

World Religions

Christianity

Ross Arnold, Summer 2015

World Religion Lectures

- August 21 – *Introduction: A Universal Human Experience*
- August 28 – *Hinduism*
- September 4 – *Judaism*
- September 18 – *Religions of China & Japan*
(*Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto*)
- **September 25 – Christianity**
- October 2 – *Islam*
- October 9 – *Animism, New Age, Atheism, Secularism*

Today's World Religions by Date of Founding

	<u>Pop. (000s)</u>	<u>% of World</u>	<u>Founded (c.)</u>	<u>Where</u>
Hinduism	1,100,000	12.65%	4000-2500BC	Indus Valley
Judaism	14,000	0.20%	2000 BC	Palestine
Buddhism	488,000	5.29%	560-490 BC	India
Chinese Trad. ¹	394,000	5.54%	500 BC	China
Shinto	4,000	0.06%	500 BC	Japan
Jainism	4,200	0.06%	500 BC	India
Christianity	2,200,000	29.52%	30 AD	Palestine
Islam	1,600,000	21.09%	622 AD	Arabia
Sikhism	28,000	0.32%	1499 AD	India
Bah'aism	7,300	0.10%	1863 AD	Persia
Other ²	690,000	9.70%		
Non-relig. ³	1,100,000	15.46%		

¹ Includes Confucianism, Taoism, Shamanism

² Includes all other smaller religious affiliations identified

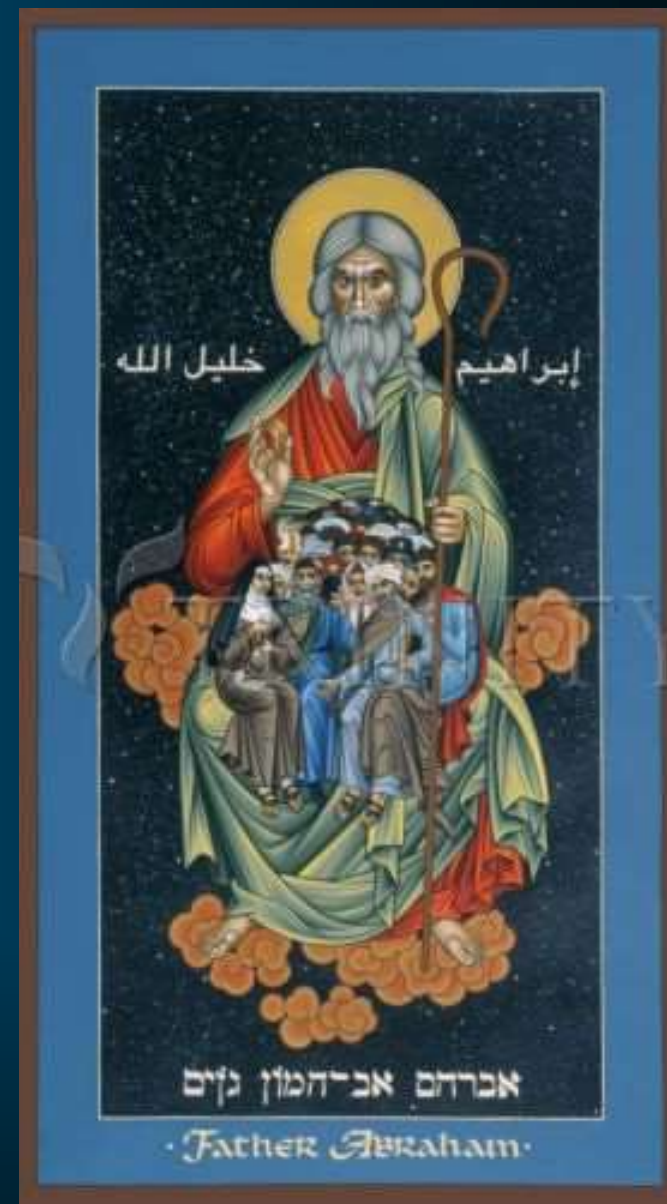
³ Includes secular, non-religious, agnostic and atheist

Families of Religions

1. **Abrahamic** monotheisms of Judaism, Christianity & Islam.
2. **Dharmic** religions that began in India, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism & Sikhism.
3. **Taoic** religions of the Far East, especially China and Japan, including Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto (*along with versions of Buddhism*).

