



THROUGH THE AGES

Historical Theology for the Local Church

The Ancient Church

Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

A dramatic painting depicting the Siege of Jerusalem. The city is shown in a state of destruction, with smoke rising from the burning walls and buildings. A large army of soldiers, equipped with spears and shields, is attacking the city from the right. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, and the overall scene is one of chaos and devastation. The text "Part One" and "The Patristic Era" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, serif font.

Part One

The Patristic Era

70-313 A.D.



A BIT OF INTRODUCTION



Church History

A construction of past events as they relate to the formation, development, growth, and change of the Christian faith



Theological History

A construction and interpretation of past events (not only events related to the Christian faith) according to a particular theological perspective



History of Theology

A history of ideas where the development and change of theology is charted, analyzed, and explained. **Usually**, historical context is not adequately considered.

Historical Theology

“A method of *doing contemporary theology* by reflecting on *past theology* and its historical *contexts*,”
(Principe, 21).



The Jewish Revolts AD 70, 132



- First Century primary issues regarded Jew-Gentile relations
- After Jerusalem is destroyed and the Jews dispersed this becomes a minor issue
 - Some apologists dialogue with Jews but they are few comparatively

The Jewish Revolts AD 70, 132

- Jerusalem was besieged by the Roman General Titus Flavius, the son of the newly minted Roman Emperor Vespasian
- The siege lasted for several months. Finally, in late summer of 70 AD they broke through the walls and burned everything, including the Temple



The Jewish Revolts AD 70, 132

- The riches of the temple were looted by the Roman armies
- The Arch of Titus in Rome (still standing) depicts the looting of treasure

The Jewish Revolts AD 70, 132



- The treasure taken from Jerusalem (likely mostly from the Temple) was used to finance the building of the Roman Coliseum
- Rome minted coins that read IUDAEA CAPTA and DEVICTA IUDAEA
- Titus later followed his father as emperor, no doubt bolstered by his fame in destroying Jerusalem

The Jewish Revolts AD 70, 132

- Later revolts continued to spring up, the last of which was the Bar Kokhba rebellion after which Jerusalem and most of Judea was razed to the ground and renamed Aelia Capitolina.
- Jews were banished from Judea, circumcision was forbidden in all of the province, and the province was renamed Syria-Palestina
- The wealth looted from the Temple built the Flavian Amphitheater

The Jewish Revolts AD 70, 132

Josephus says of the destruction: "Jerusalem ... was so thoroughly razed to the ground by those that demolished it to its foundations, that nothing was left that could ever persuade visitors that it had once been a place of habitation."



The Jewish Revolts AD 70, 132



- What to make of this?
 - Jesus predicted it in several places, most notably Matthew 24
 - Jews were persecuting Christians, the persecutions of the NT were Jewish lead, not Roman. In Revelation 6:9-11 martyrs call out for vengeance against their murderers

A dramatic painting depicting the Siege of Jerusalem. The city is shown in flames, with thick smoke rising into the sky. In the foreground, a large army of soldiers is attacking the city walls. The scene is set against a backdrop of a cloudy sky and a river in the distance.

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