

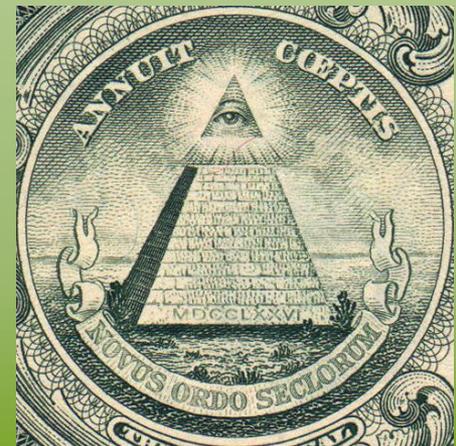


# Tracking the Ancient Mysteries from Egypt to the Founding of America

## Lecture 7: Gnostics and Other Heretics

Years 100 to 333

Faith versus Knowledge



# Outline



**Head** Lectures 1 – 5: Conceptual foundations, Egypt, Greece, The Temple Legend, Vanishing of the Mysteries

**Heart** Lectures 6 – 10: Early Christian Mysteries, Faith versus Knowledge, Charlemagne, Knights Templars, Cathars, Rosicrucians

**Limbs** Lectures 11 – 15: Renaissance, Leonardo, Founding of America, Freemasonry, Mysteries for the Future

# The Stars Once Spoke to Man



The Stars once spoke to Man.  
It is World-destiny  
That they are silent now.  
To be aware of the silence  
Can become pain for earthly Man.

But in the deepening silence  
There grows and ripens  
What Man speaks to the Stars.  
To be aware of the speaking  
Can become strength for Spirit-Man.

Rudolf Steiner

# Timeline for Lecture 7

- 100-160 Marcion
- 100-160 Valentinus
- 100-165 Justin Martyr
- 130-200 Irenaeus
- 150-220 Clement of Alexandria
- 160-225 Tertullian
- 170-230 Hippolytus of Rome
- 185-251 Origen of Alexandria
- 200-275 Paul of Samasota
- 253-256 Councils in Carthage
- 303-305 persecution under Roman emperor Diocletian
- 260-340 Eusebius of Caesarea
- 264-389 30+ councils held in Antioch
- 285-337 Constantine
- 300-375 Athanasius
- 325 Council of Nicea

# Recap of Lecture 6

- Fading of the Mysteries
  1. Loss of Initiation 'success'
  2. Loss of Ancestry
  3. Fear of [Spiritual] Death
- Rise of Intellectual
  1. I Know, Freedom
  2. I Can Be X, Egoism
  3. Equality – end of bloodline
- Descent to Earthly
  1. E-H Balance of Greece
  2. Oral becomes written
  3. Focus: this earthly life
- Rise of the New Mystery
  1. Golgotha
  2. Resurrection
  3. Whitsun
- New Initiation
  1. Saul to Paul is the first
  2. Inner Holy of the Holies
  3. Seven stages from WotFeet
- 11 + Paul Christianities
  1. Ease of spread via MysCtrs
  2. Multiple 'personalities', books
  3. Confusion, heresy hunting

# 3 Keys To Remember



- Ancient Mystery streams flowed through many groups including particularly the Gnostics
- The texts were altered to suit different groups
- Why Faith? – we (finite, mortal) can't know God (infinite, immortal), so we need faith versus knowledge through initiation into the new Mysteries

# Faith versus Knowledge (Freedom)

- St. Augustine “I would not believe the message of the gospel if I were not urged to do so by *the authority* of the Catholic Church” *Contra epistolam Manichaei quam vocant fundamenti*
- St. Athanasius: “Let us, who possess the scope of faith, restore the correct meaning of what they had wrongly interpreted” *Florovsky, p. 81*
- “Rule of faith” as it had been maintained in the Church and “transmitted from fathers to fathers”, while the Arians had “no fathers” for their opinions’  
<http://www.orthologia.com/English/RomWritings/ScrpitureInBO-4.htm>
- “The testimonies of pagan wise men must not be thrown away” *On True Belief*, anon. see Lane Fox *Pagans and Christians*, 1986
- For the source of His righteousness is my justification, and from His marvellous mysteries is the light in my heart. My eyes have gazed on that which is eternal, on wisdom concealed from men, on knowledge and wise design hidden from the sons of men ...” *Essene Community Rule*

# At What Age Do We Know?



- Children are taught *to believe*
- Before eighteen, the child must depend upon those who are older, just as the infant depends on mother's milk
- Great significance applies to the intercourse between teachers, educators, and its younger generation
- The young cannot be brought to the point of actual knowledge because judgment begins only at 18 or 19
  - Real knowledge is awakened out of one's inner being
- Inducing the young to believe in what we, according to our knowledge, hold to be true was a sacred task
- Applied to monasteries and trades, any education

# New Ideals

- Universality & Individual
  - Replacing Tribal
- New Mysteries
- Freedom & Love
- Equality
  - Jew – Gentile
  - Man – Woman
    - Judaism at the time treated women as inferior to men
- Concept of God - Love
  - Could He enter Matter & Death (esp. on a cross)?

## Inflowing:

- The Old Mysteries
- Coming of a Messiah
  - Actually two messiahs!
- The Law
- Hellenism
- Ponderable - Imponderable
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Esotericism
- Many religions
- Struggle against Rome

# Debates



- The Canon (New Testament)
- The Two Natures of Christ (Christ's humanity & divinity)
- God the Father and God the Creator
- The doctrine of the Trinity
- The doctrine of Divine grace
- The doctrine of the Church
- The role of [Jewish] tradition
- The fixing of the ecumenical creeds
- Fixing of the date of Easter

# Why Was It So Difficult?



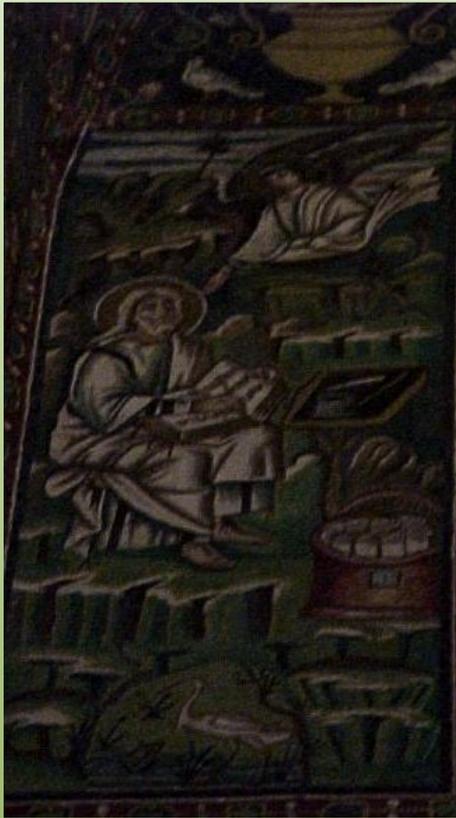
- Prevailing view of reality:
  - Total separation of Divine and physical worlds
    - Spirit and matter : Reality and illusion : Pure and impure
    - Human flesh, from darkness/evil, not worthy of divine spirit
    - Only an initiate could, through raising consciousness, experience & understand the imponderable spiritual world and its beings
- Christian Creed: God became Man, suffered, died, and resurrected
  - Was God born as a man or did God become Man?
  - Is the substance of Father, Son, Holy Spirit, (and Man) the same?
- “Heretical” claims:
  - Christ and Jesus were two distinct entities
    - Christ unites with Jesus at baptism but leaves him on the cross
    - Because the Divine is from above, it cannot experience death
  - Christ only appeared to be human, but never had a physical body
  - Christ “descends” only as far as the air element
  - Christ-Jesus had no human soul, the Logos takes its place
- The Christian view that [a] God entered Earth & became a Man was the most fundamental change to traditional wisdom

