



Series: God's Word Across Time  
Lesson: Session 3—Later Apologists & African  
Theologians and Constantine

### Later Apologists & African Theologians

- Irenaeus
  - First to develop theology
  - Combated Gnosticism
  - Developed recapitulation theory of redemption (cf. Rom. 5; 1 Cor. 15:21–22; 2 Pet. 1:4; 2 Pet. 3:7, 10; Rev. 21:1–2, 10)
  
- Clement of Alexandria
  - “All truth is God’s truth wherever it may be found”
  - Believed false teaching came from confusion, so philosophy will create more sound beliefs
  - Believed God is passionless, so His followers should be too
  
- Tertullian (Carthage)
  - “What indeed has Athens to do with Jerusalem?”
  - Believed human philosophy led to heresy
  - Developed first extended Trinitarian doctrines:
    - Combed modalism
    - Concern for patripassianism
    - Distinction of substance vs. person
    - Fell into monarchism

- Origen (Alexandria)
  - Brilliant but highly speculative
  - Christianity as 'divine philosophy'
  - Complex defense of the divinity and function of Christ/Logos
- Cyprian (Carthage)
  - Developed the vision of church hierarchy centered around bishops still accepted by Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox churches today
  - "Outside of the church there is no salvation"
  - Changing the identity of the Church from 'where the Spirit is' to 'where the bishop is'

### Constantine

- Organizational developments in the Church
  - 'Clericalization of church life'
  - The Apostles' Creed
    - I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
    - I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
    - He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.
    - He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
    - He descended to the dead.
    - On the third day he rose again.
    - He ascended into heaven,
    - and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
    - He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy and catholic Church  
 the communion of the saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

- After the Edict of Milan (313)
  - Acceptance and promotion of Christianity
  - Moving the capitol to Constantinople
  - The Arian Schism