

Journey Through the Bible

After the Apostles
(Church History)

Preparations

- Jesus is the Messiah predicted in the OT
- Rome had conquered the entire Mediterranean world by 63 B.C.
 - *Pax Romana (the “Roman Peace”), safe roads and sea travel for 200 years*
 - *Diaspora - Jews were scattered all around the Roman world, potential beachheads for the Gospel in the synagogues of major cities*
 - synagogues had Biblical monotheists awaiting a promised Messiah of David’s lineage, thus even Paul went to synagogues first in new cities.

The Persecuted Church

- Jewish Persecution (30-65 AD)
 - *Like Paul at first, Judaism chose to view Christianity as another false messianic sect*

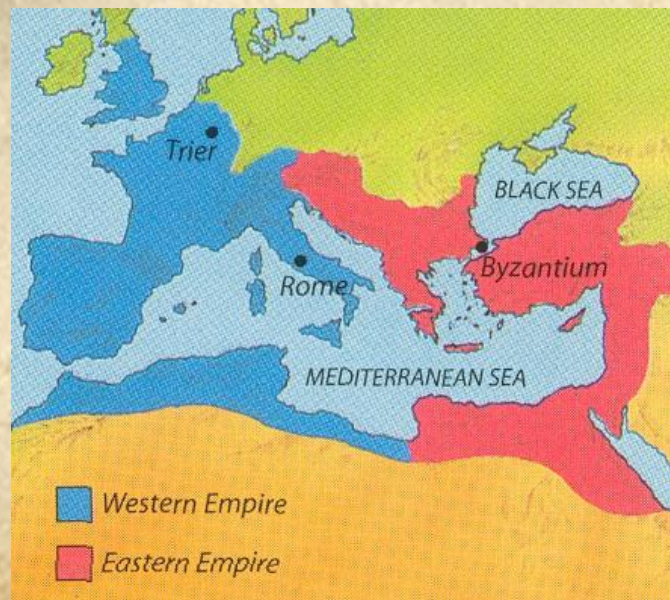
- Roman Persecution (65-313 AD)
 - “*religio*” vs. “*superstitio*”
 - *Rome honored existing gods in conquered areas for political & cultural harmony*
 - “new religions” were illegal as they might offend the recognized gods of each area
 - *Rome ignored Christianity until it lost its protection as a “sect of Judaism” in 64-65 AD*
 - Beginning with Nero (65 AD), there were 10 eras of persecution as “illegal” religion
 - “*Apologists*” defended & explained the faith

- *Rome's 4th Century shift to Christendom*
 - Constantine “legalized” (313) and then favored Christianity with legislation
 - Theodosius I outlawed paganism (381 AD), making Christianity the “State” religion
 - Within a century, Christianity went from persecuted minority to the state religion of the Roman Empire (10% -> 90%?)
 - *many “joined” for non-spiritual reasons*

Transition to the Middle Ages

- Theologians and Councils (325 on)
 - *Scripture canon “officially” finalized*
 - *doctrinal issues settled to promote unity*
 - There were many philosophical/doctrinal issues (Christ’s deity/humanity, et al)
- Monasticism
 - *with many “cultural converts” coming in, those seeking a more “spiritual” life were often drawn to monastic movements*
 - Preaching, teaching & clearing land, copyists

- Rome split politically (395 AD)
 - *Two Capitals & Cultures:*
 - Rome - Western/Latin (blue)
 - Constantinople - Eastern/Greek (red)



- Five Major Church Centers prior to 600 A.D.
 - *Rome (western, Latin area of S. Europe)*
 - *Constantinople (Greek Asia Minor)*
 - *Antioch (Syria)*
 - *Alexandria (Egypt)*
 - *Carthage (N. Africa)*

Rise of the Papacy & Islam

- Leo (400-461 AD) & Gregory (590-604 AD)
- Islam spreads (630-732 AD)
 - *North to Constantinople and west across N. Africa into Spain & France until turned back in 732 AD*
 - *3 Church centers disappeared*
 - Antioch, Alexandria, Carthage
- Carolingian dynasty / Holy Roman Empire
 - *Charlemagne (800 AD)*
 - *Franks provided military protection for the Church*
- Church split East/West (1054 AD)

