

CHRISTIANITY

OVERVIEW

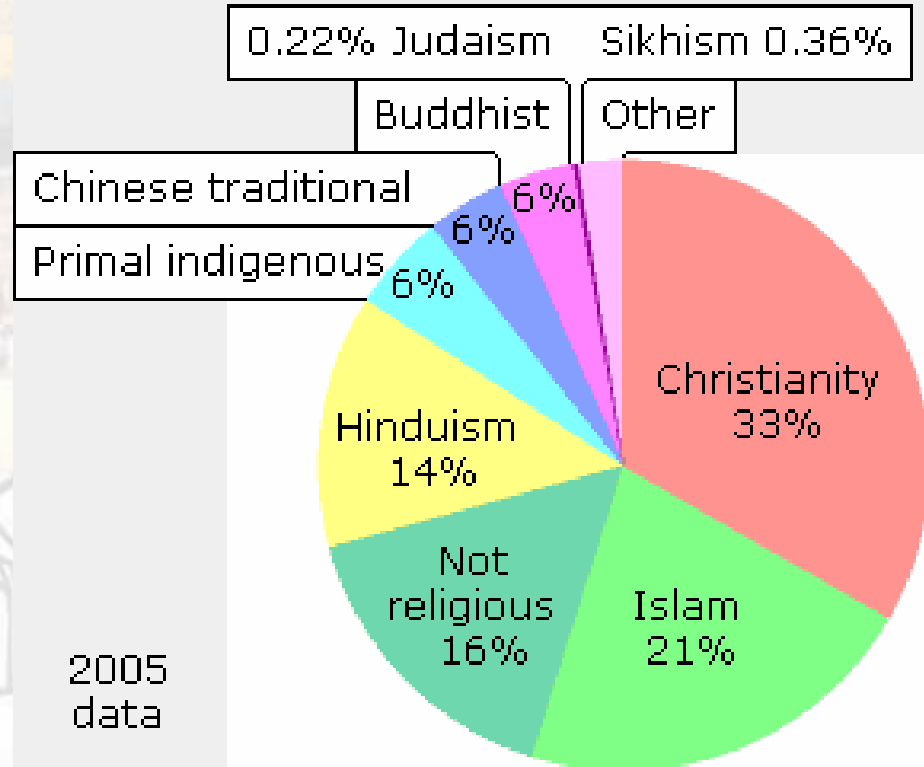
- World's largest religion

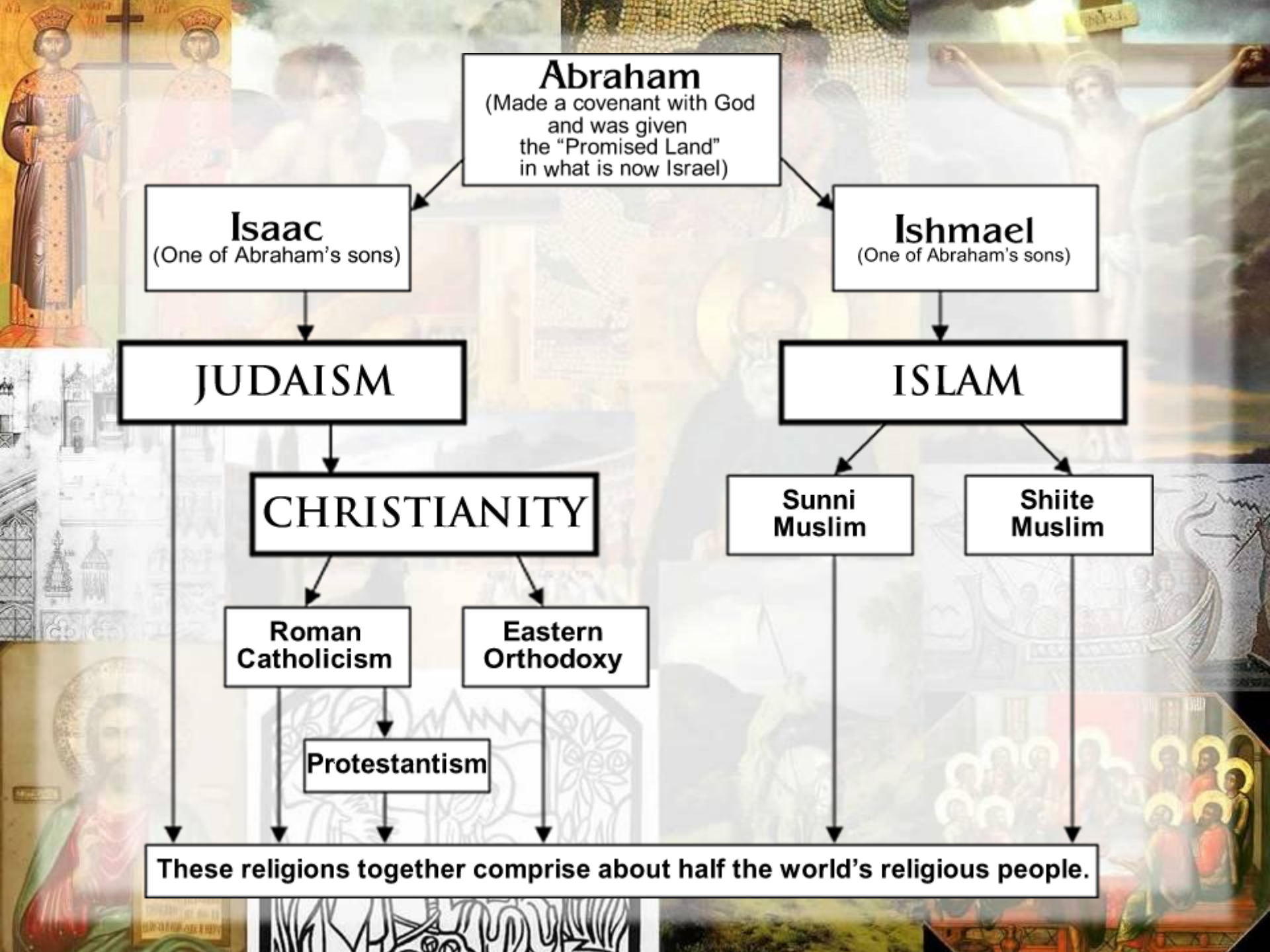
- over 2.2 billion followers

- View a Flash animation about the spread of religions

- <http://www.mapsofwar.com/images/Religion.swf>

Major religious groups
(percentage of world population)





Abraham
(Made a covenant with God and was given the "Promised Land" in what is now Israel)

Isaac
(One of Abraham's sons)

Ishmael
(One of Abraham's sons)

JUDAISM

ISLAM

CHRISTIANITY

Sunni Muslim

Shiite Muslim

Roman Catholicism

Eastern Orthodoxy

Protestantism

These religions together comprise about half the world's religious people.

THE TRINITY

- **God the Father**

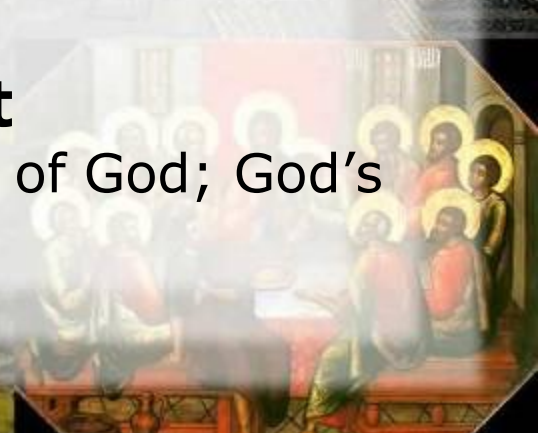
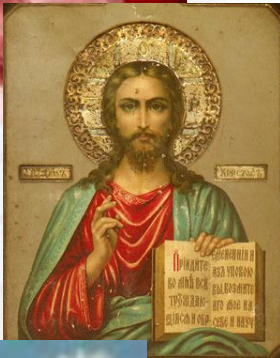
- creator of Heaven and Earth, created humans in his image

