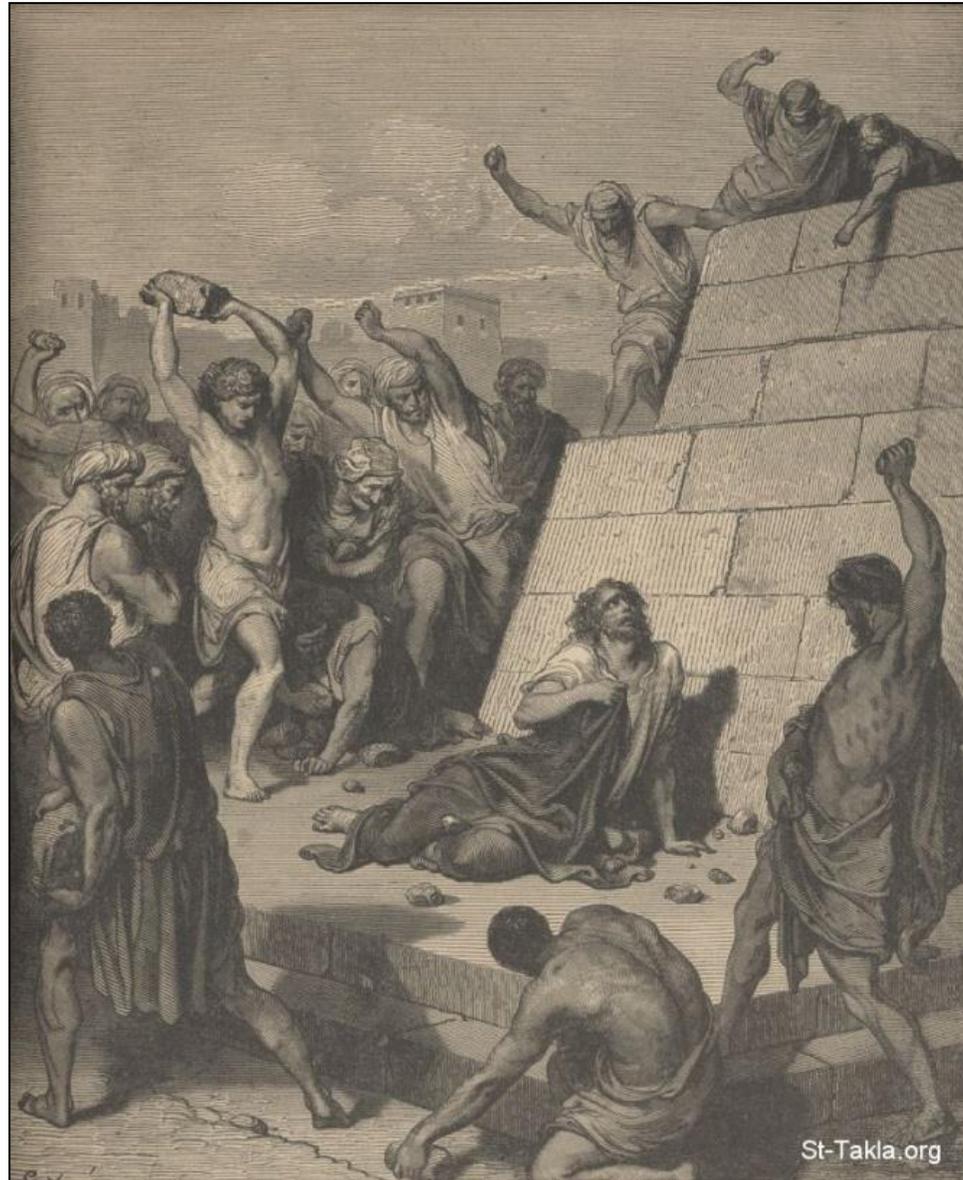
# Saul of Tarsus / St. Paul





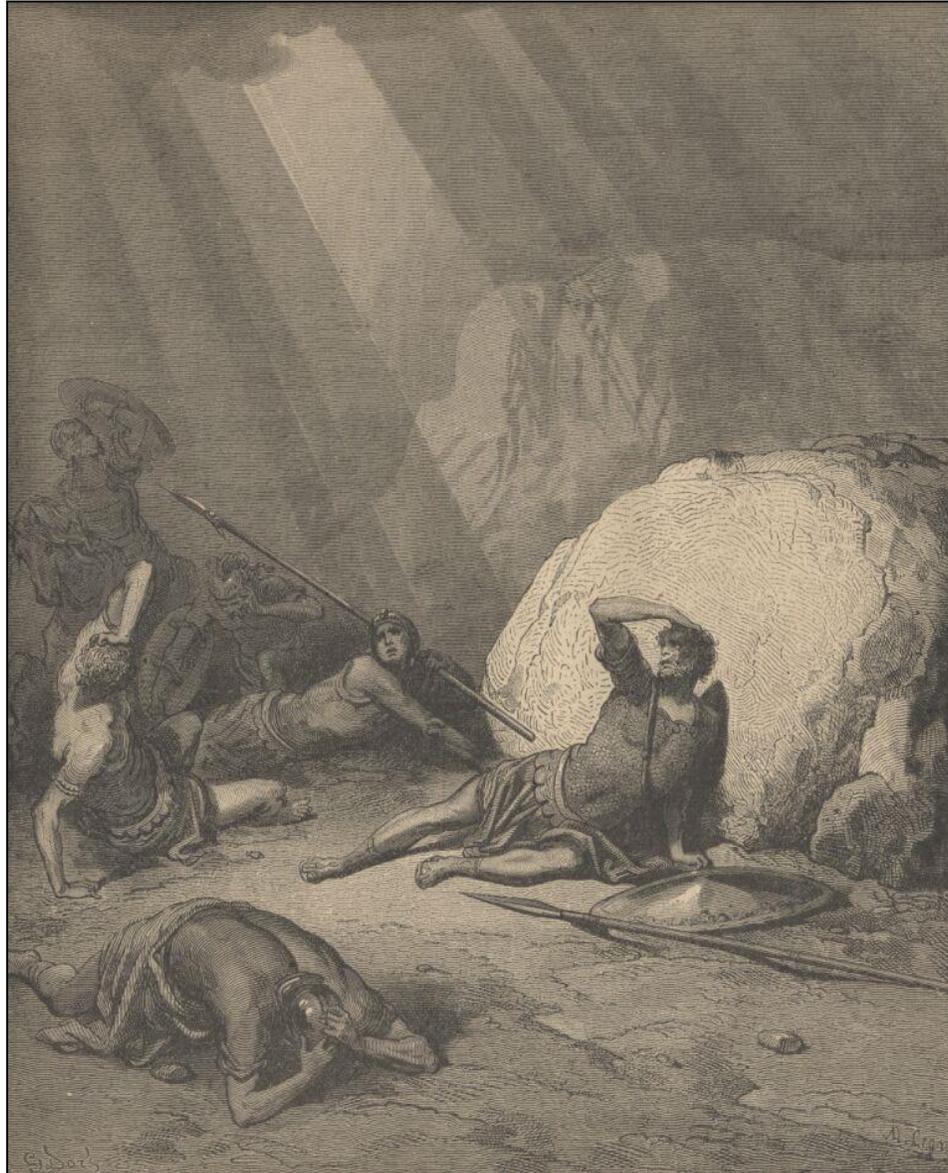
# The Stoning of St. Stephen

Acts 7



# On the Road to Damascus

Acts 9; Galatians 1





# Christ's Mission for Paul

Acts 9:10-16

<sup>10</sup> There was a disciple in Damascus called Ananias, and he had a vision in which the Lord said to him, 'Ananias!' When he replied, 'Here I am, Lord,' <sup>11</sup> the Lord said, 'Get up and go to Straight Street and ask at the house of Judas for someone called **Saul**, who comes from **Tarsus**. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and has seen a man called Ananias coming in and laying hands on him to give him back his sight.'

<sup>13</sup> But in response, Ananias said, 'Lord, I have heard from many people about this man and all the harm he has been doing to your holy people in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> He has come here with a warrant from the chief priests to arrest everybody who invokes your name.'

