

Hello. /We will begin the first lecture on “Church History.” /Today we will study “Church History.” /First, **the introduction.**

1. Defining Church History

/ “Church history” is the study of the origins and development of Christianity, the relationship between man and the world, and the history of salvation.

2. The Benefits of Studying Church History

/(1) The history of the church tells us that Christianity is God’s church. /(2) The things of the past **are** the mirrors of tomorrow. /(3) We are comforted and encouraged by the traces of the heroes of faith. /(4) We learn that Christianity is a source for the development of world civilization. /(5) Church history gives us refined, spiritual strength.

3. The Academic Position of Church History

/(1) Church history belongs to historical theology. /(2) History of doctrine, history of thought, history of the church, history of church politics, and history of Christian culture are included in church history. /(3) This study is a global study.

4. We can divide church history into different time periods

/First, we can divide it into ancient church history, medieval church history, and modern church history.

/(1) Ancient church history refers to the time from Jesus Christ to the accession of Gregory the Great to the throne.

/(2) Medieval church history is the time from the accession of Gregory the Great to the throne to the beginning of the Reformation.

/(3) Modern church history refers to the time from the Reformation to the present.

/(1) We divide ancient church history into three periods

/① The Apostolic Age. /The Apostolic Age is from 1 to around 100 AD. /It is the time when Jesus Christ was active to the end of the apostles’ activity.

/② The Post-Apostolic Age. /The Post-Apostolic Age is from 100 to 313 AD. /It is from the end of the Apostolic Age to when Constantine the Great officially approved of Christianity.

/③ The Age of the Councils of Nicaea. /This period is from when Christianity was officially approved to the time of the first Pope, Gregory the Great. /The period is from 313 to 590 AD.

/(2) We divide medieval church history into four periods.

/① The transition period. /The transition period is the period of transitioning from ancient church history to medieval church history. /This was a time when mission work was going well. /It is the time from the year 590 to 800.

/② The Age of the Growth of the Roman Church. /It is the period from 800 to 1073 AD. /It is the time up to the accession of Gregory VII to the throne.

/③ The Age of the Height of the Roman Church. /This is the period from 1073 to 1303 AD. /It is the time up to the death of Pope Boniface VIII.

/④ The Age of the Decline of the Roman Church. /This is from 1303 AD to 1517 AD. /In other words, it is the time up to the Reformation.

/(3) We divide modern church history into three periods.

/① The Age of the Reformation. /This period is from 1517 to 1648 AD. /It is from the beginning of the Reformation to the Treaty of Westphalia.

/② The Modern Age. /This is the period up to the French Revolution.

/③ The Recent Age. /It is the period from the year 1800 to the present.

/Up until now, we have covered the introduction.

Part 1: Ancient Church History

Chapter 1: The Apostolic Age /It is the period from the year 1 to 100 AD.

I. Characteristics of the Apostolic Age

/1. Christianity spread to various places. /It had reached the regions of Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome.

/2. The New Testament was written.

/3. Believers' lives were filled with spiritual power. /The apostles were martyred.

/4. Because of Paul's conversion and evangelism, Christianity developed into a world religion.

II. The Origins of Christianity

/1. Jesus Christ's incarnation. /Incarnation means Christ became human.

/2. The emergence of John the Baptist. /John the Baptist came six months before Jesus did, and he preached about Jesus.

/3. The ministry of Jesus Christ. /Jesus came to this world and evangelized, /carried the cross, resurrected, and ascended.

/4. Jesus trained his 12 disciples.

/5. The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.

/6. The mission and work of the Apostles.

/7. The organization of the early church-- 7 deacons were chosen.

/8. There was persecution by Judaism. /The church should disappear with persecution, but instead, believers were scattered, they spread the gospel, and the church grew more.

/9. Antioch Church was planted in a foreign region.

/III. The Relationship between Christianity and the Roman Empire

/1. The region expanded.

/a. The entire area surrounding the Mediterranean Sea was Roman territory. Roman territory became a place where the gospel of Christianity was spread. /b. Later, Christianity becomes the official religion of Rome. /c. As the center of culture, Rome stimulated the assimilation and unity of culture.

/2. Transportation was convenient.

/With Rome at the center, people could easily travel to different regions. /The gospel was able to spread because of this. /Convenient transportation allowed for missionary journeys, the delivery of documents, and personal exchange.

/3. There was a unified language. /Greek and Latin were commonly used, and this proved to be helpful in evangelism.

/4. A unified military system. /There was very strict military discipline. /For this reason, the people were guaranteed peace and order.

