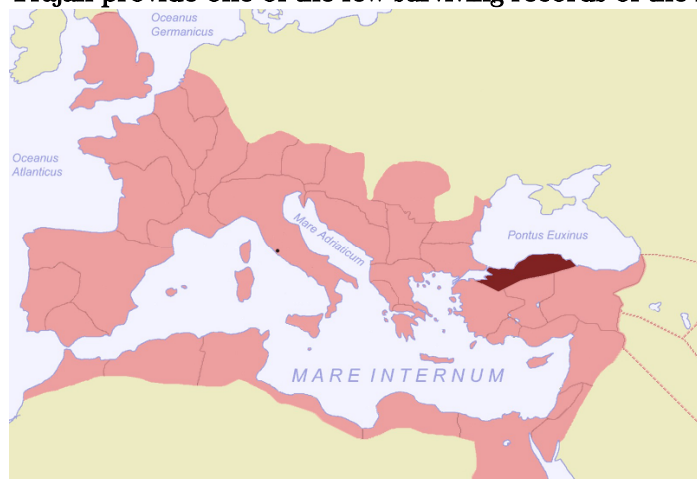


Gary Allen Henecke DD – For Men in Christ

Gaius Plinius Secundus (AD 23/24 – AD 79), called Pliny the Elder was a Roman author, naturalist, natural philosopher, and naval and army commander of the early Roman Empire, and a friend of the emperor Vespasian – the man who conquered Judah and converted Josephus.

Pliny the Younger was a lawyer, who wrote hundreds of letters, of which 247 survive, and which are of great historical value. Some are addressed to reigning emperors or to notables such as the historian Tacitus. Pliny served as an imperial magistrate under Trajan (reigned 98–117),^[2] and his letters to Trajan provide one of the few surviving records of the relationship between the imperial office



Pliny had never performed a legal investigation of Christians, and thus consulted Trajan in order to be on solid ground regarding his actions, and saved his letters and Trajan's replies.^[2] The way he expressed his lack of familiarity with the procedure may indicate that such prosecutions against Christians had taken place before (namely in Rome), but Pliny had not been involved in them,¹and the Emperor.

Pliny then details the practices of Christians: he says that they meet on a certain day before light where they gather and sing hymns to Christ as to a god. They all bind themselves by oath, "not to some crimes", says Pliny, as though that is what he would have expected; rather, they pledge *not* to commit any crimes such as fraud, theft, or adultery, and subsequently share a meal of "ordinary and innocent food". Pliny says, however, that all of these practices were abandoned by the Christians after Pliny forbade any political associations (*hetaeriai* or "fraternities").

Have such hymns survived? Are any thought to be preserved in scriptures? Paul may quote them in his later (prison) letters. Example”

Philippians 2:5-11

Colossians 1:15-18

The earliest preserved creed is a form of the Hebrew Shema.

I Corinthians 8:5-6

I Timothy 2:5-6