



A Survey Of Christianity's Progress Since The First Coming of Christ

KEY QUESTION: Why did God choose conflict as the environment for advancing His kingdom?

What does the *Mustard Seed Parable* predict (Mat. 13.31,32)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Satan's Agenda:

God's Agenda:

Ten Callings for the Subjects of God's Kingdom

1 EMBRACE *Truth*

John 18.37: Versus convenience

2 EMBRACE *Faith*

Philippians 3.3: Versus naturalism

3 EMBRACE *Humility*

Philippians 3.12: Versus complacency

4 EMBRACE *Unity*

Romans 12.16: Versus false security

5 EMBRACE *Purity*

2 Corinthians 6.17: Versus syncretism

6 EMBRACE *Participation*

1 Peter 4.10: Versus restlessness

7 EMBRACE *Discernment*

Matthew 10.16: Versus irresponsibility

8 EMBRACE *Accountability*

Ephesians 5.21: Versus independence

9 EMBRACE

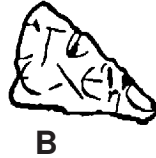
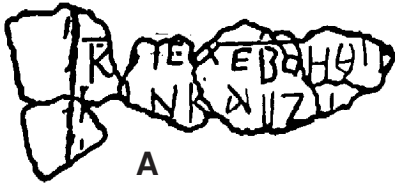
John 12.24,25: Versus unfruitfulness

10 EMBRACE

Acts 14.22: Versus accommodation.

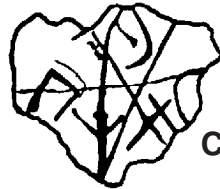
How do we know that the things recorded in the gospels and Acts really happened?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Match these three inscriptions from Peter's House to their readings below:

- "Petrus"
- "Christ have mercy"
- "O Lord Jesus Christ, help..."



Flavius Josephus
Antiquities of the Jews

18.3.3. Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

Early Christian Symbols — For each of the symbols below, write down whether it originated BC or AD, and also record its meaning for early Christians:



What resulted when these men embraced conflict?

- Peter
- Paul
- Polycarp (d. AD 155)

Responses to the Key Question:



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**The Mustard
Seed Story**
A BC to AD Course
By Timothy Ministries

Work Sheet 1B

7 Compelling Facts About The First Christians

A Survey Of Christianity's Progress Since The First Coming of Christ

The First Christians:

1.

A. Multi-ethnic Citizens

B. Sojourners (1 Pet 1.1,17; 2.11)

(see the 5 accusations on p. A-5)

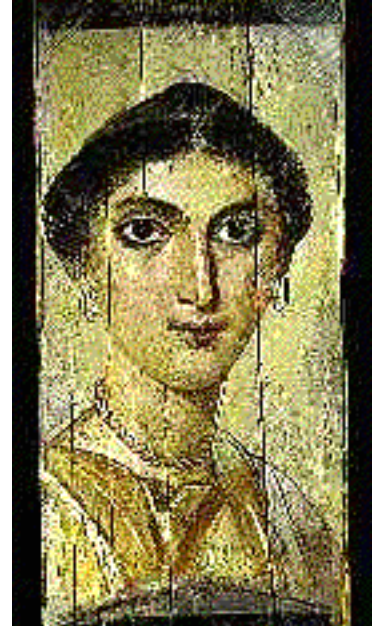
2.

A. Over Themselves

They depended upon hearing from God by Scripture, counsel (Acts 15.28), and by corroborated revelation (Acts 16.10).

B. Over All Creation

The obeyed God before man, stood against heresy (like Gnosticism) and decided on the basis of rightness rather than feasibility (Acts 13.3).



