

EXTRA-BIBLICAL LITERATURE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – THE MEMPHIS CHURCH – WINTER/SPRING 2019

EBL – Schedule

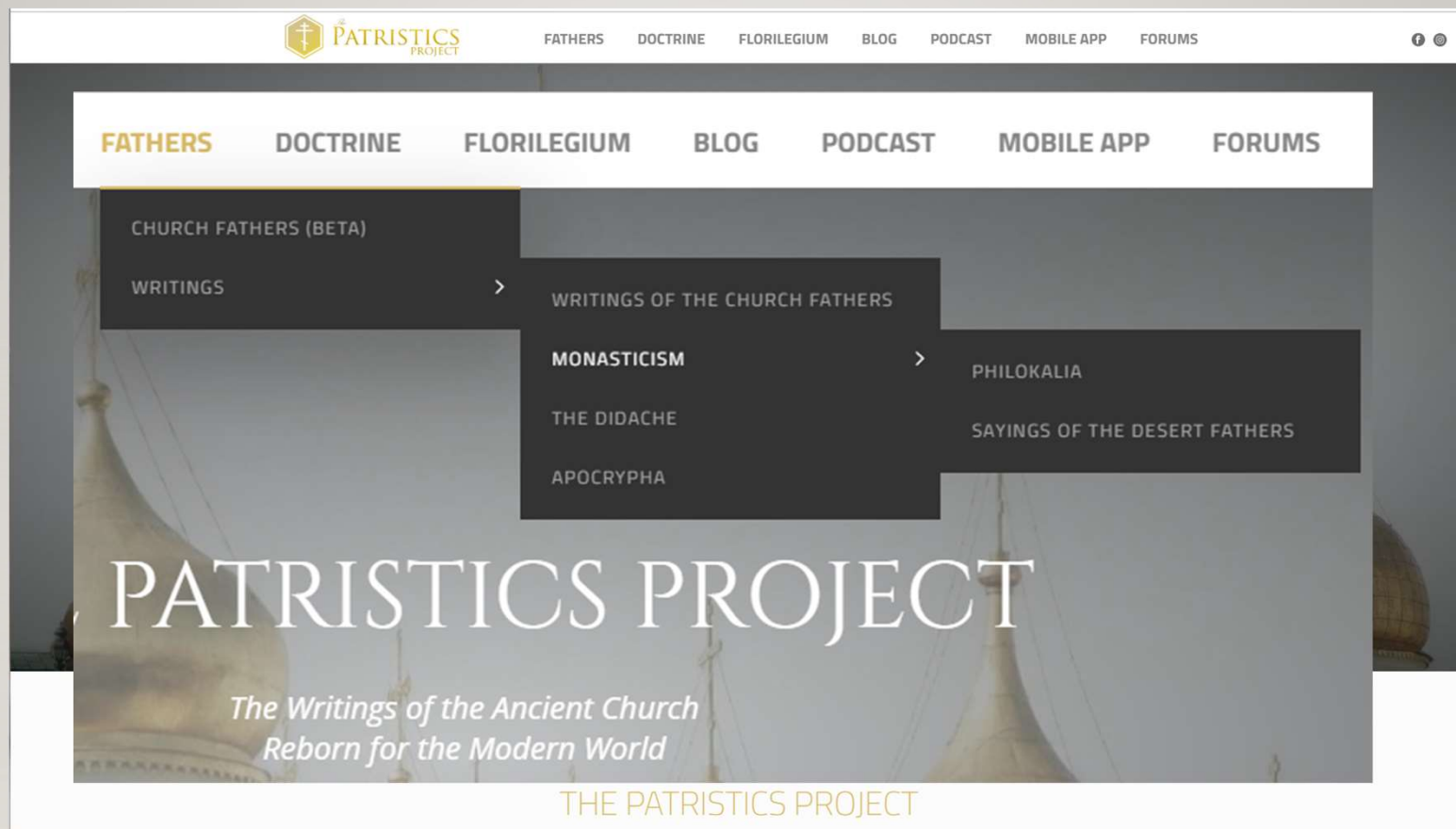
Extra Biblical Class (20 Weeks)

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17-Feb		Class 1 - Old Testament - Formation (42:26)
24-Feb	Douglas Jacoby	Class 2 - Old Testament - Apocrypha (25:03)
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12-May		2 Maccabees
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9-Jun		Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians / Martyrdom of Polycarp / Didache
16-Jun		Shepherd of Hermas
23-Jun		Wrap-up / Party

