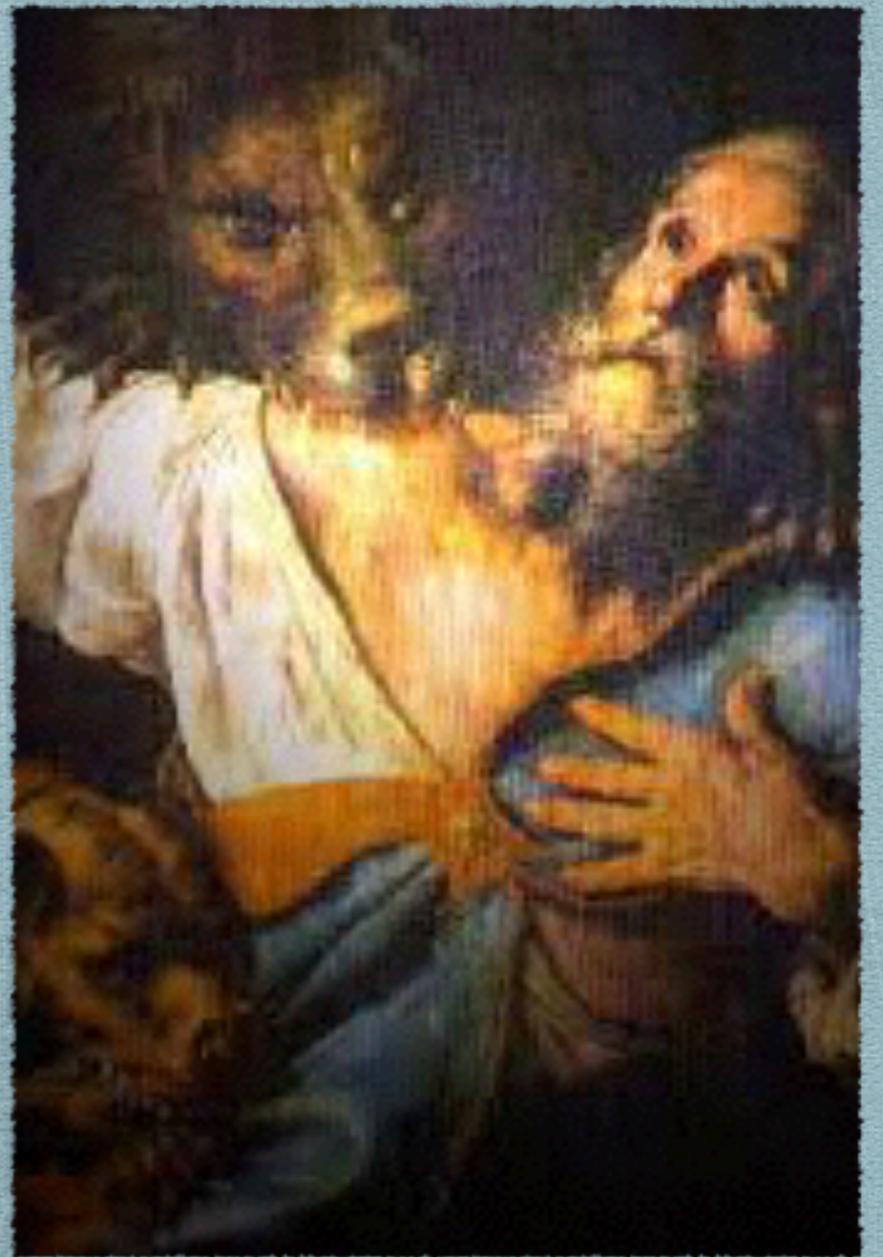
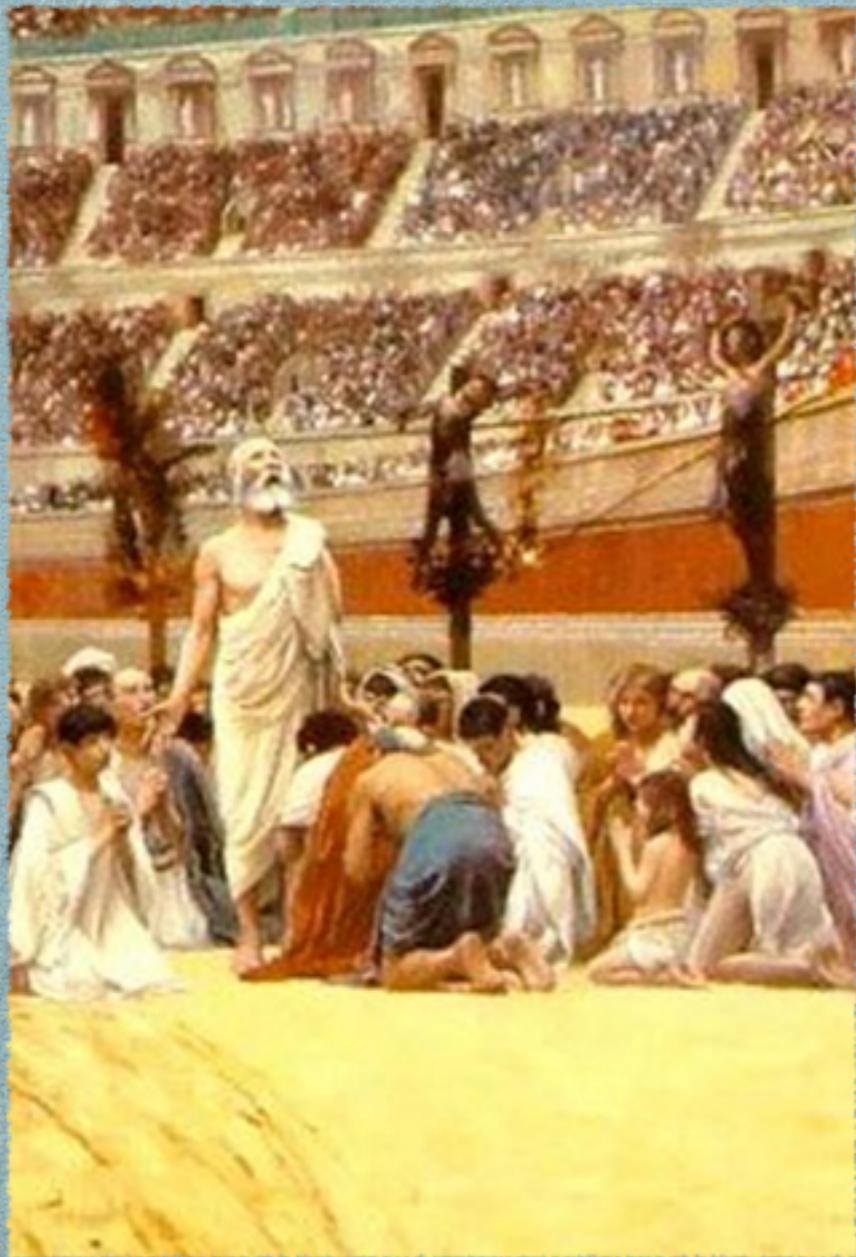


