

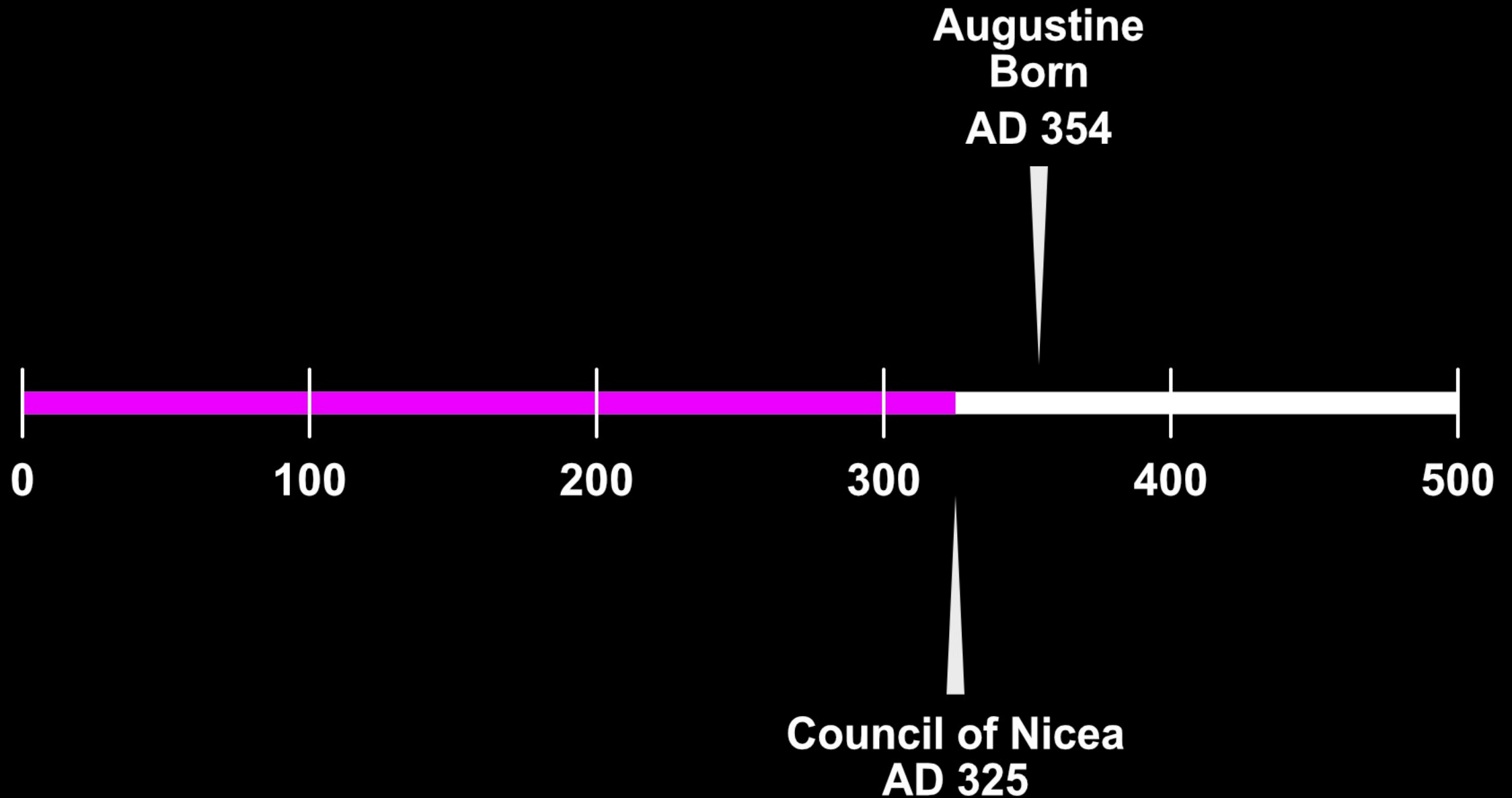


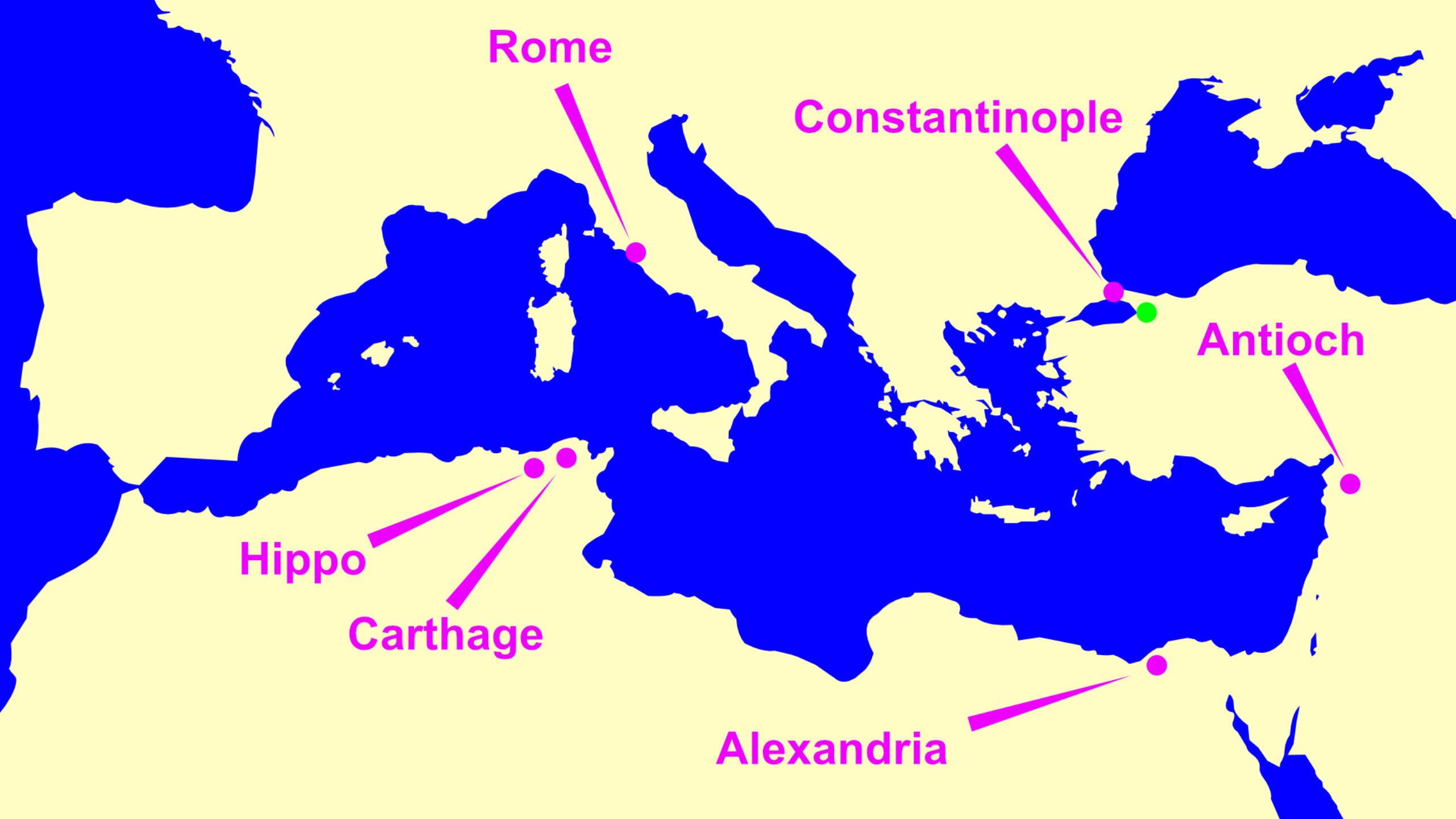
Rome

Constantinople

Antioch

Alexandria





Rome

Constantinople

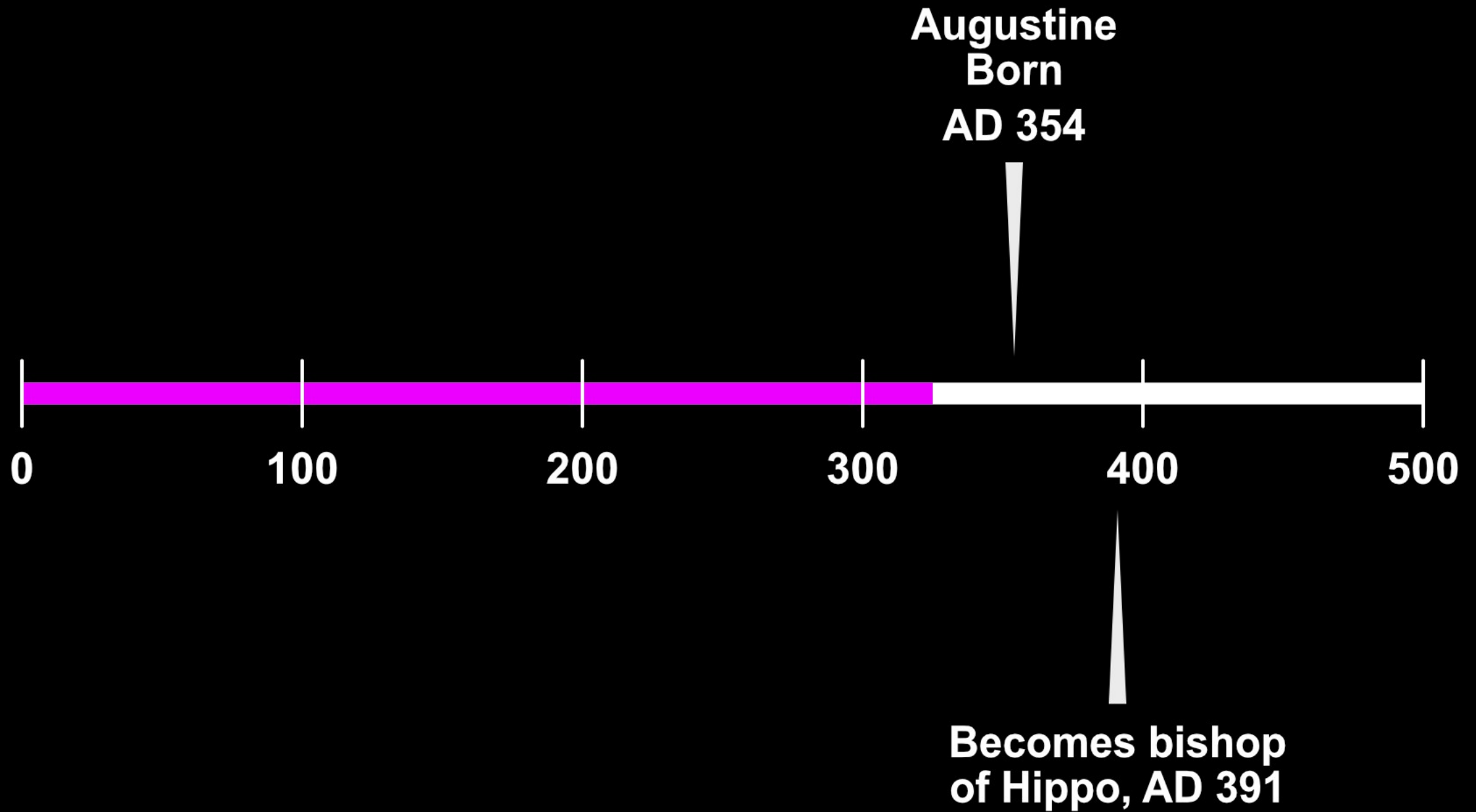
Antioch

Hippo

Carthage

Alexandria

Antioch



Before Augustine's conversion

