

HISTORY OF GOD'S ORIGINAL CHURCH – EPHESUS VS ROME

by Mario Seiglie, March 2, 2024 (Part 3)

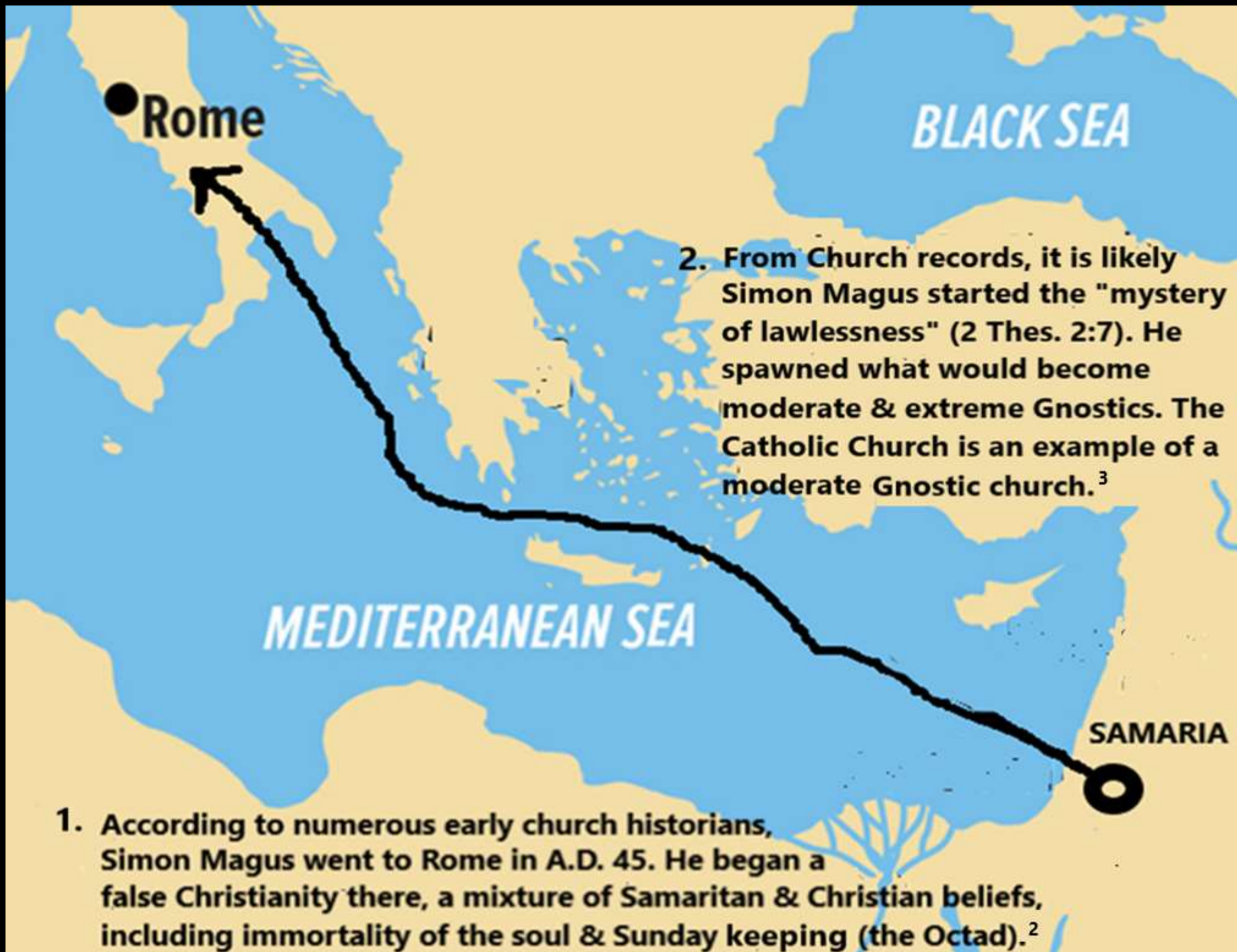


In part 1, we reviewed how two main and opposing churches developed in the first three centuries. We continue with the series.



