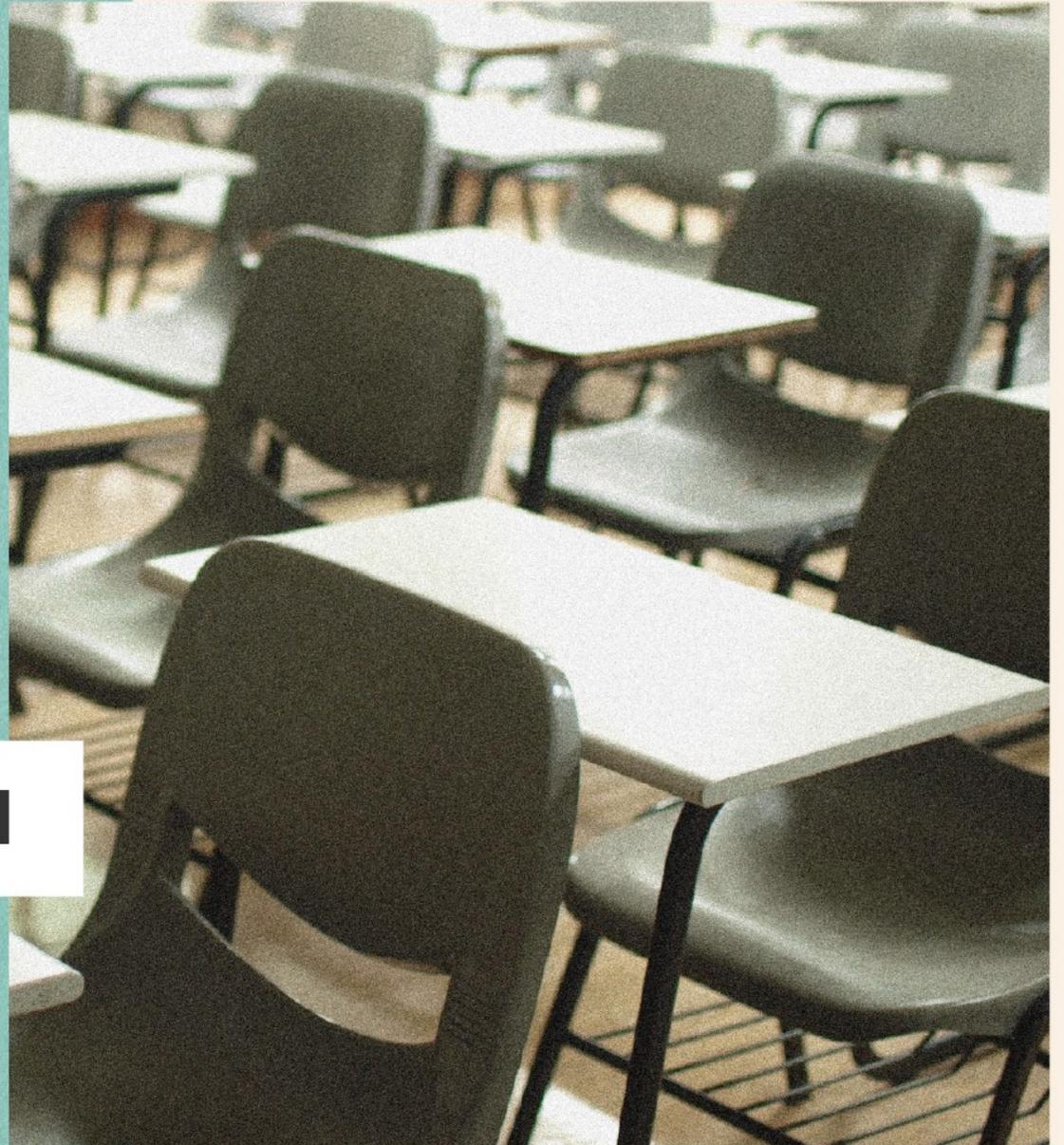


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# RISE

→ **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



RISE



# LIFE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

- A religion for the women, the POOR and SLAVES
- Mostly 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

