

# EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

The First 400 years

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## **Period One**

***The Close of the Apostolic Age***

## Church History: Major Periods

- ***Patristic Period* (A.D. 65-430)**

- End of the apostles through Augustine

- **Medieval Period (430-1450)**

- Monasticism; rise of Islam; East/West Church

- **Reformation (1450-1560)**

- German, Swiss, English

- **Post-Reformation (1560-1750)**

- Puritans, Baptist, Methodist, Lutherans

- **Early American (1620-1850)**

- **Modern Era (1850-)**

## ***How were early Christians perceived?***

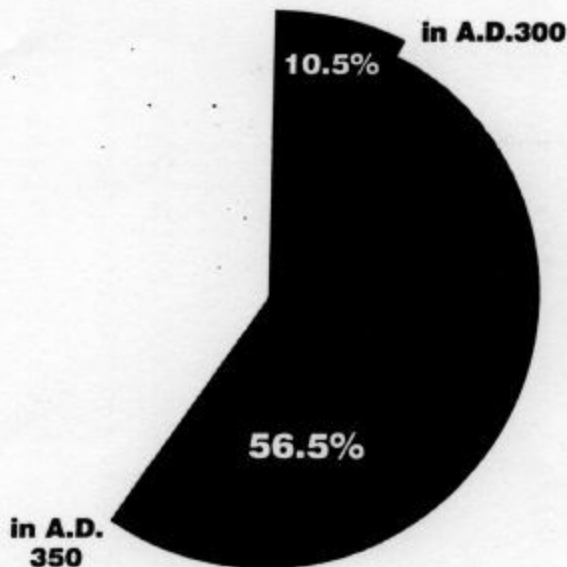
### **Accusations**

- **Atheism**
  - **Lack of Patriotism**
  - **Cause of Disasters**
  - **“Haters of Mankind”**
  - **Superstition**
  - **Cannibalism**
  - **Immorality/Incest**
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**“religio illicita”**

# THE EXPLOSIVE DECADES

*Percentage of Christians  
in the Roman Empire*



Year	Number of Christians	Percent of Empire's Population
100	7,500	0.0126
150	41,000	0.07
200	220,000	0.36
250	1,170,000	1.9
300	6,300,000	10.5
350	34,000,000	56.5

These estimates are based on 40 percent growth per decade, and roughly correspond with figures found in early church documents. For more details, see Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History* (Princeton, 1996).

# THE ROMAN EMPIRE, 1ST CENTURY B.C. TO A.D. 150



Anthedon, Joppa, and Strato's Tower along the Mediterranean and the Plain of Acco were excluded from his kingdom, large

# THE EXTENT OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE 1ST AND 2ND CENTURIES A.D.

