

The Mustard Seed Story



*A Survey of Christianity's Progress
Since the First Coming of Christ*

Roderick A. Graciano, Instructor

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**“Consider the past and
you will know the future.”**

Chinese Proverb

**“ After all, the ultimate goal of all research is not
objectivity, but truth.”**

Helene Deutsch (1884-1982), U.S. psychiatrist.
The Psychology of Women, vol. 1, Preface (1944-45).

**“To know yet to think that one does not know
is best;
Not to know yet to think that one knows
will lead to difficulty.”**

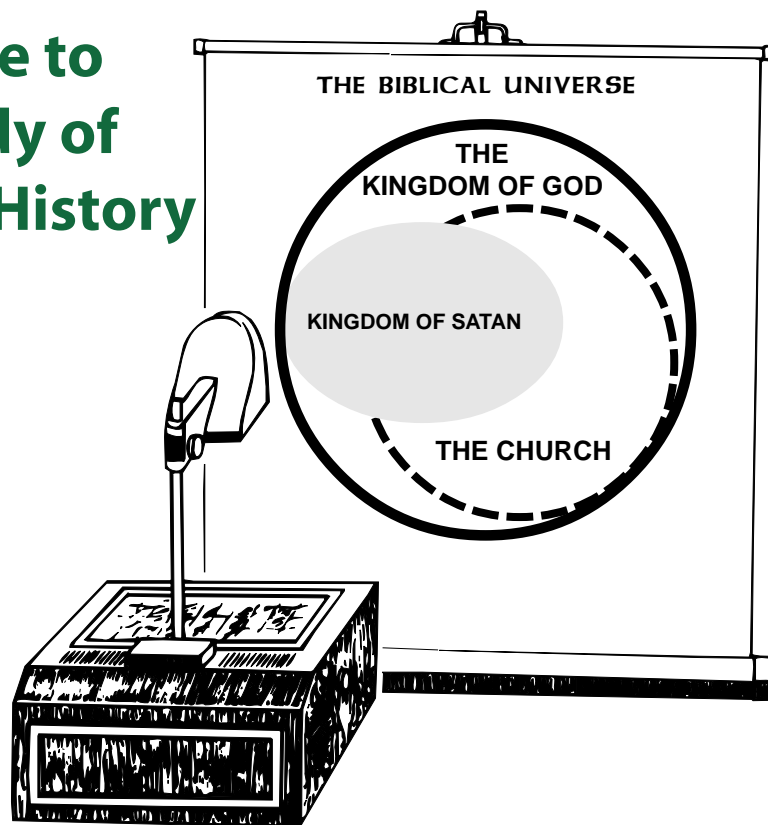
Lao-Tzu (6th century B.C.), Legendary Chinese philosopher.
Tao-te-ching, bk. 2, ch. 71 (tr. by T. C. Lau, 1963).

**“For if you cry for discernment,
Lift your voice for understanding;
If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for
hidden treasures;
Then you will discern the fear of the Lord, And
discover the knowledge of God.”**

Proverbs 2.3-5

Introductory Material

**Welcome to
the Study of
Church History**



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“Doubtless we think with only a small part of our past, but it is with our entire past, including the original bent of our soul, that we desire, will and act. ”

French philosopher, Henri Bergson,
quoted by Dan Taylor in *The Myth of Certainty*.

“The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it. ”

Proverbs 27.12

Work Sheets

Questions for Consideration During Class



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“ As you look at history, it’s apparent that human behavior is much easier to predict than the weather. ”

Michael Levine, *Lessons at the Halfway Point*,
quoted in *Reader’s Digest*, Sept. 96

**“Every time history repeats
itself the price goes up.”**

Anonymous.

“The disadvantage of men not knowing the past is that they do not know the present. History is a hill or high point of vantage, from which alone men see the town in which they live or the age in which they are living. ”

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936), British author.

“History is Philosophy teaching by examples. ”

Thucydides (c. 460-c. 400 B.C.), Athenian historian.

The Christian Centuries

A Chronology of Church History



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“Our chief interest in the past is as a guide to the future. ”

W. R. Inge (Dean of St. Paul's),
Assessments And Anticipations, 1929

“History, by apprizing them of the past, will enable them to judge of the future. ”

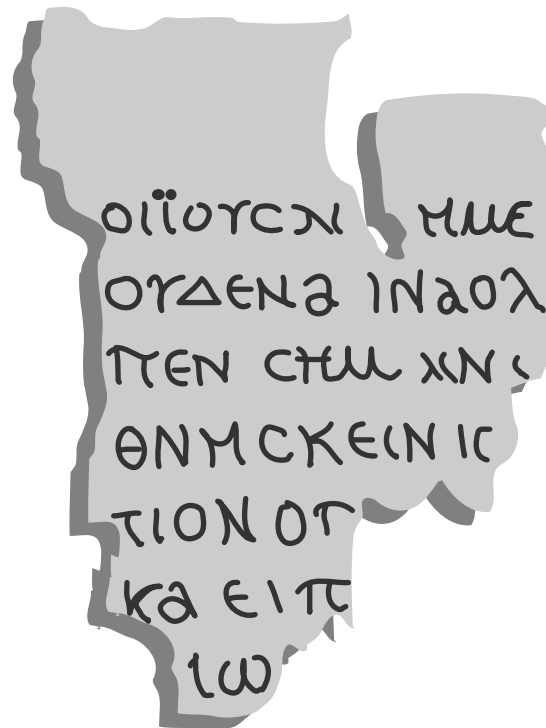
Thomas Jefferson,
Notes on Virginia, 1784