# Establishing a Canon

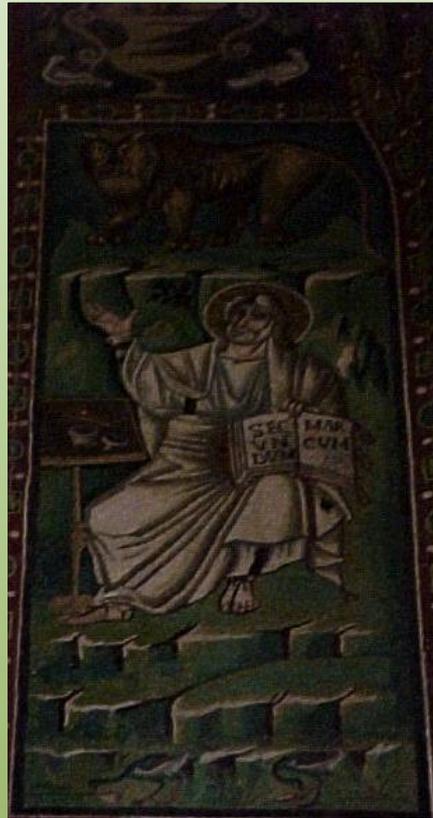


- Once the Apostolic Fathers died, there arose the perceived need for a “blessed” set of books
  - On whose authority?
  - Modifications of some texts to fit one’s Christianity
- Criteria for an accepted book
  - An initiate
  - Inspired writing (truth revealed on multiple levels)
- Several Canons arose
  - The Roman Church won out in selecting the Canon of today
  - Even these books were modified by the proto-orthodox scribes

# The Four Gospel Writers



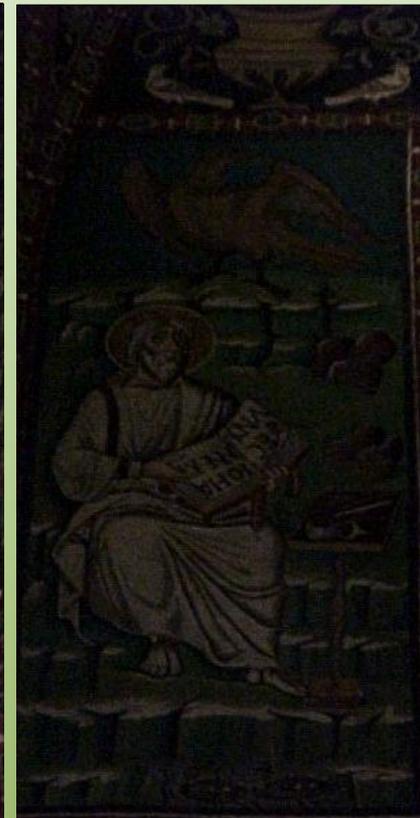
**Matthew**



**Mark**



**Luke**



**John**

**The Basilica of San Vitale**

# Four Gospels, Four Forces of Man



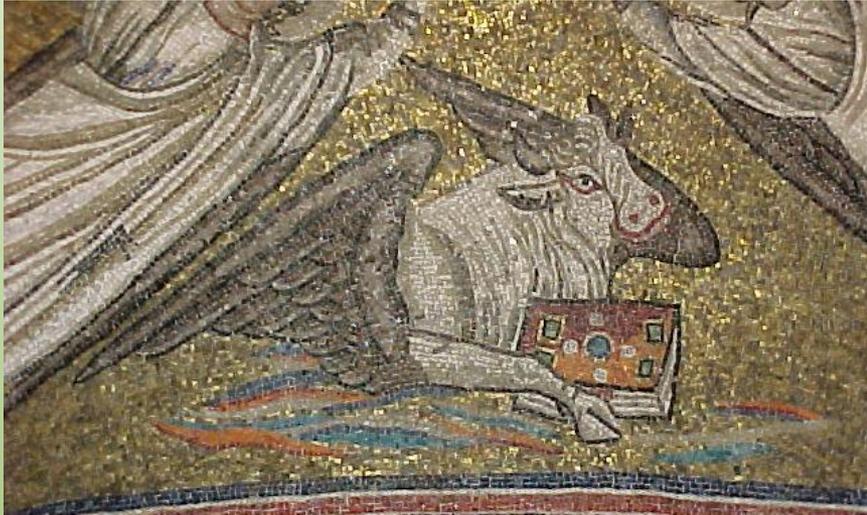
- Bull, Taurus
  - Luke
  - Paul
- Lion, Leo
  - Mark
  - Peter
- Angel-Man, Aquarius
  - Matthew
  - Matthew
- Eagle, Scorpio
  - John



*Ceiling Mosaic of the Archepiscopal Chapel, Ravenna*

# Four Gospels

**Luke**



**John**



**Matthew**



**Mark**

# Dead Sea Scrolls, Nag Hammadi



- Dead Sea scrolls, discovered 1947 at Essene Qumran site
  - High emphasis on learning as step towards initiation
  - Understanding of scriptures through “illumination” from initiation
  - Sons of Light were those initiated to join battle against Darkness
    - Zoroastrian influence?
  - Used a Sun-based calendar rather than Moon-based Jewish
  - *Testament of the 12 Patriarchs*: Two Messiahs expected
    - King lineage and priest lineage (Compare to Temple Legend)
  - *Damascus Document*: Two become a compound being
- Nag Hammadi: earthenware pot found 1945 with 12 codices contain excerpts from Plato and Hermes
  - *Discourse on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Level of Consciousness*: all about initiation
  - *The Apocalypse of Adam, Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Philip*

# Gnostics

<http://www.religioustolerance.org/gnostic.htm>



- The name is derived from the Greek word "*gnosis*"
  - Literally means "*knowledge*."
- *Gnosticism* is a philosophical and religious movement which started in pre-Christian times. Plato is considered a Gnostic.
- Gnostics believe that they had a **secret knowledge** about God, humanity, and the rest of the universe of which the **general population was unaware**
- One of the Aeons, Sophia, a virgin, gives birth to an defective, inferior Creator-God, also known as the Demiurge. (Demiurge means "public craftsman" in Greek.)
- This God is Jehovah, the God of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). He is portrayed as the creator of the earth and its life forms. He is viewed by Gnostics as a jealous God lacking in compassion
- Sophia, as Goddess of Wisdom, gave to humanity a seed of divine light
  - Goal is the **release of pneuma (spirit) from imprisonment in the flesh**
- The **movement and its literature** were essentially **wiped out** before the end of the 5th century CE by Catholic **heresy hunters** (e.g. **Ireneaus**) with the help of the Roman Army
- Discovery of an ancient Gnostic library at Nag Hammadi, Egypt in the 1940s with *Gospel of Thomas* and the finding of the *Gospel of Judas* at El Minya, Egypt, in the 1970s renewed interest.

# Gospel of Judas and the Canon



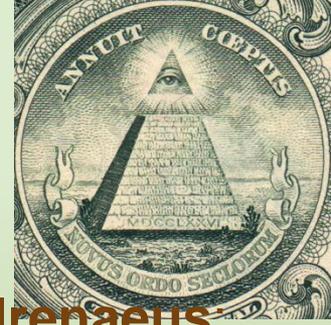
Charles W. Hedrick, the Bible Review

- "*The 34 Gospels: Diversity and Division Among the Earliest Christians*"
- In sum, in addition to the four canonical gospels, we have four complete non-canonicals, seven fragmentary, four known from quotations and two hypothetically recovered for a total of 21 gospels from the first two centuries, and we know that others existed in the early period. I am confident more of them will be found. For example, I have seen photos of several pages from a **Coptic** text entitled "*The Gospel of Judas*"

It remains to be firmly established that the recently uncovered "*Gospel of Judas*" corresponds to the ***Gospel of Judas*** mentioned by Irenaeus of Lyons. <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/gospeljudas.html>

- This document has recently surfaced and been published by National Geographic Society.
- Tixeront, translated by Raemers, states (*A Handbook of Patrology*, p. 67): "Besides these Gospels, we know that there once existed a *Gospel of Bartholomew*, a *Gospel of Thaddeus*, mentioned in the decree of Pope Gelasius, and a *Gospel of Judas* Iscariot in use among the Cainites and spoken of by St. **Irenaeus**"

# Gospel of Judas and the Canon



Here is the Roberts-Donaldson translation of this section from **Irenaeus**.