- 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

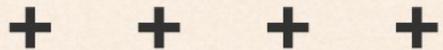
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RISE



# 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

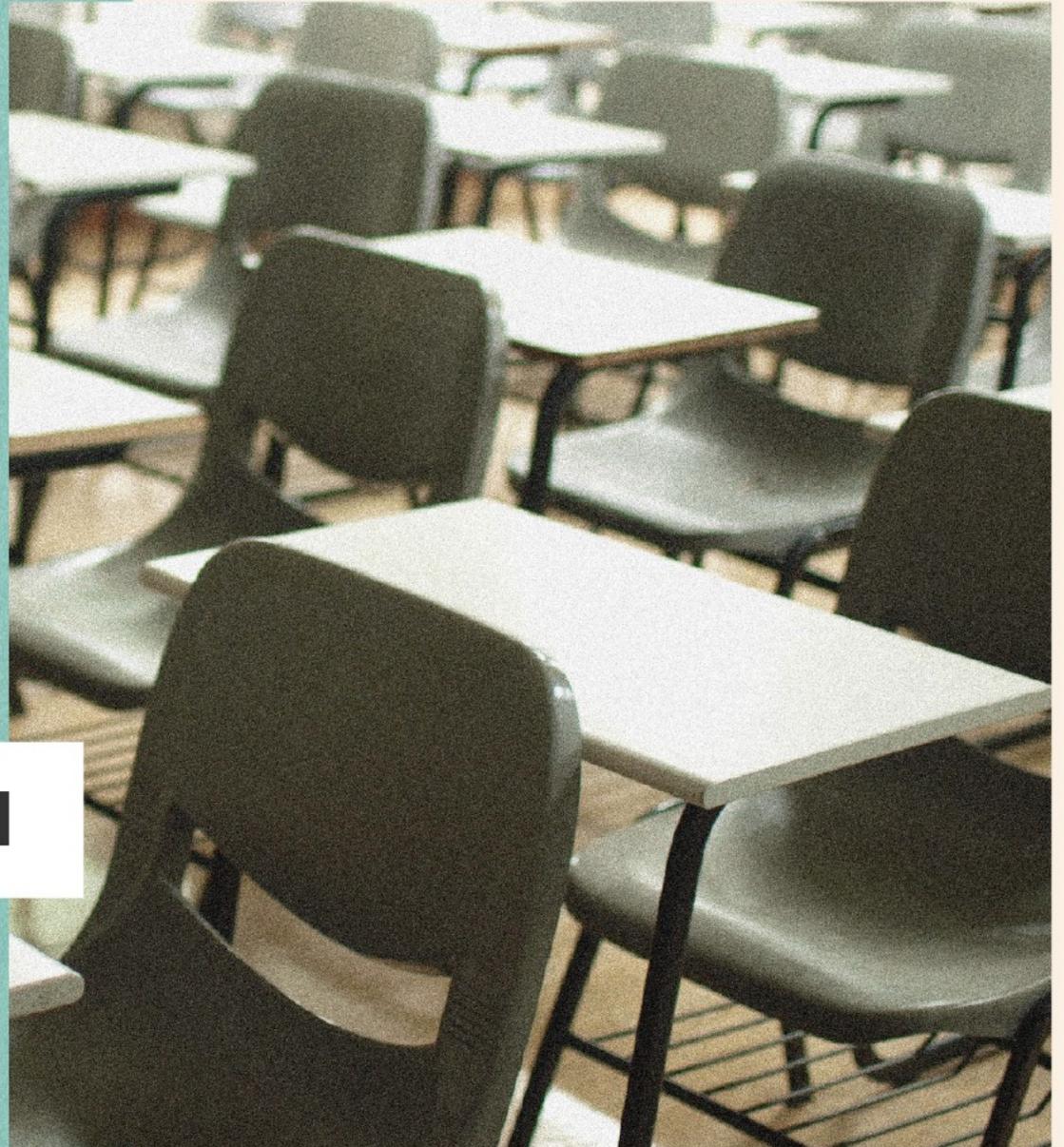


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# RISE

→ **CHURCH HISTORY I**

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# CONSTANTINE

And the Beginning of a New Christian Era (ca. 303 AD)

