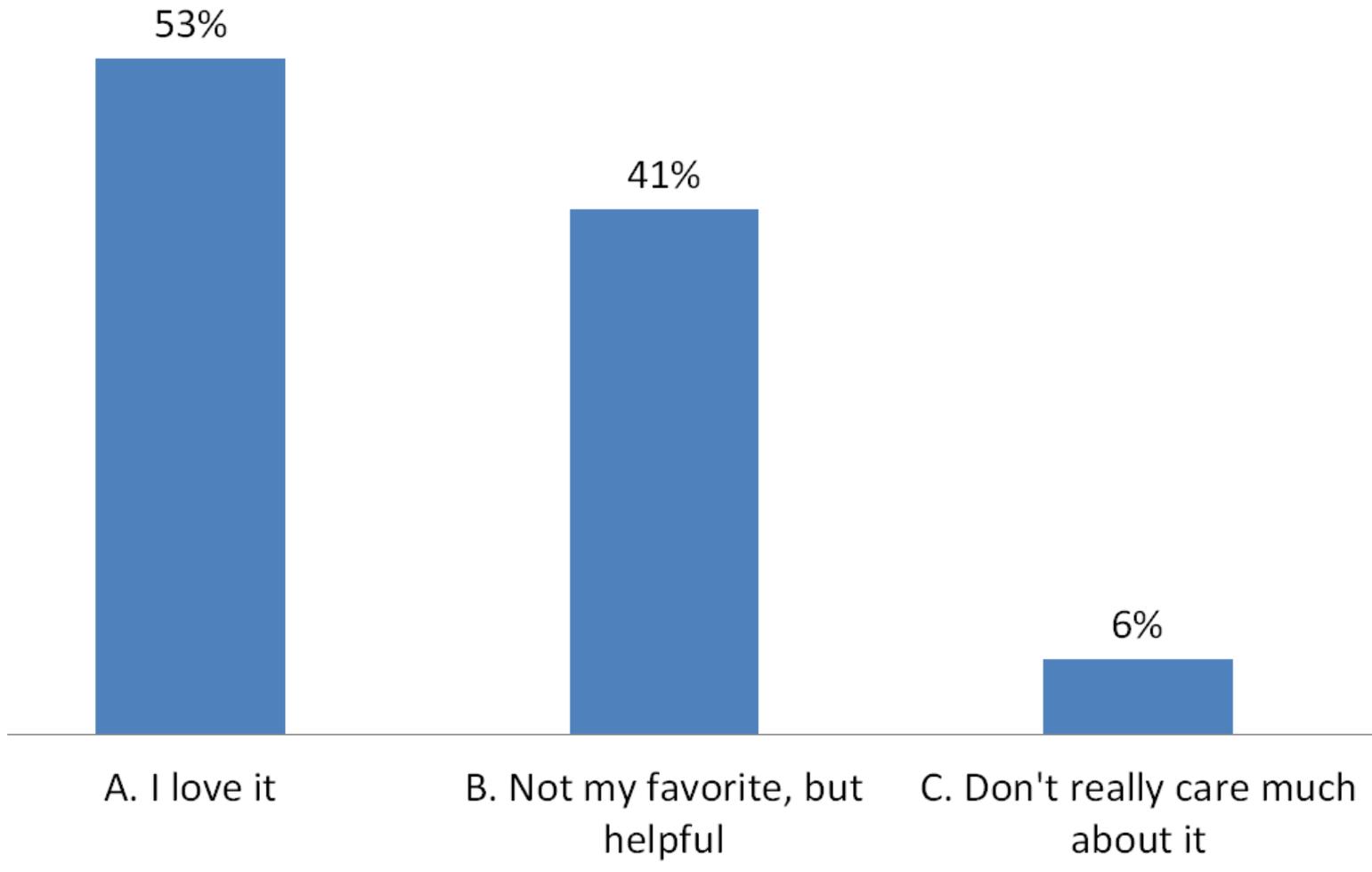




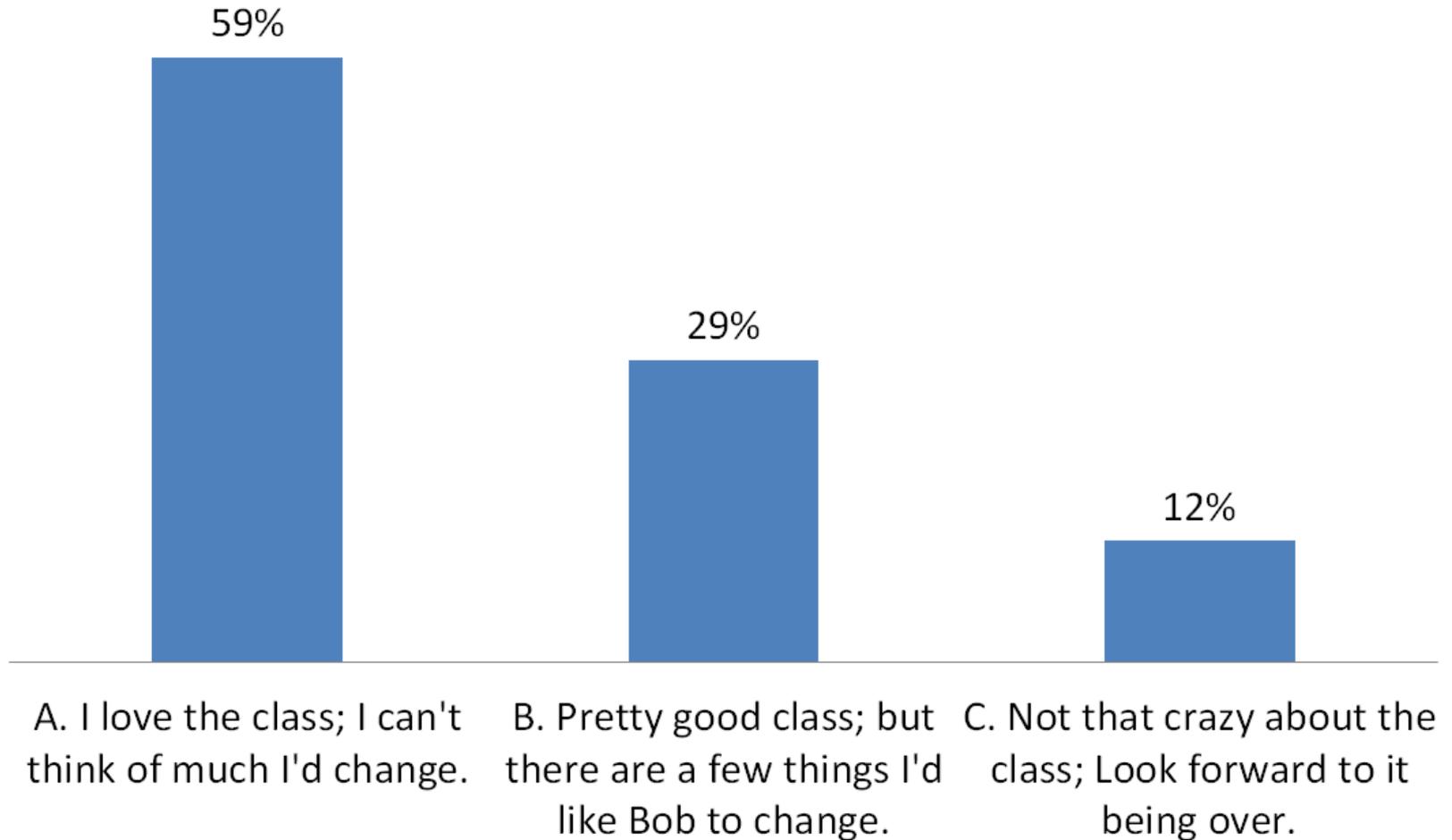
# Results from Last Week's Survey

Question # 1 – Attitude Towards the Subject of **Church History**



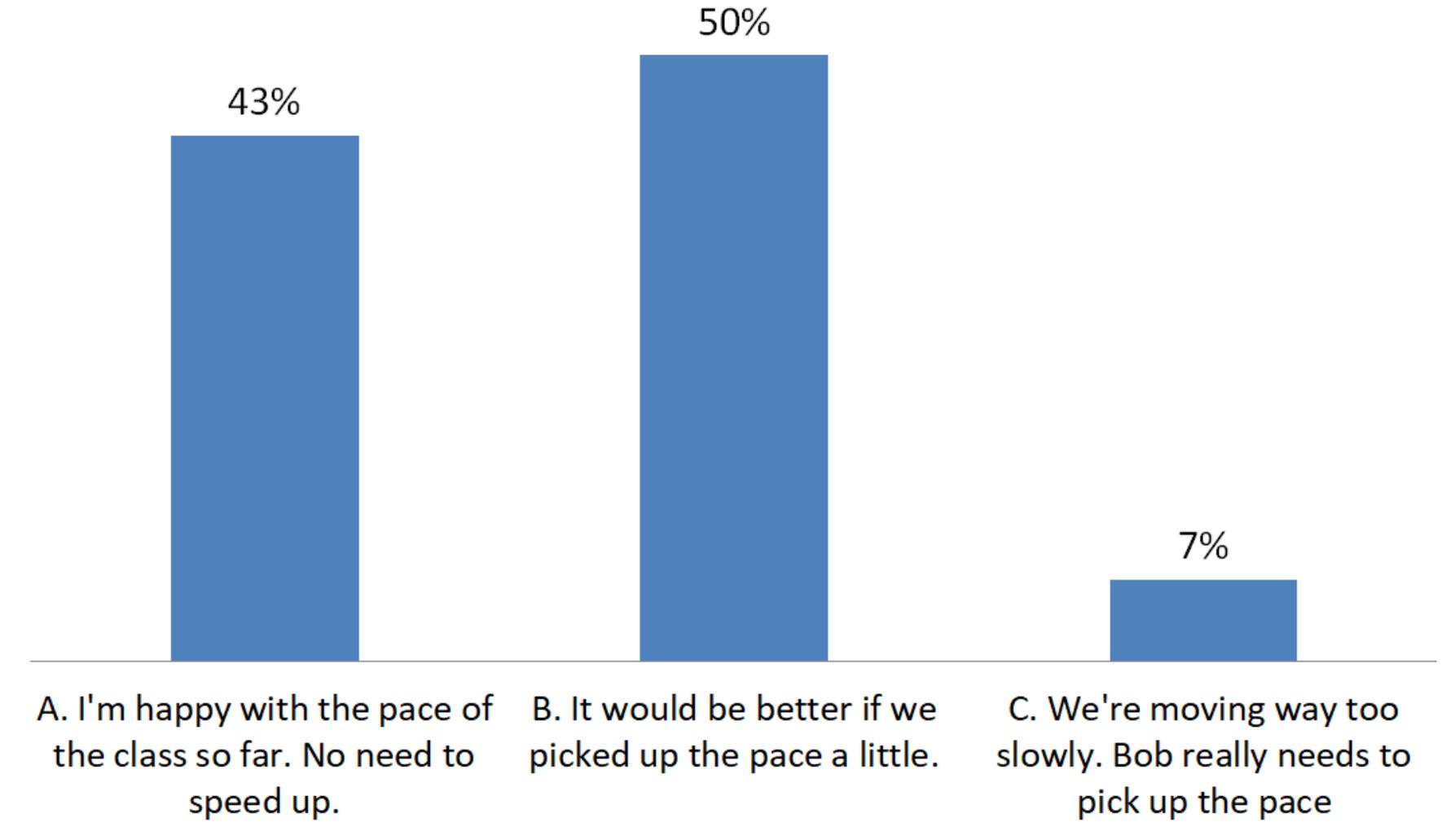
