



The Fall of Rome

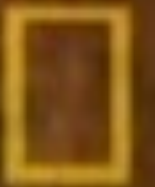
The World is Changing!

The Rise of Christianity and its Effect on the Fall of the Roman Empire

**The Message of Jesus,
The Rise of Christianity,
Its growth & impact**







Jesus Christ & Christianity

Who was Jesus?

What did he do?

What did he say?

Jesus of Nazareth

- ▶ Jesus was in the town of **Bethlehem**.
- ▶ He was born from **Mary** as a **virgin birth**.
- ▶ Jesus was **Jewish** and by the time he reached the **age 30** he heeded the call of God to start his **ministry**.





Jesus of Nazareth

- ▶ He preached the idea of **One True God**.
- ▶ Jesus taught a heavenly kingdom of eternal happiness in a life after death.
- ▶ Jesus **did not** introduce a **new religion**; he focused on the importance of **devotion to God** and **love toward others**.
- ▶ Spread a message of **peace, love, and forgiveness**.
- ▶ **Jesus' message was a way of life.**



Jesus of Nazareth

- ▶ Many of the Jews believed that Jesus was the **Messiah** or the Savior from the Romans.
- ▶ Messiah means “**the Anointed One.**”
- ▶ Jesus was called **Christ** in Greek.
- ▶ The word “**Christ**” comes from *Christos*, a Greek word meaning “**anointed.**”
- ▶ It is the equivalent of the word *mashiach*, or **Messiah**, in Hebrew.
- ▶ So, to be the Christ, or Messiah, is to be “**the anointed one of God.**”
- ▶ According to the Gospels and hundreds of eyewitnesses; Jesus performed many miracles, such as **raised dead, healed the sick, and casted out bad spirits.**

Jesus of Nazareth

- ▶ Many other Jews considered him a rebel and a blasphemer because he called himself the **Son of God**, and he **forgave people's sins**.
- ▶ As a Jew, Jesus did not preach against the **Jewish Laws**, but he focused on the **relationships** between **man and God** as well as the relationship between **humans**.
- ▶ What is more important, the **Relation or the Ritual**?



The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7

- ▶ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- ▶ ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
- ▶ ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ▶ ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- ▶ ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- ▶ ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- ▶ ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- ▶ ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- ▶ ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7

- ▶ **10** "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ▶ **11** "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
- ▶ **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- ▶ **13** "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.
- ▶ **14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
- ▶ **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.
- ▶ **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Jesus of Nazareth

- ▶ Jesus was delivered to the Romans to **be crucified**.
- ▶ He died and on the 3rd day, **rose from death**.
- ▶ He was **eye witnessed by 500 people** and according to **Tacitus** (*Tacitus, Annals 15.44 as quoted in Case for Christ*)
- ▶ **Josephus**, a prominent Jewish historian, in his "*Jewish Antiquities, 18.3.3 §63* " corroborated the prophecies, miracles, and crucifixion of Jesus.
<http://www.josephus.org/testimonium.htm>



Jesus of Nazareth

- ▶ Followers of Jesus wrote about the teachings and experiences that occurred during his life
- ▶ These writings were called **Gospels**, meaning **“Good News.”**
- ▶ It can be found in the New Testament of the Christian Bible.
- ▶ The Old Testament is used by the Jewish faith, which does not believe Jesus was the true Messiah.



After Jesus's death and Resurrection

- ▶ Followers of Jesus became known as **Christians**.
- ▶ Jesus' message had embraced all people.
- ▶ Promised life after death for all people.
- ▶ Much of what is known about Jesus comes from the writings of the Apostles.
- ▶ **Apostles** means "**One who travels**"
- ▶ Apostles traveled, spread Christianity teachings, and wrote the Gospels of the Bible.
- ▶ **Peter** and **Paul** were two very faithful and influential Apostles.

