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Professor Pete Goodman

→ **CHURCH HISTORY I**

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WHAT CHURCH HISTORY OFFERS

- UNDERSTANDING of our current beliefs and practices
- FAITH seeing God has always been in control
- HUMILITY knowing the church hasn't been perfect
- WISDOM to learn from the past



AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME

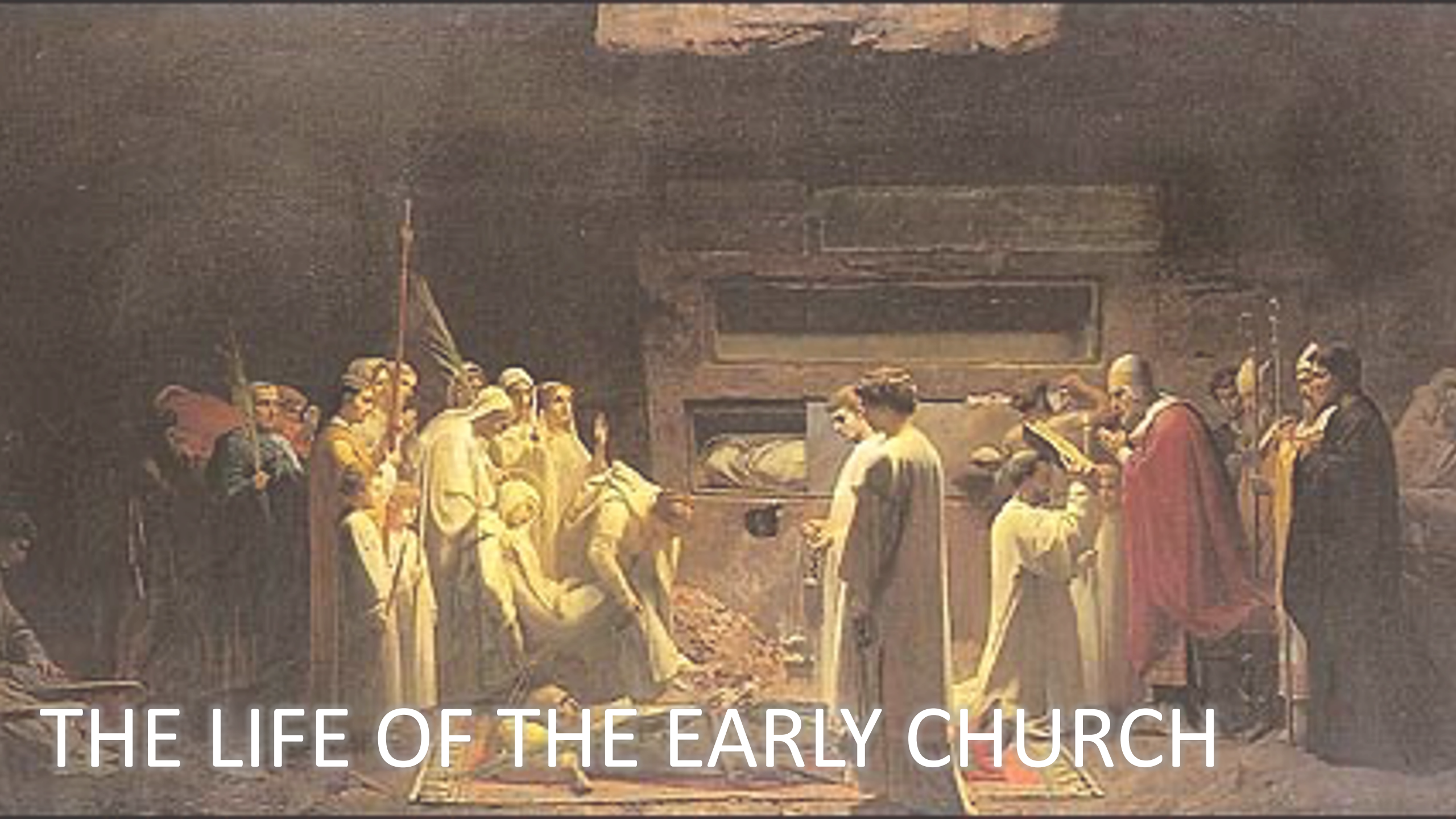
- The DIASPORA had spread Jewish communities throughout the world
- The Roman “Peace” made TRAVEL safer and easier
- A common LANGUAGE allowed for cross-culture communication
- People were growing DISSATISFIED with the old ways and becoming more open to new ideas





THE FALL OF JERUSALEM 70AD





THE LIFE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

LIFE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

- A religion for the women, the POOR and SLAVES
- Christian communities were small gatherings in homes and catacombs
- Gathered for the LORDS SUPPER teaching of the WORD
- New converts went through CATECHISM to ensure they were fully committed before BAPTISM



THREATS TO THE EARLY CHURCH

THREATS TO THE EARLY CHURCH

- The Pious JEWS saw Christians as heretics
- Leaders of ROME saw Christians as un-patriotic
- The GENERAL PUBLIC saw Christians as strange and stupid
- Jewish CONVERTS struggled with keeping the Law
- Former PAGANS wanted to add new gods to a mixed religion
- HERESY twisted or perverted the gospel message



RESPONSE TO THE THREATS

RESPONSE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

- EPISCOPACY: a hierarchy of bishops (overseers)
- CANON: A standard list of authoritative Scriptures
- CREEDS: Memorable and easy to pass on statements
- APOLOGISTS: Defined and defended the truth of Christianity against heresy and outside attacks