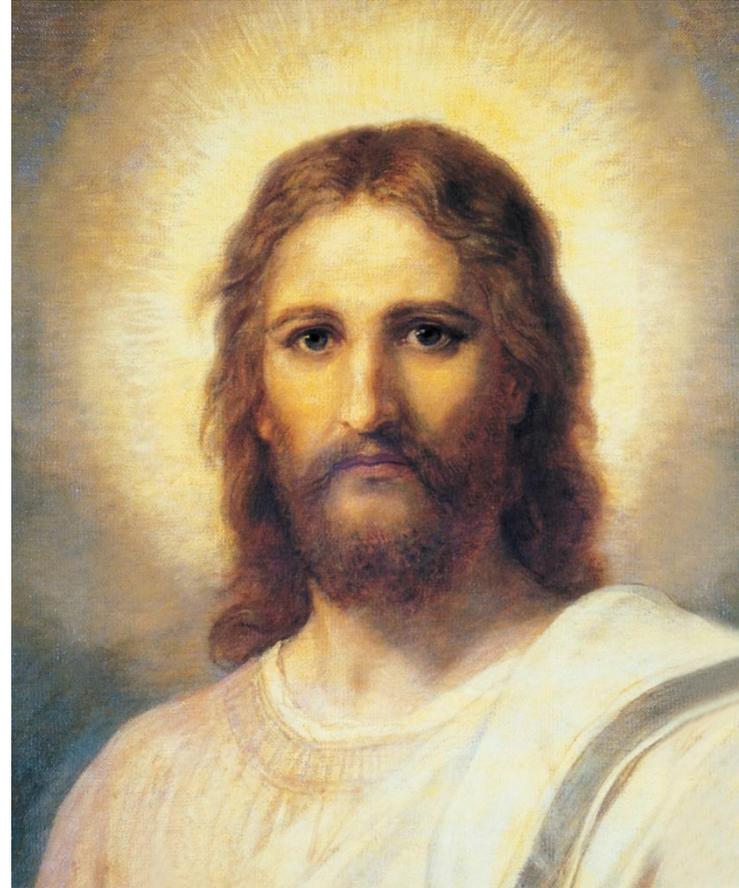

Christianity

CHAPTER 11

Names: Christianity

- Daughter religion to Judaism
- Judeo-Christianity
- Christianity
 - Religion based on Jesus Christ's life and teaching
- Christian association with Judaism
 - Jesus of Nazareth
 - Shared beliefs
- Distinguishing features
 - Jesus as Messiah (Hebrew)/Christ (Greek), i.e. The Anointed One
 - Christian liberty



The Christian Present as Shaped by Its Past



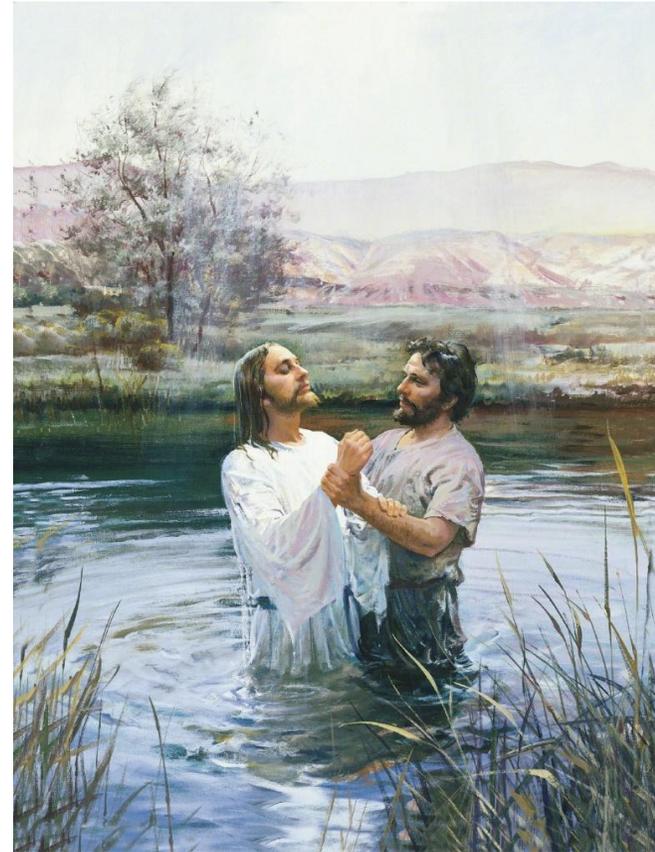
The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ



(CA. 4 B.C. – 30 A.D.)

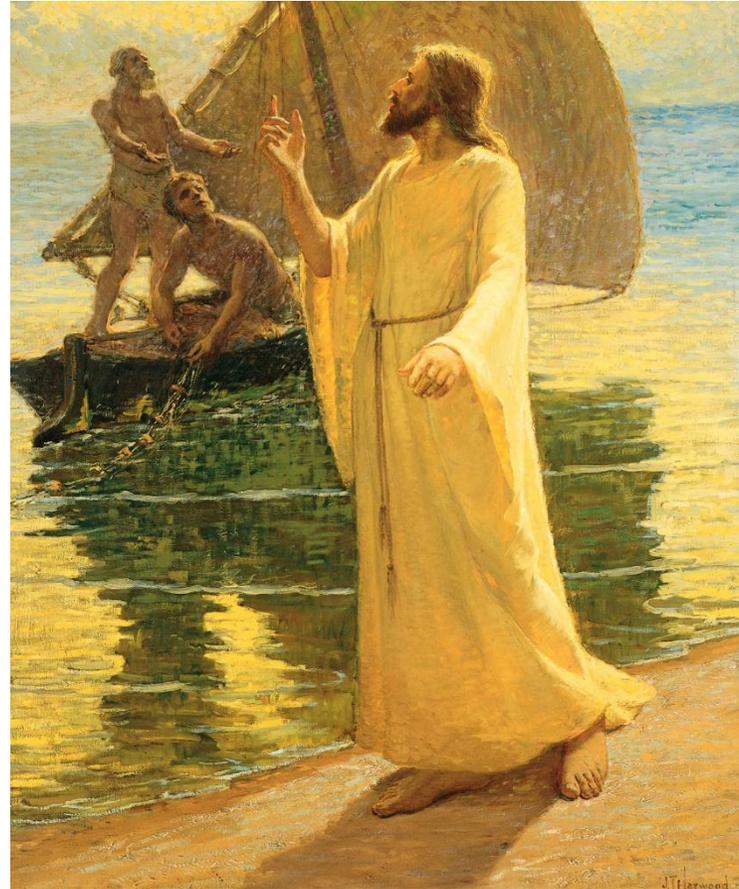
The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ (ca. 4 BC – 30 AD)

- Primary sources of knowledge of Jesus are the four **Gospels**
 - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
 - Historians place Jesus's birth around 4 B.C.E. and his death around the years 29 to 30
- Beginning of Jesus's public ministry is marked by his baptism



