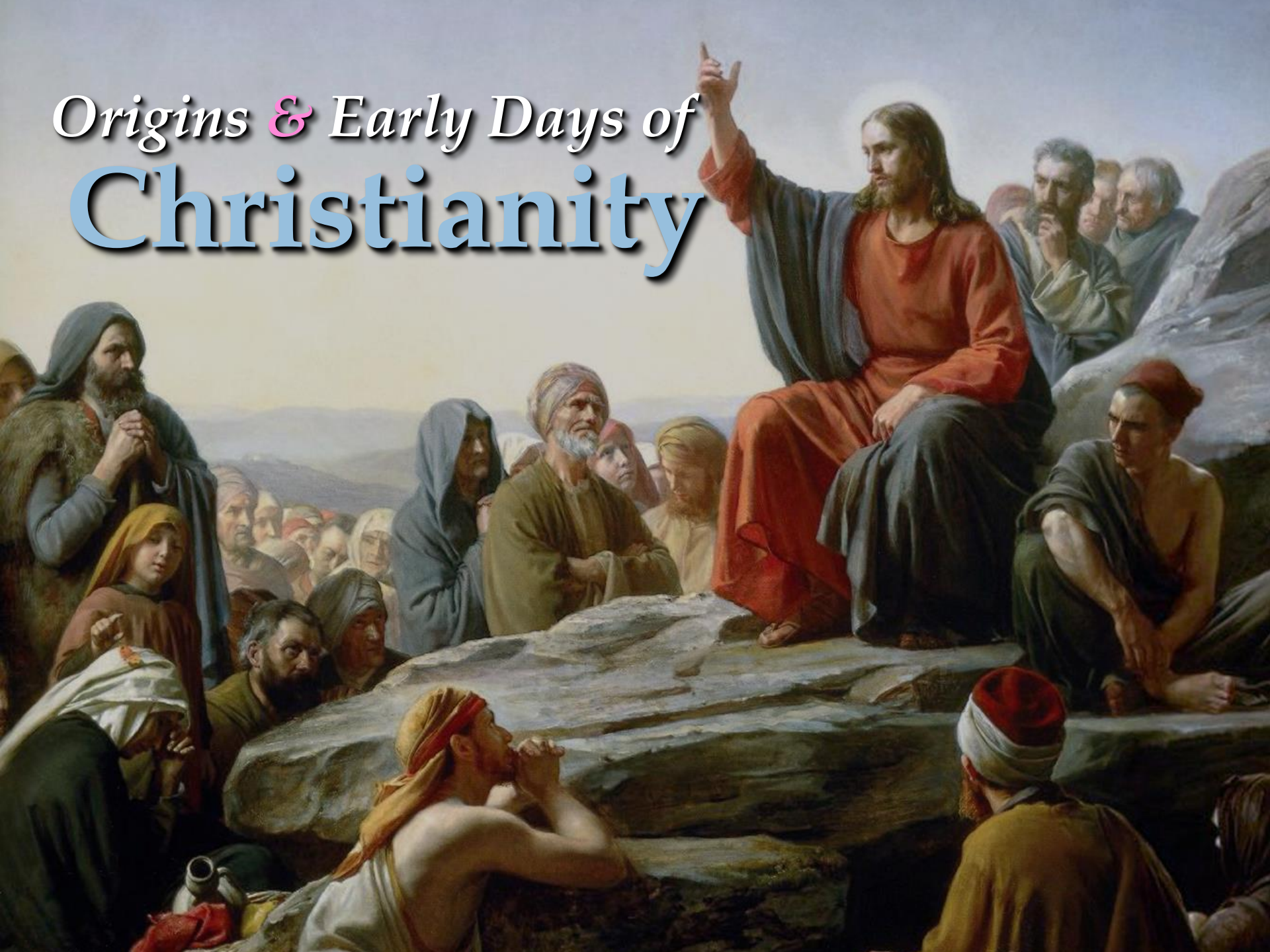


# *Origins & Early Days of* **Christianity**



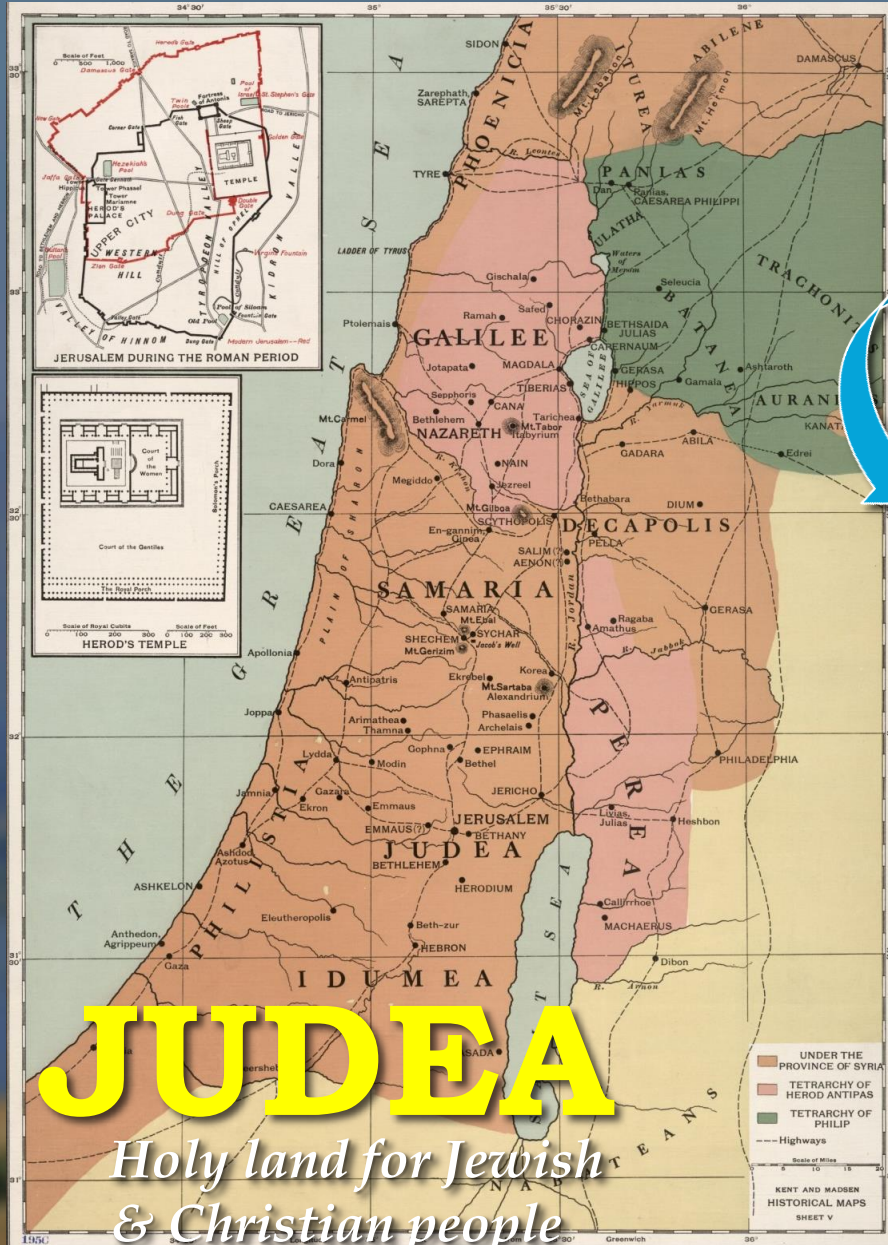


# THE TIMES & PLACE





# THE TIMES & PLACE

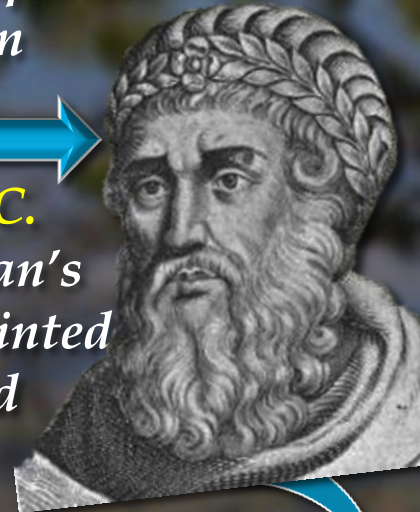


**63 B.C.** Roman's conquered the region



off & on rebellion

**37 B.C.** Roman's appointed Herod



**4 B.C.** Roman's appointed prefects



off & on rebellion





# THE TIMES & PLACE



## Messianic Prophets

*Those awaiting the redeemer  
or savior of Israel*



## Zealots

*Those wanting  
to overthrow  
Rome through  
revolution*



## Religious Groups

- **Sadducees** – Traditional aristocracy, only Torah, no afterlife, political supporters of Rome
- **Pharisees** – Middle class, Temple, afterlife, religious practice



# Birth & Life of Jesus

- Born in Bethlehem in a stable *c. 4 B.C. – 1 A.D.*
- NT affirms Mary had a miraculous conception
- Raised in Nazareth by parents Mary & Joseph
- Was a carpenter by trade