- **God the Son**

- Jesus – took human form so that he could die as a sacrifice for peoples' sins

- **God the Holy Spirit**

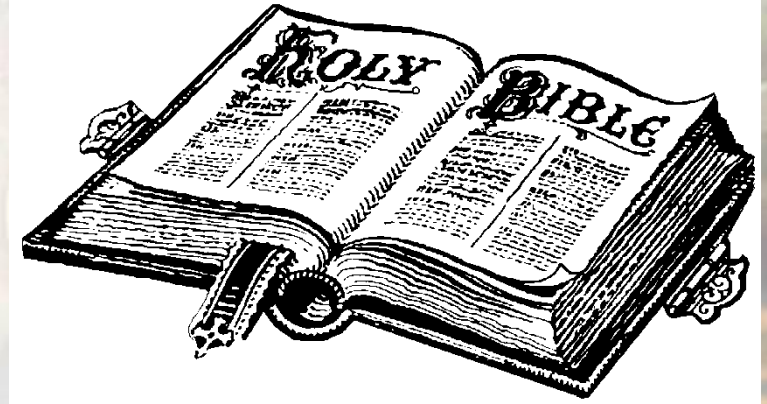
- the spiritual presence of God; God's active force



THE BIBLE

- **Old Testament**

- “the scriptures”
- stories about early Hebrews (Israelites) such as Abraham, Noah, Moses, etc.



- **New Testament**

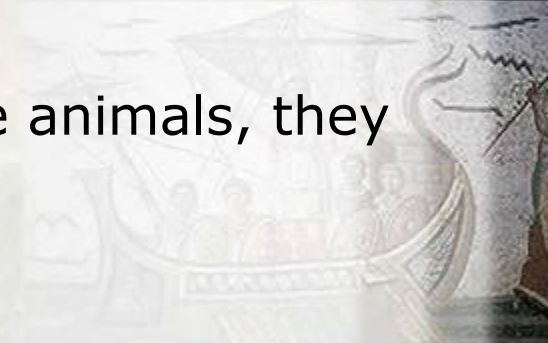
- written by the followers of Jesus
- about Jesus, the early Church, beliefs
- **Gospels**
 - stories about life and teachings of Jesus
 - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

CHRIST / MESSIAH

- **“Christ”** → Greek Χριστός (Khristós)
“anointed one”
- **“Messiah”** → Hebrew משיח (Moshiach)
“savior” or “anointed one”
- Christian means “belonging to Christ” or
“of Christ”