<sup>15</sup> The Lord replied, 'Go, for **this man is my chosen instrument to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel**; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'



**St. Paul**

## **Greek Scholar**

- Wrote letters in Greek
- Preached in public places
- Understood Greek philosophy

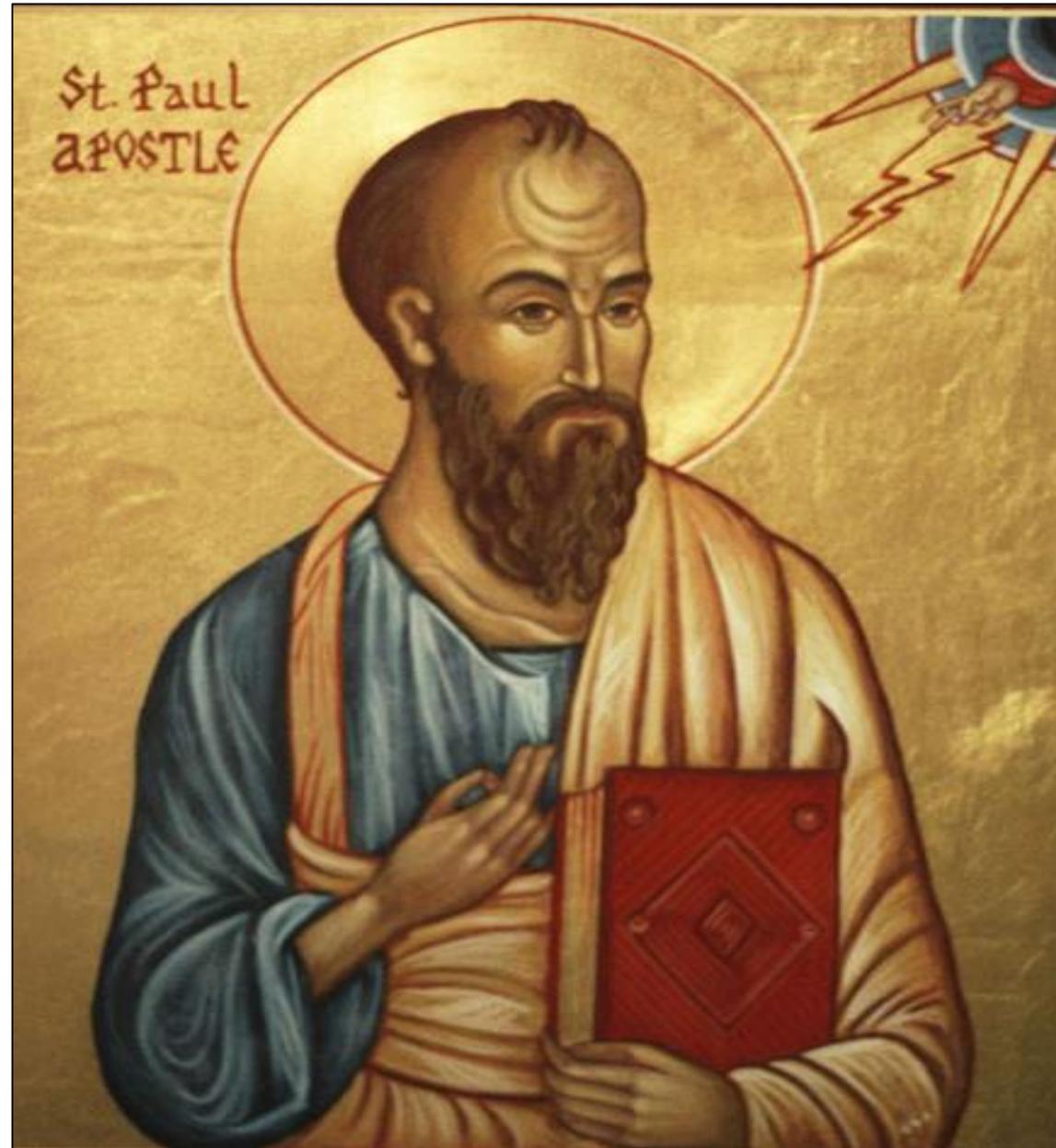
## **Jewish Pharisee**

- Rabbi who knew the Mosaic Law
- Persecuted early Christians
- Came to see Jesus as Messiah

## **Roman Citizen**

- Traveled freely through Roman Empire and knew Roman culture
- Right to trial; letters written while imprisoned

# St. Paul the Apostle\*



# The Council of Jerusalem

Acts 15:1-31 (c. 51 A.D.)



# Why is the Council of Jerusalem so Important?

- **Christianity is universal (“catholic”)**
- **Growth of the Church**
- **Holy Spirit guides decision-making**
- **Hierarchy emerges (Peter) to lead the Church**
- **Missionary efforts (Paul) establish Gentile churches**
- **Brought order, unity and stability**

ביום ההוא  
אקיס את  
צכת דוד  
הנפלת  
גדרתי את  
כרציהו  
והרסתיו  
אקיס  
ובניתיה  
כימי עולם