Early Church Fathers



Chapters 10-15



Early Church Fathers

When and Where

Apostolic Fathers

- ◆ Heard the Apostles directly or learned from those who heard them. (50-150 AD)
 - ◆ Clement of Rome
 - ◆ Ignatius of Antioch
 - ◆ Polycarp
 - ◆ Justin Martyr
 - ◆ Irenaeus of Lyons

Apostolic Fathers

- ◆ Clement of Rome - Bishop of Rome
 - ◆ 4th Pope - knew Sts Peter and Paul
 - ◆ 95 AD - Letter to Corinthians
 - ◆ Apostolic Succession - Unity

Apostolic Fathers

- ◆ Ignatius of Antioch - Bishop
 - ◆ Fed to lions in 117 AD
 - ◆ Bishop ordained by St John
 - ◆ 7 letters - Divinity Christ, Clergy, Eucharist

Apostolic Fathers

- ◆ Polycarp - Bishop Smyrna
 - ◆ Martyred in 155 AD. Burned at Stake and speared. Witness.
 - ◆ Bishop ordained by St John
 - ◆ Friend of Ignatius

Apostolic Fathers

- ◆ Justin Martyr

- ◆ Martyred in 165 AD. Beheaded.

- ◆ Apologies to Emperor / Senate

- ◆ Atheism, Incest, Cannibalism

- ◆ Studied: (Alexandria), Ephesus, Rome

Apostolic Fathers

- ◆ Irenaeus of Lyons - Bishop
 - ◆ Wrote in 185 AD. Not martyred
 - ◆ Student of Polycarp
 - ◆ Against Gnosticism - 1st Bible canon
 - ◆ Apostolic Succession - Truth

Apostolic Fathers



Apostolic Fathers



Ante Nicene Fathers

- ◆ Developed Church discipline and catechesis from 150 - 325 AD
 - ◆ Clement of Alexandria
 - ◆ Hippolytus
 - ◆ Origen
 - ◆ Tertullian
 - ◆ Cyprian of Carthage

Ante Nicene Fathers

- ◆ Clement of Alexandria (200 AD)
 - ◆ Brought Alexandrian school to prominence
 - ◆ Real Gnosis - providence of Christian
 - ◆ Christian shares knowledge

Ante Nicene Fathers

- ◆ Hippolytus (early 200s)
- ◆ First Antipope (even before Novatian)
 - ◆ Reconciled with Pontianus in Sardinia
- ◆ *Apostolic Tradition*
 - ◆ How sacraments were celebrated (p.129)