And sometimes also ...

4. **Iranian** religions that predate Islam, including Zoroastrianism, Madaeism and the Kurdish Yazdanism faiths (Yazidi, Alevi, etc.).



Father Abraham — the world's first monotheist, and source of all three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The Call of Abram: Genesis 12:1-5

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

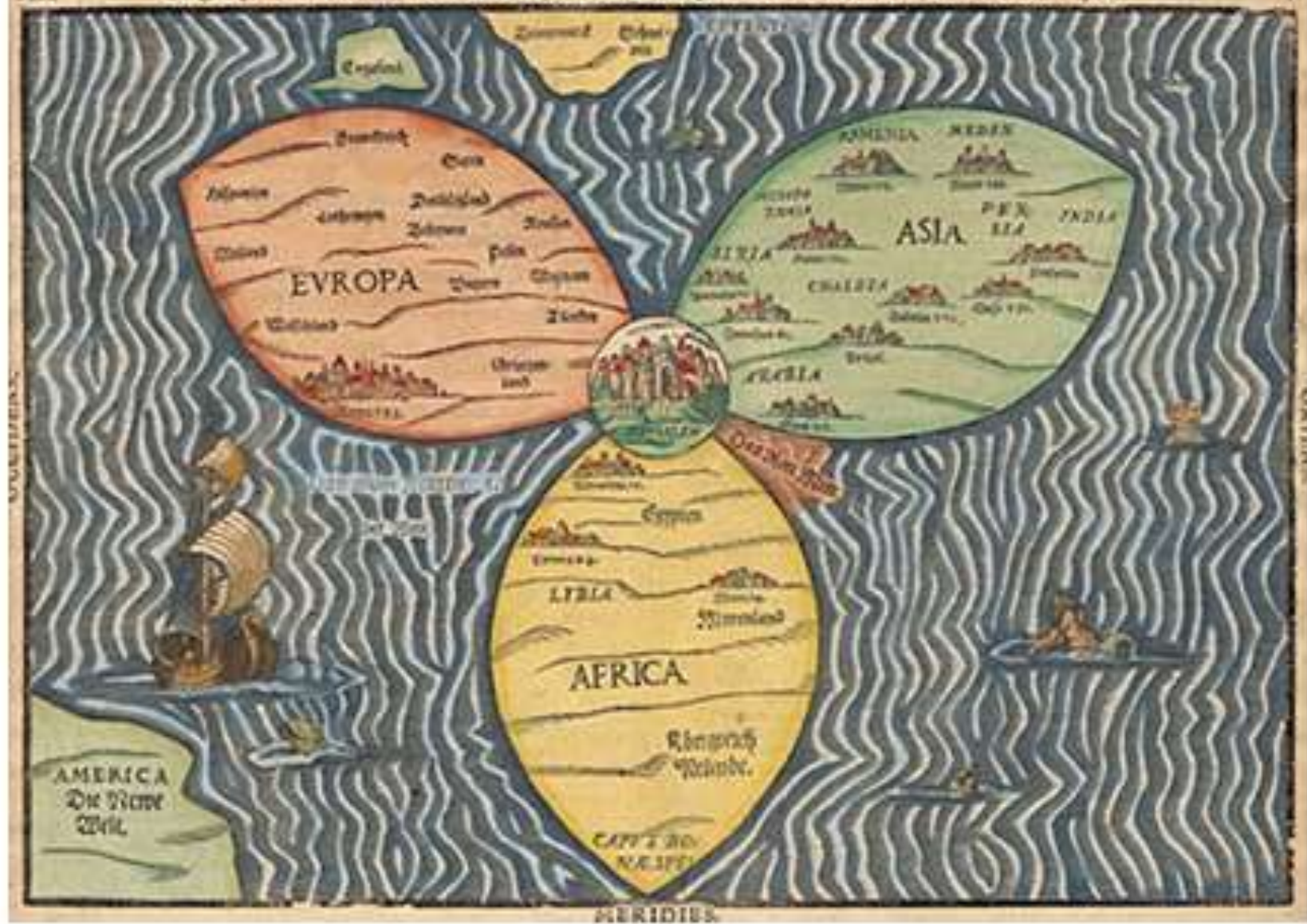
The Messianic Expectation

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14

The 1st Century AD & the Birth of Christianity

1. The Jewish people had a historic expectation of God's "Messiah."
2. Palestine was, in Jesus' time, very much center of the world, cross roads of three continents.



The 1st Century AD & the Birth of Christianity

1. The Jewish people had a historic expectation of God's "Messiah."
2. Palestine was, in Jesus' time, very much center of the world, cross roads of three continents.
3. Politically and culturally, it was the perfect environment for a new faith to start and grow.
 - a) The *Pax Romana*
 - b) The Roman Roads
 - c) The Greek language.
4. Economically, the 1st Century was a perfect time for a new message of hope.
5. Morally and religiously, the world was tired and frustrated and ready for a change. (So many "God-fearing Gentiles" seeking monotheism.)

History Of the Early Church

- Jewish Roots (2000 BC-29 AD)

Christianity began as an offshoot of Judaism, at a time when the great Jewish expectation was that God would send a Messiah (the *Christ*, or *Anointed One*) to bring freedom to the Jews, and establish the Kingdom of God on earth – which Jews thought meant elevation of Israel both religiously and politically, as it had been under King David, and with a Jewish ruler like David.

Abraham



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graph TD; Abraham --> Hagar; Abraham --> Sarah; Hagar --> Ishmael; Ishmael --> TribesIshmael[12 Tribes of Ishmael]; Sarah --> Isaac; Isaac --> JacobIsrael[Jacob/Israel]; JacobIsrael --> TribesIsrael[12 Tribes of Israel]; TribesIsrael -.-> Jesus
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This diagram illustrates the lineage of Abraham. At the top is Abraham, who has two sons: Hagar on the left and Sarah on the right. Hagar is the mother of Ishmael, who is the ancestor of the 12 Tribes of Ishmael. Sarah is the mother of Isaac, who is the ancestor of Jacob/Israel. Jacob/Israel is the ancestor of the 12 Tribes of Israel, which are shown as the lineage leading to Jesus.

