



CHRISTIAN HISTORY 101

AN 8-WEEK STUDY BEGINNING
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Beginning Wednesday, February 1, Ronnie will be leading an 8-week study entitled, “Christian History 101.” It will cover early New Testament history through the Reformation, and will be discussion and question/answer based.

No advanced registration is required, just show up. Sessions begin at noon at A Simple Faith, and feel free to bring a snack or lunch along.

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| February 1: | Returning to our Roots (Historical Context of the New Testament) |
| February 8: | Patristics and Professions (Establishing Orthodoxy and Order) |
| February 15: | The Rise of Rome (Constantine, Empire, and Early Catholicism) |
| February 22: | The Muddy Middle (Medieval Christianity, Papal Power, East vs West) |
| March 1: | Out of Arabia (The Emerging Islamic Faith) |
| March 8: | Tuez les tous! (The Crusades and their Continuing Aftermath) |
| March 15: | NO MEETING |
| March 22: | “Here I Stand! I Can Do No Other!” (Luther and the Reformation) |
| March 29: | Back to the Future (Western Christianity Today) |

CHRISTIAN HISTORY 101

SESSION ONE: Returning to our Roots

- The Historical Context of the New Testament
- Maccabean Revolt to the Emperor Hadrian
- Time period includes circa 165 BC to 135 AD, or 300 years
- Significant characters: Antiochus; the Maccabees; Augustus; Herod; Jesus; Peter; Paul; Nero; and Domitian.

ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES: Greek ruler of the Seleucian Empire (175-164 BC), dominating Persia and what is now the Middle East, Afghanistan, and parts of Pakistan. “Epiphanes” means “God appearing.” Antagonist of the Maccabean War of Independence.

THE MACCABEES: Mattathias Hasmonean with his son Judah led the revolt against Antiochus. “Maccabee” means “hammer,” denoting their fierce fighting style. The family ruled as kings of Israel until the Roman conquest of 63 BC. Afterwards they usurped the position of the High Priest, becoming Sadducees.

HEROD THE GREAT: Appointed Tetrarch over Judea by Rome, ruling as a “king” from 37 BC to his death in 3-4 BC. Herod married a descendant of the Hasmoneans/ Maccabees in an effort to gain royal credibility. Was in power at the birth of Jesus.

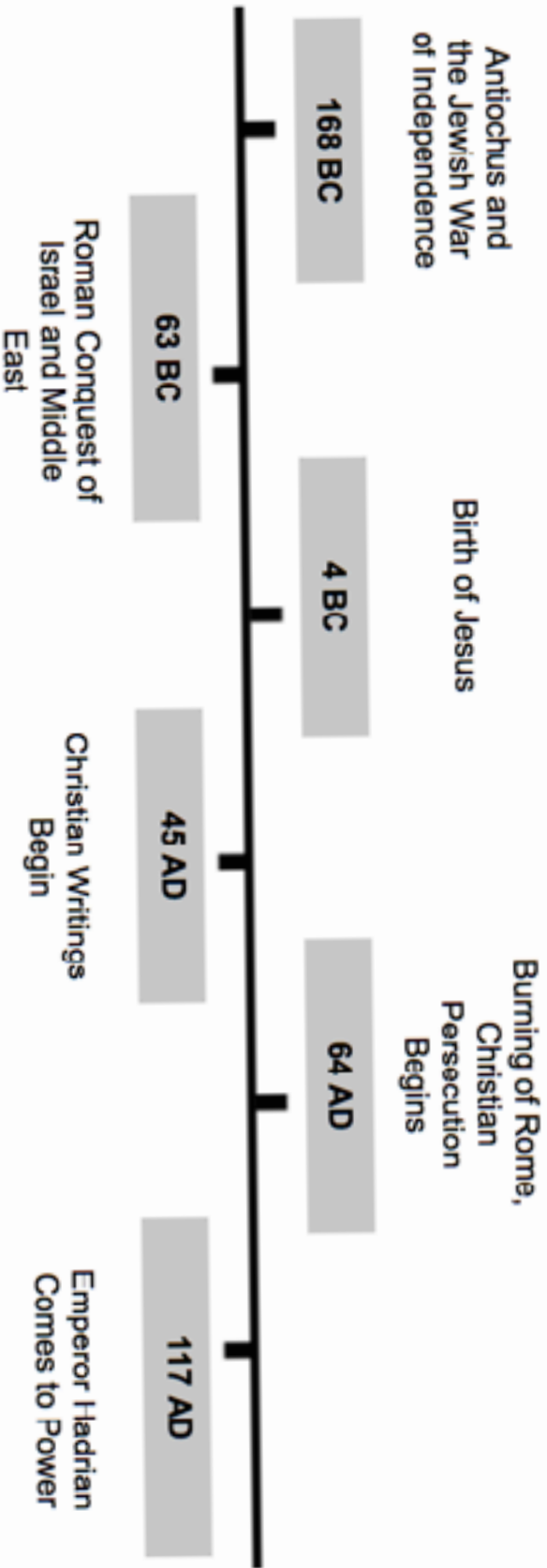
AUGUSTUS: First Roman Emperor, ruling from 27 BC until his death in 14 AD. Adopted son of Julius Caesar. Emperor at the birth of Jesus taking the imperial titles, “Son of Most High,” “Savior of the World,” and “He who would bring peace” (*Pax Romana*).

