

HT 501
Class 3; Lecture 2
The Apologists
Part 2
AD 150-300

THE ANCIENT CHURCH

A.D. 100-600

AGE
OF THE
APOSTOLIC
FATHERS

AGE
OF THE
APOLOGISTS

AGE
OF THE
THEOLOGIAN

A.D.
100

A.D.
150

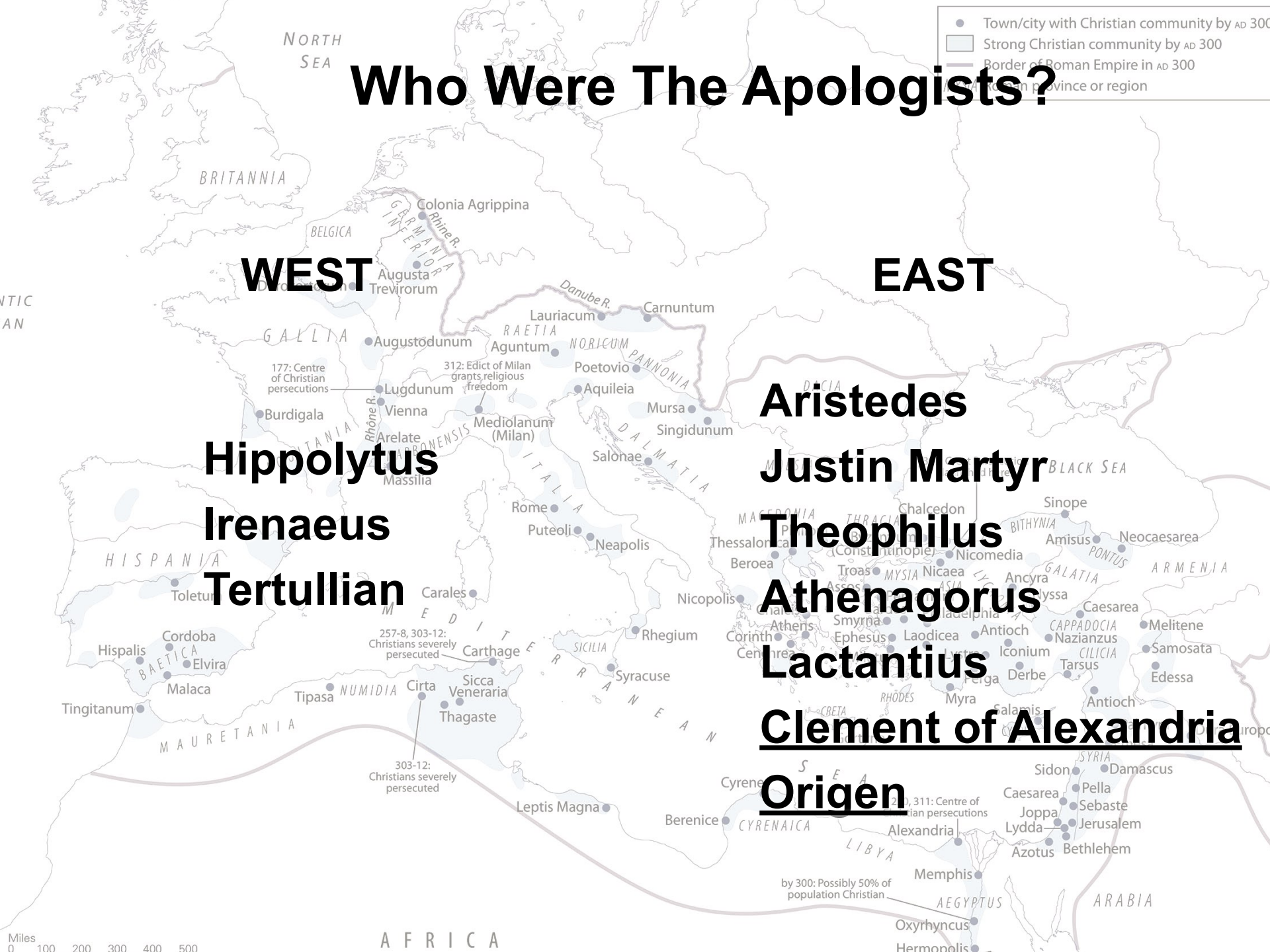
A.D.
300

A.D.
600

The Apologists:

- 1. Who were they?**
- 2. Why were they necessary?**
 - a. The threat from outside of the church.**
Persecution
False philosophies/religions: Gnosticism, Manicheanism, Neo-Platonism.
 - b. The threat from inside of the church.**
Ebionitism, Marcionism, Montanism

Who Were The Apologists?



