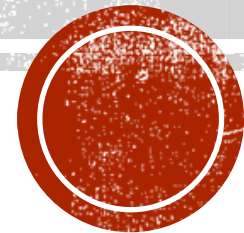


THE APOSTOLIC AGE

March 7, 2021

Discipleship Program



THE APOSTOLIC AGE

- A Brief Look at the World during the Apostolic Age
- Birth of the Church
 - Spread of Christianity
- The Apostolic Churches
 - Christian Life During the Apostolic Age



APOSTOLIC AGE

- From the day of Pentecost (30 AD) until the departure of St. John the Apostle (100 AD)
- ~ 70 years



IMPORTANCE OF THE APOSTOLIC AGE:

1. Separation from Judaism → the origin of the Christian Church
2. Demonstrates the power of God → Christianity spreads to all corners of the world
3. The strength of the Apostles as role models/teachers
4. “Tradition” of direct teaching from Jesus Christ



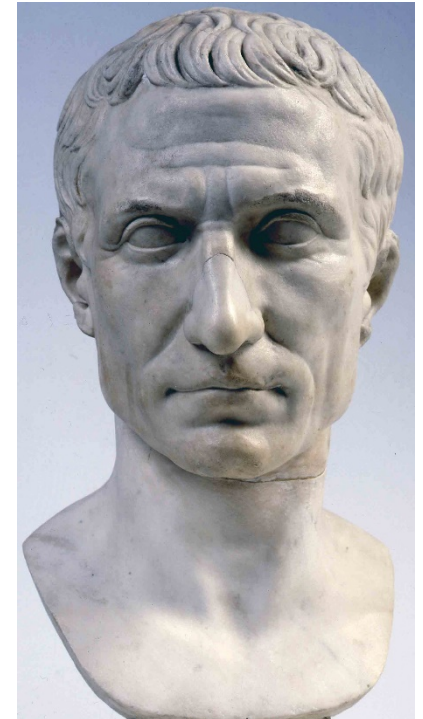
HISTORICAL SOURCES OF THE APOSTOLIC AGE:

1. Bible: Holy Books of the New Testament (ie Acts)
2. Teachings and laws of the Apostles (Didache)
3. Writings of the Apostolic Fathers (disciples of the Apostles) (ie St. Polycarp, St. Ignatius)
4. Jewish sources, ie writings by Josephus (famous Jewish Historian)
5. Mishna: the teachings of Rabbis in the 1st Century, provides information about the Apostles, their teachings, rituals and worship in the early Church as a excommunicated group out of the Synagogue
6. Historians (Ie Tacitus) ; Christian Historians ie Eusebious, who wrote the church history since the Incarnation to 324 AD (called the Father of Church history)
7. Ancient monuments (ie scrolls of the Dead Sea)



THE WORLD DURING THE APOSTOLIC AGE

- **Religiously:**
 - Judaism
 - Paganism (philosophers, atheists, pagans)
 - Epicurean (materialism) vs Stoic (one unified god, mind and logic were gifts)
- **Politically:**
 - The Roman Empire (most of the world, including Jerusalem)
 - Rule under Caesar
 - Culturally were Greek/majority language spoken
 - The Persian Empire (controlled the Far East)



THE WORLD DURING THE APOSTOLIC AGE

St. Paul described the state of moral corruption in that time (Romans 1:18-32)

- Pagan rituals:
 - Human sacrifices
 - Adultery and sexual immoralities
 - Killing of children & abortion for poverty or non-curable diseases or to prevent overpopulation
- Romans and Greeks disrespected women, and felt they were servants for men
- Pagans didn't respect marriage/monogamy
- Slavery was common



BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

- **Jesus teaches the Apostles:**

- After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His Apostles for 40 days to assure them of His Resurrection & instruct them in practical preaching/ teaching that was difficult for them before Resurrection (Acts 1:3)

- **The Apostles prepare themselves:**

- After Ascension, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem as Jesus instructed. They stayed in the Upper Room fasting /praying while waiting for the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). Matthias replaced Judas (Acts 1:15)

- **The Pentecost:**

- On the 50th day of the Lord's Resurrection (Day of Pentecost) at the third hour (9 am), the Apostles and brethren (~ 120 were gathered together in fasting and prayer, when the Holy Spirit appeared to them as divided tongues of fire and sat upon each of them and they were filled and began to speak with tongues (Acts 2:1-4)
- The Day of Pentecost St. Peter gave a sermon to the public (Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Acts 2:14- 36)—and 3000 souls were baptized and added to the Church (Acts 2:47)

Are you serving before resurrection or after → has Christ risen in the heart of your service



