

# CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

## MARTYRS PART TWO

### Lesson 5

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

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Why were  
Christians  
persecuted?

- Jewish  
Persecution





- Jewish Persecution

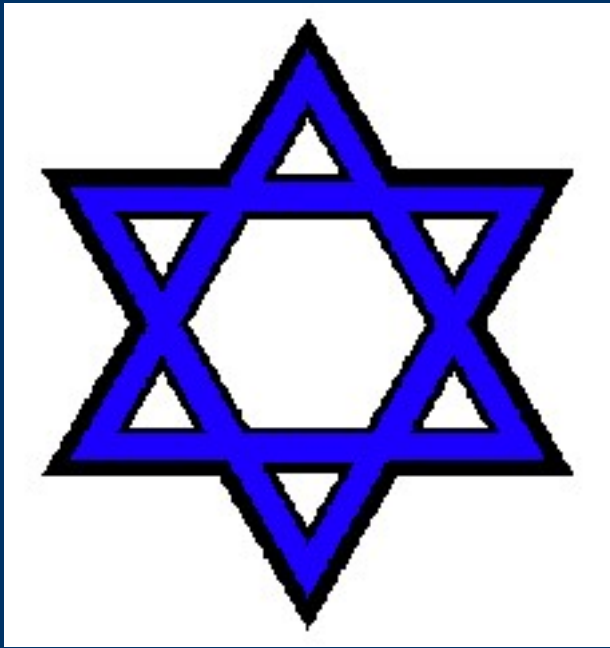
- Local Persecution



- Jewish Persecution
- Local Persecution
- Government Persecution



- Jewish  
Persecution







- Jewish Persecution

- Stephen and others



- Jewish Persecution

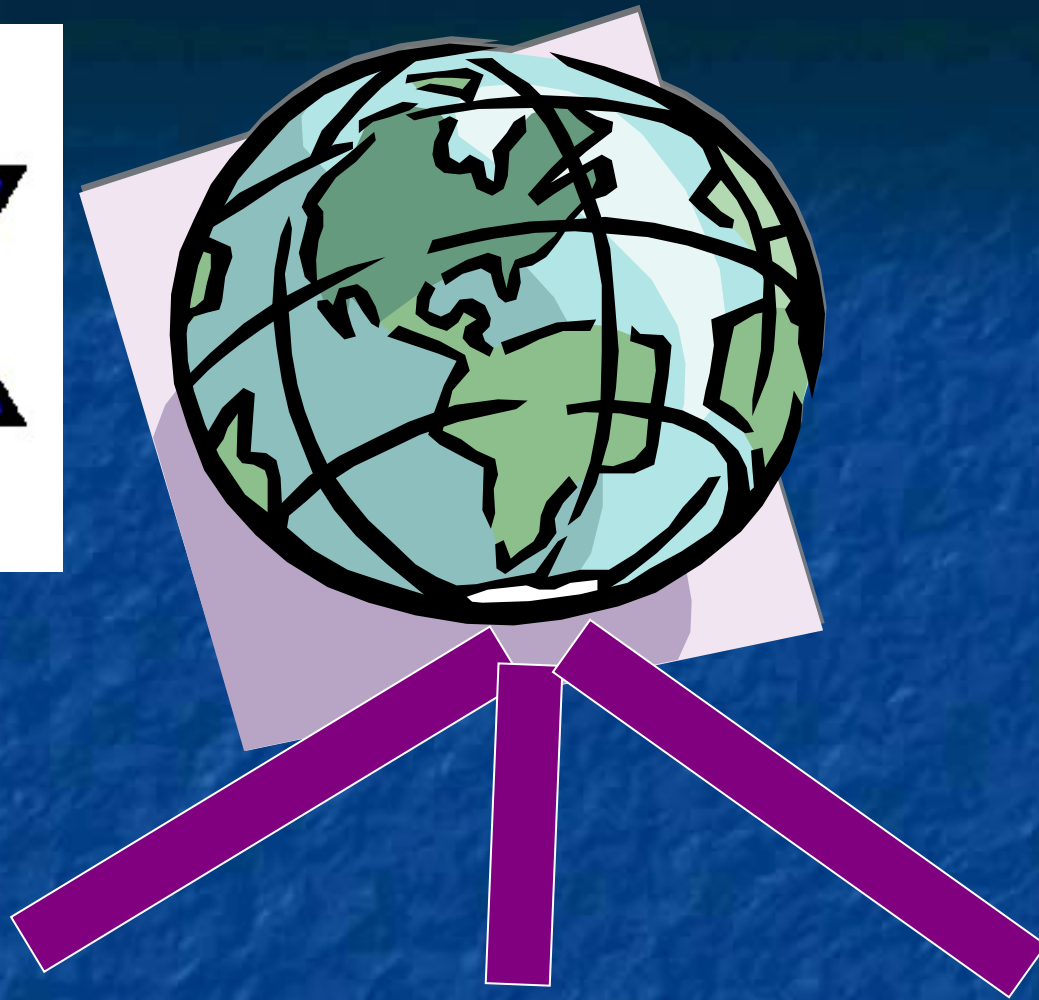
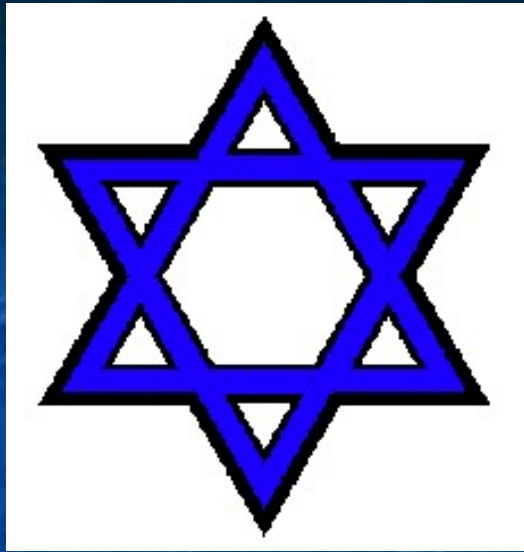
- Paul