- Age of 30 he was baptized by John the Baptist
- Baptism & 40 Days in the Wilderness start ministry





# Jesus' Teachings

## 12 Disciples

*(followers or students)*

- Simon (known as Peter)
- Andrew (Peter's brother)
- James (son of Zebedee)
- John (James' brother)
- Phillip
- Bartholomew
- Thomas
- Matthew (the tax collector)
- James (son of Alphaeus)
- Thaddeus (also known as Judas, son of James and Lebbaeus)
- Simon (the zealot also known as Simon the Canaanite)
- Judas Iscariot





# Jesus' Teachings

## **Taught in Parables**

*a short story that teaches  
a principle about how  
to live a life pleasing  
to God & other people*



## **Different Locations**

*Taught in synagogues  
Taught in towns  
Taught in the countryside  
Performed miracles*



# Parable of the Good Samaritan

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

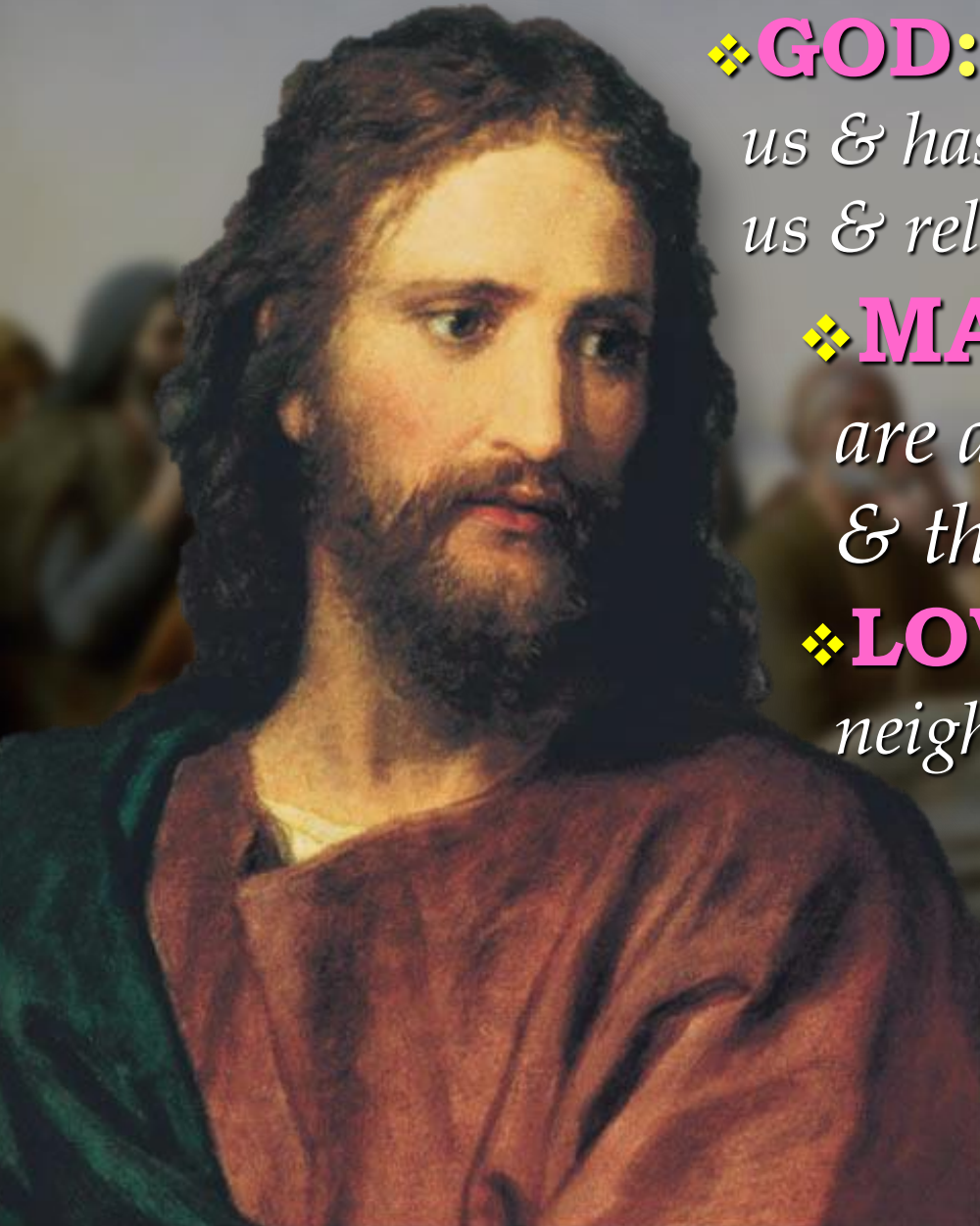
<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." **LUKE 10:25-37**