# THE RISE OF CONSTANTINE

- Emperor **Diocletian** divided the empire up among 3 other rulers in order to share power
- Galerius convinced him to oversee the largest **persecution** of the Christian church in 303AD
- After his death they all battled for control
- Constantine won power at the battle of the MILVIAN BRIDGE in 312AD - after having a ***vision of Christ***

# THE RISE OF CONSTANTINE

- With the EDICT OF MILAN (**314AD**), Constantine first made Christianity a “tolerated” religion while sharing power with Licinius, his co-emperor
- Once he defeated Licinius and took total power in **324 AD** he made Christianity the official STATE religion of the entire empire

CONCILIVM  
NICAENVM·I

# THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA

And the Arian Controversy (325 AD)



# THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA

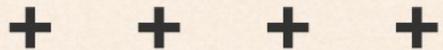
- Prompted by the rising arguments over the issue of the NATURE of Christ (*fully God, only human, in between...?*)
  - MODALISM: Jesus was just a different form or “mode” of God, but the same person (*ie: water can be solid, liquid or gas...*)
  - ADOPTIONISM: Jesus was just a man but became more when he took on the divine spirit at baptism
  - ARIANISM: Jesus is a *created* divine being – a *god* but not *God* (“*There was a time when he was not.*”)

# THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA

- Athanasius and others responded that Christ must be fully God or Christians are PAGANS (*many gods*)
- And only God Himself can effectively deal with our sin and recreate us from our fallen nature
- *“If Christ is not fully God, then we are all lost!”*

# DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

- Established rules and procedures for handling these situations, how to elect bishops and other church structural issues like restoring the lapsed
- Christ is fully God – the same SUBSTANCE (*Homoousios*) as the Father
- Christ was BEGOTTEN but not made – not a *creature*



RISE



# THE NICAEAAN CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

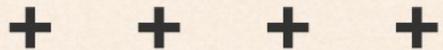


# AFTER THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA

- While an initial “win”, the battle was not over and continued to rage for another 60 years
- Constantine’s son was an Arian who battled with Athanasius over the next 40 years
- Emperor Theodosius finally settled the issue for good in 381 AD (*Council of Constantinople*)

# A TURNING POINT FOR CHRISTIANITY

- Within a generation Christianity moved from the outcast fringes of society to the Empire's OFFICIAL RELIGION
- Constantine was the first political leader to hold sway over the church; which would have lasting consequences
- Once an underground, subversive movement, Christianity was now popular, powerful, and wealthy



WAS THIS *GOOD* FOR  
CHRISTIANITY?



# THE LAPSED AND INSINCERE

- DONATISTS saw the corruption of the new church and its acceptance of those who had given in to persecution as reason to break off
  - Believed baptism was only valid if the person administering was pure of heart (Had not lapsed)
- Others argued the person doing the baptism didn't matter, only the convert's heart and intentions

