



An artist's idea of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-2

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a might wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Pentecost: Happy Birthday to the Christian Church!

Pentecost means “fiftieth,” and is a Jewish feast called The Feast of Weeks. It is celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover.

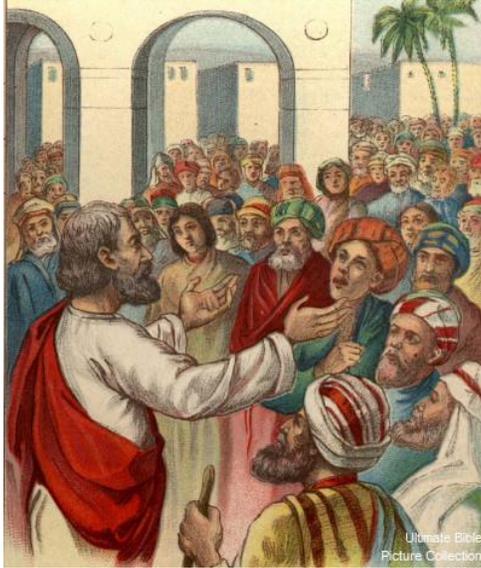
The apostles and most of the new Christians were Jewish, and they still practiced the customs of their ancestors. But Jesus had shown them a new way, and they were gathered together in Jerusalem to tell the world about it, although they did not know it until the Holy Spirit gave them direction.

Somehow, people heard what was happening in that upper room, and when Peter and the others went outside to preach, the Book of Acts tells us that Jews from many lands heard and understood him each in his own language.

Back then, Rome ruled the world. The message of Christ would have to reach the world.



Do you think they knew what a big job they had ahead of them?



Peter and the other apostles preached to people who came from different parts of the empire. Who were they? Many were merchants who traveled to distant places. Some sailed on ships to other lands. They would tell others what they heard that day. The Christian message would spread quickly and many would believe.

Go back to take another look at the map to see how large the world was.

Do you think these early Christians were very different from us?

What did Jesus say about those who had not seen him, but still believed in him?

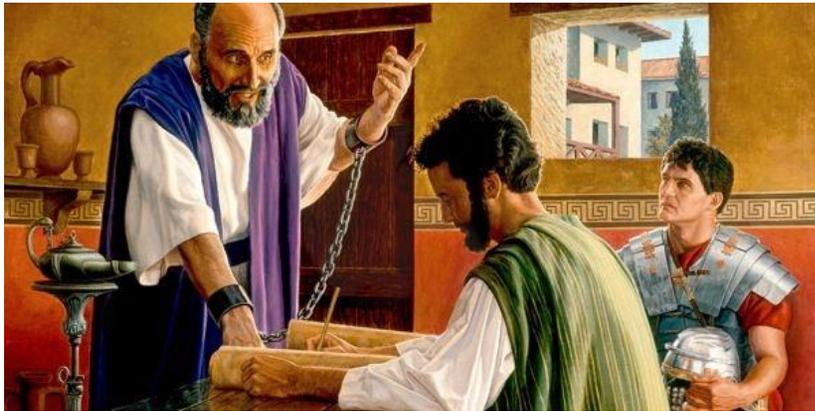


Right: The stoning of Stephen the deacon. Paul, then known as Saul, stands to one side as a witness. Below: Paul's conversion

Above: The apostles and disciples met often to discuss common needs and problems.

The Christians shared their worldly goods: widows who had no support were being fed, and alms were given to others. The apostles decided to name seven men to help them with these tasks. They called them deacons. The word deacon in Greek is **Διάκονος, diakonos**, dy-ah-kon-os) and means servant or minister.





Paul the Great Missionary

Paul made four missionary journeys. As a free citizen of Rome, he visited Greece, Macedonia, Syria, Cappadocia, many cities and several islands of the empire. He was imprisoned in Rome twice for his teachings.

Rome always had a large Jewish community. Jews served the Romans well, and many Jews were now Christians. Perhaps Paul was permitted to stay with them (under guard) in the house he rented. Paul was set free and continued his travels, but was arrested again in 67 AD, and sent back to Rome where he was executed under the Emperor Nero in about 68 B.C.

Rome was very tolerant of the Jews and of pagan religions from Egypt, Syria and other parts of the eastern empire as long as they recognized the might of the emperor.

