

The Paulicians and the Preserved Text

Introduction

- The goal of this message is two-fold:
 - 1) prove that the Paulicians were Pauline dispensationalists,
 - 2) prove that Byzantine Text Type which contains the multiplicity of copies demanded by the doctrine of Preservation was preserved by Pauline dispensationalists, i.e., the Paulicians.

Introduction

- In order to accomplish this task we will consider the following points:
- The Pilgrim Church Concept
- The Standard View of the Paulicians in Church History Books
- Who were the Paulicians?
- Beliefs of the Paulicians
- Relationship Between The Paulicians and Preserved Text

The Pilgrim Church Concept

- The union of Church and State was ALWAYS devastating for communities of Bible believing Christians throughout church history.
- The true histories groups who dissented from the organized church have been obliterated, their writings sharing the same fate as their writers.
- Names were ascribed to them by their opponents to give the impression that they represented “new” and/or “strange” doctrines.
- What their adversaries have written about them must be viewed as SUSPECT.

Standard View of the Paulicians

- “Heretical Sects” is the title of Chapter 12 in Volume 4 of Philip Schaff’s esteemed *History of the Christian Church*. Schaff devotes an entire section of this chapter to discussing the “heretical beliefs” of the Paulicians.
- It is important to notice the following aspects of Schaff’s thinking:
 - He judges who is heretical and who is not based on where they stand in light of “Catholic orthodoxy.”
 - He considers the Catholic Church “historic Christianity.”
 - He proves Broadbent’s point that dissenting groups were labeled by their opponents (i.e., Gnostic, Manichaeian, dualistic, Marcionite) with names they had not chosen for themselves.

Standard View of the Paulicians

- Schaff calls the beliefs of the Paulicians “pseudo-Paulinism” that in many ways respects resembled the Gnostic system of Marcion.
- Why do Schaff, and other Church historians compare the beliefs of the Paulicians with those of Marcion?
Allegedly:
 - The God of the Old Testament loved the Jews exclusively.
 - Rejected the entire Old Testament as well as those New Testament books that were clearly Jewish: Matthew, Mark, Acts, and Hebrews.
 - Marcion’s Bible contained an altered version of Luke and ten letters of Paul.
 - Exalted Paul above the twelve apostles.
 - Worshiped Paul.

Standard View of the Paulicians

- Believed Christ had descended from heaven twice, once to suffer and to die, and once to call Paul and to reveal to Paul the true significance of his death.
- Paul had become the apostle of the heretics.
- The Paulicians have not been allowed to speak for themselves.

Who Were the Paulicians?

- The name Paulician was frequently given to these churches. “The persecutions to which they were subjected and the systematic destruction of their literature hide from us all but occasional glimpses into their history, **though what remains is sufficient to show that there were in those wide regions of Asia Minor, Armenia, around Mount Ararat and beyond the Euphrates, churches . . . who kept the teaching of the apostles—received from Christ and contained in the Scriptures—in an unbroken testimony from the first.**” (Broadbent, 66)

Who Were the Paulicians?

Acts 18:23

Acts 16:6

Acts 15:41



Who Were the Paulicians?

- Between the 7th and 10th centuries the Paulicians experienced wave after wave of systematic persecution.



Who Were the Paulicians?



Who Were the Paulicians?

Bogomils, "Beloved of God"-
Link to the Paulicians



Beliefs of the Paulicians

- The Paulicians rejected:
 - They rejected the priesthood, the sacraments, the worship of the saints, the sign of the cross, and all externals in religion.
 - Rejected water baptism and the Lord's Supper
- The Paulicians believed:
 - Derived their doctrine from the writings of the Apostle Paul.
 - Gave special weight to the authority of the apostle Paul; and his epistles must have been considered by them as the main sources of the knowledge of Christian doctrines.
 - Sought to bring about a renovation of the church, and a restoration of the pure Apostolic doctrine.

