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CHURCH HISTORY MONTHLY

March 2021, Vol. 1, no. 3, Page 1/2

Timeline of Topics

--Early Church History
First century: What happened to the Original Apostles?

--Reformation

1501: Quote from Erasmus

--American Church History
Different forms of Communion

--Global Christianity
History of Jerusalem

How did the Original Apostles die?

We know that Jesus was crucified (from biblical accounts plus sources outside the Bible), but how did His Apostles meet their deaths? After Jesus was baptized, he picked twelve men to be his Apostles. While the New Testament does describe the actions of some of the Apostles after Jesus, it only tells of the deaths of two of the original Twelve Apostles. Who are these two? Judas Iscariot and James the Greater. Judas committed suicide and James was put to death by with a sword. So what happened to the rest? Sad to say, very little is known for certain. What we do have outside of the Bible is often sketchy and usually contradictory. Accounts of the lives of several of the Apostles were written in the 100s and even 200s, but that was 100 years or more after their deaths and so are not very reliable. What we do have is below.

==Peter: He was in Rome at the end of his life, where he died during the Nero persecution of Christians of AD 64 (probably on the same day as Paul; Peter was crucified upside down and Paul was beheaded).

==James the Greater: According to Acts 12:1-2, James was beheaded by the order of Herod Agrippa; this probably occurred in AD 44, fourteen years after Jesus ascended to heaven.

==John: He was placed on the island of Patmos by the Emperor Domitian c. 95. Domitian died the next year, and John most likely traveled to Ephesus, which had a large Christian community, and died c. 100. In the last years of his life he was reported as repeating the same saying over and over: "Little children, love one another."

==Andrew: He died north of Israel, even as far as Istanbul. Most traditions stated that Andrew was crucified, although not nailed to a cross but tied to prolong his suffering.

==Philip: All we have is a highly doubted account stating he was crucified in Asia.

==Bartholomew and Nathaniel are probably the same person. Numerous, conflicting accounts place him in India, Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt, and along the Black Sea. One states he was beheaded and another he was flayed alive (skinned) and then crucified head downward.

==Thomas: He traveled to India in AD 52. He preached in India for the rest of life. One account states that he was martyred by being pierced through with spears by four soldiers.

==Matthew: Different accounts place him in different locations, but most agree that he ended up in Ethiopia. Some say he died a natural death, while others suggest being burned at a stake, stoned, or beheaded.

==James: Known as James the Lesser to distinguish him from James, the brother of John. We only have sketchy accounts that Jews killed him.

==Thaddeus: According to questionable accounts, he preached in Persia and was martyred there.

==Simon: His death has divergent traditions, in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the Roman Empire. So, basically, nothing is known.



Be so convinced of the existence of spiritual things that those things that are seen become but mere shadows, which, while present to the eye, are only an illusion of invisible realities Let us begin to live the interior life all the more sincerely as we live less exteriorly. To sum it all up in simple language, temporary things should less influence us as we come to know more fully things that are eternal, and we should have less esteem for physical things as we begin to raise our thoughts to those that are real. Erasmus, 1501



Why do Christians do that? Different ways to baptize

Looking at the many churches today, how many different ways of baptizing do you think there are? These are the ways I have run across:

==Sprinkling. Practiced by Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and others.

==Pouring (affusion). Practiced by Amish and Mennonites. Actually, once Anabaptists changed from baptizing infants to adults the 1500s, the preferred method was pouring until the early 1600s when some changed their name to Baptist and switched to immersion.

==Immersion. But wait, there are two different ways to immerse: most churches that immerse do so with a pastor leaning a person back into the water (Baptist, Pentecostal/Charismatic, Disciples of Christ, and others), but the Church of the Brethren baptizes by the person going face-forward three times (to imitate bowing to the Trinity). Also, some Greek Orthodox churches baptize infants by immersing them three times.

==None. Two denominations do not practice a physical baptism: The Salvation Army and Friends (aka Quakers). (They also do not practice physical communion.) Instead, they both believe that Christians do not need a physical ritual to bring them closer to God.

Upcoming class:
5-week Church History Overview
Start: Apr 26

Questions, comments, or suggestions
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Brief complete history of Jerusalem

=1950 BC: First mention of Jerusalem: In Genesis 14:18, the king of Salem (probably Jerusalem) met Abraham.
 ==1800s BC: The city of "Rusalimum" is mentioned in Egyptian texts.
 ==1300s BC: The city of "Urusalim" is mentioned in letters to Egypt (Amarna Letters).
 ==1000 BC: King David conquered Jerusalem and made it his capital (II Samuel 5:6,7).
 ==Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem.
 ==After Solomon, the kingdom split, with Jerusalem going to the southern kingdom of Judah.
 ==586 BC: Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem, took many Jews back to Babylonia, and destroyed the Temple.
 ==539 BC: Cyrus, the Persian King, defeated the Babylonians and declared that Jews could return to Jerusalem. Many Jews returned and rebuilt the Temple plus the wall around Jerusalem.
 ==332 BC: Alexander the Great defeated the Persians and gained control of Jerusalem.
 Upon his death, in 323 BC, Egyptians gained Jerusalem.
 ==198 BC: Control of Jerusalem switched to the Syrian Seleucids.
 ==169 BC: The Seleucid King, Antiochus IV, sought to destroy the Jewish faith. The Jews revolted and re-established the Jewish kingdom with Jerusalem as its capital.
 ==63 BC: Roman General Pompey conquered Jerusalem. The Jews were allowed to remain in Jerusalem but under Roman occupation.
 ==AD 66: The Jews revolted against the Romans and regained Jerusalem and their kingdom.
 ==70: The Romans recaptured Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple (which has not been rebuilt).
 ==132, 135: The Jews revolted again and regained Jerusalem and their kingdom. The Romans recaptured Jerusalem and forced the Jews to leave the city. Eventually, Jews returned.
 ==614: Persians gained control of Jerusalem.
 ==629: Byzantines captured Jerusalem.
 ==638 (six years after Muhammad's death): the Muslim leader Omar entered Jerusalem, and the city became Muslim.
 ==1099: The Christian Crusaders from Europe captured Jerusalem.
 ==1187: The Muslim general Saladin captured Jerusalem.
 ==1192: Richard the Lion-Hearted attempted to capture Jerusalem, but failed.
 ==1275: Marco Polo stopped by on his way to China.
 ==1517: The Ottomans (Muslim) gained control of Jerusalem.
 ==1917: The British gained control of Jerusalem.
 ==1947: The United Nations recommended partitioning Israel between the Jews and the Palestinian Muslims.
 ==On May 14, 1948, Israel became a nation.
 ==On May 14, 1948 (the same day), the surrounding Muslim nations attacked Israel; Israel defeated them and gained additional territory.
 ==In April 1949 Israel and Transjordan agreed to divide Jerusalem. The western part of Jerusalem became the official capital of Israel on Dec 13, 1949.
 ==On June 5, 1967, Jordan (former Transjordan) shelled the Jewish part of Jerusalem.
 On June 7, 1967, the Jews captured the Jordan part of Jerusalem.
 ==And the Jews have controlled Jerusalem ever since, except for the area around the Dome of the Rock.