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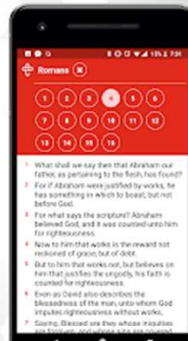
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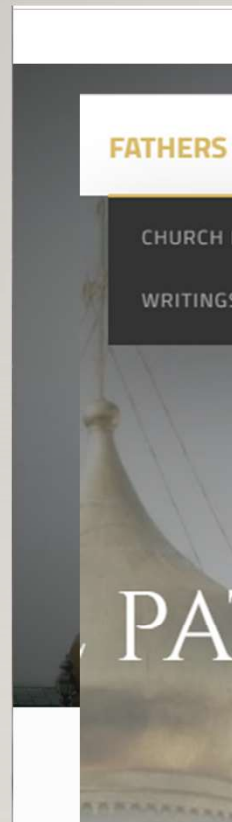
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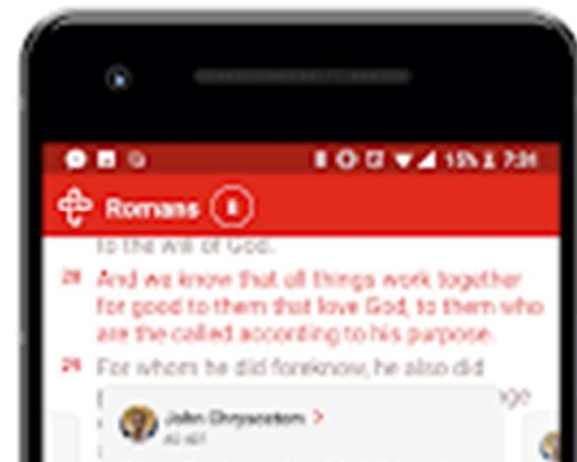
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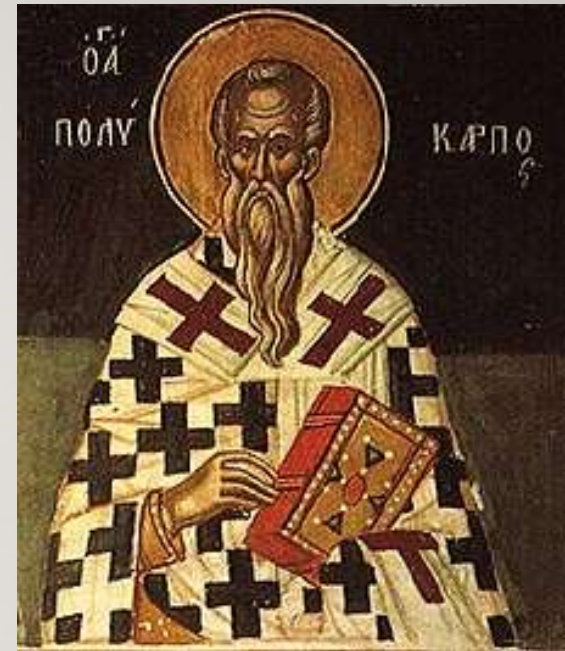
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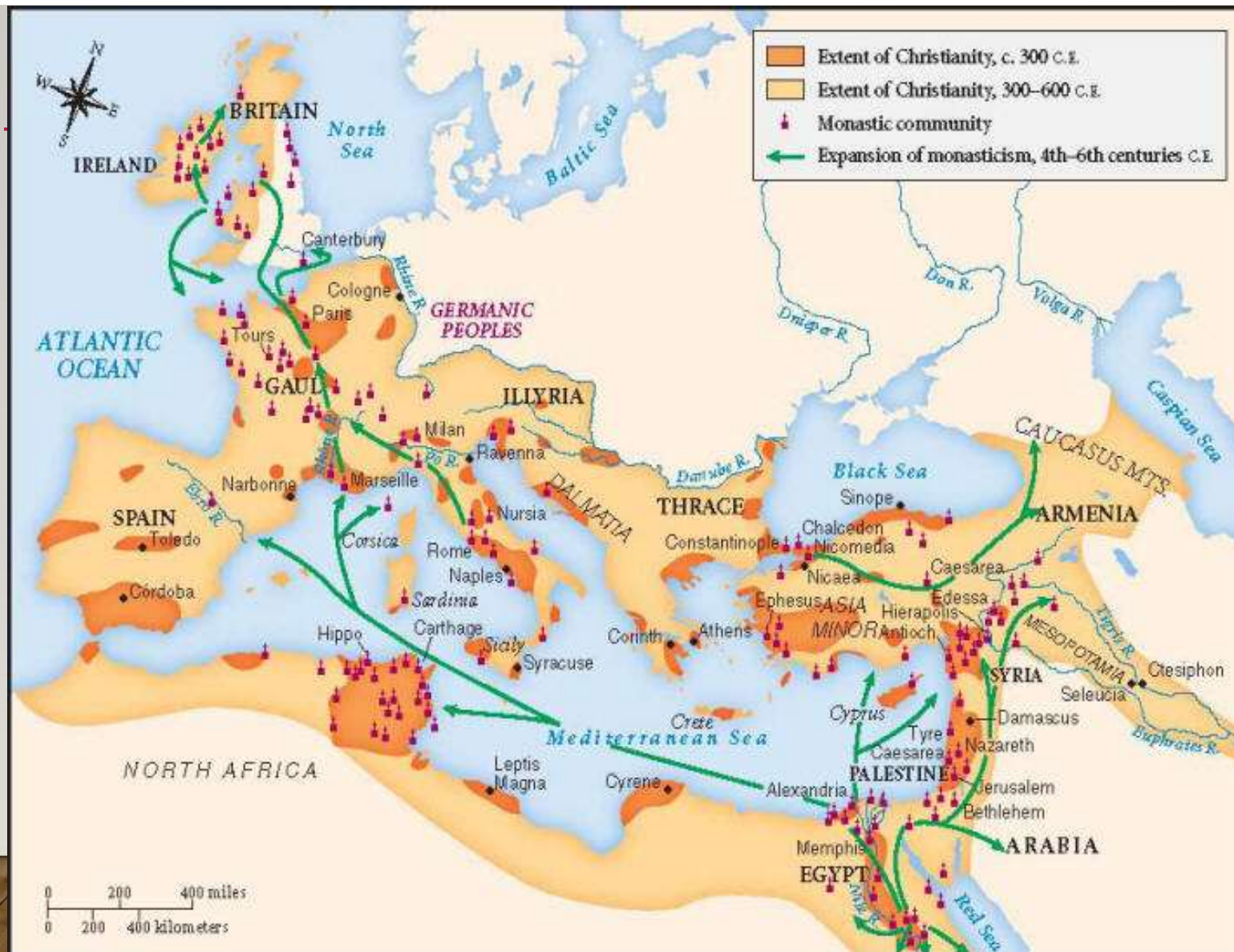