Ante Nicene Fathers

- ◆ Origen (203 - 215 AD)
 - ◆ Student of Clement
 - ◆ Re-opened School of Alexandria
 - ◆ Opened the eyes of Ambrose
 - ◆ Heard preaching of Hippolytus (212 AD)
 - ◆ Held some beliefs that were heretical

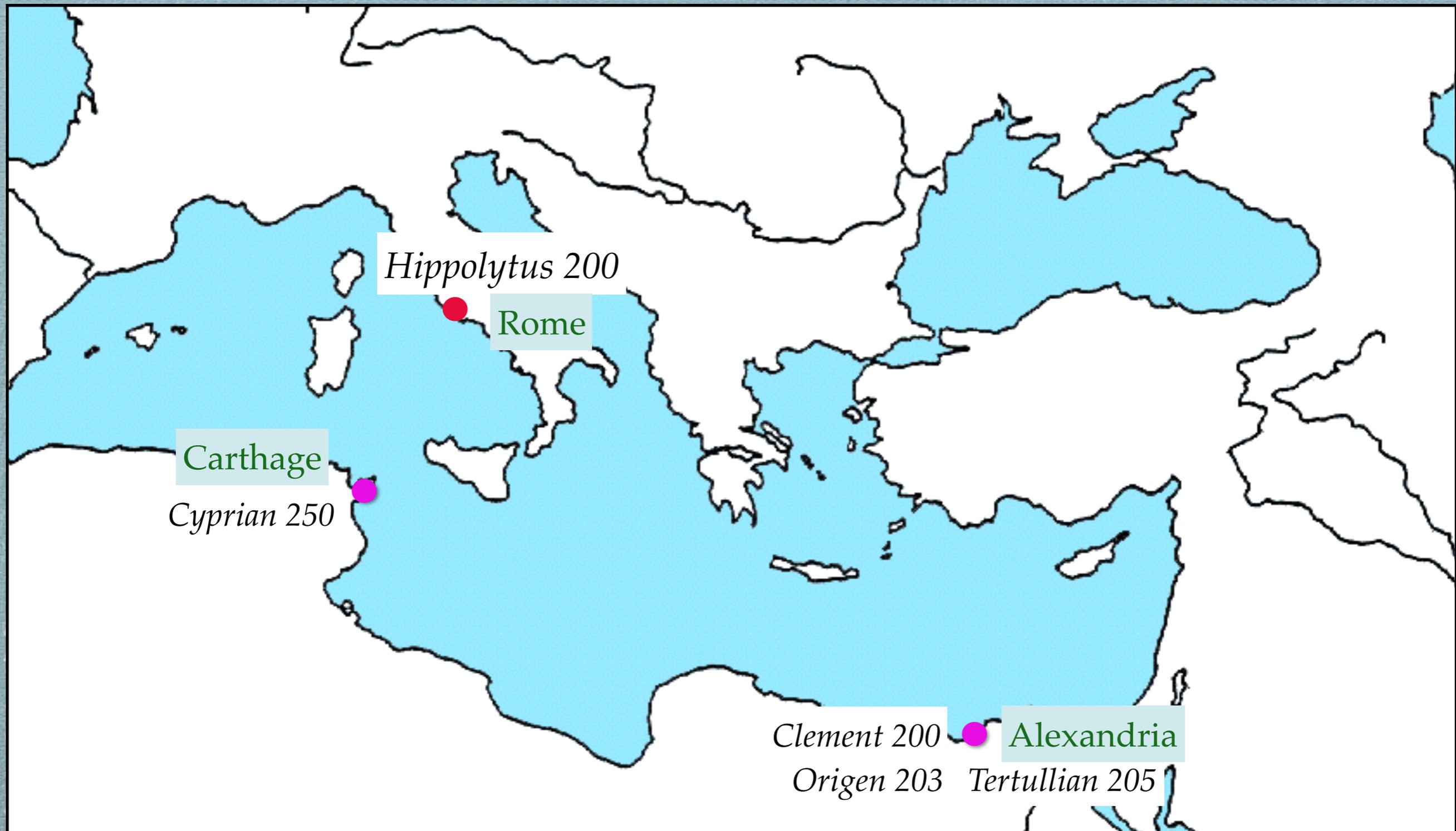
Ante Nicene Fathers

- ◆ Tertullian - (202 - 206 - 211+ AD)
 - ◆ Carthaginian lawyer - Alexandrian School
 - ◆ Coined “Trinity” (trinitas) - Treatises on Baptism, Eucharist, Confession.
 - ◆ Rigorous - ended up *Montanist*

Ante Nicene Fathers

- ◆ Cyprian of Carthage (250 AD)
 - ◆ Bishop of Rome, primacy v. local bishop
 - ◆ Apostasy and forgiveness
 - ◆ Baptism by heretics - Pope Stephen valid
No rebaptism
 - ◆ *salus, extra ecclesiam, non est*

