

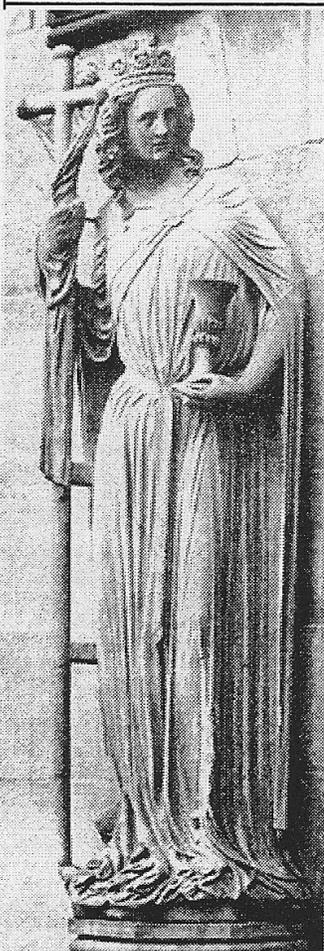
Ecclesia and Synagoga

In Christian art over the centuries, "Ecclesia" personified Christianity while "Synagoga" personified Judaism. ("Ecclesia" and "Synagoga" are the Latin words for "Church" and "Synagogue.") Examine these pictures closely to see what characteristics were associated with each religion. Then list these characteristics next to each picture.

1. Sculptures of Ecclesia and Synagoga at the double-portal of the south entrance to the Strasbourg Cathedral (around 1230)¹

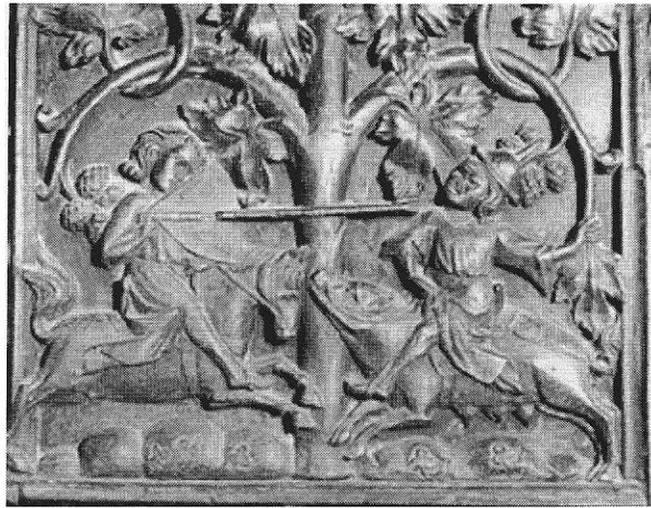
Ecclesia

Synagoga



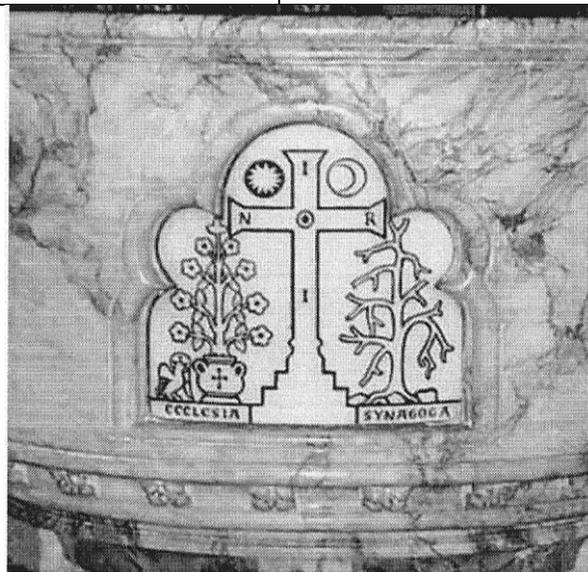
1. Pictures for this exercise used with permission from Jewish Christian Relations website <http://www.jcrelations.net/en/?id=1156>