- Others again declare that **Cain derived his being from the Power above**, and acknowledge that Esau, Korah, the Sodomites, and all such persons, are related to themselves. On this account, they add, they have been assailed by the Creator, yet no one of them has suffered injury. For Sophia was in the habit of carrying off that which belonged to her from them to herself. They declare that Judas the traitor was thoroughly acquainted with these things, and that he alone, knowing the truth as no others did, accomplished the **mystery of the betrayal**; by him all things, both earthly and heavenly, were thus thrown into confusion. They produce a fictitious history of this kind, which they style the *Gospel of Judas*

On the new discovery, Bart Ehrman says,

- "The reappearance of the *Gospel of Judas* will rank among the greatest finds from Christian antiquity and is without doubt the most important archaeological discovery of the past 60 years. What will make this gospel famous—or infamous, perhaps—is that it portrays Judas quite differently from anything we previously knew. Here he is not the evil, corrupt, devil-inspired follower of Jesus who betrayed his master; he is instead Jesus' closest intimate and friend, the **one who understood Jesus** better than anyone else, who turned Jesus over to the authorities because Jesus wanted him to do so. This gospel has a **completely different understanding of God, the world, Christ, salvation, human existence—not to mention of Judas himself—than came to be embodied in the Christian creeds and canon**. It will open up new vistas for understanding Jesus and the religious movement he founded."

# Early Theological Battles



- Marcion (85-160 AD)
  - Born in Sinope on the Black Sea
    - Where Alexander the Great meets Diogenes
    - Where a mystery center existed for 100s of years
  - His teacher was Cerdo, a Gnostic
- From Rome he began to spread his message far and wide
- Justin Martyr (c.100-165) wrote in the 150's that Marcion was "teaching men to deny that God is the maker of all things in heaven and earth and that the Christ, predicted by the prophets, is His Son"
- Excommunicated in 144
- No other heretic called forth such a widespread response from the Orthodox church
- By the 4<sup>th</sup> century most of the Marcionite churches had been absorbed into Manicheism



# Paul of Samasota, c. 200-275AD



- Bishop of Antioch from 260 to 268
- Believer in monarchianism, a doctrine about the Trinity
  - Taught that Jesus was born a mere man
  - At baptism he was infused with the divine Logos or word of God
  - Jesus was not God-become-man but man-become-God
- 264 – 269: 3 synods on Paul of Samosata
- 269, Antioch synod with 70 bishops, priests and deacons
  - Removed him from the position of bishop (but he remained)
- 272 Introduction of Roman rule into the Church: Emperor Aurelian called feuding parties to his own tribunal
  - Though not a Christian and with no interest in the doctrinal matters of the Church, he wished to restore order

# Manichaeism: Uniting Religions



<http://www.cs.utk.edu/~mclennan/Classes/US310/Manichaeism.html>

- Founded in about 240 AD by Manes, aka Mani (216-277)
  - Born as Corbicius in Babylon to Iranian parents; **son of a widow**
  - Grows up with a Jewish mystic group, the Elkasites, a branch of Essenes
- Mani presented himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ
  - In the 4th century, Manichaean Coptic papyri identify Mani as the promised Paraclete (The Holy Ghost)
  - According to St. Cyril of Jerusalem (315–386, Doctor of Church):
    - Mani's teacher was **Terebinthus**, Matraiya Bodhisattva, whose teacher was
    - **Scythianus** of Alexandria who writes **Doctrine of Dualities** in India in 50 AD
- Mani's teaching **unites** Christianity, Gnosticism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Taoism (and more)
  - Spreads rapidly west to Spain and east to China.
- Dualities: dry-wet, warm-cold, light-dark, life-death, acid-alkaline
  - Christ path is the middle path
- Manichaeists were brutally exterminated, all books destroyed

# Destroying Manichaeism



<http://www.cs.utk.edu/~mclennan/Classes/US310/Manichaeism.html>

- Mani travels and teaches for 40 years. When he returns with his retinue to Persia he converts Peroz, **King Shapur's** brother
- Manichaeism spreads quickly throughout the Middle East, the Roman Empire, and as far east as China
- In the West, Manichaeism disappears after the sixth century, but Manichaeans were active in China until the thirteenth century
- In 296 A.D., Diocletian decreed: "We order that their organizers and leaders be subject to the final penalties and condemned to the fire with their abominable scriptures" resulting in numerous martyrs.
- In 381 A.D. **Christians** requested Theodosius I to strip Manichaeans of their civil rights – he issued a **decree of death** for Manichaean monks in 382 A.D.

# Donatists & Christian Purity



- Centered at Carthage
- The church must be a church of saints, not sinners
- The sacraments, such as baptism, administered by traditores were invalid, making Donatists the only “True” Church
  - During Diocletian's persecution c.303-305 leniency was offered to Christians who handed over their scriptures to be publicly burned
  - Some Church leaders turned over Christians to Roman authorities,
  - Such people were called traditores ("people who had handed over")
  - The Donatists refused, thus they suffered extreme persecutions
  - They proclaimed any sacraments celebrated by traditores were invalid
  - Even under Constantine, continued to see the emperor as the devil
    - In 321 Constantine granted toleration to the Donatists
- Disappear after the Islamic conquest of the 7th–8th century

# “Heretical” Christian Streams



- Arianism (d 336), student of Lucian, presbyter of Antioch
  - Arius taught in Alexandria: the Divine Logos incarnates in Jesus
  - He held that the Son, while divine and like God ("of like substance") was created by God as the agent through whom he created
  - Poisoned on way to be welcomed back by assembly in Constantinople
- Appollinaris (d 392)
  - Appealed to the well-known Platonic division of human nature:
    - **body (soma), soul (psyche), spirit (pneuma)**
  - Christ assumed the human body and the human soul or principle of animal life, but not the human spirit. **The Logos Himself is, or takes the place of, the human spirit, thus becoming the spiritual centre, the seat of self-consciousness and self-determination.** "I am the I am"
- Nestorius (d 451) Patriarch of Constantinople
  - Human and divine essences of Jesus are separate, the man Jesus and the divine Logos – Christ, which become one on Golgotha
  - Teachings spread from Syria/Persia to Kazakhstan to China

