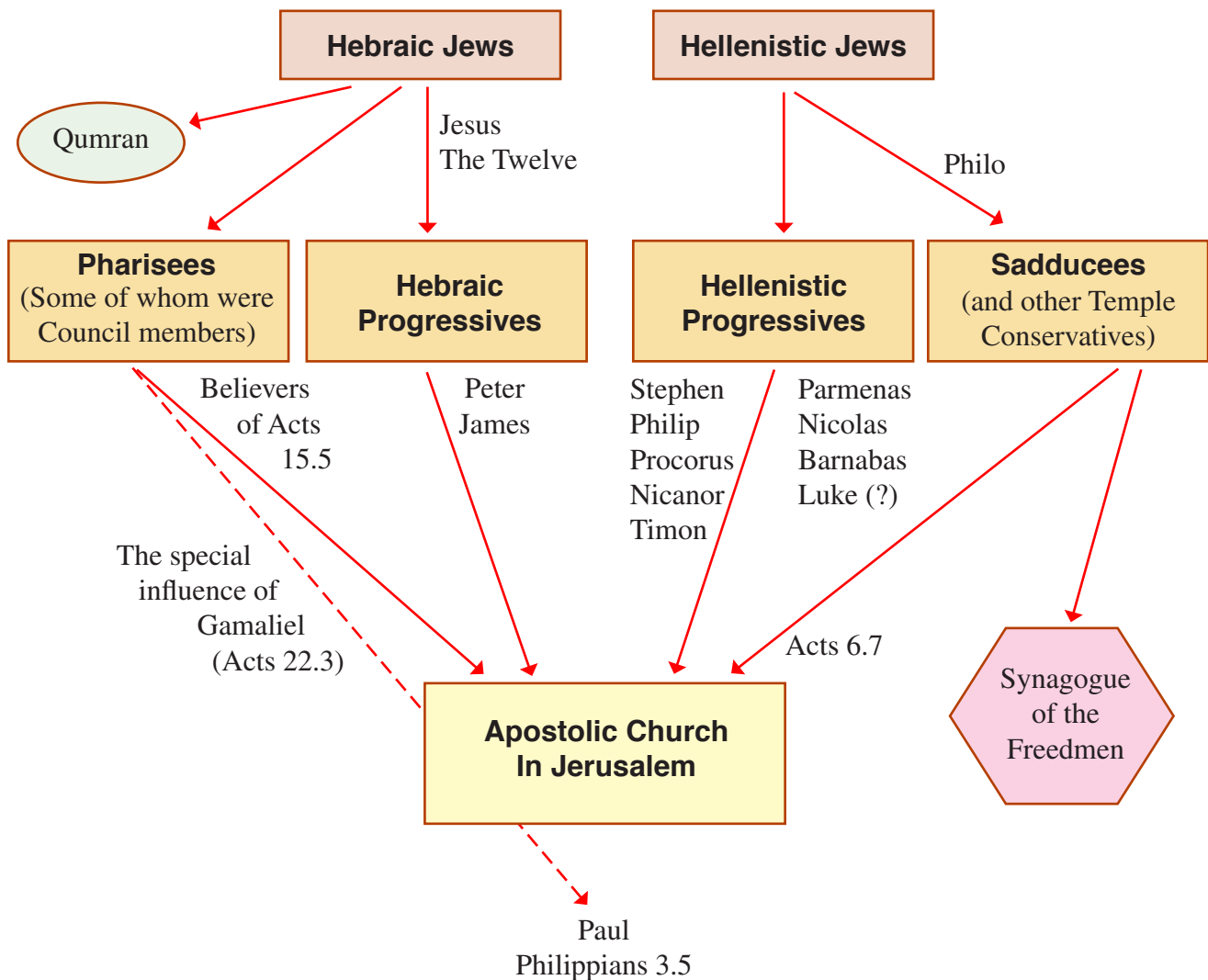


Cultural Tensions

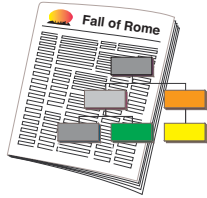
Four Mind-Sets In The Apostolic *Ekklesia*



NOTES

In this diagram, I use the term “progressive” in the most positive sense of “having a vision for fulfilling the law, not destroying it” (cf. Mat 5.17).

The Hellenists (Ἑλληνισταί, *ēl-lē-nē-'stēh*) of Acts 6.1 and 9.29 were not Greeks, (Ἕλληνας, *ēl-lē-nās*). They were “Jews living in Jerusalem but originally connected with Diaspora Judaism and characterized by the use of Greek as their



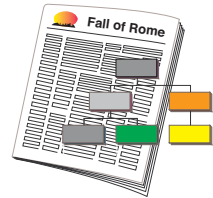
principal language, especially for worship and scripture. ... Some of these Jews, returning with a sense of awe for their ancestral customs, had staunchly conservative attitudes toward the Law and Temple, e.g., Acts 6.8-9; 9.29. Others experienced dissonance between Diaspora theological emphases and the ethos of Palestinian legal observance and the Temple cult” (ABD). “Diaspora Judaism [i.e., Hellenists] could be both lax and strict in its observance of the Torah, as could Palestinian Judaism [i.e. the Hebraic Jews],” (DPHL, “Diaspora”). Some in both groups would be protective of the temple traditions, and some in both would more readily de-emphasize the temple rituals.

Thus it is now thought that it was this community of Christian Hellenists who accelerated the transferal of the Jesus tradition from Aramaic into Greek, who helped bring Christian theology fully into the realm of Greek thought freed from Aramaic pre-acculturation, who were instrumental in moving Christianity from its Palestinian setting into the urban culture of the larger Empire, who first saw the implications of Jesus’ resurrection for a Law-free Gospel for the gentiles (and for Jews), and who were the bridge between Jesus and Paul. These Christian Hellenists were the founders of Christian mission outside Palestine, and a theological tradition capable of articulating a gospel for the Greco-Roman world. — Freedman, D. N. (1996, 1992). *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* (3:136). New York: Doubleday.¹

“Many of [the Hellenists] were, perhaps, not permanent residents of Jerusalem, but had remained there after Pentecost on account of their interest in the new religion. They were more likely to be neglected [in the food distribution], because less [familiarily] known to the apostles and their assistants,” (McGarvey, Commentary).

Whether Luke was a Jew or Gentile hinges on the definition of the group called “of the circumcision” (Col 4.11). The passages where this phrase appears (Act 10.45; 11.2; Rom 4.12; Gal 2.12) can refer to Jewish believers who kept a strict observance of the law. It’s possible that Luke was a Hellenistic Jew who was not strictly observant. See Nixon, R. E., NIDCC.

¹ These shifts were not all positive; I only quote this passage as affirming the role of the Hellenistic community’s influence in shaping the post-apostolic Church.



Plague-Conquering Love

Adapted from Rodney Stark's
The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History (Princeton, 1996)

PAGANS	CHRISTIANS	RATIO
--------	------------	-------

...after the EPIDEMIC OF AD 160

9,960	40	1/249
-------	----	-------

X 30% Mortality

X 10% Mortality

6,972

36

1/197

...plus a 40% per decade Conversion Rate

= -16

= +16

6,956

52

1/134

...after the SECOND EPIDEMIC OF AD 251,
with a 40% per decade Conversion Rate X 90 years

and

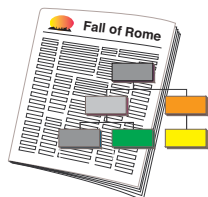
X 30% Mortality

X 10% Mortality

4,062

997

1/4



Contrasting Christianity And The Mystery Religions

Christianity

Origin in Palestine

Historical basis for events

Established doctrine

God acts in history

Theological

Monotheistic

Incarnation (God becomes man)

Resurrection

Adherents join in God's work

Eschatological plan for the cosmos

All of life sacred

Exclusive

Mysteries made public

Emphasis on relationship

Rituals metaphorical

God saves you

Mystery Religions

Very little influence in Palestine

Mythological basis for events

Syncretizing, evolving doctrine

Non-historical deities

Lack of insight about God

Polytheistic

Apotheosis (men become gods)

Reincarnation

Adherents seek self-improvement

Personal plan for individual's afterlife

Sacred-secular split

Members belonged to multiple cults

Mysteries kept secret

Emphasis on ritual

Rituals magical

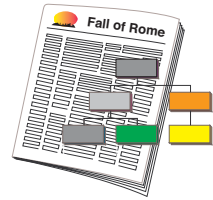
Initiation rites save you



The Mustard Seed Story

A BC to AD Course
By Timothy Ministries

Charts & Articles



The Severing Of The *Ekklesia* From Her Hebraic Roots

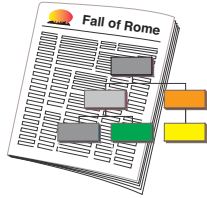
Anno
Domini

Chronological Summary

- 30-33 Jesus offends Pharisees and Sadducees as one “greater than the temple.”
- 33 Mass conversions on the day of Pentecost worry temple authorities (Act 2-4).
- 34 Persecution led by Saul spreads Christianity throughout the empire and biases Holy Land synagogues against followers of the Way (Act 9.2; 1Th 2.14-15).
- 48 Jewish believers no longer the majority among worldwide Christ followers.
- 49 Jews in Rome riot against Jewish believers in Jesus; Jews expelled from Rome.
- 49-52 Jerusalem Council opens door for uncircumcised Gentiles (Act 15).
- 66-73 Holy Land Jewish Christians refuse to join nationalists in First Jewish Revolt.
- 80-100 Synagogues of Asia Minor slander Jewish Christ followers (Rev 2.9; 3.9).
- 90 *Birkat ha-Minim*: a ritual Jewish blessing (curse) upon sectarians.
- 115-120 Christian worship shifts to almost entirely from the Sabbath to Sunday.
- 132-135 Christian Jews refuse to join Second Jewish Revolt with its competing messiah. Judaism loses its status as *religio licita*.

The Severing Complete

- 160 Justin Martyr asserts that Christians are “true spiritual Israel” (*Dialogue*, ch. 11).
- 250 Origen calls Jews “most wicked nation” (*Celsus* 2.8).
- 250 Origen writes “Christians Are The Spiritual Israel” (*Com. on John*, 1.1).
- 339 Converting to Judaism becomes criminal offense.
- 380 Ambrose defends bishop who incited the burning of a synagogue (Letters XL).
- 386-387 Chrysostum preaches “Homilies Against The Jews” in Antioch.



The Proto-Creedal Statements Of The New Testament

As competing sects and cults proliferated in the Roman world, the creeds of the Orthodox churches grew in length. In the very beginning of the apostolic *Ekklesia*, however, creeds (or proto-creeds, summaries of fundamental beliefs) served more of an edifying and didactic purpose than a polemical one, and therefore remained short and easy to memorize.

There is very little material in the NT proper that can be definitely identified as creedal or confessional. What creedal material there is certainly overlaps with what the NT calls *traditions*, (Grk *paradosis*), i.e., the attested teachings (*didache*) and preachings (*kerygma*) of the apostles (1Co 11.2; 2Th 2.15; 3.6; cf. Act 2.42; Rom 6.17; 1Ti 4.6; 2Ti 1.13; Tit 1.9).¹ The *specific wording* of the creedal or proto-creedal statements in the NT did not necessarily originate from the apostles, but the NT authors recorded them as anonymous “sayings” or parts of hymns that were faithful to the apostolic teaching (1Ti 3.16; 2Ti 2.11-13).

A perusal of the creedal or confessional snippets in the NT shows us that the doctrinal concern of the apostolic church was overwhelmingly Christological. The doctrinal confession of the apostolic church was expressed most briefly in statements of Jesus’ essential identity,

Jesus is Lord
(Rom 10.9; 1Co 12.3),

or

Jesus is the Christ
(Act 5.42; 9.22; 1Jo 2.22; 5.1),

or

Jesus is the Son of God
(Act 9.20; 1Jo 4.15; 5.5).

From such minimal statements, the confessional wording grew slightly to,

Jesus Christ is Lord
(Phi 2.11),

or

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God
(Joh 20.31).

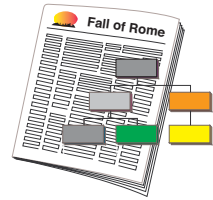
¹ The *traditional teachings* of the apostles were akin if not synonymous to *halakah*, the rabbinical “law of custom,” and were corporately attested as opposed to private or novel teachings. These apostolic traditions are not to be confused with the counter traditions of the Pharisees, Mar 7.9, and of competing religions, Col 2.8.



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Charts & Articles Proto-Creedal Statements



From this confessional core, the creedal passages of the NT expanded to succinct statements about Christ's nature and mission:

...[God's] Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace... (Rom 1.3-5)²

Jesus our Lord ... He who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification. (Rom 4.24-25)

... Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phi 2.5-11)

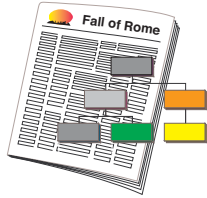
And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. (Col 1.15-20)

He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory. (1Ti 3.16)

...[God's] Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high ... (Heb 1.2-3)

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit ... (1Pe 3.18)

2 Biblical quotations are from the NASB, 1995.



Charts & Articles Proto-Creedal Statements

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After the identity, nature and mission of Christ, the next doctrinal matter that was crystallized to its essence was the gospel itself. Paul stated it in its minimal form:

...Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David... (2Ti 2.8)

As one of my fellow students remarked, this brief statement of Paul's gospel would have been pregnant with meaning for anyone versed in the Hebrew prophets. Nevertheless, Paul also gave an expanded, though still very succinct, version of the gospel, in 1Co 15:

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel... 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time...

Having thus encapsulated the gospel proper, did the NT writers ever summarize how one appropriated the gospel? Certainly! Did they ever state how one "gets saved" in an intentionally confessional or proto-creedal statement? Perhaps. John, by virtue of his longevity, perhaps did as much doctrinal reflection and distillation as Paul did. Whether or not John intended the words as confessional or catechetical, parts of the prologue of his gospel (Joh 1) certainly have a creedal tone:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

In the midst of this summary of Christ's preexistence and incarnation, John also summarized how people appropriated this good news:

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.³

The sermons of Christ in the gospels, as well as the apostolic sermons in Acts, certainly explain how one is to appropriate the gospel and be saved, but perhaps Paul gives a proto-creedal summary of it in Rom 10.9-10:

... if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

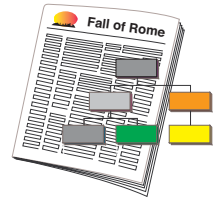
3 While the words are generally attributed to Christ Himself in our red-letter Bibles, the salvific explanation of John 3.13-18 may be another of John's summaries of the gospel and its appropriation.



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Charts & Articles Proto-Creedal Statements



And again in Eph 2.8-9:

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

The NT authors also, though perhaps only once, reduced the nature of the life of discipleship to a confessional or didactic summary (“a trustworthy statement”):

For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself. (2Ti 2.11-13)

Finally, only once or twice did a NT author, Paul, venture into a creedal or proto-creedal statement of theology that goes beyond the person and work of Christ, and beyond the gospel and its appropriation. In 1Ti 2.5 he wrote:

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

While this statement touches on the oneness of God and the necessary existence of a mediatory relationship between God and man, this proto-creedal snippet is once again, *all about Jesus*.

