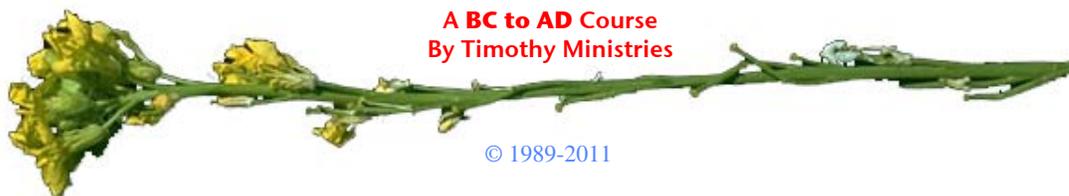


# The Mustard Seed Story



A BC to AD Course  
By Timothy Ministries

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## Assignments

### Reading Assignments

The page numbers given and questions posed pertain to *The Story Of Christianity: The Early Church To The Present Day*, by Justo L. González, using the two-volumes-in-one edition published by Prince Press.

#### 1A: The *Ekklesia* Emerges Through Conflict

Read Volume 1, pages 1 to 48, and answer the following questions:

1. Sanctus, deacon of Vienne, was martyred with others in AD 177. Under torture “he would not even tell his name, or the nation or city to which he belonged, or whether he was bond or free....” (Eusebius, Ecc Hst V.I.20). What is the one thing he “simply answered”?
2. What circumstances confronting the empire led to the persecution under the “enlightened” Marcus Aurelius?
3. Why did believers of the 2nd century avoid public social events, such that the Roman historian Tacitus believed that Christians hated humankind?
4. What archaeological evidence supports the report that there was an Indian king named Gondophares, to whom the apostle Thomas may have witnessed?
5. What prompted the *ekklesia* of Jerusalem to remove itself to Pella, beyond the Jordan?
6. How did one become a member of a “mystery religion”?
7. How did the Jewish philosopher, Philo of Alexandria, make the teachings of the Hebrew Scriptures coincide with the writings of the Greek philosophers?

#### 1B: 7 Compelling Facts About The First Christ Followers

Read Volume 1, pages 49 to 81, and answer the following questions:

1. According to Origen of Alexandria, what were the two distinct creations of man?
2. Why, according to Origen, will Satan be saved?
3. According to Clement of Alexandria, how is it that Scripture can “lead to the same truth that the philosophers have known”?
4. How did Clement of Alexandria use the doctrine of the Logos differently from Justin?

# Assignments

## The Mustard Seed Story

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5. What characterized the pursuit of “truth” in 2<sup>nd</sup>-century Alexandria?
6. Why did the early Church begin to call itself *Catholic*?
7. For many cultured pagans, what fueled their enmity toward Christianity?

### 2: The Mustard Seed’s Surprising Success

Read Volume 1, pages 82 to 108, and answer the following questions:

1. When Maximinus Daia maimed Christians and put them to work in quarries, what did the condemned Christians do in their places of punishment?
2. What was the irony of the great persecution against Christians unleashed under Diocletian?
3. Gregory Thaumaturgus was among the first to use what unusual “missionary method”?
4. What assumption does González make about Acts 20.7?
5. What did it mean to have one’s name removed from a congregation’s diptych?
6. Septimus Severus outlawed all conversions to Judaism and Christianity in the hopes of uniting the empire under the worship of what god?
7. Under the rule of Decius, how did one earn the title of “confessor”?

### 3: The Devil’s Devices

Read Volume 1, pages 114 to 150, and answer the following questions:

1. What is the origin of the words *chapel* and *chaplain*?
2. What was the angelic vision that Pachomius rejected?
3. How did Gnosticism influence monasticism?
4. How was celibacy thought to witness to the coming Kingdom?
5. Why did the hermit Anthony go to Alexandria during the persecution under Diocletian?
6. Ironically, and thanks to the Roman Senate, what did Constantine become after his death?
7. What god did Constantine believe was compatible with the Christian God?

### 4: Conquest Of Christianity

Read Volume 1, pages 151 to 200, and answer the following questions:

1. John Chrysostom discovered that the monastic life was *not* good training for what vocation?
2. Who appointed John Chrysostom as bishop of Constantinople, and later deposed him?
3. What did some of the “celibate” priests of Constantinople keep in their homes?



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# Assignments

4. Over time, how did the relationship between emperor and bishop in the West tend to differ from the relationship between emperor and bishop in the Eastern empire?
5. City governor Ambrose progressed from unbaptized catechumen to Bishop of Milan over how long a time period?
6. What dangerous legal precedent did Ambrose of Milan help set by siding with arsonist Christians against the emperor?
7. What were the two sins of the “traditores”?
8. What did the man who baptized Constantine believe about Christ?
9. Why did Julian the Apostate attempt to rebuild the Jerusalem temple?
10. What was “the heart of Christianity” as Athanasius understood it?

### 5: Into The Darkness

Read Volume 1, pages 201 to 265, and answer the following questions:

1. What occasioned Jerome’s unexpected expression of admiration to Augustine of Hippo?
2. What religion, and then what philosophy, did Augustine embrace before becoming a Christian?
3. What did Augustine understand as the four states of the freedom of the will (i.e., pre-fall, between the fall and redemption, after redemption and in heaven)?
4. Why did the Council of Toledo (in 633) forbid Jews, after they had been forcibly “converted” to Christianity, to return to the faith of their ancestors?
5. On what two verses did the rule of Benedict prescribe prayer seven times a day, including once at midnight?
6. What did Gregory the Great believe occurred in the offering of the mass?
7. How did the Cyrillic alphabet originate?
8. Thanks to being bypassed by European invasions, what were the monasteries of Ireland able to preserve?