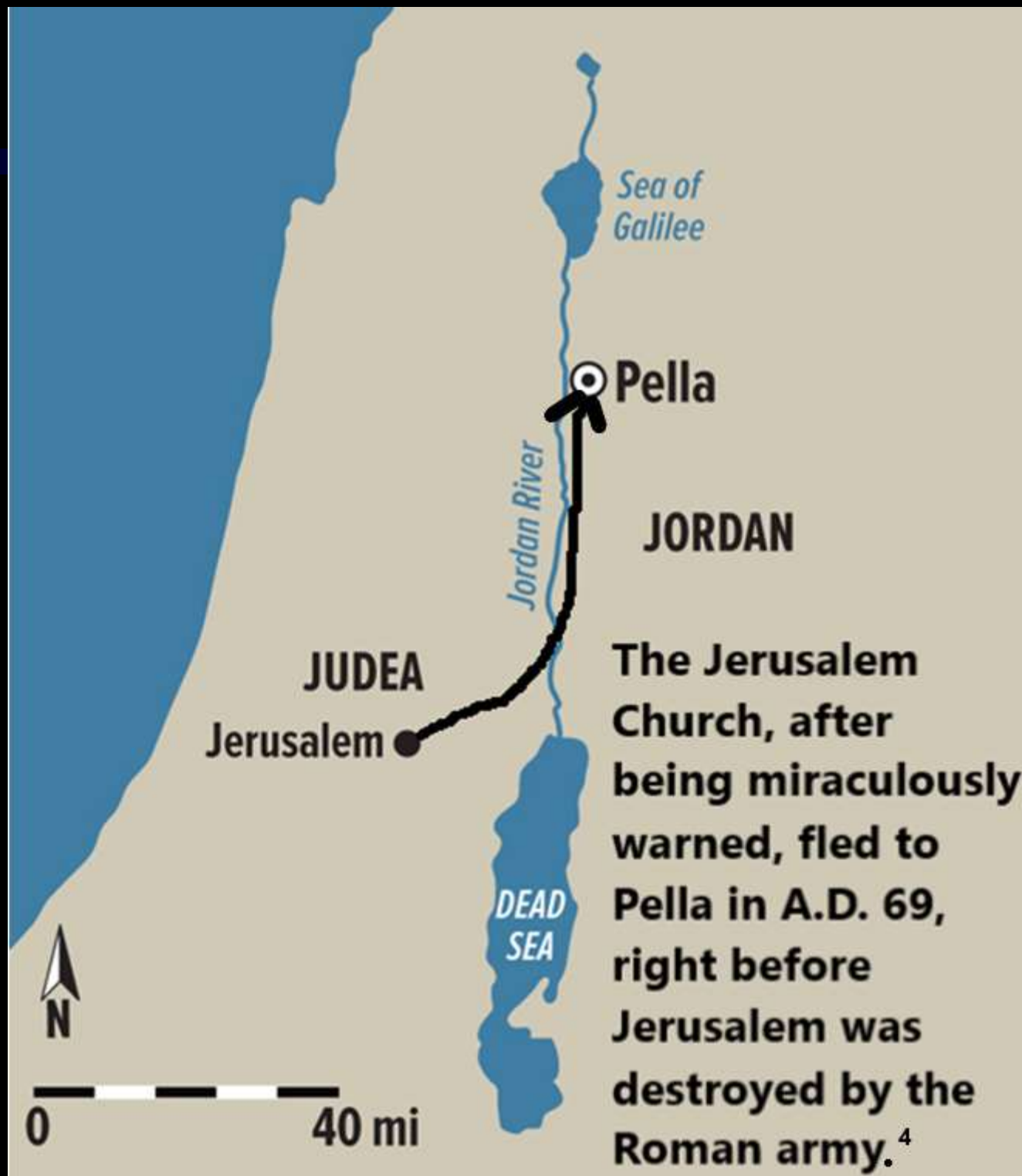


Most early Church historians consider Simon Magus as the originator of false churches



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).²

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.³





Around A.D. 80, both Peter & Paul were dead, and the Church in Jerusalem, when they returned from Pella, was very restricted. The apostle John went to Ephesus to take care of the Churches there & make it the center of freer activities.⁵

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)**

ROME

BLACK SEA

Smyrna

EPHESUS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

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.⁶

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

ROME

BLACK SEA

2. Read excerpt from letter of Polycrates, bishop of Ephesus to Victor, bishop of Rome. It shows he was truly converted.⁸