# Jesus' Teachings



❖ **GOD:** *God is a Father who loves us & has sent His Son to redeem us & relate back to Him*

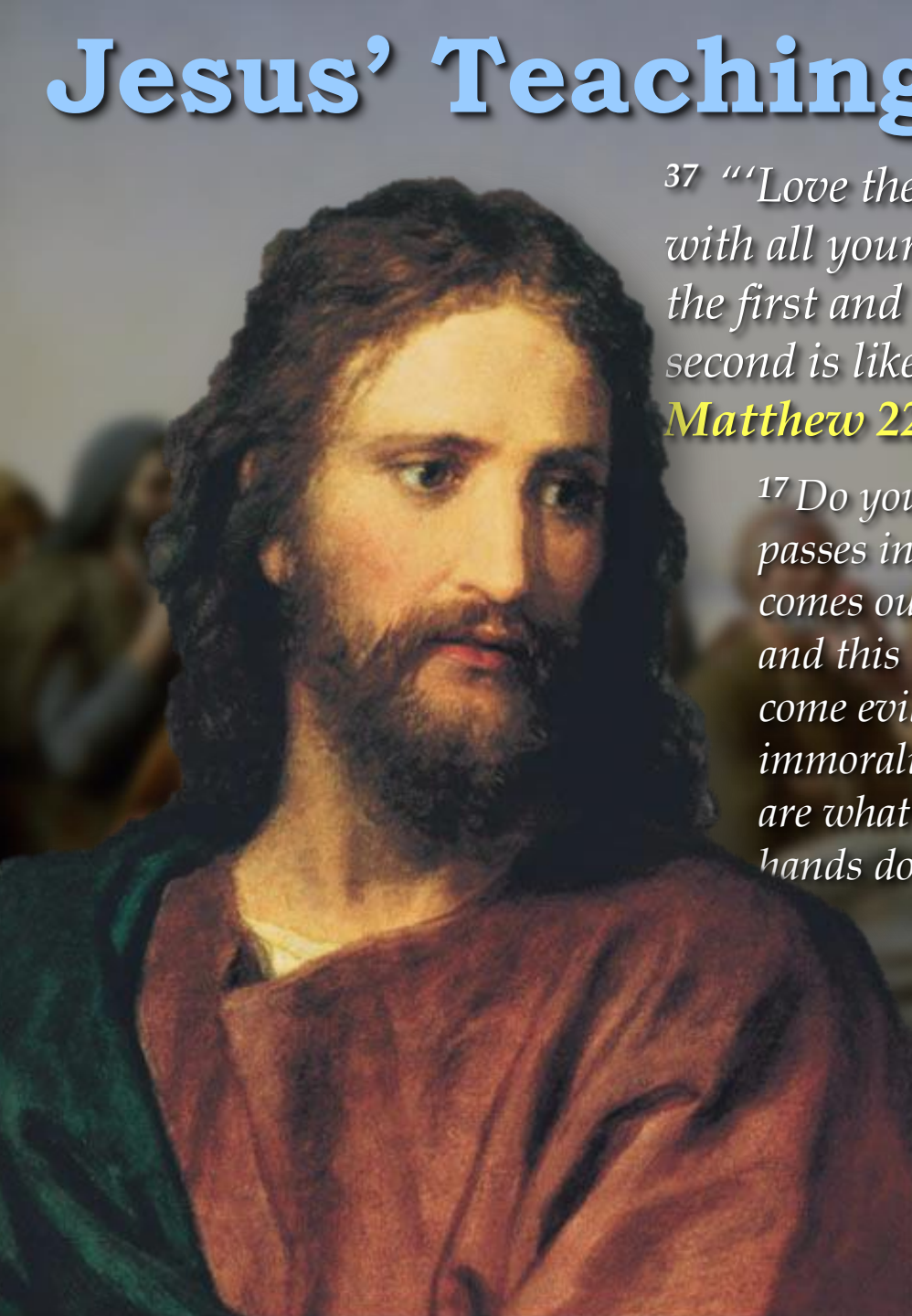
❖ **MAN:** *Man's problems are a product of mans heart & the heart needs changing*

❖ **LOVE:** *Love God & your neighbors as yourself*

❖ **SALVATION:** *God's work of saving the world would come through His life, teachings & sacrifice*



# Jesus' Teachings



<sup>37</sup> “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

**Matthew 22:37-39**

<sup>17</sup> Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.” **Matthew 15:17-20**

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” **John 14:6-7**



# THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst  
for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful  
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted  
for righteousness sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

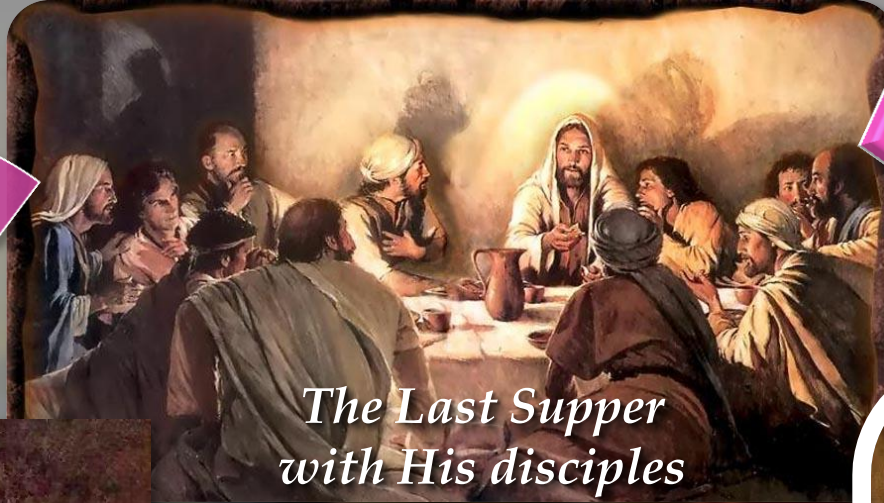
Matthew 5:3-10



**At the Sermon on The Mount  
Jesus gave people simple but  
thoughtful rules to live a better life  
called “The Beatitudes”**



