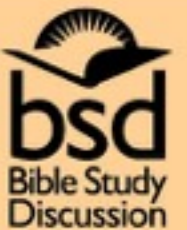




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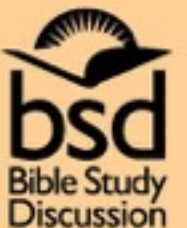


Opening Music: The Church's One Foundation

www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0hieUU_jz4



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Opening Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson



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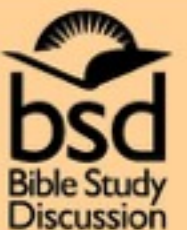




INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY



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**How are the Olympic Athletes
similar to the people of the
early church?**



They needed:

- **to be changed from ordinary people into exceptional athletes. (We will have new life.)**
- **to work on their individuals skills for the good of the team. (God gifted each of us with abilities.)**



They needed:

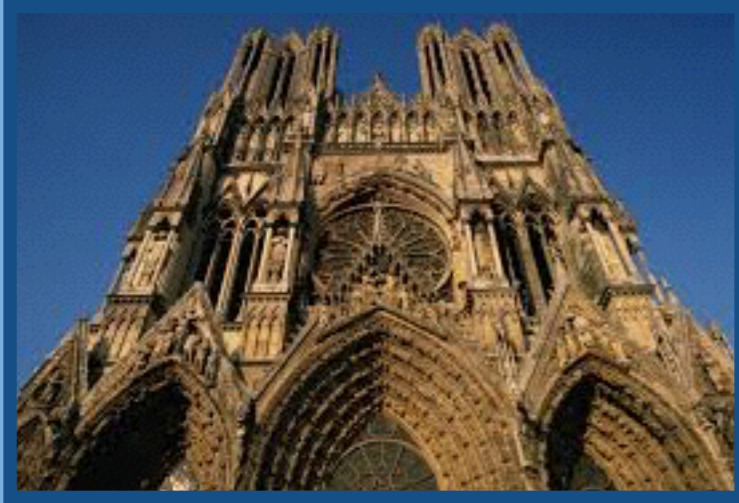
- a coach. (Holy Spirit will guide us.)
- to be chosen for the team. (2 Peter 2:9 says “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God’s own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light.”)



They needed:

- to work as a team. (We are the Church not isolated individuals.)
- to work for the USA because they were representing USA. (We represent Christ in the world.)

This year's study: The Church



The Church is not a building. The Church is really the people...the people united together who are living in the “between times”... the times between Jesus’ walking on earth and his second coming.

As the Church of Jesus Christ, What do we need to know?

How did we (the church) come to be?

Who and whose are we?

**What is our purpose and how can we
achieve it?**

**We can't talk about the Church without
talking about the Holy Spirit.**

Holy Spirit: Person of the Trinity

Advocate: John 14:16-17

Abides in us: John 14:17, Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 2:21-22;
1 Corinthians 6:19

Teacher: John 14:26, 16:12-13, Psalm 143:10

Counselor: Ephesians 3:16-17

Comforter/Helper: Acts 4:31, John 14:16,26; 15:26

Intercessor: Romans 8:26-27

Guide: John 16:13

Seal: Ephesians 1:13-14

Witness: Romans 8:16, Hebrews 2:4, 10:15

**See BSD Facebook page for a list of
names for the Holy Spirit.**



Because the Holy Spirit teaches you, there is no need for you to use commentaries.

BSD emphasizes your participation directly with the biblical text.

People of the Early Church

Peter

Silas

Paul

Barnabas

Timothy

John Mark

Stephen

Lois and Eunice

Apollos

Ananias and Sapphira

James

Luke

Cornelius

Historical Context

Acts, 2 Timothy, Apostles Creed



The Roman World, 265 B.C.—A.D. 117



■ Roman Republic, 265 B.C.
■ Areas added to Empire, A.D. 117

0 250 500 Miles
0 250 500 Kilometers

Conic Projection

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

**Upper class: temple priests
and priestly aristocracy**

**Middle class: merchants, artisans,
craftsmen, teachers, scribes**

**Lower class: laborers, slaves,
unemployable, disabled**

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity

The population was mostly Jewish but included Syrians, Greeks and Romans.

