

LESSONS FROM CHURCH HISTORY



Week 4: More Lessons from the Early Church Fathers

LESSONS FROM THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS



Map of
Early
Church
Fathers

MORE LESSONS FROM THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS



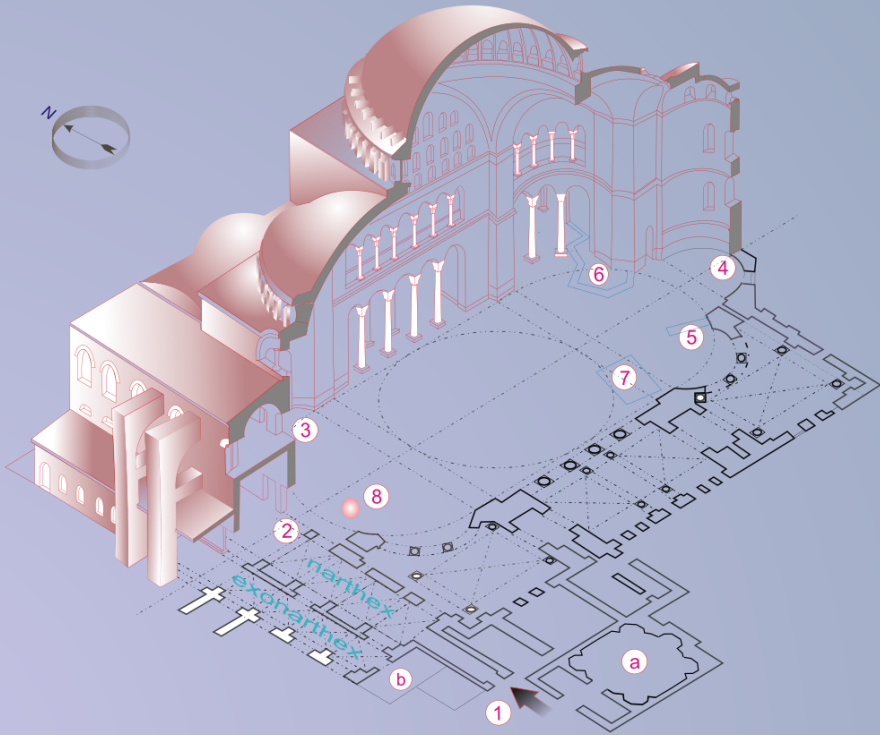
JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

(347-407 AD) – Bishop of Constantinople

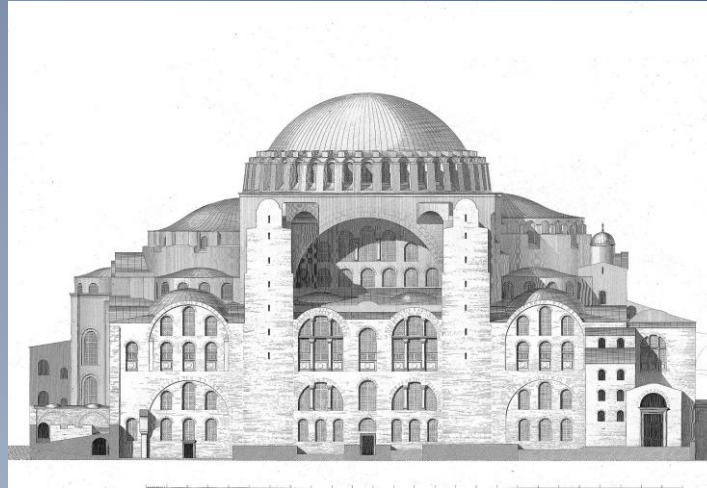
- Nicknamed “Golden Mouth” (Greek *Chrysostom*) because of eloquent preaching. One of greatest preachers in church history.
- Mother Anathusa nurtured him in the faith.
- Studied law then became a monk for 6 years.
- Studied under Diodore of Tarsus who taught him Literal-Grammatical-Historical method of interpretation (Antiochene vs. Alexandrian).
- Expository preacher: Genesis (75); Psalms (144); Matthew (90); John (88); Paul’s letters (244).

“Preaching makes me well; as soon as I open my mouth to speak, my weariness is forgotten.”