EPHESUS

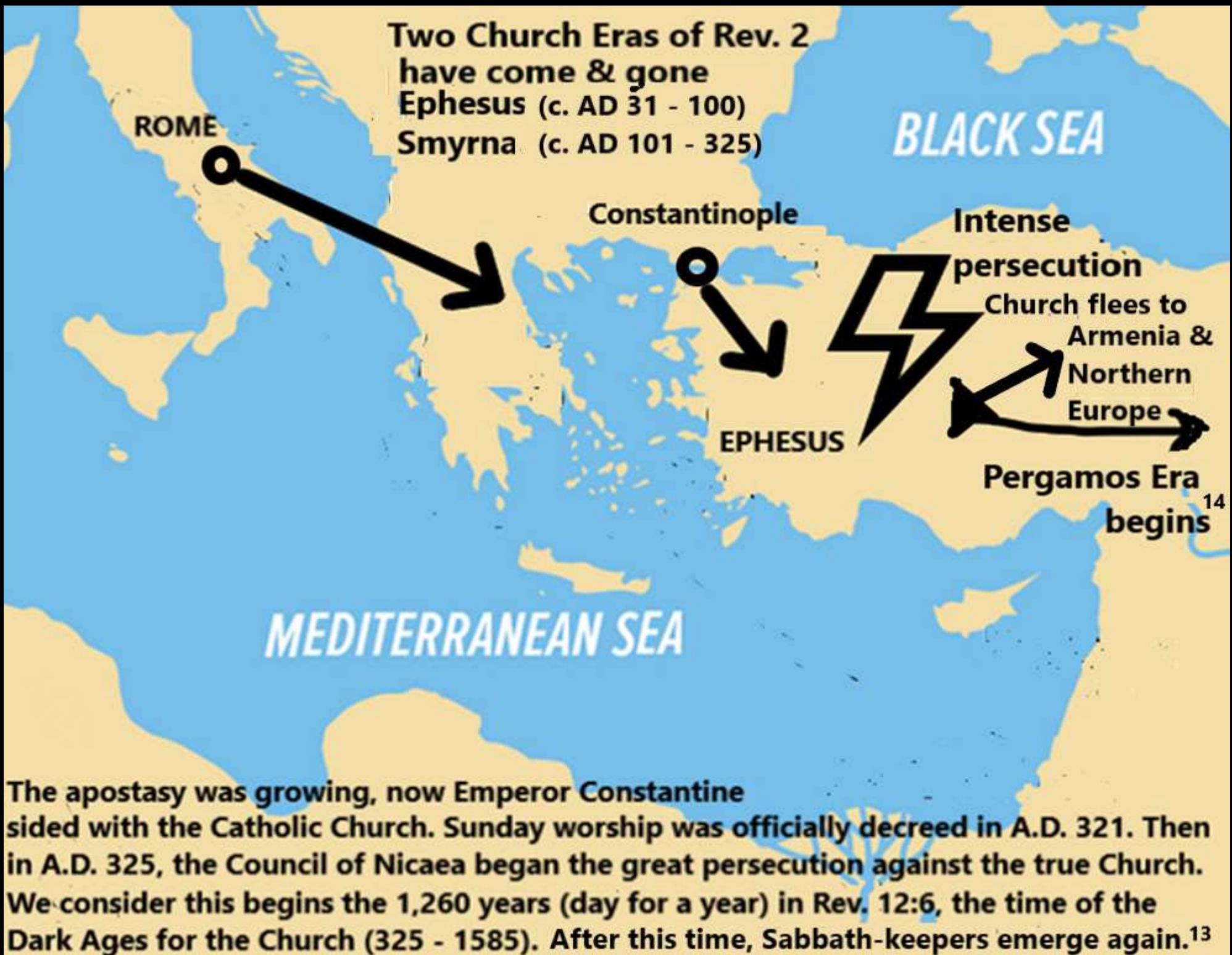
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

1. Around A.D. 190, Victor, the bishop in Rome, sent a letter excommunicating 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.⁷