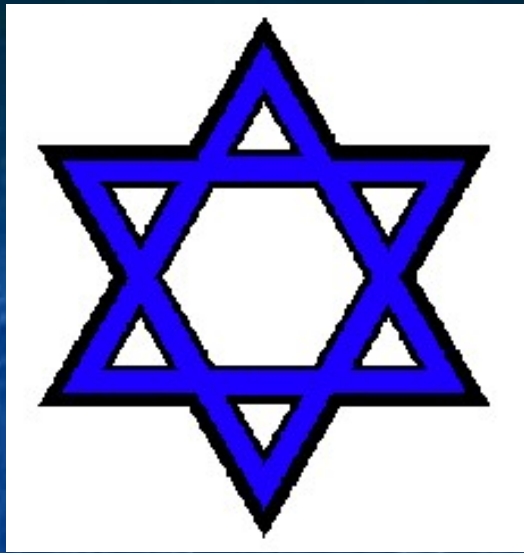




- Jewish Persecution

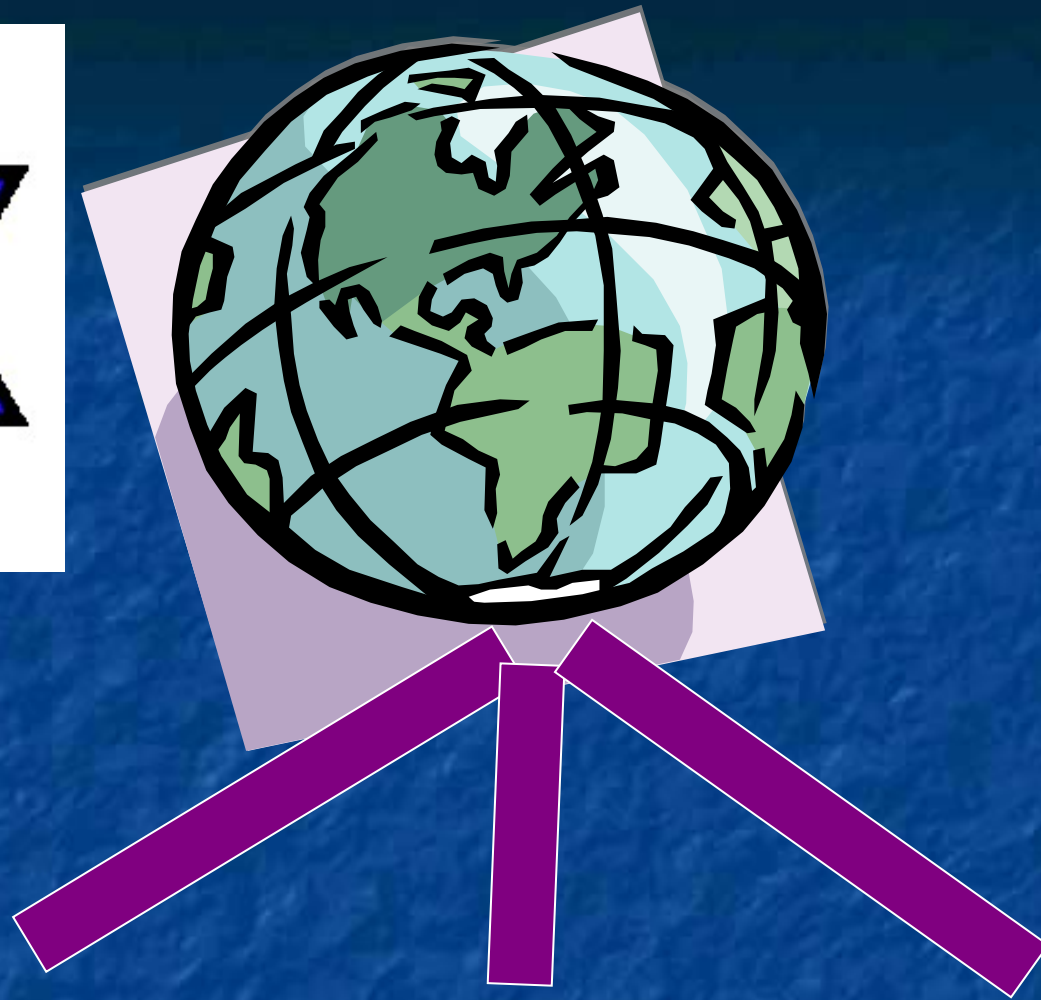
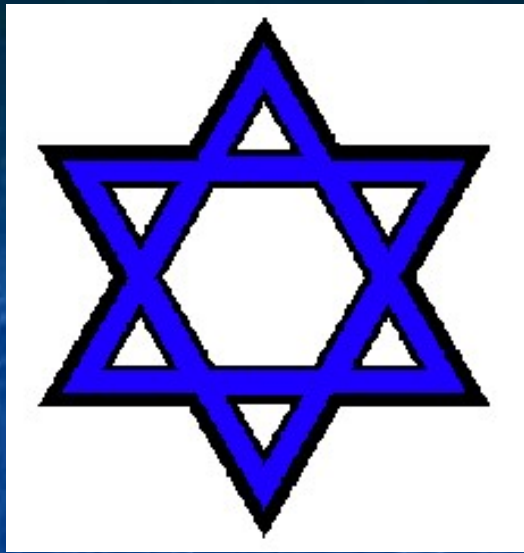
“Christ crucified  
... a stumbling  
block to Jews”





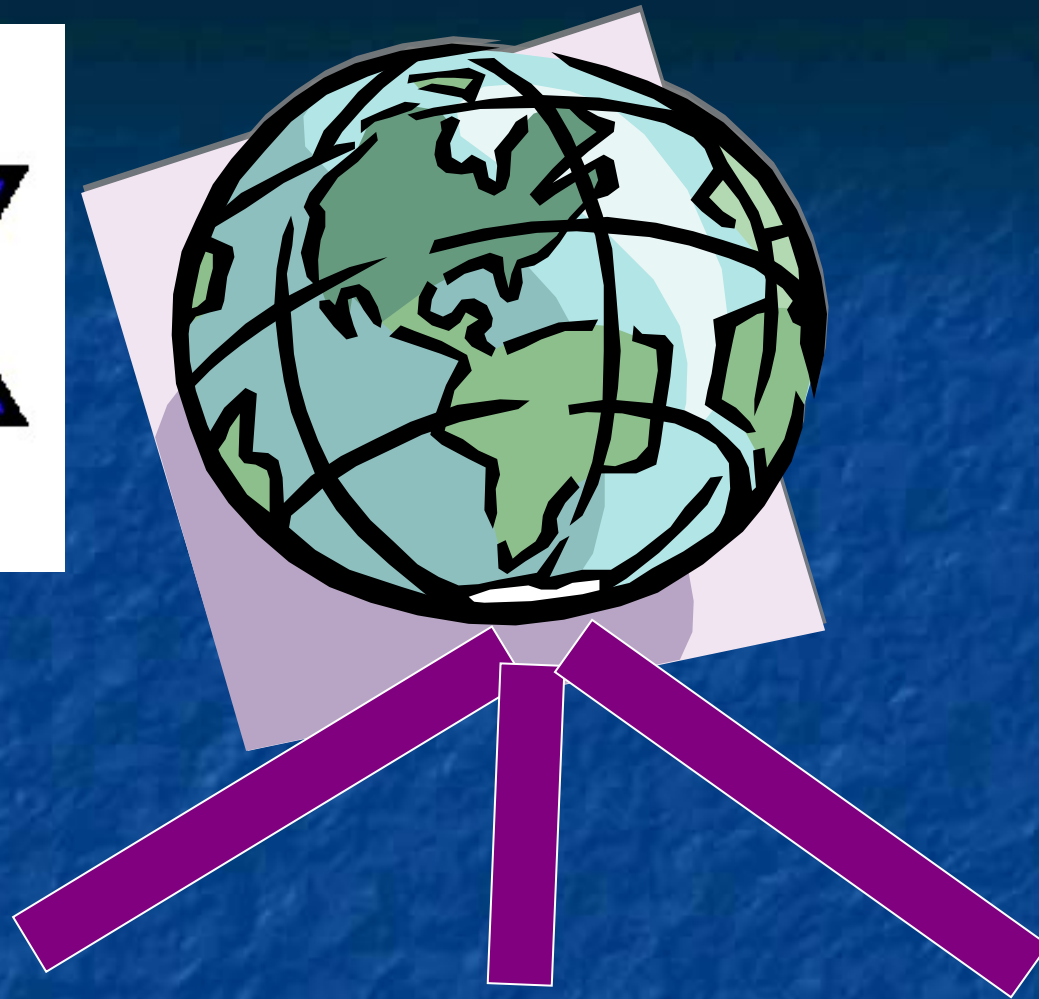
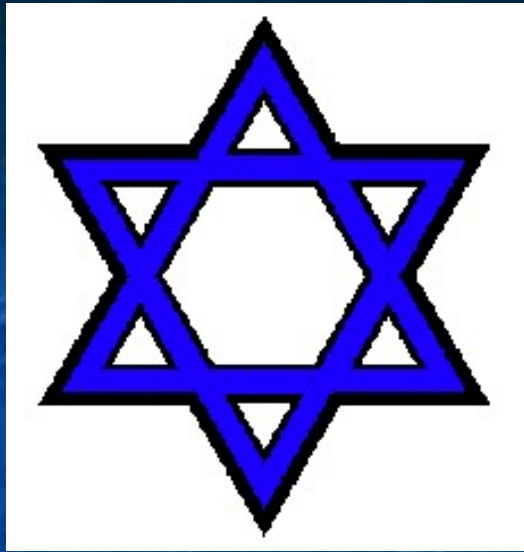
The Law