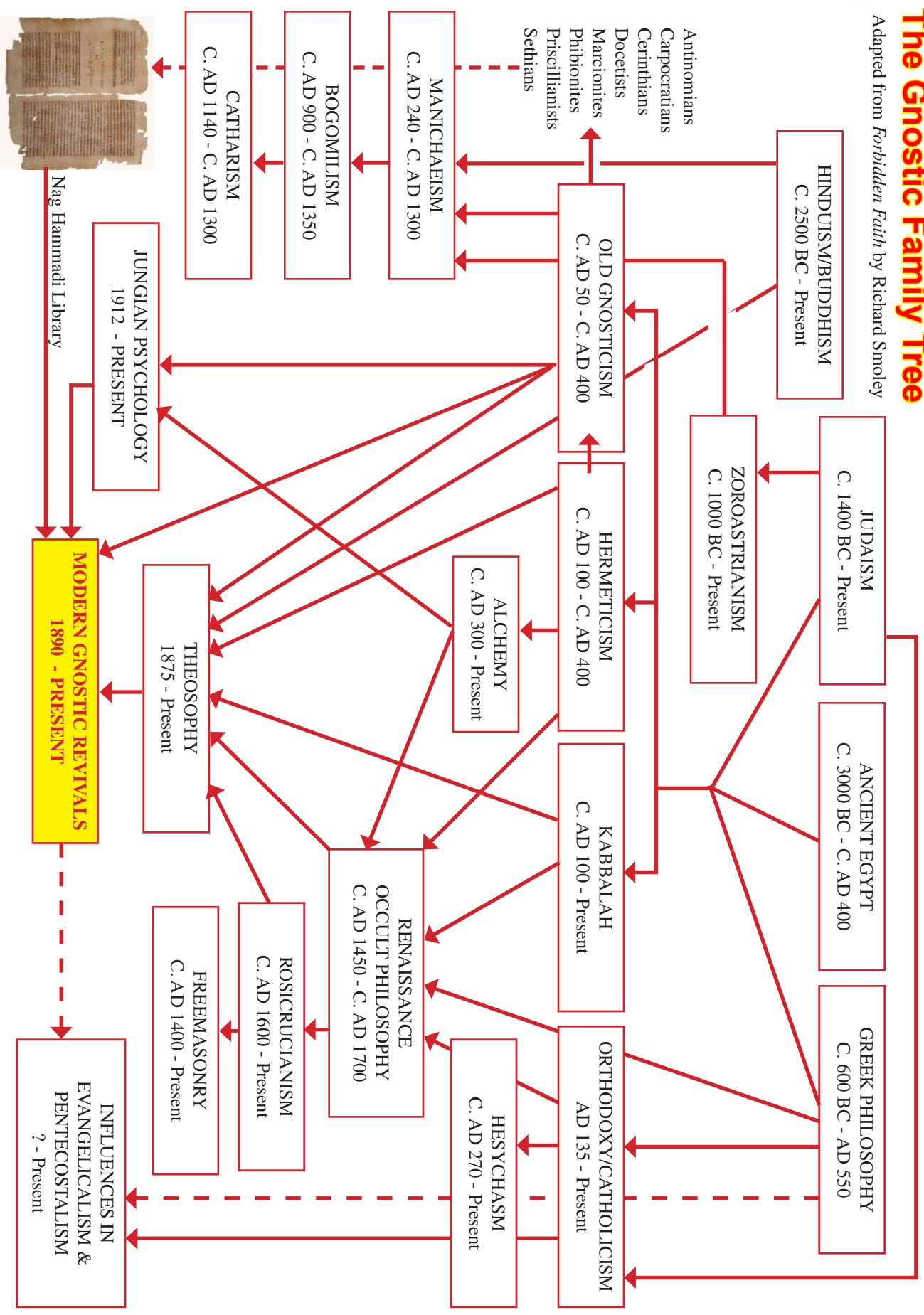
Uniquely in the NT, Eph 4.4-6 gives us in its seven unities the one apostolic doctrinal summary that goes beyond Christology, the gospel and the call to sacrificial endurance:

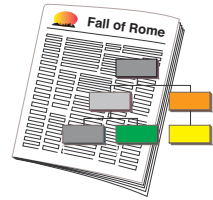
There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

In conclusion, then, we can say that the doctrinal, possibly proto-creedal, emphasis of the first apostolic teachers was overwhelmingly Christological. For the apostles, everything else that was important for the believer to know or do was implicit in **a correct understanding of who Jesus was and what He did**. Their basis for fellowship and unity was simply the Lordship and atoning work of Jesus. Beyond that doctrinal core, the apostles deemed it important that the gospel and its appropriation be succinctly grasped, and that life according to The Way be realistically understood as entailing sacrifice, endurance and faithfulness (2Ti 2.11-13). Underlying the Christological core, the seven unities of Eph 4.4-6 should have been the only doctrinal creed the *Ekklesia* ever needed.

The Gnostic Family Tree

Adapted from *Forbidden Faith* by Richard Smoley





Current Gnostic Teaching In Their Own Words

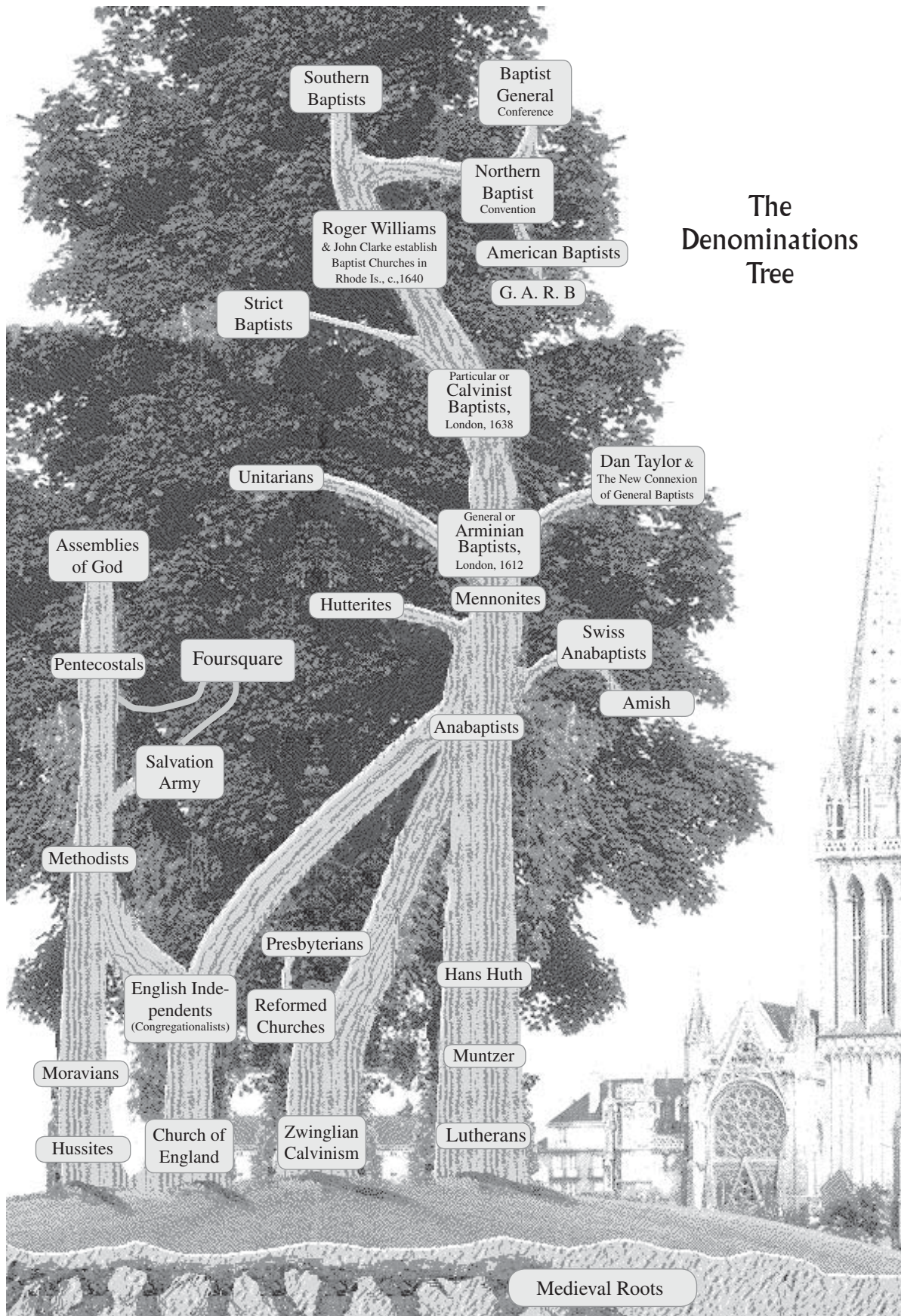
An Introduction to the Ecclesia Gnostica

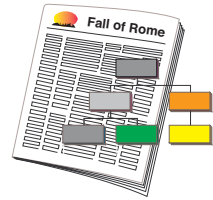
<http://www.gnosis.org/ecclesia/ecclesia.htm>



1. There is an original and transcendental spiritual unity which came to emanate a vast manifestation of pluralities.
2. The manifest universe of matter and mind (psyche) was not created by the original spiritual unity but by spiritual beings possessing inferior powers.
3. These creators possessing inferior powers have as one of their objectives the perpetual separation of humans from the unity (God).
4. The human being is a composite, the outer aspect being the handiwork of the inferior creators, while the "inner man" has the character of a fallen spark of the ultimate divine unity.
5. The fallen sparks of transcendental holiness slumber in their material and mental prison, their self-awareness stupefied by forces of materiality and mind.
6. The slumbering sparks have not been abandoned by the ultimate unity, rather there is a constant effort forthcoming from this unity that is directed toward their awakening and liberation.
7. The awakening of the inmost divine essence in humans is effected by salvific knowledge, called Gnosis.
8. Salvific knowledge, or Gnosis, is not brought about by belief, or the performance of virtuous deeds, or by obedience to commandments, for these can at best but serve as preparatory circumstances leading toward liberating knowledge.
9. Among the helpers of the slumbering sparks a particular position of honor and importance belongs to a feminine emanation of the unity. The name of this emanation is Sophia (Wisdom). She was involved in the creation of the world and ever since remained the guide of her orphaned human children.
10. From the earliest times of history, messengers of light have been sent forth from the ultimate unity. The task of these messengers has ever been the advancement of Gnosis in the souls of humans.
11. The greatest of these messengers in our historical and geographical matrix was the descended Logos of God, manifesting in Jesus Christ.
12. Jesus exercised a twofold ministry: He was a teacher, imparting instruction concerning the way of Gnosis, and he was a hierophant, imparting mysteries.
13. The mysteries imparted by Jesus (which are also known as sacraments) are mighty aids toward Gnosis and have been entrusted by him to his apostles and to their successors.
14. By way of the spiritual practice of the mysteries (sacraments) and by a relentless and uncompromising striving for Gnosis, humans can steadily advance toward liberation from all confinement, material and otherwise. The ultimate objective of this process of liberation is the achievement of salvific knowledge and with it freedom from embodied existence and return to the ultimate unity.

The Denominations Tree





A Quick Reference To Historic

Sects & Cults

A *sect* is a religious group that formed “by schism within a conventional religious body when persons desiring a more otherworldly version of the faith break away to ‘restore’ the religion to a higher level of tension with its environment.”^{174, p. 33} As such, a sect *may or may not be* more doctrinally orthodox than its religious group of origin. A *cult*, on the other hand, is identified chiefly by its *unorthodox* doctrine.

👁 Adoptionism (Theodotians)

Later Century 2, revival at the end of Century 8 when it was put forward in an attempt to make Christianity more acceptable to Mohammedans. ^{Harrison}

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Jesus was a man rewarded for his perfection by being adopted into the Godhead: a man who became God. The Holy Spirit gave Jesus supernatural powers at his baptism, powers for which he had qualified after thorough testing.

Scripture

“They have laid their hands boldly upon the divine Scriptures, alleging that they have corrected them...But some of them have not thought it worthwhile to corrupt them, but simply deny the law and the prophets,” (*The Little Labyrinth*). ^{Benko 1984, p. 146}

👁 Albigenses (Cathars)

AD 110+. Doctrine derived from Paulicianism, possibly influenced by eastern thought brought back to Europe by the Crusaders.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

A good power made the spiritual world; and evil power made the material world.

Sin

The consolamentum, or Baptism of the Spirit wiped out all sin.

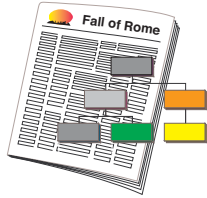
Scripture

Rejected part of OT and emphasized the Gospel of John.

Religious Life & Destiny

Refused to acknowledge the special powers of the Roman priests.

Two orders of believers: Credenti and Perfecti. Credenti, the lower order, could marry, own property, share in the Roman sacraments. They looked forward to the consolamentum which would provide full salvation for them. The Perfecti, had experienced consolamentum, were forgiven of all sins, abstained from marital relations, and from eating meat, milk or eggs. They could not wage war or hold real estate. Also believed in transmigration.



Charts & Articles Sects & Cults

The Mustard Seed Story

A BC to AD Course
By Timothy Ministries



👁 Antinomian Gnosticism

Century 1

Nicolaitans of Rev. 2.6? Doctrine of Balaam & Jezebel: Rev. 2.14,15? (Compare with **Gnosticism** below.)

Sin

To better understand sin one must indulge in it. Idolatry, fornication permitted.

Scripture

The moral law is not binding: anti = against; nomos = law.

👁 Appolinarianism

AD 350+

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Jesus was divine with no human, rational soul. Denied union in Christ of full human and divine natures. Christ's humanity was not complete.

👁 Arianism

AD 320

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Only the Father is eternal. Christ was the first created being, secondary to the Father. Christ created the universe and was to be worshipped as God. Christ the Son created the Holy Spirit.

👁 Carpocratians

AD 100 or earlier to 220+

A libertine Gnostic sect.

Religious Life & Destiny

Based on the words of Jesus, "Give to everyone who begs from you," the Carpocratians believed that wives should be common property. Their "love feasts" involved indiscriminate, communal sexual intercourse which was considered a sacred religious mystery that would bring them to the kingdom of God. Benko 1984, p. 64.

👁 Cerinthians

AD 80-150

After Cerinthus, a Jewish heretic. A mix of Ebionite & Egyptian Gnosticism.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

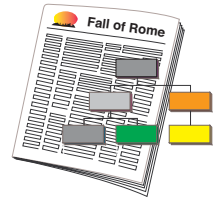
Demiurge (inferior deity) made the world. Christ, a divine power, descended on Jesus



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Charts & Articles Sects & Cults



(an ordinary man) at baptism, leaving him before his crucifixion. Denied the virgin birth. Christ was a great teacher, but not a redeemer.

Sin

Matter is evil.

Scripture

Rejected the NT except for a mutilated version of Matthew.

Religious Life & Destiny

Cerinthus believed that Christ would set up a millennial kingdom.

👁 Docetism (from Gk. δοκέω = to seem)

One of the first heresies: 1 John 4.2,3.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Christ did not actually come in the flesh, but only “seemed” to be a man. Either there was no human Jesus at all (just an illusion), or the human Jesus was only a vehicle for the Divine Christ.

👁 Donatists

AD 300-500

A schismatic reform party.

Sin

Donatists felt that they alone among the churches were free of sin. They would totally remake interiors of church buildings previously used by others.

Religious Life & Destiny

Donatist believed in severe discipline, and separation of church and state. Like the Montanists before them, they refused to restore the lapsed. They believed that the efficacy of the sacraments depended upon the holiness of the priest administering them.

👁 Ebionites

AD 60-150

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

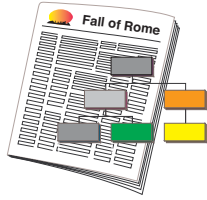
Jesus was last and greatest of the Prophets. Christ descended upon him at baptism, but departed before the crucifixion.

Scripture

Only Matthew's Gospel used. Paul considered apostate from the faith.

Religious Life & Destiny

Kept the entire Mosaic law: Judaizers.



Charts & Articles Sects & Cults

The Mustard Seed Story

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👁 Elkesaites

AD 100+

Related to Ebionites, contributed to the origin of Islam.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Christ was a mere man. Holy Spirit viewed as female.

Religious Life & Destiny

Marked by Jewish legalism. Had two Christian baptisms, pagan ablutions, and used astrology.

👁 Eutychianism

AD 428+

Led to Monophysitism.

Related to Appollinarianism, this view survives in the Syrian Jacobites and Ethiopian Coptics today.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Christ had only a single divine nature clad in human flesh. He was not truly human.

👁 Gnosticism (Cf. Antinomian Gnosticism)

Since before the Christian era, but impacting the Church powerfully in Century 2.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

God of creation was demiurge (not supreme God). Jesus was a man temporarily inhabited by the heavenly Christ. Denied true incarnation.

Sin

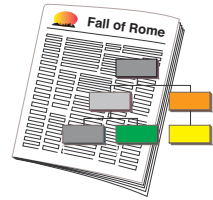
Matter synonymous with evil.

Scripture

Scriptures randomly rejected or mutilated. Claimed to have secret traditions handed down from the apostles.

Religious Life & Destiny

Redemption through transcendence of the material world by means of “gnosis,” i.e. special knowledge. Destiny was final unity with supreme God for those with gnosis. Inferior reward for those with faith only. Destruction for all the rest.



👁 Islam

AD 622-Present. A major world religion and a Judeo-Christian cult.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Intense monotheists. Also, God is utterly “other” and can never have a personal relationship with man. Christ was a prophet superseded by Mohammed, the final prophet.

Sin

Historically, idol-worshippers had to accept Islam or the sword (monotheists were tolerated if they paid taxes).

Scripture

The Bible has been tampered with and corrupted. It is superseded by the Koran (which plagiarizes and perverts many OT and NT stories).

Religious Life & Destiny

Salvation comes by submission to Islam and good works. Five main obligations: the confession of faith, prayer five times daily, charitable gifts, fasting in the holy month of Ramadan, and the pilgrimage to Mecca. Paradise is a place of sensual pleasures.

👁 Macedonianism

AD 362+

Pneumatomachians, i.e. “fighters against the Spirit.”

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Denied the deity of the Holy Spirit, and sometimes the consubstantiality of the Son.

👁 Manichaeism

AD 250+

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

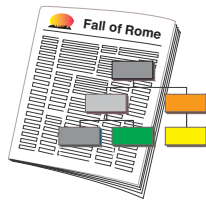
Views influenced by Gnostic antipathy to material world. Jesus, like others, came to release souls of light from the prison of the body. Jesus was succeeded by Manes.

Scripture

Mani said, “The writings...of all previous religions...have come together in my religion.”^{Davies, J. G}

Religious Life & Destiny

Salvation involved liberating the good nature from the dominion of the bad. Resurrection denied. Non-Manichaeans doomed to a form of reincarnation or transfiguration.



Marcionites

AD 144+

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Demiurgic notion of God. Docetic view of Christ. Believed in the eternity of matter.

Scripture

Accepted only portions of Scripture: ten Pauline epistles and part of Luke.

Religious Life & Destiny

Rejected everything Jewish. Known for strict asceticism and distinctive sacramental practices.

Montanism

AD 172+. An apocalyptic movement named for Montanus.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

The Montanists expected greater, not lesser manifestations of the Holy Spirit with the passage of time. Montanus was a self-proclaimed prophet who was “in general” orthodox, and who felt called to shake the church out of its growing laxity. “Montanus...claimed to unite in his own person God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.”