The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

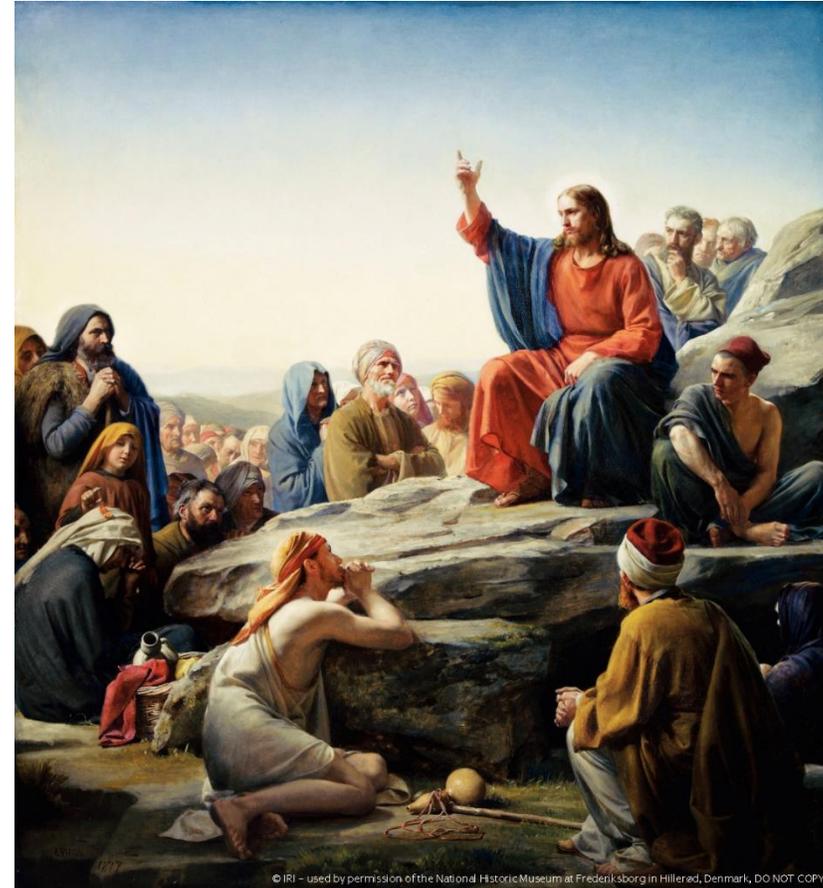
- Gathered twelve disciples who were called **apostles** by the church





The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

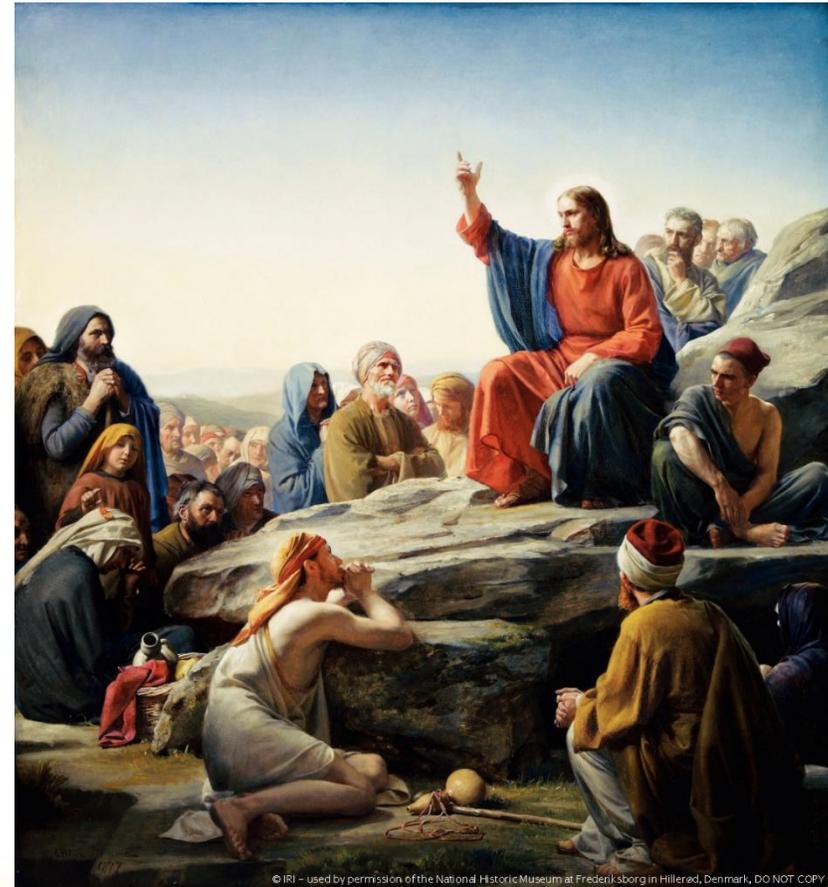
- Jesus traveled throughout Judea teaching and performing miracles
- Sermon on the Mount
 - Beatitudes (comes from the Latin word *beatus*, meaning "blessed" or "happy.")
 - "Blessed Are.."





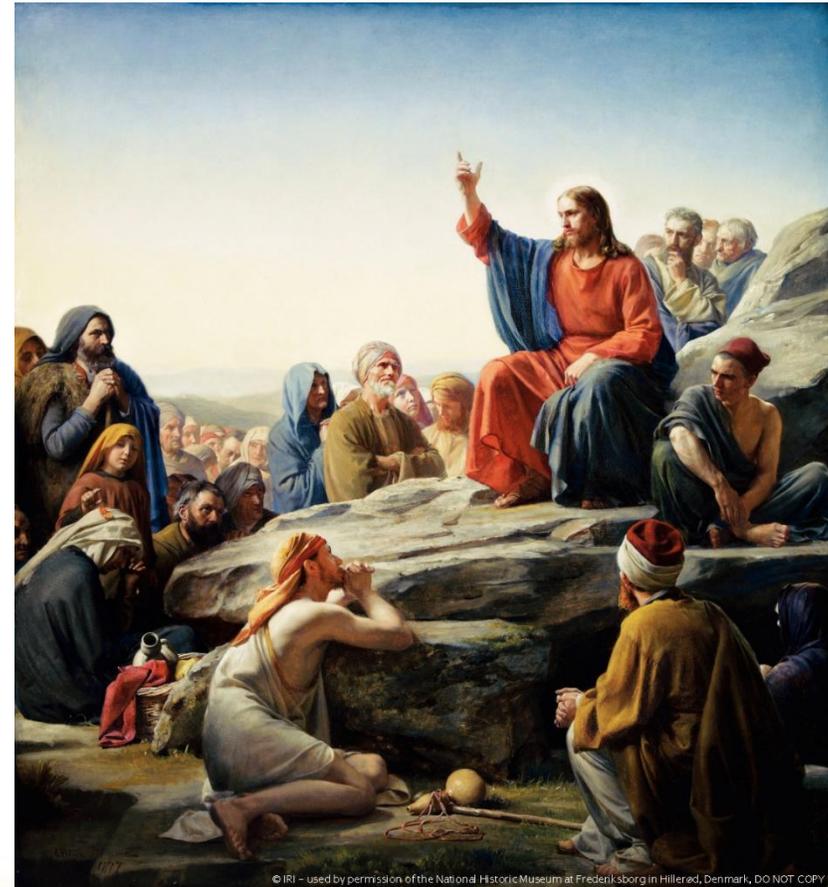
The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- Sermon on the Mount
 - Beatitudes (comes from the Latin word *beatus*, meaning "blessed" or "happy.")
 - "Blessed Are.."
 - Matt 5: 3-12 – their character and privileges
 - Matt 5: 13-16 their responsibilities
- Significance
 - Counter-Cultural Values
 - Kingdom Ethics
 - Blueprint for Christian Living



