

HISTORY OF GOD'S CHURCH – EPHESUS VS ROME

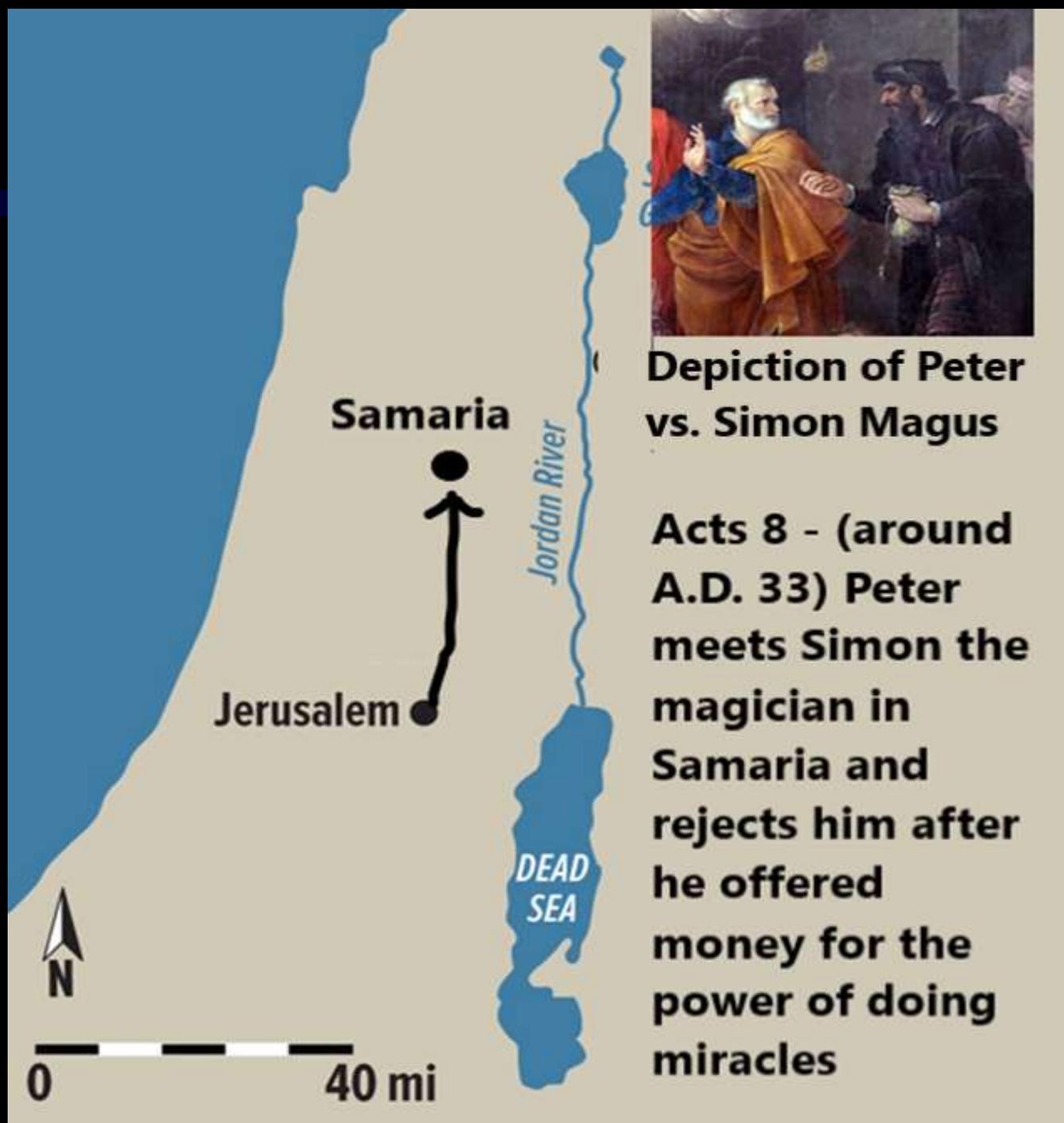
by Mario Seiglie, Feb. 24, 2024 (part 1)



Let's review the origins of the true and the false churches. Remember two churches are described in Rev. 2-3; 12 & 17. One begins in Jerusalem & ends in Ephesus. The other is in Rome.