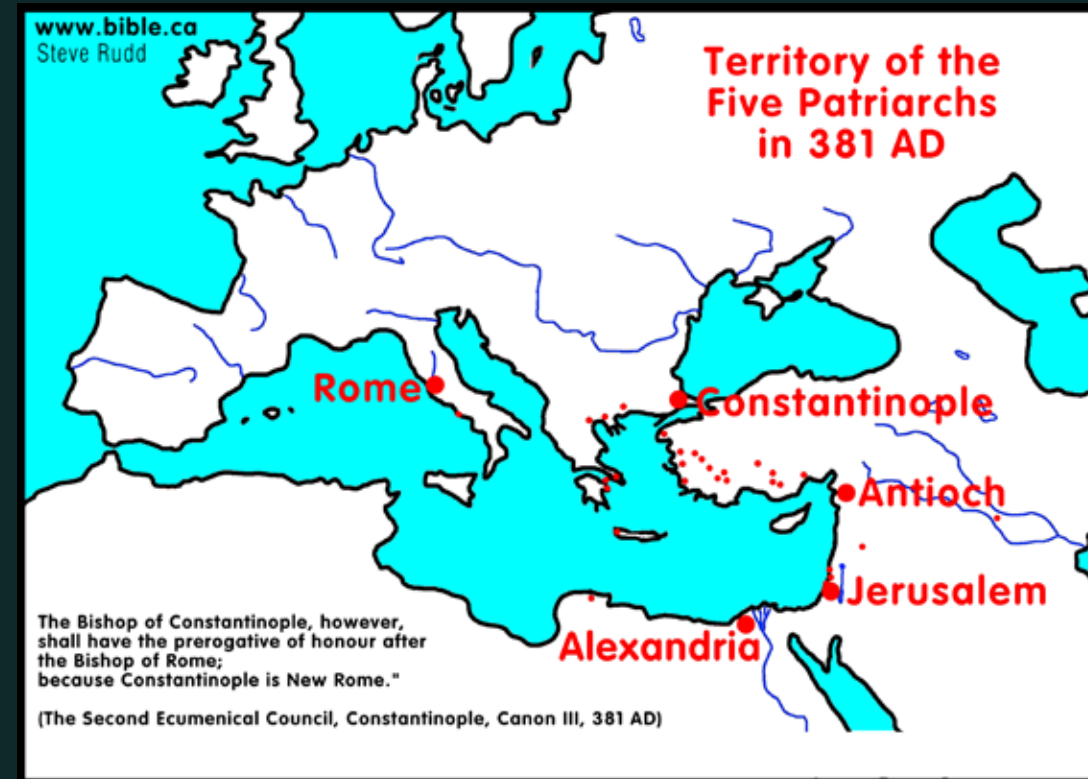


The early Christian Church

▶ The early Church had five centers:

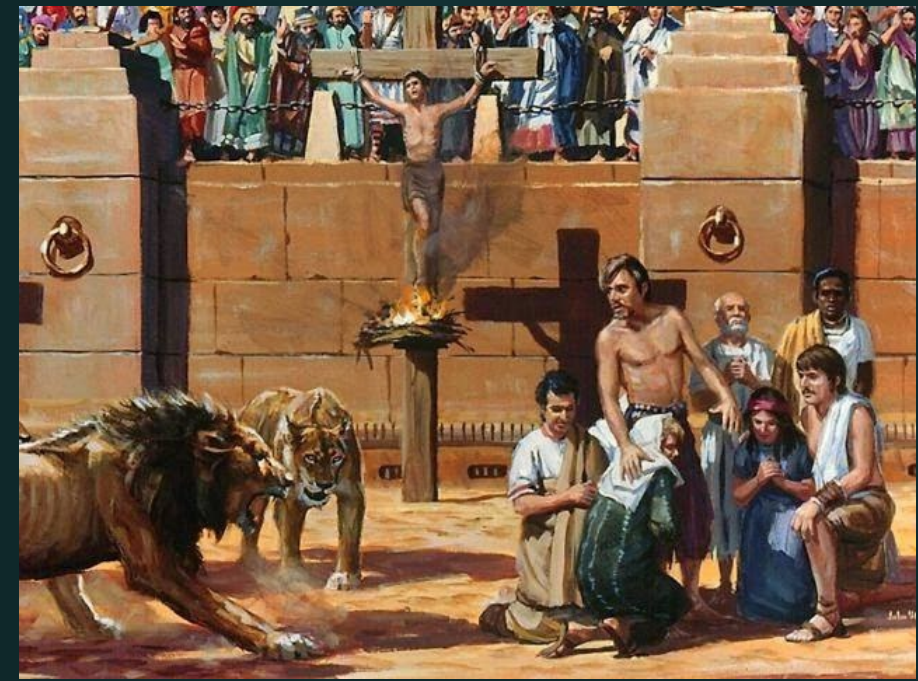
1. Rome
2. Constantinople
3. Alexandria
4. Antioch
5. Jerusalem

- ▶ Each of these churches was headed by a Patriarch
- ▶ Later on, the **patriarch in Rome** took the title **Pope** (father), and held **supreme authority** over the Christian Church in the **west**.
- ▶ **Gregory I** is recognized as the first Pope.



The Christian Church

- ▶ Early Christians were persecuted by the Romans because they refused to worship the state gods or emperors.
- ▶ **Constantine I** was the first emperor to become a Christian and issued the **Edict of Milan** which proclaimed official toleration of Christianity in the empire.
- ▶ Christianity was made the **official** religion of the Roman Empire under **Theodosius I in 380 A.D.**



The Spread of Christianity



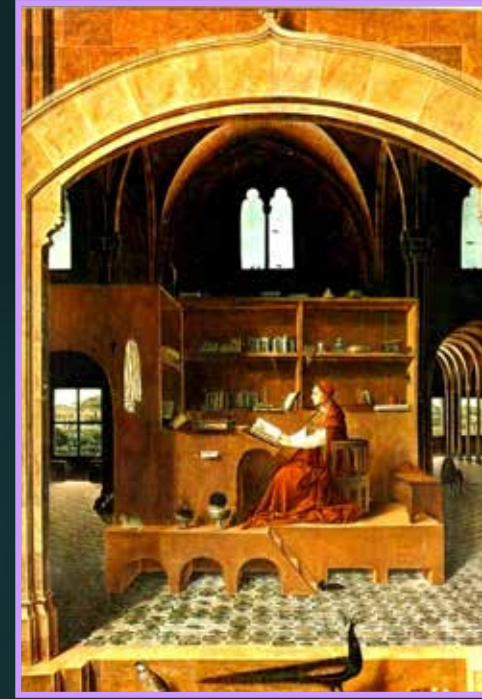
The Spread of Christianity, 300–600

From Chadwick and Evans, *Atlas of the Christian Church* (Oxford: Andromeda Oxford Ltd., 1987), 28. Reproduced by permission of Andromeda Oxford Limited.