The Schools of Thought in Early Christianity



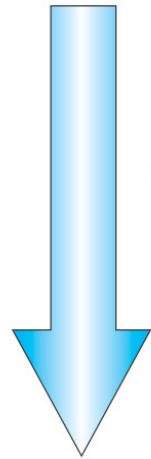
Clement of Alexandria

on Philosophy

The Hebrews

The Law

Schoolmaster



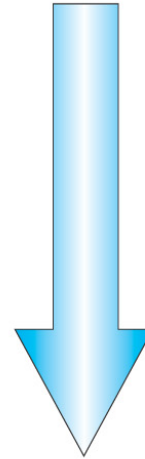
Galatians
3:24

Christianity

The Greeks

Philosophy

Schoolmaster



?

Christianity

Clement of Alexandria on philosophy

“Before the advent of the Lord philosophy was necessary to the Greeks for righteousness. And now it becomes useful to piety, being a kind of preparatory training to those who attain to faith through demonstration....

“...the same God that furnished both Covenants [that of the Law and that of Philosophy] was the giver of Greek philosophy to the Greeks, by which the Almighty is glorified among the Greeks.”

Clement of Alexandria, on interpretation

Wherefore the holy mysteries of the prophecies are veiled in the parables preserved for chosen men, selected to knowledge in consequence of their faith; for the style of the Scriptures is parabolic [*Stromatais*, 6.15]

Clement of Alexandria, on baptism

Being baptized, we are illuminated; illuminated, we become sons; being made sons, we are made perfect; being made perfect, we are made immortal. 'I,' says He, 'have said that ye are gods, and all sons of the Highest.' This work is variously called grace, and illumination, and perfection, and washing: washing, by which we cleanse away our sins; grace, by which the penalties accruing to transgressions are remitted; and illumination, by which that holy light of salvation is beheld, that is, by which we see God clearly. (*Instructor*. I, 6)

Born of Christian parents, his father was martyred when he was young. He studied Platonism. Taught in the School of Alexandria. He fled to Caesarea to avoid persecution and was martyred there. Probably the most brilliant scholar of the early church, but had many theological errors.



**Origen
(ca 185–253/54).**

Origen on interpretation:

For just as man consists of body, soul and spirit, so in the same way does the Scripture, which has been prepared by God to be given for man's salvation (The Fundamental Doctrines, 4, 2.4).

Who was Jesus Before He Came?