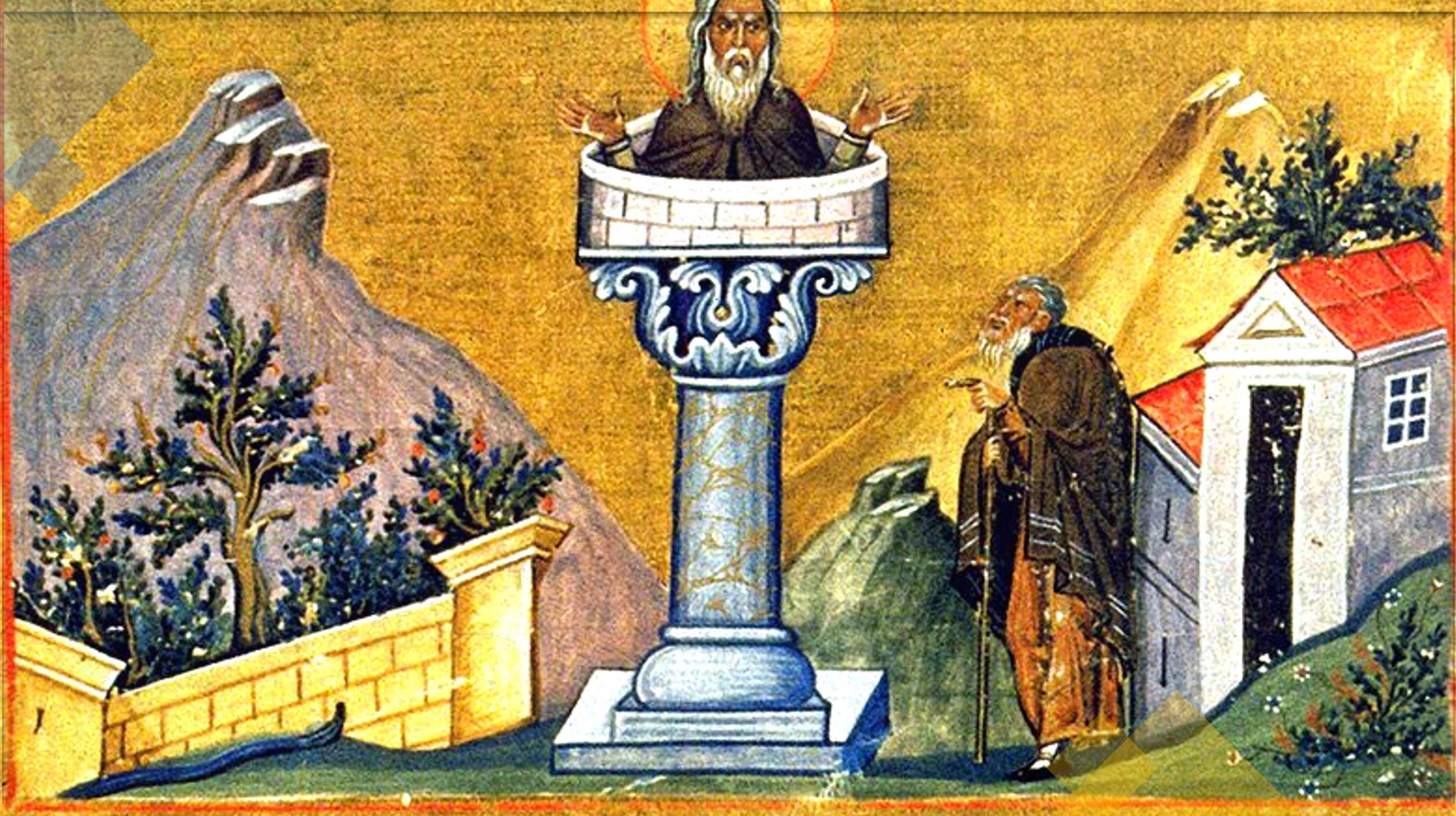


# MONASTICISM

The search for a Pure Faith

# THE RISE OF MONASTICISM

- As the church grew in power many saw it as losing its PURITY and chose to remove themselves completely
- They sought to recover the lost value of suffering, self-sacrifice and martyrdom through ACESTICISM

