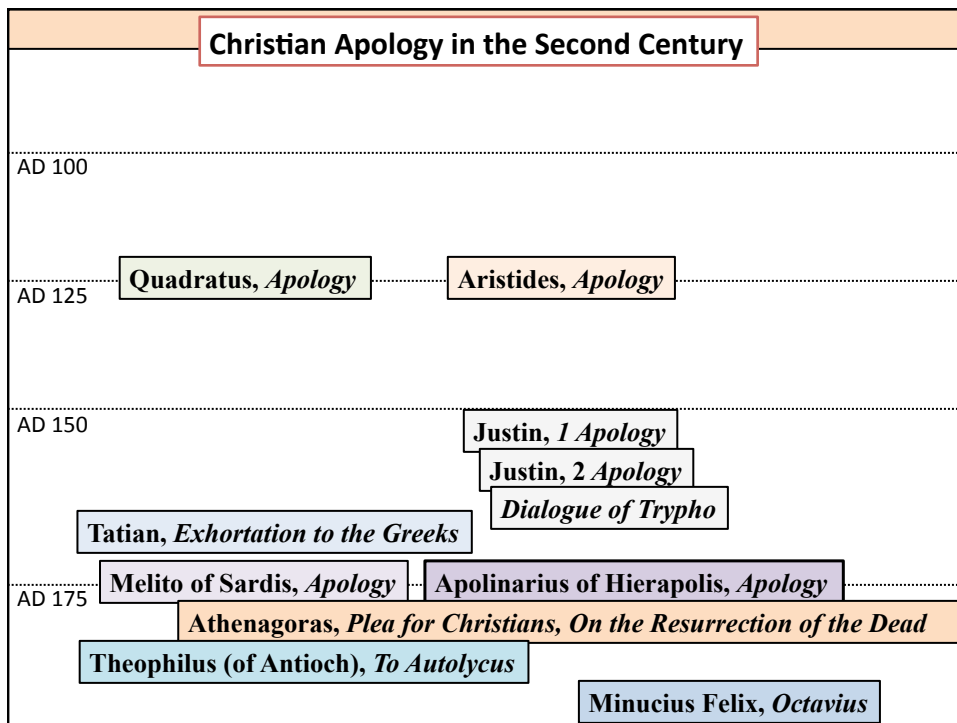
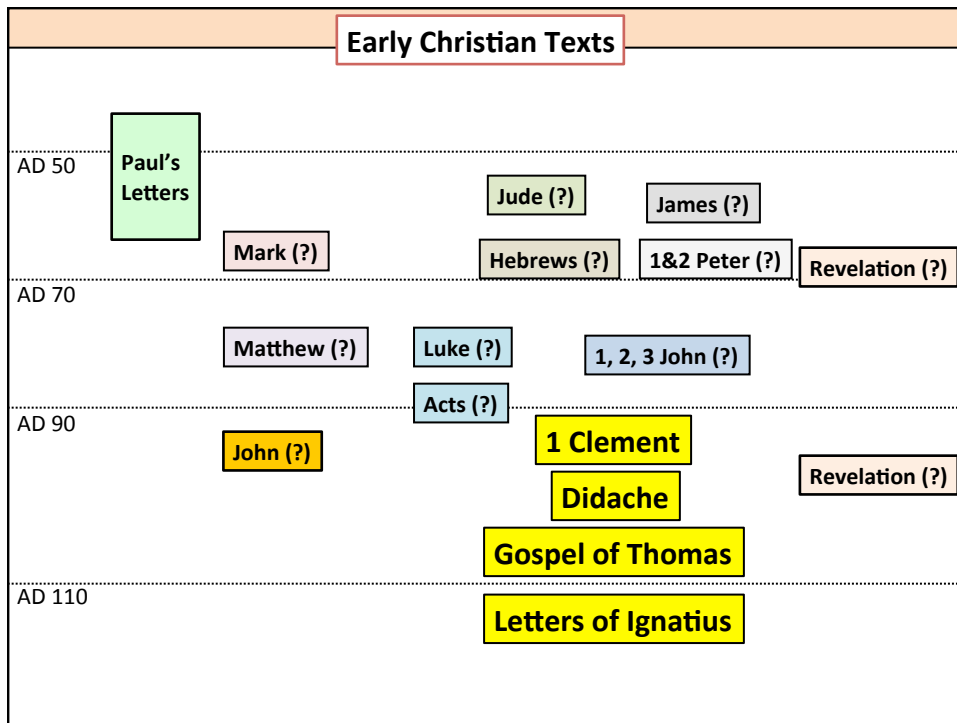


Christian Apology in the Second Century



“Apology” from Greek ἀπολογία:
“speech in defence”



Christian Apology in the Second Century

WHY?

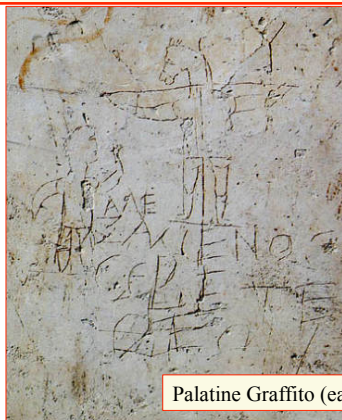
- Bias/Hostility/Persecution
- Rumors of Christian “Abominations” (*flagitia*)
- Christians are thought to be Irrational and Crazy

And I ask you this: Have you also believed concerning us, that we eat men; and that after the feast, having extinguished the lights, we engage in promiscuous concubinage?