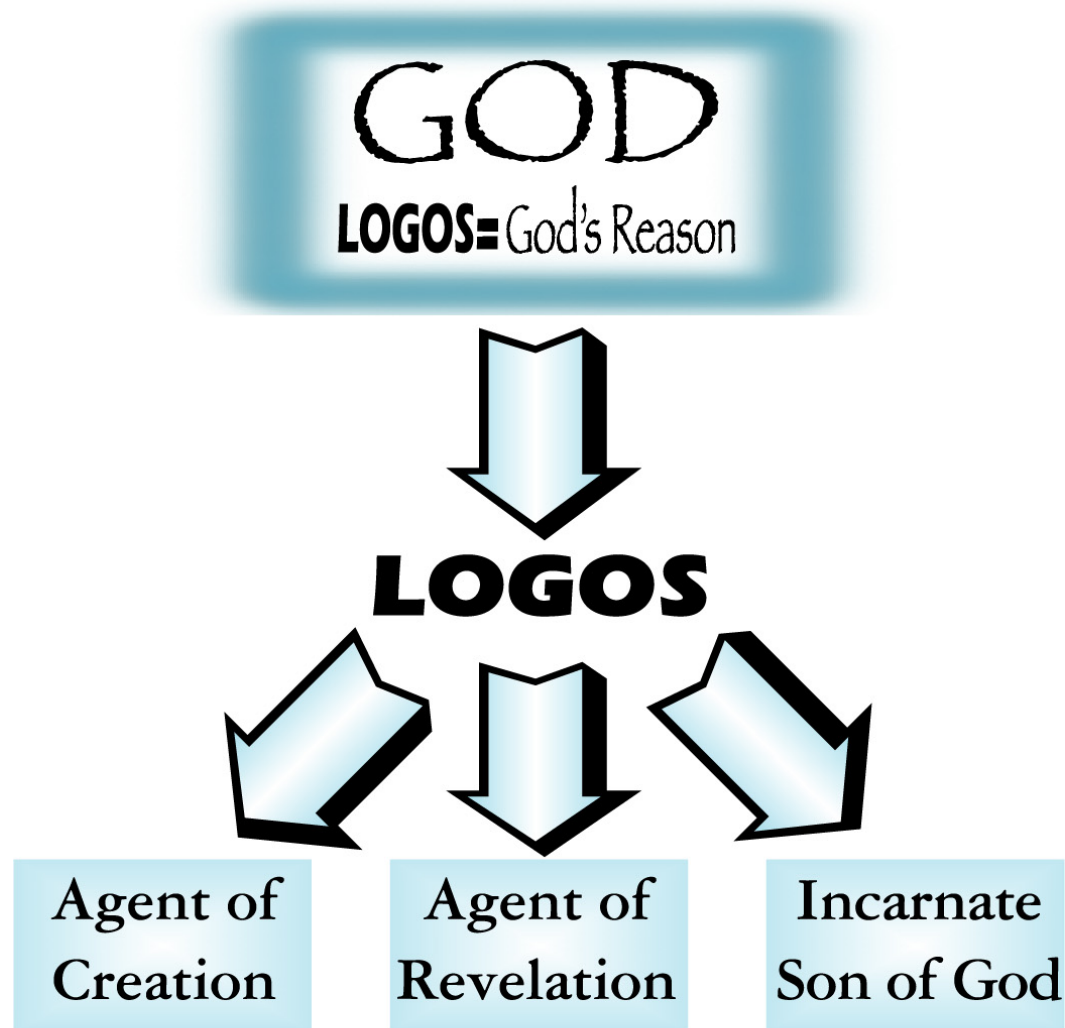
The root of the problem goes back to a vague statement of Origen's.

- (a) The Logos is eternal with the Father.**
- (b) The Logos is subordinate to the Father.**

Left leaning Origenists emphasized b.

Right leaning Origenists emphasized a.

The Apologists and Their Understanding of Christ



The Schools of Thought in Early Christianity



The Apologists:

1. Who were they?

2. Why were they necessary?

a. The threat from outside of the church.

Persecution

**False religions: Gnosticism,
Manicheanism, Neo-Platonism.**

b. The threat from inside of the church.

Ebionitism, Marcionism, Montanism

Gnosticism: Perplexing Questions

How can the
existence of creation
be explained?

What is the
origin of evil?

*How can a holy God
create a universe
with sin?*

GNOSTICISM

GOD

(Pure Spirit)