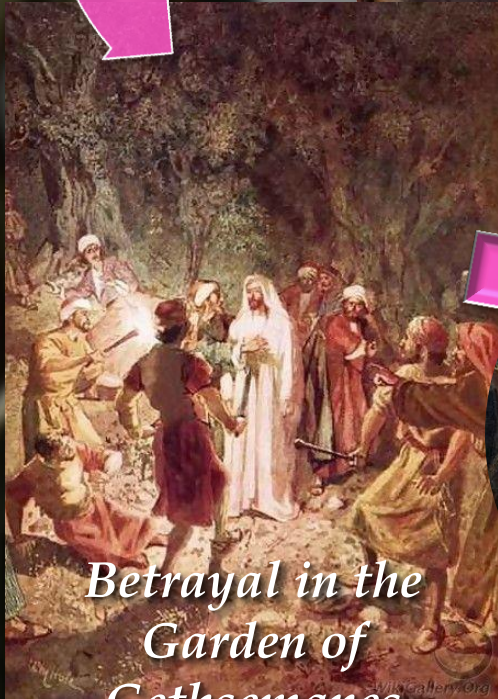
# Crucifixion & Resurrection



*The Last Supper  
with His disciples*



*Enters Jerusalem  
being worshiped*



*Betrayal in the  
Garden of  
Gethsemanes*



*Trial by Pontius Pilate*



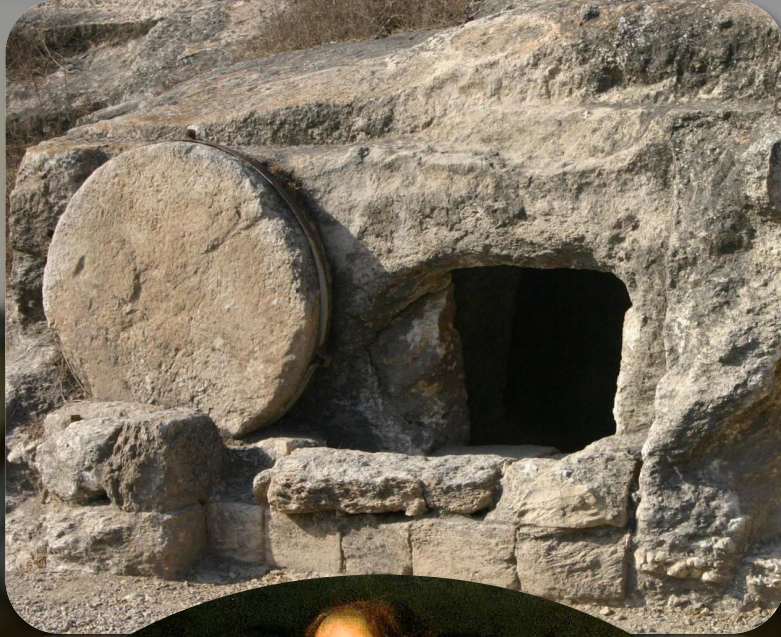
*Crucifixion on Mnt.  
Golgotha*







# Crucifixion & Resurrection



*Early writings of Christian eyewitnesses state that Jesus rose from the dead after three days, ministered & appeared 40 days, and then ascended into heaven*

*Jesus was called **Christ** "Christos" or **Messiah** (savior/ anointed one) of the world*







# The Spread *of* Christianity



After Jesus his 12 Apostles began preaching and spreading the gospel ("good news" about Jesus' teachings & resurrection)





*Main apostle who  
preached to the  
Gentiles(non-Jews,  
spread across  
the Empire.  
Also planted  
Churches.*

*Apostle*  
**Paul**

*Main head Apostle  
who preached  
mostly to Jews in  
Judea (also  
head of the  
Church)*

*Apostle*  
**Peter**

*First Christians met in houses,  
catacombs, sewers & sometimes  
synagogues (temples)*