Scripture

Montanus received “new revelations...supplementing and augmenting the Bible...and [was] excluded from the church because [of] the claim to have received revelations superior to the Bible.” ^{Hoekema}

Religious Life & Destiny

Stressed asceticism, chastity, rigorous dietary habits, and desire for martyrdom. Insisted there was no redemption for the lapsed. “Since the final age had now been ushered in, Montanus and his associates urged people to assemble at Pepuza, in Phrygia, to await the end of the world.” ^{Hoekema}

Nestorianism

AD 428+

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

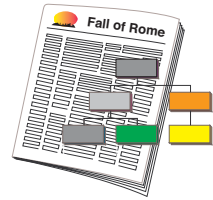
An attempt to counter Eutychianism, while tending to go to the opposite extreme. Nestorius pictured the relation between the two natures of Christ in terms of a moral “conjunction” or a merging of will rather than an essential union.



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👁 Novationism

AD 249+

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Essentially orthodox regarding the Godhead.

Religious Life & Destiny

The Christian who denied Christ under persecution could never be pardoned by the Church, no matter how deep his contrition. God might forgive him at death.

👁 Origenism

AD 210

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Christ died to defeat Satan and to reveal God's character. No substitutionary atonement.

Sin

The world and material bodies were a purgatory for sins committed by the soul in a preexistence.

Scripture

Scriptures respected, but the mystical meaning was valued more than the literal.

Religious Life & Destiny

All souls would be ultimately saved as a result of God's discipline. Redemption was through education with no distinction between intellectual and moral progress.

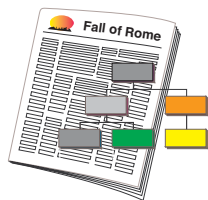
👁 Patripassianism

(Modalism, Monarchianism, also Sabellians after one of their leaders, Sabellius.)^{Dowley, Eerdmans' Handbook,}

AD 200-210

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

God was one essence with three modes of manifestation. The Son was the Father appearing and suffering in human form.



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👁 Paulicianism

AD 650+

A later manifestation of Manichaeism, essentially identical doctrinally with Catharism.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

God and Satan coequal. God created the spiritual universe; Satan created the temporal world. Satan identified with Jehovah of the OT. Jesus was not a man but a phantasm, the Son of God who came from heaven to overthrow the worship of Satan. The Holy Spirit is received during baptism by immersion at age 30. Some Adoptionist Christology.

Scripture

Rejected OT. Highly valued Pauline writings.

Religious Life & Destiny

Anti-Romanists repudiating Mariolatry, intercession of saints and use of relics and images. Rejected hierarchy of Roman priesthood. Transmigration provided for the future reward or punishment for earthly deeds.

👁 Pelagianism

AD 401+

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

In practice, Christ was not necessary for salvation, but a great moral example.

Sin

Man has no sin nature, but rather is essentially good. A sinless life is possible.

Religious Life & Destiny

Infant baptism is unnecessary since there is no original sin. Salvation can come by good works. Salvation is possible without the Gospel, but it helps. After baptism, man has full power and duty to keep the law.

👁 Phibionitism

AD 350+ or earlier.

Gnostic “Christians” in Alexandria. “Epiphanius believed that this sect was descended from the Nicolaitans.” ^{Benko 1984} Referred to by Jude?

Religious Life & Destiny

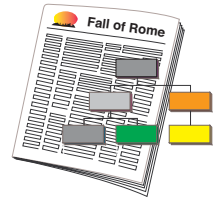
Practiced obscene sexual rites, possibly providing the basis for accusations of incest against Christians. They consumed aborted fetuses as a means of preserving the Divine Power by avoiding its division and entrapment among more physical bodies. ^{Benko 1984}



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👁 Priscillianism

AD 365-563

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Denied the preexistence and real humanity of Christ.

Scripture

Accepted apocryphal books as inspired and genuine.

Religious Life & Destiny

Belief that the human body was devilish led in practice to both severe asceticism and license.

👁 Socinianism

AD 1560+

Led to Unitarianism.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

Denied the full deity of Christ.

Sin

Denied original sin and depravity of human nature.

Religious Life & Destiny

Denied atonement by penal substitution. Denied justification by faith; salvation gained by works.

👁 Swedenborgianism

AD 1700 to present.

Founded by clairvoyant, Emanuel Swedenborg.

God, Jesus & Holy Spirit

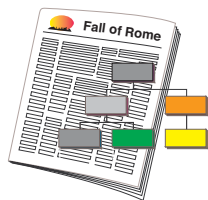
God is not three persons. Jesus Christ had a human state and a divine state.

Scripture

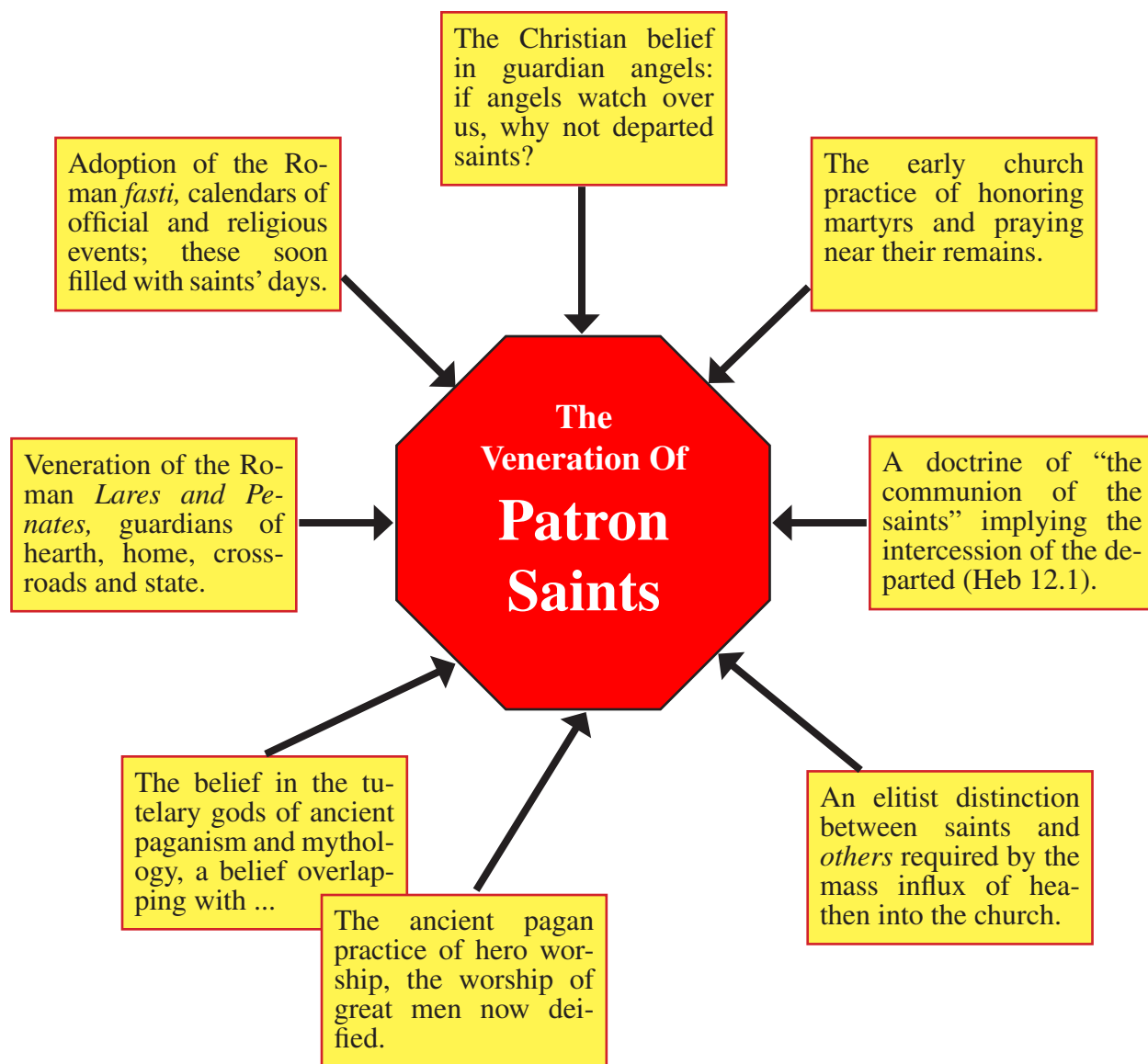
Only parts of the Bible are accepted, and they are allegorized.

Religious Life & Destiny

Last judgment on the Christian Church was in 1757, after which Swedenborg's teachings were adopted by the New Church.



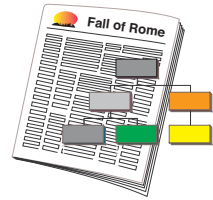
The Origin Of Patron Saints



At least eight distinct phenomena combined to evolve into the 4th-century practice of venerating saints. Remember that biblically, a "saint" is any true believer. However, with the massive influx of pagans into the church after Constantine, Christian leadership felt the need to distinguish between saints and ... *the others*. The distinction soon put martyrs and clergy on one side (saints) and the mixed-multitude on the other (laity). In time, *saints* became redefined further as "those now in heaven because of their exemplary lives, who can make intercession with God for the living as well as those in purgatory" (NIDCC). A biblical case *can be made* for departed saints engaging in intercession for those on earth (e.g. Rev 6.9-10), however there is no biblical support for the idea that an individual saint in heaven can hear the prayers addressed to him or her from earth. Furthermore, since there is a patron saint for every imaginable trade and circumstance, the idea of praying to patron saints theoretically pits one saint in heaven against another, for example when the bringer of a lawsuit prays to the patron of lawyers (St. Ivo), and the victim of the suit prays for help to the patron of the poor (St. Lawrence).



Councils and Synods



Quick Reference to Major

COUNCILS AND SYNODS IN CHURCH HISTORY

✧ Alexandria, Council of (430)

Cyril of Alexandria issued 12 anathemas against Nestorius.

✧ Ancyra, Council of (c. 315)

Ruled that deacons must choose between marriage and celibacy before ordination, and could not marry afterwards.

✧ Arles, Council of (314)

Convened by Constantine to judge the Donatist question.

✧ Basle, Council of (1431)

Discussed reunification with the Greek church.

✧ Carthage, Councils of (397), (416), (418)

Carthage of 397 fixed the New Testament Canon.

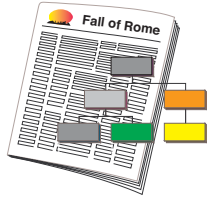
Carthage of 416 condemned Pelagian teachings.

Carthage of 418 banned appeals to authorities outside of Africa on matters of church discipline.

✧ Chalcedon, Council of (451)

Considered an ecumenical (universally binding) council. Produced an appropriately modified Nicene Creed. The acts of the “robber synod” were overruled. Leo the Great stated that Christ was fully human and fully divine without being a split personality. This council rejected the Petrine basis for supremacy of the pope. ^{Dowley,}
Eerdmans' Handbook, p. 193

Monophysitism arose as a reaction to Chalcedon's doctrinal assertions.



✧ Constance, Council of (1414-18)

Involved quarrels between antipopes. Deposed John XXIII. Prohibited the Hussite view that all Christians should receive both the bread and the wine in the Eucharist. Condemned Wyclif for heresy and had his body exhumed from holy ground.

✧ Constantinople, Councils of (381), (553), (680-81)

Constantinople of 381 was summoned by Theodosius. Considered an ecumenical (universally binding) council. Reaffirmed the faith of Nicaea and marked the end of Arianism within the Empire. Denounced the teaching of Appolinarius.

Constantinople of 553 condemned Monergism and Monotheletism.

Constantinople of 680-81 condemned Monophysitism.

✧ Dort, Synod of (1618-19)

The first Reformed Synod, it was at Dort that the five points of Calvinism were formulated and the teachings of Arminius were condemned.

✧ Ephesus, Councils of (431), (449)

Ephesus I considered an ecumenical (universally binding) council. Deposed Nestorius.

Ephesus II called the “robber synod.”

✧ Florence, Council of (1438-45)

“Defined the outward sign at ordination as the handing on of the paten and chalice to candidates for priest’s orders.” Dowley, *Eerdmans’ Handbook*, p. 258

✧ Hippo, Council of (393)

Approved a complete New Testament canon list.

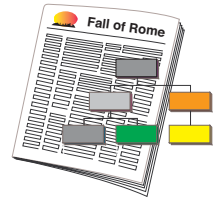


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✠ Jerusalem, Council of (49)

Acts 15. Dealt with the Judaizing issue of whether Gentile believers should be required to keep the Mosaic law. The answer: NO.

✠ Lateran Councils (1123), (1139), (1179), (1215) Schaff, v. 5, pp. 810, 811

First Lateran called by Calixtus II. Ratified the Concordant of Worms. Suppressed simony and marriage of priests.

Second Lateran celebrated the end of a papal schism and denounced the errors of Arnold of Brescia.

Third Lateran marked the restoration of peace between the Church and the Empire. Legislated against the Cathari and Patarenes. Ordered separate churches and burial grounds for lepers.

Fourth Lateran Council (= Twelfth Ecumenical) established the Inquisition and formulated the doctrine of transubstantiation.

✠ Lyons, Councils of (1245), (1274) Schaff, v. 5, p. 811

First Council of Lyons prosecuted the emperor Frederick II.

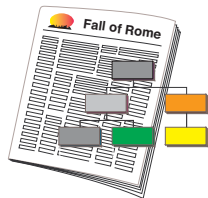
Second Council of Lyons (= Fourteenth Ecumenical) summoned by Gregory X. Affirmed the doctrine of the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Son. Repeated the legislation of Lateran IV, prohibiting the institution of new monastic orders. Attempted to reunite the churches of the East and West. Delaney, p. 811

✠ Milevis, Council of (416)

Condemned Pelagius.

✠ Neocaesarea, Council of (c. 320)

Ruled to depose presbyters who married after ordination.



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✠ Nicaea, Councils of (325), (787)

Nicaea of 325 was considered an ecumenical (universally binding) council. Convened by Constantine. Ruled against Arianism, stating that Christ is of one essence with the Father. Also banned clergy transferring from one city to another, and recognized the bishops of Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Caesarea and Jerusalem as having superior authority.

Nicaea of 787 condemned the iconoclastic movement and supported the position of John of Damascus.

✠ Orange, Synod of (529)

Condemned Semi-Pelagianism.

✠ Pisa, Council of (1409)

Attempted to settle papal schisms, thereby raising the question of whether councils are superior in authority to popes.

✠ Sens, Council of (1141)

Condemned several statements of Peter Abelard.

✠ Soissons, Council of (1121)

Condemned Peter Abelard's views on the Trinity.

✠ Toledo, Council of (589)

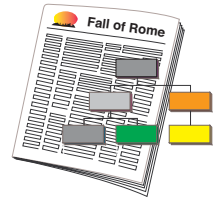
Added the "Filioque" to the Nicene Creed, clarifying that the Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son.



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✠ Toulouse, Synod of (1229)

Celebrated the close of the Albigensian crusades and systematized the procedure to be followed by Inquisitors. This council also forbade laymen to possess the Bible. ^{Schaff 1891, v. 5, p. 812}

✠ Tours, Synod of (1163)

Legislated against heresy.

✠ Trent, Council of (1546)

The Roman Catholic counter-reformation. Trent clarified Roman doctrine and condemned Protestant views with anathemas.

Defined Scripture and Tradition as two distinct authorities. Reaffirmed the supremacy of the Latin Vulgate version of the Bible.

Published the Tridentine Index in 1564, an authoritative list of prohibited books.

✠ Treves, Synod of (1227)

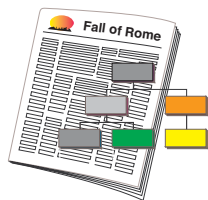
Passed canons pertaining to the administration of the sacraments. ^{Schaff 1891, v. 5, p. 812}

✠ Tyre, Council of (335)

Involved with the Arian dispute, this council banished Athanasius.

✠ Uppsala, Synod of (1593)

The Swedish church adopted the Lutheran Augsburg Confession.



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✠ Vatican Council I (1869-70)

Declared the concept of papal infallibility when speaking “ex cathedra” on faith and morals. In a victory for the Ultramontanists over liberal Catholicism, the pope was established as a higher authority than church councils.

✠ Vatican Council II (1962-65)

Called by John XXIII to improve the pastoral work of the church.

Declared that the “Church...is necessary for salvation,” but that Moslems and sincere people who do not know Christ or the gospel “may achieve eternal salvation.” Also: “This sacred council...proposes again the decrees of the...Council of Trent.” ^{Schaff}, p. 412

✠ Verona, Synod of (1184)

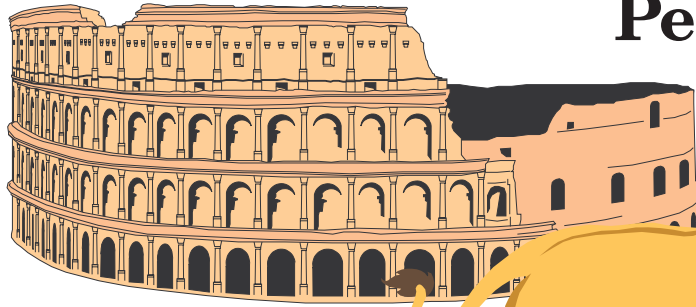
Passed a lengthy decree concerning the trial and punishment of heretics. ^{Schaff}
1891, v.5, p. 812

✠ Vienne, Council of (1311-12)

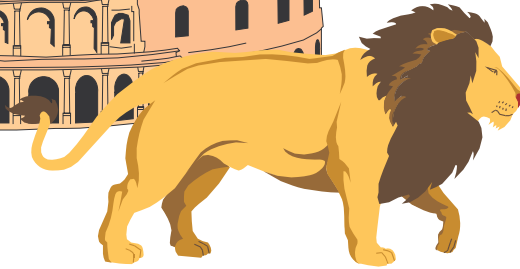
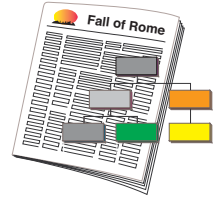
Reached an agreement regarding the split among the Franciscans between the Spirituals and Conventuals.