The Law

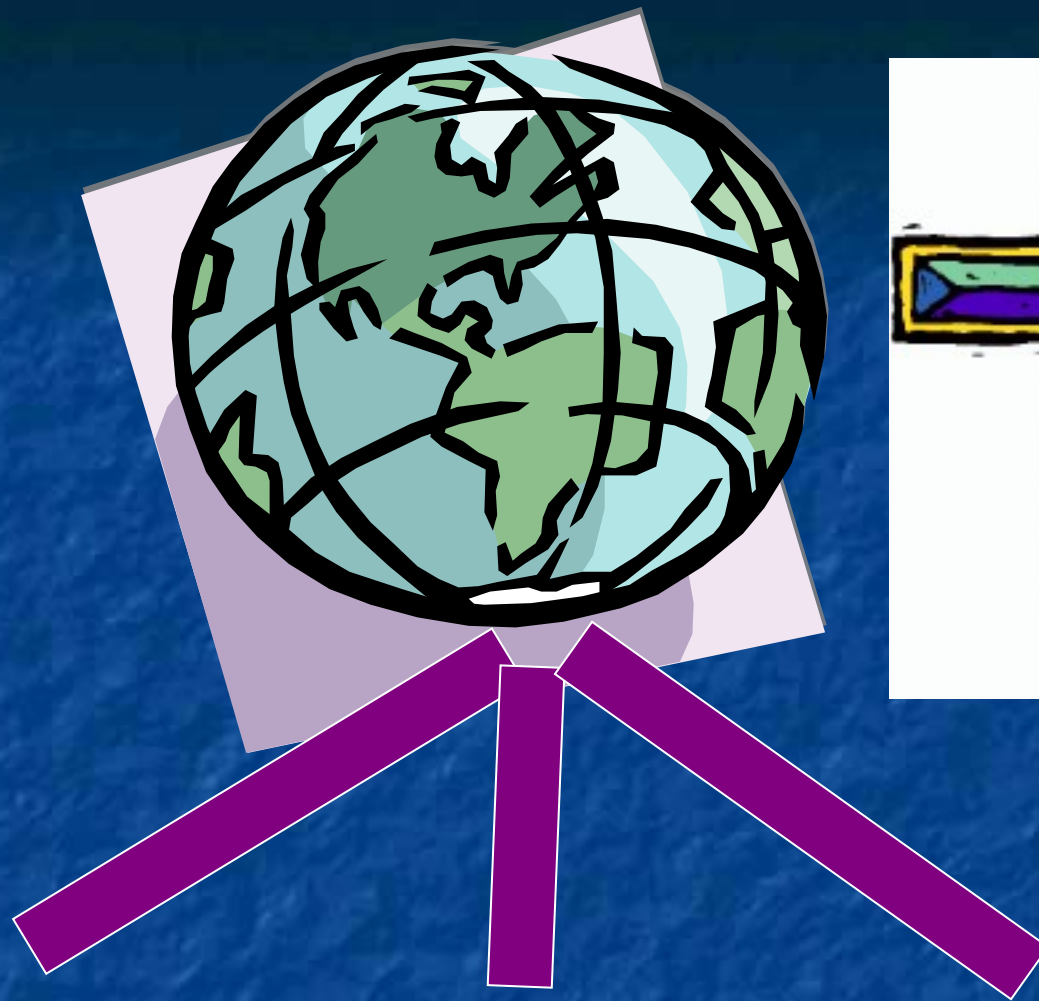
The  
Temple



The Law

The  
Temple

Kind  
Deeds

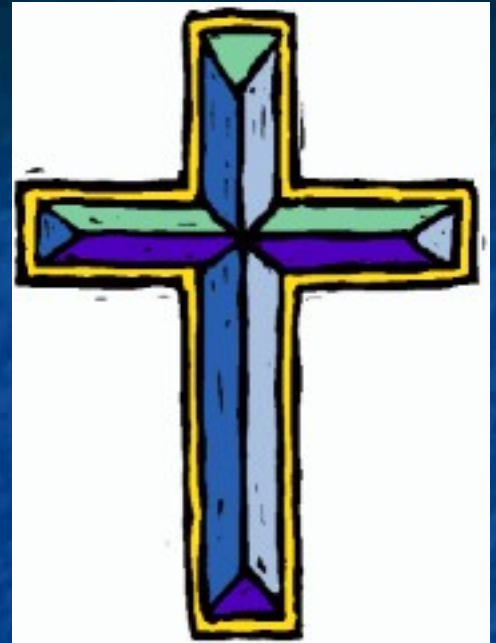


The Law

The  
Temple

Kind  
Deeds

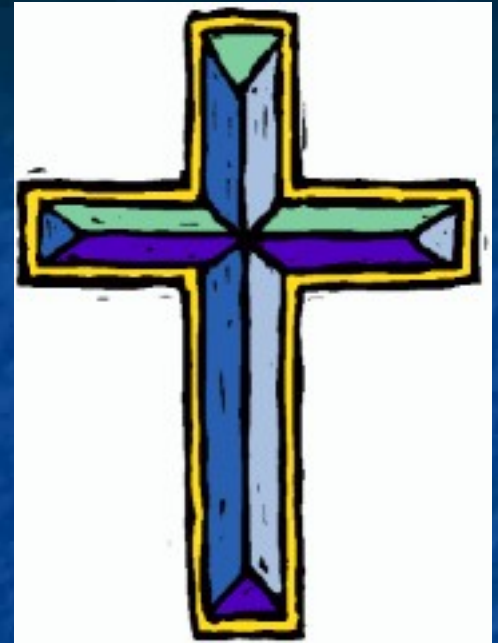




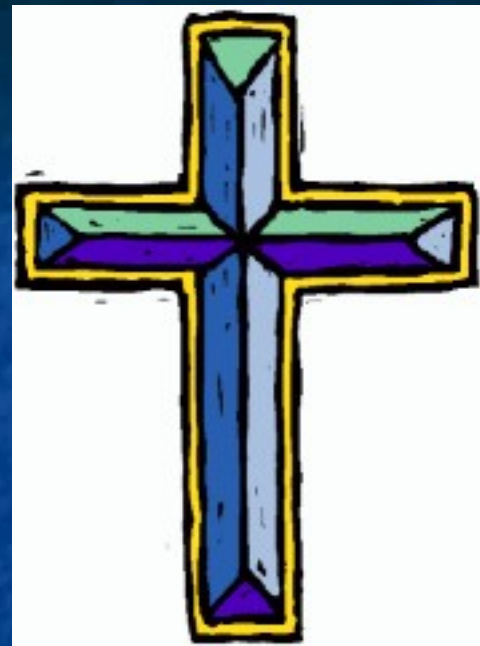
The Law

The  
Temple

Kind  
Deeds

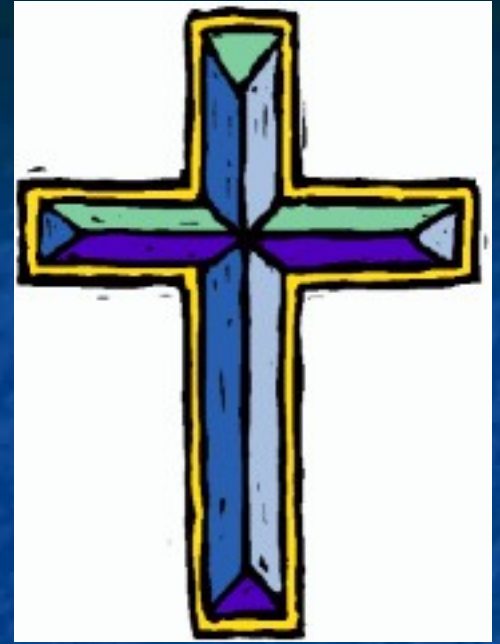


Kind  
Deeds

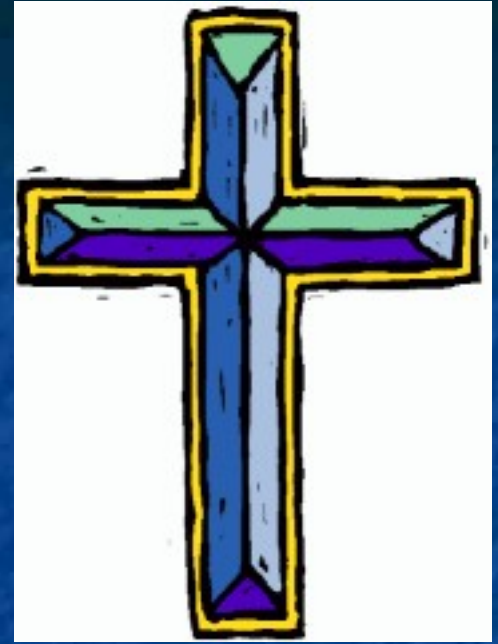


Kind  
Deeds

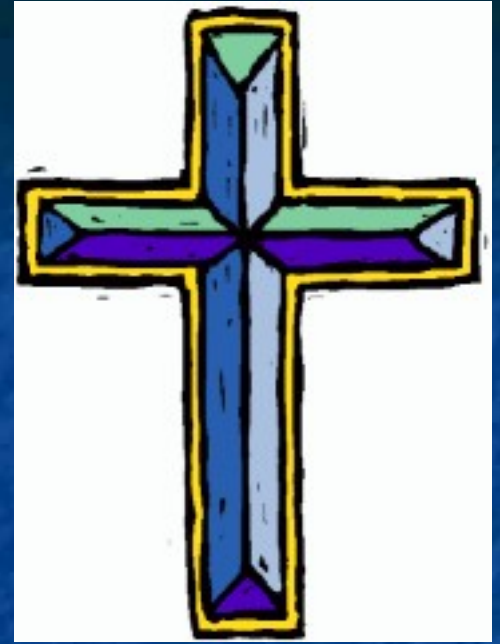