The Preserved Text

The four different Christian areas of the Roman Empire which produced their respective family of manuscripts

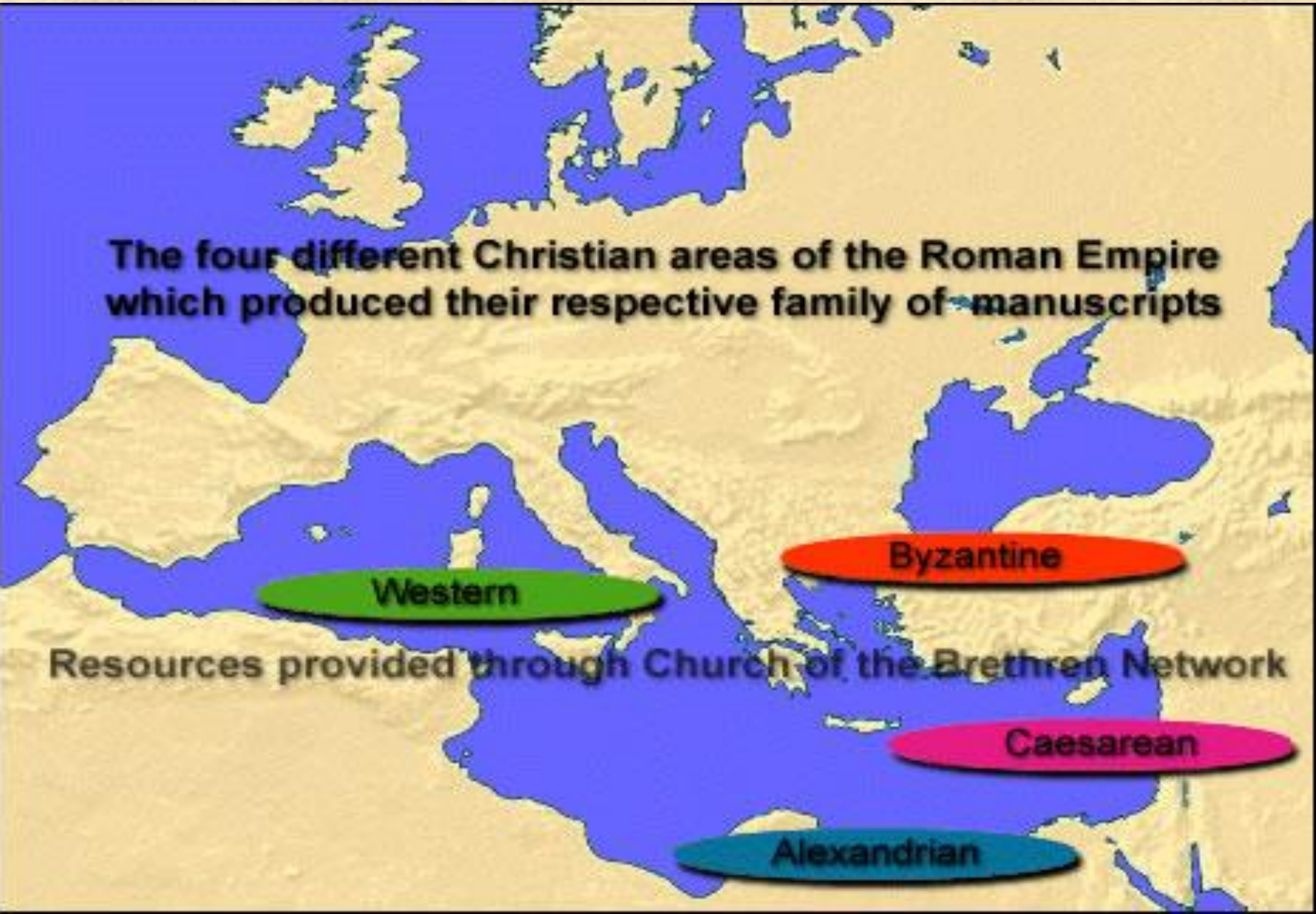
Western

Byzantine

Caesarean

Alexandrian

Resources provided through Church of the Brethren Network



The Preserved Text

- Majority Text (MT)= mss of the Byzantine Text Type (Greek mss alone)
- *Textus Receptus* (TR)= mss of the Byzantine Text Type + Early Translations + Patristic Quotations and Lectionaries.

