

A Chronology of Dates & Events

Relating Primarily to

**The Unfolding Story Of
The Christian Tradition**

gathered by Christopher Page
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Preface

History is a process of story telling in which the story-teller attempts to understand and find meaning in the apparently random events of the past. A chronological list of dates is not history. At best it can be a skeleton in which the stories that make up real history may be oriented.

However, I am a “five” on the Enneagram. One of the fundamental illusions to which “fives” cling is that if we acquire enough information, we will understand life. Consequently, over years of study and reading, I have accumulated a long list of somewhat random historical dates, events and facts. Some of these pieces of information are important, some trivial. They have not been accumulated through systematic scholarly study, but through years of random reading.

My major areas of interest are the stories of my Christian tradition and the development of Christian spirituality. So this chronology centres around issues that relate primarily to Christian faith in its external manifestation as an institution known as the church. But it also attempts to raise up some important names in the inner spiritual Christian tradition that breathes life and light into the vessel of the church.

The fact that I am a lifelong Anglican and a Canadian accounts for some of the selections whose appearance in this list may seem odd or even a little perverse.

I am aware that Christian faith did not emerge in a historical vacuum. So I have attempted to include some dates that reach beyond the narrow confines of Christian faith. I have tried, though only in the slightest manner, to acknowledge other faith traditions and events that correspond in time to major events in the Christian world.

The earliest dates in this chronology are largely speculative. They are included to suggest a perspective and context for human history, which it turns out, is incredibly brief in the vastness of creation. I am aware that some of the dates in the BCE section of this list refer to events that may or may not be historical. In the history of Israel, we move to solidly historical ground only with the coming of a king in the person of Saul around 1020 BCE.

Needless to say, all these dates and facts have done little to deepen my understanding of anything. What insights I feel I have gleaned I attempt to convey in an introduction that follows. But, all insights aside, I believe that, as an aid to studying the great stories that make up the history of the church and Christian faith, this outline may be useful. I am not a historian, so there are no doubt mistakes in this chronology. Important items may have been omitted and there may be unnecessary repetition.

As I cannot completely surrender my conviction that accumulating accurate information may one day lead to insight, any additions or corrections that should be made would be appreciated and might be sent to christopherpage@telus.net

Introduction – The Wisdom of History

The cloud is a common image in the Bible to indicate the ineffable presence, action and guidance of God in human affairs. The story of the unfolding of Christian faith bears constant testimony to human attempts to nail this cloud to the wall. Again and again theologians and church officials have attempted to legislate the cloud, put it in a box, define it, contain it, make it safe and predictable. Christians have fought over who understands the cloud most adequately, demonizing one another when they identify the slightest hint of difference in how we express our relationship to this cloud or the work of this cloud in the world. Every human attempt to control the cloud has resulted in violence, oppression and abuse. No one is well-served by those who believe they alone have proprietary rights over the cloud.

The history of the Christian faith and particularly its institutional embodiment in the church presents a troubling picture. While Christians have often embodied the best in human aspirations, we have also been guilty of enormous prejudice (see 1543), violence (see 1252), bigotry (see 100-165), narrow-mindedness (see 1546), and plain ordinary stupidity (see 1570). Within seventy years of the end of persecution against Christians in the Roman Empire, powerful Christians were using their influence in the state to call for the execution of those with whom they found themselves in disagreement. (see 364 – death sentence for seventh day Sabbath keeping & 385 - execution of Bishop Priscillian.)

In the church we have frequently abused the power and privilege bestowed upon us. We have neglected those about whom Jesus seemed to be most concerned. We have supported the very forces of oppression and injustice that destroyed the author of the Christian faith. We have been self-serving, myopic, and hypocritical. As people who strive to follow a teacher who declared, “the truth will make you free,” (John 8:32) Christians must honestly acknowledge the difficult and dark realities of our past.

It is impossible to understand or explain the atrocities that litter the untidy hallways of Christian history. Why have Christians so often attacked other Christians? Why have we focused so much attention on fighting those with whom we have even minor disagreements? Why do we insist on squabbling over differences that the rest of the world so often see as completely irrelevant? Why have so much time, energy, and credibility been wasted attacking people of different faiths, or those who profess no faith? Why, since the Protestant Reformation, have those Christians who divided from the Catholic Church splintered into a multiplicity of institutional expressions of Christianity?

There is a great deal of hand-ringing in the church today about how we might coax people back into our pews. There is less eagerness to ask why it might be that so few people find the Christian church an attractive community to join. Our reluctance to ask the hard questions about why so few choose to worship in Christian churches may lie in the fact that secretly we know the answer. History suggests that again and again, the church has abused and squandered its credibility.

When the world has cried out for honesty, humility, openness, and gentleness, we have been petty, divided, superficial, and childish (rather than “child-like,” as Jesus commanded). We have engaged in inquisitions, witch-hunts, and cultural genocide (see 1496), and have failed to follow Jesus by standing with those in our society who are marginalized and devalued. We have failed to speak with the voice of courageous love in the face of despotism and have neglected the tasks of kindness towards the poor to which Jesus called his followers. We have amassed untold wealth both corporately and privately and have blessed those very forces of oppression and greed that may very well lie at the heart of the church’s current problems.

It is tempting to try to find in history some explanation for the curious behaviour of the church. Why has an institution built around a commitment to truth and love so often wandered so far from its own principles? But explanations are beyond our ability. We cannot enter fully enough into the minds or contexts of those who have lived before us to ever accurately understand what may have motivated their behaviour. To suggest that we can explain the past and what led to the actions of our forebears is to perpetrate violence upon their memories and fail to heed the challenge they hold for us in the present.

Our inability to truly understand the past does not mean that history is unimportant. In fact, it is particularly important that, as Christians living in the twenty-first century, we take a clear and honest look at our history. While we may never be able to understand or fully explain the past, by examining our history we can gain perspective on the present. We can see how people who profess to share our beliefs have interacted with their world and what some of the consequences of those actions have been. We study our history, not so much for understanding, as for inspiration to live more closely in tune with the Gospel of peace and reconciliation Jesus proclaimed. Our context may be different than the early Christians, but the issues remain the same. We must find ways to live with integrity in faithfulness to Jesus in the situation in which we find ourselves.

One of the major differences for Christians living today from long periods of our history prior to the twentieth century is that it is no longer possible for us to deny the reality of diversity within the Christian community. Ease of communication and international travel make it impossible for any honest person to ignore the reality that Christianity today is expressed and practiced in a multitude of forms around the world. Christianity while bound together by a common core of convictions embraces a diversity of belief. The Christian church throughout the world is characterized by a wide range of ethical, liturgical, spiritual, and ecclesiastical practices. As much as church officials might wish it were not true, there is no monolithic Christian system able to demand absolute agreement from every person in the world who claims to be a follower of Jesus. There is no monochrome Christian expression to which all Christians can be expected to pledge their allegiance.

In fact, it is no longer clear that Christianity, even in its earliest, most “catholic” manifestation was ever as “united” as the hierarchy of the church might have hoped. When we think about the early church arriving at what came to be called “orthodoxy” there is a romantic tendency to imagine a group of men (they would have all been men)

sitting quietly in a comfortable room with their Bibles and their prayer books open as they carefully and dispassionately sought the most accurate formulation of Christian Truth. Of course this tranquil picture is not an accurate representation of reality. What we now think of as the norm or “orthodox” position of theology in the church was hammered out in a tangle of competing political agendas that had been raging for three hundred years since the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was forged in the midst of a mess of conflicted personalities, and raging egos motivated in no small part by a powerful Roman emperor’s desire to establish any theological agreement that might promise peace, harmony, and unity in his diverse empire.

Orthodoxy may well have had more to do with the exercise of power than the pious seeking of God’s insight. To be orthodox was to align oneself with the winning side and to move forward in the interests of personal position in the Roman Empire. If you had taken a vote among the average members of the early church, you would have discovered that the theological landscape was almost certainly as diverse in the early church as it is today.

The earliest Christians would also have been aware that they were only one voice surrounded by a vast array of other genuine faith expressions in their day. Christianity’s awareness of the variety of faiths in the world may have lapsed for twelve hundred years following the conversion of Constantine until the Protestant Reformation. But we can no longer pretend that we live in a monochrome Christian world, or that there is such a thing as a Christian empire left anywhere on earth.

We cannot avoid the fact that many people live deep, authentic spiritual lives and express their relationship to God without recourse to Christian events, language, stories or convictions. Just as much as people who profess Christian faith, there are those who practice other belief systems, or even profess no particular faith, who are capable of loving behaviour and charitable action. They care for their families, live honest decent lives and long for a peaceful world in which all people may thrive. But their life experience has given them no desire or feeling of need for Christian belief. This may be puzzling and troubling to Christians, but the reality that there are truly good people outside Christian faith cannot be denied.

So what are the lessons of history that can help equip us to live in more life-giving ways in our present context? How shall Christians live in the complex context of the incredibly diverse and often confusing world in which we must find our way?

The best we can hope for is to uncover principles that might guide us to live in such a way that we bring honour rather than dishonour to the one who suggested that the summary of God’s highest intention for the human community is that “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:30,31)

As I read the history of Christianity, the lessons I perceive bear a strange resemblance to the lessons I have struggled to learn and to embody as a parent.

