

Church History

Through the Eyes of 13 Theologians

Why Church History?

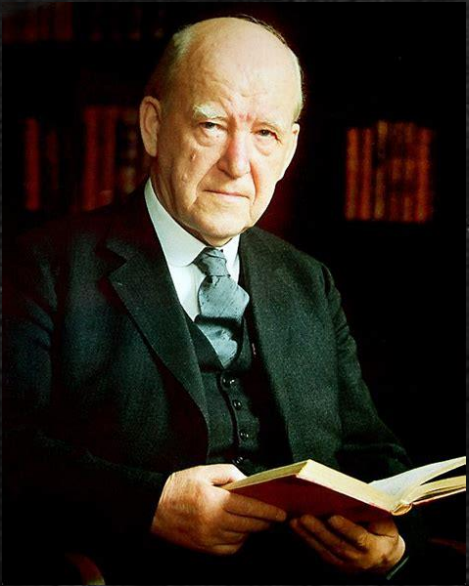
"I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (Ezekiel 37:27)

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." (Matthew 16:18)

"... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)



Does Church History Matter?



- *The way to safeguard yourself...is to learn something about heresies—how they arose in the past generally through very good and conscientious men. History shows how subtle it all is, and how many a man lacking balance, or by failing to maintain the proportion of faith, and the interrelationship of the various parts of the whole message, has been pressed by the devil to put too much emphasis on one particular aspect, and eventually pressed so far as to be in a position in which he is really contradicting the Truth and has become a heretic. So Church history is invaluable... It is not the preserve of the academics. **I would say that Church history is one of the most essential studies for the [believer]** were it merely to show him this terrible danger of slipping into heresy, or into error, without realizing that anything has happened to him.*
 - D. Martyn. *Lloyd-Jones Preaching and Preachers* (pp. 128-129).

Does Church History Matter?

- "Nothing is more relevant for understanding the present than the history of the past experiences of those who sought to follow Jesus Christ."
Everett Ferguson, *Church History*, p.26.
- "Our participation in history is especially meaningful if we are vital members of the church of Jesus Christ. Then we are bound together by faith in Christ, the head over all things, for whom all things exist (Eph. 1:10, 22–23; Col. 1:16). Also, we are bound together in "one Spirit" with all Christians (Eph. 4:4) and are "members one of another" (Rom. 12:5) in a manner that transcends time. We are no longer strangers and aliens, but members of the ancient people of God's promise, united in the peace purchased by Christ's blood (Eph. 2:12–13, 19). When we read about believers and churches from times past, we are reading our family history—the stories of our brothers and sisters. "
▪ -Joel Beeke and Michael Haykin, *Why Should I Be Interested in Church History*, p. 7.

How will we approach Church History?

- Historical Context

- Discuss the major events that were taking place during this period.
- Discuss the major people of this time period.
- Discuss the big ideas being discussed.

- Theologian of the Week

- Discuss a specific theologian who helped contribute to the development, growth, and mission of the church
 - Combatting heresy
 - Missionary work
 - Apologetics
 - Reform
 - Preaching

How will we approach Church History?

Lecture

- First part of class will be providing background for the era and the theologian

Discussion

- Second part of class will be reading and discussion of a passage from the theologian.

Goals of the Class

1. To provide a better understanding of how God uses imperfect individuals throughout history to carry on the mission of His church.
2. To interact with important thinkers throughout church history.



Small, Unpromising Beginnings

Praeparatio Evangelica - preparation for the gospel. God's sovereignty working through Rome to pave the way for the gospel.



First Century Rome

“The greatest accomplishment of Rome was neither political or military; it was cultural. It was the establishment of a **culture of peace and prosperity.**”

Paul Johnson



- **Roman Roads** - high tech roads spanned the empire and paved way for easy travel
- **Great Bridges** - the most noteworthy person in a community was the Bridge Builder (pontifex), we also get our word for priest from pontifex
- **Pax Romana** - stability, safety, security, and standardized rule of law

