

CHURCH HISTORY

Lesson 4 – Persecution (200 to 312 A.D.)

As the early Church faced continued internal challenges with divergent doctrines, it was confronted with severe external challenges late in the century – intense persecution by the Roman government.

A. Background

1. What does the term "apologetics" mean?
2. Write at least one sentence about each of the following:
 - a. Clement of Alexandria (? to 215 A.D.)
 - b. Tertullian (155 to 230 A.D.)
 - c. Origen (182 to 251 A.D.)
 - d. Cyprian of Carthage (200 to 258 A.D.)

B. Major Events

1. According to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crisis_of_the_Third_Century, what problems did the Roman Empire face in the 200's?
2. What did Emperor Diocletian do to the Roman Empire in 292 A.D. in an attempt to strengthen it by creating a "tetrarchy"?

C. Authority

1. What is notable about the Chester Beatty Papyri ~200 A.D. in terms of New Testament coverage?
2. What connection does Origen have with the list of 27 NT books (~250 A.D.)?
3. Contrast the emphasis of the School of Alexandria with the School of Antioch. What problems can "Bible Schools" create?
4. According to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_church_councils_\(pre-ecumenical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_church_councils_(pre-ecumenical)), what were "pre-ecumenical councils" and what function did they perform?

D. Doctrines

1. Regarding church organization:
 - a. What is an "archbishop", "metropolitan bishop", or "metropolitan"?
2. Regarding the nature of deity:
 - a. Who was Sabellius ~220 A.D.? What is "Sabellianism", "modalism", or "Modalistic Monarchianism"?
 - b. What was Paul of Samosata ~260 A.D.? What is "Adoptionism" or "Dynamic Monarchianism"?
3. Regarding salvation:
 - a. What did Tertullian teach regarding "original sin" ~200 A.D.?
 - b. According to <http://acrod.org/readingroom/sacraments/penance>, what did Origen teach regarding penitence, "more serious offenses", and "common offenses"?

E. Divisions/Conflicts

1. Describe the persecutions under each of the following Roman emperors
 - a. Septimus Severus (193 to 211 A.D.)

- b. Decius (249 to 251 A.D.)
- c. Valerian (253 to 260 A.D.)

F. Special Topics

- 1. According to <http://www.religionfacts.com/veneration-of-saints>, what did Cyprian teach regarding the veneration of saints ~250 A.D.?