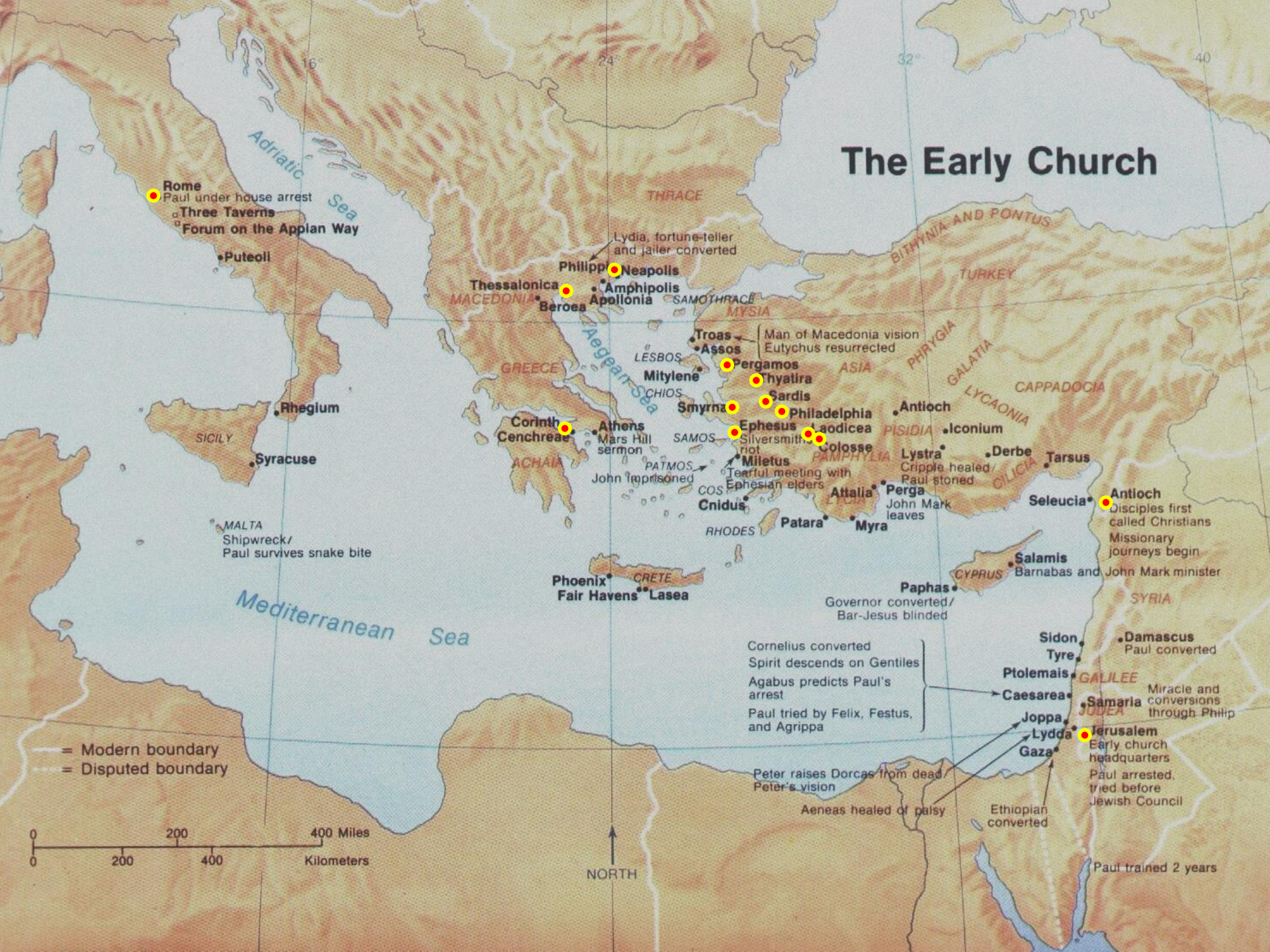








# The Early Church





# Jewish Diaspora (70s A.D.)



*66-74 A.D. Judea  
rebelled against Rome.*

*Titus*  
**Vespasianus**

*Rome destroyed  
Jerusalem,  
crushed rebels &  
exiled Jews*









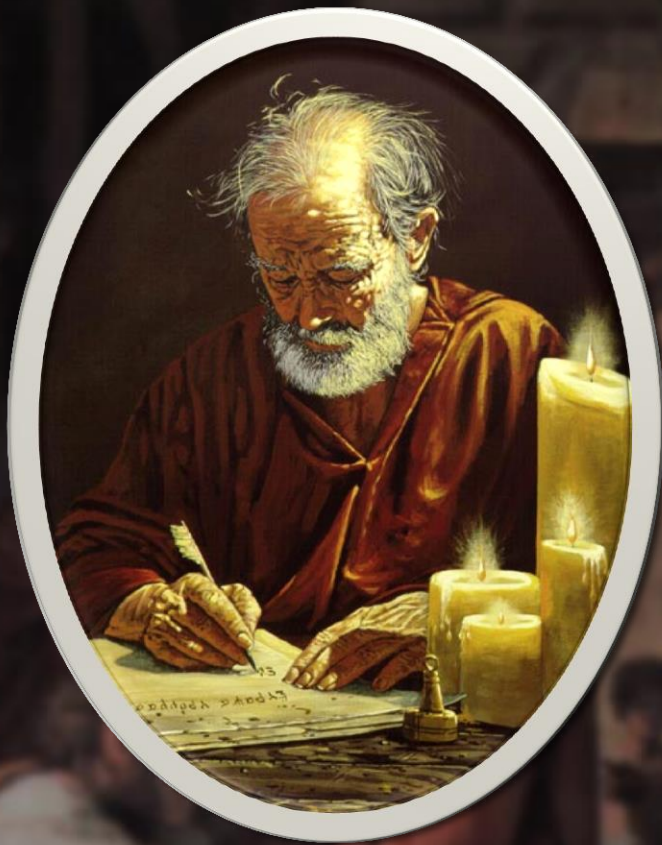




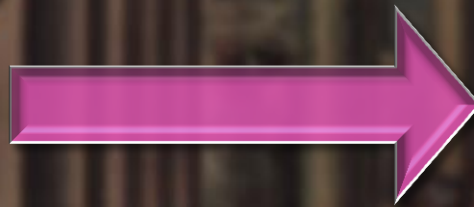


*Masada*





*Eventually the Apostles wrote down Jesus' teachings so they could be used as instruction for future generations*



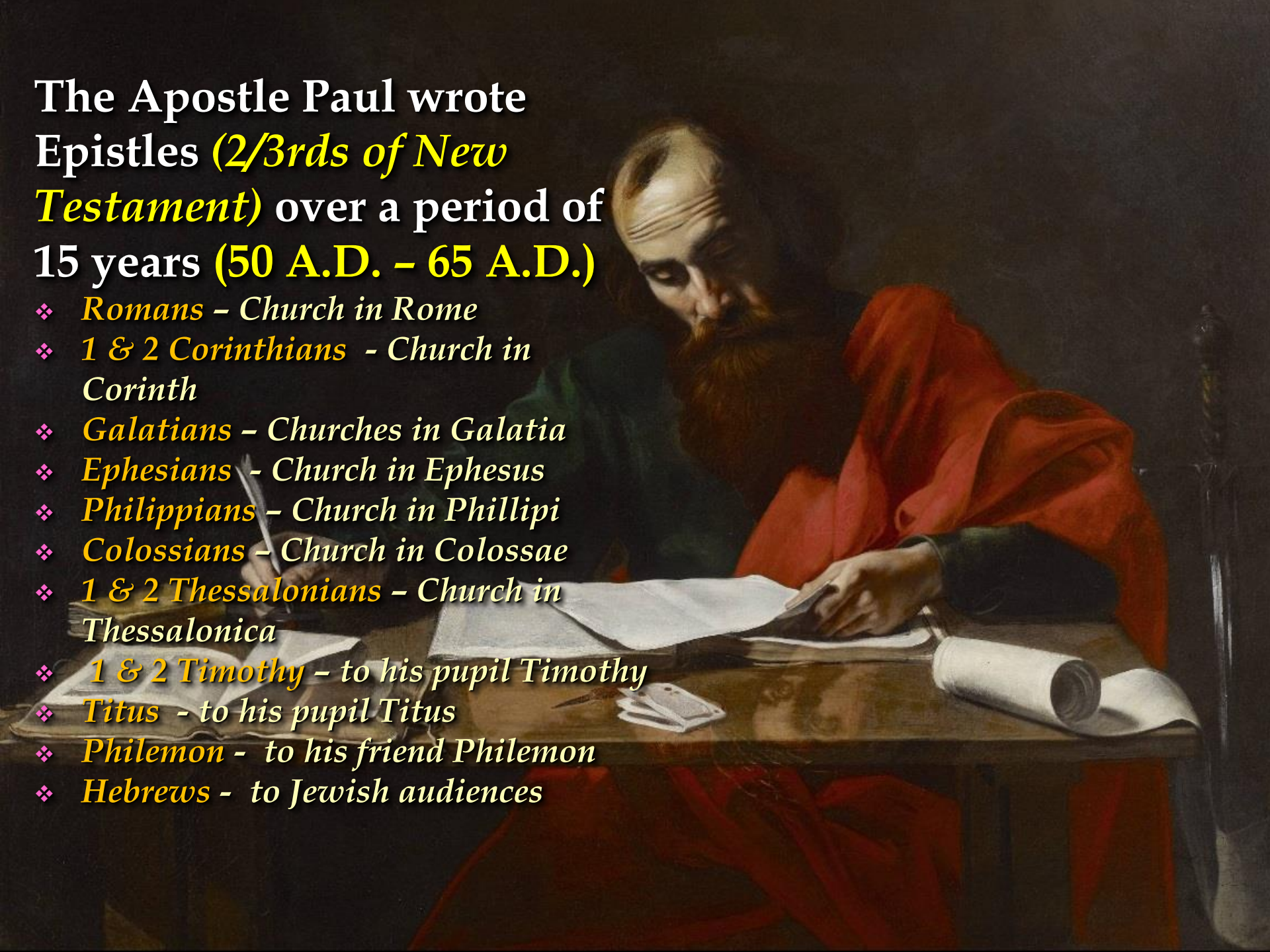
*These 27 writings (books) would be known as the New Testament*