The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

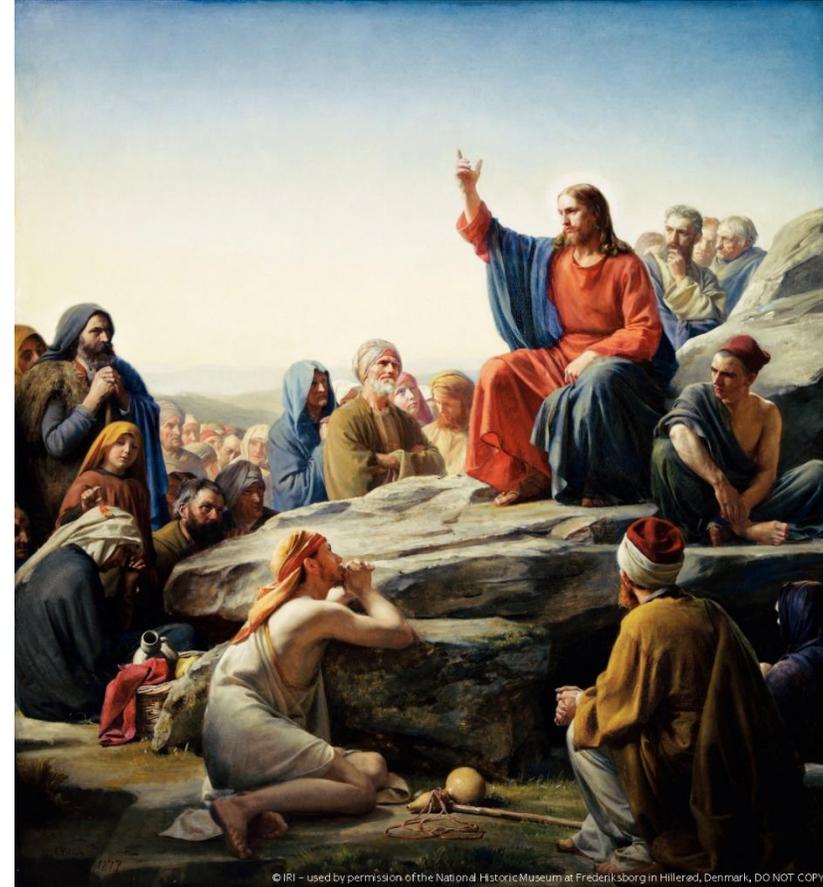
- Sermon on the Mount
 - Beatitudes – “Blessed Are..”
 - Matthew’s Antitheses: The Higher Law
 - “Ye have heard of old . . . But I say”





The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- Sermon on the Mount
 - Beatitudes – Transformation of the Believer
 - Matthew 's Antitheses: The Higher Law – Transformation of the Law
 - fulfilment of the law in regard to
- Significance
 - Fulfillment of the Law (Matt 5:17)
 - Inner Transformation (Outward action to inward motivations)
 - Call to higher moral and spiritual standard



Parables

- Often taught in Parables
 - “without a parable spake he not unto them” (Mark 4:34)
- Greek origin, meaning setting side by side, a comparison
- Narrative, metaphor, brevity
- Parables demand interpretation



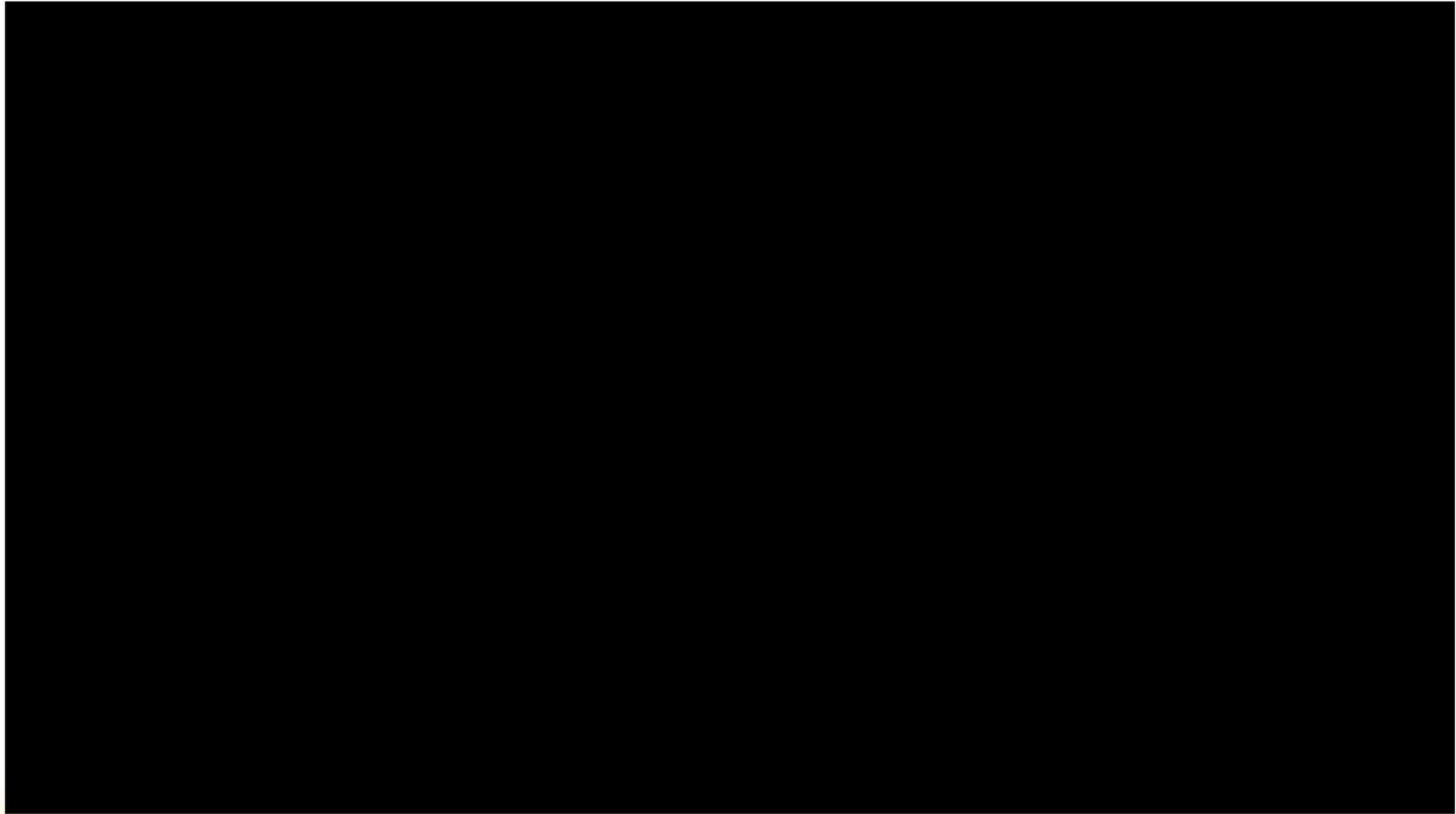


The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- Primary message centered on Love
 - Matt 22: 36-40
 - Love God (Deut 6:5)
 - Love Others (Lev. 19:18)
- Radically New
 - Matt 5: 39 – Turn the other cheek
 - Matt 5: 44 – Love your enemies

