

A. In Palestine, which was also under Roman sway.

Q. What was the sole guide of the other nations?

A. Human philosophy, which was misleading and untrue.

Q. What were the three chief systems of philosophy?

A. Epicureanism, Stoicism, and Platonism.

Q. What was the doctrine of the Epicureans?

A. They held that the world was made by chance, denied God's providence over the human race, taught there was no resurrection nor any punishment after death, and esteemed nothing to be good but what was pleasing to the senses; in fact they were atheists, and their ruling principle was pleasure.

Q. What did the Stoics teach?

A. They professed to believe in many gods; they held that the world itself was a good, and that all matter was eternal. They condemned image worship, yet justified the popular polytheism. They taught that the soul at death would be burned or return to be absorbed in God. They were indeed pantheists, or believers in many gods, and their ruling principle was pride.

Q. What belief is attributed to Plato and his followers?

A. Plato taught the immortality of the soul and inculcated temperance, justice and purity of life. His views were sublime and exalted, but many of them were erroneous and impossible to put in practice. He had no idea of a coming Redeemer, but did something to prepare the people for His approach.

Q. What saying is ascribed to Socrates, from whom Plato derived many of his ideas?

A. That he knew nothing and earnestly desired that God would send some one from heaven to teach him.

Q. Could these religions make men good and true?

A. No, and so corruption was universal and mercy and purity unknown.

Q. How is the state of the world described in Scripture?

A. "Darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people." Is. lx. 2.

Q. Which was the strongest Government?

A. The Roman which had rule over nearly all the civilized world.

Q. What language was almost universally used?

A. The Greek which was also the noblest and best.

Q. Were these things advantageous to the Church?

A. Yes, the Roman laws at first protected the Church, and by the Greek language the knowledge of it was transmitted.

Q. Where have we an account of the early history of the Church?

A. In the Epistles and Acts of the Apostles.

Q. Where else can we learn how the Church grew and spread?

A. In the writings of the early Christians.

Q. By what term do we usually call these first Christians?

A. The Fathers of the Church.

Q. Name some of them?

A. Ignatius, Polycarp, Athanasius, Chrysostom, Ambrose and Augustine.

Q. About which of the Apostles do we know most?

S. S. Peter, Paul and John.

(To be Continued.)