

AN INTRODUCTION TO
CHURCH HISTORY

By Dean E. Good
Spring 2013

INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH HISTORY

Table of Contents

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS ON CHURCH HISTORY	3
INTRODUCTION	4
I. APOSTOLIC ERA (A.D. 33-98)	10
This was the age of the Apostles, which saw the founding of the church at Jerusalem, the rapid growth of the church, the inclusion of Gentiles, the spread of the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire, and the completion of the New Testament.	
II. EARLY CHURCH (98-313)	11
The church of this age was persecuted by the Roman state, resulting in many martyrs, as well as the rise of apologists who defended the faith. This age also faced the problem of Gnosticism and increased heresy within. Tendencies that would eventually result in the Roman Catholic system were abundantly evident.	
III. IMPERIAL CHURCH (313-590)	14
This period witnessed the rise of the state church and the development of the infant Roman Catholic Church. It also was the era in which some of the most important theological controversies in church history took place and included the greatest of the church fathers.	
IV. MEDIEVAL CHURCH (590-1517)	16
This period marks the complete consolidation of the power and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. The Church ruled society at every level and demanded complete conformity. The Church was supreme over religion, politics, economics and education. It was also full of corruption.	
V. REFORMATION (1517-1648)	19
This period marks the end of the monopoly of the Roman Catholic Church over European civilization. Through the rediscovery of the doctrine of justification by faith and the preaching of the Word, the Protestant Reformation emerged. This period is filled with much controversy, change, and conflict - political, economic, social, and theological.	
VI. MODERN ERA (1648-present)	24
The Modern Era is a period of revivals and world missions as well as the increase in heresy and cults. The end of this period has been characterized by ecumenism and experientialism.	

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS ON CHURCH HISTORY

A. GENERAL WORKS ON CHURCH HISTORY

- *Broadbent, E.H. *The Pilgrim Church*. Port Colborne, ON: Gospel Folio Press, 2009.
- Cairns, Earle E. *Christianity Through the Centuries*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1967.
- Curtis, A. K., et. al. *The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1991.
- Dowley, Tim, editor. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.
- *Foxe, John. *Fox's Book of Martyrs*. Ed. by William Forbush. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1967.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*, 2 vols. Harper San Francisco, 1984.
- *Kuiper, B.K. *The Church in History*. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing, Co., 1964.
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*, 2 vols. Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 1997.
- Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*, 8 vols. 1858-1892. Reprint, Peabody MA: Hendrickson Pub., 2002.
- Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language*, 3rd edition. Thomas Nelson, 2008.

B. WORKS ON SPECIFIC PERIODS OF CHURCH HISTORY

- Beale, David O. *In Pursuit of Purity: American Fundamentalism Since 1850*. Greenville, SC: Unusual Pub., 1986.
- Catherwood, Christopher. *Five Leading Reformers*. Christian Focus, 2000.
- *Estep, William R. *Renaissance and Reformation*. Grand Rapids: William Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986.
- _____. *The Anabaptist Story*. Grand Rapids: William Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1975.
- d'Aubigne, J.H. Merle. *The Reformation in England*, 2 vols. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1963.
- Hatch, Nathan O. *The Democratization of American Christianity*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Lloyd-Jones, D.M. *The Puritans: Their Origins and Successors*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1987.
- Marsden, George M. *Reforming Fundamentalism*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987.
- Murray, Iain H. *Revival and Revivalism: The Making and Marring of American Evangelicalism, 1750-1858*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1994.

Ryle, J.C. *Light From Old Times*. 1890. Reprint, Moscow, Idaho: Charles Nolan Publishers, 2000.

Smith, Preserved. *The Age of the Reformation*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1920.

Verduin, Leonard. *The Reformers and Their Stepchildren*. Sarasota, FL: The Christian Hymnary Publishers, 1964.

C. BIOGRAPHIES

Aitken, Jonathan. *John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace*. Crossway Books, 2007.

*Bainton, Roland H. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1977.

Bonar, Andrew, ed. *Memoirs of McChesney*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1951.

Carey, S. Pearce. *William Carey*. 1923. Reprint, London: The Wakeman Trust, 1993.

Dallimore, Arnold. *George Whitefield*, 2 vols. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1980.

_____. *Spurgeon: A New Biography*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1985.

Mackenzie, Rob. *David Livingstone: The Truth Behind the Legend*. Christian Focus Publications, 1993.

Murray, Iain. *John MacArthur: Servant of the Word and Flock*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2011.

_____. *Jonathan Edwards: A New Biography*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1987.

_____. *The Forgotten Spurgeon*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1973.

INTRODUCTION

A. A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE CHURCH

1. The Foundation of the Church (Matthew 16:16-18)
2. The Beginning of the Church (Acts 1:12-15; 2:1 ff)
3. The Church in the World (John 17:15-18)
4. The Culmination of the Church (John 14:1-3)

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING CHURCH HISTORY

1. Appreciation for God's providence
2. Appreciation for the saints who have gone on before us
3. Perspective on the present state and direction of the church
4. Perspective on the future of the church
5. Perspective on the development of theology

C. ANTICIPATION OF CHURCH HISTORY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. New Testament Prophecies

- a. Promises (e.g. Matt. 16:18)
- b. Warnings (e.g. 2 Timothy 3:13)

2. New Testament Examples

- a. Faithful servants of Christ
- b. Problems in the churches (moral, doctrinal, relational)
- c. Problem individuals (seeking power, profit, pleasure)

3. Summary of Expectations

- a. The church will grow and spread
- b. The church will suffer, but will endure to the end
- c. There will be false brethren and false doctrines
- d. The true church will be a minority group within the professing church

D. A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE ON CHURCH HISTORY

1. A Theological Perspective

- a. God's sovereign direction of church history
- b. The role of the Holy Spirit in the growth and preservation of the true church
- c. The imperfection of the best of God's servants