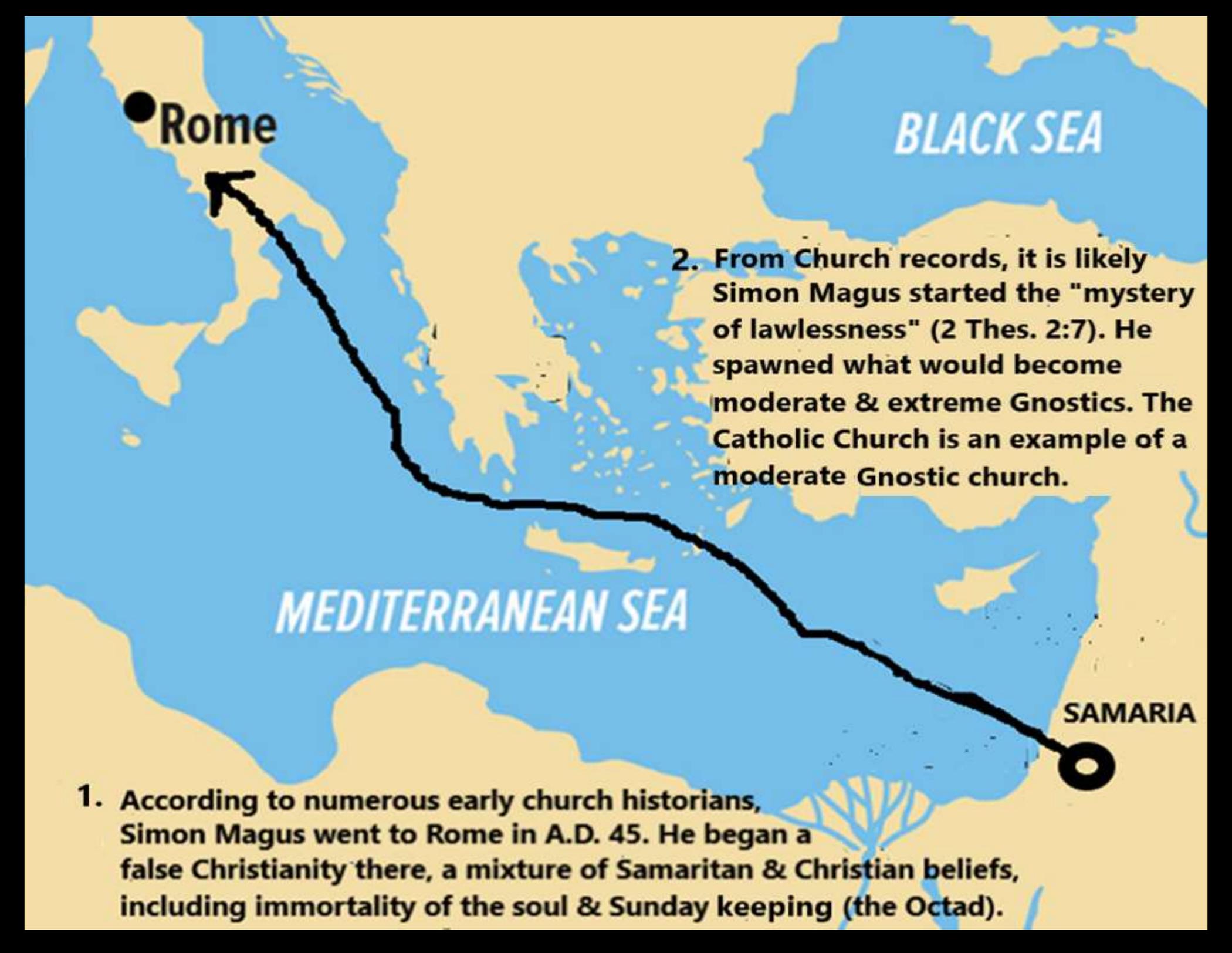
The main churches of the genuine faith were in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-4); Antioch (Acts 11:19-26; 15:30-35); and Ephesus, where Paul spent 2 years (Acts 19:1,8-10).



Depiction of Peter vs. Simon Magus

Acts 8 - (around A.D. 33) Peter meets Simon the magician in Samaria and rejects him after he offered money for the power of doing miracles

Most early Church historians consider Simon Magus as the originator of false churches

A map of the Mediterranean Sea region with a yellow background and blue water. A thick black line with an arrowhead at the top left indicates a path from Samaria in the bottom right to Rome in the top left. The Black Sea is labeled in the top right, and the Mediterranean Sea is labeled in the bottom left. Two numbered text blocks are placed on the map: one near Samaria and one in the upper right quadrant.

