



# Church History (Part 1)

400<sub>BC</sub> to 1550<sub>AD</sub>

Assembled by: Harry Briley

June-July 2018 - Rev. 2.3

(A six-week speed seminar – with corrections)

# A History Class?!



- Only Names, Dates, and Places?
  - Where did our foundational faith material come from?
  - Who kept the flame alive? Who tried to blow it out?
  - Discover parts of church history worth exploring further
  - What happened **before** there were denominations?
- Who are you?
  - What attracted you? What do you want out of this class?
- What do I know?
  - I did not love history until a college senior
  - First learned History of Doctrines in Fuller Seminary
  - Gravitated towards church history for past 43 years
  - Still learning, always discovering validations of Christian faith

# Aerial View of Church History

- Sources

- Thousands of seminary students wrote about first 1500 years Christianity, tangent movements, and early Church Fathers
- Embarrassment of riches, yet 98% Christians died in obscurity
- Letters/treatises by leaders, government/church proceedings

- The “Universal” Church (aka catholic)

- Universal but not unified in Spirit and definitely not uniform
- Broad big-picture overview, dipping into a few examples
- Plenty of heresy, arguments, and controversy, but few groupings that could be properly called denominations until the 1500s

# Aerial View of Church History

Issue 72: How We Got Our History (Edited) © 2001, Christian History magazine

## •The Dating Game

- Early Christian historians calculating independently led to differing timings and confusion in comparing their histories.
- Bede** was one of first to use **Anno Domini (AD)** proposed by Dionysius Exiguus 527. Bede occasionally used BC, but BC method did not replace old Roman system until 1400s

## •How Old is our Faith?

- Pagans scoffed that upstart religion too new to take seriously, so **Eusebius** dated Moses 400 years before Trojan War—the advent of Greek history
- Before 1940, skeptics scoffed Bible too new to take seriously. With **Dead Sea Scrolls** in 1947, scholarly history of Palestine 400 BC-135 AD showed NT written close to events described

# Aerial View of Church History

1. Forgotten Jewish Roots
2. Early Church Fathers
3. Constantinople and Rome
4. Islamic Early Impact
5. Middle Ages of Western Church
6. Reformation (Sort of)

# Forgotten Jewish Roots



Did all Jews believe the same?

Support wall for 30AD Temple platform, Jerusalem  
Jesus and early disciples taught to crowds above here – 11/2017

# Forgotten Jewish Roots

- **Septuagint Translation**
  - Alexandria, Egypt - Greek-speaking Jewish scholars
  - Translated Hebrew to Greek by 150 BC ... most done by 250BC
  - Source for early church when doubt over Hebrew meaning
- **Pharisees – Acts 23:6-10**
  - Established Synagogues during 70-year Exile to Babylon
  - Angels as created beings with God and on missions to earth
  - Humans resurrected to eternal life after death
  - Torah, Prophets, Writings to 400BC are official Scripture
    - but -
  - **Sadducees** (and **Samaritans**) only valued Torah, no angels, no resurrection after death ... thus discounted angels in Genesis!

# Forgotten Jewish Roots

In Rome and Athens, pagans saw only “The Jews”

In Israel, multiple political/religious parties wanted control:

God's Law	God's Kingdom	Appease Romans	Call for Revolt	Act Now! (Assassins)
<b>Pharisees</b> Paul Gamaliel	<b>Messianic</b> Jesus	<b>Sadducees</b> Caiaphas Annas	<b>Zealots</b> Simon	<b>Sacarii</b> Judas
Synagogue Teachers		Temple Priests/Levites		Cloak & Dagger



# Forgotten Jewish Roots

- Jesus

- Good Jewish boy gone bad? Luke 24:25-27,44 Luke 16:27-31
- Always treated Torah, prophets, and writings as authoritative
- Castigated Pharisees for so close to truth but so far heart-wise
- Upended **Passover Seder** to represent himself ... shocked disciples ... egotistical lunacy if not confirmed by Resurrection

- Jews and Jesus

- In first century, Jesus another of several **Messianic pretenders**
- With anti-Semitic church, Jesus a blond, blue-eyed, Nordic god
- Since 1970's, Jews began to treat Jesus as their wayward son
- Swarthy black-eyed, black-hair, olive-skin muscular laborer

# Forgotten Jewish Roots



Jesus preached in Synagogue here, Capernaum, Israel  
This 300AD ruin sits on foundation of 30AD Synagogue – 11/2017

# Forgotten Jewish Roots

- ← ca. 6th century B.C.E. Canonization of the Torah (Pentateuch), the first of the three major divisions of the Bible
- ← ca. 4th century B.C.E. Canonization of the Nevi'im (Prophets), the second of the three major divisions of the Bible
- ← ca. mid-3rd century B.C.E. Completion of the Septuagint (translation of the Pentateuch into Greek)
- ← ca. 200 B.C.E.–100 C.E. Apocryphal and Apocalyptic literature
- ← Rest of OT by 132 BCE

- ← 323 B.C.E. Alexander's empire divided into three parts: 5
- ← 301 B.C.E. Ptolemies' rule over Judea begins
- ← 198 B.C.E. Seleucids' rule over Judea begins
- ← 168 B.C.E. Hasmonean revolt
- ← 164 B.C.E. Temple purified by Judas Maccabeus

## THE HASMONEAN DYNASTY

Judas Maccabeus 166–160 B.C.E.

Scrolls from the Dead Sea  
©1993, Library of Congress

# Forgotten Jewish Roots

- Rabbis claim under 1000 Jews ever believed Jesus
  - Why did Church Fathers complain churches were “too Jewish”?
  - *“To the Ends of the Earth (How the first Jewish Followers of Y’Shua Transformed the Ancient World)”* – Jeffrey Seif, 2012
- Opening volley suggests otherwise
  - Acts 2:4-15, 40-41 – ~**3000** Pilgrims are immersed for Jesus
    - After **Shavuot** (Pentecost, 50 days), they go home
    - Pockets of these for Jesus in Roman empire –**before Paul**
    - Acts 18:24-28 – Apollos from a pocket in Alexandria
  - Acts 4:1-4 – so far, **5000 men** alone, thus 5000 family units
  - Acts 19:1-7 – pocket of John the Baptizer’s disciples
  - Acts 6:7 – Jerusalem upended – Some Levite priests believed
    - Acts 21:17-22– *muriades/myriad(v20)*, Greek 10,000 (plural)
    - At least **20,000 Jews** faithful to Moses **because of Jesus**

# Forgotten Jewish Roots

- Tongues, for what purpose? A Jewish-only thing?
  - Tongues a signature part of early Jewish-Gentile Church
    - Convinced Jews to accept Gentiles: Acts 10:1-2,34-37,44-48
    - Peter's report **did not** go well at first: Acts 11:1-3,12,15-18
    - Tongues likely not the frenzied pew-jumping in popular mind
  - Jews sought a sign but such faith was foolishness to Greeks
  - Tongues discounted early, else Paul's strong response makes no sense in the text. He said, "*Do not forbid*" – I Cor. 14:39-40
- Saul from Tarsus (Paul)
  - Taught by **Gamaliel** in Jerusalem (best schooling) – Acts 22:3-4
  - Saw apostate Jews putting Israel at risk following a false god
  - Conversion on road to Damascus anchored his life in Jesus
  - His mission first to Jews and then to Gentiles – Acts 17:4,10-12

# Forgotten Jewish Roots

## HERODIAN DYNASTY

**Herod the Great** 37–4 B.C.E.

Archelaus 4 B.C.E.–6 C.E.

Herod Antipas 4 B.C.E.–39 C.E.

Herod Philip 4 B.C.E.–34 C.E.

Agrippa I 41–44 C.E.

