

C. The Apostolic Age -- While the Apostles yet lived, a period of little knowledge outside the Acts.

1. From A.D. 30-50 there was no extensive missionary activity. Jerus. was the center until persucution forced the Christians to disperse and thereby spread the gospel.
2. The spread of the gospel was encouraged by the direct intervention of the H.S.
 - a. Phillip was led from Samaria to the road to Gaza to convert the Ethiopian Eunuch.
 - b. Peter in Joppa is told by the H.S. to preach to Cornelius and is convinced the message should go to the Gentiles as well.
 - c. In A.D. 50 the Spirit commanded that Paul and Barnabas be separated for the ministry to the Gentiles, and the determined missionary effort to the Gentiles began. By the end of Acts that which had begun in a small way in Jerus. came to Rome itself.

D. The Century of Little Evidence (50-60 A.D. - 150-160)
The end of the Apostolic age and the time of the apostolic fathers. No further evidence from Christian eye-witnesses.

1. During this period there is little Christian literature and no history.
 - a. There were not a great many learned men among the Chr. (minor)
 - b. The apostles felt their time was brief and that the Lord's return was so emminent that there was no need to est. the historicity of Chr. truths and facts.
2. Very little pagan history in this period.
 - a. Josephus wrote his history of the J. and their wars and in only one pgh. refers to Christianity (pgh. cons. by many as interpolation) The point is Josephus felt Chr stianity was of little significance and would not interest the pagans for whom he wrote.
3. After the death of the apostles, there is no record of extensive missionary efforts. The men whose names have been handed down were righteous men who stay in one place ministering unto their flocks. The supposition is that the zeal of the individual Chr. was such that he spread the faith through his witness wherever he went. Because:
4. At the end of the period Justin Martyr wrote (150 A.D.) "There is no people among whom Christ is not magnified by some" @ In 200 A.D., a Chr. writer claimed, "We are but of yesterday but now *Tertullian* we fill all but your temples." (Ex)