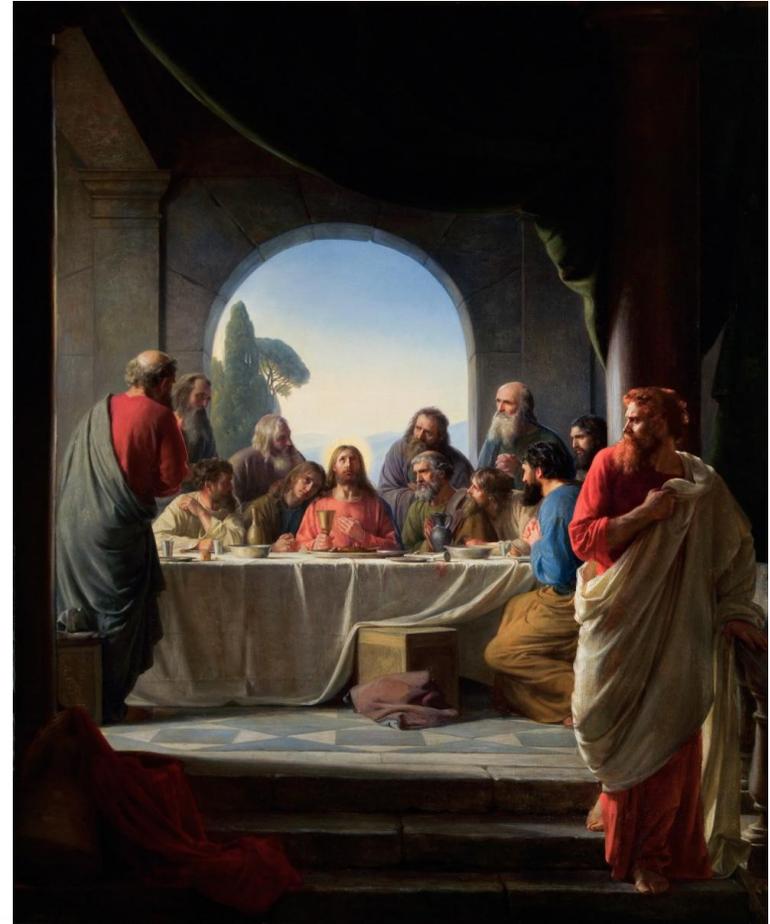


A New Commandment I Give Unto You



The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- Jesus's entry into Jerusalem at Passover time was the prelude to a final crisis
 - After a last supper with his disciples, he was betrayed by Judas Iscariot and was arrested
 - Known as the Passion (suffering)
- What follows is a series of videos depicting this time period



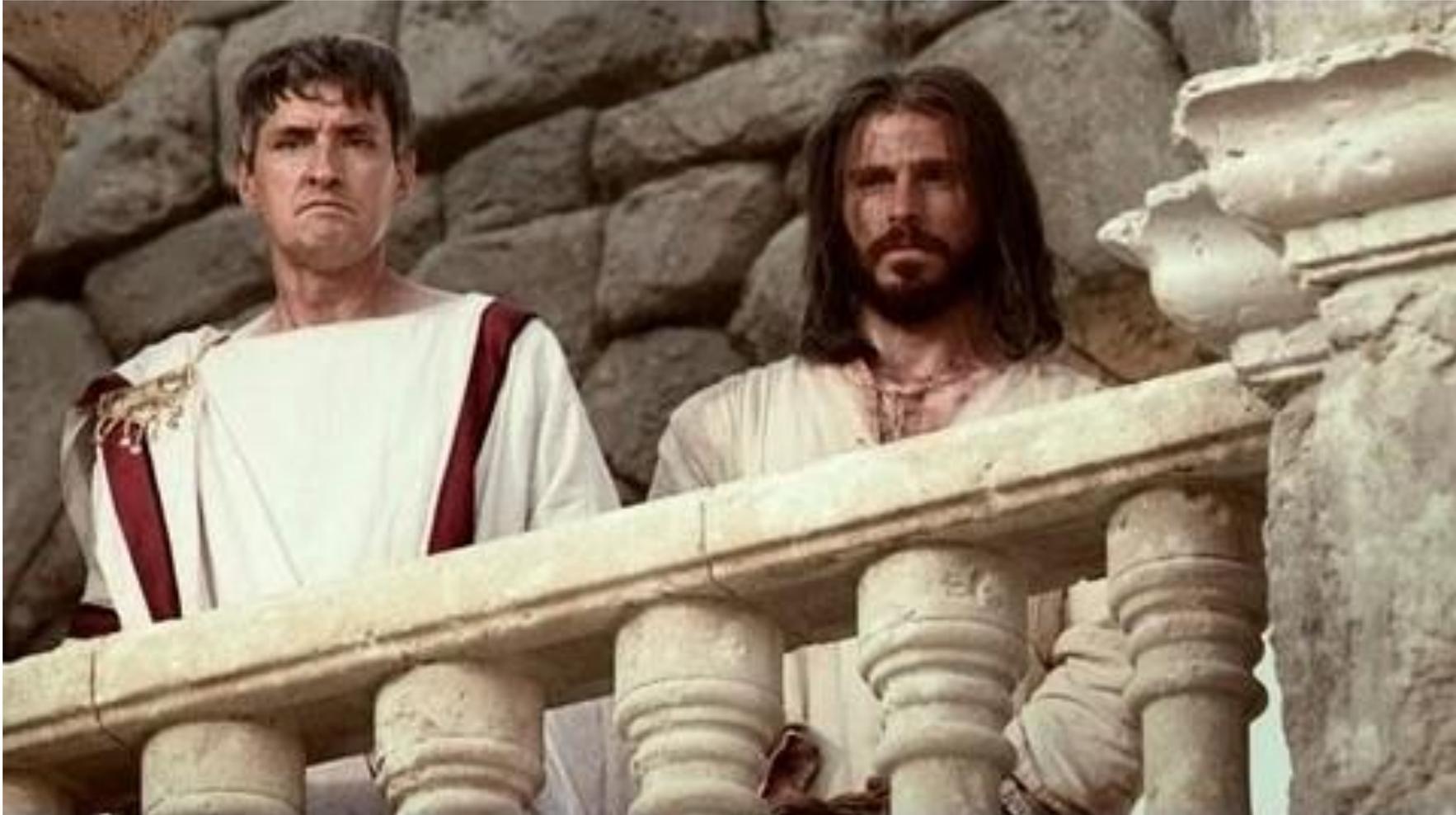
The Last Supper

John 13: 1-35



Jesus is Condemned Before Pilate

Matt 27: 1-2, 11-25



Jesus Is Scourged and Crucified

Matt 27: 26-50



Jesus is Laid in a Tomb
Matt 27: 57-60



Jesus is Resurrected

John 20: 3-18



Divine and Human Nature

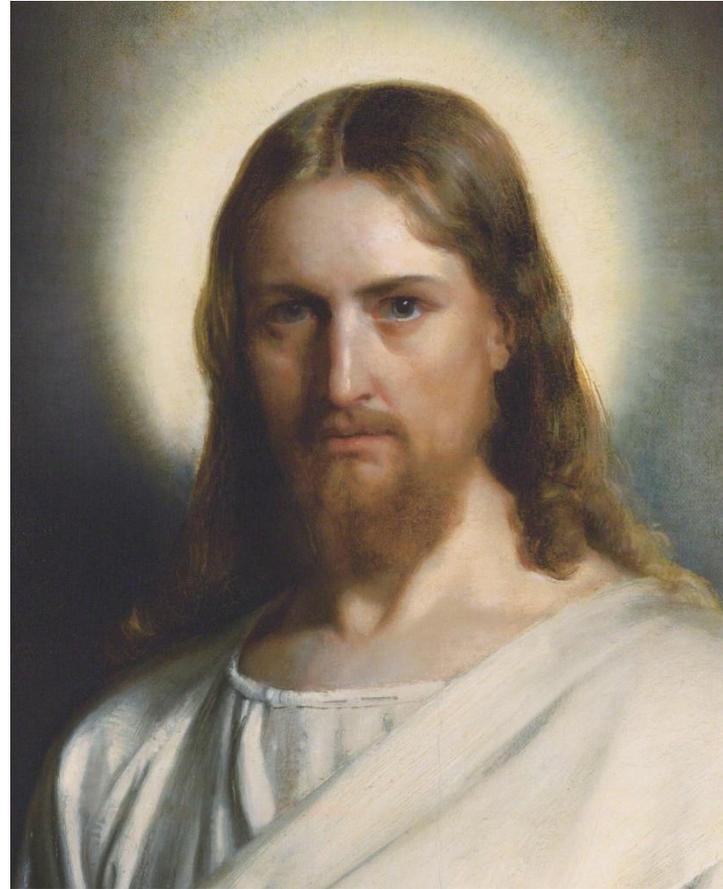
- Hypostatic Union – Jesus is both fully divine and fully human
- Incarnation - God became human in the person of Jesus Christ