KNOWLEDGE

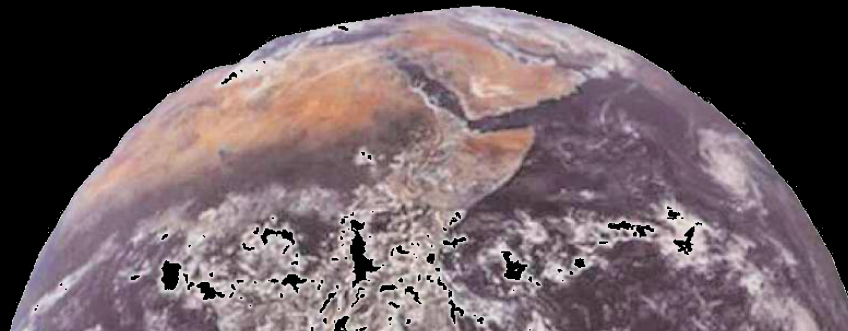
emanations

DUALISM

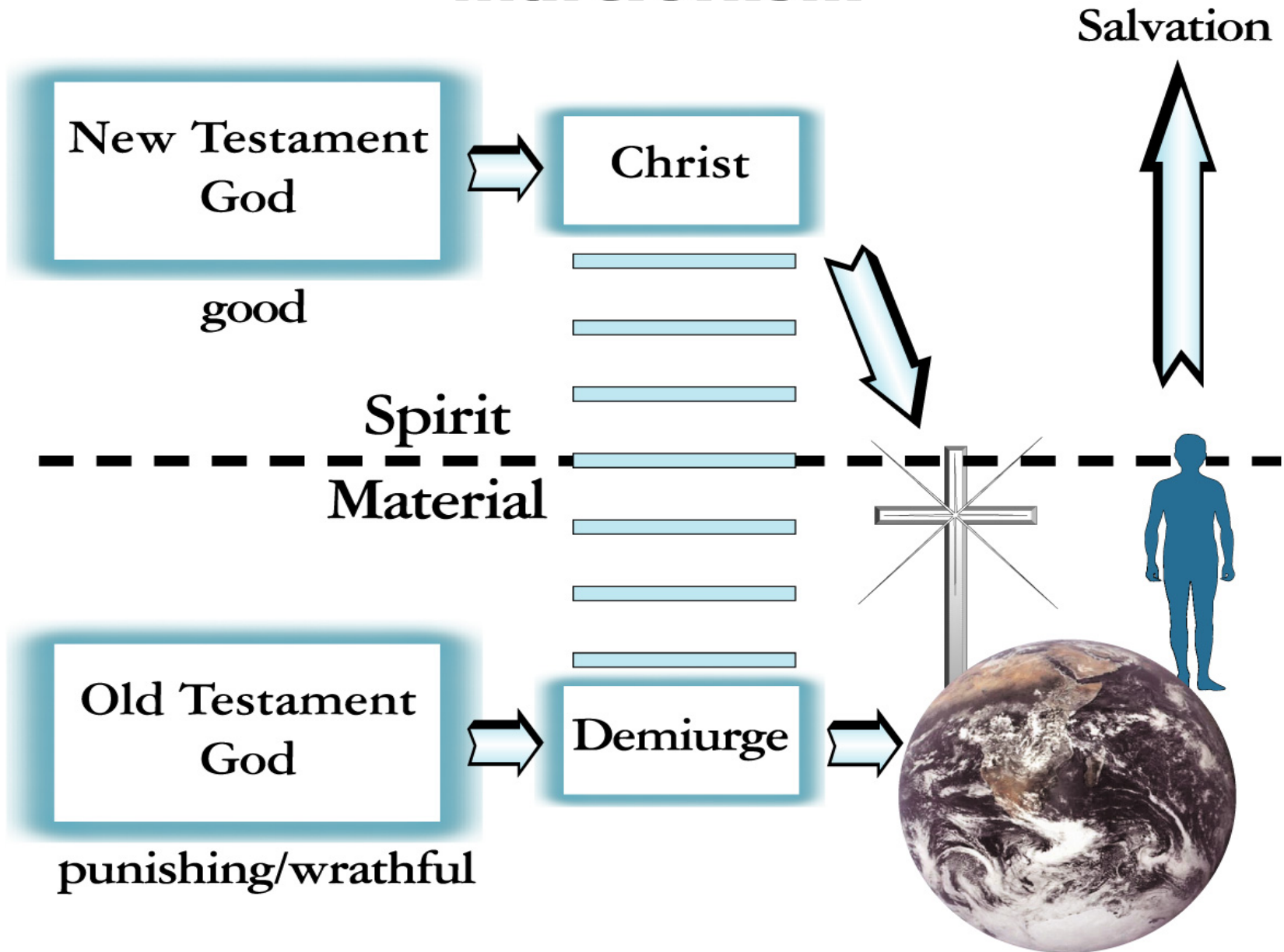
demiurge (the evil god
of the OT)