Hagar

Sarah

Ishmael

Isaac

Jacob/Israel

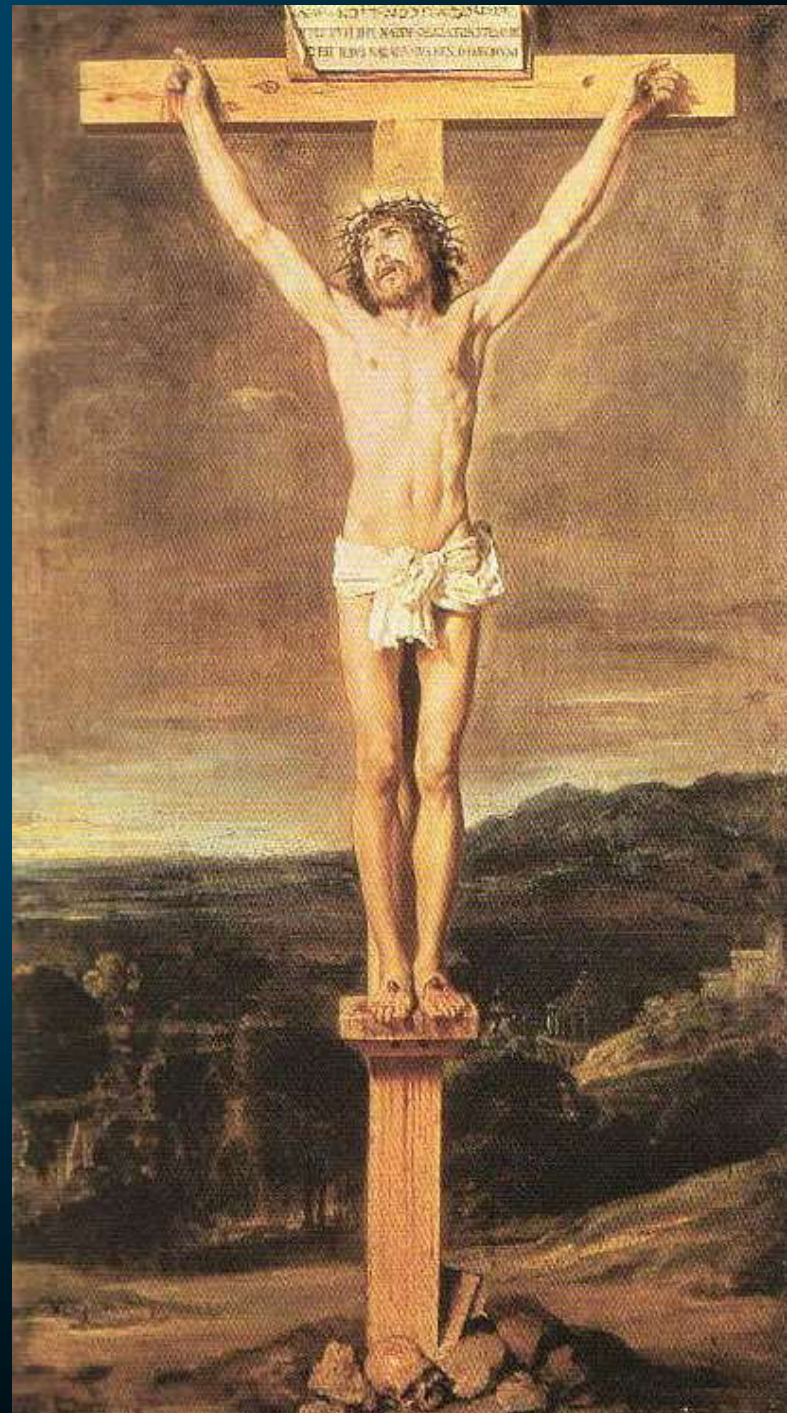
12 Tribes of Ishmael

12 Tribes of Israel

Jesus



Jesus the Christ
– *Messiah,*
Anointed One
(c. 6 BC-27 AD)



Jesus LOOKED like he might be the Messiah the Jews expected...

- He was a Jew, a descendant of David, who met all the prophetic requirements.
- He observed Jewish Law and traditions (mostly).
- He frequently quoted the Law and Prophets.
- He spoke in the synagogues, where Jews gathered.
- He was clear that his ministry was (first) to the Jews, and *then* to the Gentiles.
- He performed miracles and was clearly gifted by God as a leader and teacher.
- His Transfiguration in Matthew 17 was in the presence of Moses and Elijah.

But ...

- He was not the political leader (like King David) they expected.
- He spoke on his own authority: “I say unto you...” rather than “Thus saith the Lord...”
- He claimed to be the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.
- He broke some of the rules – like healing on the Sabbath.
- He hung around with a bad crowd, including tax collectors and sinners.
- He openly criticized Jewish religious leaders.
- And – worst of all – he claimed to be the Son of God.

So the Jewish authorities rejected Him.