The common language was Greek, with Jews also using Hebrew, Aramaic and Latin.

Jesus spoke Aramaic.

A WORLD FULL OF GODS

CULTS OF THE ROMAN STATE

PAGAN MYSTERY RELIGIONS

The Imperial Cult

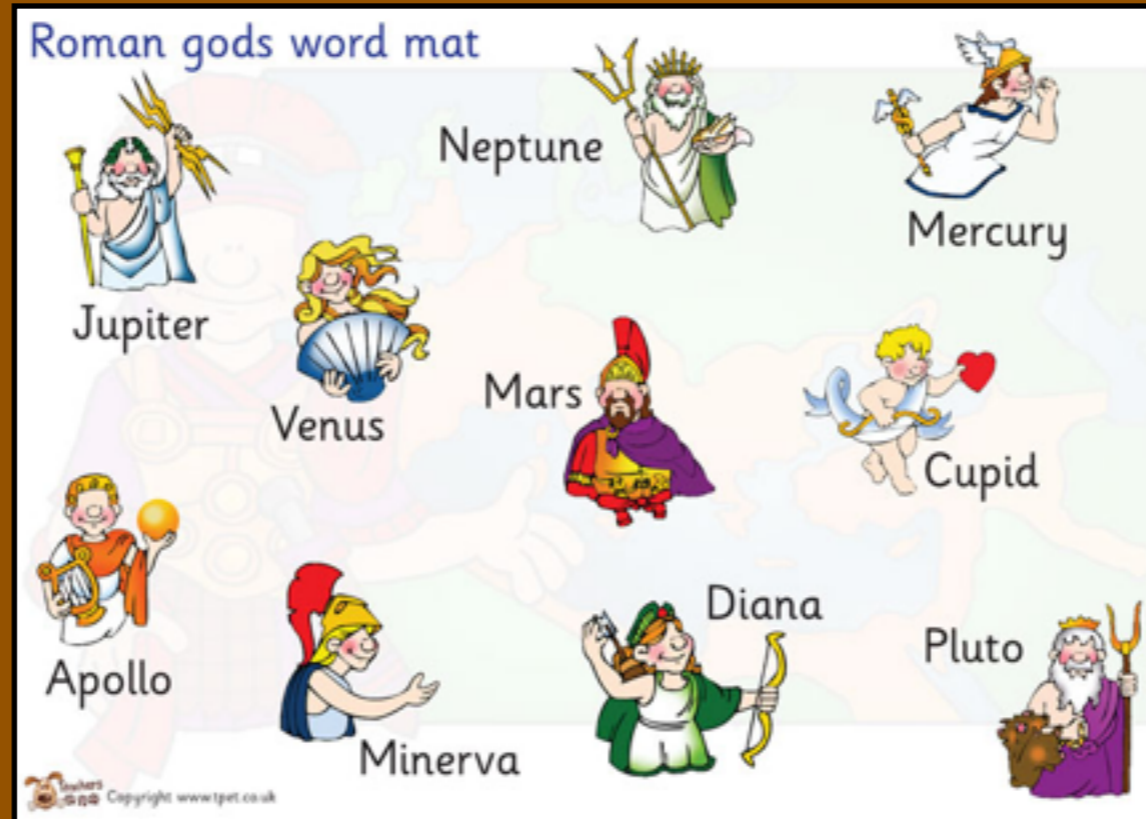
- Roman emperors were believed to be mortal manifestations of the divine and were worshipped as gods
- Some emperors made worship of themselves mandatory, a problem for monotheistic groups like the Jews and, later, the Christians



Augustus (Vatican Museum; Goldscheider 1940)



Mithras



Mars



Isis



**Diana
of the
Ephesians**

Who do you say I am?



JEWISH RELIGIOUS LIFE

Sadducees:

**focused on temple ritual,
tended to get along with Roman authorities**

Pharisees:

most observant and religious Jews of the time

Essenes:

**small sect, apocalyptic and ascetic group
emphasizing extreme personal purity
and separation from rest of the Jews.**

JEWISH RELIGIOUS LIFE

Unified by:

Devotion to one God

Adherence to Old Testament

Emphasis on Temple and Law of Moses

Eschatological hopes

JEWISH RELIGIOUS LIFE

The God-fearers

Gentile sympathizers of Judaism who had not become total converts. They shared Jewish religious ideas and practices but did not adhere to all the laws of Moses—the dietary laws and circumcision in particular.

