



What Does It Mean That Something Is ...

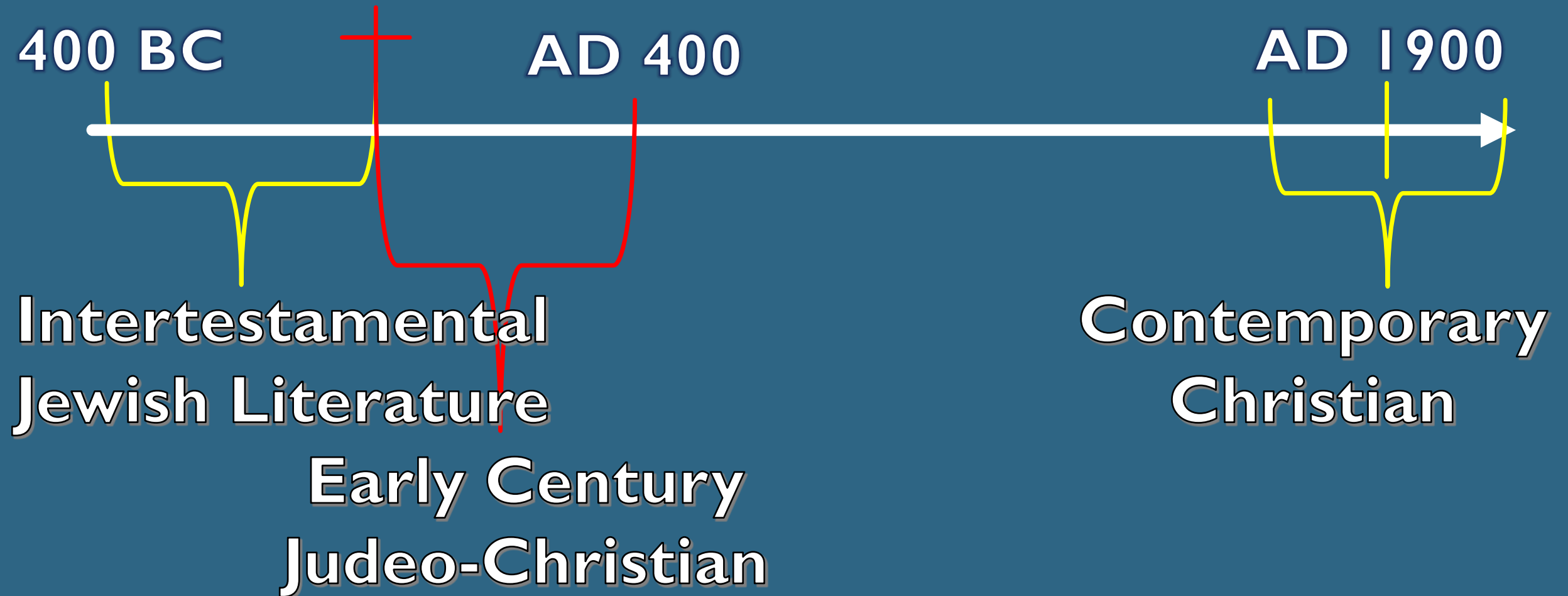
EXTRABIBLICAL?

ROCC Equipping Class
March 6, 13, 20

“EXTRABIBLICAL”

1. Information, content, knowledge, or literary sources originating from outside of the Bible, and ...
2. Which are intended to address God, enlighten Scripture, or aid in the practice and understanding of our faith.

EXTRABIBLICAL? - WHAT





What Does It Mean That Something Is ...

EXTRABIBLICAL?

Early Christian Literature
Week 2 of 3 - March 13, 2022

EARLY CHRISTIAN LITERATURE

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us ... it seemed good to me also ...

- Luke 1:1

EARLY CHRISTIAN TIMELINE

Apostolic Fathers (AD 30 – 100)

- Gospel Authors / Apostles
- Bishops (West): Clement of Rome
- Bishops (East): Ignatius, Papias, Polycarp
- Roman Persecution (Nero, Domitian)

EARLY CHRISTIAN TIMELINE

Church Fathers (AD 100 – 250)

- (West): Tertullian, Irenaeus, Hippolytus, Cyprian of Carthage
- (East): Justin Martyr, Tatian, Theophilus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen
- Apologists, Doctrine, Heresy

EARLY CHRISTIAN TIMELINE

Great Doctors (AD 250 – 400)

- (West): Ambrose, Jerome, Augustine of Hippo, Hilary of Poitiers, Pope Gregory
- (East): Athanasius, Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus, John Chrysostom
- Bishops, Theologians, Councils

A grayscale photograph of several old, leather-bound books standing upright on a shelf. The books have worn spines with visible horizontal ridges and some faint markings. A dark blue rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing white text.