The Early Christian Church

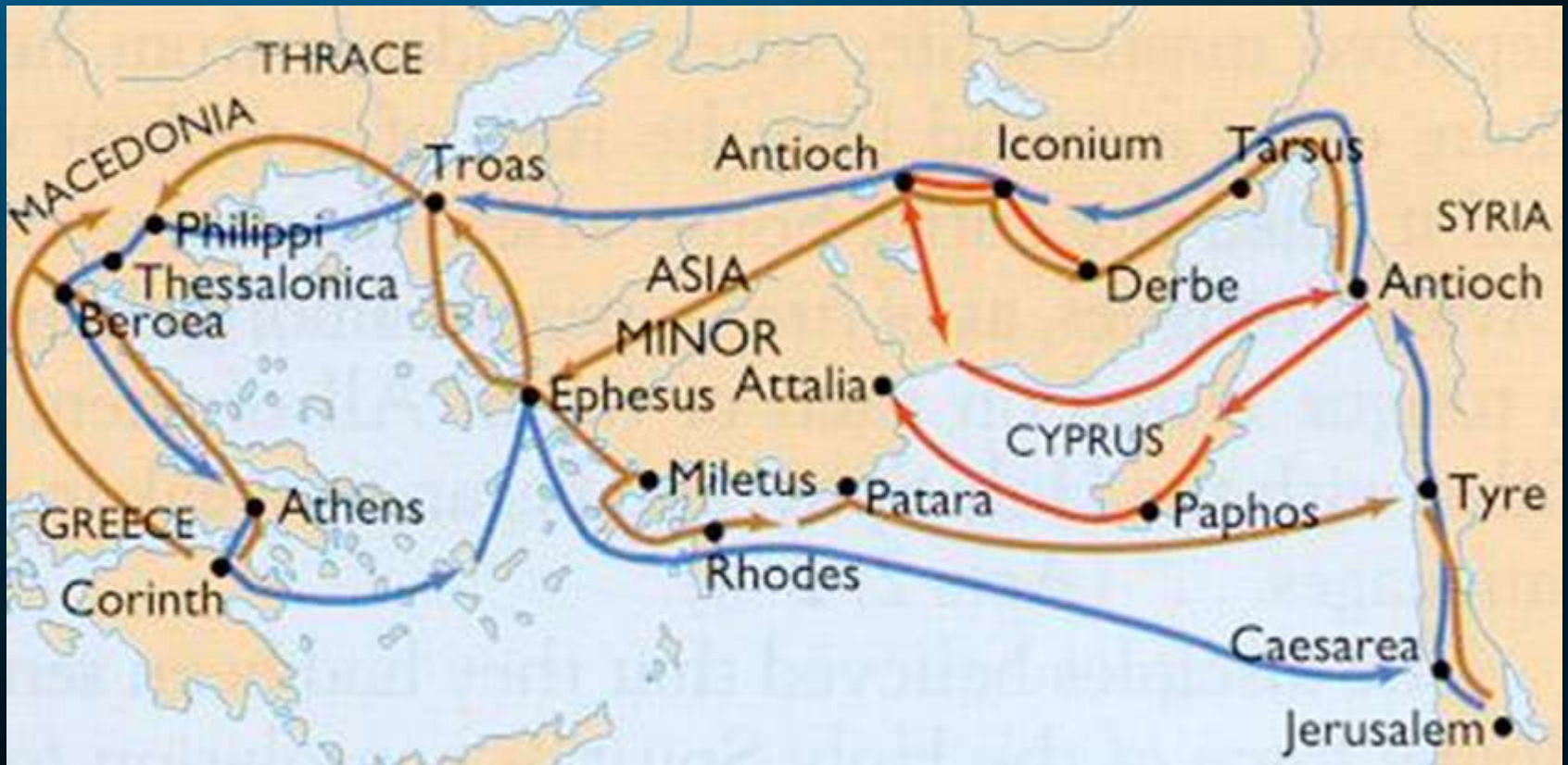
- c. 6 BC – Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem
- 26-36 AD – Pontius Pilate is procurator of Palestine
- c. 26 – Jesus is baptized; begins public ministry
- c. 30 – Jesus is crucified, resurrected, ascended
- c. 30 – The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost; the Church grows; Jewish persecution
- c. 34 – Stephen becomes 1st Christian martyr; Christian Diaspora starts
- c. 34 – Saul, Jewish persecutor of Christians, is converted and becomes Paul
- c. 46 – Start of Paul's missionary journeys
- c. 49-50 – Council of Jerusalem welcomes Gentiles
- 54-68 – Emperor Nero; 1st Roman persecution
- c. 62 – Peter is martyred in Rome
- c. 62-68 – Paul is martyred in Rome

