



# Jewish- Christian Roots of European Civilisation

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# Different Agendas



Nero (1<sup>st</sup> cent. CE)

- **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*

■ S → The **Earthly city** (*civitas terrena*): to secure earthly 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 Christmas 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**

