

# Ascent

## What we believe and why it matters

Eras of Church History (generalized)

Phases of Church History

Early Church History

- The Spread of Christianity in the Empire (to 100)
- The Struggle of the Church for Survival (100-313)
- The Supremacy of the Church (313-590)

Medieval Church History

- The Rise of the Empire and Latin-Teutonic Christianity (590-800)
- Feudalism, Islam, and the Great Schism of 1054 (to 1054)
- The Supremacy of the Papacy (1054-1305)
- Medieval Sunset and Modern Sunrise (1305-1517)

Modern Church History

- Protestant Reformation and Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation (1517-1648)
- The New World (to 1783)
- Missions and Modernism (1789-1914)
- Church and Society in Tension (1914-Present)
- Definitions

Catholic

- From Latin: “universal”
- Used in many early creeds
- The terms “catholic” and “church” up until 1517
- “Roman” or “Roman Catholic” after the Reformation

Orthodox

- From Greek: “correct opinion” or “right thinking”
- Seven Ecumenical Councils held between 325 and 787 with the aim of formalizing accepted doctrines (orthodoxy)
- Still used to define biblical beliefs
- “Orthodox Church” in the East (and Russia) after the Schism of 1054

Protestant

- From: *Letter of Protestation* written by German Lutheran Princes in 1529 against Roman condemnation of the “Protestants”
- A movement to *correct* errors in the Roman church, which led to a full break with Rome
- Many common core beliefs (against papal authority, two sacraments, justifications by faith alone) although there is no central structure and more divided theologically and ecclesiastically
- Major Church Schisms
- Early Church History

In The Fullness of Time

- Roman Contributions (POLITICAL): “unity” of mankind; freedom of movement; roads; Roman army
- Greek Contributions (INTELLECTUAL): language; emptiness of gods & philosophy
- Jewish Contributions (RELIGIOUS): existence of God; monotheism; messianic hope; moral law; Old Testament; meaning of history; synagogue

- Early Church History

The Spread of Christianity in the Empire (to 100)

- To the Jew First
- And Also to the Greek

- Early Church History

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- Early Church History

The Struggle of the Church for Survival (100-313)

- External Pressures
  - Persecution
  - Pagan Intellectuals
- Internal Pressures
  - Heresy
- Apostolic Fathers
  - Clement of Rome
  - Ignatius
  - Polycarp
  - Early Church History

The Struggle of the Church for Survival (100-313)

- Political Issues
- Religious Pressures
- Social Conflicts
- Economic Realities

- Early Church History

The Struggle of the Church for Survival (100-313)

- Peak of Persecution (Decius, Diocletian – 3<sup>rd</sup> Century)
  - Banning of Meetings
  - Destruction of Churches
  - Deposition of Officers
  - Imprisonment
  - Burning of Scriptures
  - Death
- Edict of Milan (313)

- Early Church History

The Struggle of the Church for Survival (100-313)

- Strong Church Centers

- Nearly All Corners of the Empire
  - By AD 250, 5 to 15% of the Roman World was Christian
  - Early Church History
- The Struggle of the Church for Survival (100-313)
- Development of the Canon
  - Creation of a Creed (i.e., The Apostle's Creed)
  - Obedience to the Bishops
    - Expanded power
    - Hierarchical organization
    - Apostolic Succession
    - Exaltation of the Lord's Supper
  - A Liturgy
  - A Building
    - Based on the Roman Basilica
- Early Church History
- The Supremacy of the Church (313-590)
- Constantine and the Edict of Milan (313)
  - The Price of "Acceptance"
  - Nicene Creed (325 & 381)
  - Ambrose, Theodosius & the Expansion the the Power of the Bishop
- Early Church History
- The Supremacy of the Church (313-590)
- The Fall of Rome
    - Power vacuum
    - Importance of the monasteries
  - Barbarian Invasions
  - Augustine of Hippo
  - Benedict & Scholastica
- Medieval Church History
- The Rise of the Empire and Latin-Teutonic Christianity (590-800)
- Gregory I Becomes Pope in the West
    - Supports Benedictines
    - Supports missionary work, esp. England
    - Develops Doctrine of Purgatory
    - Shaped the Mass
    - Gregorian Chant
  - Justinian Rules in the East
    - Code of Civil Laws
    - Reconquers North Africa
    - Builds Hagia Sofia
- Medieval Church History

## Feudalism, Islam, and the Great Schism of 1054 (to 1054)

- Feudalism
  - Arose after the Fall of Rome in the vacuum of a central temporal authority
  - No social mobility
  - Decline in Christian faith
  - Far less in the East
- Islam
  - Muhammad (570-632)
  - Spread of the faith by the sword
  - Finally turned back by Charles (The Hammer) Martel at the Battle of Tours (711) but remained a constant threat in the East
- Medieval Church History

## Feudalism, Islam, the Franks, and the Great Schism of 1054 (to 1054)

- Frankish Domination of Europe
  - Charlemagne
  - Beginning of the Holy Roman Empire
- Schism of 1054
  - Several long-standing disputes
  - East was cut off from the West for good and bad
  - Made formal an informal division already existing
  - Resulting stagnation in the East