Titles of Christ

- **Christ (G.) / Messiah (H)**
- King of Jews
 - Spiritual King
 - Royal Lineage
- Savior
 - Spiritual savior (not the political savior Jews at the time were looking for)

he shall save his
people from their sins

(Matt. 1:21)



Sin: willful disobedience of
God's commandments

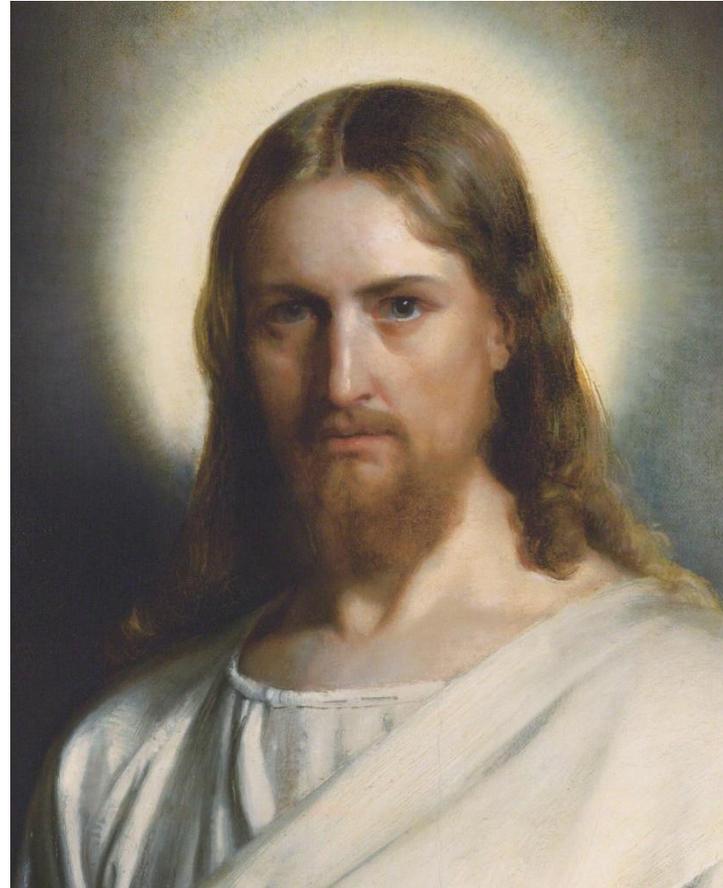
Sin cuts one off from the
presence of God

Savior is needed to Justify man
to God

Justify: to pardon and clear from
guilt; to absolve from guilt and
merited punishment

Titles of Christ

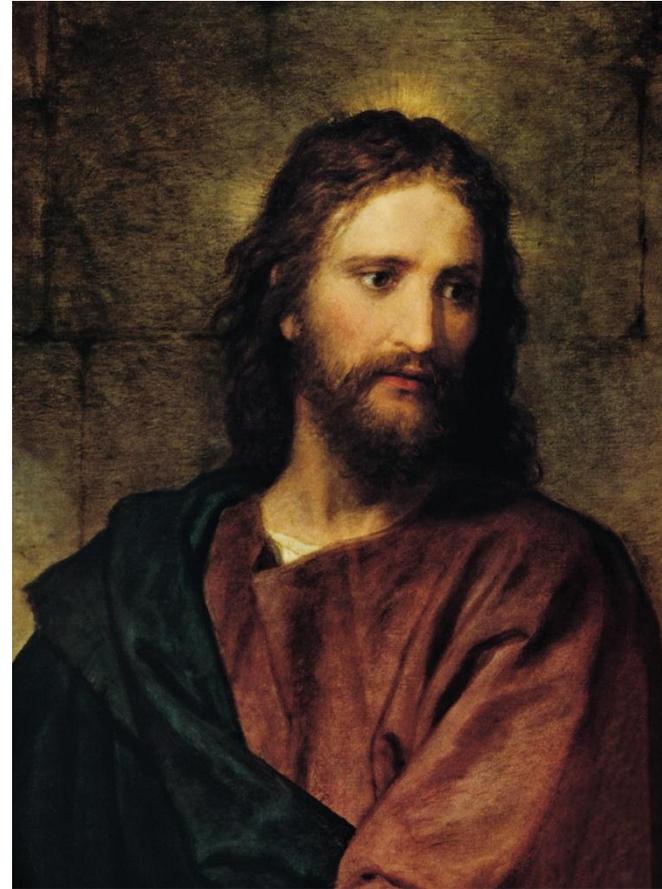
- **Christ (G.) / Messiah (H)**
- King of Jews
 - Spiritual King
 - Royal Lineage
- Savior
 - Spiritual savior (not the political savior Jews at the time were looking for)
 - Savior of All
 - Transforms Jewish teachings from ethnic religion to universal religion



Titles of Christ

- Son of God
- Central to Christianity is the divine sonship of Christ

**"The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be holy;; he will be call Son of God.'
(Luke 1: 35 NRSVUE)**



Titles of Christ

- I AM
- Christ proclaims He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

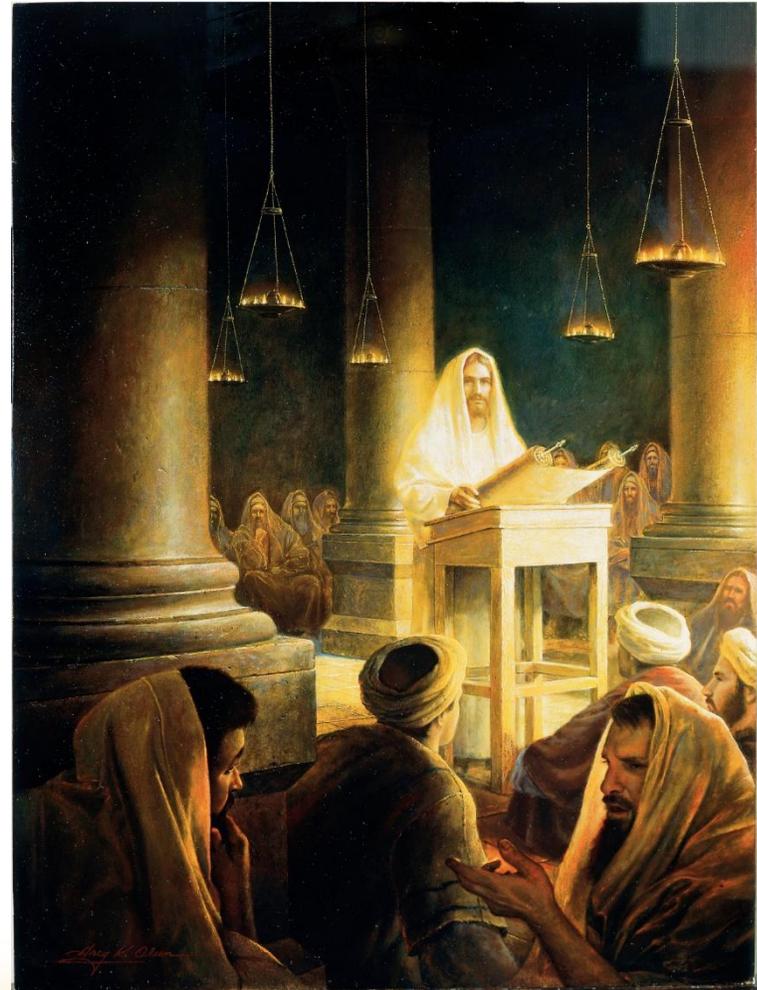
Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, **I am.**