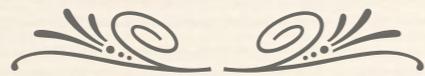
Ante Nicene Fathers



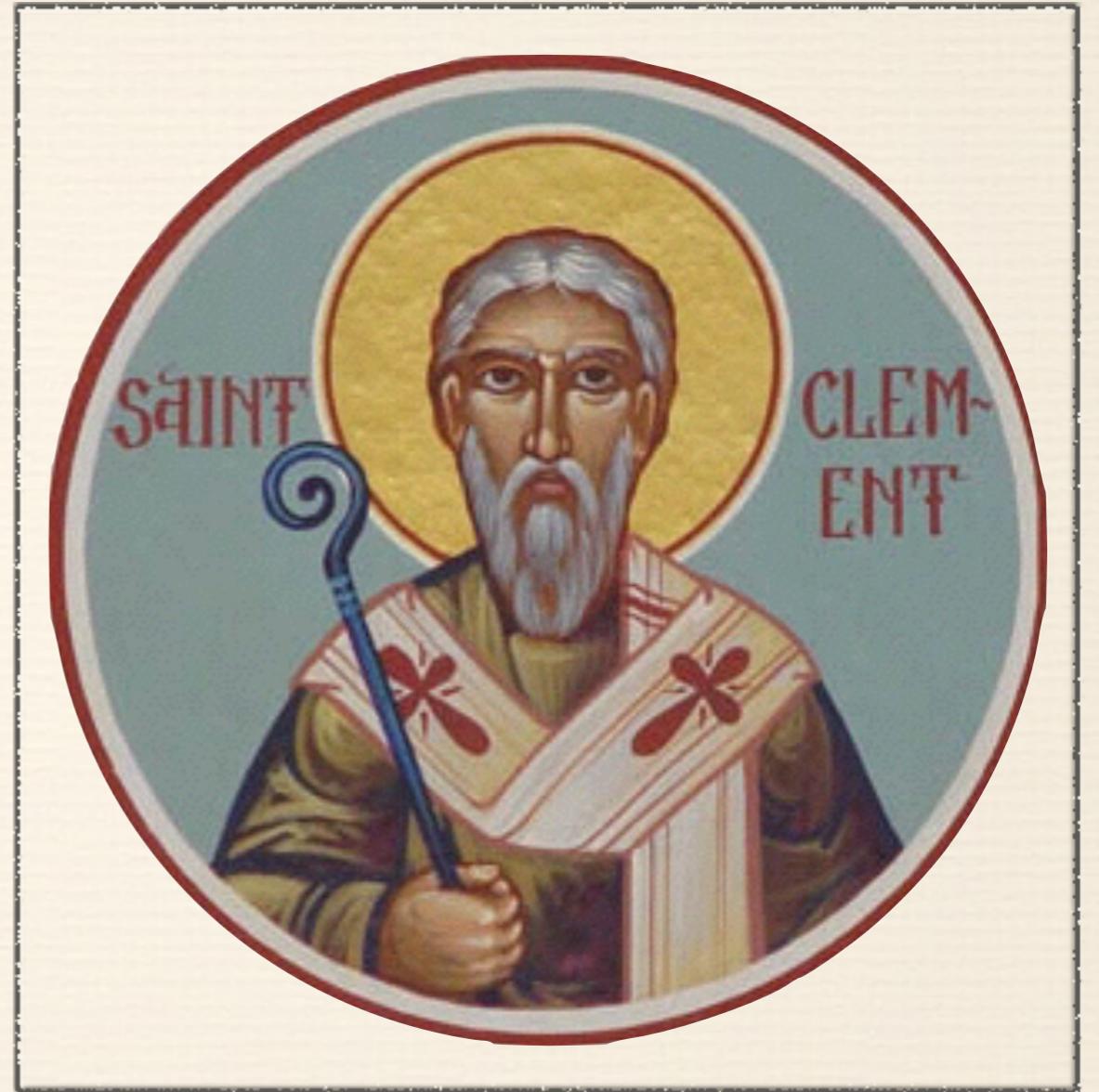
5 Sees - Two Schools



Chapter 10



*Clement
and the
School of Alexandria*



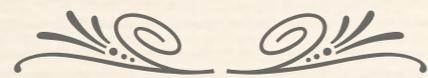
Clement of Alexandria

- ❖ Prominent in School of Alexandria from 200-202 AD
- ❖ Fought overreaction against **knowledge**, flowing from Gnostic heresy assertions regarding “special / secret knowledge”