# Nestorian Church of the East

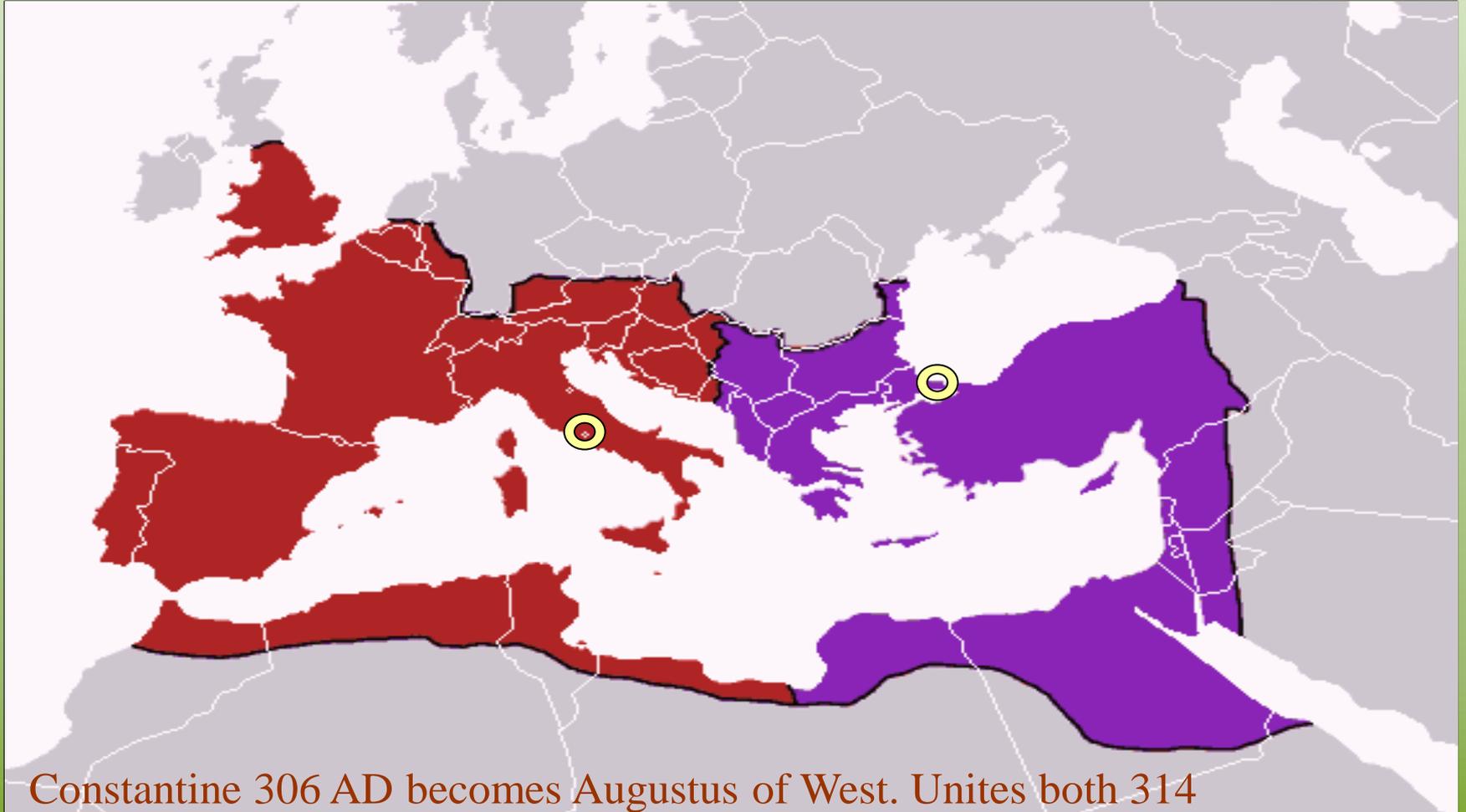


- Nestorius
  - (386–451)
  - Antioch
- Spread from Persia
  - To India to China
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> C world's largest Christian church, dioceses stretched from the Mediterranean to China and Japan
- What was different?



# Eastern and Western Empires

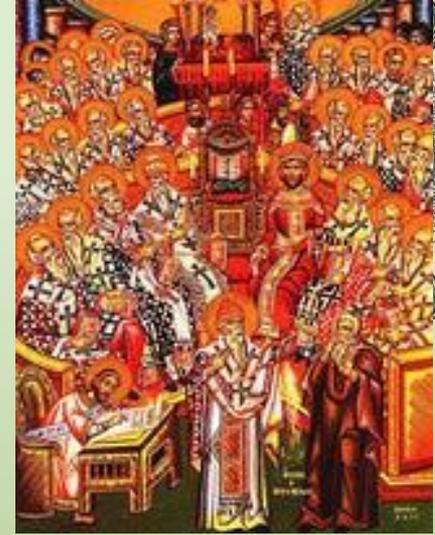
Under Diocletian, 5 part division Roman Empire 286 AD



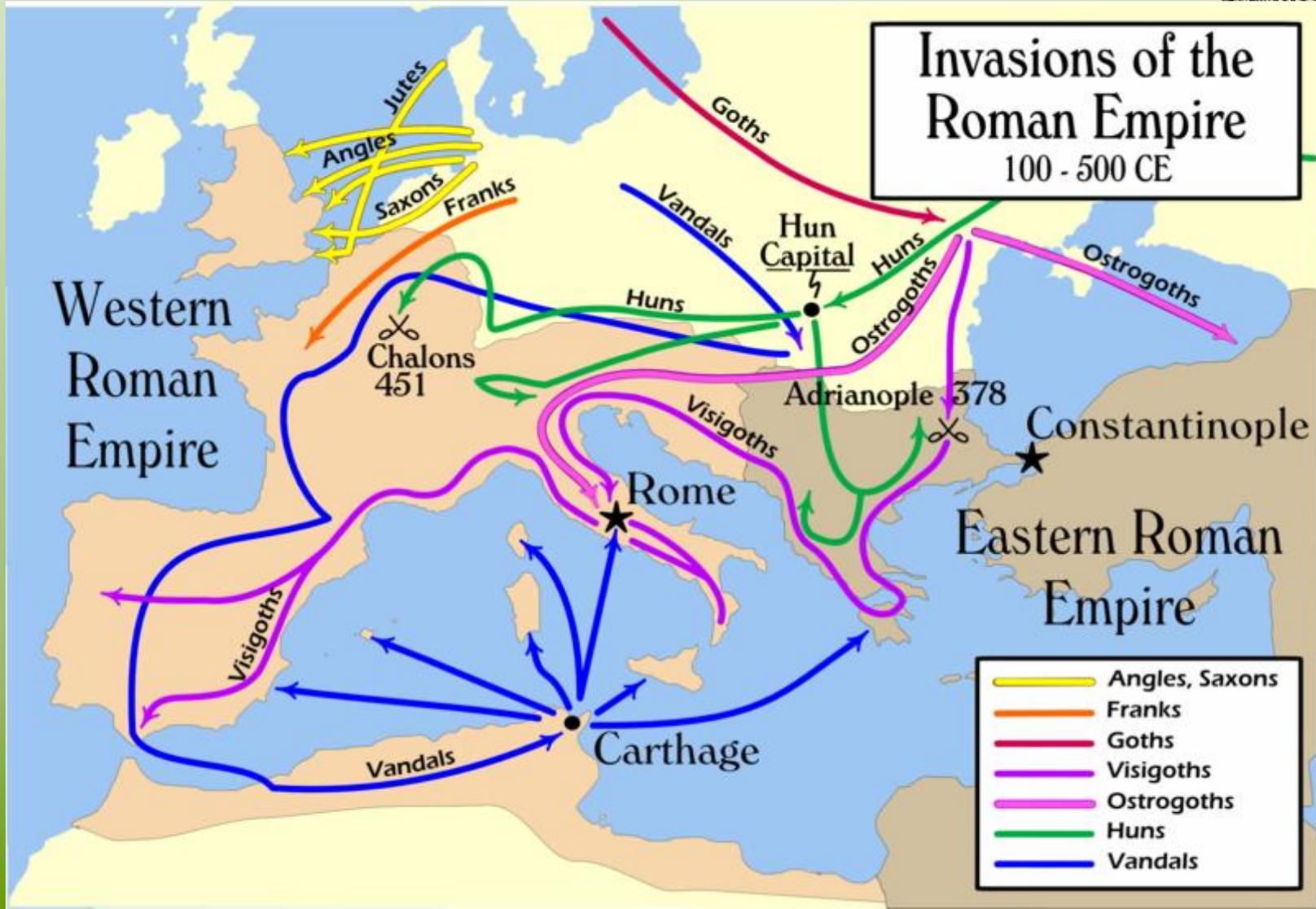
Constantine 306 AD becomes Augustus of West. Unites both 314

# Synods & Councils, Seeking Unity

- Eusebius of Caesarea's *Ecclesiastical History*
- Council of Niceae 325 AD
- The doctrine of the Trinity was finalized at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD which expressly included the Holy Ghost as equal to the Father and the Son
- Doctrinal debates: e.g. The Filioque
- By the 8<sup>th</sup> ecumenical council of 869, Man was no longer a being of Body, Soul, and Spirit (only body and soul)
  - Today, only body!