1. We go astray when we fail to put the first thing first.

The first thing is not the church. The first thing is not theological agreement, ethics, ecclesiology, or spiritual practice. The first thing is not being right, living a moral life, even serving the poor or upholding the “truth.” The first thing is not beautiful worship, evangelism, or establishing God’s kingdom here on earth.

The first thing is God. The opening line of Genesis says, “In the beginning God...” Everything flows from that. All human beings are created in the image of God. We bear something of the nature of God deep in the centre of our being. The goal of human existence is to live from that centre. The church exists to aid every human being on earth in connecting with the reality of God’s presence and to encourage us to live more deeply from that centre. Everything else we do is secondary. If our activities in the church are not aimed at deepening the awareness of God’s presence and action in the world and helping all people live in tune with that reality, they may be perfectly good activities, but they are not the activities of the church.

2. Love is the foundational guiding reality and power of the church.

The letter writer John says, “God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” (I John 4:16) If the church desires to wear the face of God, we will only be able to fulfill our goal as we are imbued with and empowered by the dynamic power of love that is God. John counsels the church, “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (I John 4:6, 8) To love is to know God. When love is absent from the church, it is not the church. We are merely one more self-interested gathering of people drawn together to further our own self-serving agendas.

The problem with naming love as the guiding force for the church of course is that our visions of love may differ. For one group within the church “love” may mean disciplining the sinner, while for another, it may mean embracing the brokenness of all people in whatever form it is manifest. But, however we define love, there is one foundational quality that is characteristic of Christian love. John points the way to the Christian vision of love saying, “We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.” (I John 3:16)

Christian love lays down its life. Christian love is sacrificial. It is always willing to let go of its “rights,” to surrender its determination to get its way. To follow Christ is to take up our cross daily. It means being willing to lay down our dignity, our privilege, our power, and our need to be right. The church that practices sacrificial love will be a place of peace and security for all people because those in such a church will always put the needs and desires of others ahead of their own. Paul expressed this in the most challenging terms possible when he instructed the Christians of Philippi to “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.”

(Philippians 2:4)

To love others as Christ loved us is to be concerned for the well-being of the other before I am concerned for my own well-being. A truly Christian church is a community of slaves. Jesus said, “if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14) Slaves do not get to decide whose feet they wash and whose feet they refuse to wash. Slaves do not only wash the feet of those they like or whose theology they agree with. Slaves wash the feet of every guest at the table. Everyone who gathers at the table is treated as an honoured guest. The servant church will always be a place where the least powerful and the most marginalized will always experience the greatest welcome.

Paul said, “the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect.” (I Corinthians 12:22,23) Paul goes so far as to instruct the Christians of Rome that “We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” (Romans 15:1) If we were able to honour the weak and be more of a foot-washing church and less of an arguing church, we might find we might find a more sympathetic audience in the world today.

3. When we operate from fear, we fail in love.

John says, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” (I John 4:18) When we feel threatened and afraid, we lose contact with the centre of God in our lives. When we feel we need to protect our little community of believers from some threatening force bent upon our destruction, we lose sight of the truth and strength that is in Christ. When we do church from a place that is insecure, anxious, and fearful, we will build a fortress rather than an open spacious place in which people are set free to discover their true nature in God. Fearfulness cannot do the work of God.

The refrain rings constantly through the pages of the Bible. In every part of the Scriptures God encourages the reader, “do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God.” (Isaiah 41:10) There is nothing to protect. There are no battles to win. We do not need to defend God’s honour or fight for the church. The testimony of history bears witness to the fact that, those who live in fear will always resort to violence and will contradict the fundamental truth of God’s goodness and love that the church exists to disclose.

We will know we are living in fear when our community is characterized by agitation, turmoil, unrest, anxiety, intensity, self-righteousness, exclusivity, and violence. We will know that our community is living in God when we find “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22,23a)

4. We gain more by listening before telling.

The Hebrew prophet Zephaniah speaks of the “defiled oppressing city!” which has gone

astray because “It has listened to no voice.” (Zephaniah 3:1,2) The church has always gone wrong when it has believed that it knew absolutely and without question “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,” and rushed to impose that “truth” upon those who were perceived as being still lost in the darkness of their ignorance.

The Apocryphal book of Sirach says, “If you love to listen you will gain knowledge, and if you pay attention you will become wise.” (Sirach 6:33) Listening requires openness and the willingness to accept the possibility that we may not know all the right answers all the time. To listen means to accept that people whose life experiences are different than our own may have wisdom and insight from which we could benefit. We earn the right to be heard by the quality of our ability to listen.

5. All behaviour is communication.

The choices people make are not arbitrary or random. Decisions come from somewhere. When we are willing to listen deeply, we may learn something about what peoples’ behaviour is really saying. When we can hear the inner voice speaking from another person’s heart, we will be much better equipped to speak truth in their lives. When we rush too quickly to judgment we fail to perceive the message that a person’s behaviour has to impart.

Paul counsels, “Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another.” (Romans 14:13) When we rush to judge a person, we hinder his ability to open to love. We become an obstacle, “a stumbling block” to his awareness of God’s presence and action in his life. When we listen deeply and hear the message of another person’s behaviour, we discover that their choices are motivated by a deep inner longing and yearning that is the voice of God calling in their lives. This is the place where it begins to become possible for us to speak with integrity.

6. Patience makes it possible for us to listen deeply and enables everyone to feel respected.

Urgency should always be a warning. There are very few things in life that are important enough to make it worthwhile to stop listening. Sirach says, “Those who are patient stay calm until the right moment and then cheerfulness comes back to them. They hold back their words until the right moment; then the lips of many tell of their good sense.” (Sirach 1:22,23) There is a “right moment;” but we only find it by waiting patiently, open to what is happening. The desert fathers used to say, “I have frequently repented of having spoken, seldom of having kept silence.” Patience opens space that helps people to find their way to a common place.

Impatience has caused endless pain and fracture in the church and the world. How much grief could have been avoided if protagonists in so many conflicts had only been willing to take a step back, take a deep breath, hold their tongues for a moment and be still? How

many times might we have discovered how much more there is that unites us than divides us, if we had only had the patience to sit quietly beside those with whom we thought we were in disagreement. Patience helps us to experience the fact that God is in charge. There is seldom any need to rush off in one direction. When answers are not clear, it is seldom as damaging to wait as it is to forge ahead.

7. No one wins any power struggle.

In a conflict of wills, everyone loses. When I push back against your aggression, the tension and violence only escalate. Jesus said, “Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.” (Matthew 5:39) Non-reactivity is the only strategy that has the capacity to diffuse violence. When I refuse to push back against you with an equal or greater force, eventually you run out of energy to keep pushing against me. So much damage has been done because we have been determined to be right and to force our will upon all people whether or not they are able to truly appreciate our point of view.

There is an addictive energy that attaches to all power struggles. The adrenalin rush of viewing the world in terms of “good guys” and “bad guys,” is almost irresistible. The temptation to divide people into who is right and who is wrong, or who is in and who is out, lurks, barely submerged beneath the surface of every power struggle the church has ever faced. Victory does not go to the one who exerts his will over the other. Victory goes to the one who embraces weakness. Paul says, “I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10) For those who are “content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities,” there is no need to win.

8. Humility has the capacity to protect us from perpetuating many of the atrocities of our past.

Humility is willing to say, “I may be wrong.” So much harm could have been avoided if we had been willing to acknowledge, as Paul says that “we know only in part...For now we see in a mirror dimly.” (I Corinthians 13:9,12) Arrogance is a great enemy of truth. We should always be suspicious of absolute, unbending, iron-clad certainties. The certainties available to us are probably fewer than we are often tempted to think. We listen carefully to other people because we know that our ability to grasp the whole truth is limited. We approach a fuller understanding of truth, the more we are willing to embrace the possibility that we may have something to learn from those who have a different understanding. We need to allow ourselves to be shaped by the constant challenge of encountering those with whom we disagree. Any community in which everyone must agree is a dangerous place.

It is no mistake that the image of the cloud is used so prevalently throughout Scripture to signify God’s presence. In Mark’s account of the transfiguration, the narrator says that

confronted by the glorified vision of Jesus accompanied by Moses and Elijah, Peter is stunned into momentary silence. Mark says of Peter, “He did not know what to say.” But, not knowing what to say, never stopped Peter and so he rushes forward with a strategy to preserve the vision suggesting to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” At the moment Peter suggests his bold plan to capture the event, the true revelation occurs – “Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’” (Mark 9:7) The fullest revelation comes in the obscurity of a cloud. Perfect clarity is not available in this life. When we demand that which God does not give, we get stuck in our finite formulations, fighting over dogmas and definitions that can never provide adequate “dwellings” for the Divine.

9. Gentleness is the most effective way forward.

If you have to use force, guilt, or manipulation, the outcome is never worth the price. Even if we could impose absolute conformity upon all people, the achievement would contradict our goal. Paul says, “For freedom Christ has set us free.” (Galatians 5:1) So the goal of the church is to protect the freedom of every person in order that, in that freedom, all might discover that Christ is the source of this liberty. No action or belief that results from coercion is ever an action or belief that honours the One who created us for freedom. Gentleness allows others to find their way knowing that God lives in them and desires to guide and lead them to that place in which they can rediscover the depths of God’s presence in their lives.

