

# CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

## HERESIES - PART TWO

### The Gnostics #2

#### Lesson 9

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“If you worship  
me, it will all be  
yours” (Lk 4:7)



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# Lessons Today



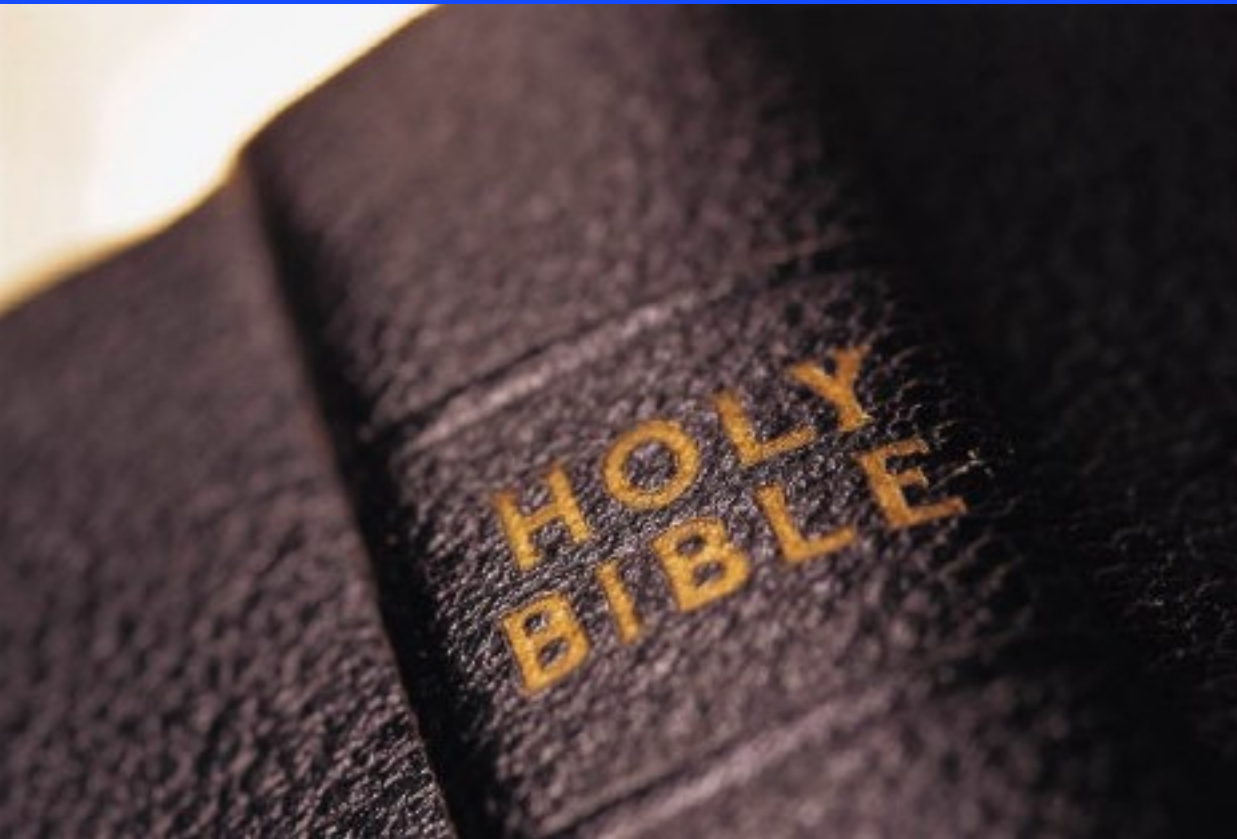
- Truth Matters
- TRUTH: (This is a dog in sheep's clothing, not a wolf!)