CHRIST / MESSIAH

- Son of God and the Messiah (savior) of the Jews
 - God in human form
 - Atonement
 - Jesus becomes the “Lamb of God”
 - as a result, Christians do not sacrifice animals, they repent and ask for forgiveness



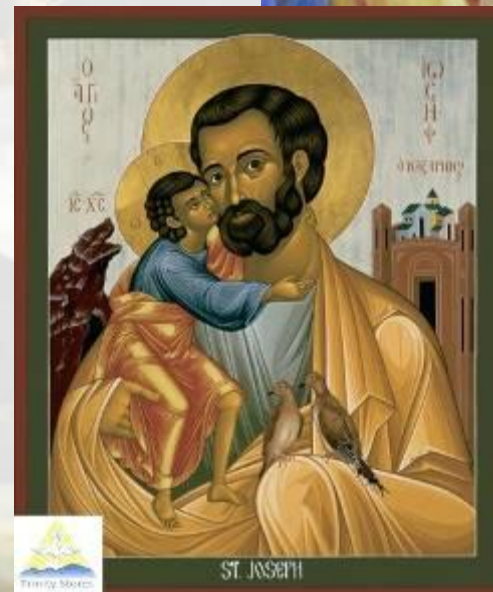
BIRTH

- Angels visited Mary & Joseph
- city of Bethlehem in modern Israel
 - Augustus' tax
 - no room at the inn
- around 4 BC
- celebrated as Christmas
 - "Christ's Mass"



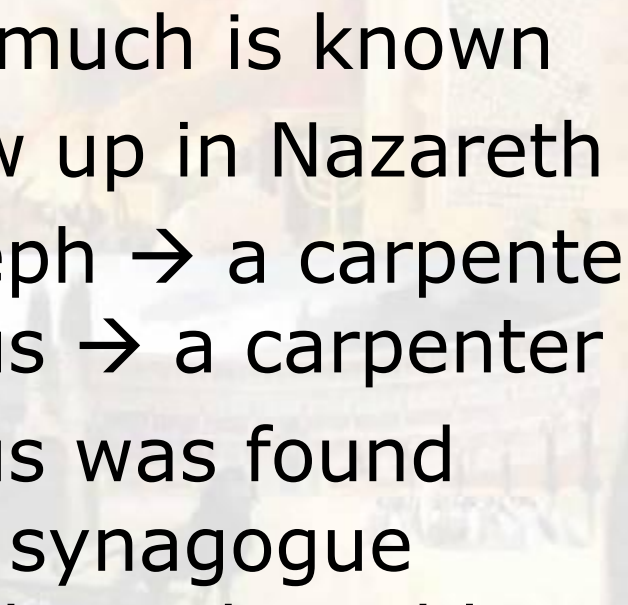
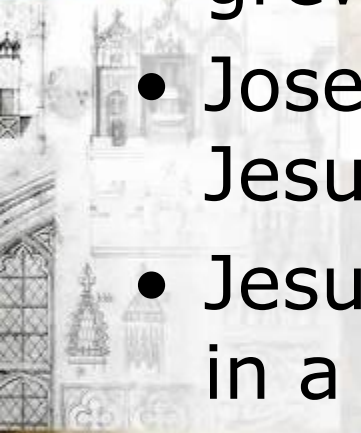
BIRTH

- earthly parents
 - Mary
 - without sin
 - Immaculate Conception
 - a virgin
 - venerated by Christians, but not worshipped
 - Joseph
 - a carpenter
 - descended from King David
 - little is known