The Apostle Paul wrote  
Epistles (*2/3rds of New  
Testament*) over a period of  
15 years (*50 A.D. – 65 A.D.*)

- ❖ *Romans* – Church in Rome
- ❖ *1 & 2 Corinthians* – Church in Corinth
- ❖ *Galatians* – Churches in Galatia
- ❖ *Ephesians* – Church in Ephesus
- ❖ *Philippians* – Church in Phillipi
- ❖ *Colossians* – Church in Colossae
- ❖ *1 & 2 Thessalonians* – Church in Thessalonica
- ❖ *1 & 2 Timothy* – to his pupil Timothy
- ❖ *Titus* – to his pupil Titus
- ❖ *Philemon* – to his friend Philemon
- ❖ *Hebrews* – to Jewish audiences







# The Persecution & Triumph *of* Christianity





For the first **300 years** as Christianity spread Christians were persecuted and killed by Roman leaders out of fear and hatred

Some Christians became **martyrs** (person who is willing to die rather than give up their beliefs)





# Why Persecute The Christians?

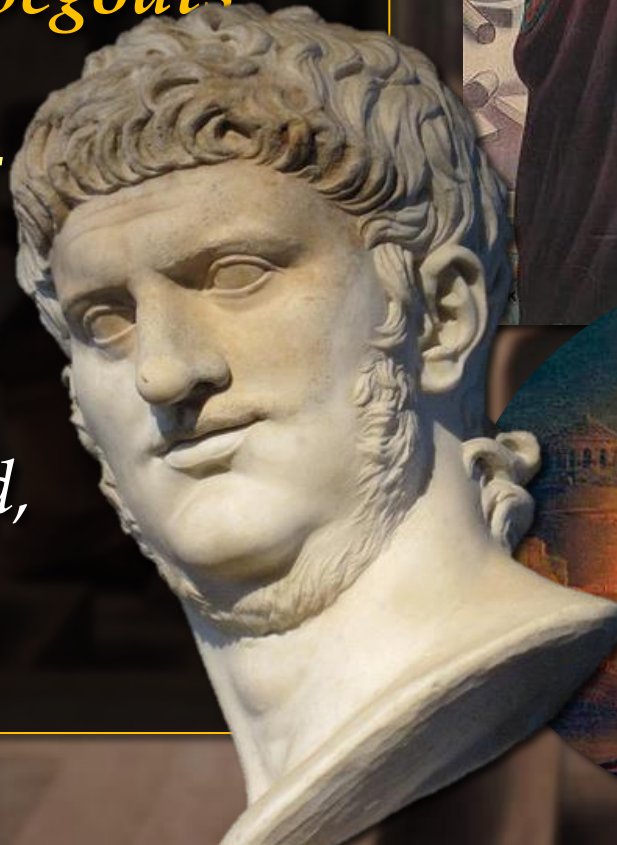
**Considered an odd & dangerous sect**

- ❖ *Refused to worship the emperor or other gods in the Roman pantheon*
- ❖ *Rejected serving in the Roman army*
- ❖ *Declined to participate in Roman festivals & parties*
- ❖ *Mass conversions weakened Roman festivals & religious institutions*



# Great Fire of Rome (64 A.D.)

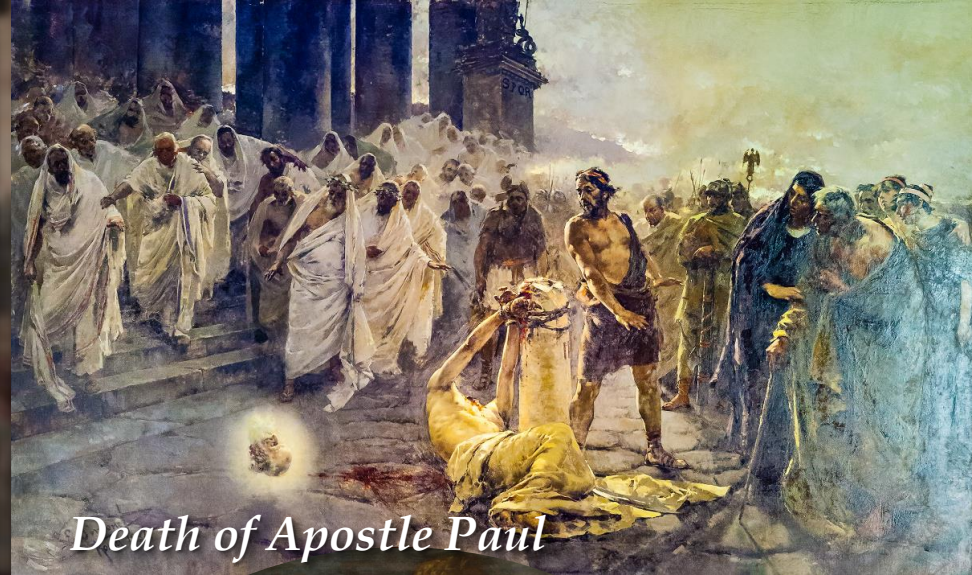
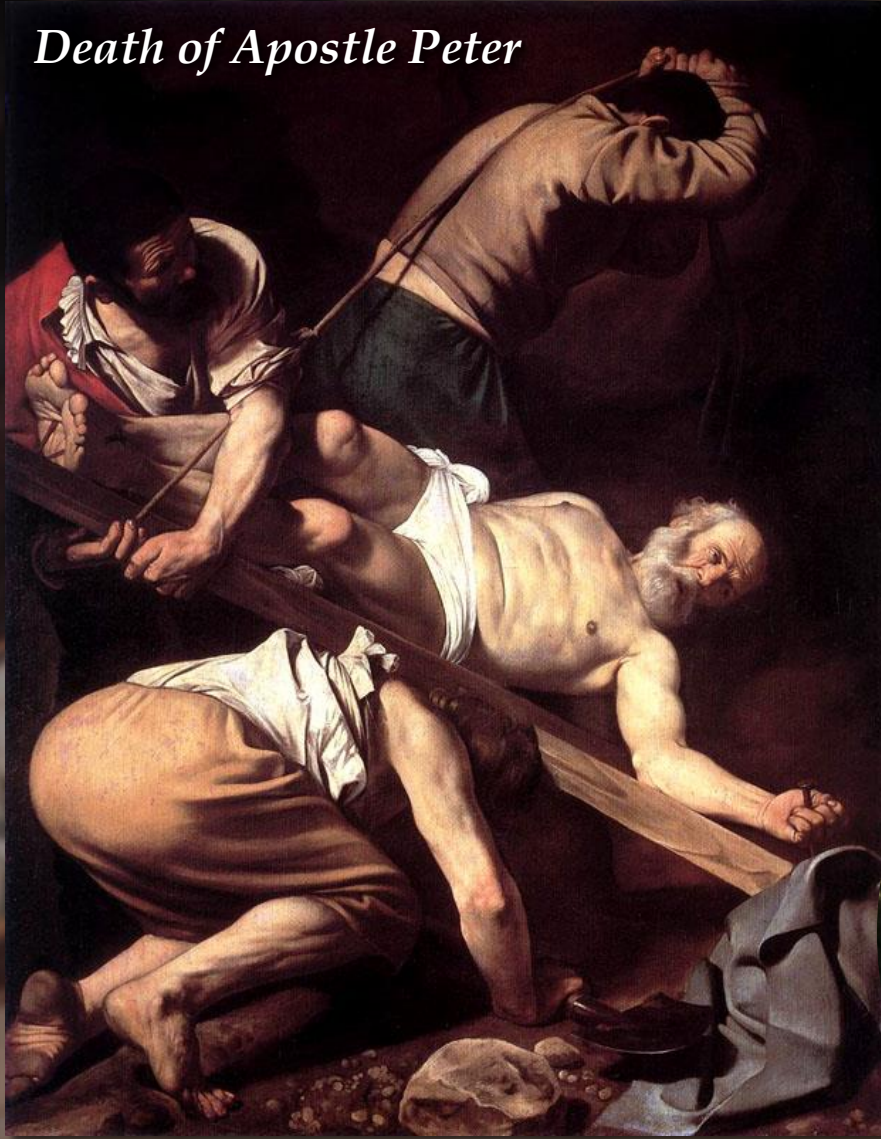
- ROME burned for 6 days.  
Destroyed 2/3rds of the city  
(10 of 14 districts damaged or destroyed)
- Emperor Nero made  
Christians **scapegoats**  
(people who  
innocently bear  
the blame for  
others)
- First organized,  
wide spread  
persecution