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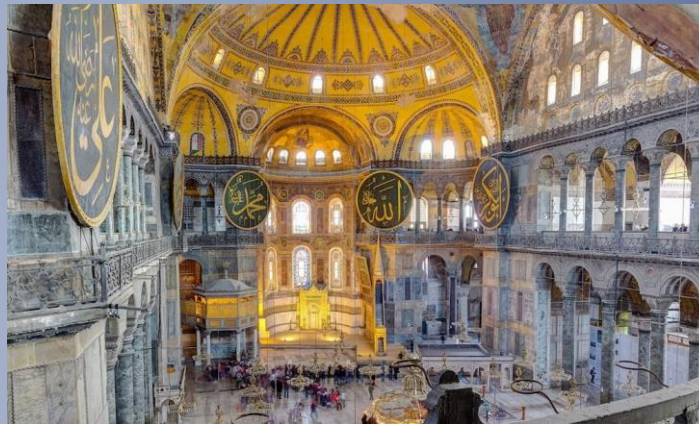


CHURCH OF HOLY WISDOM



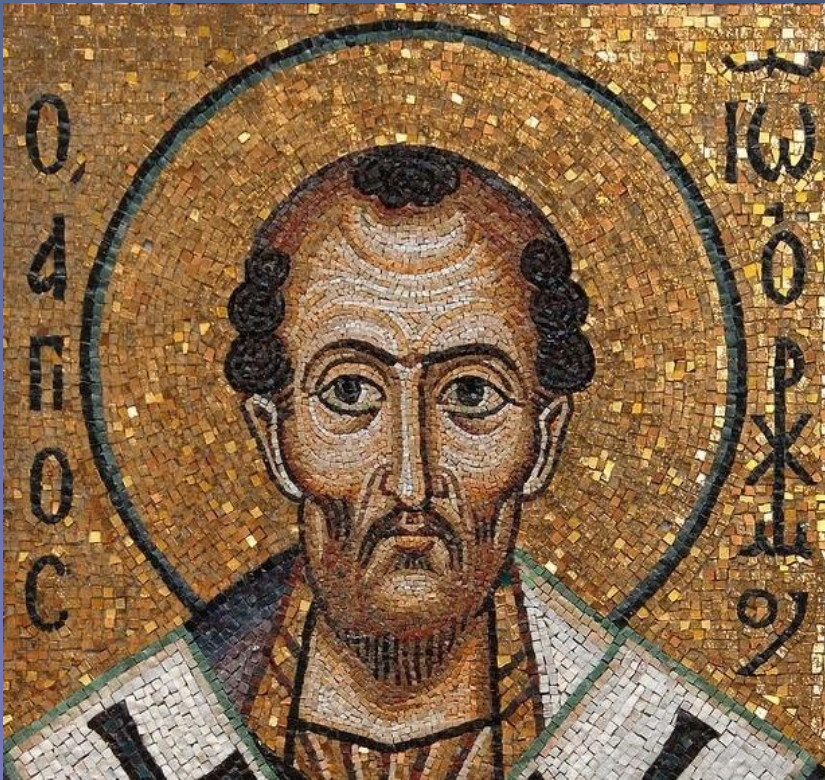
1st church completed in 360. Burnt down during riots surrounding Chrysostom's exile.

2nd church completed in 415 & burnt down again. Current church completed in 537.



Largest church for nearly 1000 years. Now a Muslim mosque.

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JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

(347-407 AD) – Bishop of Constantinople

- Secretly wrested away from Antioch and made bishop of Constantinople where he preached against corruption among both clergy & laity.
- Protected many citizens from tyranny of Eutropius in the church, then did the same for Eutropius after his power waned and mobs sought his death.
- The Empress Euxodia conspired with Theophilus, bishop of Alexandria, to bring false charges against Chrysostom. He peacefully surrendered to them.
- An earthquake prevented his exile and he surrendered a second time as the people rioted. A fire broke out and destroyed the church.
- Tortured during long walk to banishment and died.

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AUGUSTINE

(354-430 AD) – Bishop of Hippo

- Born in 354 to a devout Christian mother named Monica and a pagan father who was a Roman official.
- Brilliant from an early age, he received an excellent education in Carthage. Augustine rejected Christianity as a religion for the simple-minded.
- While still a teenager, Augustine took a concubine who bore him a son.
- Augustine moved from Carthage to Rome to Milan...where he met Bishop Ambrose.

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AUGUSTINE

(354-430 AD) – Bishop of Hippo

- In 386 when he was 32, in a garden, a child's singsong voice said, "Take it and read; take it and read." Nearby was a copy of Paul's letter and he read Romans 13:13, 14.
- Baptized on Easter in 387 by Ambrose, then ordained in 391, Augustine became Bishop of the North African city of Hippo in 395.
- He established a monastery on the grounds of the church in Hippo and for nearly 40 years churned out biblically sound priests and bishops who were installed across Africa.

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AUGUSTINE

(354-430 AD) – Bishop of Hippo

- He led the church through the Donatist controversy, then persevered through a long engagement in the Pelagian heresy.
- In *Confessions*, he wrote perhaps the first real spiritual autobiography. His work *On the Trinity* is probably the best-known work on the subject, and *City of God* may be his most important work.
- Augustine's teaching was original in his day and dominated scholars of the Middle Ages, while trickling down to Luther and Calvin, fueling the Reformation.
- Sovereign Joy - "Grace is God's giving us sovereign joy in God that triumphs over joy in sin."