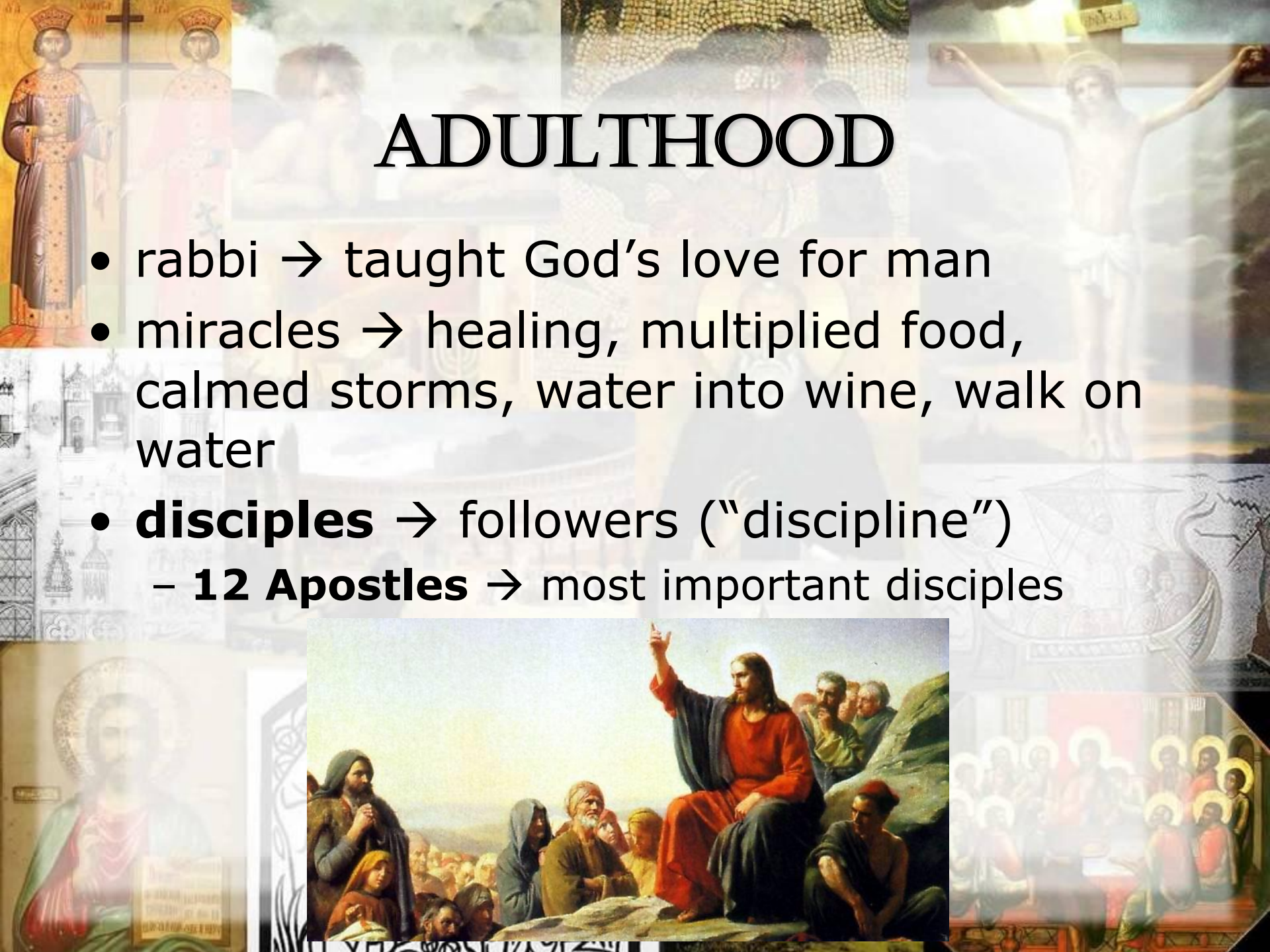
YOUTH

- not much is known
- grew up in Nazareth
- Joseph → a carpenter
Jesus → a carpenter ??
- Jesus was found
in a synagogue
teaching the rabbis



ADULTHOOD

- rabbi → taught God's love for man
- miracles → healing, multiplied food, calmed storms, water into wine, walk on water
- **disciples** → followers ("discipline")
 - **12 Apostles** → most important disciples



DEATH

- Jewish high priests became jealous
- accused of blasphemy
- Pontius Pilate → Roman Governor of Judaea
- **crucifixion** (hung on a cross) in Jerusalem sacrifice “Lamb of God”



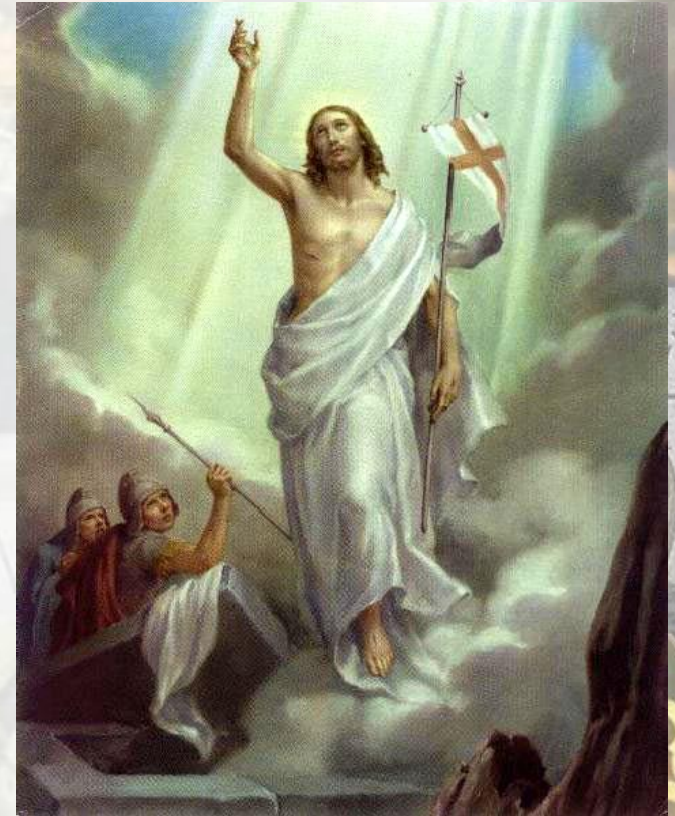
INRI

IESVS·NAZARENVS·REX·IVDÆORVM

(Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum)