2. A Martial Perspective

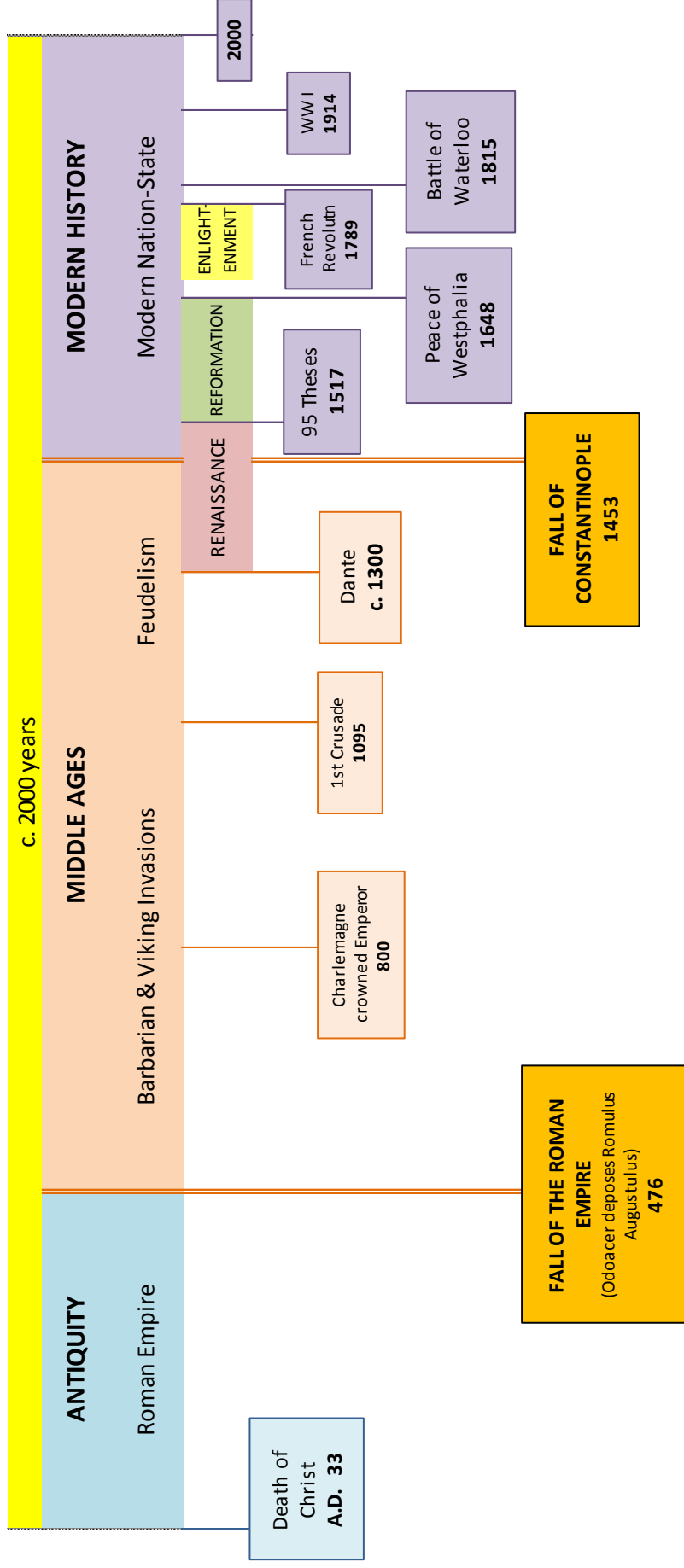
- a. The opposition of Satan and the world (Psalm 2:1-3; 1 Peter 5:8)
- b. The true church versus the professing (apostate) church (Matt. 13:24-43)

3. A Historical & Geographical Perspective

- a. Importance of understanding the broader historical context of church history
- b. Importance of understanding the geographical context of church history
- c. Observe the western movement of Christianity and its effect on Western Civilization

E. AN OUTLINE OF CHURCH HISTORY (see charts)

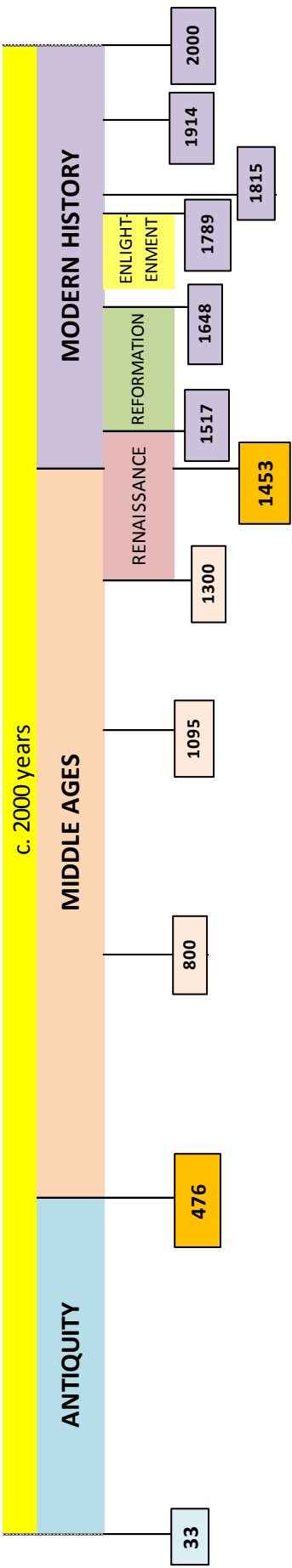
HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION SINCE CHRIST



