

The History of Christianity

(taken from Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity)

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Introduction: The Christian Centuries, Part 2

(excerpts from Robert D. Linder's introduction)

Resurrection faith. The key to understanding the growth of the early Christian movement is the stimulus of the resurrection of Christ. They were convinced that their master had conquered death and had appeared to many of them in person. Only this resurrection faith explains how the small, motley, demoralized group which Jesus left on earth after his reported ascension could have developed the enthusiasm to sweep all obstacles before them in their bold world-wide mission.

But as Christianity expanded, so did the possibilities for deviations from the faith. In order to refute the claims of Gnosticism, Marionism and Montanism, the Christian leaders of the second and third centuries attempted to set down exactly what it was that Jesus and the apostles taught. By tracing leaders who were connected back to the apostles, a line of pastors, bishops, elders and teachers, eventually referred to as 'Church Fathers,' they began to decide which of the writings then circulating were genuinely apostolic. These documents were collected together as an authority, and the New Testament canon was formulated and generally accepted.



Tertullian,
c. 150-c. 220 AD

One other vital element in the growth of early Christianity was persecution and martyrdom. Nero made Christians the scapegoat for the burning of Rome, and empire-wide persecutions in the third and early fourth centuries had untold numbers of Christians who died heroically for their faith. So impressive were the many who died gladly for Christ that they were more than replaced by fresh converts. The Christian writer Tertullian observed: "The blood of the martyrs is seed."

"Joab, Abel, famine, giants"

2 Samuel 20 & 21

June 15, 2025

Hartford Bible Church

Dan Hummel 2024-2025 Series "David & the 5 T's"

Sections

19:41-20:2 Nation divides.

Judges 11:3

20:3

10 women

20:4-13

Amasa and Joab

1 Kings 2:32-33

20:14-22

Wise Abel

20:23-26

Administration

21:1-9

Gibeonite atonement

21:10-14

Rizpah and burial

21:15-17

David's last battle

21:18-22

Four giants