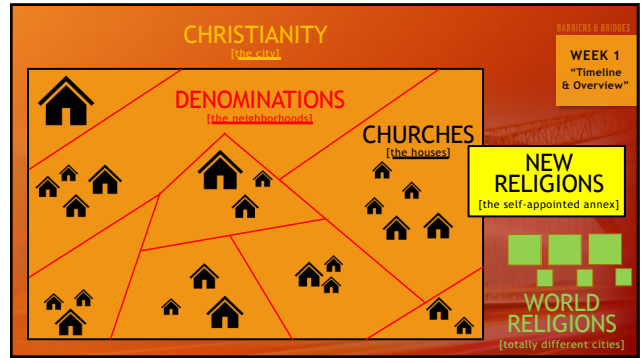


1



2

Why so many different varieties of churches?

- Where did they come from?
- What are the differences?
- Why are there differences?

Church history is a record of the good, the bad, & the ugly of the people of God. If we are wise we will learn and grow from it.

3

THE AGE OF JESUS & THE APOSTLES

MATTHEW 28

¹⁸Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

4

THE AGE OF JESUS & THE APOSTLES

ACTS 1

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

⁹ After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

5

THE AGE OF JESUS & THE APOSTLES

WHAT IS AN APOSTLE?

- the word "apostle" literally means "sent one"
- apostles were eyewitnesses to the resurrected Jesus which led to more trust & authority
- apostles names are recorded in the New Testament
- after Acts 1 there is no record of apostles being replaced
- Paul was an unusual apostle (1 Corinthians 15:8)

from Ephesians 2

6

PERSECUTION OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Jewish Persecution

- Jesus and his original disciples were Jewish
- The New Testament is filled with conflict between Judaism & those who follow Jesus
- Stephen was the first martyr (Acts 7)

Roman Persecution

- Rome hated the Jews & the Jews hated Rome
- Rome was its own state religion with Caesar as their god

WEEK 1
"Timeline & Overview"

7

PERSECUTION OF THE EARLY CHURCH

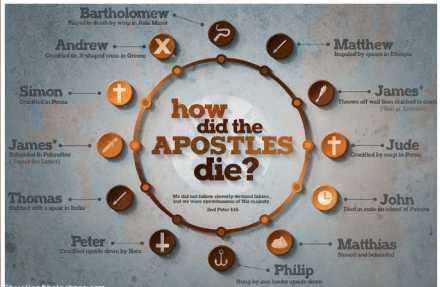
Roman Persecution



WEEK 1
"Timeline & Overview"

8

PERSECUTION OF THE EARLY CHURCH



"The blood of the martyrs is seed of the church."
-Tertullian
early church leader in North Africa around the year 200

WEEK 1
"Timeline & Overview"

9



WEEK 1
"Timeline & Overview"

10



WEEK 1
"Timeline & Overview"

11



WEEK 1
"Timeline & Overview"

12

THE CATHOLIC/UNIVERSAL CHURCH : AD 70 – AD 312

WEEK 1
"Timeline & Overview"

- The church had spread to many different regions over 3 continents
- Heresy is widespread
 - Gnostics - hidden knowledge
 - Marcion - vengeful God of the OT v/s gentle Jesus of NT
 - Sabellius - modalism... God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are not distinct persons
 - Arius - Jesus is a lesser god



13

THE CATHOLIC/UNIVERSAL CHURCH : AD 70 – AD 312

WEEK 1
"Timeline & Overview"

COUNCILS & CREEDS

THE APOSTLE'S CREED : AD 140

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

14

TROUBLE IN ROME

WEEK 1
"Timeline & Overview"

THE ROMAN EMPIRE 1ST - 2ND CENTURY A.D.




Rome lasted 422 years

- political instability
- economic & social problems
- inability to protect their vast domain from outsiders
- In 312 AD Emperor Constantine professes Christianity

15

NEXT WEEK...

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC & THE ORTHODOX CHURCH



16