10. Trust holds the church together and enables us to discover the freedom for which we were created.

It is not heresy or immorality that have hurt the church most grievously. It is our failure to have faith in God. When we feel that we need to be in control of life, we lose touch with the source of all existence and resort to abuse and violence. God is in charge. There is not a lot we need to worry about. Jesus said “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” (Matthew 6:25) When we lose sight of that “more than” dimension of life, we lose our way.

Jeremiah said, “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.” (Jeremiah 17:7) The church is not our church. The church is God’s church. Jesus said, “I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18) The rock was not Peter’s perfect theology, or his flawless life. Peter had many failures still ahead when Jesus called him *Petros*, “the rock.” Peter was a rock because for a moment he had trusted absolutely in Jesus. Peter had trusted that Jesus is “the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16) And there was nothing else Peter needed. There is nothing else we need.

We will live with our priorities in the right order when we live in deep confidence and trust in God's presence at the heart of the church. We will live in love, free of fear, listening deeply and attentively to all when we trust that God is at work in all people. We will be set free to be patient, humble, and gentle when we know that these qualities are the "fruit of God's Spirit," produced in us, not by our efforts, but by the sovereign work of God's mercy in our lives.

We must always remember that the church is a human institution. It is filled with flawed and broken beings like each of us. The history of the church bears abundant witness to the brokenness of the church. Our confidence does not lie in the ability of the church to get it right all the time, or perhaps even most of the time. Our confidence lies in God alone. God is the redeemer and, where we are willing to be broken and remade in that original image in which we were created, God's redeeming power is present.

According to Paul, God's vision for the church is that the church might be a force for reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) In the rich diversity that is characteristic of the world of the twenty-first century, there is a deep longing for this reconciling power. It is tragic that the church which has been entrusted by its Founder with the "ministry of reconciliation" so often seems intent only upon contributing to the continuing brokenness of the human community. It is to be hoped that out of the ashes of our brokenness a church may emerge that can be empowered by the Spirit of Christ to be an instrument of healing and restoration to all of God's creation.

World History

The universe came into existence fifteen to twenty billion years ago.

Earth is estimated to be at least 4.5 billion years old. Humanoid creatures began to inhabit the earth four million years ago.

The definitely datable portions of the following chronology cover roughly 42,000 years. The part of this list with which we are concerned occurred within 4,000 of those years. The span of history to which we pay most attention amounts to a mere 2,000 years.

BEFORE THE COMMON ERA

up to 10,000 – **Paleolithic Period** (“*Old Stone Age*”)

40,000 - earliest specimens of modern humans (**homo-sapiens**) found in Africa

40,000 - first people migrate to America

20,000 - cave art flourishes in France & Spain

15,000 - cave art practiced in Brazil

10,000-5,500 – **Mesolithic Period** (“*Middle Stone Age*”)

10,000 - end of last ice age

9,000 - beginnings of settled farming in Asia & Africa

7,000 - walls of **Jericho** built

6,500 - farming in Europe

6,000 - rice cultivated in Thailand

5,500-2,500 – **Neolithic Period** (“*New Stone Age*”)

4,000 - first use of metal

3,100 – Upper & Lower Egypt unite under **King Menes**

3,000 - First Sumerian cities. Invention of writing (in Tigris, Euphrates, & Nile regions)

3,000–2,000 - Early Helladic Period

3,000-100 – Egyptian Era – Egyptians are overlord of the Levant (land of Canaan, later Israel &/or Palestine)

2,800- pyramids of Giza begun

2,700 - **Gilgamesh** reigns at Uruk

2,500 - Minoan civilization in Crete

2,500–600 - early Vedic period – **Vedas**– large corpus of ancient Indian texts circulating in oral form in Sanskrit, written down in 2nd c. BCE, supposed to have been directly revealed

2.150-1,650 – **Middle Bronze Age**

2,100 - rise of Babylon

2,100–1,150 - Middle & Late Minoan Period

2,000 - first Phoenecian cities

2,000-1,500 - **Abraham** (if historical) migrates from Ur in Mesopotamia (part of modern Iraq) to Canaan on eastern shore of Mediterranean Sea; his son **Isaac** & grandson **Jacob** become patriarchs of the Jewish people. Famine forces migration to Egypt.

1,900 – epic of *Gilgamesh* in Mesopotamia

c.1,800 – **Joseph** (if historical) in Egypt – Israelites enslaved in Egypt

1,750-1,450 – **Bronze Age**

1,728-1,686 – *Code of Hammurabi* – one of the earliest sets of recorded laws, preface decreed sun would shine over the people only if king & the mighty did not oppress their vulnerable subjects

1,600 - Mycenaean civilization in Greece

1,500 - growth of Hindu religion in India. Freedom from material world through purification & elimination of personal identity. Sacred writings: *Vedas* (including *Upanishads*) & *Bhagavad Gita*

1,280-1,240 – possible date for **Moses** (if historical) leading Hebrews from Egypt. For 40 years wander in Sinai desert. Moses receives Torah, including Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai, dies on east bank of Jordan R. before Hebrews re-enter Canaan, the Promised Land

c.1,200 – **Trojan War** between forces from mainland of Greece & defenders of city of Troy in what is now Turkey

1,200–1,050 – occupation & settlement of Canaan

1,020 - Monarchy established with **Saul** as first king (United Kingdom 1,020–931 – domination of Canaan by Israel which becomes nation) = Golden Age of Israelite Monarchy as Egypt's power declines & Assyrian Empire rises

1,012-972 - **King David** reigns over Hebrews

1,000 - **Jerusalem** made capital of kingdom of David

960 - **King Solomon** (965-922) builds First Temple in Jerusalem

c.931-722 – writing of much of Hebrew biblical texts

926 – Egyptian pharaoh Shishak invades Canaan, sacks Jerusalem, devastates 150 towns in Israel & Judah & destroys ancient Canaanite stronghold. Canaanite culture never recovers, leaving Israel free to expand into old Canaanite territories

922 – death of **Solomon** Kingdom divided (I Kings 12):

Israel (North) under Jeroboam, rebels, capital Samaria, ten tribes, ended 722

Judah (South) under Rehoboam, David's line, capital Jerusalem, one tribe, ended 586

900-600 – Late Vedic period – Brahmanical religion develops

900-200 – “Axial Age” (Karl Jaspers) four great world traditions come into being: China – Confucianism & Taoism; India – Hinduism & Buddhism; Israel – Monotheism; Greece – philosophical rationalism

885-874 – King **Omri** built capital in Samaria

874-853 – Omri's son, **Ahab** built magnificent ivory palace in Samaria & married **Jezebel**, a Phoenician princess who imported cult of Phoenician Baal into Israel

875 - Jezebel marries Ahab of Israel

859 – Assyrian Shalmaneser III comes to throne

853 – **Ahab**, king of Israel contributes chariot squadron to army that marches against Assyria

& is defeated at battle of Qarqar on river Orontes

841 – Assyria defeats Damascus & becomes master of region – Israel as a favoured vassal, enjoys period of peace & prosperity

800 - rise of Greek city-states

800–300 – eleven major **Upanishads** (literally “sitting down beside”), part of *Vedas*

8th century – art of literacy spreads through Semitic world & eastern Mediterranean – scribes begin to develop royal archive to preserve ancient stories & customs – by end of 8c. Pentateuch probably committed to writing

786-746 – King **Jeroboam II** rules Israel prospering as vassal of powerful Assyrian empire

c.780 – **Amos**, shepherd from Tekoa, experiences God’s call to prophesy to Jeroboam of Israel

776 - First Olympic Games

770-700 - **Isaiah** prophet in Judah

753 – legendary founding of **Rome** on bank of Tiber River, Roman Empire survived more than 1,200 years until CE 476

750–612 - height of Assyrian Empire

750–550 - Hebrew prophetic revolution

750 - **Hosea**

750 ? – *The Iliad and the Odyssey* Homer’s epic recounting story of Trojan War

745 – Tiglath-pileser III becomes king of Assyria & subjugates Babylon

740 – year that King Uzziah died (Isaiah 6:1) year of Isaiah’s vision

738 – Assyrian army marches into Israel after it is left in disarray following death of Jeroboam III & subdues its northern territories. Tiglath-pileser adopts Aramean language & script to unite growing kingdom

734 – King **Pekah** of Israel & King Rezin of Damascus enter coalition to oppose Assyria’s westward advance, King **Ahaz** of Judah refuses to join so kings of Israel & Damascus send army against Judah who asks Tiglath-pileser for protection thus making Judah a vassal of state of Assyria who sweep down on Damascus, execute king Rezin & storm down Mediterranean coast destroying any city that seems about to defect. Pekah is put to death by Hoshea, the son of Elah, who usurps the throne

724 – Tiglath-pileser III dies, King **Hoshea** of Israel joins other vassal states in resistance to Assyria refusing to pay tribute & appealing to Egypt for support. Shalmaneser V becomes king of Assyria, throws Hoshea in prison & besieges Samaria

722-720 - Assyrians under king Sargon III crush **Israel** (North); king Hoshea is made prisoner; 10 tribes dispersed (II Kings 17), end of Northern Kingdom of Israel whose territories are infiltrated by foreigners