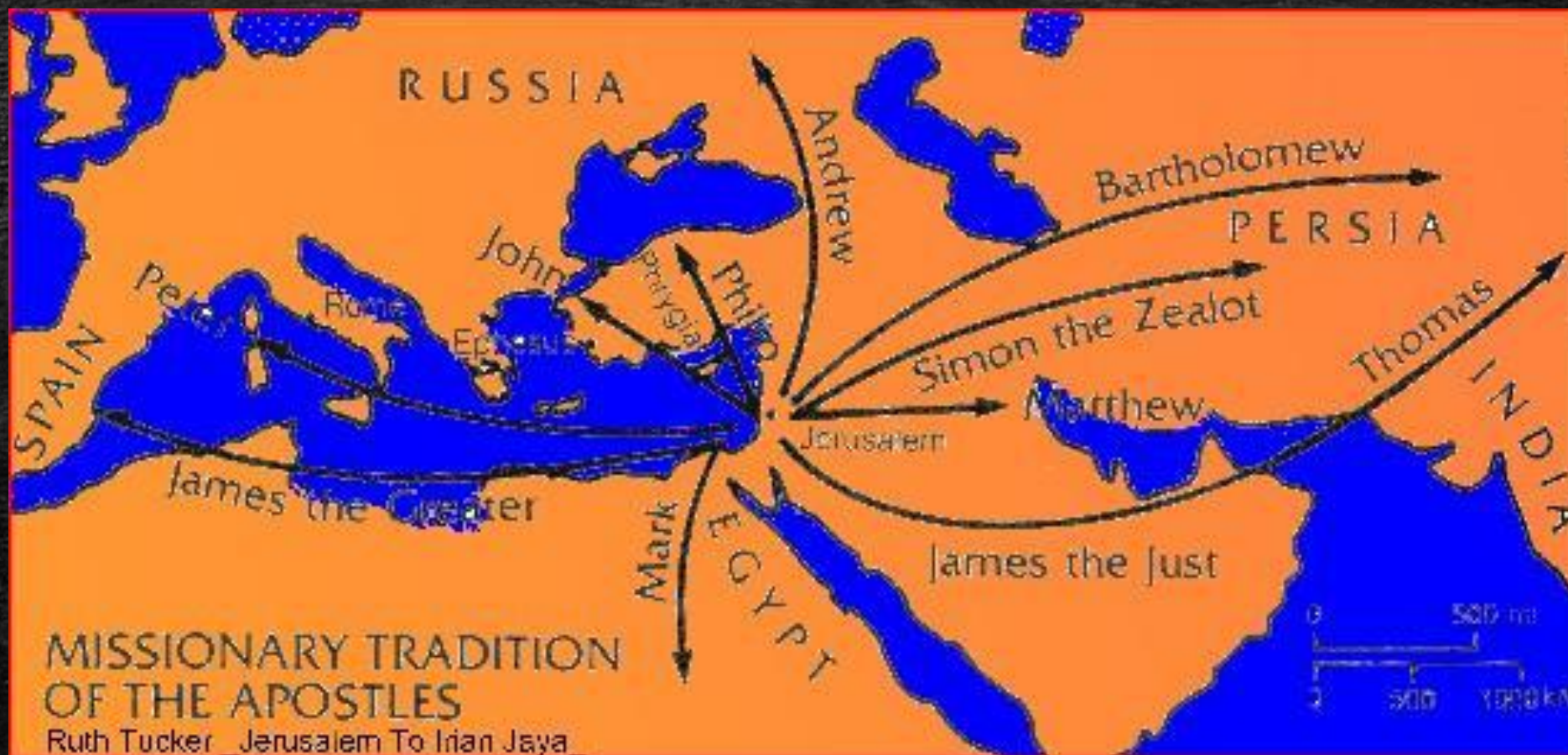
First Century Rome

- **Lingua Franca** -better communication was possible because of the unified languages: Latin in the West, Greek in the East and these being the common tongue within the Academies and Conservatories
- **Koinosis** - Roman culture provided common gathering places for community. The natural gathering places became hubs for the early Church to identify itself — they were antiquity’s version of social media.
- **Diaspora** - Because it was safe to travel, when disruption did take place, believers had somewhere else to go and begin anew

- *“Without the unifying effects of Roman imperial civilization, it is difficult to imagine how the Christian Gospel could have possibly spread throughout the whole known world as fast as it did during the first two centuries after Christ.” - Michael Green*