**Jesus of Nazareth** ca. 4 B.C.E.–29 C.E.

**Pontius Pilate** procurator of Judea 26–36

**Josephus Flavius** ca. 38–100 C.E.

66 C.E. Revolt against Rome ■

ca. 68 C.E. Roman legions destroy the Qumran settlement ■

70 C.E. **Roman legions conquer Jerusalem** ■

73 C.E. Masada falls to Rome ■

# Forgotten Jewish Roots

- Jerusalem Council 47AD – Acts 15:1-2,6-21
  - Believers at odds with letting Gentiles in - Become Jewish first!
    - Peter argued that Cornelius household spoke in tongues
    - Paul's argument of signs and miracles among Gentiles
- Decision: Minimal rules for Jewish-Gentile fellowship
  - **No idols** (Food, Faith, Social issue) – Cultural norm in Greco-Roman cities for which Jews had suffered Exile in Babylon
  - **Nothing strangled** (Food issue) – Quick death of animals as kindly as possible with blood rapidly drained
  - **No blood** (Food Issue) – Life is in the blood, quickly drain blood from meat (delays decay of meat)
  - **No sexual immorality** (Faith and Social Issue) – Roman Temples sex, Societal problems, Jews: Sex only for marriage
  - (As compared to 613 explicit commands/prohibitions in OT)

# Forgotten Jewish Roots

- Full break with Rabbinic Judaism
  - Believers a **Messianic sect** within Judaism – Acts 28:20-24
  - Ancient religions of territories could co-exist with Roman gods
  - Gentiles soon super-majority with pockets of believing Jews
  - Pharisees (Rabbinic) saw treating Jesus as God as blasphemy
  - Emperor Nerva: Christians no longer a Jewish sect – 98AD
    - Jews calling Jesus “Kurios” (Lord) meant not calling Caesar as Lord ... treason ... previously protected as a Jewish sect
    - No Jew would ever call Caesar as Lord, but hypocrisy never stopped humans from killing off their competition
  - Seen as traitors especially in **Bar Kokhba rebellion** 132-136
    - Believers in 70AD and 132AD obeyed Jesus – Luke 21:20-24
    - This abandonment of Jerusalem was the last straw!
    - Parallels with **Jeremiah** advocating surrender to Babylon



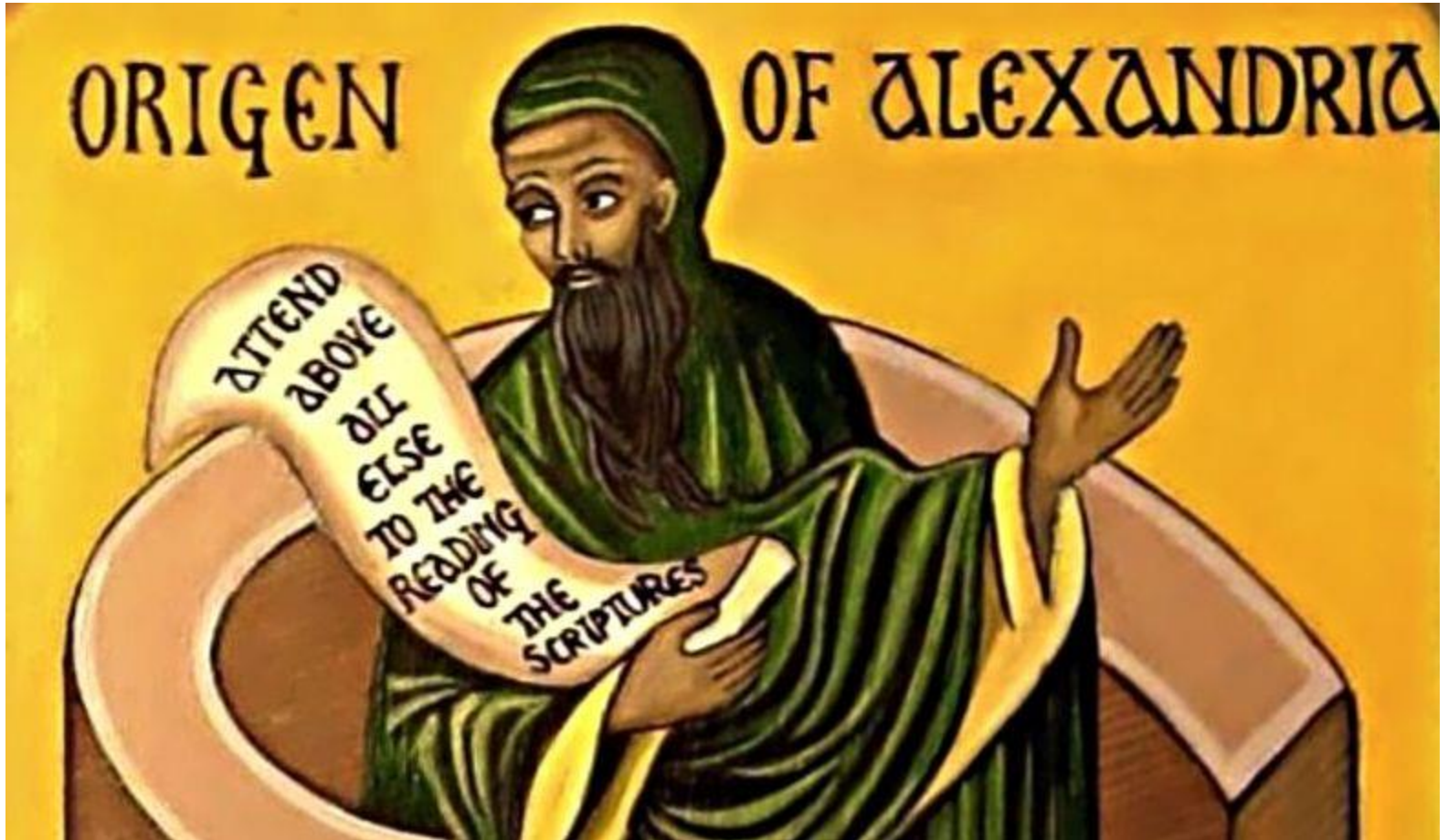
# Early Church Fathers

- Persecutions and Martyrs
  - **Nero** ruled 54-68 – Great Fire 64 – Christians in Rome blamed
  - **Diocletian** ruled 284-305 – Last severe persecution 303-305 and under prime instigator **Galerius** to 313 in the Eastern empire
- Gnostics and their secret knowledge (gnosis)
  - Jesus a spirit emanation from God, **not human** – 1 John 4:1-3
  - Jesus a created being, **not God** - 1 John 5:5,20 Titus 2:13-14
- Early Bishops
  - **Ignatius** of Antioch 35-107 – Traveled to be martyr in Rome
    - First to use the term: “**catholic church**” [e.g. universal]
  - **Polycarp** of Smyrna 69-156
    - Ordained by Apostle John (so says Ireneus)
    - Possibly first compiler and publisher of New Testament
    - Mentored Ireneus (Bishop in what became Lyons in 178)

# Early Church Fathers

- Early Scholars, Historian, Bible Translator
  - **Tertullian** of Carthage 155-240 – Prolific Lay Theologian
    - First to use term: “**Trinity**” (not fully defined but term stuck)
  - **Origen** of Alexandria 184-253 – Prolific Ordained Theologian
    - Some bad doctrine - Some orthodox doctrine
  - **Eusebius** of Caesarea 260-340 - First Church History
  - **Jerome** in Bethlehem 347-420 – Latin Vulgate
    - First Christian Bible Translator (Hebrew to Latin)
- **Western Christian Centers**
  - Alexandria – Bishop **Athanasius** – Worship on Jewish Shabbat
  - Jerusalem – Jews expelled after Bar Kokhba rebellion 132-136
  - Antioch – Mixed Jewish/Gentile community
  - Rome – Eventually completely Gentile