PERSECUTION OF THE APOSTLES BY JEWS

- Sadducees- 1st Jewish group to persecute the Apostles (Acts 4:1, 5:17)
 - Began after the miracle by St. Peter performed for the paralyzed man (40 years) at the Temple
 - Apostles continued performing miracles when imprisoned
 - The Lord's Angels, opened the prison's gates and freed them (Acts 5:12) where they again appeared at the Temple preaching
- St. Stephen (deacon) was the first martyr in Christianity (Acts 7:1-60)
- St. James (James the greater), brother of St. John (Acts 12) was the first Apostle martyred (Herod killed him with the sword)

Once you believe in the resurrection and serve, does not mean there will not be persecution/obstacles → but do not stop → keep your eyes on examples like the apostles, they did not backoff



IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THAT TIME

- **First Church Council:**
 - Held ~ 50AD in Jerusalem under St. James, Bishop of Jerusalem
 - Ratified St. Paul & St. Barnabas' dispute of circumcision of believers (Acts 15)
 - St. Paul (Saul of Tarsas) got legality of his apostolicity (Galatians 2:2)
- St. Paul & St. Barnabas were to preach to the Gentiles while the rest of the Apostles to preach to the Jews
- Temple of Jerusalem destroyed in 10 Aug 70AD, by the Romans lead by Titus- son of emperor Vespasian, fulfilling the Lord's prophecy of this destruction (Matt 24:1)





• And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15 NKJV

- **St. Thaddeus** preached in Bakr Lands (Iraq) and Odessa
- **St. Simon** preached in Babylonia, and Syria.
- **St. John and St. Philip** preached in Asia Minor
- **St. Paul** Preached in Damascus, Syria, Tarsus, Antioch, Cyprus, Asia Minor in Antioch of Pasadena, Derba, Galatia, Ephesus, Greece in Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, and Peria, and in Western Europe in Italy and Spain and finally attained his crown of martyrdom in Rome
- **St. Peter** preached in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia
- **St. Andrew** preached in Russia, Turkey, Nicea, Nikomidea and Greece
- **St. Bartholomew** preached in India, Yemen, and Armenia.
- **St. Matthew** preached in Persia and Ethiopia.
- **St Thomas** preached in Odessa, and India.



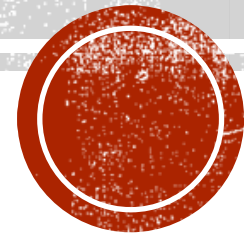
THE WORK & EMPOWERMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Called for preaching (Acts 13:2)
- Taught & spoke using native tongues. Gave them power & courage they needed & lacked. (Acts 4:7-12)
- Were directed to certain places to preach and to stop before others (Acts 8:26-29, 10:19-20, 11:6-10)
- Moved them from one place to another (Acts 8:39-40)
 - Travel through Roman Empire
- Performed miracles (Acts 5:9-10, 13: 19-11)
- Led them in every decision as in Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:28)

How does this pertain to us/our service?



APOSTOLIC CHURCHES





1- CHURCH OF JERUSALEM:

- The mother Church; place of birth of the Christian church (Pentecost)
 - The first city sanctified by our Lord in flesh and by His precious blood
 - From Jerusalem the Gospel spread outward to all the world
 - The place of the early martyrs, St. Stephen, St. James the Just, and more
 - The place of the first Church Council (50AD).
 - From Jerusalem, the Apostles oversaw the ministry throughout Samaria (Acts 8:14&15) and Antioch (Acts 11:22)

2- CHURCH OF ROME:

- The 1st city in the world, considered the political capital of the world
- The Roman Church was founded by St. Paul



3- CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA:

- 2nd city in the Roman Empire, the city for education, philosophy and science
 - Population: Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Jews & Persian
 - This See belonged to its founder St. Mark; one of the seventy disciples and founded the Church around 57-59 AD
 - He founded the Theological School of Alexandria to replace the pagan school

4- CHURCH OF ANTIOCH:

- 3rd famous city in the Roman Empire after Rome and Alexandria
 - Population: Greeks, Syrians, Jews
 - First Gentile Church
 - Base of St. Paul ministry's trips



THE TRADITION OF THE APOSTOLIC AGE

- Most of our rituals depend on tradition
 - All teachings/religious rituals: Jesus → Apostles → successors
 - Oral Tradition → then written
- The Holy Gospel does not include whole disciplines of teachings and rituals but it offers us the faith that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God to have the eternal life through His name (John 20:31)
- Therefore, the Church considers the tradition is the second source of Christian teaching after the Holy Bible