# Lessons Today



- Road to heresy not always a U-turn

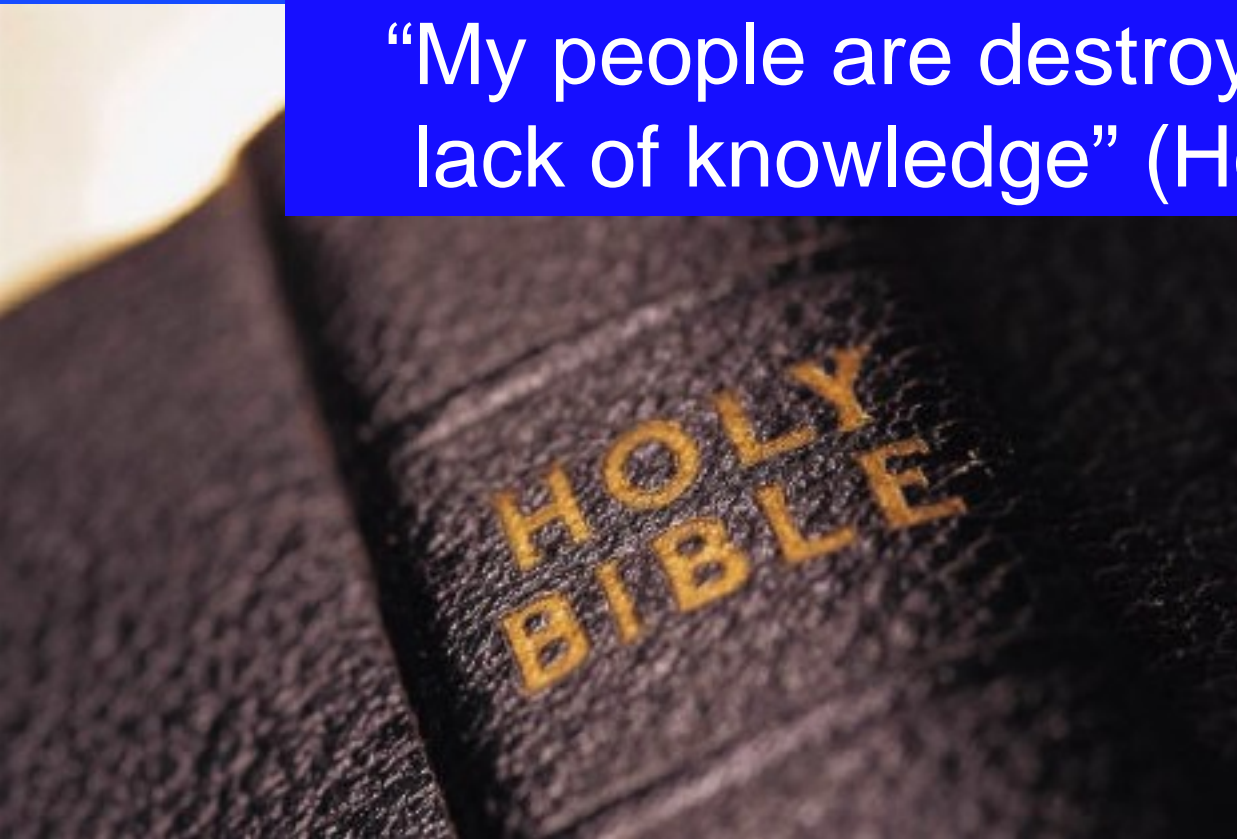
# Lessons Today



- Core understanding vs. complete understanding

# Lessons Today

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6)



- Core understanding vs. complete understanding

# Lessons Today

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6)

- Core understanding vs. complete understanding

“My people will go into exile for lack of understanding” (Is. 5:13)

# Lessons Today



- Be wary of goofy interpretations

# Major Heresy: Gnosticism



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- Gnostic (γνωστικός): Capable of attaining knowledge - Secret knowledge!

# Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- More than one god!

# Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Spirit good! Body and earth evil!
- So ... Option one: Deny the body!
- Or ... Option two: Anything goes!

# Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Salvation a matter of WHAT you know, not WHO you know.

# Major Heresy: Gnosticism



- Jesus as “Savior” taught the secrets and how to get home!

# St. Irenaeus of Lyons



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- Originally from Smyrna

# St. Irenaeus of Lyons



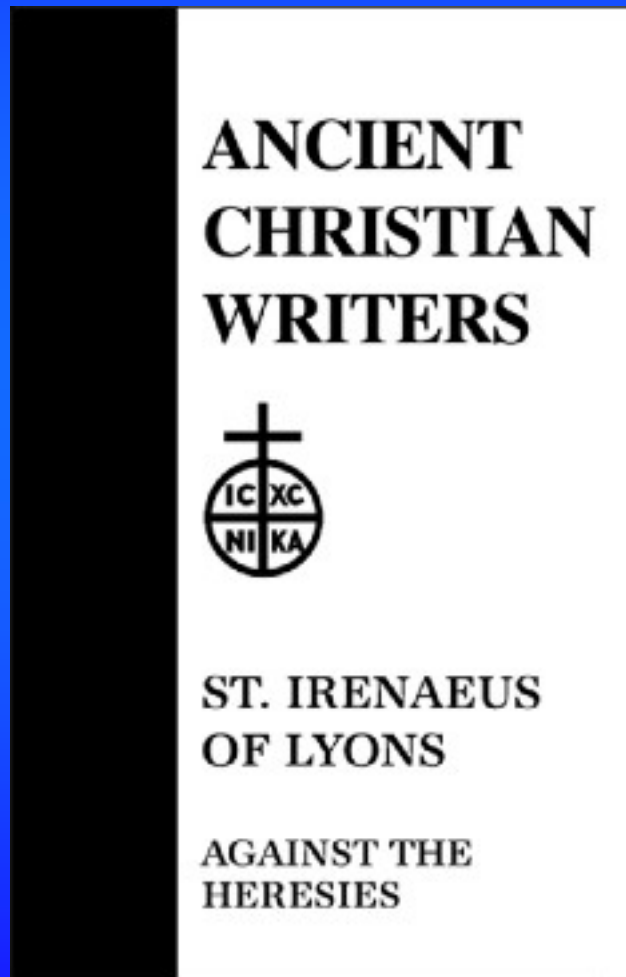
- Originally from Smyrna
- Mentored by Polycarp