# First Persecutions (64-68 A.D.)

*Death of Apostle Peter*



*Death of Apostle Paul*

























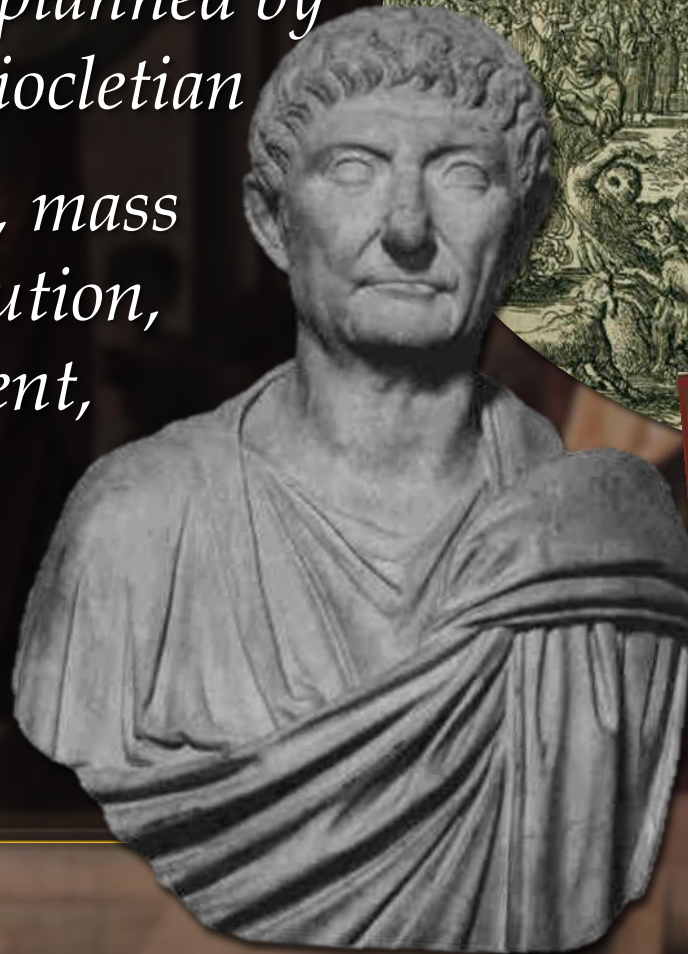




# THE GREAT PERSECUTION

(303-311 A.D.)

- ❖ *Last major persecution*
- ❖ *Organized/planned by Emperor Diocletian*
- ❖ *Burn books, mass public execution, imprisonment, torture*
- ❖ *More than 100,000 victims*



*Saint George*



# CHRISTIANITY GROWS THROUGH PERSECUTION

## 4 THE ORIGINS AND SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY TO AD 600

- Predominantly Christian by AD 325
- Christian community established by AD 325
- Place of origin of Christian sect
- Predominantly Christian by AD 600
- Church council





# CHRISTIANITY GROWS THROUGH PERSECUTION



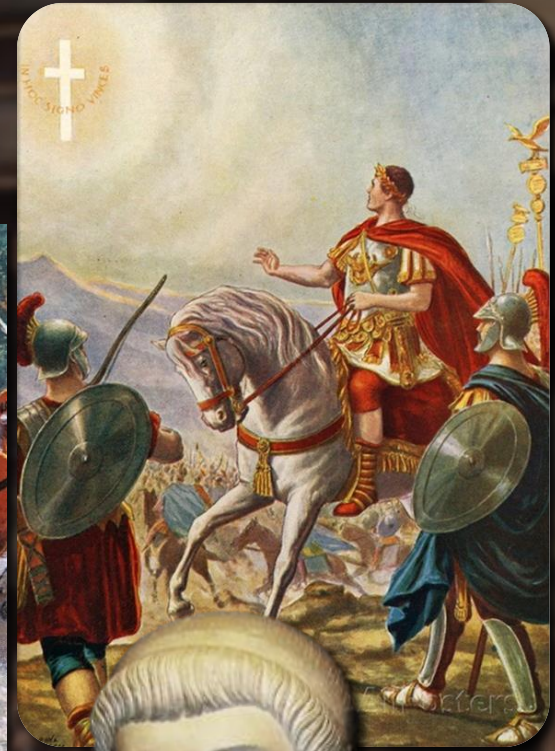


# *Why did Christianity grow even through persecution?*

- 1. It embraced all classes of people – men and women; poor & wealthy; slave & free.*
- 2. It gave hope to the powerless.*
- 3. It appealed to those who were repelled by the extravagances of imperial Rome.*
- 4. It offered a personal relationship with a loving God.*
- 5. It promised eternal life after death.*