A Roman Egyptian woman of the 2nd Century

THE MANNERS OF THE CHRISTIANS

For the Christians are distinguished from other men neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which they observe. For they neither inhabit cities of their own, nor employ a peculiar form of speech, nor lead a life which is marked out by any singularity. The course of conduct which they follow has not been devised by any speculation or deliberation of inquisitive men; nor do they, like some, proclaim themselves the advocates of any merely human doctrines. But, inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities, according as the lot of each of them has determined, and following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life. They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others, and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all [others];

they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men, and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death, and restored to life. They are poor, yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things, and yet abound in all; they are dishonored, and yet in their very dishonor are glorified. They are evil spoken of, and yet are justified; they are reviled, and bless; they are insulted, and repay the insult with honor; they do good, yet are punished as evil-doers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life; they are assailed by the Jews as foreigners, and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred. —Epistle to Diognetus, ch. 5 (Early 3rd Century)

The First Christians:

3.

A. Understood the Human-Divine Partnership

B. Obeyed God Creatively

C. Applied Common Sense (Didache 11)

4.

A. The Word & The Prayers

B. The Eucharist & The Offerings

5.

A. The Corporate Temple (1Cor 3.9-17; 2Cor 6.16)

B. Relational Evangelism

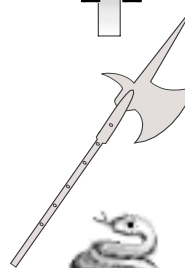
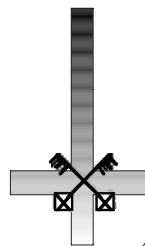
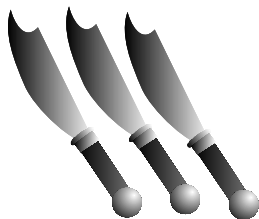
6.

They fellowshipped with *the city church* rather than with *a church* competing among others in the city. They recognized their leaders for sacrifices made for the good of the city.

7.

(see The Passion of Perpetua in section D)

Write the apostle's name by his symbol, along with the symbol's significance:





A Survey Of Christianity's Progress Since The First Coming of Christ

How God Prepared The Way

- A.
- B.
- C.

KEY QUESTION: How did Christianity, in only three centuries, succeed in spreading throughout the entire known world?

Why Christianity *should not* have succeeded:

1. Doctrines opposed to selfish nature

- A.
- B.

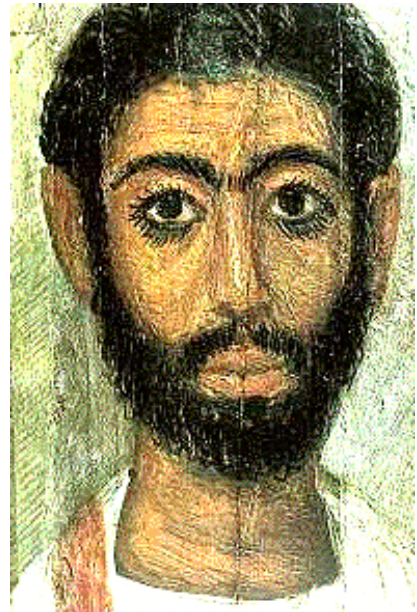
2. No political sanction

3. No military or economic compulsion

4. Misunderstood practices

Resulted in these accusations against Christians:

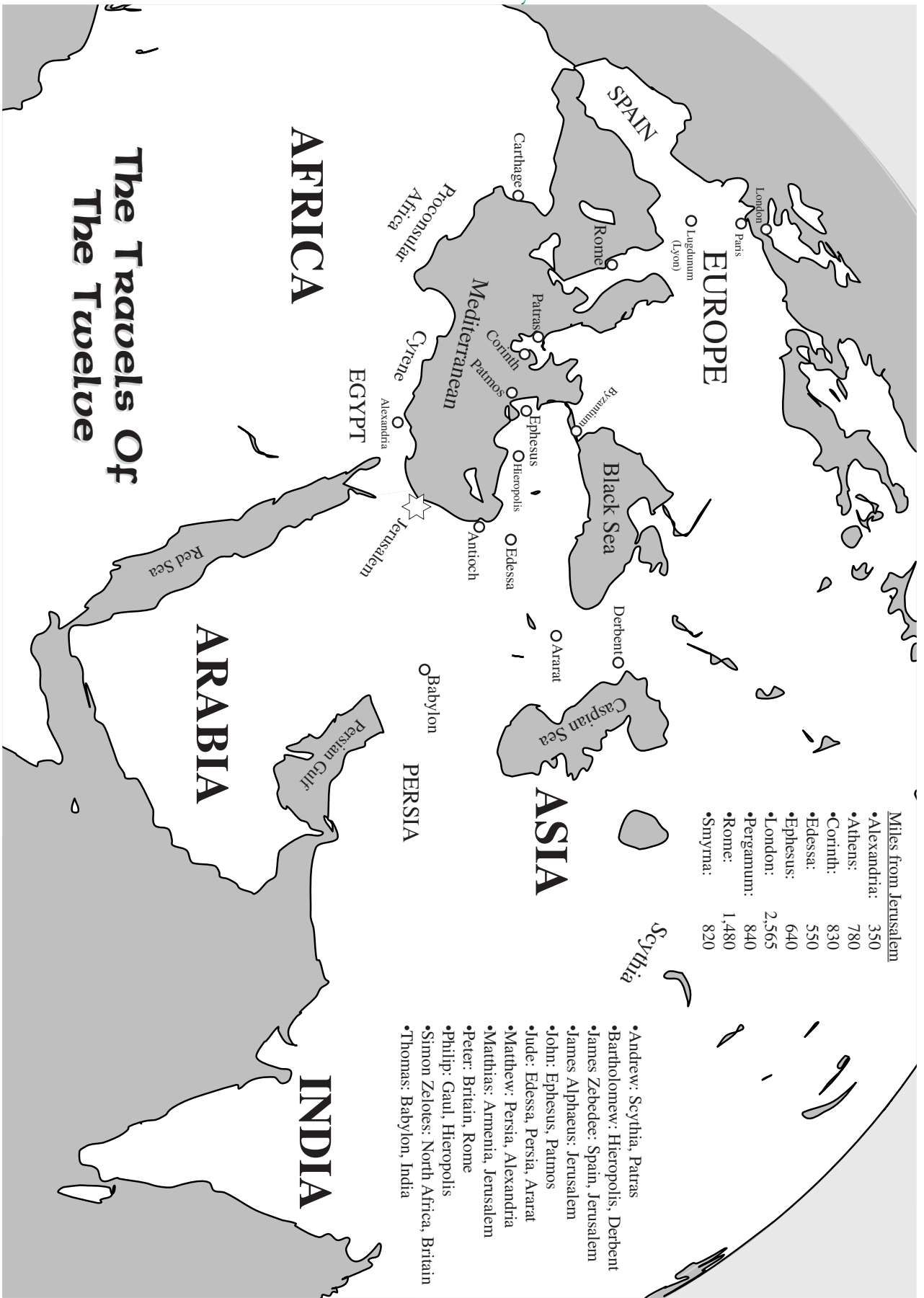
- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.



A Roman Egyptian man of the 2nd Century

Responses to the KEY Question:

The Travels Of The Twelve





Work Sheet 3

The Devil's Devices

A Survey Of Christianity's Progress Since The First Coming of Christ

List some primary tactics of all warfare:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

KEY QUESTION: How do Christians give Satan a tactical advantage?

What are the essential beliefs of Gnosticism?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

This is the coats of arms employed by The Ecclesia Gnostica.