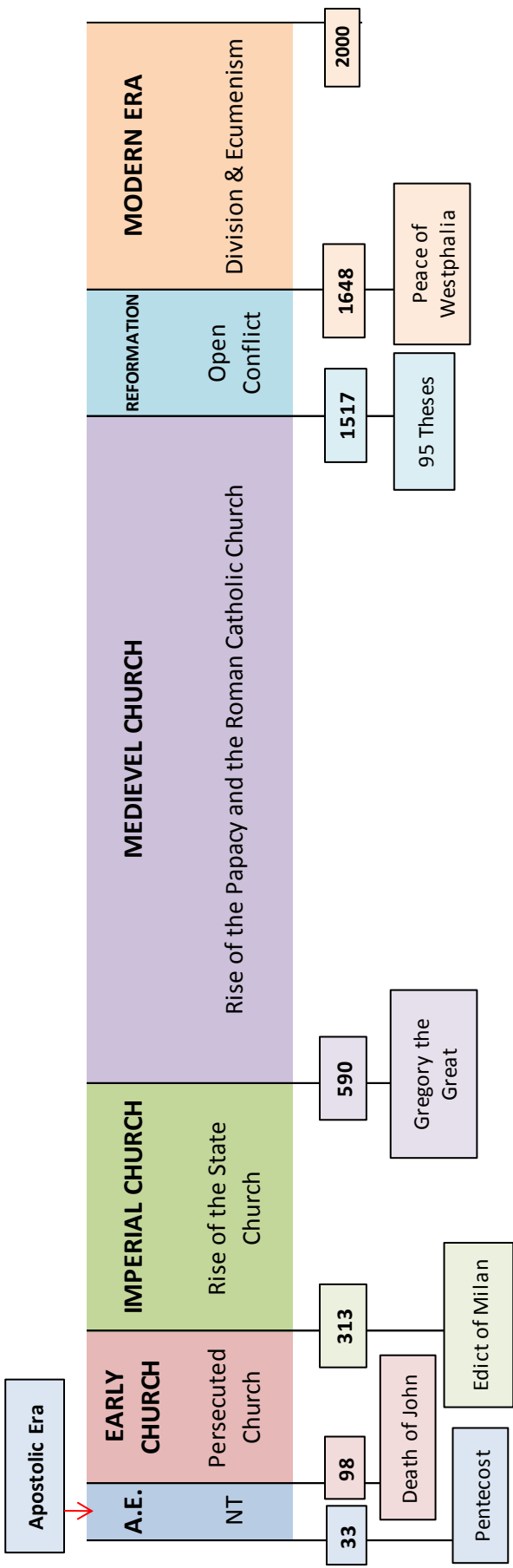
SIX KEY DATES IN CHURCH HISTORY

DATE	EVENT	INDIVIDUAL	SIGNIFICANCE
A.D. 33	Pentecost (Acts 2)	Peter the Apostle	The Holy Spirit descended on the disciples gathered in the upper room at Jerusalem, marking the beginning of the NT church
c. 98	Death of John the Apostle	John the Apostle	John died soon after writing his Gospel and the book of Revelation, marking the close of the canon and the end of the Apostolic era
313	Edict of Milan	Constantine I	Constantine the Great (272-337) issued an edict that brought toleration for Christians throughout the empire. This edict not only ended persecution, but was the first step toward making Christianity the official religion of the empire. This was accomplished in 381 by Theodosius I.
590	Gregory the Great becomes Pope	Gregory I	Gregory the Great (540-604) was the first Pope in the modern sense, assuming broad political powers. His papacy is often considered to mark the transition from ancient to medieval church history.
1517	95 Theses	Martin Luther	Martin Luther, an Augustinian Monk and professor at the University of Wittenberg, posted 95 Theses on the church door on October 31st. Written in Latin, they were protesting the abuse of indulgences and were posted for the purpose of scholarly debate at the university. Luther had no idea of the monumental outcome of this action. This was the beginning of the Reformation.
1648	Peace of Westphalia		The Peace of Westphalia ended the thirty years war (1618-1648). This very destructive war which raged over Germany was between the Roman Catholic states and the Protestant states. According to the treaty, each prince could determine the religion of his realm, whether Roman Catholic, Lutheran or Reformed.

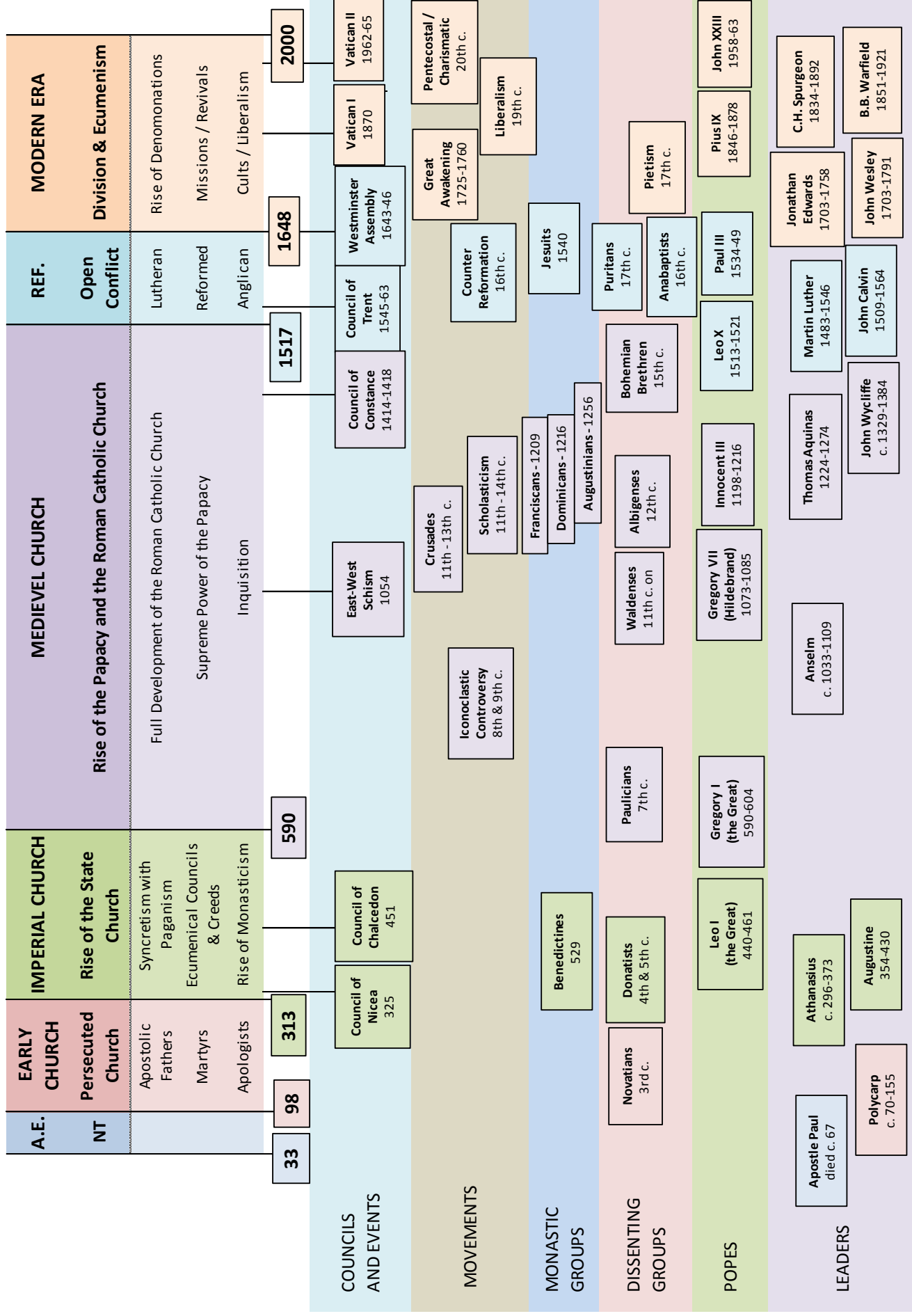
HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION SINCE CHRIST



OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH



HISTORY OF THE CHURCH



I. APOSTOLIC ERA (A.D. 33-98) – This was the age of the Apostles, which saw the founding of the church at Jerusalem, the rapid growth of the church, the inclusion of Gentiles, the spread of the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire, and the completion of the New Testament.

A. IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

33 – Pentecost (Acts 2) – The Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples at Jerusalem during the feast of Pentecost. This marks the beginning of the church.

c. 49 – Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15) – The Apostles met to decide what should be required of Gentiles who became members of the church.

c. 67 – Death of the Apostle Paul – Paul was martyred at Rome by order of Nero.

70 – Fall of Jerusalem – The Romans, under Titus, destroyed Jerusalem including the temple. This marks the end of the sacrificial system.

c. 98 – Death of the Apostle John – John was exiled by Domitian to the island of Patmos where he wrote the book of Revelation. After the death of Domitian (A.D. 96), he was allowed to return to Ephesus, where he remained until his death. As far as we know, John was the only Apostle to die a natural death.

B. SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

The Apostle Peter (died c. 64-67) – Prominent in the opening years of the church

The Apostle Paul (died c. 67) – The great missionary to the Gentiles

The Apostle John (died c. 98) – Apostle of love and truth; leader at Ephesus

C. DEVELOPMENTS & TRENDS

1. The rapid spread of the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire

2. Movement from a primarily Jewish church to a primarily Gentile church – The church at Pentecost was exclusively Jewish. Soon Samaritans were evangelized (Acts 8) and eventually, through Peter's preaching at the home of Cornelius, Gentiles were added (Acts 10). The first extensive evangelization of Gentiles took place at the church in Antioch (Acts 11:19-21). On the missionary journeys of Paul (beginning in Acts 13), he went to the Jewish synagogues first and then to the Gentiles. Eventually, the Gentile converts far outnumbered the Jewish converts.

3. The writing of the canon of Scripture – The New Testament was possibly complete by A.D. 68, with the exception of the writings of John, which were probably written in the last two decades of the first century.

II. EARLY CHURCH (98-313) – The church of this age was persecuted by the Roman state, resulting in many martyrs, as well as the rise of apologists who defended the faith. This age also faced the problem of Gnosticism and increased heresy within. Tendencies that would eventually result in the Roman Catholic system were abundantly evident.

A. IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

c. 150 – Justin Martyr wrote his *Apology* - Justin was one of the first of the apologists. In this work, which was addressed to the emperor Antoninus Pius, he defended the faith against misrepresentation and ridicule in terms that philosophers could relate to.

c. 156 – Martyrdom of Polycarp – Polycarp was the bishop of Smyrna and as a young man studied under the Apostle John. At his martyrdom he was 86 years old.

270 – Anthony begins his life as a hermit – At around the age of 20, this young man from Egypt sold his inheritance and lived a life of self-denial and seclusion, eating one meal a day of bread and water and sleeping on the bare ground. During one period of his life he did not see a human face for 20 years. Although he was not the first ascetic, Anthony marks the beginning of the monastic tradition.

303-311 – Persecution under the emperors Diocletian and Galerius – This persecution was the last under the Roman emperors, the most general, and perhaps the most violent.

312 - Conversion of Constantine – This ‘conversion’ took place before the battle of Milvian Bridge, when he saw a cross in the sky with the inscription: ‘In this sign conquer.’ Constantine would soon thereafter bring an end to official persecution.

B. SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

1. Apostolic Fathers – Leaders of the post-apostolic age who had contact with the Apostles

Clement of Rome (dates??)

Polycarp (c.70-c.156) – Bishop of Smyrna

Ignatius (died c. 108) – Bishop of Antioch

2. Apologists – Writers who attempted to defend the faith against the attacks of pagans

Justin Martyr (c. 100-165)

Tertullian (c.160-c.215)

3. Alexandrian Fathers – Mixed Christianity with Greek philosophy; allegorical interpretation

Clement of Alexandria (c.155-c.220)

Origen (c. 185-c.254) – Wrote *Hexapla*; *On First Principles*

4. Other Important Leaders

Irenaeus(c. 125-c.195) – Bishop of Lyons – wrote *Against Heresies*

Cyprian (c.200-258) – Bishop of Carthage

C. DEVELOPMENTS & TRENDS

1. Persecution – This era is sometimes referred to as the persecuted church. It is customary to speak of 10 great persecutions (Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, Septimius Severus, Maximinus, Decius, Valerian, Aurelian, and Diocletian).
2. Recognition of the Canon of Scripture – Culminated with the Council of Carthage (397)
3. Mixture of Biblical Truth and Greek Philosophy – The tendency to mix Platonic philosophy with Biblical doctrine was a temptation of many of the church Fathers and is perhaps most obvious among the Alexanderian Fathers. The most notable trait of Platonic philosophy was a dualism that understood all things physical to be evil. Creation, the humanity of Christ, the resurrection, the millennium, and the eternal state are all doctrines that are in tension with Platonic dualism.
4. Development of Sacramentalism (sacraments) – The tendency to pervert the ordinances of the church (baptism and communion) into sacramental means of receiving salvation began very early. The language of baptismal regeneration was used almost immediately after the Apostles. Tertullian and Cyprian were the first to suggest that satisfaction must be made for sins by self-imposed penitential exercises and good works – the starting point of the sacrament of penance. Cyprian promoted the idea that the communion was a sacrifice.
5. Development of Sacerdotalism (priesthood) – As sacramental ideas flourished, the need for a priesthood to administer the sacraments also developed. The separation of clergy and laity increased dramatically in this period.
6. Development of Episcopacy (hierarchy of bishops) – With the rise of sacramentalism and sacerdotalism came the idea that the church was the channel of divine grace. This led to an emphasis on the visible organization: one could not be saved apart from being rightly related to the visible church. This resulted in an emphasis on the external unity of the universal church and the consolidation of all authority in the office of bishop. Cyprian is the most important individual in this development in the early church.