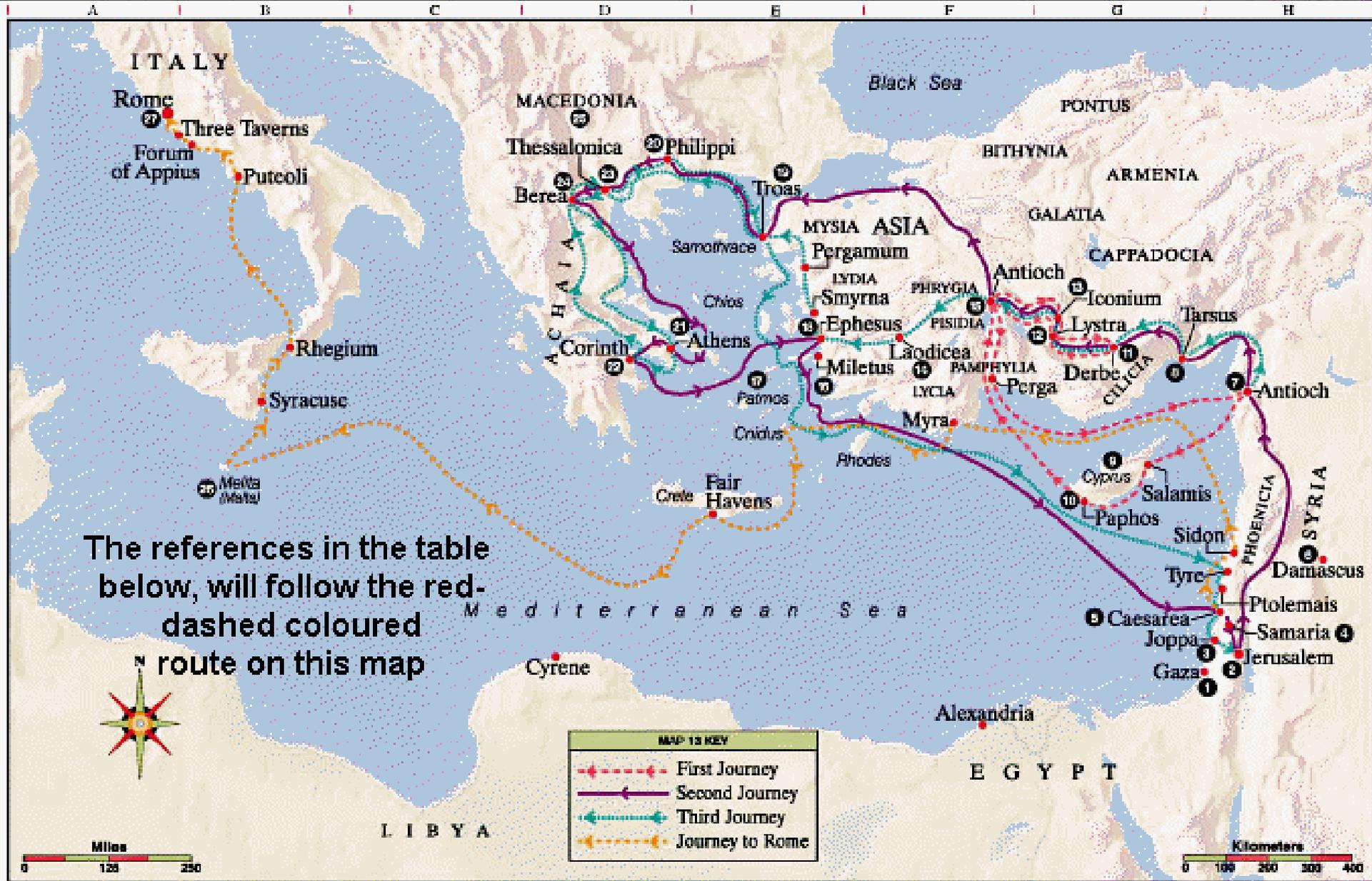


**What's the difference between  
UNITY and UNIFORMITY?**

# Missionary to Gentiles

Established churches throughout the Mediterranean region

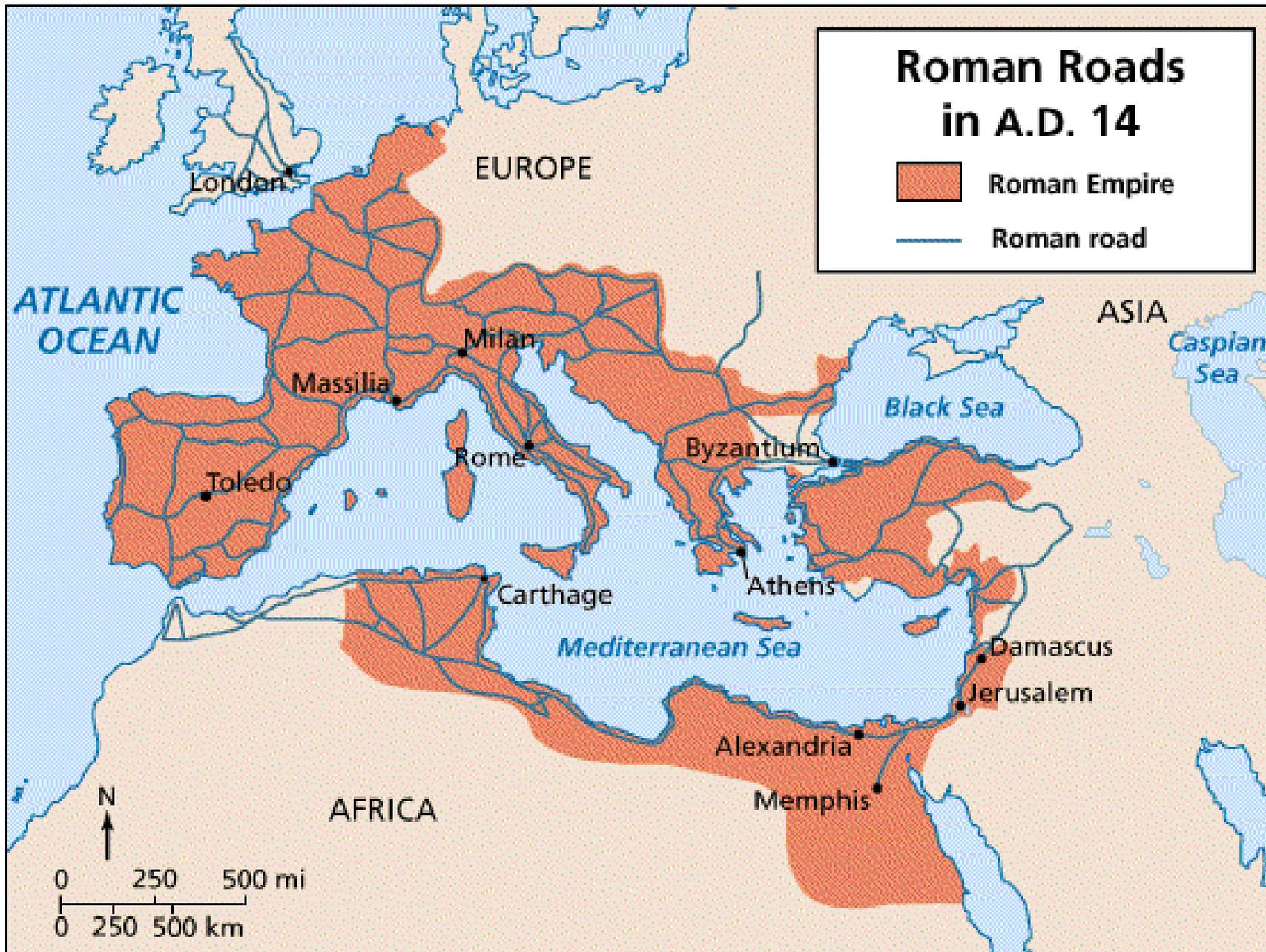




# Network of Roman Roads

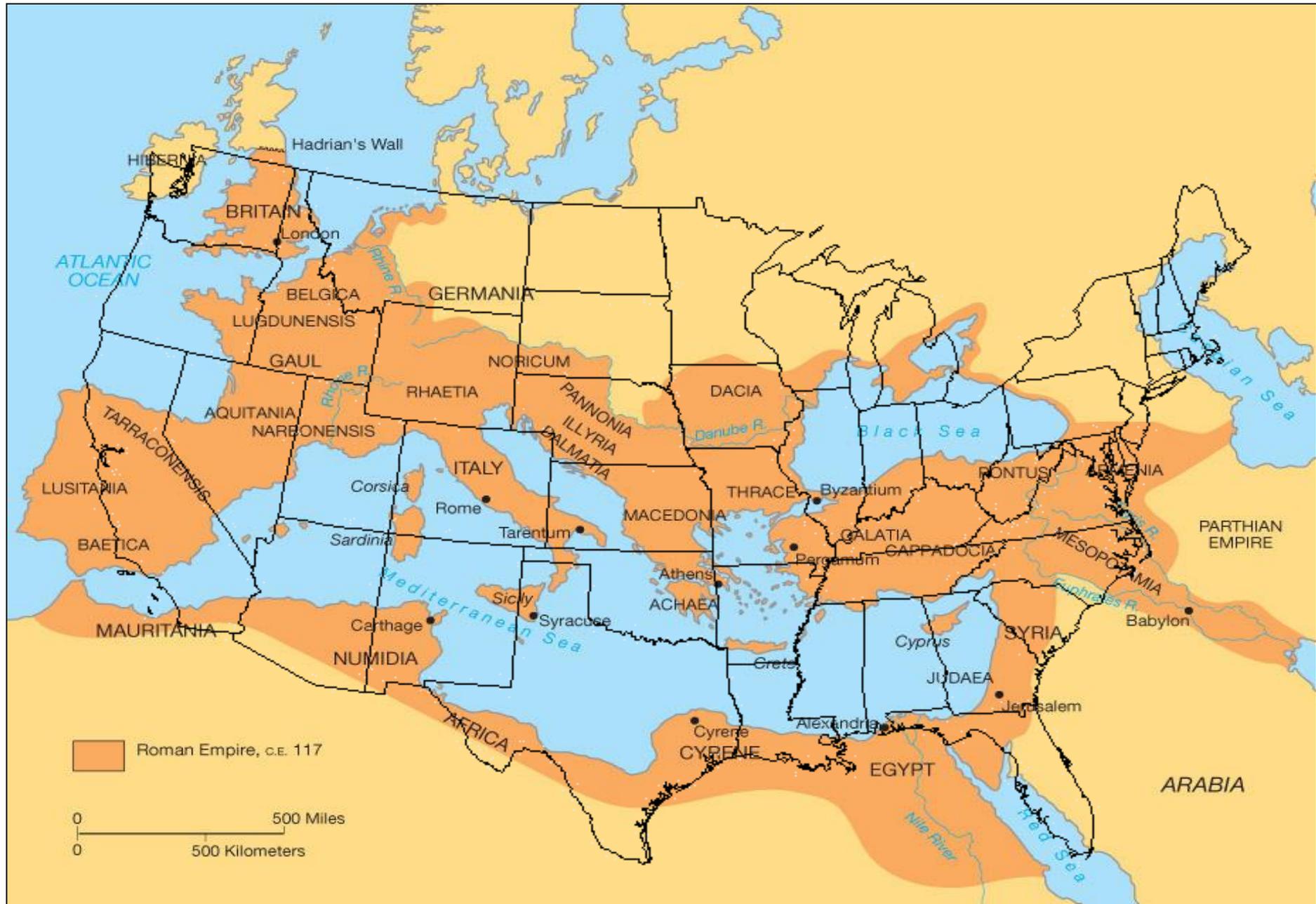
Connected all parts of the Empire, aiding communication and easy travel





# Pauline Epistles (13 of 27)





# Martyrdom of St. Paul – 64 A.D.

ST. PAUL · COLUMBUS · TS'AI LUN · BUDDHA  
GALILEO · EINSTEIN · MUHAMMAD · JESU  
PASTEUR · NEWTON · EDISON · LAVOISIER  
**THE** FARADAY · BECQUEREI  
TIZARRO · CONFUCIUS