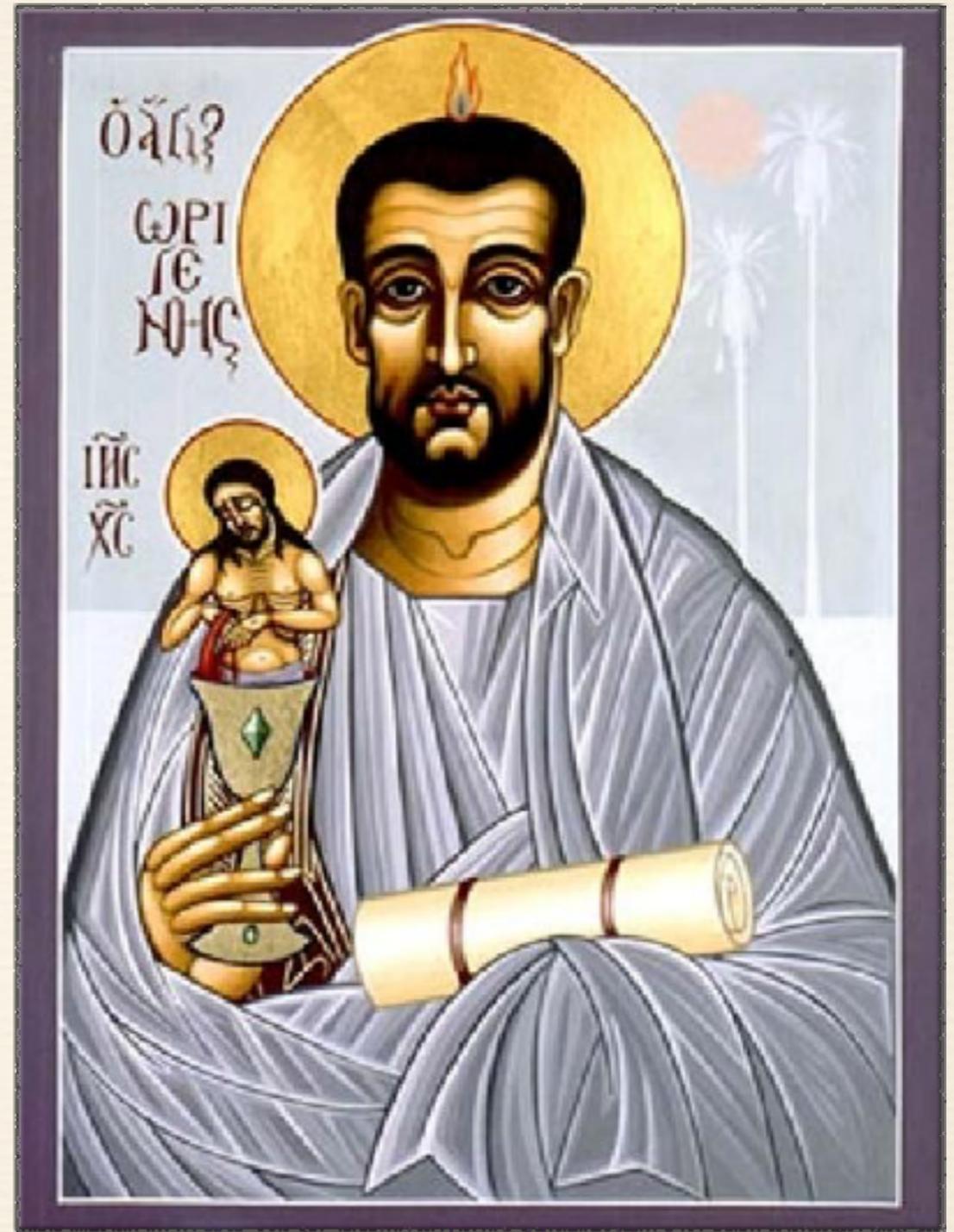
Clement of Alexandria

- ❖ **Baptized** were the true “enlightened” ones. Shared knowledge, prepared by education in the faith and philosophy. Knowledge used to explain why Christians did what they did.
- ❖ **Marriage** great *example* of **communion** with God in His work. (Imago Dei - as co-creators with God)

Chapter 11



*Origen:
Zeal and Genius*



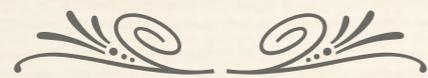
Origen

- ❖ Author has very favorable opinion of Origen. Many dissent from author's view.
- ❖ Clement's brightest student.
- ❖ **Divinity of Christ** and **Infant Baptism** as Apostolic Tradition
- ❖ **New words:** *ousia* (being), *physis* (nature), *theotokos*

Origen

- ❖ **Unity of Scripture** and **Allegorical** view - we still use his view today - CCC 109-118
- ❖ Don't try and apply Scripture to our lives. Rather, put ourselves before God and let the text assimilate us to Himself. (p. 99)
- ❖ celibacy and *castration* issue (Bishop Demetrius?)
- ❖ Platonic pre-existence, universal salvation

Chapter 12



The tragedy of Tertullian



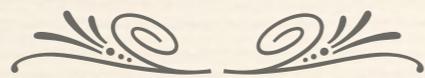
Tertullian

- ❖ Moved by martyrdom while in Rome.
- ❖ First Father to write exclusively in Latin.
 - ❖ “The blood of martyrs is seed.”
- ❖ **Trinity** was answer to Modalism.
 - ❖ 3 persons = 1 God.
 - ❖ Jesus = 1 person, with 2 natures.

