

Church History

The Apostolic Fathers & The Apologists (2nd Century)

Timeline

- AD 130-250
 - The Apologists write to defend Christianity to the intellectual community
- AD 142-144
 - Marcion creates his own church in Rome with his own first canon of the New Testament
- AD 155
 - Montanus claims to be the Paraclete
- AD 160
 - Polycarp martyred
- AD 180-202
 - Irenaeus fights Gnosticism
- AD 185
 - Muratorian fragment, first New Testament canon in response to Marcion's version. Does not include Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 3rd John

Important figures:

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, disciple of John, martyred by being burned at the stake when he refused to renounce Christ

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lugdunum (Lyon, France), disciple of Polycarp, wrote *Against Heresies*, fighting against Gnosticism, helped determine which letters belong in the New Testament, sought to compare the prophecies in Daniel with Revelation

The Apologists, intellectual writers who spent much time and effort publishing letters and books to defend Christianity from the wild accusations and misunderstandings that the Pagans accused them of. The most famous was **Justin the Martyr**, who focused on showing Christianity as the answer that the philosophers were seeking, as well as showing how Christ was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies

Marcion, heretic who denied the deity of Jesus, hated the Jehovah of the OT, and published his own list of which books belonged in the New Testament, thus forcing the Church to focus on the development of the canon.

Questions the 2nd century church faced:

- How do we know which letters/books are inspired by God and should be considered part of the New Testament?
- How does the leadership of the church work now that the apostles are gone?

Defending the faith on two fronts was also a major focus:

- Within the church against heresies
- To the secular world.