# Results from Last Week's Survey

Question # 2 – **General Feeling** About Bob's History Class So Far



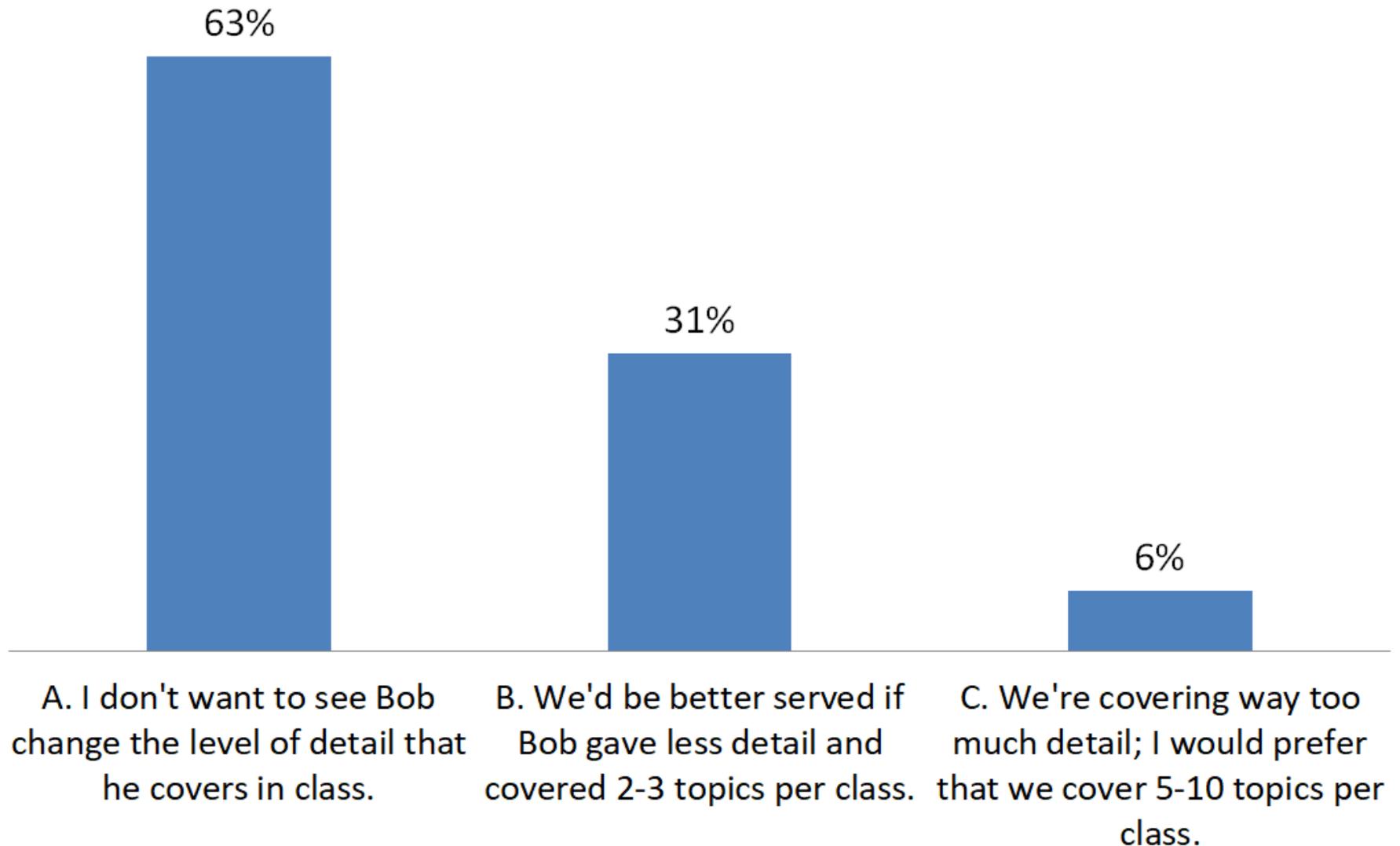
# Results from Last Week's Survey

Question # 3 – How Do