The Preserved Text

The four different Christian areas of the Roman Empire which produced their respective family of manuscripts

Western

Byzantine

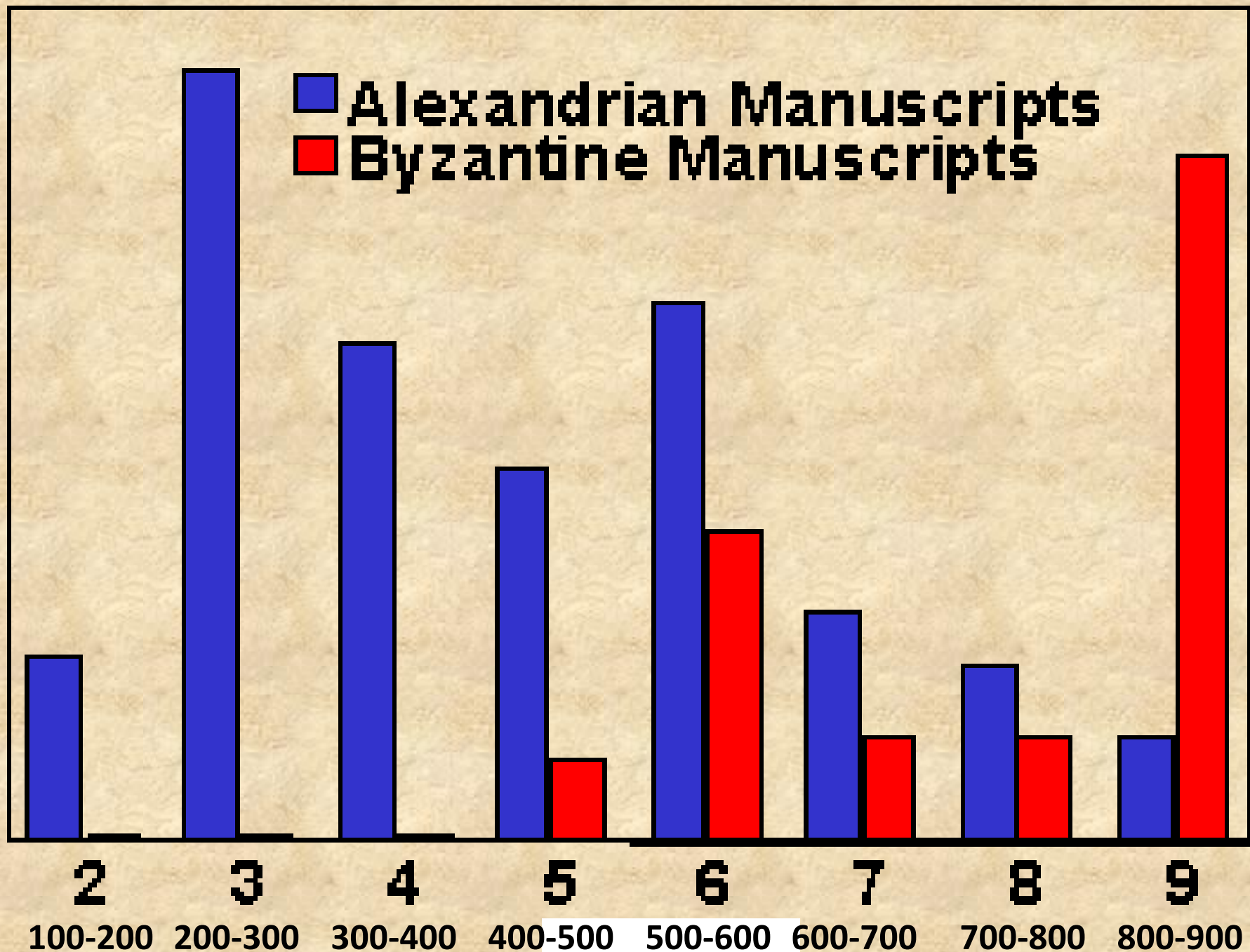