## • Medieval Church History

## The Supremacy of the Papacy (1054-1305)

- The Crusades
  - Jerusalem fell to the Muslims in 638
  - Access, allowed at first, became more difficult over time
  - Pope Urban II
  - Peasant's Crusade
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Crusade (1096-1099) – captured Jerusalem
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade (1147) – failure
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Crusade (1189-1192) – some success
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Crusade (1200) – negotiated success
  - Children's Crusade (1212)
  - Fall of Acre (1291)
  - Crusades in Europe
  - Medieval Church History

## The Supremacy of the Papacy (1054-1305)

- Other Key Events
  - Alfred the Great translates the Bible in England
  - Hungarians & Poles are won to Christianity

- Christianity reaches Iceland & Greenland
- Bohemia is won
- Russia is won
- Popes become more political
- Canonization of saints
- Belief in the immaculate conception of Mary
- William the Conqueror invades England (1066)
- Monasteries continue as primary learning centers and ecclesiastical reform
- Beginnings of Gothic architecture
- Medieval Church History

#### Medieval Sunset and Modern Sunrise (1305-1517)

- Feudalism was Fading Away
- Early Reform Attempts & New Orders
  - Waldensians (late 12 century)
  - Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians
  - The Scholastics (Anselm, Aquinas)
- Moral Low Point
- Hundred Year's War (1337-1443)
- Black Death
  - Medieval Church History

#### Medieval Sunset and Modern Sunrise (1305-1517)

- Additional Reformers
  - Wycliffe (England)
  - Hus (Bohemia)
- Renaissance in Italy
- Fall of Constantinople (1453)
- Inquisition & Corruption
- Gutenberg
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Printing Press (1453)
  - Modern Church History

#### Protestant Reformation and Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation (1517-1648)

- The Christian Humanists
- Erasmus
- Zwingli
- Calvin
- Melancthon
- Martin Luther
- Modern Church History

#### Protestant Reformation and Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation (1517-1648)

- Martin Luther
- Modern Church History

#### Protestant Reformation and Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation (1517-1648)

- Ulrich Zwingli
- John Calvin
- Anabaptists

- Modern Church History
- Protestant Reformation and Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation (1517-1648)
- Counter-Reformation
    - Ignatius Loyola
    - Francis Xavier
    - Pope Paul III
  - Modern Church History
- Protestant Reformation and Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation (1517-1648)
- Meanwhile, Back in England...
  - Henry VIII and His Quest for a Son
    - “Defender of the Church” (1520)
    - Henry wants a divorce (1529)
    - Pope (Clement) refuses
    - Henry declares himself Head of the Church of England
    - Catholic, not Protestant
    - Henry institutes some reforms
    - Bloody Mary & Elizabeth I
  - Tyndale & Knox in Scotland
  - Modern Church History
- Protestant Reformation and Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation (1517-1648)
- Summary
  - Modern Church History
- Protestant Reformation and Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation (1517-1648)
- Copernicus & Galileo
  - Politics & the 30 Years War
    - Peace of Augsburg (1555)
    - Protestants vs. Catholics
    - HR Emperor vs. Princes
    - France vs. Habsburgs
    - Peace of Westphalia (1648)
  - Puritans in England
    - Focus on Scriptures
    - King James Bible
    - The Pilgrims
    - The “Middle Road” of QEI
  - Modern Church History
- The New World (to 1783)
- Columbus (1492)
  - Quickly followed by other European Powers
    - Spain & Portugal
    - France
    - Germanic States
    - Netherlands
    - Great Britain
  - French & Indian War

- American Revolution
  - Modern Church History
- The New World (to 1783)
- French & Indian War (1754-1763)
  - American Revolution (1775-1783)
  - Modern Church History
- Revivalism, Missions, and Modernism (1783-1914)
- Optimism & Modernism
    - Britain abolishes the slave trade (1807)
    - Waterloo (1815) brings peace to Europe for 99 years
    - Industrial Revolution = lower prices & goods for more people
    - Medical discoveries
    - The American West is won
  - Storm Clouds
    - People = commodities
    - Slavery
    - Love of things & of man's ability to fix everything
    - Rationalism
    - American Civil War
  - Modern Church History
- Missions and Modernism (1783-1914)
- Prevalence of the Social Gospel
  - Response (i.e., Spurgeon)
  - Actions of the Roman Catholic Church
    - Confirmation of 7 sacraments
    - Added the Apocrypha to the Bible
    - Salvation only through Rome
    - Denounced harmony with culture
    - Denounced any limits to papal authority
    - Declared the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception
    - Vatican II (1962-1965) loosened many Catholic positions
  - Modern Church History
- Church and Society in Tension (1914-Present)
- The World Wars & Man's Emptiness
  - The Struggle for Meaning
  - The Prevalence of False Doctrine
    - Claims of a deeper understanding
    - Denial of the full deity of Christ
    - Rejection of the inerrancy of Scripture
    - Self = God
    - Salvation by Christ Coming, not His atonement
    - Rejection of the Virgin Birth
    - Salvation by illumination
  - Our God Reigns
    - God, not man, is sovereign over all

➤ Hang in there!

- Church History

Suggested Resources for Further Study

- Bruce, F.F., *New Testament History*, Doubleday, 1972.
- Cairns, Earle E., *Christianity Through the Centuries*, Revised & Enlarged Edition, Grand Rapids: Academie Books, 1954, 1981.
- Noll, Mark, A., *Turning Points, Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.
- Schaff, P., & D. S. Schaff. *History of the Christian Church*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997.
- Vos, Howard F., *Introduction to Church History*, Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

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Questions