# St. Irenaeus of Lyons



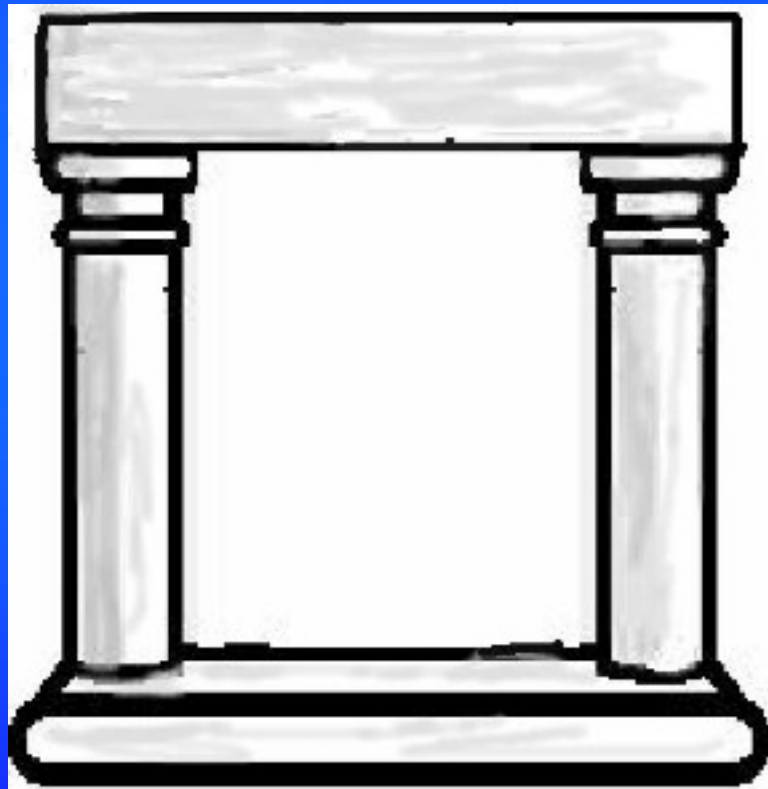
- Originally from Smyrna
- Mentored by Polycarp
- Around 150 moves to Lugdunum (Lyons, France)

# St. Irenaeus of Lyons



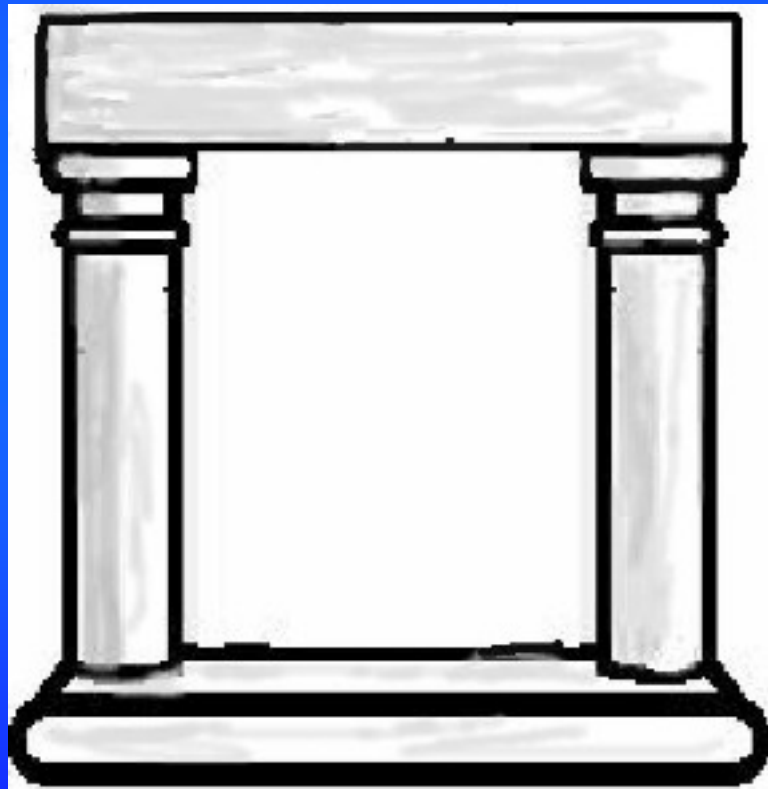
- Full title: Expose and Overthrow/Refutation of What is Falsely Called Knowledge

# St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church



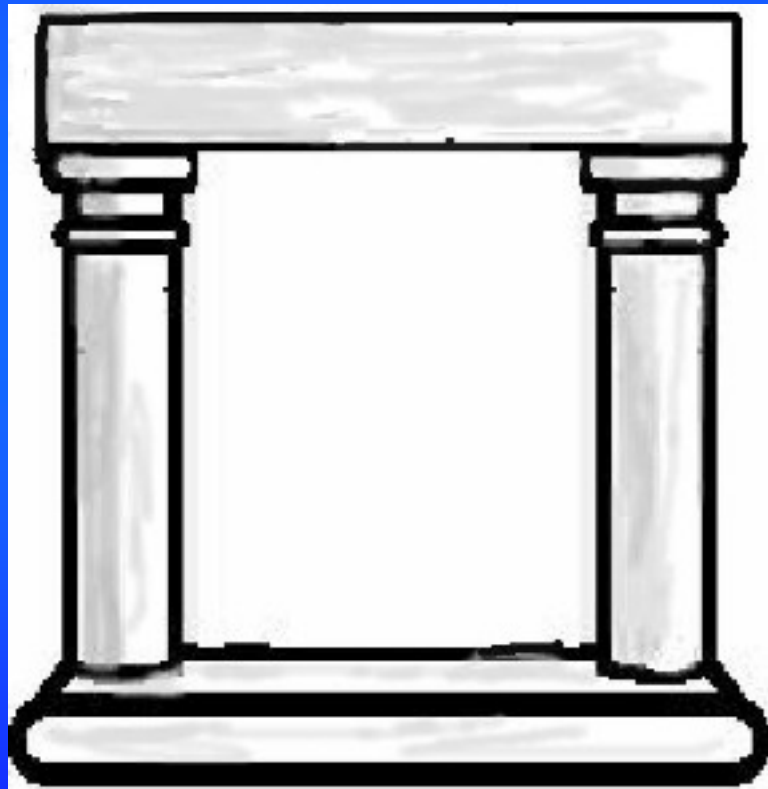
# St. Irenaeus - 2 Pillars of Church

- Authority of Scripture



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- Authority of Scripture



- Apostolic Tradition

# St. Irenaeus - the Doctrine Analyst

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1. What is the Doctrine? Flesh it out!