✠ Whitby, Synod of (664)

Agreement was reached on the method for computing Easter. This synod also confirmed the Romanization of British Christianity.



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Quick Reference to Historic PERSECUTIONS

“The history of persecution is a history of endeavors to cheat nature,
to make water run up hill, to twist a rope of sand.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The First Persecution

✠ The “Great Persecution” Against the Church at Jerusalem

AD 34?

“All except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria,” (Acts 8.1).

The Roman Persecutions

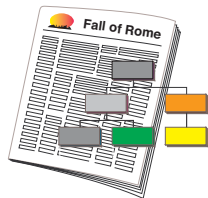
The pre-Constantine persecutions are variously numbered, but generally considered to have been about ten. Most of them were sporadic or local in nature, but all were horrible.

✠ The First General Persecution of the Christians: Reign of Nero

AD 64

The Neronian persecution occurred to make Christians the scapegoats for the burning of Rome, and consequently only affected believers in and near Rome. The horror of Nero’s tortures may not have been matched until the founding of the Inquisition. The demented emperor even burned Christians alive as torches to illuminate his gardens.

Peter and Paul are believed to have perished in this persecution.



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✂ The Persecution under Domitian

AD 81-96

The persecution under Domitian also centered in Rome. Believers who would not offer incense to the “genius of Caesar,” were martyred.

Clement of Rome perished in this persecution, and John was exiled to Patmos.

✂ The Persecution under Trajan

AD 98-117

This sporadic persecution was fueled by fear of insurrection. Christians were not the only suspects who were persecuted, and though executed when found, they were not sought out.

Ignatius, Symeon, Zozimus and Rufus were among those who perished.

✂ The Persecution Under Hadrian

AD 117-138

Hadrian continued the policies of Trajan against the Christians, but punished those who brought false witness against the believers.

Telesphorus perished in this era.

✂ The Fourth [Fifth?] General Persecution: Reign of Marcus Aurelius

AD 163

Aurelius was a Stoic and opposed Christianity for philosophical reasons.

Christians were blamed for natural disasters in this era; Justin Martyr, Pothinus and Blandina were killed.

✂ The Fifth [Sixth?] General Persecution under the Roman Emperors

AD 200

“Septimus Severus directed the first coordinated, empire-wide sanctions against the Christians, forbidding both them and the Jews to proselytize, and subjecting converts to severe penalties.” ^{Grant,}

Michael

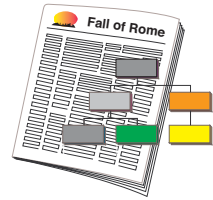
Perpetua and Felicitas, along with Leonidas and Irenaeus perished.



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☞ The First Long Peace

AD 211-250

✂ The Persecution Under Maximus the Thracian

AD 235-36

Maximus resented Christians for supporting his predecessor whom he had assassinated. He ordered the execution of Christian clergy. This persecution briefly interrupted the first long peace for the church.

Ursula and Hippolytus were martyred.

✂ The Decian Persecution

AD 250-51

The enthusiastic promotion of paganism encouraged the extermination of Christianity.

Cyprian went into hiding during this persecution, an act which aroused suspicion in Rome and criticism in Carthage. Fabianus and Alexander of Jerusalem were martyred.

✂ The Eighth [Ninth?] General Persecution under the Roman Emperors

AD 257-260

Under Valerian, Christian assemblies were banned and the property of believers confiscated. Origen, Cyprian and Sixtus II were martyred.

☞ The Second Long Peace

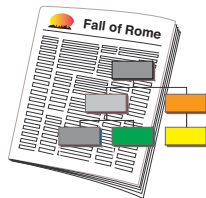
AD 258-303

✂ The Tenth General Persecution under the Roman Emperors

AD 303-311

The Edict of Diocletian ordered the razing of church buildings and destruction of the scriptures and other sacred literature. Christians were killed or thrown to the lions in the Coliseum. None were spared, regardless of age or sex.

Galerius instigated much of the severity in the persecution under Diocletian, and later continued the policy of persecution as Augustus of the East. Galerius did not publish his Edict of Toleration until his health failed and it became politically expedient in 311. Douglas, p. 399; also *Christian History*, No. 27



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The Middle Ages

✂ First persecution of heretics in Germany

AD 1012

Persecutions by the Roman Catholic Church

✂ Beginning of Persecution by the Roman Church

AD 1200

✂ Persecution in England: Reign of Queen Mary

AD 1554

Mary was the daughter of Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII. "The harsh treatment she had received from Henry and Edward had deeply embittered her against Protestantism." Once fully in power, Mary restored authority to the Catholics and burned a large number of Protestant leaders. "Thousands of foreign Protestants and thousands of English evangelicals took refuge in the Netherlands, Germany, Geneva, etc.... The number of victims (less than three hundred) was inconsiderable in comparison with those of the Counter-Reformation in the Netherlands, Austria, France, Poland, etc.; but this persecution aroused a mighty reaction that made England forever Protestant." Newman, v. 2, pp. 265, 266

Modern Persecutions

💣 Boxer Rebellion

AD 1900

"The largest massacre ever of Protestant missionaries took place in China in 1900. During the Boxer Rebellion, 188 Protestant adults and children were martyred." *Christian History*, No. 52

💣 USSR Persecution

AD 1917-91

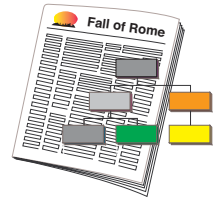
David Barrett of the World Evangelization Research Center estimates that 30 million Christians were killed and 33 million were imprisoned in the course of the Soviet Union's experiment with Marxism. At one time during this long persecution, "88% of the Russian Orthodox churches were closed and four hundred leaders of unregistered Baptist churches were in prison. About ten thousand Christians were sent to Siberian gulags or exiled. In a particularly cruel kind of persecution, some on thousand Christians were prisoners in psychiatric wards." *Christian History*, No. 27



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☛ The Chiapas, Mexico Persecution

AD 1966-91

From 1966 to 1991, “23,000 indigenous believers have been illegally evicted from their homelands for converting to Protestant Christianity.” On April 19, 1991, 48 evangelicals were wounded in a clash with government-sanctioned Catholics, supposedly trying to evict the believers from their land. In spite of constitutional guarantees, the power of Catholicism in Mexico makes it unlikely that evangelicals will get much help from their government in these conflicts. *World*, Vol. 6, No. 6, May 4, 1991

☛ China’s Cultural Revolution

AD 1966-76

Maoists imprisoned or executed countless Christians and the Chinese church was forced underground. Occasional arrests of church leaders and crackdowns on illegal house-church meetings continue to this day.

☛ The Ugandan Persecution Under Idi Amin

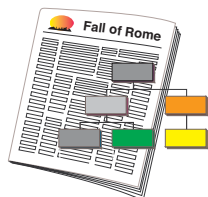
AD 1971-76

Approximately “400,000 Christians died, disappeared, or fled the country...” *Christian History*, No. 27

TOP RELIGION STORIES OF 1996

(*Christianity Today Magazine*, January 6, 1997, as selected by 10 CT editors and news writers)

- 1. Worldwide persecution of Christians increases.**
2. Black church arsons trigger new focus on racism.
3. *Romer v. Evans* ruling bolsters homosexual-rights movement.
4. Partial-birth abortion veto override fails.
5. New Era bankruptcy agreement forged.
6. Central African conflicts limit Christian relief.
7. Episcopal Church rocked by heresy trial, clergy misconduct.
8. Welfare reform includes “charitable choice.”
9. Promise Keepers expands, reviving Christian men’s movements.
10. Call to Renewal forms as alternative to Christian Coalition.



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“More people have been martyred for Christ in the past fifty years than in the church’s first three hundred years.” *Christian History*, No. 27

In 1989, David Barrett estimated that on an average, a Christian somewhere in the world was losing his or her life “in a situation of witness” every 100 seconds. An average of 36 Christian martyrs lay down their lives every hour. *On Being*, September 1989

Persecution Since 9-11

While Christians still face persecution from Communists in China and elsewhere, the great foe of Christianity for now and probably until Christ’s return is Radical Islam. Millions of Muslims, some nominal and others deeply religious, remain good, peace-loving citizens in their countries of residence. However, radical elements, acting in the spirit of Muhammad’s original *jihad*, openly teach world dominion and the extermination of all who do not bow to their teaching.

The Wahhabism that is the national religion of Saudi Arabia is a key culprit in fomenting worldwide *jihad*.

The followers of the 18th century Muhammad Ibn Abd al-Wahhab, commonly called Wahhabis, seek the extermination not only of Christians and Jews, but also of nominal Muslims and of Shias whom the Wahhabis consider apostate. See the October 4, 2004 article, ***Murderous Monotheists***, by Stephen Schwartz at <http://www.persecution.org/newsite/storydetail.php?storycode=407>.

In the national upheaval of Iraq, native Christians had hoped for a new era of religious freedom. Today, however, for fear of attacks from radical Muslims, Iraqi Christians are fleeing to Jordan and Syria. The 2,000-year-old Christian community is wondering whether to call it quits in Iraq or to go underground. See the October 7, 2004 news release at: <http://www.persecution.org/newsite/countrynews.php?newscode=480>. Persecution by Muslims today is fuelled by the belief that the Muslim messiah, the Mahdi, is about to appear (or has appeared in the person of Osama bin Laden). See Joseph Farah’s G2 BULLETIN: ***Warnings from Islam’s ‘messianic whirlpool’: Jihadists in global frenzy over coming of prophesied ‘Mahdi’***. Posted on March 29, 2004, this article is available at: http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=37782.

Unfortunately, Islam is not the only mortal enemy of Christians. To see all the countries where Christians are currently being persecuted by Muslims, Hindus, or by political entities, please go to: http://www.persecution.org/newsite/country_info.php.



The Mustard Seed Story

A BC to AD Course
By Timothy Ministries



SIMON ZEALOT,
sawn apart



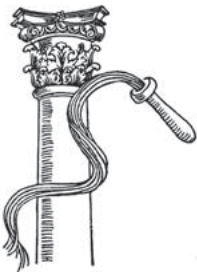
BARTHOLOMEW,
skinned alive



MATTHIAS,
stoned &
beheaded



JAMES THE GREAT,
Traveled to Spain, put to the
sword in Jerusalem,
Acts 12.1,2

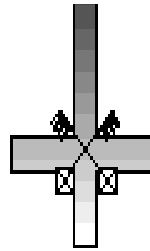


PHILIP,
scourged &
crucified

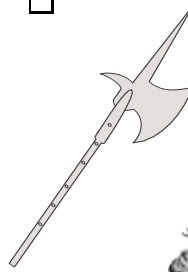


JAMES the Less,
stoned in
Jerusalem, sawn
to pieces

Apostolic Symbols



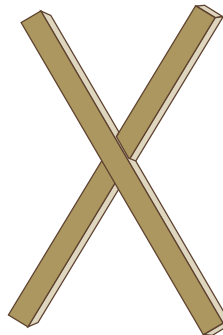
PETER, given keys of king-
dom, crucified upside down



JUDE, martyred
with a halberd



JOHN, given
poisoned wine



ANDREW,
crucified on an X
(crux decussata)



THOMAS,
speared in India



MATTHEW,
one-time
tax collector,
martyred in
Alexandria



From Pastors to Pope in Five Centuries

Acts 20.30

Century 1

Under the apostle's supervision, a plurality of elder-bishops, along with deacons, led each local congregation. New Testament; 1 Clement

Early Century 2

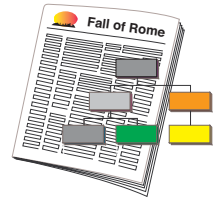
With the differentiation of bishops from the elders, local congregations began to be governed by a single bishop who presided over the elders and deacons. See Douglas, on "Ignatius"

Late Century 2

The doctrine of apostolic succession developed to the point where clusters of congregations in a geographical region began to look to a diocesan bishop for leadership. Irenaeus; Tertullian

Mid-Century 3

Cyprian spoke of church leaders as "priests," and promoted the idea that pastors are representatives of Christ, stand in the place of the Old Testament priesthood, and are responsible to offer sacramental sacrifice. Stephen asserted the primacy of the bishop of Rome. Roberts, Cyprian's Epistle 62, p. 362; Walton, chart 12.



Early Century 4

By virtue of their location, metropolitan bishops (archbishops) gained ascendancy over chorepiscopi (country bishops). ^{Walton, chart 12.}

Late Century 4

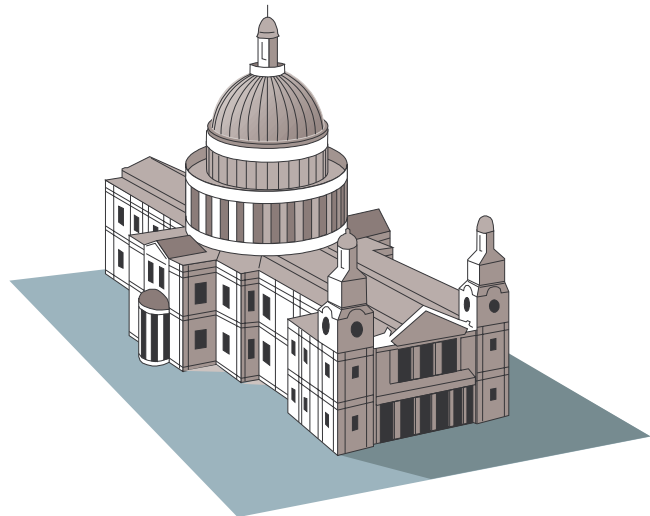
Patriarchs came into existence when special honor was given to the bishops of Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople, and Jerusalem. The Patriarch of Constantinople received primacy next to that of the Roman bishop. Roman bishop, Damasus, referred to Rome as the “Apostolic See” and to other bishops as “sons” rather than “brothers” (the concept of a Roman “father” i.e. papa is born). ^{Walton, chart 12; Dowley, *Eerdmans’ Handbook*, p. 192.}

Mid-Century 5

More clearly than any of his predecessors, Pope Leo I advanced the primacy of the Roman church and claimed authority over all other churches on the basis of Matthew 16.19 (apostolic succession from Peter). ^{Dowley, *Eerdmans’ Handbook*, p. 176}

Late Century 5

Pope Gelasius I set the papacy above secular rule. ^{Dowley, *Eerdmans’ Handbook*, pp. 193,194}



Ephesians 3.20,21

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Spiritual Gifts in Christian History

AD 30

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people...even on my servants, both men and women...and they will prophesy’...the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off.” Acts 2.17-21, 39 (NIV).

c. A.D. 100

First Epistle Of Clement of Rome: In this epistle written to exhort younger people who were rebelling against the elders, Clement wrote, “let each man be subject unto his neighbor, according as also he was appointed with his special grace” (38.1). This exhortation using a form of the term “charisma” in the original seems to parallel 1 Peter 4.10, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...”

AD 100-165

Justin Martyr wrote, “it is possible now to see among us women and men who possess gifts of the Spirit of God,” *Dialogue With Trypho*, LXXXVIII, p. 243. And in another place, “[some] are also receiving gifts, each as he is worthy, illumined through the name of this Christ. For one receives the spirit of understanding, another of counsel, another of strength, another of healing, another of foreknowledge, another of teaching, and another of the fear of God.” ^{Kydd}

AD 130-200

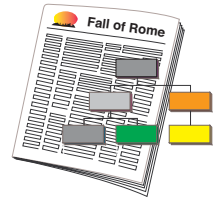
Irenaeus, describing many spiritual gifts in the Church of his day said, “Others have foreknowledge of things to come: they see visions and utter prophetic expressions. Others still, heal the sick by laying their hands upon them, and they are made whole... In like manner we do hear many brethren in the church...who through the Spirit speak all kinds of languages...” (*Against Heresies*, V, vi, 1). ^{Roberts, p. 531.}



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Charts & Articles Spiritual Gifts



c. A.D. 115

Epistle to Polycarp: in one of the seven epistles written by Ignatius en route to martyrdom in Rome, he exhorted Polycarp, “as for the invisible things, pray thou that they may be revealed unto thee; that thou mayest be lacking in nothing, but mayest abound in every spiritual gift” (2.2).

c. A.D. 155

Shepherd Of Hermas: in this work written by Hermas, a brother of the Roman bishop Pius, the Eleventh Mandate deals at length on discerning a false from a true prophet. True prophecy is described in these words: “the man, being filled with the Holy Spirit, speaketh to the multitude, according as the Lord willeth.”