# 100

A RANKING OF  
THE MOST INFLUENTIAL  
PERSONS IN HISTORY

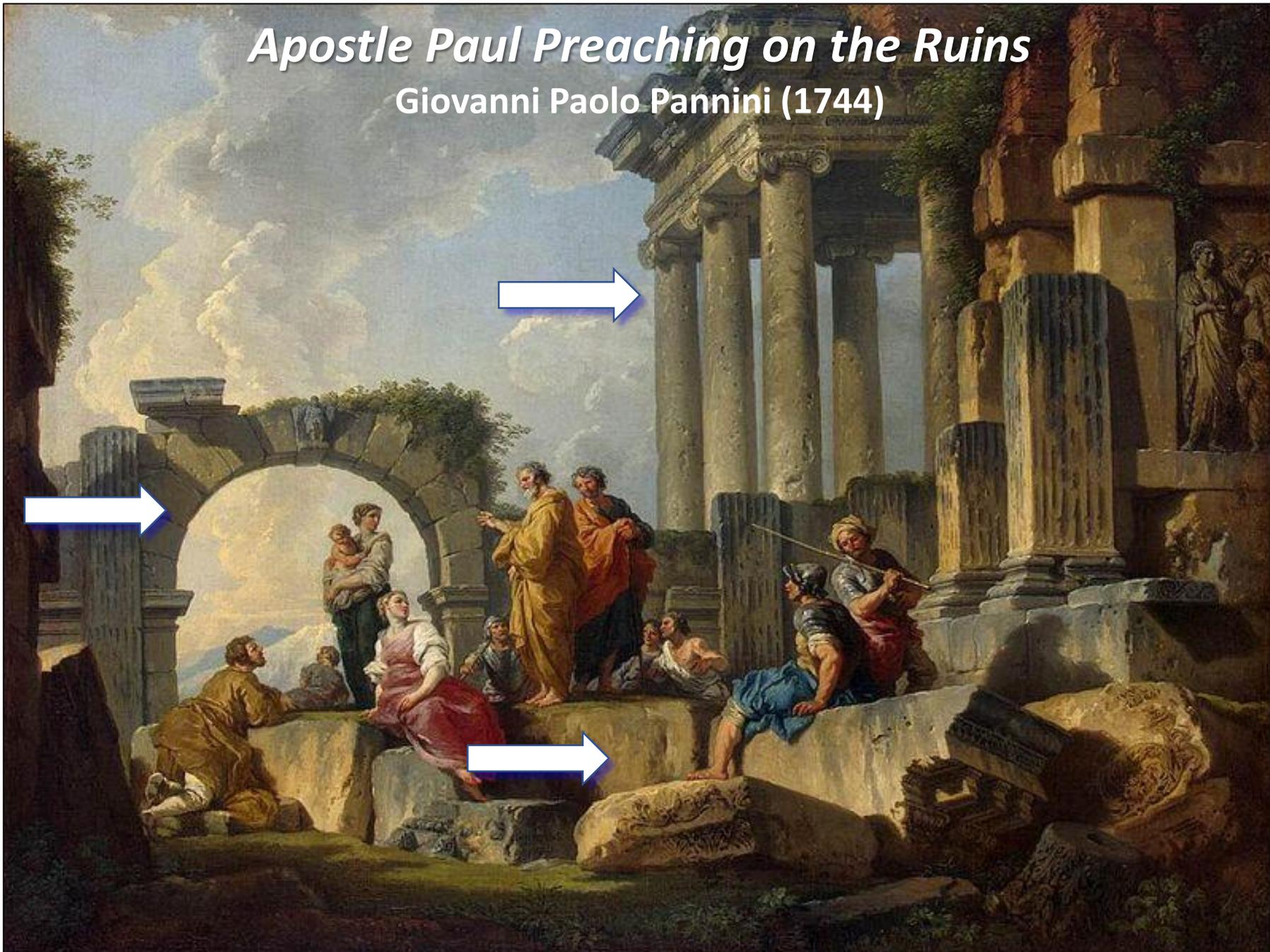
**Michael H. Hart**

MAO TSE-TUNG · MARX · MARCONI · FREUD  
BOLIVAR · MICHELANGELO · POPE URBAN II  
ARISTOTLE · PETER THE GREAT · NAPOLEON  
LENIN · PICASSO · MALTHUS · JEFFERSON  
CYRUS · GENGHIS KHAN · MOSES · CAESAR  
VASCO DA GAMA · CHARLEMAGNE · BACH



*Apostle Paul Preaching on the Ruins*

Giovanni Paolo Pannini (1744)





*“Hoc est corpus meum”*



*“Hocus Pocus”*

Gnosticism: “Secret” knowledge leads to denial of the physical world and the God who created it



# The Four Evangelists



**Mark**

c. 65-70 A.D.

**Luke**

c. 80-85 A.D.



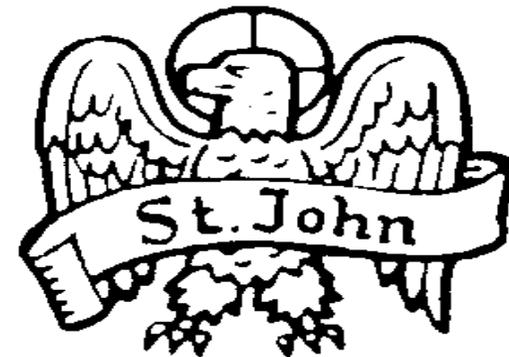
**Matthew**

c. 80-90 A.D.



**John**

c. 90-100 A.D.



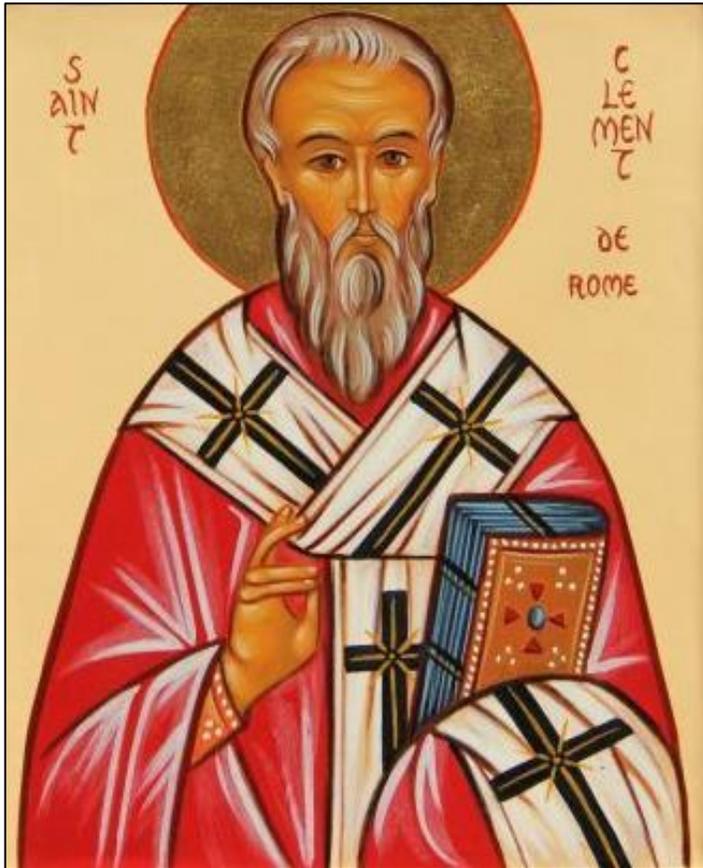
# Apologists

Intellectual defenders of the faith against both heresies and persecution



# Clement of Rome

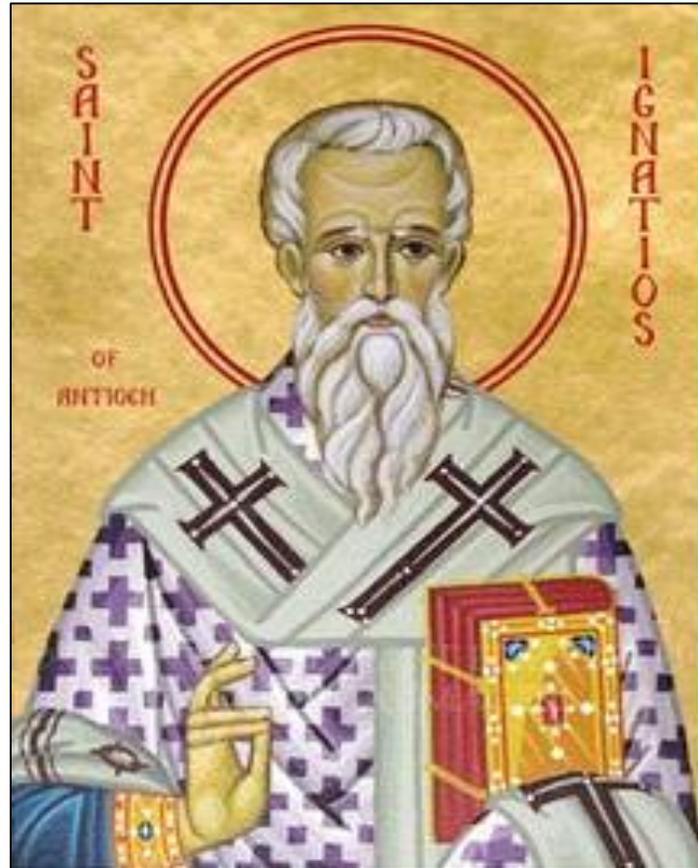
d. 99 A.D.



Roman bishop can interfere in local church affairs as highest authority

# Ignatius of Antioch

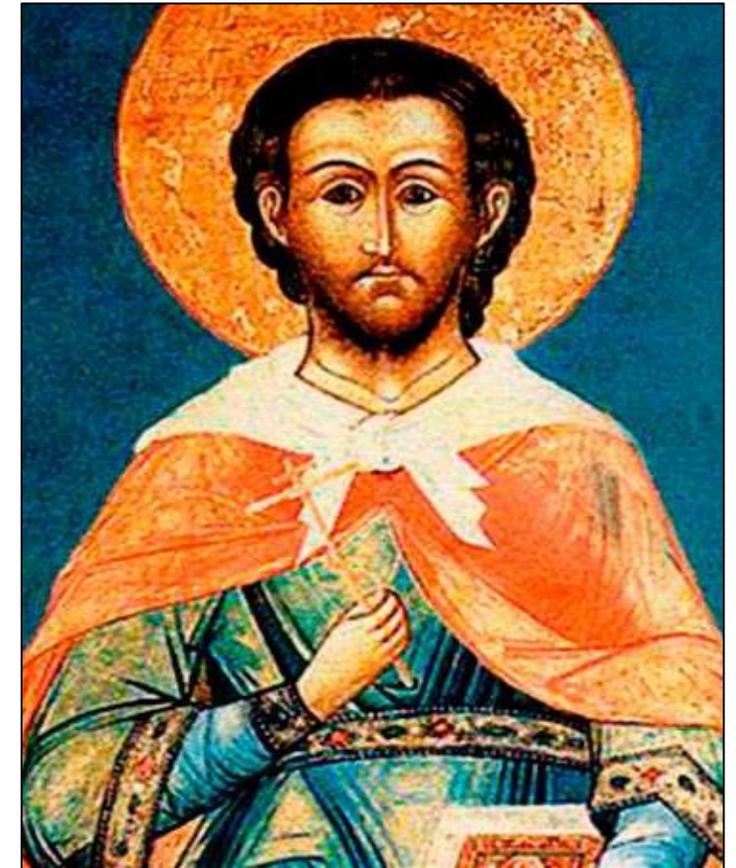
d. 108 A.D.