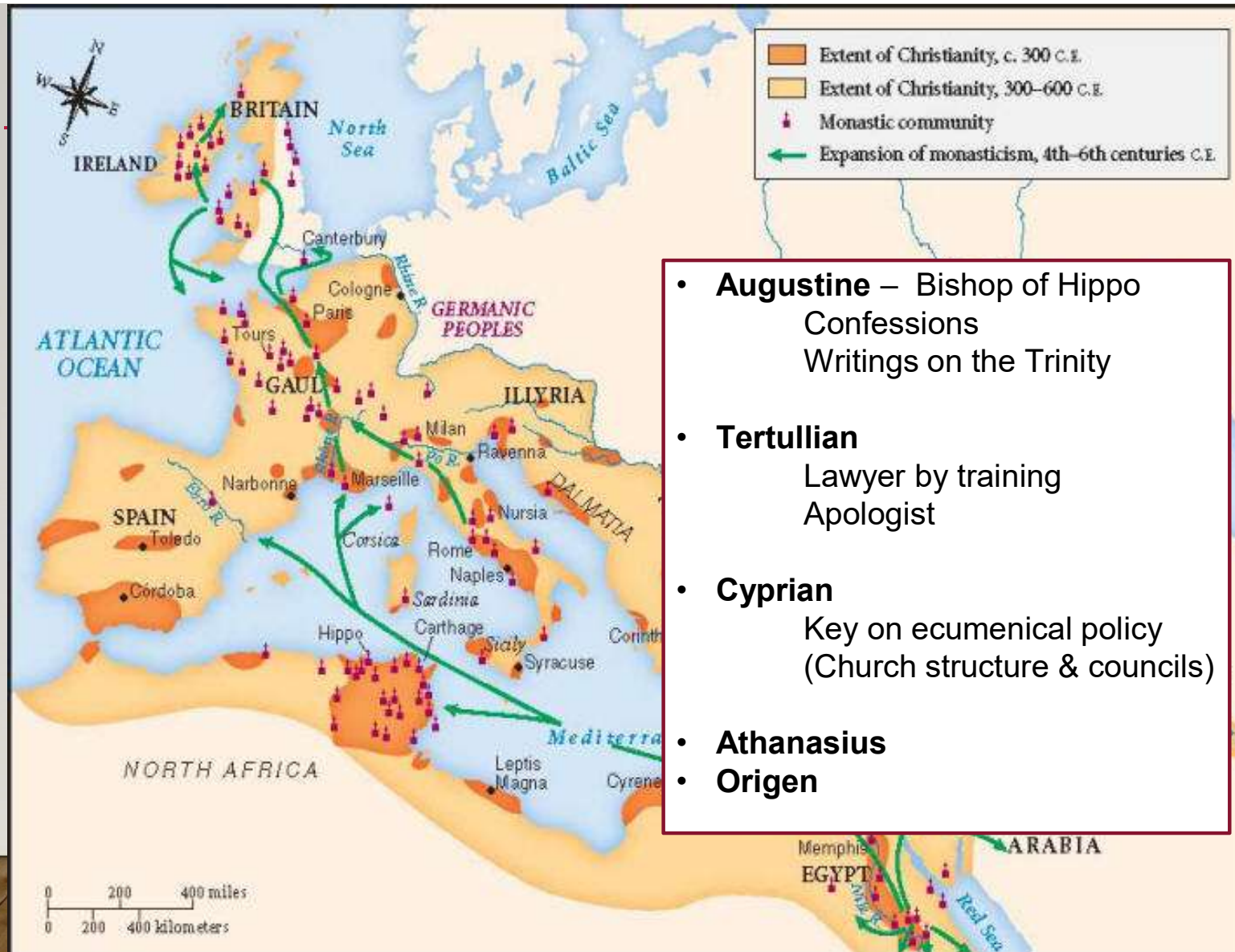
Who was Polycarp?

