

- c. Epistle of Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna to the Phillipians (ob. cit. Antoninus Pius) This letter has little merit as literature but does express a simple earnest faith and a firm denial of false doctrine.
 - d. Papias from Phrygia in Asia Minor is a witness to the books of the Bible. None of his writing is retained in its entirety. He is said to have been a disciple of John martyred about the time of Polycarp.
3. The First Pagan Attacks (lit.) on Christianity.
- a. The J. are seen to have been very active against the Christians in the book of Acts. Although there is no direct writing of the Jews contesting Christianity, claims the collecting of the teachings of the rabbis in the Talmud may have involved setting up a positive anti-Christ^{ian} view of the O. T.
 - b. Celsus was the first pagan writer to attack Christianity. (150 AD) His work has been reconstructed from quotations by a Christian apologist. Celsus seems to have given considerable preparation to his work. His attack on Christianity is the first heathen attack in any age, an attempt to ridicule and disparage the facts of Christianity such as the Virgin Birth. He sought to prove Christianity unreasonable and un-philosophical, "a hope of worms" (2nd century) *Celsus was a shrewd and capable attacker. In so far as his work endeavored to be factual it was on a relatively high plain*
4. The First Apologists - Beginning in the 2nd century Christian writers began to defend the faith in writing. Although most of their writings are lost they are quoted at some length by writers in the time of Hadrian. They represent an attempt to win intelligent pagans: many are addressed to the consideration of the Emperors.
5. Foremost of the Early Apologists - Justin Martyr A pagan of contemplative nature, born in Palestine near Samaria, Justin tasted all the philosophies of his day and settled upon Platonism. An old man whom he met by chance on the seashore shook his confidence in human wisdom and pointed him to the Jewish prophets who were "witnesses not reasoners" Justin studied the O.T. and the gospels, was convinced that they rested upon firm ground as revelation. He devoted his life to traveling about the empire talking and witnessing for the Lord, and is said to have accomplished more good than any clergy-man of his day