

Church History

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Alexandria

- Alexandria is where the Coptic faith was established. Alexandria was a cosmopolitan city, where people came to learn, it had 55 different languages, Greek was the main one. Coptic language was later on. Busy all the time. Very difficult to establish a new religion.

Ancient religion

- Horus was a bird / god. That was the god “one god” that will get rid of all the other gods. Isis (Queen) greatest god “spirit” went on. Horus came and he will destroy all other ones.

St. Mark

- Young man approximately 20 years old, wrote the first gospel
- He was in his house during the last supper
- Was an apostle
- Traveled with St. Paul (he should be our model) for a while and he asked St. Mark to leave.

St. Mark

- St. Mark went to Alexandria (his parents are rich, lived in Jerusalem, he was well educated). During 52 A.D. Jerusalem Council - St. Mark attended and went to preach there. Library burned later. And as St. Mark was walking he broke his sandal. He found someone to fix it named "Anianus." Anianus was married – 1st ordained pope and 1st pope was married. He said – "Oh my one god." So St. Mark took that word and started to preach because in Alexandria they don't accept any word without a good, strong theory. Egypt was under the Roman Empire, so they don't like anyone causing trouble. They were helping each other and share everything.

Martyred in 68 A.D.

- Romans tried to kill him several times. He left Egypt went with St. Paul again then he came again found 1st church was established and followers started and started to spread. So the Christians were also missionaries and start to spread the word. During Easter celebration in 68 A.D. there was a pagan celebration and they wanted to kill St. Mark. They dragged him in Alexandria streets that were made of stones. And the Lord appeared to him in the prison and said tomorrow you will be with me. Next day they dragged him and his head got speared from his body. His body was stolen to Venus, and the church on it is for St. Mark. The gates of the church have 2 lions.

The school of Alexandria

- 1st 2 centuries, Christians were in peace in Egypt. The school was for all people (faith, math, history, art, etc.). Clement 1st translate the Bible because it was written in Aramaic and Ancient Greek.
- Coptic patriarchs 1st through 2nd centuries: (St. Mark, Anianus → Demetrius)

Demetrius

- Demetrius was ordained in 199 A.D. for more than 32 years. He was a simple vinedresser (grew grapes). Little learning but when he became a pope he learn things. He created the Epact – the formula to calculate the date of Easter. Sever persecutions started. He was exiled to upper Egypt – he was comforting his people. Clement was 1st dean of school. He appointed Origen as the dean of school of Alexandria. He was pope for 324 days and 7 months

Origen

- Origen was appointed as dean of school. He opened the school to men, women and children. In his zeal for the faith he made 2 critical mistakes. He wrote the octapla. He made a school in Palestine.

Mistakes

- He cut off his male genitals
- He had a lot of argument with the pope. He didn't want priests and Bishops to lead the church
- On his way back from Palestine, they ordained him as a priest and pope Demetrius did not bless it, so he excommunicated him and he stayed in Palestine