You Feel About **the Pace** of the Class So Far?



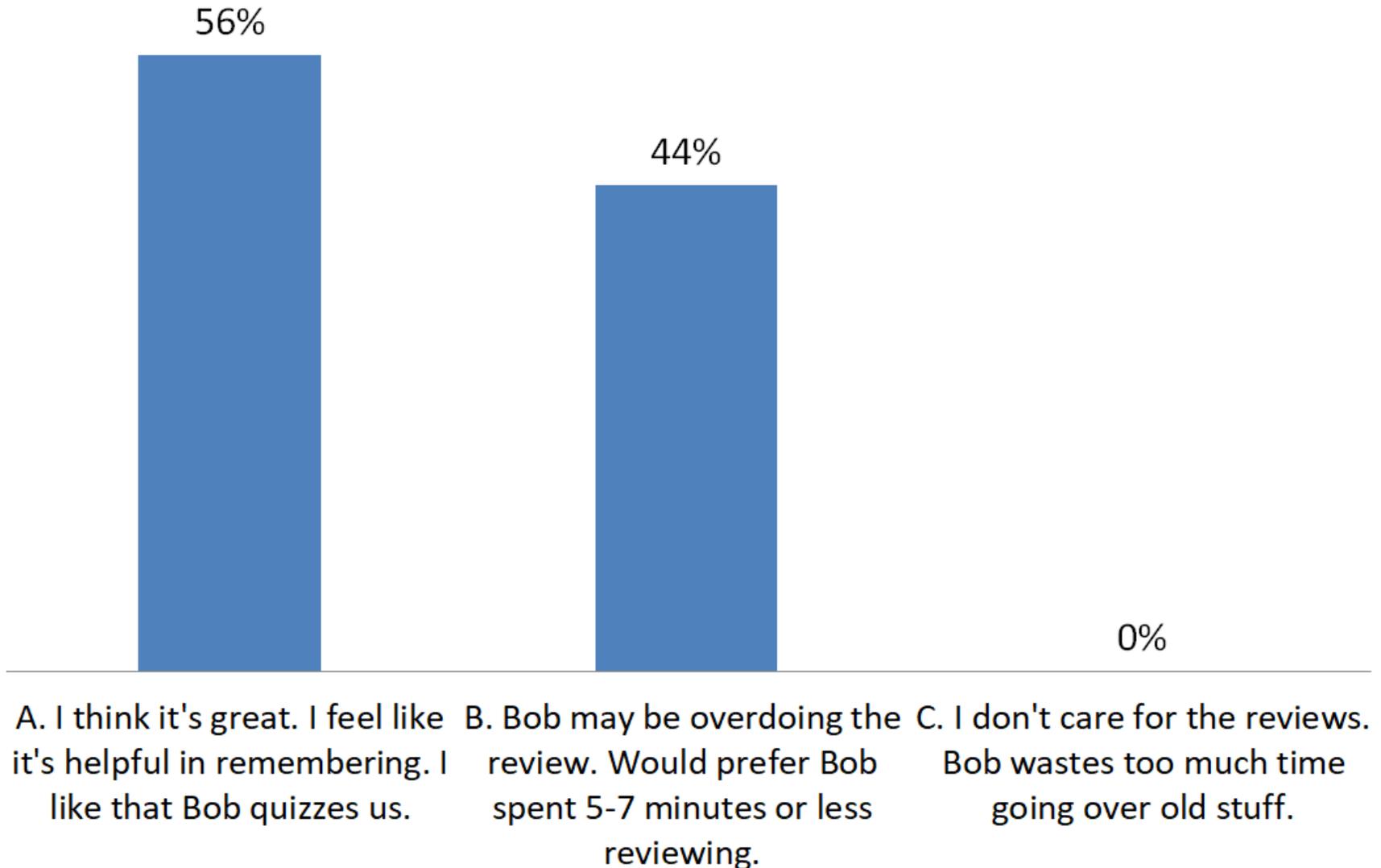
# Results from Last Week's Survey

Question # 4 – What Do You Think About the **Level of Detail** That Bob Gives in Class?