# Early Church Fathers

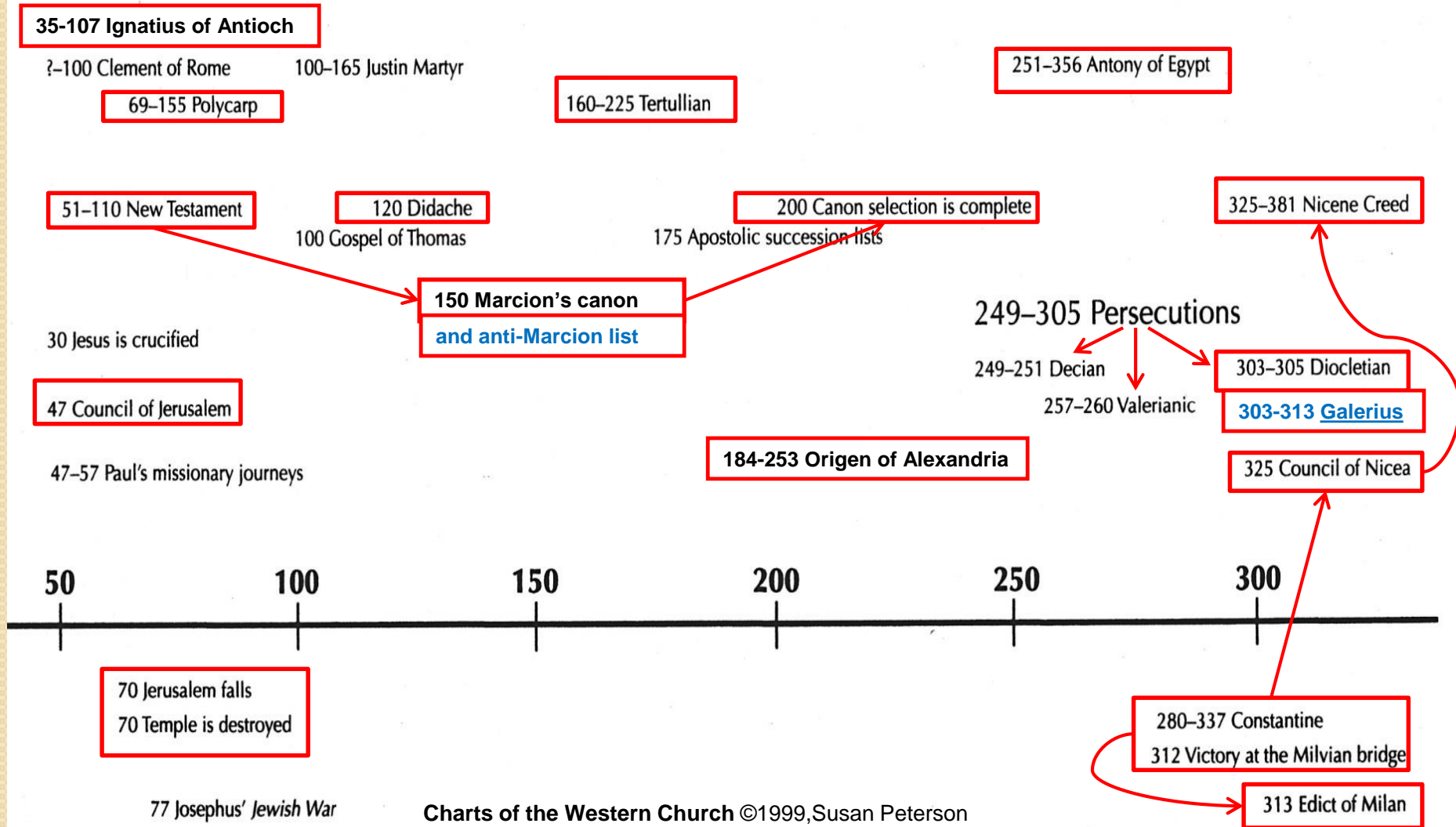


Orthodox Icon using Modern English - [mereorthodoxy.com](http://mereorthodoxy.com)  
Yet, I love that quote from Origen!

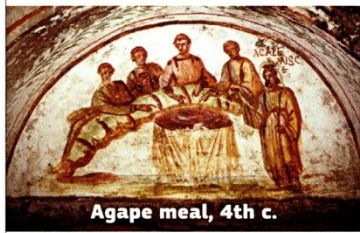
# Early Church Fathers

- **Eastern Christian Center: Edessa** (Hat tip to Jonathan!)
  - Roman rule since 116. Local language Aramaic, became Syriac
  - Early local kings converted to Judaism. A Christian council held at Edessa as early as 197. Christianity official religion in the city in 206 (Over 100 years before the Edict of Milan 313)
  - It became center of Eastern Christianity (Syriac, Persian, and Nestorian) and this suggests a continuing Jewish influence
  - Many martyrs by **Diocletian** and instigator **Galerius** 302-313
  - Edessa evangelized eastern Mesopotamia and Persia.
  - The **Syriac translation** of the OT, compiled 172 was in common use until Bishop of Edessa (412–435) forbade it
  - A long-lost cloth (folded?) found concealed above a city gate with a facial image of Jesus, likely during a 544 Persian attack
  - The city fell to Muslims in 638 ... and no more data until 1083

# Early Church Fathers



Charts of the Western Church ©1999, Susan Peterson

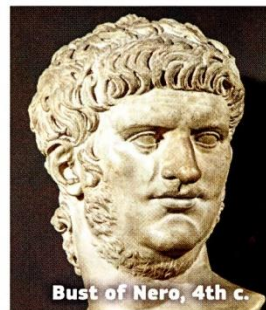


Agape meal, 4th c.

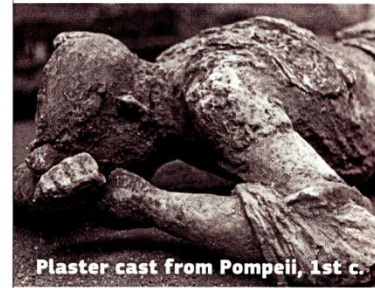
- c. 800 BC Carthage is founded.
- 753 BC Rome is founded.
- c. 657 BC Greeks settle Byzantium.
- 332–331 BC Alexandria is founded.
- 300 BC Antioch is founded.
- 27 BC–AD 14 Augustus Caesar rules as Roman emperor.
- 14–37 Tiberius rules as emperor.
- c. 33 First deacons are appointed in the church.
- **C. 40** The word *Christians* is first used to describe believers in Antioch.
- 43 Rome invades Britain; London is founded.
- 47 Paul undertakes his first missionary journey.
- c. 48 Jerusalem Council meets.
- c. 50–95 Books of New Testament are written.
- 54–68 Nero rules as emperor.
- 64 Fire ravages Rome; Nero launches four-year persecution.
- 70 Romans capture Jerusalem and destroy the Temple.
- 79 Mt. Vesuvius destroys Pompeii.
- c. 100 The *Didache*, earliest church service book, comes into use.
- 106 Rome conquers Dacia (Romania); empire reaches greatest size (see map, p. 39).

**118** Population of Rome exceeds 600,000.

- c. 112 Pliny consults Emperor Trajan on how to deal with those accused as Christians.
- 140 Justin founds school of Christian philosophy at Rome.
- 161–180 Marcus Aurelius rules as emperor.
- 165 Fifteen-year plague breaks out.
- c. 170 Celsus writes the first full book opposing Christianity.
- c. 180 Irenaeus of Lyons begins preaching to Celts in Gaul.
- 197 Tertullian begins writing apologetics in Carthage.
- c. 200 First mention of Christians is made in Britain.
- 203 Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas occurs in Carthage.
- 212 Roman citizenship is extended to every freeborn person.
- c. 215 Hippolytus of Rome compiles the *Apostolic Tradition*, an influential set of guidelines for church practice.
- c. 232 The earliest house church we have archaeological evidence for begins meeting in Dura Europos.
- 248 Cyprian is appointed bishop of Carthage.
- 249–51 Decius rules as emperor and begins the first general persecution of Christians. Church leaders are arrested and martyred; many Christians deny the faith.
- 250 Christians represent about two percent of the Roman Empire's population.
- 252 Plague of Cyprian breaks out.
- 255–256 African bishops insist on rebaptism of heretics and schismatics; Rome disagrees.
- 268 Goths sack Athens, Corinth, and Sparta.
- 270 Monasticism begins to spread in Egypt and Syria.
- 284–305 Diocletian rules as emperor.
- 285 The Roman Empire is divided into east and west.
- 293–303 Diocletian creates administrative tetrarchy; reforms army, currency, and taxation; establishes price controls.
- 298–302 Christians in the army are forced to resign.
- 303–304 Diocletian implements Great Persecution. Edicts call for church buildings to be destroyed, sacred writings to be burned, Christians to lose civil rights, clergy to be imprisoned, and all people to sacrifice to pagan gods on pain of death.