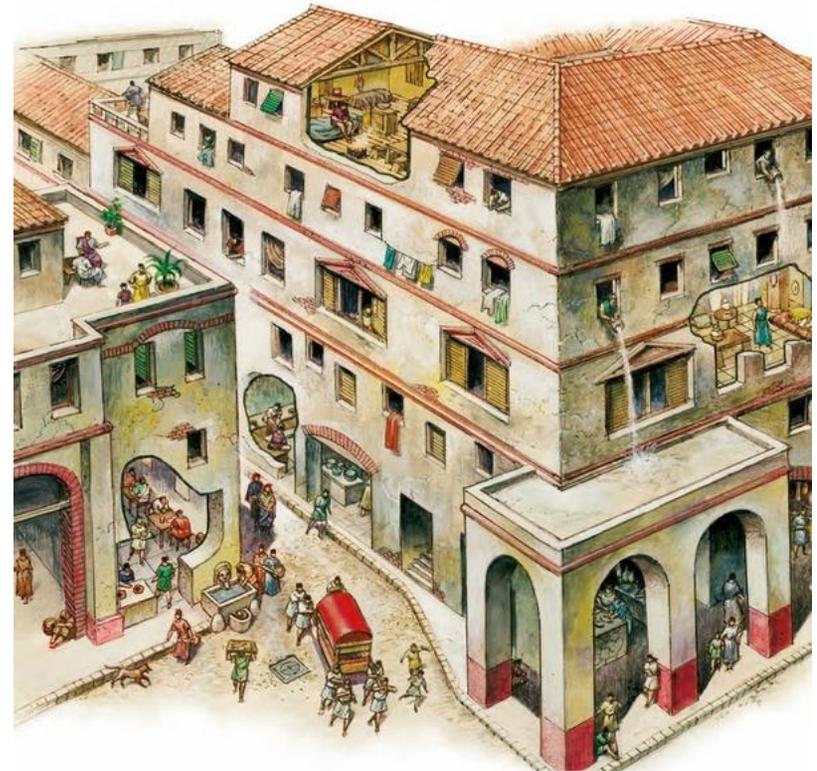
Why did Paul receive special treatment?

Why did Rome tolerate other religions, but not Christianity?

Paul's Rome

When Paul arrived in Rome it was a city of about four million people, making it close to the population of Los Angeles. It was very crowded. There were small houses (**domus**,) and elegant houses (villas), but a large number of the population lived in apartments. It is believed that there were 50,000 apartments in Rome during the first century. The first floors contained shops. The best apartments were on the second floor. A few buildings had as many as eight floors!

Would you have liked living in Rome?



Artist's reconstruction of a 1st century apartment complex in Rome. Apartments were called **insulae** from the Latin for island: **insula**.



All the residents of apartment buildings were supposed to use a shared kitchen on the ground floor. Some wanted to cook in their rooms on braziers. It wasn't safe and there were many fires. Left: Copy of a brazier.



Two Roman silver spoons and a bronze fork. They didn't eat with forks because bronze broke easily, and it was too expensive to make them in silver.



Drinking glasses.



Left: Dinner is ready in Rome.

Romans ate grains (breads), fruits, vegetables, eggs, cheese, fish, chicken, pork, lamb and game birds.

What foods didn't Romans eat and why couldn't they eat them?

Peace Roman Style

Some 27 years before Jesus was born the emperor Augustus completed his campaigns against the barbarians in Gaul (France) and Iberia (Spain.) To celebrate he built an altar in Rome dedicated to Peace. This act began the age of the Pax Augustae/Peace of Augustus, which was a period of stability that lasted for 200 years. More fine Roman roads were built and people traveled all over the empire. Sadly, there still were wars and the army was needed to help keep the “peace” in many parts of the world.



The original altar of peace (Ara Pace) is now kept inside a glass building.



The Barbarians fought fiercely to protect their families and their lands. They also wanted more land. The Romans called them barbarians because they wore beards.

Barba is Latin for beard.
What English word comes from barba?

Was the Peace of Augustae/Pax Augustae a real peace?

Can you guess how it helped Christians?

Let's look at the map again.



The façade/fah-sahd) or front of the Great Library at Ephesus. Ephesus was a beautiful city where John lived before and after his time at Patmos.

Roman Forum 1st cent.

Athens

Antioch on the Orontes

ROME

ATHENS

EPHESUS

ANTIOCH

JERUSALEM

Some very important cities during the First Christian Century

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Do you see all the important cities?

The Bible and the Early Christians

The Jewish converts had the Old Testament in Hebrew. The Gentiles (non-Jewish Christians) had to learn Hebrew if they wanted to read it.

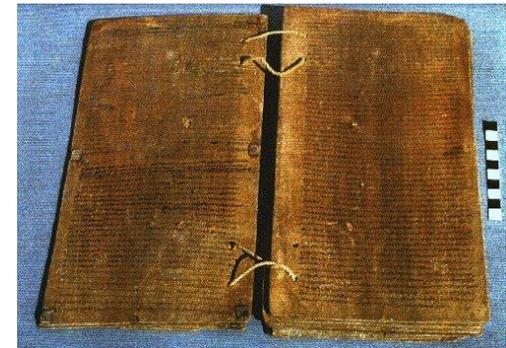
The Apostles and Jewish missionaries were able to spread the prophecies about Jesus to the Gentiles.