# Results from Last Week's Survey

Question # 5 – What Do You Think About the **Amount of Time** Bob Spends **Reviewing**?



# Results from Last Week's Survey

## Question # 6 – Things You **Like** About the Class?

- The topic of Church History
- Bob and His Style of Teaching
  - Energetic and Passionate about the Topic
  - Well Prepared and Thorough
- The Use of PowerPoint and the Graphics
- The comparisons between past controversies with controversies in our own day.
- Bob's Interaction with the Class

# Results from Last Week's Survey

## Question # 7 – Things You **Don't Like** About the Class?

- Hard to Keep Up in Class While Taking Notes.
- The print on the screen is sometimes too small and hard to read.
- The Long Reviews
- Class is Sometimes a Little Too “Fact Based” – Not Enough Practical Application Made in Class.
- Not Always Enough Time Allowed at the End of Class for Discussion.
- It's sometimes difficult to follow some of the more complex aspects of the class:
  - The Latin and Greek Terms
  - Referring to the Century (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.) rather than the year
  - Sometimes the more nuanced ideas are hard to follow

# Results from Last Week's Survey

## Question # 8 – Things Bob could *start doing to improve* the class

- Provide Handouts with Each Class:
  - Outline of the Class
  - A sheet with blanks to fill in
- Provide more graphics and timelines showing the big picture of where we are in history.
- Slow Down
- Give less detail but cover more people (or topics) in a lesson.
- More Focus on Practical Application
- More time spent discussing and wrestling with a particular topic - whatever topics get the class fired up.
- Provide Snacks for Class

# Results from Last Week's Survey

Question # 9 – Things Bob could *stop doing to improve* the class

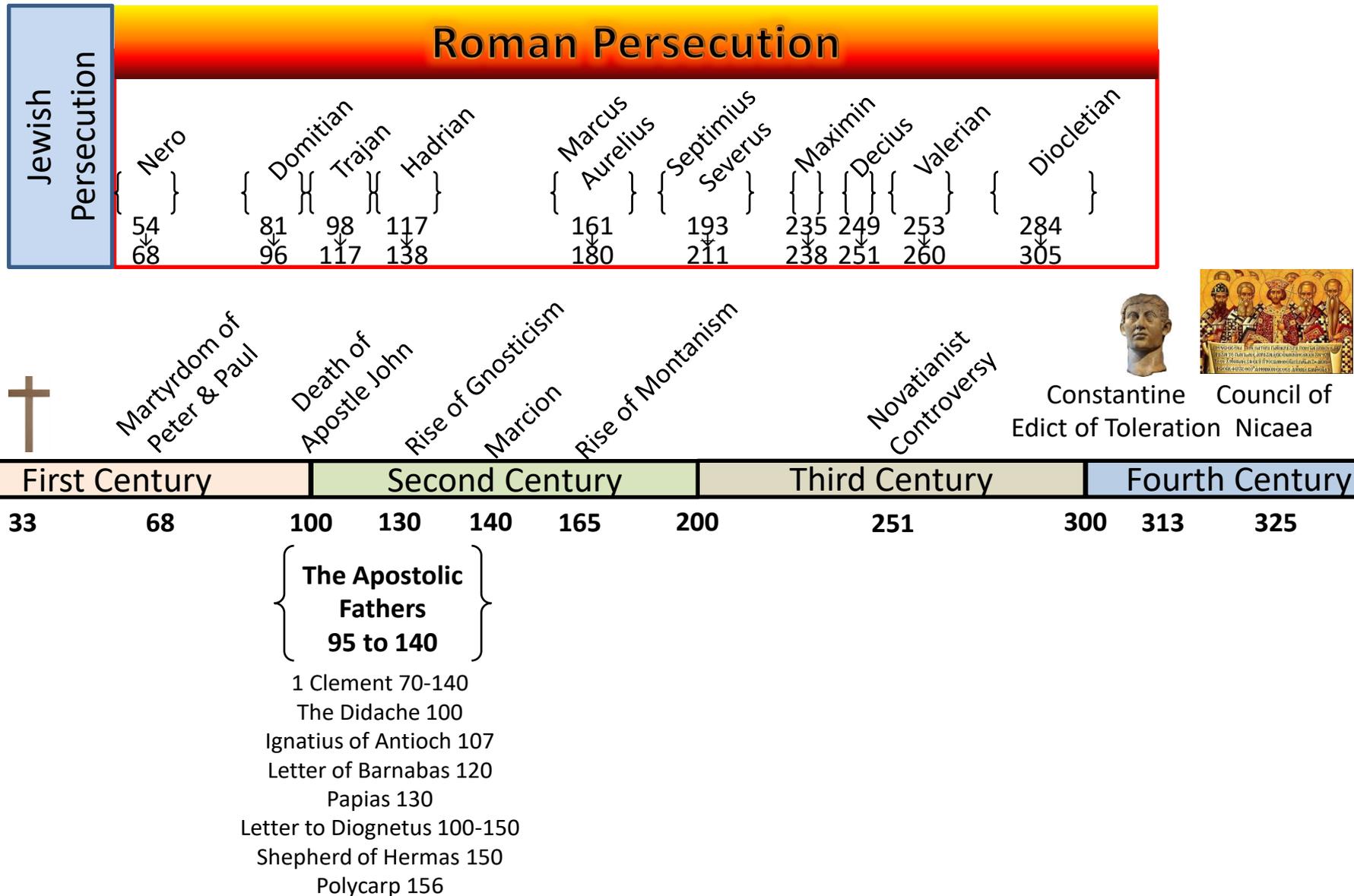
- Less review and less detail with more of an overview approach.
- Fewer questions on "note taker" level. Questions should be where we all think and are benefitted.
- Constant clearing of the throat.