Tertullian

- ❖ Important to note that Tertullian's **terminology** was instrumental in later councils as they fleshed out the doctrines related to Jesus.
- ❖ Declined into **Montanism**, as a result of rigorism - the *inability to accept the forgiveness of certain post-baptismal sins*.
 - ❖ This sets the stage for Cyprian of Carthage.

Chapter 13



*Cyprian and the
Unity of the Church*





GRAVE SINS

HERESY AND APOSTASY

Heb 6:1-8

Therefore, let us leave behind the **basic teaching** about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God, instruction about baptisms and laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. And we shall do this, if only God permits.

For it is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened and tasted the heavenly gift and shared in the Holy Spirit and tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to bring them to repentance again, since they are recrucifying the Son of God for themselves and holding him up to contempt.

Ground that has absorbed the rain falling upon it repeatedly and brings forth crops useful to those for whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God. *But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is rejected; it will soon be cursed and finally burned.*

GREAT SINS

- Two Great Sins
 - **Heresy** - (Obstinate) post-baptismal denial of a truth that must be believed
 - **Apostasy** - Total repudiation of the Christian Faith

GREAT SINS

- **HERESY**
 - **Material** - (OBJECTIVE) The Belief regards something that is False, related to the faith - or denies something that is True.
 - **Formal** - (SUBJECTIVE) The Person willfully and knowingly embraces a False teaching, or denies something that is True.

GREAT SINS

- **APOSTASY**
 - **Material** - (OBJECTIVE) The Belief held is a total repudiation of the Christian Faith.
 - **Formal** - (SUBJECTIVE) The Person willfully and knowingly embraces a Total Repudiation of the Christian faith.

GREAT SINS

- Both Great Sins result in:
 - **Ex-Communication - (*Latae Sententia*)**
 - *meaning without the need for a formal church finding or declaration*
 - **Automatic ex-communication**

GREAT SINS

- READMISSION:
 - Heresy — Confession
 - Apostasy — Bishop must forgive

GREAT SINS

- There are situations where the Apostasy is *not* held against the offender as an Automatic Ex-Communication:
 - Less than 16 years of Age
 - Grave Fear
 - Defense of Self or Defense of Others
 - Lacked use of Reason.

HISTORICAL APPLICATION

- **Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus**
 - Outside of the Church there is no Salvation
 - **St Cyprian of Carthage** - Bishop from 249-258
- Does this mean you have to be Catholic to be saved?

CYPRIAN STATEMENTS

- If a man deserts the chair of Peter, upon who the Church was built - does he think he is in the Church?
- He can no longer have God for his Father, who does not have the Church for a Mother
- He who gathers elsewhere than in the Church, scatters the Church of Christ
- Nor is there any other home for believers, but the one Church

CYPRIAN STATEMENTS

- Target Audience?
- Who is Cyprian writing to?
- St Augustine of Hippo
 - “How many sheeps are without and how many wolves are within ...”

HISTORICAL APPLICATION

- Decian persecution of 250
 - Carthage had not suffered before - lax
 - Many fell to the persecution - requiring sacrifice to Roman gods
 - Some sacrificed
 - Some tortured and then martyred.

HISTORICAL APPLICATION

- **What is the application of Hebrews 6:1-8**
 - Bishop Cyprian Hid - believing it was better to remain alive to shepherd
 - Some criticized
 - Some saw it as wisdom

HISTORICAL APPLICATION

- **After the Persecution**
 - Bishop Cyprian required Public Penance for a term of time, before admitted to Communion.
 - He personally oversaw the Penance as Bishop
 - He set the terms.

HISTORICAL APPLICATION

- **Division in the Diocese**
 - Some Priests - disregarded Bishop, admitted the sinner to confession and communion.
 - Some Priests - disagreed with the Bishop in that Letter to the Hebrews, prevented admission to the church for the Apostates.
 - Most Priests remained obedient and followed their Bishop's mandate.

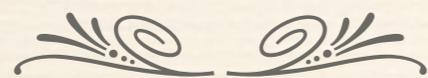
HISTORICAL APPLICATION

- **Valerian I - persecution of 256**
 - Worldwide - Pope Stephen I and Pope Sixtus II both martyred.
 - Bishop Cyprian decided that he could not hide and be a shepherd given prior controversy
 - Bishop Cyprian was ultimately martyred on Sept 14, 258 AD.
 - “Thanks be to God” - his last words

HISTORICAL APPLICATION

- Cyprian of Carthage's formulation of Heb 6 has been approved by the Church ever since.
- The sin of Apostasy is so serious, that an apostate who has created great scandal by Total Repudiation of the Faith - may only be admitted to Communion of the Church - after the approval of the Bishop.
 - His repentance alone is not enough.
 - Harsh?