The Old Testament was put on scrolls of papyrus and later on vellum.

A Scroll with the Five Books of Moses in Hebrew (Right)

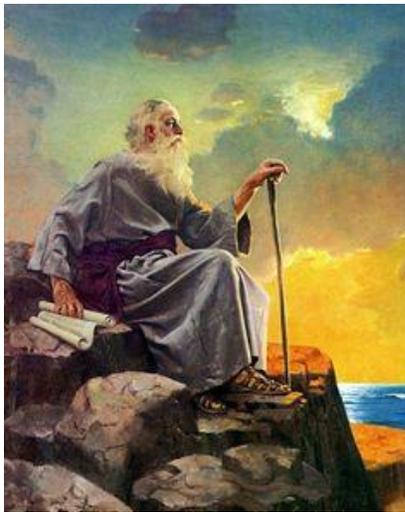


During the First Century manuscripts began to be put in Codex form. Pages were tied together and looked like a book, but were not bound.



Aren't you glad you have the whole Bible in your house?

The Evangelists



John wrote in Greek. He is believed to have written the Book of Revelation while on the Island of Patmos.

The New Testament

Mark is believed to have written his Gospel first, followed by Matthew and Luke. All of the Gospels were written in Greek. They were not published all at one time, but copies of each book were passed around.

We have a tiny fragment the size of a credit card of an old manuscript of John's Gospel. Each shows parts of seven lines from Philippians. Once it was thought to come from the 2nd century or later, but now it is believed that it might be from the end of the first century.



Front
and
Back

This fragment, P 52, is in the Rylands University Library, Manchester, England

Would you like to go to see this fragment?

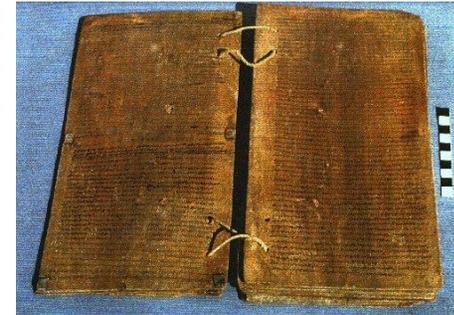
The Didache (A very popular “book”) Greek: Di-dah-kee or “Teaching.” In the early days the Church



The Didache (A very popular “book”)

Greek: **Διδαχή**, Di-dah-kee or “Teaching.” In the early days the Church was developing its rules and practices. The Didache is in four parts. The first is about a right way of life, the second part explains fasting and the way to perform baptism and communion. The third part deals with the ministry, and the fourth part is a reminder that Jesus is coming again. The Didache’s “teachings” were very important in the early church and were **almost** included with the Gospels in the canon or official list of approved writings.

Would you like to write when you grow up?



The Didache is in the form of a Codex, its pages joined together like a book, but not bound.

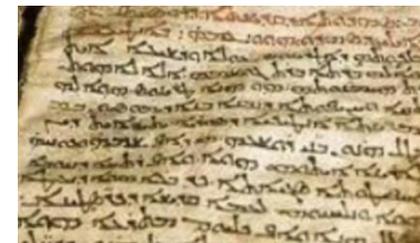
Because “books” were so expensive they were passed around. A church (a group of Christians) would have books read to them.

The Shepherd of Hermas was another popular book

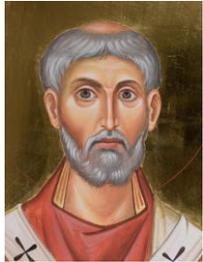
The Shepherd of Hermas is believed to have been written by Hermas, the brother of Pius, bishop of Rome, in the first century. It was written in Greek, but not long afterwards it was translated into Latin. Soon after that it was translated into Coptic, a later form of Egyptian. It calls on the faithful to repent of the sins that only harm the church. It uses allegory (al-le-gory) and some church leaders questioned a few of its ideas. It was widely read, which means whoever owned a copy shared it with those who could not afford a book. It was forgotten by the third century, but we will hear of it again.



Jesus as the Good Shepherd from the Roman catacombs and part of a page from the Shepherd of Hermas.



Five Very Important Christian Writers and Martyrs



Clement, bishop of Rome, c. 96, was a disciple of Peter and Paul. He wrote a famous letter from Rome to the Church at Corinth (the one that Paul founded in the year 50.) He reminded the Christians at Corinth of the need for church order and respect for the bishop and his ministers, who alone had the right to offer the gifts (bread and wine) of the Eucharist (thanksgiving.) Three hundred years later a story was told that he was exiled to the Crimea in Eastern Europe and drowned in the Black Sea with an anchor tied around his neck.