# My Takeaways from Last Week's Survey

- I plan to start making handouts available at the beginning of each class.
- I plan to shorten the amount of time I spend reviewing to about 5-7 minutes, while still trying to cover the main ideas from the previous week.
- I plan to make a regular practice of showing some “big picture” timelines to remind the class of what we've covered and show how this weeks class fits into the big picture.
- I plan to try to cover 2-3 topics (or individuals) per class in an effort to speed things up a little.
- At the end of each class, I will ask for a volunteer to bring a snack for the class on the following week. 😊
- I will set aside the last ten minutes (or so) of each class for a discussion time where we can, as a class, further explore the ideas taught in class and how we might apply them to our lives today.

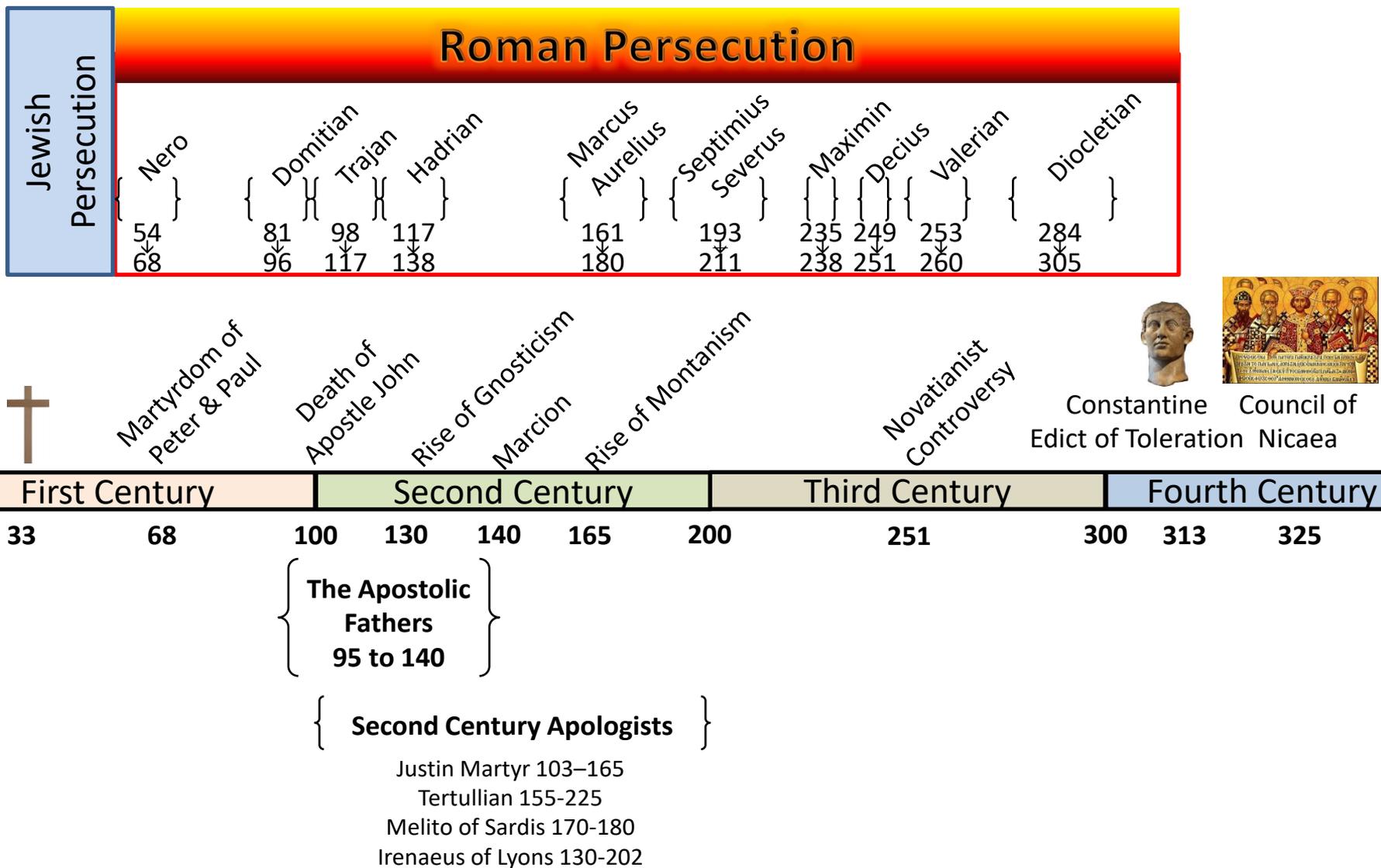
# Overview of Church History

## From the Cross to Nicaea



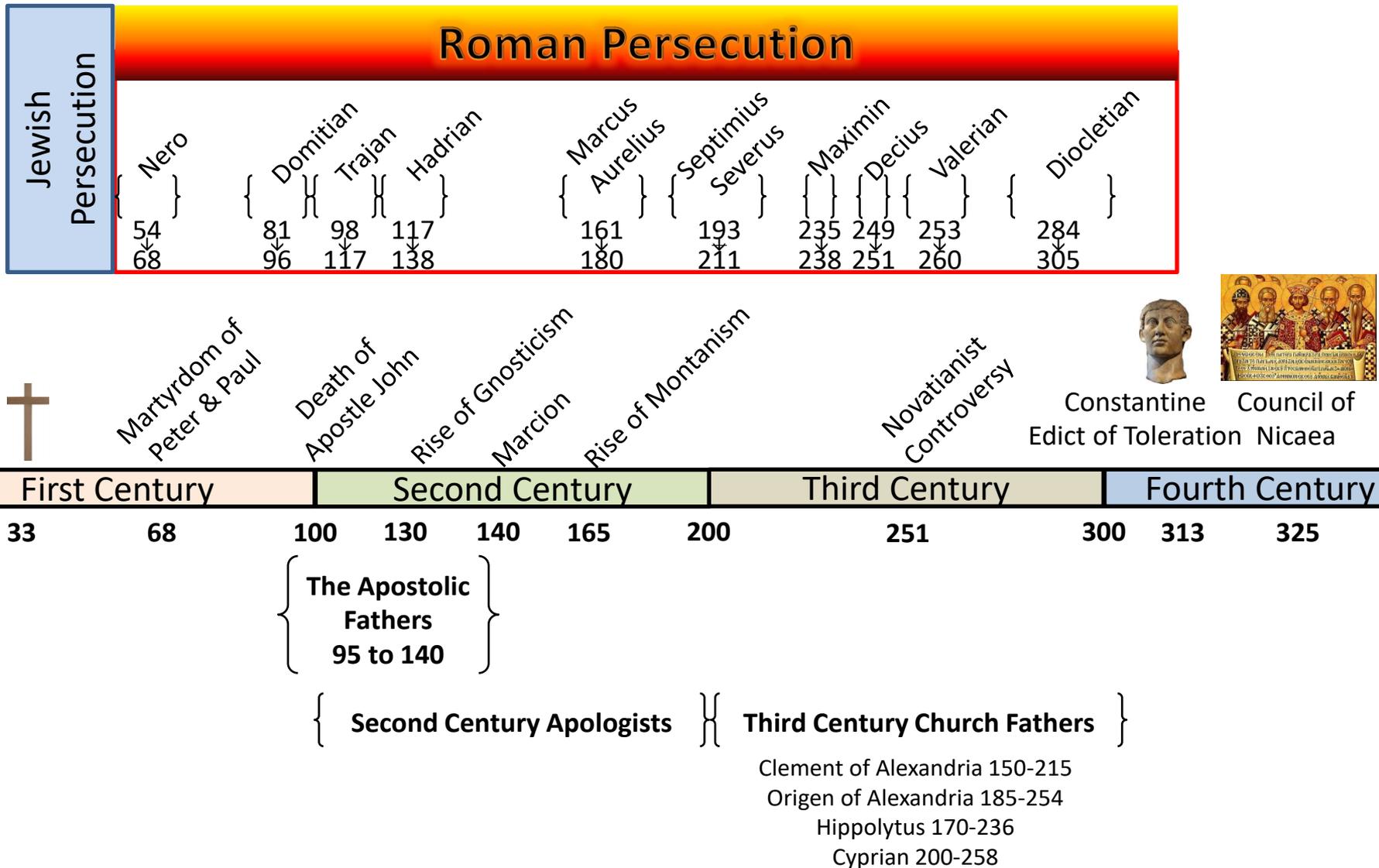
