The Second Century
History: The Early Church
September 22, 2021

"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
Matthew 16:18

Theme: Six Highlights of the Second Century

1. The Rise of **Global Christianity**
    - Christianity Spread **Socially**
        - From **Jews** to **Gentiles**
        - From **Poor** to **Rich**
        - From **Male** to **Female**
        - From **Uneducated** to **Educated**
    - Christianity Spread **Geographically**
        - Spread **North:** *Asia Minor*
            - The Church at **Antioch**: *Modern Syria*
            - The Churches of **Asia Minor**: *Modern Turkey*
        - Spread **West:** *Europe*
            - The Church at **Rome**: *Modern Italy*
            - The Church in **Lyons**: *Modern France*

        - Spread **South**: *North Africa*
            - The Church at **Carthage**: *Modern Tunisia*
            - The Church at **Cyrene**: *Modern Libya*
            - The Church at **Alexandria**: *Modern Egypt*
        - Spread **East**: *India*

2. The Rise of **Persecution**
    - Notable **Persecutors**
        - **Emperor Trajan** (53-117).
        - **Pliny the Younger** (61–c.113).
        - **Celsus** (n/a)
        - **Emperor Marcus Aurelius** (121-180).
    - Notable **Persecuted**
        - **Ignatius of Antioch** (died c. 108/140).
        - **Polycarp** (69-155).
        - **Justin Martyr** (c.103-165).
        - **Martyrs of Gaul** (c. 177)

3. The Rise of **False Teaching**: *Heresies*
    - Concerning the Doctrine of **Creation**: *Gnosticism*
    - Concerning the Doctrine of **Scripture**: *Marcionism and Montanism*
    - Concerning the Doctrine of **Salvation**: *Ebionites*
    - Concerning the Doctrine of **Christ**: *Docetism*

4. The Rise of **Doctrinal Unity**: *The Rule of Faith*
    - **Theme 1**: *One Creator God*
    - **Theme 2**: *One God of Old and New Testaments*
    - **Theme 3**: *Jesus is the Prophesied, Virgin-Born Son of God*
    - **Theme 4**: *Jesus is the Creator God Incarnate*
    - **Theme 5**: *Jesus Came to Save and Redeem Those Who Believe*
    - **Theme 6**: *Jesus Physically Suffered, was Crucified under Pilate, was Bodily Raised from the Dead, and is Exalted at the Right Hand of God the Father*
    - **Theme 7**: *Jesus Will Return Again to Judge the World*

5. The Rise of **Christian Literature**
    - Writings by the **Apostles**: *The New Testament*
    - Writings by **Disciples of the Apostles**:
        - *The Apostolic Fathers*
        - *The Didache*
        - *1 Clement*
        - *2 Clement*
        - *Fragments of Papias*
        - *Apology of Quadratus*
        - *Shepherd of Hermas*
        - *Epistle of Barnabas*
        - *Epistles of Ignatius (7 actually)*
        - *Polycarp's Epistle to the Philippians*
        - *Martyrdom of Polycarp*
        - *Epistle of Diognetus*
    - Notable Writings for **Christians**: *Early Theological Works*
        - Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*
        - Clement of Alexandria, *Miscellanies*
        - Tertullian, *Prescription Against Heresies*
    - Notable Writings for **Non-Christians**: *Early Apologetic Works*
        - Origen, *Against Celsus*
        - Justin Martyr, *First* and *Second Apology*
        - Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho*
6. The Rise of the **Bishop**
    - Arose In Response to **Heresy**
    - Arose In Response to **Persecution**

The First Century:
A Timeline

- 5 BC Jesus Born in Bethlehem
- 28 John the Baptist Begins Ministry
- 33 Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- 35 Martyrdom of Stephen and Conversion of Saul
- 40 James Writes *James*
- 46 Paul Begins First Missionary Journey
- 48 Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
  Paul Writes *Galatians*
- 49 Paul Begins Second Missionary Journey
- 51 Paul Writes *1 and 2 Thessalonians* in Corinth
- 52 Paul Begins Third Missionary Journey
- 53 Paul Writes *1 Corinthians* in Ephesus
  Matthew Writes *Matthew*
  Mark Writes *Mark*
- 55 Paul Writes *2 Corinthians* in Macedonia
- 57 Paul Writes *Romans* in Corinth
- 60 Paul Shipwrecked in Malta and Arrives in Rome
  Hebrews Written
- 62 Peter Writes *1 Peter* from Rome
  Paul Writes *Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians,* and *Philemon* in Rome
  Luke Writes *Luke* and *Acts*
- 63 Paul Writes *1 Timothy* from Macedonia and *Titus* from Nicopolis
- 64 Emperor Nero Launches Persecutions
  Peter Writes *2 Peter*
  Paul Writes *2 Timothy*
  Jude Writes *Jude*

- 65 Peter and Paul Martyred in Rome
- 66 First Jewish-Roman War Begins
- 67 Jerusalem Church Flees to Pella
- 70 Destruction of Jerusalem by Emperor Titus
- 73 First Jewish-Roman War Ends at Masada
- 81 Emperor Domitian Begins Persecutions
- 85-95 John Writes *1-3 John* in Ephesus
- 89 John Writes *John*
- 95 John Writes *Revelation* While Exiled on Patmos

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- 110 Ignatius of Antioch Martyred
- 117 Hadrian's Persecutions Begin
- 144 Marcion Excommunicated
- 150 Justin Martyr Dedicates *First Apology*
- 155 Polycarp Martyred
- 161 Marcus Aurelius Persecutions Begin
- 165 Justin Martyr is Martyred
- 172 Montanism Begins
- 178 Celsus Writes *True Reason*
- 180 Irenaeus Publishes *Against Heresies*
- 197 Tertullian Begins Writing