

Session 4

Oct 11, 2015



- The Second or New Testament

- The NT is the OT Revealed
- The OT is the NT Concealed

So, What do we Know?

- *The New Testament autographs were written between 45-95 ce*
- There are **5,664 Greek manuscripts** some dating as early as 125 ce and a complete New Testament that dates from 350 ce
- There are 8,000 to 10,000 Latin Vulgate manuscripts exist
- There are 8,000 manuscripts in Ethiopic, Coptic, Slavic, Syriac, and Armenian
- **But.....No Originals**

Evidence of NT Authorship

- Luke/Acts written prior to 65 ce **Eyewitness accounts.** This lends credibility to the author's (Luke) claim to be an eyewitness to Paul's missionary journeys. This would date the Pauline epistles between 49-63 ce
- Acts records the beginning history of the church with persecutions and martyrdoms being mentioned repeatedly. Josephus correlates some of the same events
 - The Jewish historian Josephus cited the siege and destruction of Jerusalem as befalling the Jews because of their unjust killing of James the brother of Jesus.
- Acts ends with Paul in Rome under house arrest in 62 ce. In 64 ce., Nero blamed and persecuted the Christians for the fire that burned down the city of Rome.
 - Rome did burn

Church Fathers Reference NT Authorships

- **Clement (30-100 ce)** wrote an epistle to the Corinthian Church around 97 ce. He reminded them to heed the epistle that Paul had written to them before. Recall that Clement had labored with Paul (Philippians 4:3). He quoted from the following New Testament books: Luke, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Titus, 1 and 2 Peter, Hebrews, and James.
- **The apostolic father Ignatius (30-107 ce)**, Polycarp (65-155 ce), cites verses from every New Testament book except 2 and 3 John. They thereby authenticated nearly the entire New Testament. Both Ignatius and Polycarp were disciples of the apostle John.
- **Justin Martyr, (110-165 ce)**, cited verses from 13 books of the New Testament: Irenaeus, (120-202 ce), wrote a five volume work Against Heresies in which, He quoted from every book of the New Testament. He quoted from the New Testament books over 1,200 times.

Three Questions We Will Explore?

- What is culture & what was it like to live in Jesus' Time?
- Why did Christianity (The Way) grow so rapidly in Jesus Time?
- What does all this mean for us today?

Culture is How We Live!

- A society at a particular time and place
- The tastes in art and manners that are favored by a social group
- The knowledge and values we share
- A few examples of today's culture
 - We are individualistic
 - We are diverse
 - We are electronically connected
 - We are Global
 - We are fast paced
 - More Secular (For many, God is not within us)

Our Cultural Make up

- Our Cultural makeup determines how we read scripture..FILTERS

Language

Sexual Orientation

Adopted

Education

Parent

Nationality

Military exp

Single

Language

Economic Status

Religion

Married

Phy. Condition

Geography

Parents



Lets go back to Jesus Time...Rome was the largest Empire in its day

- Centered around the Mediterranean - largest inland sea in the world and is very blue because of evaporation. It is fed by underground springs. Was a source of life.
- Rome Lived for ~800 years (400 BCE – 412 CE)
- In JC time it was one big empire today that empire covers 14 countries
- In this empire St. Paul traveled >10,000 miles because of the roads which were build so the Army could move to cover the territories in case of uprising and provide control.
Great Technology

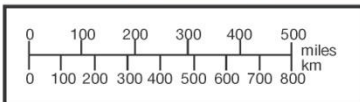
The Roman Empire in 117 AD

- Senatorial provinces
- Imperial provinces
- Client states





Ancient cities that exist today are underlined in red on the modern overlays.



- City or Town
- ∴ Ancient Ruins/Sites
- ▲ Mountain
- ⊕ Modern Capital cities

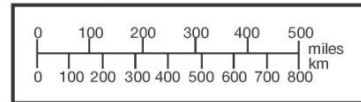
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The Emperors Ruled Roma

27 B.C. - 14 ce Augustus (When Jesus was Born)

14 - 37 Tiberius

37 - 41 Caligula

41 - 54 Claudius

54 - 68 Nero (Executed Peter and Paul)

Emperor Was Considered a god – You Had to Say He Was god.