Ecclesia and Synagoga



2. Wood carving at the choir benches of the Erfurt cathedral, Thuringia, Germany (about 1400-1410)

Ecclesia	Synagoga



3. One of the panels at the baptismal font at St. Mary's in Prestbury, UK.

Ecclesia	Synagoga

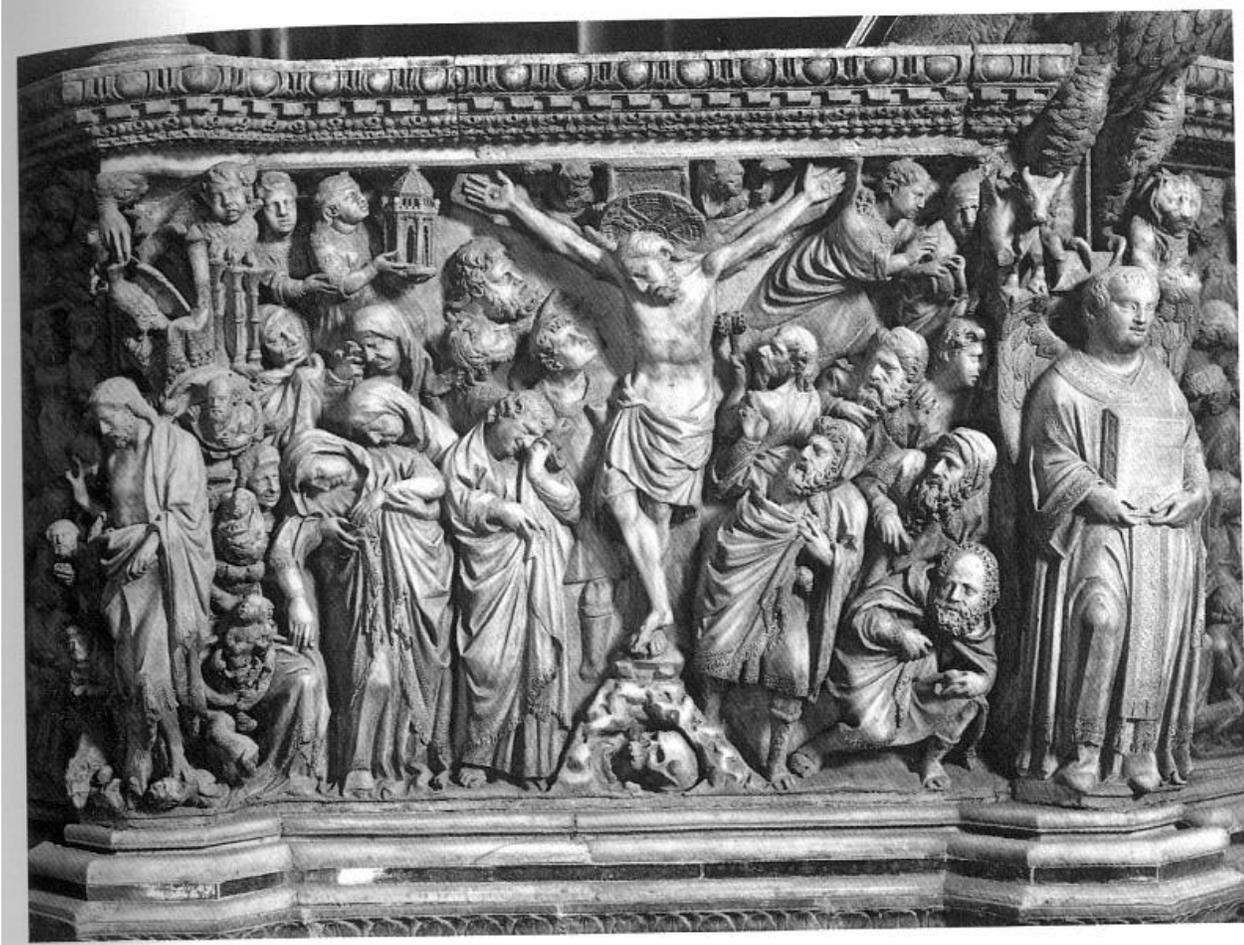
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4. Church window of St. John's Church in Werben/ Elbe River, Germany (around 1414-1467) .

Ecclesia	Synagoga

Nicola and Giovanni Pisano, *The Crucifixion* Marble relief on a pulpit Cathedral, Siena



Ecclesia (left of the cross) carrying the stylized temple and the exit of ...

Synagoga, (right of the cross) being hustled off to the right by an angel.



Synagoga

Anti-Jewish Motifs in the New Testament¹

Read this *list* of anti-Jewish themes that appear in The New Testament (the Christian *Bible*) and then answer the questions.

Anti-Jewish Motifs in the New Testament (approximately 50-125 CE)

- Jews are wrong in rejecting Jesus because Jesus fulfills what the Jewish prophets say about the coming of the Messiah.
- The Pharisees (the early Rabbis) are hypocrites who say one thing and do another. Jesus exposes their hypocrisy, so they hate and fear him.
- Jerusalem was destroyed because the Jews rejected Jesus.
- The Christian New Covenant with God replaces the Old Covenant with the Jewish people, as described in the Torah.
- Jesus' teachings and the New Testament replace Jewish teachings and the "Old Testament," so Christians are not bound by Jewish Law.
- Jews are associated with the devil.
- The Jews are responsible for Jesus' death (even if the Romans actually carried out the crucifixion.)