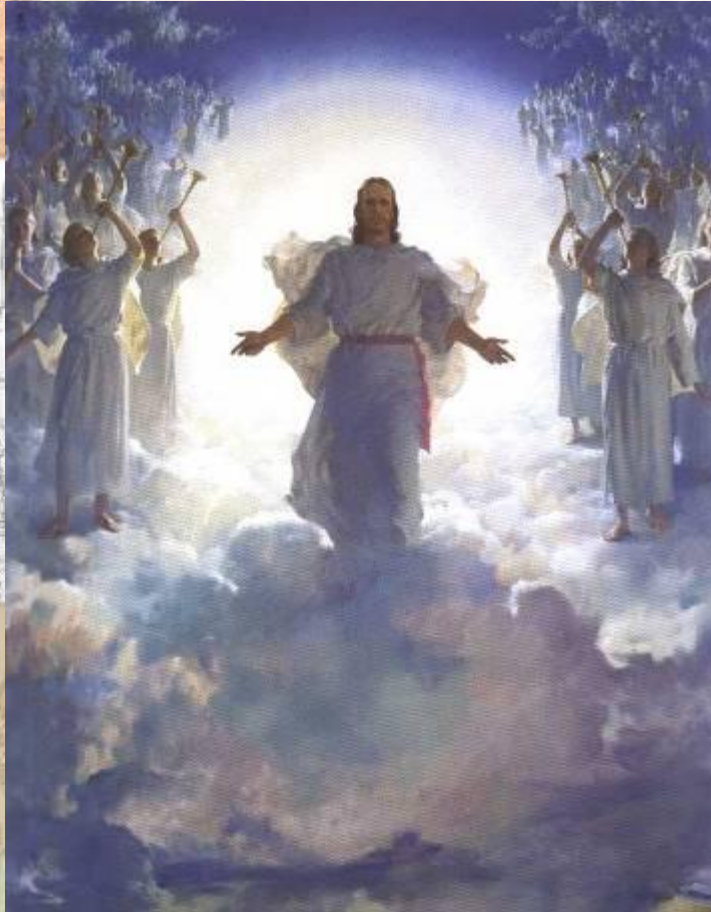
RESURRECTION

- The **Resurrection** – Jesus rose from the dead on the third day (celebrated as Easter Sunday)
- appeared to disciples (doubting Thomas)
- ascended into Heaven



JUDGMENT

- “The Second Coming”
- “The Rapture”
- Jesus will judge people’s souls (inner spirits)
 - good → Heaven
 - bad → Hell



GOALS OF CHRISTIANITY

- **Salvation**

- forgiveness of sins; being “saved”

- **Everlasting (Eternal) Life**

- salvation allows followers to live forever in Heaven

- **Heaven**

- a peaceful place where God and his faithful followers spend eternity

- **Hell**

- a fiery place to avoid where Satan and sinners spend eternity (obviously not a goal!!!)

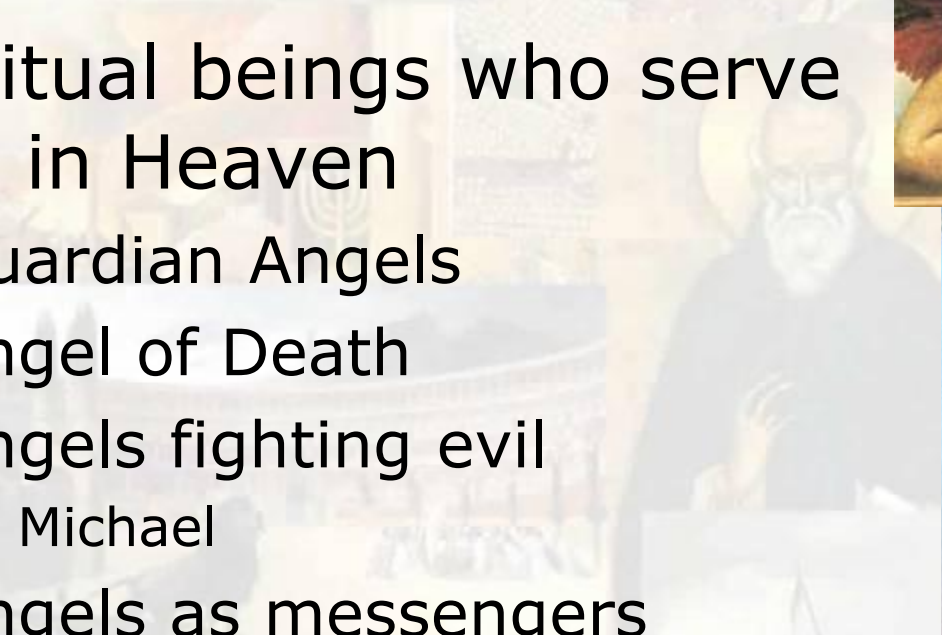
SAINTS

- Not all Christians have the same view of the Saints
- people who have died and are in Heaven
- (people on Earth who will be in Heaven when they die ???)
 - Mary
 - Joseph
 - Peter
 - Paul
 - Mother Theresa ??
 - MLK ??



ANGELS

- Spiritual beings who serve God in Heaven
 - Guardian Angels
 - Angel of Death
 - Angels fighting evil
 - Michael
 - Angels as messengers
 - Gabrielle
 - Raphael