Justin Martyr, *Try.* X

I am told that under some idiotic impulse they [Christians] consecrate and worship the head of an ass, the meanest of all beasts. . . They also take an infant, cased in dough to deceive the unsuspecting, and place it beside the person to be initiated. The novice is thereupon induced to inflict what seem harmless blows upon the dough, and unintentionally the infant is killed by his unsuspecting blows.

Minucius Felix, *Oct.* IX, IV-V



Palatine Graffito (early 3rd cent. A.D.)



“Ale-
xamenos
worships
God!”

Christian Apology in the Second Century

WHY?

- Bias/Hostility/Persecution
- Rumors of Christian “Abominations” (*flagitia*)
- Christians are thought to be Irrational and Crazy
- Christians upset the *mos maiorum* (“way of the ancestors”)

What is This?

A	K-IAN	F	H	K-FEB	N	D	K-MAR	N	C	K-APR	F	A	K-MAI	F	H	K-JUN	N	F	K-JUL	N	E	K-AUG	F	D	K-SEP	F	B	K-OCT	N	A	K-NOV	F	G	K-DEC	N
BF	AN		EF		DF		BF		AF		GN		FF		EF		CF		BF		HN														
CC	BN		FC		EC		CC		BC		HN		GC		FC		DC		CC		AN														
CC	CN		GC		FC		DC		CC		AN		HC		GC		EC		DC		BC														
E	NON-F		HC		GNON-N		EC		DNON-N		B	POPLI-N		A	NON-F		F		C		NON-F														
FF	EN		AC		HN		FC		EN		CN		BF		AF		GC		FF		DF														
GC	FN		B	NON-F		AN		GNON-F		FN		DNON-N		CC		BC		HNON-F		GC		EC													
HC	GN		CF		BN		HF		GN		EN		DC		CC		AF		HC		FC														
A	AGON-N		DC		CN		A	LEM-N		H	VEST-N		FN		EC		DC		BC		AC														
BC	AN		EC		DN		BC		AN		GC		FC		EC		CC		BC		HC														
CC	AR-N		BN		FC		C	LEM-N		B	MATR-N		HC		GC		FC		C		AGON-N														
CC	CN		GC		FN		DC		CN		AC		HC		GC		F		C		EC														
E	IDVS-N		D	IDVS-N		H	E	LEM-N		D	IDVS-N		BC		A	IDVS-N		H	IDVS-N		F		FONT-N												
EN	EN		A	EOVIR-N		HN		FC		EN		CC		BF		AF		GEN		FF		DF													
G	CAR-N		F	L	PER-N		B	IDVS-N		A	FORD-N		G	IDVS-N		F	Q	ST	D		D	IDVS-N													
HC	GEN		CF		BN		HF		GC		EC		DC		CC		AF		HC		FC														
AC	H	Q	VIR-N		D	LIBER-N		CN		AC		HC		F		E	PORT-N		DC		BC														
BC	AC		EC		DN		BC		AC		GC		GC		F		GC		EC		CC														
CC	BC		F	Q	VIN-N		E	CERIA-N		CC		BC		H	I	L	CAR-N		G		VINAL														
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GC	F	TERM-N		B	T	VIL-N		A		VINAL		F		G	T	VIL-N		F		C															
HC	G	R	E	GIF-N		C	Q	R	C	F		B		C	Q	R	C	F		G															
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EC			HC		GC		EC		DC		BC		AC		HC		HC		FC		EC														
FC			AC		HC		FC		EC		CC		BC		CC		BC		AC		GC														
GC			BC		GC		GC		EC		CC		CC		CC		CC		CC		EC														

XXXI XXII XXIII XXXI XXX XXII XXXI XXXI XXX XXX XXXI XXXI XXXI XXXI

Let no one have gods apart, neither new nor immigrant, unless publicly acknowledged; let them worship in private the god's cults which they have received from the fathers as proper objects of worship. To worship their own or new gods, either new or foreign, brings in a confusion of religions and ceremonies unknown to our priests. For, if the fathers themselves obeyed this law, it is therefore settled that the gods accepted by the fathers are to be worshipped

Cicero, *Leg*, II, XIX

Whoever introduces new doctrines or religious observances unknown as to their nature, by which the minds of men would be disturbed, if from the upper classes let them be banished, if from the lower classes, let them receive capital punishment

Paulus, *Sent*, V, XXI

Christians tended to reject and refuse all forms of Roman religion and refused to participate in the sacrifices

The Multitude cried out with uncontrollable wrath and a loud shout: "This is the teacher of Asia, the father of the Christians, the destroyer of our gods, who teaches many neither to offer sacrifice nor to worship."

***Mart. Poly*, XII.II**

Hence we are called atheists. And we confess that we are atheists, so far as gods of this sort are concerned, but not with respect to the most true God.

Justin Mart. *Apol*. VI

Those who do not profess the Roman religion, must take part in Roman religious ceremonies.

Acts Cyp. I.V

Christian Apology in the Second Century

WHY?

- Bias/Hostility/Persecution
- Rumors of Christian “Abominations” (*flagitia*)
- Christians are thought to be Irrational and Crazy
- Christians upset the *mos maiorum* (“way of the ancestors”)
- Christians upset the *pax deorum* (“peace of the gods”)

“The pagans suppose the Christians are the cause of every public disaster. If the Tiber overflows or the Nile doesn’t, if there is draught or an earthquake, a famine or a pestilence, at once the cry goes up, ‘The Christians to the lions.’”

Tertullian, *Apol.*, 40.2