# Overview of Church History

## From the Cross to Nicaea



# Overview of Church History

## From the Cross to Nicaea



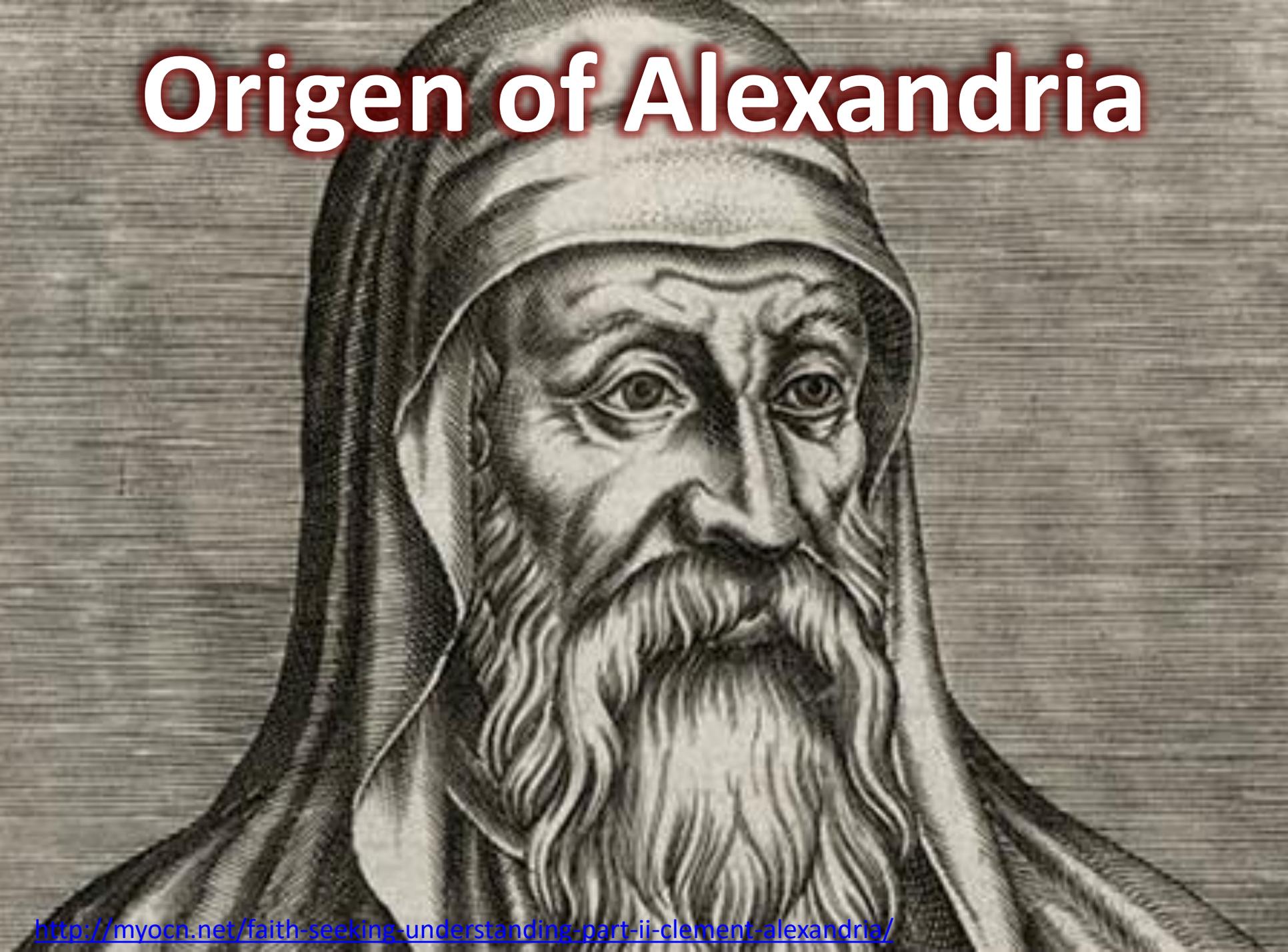
# Review

- The Egyptian city of Alexandria was, after Rome, the greatest city in the Roman Empire.
- What was the ancient city of Alexandria known for?
  - It was the cultural center of artistic, scientific and philosophical activity in the Greek and Roman world.
- Clement was born to pagan parents in around AD 150 in Athens, a city that had long been famous for its philosophers.
- Where did Clement end up settling after his conversion?
  - Alexandria

# Review

- Clement shared Justin Martyr's high regard for Greek philosophy and freely used both Platonic and Stoic ideas and writings in his discussions of the Christian view of life.
- What parallel did Clement draw between Greek Philosophy and Greeks and the Old Testament Law and the Jews?
  - Clement argued that *philosophy* had prepared the *Greeks* to receive Christ, just as the *Old Testament Law* had prepared the *Jews* to receive Christ!