world

man



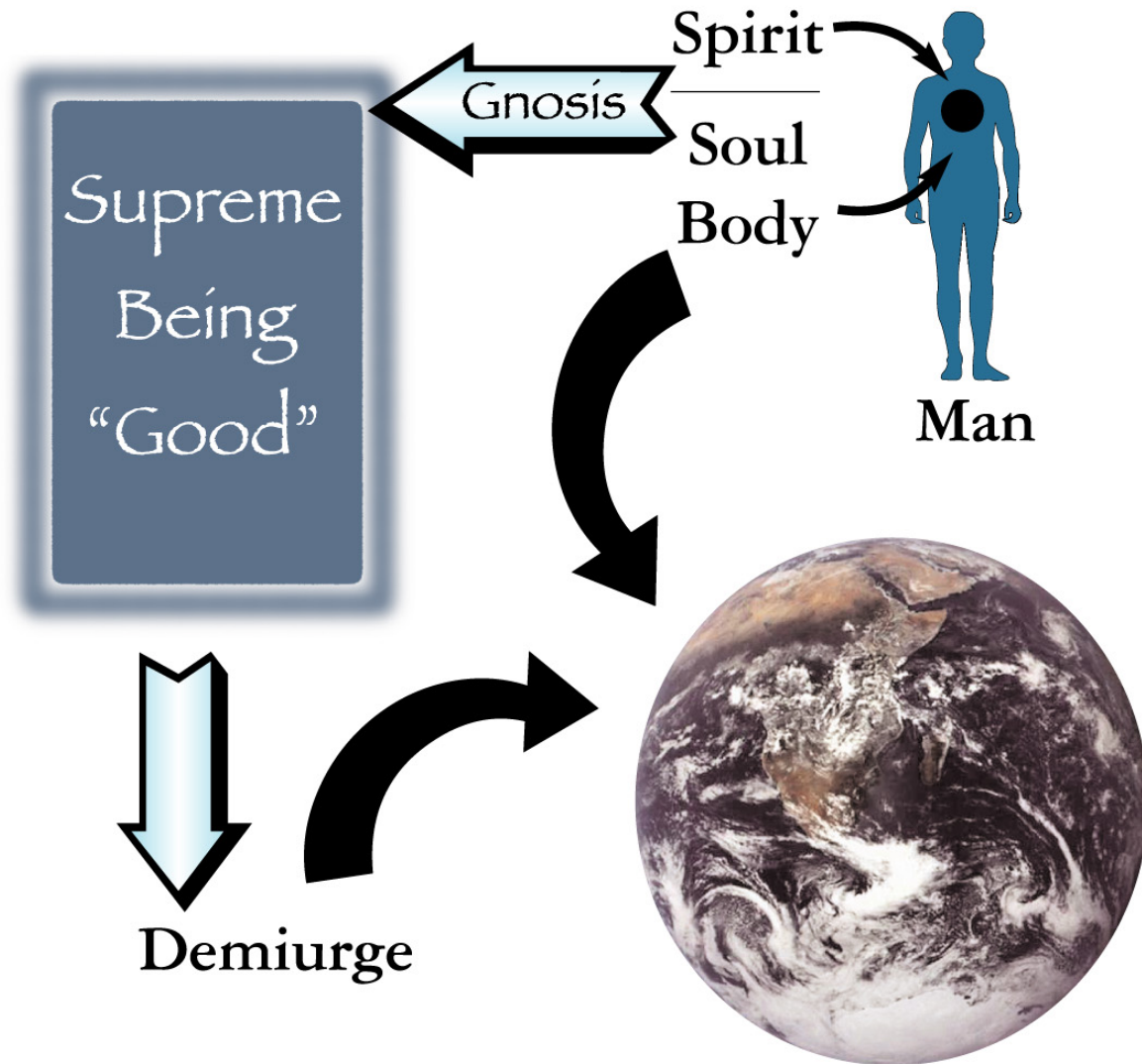
Marcionism



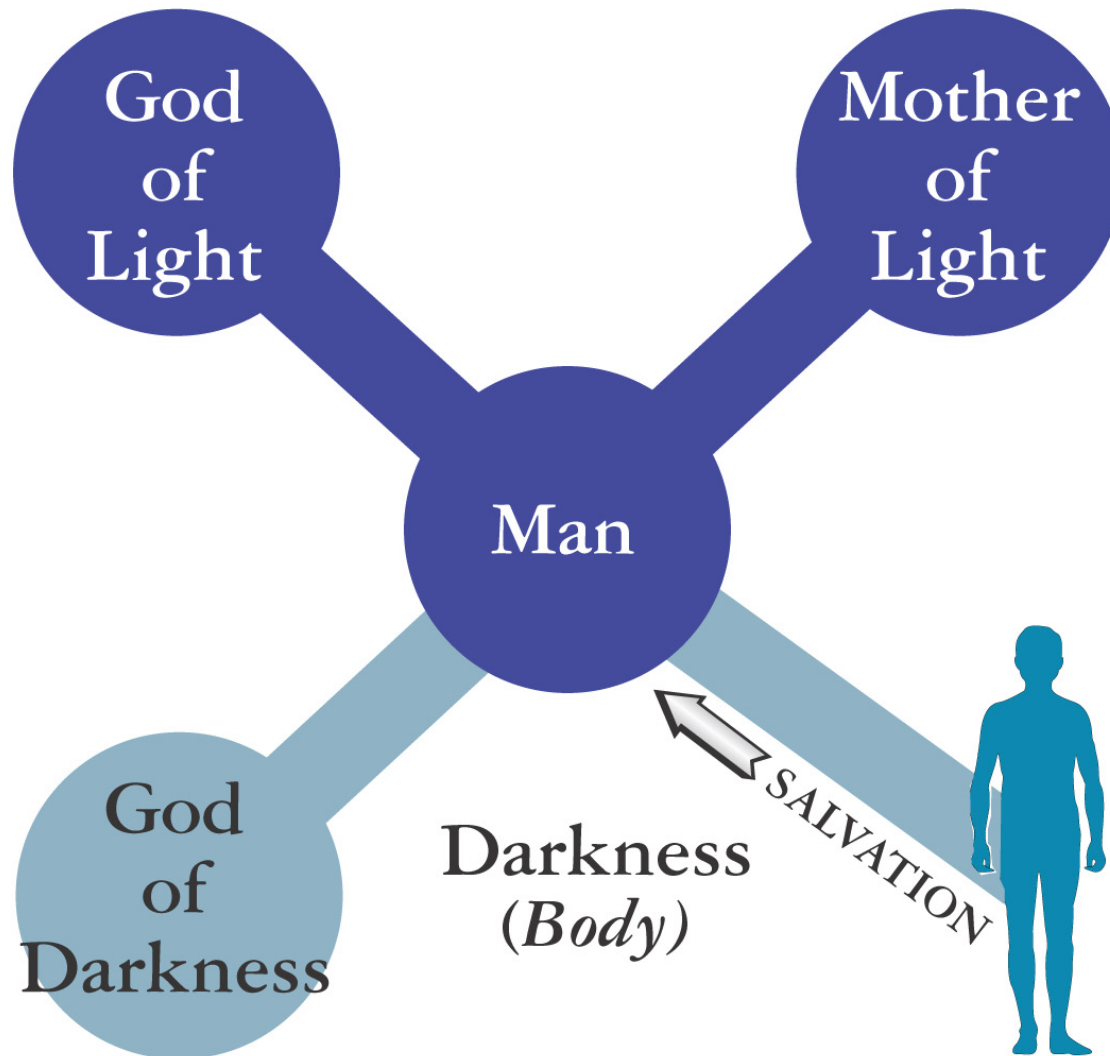
Gnosticism and Marcionism Compared

Gnosticism	Marcionism
O.T.: reinterpret spiritually, embraced it	O.T.: interpret literally, but rejected it
N.T.: make additions (Gospel of Thomas)	N.T.: eliminate unwanted material
Secret knowledge	No secret knowledge (careful study of Paul)
Highly speculative	No interest in speculation
Founded schools	Founded churches