Bust of Nero, 4th c.



Plaster cast from Pompeii, 1st c.

# Early Church Fathers

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Issue 124 p.22

# Early Church Fathers

Issue 72: How We Got Our History (Edited) © 2001, Christian History magazine

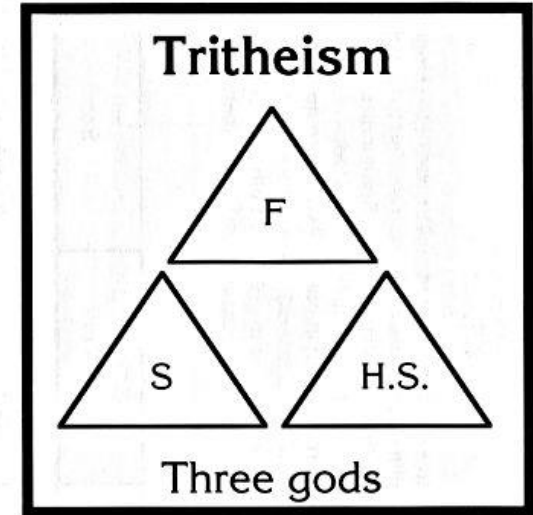
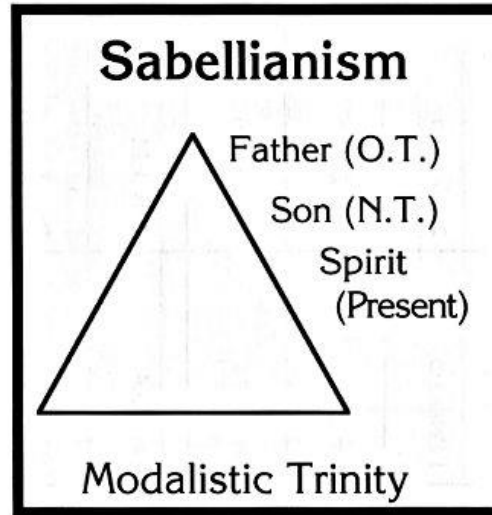
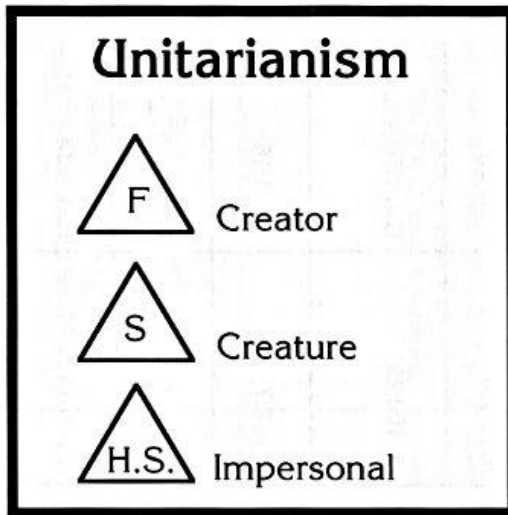
- The Problem of Eusebius – By Everett Ferguson
  - Robert Grant: "*Did Father of **Church History** write history?*"
  - Jewish historian Mendels suggests since Eusebius wove short stories into history, that he was a "*father of journalistic genre*"
  - One said he was "*a mediator of knowledge*" ... or of propaganda
  - His foundational work stands despite noticeable cracks
- Ground zero
- [www.christianhistoryproject.org/to-the-constantine-era/diocletian](http://www.christianhistoryproject.org/to-the-constantine-era/diocletian)
  - He was key player at transition from "Great Persecution" under **Diocletian/Galerius** (303-313), to conversion of **Constantine** (312), and **Council of Nicea** (325). Eusebius as eyewitness:
    - "*We saw with our own eyes the houses of prayer thrown down to the very foundations, and the sacred Scriptures committed to the flames in the market-places, the shepherds of the church basely hidden, some captured ignominiously, and mocked by their enemies*"

# Constantinople and Rome

- **Athanasius** of Alexandria 296-373 vs **Arius** 256-336
  - Not a slam dunk debate: Nature of Jesus and the Trinity
- Excerpt from Athanasius' first letter to Serapion
  - "It will not be out of place to consider the ancient tradition, teaching and faith, ... and if anyone were to lapse from it, he would no longer be a Christian either in fact or in name.
  - We acknowledge the **Trinity**, ...to consist of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. ...There is no intrusion of any alien element ..., nor ... a blend of creative and created being. It is a wholly creative and energizing reality, self-consistent and undivided in its active power, for the Father makes all things through the Word [Jesus] and in the Holy Spirit, and ... the unity of the holy Trinity is preserved. Accordingly, ... [from Ephesians 4:6 -hb] one God who is above all things and through all things and in all things...



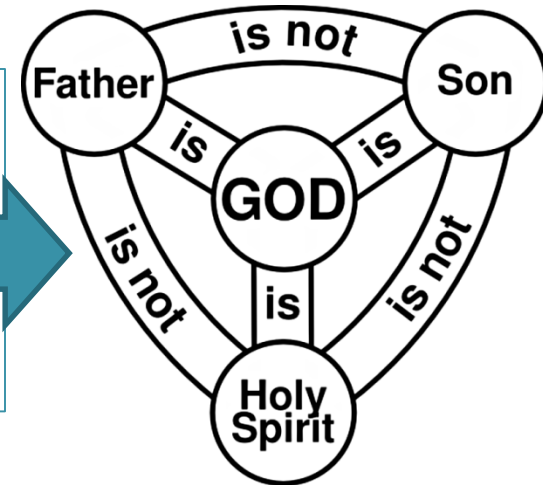
# Constantinople and Rome



Three False Views of Trinity ©1990, David Miller

[Influenced by Athanasius but not by him.]

“Classical Trinity diagram used since 1200s. I created it after not finding a crisp version English. Submitted for your use.” – 2011, Rex Mendicorum (ndp)



# Constantinople and Rome

- Constantine calls for a Council in Nicea
  - Civil society has one Emperor, one government, one religion
  - Convert to Christianity (in name at least) or lose government job
  - Debates bring disunity, so Constantine calls council to resolve
- Organizing for unified doctrine (orthodoxy)
  - Orthodox = “aligned glory” – Aligned with whom or what?
  - Calling out heretics (One’s heresy is another’s orthodoxy)
  - Establishing basic doctrines which defined orthodox faith
  - Apostles Creed – Not written by them but Baptismal affirmation
  - **Nicea Council** 325 - Jesus pre-existed, not created
  - Constantinople 381 – Holy Spirit, Resurrection of dead
  - **Chalcedon** 451 – Jesus both God and Man at same time

# Constantinople and Rome

- Those who gave in under Diocletian 303-305
  - The persecuted surrendered hand-written Bibles to be burned
  - They denied Jesus under duress and turned in friends
  - **Donatists** did not want these traitors re-admitted to the church
  - Only people baptized or ordained by a Donatist were thus valid
  - Donatists suppressed only after the Islamic storm across Africa
- Augustine 354-430 vs Pelagius 360-418
  - Bishop **Ambrose** of Milan
    - Mentored Augustine and immersed him in winter melt water
  - Bishop **Augustine** of Hippo
    - Heretic to adult believer to unwilling bishop to vital theologian
    - Writes “Confessions” of his youth and conversion – 397 to 400
    - First western auto-biography – 13 scrolls – Pears?!
  - **Pelagius** – Man can obey God without grace offered first

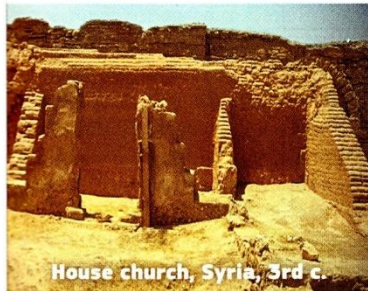
- c. 305 Council of Elvira in Spain sets rules for Christian behavior.
- 306–337 Constantine I, “The Great,” rules as emperor.
- c. 310 Constantine gives the Lateran Palace to the bishop of Rome.
- c. 311 Eusebius of Pamphilius writes *Ecclesiastical History*.