St. Michael the Archangel

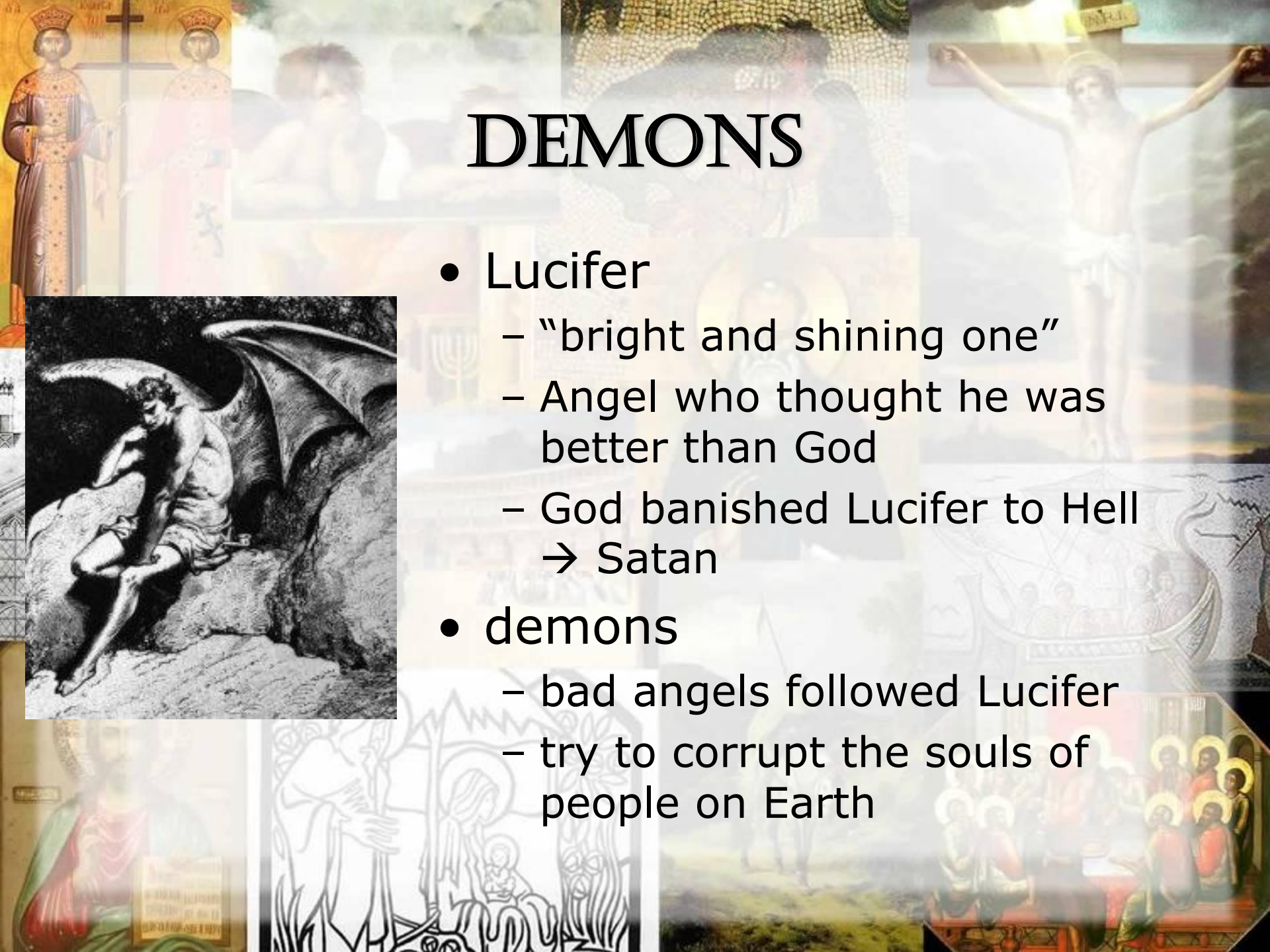
DEMONS

- Lucifer

- “bright and shining one”
- Angel who thought he was better than God
- God banished Lucifer to Hell
→ Satan

- demons

- bad angels followed Lucifer
- try to corrupt the souls of people on Earth



TEACHINGS

- **Ten Commandments** → follow Jewish law
 - (from Judaism – Old Testament)
 - have only one God
 - keep the Sabbath day as a day of worship and rest (Christians celebrate on Sunday)
 - don't use God's name as a way of cursing
 - obey your parents
 - don't lie, steal, sleep with someone without being married to him/her, etc.



TEACHINGS

- **Beatitudes** → this gave hope to the poor
 - (from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount)
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
 - Blessed are they who sorrow: for they shall be comforted.
 - Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after holiness: for they shall be filled.
 - Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
 - Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God.
 - Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

TEACHINGS

- **Great Commandment**

- Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.
- Love your neighbor as yourself.
 - the “golden rule”



STATEMENT OF FAITH (BELIEF)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of Heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Monotheism
The Trinity
Virgin Birth
Crucifixion
Resurrection
Ascension
Reign / Judgment
Saints
Salvation
Eternal Life in Heaven
"I Believe"

• *The word "catholic" with a small letter "c" refers to the entire universal Christian Church.