715 – **Hezekiah** becomes king of Judah

705 – Sennacherib becomes king of Assyria & **Hezekiah** enters into anti-Assyrian coalition & prepares Jerusalem for war

701 – Sennacherib arrives in Judah with huge army & begins to systematically devastate countryside until finally lays siege to Jerusalem. Seems city cannot survive until at last moment it is miraculously delivered but **Hezekiah**, who had inherited a thriving kingdom, is left with only tiny city-state of Jerusalem

7c. in Israel – watershed that sees beginnings of religion of Judaism

687-642 – **Manassah** son of Hezekiah loyal vassal of Assyrians, allowing Judah to prosper

665 – Assyria controls Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt – drive Israelites from homeland

660-538 - **Zarathustra**, Persian prophet founder of Zoroastrianism

656 – Pharaoh Psammetichus I forces Assyrian troops to leave territories of old northern kingdom of Israel

630 – **Jeremiah**

622 – **Josiah** begins extensive work to restore Solomon’s temple during which high priest Hilkiah finds *safer torah* (Deuteronomy text - the book of the law)

621 – editing of Hebrew scriptural material

612 – Ninevah destroyed by Babylonians & Medes

611 – Pharaoh Necho III marches through Palestine to come to aid of Assyrian king. **Josiah** intercepts Egyptian army at Megiddo & is killed, none of his reforms survives, Judah reduced to bit player in struggle between Egypt & new Babylonian empire

605 – Babylon under **Nebuchadnezzar** conquers Egypt, now rules Judah

605-530 - **Lao Tzu** Chinese author of *Tao Te Ching*, attempt to live according to “the Way” which governs the universe

601 – King **Jehoiakim** of Judah, against the advice of Jeremiah, revolts against Babylonian domination

6 & 5c.- *Upanishads* (Hindu teachings) written down

598 – **Johoiachim** d. & is succeeded by his son **Johoiachin** who rules for three months & ten days

597 – young King **Jehoiachin** of Judah submits to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, is deported with 8,000 into exile in Babylon

590 - **Ezekiel**

587 – **Zedekiah**, Babylonian appointed ruler of Judah rebels, last ruler of Judah, end of Davidic dynasty, taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar

586 - Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar conquer Judah (**Southern Kingdom**), destroy Temple & raze city (2 Kings 25); 5,000 Jews exiled (until 538), leaving only poorest people & those who had defected to Babylon in devastated land. During exile, Jews introduce Synagogue worship & much of Hebrew Scriptures written – major prophets, final compilation of Torah (Gen. – Deut.) & Deuteronomistic history (Joshua – Kings)

581 – third group of exiles taken from Judah to Babylon

580/570–c.500 – **Pythagoras** – Presocratic philosopher emphasized interconnections in numbers, nature & human soul, natural & ethical worlds inseparable

563–483 - traditional dates of **Buddha** (Prince Siddhartha/Gautama) 560 estimated date of enlightenment under bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya, India

559 – **Cyrus** becomes king of Persia (now southern Iran) which follows Babylon as major power

551-497 - **Confucius** established system of ethics that influenced Chinese culture placing high value on following traditional ways, learning & family relationships

547 – **Cyrus** conquers Media, invades Babylon & is welcomed as hero making him ruler of largest empire world ever seen including modern Iran, much of Turkey, Southern Russia, Afghanistan & Pakistan

540 – Phocaeans (on Carian Coast of Turkey near island of Samos) forced out of their city by Persian army, flee to Corsica, then to coast of Italy just South of Gulf of Sorrento where found city of Velia where soon after **Paremenides** was born

539-332 – Persian period

539 – Persian king **Cyrus** issues edict allowing Jews to return to homeland under leadership of Sheshbazzar. Most returnees born in exile – Judah was a bleak & alien land occupied now

by Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Arabs, & Phoenicians – returnees call them residents *am ha-aretz* (“the people of the land”), also reunite with fellow Israelites after absence of 70 years

530 – **Pythagoras** settles in Italy

521 – **Darius** becomes “Great King” of Persia (until 486) – **Zerubbabel** leader of Judean community in Jerusalem

c.520 – **Haggai & Zechariah** prophesy

518-515 - some 50,000 Jews return from Babylon (part of modern Iraq); Temple rebuilt under Zerubbabel - the “Second Temple” – somewhat impoverished replacement of Great Temple destroyed in 587 – “Second Temple” lasts until 70 CE

c.515-c.450 – **Parmenides** (b. in S. Italy) – Presocratic, extends Pythagoras, insisting all that exists is unchanging & unified, therefore, if something is changing, it is illusory, paves way for two-world view important for much mysticism

509 - Roman Republic founded

500 – oral transmission in India of **Mahabharata** epic. Not committed to writing until 1st centuries of CE – tells story of war between two sets of cousins, Kauravas & Pandavas in which Pandavas are victorious – sixth book eventually includes **Bhagavad-Gita** (“The Song of the Lord”) – dialogue between Arjuna, the greatest warrior of the Pandava brothers & his friend Krishna – counters argument that worldly action incompatible with liberation by arguing that it is possible to be free of attachment to fruit of our actions

5c. – Buddhism & Jainism founded in India

by 5c. 12 gods & goddesses identified in Greek pantheon, living together in extended family; also “*chthonians*” (Gk. *chthon* – earth), not entirely negative but gods of underworld & death were prominent among them, also gods of food; third group “heroes” who could also be worshiped, a mortal who had died, having achieved great things & whose tomb became centre of devotion

c.492-425 – Vardhamana Jnatruputra teacher in India known as Mahavria (“Great Hero”) whose followers known as **Jains**, taught *ahimsa* (“harmlessness”) because all living things consist of a *jiva* (“eternal soul”) & temporary physical body must be treated with courtesy & respect

c.492-424 – **Empedocles** Greek pre-Socratic philosopher, four classical elements: earth, water, air, fire acted upon by Love & Strife

480 – Esther becomes Queen of Persia

480 – **Buddha** b.

469-399 - **Socrates** - Greek philosopher, teacher of Plato - question & answer teaching intended to deconstruct preconceptions making student realize knows nothing at which point true struggle to discover truth can be - criticism of democracy leads Athenians to execute him

460 – Parthenon temple built for Greek goddess Athena

458 – **Ezra** sent to Judah to resettle

450 – Roman Law first codified into Twelve Tables

450 – Parmenides meets young Socrates

450 – Buddha's enlightenment & first sermon

445 – walls around Jerusalem rebuilt by **Nehemiah**, appointed Governor of Judah by Persian ruler Artaxerxes I

c.440 – death of prophet **Malachi**

427–347 - **Plato** Greek philosopher, student of Socrates, teacher of Aristotle - theory that ideal Forms or Ideas such as Truth or the Good exist in a realm beyond material world. Everything in material world has an eternal unchanging form which cannot be experienced by senses but by power of reason residing in soul (*psyche*). Influence on Christian thinkers especially in Alexandria. *Timaeus* – supreme God not being among other beings but transcendent being itself = unchanging perfection (the good, the true & the beautiful) entirely above & beyond the world

405 – **Buddha** d.

c.400 – completion of **Torah**

399 – **Socrates** executed, his student **Plato** (30 years old) is profoundly disillusioned by trial & death of his teacher & withdraws from public life

386 – **Plato** founds “The Academy” in Athens

384-322 - **Aristotle**, Greek philosopher disagreed with Plato - form & matter joined

356-323 - **Alexander the Great**, ruler of Greece conquers most of ancient world establishing Hellenistic rule – after Alexander's conquests, people in eastern Mediterranean speak & write simplified Attic (classical Greek) known as *Koine* which becomes common language of all nations from 300 BCE until barbarians overrun Europe

347 – **Plato** dies, **Aristotle** leaves Athens

341-270 – **Epicurus** founder Greek philosophical school, known as Epicureans. Death is the end of life, only way to make sense of life is to be detached from it, good life consists in

'pleasure,' friendship, peace of mind

338 - Macedonians conquer Greece

336 – **Alexander the Great** age 22 succeeds father, Philip as king of Macedonia, northern part of which is known as Greece – becomes greatest general of ancient world

335-263 – **Zeno** founder of Stoic school of Greek philosophy based on belief world & its people depend upon “Reason” so to enjoy life must “live in harmony with nature,” primarily by following conscience which each person must do for themselves. Great emphasis on self-sufficiency, high standards of personal morality

335 – **Aristotle** returns to Athens & establishes Lyceum

333 – **Alexander the Great** destroys army of Persian king Darius – beginning of new era of Hellenism (describes religion, science, politics, & art during transition from world of Antiquity to Christian era in Mediterranean & Near East)

332 – Alexander conquers Palestine - Hellenistic period proper to 167 BCE

323 – Alexander dies of malaria in Babylon, empire divided among generals: Ptolemy ruler of Egypt & Palestine (Ptolemaic dynasty of Egypt controls Palestine to 198), Selucus ruler of Syria & Babylon

c.300 – Buddhism arrives in SE Asia

300-200 - most of *Hebrew Scriptures* written

200's & 100's - Latin changed from spoken to highly developed literary language

285-246 - **Ptolemy Philadelphus** according to legend, responsible for *Septuagint* (LXX) - Greek translation of Hebrew Scriptures in Alexandria which had largest Jewish community in ancient world. Believed translation made under divine guidance & words of LXX as sacred to Jews as those of Hebrew original

250 – Third Buddhist Council – Great Schism resulting in Theravada & Mahayana Buddhism

240 - Buddhism introduced into Sri Lanka

214 - Great Wall of China completed

200 – Hebrew prophetic books completed

198 – Seleucids triumph over Ptolemies & become rulers of Palestine to 141

175-164 – Antiochus IV (*Epiphanes* “God Manifest”) Greek ruler of Palestine, becomes king of Seleucid or Syrian Empire, tries to stamp out Judaism, provokes Jewish uprising under Mattathias & five sons, most famous of whom was Judas, whose nickname was Maccabeus

168 – Antiochus suffers humiliating defeat in Egypt at hands of the Romans at same time as the high priestly rulers in Jerusalem are experiencing an internal power struggle. Antiochus' pride is hurt & he determines to reassert his authority by marching into Jerusalem & inaugurating a policy of forced Hellenization. Banned: circumcision, keeping Sabbath, reading traditional scriptures, decreed temple in Jerusalem be dedicated to Greek god Zeus & opened temple to non-Jews. Underestimated strength of Jewish religious feeling.