What was Rome Like In Jesus Time?

- *Its economy was Agriculturally based*
- The Emperor had absolute power over the senate and the people
- Emperor, Caesar Augustus desired peace and prosperity for Rome. Augustus was sensitive and thoughtful, a good ruler.
- There was emphasis on trade and commerce. Many Romans made their fortunes because of the advantages of freedom through military victory and peace through military strength. There were great building programs in every city, **.(Sound familiar)**
- There was a system of roads and trade routes established, all protected by the police (Legions) and the Roman equivalent of the coast guard.



ARKADHANE
I. s. I. - 7. yy.
Imperatore Arkadhane tarafından
yapılan İmparatorluk sarayı.
82
Arkadhane, çevresinde byzanslılar tarafından, AD 600 - 700 yılları

ARKADHANE
I. - 7. yüzyıl.
Genel olarak İmparatorluk sarayı,
Kaiser Arkadhane sarayı.



**The Great
Library in
Ephesus**



Languages

- Three languages Greek, Latin (Hebrew for the Jews)
- Some Aramaic. Jesus words in the gospel that are in Aramaic are probably really his words.
- Hebrew was spoken in Israel and in Rome where there was a sizable Jewish community (Still is)
- All Law is in Latin as well as The language of Army – For control
- Whole of NT in Greek because it was the preferred Language in Asia Minor and where Gospel was spread. Cyprian of Carthage and Tertullian were the first to write in Latin

The Forum

- At the center of most Roman cities was a big open space called the Forum.
- People met there to do business, to sell things and buy things, to see their friends, to find out about the news, and to go to school.
- Usually the Forum had stone pavement, and around the edges there were fancy buildings: temples, and basilicas, and sometimes stores (shops).
- In some cities the Forum had a platform in it that people could stand on to make speeches. This platform was called the Rostra – Paul would have preached from here



The Forum In Rome



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Roman Life

- ◎ City life was more attractive than country life-quite beautiful
- ◎ Romans needed to be entertained- Theaters never destroyed
 - Temple (FORUM)
- ◎ Baths for Bathing –Running water
 - Separate for men and women
 - Three types HOT – Medium - cold
 - Could hear poetry /Music - be entertained while in the bath
 - Great Food stalls
- ◎ Roman life was pretty good

Army Legions

- ◎ The Language of Army was Latin
- ◎ Legions (3000 men) – Centuries (Centurions 100 men) – Known for Brutality and technology
- ◎ Recruited from the lower class in Rome
 - It was a good job. You ate regularly and had sandals
- ◎ They could march as much as 20 miles a day with a 60 lb pack
- ◎ Used the Road system for control in distant places
- ◎ Army doubled for police



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Early Roman Clothing



What was the Law Like?

- Rome gave us the concept of the law
- Very Patriarchal (Father) (Decided who daughter would marry)
- Paul took advantage of Roman law to gain trial by Caesar (Acts 25:10)
- Citizenship was a big deal – the law applied
- Rome was not big on putting people in prison most executed or punished.- immediate justice.
- We know lawyers worked for free
- There were no courts – Only the Emperor and Governors

What Did the People Do!

- Mostly farmers!
- only <5% could read or write
- You Could be a soldier or Politician
- No Career paths
- No Middle class
- The Army was the introduction to Civil service

Did They Pay Taxes?