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2. What is the Basis or Authority for the Doctrine?

# St. Irenaeus - the Doctrine Analyst

1. What is the Doctrine? Flesh it out!
2. What is the Basis or Authority for the Doctrine?
3. What Does Scripture say on the Issue?



**Last Week =>**



# Gnostic # 1 - Cerinthus

**Last Week =>**



Gnostic # 1 -  
Cerinthus

Gnostic # 2 -  
Marcion

**Last Week =>**



Gnostic # 1 -  
Cerinthus

Gnostic # 2 -  
Marcion

Gnostic # 3 -  
Valentinus

# This Week

# This Week

- Marcion --- “money can’t buy me love ... or orthodoxy...”

# This Week

- Marcion --- “money can’t buy me love ... or orthodoxy...”
- Valentinus --- Did he meet the angel Moroni???

# Marcion - A Major, Major Problem



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- Born around 100

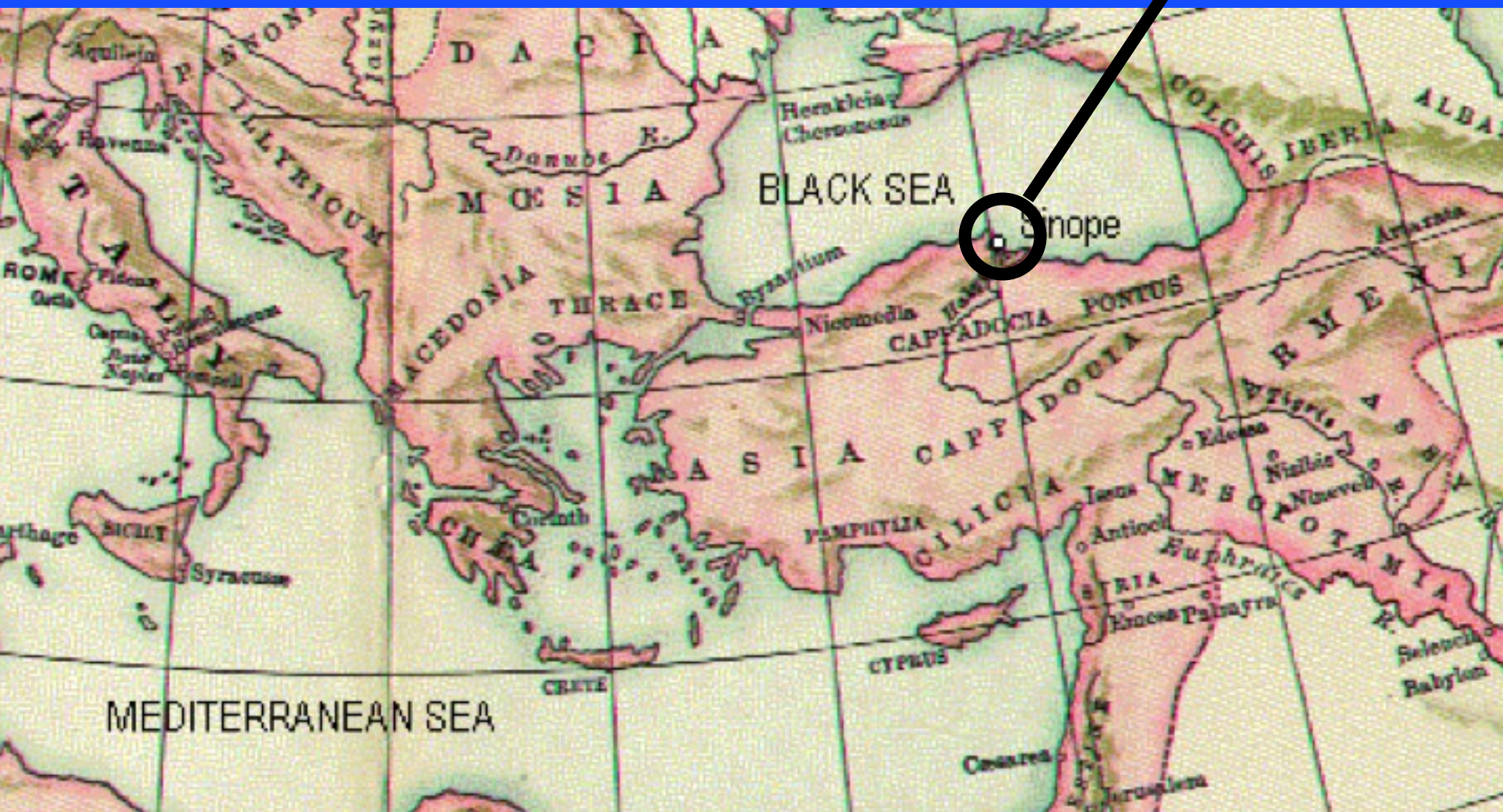
# Marcion - A Major, Major Problem



- Born around 100
- Son of a Bishop in Sinope

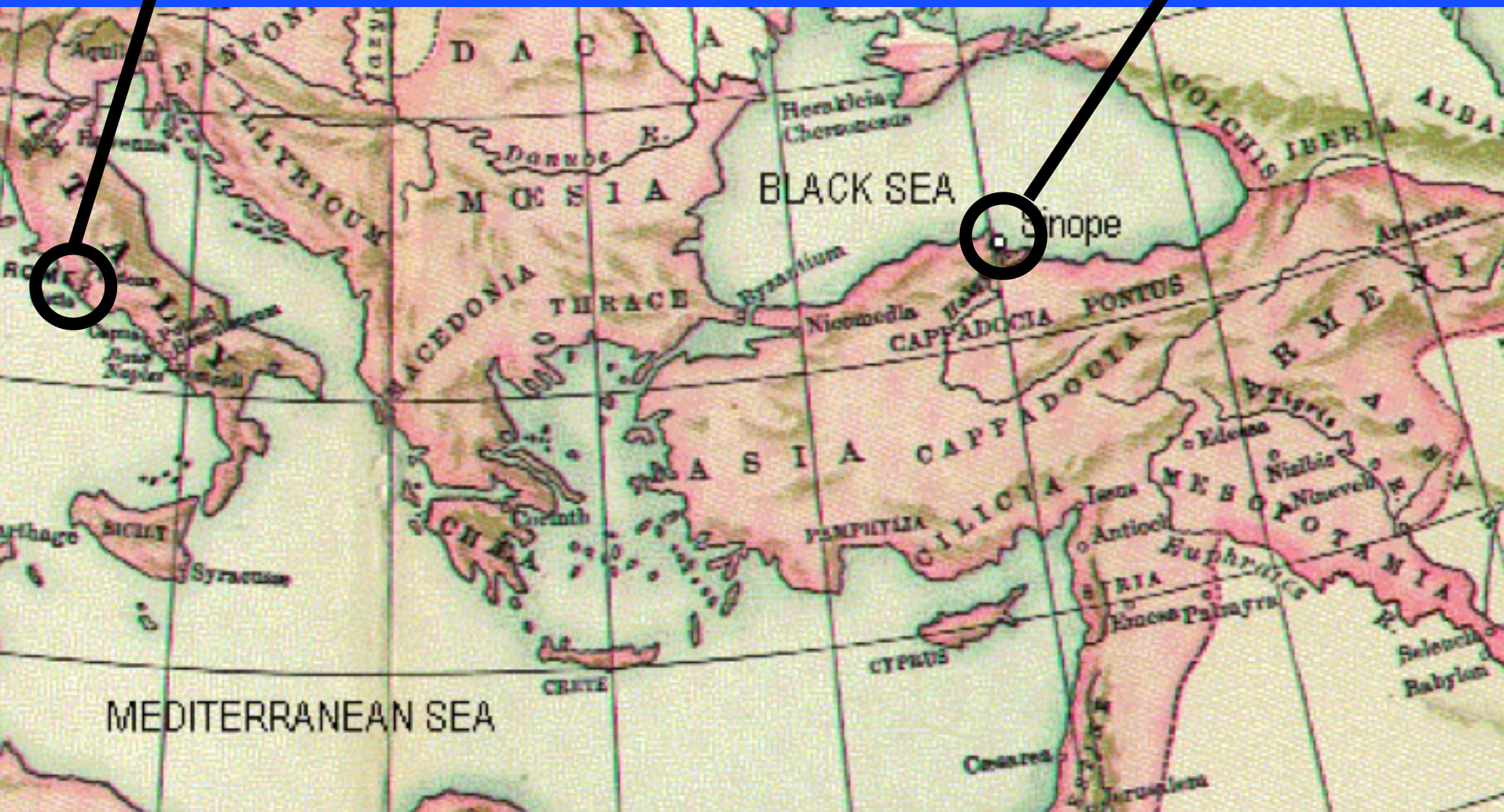


# Sinope



Rome

Sinope



# Marcion - A Major, Major Problem





# Marcion - A Major, Major Problem

- Kicked out of church in sinope



# Marcion - A Major, Major Problem

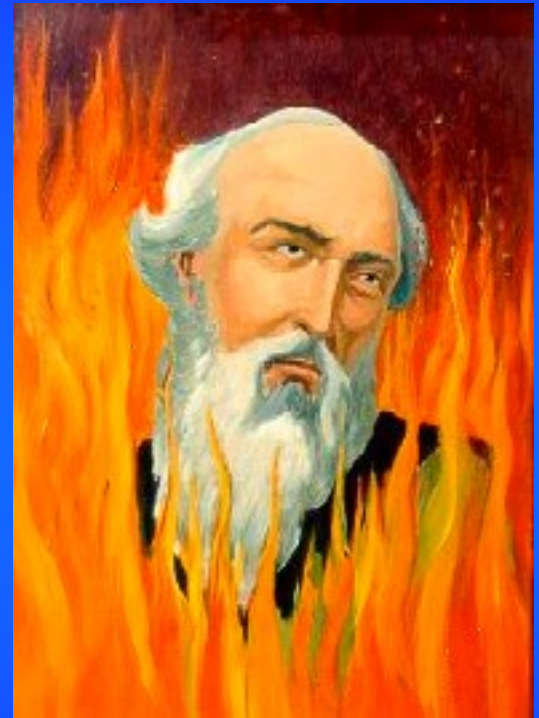
- Kicked out of church in sinope
- Becomes wealthy shipping magnate



