THE SECOND THIRTY YEARS OF THE CHURCH--THE POST APOSTOLIC AGE (A.D. 70-100)

Scripture: Revelation 1:4-20
Prayer: Revelation 11:15-18
Song: 396 "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

We call the second thirty years of the church—the period from A.D. 70 to A.D. 100—The Post-Apostolic Age or the Sub-Apostolic Age. For this age we have no book such as The Acts of The Apostles to guide us.

Some assumptions concerning this period:

Simeon, the cousin of the Lord, led part of the church back from Pella to Jerusalem.
We assume the continued missionary expansion of the church because of the position of the church in the next period.
Certainly John and possibly a few other apostles may have survived into this period.
Gentile Christianity was gaining the ascendancy over Jewish Christianity.
Ebionite and Docetist heresies became more prominent.
There was increasing tension arising between travelling, ecstatic prophets and settled bishops or presbyters and deacons. The activity of the Holy Spirit was less prominent.
One of the church's most keenly felt problems was probably the failure of the Lord to return in the lifetime of apostles.
Gnosticism was probably a growing threat.
The relation of Law and Gospel was a continuing problem, with one important feature being the relation of Sabbath and Sunday.
The distinction between Jews and Christians was becoming clearer, leaving the Christians open to persecution as an illegal religion.

A major problem of the second thirty years: Was this a period of great literary productivity when most of the New Testament Books were written or was it a period when the collecting of New Testament writings began—such as gospels and Paul's letters?

The Recomposition of the Jews at Jamnia in 90 A.D.

The Persecution of Domitian, or Domitian and the Christians
The relatives of the Lord: the grandsons of Jude
M. Acilius Glabrio
Flavius Clemens and Flavia Domitilla
John the son of Zebedee
Suggested Secondary Readings (cont):

Jean Danielou: *Gospel Message and Hellenistic Culture*


E.R. Goodenough: *The Theology of Justin Martyr*

Robert M. Grant: *Augustus to Constantine*
  ch. VII The Apologetic Movement, 101-119