/5. The dispersion of the Jews. /As commerce developed, the church was persecuted. For this reason, Jews had to move to new cities. /They built synagogues wherever they went. /This proved to be useful for evangelism.

/6. The moral corruption of the Roman Empire was the main reason why people came to like Christianity. /Back in the time, buying and selling slaves was a prevalent practice. /They also had cruel and violent customs. /In other words, they had people fight with beasts. /Also, a father had the right to kill his children. /For these reasons, people came to like Christianity.

/7. The state of the other religions of the time. /During this period, it was common for people to worship evil spirits and the emperor. /Therefore, people came to like Christianity, a religion of life.

/8. There were philosophical ideas. /Stoicism emerged. /This philosophy is about abstinence. /Also, Epicureanism developed. /They advocated hedonism. /Furthermore, Platonism and Neo-Platonism emerged. /In addition to all this, Pantheism and Atheism caused many people to go astray.

IV. The Apostle Paul

/1. Paul's Life

/Paul was born in Cilicia Tarsus. /His family was from the pure line of Benjamin. /He was from a noble family, and thus had a lot of wealth. /He was a Jew with a Roman citizenship.

/Paul received a traditional Jewish family education. /Once he grew up a little, he went to study in Jerusalem. /Afterwards, Paul studied pharisaism under Gamaliel, teacher of the law. /He was Jewish, but he converted.

/He was travelling to Damascus to capture those who believed in Jesus. /On his way, he heard Jesus' voice and converted. /After his conversion, Paul went to Arabia and Cilicia to develop himself. /Lastly, Paul was martyred in Rome.

/2. His Missionary Journeys

/a. The First Missionary Journey. /The journey began in Antioch, and Barnabas accompanied Paul. /The destinations included Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. /Please refer to the map in your Bibles to locate the aforementioned places.

/b. The Council of Jerusalem. /The Council of Jerusalem gathered to discuss circumcision. /The Council concluded that "people are saved by faith, regardless of

whether they are circumcised or not.” /c. The Second and Third Missionary Journeys. /During his second missionary journey, Paul crossed Europe to evangelize Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth. /During his third missionary journey, Paul evangelized Macedonia, Greece and Ephesus.

/d. Paul goes to Rome. /The Jews in the temple accused Paul of blasphemy. /Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea for three years and was being transported to Rome when he was shipwrecked. /The ship was wrecked, but God delivered Paul’s life and gave him the opportunity to evangelize the people in Rome.

/3. Paul’s Theology. /Paul emphasized God’s sovereignty. /He stressed the idea of salvation by faith. /He bore witness about Christ’s death and resurrection.

V. Persecution by Emperor Nero and Emperor Domitian

/1. Emperor Nero’s Persecution. /Emperor Nero reigned over the Roman Empire from 54 to 68 AD. /The reason he came to persecute Christians is as follows.

/There was a great fire in the city of Rome. /Emperor Nero blamed Christians for starting the fire. /He executed Christians in the following ways. /He would feed Christians to fierce dogs and lions.

/He also crucified Christians. /Next, he would burn them to death. /The Apostles Paul and Peter were martyred at this time. /However, Emperor Nero lost the confidence of the people, and the Senate decided to abdicate him. /In 69 AD, Nero committed suicide.

/2. Emperor Domitian’s Persecution. /Emperor Domitian ruled over the Roman Empire from 81 to 96 AD. /He began persecuting Christians because he learned that Christians refused to worship the emperor.

/He said that the Christians’ crime was angering the other gods. /He used various methods to execute Christians. /First, he confiscated all their wealth. /He made them duel with beasts. /Lastly, he exiled famous Christians from the Roman Empire.

/The emperor’s cousin and many other believers were martyred. /Christians built catacombs and hid there. /In order to avoid persecution, they dug graves and worshiped there.

VI. The Fall of Jerusalem

/The fall of Jerusalem happened in 70 AD.

/1. The state of Jerusalem before its fall. /Before Jerusalem perished, it suffered from the misgovernment of Rome. /Governor Felix and Governor Albinus were excessively greedy. /They confiscated private and public property as they pleased.

/They also received bribes from politicians in their greed. /Furthermore, politicians were cruel to the people. /When four thousand people gathered at the Mount of Olives in an act of rebellion, one-fourth of them were killed, and many others were taken prisoner.

/Because Jews worked in agriculture and livestock farming, it was easy to incite them. /The priests too were corrupt. /They were blind in their greed. /The priests also lacked leadership.

/2. The cause of the fall. /First, the Jews stirred up a revolt in Caesarea. /When the Greeks said that the Jews had no citizenship, the Roman government acknowledged it. Consequently, the Jews started a revolt. /Even in Jerusalem, the Jews attacked Roman military camps.