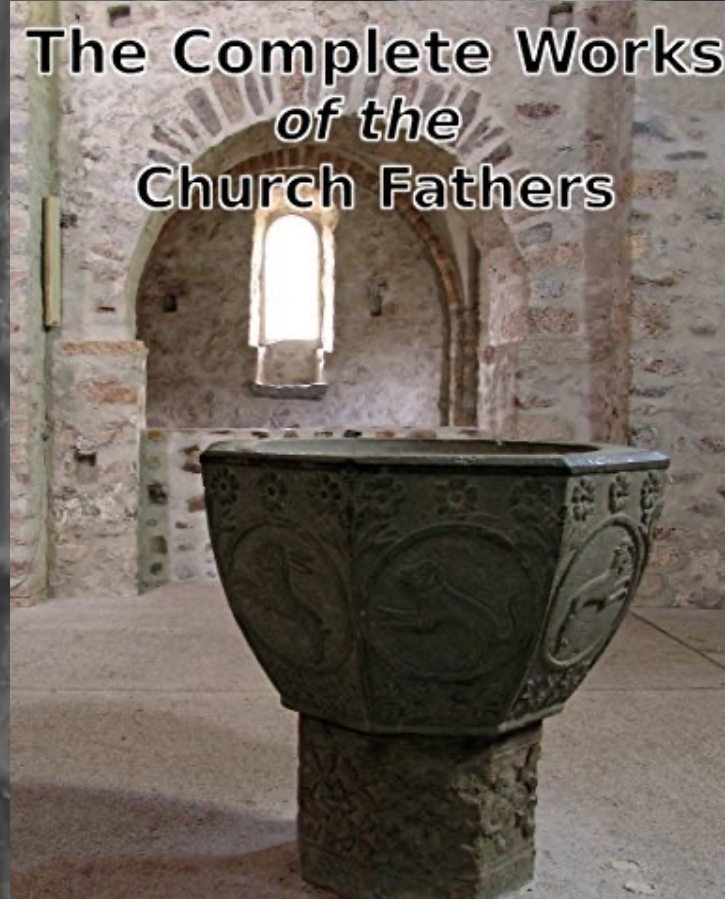
20 EARLY
AUTHORS

OVER 250
PUBLISHED
WORKS

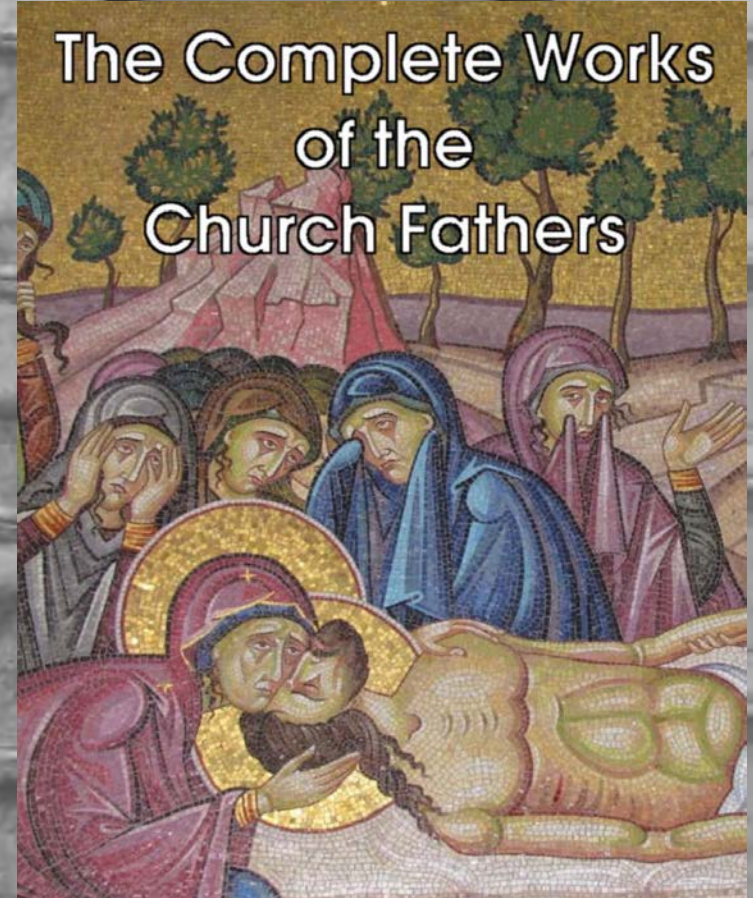
64 EARLY
AUTHORS

OVER 2,500
PUBLISHED
WORKS

The Complete Works
of the
Church Fathers