Rome

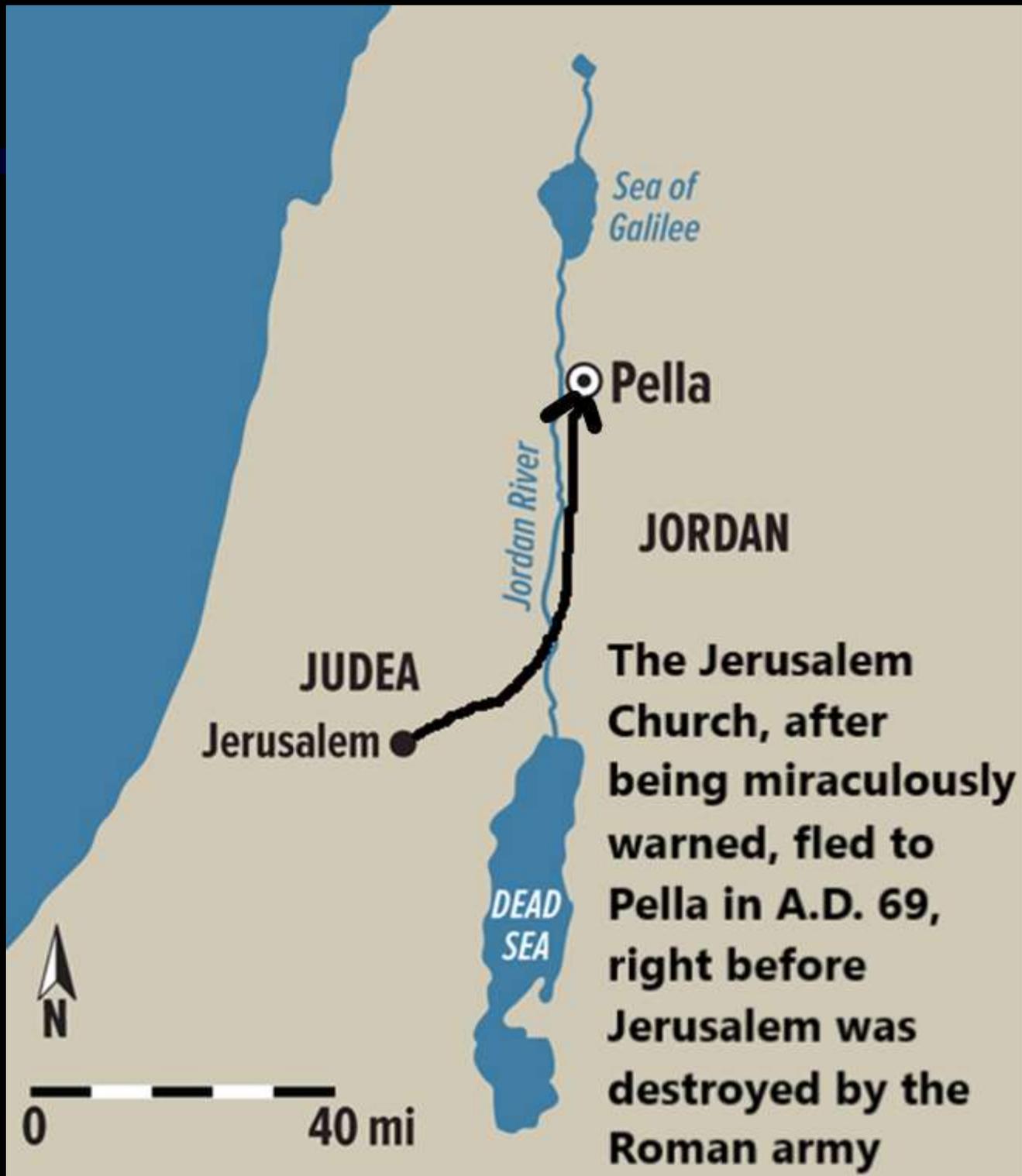
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2. From Church records, it is likely Simon Magus started the "mystery of lawlessness" (2 Thes. 2:7). He spawned what would become moderate & extreme Gnostics. The Catholic Church is an example of a moderate Gnostic church.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SAMARIA

1. According to numerous early church historians, Simon Magus went to Rome in A.D. 45. He began a false Christianity there, a mixture of Samaritan & Christian beliefs, including immortality of the soul & Sunday keeping (the Octad).





Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



Notice that there were seven Churches in the area where John taught and ruled (Rev. 1:4) and not Rome! We consider these are also prophetic Church Eras (Rev. 1:11, 19-20). These 7 churches would faithfully describe the history of the main events of the Church from the time of Pentecost, A.D. 31 to Christ's return.

**FIRST BIG CLASH BETWEEN
ROME AND EPHESUS (A.D. 150)**



By A.D. 150, the Roman Church had strayed so much from the truth that Polycarp, John's successor and living in nearby Smyrna, went to Rome to correct the wrong way to keep the Passover. The bishop of Rome, Anicetus, did not obey Polycarp or give up Easter, but went along out of respect for him and kept the Passover properly.

**SECOND BIG CLASH
BETWEEN ROME & EPHESUS
(A.D. 190)**

ROME

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2. Read excerpt from letter of Polycrates, bishop of Ephesus to Victor, bishop of Rome. It shows he was truly converted.

EPHESUS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

1. Around A.D. 190, Victor, the bishop in Rome, threatened to excommunicate the churches with Ephesus as its center. Polycrates, Polycarp's successor, wrote back refusing to change the date of the Passover. Victor relented under the pressure of other churches.

ROME

A CLASH OF DOCTRINAL
DIFFERENCES IN THE
FIRST THREE CENTURIES

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EPHESUS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Doctrinal differences between Rome & Ephesus had to do with Rome keeping Sunday, Easter, immortality of the soul, no biblical food laws & a primitive version of the Trinity.



We consider the 10th & final Roman persecution, that lasted ten years, especially around the region of Ephesus, to be a fulfilment of Rev. 2:10, the "ten days" Christ told them they would suffer, applying the "day for a year prophetic principle" (Num. 14:34; Ez. 4:6). Emperor Diocletian failed to destroy the true Church.



The apostasy was growing, now Emperor Constantine sided with the Catholic Church. Sunday worship was officially decreed in A.D. 321. Then in A.D. 325, the Council of Nicaea began the great persecution against the true Church. We consider this begins the 1,260 years (day for a year) in Rev. 12:6, the time of the Dark Ages for the Church (325 - 1585). This is when Sabbath keepers appear again.