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. ”

Romans 8.28

Ancient Documents

Early and Medieval Writings Illustrating the Drama of Christian History



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“ All advancement in intelligence and insight depends upon our ability to call in question and reconsider what we have hitherto taken for granted. ”

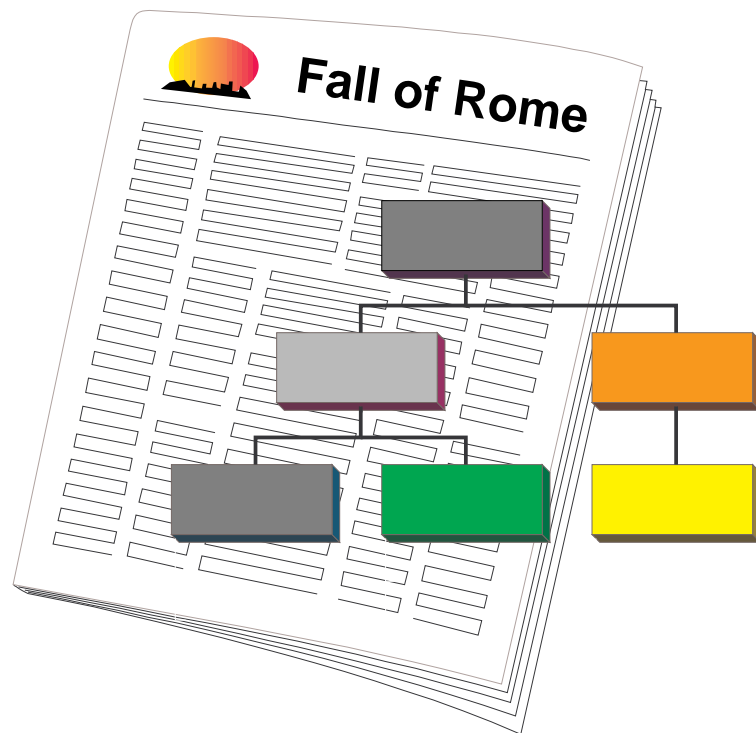
James Harvey Robinson, *The Human Comedy*

“It is well known that secondary sources are likely to be written to harmonize with generally accepted beliefs and prejudices. Most popular histories, for instance,...make heroes more heroic, villains more wicked, battles bloodier, and peaces more glorious than the best primary sources warrant. In short, they tend to present historical events, not as they were, but as the author likes to think of them, or as he believes his public likes or ought to think of them. ”

Edwin Clarke, quoted in Ruggiero,
The Art of Thinking

Charts & Articles

Lists, Insights and Illustrations



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“History must repeat itself because we pay such little attention to it the first time.”

Blackie Sherrod in *Dallas Morning News*

“There is an aphorism: He who forgets history is condemned to repeat it. If we don’t know our own history, we will simply have to endure all the same mistakes, sacrifices, and absurdities all over again.”

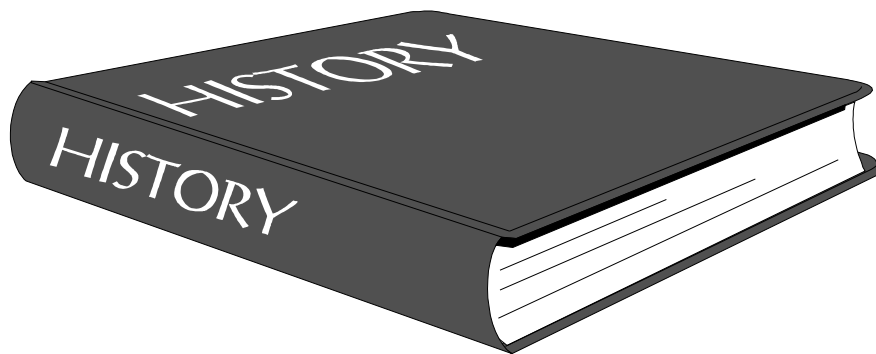
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

“The history of the church should more accurately be called the history of truth.”

Blaise Pascal

Books and Other Resources

Titles for the Student of Christian History



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“The first step in liquidating a people is to erase its memory. Destroy its books, its culture, its history... before long the nation will forget what it is and what it was. ”

Milan Hubl

“Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested. ”

Francis Bacon (1561-1626),
Essays, “Of Studies” (1597-1625).

“There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them. ”

Joseph Brodsky (b. 1940), Russian-born U.S. poet, critic.
At press conference, Washington, D.C., on acceptance of U.S. poet laureateship.
Quoted in: *Independent on Sunday* (London, 19 May 1991).

Glossary

Terms That Crop Up in Christian History



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**“A word is dead
When it is said,
Some say.
I say it just
Begins to live
That day.”**

Emily Dickinson (1830-86), U.S. poet.
The Complete Poems, no. 1212 (1955).

**“A wise man hears one word
and understands two.”**

Yiddish Proverb.

**“One forgets words as one forgets names.
One’s vocabulary needs constant fertilizing or
it will die.”**

Evelyn Waugh (1903-66), British novelist.
The Diaries of Evelyn Waugh (ed. by Michael Davie, 1976),
entry for 25 Dec. 1962.