— 312 Constantine converts to Christianity.

— **313** Edict of Milan provides official toleration for Christians, who are about 12 percent of the imperial population.

- c. 315 Eusebius is appointed bishop of Caesarea.
- c.318 Arianism gains popularity; Athanasius writes *On the Incarnation*.

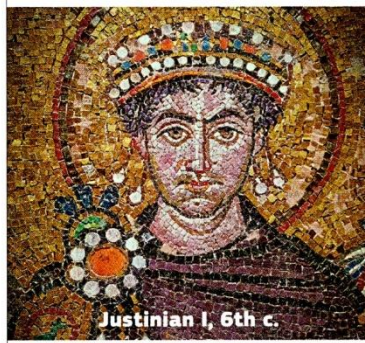
- c. 319 Constantine begins building St. Peter’s Basilica.
- 320 The 40 martyrs of Sebaste are killed.



House church, Syria, 3rd c.

- 324 Constantine defeats Licinius to become sole Roman emperor; chooses Constantinople (formerly Byzantium) as his new capital.

— 325 Council of Nicaea, called by Constantine, affirms the divinity of Christ; also sets norms for liturgical celebrations and the date of Easter.



Justinian I, 6th c.

- 328–361 Temporary triumph of Arianism; Nicene bishops are deposed and banished.
- 330 Constantinople is dedicated and made capital of Roman Empire.
- 331 Christians raze the famous temple of Asclepius and replace it with a Christian church.
- 336 First evidence exists (at Rome) of December 25 celebration of Christ’s birth.
- 337 Constantine is baptized shortly before death.
- c. 340 Roman legislation begins to favor Christianity.

— **c. 350** Frumentius converts the royalty of Axum, Ethiopia; Christians represent 56 percent of the empire’s population.

- 355 Marius Victorinus, one of Rome’s most famous rhetors, converts to Christianity.
- 360 First Hagia Sophia built in Constantinople; it burns down in 404.
- 372 Basil of Caesarea builds his famous hospital.
- 379–395 Theodosius I rules as emperor.
- c. 380s Egeria writes an influential account of worship in Jerusalem.

— **380** Theodosius I makes orthodox Christianity the official religion of the empire.

- 381 Council of Constantinople affirms Nicene orthodoxy.
- 391 Pagan temple to Serapus in Alexandria is destroyed.
- 393 Theodosius I bans all pagan festivals including the Olympics.
- 410 Visigoths sack Rome.
- 415 Theodosius II has a new Hagia Sophia built.

— 426 Augustine completes *City of God*.

— 431 Council of Ephesus condemns Pelagianism.

- 438 Theodosius II issues laws allowing only Christians into the military.
- 451 Council of Chalcedon proclaims that Christ has two natures.
- 467 Western Roman Empire falls.
- 527–565 Justinian I, “The Great,” rules in the east.
- 529 Justinian begins issuing a famous code of laws.
- 532 Fire destroys Hagia Sophia.
- 537 Rebuilt Hagia Sophia is consecrated.
- 698 Muslim Umayyad Caliphate destroys Carthage.



Two Egyptian Church History to 1500s

# Constantinople and Rome

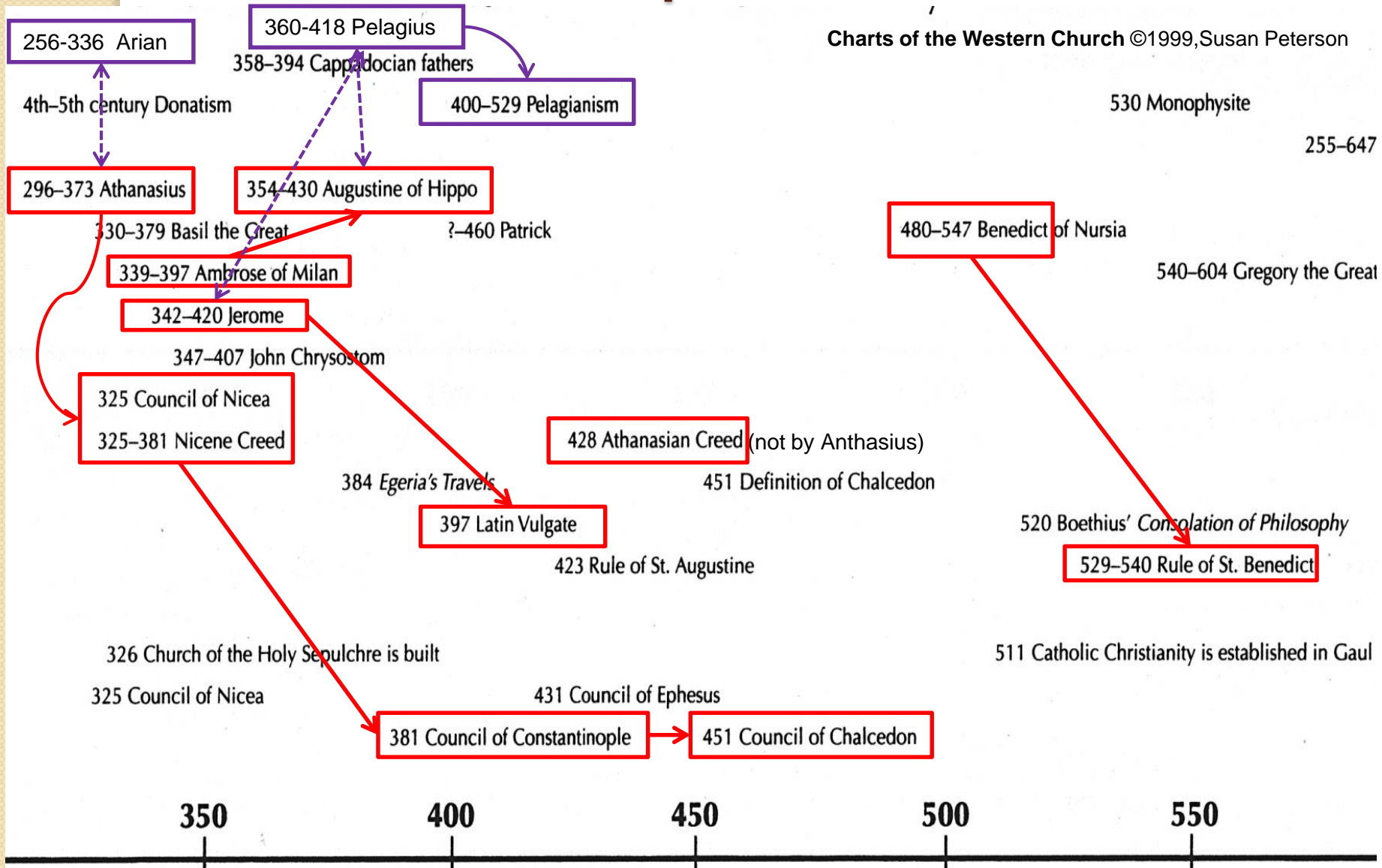
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Issue 124 p.23

# Constantinople and Rome

- Rome sacked
  - **Visigoth** King Alaric sacks Rome 410
  - Augustine writes “The City of God” to take believer’s focus off the physically ruined temporal city of Rome - 426
  - **Vandals** who were truly vandals –Rome sacked again 455
- Egyptian Hermits and Coptics
  - **Antony of Egypt** 251-356 – Isolationist; first Pre-Monastery
  - **Coptics** broke with Chalcedon 451 over **Miaphysitism** = Jesus’ divine and human nature united in compound nature, united without separation, mixture, confusion, or alteration.
  - Their argument hinged on the term: “nature”. Most of rest of the church considered **miaphysitism** amenable to orthodox.

