

History of Christianity Area
Qualifying Exam Bibliographies

Examination 1: Ancient Christianity (to 600 C.E.)

Key Themes:

- 1) "orthodoxy" and "heresy" in earliest Christianity
- 2) creeds and councils
- 3) persecution and martyrdom
- 4) asceticism
- 5) Judaism and Hellenism as cultural matrices of earliest Christianity
- 6) modes of early Christian cultural creation
- 7) "the rise of Christianity" -- factors, causes and narrative constructions

A. Narrative Historiographical Treatments

- Henry Chadwick, The Early Church (Penguin, 1967, 1993)
Bart Ehrman, Lost Christianities (Oxford, 2003)
W.H.C. Frend, The Rise of Christianity (Fortress, 1984)
Edward Gibbon, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire (Penguin, 1995 [1776], vol. 1, chaps. 15, 16, 20, 21, 23)
Robert M. Grant, Augustus to Constantine (Westminster/John Knox, reedition 2004)
Ramsay MacMullen, Christianizing the Roman Empire A.D. 100-400 (Yale, 1984)
Christoph Marksches, Between Two Worlds: Structures of Earliest Christianity (SCM, 1999)
R.A. Markus, The End of Ancient Christianity (Cambridge, 1991)
Rodney Stark, The Rise of Christianity (Princeton, 1996)
Frances M. Young, From Nicaea to Chalcedon: A Guide to the Literature and its Background (SCM, 1983)

B. Primary Sources

Collections/Anthologies:

- The Acts of the Christian Martyrs, ed. Herbert Musurillo (Oxford, 1972)
The Apostolic Fathers (trans. M. Staniforth; Penguin, 1987)
John W. Eadie, The Conversion of Constantine (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1971)
Ross Shepard Kraemer, Women's Religions in the Graeco-Roman World: A Sourcebook (new ed.; Oxford, 2004)
James M. Robinson, ed., The Nag Hammadi Library in English (Harper & Row, 1998)
Graydon F. Snyder, Ante Pacem: Archaeological Evidence of Church Life Before Constantine (new ed.; Mercer, 2003)
J. Stevenson, ed., rev. W.H.C. Frend, A New Eusebius: Documents illustrating the history of the Church to AD 337 (SPCK, 1957, 1987)
J. Stevenson, ed., rev. W.H.C. Frend, Creeds, Councils and Controversies: Documents illustrating the history of the Church, AD 337-461 (SPCK, 1966, 1989)

Writings By Selected Authors:

Athanasius, The Life of Antony and the Letter to Marcellinus (trans. Robert C. Gregg; Paulist, 1980; Classics of Western Spirituality)

Augustine, Confessions (trans. Henry Chadwick; Oxford, 1991)

Augustine of Hippo: Selected Writings (trans. Mary T. Clark; Paulist, 1984)

Eusebius, The History of the Church from Christ to Constantine (trans. G.A. Williamson; Penguin, 1989)

Eusebius, Life of Constantine (trans. Averil Cameron and Stuart G. Hall, Eusebius: Life of Constantine [Oxford, 1999])

Irenaeus, Against Heresies in Robert M. Grant, Irenaeus of Lyons (The Early Church Fathers; Routledge, 1997).

John Chrysostom, selected writings in Wendy Mayer and Pauline Allen, John Chrysostom (The Early Church Fathers; Routledge, 2000), and Mitchell, The Heavenly Trumpet (see below) pp. 443-487

Justin Martyr, First Apology (trans. L.W. Barnard, Justin Martyr: The First and Second Apologies [Ancient Christian Writers; Paulist, 1997])

Origen, selected writings in Origen, Joseph W. Trigg (The Early Church Fathers; Routledge, 1998)

Origen, An Exhortation to Martyrdom, etc. (trans. Rowan A. Greer; Paulist, 1979; Classics of Western Spirituality)

The Rule of St. Benedict (trans. Anthony C. Meisel and M.L. del Mastro; Image, 1975)

C. Studies:

Walter Bauer, Orthodoxy and Heresy in Early Christianity (Fortress, 1971).

Glenn W. Bowersock, Martyrdom and Rome (Cambridge, 2002).

Daniel Boyarin, Dying for God: Martyrdom and the Making of Christianity and Judaism (Stanford, 1999).

Paul F. Bradshaw, The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship (new ed., Oxford, 2002)

Peter Brown, Augustine of Hippo: A Biography (new ed.; University of California, 2000).

Peter Brown, Body and Society: Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity (Columbia, 1988).

Peter Brown, The Cult of the Saints: Its Rise and Function in Latin Christianity (University of Chicago, 1981)

Averil Cameron, Christianity and the Rhetoric of Empire: The Development of Discourse (University of California, 1991).

Elizabeth A. Clark, Reading Renunciation: Asceticism and Scripture in Early Christianity (Princeton, 1999) [OR Young, Biblical Exegesis, see below]

Jaś Elsner, Imperial Rome and Christian Triumph (Oxford History of Art; Oxford, 1998) [OR Jensen, below]

David Frankfurter, Religion in Roman Egypt: Assimilation and Resistance (Princeton, 1998) [OR Trombley, below]

Paula Fredriksen, "What 'Parting of the Ways'? Jews, Gentiles, and the Ancient Mediterranean City," in The Ways that Never Parted: Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (ed. Adam H. Becker and A.Y. Reed; Mohr Siebeck, 2003) 35-63.

Robert M. Grant, Gods and the One God (Westminster, 1986)

Robin M. Jensen, Understanding Early Christian Art (Routledge, 2000).
Christoph Marksches, Gnosis: An Introduction (T & T Clark, 2003)
R.A. Markus, Gregory the Great and His World (Cambridge, 1997)
Margaret M. Mitchell, The Heavenly Trumpet: John Chrysostom and the Art of Pauline Interpretation (Westminster John Knox, 2002), chaps. 7 and 8
Margaret M. Mitchell, "What Can We Know About the Beginnings of Christianity?"
Foreword to Robert M. Grant, Augustus to Constantine, xi-xxxv
Jeffrey Richards, The Popes and the Papacy in the Early Middle Ages, 476-752
(Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1976).
Jonathan Z. Smith, Drudgery Divine: On the Comparisons of Early Christianities and the Religions of Late Antiquity (University of Chicago, 1990)
Karen Jo Torjesen, When Women Were Priests: Women's Leadership in the Early Church and the Scandal of Their Subordination in the Rise of Christianity (Harper & Row, repr. 1995)
Frank R. Trombley, Hellenic Religion and Christianization ca. 370-529 (Brill, 1995).
Robert L. Wilken, The Christians as the Romans Saw Them (new ed.; Yale, 2003).
Frances Young, Biblical Interpretation and the Formation of Christian Culture (Cambridge, 1997; Hendrikson, 2002)
Frances Young, The Making of the Creeds (Trinity Press International, 1991)

D. Reference Works for Consultation

Everett Ferguson, ed., Encyclopedia of Early Christianity (2nd ed.; Garland, 1999).

Margaret M. Mitchell and Frances M. Young, eds., The Cambridge History of Christianity, vol. 1: Origins to Constantine (Cambridge, 2006).

F. L. Cross and E. A. Livingstone, The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church (3rd ed.; Oxford: 1997).

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