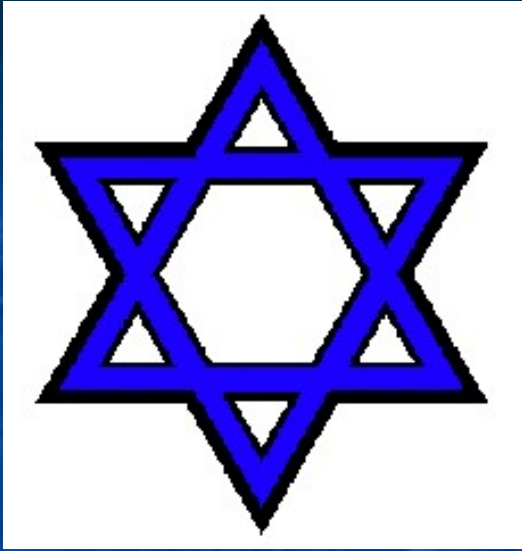




Jewish Power Structure



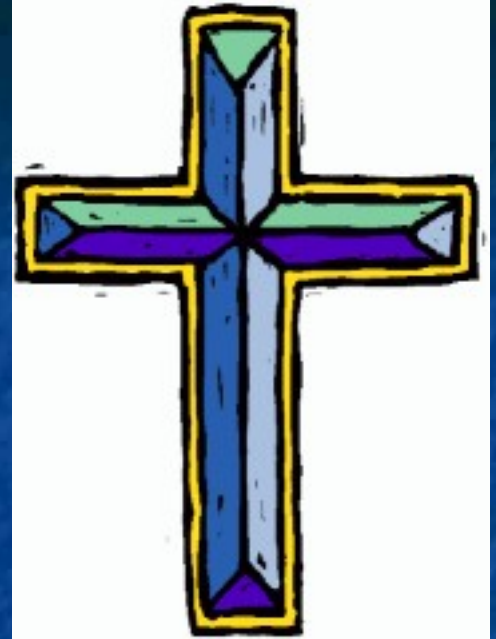
Jewish Ethnic Pride (Inclusion  
of Gentiles)



Jealousy (Acts 5:17) and Fear  
(Lk 22:2)



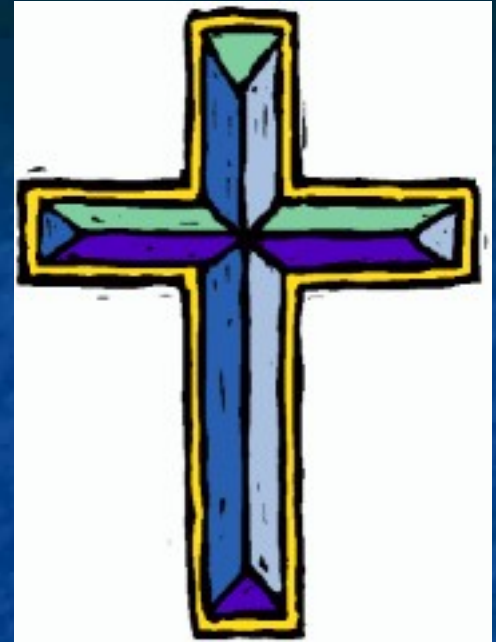
# TEACHING Trouble Making





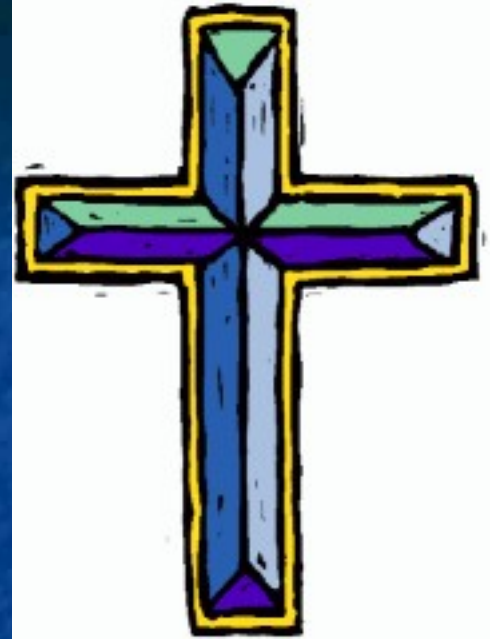


# TEACHING Trouble Making



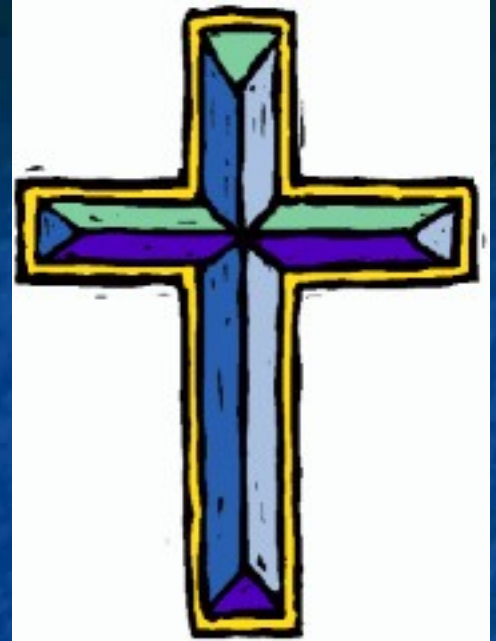
Tertullus: We had a “long  
peace.” Paul was a  
“troublemaker, stirring up riots”

