

CHAPTER 9 ~ EARLY CHURCH HISTORY OUTLINE

Apostolic Church (AD 30 - 96)

Jesus commissions believers to evangelize the world, disciple the nations, and baptize believers
Pentecost - Holy Spirit descends upon believers in Jerusalem

Persecuted Church (AD 98 - 313)

The Julio-Claudian Caesars (continued from last lecture)

Nero (54 - 68) - First Great Persecution

- A monster who mercilessly persecuted Christians
- Burned Rome and blamed the Christians
- Peter & Paul executed during Nero's reign
- In Britain, Boudicca - Queen of Iceni tribe - leads uprising against Romans and is defeated



A Year of Disorder in 69 AD - Emperors chosen by military

The Flavian Caesars

Vespasian (70 - 79)

- Siege of Jerusalem during his reign in 70 AD and Fall of Masada in 73 AD

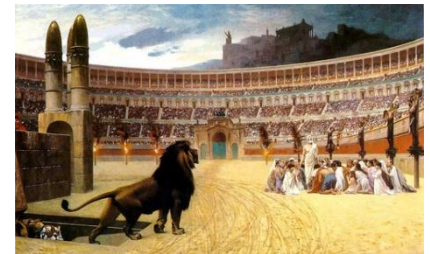
Titus (79 - 81)

- Building projects in Rome such as Coliseum (in place of Nero's palace) and Arch of Titus
- Vesuvius erupts during his reign
- Scandal erupts when he has affair with Jewish Princess Bernice



Domitian (81 - 96) - Second Great Persecution

- Boiled John in oil, then sent him to Island of Patmos



The Antonine Caesars ("The Five Good Emperors" plus one bad one)

Nerva (96 - 98)

Trajan (98 - 117) - Third Great Persecution

- Ignatius executed

Hadrian (117 - 138) - Continued Third Persecution

- Polycarp executed
- Known for Hadrian's Wall
- Built temple to Venus on spot of Jesus' tomb & tried to build a temple to Zeus over Jewish temple



Antoninus Pius (138 - 161)

Marcus Aurelius (161 - 180) - Fourth Great Persecution

- Known for noble character, yet cruel persecutions of Christians
- Stoic philosopher who wrote book called *Meditations*
- Justin Martyr executed 167 AD



Commodus (180 - 192) - "an ignoble son of a noble father" (Marcus Aurelius)

The Severi Family

Septimus Severus (193-211) - Fifth Great Persecution

The Fifty Years of Confusion - Time of Anarchy (235 - 284) - 26 emperors who only ruled for one or two years each

Maximus Thrax - Sixth Great Persecution

Decius - Seventh Great Persecution

The Later Empire

Diocletian (284 - 305) - Tenth Great Persecution

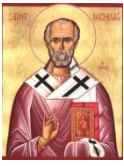
- Institutes social & economic reforms to bring order after the 50 years of Anarchy
- Divides Empire - Western & Eastern Division of Roman Empire with an "Augustus" ruling each
 - East -Greek Speaking (Byzantine Empire)
 - West - Latin Speaking (Roman Empire)



Constantine (312 - 337)

- Ruled united empire of both East & West
- Dreamt of flaming cross in sky with words *In Hoc Signo Vinces* (In This Sign Thou Shall Conquer)
- Issued Edict of Milan legalizing Christianity
- Moved capital of Roman Empire to Eastern Side ("New Rome") & Roman Government moved there
 - Name of capital changes to Constantinople (Constantine + Polis) and now Istanbul
- Called the Council of Nicaea to deal with Arianism (325 AD)





- Arianism - heresy growing in church denying that Jesus was eternal & equal with the Father
- Started by Arius
- Council of Nicaea - bishops from whole empire (including **St. Nicholas**) adopted Nicene Creed
- o Mother Helena collected relics of Jesus life and built churches on holy places of His life

Imperial Church (AD 313 - 476)

The Divided Empire - Western Roman Empire & Eastern Roman Empire each have their own rulers

Barbaric Tribes in the 400's

- o Barbarians include:
 - Goths (Visigoths & Ostrogoths)
 - Vandals
 - Franks
 - Lombards
 - Burgundians

Germanic Barbarians



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- Huns
- o Gothic tribes under Alaric capture Rome in 410 AD - Alaric dies soon after
- o Vandals sack Gaul & Spain
- o Saxons, Angles, & Jutes firmly establish themselves in Britain
- o The Huns advance toward Rome 452 AD
 - Germanic tribes join forces with Romans to fight Huns
 - Eventually there are as many Germanic Barbarians in the Roman army as Romans!
 - Battle of Chalons - Roman General Aetius defeats Attila
 - Emperor Valentinian III's sister Honoria sends proposal to Attila
 - Attila the Hun withdraws from Rome because of an appeal of Pope Leo I

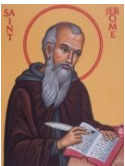


476 AD - Traditional Date of the Fall of Rome under Romulus Augustus



- o It had already declined so much that it was not much of a fall
- o Romulus Augustus was little more than a child who was a figurehead only
- o Germans dominated the Roman army & Germanic generals held the real power
- o Odoacer (or Odovacer) marched in and forced Emperor Romulus Augustus to abdicate
- o This change in leadership caused little disruption
- o Many factors led to fall - slow decline over many years
- o Face Powder Theory - Lead in face powder women wore led to low birthrate & weak health

Early Church Leaders in the West



- o St. Jerome (340 - 420 AD) - *Latin Vulgate* translation of Bible - main Bible for 1,000 years
- o St. Ambrose (340 - 397 AD)
 - Excommunicated Emperor Theodosius for slaughtering rebels
 - This established idea in the west that the emperor is under the law
- o St. Augustine (354 - 430 AD) - Bishop of Hippo in North Africa
 - Most important theologian in the church ever
 - Martin Luther & John Calvin built upon his ideas
 - Wrote two famous works:

The City of God (written after sack of Rome by Alaric in 410)
Augustine's Confessions

- o Pope Leo I (ruled church 440 - 461)
 - Turned back Attila from attacking Rome
 - Probably first to be called "Pope" (Pope = "Papa" = Father)
- o Pope Gelasius (ruled church 492 - 496)
 - Developed Idea of "Two Swords" or Two Authorities:
 - (1) King/Emperor as Temporal Authority
 - (2) The Pope as Spiritual Authority
- o Pope Gregory the Great (ruled church 540 - 604)
 - Introduced the Gregorian Chant
 - Sent missionary to England!