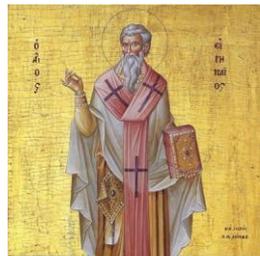
Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, c. 35-c. 109, was bishop of one of the greatest cities of antiquity, very pagan and prone to earthquakes. But it was at Antioch that the name of “Christians” was first used. The most we know of Ignatius is that he was arrested and taken to Rome by ten soldiers. On the way he met Bishop Polycarp at Smyrna. He wrote letters of encouragement to many Christian churches including Ephesus and the Church at Rome. He was given to “the wild beasts.”





Polycarp, priest of Smyrna and Bishop of Lyons, (c.69-c.155/156) He wrote a letter to the Philippians. In it he quoted John 4:3. He was in Rome when Bishop Pothinus of Lyons was martyred, and he was named bishop of Lyons in his place. He wrote an attack on heresies, and was burned at the stake in Rome

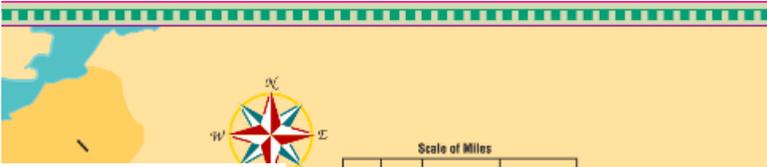
Justin Martyr, Philosopher, (c. 100-c. 165) was born in the Holy Land near Samaria. He became a Christian and wrote an Apology (an explanation of his beliefs) and sent it to Emperor Antoninus Pius. He had his own school in Rome and he and some of his disciples were beheaded.



Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons, came from Smyrna, but was a priest at Lyons, He was in Rome when Bishop Pothinus was killed, and he became bishop. His most important works were “Against Heresies” and “The Demonstration of the Apostles’ Preaching. He placed great importance on the authority of the Four Gospels. Many believed that he was martyred, but where and how is unknown

Let's look at the map again: Some Martyrs of the 1st and 2nd Centuries

LYONS, GAUL (France)
BLANDINA and POTHINUS,
Bishop of Lyons sent to the
Lions



LYONS. Roman Lugdunum



JERUSALEM
STEPHEN, the Deacon,
c.33AD. Stoned as Paul
(Saul) Watched.



CRIMEA
Clement,
bishop of
Rome

JERUSALEM

ROME. Ca. 67 AD
PETER Crucified, and PAUL Beheaded



ALSO MARTYRED AT ROME:
Ignatius bishop of Antioch,
Polycarp, bishop of Lyons,
Justin Martyr, philosopher
Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons



JERUSALEM
JAMES, Bishop of Jerusalem, 58
AD, thrown from Temple roof he
survived and was beaten to death.

Early Christian Life

Depending upon how much money they had, Christians lived in houses, apartment or in rooms. Fathers went to work. If they could afford it they sent their sons to school, otherwise boys had to go to work. Girls did not go to school. Women kept house and raised the children. They also did things like weaving, sewing and making baskets or pottery. When they had time children played games, or **ludi**. Families ate together and prayed together. They “went to church” together.

Christians were not different from other people except in the way they treated one another and other people. “See how they (the Christians) love one another,” wrote the Christian writer Tertullian (160 AD-240 AD.)



A game board with pieces

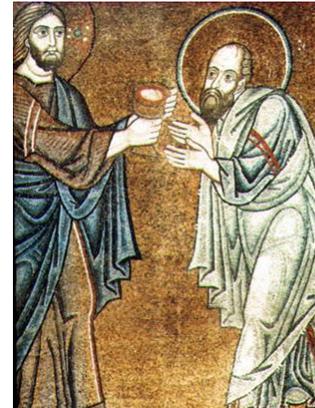


A school slate covered with wax and a wooden stylus to press letters into the wax.

Christian Worship

The highlight of the Christian's week was the gathering on Sunday, a day picked to commemorate the Lord's Resurrection. There was a common meal in a home, or a large room somewhere, followed by hymns, Scripture reading and a sermon. Then there was the Communion service. It wasn't too long before the meal called **ἀγάπη** Greek a-gah-pay (love) was separated from the communion service because it didn't seem appropriate to combine the two. (I Corinthians 11:22.) The communion service (Eucharist/Thanksgiving) had at its heart Jesus' words at the last supper. Paul described it in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, 11:23-29. All liturgy (Latin: **Liturgia**) centered on this central act. Later on you will learn that after hundreds of years many churches preferred to emphasize Scripture readings and the sermon.

See you next time in the Third Century



Jesus gives communion to an apostle. A simple cup of wine and a loaf of bread.