# Marcion - A Major, Major Problem

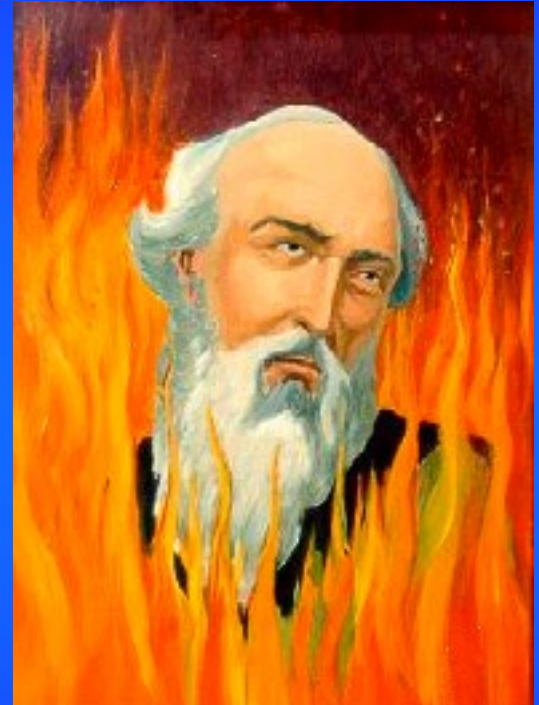
- Kicked out of church in sinope
- Becomes wealthy shipping magnate
- Meets Polycarp in Asia Minor

# Marcion and Polycarp



# Marcion and Polycarp

Do you  
recognize  
me?



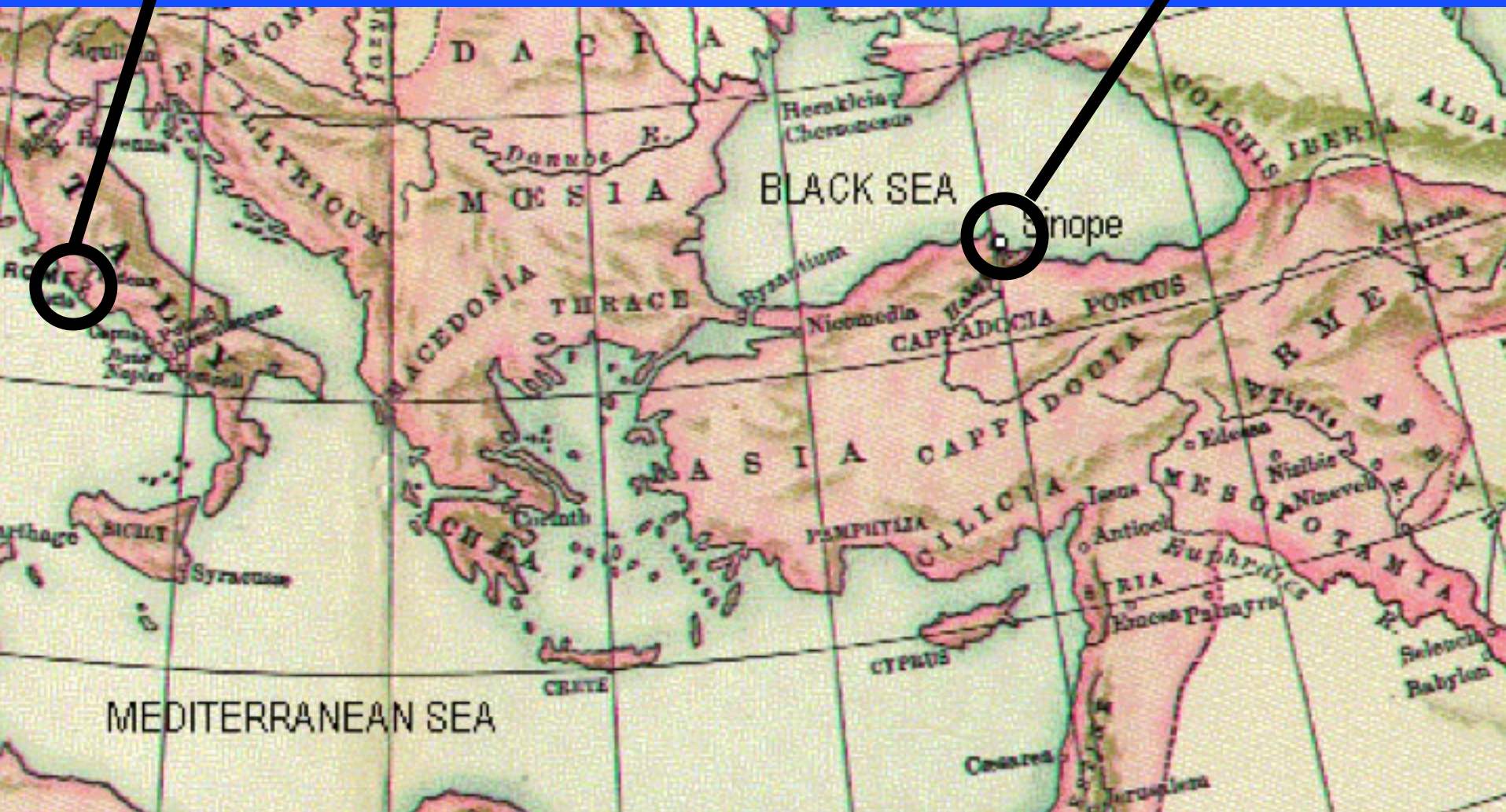
“I recognize you  
for the firstborn of  
Satan”

## CAUTION:

Satan's influence and attack is not just "physical sinning." It includes attacks on mind and faith.