167-63 – Hasmonean times dynasty in Israel established under Simon Maccabaeus

166–160 – Mattathias, priest from village of Modein, along with five sons, known as Maccabees, organize revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes IV who had desecrated Jerusalem Temple by erecting statues of Greek gods in the Temple. December 164 Maccabees defeat Syrians & purify Temple (Hanukkah - Feast of Lights)

After Maccabean Revolt diverse political styles emerge:

Sadducees = small but influential religious movement including important priests in Jerusalem temple & well-to-do class of Jewish society; devoted to strict conservative & literal interpretation of Pentateuch/Torah, rejected all traditions not in written law, came mostly from great priestly families, less devout & more political than Pharisees.

Pharisees = large Jewish sect (maybe 6,000 by Jesus' time), many were professional students of scriptures, but others had ordinary jobs, probably most influential group during Jesus' day; rigid observers of Law, undue attachment to oral tradition of their rabbis led to extravagant & artificial casuistry (act or science of bringing general moral principles to bear upon particular causes). Disturbed Sadducees because had collected many rules & regulations to explain what they saw as the real meaning of the Law, led to building up of many petty rules so keeping Law became an onerous burden rather than joyful celebration of God's goodness.

Zealots – overriding conviction could have no master but God. Meant driving out Romans must be top priority.

Essenes – not named in NT, believed to have written documents known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Headquarters at Qumran near north-west corner of Dead Sea. Withdrew from mainstream society to live in isolated community in desert. They believed they were the faithful remnant who alone had preserved the faith & true meaning of scripture. Looked forward to day of crisis when God's sovereignty would be reasserted, heretics & foreign enemies banished & Essenes would be recognized as God's truly chosen people. Expected three leaders: 1. the coming prophet predicted by Moses (Deut. 18:18,19); 2. a royal Messiah, descended from King David; 3. most important, a priestly Messiah. To be ready went through many ritual washings. Understood universe to be battlefield between God & Satan – apocalyptic expectation of end of world. Saw themselves as one small community of light in vast Roman darkness.

142-63 – Maccabean era/Hasmonean Dynasty - Jews enjoy limited independence. **Essene** community at **Qumran** acts out a new "exodus" leaving behind a Jerusalem priesthood they regarded as corrupt to form a new "Israel" in desert.

106BCE–14 CE – Latin reaches highest level of development in Golden Age of Latin literature

100 – birth of Gaius **Julius Caesar**

100 - Beginnings Mahayana Buddhism

80BCE–30 CE – Rabbi Hillel, greatest of Pharisees – essence of Torah not letter but spirit of law summed up in Golden Rule

75 - Colosseum built in Rome

73 – Gladiator Spartacus leads slave revolt, crushed by Pompey & Crassus

73-4 CE – **King Herod the Great** ruler of Roman province of Judea

70-19 - **Vergil**, writer of *The Aeneid*

63-14 CE - **Octavian** First Emperor of Rome (in 27 BCE) beginning of Roman rule

63 - Roman troops under Pompey conquer Judea, entire eastern Mediterranean brought under *pax Romana*

59 – **Julius Caesar** appointed Consul in Rome after forming alliance with wealthy aristocrat Marcus Licinius Crassus & powerful General Gaeus Pompeii in First Triumvirate

58 – Caesar invades Gaul making Western Europe part of Roman Empire over 8 years

54 – Caesar invades Britain

50 – Caesar crosses Rubicon marking North Eastern border of Italy & heads to Rome embarking on Civil War (“the die is cast”) throughout North Africa & Spain, pursues rival Pompeii to Egypt where he is presented with Pompeii’s head & takes Cleopatra as his mistress, returning with her to Rome (“I came; I saw; I conquered.”)

50 BCE-50 C.E. - Buddhism introduced into China

47 – Herod Antipater, half-Jew from Idumea south of Judea made governor of Judea & made Roman citizen by Julius Caesar

46 – Caesar appointed dictator for 10 years

44 (Feb.) – Caesar elected dictator for life

44 - **Julius Caesar** - Ides of March (March 15) murdered in Rome by Longinus & Brutus, four months later at celebration honouring one of Caesar’s military victories, comet streaked across sky, taken as sign Caesar was a god. Roman Senate officially declared him the divine Julius. After his death succeeded by nephew & adopted son Octavius/Octavian (later

Augustus) who was 19 & in Greece when he was made Caesar's heir (ruled 27 BCE to 14 CE)

37 – **Herod the Great**, Jew, appointed by Romans to rule as king of Judea, Idumea, Samaria under Roman authority (to 4 CE) – dual taxation: one for Rome, one for priestly aristocracy. Many resisted payment resulting in frequent open revolts

31 – **Octavian & Marcus Agrippa** defeat Antony (who had married Cleopatra, who had been Julius Caesar's mistress, & named her illegitimate son by Caesar as Julius' true heir. Antony & Cleopatra commit suicide, her son is murdered & Egypt becomes part of the Roman Empire) at battle of Actium, begins Roman Empire

30-55 CE – **Philo of Alexandria** – Jewish biblical commentator who developed allegorical way of reading Bible

29 – first temple to the godhead of the emperor built at Pergamum in Asia Minor

27 – **Octavian** becomes first Emperor of Rome (ruled 27 BCE–14 CE) granted name **Caesar Augustus** ("Revered One"), founder of "Pax Romana," ushers in era of unprecedented prosperity

21 – **Agrippa** marries Julia

20 BCE–50 CE – **Philo** Alexandrian Jew drew from Platonist tradition, Stoicism & neo-Pythagoreanism to create fusion of active or virtuous life & contemplative life

20 – Herod the Great begins rebuilding Temple from ruins of Solomon's temple to win favour with Jews (finished 9 CE)

18 BCE – Augustus institutes moral campaign to restore traditional family values in Rome while, behind the scenes, carrying on adulterous lifestyle

14 BCE – **Tiberius** succeeds Augustus

10 BCE – Agrippa I (b.), grandson of Herod the Great

9 BCE – Tiberius marries Julia

6 BCE – 70 CE – AGE of JESUS and the APOSTLES – COMMON ERA

6/4 BCE?-30 CE - life of **Jesus Christ** born before end of reign of King Herod the Great

6 BCE - Territories of Judea, Samaria & Idumea come under direct imperial control as Roman Province of Judea – sacrifices performed in temple as required by Torah plus sacrifices required in honour of Rome & emperor, tension around accommodation to Rome

5 BCE-64 CE - life of **St. Paul** born in Tarsus, prosperous capital of Roman Province of Cilicia, now southeastern Turkey

4 BCE – Judas, Son of brigand chief Hezekiah leads tax revolt among people of town of Sepphoris, few kms. from Nazareth in Galilee – proclaimed Judas king. Romans conquer town & sell people into slavery

4 BCE – Herod the Great dies, leaving his family & Judea in chaos. Kingdom divided among sons: **Archelaus** - Judea, Samaria, Idumea (4 BCE – 6 CE), **Herod Antipas** – northern part of Palestine: Galilee (including Nazareth) & Perea (4 BCE – 39 CE), **Philip** - NE of Sea of Galilee (4 BCE – 33/34 CE) all answerable to a Roman governor

2 BCE – Julia banished

COMMON ERA

5 – Augustus adopts Tiberius as son & successor

6 – Archelaus recalled to Rome due to incompetence & sent into exile in Gaul. Quirinius, imperial legate of Syria, sent to take census of taxable property of Judea as first stage in its organization as a province within Roman Empire. Judea becomes third-grade province of Roman empire under an officer of the upper class equestrian rank, who was under command of Roman governor of Syria, later called ‘procurator’ (eg. Pontius Pilate 26-36 CE)

14 - death of **Augustus Caesar** (76 years old) had only one daughter, no surviving grandsons first emperor of Rome, adopted son of Julius Caesar, reign (44 BCE – 14 CE) considered golden age of literature in Rome, period of peace, succeeded by **Tiberius** his adopted stepson who ruled to 37 CE. After his death Augustus declared a god by Senate in Rome

