

AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

First century:

- Ca. 6 B.C. Jesus born
- Ca. 30 A.D. Jesus crucified
- The Twelve Apostles
- Ca. 31 A.D. Paul converted
- 64 A.D. Nero persecutes Christians in Rome. Paul and Peter martyred.

Jesus life and teachings. Peter leads the early church in Jerusalem. Early Christian missionary work. Paul, the "Missionary to the Gentiles," carries out extensive missionary work. Most of the writings which are to become the New Testament are written.

Second century:

- Roman Empire persecutes:
 - under Trajan (98-117)
 - under Marcus Aurelius (161-180)
- 155 Polycarp Martyred
- 166 Martyrdom of Justin Martyr
- Irenaeus (ca. 130-190) writes in defense of Christianity.

Mystery religions and Gnosticism compete with Christianity.

New Testament canon generally fixed by late in the century. Basic elements of Apostles' Creed formulated. General spread of the faith in spite of sporadic persecution.

Third century:

- Clement of Alexandria (died 213)
- Origen (185-251)
- Decius persecutes (249-251)
- St. Anthony (251-356) and Monasticism
- Tertullian embraces Montanism, ca. 207.

Writers like Origen and Tertullian defend Christianity with their pens. Some Christians fall away because of persecution. Some received back into the Church.

Montanism, an ascetic, highly conservative sect, is an influence.

Fourth century:

- Diocletian persecutes (303-305)
- 312 Constantine becomes Emperor
- 313 The Edict of Milan, granting tolerance to Christianity.
- 325 Council of Nicaea
- Athanasius (296-373)
- Jerome (347-420)
- St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397)
- 380 Christianity decreed as the religion of the empire by Emperor Theodosius.

Doctrinal disputes develop in the Church, as with Arianism and Donatism.

Cenobitic monasticism develops.

Bishops are the leaders of the Church with the Bishop of Rome holding the greatest honor.

Roman Emperors begin to embrace the Christian faith--starting with Constantine.

Tensions begin to develop between the Church in the East and that in the West.

Fifth century:

- St. Augustine (354-430)
- Pope Leo the Great (Pope 440-461)
- 430 Latin translation of the Bible prepared by Jerome
- 418 Pelagius condemned
- 476 Rome falls to Alaric and his Visigoths.

Armenian, Syrian, Coptic, and Nestorian Christians separate from the Church for political and doctrinal reasons.

Barbarians invade the Empire in the West.

Evident signs of decay in the Roman Empire.

Missions into northern Europe.

Sixth century:

529 St. Benedict founds Monte
Cassino and develops standard rule
for monks.
Gregory the Great (Pope 590-604)
restores order to Italy.
Clovis (466-511) King of the Franks
becomes a Christian.
596 Gregory sends Augustine as
missionary to England.

Empire in the West deteriorates.
Papacy under Gregory I needs to establish
secular order.
Benedictine monks bring faith and culture to
many areas of Europe.
Tensions increase between East and West.
Franks become the focus of power in the West.

Seventh century:

England converted to Christianity. Irish missionaries work in Gaul.
Islam founded and Muslims come to control Palestine, Egypt, North Africa and move
into Spain.

Eighth century:

St. Boniface leads in the conversion of Germany. Charles Martel turns back the
Moslem advance at Tours in 732. Iconoclast controversy flares in the East. The
Pope becomes the ruler of sections of Italy. Charlemagne inherits the leadership
of the Franks.

Ninth century:

Charlemagne becomes Holy Roman Emperor (800 to 814). Feudalism develops in Europe
and in the Church. Tensions between Popes and Kings develop. Scandanavian
missions begin.

Tenth century:

The Dark Ages for Europe and the Church. Magyars from Asia and the Northmen from
Scandinavia raid and plunder in Christian Europe.
Conversion of Bohemians, Normans, Poles, Hungarians, and Russians.
Secular rulers dominate the Church. Benedictine monastery formed at Cluny.

Eleventh century:

Struggle for power between King Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand).
Final break between Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism in 1054.
The Age of the Crusades begins.

Twelfth century:

Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)
Bernard of Clairvaux (1115-1153)
St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

More crusades. General deterioration of
moral standards in Church and State,
while great men also appear on the
scene. Some groups, as the Waldensians,
seek reform, some rebel against the
Church.

Thirteenth century:

Innocent III (Pope 1198-1216)
Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)
Duns Scotus (1270-1308)

More crusades. Papacy reaches peak of
power under Innocent III. King of
England becomes vassal of Pope.
Inquisition. Great Gothic Cathedrals built.
Aquinas develops his great system of
theology.

Fourteenth century:

General moral decay within the Church. Wycliffe seeks reform in England. Papacy exiled to Avignon. "Great Schism" within the Roman Catholic Church.

Fifteenth century:

Councils try, with little success, to reform the Church. John Huss burned as a heretic 1415. Renaissance develops.

Sixteenth century:

Martin Luther (1483-1546)-
John Calvin (1509-1564)
Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)
Pope Paul III (1534-1549)
Council of Trent (1545-1563).
1521 Diet of Worms
1530 Augsburg Confession

The century of the Protestant Reformation. Nearly half of Europe breaks from Roman Catholic Church. Groundwork and development of the major Protestant traditions. Roman Catholic "Counter-Reformation" or the "Catholic Reformation" takes place.

Seventeenth century:

Puritans and Separatists develop in England. These groups lead to founding of colonies in America. Quakers develop under George Fox.

1643: The Westminster Confession of the Presbyterians. "Pietism" appears.

Eighteenth century:

The "Age of Reason." Religious revival movements in the colonies.

John Wesley founds Methodism. Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) the "greatest American Theologian."

Nineteenth century:

The "Great Century" for the expansion of Christianity. World-wide missions.

Salvation Army, Mormons, Christian Scientists, and Disciples founded.

1869-1870: Vatican I. Dogma of Papal Infallibility proclaimed.

Much of U.S. Protestantism splits over the slavery issue.

Twentieth century:

The "Ecumenical Movement" develops. The World Council of Churches is constituted at Amsterdam in 1948.

1950: The Dogma of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary proclaimed.

1962: Second Vatican Council called by Pope John XXIII.

The Christian Scriptures (New Testament)

Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Acts

Epistles

Traditional Epistles of Paul

Romans
I Corinthians
II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians*
Philippians
Colossians
I Thessalonians
II Thessalonians
I Timothy*
II Timothy*
Titus*
Philemon

General Epistles

Hebrews
James
I Peter
II Peter
I John
II John
III John
Jude

Apocalyptic Literature

Revelation

*Many modern scholars question the Pauline authorship of these Epistles.