Work of Jesus - Soteriology

Soteriology: branch of theology dealing with salvation especially as effected by Jesus Christ

- Jesus declares himself the looked for Messiah (Luke 4:18-21 & Mark 14:61-62)



Work of Jesus - Soteriology

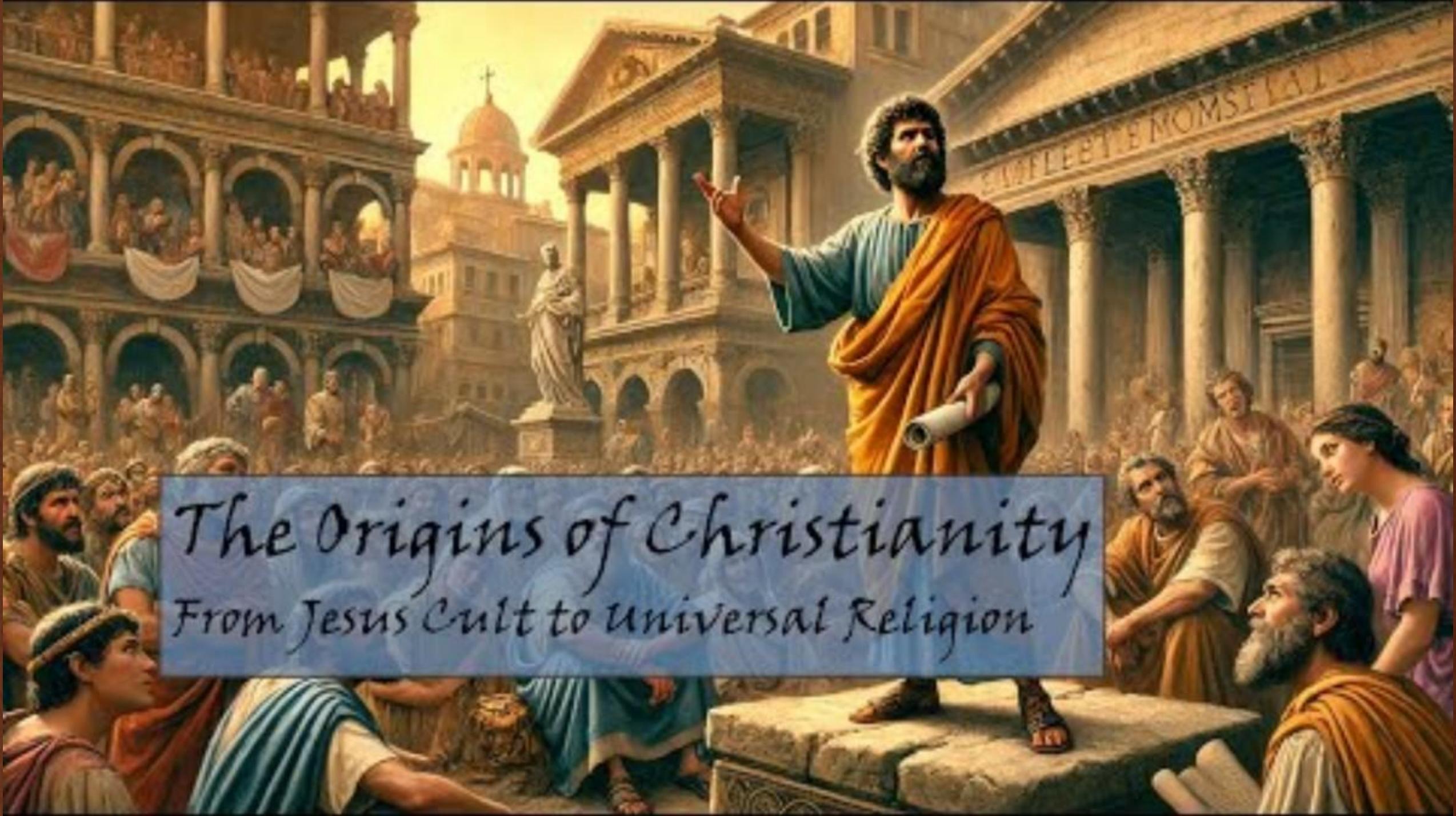
- Atonement – the reconciliation of God and humankind through Jesus Christ
- Passion – (based on latin *passio* suffering) the suffering and death of Jesus
 - Gethsemane (Luke 22:44)
 - Crucifixion
 - Resurrection
- Christus Victor
 - Jesus' death and resurrection triumphed over sin, death, and the devil.

Work of Jesus - Soteriology

- Christianity transformed from small “Jesus cult” within Judaism to Universal Religion
 - Apostles now commanded to teach Gentiles (Matt 28:19, compare Matt 10:5-6)
 - Atonement applies to all who believe, repent, and are baptized

Earliest Church

33 AD TO 90 AD



The Origins of Christianity
From Jesus Cult to Universal Religion

Growth of Church

- Apostles died before they could reconstitute themselves
- Christianity had established itself in every large and midsize city in the eastern Roman Empire
 - Established local leadership – Episkopos (overseer or bishop) and presbyter (elder)
 - Did not have authority to speak for whole church or declare doctrine
- Growth of Christianity challenged Roman empire
 - Led to increased persecutions and martyrdom of Christians
 - But failed to wipe out movement

Constantine and the Christianization of the Roman Empire

- 306 – 337 Constantine reigns as Emperor of Rome
- 312 Constantine's Dream – “In this sign, you will conquer”



Constantine and the Christianization of the Roman Empire

- 313 Edict of Milan – Toleration and support for Christianity; Christianity becomes state religion
- If Christianity was going to be used to justify power, he needed Church to speak with one voice
 - “One God, one Church, and one Emperor”
 - Creation orthodoxy: Correct teaching



Orthodoxy Creation

- 325 - Convened first ecumenical council in Nicaea (Council of Nicaea)
 - So named because it was to unify the worldwide church
 - Proclaims the Nicene Creed (revised in 381)
- Through means of the Creed is Orthodoxy proclaimed
 - Creeds respond to alternative theories, which can now be labeled heresy (or heterodox) and punishable by execution!
- With establishment of Christianity as Roman State Religion, heresy can be viewed as a crime against the state
 - Note – heresy is applied anachronistically to theological theories put forth during this time; not at all clear which theories would rise as orthodoxy
 - Some theories are still accepted by different branches of Christianity

Orthodoxy Creation

- Even after Nicene Creed, important theories continue to arise
- Additional councils were held to debate these theories; creedal language established as direct reaction to theories
- Multiple councils needed to establish orthodoxy
- Theories that lost the debate are labeled heresy
- Most heresies were alternative theories of Christology

Christian Heresy

- **Arianism** – Arius taught that because Jesus is “begotten” thus cannot be God in the same sense that God is God
 - Denies full divinity of Jesus Christ
 - Claimed that Jesus and God were of like substance not the same substance
 - Enjoyed a brief period of ascendancy before it was denounced as heresy

Christian Heresy

- **Arianism**
- **Monophysitism** – “one nature;” Jesus Christ has only one nature, either fully divine or fully human.