# Migrations of Peoples: 100–500



# Vandals and Goths



invade  
in

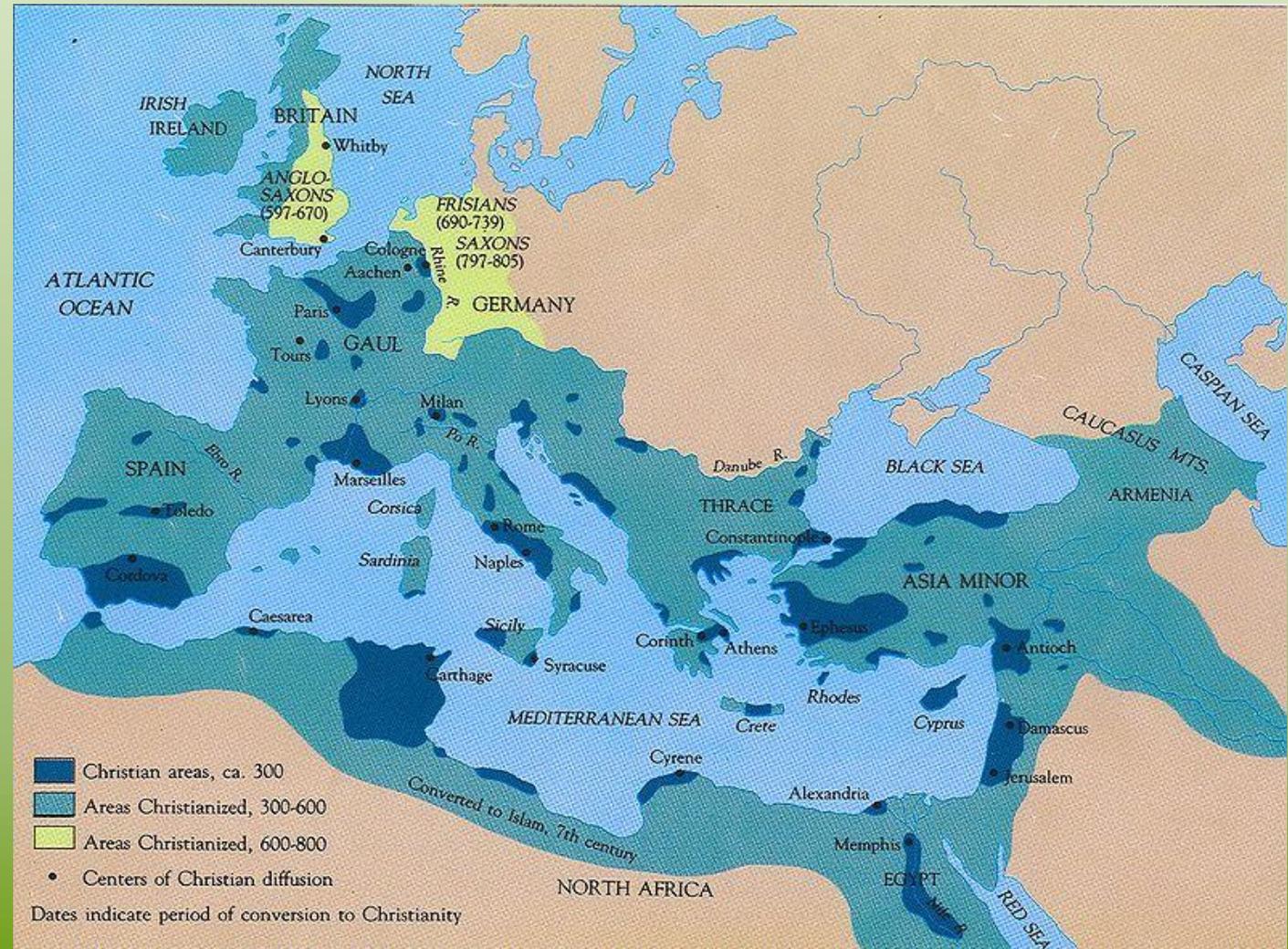
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# Spread of Western Christianity



## Where Else?

- Thomas to India
- Nestor to Persia and along silk route to China
- America?



# Historical Perspective



- 333 AD – 400 AD Heretics spread Christianity to the World
  - Marcion
  - Mani
  - Apollinarius
  - Arius
  - Nestor
- 400 AD – 1000 AD (*a peak ahead to the next lecture*)
  - Split of Roman Empire 395 AD: West (Rome) and East (Constantinople)
  - Justinian (483-565): Destruction of the Mystery Centers and Heretics
  - Byzantine destruction of Persia 629 AD,
  - Muhammad (d 632 AD), Islam conquers Persia 632, N. Africa
  - Charlemagne and Harun al Rashid 800 AD
    - Keys to the Holy Sites in Jerusalem – Pilgrimages 800-1000 AD
  - 8th Ecumenical Council in 869 – End of Spirit in Man
    - Pilgrimages, search for “the inner”
    - Troubadours and the Grail Knights → Knights Templar
      - Parsifal & Titerel, Northern Spain – Southern France

# Faith Battles Knowledge



- Was Christ a Man?
- What was the substance of God(s)?
- Faith used to repudiate Arianism, Gnosticism
- Gnostics: all physical is corrupt
  - Alexandria to Antioch to Athens – a Gnostic “hot bed”
  - Opposed by Irenaeus of Lyons, *Against Heresies* c. 175-185 AD
- 325: Council of Nicene: Substance of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
  - “being of one substance with the Father”
  - Nicene Creed recast in 381 AD to further stamp out heretics
- Many Christian groups and individuals banned as heretics
  - Aristoteleans driven out of Christendom → Gondishapur near Baghdad
- Established the supremacy of the apostolic sees as follows: Rome, followed by Alexandria, followed by Antioch, followed by Jerusalem

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| Spirit   | Pneuma |
| Soul     | Psyche |
| Life     | Soma   |
| Material | Earth  |

# Further Ecumenical Councils



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecu. Council of Constantinople (381AD): revised Nicene Creed
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ecumenical Council of Ephesus (431AD): **repudiated Nestorianism**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon (451 AD): **rejected Nestorianism**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council of Constantinople (553 AD): **remove vestiges of Gnostics**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council of Constantinople (680 AD): the human and divine wills of Jesus
- 7<sup>th</sup> in Nicaea in 787 AD.
  - Restores  **veneration of icons**, improves East-West relations
- 8<sup>th</sup> takes place in Constantinople 869 AD and again in 879 to restore Patriarch Photios
  - What is the reward?
    - Formerly – return to the Father, go back via descent route
  - Everlasting life is spiritual – when can such be given?
    - Greek model largely lost
  - Where are the dead?
    - Ancestor worship still a strong memory
  - What is the ultimate goal of humanity?
    - Reincarnation wisdom already wiped out
  - Result: Christ gives this on Judgment Day
    - Wine taken away from mass – only for the priests
  - Re-splits East & West Church
  - Profound change from mystery wisdom - Melchizedek
  - Start of troubadours and the search for the holy grail
    - Poet-musicians of Provence, attached to Albigensian courts of nobles.
    - They spread their stories and art into other regions. The German imitators of the Troubadours were the Minnesingers ("love singers"), including Wolfram von Eschenbach (author of Parzifal).