19 – Death of **Germanicus** trial of Piso

26-36 – **Pontius Pilate** Roman procurator of Judea, Samaria & Idumea

27-30 – public ministry of **Jesus of Nazareth**

28 – Agrippina marries Gnaeus Ahenobarbarus (consul 32 CE) by whom she bears Nero, later marries Crispus Passienus & finally her uncle Claudius

c.30 - Jesus executed under Roman Emperor **Tiberius** by Pontius Pilate governor Judea

30-40 - 2 types of religious groups emerge around Jesus’ memory: 1. Jesus movements adhered to memory of Jesus as founding teacher, collected his sayings & recounted his deeds (Palestine & Southern Syria) 2. Christ congregations – remembered Jesus as divine being

whose death & resurrection promised salvation (Northern Syria, Asia Minor, Greece) – Greek speakers

33 – martyrdom of **Stephen** marks growing split between Judaism & Christianity & turns Christianity into a missionary movement

c.34 – conversion of **Paul** (Acts 9)

?36-?65 period of oral tradition between time of Jesus & first gospel. Christians disperse throughout Judea & Samaria (Acts 8:1ff)

Jerusalem church begins to hear of churches among the Hellenists & sends delegations to establish ties with them: Peter & John to Samaria, Barnabas to Antioch & Syria

Peter leads new Christian church, moves headquarters to Rome

c.35-c.107 – **Ignatius of Antioch** – Christocentric mystic wrote letters as he approached martyrdom

37 – Nero born, mother Agrippina sister of eccentric emperor Caligula

37-41 – reign of Gaius Caligula, emperor of Rome declared himself god

37-44 – **Herod Agrippa I** (grandson of Herod the Great) allowed by Romans to rule more of Palestine

38 – Agrippa I travels through Alexandria where there are violent anti-Jewish riots

39/40 - **Philo of Alexandria** (15/10 BCE-45/50) leads delegation of Jews from Alexandria to emperor Caligula (37-41) in Rome. Jews of Alexandria subject to Roman pogrom Philo & companions hoped to end. Caligula cut Philo off as he spoke. Philo later told fellow ambassadors God would punish Caligula, who was soon assassinated

Sought to harmonize Jewish theology with Greek (largely Platonic) philosophy. Many ideas found in later Christian theology present in Philo, though sometimes in form unacceptable to Church. Taught that Greek philosophy plagiarized from Moses, believed Greek translation of OT (Septuagint, dating from 3rd c. BCE) was divinely inspired. Referred to the Logos (the residence of Platonic Ideas) as first-begotten Son of God - though, in his view, the Logos was definitely below God, distinct from Godhead. Interpreted theophanies of OT as appearances of the Logos (as for the Fathers were Christophanies). Stressed balanced allegorical interpretation of scripture. Discussed incomprehensibility of God in essence & how knowledge of God can be attained in ecstatic state.

Similar to Gnostics & Manichaeans. Like Plato viewed body as prison for soul. Distinctly non-Christian view of matter

40 – **Paul** goes to Jerusalem to consult with Peter

41 – assassination of **Caligula**, succeeded by uncle Claudius

41–54 - Claudius Roman Emperor who expelled Jews & Jewish Christians from Rome in 49, they returned after his death in 54

41-44 - according to **Eusebius**, Bishop of Caesarea writing in his *Ecclesiastical History*, St. Mark came to Egypt between first & third year of the reign of Emperor Claudius returned to Alexandria 20 years later to preach & evangelize

43 – Roman Emperor Claudius invades Britain, conquers Celtic tribes

43 – Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch (Acts 11:25,26)

44 – persecution of early church at Jerusalem by Herod Agrippa, executes James, brother of John (Acts 12:1-3) **Peter** leaves Jerusalem

44 (Aug) – Agrippa at seaside palace of Caesarea for annual celebration of emperor’s birthday, declared a god & dies (Acts 12:23). His death is a disaster for Jews, leading to increasingly strained relations between Jews & Rome

45 – church in Antioch sends famine relief to Christians of Judea by Saul & Barnabas (Acts 11:29)

46-48 – Paul’s first missionary journey

47-48 - Paul & Barnabas on Cyprus

48 – **Council of Jerusalem** (Acts 15:1f)

48-54 – *Galatians* – **Paul**

49? - Paul in southern Galatia

49 – according to Roman historian Suetonius (70-122) Claudius “expelled the Jews from Rome since they rioted constantly at the instigation of Chrestus.” (*Claudius*, xxv) (Acts 18:2)

50-70’s – **Herod Agrippa II** rules parts of Palestine especially in North East

50-51 - Paul in Corinth

50-52 – Paul’s second missionary journey

New Testament closes as first generation of pneumatic Christians, including Spirit-filled apostles were ending their lives. Crises of Christianity centered on questions of whether such mystical church could maintain unity in face of possible conflicting revelations or fresh revelations that might be inconsistent with traditions of founding generations & whether pneumatic Christians could co-exist with non-pneumatics as there began to be Christians born into faith

50 – according to tradition the apostle Thomas travelled to the Malabar coast evangelizing & building at least seven churches throughout southern India before being martyred

50 – *I Thessalonians* - **Paul**

51 – *II Thessalonians* – **Deutero-Pauline**

53 – **Nero** marries Octavia

53-57 – Paul’s third missionary journey

54 – Emperor Claudius poisoned before his son Britannicus came of age to succeed his father. 16 year old **Nero** declared emperor (reigned to 68)

54-55 - Paul in prison in Ephesus

55 – Nero poisons Britannicus just before fourteenth birthday

55 - *I Corinthians* - **Paul**

55-56 – *II Corinthians* - **Paul**

56 – Paul arrested in Jerusalem for trying to take Greeks & non-Jews into temple (Acts 22)

57 - *Romans* - **Paul**

58 – Paul arrested, imprisoned in Caesarea (Acts 25:4)

59 – Nero kills his mother, Agrippina

59-62 – *Philippians* - **Paul**

60 – **Paul** arrives in Rome where he is imprisoned & eventually dies

60 – **Andrew** martyred by crucifixion in Achaia (Greece)

61 – *Ephesians* – **Deutero-Pauline**

61 – *Colossians* – **Deutero-Pauline**

61 – *Philemon* – **Paul**

62 – death of **James** (brother of Jesus), seems to have been leader of the church in Jerusalem

62 – Nero kills his wife Octavia & marries Popeiia Sabina

63 – Popeiia (Nero’s wife) bears daughter who dies, after which Nero kills all royal family

63 – completion of Temple of Herod the Great

64 (June 29) – traditional date of Peter’s martyrdom, crucified upside down in Rome

64 (July 19) – Great Fire starts & burns 6 days, $\frac{3}{4}$ of Rome destroyed, persecution under Emperor **Nero** (54-68), who uses Christians (a still almost unheard of Jewish sect) as scapegoats to blame for blaze, when suspicion directed at him for building his own magnificent temple on land cleared by the great fire

64 – church in Alexandria founded by St. Mark, disciple of Peter

65 – plot to assassinate Nero fails – assassins forced to commit suicide including Seneca, leaving Rome in state of fear & suspicion

66-73 - **The Great Revolt** – Jewish zealots revolt against Rome, massacring the Roman garrison in Jerusalem & holding Roman forces at bay for four years. Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai, Hillel’s greatest pupil & leader of Pharisees wanted no part in violence, realized Jews could not defeat Rome, argued preservation of religion was more important than national independence. When advice rejected had himself smuggled out of Jerusalem in coffin & went to Roman camp of Vespasian where got permission to live with scholars in Javne which became new capital of Jewish religion after destruction of temple

67 – **Paul** martyred on road from Rome to Ostia.

67 – General Vespasian of Rome conquers Galilee, Samaria, Perea, most of Judea & destroys Qumran

67-68 - Linus succeeds Peter – 2nd “Pope”

68 – Qumran (Essenes?) community destroyed by Rome (site of Dead Sea Scrolls found 1949)

68 – Nero (age 38) orders servant to kill him after fleeing Rome in fear, launches year of civil war in Rome

68 – Galba emperor of Rome

69 – Otho emperor of Rome

69 – Vitellius emperor of Rome

c.69 – **St. Ignatius** (c.35-c.107) becomes bishop of Antioch, perhaps succeeding **Euodius** who may have been first successor to Peter. Ignatius first to use the word “catholic” – “Wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic church.” “Let that be considered a valid Eucharist over which the bishop presides, or one to whom he commits it.”