# Constantinople and Rome

Charts of the Western Church ©1999, Susan Peterson



# Constantinople and Rome



Here Lies St. Jerome, Elder and Doctor of the Church  
Inside his plain-hewn cave-home, Bethlehem, Israel - 11/2017

# Islamic Forces

- Loss of Jerusalem
  - Muslim forces conquer Jerusalem 636-637 and Edessa 638
  - Dome of the Rock built upon Jewish Temple site 688-691
- Muslim cavalry/army wipe Christianity off North Africa
  - Loss of Alexandria and burns the Great Library - 642
  - Loss of portions of Lybia – 643
  - Loss of Egypt – 647
  - Loss of Tunisia (after many attempts) – 670 to 698
  - Loss of Algeria – 680's
  - Loss of Carthage – 698 (ending Christian rule of North Africa)
  - Loss of Morocco (after two attempts) – 710
  - Loss of Spain - 715
  - Isolation of Coptics in south, cut off from rest of Christians



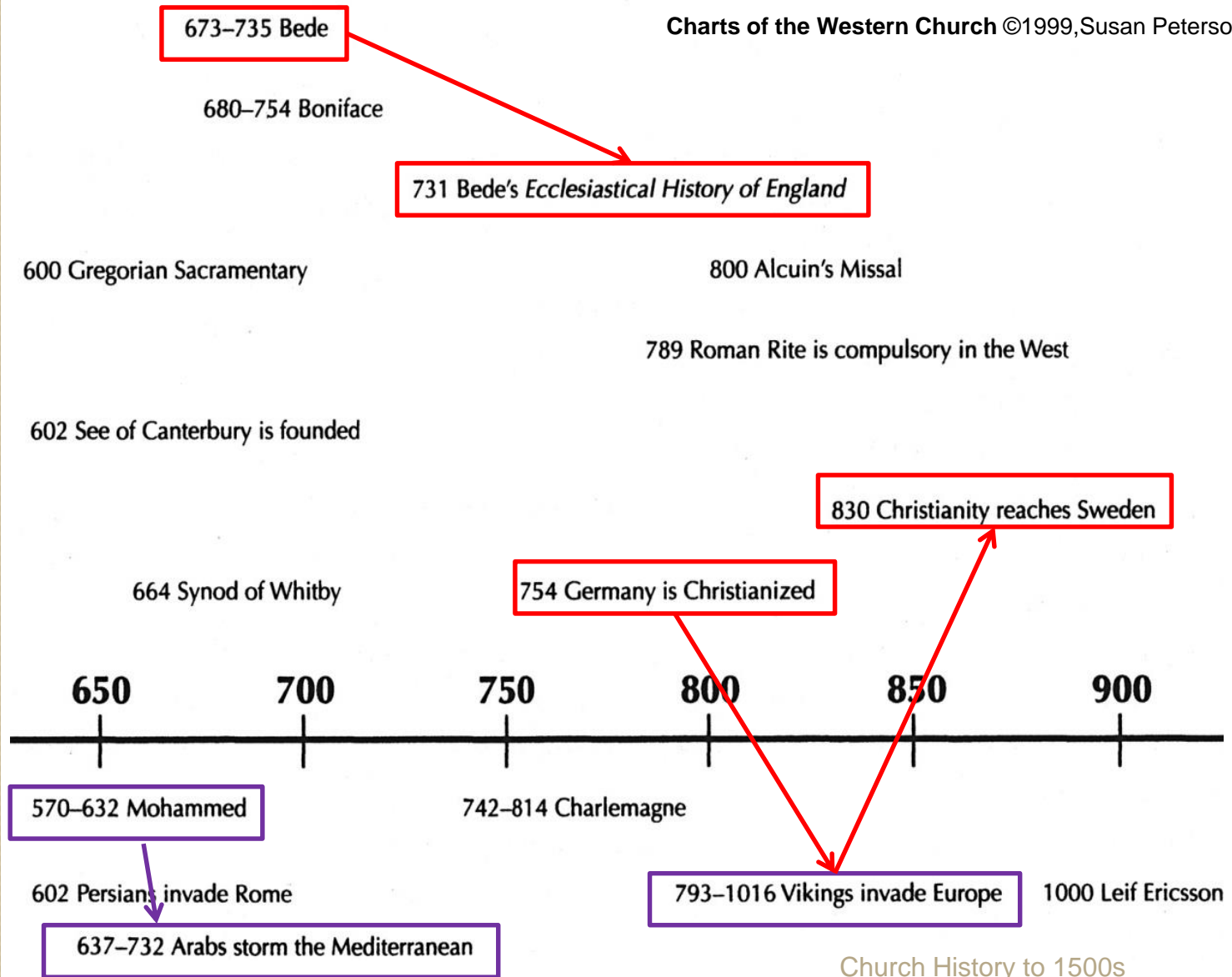
# Islamic Forces



Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount, Jerusalem  
Possibly where Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac – 11/2017

# Islamic Forces

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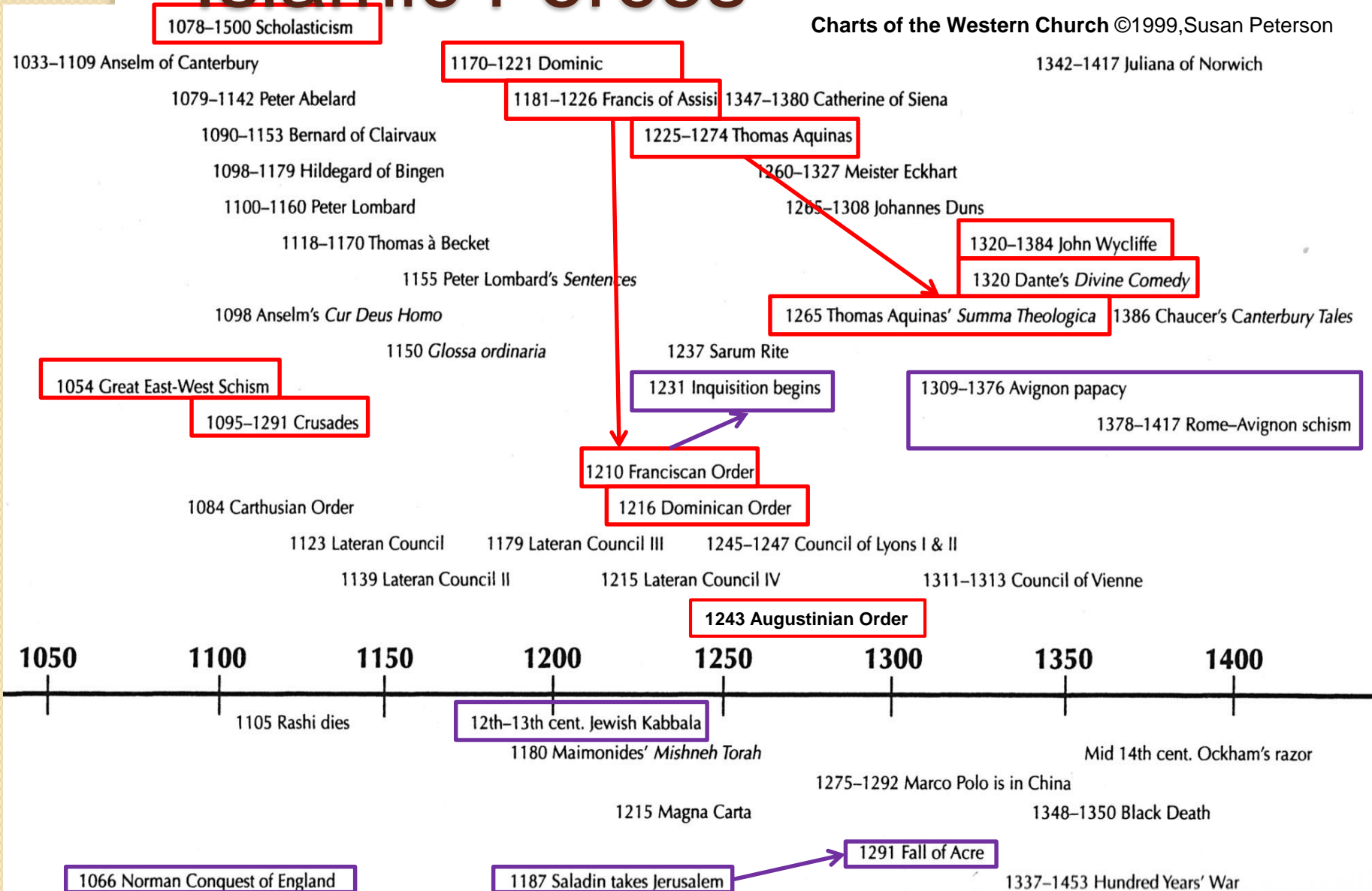