Rome

Sinope



Rome

Sinope



Donates 200,000 sesterces  
(Think a few hundred thousand  
dollars)

# Marcion's Heresy

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Evil,  
manipulated  
God of hatred  
and war

Jesus

**CAUTION:**  
Economic Motives can be a  
Dangerous Influence on  
Religion

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Evil,  
manipulated  
God of hatred  
and war

Jesus

**CAUTION:**

**Ignorance can be a Dangerous  
Influence on Religion and  
Politics**

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Vengeful,  
manipulated  
God of hatred  
and war

Jesus - A  
reflection of a  
higher and purer  
good God of love

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



“Where are  
you?” (Gen.  
3:9)

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



“Where are  
you?” (Gen.  
3:9)

Lk 5:22 Jesus  
knew even the  
thoughts of man

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



“An eye for an  
eye” (Ex 21:24)

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



“An eye for an  
eye” (Ex 21:24)

“If someone  
strikes you on one  
cheek, turn to him  
the other also.”  
(Lk 6:29)

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Enter Jericho and  
murder every man,  
woman and child  
(Joshua 6)

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Enter Jericho and  
murder every man,  
woman and child  
(Joshua 6)

Love enemies,  
pray for those  
who persecute  
you and turn the  
other cheek (Lk 6)

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Elisha mocked by  
young boys calls a  
bear to maul them  
(2 Kings 2)

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Elisha mocked by  
young boys calls a  
bear to maul them  
(2 Kings 2)

Let the little  
children come to  
me (Lk 18)

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Cursed is everyone  
who hangs on a  
tree (Dt 27&28)

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Cursed is everyone  
who hangs on a  
tree (Dt 27&28)

Jesus ordered to  
hang on a tree

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Tree is known by its fruit (Lk 6:43-44)

# Marcion's Heresy



Vs.



Justice

Tree is known by its fruit (Lk 6:43-44)

# Marcion's Heresy



Justice

Vs.



Mercy

Tree is known by its fruit (Lk 6:43-44)

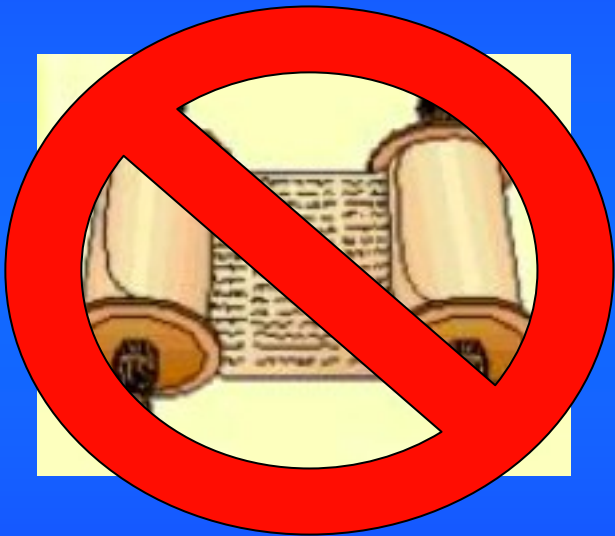
# Marcion's Heresy the Canon



Vs.



# Marcion's Heresy the Canon



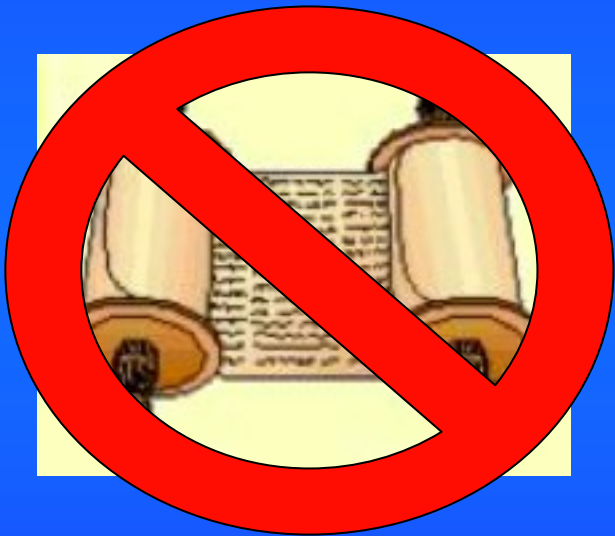
Vs.



**CAUTION:**

**Ignorance can be a Dangerous  
Influence on Religion and  
Politics**

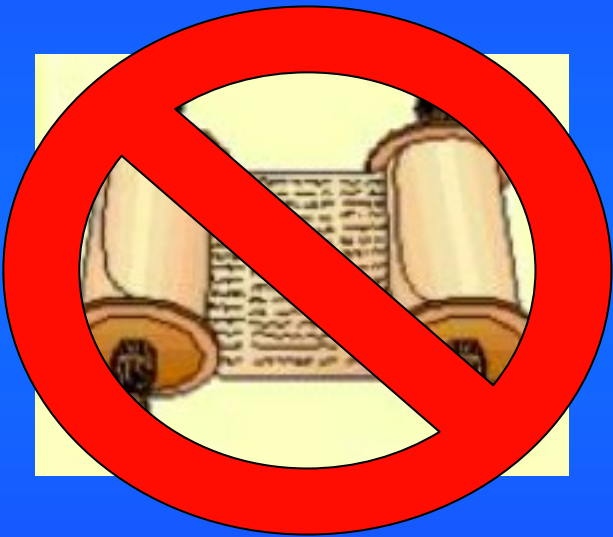
# Marcion's Heresy the Canon



Vs.



# Marcion's Heresy the Canon



Vs.