Missionary Journeys of the 12



Paul's Missionary Journey



The 12 Apostles

Apostles	Missions	Disciples
Peter	Antioch; Rome	Ignatius; Clement
Andrew	Scythia; Epirus	Stachys
James	Iberia	Iria Flavia
John	Ephesus	Polycarp
Philip	Hieropolis	Polycrates
Bartholomew	Tigris; Indus	Pantaenus

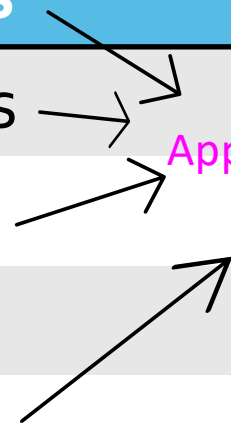
The 12 Apostles

Apostles	Missions	Disciples
Matthew	Judea; Parthia	Lipsius
Thomas	Euphrates; Indus	Addai; Aggai
James Alpheus	Black; Caspian	Hesippius
Thaddeus	Macedonia	Gerusalis
Simon	Egypt; Libya	Tertulius
Matthais	Ethiopia	Hyssius

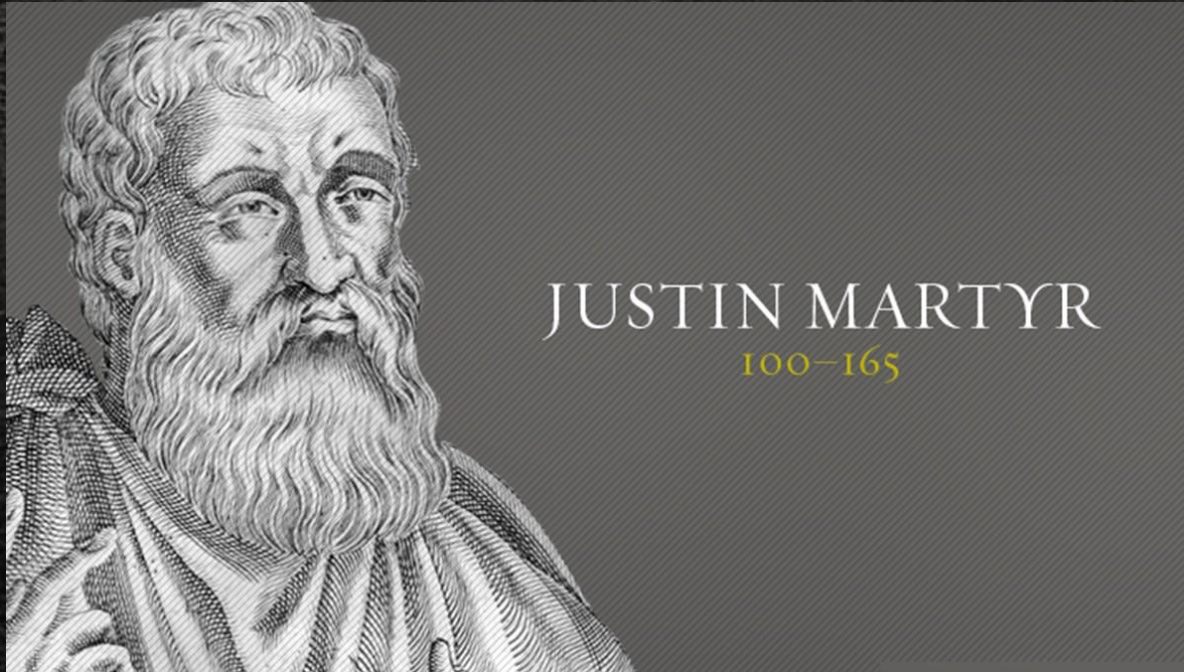
Other Patristics

Barnabas	c. 10-70	Antioch
Onesimus	c. 12-89	Colossae
Timothy	c. 10-97	Ephesus
Clement	c. 35-100	Rome
Titus	c. 12-107	Crete
Ignatius	c. 20-105	Antioch
Polycarp	c. 69-155	Smyrna
Papias	c. 100-170	Pyrgia

Appears in NT



Justin Martyr



"As a pioneering Christian apologist, philosopher, and martyr, St. Justin's unwavering faith has left an incredible mark on the church. It continues to inspire those who seek to deepen their understanding of Christianity."

- Saul Cross, St. Justin Martyr, p. 9.