/3. The process by which the fall happened. /First, twenty thousand Jews were killed in Caesarea. /Next, Gallus, governor of Syria, attacked Jerusalem with a military force of thirty thousand soldiers, but he failed.

/Following that, the Roman government sent sixty thousand soldiers to General Vespasian, who attacked Jerusalem but returned when Emperor Nero killed himself. /Afterwards, Titus invaded Jerusalem and besieged the city. The Jews suffered due to the fact that there was no exchange with the outside and that they lacked food.

/Eventually, Jerusalem perished. /This happened on September 8 of the year 70. /As a result of the fall, the city of Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple was burned. /1,100,000 people were killed, and 97,000 people were taken as prisoners.

VII. The Impact of the Fall of Jerusalem on Christianity

/Jerusalem was the center of Judaism, and when it fell, Christianity gained freedom. /People were scattered to different places, which meant the territory for evangelism had expanded. /Before the fall of Jerusalem, Jerusalem was where Jesus evangelized. It was also the place of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. In this way, it was limited to this region, but afterwards, Christianity was able to expand.

/Next, the fall of Jerusalem expedited the formation of canon. /Lastly, it expedited the movement for Christian organization.

VIII. The End of Jesus' Twelve Disciples.

/1. James, son of Zebedee. /James was killed by Herod Agrippa I in Jerusalem.

/2. Peter. /Peter was Jesus' best disciple. /He was martyred in Rome during the time of Emperor Nero.

/3. Paul. /Paul was martyred in Rome after Peter was martyred.

/4. Philip. /Philip was martyred by crucifixion in Hierapolis, Asia Minor.

/5. James, son of Alphaeus. /James evangelized Syria. /Afterwards, he was martyred.

/6. Andrew, Peter's brother. /Andrew evangelized the southern region of Russia and was martyred.

/7. Matthew. /Matthew was a tax collector, but he later became Jesus' disciple. /He preached the gospel in Persia and Ethiopia.

/8. Simon the Zealot. /Simon the Zealot evangelized India and was crucified.

/9. Thomas. /Thomas evangelized Syria and India, and he too was martyred on the cross.

/10. Bartholomew. /Bartholomew preached the gospel in Arabia, and he was skinned to death.

/11. Thaddeus. /They say Thaddeus did his ministry in Edessa.

/12. John, the disciple whom Jesus loved. /John was exiled to the island of Patmos, and he died at around 100 AD. /He was the only disciple of Jesus who was not martyred.

IX. The Church and Sacraments of the Apostolic Age

/1. Church workers. /There were apostles, preachers, teachers, elders, bishops, and deacons.

/2. Worship. /a. Worship was held in the following places. /The Jerusalem temple. /After the Jerusalem temple was destroyed, people worshiped in synagogues and in people's homes. /Of course, people worshiped in synagogues and in their homes before the Jerusalem temple was destroyed.

/b. The days on which worship was held. /Early on, they worshiped on the Sabbath (Saturday) and Sunday. /Later, they worshiped on Sunday.

/c. The order of worship. /First, they read the Bible. /They either read the Old Testament or the Epistles of the Apostles, and afterward, they read the Lord's teachings.

/Following that, they gave teachings. /The synagogue ruler admonished the people, gave sermons, and prophesied. /Next the presider prayed. /They also sang praise. They did so by reading Psalms or a section of the Bible. /After that they had communion.

/3. Sacraments. /a. They had baptism. /During baptism, the person was immersed three times. /If the person was sick or if there wasn't much water, water was sprinkled on the person's head. /Baptism was done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

/Baptism is the confession of faith of the repentance of sins. It is a confession that says the person is united with Jesus. /After baptism, hands were laid on the person with the hope that the Holy Spirit would come.

/b. Communion. /Communion was held every week during worship. /Only those who were baptized could participate in communion. /In communion, they prayed and received bread and cup.

/4. Church Holidays. /a. Easter. /The Eastern Church and the Western Church had different days for Easter. /The Eastern Church remembered it on the fourteenth day of Nisan, which is the Jewish Passover. /The Western Church remembered it on the Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

/b. Lent. /They remembered the 40 days before Easter.

/c. They remembered Ascension Day and Pentecost.

X. Lives of Faith in the Early Church

- /1. There was much spiritual inspiration.
- /2. People were certain about the second coming of Christ.
- /3. People acted in the virtue of love. People were egalitarian, and they participated in charity and volunteer work. Women reached a higher status.
- /4. People acted in the virtue of purity. One man married one woman. They prevented people from drinking and from being obscene.

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/This concludes the first lecture on “Church History.” /Thank you.