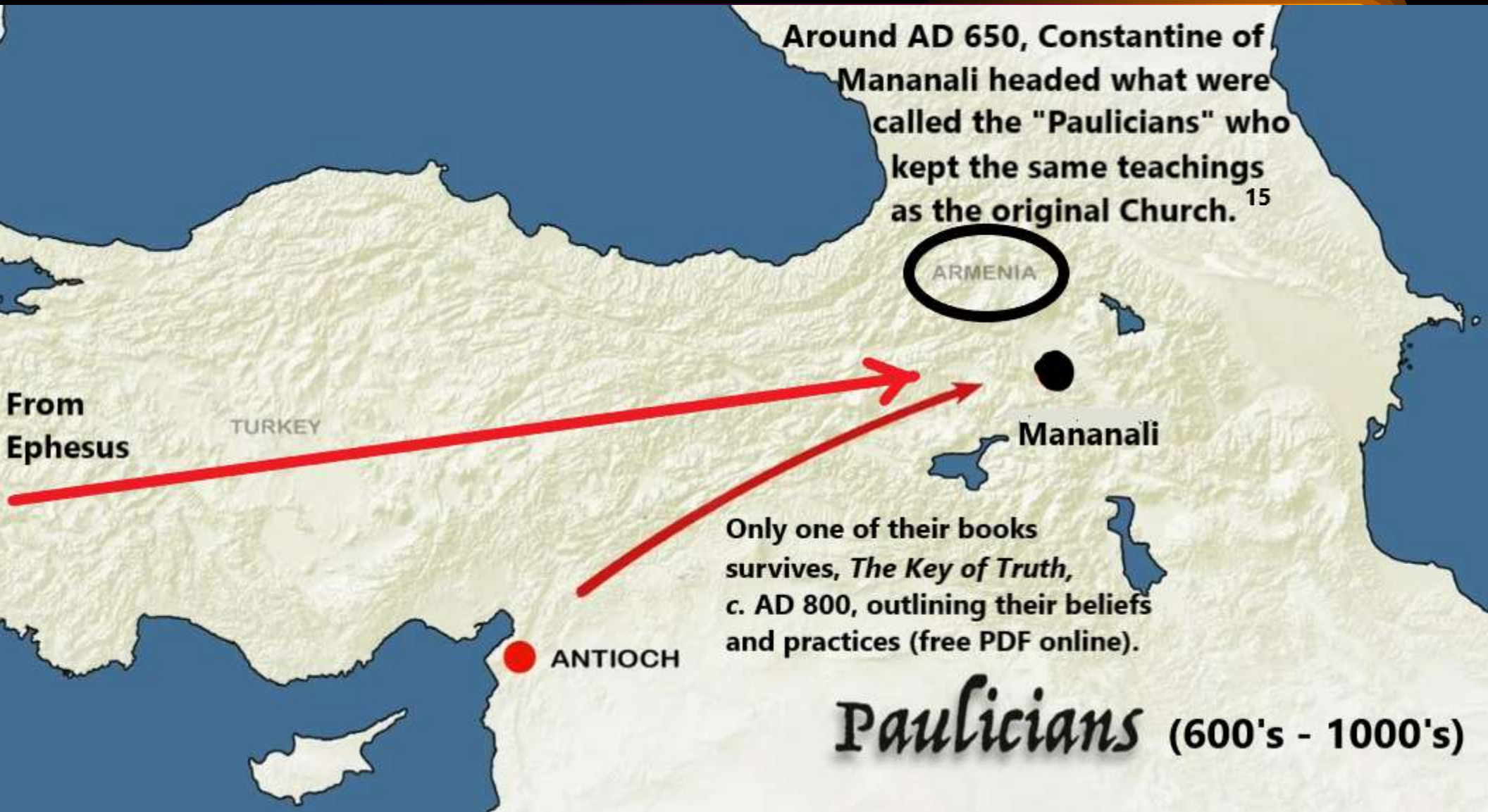




We consider the 10th & final Roman persecution, that lasted ten years, especially around the region of Ephesus, to be a fulfilment of Rev. 2:10, the "ten days" Christ told them they would suffer, applying the "day for a year prophetic principle" (Num. 14:34; Ez. 4:6). Emperor Diocletian failed to destroy the true Church.¹¹