The Fullness of Time

Pax Romana

Extensive system of roads

Common Language

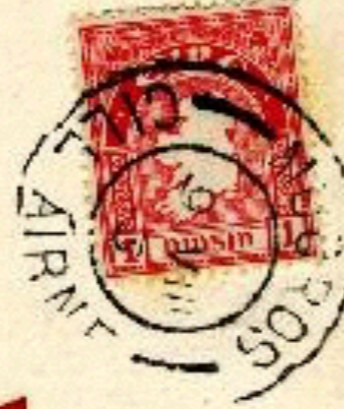
Heightened Religious Interest

Anticipation of Messiah

The House of Simon the Tanner



*Paul's Letter to
the Disciple*



II Timothy

W



E

The Core Teachings

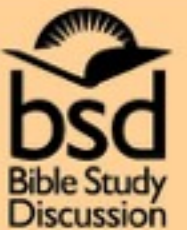
The
Apostles'
+ Creed +



FAQ's



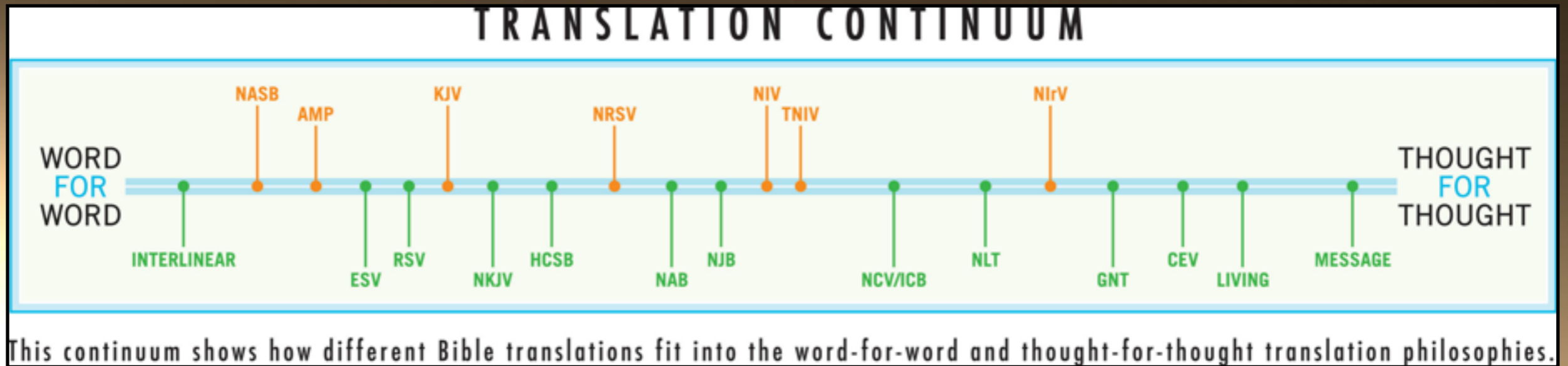
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These websites enable you to compare multiple translations of the same passages.

www.biblegateway.com

www.biblestudytools.com



We recommend using:

**Translation as your primary resource
(ESV, NRSV, NKJV, NIV)**

**Paraphrase as a supplemental resource
(The Message, Living Bible, NLT)**

YES!

CHECK OUT BSD ON FACEBOOK

**Search Facebook for
MDPC Bible Study Discussion
and like the page**

OR

<https://www.facebook.com/MDPC-Bible-Study-Discussion-114324118740687/>



**FAQ:
Is BSD on Facebook?**



Lecture Team

Charmaine Denney

Mary Lee Going

Jody Harrington

Susan Jonesia

Christyn Knoop

Martha Moore

Elizabeth Snelling

Lectures

- **Each lecture will be a preview of next week's lesson.**
- **The purpose of the lecture time is to enhance, clarify, and expand on what the participants studied that week.**
- **We will stress application of the lesson.**
- **Opening music styles are chosen by the lecturer and are appropriate to the study for the week. You may sing, hum, or just listen, but allow the music to prepare your hearts for what you are about to hear.**



Closing



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