Early Centers of Christianity

New Testament



BcResources.net © ncBc

EarlyCentersChristianity 9/9/2008

III. IMPERIAL CHURCH (313-590) - This period witnessed the rise of the state church and the development of the infant Roman Catholic Church. It also was the era in which some of the most important theological controversies in church history took place and included the greatest of the church fathers.

A. IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

313 – Edict of Milan – This edict of Constantine granted religious freedom within the Roman Empire, ending official persecution of Christians.

325 – Council of Nicea – This ecumenical council, called by Constantine, addressed the teaching of Arius and the question of the deity of Christ.

381 – Theodosius I outlaws heresy and paganism – By his edict, Theodosius made Christianity the state religion.

387 – Conversion of Augustine – He was converted at the age of 33 and became arguably the most important theologian in church history.

405 – Jerome completes the Vulgate – Jerome translated the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin. This eventually became the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.

451 – Council of Chalcedon – This ecumenical council dealt with the question of the Person of Christ and the hypostatic union, the relationship between his divine nature and his human nature.

529 – Benedict establishes his monastic order – Benedict gave monasticism a permanent place in Western Europe.

B. SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

Athanasius (c. 296-373) – Bishop of Alexandria, the champion of orthodoxy against Arianism

Augustine (354-430) – Bishop of Hippo, the most important theologian of the ancient church, wrote *Confessions* and *The City of God*

Jerome (c. 345-c.419) – Greatest scholar of the ancient church, translated the Scriptures into Latin (the Vulgate)

Chrysostom (c.344-407) – Bishop of Constantinople, most eloquent preacher of ancient church

Patrick (c.390-c.461) – Born in Roman Britain, he became a missionary to Ireland

Leo I (the Great) (c. 400-461) – Bishop of Rome from 440-461. His understanding regarding the doctrine of Christ was influential at the council of Chalcedon. Asserted the primacy of the Bishop of Rome.

C. DEVELOPMENTS & TRENDS

1. Rise of the State Church – When Christianity became the official state religion, church leadership became an avenue to power and influence, opening the door for corruption.
2. Amalgamation of Paganism and Christianity – Requiring all the pagans of the empire to join the church resulted in the corruption of its doctrines and practices. Pagan ideas, practices, heroes, and holidays were retained, renamed, and married to Christian ideas and practices. The result was the infant Roman Catholic Church which would come to full stature in the Middle Ages.
3. Unification of Dogma (ecumenical councils and creeds) – State religion required unity of dogma. This became the age of deep theological debate including the calling of ecumenical councils to resolve difficult and dividing issues, especially those relating to the Trinity and the Person of Christ. These councils resulted in written creeds that carefully defined these doctrines. They became official dogma of the state church.
4. Unification of Power (Rise of the Roman Bishop) – The Bishop of Rome gradually but steadily became the most influential bishop in the empire. With the coming of the state church, his eventual enthronement over the whole visible church, along with a highly structured hierarchy below him, was inevitable.
5. Rise of Monasticism – As worldly power and corruption increased in the church, many sought a refuge in the ascetic atmosphere of the monastery. The Benedictine order, founded in the 6th century, increased rapidly. The other prominent monastic orders, Dominicans, Franciscans and Augustinians, did not come into existence until the 13th century.
6. Increase in Dissenting Groups – As the church developed into a state church with a monolithic structure, and as corruption and worldliness increased among both clergy and laity, there arose many dissenting groups which left the church and suffered various degrees of persecution from the state church. Groups like the Donatists in North Africa and the Paulicians in Armenia were labeled heretics.

IV. MEDIEVAL CHURCH (590-1517) – This period marks the complete consolidation of the power and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. The Church ruled society at every level and demanded complete conformity. The Church was supreme over religion, politics, economics and education. It was also full of corruption.

A. IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

590 – Gregory the Great becomes Bishop of Rome – This marks the beginning of the papacy.

1054 - East-West Schism – This division resulted in the permanent separation of the Roman Catholic Church in the west with its pope in Rome, and the Eastern Orthodox Church in the East with its patriarch in Constantinople.

1076 – Hildebrand excommunicates Henry IV – The emperor of the Holy Roman Empire was excommunicated over the right of investiture (appointment of church bishops).

1095 – First Crusade – Urban II initiated the first crusade for the purpose of recovering the Holy Land from the Turks. A total of eight Crusades and a Children's Crusade were launched over the next 200 years.

1209 – King John of England excommunicated by Innocent III – Innocent III placed England under the interdict in 1208 when John refused to accept the pope's choice for archbishop of Canterbury. The following year John was excommunicated. In 1213 John submitted to the Pope and acknowledged himself a vassal of the pope.

1309-1376 – 'Babylonian Captivity' of the papacy – The papal seat was removed from Rome to Avignon in France. During this time the popes were under the domination of the French kings. It is called the Babylonian Captivity because it lasted seventy years.

1378-1417 – The Great Papal Schism – During this time there were two popes – one Italian and one French. In 1409 a council deposed them both and appointed a new pope, but the other two refused to step down, resulting in three popes. This lasted until 1417 when the Council of Constance elected Martin V. The other three stepped down.

c. 1380 – John Wycliffe translates the Bible into English – Providing Scripture in the language of the people was an important step in the eventual overthrow of the domination of the Roman Catholic Church in England.

1456 – Johann Gutenberg produces the first printed Bible – The invention of the printing press with moveable type was one of the most significant factors in preparing Europe for the Reformation. It allowed, not only for mass printing of the Bible, but also for the publish-

ing of polemical and theological literature that would rapidly disseminate the ideas of the Reformation across the continent.

1478 – Establishment of the Spanish Inquisition – The inquisition had existed in Europe since the 13th century, but in 1478 it was established in Spain at the request of Ferdinand and Isabella. The Spanish Inquisition was infamous for its thoroughness and cruelty. Lasting until the 19th century, it was the reason the Reformation never took hold in Spain.

B. SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

Gregory I (the Great) (540-604) – greatly increased the power of the papacy

Gregory VII (Hildebrand) (c. 1023-1085) – Pope from 1073-1085, he greatly augmented the power of the papacy over the temporal rulers of Europe

Innocent III (1160-1216) – Pope from 1198-1216, some consider his reign as the highwater mark of papal power in the Middle Ages

Peter Waldo (12th century) – Merchant from Lyons who was the leader (possibly the founder) of the Waldenses, a group who believed the New Testament was the only rule of faith

Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) – Founder of the Franciscan monastic order

Thomas Aquinas (1224-1274) – The most important theologian in the history of Roman Catholic Church, he wrote the *Summa Theologica*

John Wycliffe (c. 1329-1384) – The Morning Star of the Reformation. An Oxford scholar who believed the Bible was the only authoritative rule of faith, he denied transubstantiation, the papacy, and indulgences. He also translated the Bible into English. His followers were called Lollards.

