

Introduction to Church History

Branches of Church History

- **Political** – Church and State
- **Propagation** – Missions, carrying the Gospel
- **Persecution** – Jewish, Roman, Muslim, Totalitarianism
- **Polity** – Government within the church (3 types)
- **Polemics** – Fighting heresy, declaring positions, dogma, doctrine creeds
- **Praxis** – practical outworking of faith in life, home, work, charity
- **Presentation** - Educational system, hymns, liturgy, architecture, art, preaching

Ages of Church History

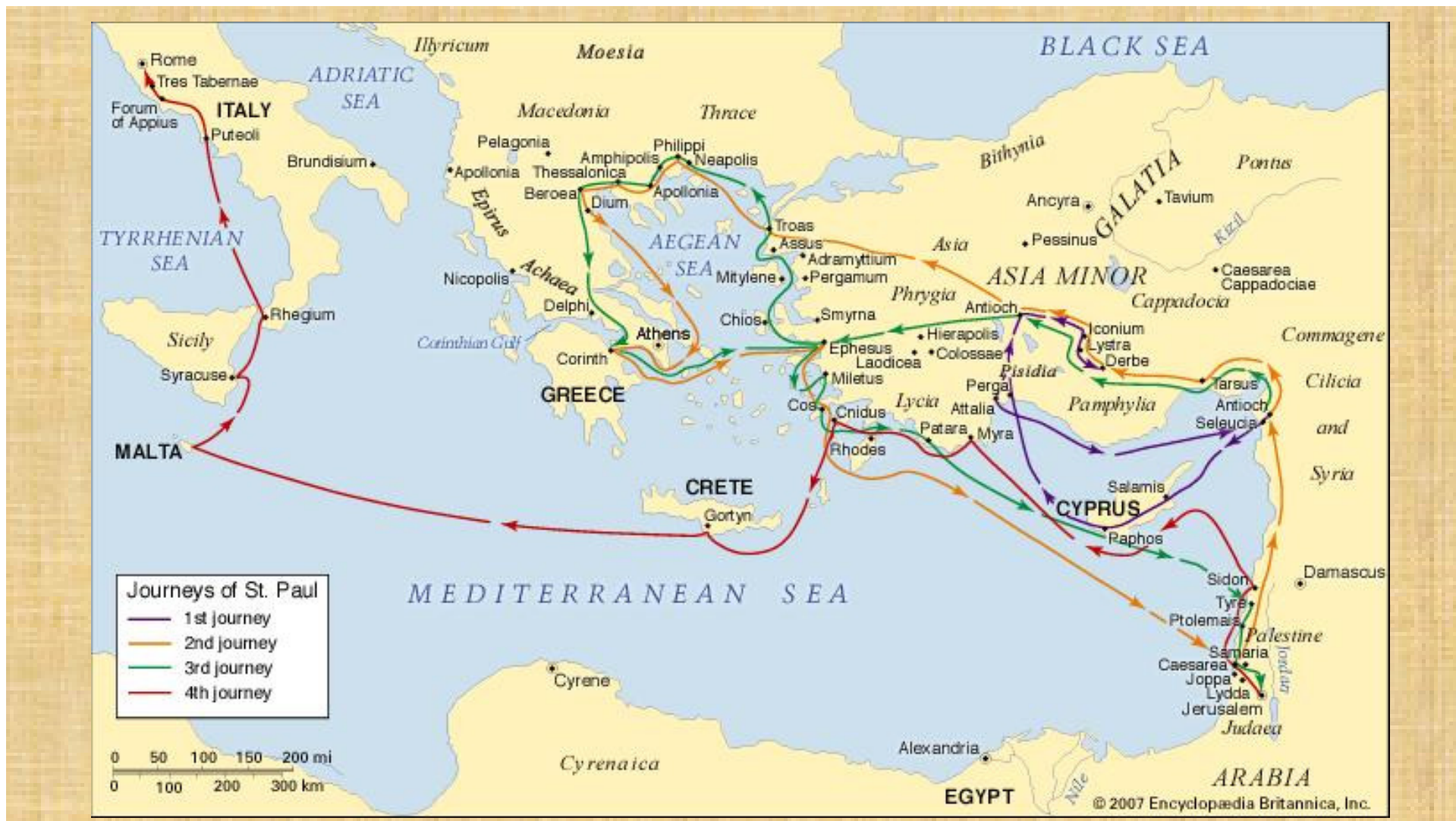
- **Ancient – 5 BC – AD 590**
 - Spread throughout empire
 - Old Catholic imperial church
 - Christian Roman empire
- **Medieval – AD 590-1517**
 - Holy Roman Empire
 - Supremacy of the Pope
 - Renaissance
- **Modern – AD 1517 – Present**
 - Reformation / Counter reformation
 - Enlightenment
 - Modern Missions
 - American Christianity

Influences on the Church

- **Rome**
 - Politics – Unity under universal law
 - Free movement – “Pax Romana”
 - System of roads
 - Persecution
- **Greeks**
 - Intellectual approach, movement away from polytheism, pantheism, animism
 - Plato, Aristotle – Logos (the expression of pure mind)
 - Desire to know truth
 - Common language – very precise and expressive
- **Jews**
 - Preservation of the Scriptures
 - Monotheism
 - System of ethics from divine law
 - Diaspora
 - Synagogue

The Birth of the Church

- **Pentecost** – first fruits
 - Acts 2:1-4
- **Early practices**
 - Acts 2:42-47
 - Acts 20, 1Cor 16
- **Organization**
 - Officers –
 - Deacons – Acts 6
 - Elders – 1Tim 3
 - Overseers (Bishops) Titus 1
 - Ordinances
 - The Lord's Supper Acts 20:7
 - Baptism Acts 2



Roman Persecution

- **Religio Licita**
- **Accusations** – Sexual perversity, drowning, cannibalism, secret meetings, atheism
- **Damage to pagan economy**
- **Nero** was the first to target Christians
 - Paul in 67
 - Peter in 68
- Picked up again in 81 under **Domitian** (Dominus et Deus)
 - John to Patmos

Roman Emperors

Augustus	27 BC- AD14	Jesus' birth
Tiberius	14-37	Jesus' ministry
Caligula	37-41	Cruel sadist, sexually perverted
Claudius	41-54	Persecuted Christians as Jews
Nero	54-68	Insane, blamed Christians for everything
Galba	68-69	} The year of the four Emperors
Otho	69	
Vitellius	69	
Vespasian	69-79	Quashed Jewish rebellion
Titus	79-81	General who Sacked Jerusalem
Domitian	81-96	"Bloodthirsty Beast", heavy persecution
Nerva	96-98	Lightened persecution, released John
Trajan	98-117	Developed policies on Christians