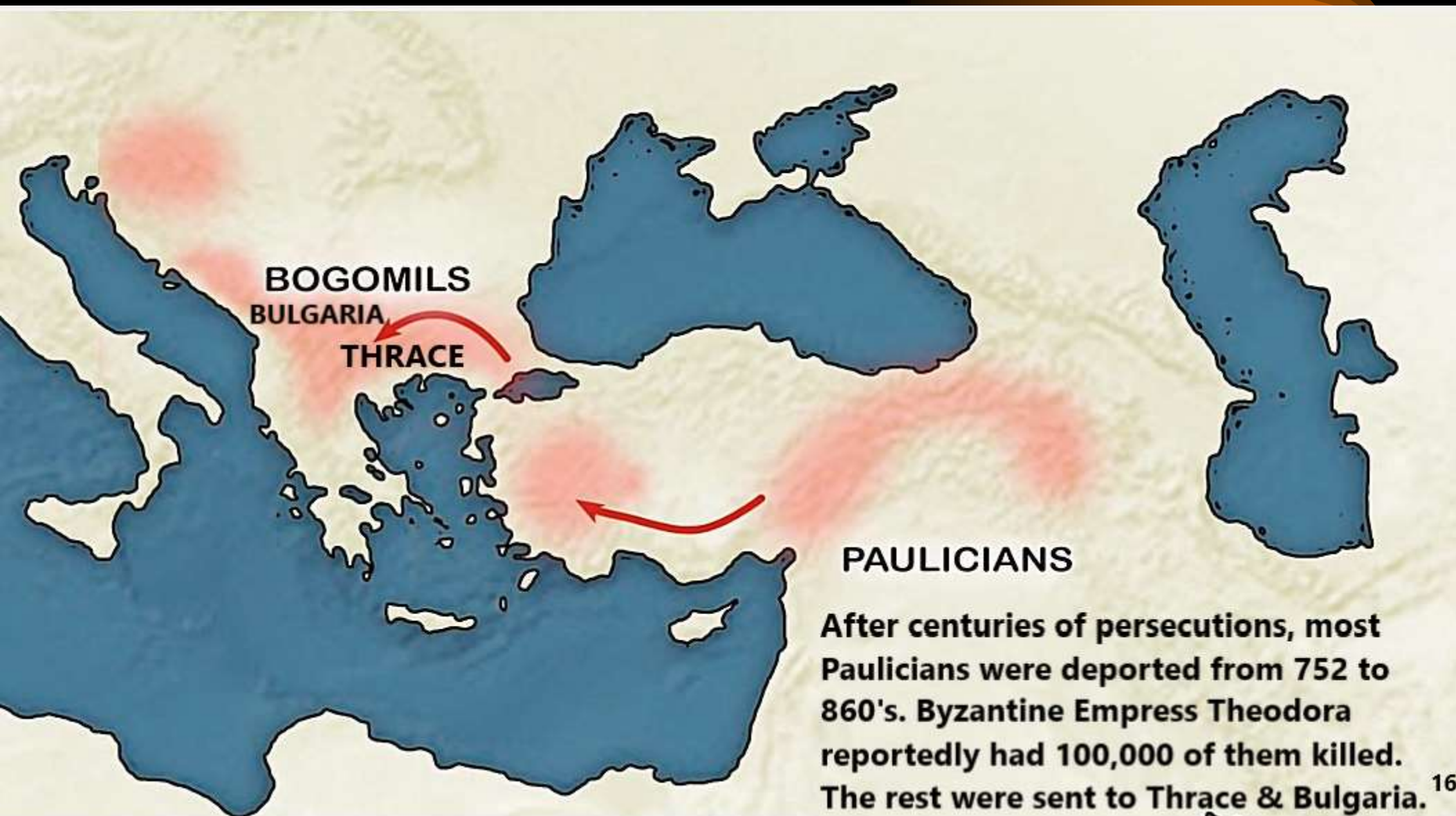


Around AD 650, Constantine of Mananali headed what were called the "Paulicians" who kept the same teachings as the original Church.¹⁵



Only one of their books survives, *The Key of Truth*, c. AD 800, outlining their beliefs and practices (free PDF online).

Paulicians (600's - 1000's)



Paulicianism

From Bulgaria, the Paulicians, now named Bogomils (meaning friends of God), were pushed up in the 800's mainly to the area of northern Italy & southern France.

(The Pergamos Era - c. AD 325 - 1100)