AD 160-220

“Tertullian reported witnessing extraordinary gifts of the Spirit, although their manifestation was waning with the increasing formalism of the church.” Hummel, p. 164 In *Concerning Baptism*, 20.5, Tertullian wrote: “ask the Lord to make you subject to the riches of grace, the distribution of the gifts.”^{Kydd, p. 69}

c. AD 200

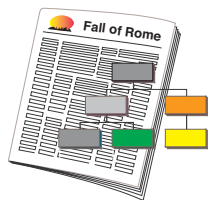
The Church became wary of supernatural manifestations of the Spirit because of the excesses of the Montanists who claimed to be “mouthpieces of the Paraclete,” prophesied, spoke in tongues, had visions, taught asceticism, and sought martyrdom.^{Hummel, p. 165; Dowley, *Eerdmans' Handbook*, p. 74}

c. AD 250

Novation advocated the full range of spiritual gifts.^{Hummel, p.165}

c. AD 300-450

The desert fathers in Egypt experience all manner of miracles and supernatural manifestations.



AD 330-379

Basil the Great, medically trained, practiced healing through prayer. Hummel, p. 211

c. AD 400

Chrysostom wrote that tongues had “died out and were no longer needed to establish Christianity” (Chrysostom, *Homilies on First Corinthians*, 29.1).

AD 354-430

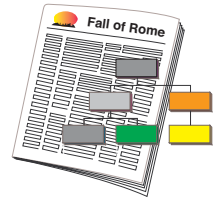
Augustine of Hippo, who set the mold of Western Christianity for 700 years, under pressure to explain the general absence of gifts, taught that extraordinary gifts like tongues and healing were designed for the first century and had passed away. Later he laid hands on a sick man who departed well, and reported “nearly seventy attested miracles” (The City of God, XII, 8). Hummel, p. 211

AD 1000

Tongues gradually “came to be considered an evidence of demon possession.” Hummel, pp. 192, 193 Spiritual gifts “waned, not in a church which otherwise was growing in spiritual power, but in one which was departing from other New Testament principles and practices as well.” Hummel, p. 166

AD 1517

Luther ignited the Protestant Reformation. He taught that miracles and healings were no longer necessary after the canon of Scripture was completed. He repeatedly affirmed that the “real miracles” were not visible ones. Toward the end of his life he brought his friend Melancthon back from the brink of death through prayer, and just before he himself died, he described healing a man of madness by “prayer in Christ’s name.” “Unfortunately, Luther did not integrate these experiences into his theology.” Hummel, pp. 212, 213



AD 1509-1569

Reacting to Roman Catholicism's inclination to validate its authority on the basis of miracles performed in its midst, Calvin taught that spiritual gifts had been replaced by the preaching of the Word. ^{Hummel, pp. 166, 167}

AD 1521

The German radical reformers from Zwickau, Nicholas Storch, Thomas Drechsel, and Marcus Stübner, visited Wittenberg. They rejected professional ministry and organized religion because they saw all godly men as under the direct influence of the Spirit. They believed in special revelation through visions and dreams and were dubbed "the Zwickau prophets" by Luther. They were rejected for their millennial emphasis and criticism of the Wittenburger's liturgy. ^{Douglas}

AD 1616-1683

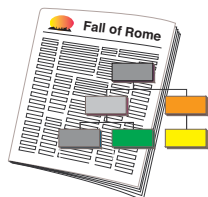
English Puritan, John Owen wrote, "It is true that those extraordinary effects of His power, which were necessary for laying the foundation of the church, have ceased." ^{Hummel, p. 167}

AD 1731

Tongues experienced among the Jansenists of France, a Roman Catholic protest movement. ^{Mills, p. 186}

AD 1783

John Wesley observed a correlation between lost gifts and the general state of the Church: "extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit were no longer to be found in the Christian Church because the Christians were turned heathen again and had only a dead form left." ^{Hummel, p. 168} E. Glenn Hinson says that tongues "accompanied the Wesleyan revivals, the Great Awakening of the 1740's, and the frontier revivals of the early 1800's." ^{Mills, p. 186}



AD 1881

Presbyterian minister A. B. Simpson, after being miraculously healed of a debilitating disease, began the Christian and Missionary Alliance movements which hold the doctrine that healing is integral in the atonement. *Christian Life*, October 1982, p. 26

AD 1900

Classical Pentecostalism arose from the theological foundation of Methodism. Dowley, *Eerdmans' Handbook*, p. 618

AD 1906

The Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles, accompanied by various manifestations of spiritual gifts, particularly tongues, gave impetus to the “tongues is the evidence of Spirit baptism” doctrine. Dowley, *Eerdmans' Handbook*, p.618

AD 1951

Demos Shakarian founded the Full Gospel Business-Men's Fellowship International.¹⁶⁸

AD 1959

Dennis Bennet of the Episcopal Church in Van Nuys, CA, became a figurehead of Neo-Pentecostalism, a Pentecostal-like practice in mainline denominational churches, and is credited with beginning the “Charismatic Movement.”

AD 1965

Revival exploded in Indonesia. Christians saw visions, walked on water, healed the sick, and even raised the dead. As they zealously proclaimed the gospel, 80,000 people (half of whom had been communists) were converted in the revival's first year. Koch, p.159, and Tari

AD 1967

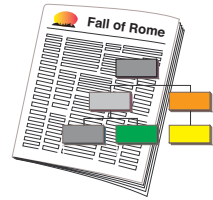
Catholic Pentecostalism began its phenomenal growth. Dowley, *Eerdmans' Handbook*, p. 621



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Charts & Articles Spiritual Gifts



AD 1982

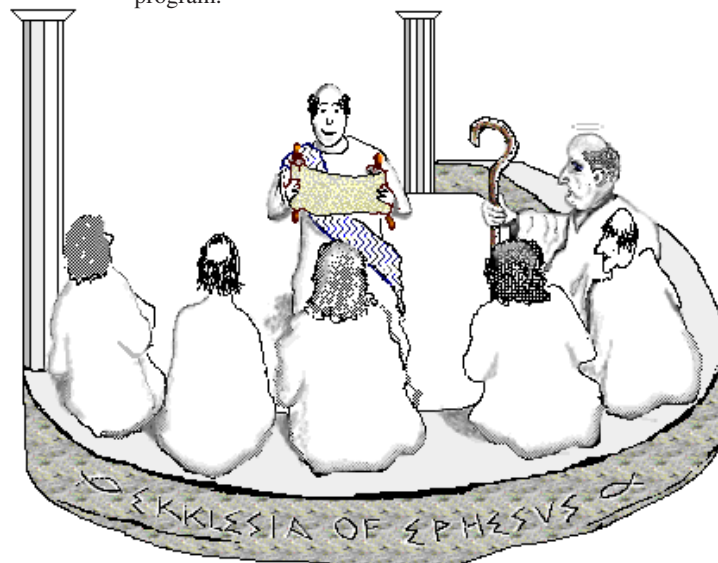
At Fuller Seminary, Peter Wagner and John Wimber launched MC510, and experimental course entitled “Signs and Wonders and Church Growth.” Students in the class began to experience divine healing and other manifestations of God’s supernatural power. *Christian Life*, October 1982 In retrospect, observers credit Wimber with beginning the “Third Wave” of charismatic experience.

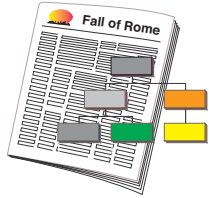
This “Third Wave” experience occurs primarily in Evangelical churches, and is in contrast to the Pentecostal Movement (first wave) and the Charismatic Movement (second wave). Third Wave participants are sometimes called Neo-Charismatics. While recognizing a baptism by the Spirit, they tend to see it as occurring at conversion, and do not emphasize tongues as its evidence. The Third Wave emphasizes the power of the Holy Spirit to heal the sick, deliver from demons and to give prophetic encouragement and direction.

AD 1984

Two million converts reported in a two-year “revival,” begun by Assemblies of God evangelist Carlos Annacondia, in Argentina.

It’s an appeal from the church in Smyrna. Since our “venerable Elder, John the Revelator, is the last surviving Apostle,” they’re asking us to get involved in a *prophet-sharing* program.





A Quick Reference to Historic
FALSE PROPHETS
FALSE MESSIAHS
& ANTICHRISTS

• ABRAHAM BEN SAMUEL ABULAFIA

Born in Saragossa, Spain, in 1240, Abulafia claimed to receive God's prophecies through his practices of cabalism, meditation and asceticism. He had gained a small following by 1273, and in 1280 attempted to convert Pope Nicholas III to his way of thinking. Nicholas would have executed Abulafia, had the pope not died first. In 1284, Abulafia claimed to be a Messiah and gained a greater following among Christians than among Jews. Driven from Sicily, he finished his life out on the island of Comino in the Malta group. His writings influenced the cabalists of Safed in the 16th century.

• APOLLONIUS OF TYANA Douglas; Klingaman

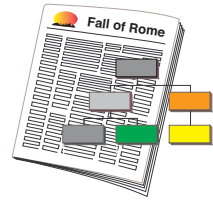
This quasi-mythical individual died around AD 98. His story represents a counterfeit gospel, claiming him as the son of Apollo by a human mother. He journeyed to India where he studied Buddhism and then returned to preach his gospel of "love, compassion and abandonment of self" in Asia Minor and Greece. He was imprisoned by Domitian for sedition, probably for refusing to worship the emperor, was released before the accession of Nerva, and died soon after. He was supposedly a wonder-worker like Christ and was miraculously delivered when brought to trial, but his story includes no crucifixion, no atonement.

• GEORGE BAKER, a.k.a. MAJOR J. DIVINE or FATHER DIVINE Douglas; Appel

Born into a poor, Georgia Negro family around 1865, Baker first served as assistant to another man who believed himself to be a messiah: Samuel Morris, a preacher of a Baptist Church Colored. Baker broke away from Morris by 1914, and turned up in Valdosta, Georgia where he was put on trial for public disturbances like causing women to run through the streets declaring that God had arrived. From Valdosta, Baker ultimately arrived in Brooklyn where he set up a communal house. His disciples were forbidden to have connections with outsiders, regardless of previous relationships, and, as God, Baker also banned sex, money and acknowledgment of race from his commune. He lived exempt from the bans on sex and money, marrying a white woman and dictating the handling of funds.

Divine's commune was famous for its Sunday feasts, open to outsiders, with listening to a sermon from Father the only price. Freundt considers Divine's movement a socioreligious one, and Appel considers Divine a "messianic entrepreneur." Father Divine published a magazine, "The New Day," and ran a massive cooperative agency and employment service. Such an organization gained many new adherents during the Great Depression. The weekly take of the movement during the depression was about \$20,000, "half of which went for expenses, and half to God."

"The interracial movement regards Father Divine as God, has over a million members...and is continued by [Divine's] white widow and heir, Mother Divine."



• SIMON BAR COCHEBA (or Kokhba, also Coziba)

Simon, the “Son of a Star,” was the leader of a Jewish insurrection against the Romans in 132-135 AD. Rabbi Akiba ben Joseph, joined his party, proclaimed him the Messiah and applied passages like Haggai 2.6-21 to him. Simon was at first successful, but was ultimately slain near Caesarea. ^{Edersheim}

• BASILIDES *Webster's Biographical Dictionary*

Basilides was probably born in Syria, and died about 140 A.D. He was a Gnostic teacher in Alexandria and founded the heretical sect of the Basilidians. He wrote commentaries on the Gospel and had an elaborate cosmology in his philosophy.

• ORIC BOVAR

A no-doubt demonized, but mesmerizing personality, Bovar appealed to people like Carol Burnett and Bernadette Peters in the mid-1970's. When he announced that he was Jesus Christ and began celebrating Christmas on his birthday in August, he alienated many followers. Arrested for failing to report the death of a disciple he was attempting to resurrect, the 60-year-old Bovar committed suicide on April 14, 1977, before he could appear in court.

• ISAAC BULLARD *Appel*

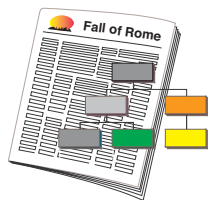
In the 1800's, a “messiah” named Isaac Bullard, clad only in a bearskin loincloth, led a band of followers from Vermont through New York and Ohio, and finally to Missouri, proclaiming a religion based on free love, communism and dirt—Bullard often boasted that he hadn't washed in seven years.

• CARPOCRATES *Webster's Biographical Dictionary*

Carpocrates was a Gnostic of Alexandria in the 2nd century A.D. who founded the sect of the Carpocratians. He taught that men could attain to a higher degree of illumination than that of Jesus, and “urged his followers to sin.” ^{Dowley, Eerdmans' Handbook, p. 98}

• CERINTHUS *Dowley, Eerdmans' Handbook*

“Cerinthus taught in Asia Minor. He taught that Jesus was merely a man upon whom ‘the Christ’ descended as a dove. As Christ could not suffer, he departed from Jesus before the crucifixion.”



Charts & Articles **False Prophets**

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• **CRETAN MESSIAH** Edersheim

A false messiah appeared on the island of Crete in 432 AD. He persuaded the Jews of the isle that he would take them to Palestine through the parted sea. On the appointed day, his followers assembled at a cliff, and on a given signal, they threw themselves into the Mediterranean. Fortunately, a number of fishermen with boats were near, and rescued most of them. The deceiver himself disappeared, and the majority of the Jews in Crete joined the Church!

• **EPIPHANES**

Epiphanes of Alexandria was a Gnostic teacher like his father Carpocrates. He “taught that promiscuity was God’s law.” Dowley, *Eerdmans’ Handbook*, p. 98

• **HOLOFERNES**

Miceli mentions Holofernes as “a precursor of the Antichrist” in the eyes of many interpreters.

• **LAFAYETTE RONALD HUBBARD** Appel; Douglas

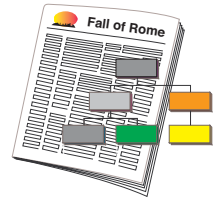
The troubled but wealthy son of a naval commander, Hubbard pursued psychiatric treatment for moroseness and suicidal tendencies. It was during his hospital stay that he first received a message from God that led to the founding of the Church of Scientology.

Hubbard’s organization grew to between 2 and 3 million members in 1968, with international headquarters near London. They have engaged in extensive aggressive activities and in 1979 were charged with “conspiracy to spy on U. S. agencies, breaking into government offices, stealing government documents, bugging federal agency meetings, and obstructing justice. The seized documents outlined Scientologists’ plans for the infiltration of more than 130 federal agencies, private organizations, and businesses.”

• **HUNG HSIU-CH’UAN**

Born at Hakka, in 1813, as an adult Hung had a nervous breakdown after repeated attempts to pass civil service exams. “While ill and delirious, he had a vision of heaven in which an old man and a middle-aged man ordered him to kill the demons on earth. Hung recovered and tried once again to pass the civil service exam. After this failure, his cousin gave him [a treatise on Christianity written by Liang A-fah, a colleague of Robert Morrison in Malacca]. These provided Hung with an understanding of his earlier vision and of his repeated failure to become a civil servant. He decided that the old man in his vision was God, the middle-aged man was Jesus Christ, and he was the Second Son of God, charged with the holy mission of saving the world from the evil destroying it. Soon afterward, Hung organized the God Worshipers Society, which, within a short time, was transformed into the Taiping army to challenge the Manchu dynasty.”

The rebellion, at first successful, was put down by Lt.-Col. C. G. “Chinese” Gordon. Hung killed himself.



• ISIDORE Dowley, *Eerdmans' Handbook*

Isidore was the son of Basilides, and like him a Gnostic teacher in Alexandria.

• JIM (JAMES) JONES Appel

Jim Jones' mother, an anthropologist, had a dream that she would give birth to a son who would save the world.

"To implement this vision she married and in 1931 gave birth to Jim."

Little Jim used to play "preacher" with other playmates serving as his congregation, but some neighbors suspected that he may have used the small pets for sacrifices.

Jones' first adult congregation was a Methodist church in Indianapolis. He left Methodism after only a few years to begin a church of his own, The People's Temple, which became actively involved in the crusade for civil rights.

Success began to corrupt Jones in the mid-to-late 1950's when he began to skim funds from the various humanitarian corporations he had set up.

After visiting Father Divine, Jones insisted that his followers address him as Father or Dad, and limit their contact with outsiders.

"By 1961, the year he was appointed director of the Indianapolis Human Rights Commission, Jones had begun ranting against the Bible... "Too many people are looking at this [Bible] instead of me," he declared.

Jones became paranoid, moving to Brazil to escape nuclear holocaust, and worrying for the rest of his life that he was dying of cancer.

Jones' career culminated in the Jonestown, Guyana massacre of November 1978. Jim Jones and 900 followers drank cyanide-laced Koolaid and died.

• EUDES DE L'ETOILE or EUDO DE STELLA Cohn

From a noble family of Loudéac in Brittany. A man of dignified bearing and magnetic personality.

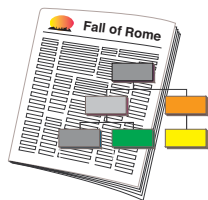
"He instituted a church of his own, with archbishops and bishops whom he called by such names as Wisdom, Knowledge, Judgement, and by the names of the Apostles, while he himself assumed the name of Eon. Although these names suggest the influence of some Gnostic or Neo-Manichean tradition, all that is known of Eudes' doctrine is that, like Tanchelm, he declared himself to be the Son of God."

Taken prisoner in 1148. Fed on water and little else he soon died.