Stressed hierarchical structure of obedience in order to be truly **catholic**\*

# Justin Martyr

d. 165 A.D.



Christian convert saw Greek philosophy and Judaism fulfilled in Christianity

# Irenaeus

d. 203 A.D.

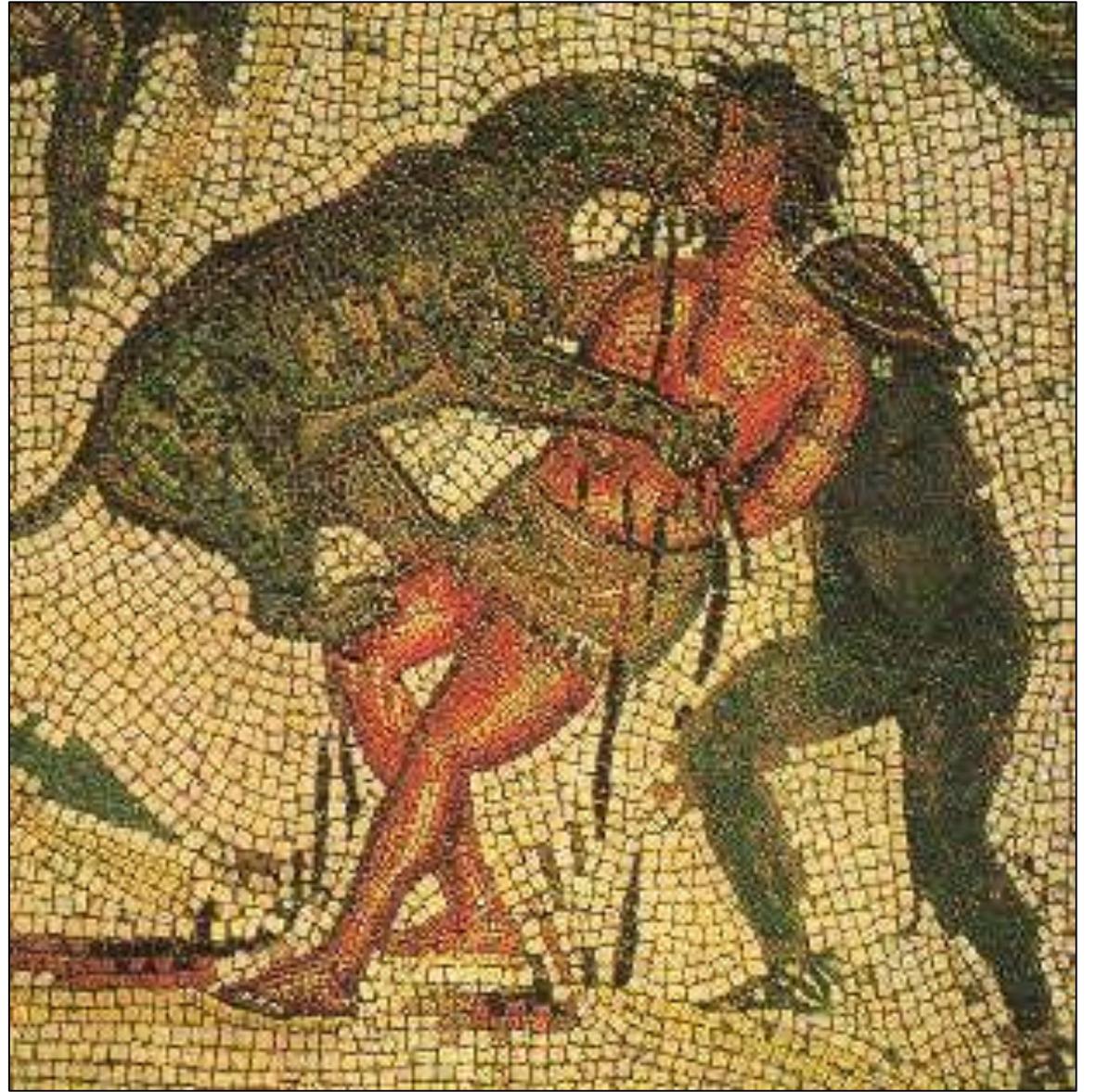


Effectively refuted  
Gnosticism, believing that  
free will is the source of evil