1. Who is the "we" and who the "they" in this list?

2. Read the following facts and answer the questions that follow:

a. Jesus was a Jew and so were his earliest followers. He lived in a time when the Jewish community was split into many sects competing for believers. Explain how the anti-Jewish motifs in the list above can be a direct result of this competition for believers.

b. *After Jesus died, followers of Jesus shared their beliefs among non-Jews.* Which of the motifs in the list above can be understood as a result of recruiting non-Jews to become Christians? Please explain.

c. Followers of Jesus were living in a Roman world. During the time of the writings of the New Testament, there was a backlash in the Roman Empire against the Jews for their (failed) revolt in 70 C.E. How can this help us understand why early Christians held the Jews and not the Romans (who actually killed Jesus) responsible for Jesus' death?

1. Adapted from *Education for Shalom: Religion Textbooks and the Enhancement of the Catholic and Jewish Relationship*, Philip A. Cunningham Health Policy Advisory Center, 1995, p. 14.

Anti-Jewish Teachings of Early Church Leaders (2nd- 6th centuries) ¹

Match each anti-Jewish teaching below with its "seed" in the chart below by writing each number in the correct blank. Feel free to use more than one motif for a few of the Christian teaching.

Motifs ("Seeds")	Anti-Jewish Teachings
1. The Christian New Covenant with God replaces the Old Covenant with the Jewish people, as described in the Torah].	____ The Torah was always intended to be temporary. It was given to the Jews by God in a failed effort to control Jewish sinfulness.
2. The Jews are responsible for Jesus' death.	
3. The New Testament replaces the "Old Testament," so Christians are not bound by Jewish Law.	____ The Jews killed Jesus. Consequently, their Temple in Jerusalem was forever destroyed and their nation forever accursed and rejected by God.
4. The Pharisees (the early Rabbis) are hypocrites who say one thing, and do another. Jesus exposes their hypocrisy so they hate and fear him.	____ Jewish stubbornness in rejecting the truth is related to their association with the devil.
5. Jerusalem was destroyed because the Jews rejected Jesus.	____ The Jewish prophets constantly scolded the Jews for their sinfulness and hard-heartedness.
6. Jesus fulfills what the Jewish prophets say about the coming of the Messiah. Thus, Jews are wrong in rejecting Jesus.	____ The true spiritual meaning of the Hebrew Bible can only be understood by reading it in reference to Jesus' and God's new covenant as described in the New Testament.
7. Jews are associated with the devil.	____ God permits the Jews to endure as a people in hopeless wandering to show the world their faithlessness and error in rejecting Jesus as the Messiah. Christians must not do violence to the Jews, but they must be on guard against following their example.

1. Adapted from: *Education for Shalom: Religion Textbooks and the Enhancement of the Catholic and Jewish Relationship*, Philip A. Cunningham Health Policy Advisory Center, 1995, p. 14.

The Longest Hatred

Use the knowledge you have gained to answer the following questions:

1. List the different kinds of persecution Jews endured in medieval Europe. Try to list who ordered or caused these persecutions.

2. List some Christian images of Jews in mediaeval Europe.

3. How would the images in question 2 influence the people who lived in Germany when Hitler took power?

The Church and the Nazi Laws¹

Find the Nazi Law that matches the older laws passed in Europe by the Christian Church. Write the number in the correct blank space.

Church Laws	Nazi Laws
1. Prohibition of intermarriage and of sexual intercourse between Christians and Jews. (Synod of Elvira, 306 CE)	Jews barred from government jobs. (April 7, 1933)
2. Jews and Christians not permitted to eat together. (Synod of Elvira, 306 CE)	Number of Jews limited in German universities. (April 25, 1933)
3. Jews not allowed to hold public office. (Synod of Clermont, 535 CE)	Jews forbidden to marry Christians. (September 15, 1935)
4. Jews not allowed to employ Christian servants or possess Christian slaves. (3rd Synod of Orleans, 538 CE)	Book burning in Nazi Germany.
5. Burning of the Talmud and other books. (12th Synod of Toledo, 681 CE)	Destruction of synagogues in entire Reich. (November 10, 1938)
6. The marking of Jewish clothes with a badge. (4th Lateran Council, 1215)	Decree requiring sale of all Jewish-owned real estate. (December 3, 1938)
7. Compulsory ghettos. (Synod of Breslau, 1267)	Jews barred from dining cars in trains. (December 30, 1939)
8. Christians not permitted to sell or rent real estate to Jews. (Synod of Of en, 1279)	Jews not allowed to have domestic servants under the age of 40. (September 15, 1935)
9. Jews not permitted to obtain academic degrees. (Council of Basel, 1434)	Jews confined to Ghettos. (September 21, 1939)
10. Construction of new synagogues prohibited. (Council of Oxford, 1722)	Jews must wear badges. (November 16, 1939)

1. Adapted from Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of European Jews* (Holmes & Meier Publishers, 1985). Downloaded from the resource center at the March of the Living Website: <http://www.motl.org/resource/curriculum/curriculum4.htm>