



# The Holy church in first 2 centuries

LESSON 16



# Council of Jerusalem

Held in AD 49(Acts:15)

Aim:To decide about the rules and regulations for people joining the church

St.James as chair in the presence of other disciples.

Different issues discussed:Need of introduction of circumcision and other religious customs practiced among Jews.

Result:Not to compel the gentiles(Pagans) to strictly follow the Jewish customs



# Council of Jerusalem

ACTS 15



# Administrative system in church

Three fold ministry-first mentioned by St. Ignatius

Bishop as head

Priests(presbyters) and Deacons as assistants.

An order of Phoebe also mentioned in Romans 16:1

## 3 degrees of Holy Orders

- Deacon
- Priest
- Bishop



# St. Phoebe

Referred as a deacon and a helper or patron of many (Romans 16:1)

## **ST. PHOEBE (1<sup>ST</sup> C., CENCHREAE)**



*I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon [diakonou] of the church which is at Cenchreae; that you receive her in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help here in whatever manner she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.*  
Romans 16: 1-2

Icon: St. Phoebe Center

# CHURCH LIFE

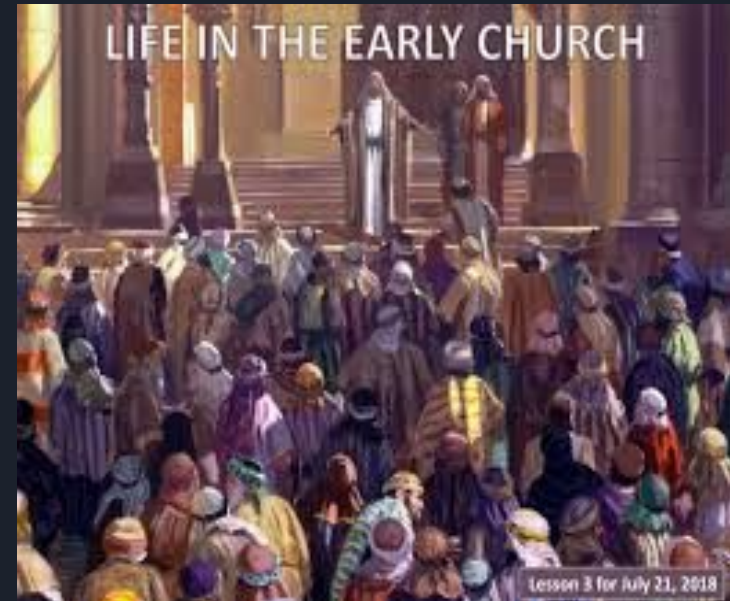
Followed synagogue mode of worship, but Sunday as sabbath.

Centred on worship and prayer.

Importance to help poor, sick and widows.

Respected the government and laws of society.

Denounced the pagan mode of worship and immorality.





# Where do we get the information from?

Apostolic fathers-Disciples of apostles or their contemporaries

Written between AD 95-150

Given an account of life in early centuries

Writings of St.Clement of Rome

The Didache(Teachings of 12 apostles)

The book of Barnabas

The 7 letters of St.Ignatius of Antioch

Writings of Hermas



# Contents of apostolic books

Teachings of christian principles

Regulations of worship

Urging christians to remain courageous against persecution

Ways to resist the injustice of Jews.



# The Apostolic Fathers





# The Apologists

Scholars and philosophers explained faith and christian way of life,pattern of worship,and attitude of christians towards pagans and rulers.

Taught good faith ,responded to the criticisms against church and act as spokespersons when there was an accusation.

Few examples

Tertullian

Mar Iraenious

Clement of Alexandria

Origen

Justin the martyr

Two angels.

Fourteen generations.

She was dead.

Before passover.

No, one angel!

Thirteen generations!

She was dying! After passover!

Judas hung himself.

Two Marys.

Jesus carried his cross alone

Judas burst open!

Wrong, one Mary!

Jesus got help!