### 6: Divine Revelations

Read Volume 1, pages 266 to 300, and answer the following questions:

1. What became the source of wealth in Europe when money almost ceased circulating?
2. What kind of revival did Charlemagne bring about?
3. What were the two great theological issues debated among western theologians during the Carolingian period?
4. As Pope Gregory VII, what two things did Hildebrand continue to campaign against?

# Assignments

## The Mustard Seed Story

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5. In theory, the medieval popes were “guardians” of church possessions; instead, the popes acted as what?
6. What vision inspired the Crusaders to break the siege of Antioch by the Turks?
7. By what nickname did Saint James (ben Zebedee), i.e., *Santo Jacob*, become known in the *Reconquista* of Spain?

### 7: Doomsday Opportunities

Read Volume 1, pages 301 to 375, and answer the following questions:

1. What did the Dominican order emphasize in pursuit of their task to refute heresy?
2. What did the Fourth Lateran Council require Jews and Muslims to do?
3. According to Anselm, why was it necessary for God to become incarnate?
4. What did the scholastics do in their theological dialectic that Abelard did not do?
5. What did Thomas Aquinas hold was “the beginning of knowledge”?
6. Why were European Jews persecuted during the plague years?
7. According to proponents of the Conciliar Movement, what had more authority than the pope?
8. According to John Wycliffe, which church owns Scripture?
9. How did the Taborites’ view of Scripture’s authority regarding ecclesiastical practice differ from that of the Hussites’?
10. Under Savonarola’s program of reformation, the Florentines periodically held what kind of bonfire?

### 8: Snapshots Of Medieval Life

Read Volume 2, pages 6 to 60, and answer the following questions:

1. According to Erasmus, what does the true “soldier of Christ” train for, in contrast to the inclination of monasticism?
2. What did Erasmus consider more important than orthodoxy?
3. In spite of his temporary pursuit of Christian mysticism, what made it difficult for Luther to love God?
4. According to John Tetzel, his indulgences made the sinner cleaner than what?
5. According to Luther, God’s highest self-disclosure occurs in what?
6. How did Zwingli’s view of predestination differ from Luther’s?
7. Though the persecution of the Anabaptists was “usually couched in theological considerations,” what was the real motive for opposing them?

### 9: Up The Scala Sancta

Read Volume 2, pages 61 to 124, and answer the following questions:

1. Calvin’s *Institutes* represent a high point of what kind of Protestant writing?



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# Assignments

2. What was Calvin's role in the death of the heretic Michael Servetus?
3. What was the main issue dividing Protestants during Calvin's lifetime?
4. Henry VIII's last wife was Catherine Parr; what was the most historically important aspect of personality?
5. How did the Scottish reformer John Knox undermine a potential religious alliance with Elizabeth queen of England?
6. What did Isabella of Castile seek to reform, and what deviation would she not tolerate?
7. What was the original purpose of the new Jesuit order, and with what purpose were they tasked by the religious climate of the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century?

### 10: Tale Of Two Colonies

Read Volume 1, pages 379 to 411, and Volume 2, pages 217 to 261 and answer the following questions:

1. What medieval ideals and principles were applied by Spaniards in the conquest of indigenous peoples of the Americas?
2. What was the New-World system of *encomendia* against which the Dominicans protested.
3. After the discoveries of Columbus, the pope apportioned the entire non-Christians world to what two countries?
4. Developing the economic enterprise of tobacco growing gave impetus to the Virginia colony developing what kind of economy?
5. Why did Virginia slave owners prefer that their slaves not be baptized?
6. What numerically strengthened the colony of Massachusetts and gave birth to Connecticut and New Haven?
7. Where was the center of Roman Catholicism in America during the colonial period?

### 11: Clash Of Champions

Read Volume 2, pages 132 to 216, and 262 to 273, and answer the following questions:

1. Who were listed among the saints in the religion created by the French Revolution?
2. What aspects of religion were emphasized by the Oxford Movement?
3. Why did Luis XIV offer to pay Protestant pastors to convert and be "reunited" with Catholicism?
4. What was the only result from James I's dispute with the Puritans in 1611?
5. What did Jesuits and Dominicans accuse each other of before the Spanish Inquisition?

# Assignments

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6. What was the essence of the religious philosophy of Quietism?
7. For what three reasons was the Lutheran theology of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and part of the 18<sup>th</sup> rightly called “Protestant scholasticism”?

### 12: The Death And Resurrection Of The *Ekklesia*

Read Volume 2, pages 303 to 397, and answer the following questions:

1. What did Protestant women missionaries do in the field that they were forbidden to do at home?
2. What was the end result of the “Heavenly Kingdom” movement in China?
3. What immigration policy eventually favored the spread of Protestantism among the native populations of Latin America?
4. Besides the immense toll in human lives, what was another casualty of the two world wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
5. The history of Orthodox churches of the East implies that western Christianity may have underestimated the power of what two religious phenomena?
6. In his *Commentary on Romans*, Karl Barth insisted upon faithful exegesis over against what?
7. How was lack of church membership viewed in the United States during the “McCarthy era”?
8. What did author Justo González predict the 21<sup>st</sup> century would be marked by?

### Term Paper Assignment

A motto of the Reformers was, *Ekklesia reformata semper reformanda est* (“the reformed church is always reforming”). Please write a paper of approximately 2,400 words (6 pages) identifying, and arguing for, the three areas in which you see the greatest need for reformation in the current Protestant, Evangelical or Pentecostal/Charismatic church.