# Islamic Forces

- Not everything was bleak and devastation
- Greek speaking missions to Slavs and Russia
  - Two missionaries create written Slavic (Cyrillic) alphabet (based on Greek letters) - **Cyril and Methodius** (826–869, 815–885).
    - Translated Bible to Old Slavonic (used by Russian Orthodox)
  - **988** Conversion of the Prince of Russ [Russia Christianized]
- Break between Eastern Orthodox and Western Church
  - Greek speakers and Latin speakers part ways **1054**
  - Since neither submit to the other, excommunicate each other
  - “*The two churches slid into and out of schism over centuries, punctuated with temporary reconciliations*” - Wikipedia

# Islamic Forces

Charts of the Western Church ©1999, Susan Peterson



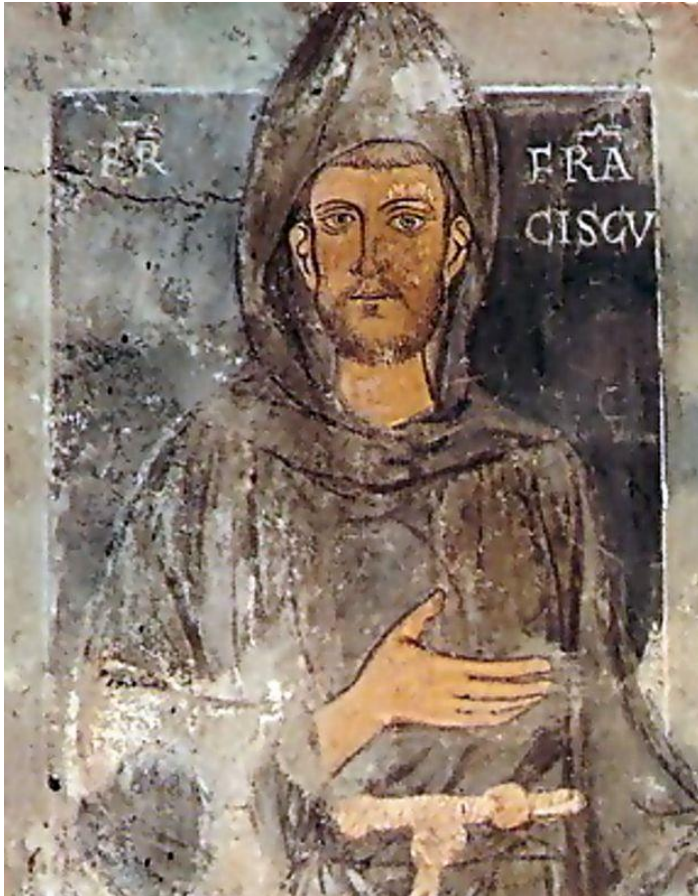
# Islamic Forces

- Loss of Constantinople
  - The Black Death - 541
  - Muslim armies attack that Eastern Roman capital
    - 674-678                      717-718                      858
  - Call for help yielded Fourth Crusade that attacked them! – 1204
    - Crusaders destroyed Imperial Library of Constantinople !!
  - Constantinople falls to Muslim sword and slavery – 1453
- Europe at Risk (How well do you speak Arabic?)
  - Muslim armies attack and claim parts of France – 721-732
  - Danes wipe out Anglo Christians in England – 787
  - Vikings start selling slaves (Slavic peoples) to Muslims – 801
  - Muslim army control the Alps between Italy and France – 911
  - Muslim army besieges Vienna – 9/11/1683 [outside timeline]

# Middle or Muddle Ages

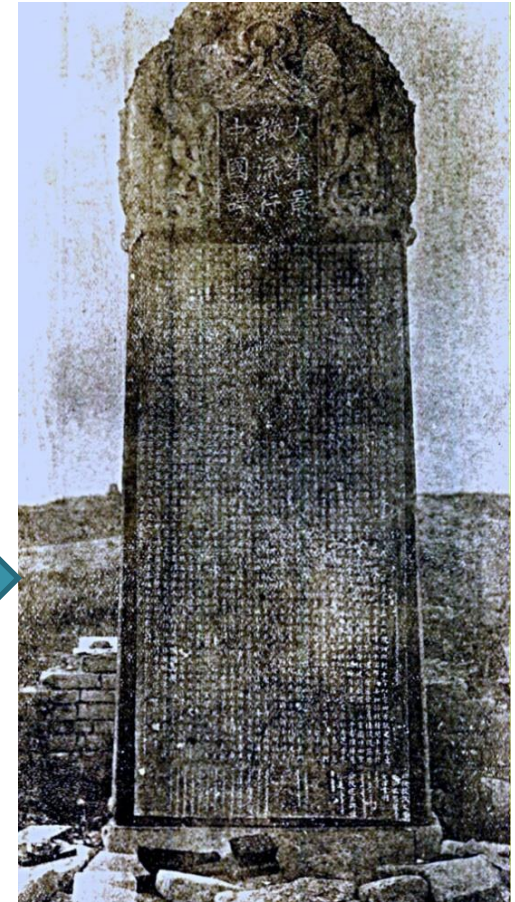
- Islam at the gates of Europe since 715AD
  - Crusades for God, gold, and gain, Jerusalem, and revenge
  - Crusades **only** after **four centuries** of relentless Islamic efforts and successful conquering North Africa and all of Southern Europe
- Papal Corruption (Sex, Money, and Politics)
- Reformers via early Monastic orders
  - Spain: **Dominic** 1170-1221 – Lay Preachers - Promoted Rosary
  - Italy: **Francis** of Assisi 1182-1226 – Lay Preachers – Engage World
  - Augustinian 1243 – **Hermits** seek unity as a new Order
- The Inquisition(s)
  - 1184-1230 **Regional** Inquisition – France/Italy Haphazard mobs
  - 1231 **Papal** Inquisition – Systematic with detailed records
  - Enlisted Monks as Inquisitors who sought to end moral corruption
  - 1478-1834 **Spanish** Inquisition – Jewish/Protestant eradication

# Middle or Muddle Ages



Oldest portrait dated from **St. Francis'** retreat to Subiaco (1223–1224) - Wikipedia