- Communities paid their taxes. If not enough was received the rich people paid the difference in exchange for favors
- Tremendous pressure was placed on collecting taxes (Matthew was a Tax Collector)
- The rate was from 1-3%, 5% in war
- Farming was not Taxed

Slavery Was Prominent

- ◎ About 1/3 of the population was slaves.
- ◎ Population in Roman empire was about 60M. (My Guess Rome was about 1M)
- ◎ If a slave killed the master all the slaves were killed
- ◎ Silver came from Greece- mined my slaves with very short life spans because of the work
- ◎ Slavery was never discouraged among Christians till 19th C- ***A great failing of our faith***
- ◎ That said- Slavery was different then it was almost a career

Roman Food for the Rich was Good

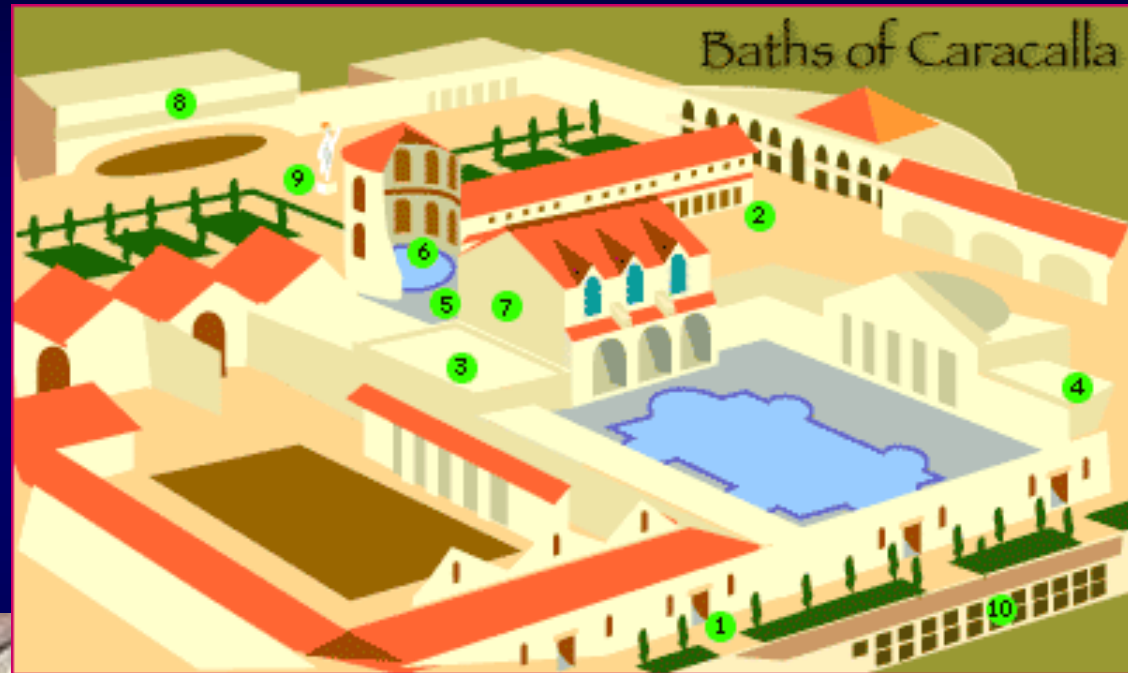
- ◎ Honey infused wine - Muslum
 - ½ cup honey 1 liter Red or white wine
- ◎ Hard boiled eggs and toasted pinenuts
 - Roman army snack
- ◎ Seasoned Mussels
- ◎ Sweet Cheesecake
- ◎ A lot of sweet dishes
- ◎ Roasted and cured meats
 - Pheasant, Lamb, quail, snake

Art and Recreation where Very Important

- ◎ A lot of interest in Art and poetry
- ◎ Very concerned about literature and mystery religions
 - Part of ritual involved Secrecy & Drama with an entrance rite at a group meeting e.g.
 - ELEUSINIAN Sect (Between Athens and Corinth). The last Pagan emperor was Julian the Apostate before Constantine. 1st Christian Emperor. He was inducted into this Secret order.
- ◎ NOTE: Sacrament means = Mysteries
- ◎ This is why the mystery of Christ was so acceptable to the Greeks



The Recreational Baths



Religion in Greece and Rome

- Atheists kept their mouths shut or were punished (gods were worshiped) . Zeus, Aphrodite, Juniper popular Greek Gods
- Sacrifices were offered to the gods
- Christianity neglected the gods and so endangered the state.
- Jews survived until Nero because - They supported Caesar financially.
- Monotheism may started with Greek God Zeus - “Zeus the most high : In Dion
- 20,000 Greek Gods



Mars Hill -Athens
Acts 17:16

So..Why Did Christianity Catch On?

