“To know nothing of what happened before you were born is to forever remain a child.”

CICERO
THE REASONS FOR STUDYING CHURCH HISTORY
* It shows the historical character of the Christian faith (not just subjective feelings or fiction) – geography (space) and time.

* It gives us a healthy perspective on the interpretation of Scripture.
3. It helps us avoid the heresies and mistakes of the past.
It gives us perspective to keep us humble. God can use people who have weaknesses, who make foolish mistakes.
* It helps us avoid provincialism by seeing we are part of a larger stream —helps us avoid reading our culture into the Biblical text.

* It helps us to persevere and endure until Christ returns.
TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY

SUBJECTIVE CHOICE OF ELEVEN
#1
THE FALL OF JERUSALEM TO THE ROMANS
JESUS C.33 AD PREDICTED THE FALL OF JERUSALEM
JERUSALEM FOR MANY YEARS CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN FAITH
But Jesus had some things to say in advance about what would happen to Jerusalem. Where?
OLIVET DISCOURSE OF JESUS FROM MOUNT OF OLIVES OVERLOOKING JERUSALEM

MATTHEW 24
MARK 13
LUKE 19 & 21
LUKE 19:41-44 give summary of
FOUR ACTIONS AS ROMANS ATTACK

#1
Enemy will erect embankment at walls of Jerusalem

#2
Enemy will encircle city as they lay siege
#3 the enemy will hem the residents inside the city
#4 The enemy will dash adults & children to the ground.

UTTER DEFEAT!
11) WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM?
Roman Emperor Caligula ruled over Palestine.

In AD 39 he declared himself a god.

Caligula demanded that his statue be erected in temples.
Jews resisted putting his image in the Jerusalem temple. So Caligula vowed to destroy the Jews. But he was assassinated in January 41 AD.
WHAT IRRITATED THE JEWS & LED TO HATRED & RESISTANCE?

* Having to pay taxes to Roman Emperor.
* Losing independence to foreign power.
* Losing control to Gentiles, of all people.
* Having to give loyalty and worship to Roman emperors who were viewed as divine gods.
Rome sent procurators to Palestine to **collect taxes** from the Jews.

AD 66 Roman procurator FLORUS seized silver from the Jewish temple treasuries. Jews mocked him in public protests.
Florus sent soldiers to end protests. He left Jerusalem & headed to Caesarea. Left behind only 100 soldiers.

Protestors took control of fortress of Antonia, Masada, temple
Believers fled Jerusalem for Pella c. AD66

cf. Eusebius 3.5 and Epiphanius
Flight from Jerusalem to Pella
Told by Eusebius and Epiphanius

“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city.”
Spread beyond Jerusalem. Led to Jewish War.
Josephus mentions two groups that stirred up opposition:

- **Sicarri** = dagger men
- **Zealots**
CESTIUS GALLIS
Roman governor
Of Syria

Headed with troops to Jerusalem but lost half of them. So retreated and headed back to Syria.
I sent Vespasian in AD 67 with Tenth Roman Legion to Israel. He took back the country for the Romans.
Back in Rome, Nero commits suicide in June AD 68.
VESPAVIAN REPLACES NERO AS THE ROMAN EMPEROR - Returns from Jerusalem in AD 69
Left behind his son TITUS to take over the war
III. THE STORY OF THE SEIGE OF JERUSALEM UNDER TITUS
TITUS LEADS 4 LEGIONS OF ROMAN SOLDIERS TO LAY SIEGE TO THE WALLED CITY
Took 3 weeks to take control of heart of city. But the war extended for 3 months to control the entire city including temple. Suffering of the people was horrendous.

Jerusalem

By 34 BC, under King Herod’s rule, ancient Jerusalem went through major redevelopment, crowned with the rebuilding of the Second Temple and a bigger Temple Mount. In AD 66, the Great Jewish Revolt challenged Roman rule over Jerusalem, resulting in the destruction of the temple and the fall of Jerusalem by AD 70.
HOW DID THE ROMANS ENTER THE CITY? Siege ramp
WHY DID TITUS BURN AND DESTROY THE TEMPLE? (cf. Tacitus)
Tacitus reported that Titus deliberately wanted the temple destroyed. “For he wanted to eradicate the temple in order that the Jewish and Christian religions might more completely be abolished; for although these religions were mutually hostile, they had nevertheless sprung from the same founders; the Christians were an offshoot of the Jews, and if the root were taken away the stock would easily perish.” (cf. Noll, Turning Points p. 15)
People starving. Killed off last holdouts. Wife of high priest scavenged for bread crumbs in the streets.
Some fled to Masada - wiped out AD 73
After battle over it was a long-hot summer
As many as one million died, 100,000 Jews enslaved.
IV. WHAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE DO WE HAVE FOR THE FALL OF JERUSALEM?
Mark 13:1-2
Luke 19:44

Fallen stones from Temple Mount destruction
1900 years old from 82 AD
50 ft x 44 ft. x 15 ft
“People of Rome to the divine Titus Vespasian Augustus, son of Vespasian”
V. WHAT WAS THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF THE FALL OF JERUSALEM?
1) The fall of Jerusalem with destruction of the temple marked the end of the Jewish system of offering physical sacrifices on an altar.
REBUILD THE TEMPLE? NO!

Hebrews 10:10

Hebrews 10:12 “Offered for all time a single sacrifice
2) A split developed moving the followers of Jesus away from the Jewish community and practices.
3) The fall of Jerusalem was a sign of God’s judgment on unresponsive people. **Luke 19:44** “They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”
4) The fall of Jerusalem was used providentially by God to scatter believers to other parts of the world.
Soon more Christians in Antioch than in Jerusalem (Acts 11:19)
The outward spread of Christianity went throughout the Roman world & the Middle East.
The Fall of Jerusalem was another catalyst toward Christianity becoming a global faith !!!
By 300 AD approx. 1/10 of population of Roman world professed Christianity (5 to 7.5 million out of 60 m).
The true story of the Fall of Jerusalem & judgment of sin begins to make sense if we believe in the doctrine of providence, realizing that life still has some unanswered questions.
HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

27. Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. God's providence is His almighty and ever present power,[1] whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures,[2] and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty,[3] indeed, all things, come not by chance[4] but by His fatherly hand.[5]

Heb. 1:3 . . . . sustaining all things by His powerful word

Acts 14:17 . . . He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons
NEXT SESSION:
CONSTANTINE THE GREAT AND THE EDICT OF MILAN