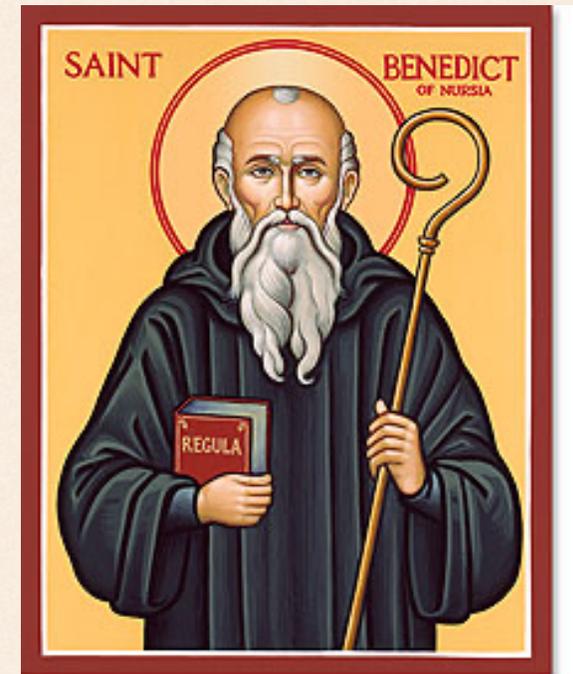


# MONASTIC BELIEFS

- Saw self-inflicted suffering, chastity and discipline as putting their “flesh to death”
- Believed their self-inflicted suffering earned MERIT with God
- And that the Scriptures needed to be lived out in every way – *often quite literally*

# ST BENEDICT (480-550)

- Formed a RULE of LIFE for monastic living that was followed by thousands of monastics throughout the middle ages
- Combined zeal with common sense living
- Very strict and disciplined, with focus on humility, prayer and service

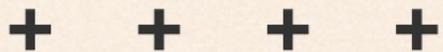


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RISE 

# EVALUATING MONASTICISM

- Massive impact on the spiritual state of the world, led the way in evangelizing the lost
- Cared for many of the poor and sick who were left helpless by a collapsing government
- Preserved knowledge and passed on the Scriptures throughout the *Dark Ages*



RISE



# EVALUATING MONASTICISM

- Was it too much of a focus on personal effort in salvation and sanctification?
- Were such drastic measures really the only way to defeat sin in our lives?
- What were the consequences of Christians secluding themselves away from society?



JUTES

ANGLES

FRISI SAXONS

FRANKS

BURGUNDI

ALAMANNI

QUADI

VANDALS

GEPIDAE

SLAVIC TRIBES

OSTROGOTHS

ALANS

VISIGOTHS

York

Trier

Paris

Milan

Ravenna

Salonae

Sirmium

Serdica

Adrianople

Constantinople

Nicomedia

Nicea

Thessalonica

Rome

Arles

Toulouse

Tarragona

Toledo

Tingis

Hippo

Carthage

Syracuse

Athens

Caesarea

Antioch

Nisibis

Arbela

Damascus

Palmyra

Cyrene

Alexandria

Jerusalem

Ecbata

Ctesiphon

Susa

IBERIA ALBANIA

ARMENIA

Artaxata

PERSIAN EM

# THE CHURCH vs THE STATE

- In the West, Ambrose of Milan stood up to the emperor and won, setting the stage for the Roman Church to hold ultimately authority
- In the East, John Chrysostom was exiled by the emperor, leading to the Eastern Church being submissive to the government



# THE COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON

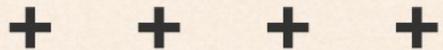
AD 451

# THE COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON

- The Council of Nicaea decided upon the full divinity of Jesus, but did not speak to His HUMANITY
  - APPOLINARIUS: Jesus temporarily took on a body
  - NESTORIUS: Christ had two separate and distinct natures (*Mary was not Theotokos: God bearer, but gave birth to a human*)
  - CYRIL: The Word *became* flesh –Jesus was a real person

# DECISION OF CHALCEDON

Jesus was declared fully GOD and fully HUMAN with no break or distinction - one person with two united natures



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# RISE

→ **CHURCH HISTORY I**

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