# Origen of Alexandria



# \*Origen of Alexandria

- Origen was born in AD 185 and he died in AD 253.
- His father, Leonides, was martyred during the same persecution (under Septimius Severus) that caused Clement to flee Alexandria in AD 202.
- Origen wanted to die with his father, but his mother saved his life by hiding his clothes so he couldn't leave the house. He was 17 at the time.
- At 18 years of age he was chosen to take Clement's place in leading the Alexandrian School.
- His fame spread widely. His works fill 600 volumes.
- He had a scribe with him day and night who wrote down everything. He addressed a wide breadth of topics.

# \*Origen of Alexandria

- He was an ascetic, wore a slave collar all his life.
- He owned one coat, no shoes. Never drank wine, ate sparingly, slept on the floor, and spent much of the night in prayer.
- He is most famous for the fact that as a youth he emasculated himself. Later in life he repented of that.
- This is part of the reason why he is not considered a “saint” by the Roman Catholics.
- He was ordained a presbyter by bishops outside of Alexandria.
- The bishop of Alexander, Demetrius, convened a council against Origen and had him condemned and excommunicated.
- So Origen went to Caesarea and founded ***another*** school which soon ***rivaled*** the school in Alexandria!

# \*Origen of Alexandria

- Towards the end of his life Origen was invited to return to Alexandria after Demetrius' death, but he ended up getting caught up in the Decian persecution - the beginning of empire wide persecution that started in the 250s.
- And although Origen was eventually released, the torture he underwent while in prison eventually resulted in his death.
- Origen is vitally important in the discussion of a number of aspects of early church history.
- Today, in places like Westminster Theological Seminary, there are entire courses offered solely on Origen. He does stand as a giant in many ways.

# \*Origen of Alexandria

- There are only two well-known early church fathers who knew both biblical languages well: Jerome and Origen.
- Origen recognized there were variations in the text in his day.
- He wrote something very important called the **Hexapla** – a six-columned edition of the Old Testament comparing six textual streams of information.
- Modern Greek texts will footnote Origen as “Or”.
- Origen’s **asceticism** had a huge effect on his students, which they then spread to others.
- But Origen’s **largest** area of influence is in the area of exegesis (or the lack thereof). Origen introduced the **allegorical** method of interpretation.

# \*Origen of Alexandria

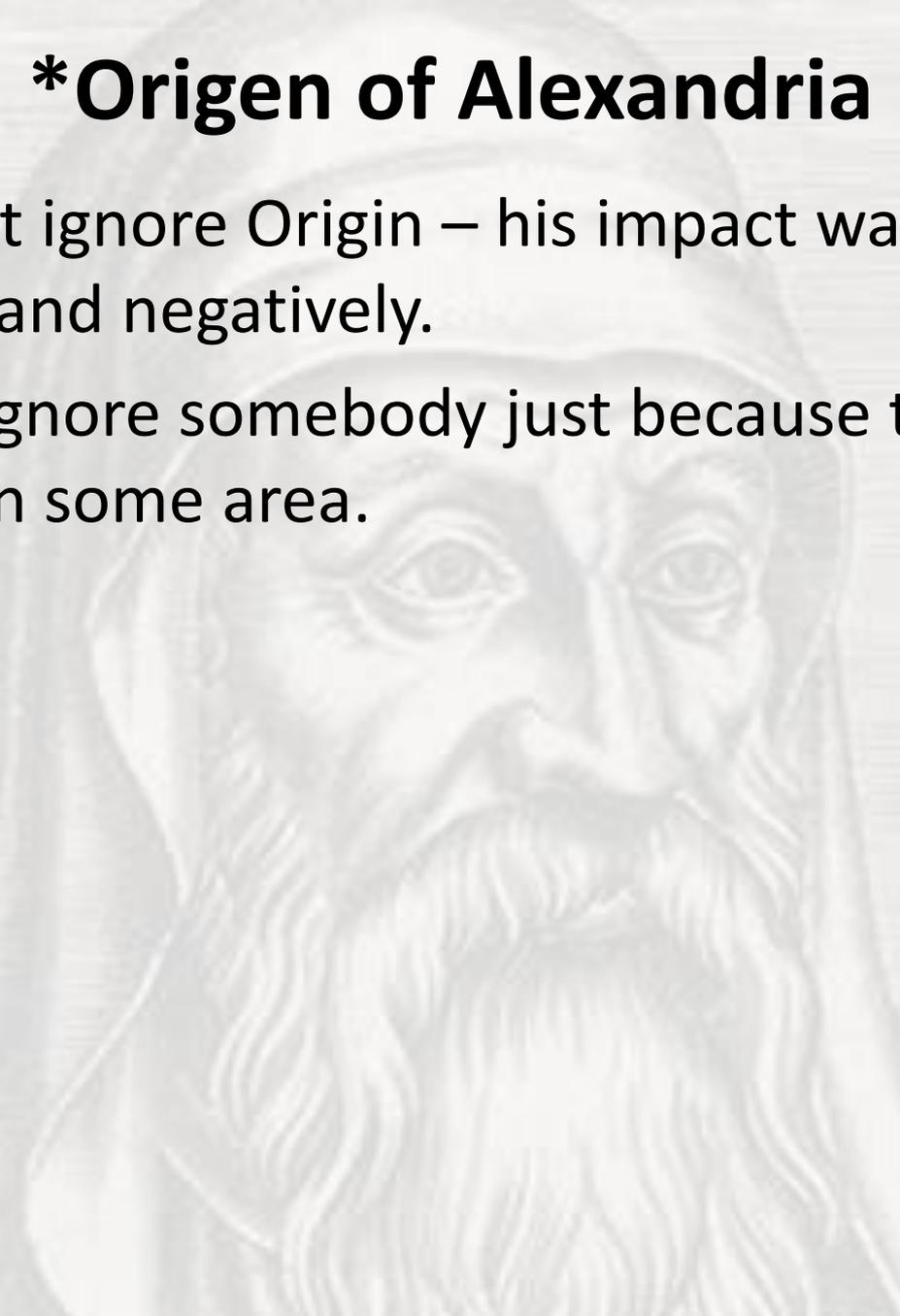
- In allegorical interpretation there are three “senses” to every biblical text:
  - **The Literal Sense** – Origen considered this the least important – though we believe the opposite. He thought since anybody could know this interpretation, it wasn’t all that special. He thought there ought to be a spiritual aspect to the text that an unbeliever wouldn’t be able to see.
  - **The Moral Sense** – He considered this a little more important.
  - **The Spiritual or Allegorical Sense** – He considered this most important. There are some scriptures that are very susceptible to allegorical interpretation. Parables are an example of this. Allegorical interpretations will yield hundreds of possible interpretations. The other is apocalyptic literature (like the book of Revelation).

