
CONTENTS

List of Illustrations and Features	vii	
Preface	xi	
Chronology of Events	xv	
CHAPTER 1	HISTORICAL OVERVIEW	1
Features of Ancient Mediterranean Religious Practices	2	
Historical Background of Judaism	8	
Rise of Christianity	11	
Christianity and the Roman Empire	14	
Conclusion	28	
<i>Study Questions</i>	29	
CHAPTER 2	JEWS AND CHRISTIANS: THE DYNASTY OF HEROD THE GREAT	31
Rise of Herod the Great	34	
Life of Jesus	43	
Separation of Judaism and Christianity	57	
The Missionary Church	60	
Conclusion	71	
<i>Study Questions</i>	72	
CHAPTER 3	ROMANS AND CHRISTIANS: CONSTANTINE’S CHRISTIAN MONOTHEISM	73
Ancient Forms of Monotheism	76	
Mithraism	79	
Reign of Diocletian	82	
Diocletian’s Abdication	88	
The “Conversion” of Constantine	90	
Conclusion	102	
<i>Study Questions</i>	106	

CHAPTER 4	CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS: POPE DAMASUS AND THE CHRISTIANIZATION OF ROME	
	Pope Damasus	108
	Primacy of Rome	112
	Martyr Acts of Saint Agnes, Patron Saint of Rome	121
	Conclusion	134
	<i>Study Questions</i>	140
CHAPTER 5	PAGANS AND CHRISTIANS: THE ALTAR OF VICTORY	141
	Roman Senate and Christian Court	143
	Doctrinal Debates	148
	Ambrose, Gratian, and the Altar of Victory	153
	Ambrose, Valentinian II, and the Altar of Victory	155
	Ambrose, Theodosius, and the Altar of Victory	167
	Eugenius and the Altar of Victory	170
	Conclusion	172
	<i>Study Questions</i>	173
CHAPTER 6	CONCLUSION: THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH THROUGH THE CENTURIES—CONFLICT AND ACCOMMODATION	175
	The Apostolic Church through the Edict of Theodosius in 391 C.E.	175
	The Church in Late Antiquity	177
	Medieval Christianity	178
	Reformation and Counter-Reformation	180
	The Church in the Modern World	183
	<i>Study Questions</i>	184
Glossary of Selected Terms		185
Annotated Bibliography		191
Further Readings by Chapter Topics		198
Index		211

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND FEATURES



Figures

Fig. 1.1	Sculpture of Augustus as Pontifex Maximus	3
Fig. 1.2	Mithraeum of San Clemente	7
Fig. 1.3	Conversion of Saint Paul	12
Fig. 1.4	Arch of Titus	13
Fig. 1.5	Story of the fiery furnace	17
Fig. 1.6	Map of the Roman Empire	22–23
Fig. 2.1	Coin of Herod the Great	34
Fig. 2.2	Map of city of Jerusalem in Jesus' time	35
Fig. 2.3	Model of Herod's Temple	39
Fig. 2.4	Adoration of the Magi	46
Fig. 2.5	Slaughter of the Innocents	47
Fig. 2.6	Jesus the Good Shepherd	52
Fig. 2.7	Map of Palestine in Jesus' time	53
Fig. 2.8	Funerary stele of Licinia Amias	54
Fig. 2.9	Map of Paul's missionary journeys according to Acts	62–63
Fig. 3.1	Constantine the Great	76
Fig. 3.2	Marble tauroctony (Mithras slaying the bull)	81
Fig. 3.3	Constantine's "vision" of the Cross	94
Fig. 3.4	A chi rho symbol	95
Fig. 3.5	Battle of the Milvian Bridge	99
Fig. 3.6	Basilica of San Lorenzo fuori le Mura	102
Fig. 3.7	Arch of Constantine	103
Fig. 3.8	Basilica of Sante Croce in Gerusalemme	105
Fig. 4.1	Basilica of Santa Pudenziana in Rome	117
Fig. 4.2	Saint Agnes	122

Fig. 5.1	Ambrose and Theodosius	169
Fig. 5.2	Diptych of the Nicomachi and Symmachi	171



1.1	Augustus	4
2.1	Eusebius of Caesarea	32
2.2	Herod the Great	40
2.3	Herod Antipas	44
2.4	Josephus	51
2.5	Peter	59
2.6	Herod Agrippa I	61
2.7	Paul	66
2.8	Herod Agrippa II	68
3.1	Constantine	74
3.2	Aurelian	78
3.3	Elagabalus	80
3.4	Diocletian	84
3.5	Galerius	89
4.1	Damasus	109
4.2	Arius	110
4.3	Jerome	112
4.4	Theodosius	114
4.5	Ambrose	123
5.1	Symmachus	142
5.2	Julian	145
5.3	Gratian	147
5.4	Athanasius	151



1.1	Tacitus on the Expulsion of Jews from Rome	14
1.2	Suetonius on the Expulsion of Jews from Rome	15
1.3	Tacitus and Suetonius on Nero and the Christians	16
1.4	Pliny and Trajan on the Trials of the Christians	18

1.5	Rescript of Hadrian on the Christians	20
2.1	Plutarch and the Pirate Menace	37
2.2	Herod Assumes the Role of King of Judea	41
2.3	Universal Peace in the reign of Augustus	42
2.4	Two Gospel Accounts of the Death of John the Baptist	49
2.5	Josephus's Account of the Death of John the Baptist	50
2.6	Josephus's Account of the Trial and Death of Jesus	56
2.7	Martyrdom of James, the brother of Jesus Christ	69
3.1	Edict of Diocletian against Manicheism	86
3.2	Martyrdom in the Persecution of Diocletian	88
3.3	Edict of Galerius on the Toleration of Christians	91
3.4	Pagan "Vision" of Constantine	92
3.5	Christian "Vision" of Constantine: Lactantius and Eusebius	97
3.6	Edict of Milan of Constantine and Licinius	100
3.7	Arch of Constantine	104
4.1	Inscription of Peter and Paul	120
4.2	Hymn of Saint Ambrose	124
4.3	Inscription of Damasus and Filocalus	126
4.4	Prudentius, <i>Peristephanon</i> 14, "Passion of Saint Agnes"	127
4.5	Gesta of Saint Agnes	133
4.6	The Martyrdom of Saint Agnes in the <i>Golden Legend</i>	135
4.7	Butler's "Life of Saint Agnes"	138
5.1	Codex Theodosianus on Gratian's edict (382 C.E.)	153
5.2	Symmachus, <i>Relatio III</i>	157
5.3	The Altar of Victory Debate	159
5.4	Ambrose, <i>Epistula</i> 18	161
5.5	Codex Theodosianus on Pagan Practices (391 C.E.)	170



2.1	Rulers of Judea	33
3.1	Roman Emperors	77