This Gnostic Group has Parishes in:

- Los Angeles
- Portland
- Seattle
- Salt Lake City
- Oslo, Norway

Early sects with Gnostic elements:

Antinomians	Manichaeans
Carpocratians	Marcionites
Cerinthians	Phibionites
Docetists	Priscillianists

Gnostic Teaching in Their Own Words

...8.Salvific knowledge, or Gnosis, is not brought about by belief, or the performance of virtuous deeds, or by obedience to commandments, for these can at best but serve as preparatory circumstances leading toward liberating knowledge. 9.Among the helpers of the slumbering sparks a particular position of honor and importance belongs to a feminine emanation of the unity. The name of this emanation is Sophia (Wisdom). She was involved in the creation of the world and ever since remained the guide of her orphaned human children. 10.From the earliest times of history, messengers of light have been sent forth from the ultimate unity. The task of these messengers has ever been the advancement of Gnosis in the souls of humans. 11.The greatest of these messengers in our historical and geographical matrix was the descended Logos of God, manifesting in Jesus Christ. 12.Jesus exercised a twofold ministry: He was a teacher, imparting instruction concerning the way of Gnosis, and he was a hierophant, imparting mysteries. 13.The mysteries imparted by Jesus (which are also known as sacraments) are mighty aids toward Gnosis and have been entrusted by him to his apostles and to their successors. —From the statement of faith of *Ecclesia Gnostica*

What library is responsible for the current resurgence of Gnosticism?

What does the Gnostic Bible do for Christians?

“Jesus said, “Whoever is near me is near the fire, and whoever is far from me is far from the kingdom.” —Gospel of Thomas, 82.

Would we accept these sects as *Christian* today?

	Yes	Nope	Don't Know
Arians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donatists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Novationists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Montanists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How would you explain Colossians 1.15 to a Jehovah's Witness?

The Passion of Perpetua & Felicitas Syllabus, p. D-13

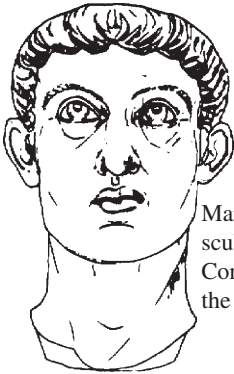
- What did Perpetua understand from her vision (ch. IV)?
- What emotion did Perpetua experience at her condemnation (ch. VI)?
- What did Saturus experience in his vision (ch. XI)?
- Who helped the saints kiss the One on the throne (ch. XII)?
- What did the bishops that Saturus saw need help with (ch. XIII)?**
- What happened to the governor of the prison (ch. XVI)?
- What did the martyrs call their persecutors to witness (ch. XVII)?
- What did the martyrs sign to the procurator (ch. XVIII)?
- What final prayer was answered for the martyrs (ch. XIX)?
- What were Perpetua's final words (ch. XX)?**
- What did Saturus do with the ring of Pudens (ch. XXI)?
- How did Perpetua help the young gladiator (ch. XXI)?



Responses to the Key Question:



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Marble
sculpture of
Constantine
the Great

KEY QUESTION:
With the "Conversion of Constantine,"
did Christianity conquer or was it conquered?

Review: Christianity Before Constantine

- Romans 10.9; Acts 11.26:
- Acts 2.41:
- Acts 2.42:
- Acts 2.46; Philemon 1.2:
- Acts 4.34,35:
- Acts 8.1:
- 1 Timothy 5.3; James 1.27:
- 1 Corinthians 14.26; 1 Peter 4.10:
- Luke 10.1; Acts 13.1,2; 15.2; 20.28:
- Acts 4.29,30:
- 1 John 4.2; 2 John 1.7:
- Epistle to Diognetus (p. B-3):

QUESTION: Were more
Christians martyred in the
1st century or in the 20th?

Responses to the Key Question:

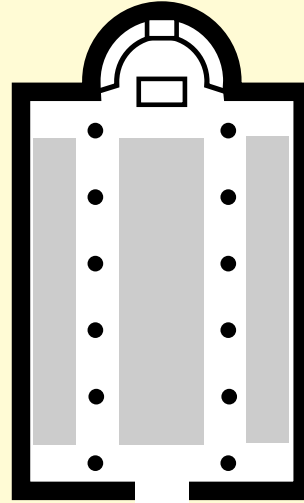
Christianity After Constantine

Constantine's "Conversion" gave Christianity new:

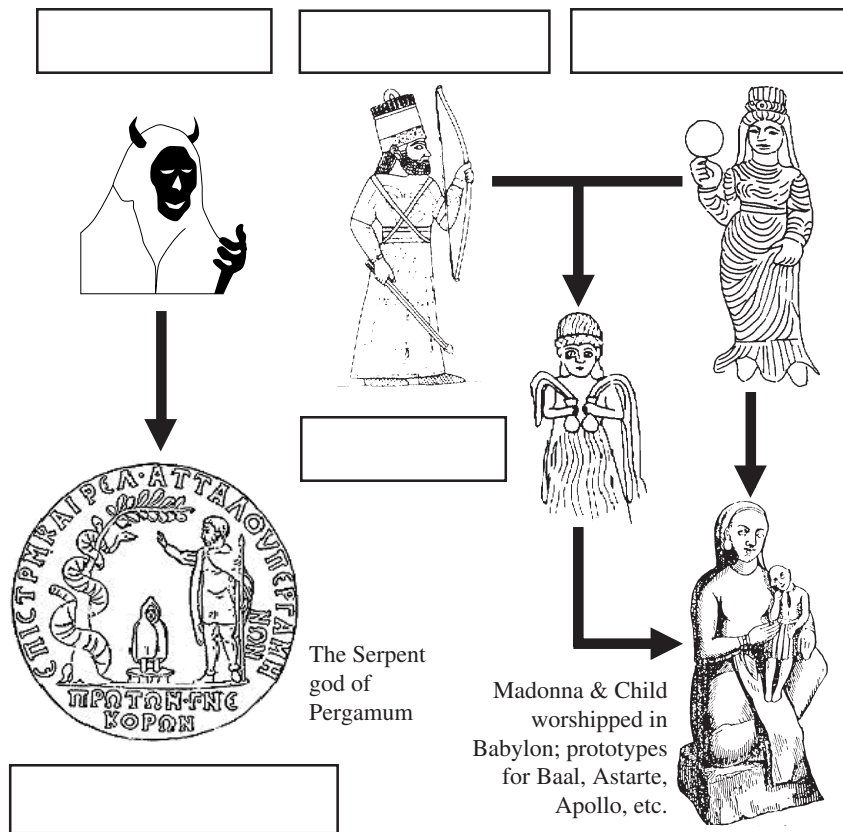
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

When Theodosius outlawed paganism, Christians in some places formed mobs and violently tore down pagan buildings and statues, engaging in bloody conflicts with the heathens that resisted the destruction of their property... Later, when no pagans remained to fight, Christians began to fight themselves. —R. Graciano, *The Death & Resurrection of the New Testament Church*.

THE BASILICA FLOOR PLAN



The Real Persons Behind the Pagan Gods



The Chaldean-Catholic Synthesis

- ✦ Pagan gods became _____.
- ✦ Pagan festivals became _____.
- ✦ Pagan rites became _____.
- ✦ Pagan rulers became _____.



A Survey Of Christianity's Progress



Name the famous relic represented in this sculpture:

X

Other Relics of the Dark Ages

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

KEY QUESTION:

There were many reasons why Rome fell; why did it *have to fall*?

The Amazing Roman Catacombs

The cumulative length of catacomb corridors is approximately:

- 6 miles 365 miles
- 77 miles 587 miles

The known catacombs number:

- 3 42
- 12 83

The known catacombs have up to how many levels?

- 5 12
- 7 21

The catacombs descend as far as:

- 20 ft. 49 ft.
- 33 ft. 80 ft.