# \*Origen of Alexandria

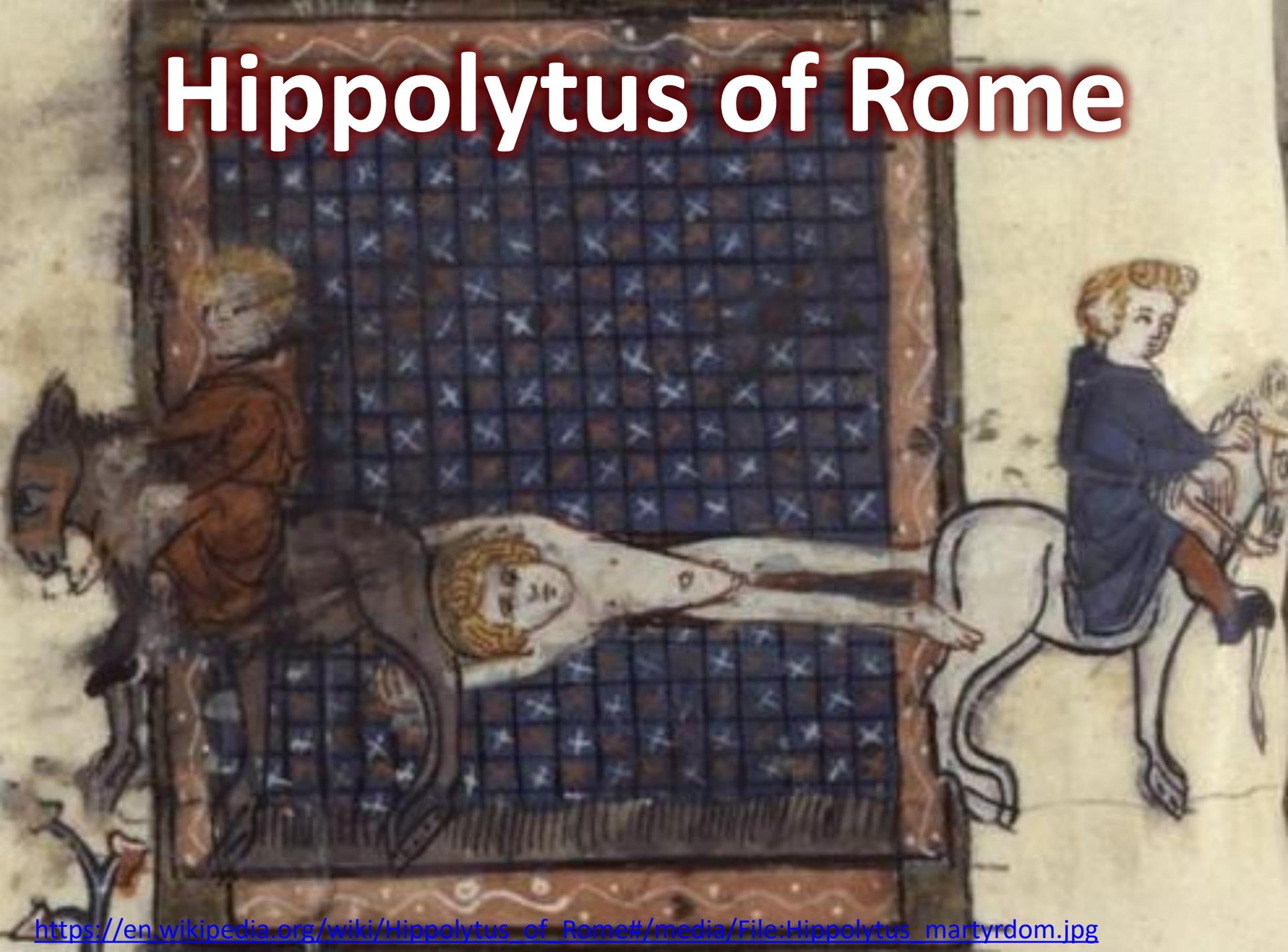
- After Origen, especially during the Medieval Period, the OT was considered a book of allegorical stories.
- It's difficult to underestimate the negative affect that this method of interpretation had on the church. People could find anything they wanted in the Bible when using the allegorical method.
- Origen himself:
  - Did not believe in the resurrection of material bodies.
  - Believed in the pre-existence of the human soul.
  - Believed that redemption would be extended to all beings including fallen angels - There was in the early church a fairly widespread movement of universalism.

# \*Origin of Alexandria

- You cannot ignore Origin – his impact was great, both positively and negatively.
- We can't ignore somebody just because they were really off in some area.



# Hippolytus of Rome



# VOLUNTEERS ARE LIKE BROWNIES!

B BEST OF THE BEST  
R REALLY GENEROUS  
O OUTSTANDING  
W WONDERFUL  
N NATURALLY NICE  
I INVALUABLE TO HOPE  
E EXCELLENT  
S SWEET



# Class Discussion Time



# \*Class Discussion Time

- As you heard me summarize the results of last week's survey and my response to it, what are some additional thoughts that you have?
- We saw that Clement of Alexandria, who was born in **Athens** and ended up in **Alexandria** (two cities that were known for their focus on Greek philosophy), often mixed Greek philosophy with his theology.
- In what ways do you think the cultural ideas where we live tends to end up finding their way into our theology?
- In relation to Origen I stated that we can't ignore somebody just because they were really off in some area (of their thinking or theology).
- Can you think of a practical application of this principle that you could make in our day?
- Do **you** have a topic or question that **you** would like to see us to discuss?