69–79 – **Vespasian**, Roman Emperor who put down Jewish revolt & built Colosseum

69-155 – **Polycarp**, bishop of Smyrna, tried to avoid arrest by going into hiding but was betrayed by two slaves & became model martyr

70 - Jerusalem is burned, **Second Temple** destroyed by troops of Emperor Titus, only West wall, “Wailing” Wall left. Heart of Jewish religion shifts from temple to text. Beginning period of rabbinical Judaism in which rabbis focus on exegesis of Scriptures, especially Torah. Priestly class wiped out, Pharisees emerge as dominant group in Palestinian Judaism. Divide between Christianity & Judaism deepens. Virtual end of Christian Church in Jerusalem after which political centre of Christianity shifts to Rome

70-90 – Synoptic Gospels

70 – *Gospel of Mark* interweaving material from sayings known as Q (from German *Quelle* = “source”)

72 – according to tradition, Thomas stabbed to death by Brahman priests in Mylapore, India

73 – garrison at Masada chooses to die by suicide rather than surrender to Rome, thus ending revolt begun 66

75-100 - *James*

79 – Hadrian born in Spain

79–81 – **Titus**, Roman Emperor, destroyed Jerusalem

79-91 - Pope Anacletus, 3rd pope, known as “blameless”

80 – Coliseum opens in Rome

‘80’s – Rome completes conquest of England, making it a Province of huge Empire

81–96 – Domitian, Roman Emperor

85 – formal anathema in synagogue liturgy against Jewish Christians – “May the Nazarenes & the heretics be suddenly destroyed & removed from the Book of Life.”

85-100 - *Gospels of Matthew, Luke & Acts of the Apostles*

c.85-160 - Marcion born in port city of Sirope on shore of Black Sea (modern Turkey) – 130’s or 140’s moves to Rome

90 – in an attempt to stop spreading Christian cult, Palestinian Jewish rabbis meet at Jamnia to expel “heretics” from synagogues, declare Christian writings heretical & outline canon of Hebrew Scriptures containing 39 books (later followed by Protestant Christians), Alexandrian Jews & Jews of dispersion had 46 books following canon laid down by Greek Septuagint which was also used by most Christians. Marks beginning of theory that every

letter in Hebrew text has a meaning, resulting in demand for standard text & suppression of any variants

90-95 - *I Peter, Hebrews, Revelation* (not same author as Gospel & Letters – probably Jewish Christian prophet active in Asia Minor)

90-95 – John exiled on island of Patmos

90-110 – *I, II Timothy, Titus* – **not Paul**

90-100 - *Gospel of John, I, II, III John* (not the disciple)

c.90 – break between synagogue & Christian community becomes final

93 – writing of *Antiquities* by **Josephus** (37-100), Jewish historian publishes *Antiquities of the Jews*, mentions Jesus: “At this time there appeared Jesus, a wise man. For he was a doer of startling deeds, a teacher of people who receive the truth with pleasure. And he gained a following both among many Jews & among many of Greek origin. And when Pilate, because of an accusation made by the leading men among us, condemned him to the cross, those who had loved him previously, did not cease to do so. And up until this very day the tribe of Christians (named after him) has not died out.”

93 – 2nd persecution of Christians under Domitian (81-96).

c.95 - **Clement of Rome** (c.30-100), 3d Bishop after St. Peter, writes letter to Corinthians who have deposed their old clergy replacing them with a new man. Clement argues that church leaders possess a divine authority inherited from Christ & his apostles, “apostolic succession” – “The apostles were made evangelists to us by the Lord Christ; Jesus Christ was sent by God. Thus Christ is from God & the apostles from Christ...The Church is built on them as a foundation.” (*I Clement 42*)

96 – Emperor Domitian stabbed to death in plot organized by his wife & Senators. New emperor Nerva made Trajan, Hadrian’s cousin co-emperor of Rome

96-98 – Nerva Emperor of Rome

c.98 - d. **Apostle John**

98-117 - Trajan, first non-Italian Roman Emperor. Roman Empire reaches maximum size. During 2nd cent. number of Christians increases from no more than 250,000 to as many as 1.5 million = less than 2.5% of total population of 60 million in Roman Empire – Jews outnumbered Christians by 4 to 1.

2nd c. – *Gospel of Thomas* widely circulated (rediscovered in Egypt in 1945 among 52 religious writings found in a jar near the village of Nag Hammadi)

early 2nd c. – *Odes of Solomon* forty-two short possibly baptismal hymns written in Syria or Palestine, word “church” does not appear

c.100 - **Didache/Teachings of the Twelve Apostles** written, includes prescription for Eucharist. Mentions Bishops & deacons but no clear direction who is to preside at the Eucharist, no vivid sense of strong organized church that is the same everywhere

c.100 - Christian churches are established in Greece, North Africa, Italy, & Asia Minor. Until 3rd cent. “church,” *ekklesia* = not building but act of gathering for ritual, mostly in private homes, not defined by sacred place but by sacred day of Sunday = beginning of creation of world & day Jesus rose

c. 100 – Roman aristocrat & historian, Tacitus writes of Christianity as a “deadly superstition,” marked by a “hatred of humanity” & named after a criminal executed under Pontius Pilate

c. 100 – Roman historian Suetonius records that, during the reign of Claudius (d. 54 CE), Jews had been expelled from Rome because of “continuous disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus.”

c.100 - First London Bridge built across Thames by Romans

100–165 - **St. Justin Martyr**, born in Flavia Neapolis (modern town of Nablus, near Shechem in Samaria) one of first Christian apologists to defend Christianity, sought to reconcile faith & reason, using Greek philosophy as stepping stone to Christian theology.

- taught that all truth belongs to Christianity & that pagan gods of Rome were fallen angels whose demonic offspring were responsible for evil. Wrote to Jewish philosopher that circumcision marked Jews, “so that you alone might suffer what you now rightly suffer; so that your land might become desolate, & your cities burned, & strangers eat the fruits of your land before you, & not one of you set foot in Jerusalem.”

c.100-175 - **Valentinus** born in Egyptian seacoast village, developed form of Christianity that became Christian Gnosticism based on Gnostic myth of ancient Egypt, Greece, Persia, & Judaism:

1. purely spiritual realm, emanating from highest God, populated by divine beings of wisdom & power
2. material world created by mistake, essentially imperfect
3. by mercy of one or more divine beings, spark of light placed in human beings although have to continue to live in darkness
4. in order to awake those who were spiritually asleep, redeemer came from spiritual realm to reveal knowledge that would remind those who responded to return home

101 – Hadrian joins Trajan in Dacian war & is marked out as great General

101-109 – Pope Evaristus, 5th Pope

107 – 3rd persecution of Christians under Trajan (98-117)

107 – **Ignatius**, bishop of Antioch arrested. As he was being escorted from Antioch to Rome, he wrote letters urging Christians not to interfere with his death.

108 – Hadrian elected one of Rome’s two consuls although two years too young

110 – **Marcion** b. leader of sect (d. 165) Rejected OT, impossible Jesus born of woman

110-130 – *Jude*

112 – Roman administrator Pliny, serving as governor of Bithynia, writes to Emperor Trajan reporting on Christians – “They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, & bound themselves together by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft, or adultery, never to falsify their word, not to deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, & then assemble to partake of food – but food of an ordinary & innocent kind.”

117 – Trajan dies suddenly without appointing successor. His widow announces Trajan had adopted Hadrian as his son. Eastern legions hail 41 year old Hadrian as emperor who then declares no further conquests but consolidation of empire

118 – 4th persecution of Christians under Hadrian (117-138)

121-180 - **Marcus Aurelius** b.(reigned 161-180) – highpoint of Roman Empire

122 - Roman emperor **Hadrian** (reigned 117-138) visits Britain & begins construction of wall (73 miles long, manned by 15,000 auxiliary troops) & fortifications between northern England & Scotland

125 - Papyrus 52 written around this time, oldest extant NT fragment, containing parts of John 18:31-33 & 37-38.

125-136 - Pope Telesphorus, 8th pope martyred

127-142 - **Ptolemy**, astronomer, geographer, & mathematician in Alexandria, earth-centered model of universe held until 1542, when Copernicus supplies solar-centered model

130 – Hadrian travels to Egypt during which trip his Greek male lover Antonius dies in boating accident, rebuilds Jerusalem, calling it Aelia Captolina, erects temple to Jupiter, charging special tax to Jews to pay for upkeep of temple Jupiter Capitolinus

130-150 - *II Peter*

130 – probable date of Rylands Papyrus, one of the earliest NT fragments containing five verses of John 16

132 - Shimeon Bar-Kokhba & Rabbi Akiba Ben-Joseph lead Jews in revolt against Hadrian & his Roman rule spurred on by Hadrian’s building of a temple to Jupiter & the emperor in Jerusalem on the site of the Jewish temple that had been destroyed 60 years earlier & having declared that Jerusalem should be renamed in his honour. They capture Jerusalem & create an

independent state of Israel; for three years Roman Legions continue their campaign against the guerrilla tactics of the Jewish rebel army

134 – Hadrian (age 58) returns to Rome

135 - Julius Severus, formerly governor of Britain, violently crushes revolt in Jerusalem led by Bar-Cocheba, province of Judea is abolished. Final Diaspora (dispersion) of Jews driven out of Judea by edict of Hadrian. Rome changes name of the land to *Palestina* – “Land of the Philistines” – Jews do not regain control of land until UN establishes State of Israel 1948. Jews begin to formulate religious way of life based on Torah independent of Jerusalem, temple, & sacrificial ritual