Chapter 14



*Hippolytus
and the Lex Orandi*





Initiation in the 3rd Century

An account by HIPPOLYTUS, priest and martyr

Pictured Above: Oldest Example Of A Painting Of Jesus Being Baptized - Location Catacomb Of San Callisto, Rome

Hippolytus - priest and martyr



- ❖ **Hippolytus**, a Roman priest at the beginning of the third century, on several occasions expressed his opposition to the bishops of Rome and formed a rival community. He died a martyr in 235, reconciled to the Holy Father.
- ❖ He has left us works against heresies, commentaries on scripture, and the work *Apostolic Tradition*, which describes the liturgical customs of the Roman Community.

Baptism in the third century

- ❖ And at the hour when the cock crows, they shall first pray over the water ...
- ❖ The candidates shall put off their clothes.
- ❖ And they shall baptize the little children first.

Baptism in the third century

- ❖ And if the children can answer for themselves, let them answer. But if they cannot, let their parents answer or someone from their family.
- ❖ And next they shall baptize the grown men,
- ❖ and last the women, who shall have loosed their hair and laid aside their gold ornaments.
- ❖ Let no one go down to the water having any alien object with them.

Baptism in the third century

- ❖ And at the time determined for baptizing, the **bishop** shall give thanks over the oil and put it into a vessel, and it is called the **Oil of Thanksgiving**.
- ❖ And he shall take the other oil and exorcize over it, and it is called the **Oil of Exorcism**.
- ❖ And let a **deacon** carry the **Oil of Exorcism** and stand on the left hand of the presbyter,
- ❖ and another **deacon** shall take the **Oil of Thanksgiving** and stand on the right hand.

Baptism in the third century

- ❖ And when the **presbyter** takes hold of each one of those who are to be baptized, let him bid him renounce, saying: **"I renounce you Satan, and your service and all your works."**
- ❖ And when he has said this let him anoint him with the **Oil of Exorcism** saying: **"Let all evil spirits depart far from you."**
- ❖ In this way he shall hand him over to the **presbyter** who stands by the water to baptize.

Baptism in the third century

- ❖ A **deacon** shall descend with him in this way.
- ❖ And when the one who is to be baptized has descended into the water, he who baptizes him shall lay hand on him and say:
- ❖ **"Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?"**
- ❖ And he who is being baptized shall say, **"I believe."**
- ❖ Let him forthwith baptize him, once, having his hand laid upon his head.

Baptism in the third century

- ❖ And after this let him say:
“Do you believe in Christ Jesus the Son of God,
Who was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
Who was crucified in the days of Pontius Pilate,
and died,
and rose the third day living from the dead,
and ascended into the heavens,
and sat down at the right hand of the Father,
and will come to judge the living and the dead?”
- ❖ And when he says “I believe” let him baptize him the second time.

Baptism in the third century

- ❖ And after this let him say:
“Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
in the Holy Church,
and the resurrection of the flesh?”
- ❖ And he who is being baptized shall say, “I believe.”
- ❖ And so let him baptize him a third time.

Baptism in the third century

- ❖ And afterwards when he comes up he shall be anointed by the **presbyter** with the **Oil of Thanksgiving** saying, "I anoint you with the holy oil, in the name of Jesus Christ."
- ❖ And so each one drying himself, they shall now put on their clothes, and after this let them be together in the assembly.

Confirmation in the third century

- ❖ And the **bishop** shall **lay his hand upon them** invoking and saying:

“Lord God, you did count these worthy of deserving the forgiveness of sins by the bath of regeneration;

make them worthy to be filled with your Holy Spirit and send upon them your grace, that they may serve you according to your will; for to you is the glory, to the Father and to the Son with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, both now and ever world without end.”

Confirmation in the third century

- ❖ After this, pouring the consecrated oil and laying his hand on his head, he [the bishop] shall say:
 - ❖ "I anoint you with the holy oil in God the Father Almighty, and Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit."