John Hus (1373-1415) – Influenced by the writings of Wycliffe, he preached throughout Bohemia, gaining many followers. He was burned at the stake in 1415. After his death, his followers formed an organization called the *Unitas Fratrum* (Unity of the Brethren) which generally became known as the Bohemian Brethren.

C. DEVELOPMENTS & TRENDS

1. **Conflict with Islam** – During this period the Muslims overran the Levant, all of North Africa, and Spain. They were stopped by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours in 732. The Muslim conflict forms the backdrop for this whole era, including the Crusades.

2. Supremacy of the Pope in European Affairs – The pope became the most powerful man in Europe during the Middle Ages. Popes had standing armies, ruled territories and outmaneuvered the most powerful kings of Europe through the use of the interdict, excommunication, political intrigue, and money.
3. Full Development of Roman Catholic Dogma – The sacramental system, the confessional, purgatory and indulgences, worship of Mary and the rosary, praying to saints, the doctrine of transubstantiation and the mass, all came to their fullest expression and became virtually universal in practice during the Middle Ages.
4. Scholasticism – A logical system of theology and Aristotelian philosophy that was the work of the intellectuals of the Middle Ages, including Thomas Aquinas, Peter Lombard, William Ockham and Duns Scotus.
5. Persecution of Heretics – Through the Inquisition, the Roman Catholic Church sought to completely stamp out all dissent, most famously the Cathari or Albigenses in Southern France. Torture, the stake, and book burning were some of the methods used.
6. Immense Corruption throughout the Roman Catholic Church – Simony, political intrigue, sexual immorality, drunkenness, profligacy, corruption, and murder became common place within the church. Even the monasteries were full of corruption and vice.
7. Proliferation of Pre-Reformation, Dissenting Groups – In spite of severe persecution, by the time of the Reformation, there were many underground, dissenting groups who rejected the Roman Catholic Church, most notably the Bohemian Brethren and Lollards.

D. THE RISE OF THE PAPACY

Early 2nd c. - Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch (d. c. 108) – In his letters, it is clear that already the office of bishop had become distinct from that of elder within the local church. In essence the bishop became the ‘pope’ of the local church.

325 - Council of Nicea – By this time there was a definite hierarchy of bishops. Bishops from the major cities were most important (Rome, Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria)

440-461 - Leo I (the Great) – First bishop of Rome to claim primacy over the church based on Matthew 16 and first to assume the pagan title, *Pontifex Maximus*

590-604 – Gregory I (the Great) – First to take extensive temporal power, like raising armies, appointing heads of cities, and making peace treaties

800 – Leo III – First to crown an emperor – Charlemagne

1073-1085 – Gregory VII (Hildebrand) – First to excommunicate an emperor (Henry IV)

1198-1216 – Innocent III – High water mark of the papacy in the Middle Ages; excommunicated King John of England; took the title *Vicar of Christ*

1540 – Society of Jesus (Jesuits) – Officially recognized by Paul III; founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1534, they swore allegiance to the pope, greatly augmenting papal power

870 – Vatican I – This council declared the pope to be infallible when speaking *ex cathedra* regarding morals and doctrine

V. REFORMATION (1517-1648) – This period marks the end of the monopoly of the Roman Catholic Church over European civilization. Through the rediscovery of the doctrine of justification by faith and the preaching of the Word, the Protestant Reformation emerged. This period is filled with much controversy, change and conflict - political, economic, social, and theological.

A. IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

1517 – Martin Luther posts his ninety-five theses – He posted the theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg to protest the abuse of indulgences. Little did he suspect that this act would mark what is generally regarded as the most important turning point in the history of Western Civilization.

1519 – Ulrich Zwingli becomes pastor of the church in Zurich – While Luther was preaching the Gospel in Wittenberg, Ulrich Zwingli was preaching the Gospel in Zurich.

1521 – Diet of Worms – Where Luther stood his ground before the German princes.

1525 – Conrad Grebel baptizes George Blaurock – These students of Zwingli believed that he stopped short of the Biblical teaching in regard to believer's baptism. This first baptism marks the beginning of the Swiss Anabaptist movement. It cost them their lives.

1534 – Act of Supremacy – Henry VIII of England declared himself head of the church of England in order to secure a divorce. This marks the beginning of the Reformation in England.

1536 – John Calvin comes to Geneva – John Calvin would spend most of the rest of his life in this city, preaching, pastoring, and writing.

1540 – Society of Jesus established – Founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1534, the Jesuits were officially established by a papal bull in 1540. Part of the Counter Reformation, the Society of Jesus was responsible, in large part, for stemming the tide of the Reformation

in many regions of Europe, especially Southern Germany, Poland, and Hungary.

1545-63 – Council of Trent – This council, called by Pope Paul III, was also part of the Counter Reformation. It confirmed Catholic doctrine, responded to Protestant teaching, and instituted reforms within the church.

1559 – John Knox returns to Scotland – After sitting under the teaching of Calvin in Geneva, Knox returned to Scotland to lead the Reformation in that country.

1611 – Publication of the King James Bible in England – This Bible, translated by 54 scholars during the reign of James I, was the culmination of several other English translations, including the Tyndale Bible (1525), Geneva Bible (1560), and Bishop's Bible (1568).

1618-19 – Synod of Dort – This was the response of the Reformed Church to the Remonstrants of the Arminians. Out of this conflict came the five points of Calvin (TULIP).

1620 – Mayflower Compact – This governing document signed by the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth, became the foundation for Puritan New England.

1646 – Westminster Confession of Faith – This document is the most important statement of the Reformed Faith ever written. It was the work of an assembly of Puritan divines in the midst of the English Civil War.

B. SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

1. Reformers

Martin Luther (1483-1546) – Augustinian monk, who rediscovered the Biblical doctrine of justification by faith. He single-handedly took on the Roman Catholic Church, starting the Protestant Reformation.