Growth of Christianity by AD 70





The Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul





Map 7
**PAUL'S FIRST
AND SECOND JOURNEYS**
(Acts 13–14; 15:39–18:22)

- First missionary journey, with Barnabas and Mark (c. A.D. 46–48)
- Second missionary journey, with Silas (c. A.D. 49–52)

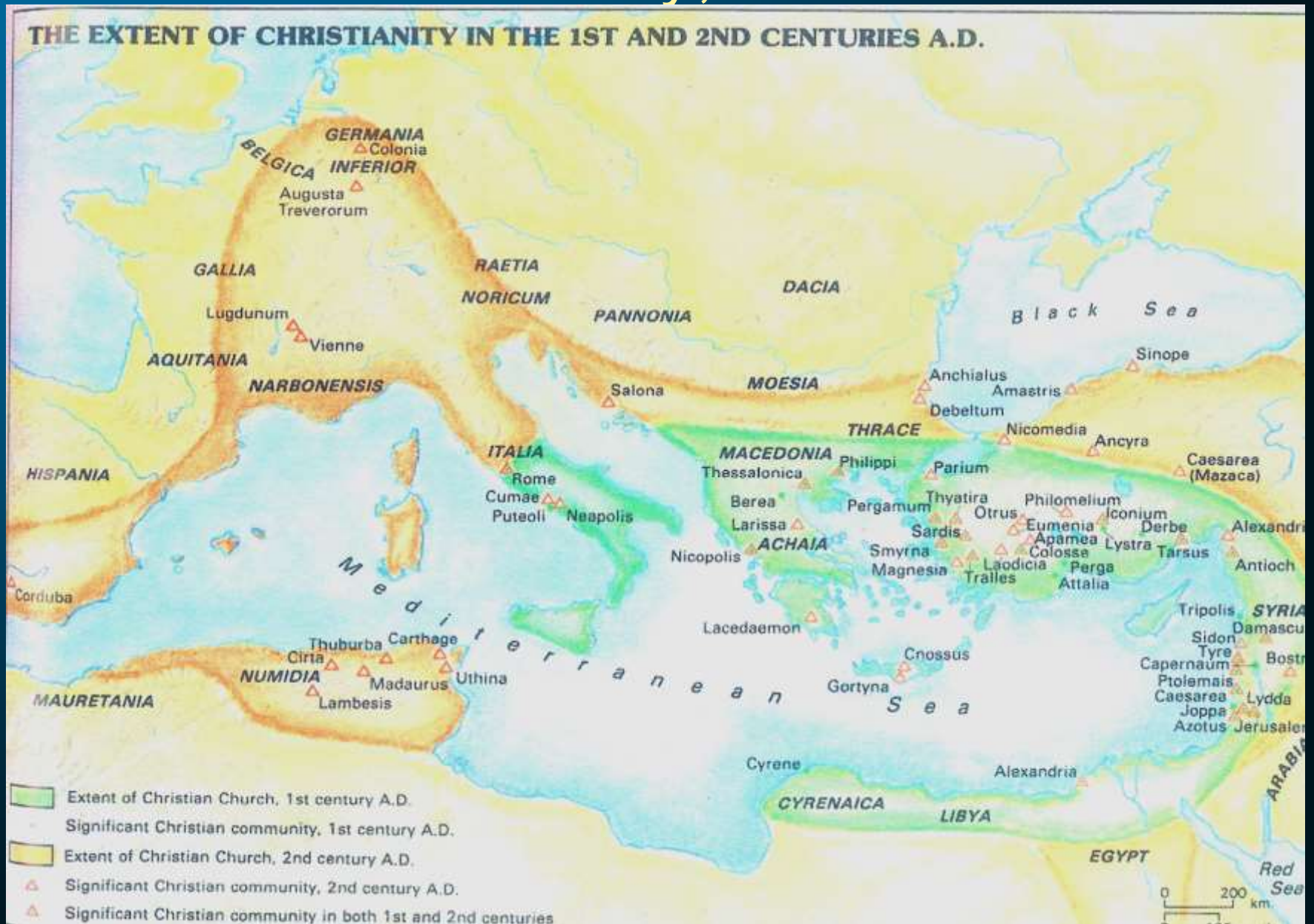


Map 8

PAUL'S THIRD AND FOURTH JOURNEYS (Acts 18:23–21:16; 27–28:16)

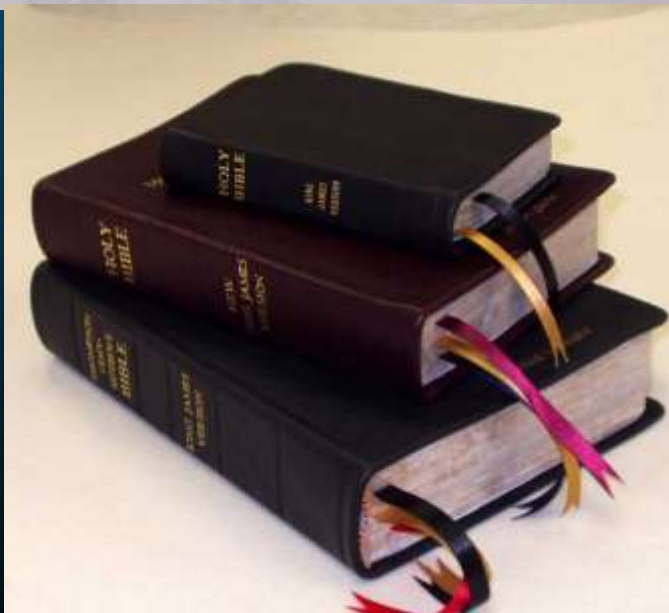
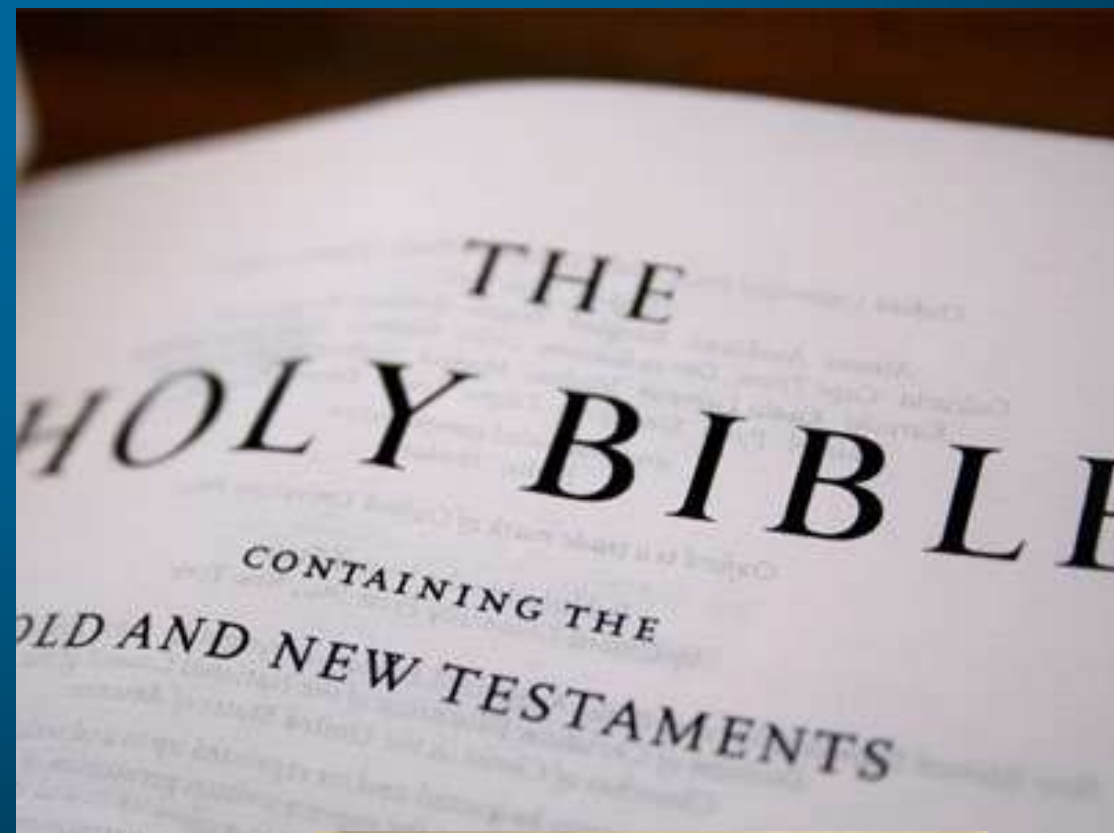
- Third missionary journey (c. A.D. 53–57)
- Fourth missionary journey (c. A.D. 59–62)