- Disciple of (and ordained by) the Apostle John
- 2nd –century bishop of Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey)



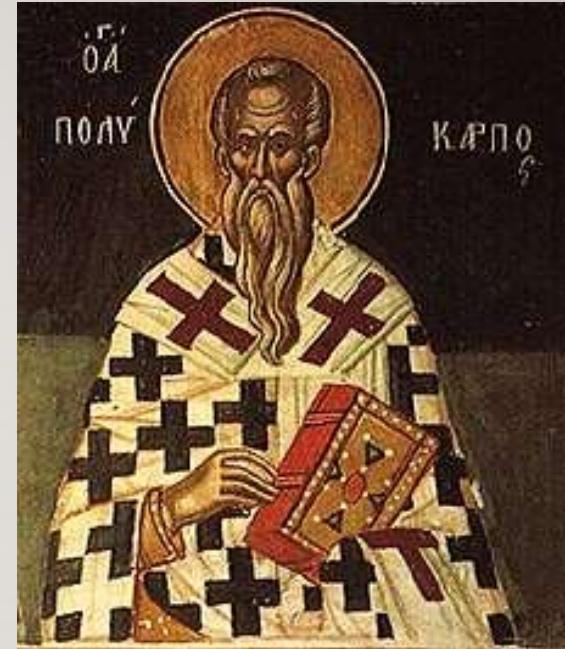






Who was Polycarp?

- Disciple of (and ordained by) the Apostle John
- 2nd –century bishop of Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey)
- Sole surviving work '*Letter to the Philippians*'
- Regarded as one of three 'Chief Apostolic Fathers' (with St. Clement of Rome and St. Ignatius of Antioch)
- AD 69-155 (86 years-*ish*)



Who was Polycarp?

- Spanned a time between the end of the apostolic era and the emergence of catholic Christianity
- Opposition to Gnostic movement (particularly Marcion, charismatic teacher)
- Development of the monepiscopal form of ecclesiastical organization
- The formation of the canon of the New testament



Polycarp – Letter to the Philippians

- A complex hortatory (*aiming to exhort*) letter that:
 1. Combines common letter types (encouragement, advice, and admonition)
 2. Response to the Philippian's request for a discussion on Righteousness
 3. The problem of Valens (a money hungry leader)

Polycarp – Orthodoxy & Orthopraxy

- ***Orthodoxy*** – authorized or accepted theory, doctrine, or practice
- ***Orthopraxy*** – correct or moral conduct.

- *The Apostolic Fathers in English, Michael W. Holmes, 3rd Ed. 2006*

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1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV) - *Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

Polycarp – Orthodoxy & Orthopraxy

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- ***Orthopraxy*** – correct or moral conduct.