TEACHING

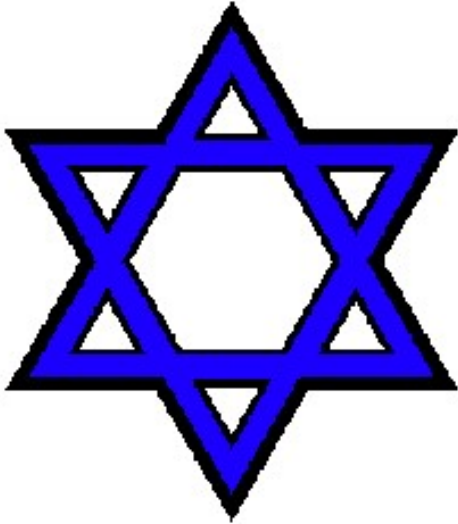




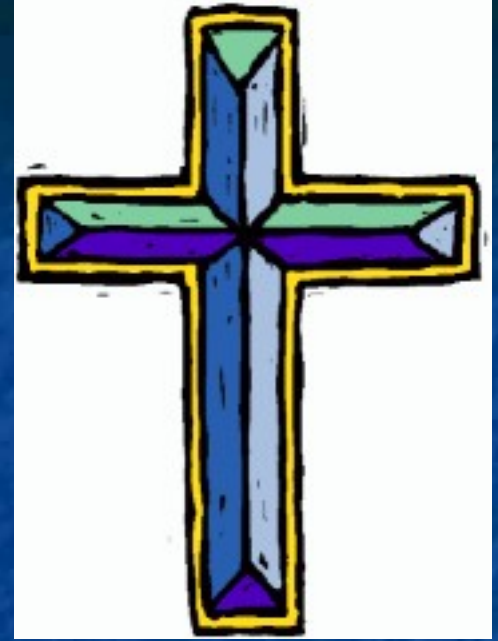
TEACHING



One God



TEACHING



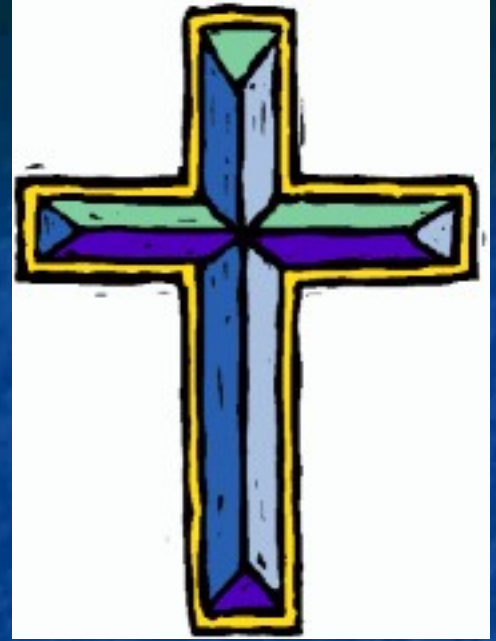
One God

Father, Son,  
Holy Spirit





TEACHING

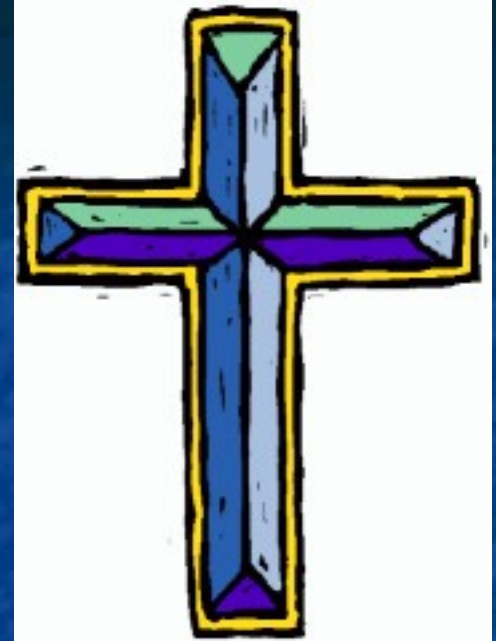


Temple  
Worship

# TEACHING



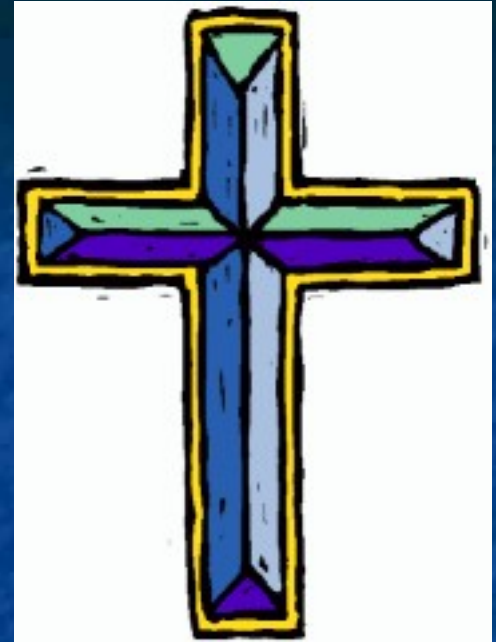
Temple  
Worship



Worship in  
Spirit and Truth

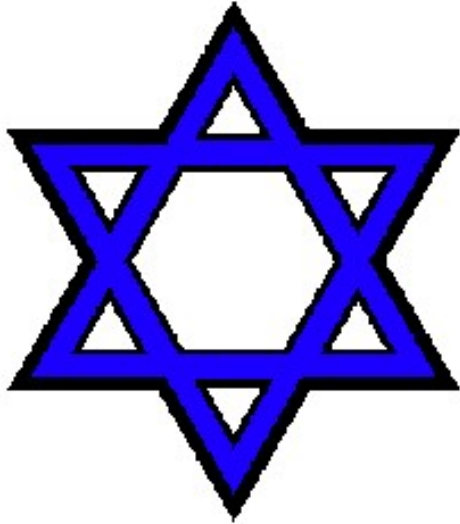


TEACHING