• JAN MATTHYS (MATTHYSZON) of HAARLEM

Jan Matthys was a Dutch Anabaptist fanatic who took over the town of Münster in February 1534. He proclaimed that the rest of the earth would be destroyed before Easter, but Münster would be saved and would become the New Jerusalem. All Lutherans and Catholics were either rebaptized or thrown out of the town with barely the shirts on their backs. Matthys then solidified his control of the populace into a complete dictatorship while the Catholic bishop besieged the town with an army of mercenaries.

"At Easter he [Matthys] received what he believed to be a divine command to make a sortie at the



Continued from page 47

head of a mere handful of men. He went out convinced that with the Father's aid this handful would drive off the besieging army and liberate the town; instead of which he and his companions were literally cut to pieces." Cohn, p.290

• NEBUCHADNEZZAR

According to Miceli, Irenaeus saw Nebuchadnezzar as a forerunner of the coming Antichrist.

• OMAR

The caliph who succeeded abu-Bakr entered Jerusalem in 638 A.D. When the Byzantine patriarch of the city saw the unshaved and shabbily dressed Omar walking through the streets, he remarked to an attendant, "Indeed this is the abomination of desolation mentioned by the prophet Daniel as standing in the holy place." Potok, p. 254

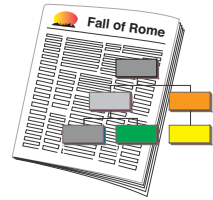
• JANKO AND LIVIN OF WIRSBERG

Two brothers from a rich and noble family, Janko and Livin began to disseminate prophecies about an Anointed Saviour who would inaugurate the Third and Last Age. "The brothers asserted that this man, not Christ, was the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament, the true Son of Man who was to appear in glory at the end of history...And it was his mission to save not simply mankind but God himself; for God had been suffering because of the sins of men ever since the world began, and now he was calling daily to the Anointed Saviour to release him from his anguish. But such a task could not of course be carried out without much bloodshed; and so the new messiah would begin by slaying Antichrist—the Pope—and save only the Mendicant Orders. In the end he would turn upon all who resisted him in any way, and to such good effect that—as prophesied in the Book of Revelation—a mere 14,000 [sic] would survive. This 'saving remnant' would be united in a single faith, a spiritual church without an external cult; and over them all the Anointed Saviour would reign at once as Roman Emperor and as God (sicut Caesar imperator et Deus).

"The begetter of the doctrine seems to have been not one of the Wirsberg brothers themselves but a Franciscan who had broken away from his community and who believed that he himself was the Anointed Saviour.

"The preordained year for the advent of the Anointed Saviour was 1467; but what would have happened then can never be known." Cohn

In the preceding year the ecclesiastical authorities took action. Janko fled, Livin recanted and went to prison where he died after a couple years, and the Franciscan apparently disappeared.



• JOACHIM OF FLORIS

Joachim was an Italian mystic who lived from about 1145 AD to 1202. He became a Cistercian monk and founded the monastery of San Giovanni in Fior. “He divided all time into three ages, of the Father, the Son (from 1-1260 A.D.) and the Holy Spirit.” *Webster's Biographical Dictionary*

“Expecting the new age to dawn by 1260, Joachim taught that the way must be prepared by a new order of monks who would preach the new gospel throughout the world. From amongst them would come twelve patriarches who would convert the Jews, and one supreme teacher, novus dux, who would lead all mankind away from the love of earthly things and towards the love of the things of the spirit. During the three and a half years immediately preceding the fulfillment of the third dispensation Antichrist would have his reign. He would be a secular king who would chastise the corrupt and worldly Church until in its present form it was utterly destroyed. After the overthrow of this Antichrist the Age of the Spirit would come in its fulness.” Cohn, p. 102

“This new chiliasm, unlike the old, prophesied a Millennium in which there would be no place for Christ. In Joachim's interpretation Christ no longer stands at the centre of history and the Christian revelation is of only limited and temporary validity.” Cohn, p. 101

• JOHN OF LEIDEN

A.K.A. (JAN BEUCKELSZOON or BOCKELSON or BEUCKELS)

This Dutch Anabaptist, born in 1509, was a tailor, merchant, and innkeeper, before he became the leader of the Anabaptists of Münster, in Jan Matthys' place, in 1534. He established there a theocracy, or kingdom of Zion, of which he was proclaimed king. He introduced polygamy and community of goods, ruling with pomp and cruel severity, executing anyone in the city who disagreed with him including wives of unbelievers who refused to violate their marriages and become part of a believer's harem.

The Catholic Bishop besieged Münster, and starved the inhabitants until two men escaped the city and revealed the weaknesses in its defenses. “On the night of 24th June, 1535, the besiegers launched a surprise attack and penetrated into the town. After some hours of desperate fighting the last two or three hundred surviving male Anabaptists accepted an offer of safe-conduct, laid down their arms and dispersed to their homes, only to be killed one by one and almost to the last man in a massacre which lasted several days.

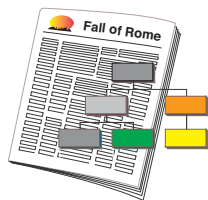
“All the leaders of Anabaptism in Münster perished.” Cohn, p. 305 Bockelson was led about the country for some time chained in a cage, and was finally tortured to death with red-hot irons.

• MARTIN LUTHER

The fanatic Thomas Müntzer saw Luther as “an eschatological figure, the Beast of the Apocalypse and the Whore of Babylon.” In a pamphlet, Müntzer referred to Luther as “soft-living flesh at Wittenberg.” Cohn, p. 262

• MENANDER Dowley, *Eerdmans' Handbook*

Menander was a “Samaritan who taught at Antioch in Syria towards the end of the first century. He told his followers that those who believed in him would not die. Needless to say, his own death demonstrated that he was a false prophet.”



• SAMUEL MORRIS Appel

A preacher at the Baptist Church Colored, at the turn of the century, this self-appointed messiah engendered a greater one: Father Divine, i.e. George Baker, who had served as his assistant.

• THOMAS MÜNZER or MÜNTZER

Müntzer (AD 1489-1525) was an apocalyptic Anabaptist leader who led the peasant insurrection in Thuringia during the Peasants' War and inaugurated the war against the nobility and clergy. 190 Müntzer was "obsessed by eschatological phantasies which he attempted to translate into reality by exploiting social discontent." ^{Cohn}

The nobility attacked Müntzer's army, which consisted of thousands of disorganized peasants, at Frankenhausen. Müntzer told his followers "that God had spoken to him and had promised victory; that he himself would catch the enemy cannon-balls in the sleeves of his cloak; and that in the end God would transform heaven and earth rather than allow his people to perish." ^{Cohn} Nevertheless, the peasants were scattered and Müntzer beheaded.

• HENRY JAMES PRINCE

An Anglican minister, ordained in 1840, became convinced of his own divinity and founded the Agape-mone, the Abode of Love. He told his followers, "I am one in the flesh with Christ. By me, and in me, God has redeemed all flesh from death, and brought the bodies of breathing men into the resurrection state." Rumors of orgies at his commune followed his bigamous marriage to a virgin bride and her giving birth to a daughter supposedly spawned by the devil. A few years after Prince died in 1899, he was replaced by a second messiah named John Hugh Smyth-Pigott who led the remaining congregation of about 100 women until he died in 1927. The Abode of Love finally disappeared as its members died, and the estate was sold in 1962.

• FRANK SANFORD

Frank Sanford was influenced heavily by Smith's "The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life," while a pastor of a Free Baptist Church. He accepted holiness teaching under the Methodists, and a doctrine of divine healing from association with A. B. Simpson. Much of his early biography reads like that of Müller or Taylor in its stories of "living by faith" and ministering free of charge. Nelson writes that later in his ministry, Sanford raised an apparently dead woman.

Little by little, however, Sanford came to see himself, not as "a Christian leader," but rather as "THE Christian leader for his generation." At length, he came to see himself as Elijah, the forerunner of the Second Coming, and as one of the "two witnesses" prophesied of in the Revelation.

He founded a movement that came to be known as Shiloh, and was based in a huge Victorian structure he built in Maine. People followed him so blindly, that some died when led on a journey without sufficient supplies. Sanford served part of a 10-year sentence for manslaughter in the Atlanta penitentiary.

The article on Sanford in the "Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements" barely scratches the surface of this scandalous movement so intelligently described by Nelson.

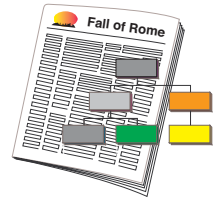


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False Prophets



• TANCHELM Cohn

Active, circa AD 1110. A notary at the court of Robert II, Count of Flanders. Began to attack the clergy. Dressed as a monk, he began to preach in the open fields. Extraordinary eloquence. Easily persuaded peasants to withhold tithes (of all their produce from corn to herbs to the down on their geese), but seems to have appropriated them for himself.

Changed monks garments for a king's. "Finally he proclaimed that he possessed the Holy Spirit in the same sense and in the same degree as Christ and that like Christ he was God; and all these claims were accepted by the people. He distributed his bath-water among them and some drank it as a substitute for the Eucharist, others treasured it as a holy relic. On one occasion he had a statue of the Virgin Mary brought to him and in the presence of a vast crowd solemnly betrothed himself to her. Coffers were placed on either side of the statue to receive wedding-gifts from male and female followers respectively. 'Now,' said Tanchelm, 'I shall see which sex bears the greater love towards me and my bride.' The clergy who witnessed it record with horror how the people rushed to make their offerings, women threw in their ear-rings and necklaces and large sums were collected."

His "inner circle of followers consisted of a fraternity of twelve men, in imitation of the Apostles, and a woman representing the Virgin Mary."

At the height of his power, no feudal lord in his region could effectively oppose him. Killed by a priest in 1115.

• VALENTINUS Dowley, *Eerdmans' Handbook*

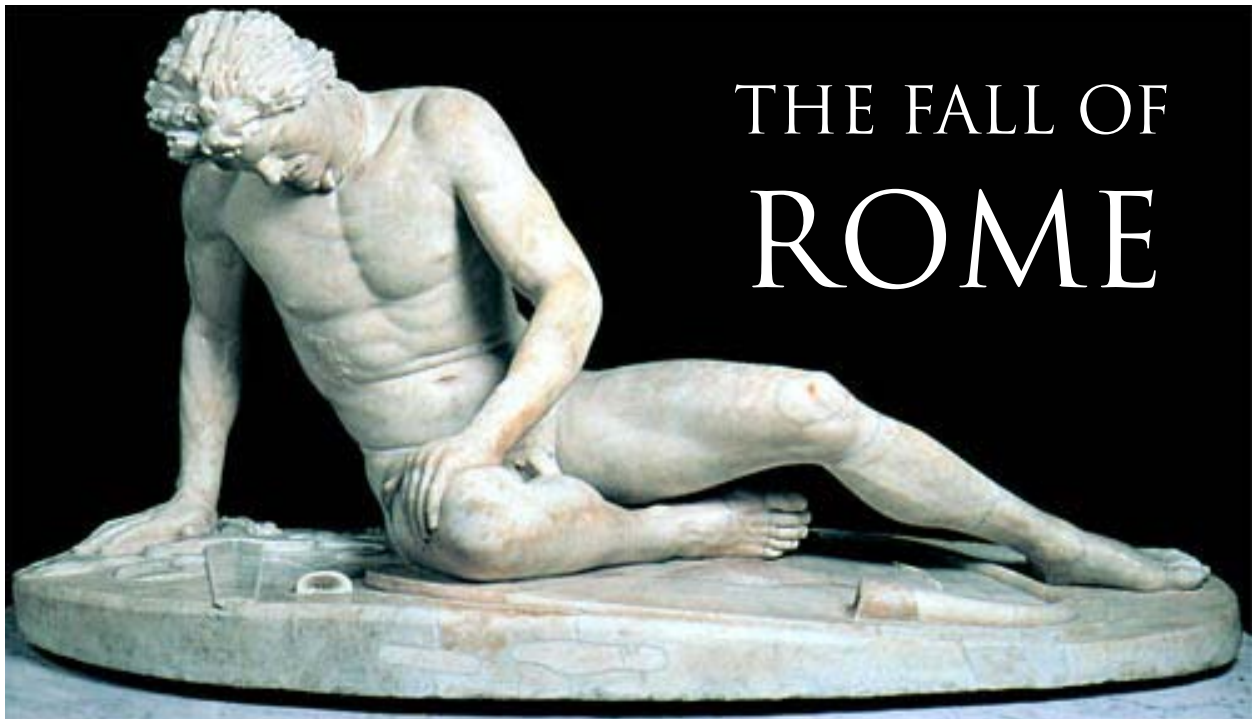
Valentinus is the most famous of Gnostic teachers. He taught in Alexandria, but came to Rome in AD 140. He had a number of followers, among them Theodotus in the East, and Ptolemy and Heracleon in the West.

• JEMIMA WILKENS

Born in 1752, Wilkenson, a Rhode Island Quaker, claimed to have died and risen again as a reincarnation of Christ. She was ordained to prepare the faithful for the Second Coming, scheduled to occur in her lifetime. When she died for the last time in 1820, her followers did not bury her, but awaited her promised resurrection. Nevertheless, as her body decomposed, so did her movement.

• SABBATAI ZEBI (Shabbethai Zevi)

Zebi was a Hebrew mystic and a manic-depressive born in Smyrna in 1626. He proclaimed himself the messiah in 1648 and founded "the largest messianic movement in Jewish history." Many Christians believed in Zebi and joined his unorthodox movement that encouraged sexual promiscuity, nudity and equal rights for women. In 1666, he moved against Constantinople but was captured by the Muslims and unhesitatingly converted to Islam in order to save his skin.^{190, p. 1298}



THE FALL OF ROME

A SIMPLIFIED OUTLINE

“And to whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.”

Luke 12.48

- I. Advance of Asiatic Huns forces Goths and Vandals into the south and west of Europe. Dowley, Eerdmans' Handbook, p. 154
- II. The division of the Roman Empire (AD 395) tempts Alaric and his Visigoths to invade Italy (forcing the withdrawal of Roman troops from Britain, thereby opening the door for the future Teutonic invasion of that island (AD 449)).
- III. Why Rome was weak as never before:
 - A. A compromised Christianity unable to claim God's protection.
 - B. Apathetic leadership with weak character.

“Christians were advised for the sake of their souls to leave public office... Ambrose, Gregory and Sidonius Appolinarius were all magistrates before they responded to the call of God.” Dowley, Eerdmans' Handbook, pp. 183, 184
 - C. Lack of Moral Guidance.

“Good and religious people tried to escape from the evil life of the capital and many of the men became hermits and monks, and went to live in wild and desolate places far from the licentious crowds.” Frend 1984, pp. 153, 154

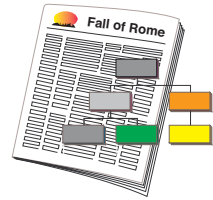
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- D. Growing indolence and self-indulgence as many became used to great wealth and luxurious living.