Edited Luke

Edited Luke

# Edited Luke

- Take out first two chapters

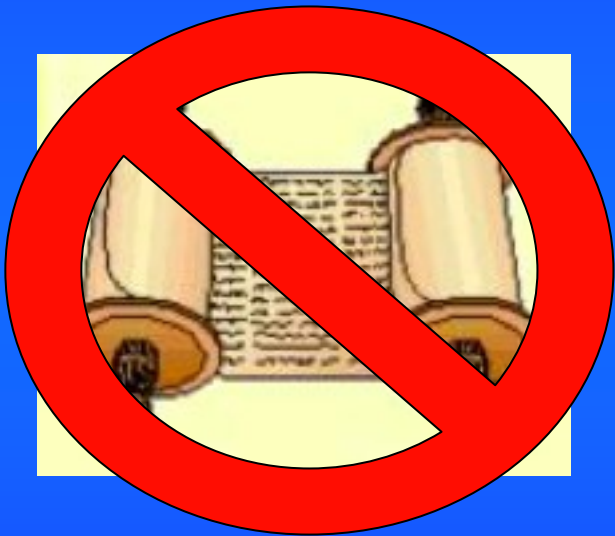
# Edited Luke

- Take out first two chapters
- Take out temptations in 4:1-3 (Jesus quotes Deuteronomy)

# Edited Luke

- Take out first two chapters
- Take out temptations in 4:1-3 (Jesus quotes Deuteronomy)
- Take out 4:16-30 (Jesus says he fulfills the Old Testament)

# Marcion's Heresy the Canon



Vs.



- Edited Luke
- 10 edited letters of Paul After all, Jesus found it necessary to come to Paul.

# Paul's Edits

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- Romans 9-11 Mostly gone

# Paul's Edits

- Romans 9-11 Mostly gone
- Romans 3:21-4:25 Also gone

# Paul's Edits

- Romans 9-11 Mostly gone
- Romans 3:21-4:25 Also gone
- Galatians missing Abraham example

# Why Were People Attracted?

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- Some always like the new and cutting edge

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- Isn't it great to be in the know?

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- Lifestyle was most impressive

# Why Were People Attracted?

- Some always like the new and cutting edge
- Isn't it great to be in the know?
- Lifestyle was most impressive
- Ignorance of Scripture and theology

And ....

# And ....

- A message of peace and love ...


# And ....

- A message of peace and love ...
- Perhaps the moon was in its seventh house and Jupiter was aligned with Mars ... With peace guiding the planets ... And love ruling the stars..... It's the crystal revelation and the mind's true liberation!

Let the Sun shine in!!!!!!

Marcionism spread  
like a poison



A close-up photograph of a wasp nest. The nest is constructed from a series of hexagonal cells made of a greyish-brown material. Several wasps, with yellow and black striped abdomens and black heads, are visible. Some are standing on the cells, while others are partially obscured. The background is a dense, textured surface of these cells.

Marcionism spread  
like a poison

Tertuillian: Marcion planted churches  
the way a wasp makes nests

# The Church's Response

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- Take no part

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- Reveal heresy, explaining Apostolic truth

# The Church's Response

- Take no part
- Reveal heresy, explaining Apostolic truth
- Concentrated effort to put together Apostolic canon

# Valentinus

# 30

Divine Gods

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Divine Gods

- 2 Become 12 silent gods, then 18 more!

# Valentinus

30

Divine Gods

- 2 Become 12 silent gods, then 18 more!
- Great names! “First Father” joins with “Silence” and gives birth to “Mind” and “Truth” and along come “Profound” “Ageless” and others!

# Valentinus

30

Divine Gods

- Parable of vineyard and workers Mt 20 (1st hr, 3d hr, 6th hr, 9th hr, 11th hr!)

# Valentinus

30

Divine Gods

- Parable of vineyard and workers Mt 20 (1st hr, 3d hr, 6th hr, 9th hr, 11th hr!)
- 30 years of silent ministry

# Valentinus

30

Divine Gods

- Parable of vineyard and workers Mt 20 (1st hr, 3d hr, 6th hr, 9th hr, 11th hr!)
- 30 years of silent ministry
- Jesus spoke in parables because “the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven have been given to you... (Mat 13:11)

We are told:



We are told:

- Joseph Smith received his secret revelation

# Valentinus

30

Divine Gods

- 2 Become 12 silent gods, then 18 more!
- Great names! “First Father” joins with “Silence” and gives birth to “Mind” and “Truth” and along come “Profound” “Ageless” and others!

# Iranaeus:

Woe, woe! Alas, alas! Indeed such...a concoction of names, and such boldness to add the names [to his belief system] without blushing.... [He has given the names to his gods] Nothing, therefore, prohibits anyone else from proposing names for the same system as follows:

# Iranaeus:

There exists a power, which I call a Squash; with this Squash coexists a Power to which I give the name Utter-Emptiness. Now this Squash and Utter-Emptiness brought forth a fruit...which we call Cucumber. With this Cucumber there coexists a Power to which I give the name Pumpkin..."

# Heresy led to:

“They do shameless forbidden things”

# Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.

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- Truth is Truth.
- Fiction is Not.

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- Measure Truth by God's Word.

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- Decide to learn more.

# Points for Home

- Truth is Truth.
- Fiction is Not.
- Measure Truth by God's Word.
- Decide to learn more.
- Salvation is a real event, by a real God in real history.

# Next Week ...

- An early Charismatic movement goes awry....