“ When I thought of devoting myself entirely to you, my God ... it was I that wished to do it, and I that wished not to do it. It was I. And since I neither completely wished, nor completely refused, I fought against myself and tore myself to pieces. ”

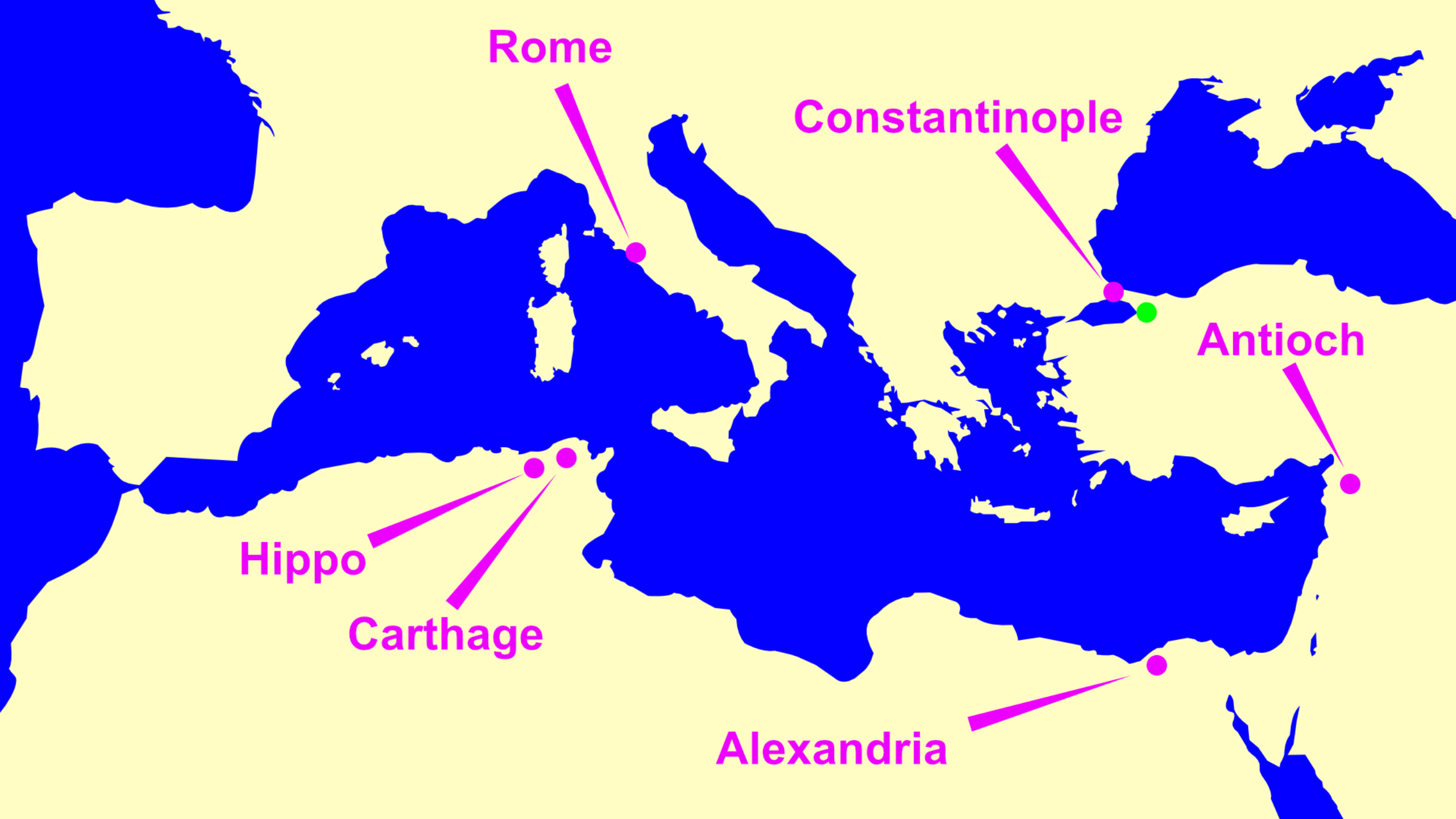
“ Driven out of paradise by you and exiled in a distant land, by myself I cannot return unless you come to meet me in my wandering. My return is based on hope in your mercy during all of my earthly life. My only hope, the only source of confidence, the only solid promise is your mercy ”