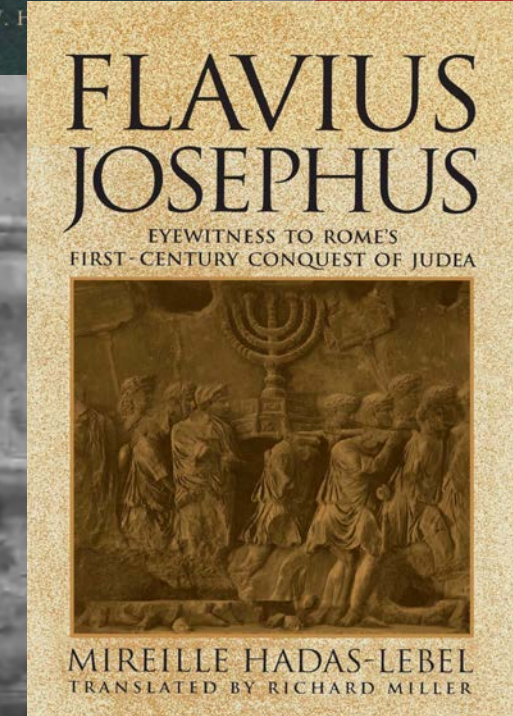
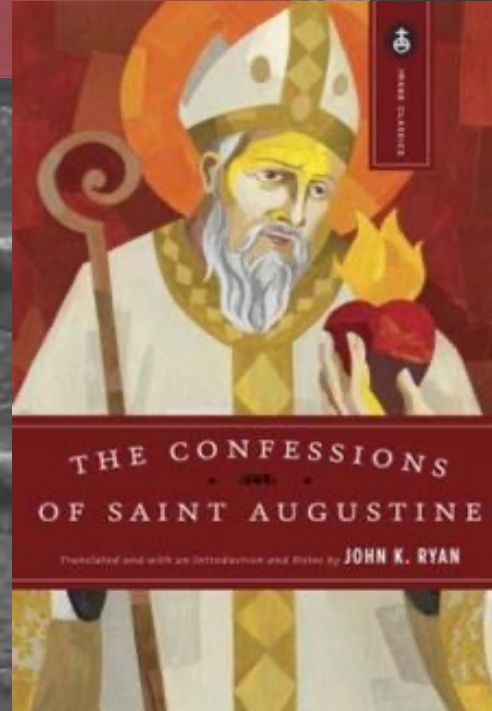
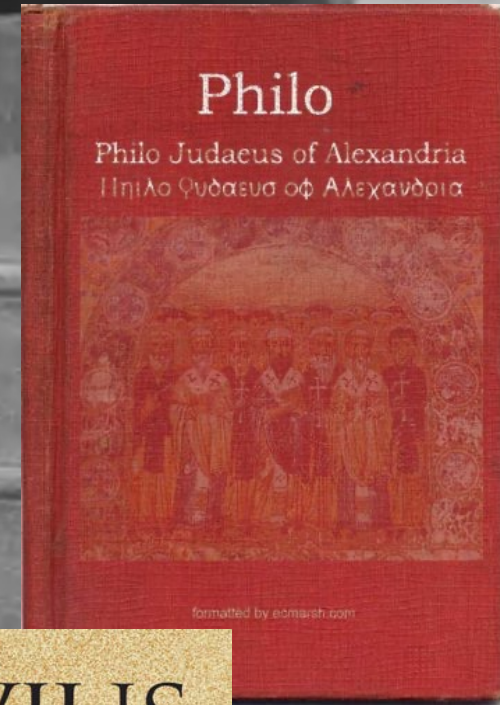
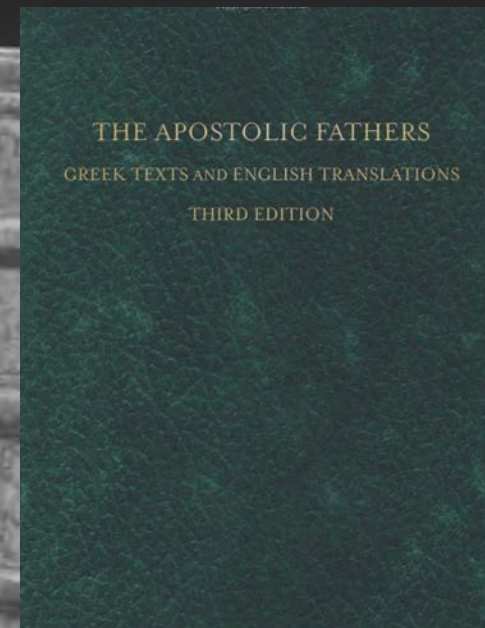
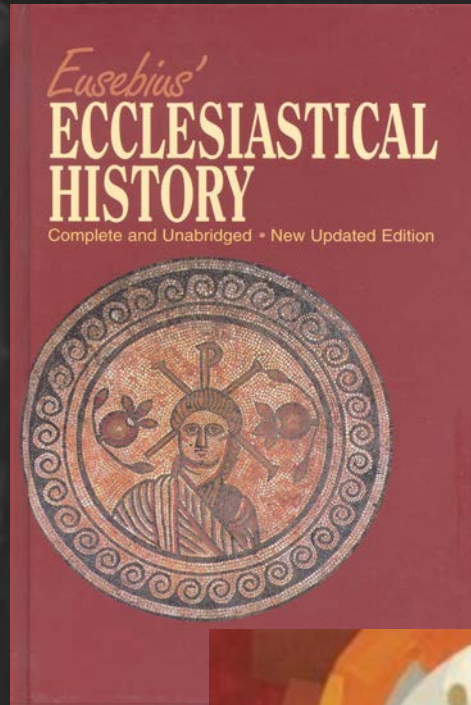