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THE EARLY CHURCH

- **Peter (Simon Peter)**

- Christian Church was led by Peter (“Petros” = rock)
- the first **Pope**
- crucified upside-down

- **Paul of Tarsus (Saul)**

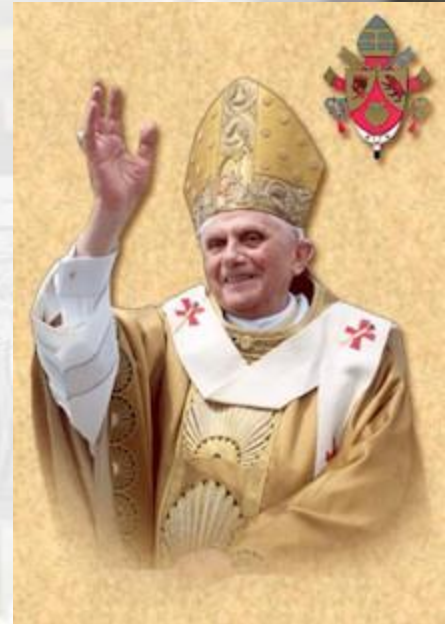
- named Saul → persecuted Christians → converted
- spread Christianity throughout the Mediterranean



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Used by all Christians until 1517. Catholic Church still uses this hierarchy, but many Protestant denominations use different systems

- **Pope**
 - human leader of the worldwide Christian Church. Bishop of Rome. Peter was the first Pope.
- **Cardinal**
 - elects the Pope and governs a large territory (multiple states)
- **Bishop**
 - leader of several different churches in a smaller territory (northwest Ohio)
- **Priest**
 - pastor or minister to one or more churches
- **Deacon**
 - assists the priest



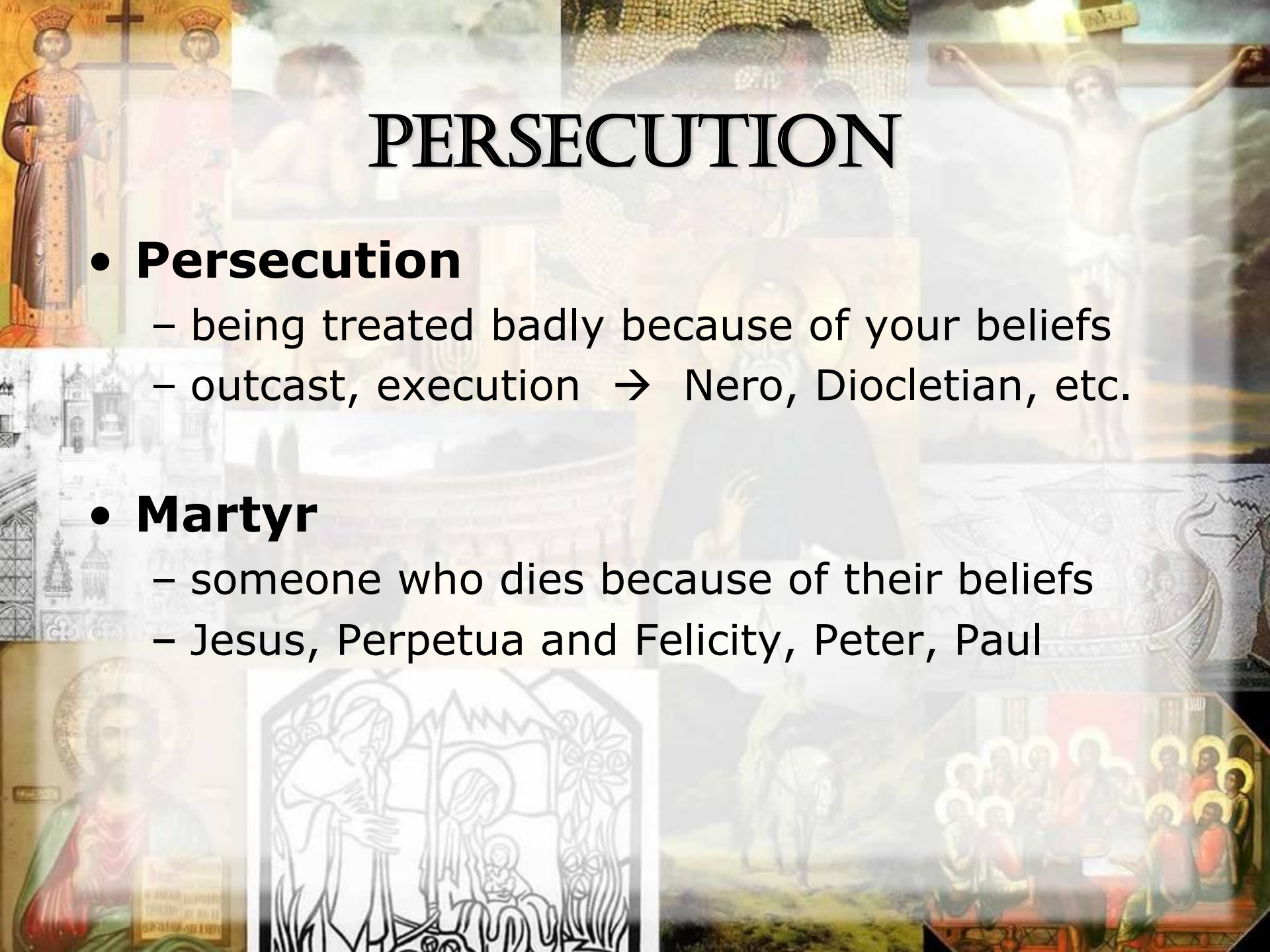
PERSECUTION

- **Persecution**

- being treated badly because of your beliefs
- outcast, execution → Nero, Diocletian, etc.