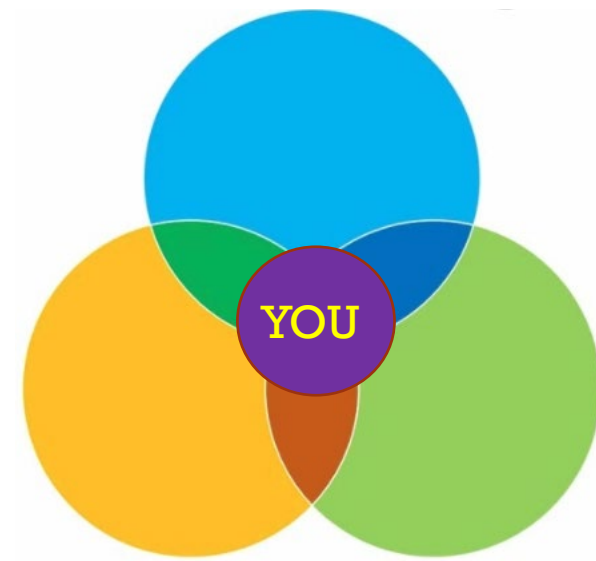
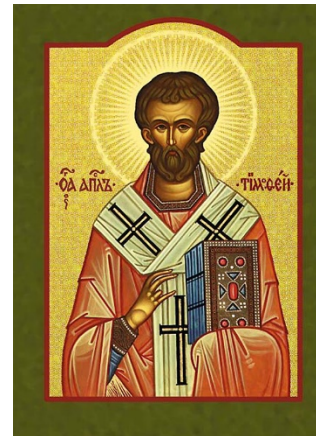


CHRISTIAN LIFE DURING THE APOSTOLIC AGE

Christianity and the individual:

- Change of life starts internally, from the heart unlike other philosophies
- The individual is the nucleus of the family and the community
- Led by example/role models for concepts 'atypical' of the time ie meekness, humbleness, and love of one's enemies
- A non-written Gospel → 'a living Gospel'

- St Timothy (disciple of St Paul/his companion)
 - Grew up in the faith and firm believer; known for righteousness; 'a faithful son'
 - Circumcised so he could better speak to the Jews
 - Ordained as Bishop of Ephesus



CHRISTIAN LIFE DURING THE APOSTOLIC AGE

Christianity and Women

- Christianity honored women unlike Judaism and paganism. Woman inherited salvation as man had (1 Peter 3:7 and Galatians 3:28)
- The Virgin Mary is the point of change in woman's history, through her, her gender has been honored
- Other examples: Mary Magdalene; Salome, St. John and St. James' mother, Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, and those who followed the Lord Jesus Christ to the Holy Cross (Luke 24:1-10)
- In between the Resurrection and Pentecost, St. Mary and the other women joined the holy Apostles in prayer in the Upper Room (Acts 1:13-14)
- Acts 2:18 - And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.
 - The Holy Spirit does not differentiate by gender



CHRISTIAN LIFE DURING THE APOSTOLIC AGE



Christianity and marriage

- Prohibits polygamy → monogamy the Godly ideal model
- Marriage is a Sacrament, man-woman union similar to the Christ-Church union (Ephesians 5:28-33)
- One of the issues that faced Christianity in this time was mixed marriage (one partner being Christian and the other being Jew or pagan) however, the Church allowed for continuity of this kind of marriage and considered it holy but at the same time did not allow for any Christian to initiate a mixed marriage (1 Corinthians 7:12-14, 7:39)

Christianity and society

- Christianity called for Agape love for all people beyond the geographical, physical, racial boundaries (Acts 17:26)



CHRISTIAN LIFE DURING THE APOSTOLIC AGE

Spiritual gifts

- The spiritual gifts in the Church during the Apostolic Age included:
 - (1) Wisdom and Knowledge (1 Corinthians 14:8)
 - (2) Teaching (Romans 12:6 & 7).
 - (3) Prophecy (Acts 11:28, 1 Corinthians 14:25, Acts 13:1 & 2 and 1 Timothy 4:14);
 - (4) Tongues (Acts 2:1-13, 10:46, 19:6 and 1 Corinthians 12-14).
 - (5) Interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:4-10).
 - (6) Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28)
 - (7) Pasturing (Ephesians 4:11-12) (
 - 8) Miracles (Hebrews 2:4, 1 Corinthians 12:4, 8-10, 2 Corinthians 12:12).
- Categories of servants in the Church Categories of servants in the church during Apostolic Age included: (1) The Apostles (2) Prophets (3) Bishops (4) Priests (5) Teachers (6) Deacons (7) Women servants

Gifts provided vary per person – what are your gifts and are you using/praying/growing in it?



THE APOSTOLIC AGE

- Summary and Application
 - Starts with the individual → form the nucleus and outreach
 - Follow the Holy examples of those before us
 - Use the gifts God has given to you
 - Understand there will be obstacles, but through faith/prayer, you will rise above them
- Active service allows you to do all of the above



WHAT CAR DID THE APOSTLES DRIVE?



A HONDA; THEY WERE ALL IN ONE ACCORD.