# The Mysteries & Roman Emperors



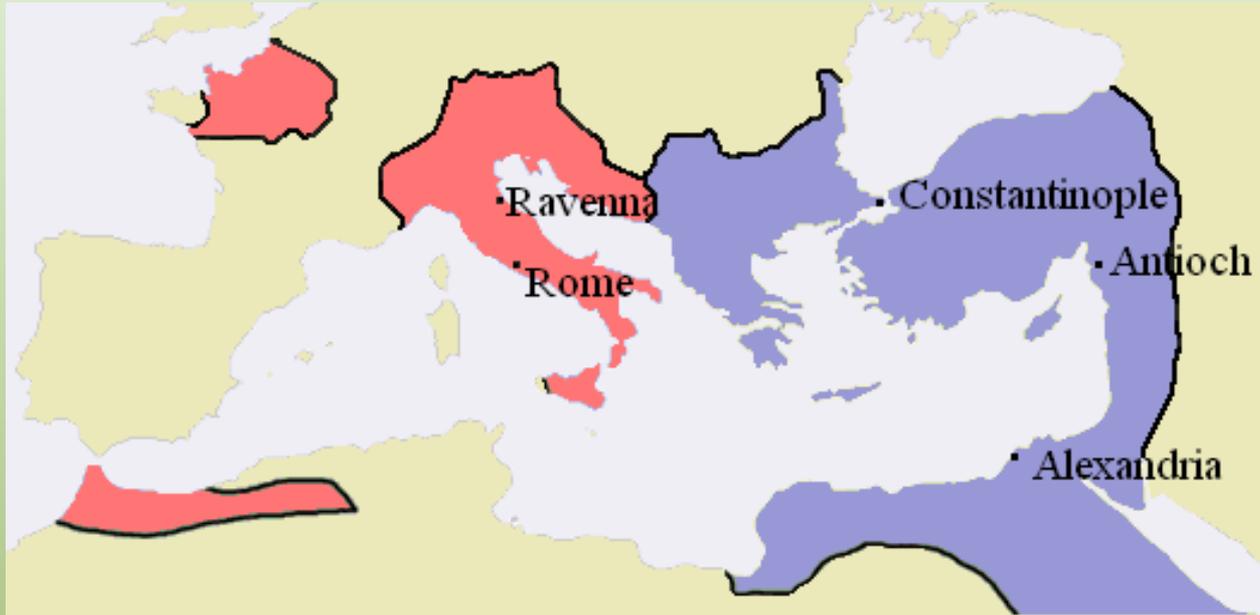
- Mystery centers all across known world
  - E.g. Pythagorus, School of Athens, Ephesus
- Constantine the Great (280–337)
  - Mother is a Christian, allows Christianity and other religions in 313 AD
  - Sees Christianity as establishing new mysteries, fulfilling the old. **Sets out to uproot and destroy all the old mysteries.**
  - Gnosticism sought to merge the old mysteries with Christianity
- Julian the Apostate (331–363) last pagan Roman Emperor (361–363)
  - Receives strict **Arian Christian** education but favors Theurgy (mystic)
  - Initiated into **Eleusinian Mysteries**
  - Sees Roman Law changing Christianity, turning faith into dogma
  - Attempts to **restore mysteries within Christianity** but is murdered
- Justinian, Eastern Roman Emperor 527–565
  - **Hates all the old mysteries** and all associated with it
  - Closes the School of Athens where St. Paul placed Dionysius in charge
    - 900 year history comes to an end
    - Pandemic of bubonic plague follows – Plague of Justinian 541-542 kills 30M

# Demise of the Mystery Centers



- Julian the Apostate: born: 330 AD, Constantinople.
  - Roman Emperor from 361 to 363, murdered trying to restore the Mithraic and Persian Mysteries within the Empire
- Theodosius I closed the Greek Mystery Centers in 392 AD
- Arian Christians under Gothic King Alaric sack Greece and desecrate its Mystery Centers in 396 AD
- 525 Emperor Justin I allowed intermarriage between social classes allowing Justinian to marry the commoner Theodora
- 527 - 565: Justinian the Byzantine Emperor – destroyed all Mystery Center and pagan remnants
- 553 Second Council of Constantinople: Power. Recognized that the emperor's will and command trumped the Church

# Western Empire Shrinks, 476 AD



- Rome sacked several times
- Barbarians rule Rome in 476

- Justinian I in the 6<sup>th</sup> century of Eastern empire tries to win back the West



# Discussion Time

Check out what's claimed for

- ❑ Theology and Philosophy
- ❑ Relationship to Mysteries
- ❑ What happened?

- Ebionites,  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebionites>
- Gnostics,  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnostics>
- Marcion of Sinope (c. 85–160)
- Mani (c. 216–274)
- Arius (c. 250–336)
- Athanasius (c.296-c.373)
- Irenaeus of Lyons (c.120-202)

Guide

- ❑ Who/what was Christ
  - Relationship to Jesus
  - Relationship to Father
- ❑ Trinity

- Valentinus (c. 100–160)
- Tertullian (c.160-225)
- Origen (c.185-c.254)
- Montanus, last quarter of 2nd century CE
- Hippolytus (c.217-236)
- Nestorius (died c.451)
- Clement of Alexandria (c.150-215)

# Summary Points from Tonight



1. Ancient Mystery stream flowed through multiple groups including the Gnostics
2. The texts were altered to suit different groups
3. Why Faith – we (finite, mortal) can't know God (infinite, immortal), so we need faith versus knowledge through initiation into the new Mysteries

# Questions?

...

# The New Christian Initiation



# New Type of Initiation



Prepared candidate goes through seven stages:

1. Washing of the Feet: dependency on “lower” beings
2. Scourging: awareness of suffering and pain in the world
3. Crown of Thorns: Strength of conviction when jeered
4. Crucifixion: no longer connect one’s ego with body
5. Mystical Death: black curtain drawn over physical world
6. Resurrection: Curtain rent, union with whole earth
7. Ascension: complete absorption into spiritual world

# Moral Strength & Courage



- Every soul that wishes to attain to a certain stage of Initiation in the Mysteries must go through certain experiences. They are:
  1. Coming into contact with the Experience of Death
  2. Passing through the Elementary World
  3. Seeing the Sun at Midnight
  4. The Meeting with the Upper and the Lower Gods
- In the moment when one is preparing to rise into higher worlds, intellectual and moral qualities of the soul intermingle
- For the ordinary external knowledge of our time, one requires only intellectual qualities. In this connection we call “courage” and “fearlessness” moral qualities
- Without them, certain stages of Initiation cannot be reached
- This was fundamental for the Knights Templar

# Laying Aside Ordinary Consciousness



- A meditator must lay aside all his usual experiences, both of an inward and an outward nature. Think only: the blue vault of heaven becomes transparent, is no more there; all boundaries produced by color on the surface of things vanish, are no longer there.
- The sounds of the physical world cease, are no longer there; the experience of touch ceases, is no longer there. And I beg you to take note that this becomes actual experience. Thus, for example, the feeling, “to stand with one's feet on solid ground” which is nothing else than an expression of the sense of touch, ceases, and the person feels as if the ground has been taken away from under him and he were standing upon nothing; but he cannot draw back and cannot rise.
- So it is with all impressions of the senses — with everything for which the physical body is an instrument.

# Becoming One with the World



- The other thing that ceases for the aspirant at this stage of experience is everything connected with what in ordinary physical life we call sense-perception.
- Nothing makes an impression on him, but he is everything himself.
- The only impression that remains is at the most that of “time” — “Now art thou not yet anything, and after a while thou wilt be something.” But as for having objects external to himself, which are present elsewhere and make an impression on him, nothing like that remains.
- Either he is something himself, or nothing at all is Elementary there.
- Everything he encounters becomes himself; he becomes submerged in it, becomes one with it, and finally he becomes as great as the world that is at his disposal; he becomes one with it.