Prelude to Reformation



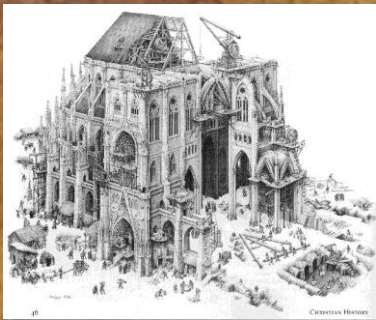
- Seven Crusades (1095-1270 AD)
 - *long-delayed response to Islamic aggression & other things*
- Scholasticism (900-1200 AD)
 - *Greek philosophers rediscovered and blended with Bible teaching*
 - Plato & Aristotle: geo-centric cosmology & fixed species biology were blended into European Christian thought
 - *this is what Copernicus/Galileo & Darwin were responding to*

- Roman Catholic “Inquisition”
(1231-1800 AD)
 - *persecuting doctrinal heresies*
 - *persecuting witchcraft*
 - *persecuting insincere Jewish converts in Spain*



- Innocent III (1198-1216 AD)
 - *most powerful pope*
- Avignon Papacy (1305-1378 AD)
 - *Papal court moved to the French border for closer contact with French kings*
- Papal Schism (1378-1417 AD)
 - *two, then three rival concurrent popes*
 - *ended by Council of Constance (1414-1418)*

- Renaissance (1200-1600 AD)
 - *Built on Scholasticism's rediscovery of and emphasis upon Greek philosophers*
 - *Now Greco-Roman culture, in general, was glorified*
 - Focused on God & Bible as it moved north into Switzerland and Germany, laying the foundation for the Reformation (1500-1648 AD)
 - Man & nature-centered in Italy and as it moved north into France, leading to the atheistic Enlightenment (1650 - Present)



Great Reformation

- Roman Church needed Reform
 - *Council of Constance (1414-1418)*
 - Conciliar Movement hoped that large councils could control bad popes, but bad popes would not convene councils
 - *Early Reformers (1100-1400's)*
 - Peter Waldo/Waldensians, John Wycliff, Jon Hus, Girolamo Savonarola

- 16th Century Reformation (1500-1648)
 - *Zwingli, Luther, Calvin, etc. succeeded*
 - moveable-type printing press spread ideas faster
 - nobles with armies protected reformers
 - 150 years of Reformation warfare ended with the Peace of Westphalia (1648 AD)

Reformation Fragmentation

- “Christendom” broke into Pieces
 - *national Reformation movements*
 - from Zwingli
 - *“reformed churches” (Zurich)*
 - from Luther
 - *Germany & Scandinavian “Lutheranism”*
 - From Calvin
 - *Geneva; Dutch “Reformed”; Scottish Presbyterian; English Anglican/Episcopal*

- English Reformation
 - *Church of England/Anglican = Catholic forms & Calvinist doctrine; Wesleyan & Methodist offshoots*
- Ana-Baptist tradition
 - *Focus on Bible & believer's baptism*
 - *various Baptists groups, Menno-nites, Amish*

New Struggles

- French Enlightenment (1689-1789)
 - *French intellectuals rejected the Judeo-Christian worldview & returned to old Greek materialism & naturalism:*
 - only the natural realm is “real”
 - inherent progress
 - human reason the only path to knowledge
- French Revolution (1789-1799)
 - *A century of advocating atheism and anarchy produced 10 years of chaos in France, ended by Napoleon’s military takeover*

- “Modern Era” (1800-1960’s)
 - *Western academia embraced Enlightenment thought and retooled all areas of knowledge in terms of atheistic “evolutionary progress”*
 - *This is why modern science & religious liberalism in Europe & USA have little use for Biblical information*

- Conservative Revival

- *Great Awakening (1750-1800), resurgence of Biblical Christianity & Missions in the 1800's - 1900's*

- Worship & music updated; old message still attracts people disillusioned with sin
- However, “worship experience” is not enough to (1) build a Judeo-Christian worldview upon and (2) counter the Enlightenment re-tooling of knowledge, so churches must give greater emphasis to education also