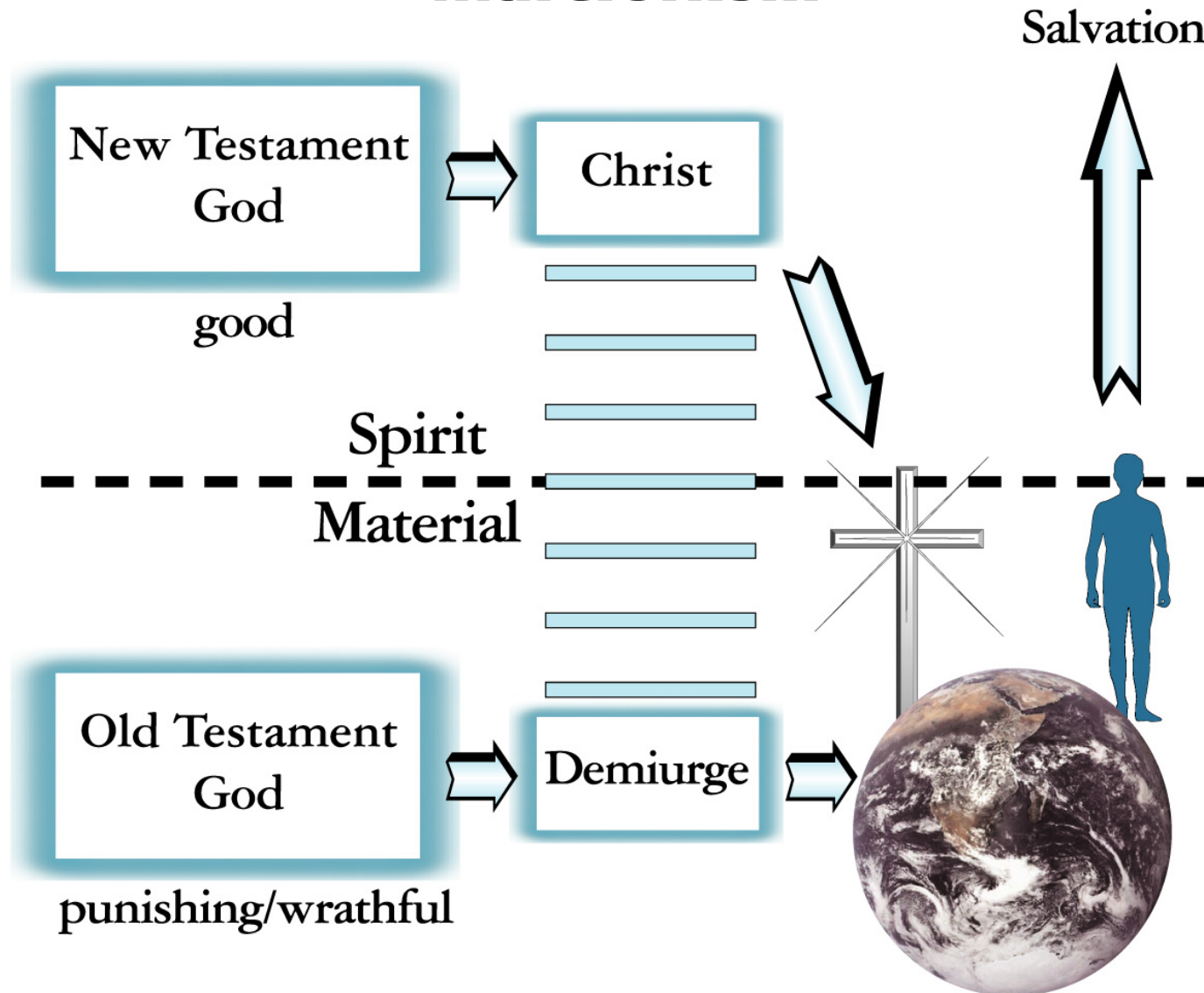
Gnosticism's Concept of Salvation



Manicheanism



Marcionism



Montanism



Tongues
Revelation
Healing



The Response of the Ancient Church to Heresy

Doctrine of
Apostolic
Succession

Development
of the
Roman Creed

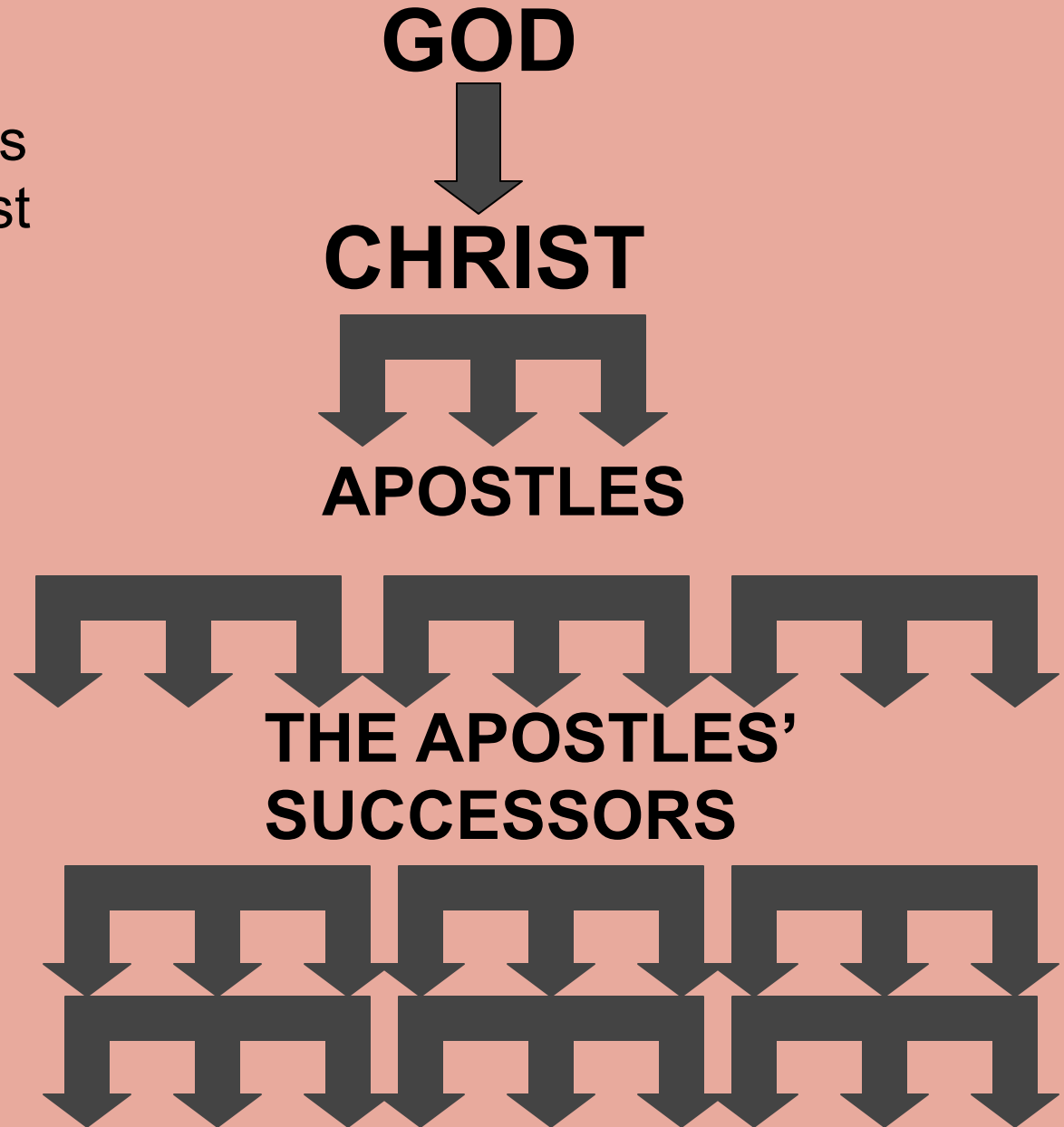
Development
of the New
Testament Canon

AUTHORITY IN THE EARLY CHURCH

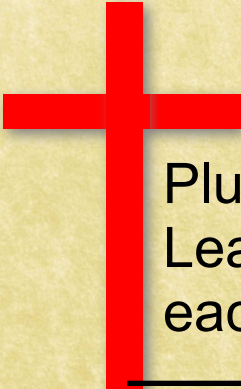
A succession of bishops from God through Christ in the churches.

A single apostolic successor in each church (a bishop).

An emphasis on a linearly passed tradition of doctrine.



The History of The Rise of the Episcopacy in the Church



Plurality of
Leadership in
each church (?)

Singularity of Leadership
in each church.

Single Leader
over the whole
church.

100
Ignatius

250
Cyprian's
Concept of
the
Federation
of Bishops
and
Apostolic
Succession

430
Augustine's
Confirmation of
Cyprian's
Federationism
&
Successionism

The Donatist
Controversy

450
Leo I

600
Gregory I
End of
Federation of
Bishops

Elders = Bishops
Deacons

Bishops
Elders
Deacons

Pope
Bishops
Priests
Deacons

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