... but **earlier** in China →



**Nestorian Stele** in **China**, photo by Rev. Lack about 1907 © Australian Museum

# Middle or Muddle Ages

- Faith Ebbs and Tides in **China**
  - 635 Tang Dynasty - Persian Church of East influenced Mongols
    - Persian Bishop Alopen wrote first book about Jesus in Chinese, to show that Christianity was not subversive to China
    - 781 **Nestorian Stele** documents 150 years of faith in Chinese and Syriac. Buried in 845 persecution; rediscovered 1625.
  - **845 Violent ban of Buddha, Christ, Zoroaster: 420-year absence**
  - 986 Monk sent to China by Nestorian Patriarch, "*Christianity extinct in China; native Christians perished; church destroyed*"
  - 1271-1368 Mongols (Yuan dynasty). Nestorians reintroduced.
  - In 1271, **Kublai Khan** implored Pope Gregory for 100 teachers of science and religion. Nestorians within Mongol court objected.
  - Pope Gregory **ignored** request. No action until Pope Nicolas.
  - 1289-1368 Franciscans work in parallel with Nestorian Church
  - **1368 Ming dynasty ejects all foreign influences: 210-year absence**
  - 1582-1812 Jesuit missionaries start over [outside our timeline]



# Reformation (Sort of)

1489–1556 Thomas Cranmer

1469–1536 Erasmus

1491–1556 Ignatius Loyola

1243 Augustinian Order

1483–1546 Martin Luther

1484–1531 Ulrich Zwingli

1509–1564 John Calvin

1513–1572 John Knox

1517 Luther's "Ninety-five Theses"

1516 Erasmus' Greek New Testament

1478–1834 Spanish Inquisition

1519 Zurich Reformation begins

1520 Anabaptist movement begins

1534 Jesuit Society is founded

1534 English Act of Supremacy

1541 Calvin establishes Geneva theocracy

1434 Moveable Type

## Reformation Era

Charts of the Western Church ©1999, Susan Peterson

1450

1500

1550

1600

1475–1564 Michelangelo

Church History to 1500s

# Reformation (Sort of)

- Germany:
  - **Martin Luther** 1483-1546 – Greek/Hebrew to German Bible
    - Worried Monk to Professor to Translator to Anti-Semite
- Switzerland (Later to Lowland Countries):
  - **Ulrich Zwingli** 1484-1531 (Zurich → Reform)
  - **Anabaptists** (Split from Zwingli → Mennonites and Amish)
    - Split off because Reform churches forbade spiritual gifts
    - 1525 – Against infant baptism, re-baptized adults, Theocracy
- France/Switzerland:
  - Not Papal Catholic in France? Not a safe idea.
  - **John Calvin** 1509-1564 (Geneva → Reform)
    - Systematic Theology afresh – **Institutes of Christian Faith**
    - How about a Protestant Pope? Theocracy in Geneva
  - **Huguenots** 2 Million (10% of France) in 1562 - 1685

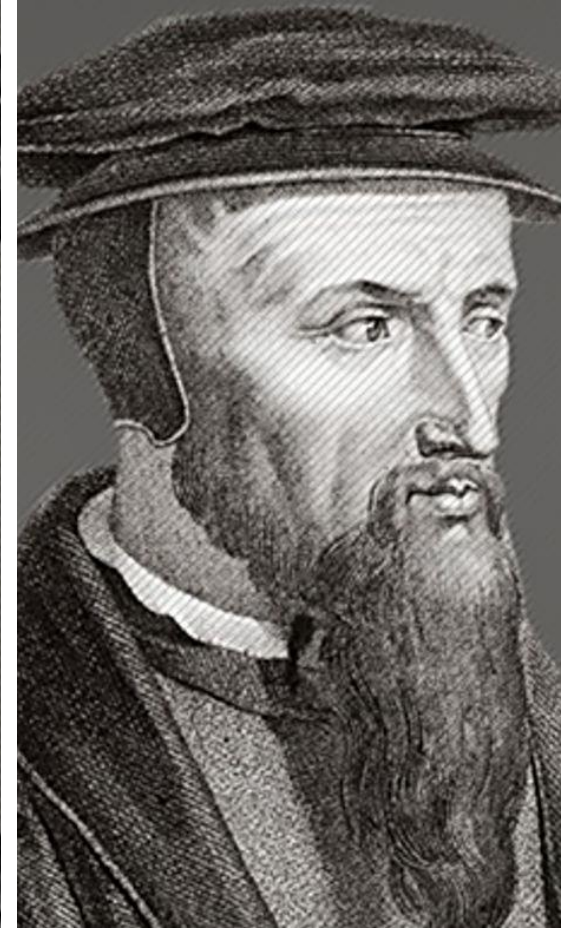
# Reformation (Sort of)



Martin Luther



Ulrich Zwingli

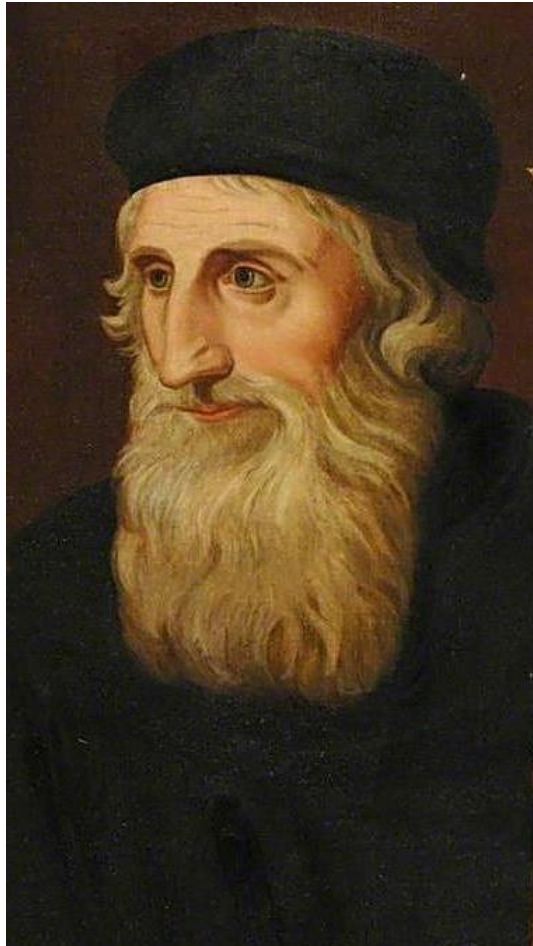


John Calvin

# Reformation (Sort of)

- England/Scotland:
  - Bible in English? Terrible! [\[\[18min video: Written in Flames\]\]](#)
    - **John Wycliffe** 1320-1384 – Latin **Vulgate** to Old English
    - Lollards (lay-preachers). Execute them all !
    - **William Tyndale** 1494-1536 – **Erasmus** Greek to English
    - Bibles in flour. Bishop of London buys/burns all Bibles
  - Henry VIII – ruled 1509-1547 – Protestant in 1533
    - No divorce? No problem. Create a church you can control
  - **John Knox** 1513-1572
    - Austere Presbyterian Independence (Calvinism in Scotland)
- Spain, France, and Italy
  - **Council of Trent** 1545-1563 – Protestants = Heretics
  - Counter-Reformation – Affirm indulgences, relics, Virgin Mary

# Reformation (Sort of)



John Wycliffe



William Tyndale



John Knox

# Reformation (Sort of)

- Militarizing the faith: Violent wars between factions
  - 100 Years War – 1337-1453 for throne of France. The kings of England had been French. Not a religious war but set the stage for Catholic France versus future Protestant England
  - **30 Years War** – 1618-1648 – Four wars fought in Central Europe. One of most destructive conflicts in history, eight million fatalities disproportionately from Holy Roman Empire
    - Lutheran or Catholic OK .. but Calvinists not acceptable
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B18zwAVO4q0>
      - (16min, lots of YouTube videos about 30 Years War)
    - After **inconclusive** war, Calvinism becomes acceptable
    - Last European religious war ... ends Reformation violence
    - Voltaire: “**HRE** was not **H**oly, not **R**oman, and not an **E**mpire”
    - Rise of Nation States - and Freedom of Religion (somewhat)

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