The Bible generally does not concern itself with artifacts and their location or their preservation for posterity. (The one great exception is the artifacts from the Exodus—even they could be problematic, however, as demonstrated by the brass serpent that the Israelites were worshipping in the time of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18.4)). In contrast to the biblical attitude and contrary to its warnings, pagan cultures were apt to revere persons as gods and worship artifacts associated with those persons. This pagan veneration of objects seems to have bled over into the medieval craze for relics. Thanks to Catholic tradition, people believed that a visit to a relic, and an offering to the chapel in which it was housed, earned indulgences for the pilgrim. An indulgence was a transfer of spiritual credit from a departed saint (who had earned greater merit with God than he needed) to a living person who needed more points to escape a near-eternity in purgatory. For a deal like that who wouldn't want

SOME SAINTS IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CANON

Paganism had gods and goddesses who presided over every aspect of human life. Ceres was the goddess of cereals, Ops the goddess of wealth, Janus the god of doors and gates, etc. When Christianity absorbed paganism in the 4th century, the Church began to replace or sometimes rechristen these pagan gods. The result: Saints, real or mythical, to preside over every aspect of Roman Catholic life. There are 1,848 Roman Catholic saints, and there are more from Italy than from any other nation.

Match these saints with their titles:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. St. Albert | ___ Patron of Bankers |
| 2. St. Clare | ___ Patron of Beer drinkers |
| 3. St. Dymphna | ___ Patron of Bite of dogs |
| 4. St. Gregory | ___ Patron of Comedians |
| 5. St. Hubert | ___ Patron of Cooks |
| 6. St. Ives | ___ Patron of Doctors |
| 7. St. Lawrence | ___ Patron of Foot diseases |
| 8. St. Luke | ___ Patron of Insanity |
| 9. St. Martha | ___ Patron of Lawyers |
| 10. St. Matthew | ___ Patron of Poor |
| 11. St. Nicholas | ___ Patron of Scientists |
| 12. St. Victor | ___ Patron of Singers |
| 13. St. Vitus | ___ Patron of Television |



What is simony?

What does “the perfect” mean in 1 Corinthians 13.10?

What is the underlying problem that Roman Catholicism and Classic Pentecostalism have in common?

Signs of Deepening Darkness

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Response to the Key Question:



Work Sheet 6 Divine Revelations

A Survey Of Christianity's Progress Since The First Coming of Christ

An Arab of Muhammad's Time



KEY QUESTION:
 How can we know that any given revelation comes from God?

Who were the 5 great "Scourges of God"?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

See: 2 Kings 17.7,8

⚖ What important truth did the scribes misapply In Mark 3:22?

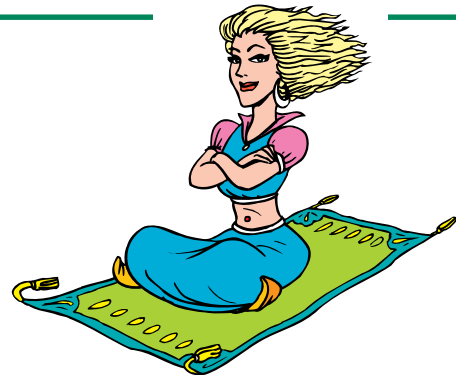
⚖ Who was Muhammad?

⚖ Where did Muhammad receive his first revelation?

⚖ Where did Joseph Smith receive the golden plates inscribed with the Book of Mormon?

⚖ What are the *six* Pillars of Islam?

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |



⚖ **Describe Muslim Paradise:**

⚖ **When God chastens us, how can we know what He wants changed?**

⚖ **What sparked the Iconoclastic Controversy?**

⚖ **Why was iconoclasm doomed to fail?**

⚖ **How did the rise of Islam parallel the trend of the Christianity of the time?**

⚖ **Where was Moses when He received the revelation of the Old Covenant?**

“It cannot be doubted that, as a matter of fact, the rise and reign of Mohammedanism has resulted in the infliction of a most terrible scourge upon the apostate churches in the East, and in other portions of Christendom; and...we cannot err...in referring the organ of chastisement to the will of the Most High.” — Rev. George Bush in *Life of Mohammed*

⚖ **What was the *Donation of Constantine*?**

⚖ **How did Christian martyrs differ from Muslim martyrs?**

Please see the article *Mountains of Evidence* at:
<http://www.tmin.org/pdfs/mountains.pdf>

Response to the Main Question: