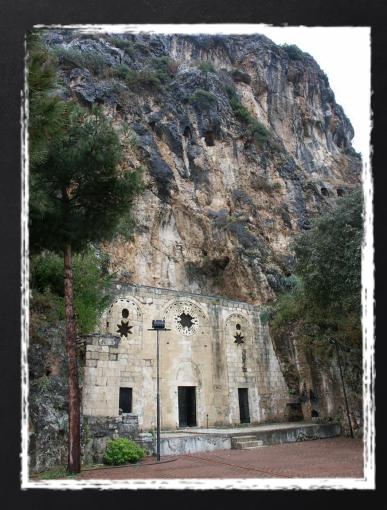
# Antioch, Politically Christian

#### Acts 11:19-26

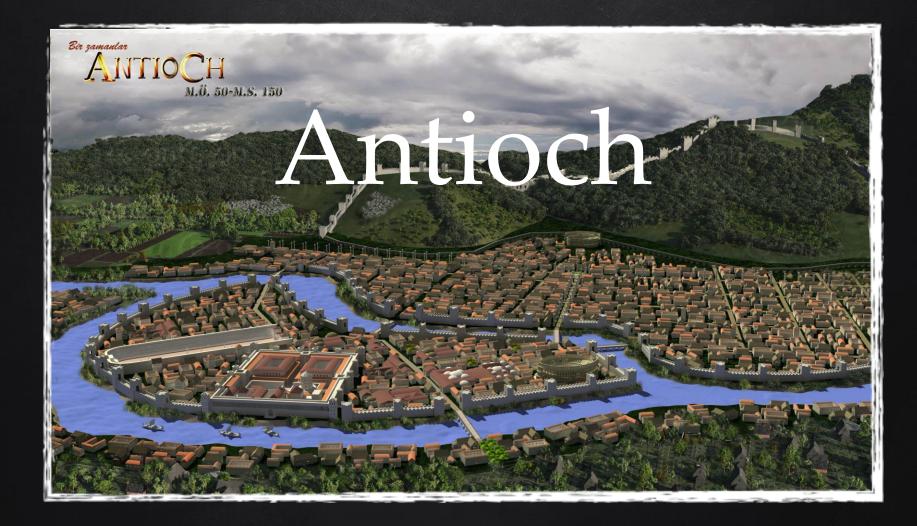


#### Acts 11:26

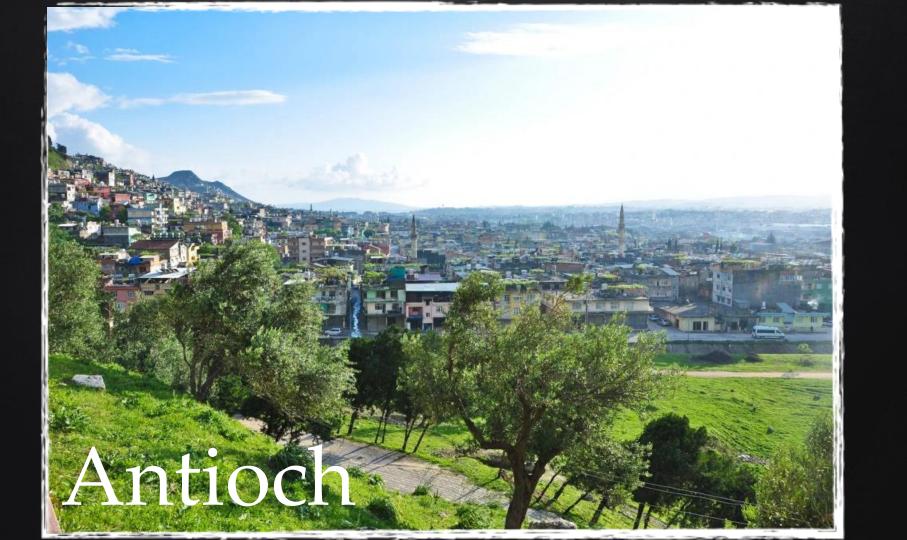
# ...And in Antioch the disciples were first called <u>Christians</u> (X $\varrho_i\sigma\tau_i\alpha\nu_0\dot{\nu}\varsigma$ ).

### Antioch, A Church for God's New Adventure

- Jesus wants us to show our devotion to Him through how we welcome others to experience the life of God.







#### Acts 11:19-21

19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

#### Acts 11:22-24

22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

#### Acts 11:25-26

25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians ( $X_{QI}\sigma\tau_{I}\alpha\nu_{O}\dot{\nu}\varsigma$ ).



Christian, Our New Name - Χριστος : *Christos* (Greek) - Messiah; anointed one  $-i\alpha vo \varsigma$ : -ianos (Latin) - a group of people; supporters; adherents;

partisans

By taking the name Christian, we are saying the key to understanding who we are is knowing who He is.

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"Partisan of Christ" means you're not fitting the culture's categories for understanding who you are and how you move through this world. Something gets distorted every time we use the culture's labels to shape and define our identity. It changes our sense of self and pollutes our mission.

#### 1 Peter 2:11-12

"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

## Philippians 3:20-21

"Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

#### Hebrews 11:13

"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were <u>strangers and</u> <u>exiles on the earth</u>."

#### Hebrews 11:14-16

"For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."

We are not apolitically Christian or non-partisans for Christ. To be a partisan for Christ is to be subversive; to say that Jesus is Lord and Caesar is not. It is prophetic independence not politicized religion.