Caesarean

Alexandrian

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Manuscripts

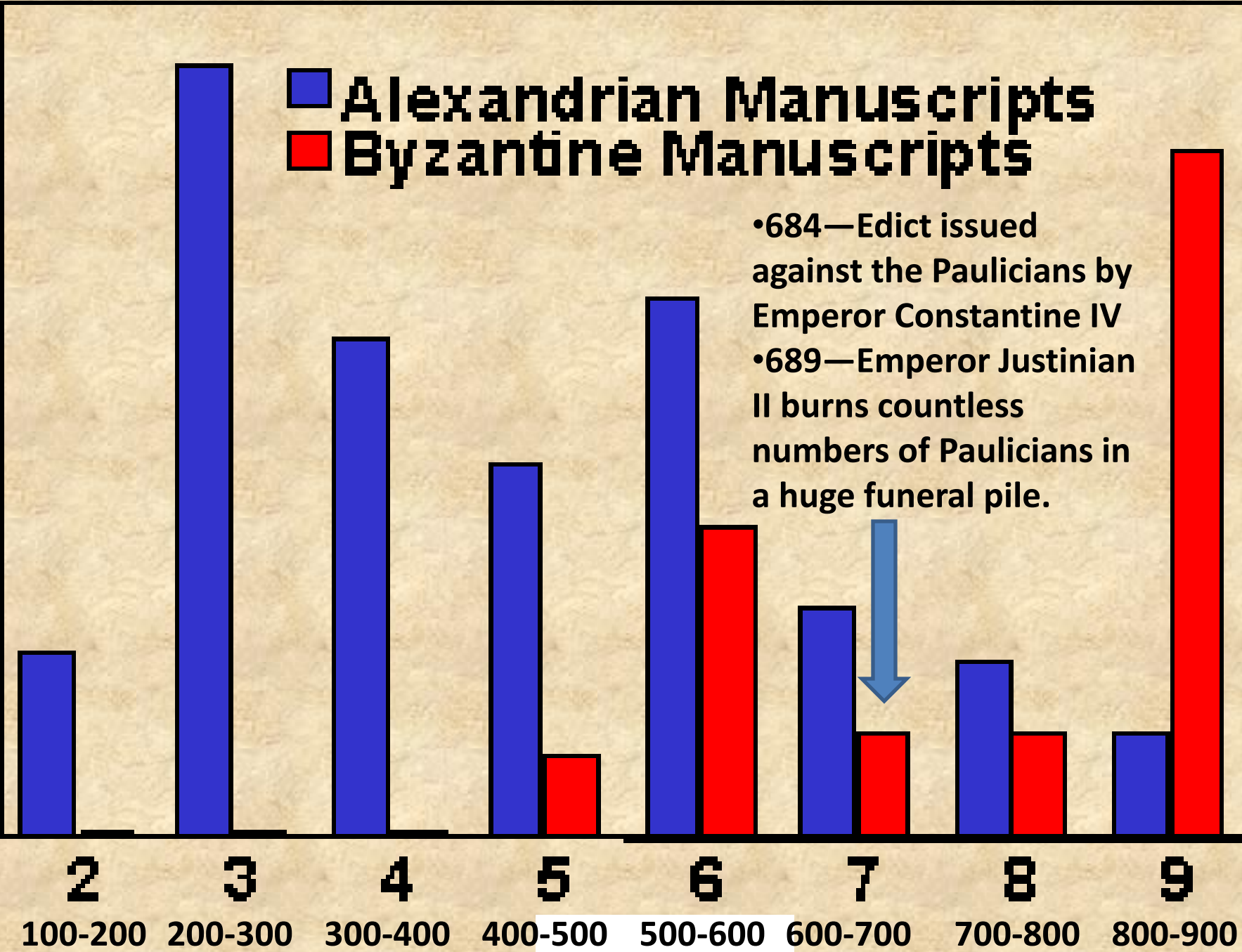
Alexandrian Manuscripts
Byzantine Manuscripts