The Growth of the Christian Church

▶ St. Jerome (340-420 AD)

- ▶ Jerome moved to Jerusalem to further grasp of the Hebrew language. He finished his translation in 405 C.E.



St. Jerome

▶ The Bible; “the Vulgate” (Common)

- ▶ The Vulgate is a late-4th-century Latin translation of the Bible that became the Catholic Church's official Latin version of the Bible.



St. Jerome translating the Bible



The History of the Bible

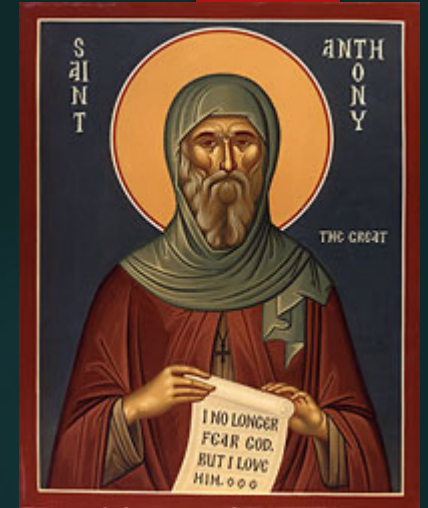
ANIMATED

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AuDhWiO2D4>

The Growth of the Christian Church & Monasticism

□ Eremitical Monasticism

- St. Antony of Egypt (251 – 356 A.D)
 - Poverty; Chastity; Obedience
- ▶ A hermit is a person who lives in seclusion from society for spirituality.
- ▶ Christian hermits in the past have often lived in isolated cells or hermitages, whether a natural cave or a constructed dwelling, situated in the desert or the forest.



St. Antony



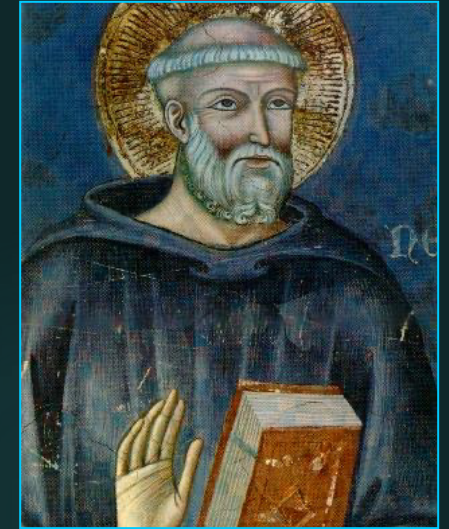
Hermitic cave in Spain

The Growth of the Christian Church

Monasticism

□ Cenobitic Monasticism

- St. Benedict (480-543 AD):
 - Poverty; Chastity; Obedience
 - ▶ Cenobitic monasticism is a monastic tradition that stresses community life.



St. Benedict



Two monks at the monastery



Saint Kathrin Monastery, Sinai, Egypt

The Growth of the Christian Church

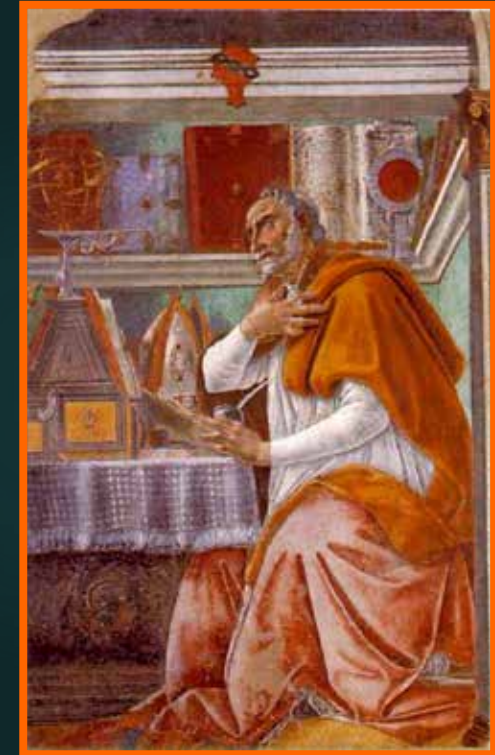
□ St. Augustine (354-430 AD)

▶ *The Confessions*

- Human Nature, Will, and Sin
- God's power and grace

▶ Civitas Dei : *The City of God*

- *Focus on the Kingdom of Heaven*



St. Augustine of Hippo

Good Luck!