The Complete Works
of the
Church Fathers



KEY WORKS

PHILO
DIDACHE
JOSEPHUS
EUSEBIUS
AUGUSTINE



PHILO OF ALEXANDRIA

- Philo the Jew (15 BC – AD 50)
- Hellenistic Jew, Greek Philosopher
- Bible Commentary as Philosopher
- “Logos,” Interpretation similar to author of Hebrews, 1st C. Judaism

JOSEPHUS

- Flavius Josephus (AD 36 – 100)
- “It’s Complicated” (Traitor, Defender, Prisoner, Secretary, Historian)
- Historian of Jewish Wars and People; including defense of Masada

JOSEPHUS

The Antiquities of the Jews

18.109-119 “John, who was
called the Baptist”

Now some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod's army came from God as a just punishment of what Herod had done against John, who was called the Baptist. For Herod had killed this good man, who had commanded the Jews to exercise virtue, righteousness towards one another and piety towards God. For only thus, in John's opinion, would the baptism he administered be acceptable to God, namely, if they used it to obtain not pardon for some sins but rather the cleansing of their bodies, inasmuch as it was taken for granted that their souls had already been purified by justice.

Now many people came in crowds to him, for they were greatly moved by his words. Herod, who feared that the great influence John had over the masses might put them into his power and enable him to raise a rebellion (for they seemed ready to do anything he should advise), thought it best to put him to death. In this way, he might prevent any mischief John might cause, and not bring himself into difficulties by sparing a man who might make him repent of it when it would be too late. Accordingly, John was sent as a prisoner, out of Herod's suspicious temper, to Machaerus, the castle I already

mentioned, and was put to death. Now the Jews thought that the destruction of his army was sent as a punishment upon Herod, and a mark of God's displeasure with him.

JOSEPHUS

The Antiquities of the Jews

18.63 “Jesus ... the Christ”

About this time lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was the achiever of extraordinary deeds and was a teacher of those who accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. When he was indicted by the principal men among us and Pilate condemned him to be crucified, those who had come to love him originally did not cease to do so; for he appeared to them on the third day restored to life, as the prophets of the Deity had foretold these and countless other marvelous things about him, and the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day.

Alternative: *At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders. And the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day.*

JOSEPHUS

The Antiquities of the Jews

20.200 “Jesus and James”

Convening the judges of the Sanhedrin, he brought before them the brother of Jesus who was called the Christ, whose name was James, and certain others. He accused them of having transgressed the law and delivered them up to be stoned. But those of the city residents who were deemed the most fair-minded and who were strict in observing the law were offended at this. Accordingly, they secretly contacted the king [Herod Agrippa II], urging him to order Ananus to desist from any more such actions, for he had not been justified in what he had already done.