Manuscripts

Alexandrian Manuscripts
Byzantine Manuscripts

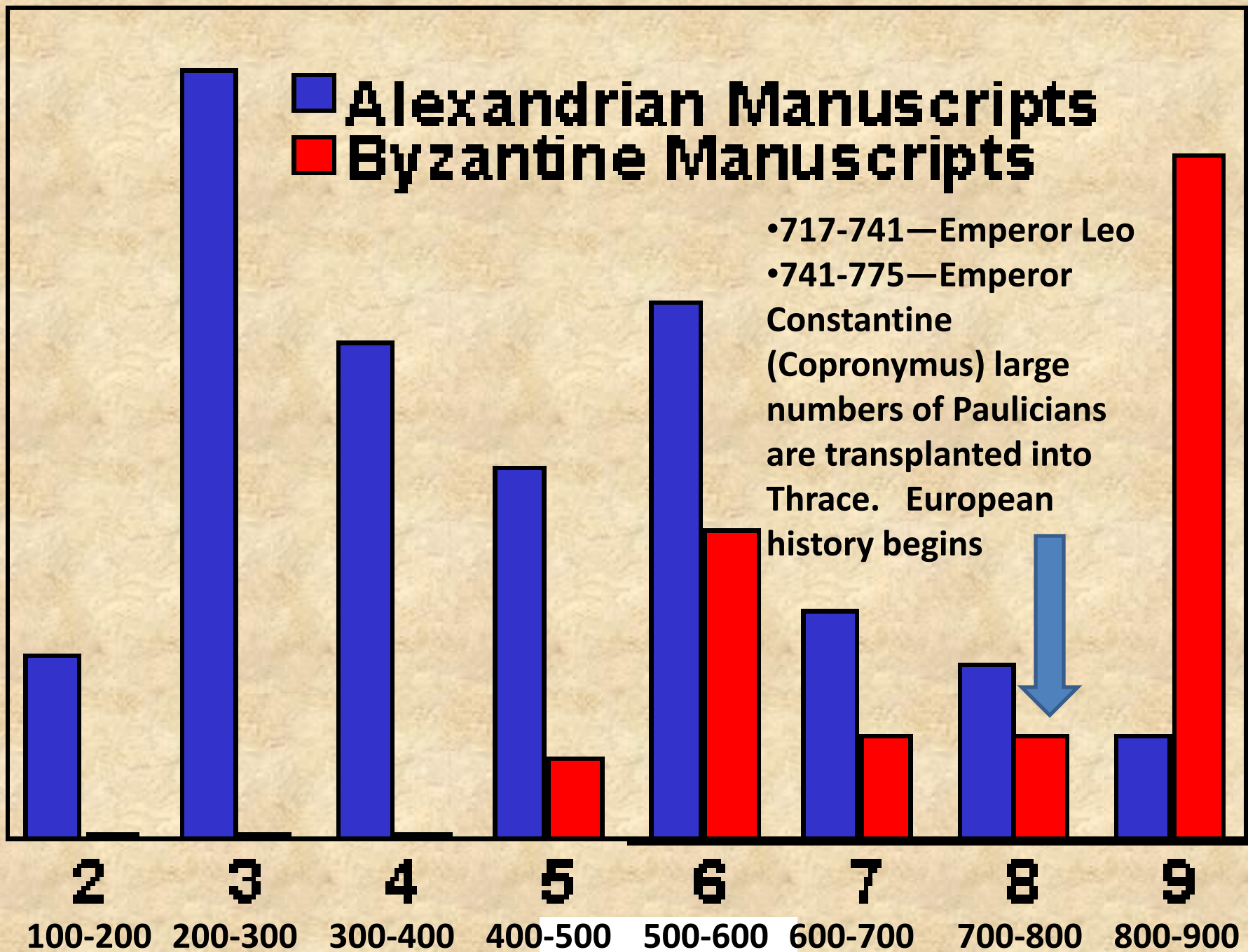
•684—Edict issued against the Paulicians by Emperor Constantine IV
•689—Emperor Justinian II burns countless numbers of Paulicians in a huge funeral pile.



Manuscripts

Alexandrian Manuscripts
Byzantine Manuscripts

•717-741—Emperor Leo
•741-775—Emperor
Constantine
(Copronymus) large
numbers of Paulicians
are transplanted into
Thrace. European
history begins