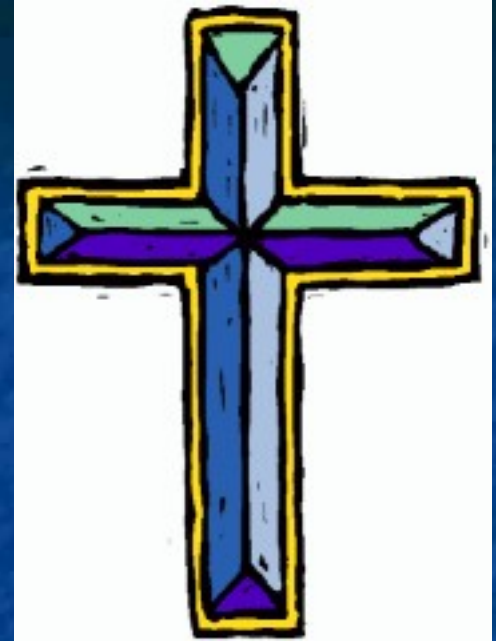


Sacrificial  
system

# TEACHING



Sacrificial  
system

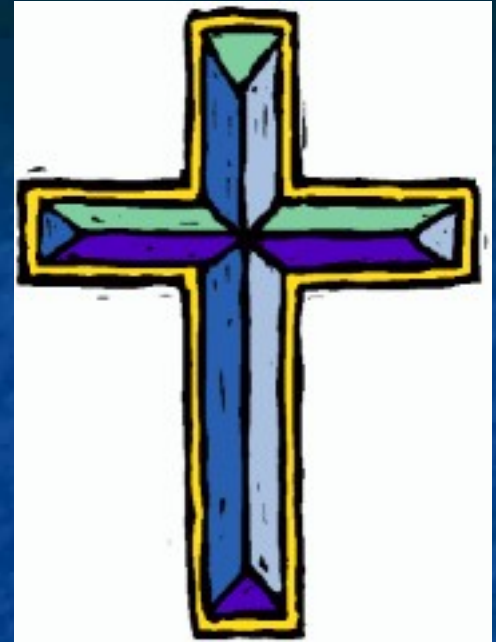


Sacrifice of  
Christ



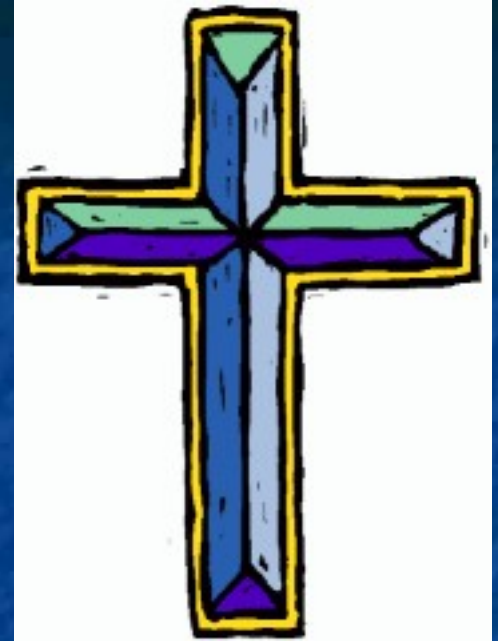


TEACHING



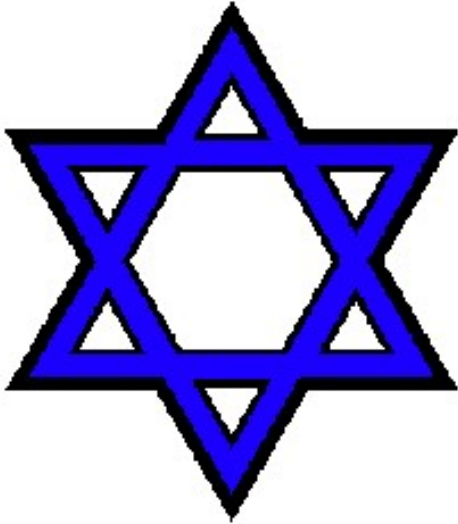
Priests and  
Rabbis

# TEACHING

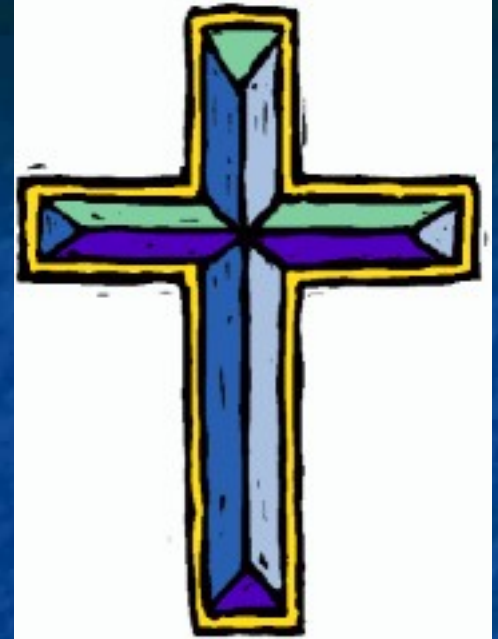


Priests and  
Rabbis

Jesus

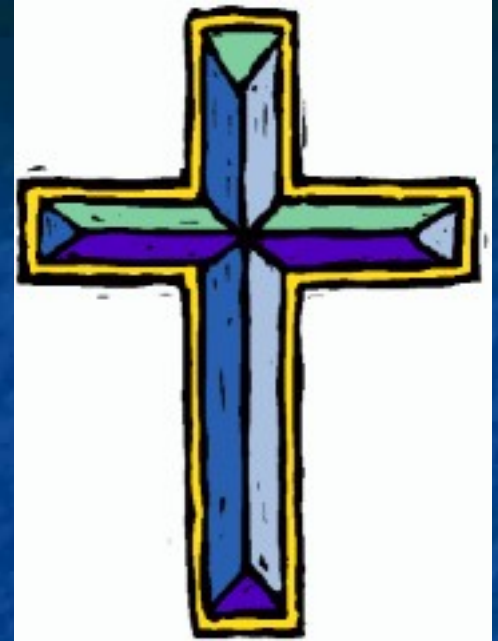
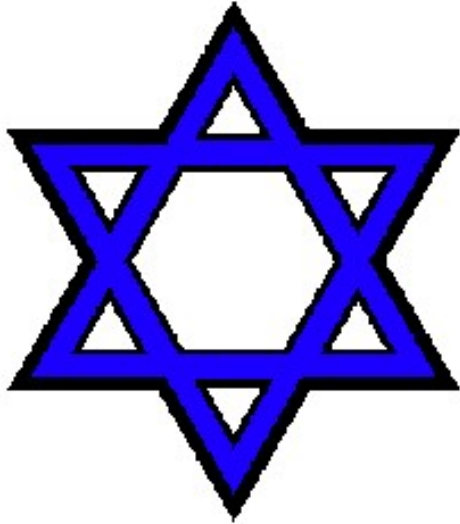