***“Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.”***

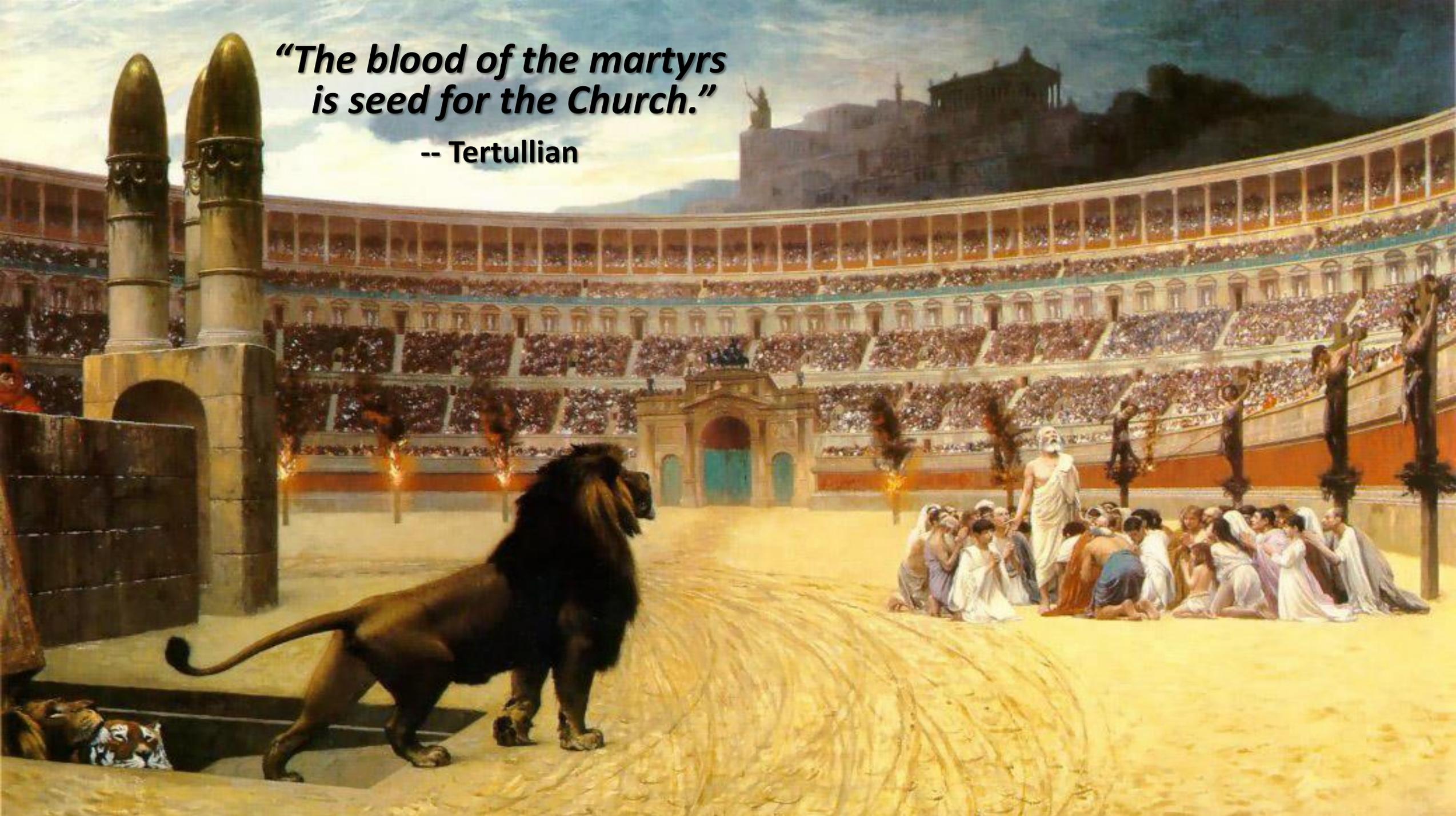
**-- Martin Luther King, Jr.**





***“The blood of the martyrs  
is seed for the Church.”***

**-- Tertullian**

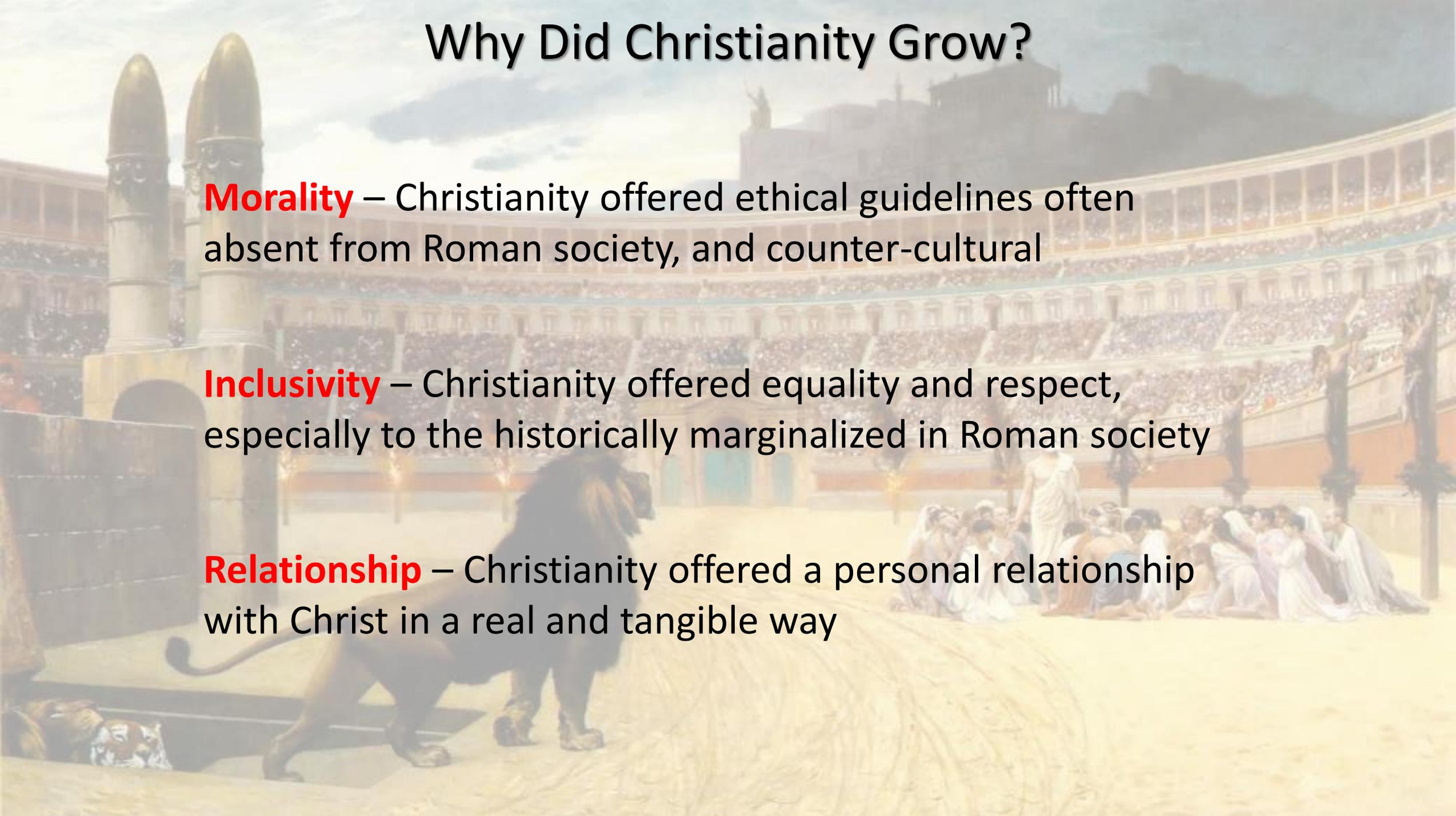


# Why Did Christianity Grow?

**Morality** – Christianity offered ethical guidelines often absent from Roman society, and counter-cultural

**Inclusivity** – Christianity offered equality and respect, especially to the historically marginalized in Roman society

**Relationship** – Christianity offered a personal relationship with Christ in a real and tangible way



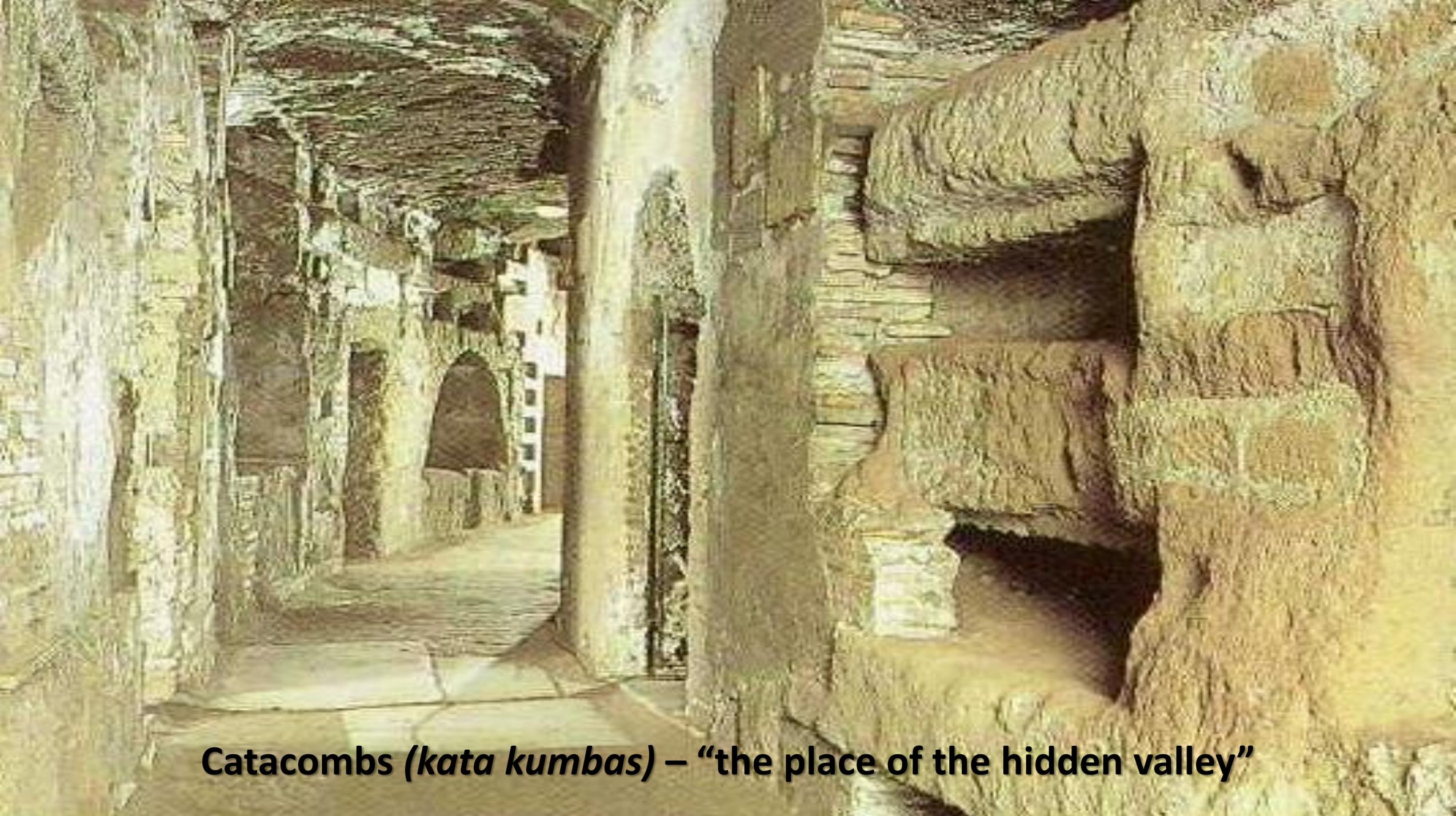


**What can our Church learn from  
these three factors today?**

# Saints Perpetua and Felicity

d. c. 202 A.D.





