
EARLY CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

TETRARCHY CREATION

- **Occurs during the reign of Diocletian - A.D. 284**
 - **26 Roman Generals Claiming Title of Emperor**
 - **No Real Plan for Succession**
- **Divides the Empire up into 2 Regions (East and West)**
 - **Emperor - Diocletian**
 - **Augustus - Diocletian (East) and Maximus (West)**
 - **Caesar - Galerius (East) and Constantius (West)**



THE GREAT PERSECUTION

- **Confusion occurred during a pagan ritual - The entrails of the animal could not be read.**
 - **During the ceremony the Christian had made a sign of the cross to ward off demons.**
 - **Diocletian becomes enraged and orders the termination of Christianity. Feb 303 A.D.**
 - **Destroy all Christian churches**
 - **Burn all the Christian writings**
 - **Prohibited all Christian gatherings**
 - **Removed all officials who were Christians from office**
 - **Any Christian found participating in any form of Christian worship immediately executed.**
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NICOMEDIA - NORTHWEST TURKEY

- **Location of the first church to be destroyed by Diocletian's edict.**
 - **Some Christians retaliated and attempted to fire-bomb the emperor's palace**
 - **Diocletian rounds up 286 Christians tortures them to death.**
 - **Constantius - sort of goes through the motions, but not overly enthusiastic**
 - **Persecution was so horrific in the east region of the empire that pagans actually began to have empathy for the Christians**
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GALERIUS- JR. EMPEROR

- **Chief executor of the persecution in the East. Specifically Syria, Palestine, and North Africa**
 - **A.D. 310 develops cancer**
 - **Reverses course or at the least seeks greater toleration for the Christians**
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**“THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS EDICT, AND THE CORE OF THE
INDULGENCE WE HAVE SHOWN TO THOSE CHRISTIANS, WE
HAVE ASKED THEM IF THEY WOULD INTERCEDE TO THEIR
GOD FOR MY HEALTH AND SAFETY.”**

DIES IN 311 A.D.

THE END OF THE TETRARCHY

- **Diocletian retires (unheard of) and insists Maximian does the same.**
 - **Constantius and Galerius become Augustus**
 - **Galerius seizes control of the empire 305 A.D.**
 - **Bloody battles and assassinations followed**
 - **Upon Galerius' death is 311 A.D. 4 people were once again in the running to be Emperor**
 - **Constantine and Maxentius actually groomed for this position.**
 - **Maximinius Daia and Licinius - friends of Galerius**
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THE END OF THE TETRARCHY CONT.

- **Constantine defeats Maxentius at Battle of Milvian Bridge Oct 312 A.D.**
 - **Constantine has a vision before the Battle**
 - **Chi and Rho - *Christ* on their shields**
 - **See Cross of Heaven and the words, “In this sign, conquer” - validated by his army.**
 - **Licinius defeats Maximinius in the east.**
 - **Alliance formed in Milan, A.D. 313, sealed with Constantine’s sister marrying Licinius**
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THE EDICT OF MILAN

- **Granted toleration to all religions, including Christianity**
 - **Does not establish Christianity as the legal religion of Rome.**
 - **Civil War broke out between East and West. Licinius is defeated in 325 A.D. at Battle of Chrysopolis. Licinius is eventually hung even though Constantine's wife begged for mercy.**
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CONSTANTINE

- **Mother, Helena was a devout Christian. Attributed with starting churches in the Holy Land.**
- **Church of the Nativity (Bethlehem)**
- **Church on the Mount of Olives**
- **He was a devotee to the Cult of the Sun**
- **Killed both his wife and son**
- **AD 337 he was baptized**
- **Buried in the church of Constantinople**



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