TEACHING



Dietary Laws

# TEACHING

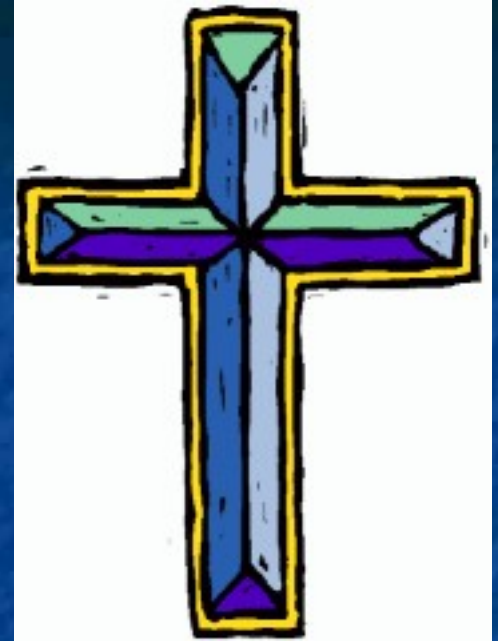


Dietary Laws

Lifestyle  
Choice



TEACHING

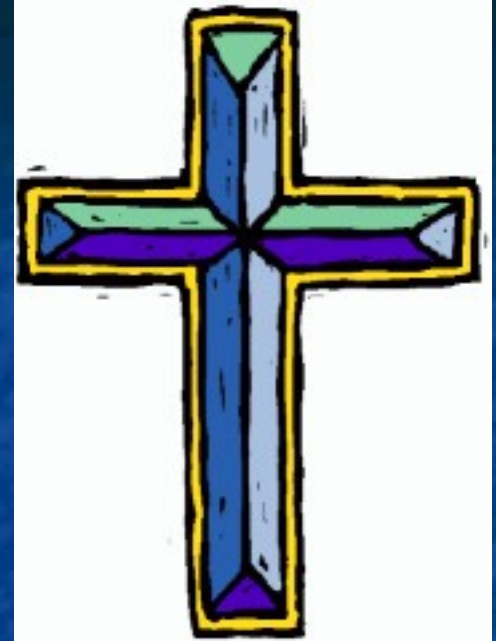


God's  
People

# TEACHING



God's  
People



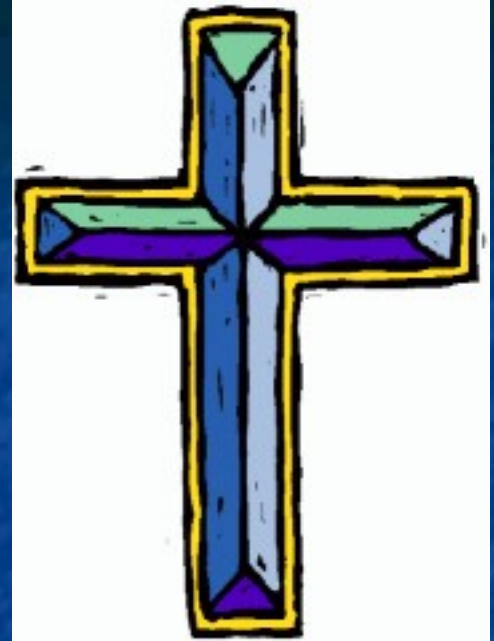
God's Interest  
in World



- Local Persecution



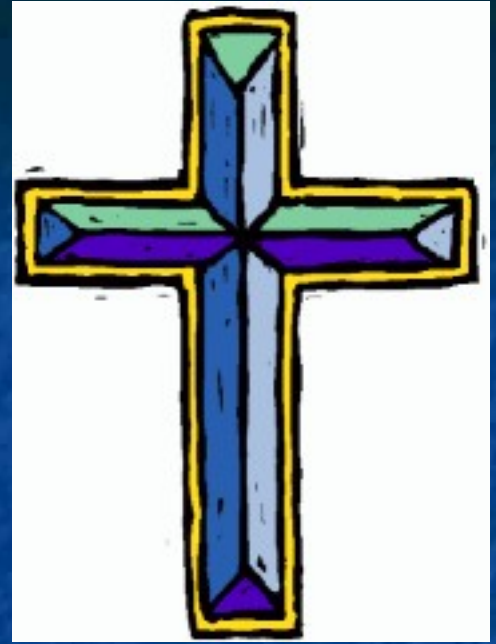
# Economics







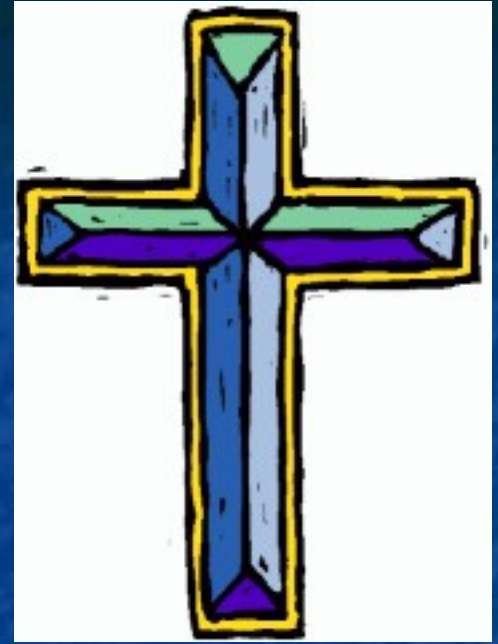
Economics



Idol System



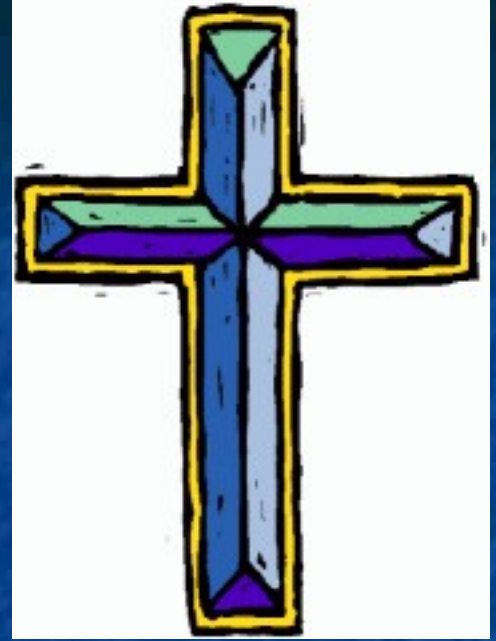
Economics



Idol System

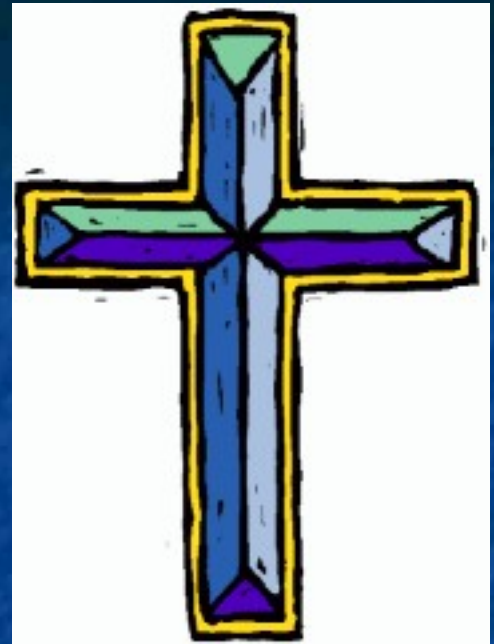
Jesus

# False Rumors





# False Rumors

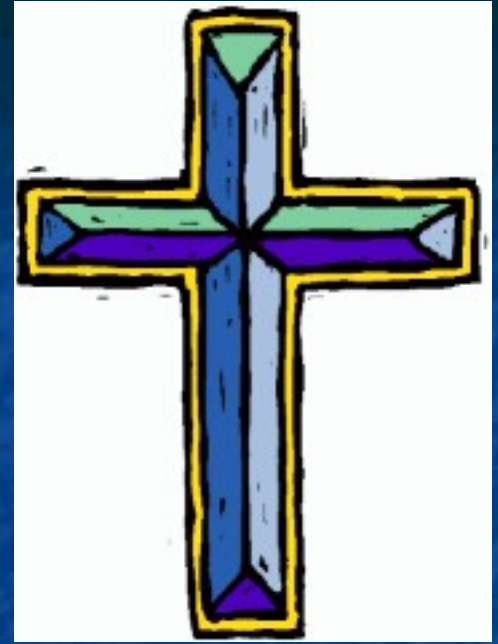


Closed Communion or  
Cannibalism?