Christian Heresy

- **Arianism**
- **Monophysitism**
- **Docetism** – Jesus Christ, as fully divine, did not have a real or natural body during his life on earth but only an apparent one
 - Associated with **Gnosticism** which held that matter was evil and the spirit good and claimed that salvation was attained only through esoteric knowledge (or gnosis)

Christian Heresy

- **Arianism**
- **Monophysitism**
- **Docetism**
- **Monarchianism** – Strongly maintained the essential unity of deity
 - *Adoptionist* - Christ, although of miraculous birth, was mere man until adopted by God
 - *Patripassionist* (Father suffers) – Holds that God the Father had come to earth and suffered and died under the appearance of the Son. Trinity is three manifestations of the single divine being

Nicene Creed

- Read Creed; identify phrases that are in direct reaction to the above discussed “heresies”

Nicene Creed

- Read Creed; identify phrases that are in direct reaction to the above discussed “heresies”
- “begotten, not made, of one being with the father”
 - **is in reaction to Arianism.**
- “was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.”
 - **is in reaction to Docetism.**

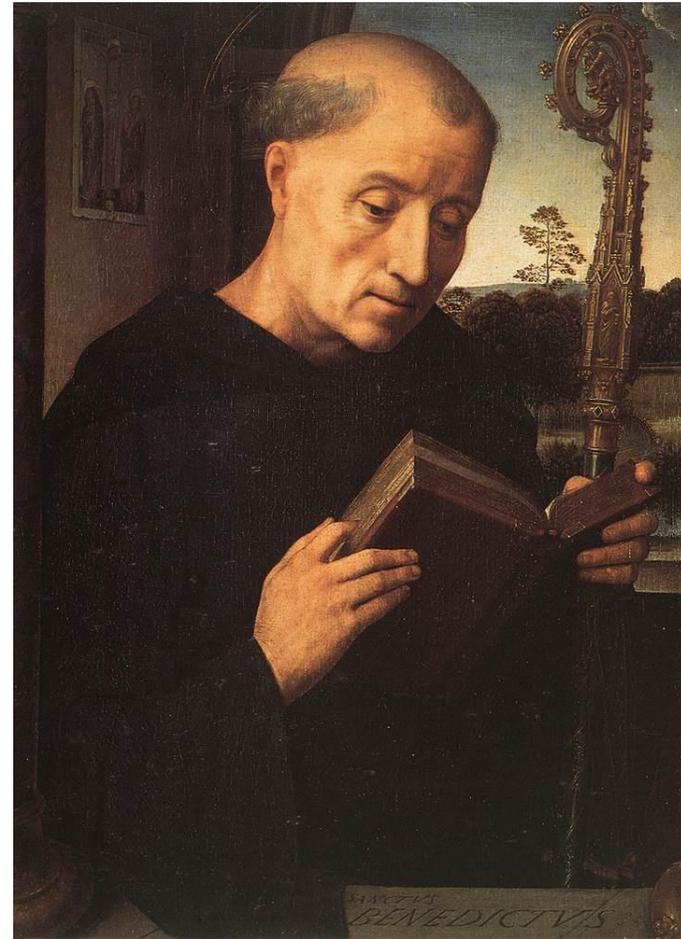
St Augustine (354-430)

- Most influential Church Father – His thought molded the medieval church and continues to be influential to this day
- Formed most of his thought in reaction to “heresies” of the day
- Works of St. Augustine
 - Confessions
 - City of God – written in reaction to sack of Rome
- Augustinian Thought
 - Original Sin
 - Divine Grace



Monasticism

- St. Benedict (480 – 547) father of Western Monasticism
 - Gained fame as a holy man living in a cavern
 - Started a monastery for his followers
- Rules for Monks – provided detailed instructions for how monks were to live
- Gregorian Chant



Gregorian Chant



Byzantine, Medieval, and Renaissance Christianity



500 – 1500 AD

Eastern Orthodox

- Constantine Moves Capital East – names new capital Constantinople
 - Sets up seeds of division of Empire and Church
 - Western (or Latin) part of Empire will only last another 100 years
 - Eastern (or Byzantine) lasted for more than a 1,000 years
- Bishop of Constantinople now assumes Primus inter Pares
- Churches of each empire develop independently
 - Western church influenced by Latin language and culture
 - Eastern church influenced by Greek

Iconoclasm Controversy

- Held on to the fiction of one universal church, at least until the Pope and the Patriarch excommunicated each other!
- Papacy assumed supremacy as the successor to Peter; Patriarch assumed supremacy as the Bishop of the Imperial Capital
- Iconoclasm – Emperor Leo III commands the destruction of all images of Jesus, Mary, and the Angels (in reaction to Muslim criticism of Christianity)
 - Action condemned by Pope and western church
 - Eastern church convenes council which condemns use of icons as idolatry
 - 2nd Council of Nicaea affirms use of icons

Filioque Controversy

- Eastern Bishops rejected the filioque (“and by the son”) inserted into the Creeds
- Schism of 1054 – the Pope and the Patriarch mutually excommunicate each other
 - Schism between Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic is complete

Corruption in the Western Church

- By 16th century, Church becomes wealthy, powerful, and corrupt!
 - Connection to Feudal Monarchies
 - Land ownership, tithes, corvee labor
 - Papal states
 - The Bad Popes
- Land rich; cash poor
 - 1517 Pope Leo X offered indulgences for those who gave alms to rebuild St Peter's Basilica in Rome

Indulgence: remission of part or all of the temporal and especially purgatorial punishment that is due for sins

Reform prior to Luther

- John Wycliffe (1330 – 1384)
 - English theologian
- Promoted first complete translation of the Bible into English
- Argued church should give up its possessions and return to evangelical poverty
- Attacked doctrine such as transubstantiation



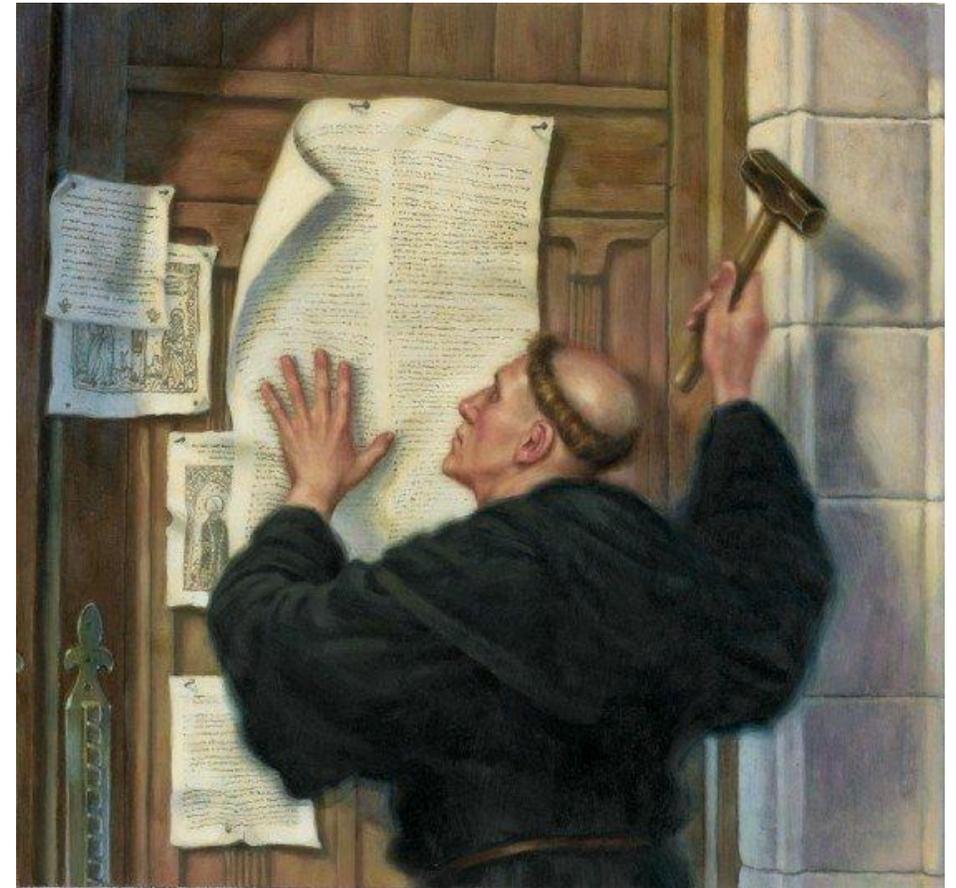
Martin Luther

- Born to a wealthy family in Germany
- Educated at most distinguished university in Germany
- Following a terrifying experience in a thunderstorm, he abandoned the study of law and joined a monastery
- Earned Doctor of Theology in 1512
- Became professor of biblical studies