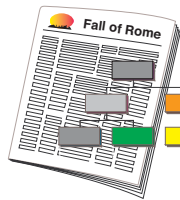
“...scarcely one Roman citizen had any longer the courage to fight in battle; but as they still had a great deal of money, they hired Goths, Germans, or Gauls...to come and fight for them.” ^{Foxe}

- E. The failure of human and material resources due to the expanding of the bureaucracy and military, simultaneously with the decline in number of producing labourers. ^{Dowley, Eerdmans' Handbook, p. 184}

IV. The Sack of Rome, AD 410. ^{Foxe, pp. 158, 159}

- A. Emperor Honorius executes his ablest general Stilicho.
- B. Alaric invades Italy while Roman ministers in Ravenna, rashly confident, don't bother to assemble an army.
- C. Alaric besieges Rome, which Honorius and his ministers in Ravenna support with no more than promises.
- D. Starving Rome pays ransom to Alaric.
- E. Alaric humbles Ravenna by seizing important granaries in Ostia.
- F. Intrigues of Ravenna offend Alaric who launches surprise attack on Rome (with the help of slaves within Rome), and sacks the city.
- G. Goths retreat from Italy after a time, and Alaric possesses Sicily.
- H. Alaric dies unexpectedly. “According to the sixth-century historian Jordanes, the Visigoths compelled the inhabitants of Consentia [in southern Italy] to divert the course of the Busento River and carve a tomb for their ruler in the bedrock. They buried him there with part of the spoil taken from Rome. Then the Visigoths restored the Busento and slaughtered the laborers, lest they betray the secret of Alaric's grave.” ^{National Geographic, December, 1962, p. 822}

V. Attila Invades Italy, AD 452

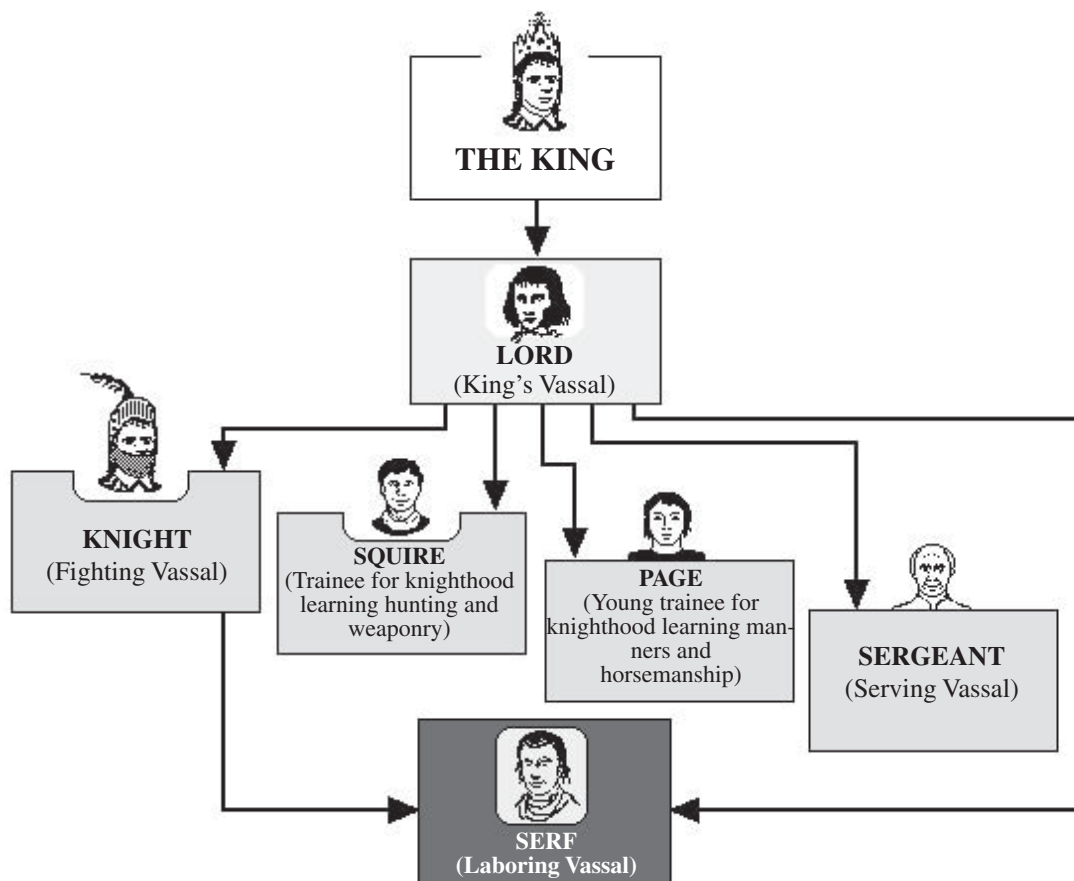


Feudalism

Feudalism is a social system in which ownership of land is the basis for authority. In medieval Europe, which lacked the protection of great imperial armies, the farmers of an area would give their land rights and military allegiance over to the most powerful man among them in exchange for defense against marauders. The farmers thus became the “vassals” or “serfs” of their powerful landlord.

The landlord could retain direct control of his land and serfs, collecting a sizeable share of the crops, or he could reward a faithful friend by giving him a parcel of land (a “feud” of “fief”) complete with its resident serfs. The friend thus became a vassal lord over lower vassals. He could in turn parcel out his land in this process called “subinfeudation.” Subinfeudation created a regular descending scale of lordship and vassalage, in which each man’s allegiance was directly due to his feudal lord, and not to the king himself. From the king down to the lowest landholder, all were bound together by obligation of service and defense—the lord to protect his vassal, the vassal to do service to his lord.

Fiefs eventually became hereditary and the feudal system continued until 1300, with some of it’s elements persisting into the present. It was a harsh system that locked the poor into a lower class from which they could rarely break out.



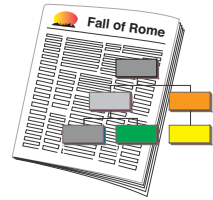


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Charts & Articles

Chivalry



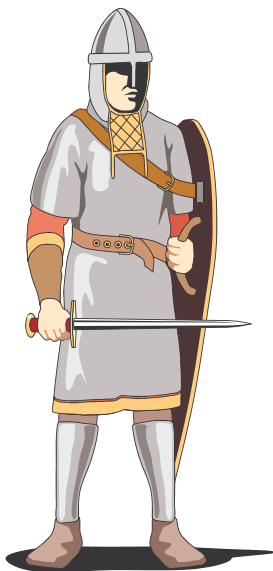
Our word chivalry comes from the French word cheval meaning horse. Chivalry was simply the rules and customs of knighthood, a Christianized military service that “defended the Truth” on horseback. However, chivalry can also be seen as a philosophy.

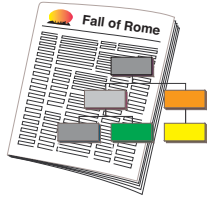
The foundations for chivalry were laid together with those for feudalism by the fall of the Roman empire with its protective armies. The continued invasions of Europe made people military conscious; men of power, able protectors were highly esteemed. A military value system began to take shape. When Charlemagne died together with the hopes for a revived Roman empire, people looked more and more to feudal lords for military protection. The feudal lords built up their private armies of knights to replace the fragmented imperial armies; knights became the principal fighting men of Europe.

Chivalry was born by the joining of the military value system and a “Christian” environment. Christian, medieval Europe, in which the world-entangled Church often sought the services of an army, gave the fighting man a guilt-free excuse for his murderous preoccupation. It was an attempt to serve two masters: God and the sword. A knight had to be religious so he dedicated all his warlike actions by prayer. The sword remained the warriors true god, that gleaming savior that brought worldly blessings by the shedding of blood. Knights would personify their swords, naming them and sometimes singing love songs about or to them. Battle became more important than romantic love. If no real wars were in progress, knights busied themselves in tournaments. It seems to have gotten to the point where a knight would jump at any opportunity to fight, even over a petty offence. In 1096 A.D., a dream came true for chivalry. The council of Clermont authorized

the first Crusade against those “sons of Satan” the Mohammedans or Saracens. Here was the greatest opportunity of all time for knights to do what they liked most under the guise of serving God—and with the prospects of gathering rich spoils while they were at it.

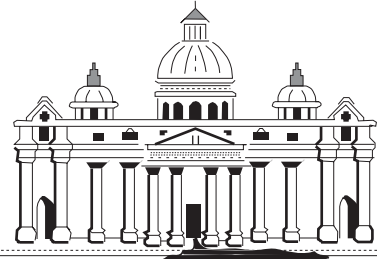
The deathblow to chivalry came with the advent of the longbow and the gun. The unwieldy armor was unjustified when new weapons could pierce it at a distance. As modern nations became able to support large armies, infantry and cavalry replaced the men of iron.





The Inquisition

Blood on the Vatican Steps



"The tongues of flame reached for the straw and swallowed it. The wood caught fire, and for a moment the figure was hidden in the smoke. It stiffened against the chains as with a hiss the beard and hair disappeared. The clothing fell away, and the flames grew richer red as the greases from the body oozed from a thousand pores. The head fell forward, the lips pulled back by the heat, the gums and teeth exposed in a tortured grin. The lids shrank away from the eyes, leaving only white and watery orbs, as the eyeballs cooked in the twisting face. The ears curled and shriveled like burning leaves and suddenly were gone. A blister as big as a knotted fist formed on a shoulder. For a minute it sagged against the arm, and then it burst, its fluids steaming and whispering in the fire. The silent men fingered their crucifixes and watched. After a while, they gathered their black robes about them and slowly walked away. Another heretic had been destroyed." Wilder, p. 68

"The horrid conduct of this holy office (the Inquisition) weakened the power and diminished the population of Spain, by...immolating on its flaming piles more than 300,000 victims." Llorente, p. 5

"The [Spanish] Inquisition began its work in Seville early in the year 1481, and before that one year was out had burned alive 298 persons... Torquemada was chief inquisitor until his death, and during the 18 years he ruled the Holy Office, 10, 220 persons were burned alive, and 97, 322 punished with loss of property, or imprisonment." Foxe, pp. 233, 234

"Tens of thousands of men and women were tortured or burned during the first two years of Philip's tenure as king [Philip II, ruled from Netherlands 1556.131 But it was not until the coming of the cruel Duke of Alva in 1567 that cruelties became indescribable. In less than three months after his coming to power, Alva caused eighteen hundred people to be burned alive...Upon his departure from the Netherlands, Alva boasted that more than eighteen thousand people had died at his order." Wilder, p. 87

"As regards the territories of the archbishopric [of Seville] and of the bishopric of Cadiz, Juan de Mariana says that, in the single year of 1481, two thousand Judaizers were burned in person, and very many in effigy, of whom the number is not known, besides 17,000 subjected to cruel penance. Among those burned were many principle persons and rich inhabitants, whose property went into the treasury." Highton, Volume 3, p. 257

"The torture of fire—which consisted in toasting the feet of the patient after anointing them with fat—appears upon rare occasions to have been employed; and a barbarous piece of supererogative cruelty was practiced at a great Auto de Fé held at Valladolid in 1636: ten Jews convicted of having whipped a crucifix were made to stand with one hand nailed to an arm of a Saint Andrew's cross, whilst the sentence of death was being read to them." Sabatini, p. 203

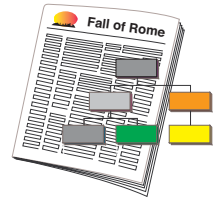
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“...it may be reasonable to estimate that from fifty to sixty-eight millions of human beings died, suffered torture, lost their possessions, or were otherwise devoured by the Roman Catholic Church during the awful years of the Inquisition.” Wilder, p. 87

“It is estimated that in the Inquisition period close to one hundred fifty million martyrs died for their faith in the fires of the Roman Church. ‘That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history.’” Montano, p. 175

“...death at the stake...the Inquisition entrusted to the secular authorities, which pronounced and carried out the sentence, since the church could not shed blood.” Dowley, Eerdmans' Handbook, p. 321

Modern Catholic historian James Balmes: “No doubt the heart is grieved at reading the excessive severities exercised at the times against the Jews; but must there not have been very grave causes to provoke such excesses?” Highton, Volume 3, p. 262

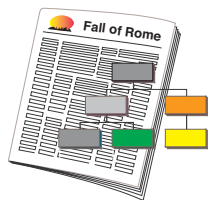
“With Christian serenity, but with great energy, we oppose the continual extension of the Protestant campaign. And what is more we shall fight it until we finish with it...And as in the Middle ages, at the shout of ‘God wills it,’ all the Christians united to capture the glorious sepulcher of Jesus Christ; thus now with the conviction that God will it and Mary of Guadalupe asks it, let the Catholics place their efforts at the service of the faith.” (Source: Mons. Luis María Martínez, Archbishop of Mexico, quoted by TIEMPO, Mexico's counterpart to TIME magazine, dated February 8, 1952.)

“...in the town of Movoro, [Mexico]...the bells of the Catholic church began to sound, and a few minutes afterwards a mob of [Catholics] armed with clubs, machetes, axes, and hoes, fell upon the Protestants. The pastor, Agustín Corrales, was dragged with a rope from the saddle horn and left for dead...” (Source: Ibid. January 27, 1952.)

“We lament the happenings in Movoro; but we do not have any control over the people in this respect. It is to be regretted that the Protestant ministers go to Catholic people to diffuse their faith.” (Source: Archbishop Martínez, Ibid.).

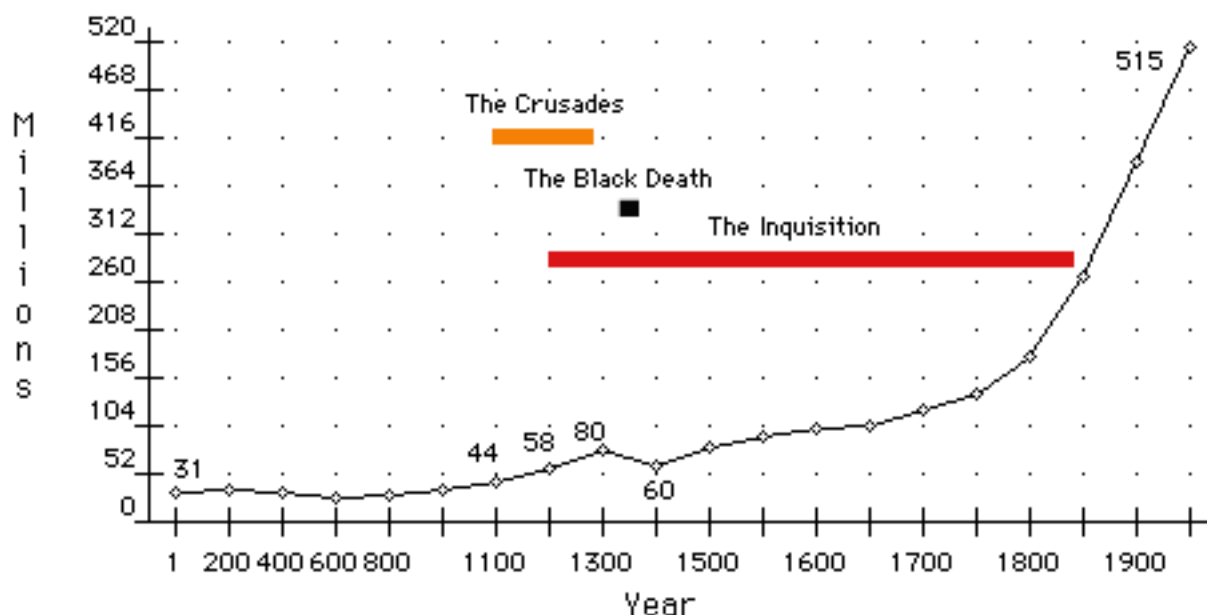
From a pro-Catholic book that defends the Inquisition and claims that its abuses are greatly exaggerated: “And as a matter of fact, the church has renounced this right [to punish heretics] long ago, so that the Inquisition is now nothing more than an historical remembrance and a bugbear in the service of ignorance, bigotry or impiety.” Devivier, paragraph 467, p. 606.

“Rome has never expressed official regret for the bloodshed and agonies of the Inquisition, and it has never renounced the world-wide ambitions that produced the Inquisition in the first place... ‘The Clergy will not admit that any errors were committed in times past...They are infallible and have always been so, and therefore they have never made a mistake and consequently have nothing to regret.’” Wilder, p. 97



Three Historic Plagues

And The Population Of Europe



The Crusades

Perhaps a million Europeans participated in the First Crusade of 1096 (though only 40,000 made it to Jerusalem). 1,200,000 fighting men embarked upon the Second Crusade (1147) and nearly all perished. Are these numbers incredible next to population statistics for the time? Not at all. If we round off crusader numbers for the first and second crusades to 2 million, they would represent about 4% of Europe's population of the time, which is about the percentage of our population that we sent to Viet Nam. We fared better in Viet Nam than the crusaders did in the Holy Land though; we lost only 60-80,000 lives.

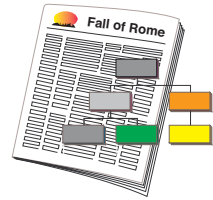
The Black Death

The bubonic plague caused the most dramatic change in the medieval population of Europe with the outbreak of 1347-53. The plague had come on a silk caravan from Mongolia to the Crimea. Affecting rodents, fleas and men, the

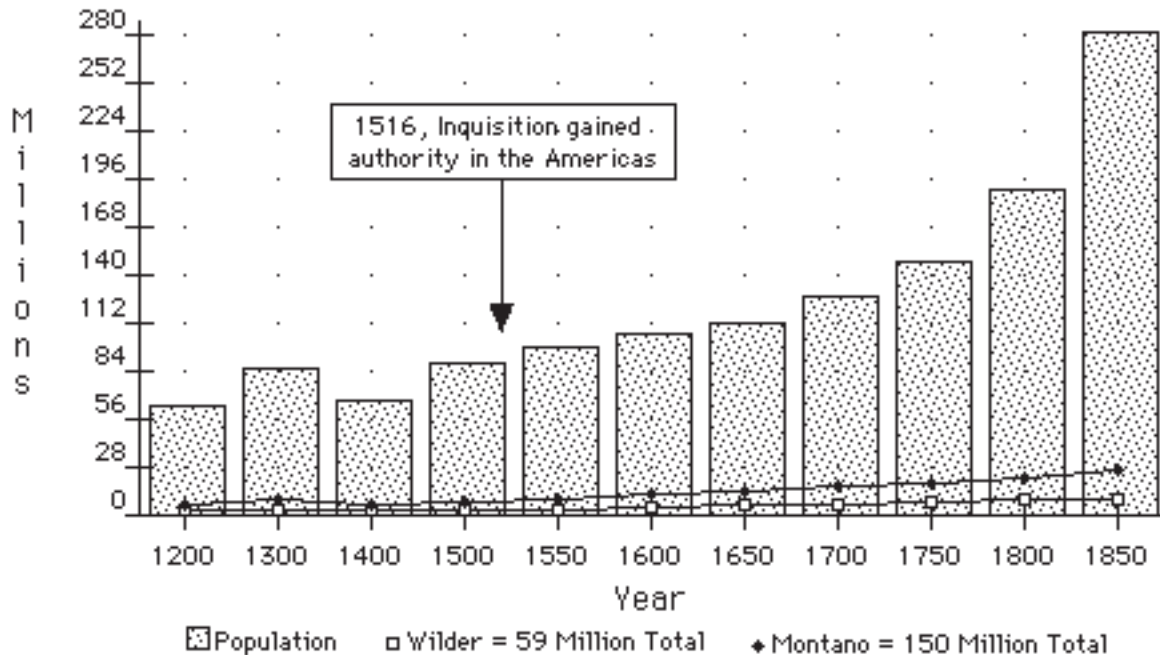
Pasteurella pestis bacteria found an abundance of all three on the ships of the Middle Ages. Traveling from the Black Sea, through the Aegean and then along the Mediterranean to Europe, by 1348 the disease was raging on both sides of the English Channel, and then boomeranged back into Russia. Between a quarter and a third of Europe's population, 20 to 30 million people, succumbed in what chroniclers of the time called "The Great Dying." The population of Europe shrunk from 80 million in 1300 to 60 million at the next turn of the century. Was the Black Death a divine warning against further crusades? If so, Rome didn't take the hint, but continued to develop the Inquisition.