Growth of Christianity, 1st & 2nd Centuries



State of Christianity c.AD 565





How We Got The New Testament

- There are more than 5800 surviving Greek manuscripts & manuscript fragments of the New Testament.
- Oldest extant portion is from Gospel of John, c. AD 125.
- All New Testament books were written in the 1st Century.
 - Earliest is likely *Letter to the Galatians*, c. AD 51 (possibly earlier).
 - *Book of James* was possibly even earlier, pre- AD 50.
 - Earliest Gospel: *Mark*, from 50s or early 60s.
- Four Gospels established as authoritative by AD 180, per Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon.
- By AD 190 the “Muratorian Canon” was common – a list of acceptable writings including all of our NT, plus two later excluded: *Revelation of Peter* and *Wisdom of Solomon*.
- Earliest exact listing of 27 NT Books in AD 367, by Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria.
- NT canon officially recognized by Church Councils in Rome in AD 382 and Carthage in AD 397.

Basic Christian Beliefs

1. There is one God, who reveals himself in three *persons* (the Holy Trinity) – FATHER, SON (Jesus Christ) and HOLY SPIRIT – a unity, sharing one substance.
2. God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and omnipresent. He created the world as distinct from Himself but is active within it as Creator, Sustainer and Sanctifier.
3. Jesus was and is the promised Messiah, the co-eternal, divine Son of God; who became a human man, Jesus, but was fully God and fully man
4. No one can earn God's mercy or be righteous in his eyes, but one can receive forgiveness and mercy by accepted Jesus as God's Son who sacrificed himself on the cross to atone for human sins.

Christianity Today

- Roman Catholicism
- Orthodoxy (Great Schism - 1054)
 - Eastern Orthodoxy
 - Oriental Orthodoxy, etc.
- Protestantism (Reformation – 16th cent.)
 - Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, Anabaptist, etc.

THE GROWTH OF PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS IN THE U.S.

THIS simplified diagram charts the development of some of the main Protestant churches that broke with Catholicism in the Reformation, many of which divided into splinter denominations and separate churches when immigrants arrived in the United States.