# 312 A.D.



**Battle of  
Milvian Bridge**  
*"In this sign, conquer"* Constantine





# 313 A.D.

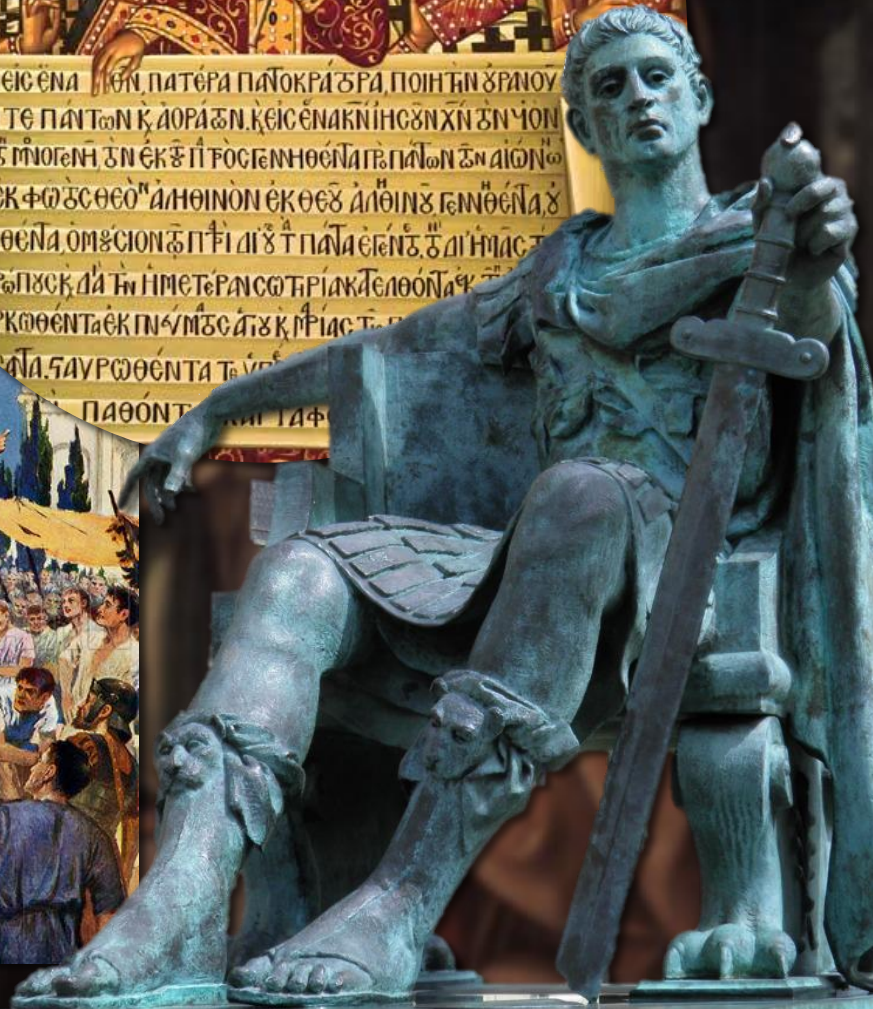
## Edict of Milan

*Legalized Christianity  
across the Roman  
Empire & ended  
persecutions*



*Chi Rho*

"ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ"  
= KRistos





# 360s A.D.

*Christianity is  
made the official  
religion of the  
Roman Empire*



*Emperor  
Theodosius*

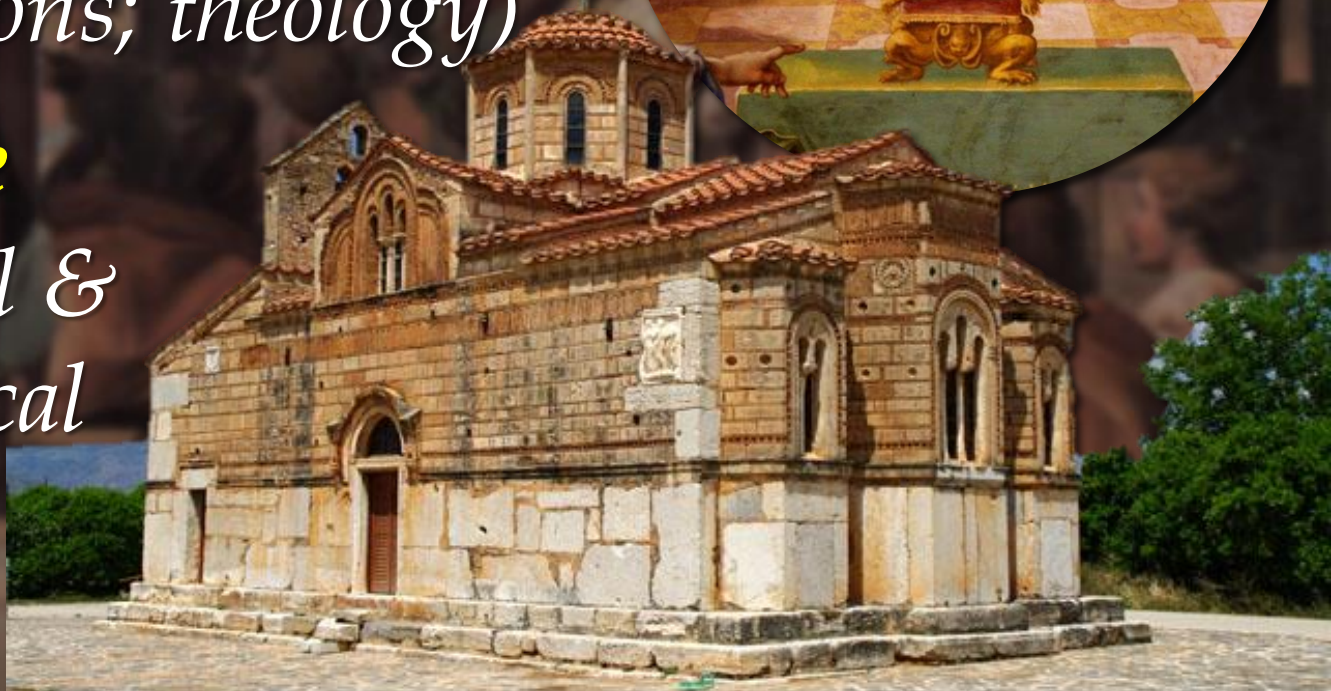




# Constantine & Theodosius

## I allowed Christianity to:

- **Spread** (*missionary work; from cities to country-side*)
- **Organize** (*churches; congregations; theology*)
- **Influence** (*gain social & even political position*)







## Bishops

*Church leaders who oversaw or lead several churches in a region*



## Pope

*Bishop of Rome (c. 600 A.D.)*

***Means:** papa "father"*

*Eventually became head over all churches across the Empire*



# The Early Church Fathers



- Early Christian writers and scholars began writing down ideas, teachings, & defenses of Christianity from heresy (false teachings)
- Augustin wrote “The City of God” (philosophical defense of Christianity)



*Saint*  
**Augustine**  
of Hippo