**Catacombs (*kata kumbas*) – “the place of the hidden valley”**



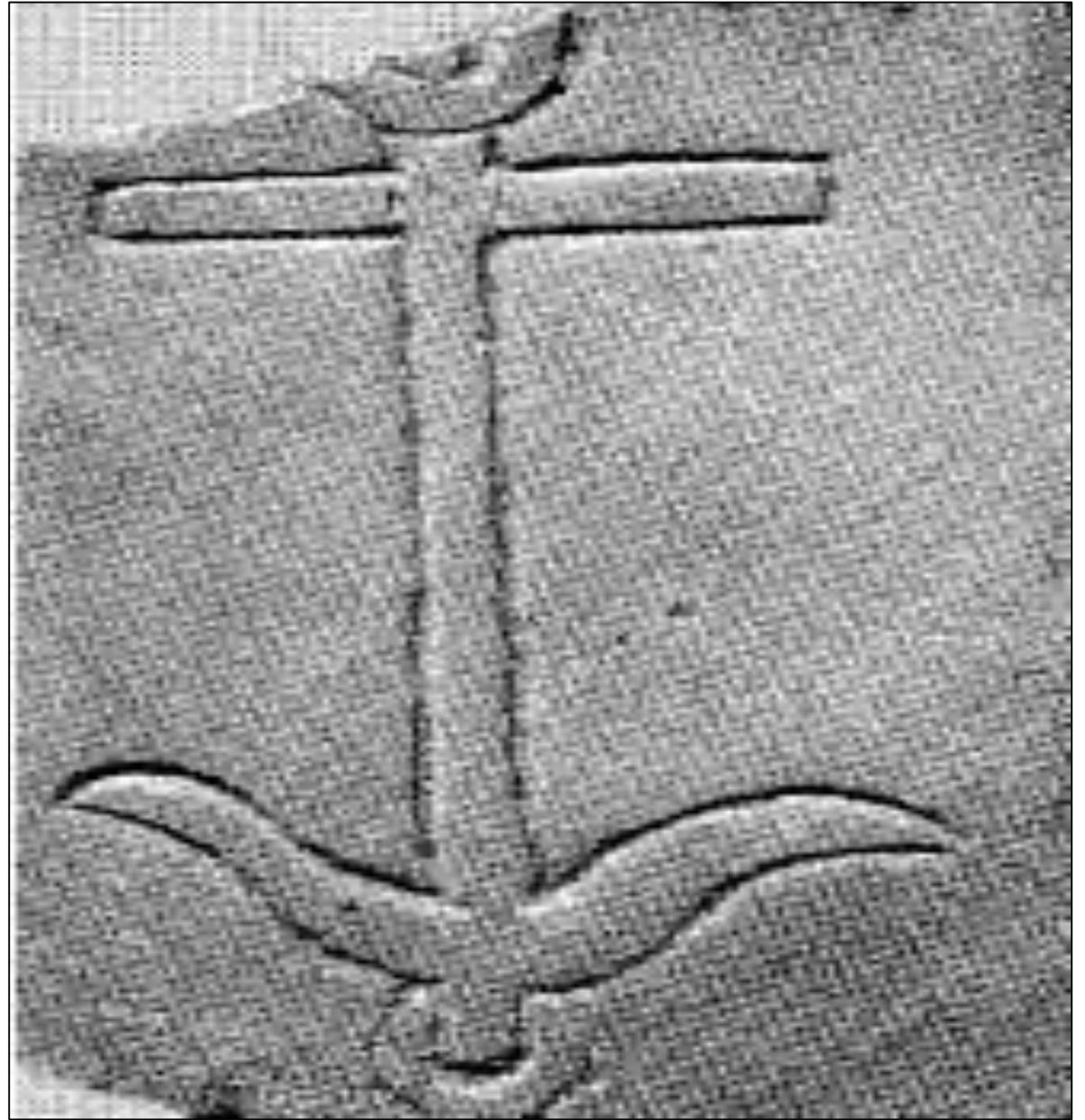
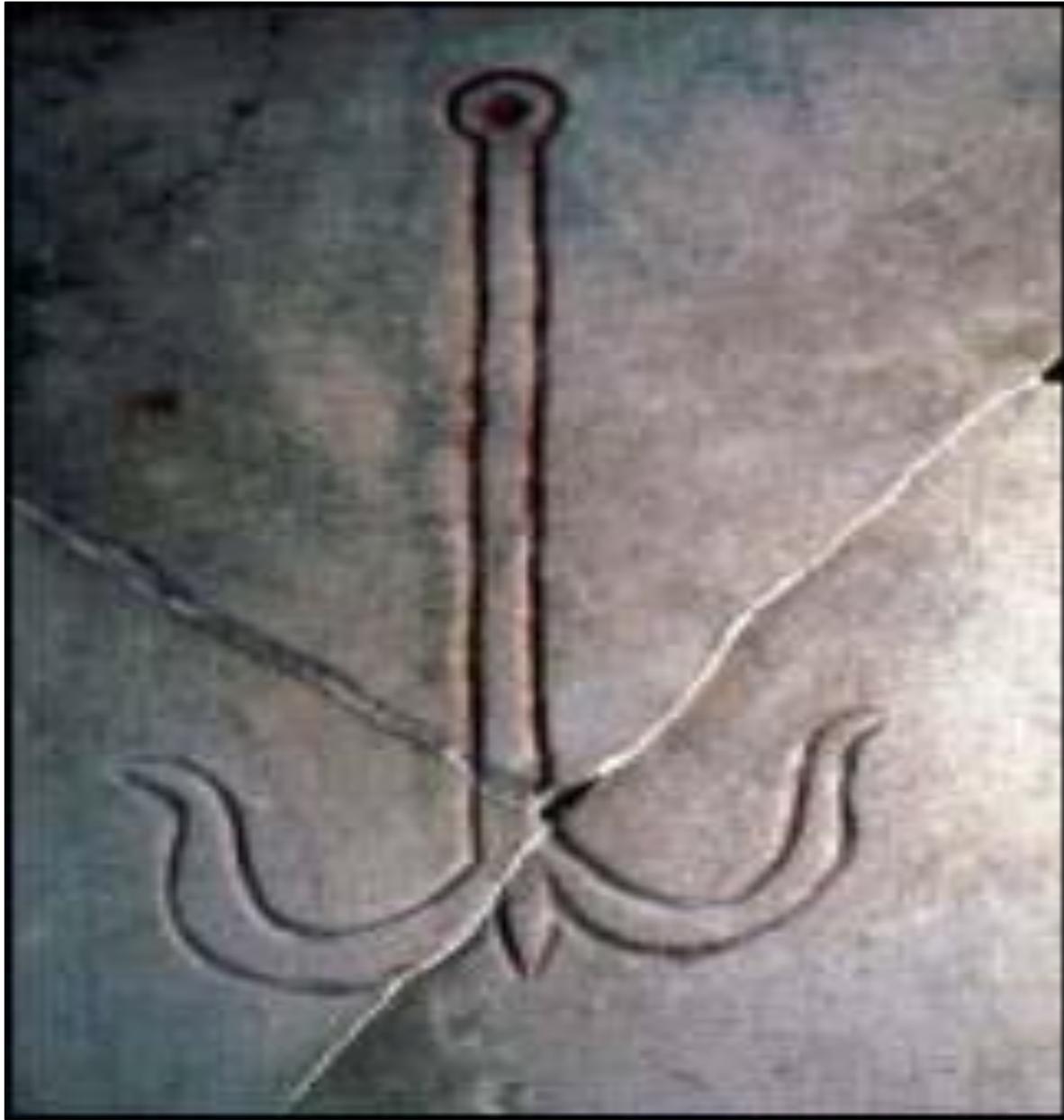








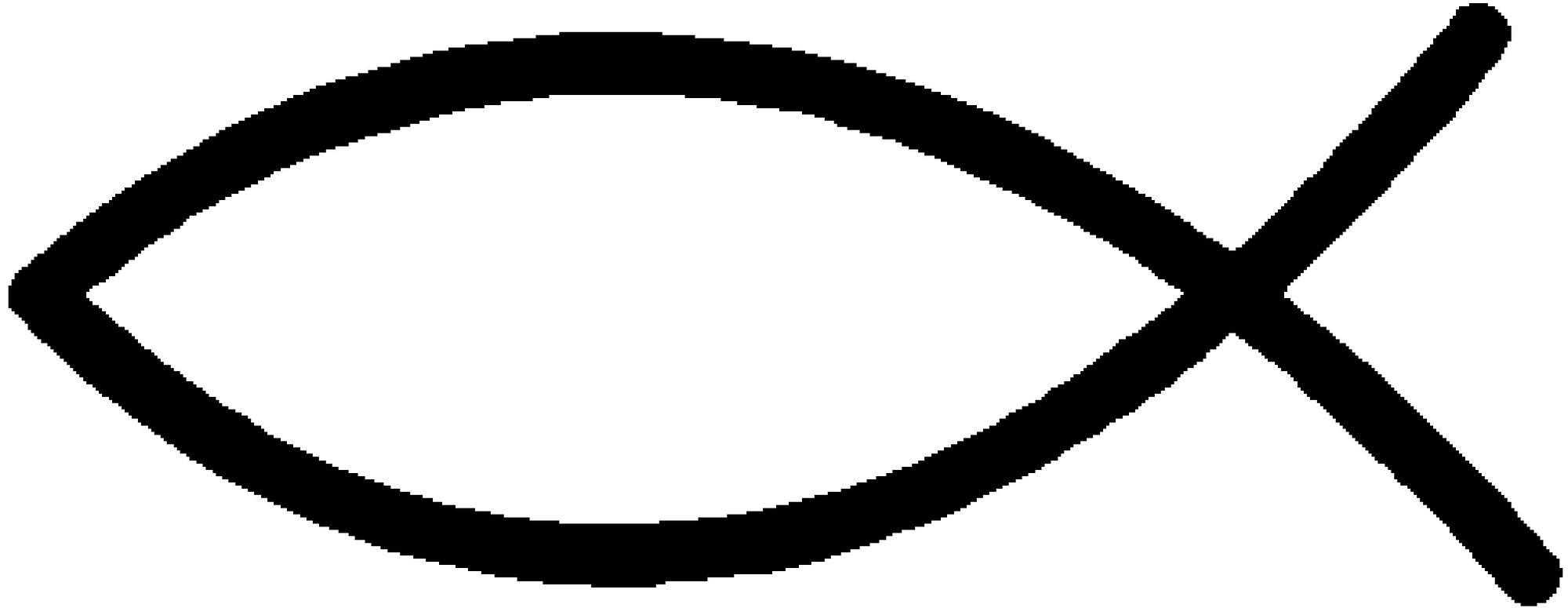








# Ichthus



- Identifying symbol
- Pointed to worship service
- Statement of belief

| English   | Greek | Stands For  |
|-----------|-------|---|
| <b>I</b>  | Ι     | Greek word " <b>I</b> esous" which means "Jesus"    |
| <b>CH</b> | Χ     | Greek word " <b>Ch</b> ristos" which means "Christ" |
| <b>TH</b> | Θ     | Greek word " <b>Th</b> eos" which means "God"       |
| <b>U</b>  | Υ     | Greek word " <b>U</b> ios" which means "Son"        |
| <b>S</b>  | Σ     | Greek word " <b>S</b> oter" which means "Savior"    |