THE DIDACHE

- “The Teaching”
- AD 60 / AD 120 – Various Elements
- AD 150 Final Form
- Complete Greek Text Discovered in 1873 (Barnabas, I & II Clement)

THE DIDACHE

- Four Sections
 - The “Two Ways” – *Catechumens* (1-6.2)
 - Church Manual (6.3-11.2)
 - Community / Hospitality (11.3-16.2)
 - Apocalyptic (16.3-8)

THE DIDACHE

Early Church Manual

Read Didache Assigned Page

Discuss @Table

Present One Insight to Group

JUSTIN THE MARTYR

- Flavia “Justin” (AD 100-165)
- Palestine, Samaritan
- Christian Convert
- Christianity, “True Philosophy”

JUSTIN THE MARTYR

First Apology (AD 155)

- Response to *Martyrdom of Polycarp
- To Emperor Pius
- Explaining (Defending) the Faith

JUSTIN THE MARTYR

First Apology (AD 155)

And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities and in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits;

JUSTIN THE MARTYR

then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things.

JUSTIN THE MARTYR

Trial (Anonymous, AD 165)

Justin Says: **No one in his right mind gives up piety for impiety.**

The Prefect Rusticus says: **If you do not obey, you will be tortured without mercy.**

JUSTIN THE MARTYR

Justin replies: That is our desire, to be tortured for Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and so to be saved, for that will give us salvation and firm confidence at the more terrible universal tribunal of Our Lord and Savior.

All the martyrs said: Do as you wish; for we are Christians, and we do not sacrifice to idols.

TERTULLIAN

- Quintus Tertullian (AD 160-220)
- Carthage (Northern Africa)
- Extensive Latin Writings
- Against Gnosticism
- *The Apology*: Legal Toleration

TERTULLIAN

The Apology (AD 197)

We meet to read the books of God – with those holy words we feed our faith, we lift up our hope, we confirm our confidence; and no less reinforce by inculcation of God's precepts.

TERTULLIAN

The Apology (AD 197)

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

EUSEBIUS

- Eusebius of Caesarea (AD 260-340)
- Greek Historian, Bible Scholar, Bishop
- Theological Library of Caesarea
- Chronological Account of Christianity

EUSEBIUS

Ecclesiastical History

- Ten Books: Jesus - Constantine
- Government & Religious History
- Disciples & Church Father History
- Martyrs, Heresies, World Politics

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

- St. Augustine (AD 354 – 430)
- Theologian, Bishop (Algeria)
- Grace, Salvation, Election, Trinitarianism, Original Sin
- Western Christianity (Luther)

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

- *The City of God* – The Church is in world, but not of world
- *Confessions* – Augustine's search for the truth (auto-biography)

WHY READ EARLY CHRISTIAN

- Historical / Cultural Context
- Encouraged in Faith & Devotion
- Model for Worship & Discipleship
- Humility: Ritual vs. Obedience

HIPPOLYTUS

Apostolic Tradition (AD 215)

- Egyptian Church Order
- Ordination of Bishops / Deacons,
Receiving Offerings, Liturgical Prayer,
Catechumen Instruction, Membership,
Baptism Preparation, Christian Life

At the hour in which the cock crows, they shall first pray over the water. When they come to the water, the water shall be pure and flowing, that is, the water of a spring or a flowing body of water. Then they shall take off all their clothes. The children shall be baptized first. All of the children who can answer for themselves, let them answer. If there are any children who cannot answer for themselves, let their parents answer for them, or someone else from their family. After this, the men will be baptized. Finally, the women, after they have unbound their hair, and removed their jewelry. No one shall take any foreign

object with themselves down into the water. Then, after these things, the bishop passes each of them on nude to the elder who stands at the water. They shall stand in the water naked. A deacon, likewise, will go down with them into the water. When each of them to be baptized has gone down into the water, the one baptizing shall lay hands on each of them, asking, "Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?" And the one being baptized shall answer, "I believe." He shall then baptize each of them once, laying his hand upon each of their heads. Then he shall ask, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was born

of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and died, and rose on the third day living from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the Father, the one coming to judge the living and the dead?" When each has answered, "I believe," he shall baptize a second time. Then he shall ask, "Do you believe in the Holy Spirit and the Holy Church and the resurrection of the flesh?" Then each being baptized shall answer, "I believe." And thus let him baptize the third time ... Give a kiss a peace and say, "The Lord be with you."



What Does It Mean That Something Is ...

EXTRABIBLICAL?

Contemporary Literature
Week 3 of 3 - March 20, 2022