# Qualities, Not Substantiality



- One thing that ceases is every feeling for physical materiality.
- Everything material has disappeared into indefinite nothingness, the Void — it is not there.
- The feeling of contacting something hard, or even something soft like water or air — in short, the feeling of being surrounded by matter ceases, is not there.
- One is concerned only with the qualities of things, not the things themselves. Of heavy, dense physical bodies only the density remains, not the substantiality; of fluid bodies, only the fluidity, but not the water or the fluid; of the air there remains only the tendency to expand in all directions, but not the substantiality.
- One grows into the qualities of things, but with the feeling that one is growing only into the qualities; that the objects have vanished, all materiality has gone.

# Being Lost: “In Christo Morimor”



- In Christ I die
- Paul “No longer I, but Christ in me”
- “Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Romans 6:3-4
- Rosicrucians return this to prominence in 15<sup>th</sup> century

# Paul and Paulicians



- Paul: a highly educated, Pharisee, named Saul
  - Persecuted Christians until his Damascus Initiation
  - Worked throughout Greece and Balkan area
    - Luke, a doctor and gospel writer, often travels with Paul
  - Romans 16:25-26 “according to the revelation of the *mystery* which was *kept secret* for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations”
- Paulicians (beginning around 630 AD) believed they followed Paul’s mystical teachings
  - The founder of the sect was Constantine of Mananalis, in SE Turkey.
    - He studied the Gospels, the Epistles, and Mani. He vigorously opposed the increasing dogma of the church.
    - Regarded himself as called to restore the pure Christianity of Paul
    - 687 stoned to death by order of the emperor but group spread to Balkans
  - From 845-852, Empress Theodora had 100,000 Paulicians executed
  - Religious views were dualistic like Manichaeism. Some points:
    - Christ came down from heaven to emancipate men from matter, i.e. the physical body, and to transform the world
    - Reverence for the Cross considered heathenish; no reverence for Mary
  - Likely source or influence of the Cathars who are later brutally destroyed



# When It Became the State Religion

- Within the Empire and later elsewhere Christianity was dominated by the Gentile based Christianity
- Became the State church of the Roman Empire
- Took control in the Holy Land
  - Church of the Holy Sepulchre
  - The Cenacle
  - Appointed Bishops of Jerusalem

# Legend of the Battle of Dark & Light



- The Spirits of Darkness wished to storm the Kingdom of Light. They came to its borders for the attack. They were, however, able to achieve nothing. Now they were to be punished by the Kingdom of Light. But in the Kingdom of Light there is only good. Thus the Demons of Darkness could only have been punished through good. Therefore the Spirits of the Kingdom of Light took a portion of their own kingdom and mingled it into the Kingdom of Darkness.
- Thereby a **leaven**, so to speak, came into the Kingdom of Darkness and a kind of vortex arose. Death became pulled into the vortex, whereby it consumed itself. It now carried within itself the seed of its own destruction. There then arose from the Kingdom of Light the Archetypal Man of the human race ***who must mingle with the Kingdom of Darkness and overcome it.***

# Church Fathers

## Great Fathers

- Western Church:
  - Ambrose (340-397),
  - Jerome (347-420),
  - Augustine (354-430)
  - Saint Gregory the Great (540-604)
- Eastern Church:
  - Athanasius (c.296-373),
  - Basil (c.329-379),
  - Gregory of Nazianzus (329-c.389)
  - John Chrysostom (347-407)

## Apostolic Fathers (taught by the disciples)

- Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, and Polycarp of Smyrna.
- Shepherd of Hermas
- Didache: how-to for rituals, food
  - Not part of the Mystery stream
  - Lost for centuries, rediscovered by Philotheos Bryennios in 1873 a Greek manuscript in the Codex Hierosolymitanus.
  - A Latin version of the first five chapters was discovered in 1900 by J. Schlecht.
  - "Lord" reserved for "Lord God", while Jesus is called "the servant" of the Father (9:2f.; 10:2f.)
  - "There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between these two ways." matches Essenes Com Rule

# Church Fathers

## Apostolic Fathers

- Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna. Unknown authors: The Didache and Shepherd of Hermas written in Koine Greek

## Clement of Rome

- His epistle, 1 Clement (c.96) was copied and widely read in the Early Church.

## Ignatius of Antioch (c.35-110)

- Third bishop or Patriarch of Antioch, student of the Apostle John. En route to his martyrdom in Rome, Ignatius wrote a series of letters which have been preserved. Important topics addressed in these letters include ecclesiology, the sacraments, the role of bishops, and Biblical Sabbath. He is the second after Clement to mention Paul's epistles.

## Polycarp of Smyrna (c.69–c.155)

- Christian bishop of Smyrna (now Izmir in Turkey), a disciple of John (John the Evangelist. Martyr.

Those who wrote in Greek are called the Greek (Church) Fathers: Clement of Rome, Irenaeus of Lyons, Clement of Alexandria, Athanasius of Alexandria, John Chrysostom, Cyril of Alexandria, the Cappadocian Fathers (Basil of Caesarea, Gregory Nazianzus, Peter of Sebaste, Gregory of Nyssa), Maximus the Confessor, and John of Damascus.

## Irenaeus of Lyons

- *Against Heresies* (c.180) enumerated heresies and attacked them; wrote unity = one doctrinal authority proposed that the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all be accepted as canonical.

## Clement of Alexandria

- Church of Alexandria, united Greek philosophical traditions with Christian doctrine, valued gnosis, wrote communion for all people could be held by common Christians. He developed a Christian Platonism.

## Origen of Alexandria (c.185–c.254)

- A scholar and theologian, Egyptian who taught in Alexandria, reviving the Catechetical School where Clement had taught. The Patriarch of Alexandria at first supported Origen but later expelled him for being ordained without the patriarch's permission. Tortured to death.
- In *Peri Archon* (First Principles), he articulated the first philosophical exposition of Christian doctrine. A stoic, Neo-Pythagorean, and Platonist. Wrote the soul passes through successive stages before incarnation as a human and after death, eventually reaching God. He imagined even demons being reunited with God. For Origen, God was not Yahweh but the First Principle, and Christ, the Logos, was subordinate to him. His views of a hierarchical structure in the Trinity, the temporality of matter, "the fabulous preexistence of souls", and "the monstrous restoration which follows from it" were declared anathema in the 6th century.

# Church Fathers

## **Athanasius of Alexandria (c.293–2 May 373)**

- A theologian, Pope of Alexandria, and a noted Egyptian leader of the 4th century. He is remembered for his role in the conflict with Arianism and for his affirmation of the Trinity. At the First Council of Nicaea (325), Athanasius argued against the Arian doctrine that Christ is of a distinct substance from the Father.

## **Cappadocian Fathers**

- The Cappadocians promoted early Christian theology and are highly respected in both Western and Eastern churches as saints. They were a 4th-century monastic family, led by Saint Macrina the Younger (324–379) to provide a central place for her brothers to study and meditate, and also to provide a peaceful shelter for their mother. Abbess Macrina fostered the education and development of three men who collectively became designated the Cappadocian Fathers: Basil the Great (330–379) who was the second oldest of Macrina's brothers and became a bishop; Gregory of Nyssa (c.335 – after 394) who also became a bishop of the diocese associated thereafter with his name; and Peter of Sebaste (c.340 – 391) who was the youngest brother and became bishop of Sebaste.
- These scholars along with a close friend, Gregory Nazianzus, set out to demonstrate that Christians could hold their own in conversations with learned Greek-speaking intellectuals. They argued that Christian faith, while it was against many of the ideas of Plato and Aristotle (and other Greek Philosophers), it was an almost scientific and distinctive movement with the healing of the soul of man and his union with God at its center.
- They made major contributions to the definition of the Trinity finalized at the First Council of Constantinople in 381 and the final version of the Nicene Creed.