(Discourses on the Psalms, 24, 5).

Augustine's conversion

“ Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and yet so new, late have I loved you. You were always there inside me and I was running around outside. I was looking for you out there, and confused as I was, I threw myself upon those beautiful things that you had made. You were always in me, but I was not always in you. Created things kept me apart from you even though they themselves could only exist in you. You called and shouted and finally broke through my deafness. You blazed forth and shone brightly and finally broke through my blindness. ”

(Confessions 10.27.38)



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Augustine's theology

Free will

Just war

Original sin and human ability

“ The reins that held me were loosened; instead of being restrained by parental discipline, I was let loose to follow every random inclination. But, my God, wherever my inclinations took me, a dark cloud came between me and the clear skies of your truth; and out of my abundance came forth my wickedness ”

(Confessions 2.3.8)

“ For it still seemed to me that it is not we ourselves who sin, but some other nature within us...I loved to exculpate myself and lay the blame on that something that was with me but not me. But it was all me. In my impiety I was divided against myself, and my sin was all the more incurable in that I did not consider myself a sinner. ”

(Confessions 5.10.18)

Original sin and human ability

Before the Fall	After the Fall	After conversion	After glorification
Able to choose to do good and able to sin	Able only to choose to sin	Able to choose to do good and able to sin	Able only to choose to do good

Piety and devotion

“ For understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore do not seek to understand in order to believe, but believe that you may understand. ”
(On the Gospel of John, 29.6)

"Hope is a necessity for us in these days of exile from heaven. It is our consolation on the journey. When a traveler gets tired of walking along the dusty road, he puts up with fatigue because he hopes to arrive home. Rob him of any hope of arriving and immediately his strength for walking is broken. So too, the hope for heaven which we have now is an important factor easing the pain of our just exile and sometimes harsh journey. "

(Sermon 158, 8).

“ Our faith is strengthened by the resurrection of Christ. The passion of Christ represents the misery of our present life, while the resurrection of Christ gives us a brilliant glimpse of the happiness of the future life. Let us apply ourselves energetically in the present life, and hope in the future. Now is the time for the painful struggle; then will come the recompense. ”

(Sermon, 233, 1)

“ The good that you love is from him, but it is good and pleasing only so far as it is considered in relation to him. But if you abandon him, the love you direct towards anything that is from him will be unrighteous, and the object of your love will righteously be bitter to the taste. ”
(Confessions 4.12.18)

“ Longing is always a prayer, even though the tongue is silent. If you are longing without interruption, then you are always praying. When does our prayer sleep? Only when our desire cools ”
(Sermon 80, 7)

“ The happy life is joy based on truth. This is joy grounded
in you, O God, who are the truth, my illumination, the
salvation of my face, my God ”
(Confessions, 10.23.33)

Lessons from Augustine's life and teaching

- The “problem” of evil is not a liability to faith in God and belief in the gospel.
- “Human depravity / inability” was NOT an invention of the reformers.
- Imagination and communication are very important aspects of healthy Christian piety.