



“The Christian Martyrs' Last Prayer” by Leon Gerome (1824–1904)

"A vast multitude [*of Christians*] were convicted, not so much of the crime of arson as of hatred of the human race. And in their deaths they were made the subjects of sport; for they were wrapped in the hides of wild beasts and torn to pieces by dogs, or nailed to crosses, or set on fire, and when day declined, were burned to serve for nocturnal lights."

- Tacitus' Annals XV.44

PERSECUTIONS

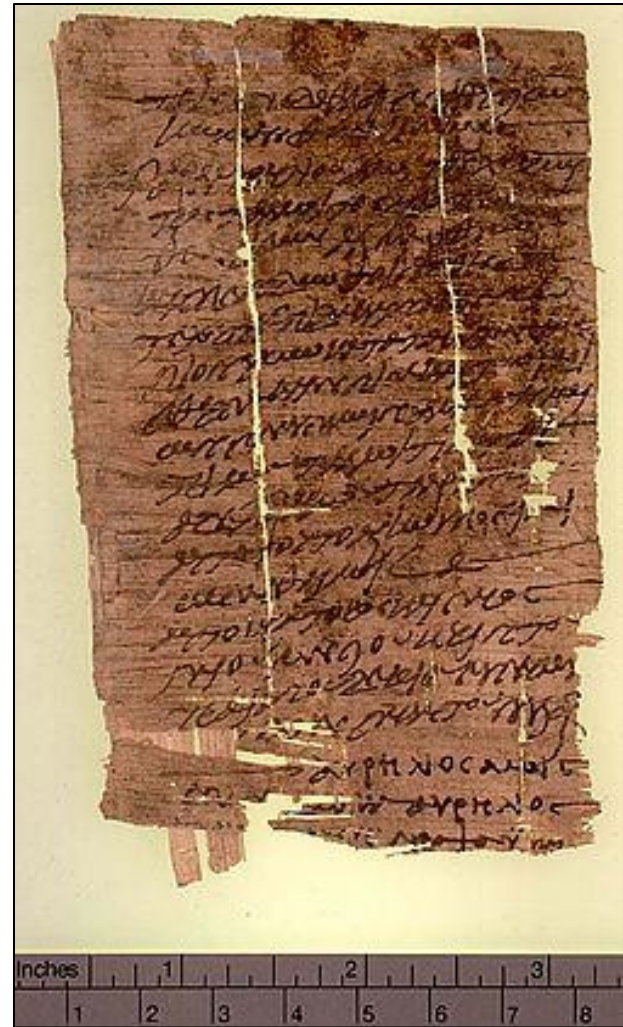
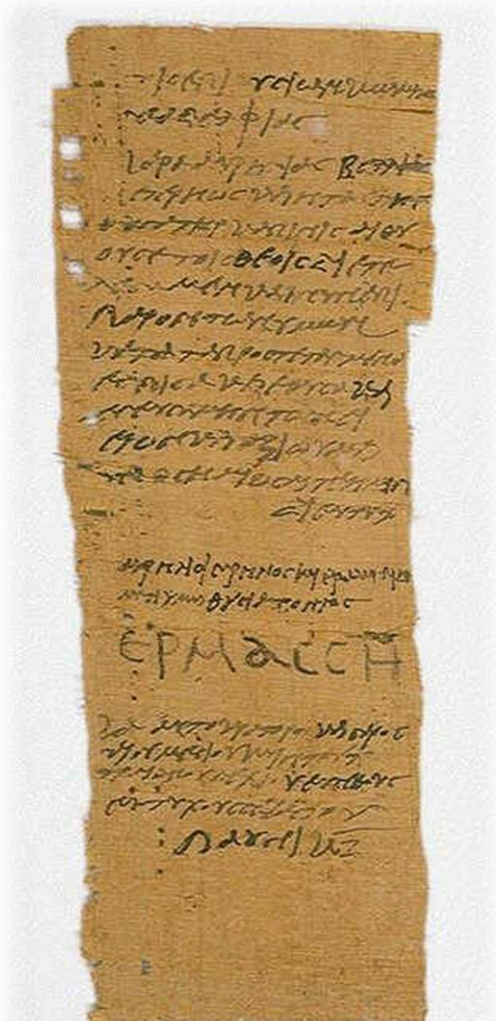
Peter Paul	Clement of Rome John (exiled)	Ignatius Polycarp	Perpetua and Felicity Justin Martyr Irenaeus	Hippolytus	Origen	Cyprian	Mauritius	
Nero	Domitian	Trajan	Marcus Aurelius	Septimus Severus	Maximinus the Thracian	Decius	Valerian	Diocletian
64	90-96	98-117	161-180	201-211	235-236	249-251	257-260	303-311



“Eighty-six years have I served Him and He has done me no wrong; how can I blaspheme my King who saved me?”

– Polycarp

LIBELLUS: A CERTIFICATE DEMONSTRATING THAT ONE HAD MADE THE APPROPRIATE SACRIFICES TO THE GODS OF ROME



A Libellus from the Decian persecution 250 AD



EDICT OF MILAN (313 AD)

An edict agreed upon by Emperors Constantine and Licinius. It legalized Christianity, granting them restitution of lands and property.

"We ... grant to the Christians and others full authority to observe that religion which each preferred."