Pontus Euxinus

RHODOPE

Mt. Asticus

THRACIA

Hadrianopolis

Nicai

Byze

Salmydessos

Arcadiopolis

Drousipira

Tzouroulon

Plotinopolis

Selymbria

Athyra

Byzantium

Kypsela

Rhaidestos

Bisanthe

Ganos

Mokapora

Perinthos

Rhégium

Thassos

Ainois

Tristasis

Myriophiton

Propontis

Aphrodisias

Cardia

Lysimechia

Paktye

Aigois Pelagos

Saurothrake

Alopekonessos

Kallipolis

Limnai

Madytos

Sestos

Elaiosus

BYTHINIA

MYSIA

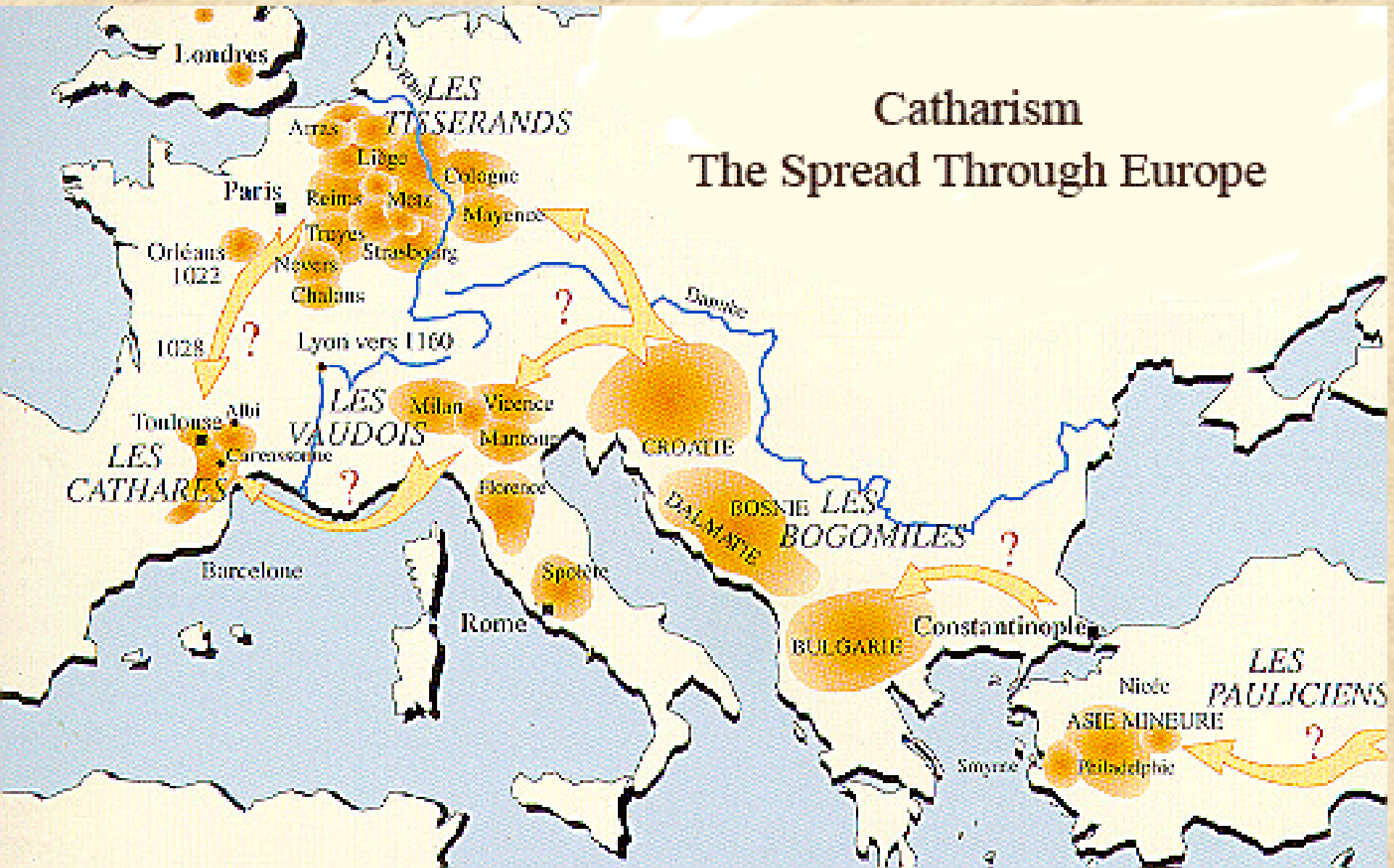
TROAS

Lymnos

Tenedos

Catharism

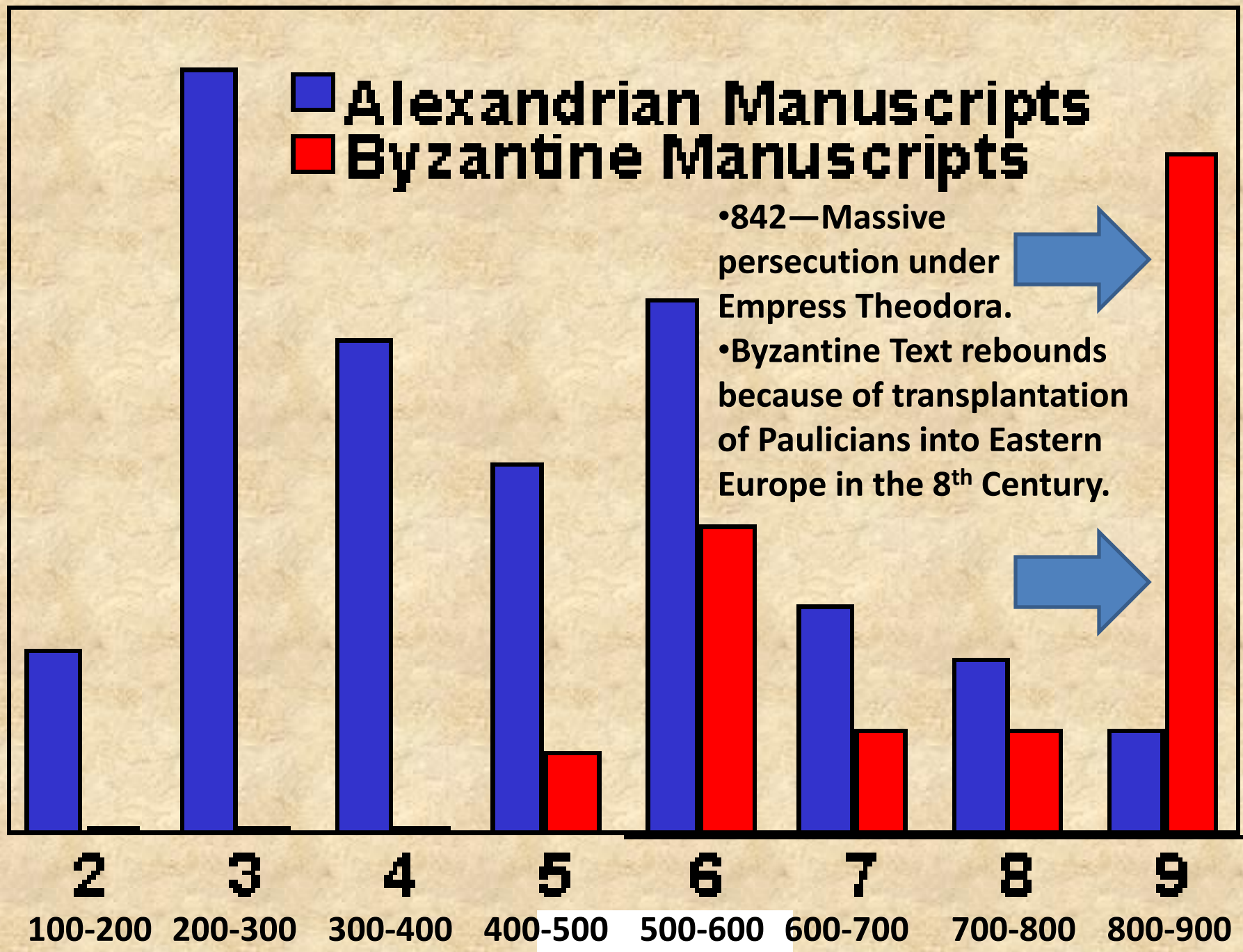
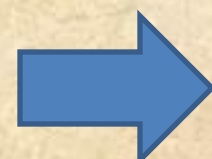
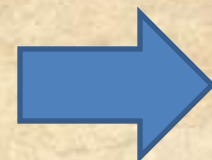
The Spread Through Europe



Manuscripts

Alexandrian Manuscripts
Byzantine Manuscripts

•842—Massive persecution under Empress Theodora.
•Byzantine Text rebounds because of transplantation of Paulicians into Eastern Europe in the 8th Century.



Manuscripts

Alexandrian Manuscripts
Byzantine Manuscripts

•842—Massive persecution under Empress Theodora.

•In the 10th century Byzantine Text rebounds because of transplantation of Paulicians into Eastern Europe in the 8th Ce