- **Martyr**

- someone who dies because of their beliefs
- Jesus, Perpetua and Felicity, Peter, Paul



CONVERSION OF THE EMPIRE

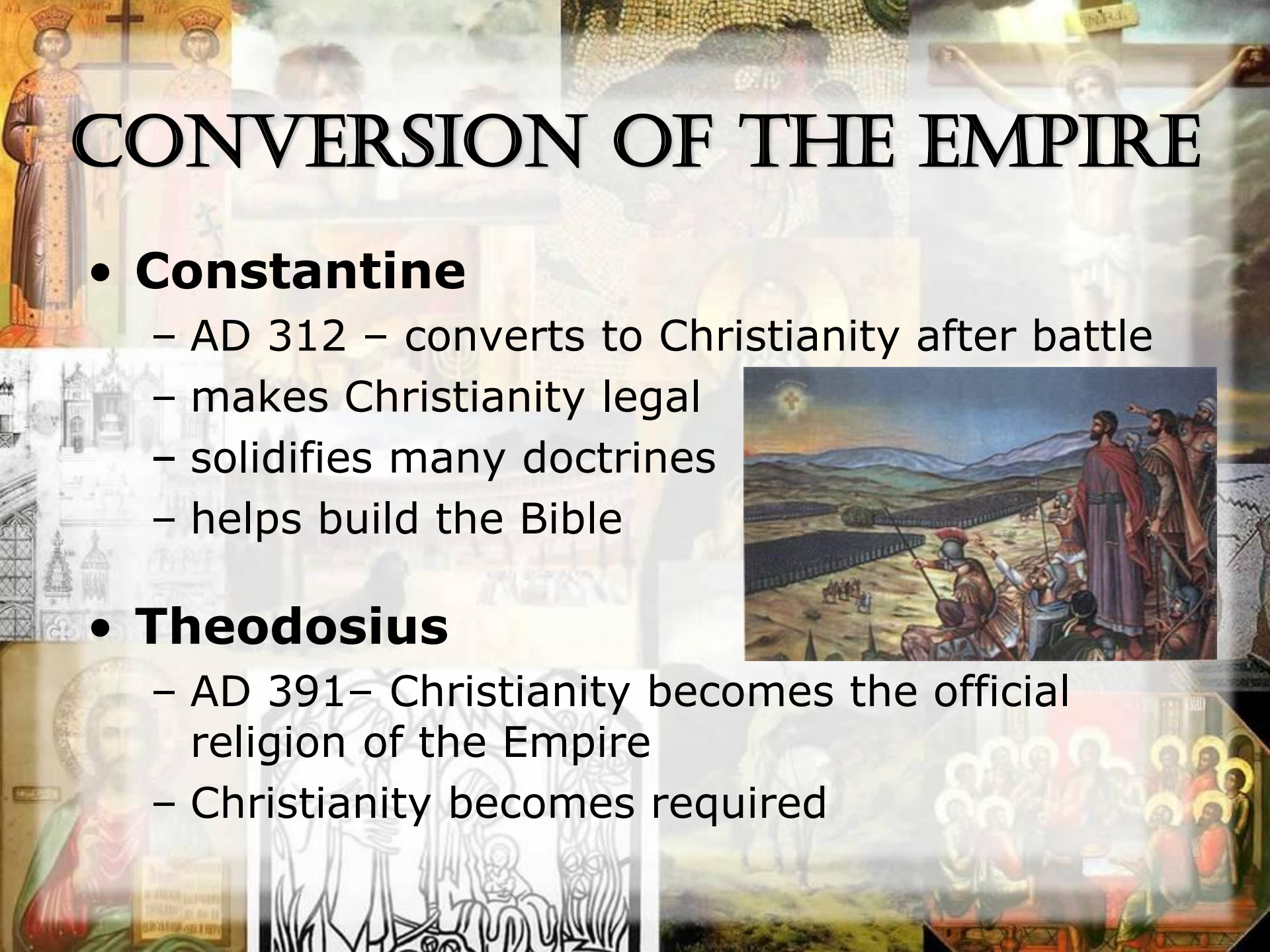
• Constantine

- AD 312 – converts to Christianity after battle
- makes Christianity legal
- solidifies many doctrines
- helps build the Bible



• Theodosius

- AD 391 – Christianity becomes the official religion of the Empire
- Christianity becomes required



SCHISMS

- **Great Schism (1054)**

- schism = split

- **Roman Catholic**

- Western Church; headquartered in Rome

- **Eastern Orthodox**

- Eastern Church; Byzantium (Constantinople)

- **Reformation (1517)**

- **Martin Luther** – priest; protested corruption

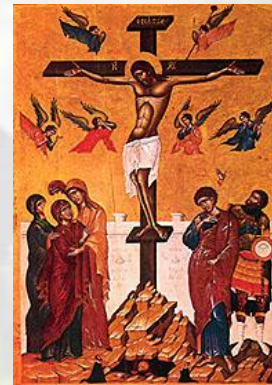
- **Protestants** – followers of Martin Luther

- **Denominations** – divisions of Church

DIVISIONS OF CHRISTIANITY

- **Worldwide** – 2.2 billion Christians (33% of world's population)
 - 1) **Roman Catholic**
 - 1115 million
 - 17% of all humans
 - 54% of Christians
 - 2) **Protestant**
 - 663 million
 - 10% of all humans
 - 32% of Christians
 - 3) **Eastern Orthodox**
 - 297 million
 - 5% of all humans
 - 14% of Christians

These numbers are 2005 estimates



Leading Church Bodies, 2000