SIMON PETER: Jesus’ chosen leader of the original disciples, born circa 1 AD. Strong early tradition makes him a cofounder of the church in Rome. He was executed under the persecutions of Nero, circa 67 AD.

PAUL (SAUL) OF TARSUS: Jewish scholar born circa 5 AD. He was a converted Pharisee, becoming a Christian circa 36 AD. He would become the most influential Christian in early history, if not for all of history, as a writer, church planter, and missionary. He was executed by command of Nero in 64-65 AD.

EMPERORS OF THE PERSECUTION: These include the Roman rulers Nero (54-68 AD); Vespasian (69-79 AD); Titus (79-81 AD); and Domitian (81-96 AD) - who appears to be the major opponent in the book of Revelation.

THE “FIVE GOOD EMPERORS”: Five successive rulers of the Roman Empire who ruled as unrivaled dictators, but whose policies were less antagonistic toward Christianity and its leaders. These five include Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius (total time period from 96-180).



NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS BY CHRONOLOGY

BIBLICAL BOOK	ESTIMATED DATE OF WRITING	WRITER	TRADITIONAL STATUS
JAMES	40s	James, Brother of Jesus	Disputed*
1 THESSALONIANS	50s	The Apostle Paul	Undisputed
2 THESSALONIANS	50s	The Apostle Paul	Disputed
GALATIANS	50s	The Apostle Paul	Undisputed
1 CORINTHIANS	50s	The Apostle Paul	Undisputed
2 CORINTHIANS**	50s	The Apostle Paul	Undisputed
PHILEMON	50s	The Apostle Paul	Undisputed
PHILIPPIANS	50s	The Apostle Paul	Undisputed
ROMANS	50s	The Apostle Paul	Undisputed
MARK	60s	John Mark	Undisputed
COLOSSIANS	60s	The Apostle Paul	Generally Accepted
EPHESIANS	60s	The Apostle Paul	Generally Accepted
MATTHEW	60s	Matthew the Disciple	Undisputed
LUKE	60s	Luke the Physician	Undisputed
ACTS	60s	Luke the Physician	Undisputed
1 TIMOTHY	60s	The Apostle Paul	Generally Accepted
TITUS	60s	The Apostle Paul	Generally Accepted
1 PETER	60s	The Apostle Peter	Generally Accepted
2 PETER	60s	The Apostle Peter	Disputed
2 TIMOTHY	60s	The Apostle Paul	Disputed
HEBREWS	70s-100	Anonymous	Disputed
JUDE	70s-100	Jude, Brother of Jesus	Disputed
JOHN	70s-100	John the Disciple	Generally Accepted
1 JOHN	70s-100	John the Disciple	Undisputed
2 JOHN	70s-100	John the Disciple	Disputed
3 JOHN	70s-100	John the Disciple	Disputed
REVELATION	70s-100	John the Disciple	Generally Accepted
*Disputed books may be related to authorship or to content			
**Paul had multiple communications with the Corinthians			