The Indulgences Controversy

- Luther objected to teachings that purchase of indulgences granted forgiveness of sins
- Drafted of set of propositions for the purpose of opening academic debate on indulgences;
- Nailed his **95 Thesis** to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church on October 31, 1517
- Attacks not only the corruption, but the underlying doctrine as well



A New Theology

- Luther develops a new understanding of Salvation, or reconciliation with God
- Traditional view is salvation is a joint effort of human's good works and God's grace
- Luther argues that human's contribute nothing to their own salvation:
 - *Sola gratia*: Salvation is, fully and completely, a work of divine grace
 - *Sola fide*: God's pardon for guilty sinners is granted to and received through faith alone, excluding all works
- Luther claims authority through an appeal to scripture alone (*Sola scriptura*)

A New Theology

- Catholic doctrine is that sacraments are a “means of grace” and only an ordained priest can administer the sacraments
- Luther’s *Sola gacia/Sola Fide* is a direct attack on the *magisterium**

*the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church, especially as exercised by bishops or the Pope.

Priests no longer needed, replaced by doctrine of “universal priesthood”
Sacraments limited to the two found in Bible: Baptism and Eucharist

Lutheran Church

- Luther excommunicated in 1521
- Moved to create an alternative church that he named the Evangelical Church
- Luther and his movement were promoted by rulers of several German states
- Translated Bible into German – still used today
- Gave community singing a renewed role
 - Composed hymns and a hymn book
 - Example: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Floodgates open

- Multiple reformers followed Luther
 - John Calvin
 - Huldrych Zwingli
- Gives rise to multiple denominations
 - Calvinism
 - Anglican (Church of England)
 - Anabaptists
- Estimated 33,000 Christian denominations

Catholic Counter-Reformation

- Efforts by Catholic Church against the Protestant Reformation and toward internal renewal
- Pope Paul III convenes Council of Trent in 1545
- Issues formal Catholic reply to doctrinal challenges of the Protestant Reformation
 - Key Doctrinal Clarifications
 - Liturgy and Sacraments – doctrine of transubstantiation affirmed
 - Church Discipline and Reform
 - Index of Forbidden Books
- New Religious Orders were founded, significantly the Jesuits

Society of Jesus, Jesuits

- Founded in 1534 by St. Ignatius of Loyola
- Jesuits swore loyalty to the Pope and dedicated to reconstructing church life and teaching
- Known as “Shock troops of the Counter-Reformation”
- Jesuits were highly educated and became active in scholarship and education
- Active in missionary efforts throughout the world, esp South America and Asia
 - St Francis Xavier in Asia

St. Francis Xavier baptizing Infidels



Modern Christianity

1900-PRESENT

Fundamentalism

- Arose out of 19th century millennialism to oppose liberalization of church doctrine
- Emphasized as fundamental
 - the literal truth of the Bible,
 - the imminent physical Second Coming of Jesus,
 - the Virgin Birth,
 - resurrection, and atonement
- Displeasure over teaching of evolution in schools gave movement momentum in 1920s
- Fundamentalist Bible institutes and colleges created; Fundamentalists made use of TV as a medium for preaching

Ecumenism

- Movement for greater understanding and cooperation among churches
- Changed how:
 - Theologians conceptualize the faith
 - Different Christian churches relate to each other
 - Grassroots Christians live out their faith in worship and daily life
- After WWII the World Council of Churches (WCC) was established
- Since Vatican II Roman Catholic strong interest in improving interchurch relations; Pope and Patriarch lifted excommunications

Second Vatican Council (1962-1966)

- 21st ecumenical council
- Symbolizes Roman Catholic readiness to acknowledge circumstances of modern world
- Allowed for
 - Greater involvement of lay people in the Church
 - More open attitude of scholarly study of the Bible
 - Use of the vernacular during mass in place of Latin

Common Teachings



Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed

- Most influential of all Christian Statements of belief
 - accepted as authoritative by the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and major Protestant churches.
- Doctrine of Trinity begins to be formulated – God the Father and Jesus Christ are “Consubstantial” (of same substance)
 - Fully developed in the Athanasian Creed

Doctrine of the Trinity

- Neither the word “Trinity” nor the explicit doctrine appears in the New Testament
- Earliest Christians believed that God the Father and Jesus Christ are separate beings, examples Arius, Adoptionism, etc
 - Followed from need to maintain Hebrew Monotheism
 - Jesus subordinate to the Father
- Doctrine formulated during the 4th – 5th centuries and codified in the Creeds:
 - Maintain monotheism by stating three persons of same substance
 - Attempt to distinguish from and purge Christianity of Pagan elements

The Holy Trinity

- God the Father
 - All powerful in heaven and on earth
 - There is nothing outside his power
 - A living being, not a force or a cosmic principle
- God the Son
 - Created heaven and earth
 - Jesus is the crucified and exalted Lord, and the Son of God
 - Interpretations of Jesus - Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

The Holy Trinity

- God the Holy Spirit
 - *Called Lord, the term is also used for the Father and the Son*
 - *Foundational view of the Holy Spirit is sketched in a section of the Nicene creed*
 - We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
 - *Powerful, uncontrollable, and unpredictable*

Ethical Foundations

The Ten Commandments

- *The first table of the Law calls on Christians to worship only God, not to worship images, and to keep the Sabbath day holy*
- *The second table of the Law tells Christians to honor parents and abstain from murder, adultery, theft, false witness, and coveting*

The Sermon on the Mount

- *Beatitudes contain implicit moral directions*
- *Jesus pointed to the necessity of controlling one's actions, thoughts, and emotions*
- *To love the Lord your God with all your being, and to love your neighbor as yourself*

Ethical Foundations

- Pauline Epistles
- Draw on the Ten Commandments to shape the moral life of Christians
- Stress moral virtues of the Christian life
 - *Trust in God, hope in the future God will bring, peace in one's heart and in the church, and love for all people*
 - *Grounds the ethical life of the Christian in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus*

Christian Worship and Ritual

- The first believers worshiped in the Jerusalem temple and synagogues
- The Roman Catholic Church built itself around seven **sacraments**
- Eastern Orthodox Church made the worship in its various branches unified
- In Protestant Reformation, Catholic Reform, and Vatican II, worship was reformed to be more the work of the people

Christian Worship and Ritual

- Worship became more elaborate after Christianity was permitted and then became official in the 300s
 - *Formal church buildings were erected, and church officials dressed for worship in dress modeled after Roman government garb*
 - *Liturgical calendar was developed*
 - *Church buildings were designed for the community*
 - *Earlier intimacy of house churches was lost*

Other Worship Practices

- **Cult of the Saints:** Veneration of saints in shrines, churches, and other places
- Different forms of Eucharistic liturgy existed in various areas
- Protestant churches
 - *Emphasis on preaching the Bible*
 - *Reducing the sacraments to the two that had been founded by Jesus: baptism and Holy Communion*
 - *Putting all services into the language of the people*

Other Worship Practices

- **Charismatic movement:** Stressed the use of supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - *Charismatic - Groups inside Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and mainline Protestant churches*
 - *Pentecostal - Protestant churches where these practices are the norm*