Philip Melancthon (1497-1560) – Luther's associate at Wittenberg

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) – Led the Reformation in Switzerland

Johann Heinrich Bullinger (1504-1575) – Successor of Zwingli at Zurich

John Calvin (1509-1564) – French Reformer who pastored at Geneva, the most important theologian of the Reformation. He wrote *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*

Theodore Beza (1519-1605) – Successor of Calvin at Geneva

John Knox (c. 1514-1572) – Led the Reformation in Scotland

Martin Bucer (1491-1551) – Led the Reformation in Strasbourg

Oecolampadius (1482-1531) – Led the Reformation in Basel

Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) – Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote the *Book of Common Prayer* for the Anglican Church

William Tyndale (c. 1494-1536) – Translated the Scriptures into English

2. Anabaptists

Menno Simons (1496-1561) – Leader of the Dutch Anabaptists

Conrad Grebel (c. 1498-1526) – Founder of the Swiss Anabaptists

Michael Sattler (c. 1490-1527) – Wrote the Schleitheim Confession

3. Roman Catholics

Erasmus (c. 1466-1536) – Leading Christian humanist at the time of the Reformation

Leo X (1475-1521) – Pope from 1513-1521, during the early conflict with Luther

Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) – Founder of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus)

Charles V (1500-1558) – Holy Roman Emperor, earnestly opposed the Reformation

4. English Puritans

William Perkins (1558-1602) – Perhaps the most influential Puritan theologian

John Owen (1616-1683) – Important Puritan theologian

Richard Baxter (1615-1691) – Presbyterian, the most prolific writer of the Puritans

C. DEVELOPMENTS & TRENDS

1. Development and dissemination of Protestant principles

- a. Scripture is the only authoritative rule of faith and practice
- b. Justification by grace alone through faith alone
- c. Expository Preaching of the Word of God
- d. Priesthood of Believers
- e. The Five Solas of Protestant theology

sola Scriptura – *Scripture alone*

sola fide – *by faith alone*

sola gratia – *by grace alone*

solus Christus – *through Christ alone*

solus Deo gloria – *to God alone be glory*

2. Three main wings of the Magisterial Reformation

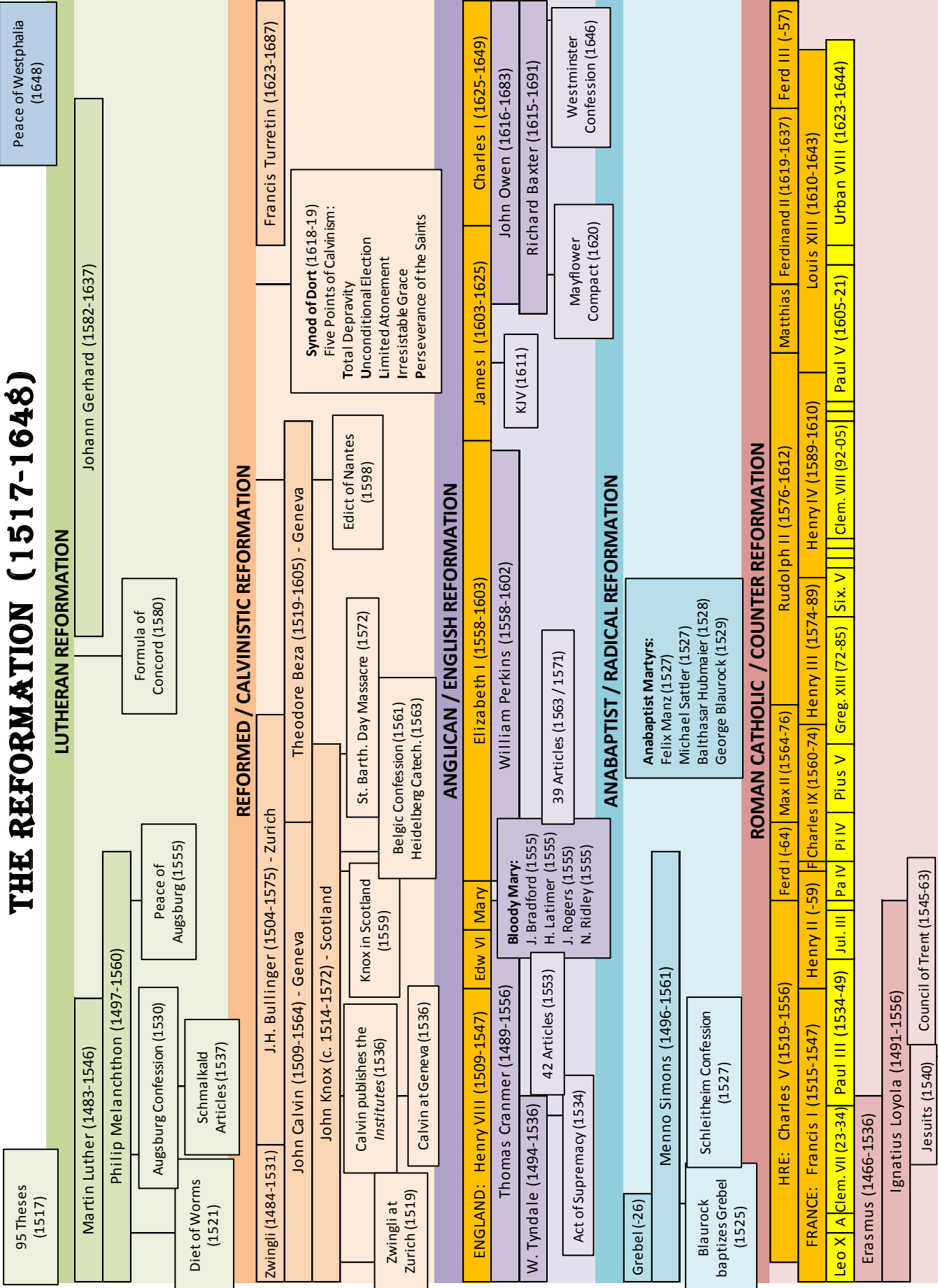
- a. **Lutheran** – followers of Luther – strong in Germany and Scandinavia
- b. **Reformed** – followers of Calvin – Switzerland, Netherlands, Scotland, and England
- c. **Anglican** – Church of England – conflict emerged between high church and Puritans

3. Development of the Counter Reformation – The Roman Catholic response to the

Reformation. It most importantly included the Council of Trent, the founding of the Jesuit order, and the Inquisition.

4. Radical Reformation – The Anabaptists were those who rejected the state church and infant baptism and promoted a voluntary, independent, and pure church. They were persecuted by all the other groups, but especially by the Roman Catholic Church.