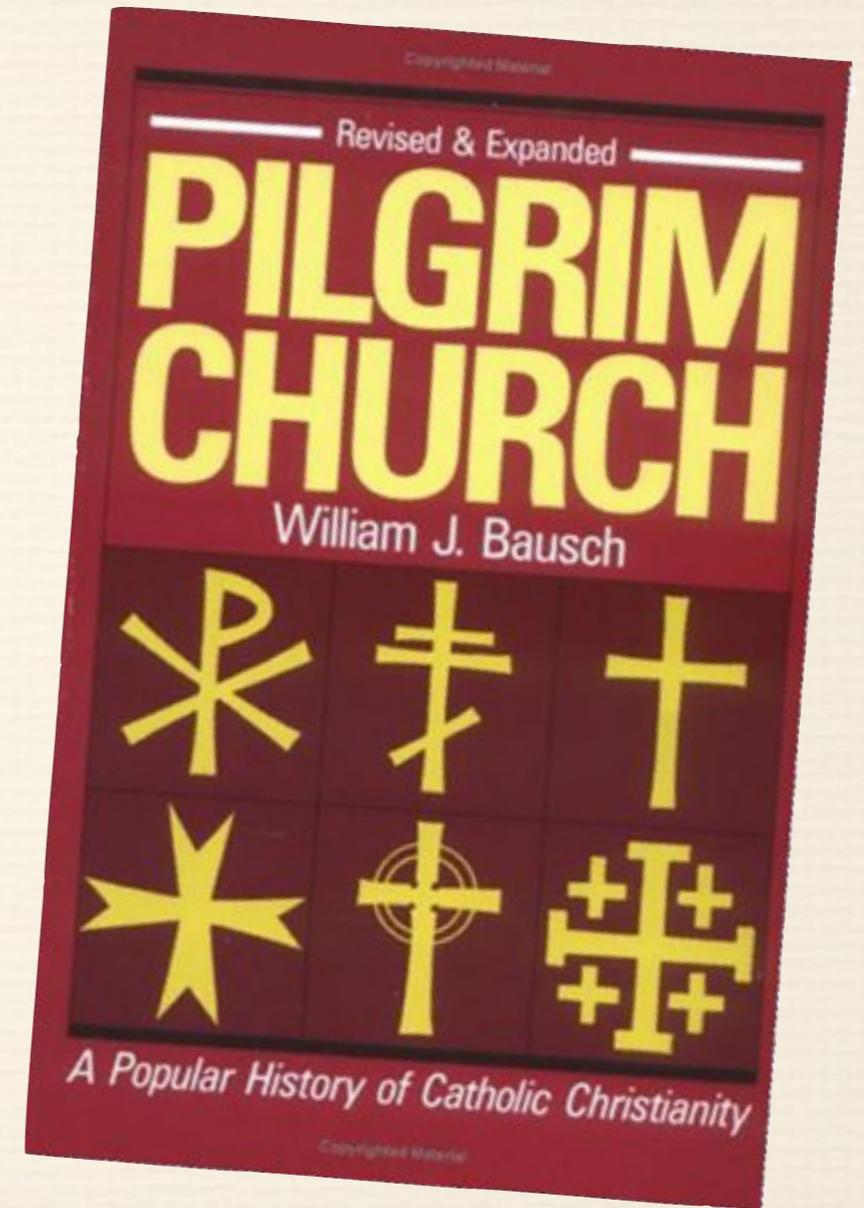
Confirmation in the third century

- ❖ And **sealing him** on the forehead, the **bishop** shall give him a kiss and say:
"The Lord be with you."
- ❖ And he who has been sealed shall say:
"And with your spirit."
- ❖ And so shall the **bishop** do to each one.
 - ❖ Then they shall pray henceforth together with all the people ...

Hippolytus of Rome, Apostolic Tradition III, xxi 1-xxii 6 .

DEACONS in 3rd Century

Pages 57-59

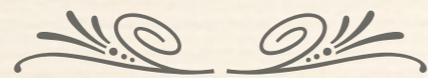


DEACONS in 3rd Century

Pages 57-59

- Acts 6: 1-6 (Scriptural Basis)
- Worked for Bishops directly
- **Justin Martyr** - assisted at Mass, Eucharist to sick
- **Tertullian** - Marriages & Baptisms
- **Cyprian of Carthage** - heard confessions *in causa mortis*
- **In Egypt** - anointed the sick
- Administered the Church - (Parish Administrator)
- **Thomas Aquinas** - confession even to *lay* person in emergency

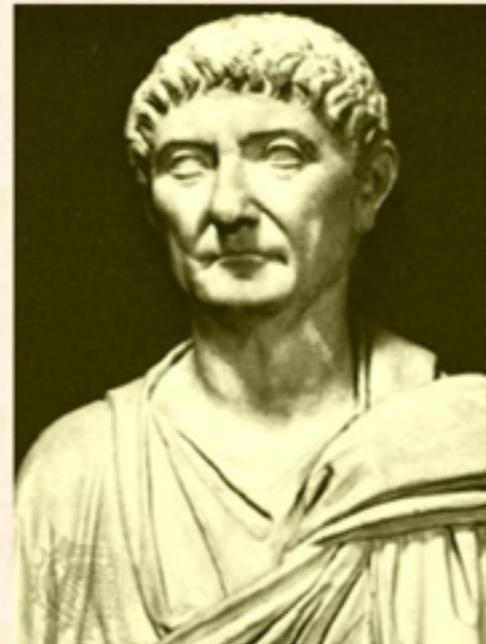
Chapter 15



The Great Persecution

The Great Persecution (303-311)

Diocletian (284-305)



Galerius (305-311)

The Great Persecution

- ❖ Most important facts:
 - ❖ Flowed from one Caesar Galerius in East
 - ❖ Leads to Constantine
 - ❖ Edict of Milan of 313 AD
 - ❖ Christianity not illegal - religious freedom

Early Church Fathers



Chapters 10-15