- Jesus appealed to the poor the weak the sick the needy
- Early Followers of **The Way** were hospitable
 - They were pacifists
 - Everyone was welcome
- Two most important commandments
 - Love God
 - Love thy Neighbor (Hard to do)
- Greek culture was already viewing the God Zeus above all others
- Loving thy neighbor was an abstract thought

Acts and the Pauline Corpus

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

**Acts Tells
Story Line of
Epistles**

**Pastoral
Epistles 4**

Paul's Epistles - 9+4

Romans
1, 2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1, 2 Thessalonians
1, 2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Hebrew Epistles - 8

Hebrews
James
1, 2 Peter
1, 2, 3, John
Jude

Prophetic - 1
Revelation

**The 9
Letters
Support
the Story**

The New Testament

- The New Testament compiled within one lifetime
 - ~40 ce-100ce
- Four Gospels (Luke in two volumes)
- Pauline Corpus (and other epistles)

NT Particulars

- **27 books**
- 260 chapters
- 7,959 verses
- 181,253 words
- Longest book: Acts
- Shortest book in the Bible: 3 John (fewest number of words / 2 John has more words, but one fewer verses.)
- Shortest Verse: “He Wept” John (11:35)
- 5 history books (Acts and the Gospels;))
- 21 letters (Epistles)
- 1 book of prophecy (revelation)

Name	Date	Place	Theme
Galatians (Churches in Galatia)	49 After 1 st Journey	Antioch Syria	Freedom of Christ – Written to combat Judaizer – Against Law
1 Thes (Ch is Thes)	51 After 2 nd Journey	Corinth	Encouragement for a thriving Church to hold on
2 Thes	51 After 2 nd Journey	Corinth	Correction concerning day of the lord
1 Cor	55 during 3 rd Journey	Ephesus	Corrections for an immature church
2 Cor	57 during 3 rd Journey	Macedonia	Defense of Paul's apostolic ministry . Assert Paul's authority
Romans (Ch in Ro)	58 during 3 rd Journey	Corinth	Paul's Gospel. Written to prepare Ch for his visit. Righteous of God
Ephesians (Ch of Ephesus and circular letter in Asia)	61 1 st Roman imprisonment	Corinth	The believers position in Christ. The universal Church The body of Christ
Colosians (Ch Colase)	61 1 st Imprisonment	Corinth	Supremacy of Christ. Combats Colase heresy. Christ as the head of the body.
Philippians (Ch Phillipi)	61-62 1 st Imprisonment	Prison in Rome	The Joy of Knowing Christ. Thank you note and letter of intimate encouragement.

ISSUES CONCERNING AUTHORSHIP AND DATING OF THE NT BOOKS

- Some of the New Testament books claim to be written by eyewitnesses. Acts and Luke and Epistles
- The Gospel of John claims to be written by the disciple of the Lord. Archeological research has confirmed both the existence of the Pool of Bethesda and that it had five porticoes as described in John 5:2. This detail lends credibility to the claim that the Gospel of John was written by John who as an eyewitness knew Jerusalem before it was destroyed in 70 A. D. (**However This is a Best Guess**)
- Paul signed his epistles with his own hand. He was writing to churches who knew him. These churches were able to authenticate that these epistles had come from his hands (Galatians 6:11). Clement an associate of Paul's wrote to the Corinthian Church in 97 A. D. urging them to heed the epistle that Paul had sent them. (*Not the Pastoral Epistles – Titus, ½ Timothy*)

Conspicuous NT Omissions

- Nero's persecutions after 64 AD
- Execution of James, 62 AD
- Jewish Revolt against Romans, 66 AD
- Destruction of Jerusalem, 70 AD
- Most likely edited out at a later date
- We have 5500 versions of the NT thru 3rd century

- **Why!**

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