THE REFORMATION (1517-1648)



THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE IN 1648

- Evolved out of the break up of Charlemagne's kingdom
- Founded in A.D. 962 (Otto I)
- Dissolved August 6, 1806 (Francis II) – during the Napoleonic era

The [Holy Roman Empire] was a mosaic of principalities, bishoprics and free cities, kept in balance by a constitution which reduced the (elected) emperor to the role of a president-mediator without royal power (The Harper Atlas of World History, p. 148).

*Since 1356 the selection of the emperor had rested in the hands of seven electors – three on the Elbe and four on the Rhine. On the Elbe were the **king of Bohemia**, the **Elector of Saxony**, and the **Elector of Brandenburg**; on the Rhine, the **Count Palatine of the Rhine** and the **Archbishops of Mainz, Trier, and Koln**. In addition to these rather large political entities extending from the western part of Hungary to the Lowlands, there were innumerable smaller states. Each prince was sovereign in his own realm (Estep, p. 100).*



VI. MODERN ERA (1648-present) – The Modern Era is a period of revivals and world missions as well as the increase in heresy and cults. The end of this period has been characterized by ecumenism and experientialism.

A. IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

1648 – Peace of Westphalia – Ended the Thirty Years War, marked the close of the Reformation

1678 – John Bunyan publishes *The Pilgrim's Progress* – Perhaps the greatest Christian work ever published in English, after the Bible

1725-1760 – First Great Awakening – Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield and John Wesley

1793 – William Carey sails for India – Beginning of the modern missions movement

1798-1832 – Second Great Awakening – Timothy Dwight, Asahel Nettleton, and Charles Finney

1855 – Conversion of Dwight L. Moody – One of the greatest evangelists in American history

1878 – First American Bible and Prophetic Conference – Held in New York City, it marked the beginning of the Bible Conference Movement in America

1906 – Azusa Street Revival Begins – Marks the start of the Pentecostal Movement

1910-1915 – Publication of *The Fundamentals* – Launches the Fundamentalist Movement

1947 – Founding of Fuller Theological Seminary – Rise of the Neo-Evangelical Movement

1960 – Start of the Charismatic Movement – Pentecostal doctrines invaded virtually every Protestant denomination as well as the Roman Catholic Church

1962-65 – The Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) – Ecumenical in outlook

B. SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

1. Preachers

John Wesley (1703-1791) – English preacher; founded the Methodist Church

George Whitefield (1714-1770) – English evangelist; part of the First Great Awakening

Charles G. Finney (1792-1875) – American preacher; part of the Second Great Awakening; introduced new evangelistic methods

Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892) – English Baptist pastor in London

Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899) – American evangelist
David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981) – English pastor; Westminster Chapel, London
Billy Graham (1918 -) – American evangelist; New Evangelical Movement
John MacArthur (1939 -) – American pastor – Grace Community Church in Los Angeles

2. Evangelical Theologians

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) – Pastor in Northampton, Massachusetts
Charles Hodge (1797-1878) – Taught theology at Princeton
Benjamin B. Warfield (1851-1921) – Taught theology at Princeton
R.A. Torrey (1856-1928) - Bible Institute of Los Angeles
Lewis Sperry Chafer (1871-1952) – Founded Dallas Theological Seminary (1924)
John Gresham Machen (1881-1937) – Founded Westminster Theological Sem. (1929)
Carl F. Henry (1913-2003) – Helped establish Fuller Theological Seminary (1947)
J.I. Packer (1926-) - Anglican - Regent College

3. Missionaries

William Carey (1761-1834) – India (1793)
Adoniram Judson (1788-1850) – Burma (1812)
George Muller (1805-1898) – Began an orphanage in Bristol (1835)
David Livingston (1813-1873) – Africa (1841)
James Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) – China (1854)
Amy Carmichael (1867-1951) – India (early 1900s)
Gladys Aylward (1902-1970) – China (1932)

4. Hymn Writers

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
John Newton (1725-1807)
William Cowper (1731-1800)

5. Liberal Theologians

Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834) - German - ‘Father of Liberal Theology’
F.C. Baur (1762-1860) - German (Tubingen) - attacked Pauline authorship
David F. Strauss (1808-1874) - German - *The Life of Jesus, Critically Examined*
Julius Wellhausen (1844-1918) - German - documentary hypothesis (JEDP)
Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918) - ‘Father of the Social Gospel’
Rudolph Bultmann (1884-1976) - German - ‘demythologizing the NT’

6. Neo-Orthodox Theologians

Karl Barth (1886-1968) - Swiss - founder of neo-orthodox theology
Emil Brunner (1889-1966) - Swiss - University of Zurich
Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1970) - Union Theological Seminary in New York

C. DEVELOPMENTS & TRENDS

1. Proliferation of Denominations – This era of Church History has seen endless divisions and splits for an endless variety of reasons.
2. Revivals – The Modern Era is unique with its emphasis on revivals and revivalism.
3. Development of World Missions – Through the efforts of Christians, particularly in England and America, the Gospel has spread around the globe, reaching even the most remote tribes in far away places.
4. Invasion of Liberal Theology – Along with the Enlightenment of the 18th century and Darwinism in the 19th century, came Liberal Theology. It was the result of the elevation of reason over revelation and the denial of all things supernatural. Things religious were relegated to the realm of the subjective, irrational, and unknowable.
5. Rise of the Cults
 - a. Mormons (1830) – Joseph Smith
 - b. Seventh-Day Adventists (1863) – Ellen G. White
 - c. Christian Science (1879) – Mary Baker Eddy
 - d. Jehovah's Witnesses (1881) – Charles Taze Russell
6. Rise of the Pentecostal / Charismatic Movement – Certainly the most important development in the 20th century. Initially defined by the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a second work of grace, evidenced by speaking in tongues, the movement has become quite diverse. But generally tongues, healing, on-going revelation, and experientialism define this group. All manner of heresy has come into the church through this movement.
7. Ecumenism – The desire to unify all denominations of Christianity. This often extends beyond the bounds of orthodoxy, including Roman Catholicism, Mormons, and even world religions. The experientialism of the Charismatic Movement accelerated this.
8. Appearance of the Mega Church – Through the application of business principles to church growth, pragmatism, and the seeker-sensitive movement, the late 20th century saw the rise of the mega church – churches that number in the thousands and tens of thousands of people that are managed much like a business.