

# Outline of Church History

## **Apostolic Age (A.D. 30– 100)**

- The Birth of the New Covenant Church
- Rapid Growth of the Jerusalem Church
- The Beginning of Persecution by Jews
  - Persecution Results in Expansion into Samaria
- Gentiles begin to come into the Church
- Establishment of the Church at Antioch
  - The Missionary outreach begins
  - Three missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul
- The decision of the Jerusalem Council
- The Death of Paul the Apostle
- John, the Last Living Apostle
  - The Revelation Document is written
  - Seven Messages sent to Seven Churches

## **Sub-apostolic Age (A.D. 100–150)**

- Roman Religious Persecution Begins
  - Ignatius (A.D. 35–107) martyred
  - Polycarp (A.D. 69–156) Martyred
  - Papias (A.D. 70–155) Martyred
- Sacramentalism begins to replace the doctrine of Salvation by Grace
- The Old Roman Symbol formulated as a statement of faith for Baptism (ca. 150)

## **Post Sub-Apostolic Period (A.D. 150–313)**

- Apostolic Succession Established by the institutionalized Church
- Struggle to Define and Defend the Christian Faith
- Early Church Teachers:
  - Justin Martyr (ca. 100–165) Martyred
  - Irenaeus of Lyons (ca. 130–200?)
  - Clement of Alexandria (ca. 150–215?)
  - Tertullian of Carthage (ca. 160–213?)
  - Montanus (ca. 172–250)
  - Origen of Alexandria (ca. 185–254)
- Third Century Persecution under Roman Emperors:
  - Lucius Septimius Severus (ca. 193–211)
  - Decius (A.D. 249–251)
- The Great Persecution
  - Diocletian (A.D. 284–305)
- Edicts of Toleration ends Roman persecution

## **Roman Imperial Period (A.D. 313–440)**

- Emperor Constantine the Great (306–377) embraces the Church
- Christian worship transformed to conform to the splendor of Rome

- Roman Churchianity replaces simple Christian worship
- Systemic temporal church corruption begins
- Old Roman paganism begins to infiltrate the Church
- Christianity declared the exclusive Roman state religion
- Emperor Theodosius (ca. 378–395)
  - Orders all citizens into the temporal church
  - Paganism permeates every aspect of the church
- Roman Church persecution of Jews begins
- Reactive communal Monasticism begins
  - Used as a means to separate from the Roman Church
- Bishops of the Early Roman Church
  - Ambrose of Milan (?–397)
  - John Chrysostom (347–407)
  - Jerome (ca. 341–420)
  - Pelagius (ca. 354–418)
  - Augustine of Hippo (ca. 354–430)
- The Arian Controversy
  - Arius (ca. 250?–336)
  - Athanasius of Alexandria (ca. 296–373)
- The doctrine of the Person of Jesus Christ established
- Mariolatry – the false deification of the Virgin Mary

### **Papal Church Period (A.D. 440–1200)**

- Pope Leo I, the first recognized Pope (440–474)
- The Athanasian Creed Written (ca. 475)
- The Fall of the Roman Political Empire (ca. 476)
- Pope Gregory I, the Great (590–604)
- The Rise of Mohammedanism (632) in Reaction to Christian Idol Worship
- The Holy Roman Empire declared (800–1806)
  - Leo III (795–816)
  - Pope Nicolas I (A.D. 858–867)
- Period of Papal Moral Corruption and Decline
  - Benedict IX (1032–1048)
  - Clement II (1046–1047)
  - Leo IX (1048–1054)
- Age of Papal Power (A.D. 1054–1305)
  - Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand) (ca.1054–1085)
  - Pope Innocent III (1198–1216)
  - Pope Boniface VII (ca. 1294–1303)
  - Pope Clement V (1305–1314)

### **Age of Reform (1200–1648)**

- Arguments leading up to the Reformation Movement
  - Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)
  - William of Ockham (1285–1349)
- Early Reformers:

The Waldenses (ca. 1176)  
John Wycliffe (1329–1384)  
John (Jan) Hus (ca. 1369–1415)  
Girolamo Savonarola (ca. 1452–1498)  
Martin Luther (ca. 1483–1546)  
    The Augsburg Confession (1530)  
Reformation Sweeps Europe  
    Switzerland:  
        Huldreich (Ulrich) Zwingli (1484–1531)  
        Conrad Gebel (1498–1526)  
        John Calvin (1509–1564)  
    Holland:  
        Menno Simons (1496–1562)  
        Jacobus Arminius (1560–1609)  
    England:  
        Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556)  
        Henry VIII (ca. 1491–1547)  
        Mary I (1553–1558)  
        Anglicanism (ca. 1549)  
        The Puritan Movement (ca. 1558)  
        The English Parliamentary Revolution (ca. 1642–1660)  
            The Westminster Confession written (1646)  
        The Baptist Movement (ca. 1644)  
    Scotland:  
        John Knox (ca. 1559)  
        Mary Stuart (ca. 1561)  
        The Separatist Movement in Scotland  
The Counter Reformation Waged by the Roman Church (1545–1648)  
    The Thirty-Year War (1618–1648)

## **Age of Revival (1648–1861)**

The Jamestown Settlement Established  
The Massachusetts Bay Colony Established by Puritans  
Opposition to Puritanism  
    Roger Williams  
    Anne Hutchinson  
The Connecticut Commonwealth  
Decline of Puritanism  
The Great Awakening  
    Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758)  
    The Wesleyan Movement  
    George Whitefield (1714–1770)  
Birth of a Christian Nation  
    The War for Independence (1776)  
    The Constitution of the United States (1787)  
    The Move to Secularize Christian Morality

- The Second Awakening
  - Timothy Dwight (1752–1817)
  - Frontier Evangelism
  - Charles Grandison Finney (1792–1875)
  - Lyman Beecher (1775–1863)
  - Experiential Evangelicalism
  - The Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement (1788–1866)
- The Rise of Modernism /Liberalism
- Religious Impact of the Civil War
  - The Birth of Black Liberation Theology
  - The Abolition Movement
  - North and South Denominational Schisms
    - The Wesleyan Methodist Connection
    - The Baptist Division
    - The Presbyterian Split
  - The Third Awakening
  - Christian Denominational Disunity
  - Emergence of African American Churches

### **Age of Decline (1861–present)**

- Radicalization of the Faith
- The Renewed Challenge of Religious Liberalism
  - Open Deism
  - Scientific Compliance
  - Developmentalism
  - Equating Scripture Text with Legend
  - Liberation Theology
- Revivalism Gives Way to Evangelicalism
  - Dwight Lyman Moody (1837–1899)
  - Billy Ashley Sunday (1863–1935)
- The Social Gospel (ca. 1890–)
  - The Prosperity Doctrine
  - Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878– 1969)
- The Holiness Movement
  - Pentecostalism
- Fundamentalism
- The Growth of Religious Cults
- The Sixteenth Amendment
- The Age of Optimistic Overindulgence
- Resurgence of the White Supremacy Movement
- The Great Depression Era
- Age of Religious Pluralism
  - Neo-evangelicalism
    - The Graham Phenomena
    - Neo-evangelical Churchianity (1940–1970)
  - Rebellion of U.S. Youth (ca. 1945–1962)

The Civil Rights Movement (ca. 1957–)  
Great Society Programs of the 1960's  
    War on Poverty Programs  
The New Age Movement (ca. 1970)  
The Neo-Pagan Movement  
The Delusion of Open Deism  
Assault on American Christianity through the US Judicial System  
    The American Civil Liberties Union  
    The First Amendment Under Attack  
    Judicial Inclusion of Anti-Christian Religions  
Muslim Immigration to the United States  
Conservative Efforts to Resist the Assault on Christianity (1960–)  
    The Reclamation Movement  
    Christian Political Activism  
    Resurgence of Christian Education  
Continued Moral Decline of the 1990's  
Socialist Tendencies in the United States become evident (2000)  
    The Financial Collapse of 2008  
    Political Fallout from the Economic Collapse  
Decline of U.S. International Moral Influence  
Prospects for the Future:  
    The United States will one day cease to be a World Power  
    Total Apostasy will overcome the Temporal Church  
    Global Government will be established