HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH THE SECOND CENTURY



- The desire by many gentile
 Christians to separate from
 anything that they saw as Jewish.
- Acceptance of Hellenistic religion.
- The influence of Gnosticism.

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Polycarp (c. 60-156 AD) one of the Apostle John's disciples who followed in his mentor's footsteps by observing Passover on the 14th day of the first month of the Hebrew calendar.

Polycrates (c. 130-196 AD) succeeded Polycarp as the leader of the churches in the area. The Passover/Easter controversy again became critical. Christians who observed Passover were called **Quartodecimans** meaning those who observed the 14th.

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Henry Chadwick: "it was impossible in so weighty a practical question for diversity to be allowed, but there can be little doubt that the **Quartodecimans** were right in thinking that they had preserved the most ancient and apostolic custom. They had become heretics simply by being behind the times."



In 331 BC Alexander the Great supervised the surveying of a new port city he envisioned on the Egyptian shore of the Mediterranean sea. The city would bear his name—Alexandria.



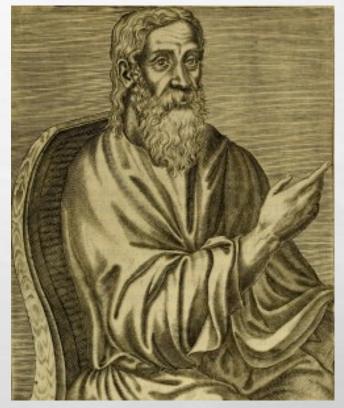


The Ptolemaic rulers transformed Alexander's port into the center of **Hellenistic** culture.

When Julius Caesar marched into town, Alexandria housed the greatest library and museum in the ancient world. During his visit the library burned.

Clement of Alexandria (c. 153-

217 AD) viewed Greek
philosophy as a schoolmaster to
bring the "Hellenic mind" to
Christ much the same way Paul
said the law was given to bring
Jews to Christ.





Clement's most famous pupil was Origen (c. 185-254 AD). Origen was a prolific writer who is considered one of the greatest scholars of the first Christian centuries.

Theologians from the school in Alexandria weren't the only ones involved in the development of Hellenized orthodoxy. **Tertullian** (c. 160-220 AD) from Carthage was the first major author to present Christian ideas in Latin and is considered one of the founders of Latin Christianity.



On March 7, 321 **Constantine** issued one of his most famous edicts: "all judges, city-people and craftsmen shall rest on the venerable day of the sun, but countrymen may without hindrance attend to agriculture, since it often happens that this is the most suitable day for sowing grain or planting vines, so that the opportunity afforded by divine providence may not be lost, for the right season is of short duration."

Constantine would wield powerful influence over the formation of Christian doctrine as he helped shape Hellenized orthodoxy into a Catholic Church. For this undertaking, history would crown him Constantine the Great.

