

Jewish-Christian Roots of European Civilisation

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Autumn 2021

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Different Agendas



- **Jews** in Antiquity: expecting the restoration of Israel
- Early Christians: the kingdom of God has come – in Jesus Christ
- Romans: the only ruler is the Emperor

(Flavius Valerius) Constantine I. 313 CE Edict of Milan: Christianity as *religio licita*



Aurelius Augustinus (354-430) or St. Augustin of Hippo:

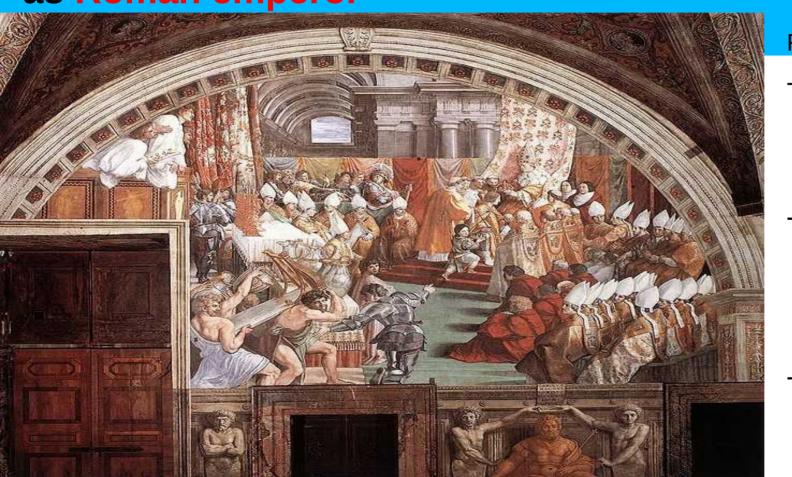


The Confessions (autobiography)
The City of God

- * The Church takes over the culture and education of the Roman Empire.
- * Christians have *dual citizenship*
- The **Earthly city** (civitas terraena): to secure searthly peace.
 - → The **Heavenly city** (civitas Dei): God's Kingdom that operates in the history since Jesus Christ.

The Church does not need to strive for political power in society.

Pope Leo III crowning the Frankish king Charles the Great (= Charlemagne) on Christmass 800 AD as Roman emperor



Raffael Santi (1517):

The coronation of Charlemagne

The Church became the ideological backbone of the empire

The Investiture
Controversy (11th
and 12th cent.)

Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)

- Seeing the abuse of the power by the Church, Luther formulates his **teaching on two kingdoms** (Secular Authority: To What Extent it Should be Obeyed, 1523).
- The Church must not strive for political power in society

