

5. Cyprian - Bishop of Carthage (b. 200)

- a. In 245 AD. Cyprian renounced paganism, sold his estates and after catechismal classes, was baptized. He studied the works of Tertullian extensively, became a presbyter and was elected bishop @ year after his conversion. He was an exceedingly able administrator and stressed an energetic pastoral work. He tended to stress the authority of the bishop in order to protect his work from dissident presbyters who resented so young a convert in his position.
- b. In 249 Decius began a systematic persecution on an empire-wide scale. Cyprian fled and attempted to carry on his work from hiding declaring "my first duty is to perform God's work not martyrdom"
- c. After the persecution Cyprian returned to face the problem of what to do with the "lapsed" (11), and due to his insistence that these people prove their repentance before they were permitted to return to the church, he lent impetus to a system of penance.
- d. Late in life Cyprian opposed the Bishop of Rome and North Africa held a synod which discommunicated him. Later another synod upheld Cyprian.
- e. Cyprian was not the theoretical thinker that Tertullian was, but he was a practical man of considerable ability and smoother writing skill.
- f. He attained martyrdom under the succeeding persecution, under Valerian

6. Clement of Alexandria (Clement is introduced here largely to introduce the city of Alexandria)

a. Alexandria

- (1) A unique city founded by Alexander the Great, and later the headquarters of the Ptolomies. The city represented a significant intellectual stimulus due to the intermixture of cultures it represented.
- (2) In 200 B.C. Ptolemy Philadelphus authorized the translation into Greek of the 5 books of Moses.
- (3) Philo, a Jew of Alexandria (contemporary of Jos.90) combines Judaism and Greek learning. Philo never quotes the Apoc., quotes almost all of the canonical books of the Old Testament.
- (4) Alex. was the center of a thriving church by 200 AD. The church was organized by city and by district. The presbyters, each in charge of a district, elected a succession of very capable bishops.