Polycarp believed that wrong behaviors were *prima facie* evidence of wrong beliefs, and that wrong beliefs inevitably produced wrong behaviors. **Further, wrong beliefs and behaviors are characteristic of outsiders, not insiders.**

Polycarp – Letter to the Philipians

4:1b – ...knowing, therefore, that we brought nothing into the world and cannot take anything out, let us arm ourselves with the weapons of righteousness, and let us first teach ourselves to follow the commandment of the Lord.

- Wives
- Deacons
- Young men
- Leaders
- False teachers



The Martyrdom of Polycarp

- Apparently written by eyewitnesses (15.1) not long after the event (18.1)
- The issue: Lord Christ vs. Lord Caesar (10.1)



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The Martyrdom of Polycarp

- Apparently written by eyewitnesses (15.1) not long after the event (18.1)
- The issue: Lord Christ vs. Lord Caesar (10.1)
- Set an example for next 150 yrs:
 - a matter of divine calling
 - concern for salvation of others
 - endurance in the midst of suffering



- *The Apostolic Fathers in English, Michael W. Holmes, 3rd Ed. 2006*

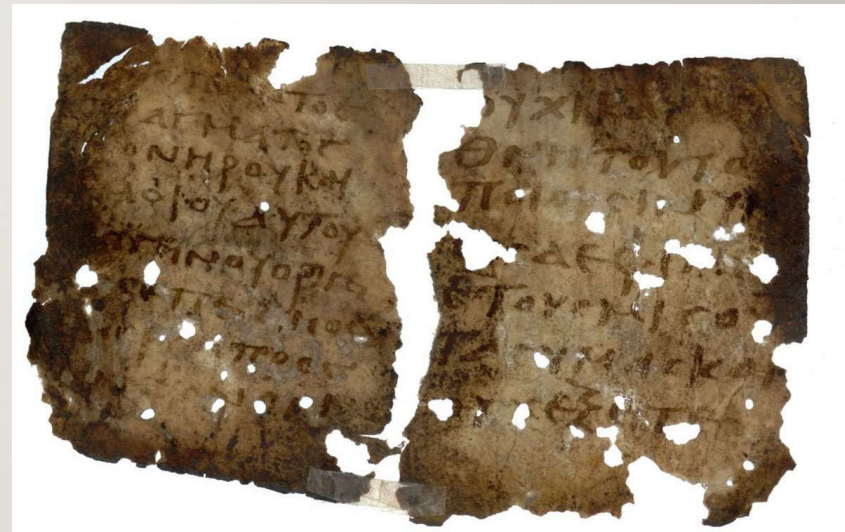
The Martyrdom of Polycarp

Read



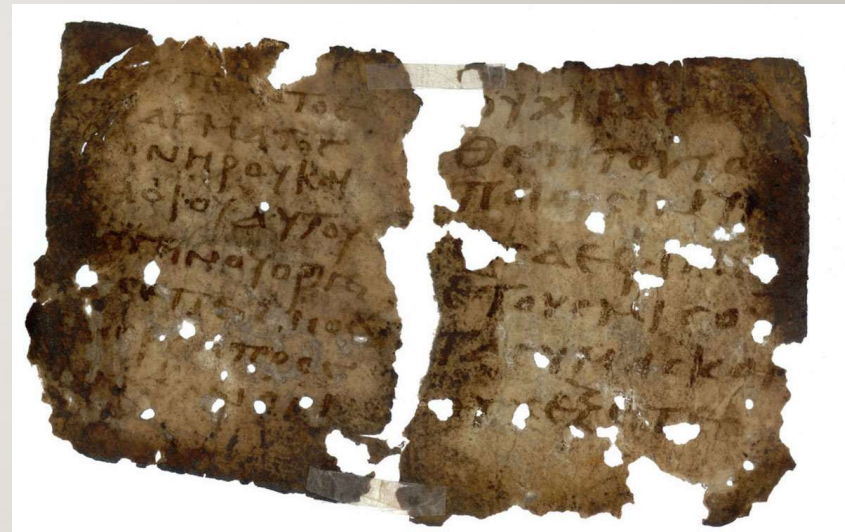
The Didache

- Alternate title: *The Teaching of the Lord to the Gentiles by the Twelve Apostles*
- No known copy to exist until **1873!**



The Didache

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- Three Sections
 - Two Way of Life & Death
(summary of basic instruction about the Christian life to be taught to those who were preparing for baptism and church membership)
 - Church practice & order
 - brief apocalyptic section



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The Didache

- The 'church order' section also bears evidence of change over time (e.g., compare 11.4 with 12.1, or note the intrusive character of 14.1-3)
- A remarkable wide range of dates has been proposed: before 50 AD to the third century or later



though a date at the end of the first century seems more probable

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Last Reading!