- Subsequent to the First Council of Nicea, Arianism did not simply disappear. The semi-Arians taught that the Son is of like substance with the Father (homoiousios), as against the outright Arians who taught that the Son was unlike the Father (heterousian). So the Son was held to be like the Father but not of the same essence as the Father. The Cappadocians worked to bring these semi-Arians back to the Orthodox cause. In their writings they made extensive use of the formula "three substances (hypostases) in one essence (homoousia)", and thus explicitly acknowledged a distinction between the Father and the Son (a distinction that Nicea had been accused of blurring) but at the same time insisting on their unity.

## **John Chrysostom (c.347–c.407)**

- Archbishop of Constantinople, is known for his eloquence in preaching and public speaking; his denunciation of abuse of authority by both ecclesiastical and political leaders, recorded sermons and writings making him the most prolific of the eastern fathers, and his ascetic sensibilities. After his death (or according to some sources, during his life) he was given the Greek epithet chrysostomos, meaning "golden mouthed", rendered in English as Chrysostom.[14][15]
- Chrysostom is known within Christianity chiefly as a preacher and theologian, particularly in the Eastern Orthodox Church; he is the patron saint of orators in the Roman Catholic Church. Chrysostom is also noted for eight of his sermons that played a considerable part in the history of Christian antisemitism, which were extensively cited by the Nazis in their ideological campaign against the Jews.[16][17]

# Church Fathers

## **Cyril of Alexandria (c.378–444)**

- Bishop of Alexandria when the city was at its height of influence and power within the Roman Empire. Cyril wrote extensively and was a leading protagonist in the Christological controversies of the late 4th and early 5th centuries. He was a central figure in the First Council of Ephesus in 431, which led to the deposition of Nestorius as Archbishop of Constantinople. Cyril's reputation within the Christian world has resulted in his titles "Pillar of Faith" and "Seal of all the Fathers".

## **Maximus the Confessor (c.580–13 August 662)**

- A Christian monk, theologian, and scholar. In his early life, he was a civil servant and an aide to the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius. However, he gave up this life in the political sphere to enter into the monastic life.
- After moving to Carthage, Maximus studied several Neo-Platonist writers and became a prominent author. When one of his friends began espousing the Christological position known as Monothelism, Maximus was drawn into the controversy, in which he supported the Chalcedonian position that Jesus had both a human and a divine will. Maximus is venerated in both Eastern Christianity and Western Christianity. His Christological positions eventually resulted in his torture and exile, soon after which he died. However, his theology was vindicated by the Third Council of Constantinople, and he was venerated as a saint soon after his death. His *Life of the Virgin* is thought to be the earliest complete biography of Mary.

## **Saint John of Damascus (c.676–4 December 749)**

- Syrian Christian monk and priest. Born and raised in Damascus, he died at his monastery, Mar Saba, near Jerusalem.
- A polymath whose fields of interest and contribution included law, theology, philosophy, and music, before being ordained, he served as a chief administrator to the Muslim caliph of Damascus, wrote works expounding the Christian faith, and composed hymns which are still in use in Eastern Christian monasteries. The Catholic Church regards him as a Doctor of the Church, often referred to as the Doctor of the Assumption because of his writings on the Assumption of Mary.

## **Latin Fathers**

### **Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus (c.160–c.225) Tertullian**

- Converted to Christianity before 197, was a prolific writer of apologetic, theological, controversial and ascetic works. He was born in Carthage, the son of a Roman centurion.
- Tertullian denounced Christian doctrines he considered heretical, but later in life adopted views that themselves came to be regarded as heretical. He wrote three books in Greek and was the first great writer of Latin Christianity, thus sometimes known as the "Father of the Latin Church". He was evidently a lawyer in Rome. He is said to have introduced the Latin term "trinitas" with regard to the Divine (Trinity) to the Christian vocabulary (but Theophilus of Antioch already wrote of "the Trinity, of God, and His Word, and His wisdom", which is similar but not identical to the Trinitarian wording), and also probably the formula "three Persons, one Substance" as the Latin "tres Personae, una Substantia"

# Church Fathers

## **Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus (c.160–c.225) Tertullian**

- In his Apologeticus, he was the first Latin author who qualified Christianity as the "vera religio", and systematically relegated the classical Roman Empire religion and other accepted cults to the position of mere "superstitions".
- Later in life, Tertullian joined the Montanists, a heretical sect that appealed to his rigorism.[18] He used the early church's symbol for fish—the Greek word for "fish" being ΙΧΘΥΣ which is an acronym for "Ιησοῦς Χριστός, Θεοῦ Υἱός, Σωτήρ" (Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour)—to explain the meaning of Baptism since fish are born in water. He wrote that human beings are like little fish.

## **Saint Cyprian (died September 14, 258)**

- Bishop of Carthage and an important early Christian writer. He was born in North Africa, probably at the beginning of the 3rd century, perhaps at Carthage, where he received an excellent classical (pagan) education. After converting to Christianity, he became a bishop and eventually died a martyr at Carthage.

## **Hilary of Poitiers (c.300 – c.368)**

- Bishop of Poitiers and is a Doctor of the Church. He was sometimes referred to as the "Hammer of the Arians" (Latin: Malleus Arianorum) and the "Athanasius of the West." His name comes from the Greek word for happy or cheerful. His optional memorial in the Roman Catholic calendar of saints is 13 January. In the past, when this date was occupied by the Octave Day of the Epiphany, his feast day was moved to 14 January.

## **Saint Ambrose**

- Archbishop of Milan who became one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the 4th century. He is counted as one of the four original doctors of the Church.

## **Jerome (c.347–September 30, 420)**

- Best known as the translator of the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin. He also was a Christian apologist. Jerome's edition of the Bible, the Vulgate, is still an important text of Catholicism. He is recognized by the Roman Catholic Church as a Doctor of the Church.

## **Augustine (13 November 354–28 August 430)**

- Bishop of Hippo, was a philosopher and theologian. Augustine, a Latin Father and Doctor of the Church, is one of the most important figures in the development of Western Christianity. Augustine was radically influenced by Platonism. He framed the concepts of original sin and just war as they are understood in the West. When Rome fell and the faith of many Christians was shaken, Augustine developed the concept of the Church as a spiritual City of God, distinct from the material City of Man. Augustine's work defined the start of the medieval worldview, an outlook that would later be firmly established by Pope Gregory the Great.
- Augustine was born in present day Algeria to a Christian mother, Saint Monica. He was educated in North Africa and resisted his mother's pleas to become Christian. He took a concubine and became a Manichean. He later converted to Christianity, became a bishop, and opposed heresies, such as Pelagianism. His works—including The Confessions, which is often called the first Western autobiography—are still read around the world. After his word work to proclaim the word of God, he is now regarded as a father saint to many institutions, and some have been named after him.

# Rome and Constantinople



- 50-300 AD: Christianity spreads in all directions
  - Popes/Patriarchs/Sees exist in five regions
  - Theological differences
- Constantine and Christianity, 313 AD
  - Center of Christianity intended for Constantinople – lasts until 1453
  - Wants to unite Christianity's sects – calls for Nicene Council
- Ecumenical councils lead to split into Greek & Latin centers
- 395: Eastern and Western Empires split again
- 527-537: Justinian rules when Constantinople flourishes
- 610: Emperor Heraclius replaces Latin with Greek as army's language
- 751: Lombards conquer Ravenna and threaten Rome
- 752: Pope requests aid from Pepin with Donation of Constantine forgery
  - Legal basis to Papal States; defines Western Roman Empire for Papal oversight
- 800: Charlemagne becomes Augustus of Roman Empire
  - Battles Saracens in Italy and pagans in Europe
- 1054: Popes of Constantinople and of Rome excommunicate each other
- 1155: Frederick Barbarossa adds "Holy" to Roman Emperor title