The Inquisition

John B. Wilder says, in *The Shadow of Rome*, "it may be reasonable to estimate that from fifty to sixty-eight millions of human beings died,



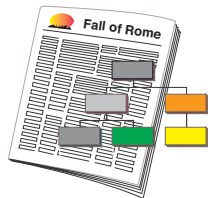
Estimated Inquisition Victims Compared the Size of the Vulnerable Population



suffered torture, lost their possessions, or were otherwise devoured by the Roman Catholic Church during the awful years of the Inquisition.”¹⁹² Walter M. Montano claims, in *Behind the Purple Curtain*, “it is estimated that in the Inquisition period close to one hundred fifty million martyrs died for their faith in the fires of the Roman Church.”¹²⁷

Are such numbers possible? The answer is yes, relative to the population of Europe: the population of Europe was large enough during the time of the Inquisition to provide tens of millions of victims. However, we have to ask if figures like Montano’s are logistically possible. Montano’s claim is quite ambiguous. If he intended to include all forms of persecution, not just burning, and if he considered the “Inquisition period” to cover the entire 600 years of the institution’s existence, then his statistic would still require that an average of 11% of the population in Inquisition territories, or 250,000 per-

sons per year, be hounded by the Holy Office. Such rabid persecution is not inconceivable. David Barrett of the World Evangelization Research Centre reports 325,800 Christian martyrdoms in 1988 and predicts that the annual number will rise to 500,000 by AD 2000 (quoted in *On Being*, Sept. 1989). Also, Remember Hitler’s extermination of 6 million people in just 10 years. Further, Joseph Stalin’s persecution of his own people from 1929 until his death in March 1953 snuffed out at least twenty million lives (according to Stephen F. Cohen, in his introduction to *The Time of Stalin: Portrait of a Tyranny*). Still, the martyrdoms of our century represent a vastly smaller percentage of the vulnerable population than Montano’s numbers represent for the Middle Ages. Did the Inquisition have the organization and manpower to mount a persecution on the scale Montano claims? Not that I’ve been able to document so far. I draw the provisional conclusion that while the



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victims of the Inquisition centuries probably number in the millions (particularly if we add the new-world victims of the Conquistadors), they probably don't surpass in number the victims of Joseph Stalin.

What Have We Learned?

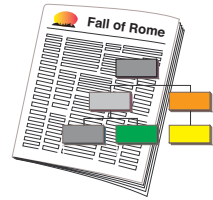
What have we learned from this brief summation of three historic plagues that fell upon European Christendom? Firstly, that humans are quite good at killing one another, whether by direct means or by exposing one another to contagion. Secondly, that we must still judge a tree by its fruit: the medieval

Europeans who slaughtered their fellow man for political and economic reasons called themselves Christians, but they were not Christians by biblical definition! Finally, that Satan has been genocidal toward the human race since the Garden of Eden. We must not forget the victims of the Inquisition nor the victims of Stalin nor the Christian martyrs from the apostolic period to the present, but we must remember above all that Satan has a special interest in obliterating the Jewish nation, and we must do our part, God helping us, to keep that from happening.



Source: Musee de la resistance et de la deportation

Prisoners at Dachau



The Death Of The *Ekklesia*

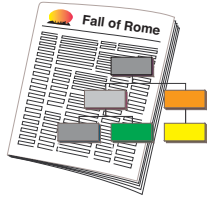
1 Peter 5.8

- 1. **Persecution:** Matthew 24.9-13.
Satan's Frontal Attack; "The blood of martyrs is seed!"
- 2. **Deception:** John 17.17.
False doctrine (e.g. Gnosticism) obscures the Gospel.
- 3. **Division:** John 17.20-23.
Believers excommunicate one another over leniency toward the lapsed.
- 4. **Pollution:** Matthew 15.3-9.
Christianity absorbs the traditions of Babylon, Greece and Rome.
- 5. **Dilution:** 1 Corinthians 14.26.
Hierarchical ministry, fading spiritual gifts and spectator-religion.
- 6. **Dissipation:** James 4.3-4.
Telemachus dies to end the "Christian" gladiatorial games.
- 7. **Misdirection:** Matthew 28.18-20.
The Crusades and the Inquisition supplant discipleship.



THE MIDDLE AGES

1,000 YEARS OF DARKNESS



The Resurrection Of The *Ekklesia*

Philippians 3.12-14

±7. **Focus on Biblical Mandates:** Matthew 24.14.

The Moravians set the pace.

±6. **Commitment to Eternal Values:** Colossians 4.2

Prayer that shapes history.

±5. **Potency of Local Church Ministry:** 2 Timothy 4.5

Gospel teams fuel the Indonesian Revival.

±4. **Purity of Lifestyle:** Hebrews 12.1

Cleaning out our Kitchen Witches.

±3. **Unity of Local Church Bodies:** Romans 15.5,6.

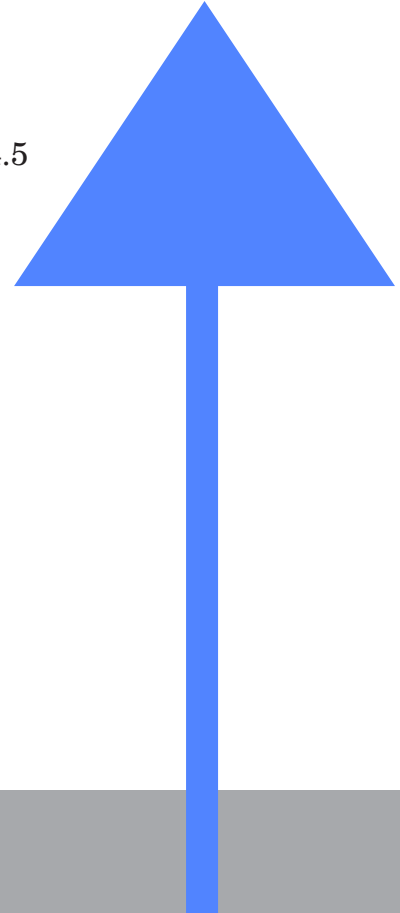
Czechoslovakian elders illustrate reconciliation.

+2. **Knowledge of the Truth:** 2 Peter 1.5.

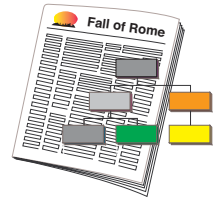
Martin Luther reads the directions.

+1. **Endurance:** Revelation 12.11.

Thomas Hawkes triumphs over the flames.

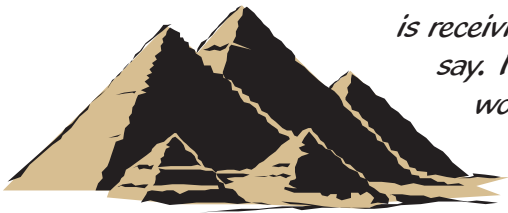


OUT OF THE
DARKNESS



The World According to Student Bloopers

by
Richard Lederer, St. Paul's School



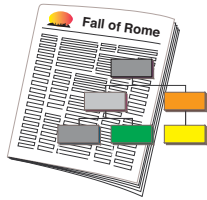
One of the fringe benefits of being an English or History teacher is receiving the occasional jewel of a student blooper in an essay. I have pasted together the following "history" of the world from certifiably genuine student bloopers collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eighth grade through college level. Read carefully, and you will learn a lot.

The inhabitants of Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere, so certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The Pramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked "Am I my brother's son?" God asked Abraham to sacrifice Issac on Mount Montezuma. Jacob, son of Issac, stole his brother's birthmark. Jacob was a partiarch who brought up his twelve sons to be partiarchs, but they did not take to it. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led them to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He foughth with the Philatelists, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines.

Without the Greeks, we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns—Corinthian, Doric and Ironic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Stynx until he became intolerable. Achilles appears in "The Illiad", by Homer. Homer also wrote the "Oddity", in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.



Charts & Articles History Bloopers

The Mustard Seed Story

A BC to AD Course
By Timothy Ministries

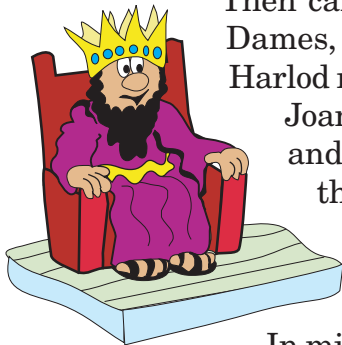


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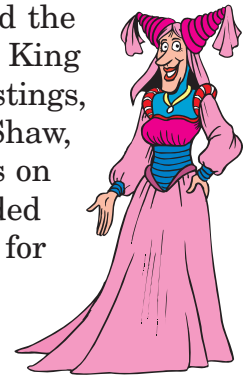
Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. The government of Athen was democratic because the people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece, as the mountains were so high that they couldn't climb over to see what their neighbors were doing. When they fought the Parisians, the Greeks were outnumbered because the Persians had more men.

Eventually, the Ramons conquered the Geeks. History call people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long. At Roman banquets, the guests wore garlic in their hair. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March killed him because they thought he was going to be made king. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.



Then came the Middle Ages. King Alfred conquered the Dames, King Arthur lived in the Age of Shivery, King Harlod mustarded his troops before the Battle of Hastings, Joan of Arc was cannonized by George Bernard Shaw, and the victims of the Black Death grew boobs on their necks. Finally, the Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offense.



In midevil times most of the people were alliter-ate. The greatest writer of the time was Chaucer, who wrote many poems and verse and also wrote literature. Another tale tells of William Tell, who shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head.

The Renaissance was an age in which more individuals felt the value of their human being. Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death, being excommunicated by a bull. It was the painter Donatello's interest in the female nude that made him the father of the Renaissance. It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented the Bible. Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.

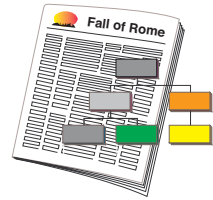
The government of England was a limited mockery. Henry VIII found walking difficult because he had an abness on his knee. Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen." As



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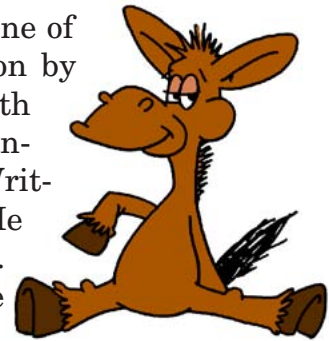
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a queen she was a success. When Elizabeth exposed herself before her troops, they all shouted “hurrah.” Then her navy went out and defeated the Spanish Armadillo.

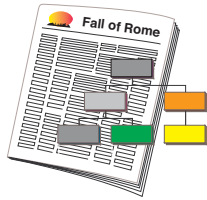
The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespear. Shakespear never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He lived in Windsor with his merry wives, writing tragedies, comedies and errors. In one of Shakespear’s famous plays, Hamlet rations out his situation by relieving himself in a long soliloquy. In another, Lady Macbeth tries to convince Macbeth to kill the King by attacking his manhood. Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couplet. Writing at the same time as Shakespear was Miquel Cervantes. He wrote “Donkey Hote”. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote “Paradise Lost.” Then his wife dies and he wrote “Paradise Regained.”



During the Renaissance America began. Christopher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Fe. Later the Pilgrims crossed the Ocean, and the was called the Pilgrim’s Progress. When they landed at Plymouth Rock, they were greeted by Indians, who came down the hill rolling their was hoops before them. The Indian squabs carried porposies on their back. Many of the Indian heroes were killed, along with their cabooses, which proved very fatal to them. The winter of 1620 was a hard one for the settlers. Many people died and many babies were born. Captain John Smith was responsible for all this.

One of the causes of the Revolutionary Wars was the English put tacks in their tea. Also, the colonists would send their pacels through the post without stamps. During the War, Red Coats and Paul Revere was throwing balls over stone walls. The dogs were barking and the peacocks crowing. Finally, the colonists won the War and no longer had to pay for taxis.

Delegates from the original thirteen states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin had gone to Boston carrying all his clothes in his pocket and a loaf of bread under each arm. He invented electricity by rubbing cats backwards and declared “a horse divided against itself cannot stand.” Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.



Charts & Articles History Bloopers

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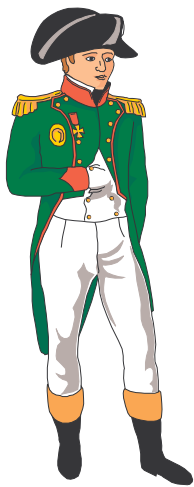
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George Washington married Martha Curtis and in due time became the Father of Our Country. Then the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the Constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. When Lincoln was President, he wore only a tall silk hat. He said, "In onion there is strength." Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg address while traveling from Washington to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope. He also signed the Emasculation Proclamation, and the Fourteenth Amendment gave the ex-Negroes citizenship. But the Klue Klux Klan would torch and lynch the ex-Negroes and other innocent victims. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assassin was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedl insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

Meanwhile in Europe, the enlightenment was a reasonable time. Voltare invented electricity and also wrote a book called "Candy". Gravity was invented by Issac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the Autumn, when the apples are flaling off the trees.

Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian and half English. He was very large. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.



France was in a very serious state. The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened. The Marseillaise was the theme song of the French Revolution, and it catapulted into Napoleon. During the Napoleonic Wars, the crowned heads of Europe were trembling in their shoes. Then the Spanish gorillas came down from the hills and nipped at Napoleon's flanks. Napoleon became ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained. He wanted an heir to inheret his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't bear him any children.

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for 63 years. He reclining years and finally the end of her life were exemplary of a great personality. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.

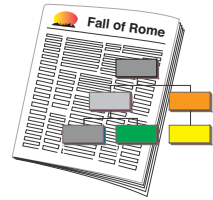


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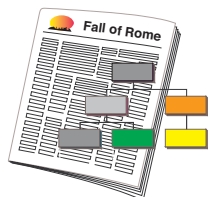
Charts & Articles History Bloopers



The nineteenth century was a time of many great inventions and thoughts. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick Raper, which did the work of a hundred men. Samuel Morse invented a code for telepathy. Louis Pastuer discovered a cure for rabbis. Charles Darwin was a naturailst who wrote the "Organ of the Species". Madman Curie discovered radium. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx Brothers.



The First World War, cause by the assignation of the Arch-Duck by a surf, ushered in a new error in the anals of human history.



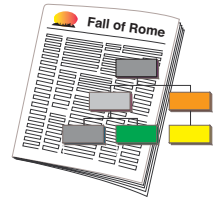
In The Next 24 Hours...

In the next 24 hours, this group...

will increase by:

WORLD POPULATION	200,000
Non-Christians	140,000
Atheists	1,200
Baha'is	400
Buddhists	10,600
Chinese folk-religionists	10,700
Confucianists	120
Ethnoreligionists	8,200
Hindus	37,000
Jains	100
<i>Jews</i>	<i>350</i>
<i>Muslims</i>	<i>68,000</i>
New-Religionists	2,800
Nonreligious	16,700
Shintoists	-90
Sikhs	1,100
Spiritists	600
Taoists	70
Zoroastrians	160
<i>Christians</i>	<i>60,000</i>
Evangelicals	11,000
Pentecostals, Charismatics & Neo-Charismatics	30,000
<i>Great Commission Christians</i>	<i>25,500</i>
<i>Christian martyrs</i>	<i>470</i>
Unevangelized persons	-9,900

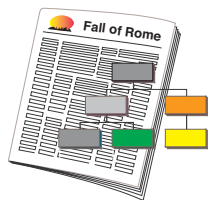
Adapted from: *World Christian Trends AD 30 — AD 2200* by David B. Barrett and
Todd M. Johnson (William Carey Library, Pasadena, 2001).



THE KINGDOM OF GOD

THE BIBLICAL UNIVERSE





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Influences That Affected The Interpretation Of The Greek New Testament

ERAS	HERMENEUTICAL INFLUENCES		
	Cultural/Academic	Philosophical	Theological
AD 30 - 135 Early Christianity	Hebraic Worldview Hebrew Bible Septuagint (LXX) and "Translation Greek" ----- Hellenism*		----- Mystery Religions
AD 135 - 400	Hellenistic Worldview Koine Greek	Platonism	Mystery Religions Gnosticism
AD 400 - 1600 Mid. Ages & Renais.	Roman Worldview Latin Vulgate	Aristotle (Logic)	
AD 1600 - 1750 Reformation	Hebrew Bible	----- Plato	Augustine Apocalypticism Supersessionism
AD 1750 - 1850 Classics Revival	Classical Greek	Plato	----- Dispensationalism
AD 1850 - 1950 Modernism	Hebrew Bible Koine Greek	----- Plato	----- Pentecostalism
AD 1950 - 2010	Holocaust Psychology Dead Sea Scrolls and First-Century Studies ----- Hebraic Worldview Septuagint (LXX)		Social Gospel Ecumenical Movement Liberation Theology Feminist Theology

* Items below the dashed lines represent secondary influences that are growing or fading.