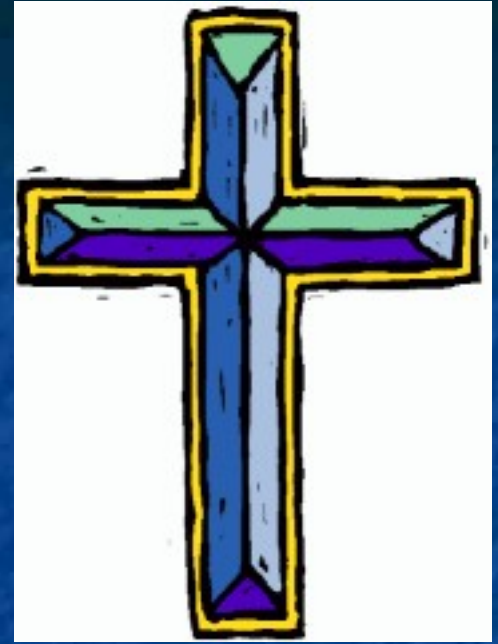
# False Rumors



## Secret Societies



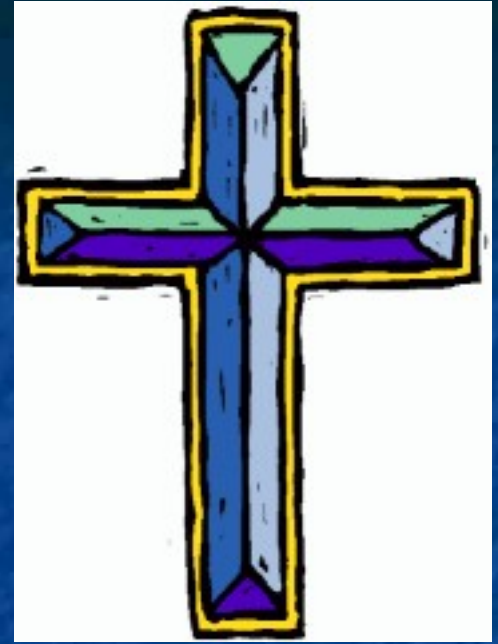
# False Rumors



# Incest



# False Rumors



## Heretical Groups



# False Rumors



They love one another before they  
know one another ... It is a religion of  
lust, and they call one another  
promiscuously brothers and sisters...





# False Rumors



They explain their ceremonies by reference to a man punished by the deadly wood of the cross. Now about the initiation of novices .... On a solemn day they assemble at the feast...



- Government Persecution

**Nero**





# Nero

- July 18, 64 AD





# Nero

- July 18, 64 AD
- 6 Days, 11 of 15 districts



# Nero

- July 18, 64 AD
- 6 Days, 11 of 15 districts
- Death  
destruction and  
no insurance



**Nero**


**Christian  
Scapegoats**



# Nero's Circus - Site of Many Martyrdoms





A black and white photograph of a large, winged statue, likely representing Victory or Liberty, standing on a pedestal. In the background, the Colosseum in Rome is visible, partially obscured by a hazy or smoky atmosphere. The statue is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its wings spread wide. The Colosseum's iconic tiered arches are visible in the distance.

# Nero's Circus - Site of Many Martyrdoms

Peter: Christians suffer “grief in all kinds of trials ... Repay evil with blessing” (1 Pet 1:6; 3:9)

# Domitian



# Domitian



Ritual taxes paid in homage of  
God Jupiter



# Emperor Trajan





# Pliny the Younger



# Pliny the Younger

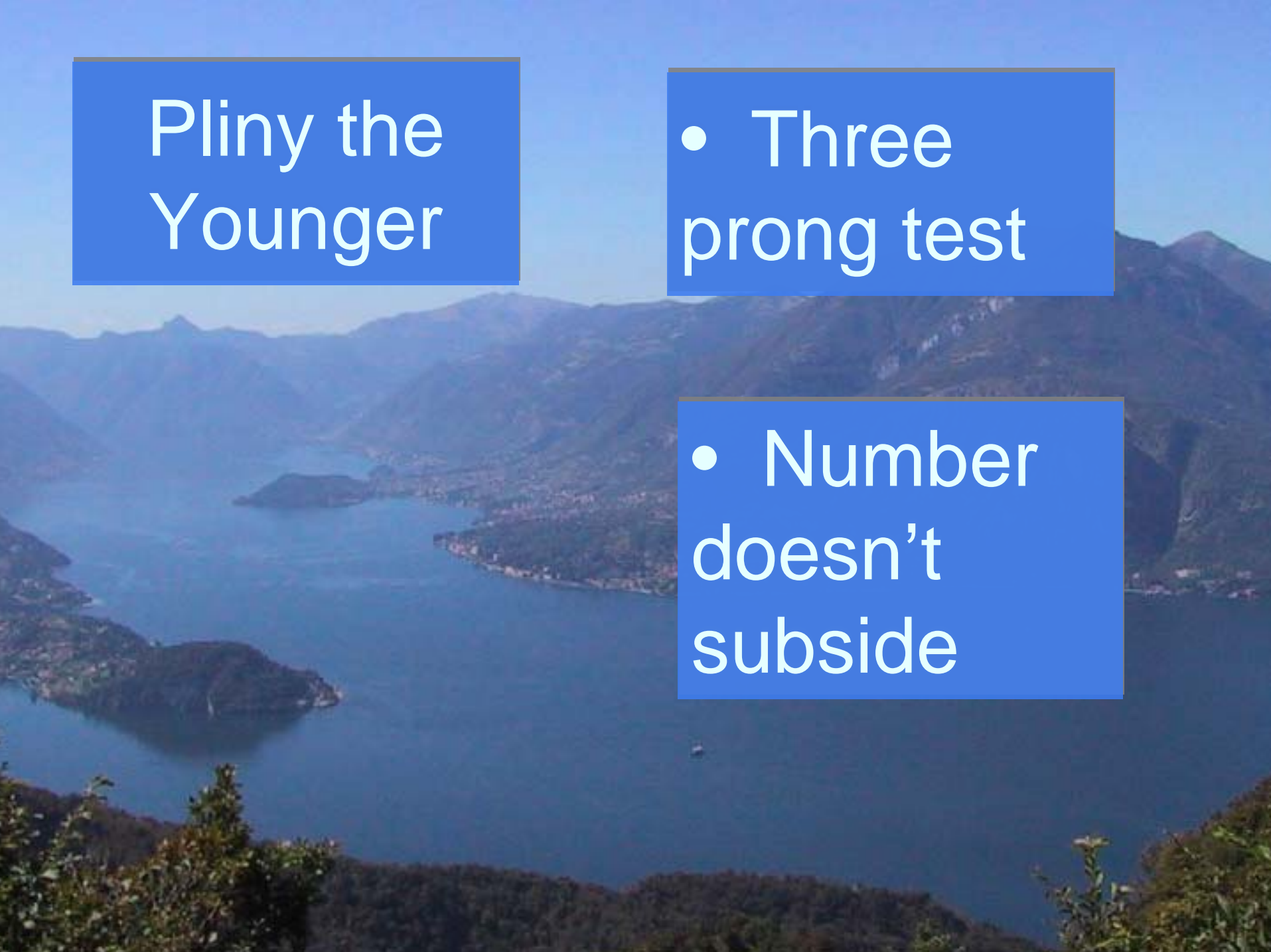
- Three prong test



# Pliny the Younger

- Three prong test

- Number doesn't subside





# Pliny the Younger

they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath, not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so. When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food--but ordinary and innocent food. <sup>L</sup>



# Next week: The Mindset of a martyr: Ignatius and Polycarp



# Points for Home

2 Tim. 3:12: “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

# Points for Home

1. Following God will win many to Christ

# Points for Home

1. Following God will win many to Christ
2. It will also annoy and offend others



# Points for Home

1. Following God will win many to Christ
2. It will also annoy and offend others
3. Persecution should not surprise us

# Points for Home

1. Following God will win many to Christ
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3. Persecution should not surprise us
4. Neither should it stop us

# Points for Home

1. Following God will win many to Christ
2. It will also annoy and offend others
3. Persecution should not surprise us
4. Neither should it stop us
5. The real question: If no persecution, why not?