# Apostates

Pope Cornelius (d. 253 A.D.): public penances to welcome back apostate Christians

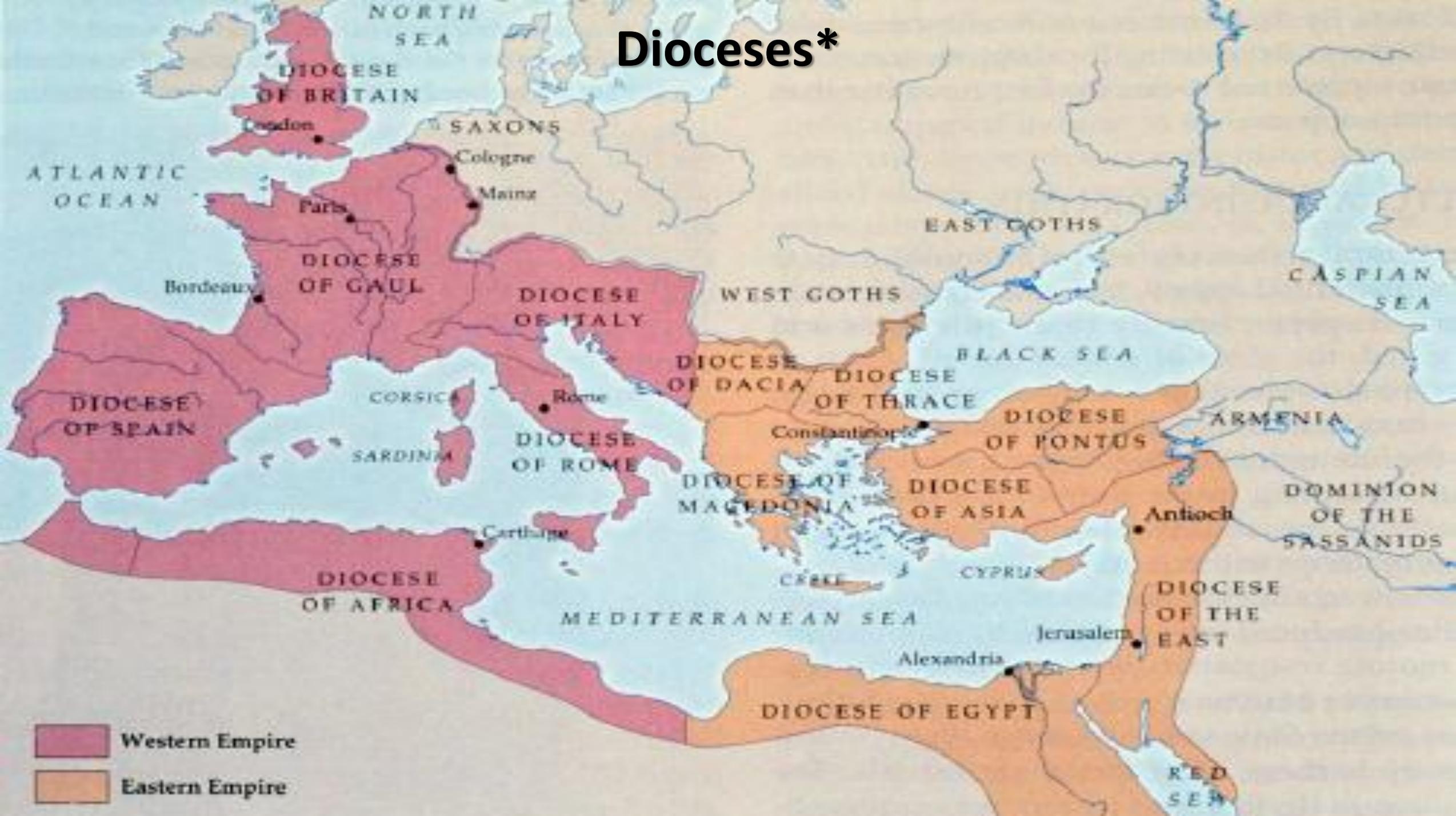


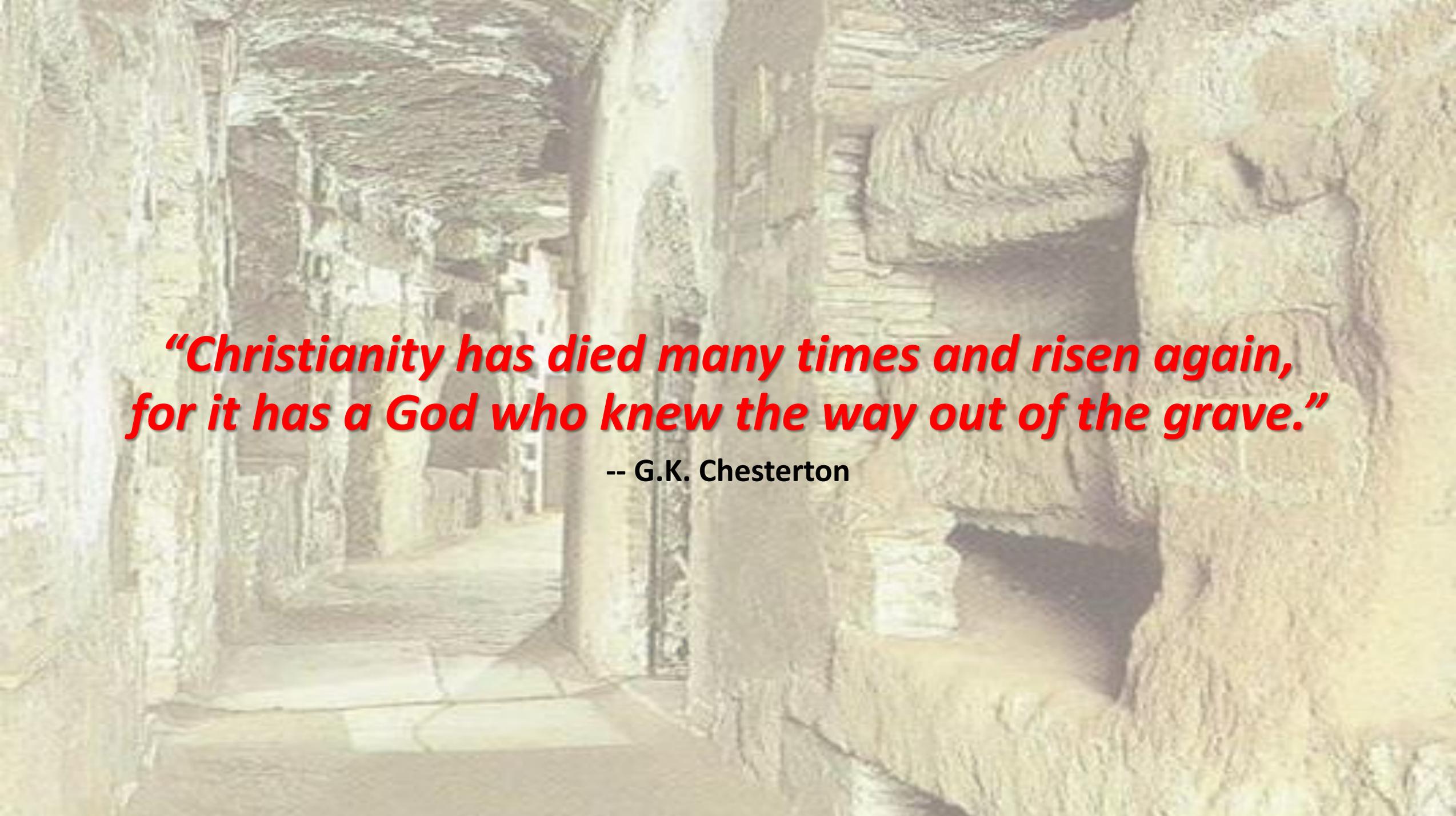
# Diocletian

244-313 A.D.



# Dioceses\*



A photograph of an ancient stone tunnel or catacomb. The walls are made of rough-hewn, light-colored stone. On the right side, there are several rectangular niches or doorways, some of which appear to be empty. The floor is also made of stone, with some larger, smoother tiles in the foreground. The lighting is somewhat dim, creating a sense of depth and mystery.

***“Christianity has died many times and risen again,  
for it has a God who knew the way out of the grave.”***

**-- G.K. Chesterton**