138 – Hadrian dies in Naples, succeeded by Antonius Pius who reigns until 161

c.140 - *Shepherd of Hermas* written, presents highly developed system of bishops, deacons, & priests

c.144 - **Marcion** founds influential Christian sect, argues for existence of two gods (creator God & Redeemer God) salvation achieved by detaching from world in order to adhere to Saviour, Christ. Solved problem of evil by attributing it to failure of creator God. Sees radical split between OT & NT, taught gospel of love to exclusion of law, rejected Hebrew Scriptures – forced Christians to think seriously about texts & begin to develop “canon,” teaching renounced by leaders of Roman church & his large donation to the church returned.

mid 2c. – all leading centres of Christianity have Bishops who by late 2c. are unchallenged leaders in church affairs

Massive increase in elaboration of sophisticated Gnostic schemes describing structures of cosmos & mechanisms of enlightenment & salvation, most serious intellectual threat to Church

2nd half 2nd c. – days of Christian enthusiasm coming to an end, ecclesiasticism beginning to take over. The Spirit of prophecy is no longer heard. More people are joining the church & the distinction between the church & the world is beginning to fade. The church is becoming more “secularized.”

c.150 - Four "canonical" gospels brought together

c.150 – Justin Martyr in Rome writes *First Apology*, taking centrist position between Marcion & Valentinus:

1. supreme God of Christians = the divine being ultimately responsible for creation effected through the *logos*, the Word of God
2. Jesus = the divine *logos* incarnate in human form
3. this divine *logos* = property of Christianity residing in the church – “whatever things are rightly said among the teachers are the property of us Christians.” So, Socrates & Plato because they lived “according to reason,” “are Christians”
4. the *nous* begotten by God is capable of a vision of its unbegotten Source – but this

is the reward for virtuous living given to a *nous* that has been adorned by the Holy Spirit, not something owed it by nature (as in Plato)

c.150 - School of Alexandria founded in Egypt, quickly becomes major centre for both Christian theology & Greek philosophy. Among its prominent teachers are theologians Clement (died c.213) & Origen (c.185-254)

c.150–213 - **Clement of Alexandria** (Egypt) first known major Christian writer to assert gods of other religions really demons:

The verdict of the prophets is
that the gods of all the nations
are images of demons.

contradicted general belief in Roman Empire that the gods of all religions & nations were universal differing only in names & certain minor characteristics. He adapted the language of pagan Mysteries to Christian theory of spiritual life, viewed Christianity as fulfillment of highest hopes of pre-Christian world

155 – Bishop **Polycarp** visits Rome to discuss question of Easter with Bishop Anicetus

156 – **Polycarp** burned for his faith

160 – **Tertullian** b. (d. 230)

161-180 - Marcus Aurelius Emperor of Rome

164-180 - Great Plague in Roman Empire

165 – **Justin Martyr** & his disciples denounced as Christians, on refusing to sacrifice, were scourged & beheaded

166 - Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius sends gifts to Chinese emperor Huan Ti

167 – according to Venerable Bede, Eleutherus, bishop of Rome receives request to baptize British king

c.170 – *The Mishnah* compiled in Galilee interpreting the law

170-235 – **Hippolytus**

177 – 5th persecution of church, under Marcus Aruelius (161-180) at Lyon, Blandina martyred

c.180 - **Irenaeus** (125-c.202), Bishop of Lyons (in modern-day France) Catholic theologian, writes *Against Heresies* in attempt to fight spread of Gnosticism. Emphasized John's Gospel, particularly *Logos* which became voice of God that revealed itself to all people = last writer able to think of himself as belonging to eschatological age of miracle & revelation. Realised necessity of fixed list (Canon) of NT books. Claimed "every church must agree" with church

of Rome because of its apostolic authority. Endeavoured to clarify how invisible God came to be seen through manifestation of his incarnate Son, recapitulating all history

Gnosticism from Greek *gnosis* ('knowledge') complex of religious beliefs based on conviction there are two worlds. Not a coherent movement with recognized teachers or centre, but a formulation constructed by Christians to label beliefs deemed to lie outside the Christian belief system:

1. world of spirit where God is pure & holy
2. world of matter, where people are which is evil & corrupted. God who is holy & pure can have no involvement in material world. Salvation is a quality found in the spiritual world. The aim of human life is to escape the material realm into the spiritual. This ultimately happens at death when the soul leaves the body. Only those who possess a divine "spark" embedded in their nature qualify to reach the world of spirit, but even they are not guaranteed access because the *Demiurge* (evil creator of this world) & his accomplices (the *Archons*) guard every entrance to the spirit world. To get past, the spark must be enlightened about its own nature & the nature of true salvation = *gnosis* (ie. a mystical experience, a direct "knowing" of the supreme God)

In Christian form, becomes prominent in 2c. Attached importance to special knowing which allows soul to free itself from physical, distinction between 'creator god' & supreme unknowable, Jesus = emissary of supreme God bringing 'gnosis,' he neither took proper human body nor died, temporarily inhabited a human being, material world & human body essentially flawed. Strong dualism of spirit & matter, God & world. Led to either: asceticism (spirit must be liberated from bonds of flesh) or antinomianism (material world irrelevant so no point in resisting carnal impulses):

1. raised question of defining authoritative canon of Christian texts by producing new gospels, histories, & revelations
2. produced appeal to "apostolic authority" rather than direct spiritual insight, Peter rather than Paul
3. Gnostics gathered in small study groups devaluing rituals of Christian practice – in response church stressed rituals as essential ingredients leading to salvation

late 2nd c. – bishops have become unchallenged leaders in the church. What authority should be given to this development & other authoritative decisions relating to church practice?
Three responses:

1. "catholic" – the Holy Spirit so indwelt the church that the developments in doctrine & church structure are the work of the Holy Spirit & authoritative for all Christian history

2. "evangelical" – the men guiding the early church wilfully & sinfully departed from the divinely authorized pattern for ministry in the church which should be repudiated so the church can return to the Bible & restore the authentic ministry of the church

3. "liberal" – Christian leaders in the early centuries of the church were exercising their liberty about matters that lacked any divinely authorized patterns, developing church structures that worked in their context. We are free to adopt these structures in our day.

180 - First African Christians martyred at Scillium, Africa.

180-192 – Commodus, unworthy son of Marcus Aurelius succeeds his father as emperor of Rome bringing to an end what Edward Gibbon called, “the period in the history of the world, during which the human race was most happy & prosperous.” *The Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire* chp. III vol 1, p. 95 – period inaugurated by reign of Commodus = time of imperial murders, civil wars, disaster in social & economic life, plague & famine, time of anarchy & societal collapse

c.185-c.254 - **Origen** student of Clement – leading teacher, Platonic philosopher & biblical interpreter, developed Paul’s allegorical reading of Bible into a system. Distinguished between ideal & material realms in cosmos & soul & body in humans

c.188-231 - Bishop Demetrius of Alexandria

189-198 - Pope Victor I – 1st Latin Pope (14th) excommunicated Eastern churches that continued to observe Easter on 14th day of Jewish month of Nisan, on whichever day it happened to fall. Rome celebrated Easter on first Sunday after 14th of Nisan due to sacred significance of Sunday

c.190 – **Clement of Alexandria** (c.150-c.215) becomes head of catechetical school in Alexandria to 203, lay theologian – because creation is good, God has implanted seeds of truth in all creatures, introduces concept of *apatheia* (unpassion) – God is impassable (without passions or emotions). To relate to God one must expect the calming of the disordered passions. God gives love in order that we may be absorbed into God’s thoroughly reasonable love

193-211 – Septimius Severus emperor of Rome

c.197 – **Tertullian** (160-225) converts to Christianity, African Church Father, living in Carthage, North Africa. First Christian theologian to write in Latin.

- helped formulate concept of Trinity - formulation for God. Father, Son & Spirit are three *personae* & because they all possess the *substantia* of divinity, they are all *Deus*.

- Quoted pagan remark – “see how these Christians love one another.” Anti-gnostic & against modalism, emphasized faith as contradiction to reason – “I believe because it is absurd.”

- Wrote: “Woman! You are the gateway of the devil. You persuaded him whom the devil dared not attack directly. Because of you the Son of God had to die. You should always go dressed in mourning rags.” Called woman “a temple built over a sewer.”

- as the canon of Scripture began to be established, Tertullian charged that “The Holy Spirit has been chased into a book.”

- argues against infant baptism, not because it is not apostolic in origin but because he believes sins cannot be forgiven after baptism.

EARLY CHURCH HERESIES – two forms:

1. Anthropological (*defining human nature in ways that preclude redemption*)

- a. human nature so evil redemption not possible (**Manichaeism** 3rd c.)
- b. human nature so good redemption not necessary (**Pelagianism** late 4th c.)

2. Soteriological/Christological (*defining redeemer in ways that preclude redemption*)

a. Jesus so like human, lacks power to redeem (**Ebionites** 2nd c. – Jesus human son of Joseph & Mary on whom Holy Spirit lighted at baptism, endowing him with charismatic gifts which distinguished him from other human beings, over-emphasis on binding character of Mosaic Law)

Nestorianism (5th c.) – drastically divided human & divine natures in Christ – erred on side of human

b. Jesus so different from humans, no contact possible (**Docetism** 2nd c. – (Gk. *dokeo* “I seem”) – humanity & sufferings of earthly Jesus apparent rather than real, did not really experience human birth. Someone else died on cross in his place, higher insight could perceive that Christ was pure spirit & his physical appearance only an illusion, form of gnosticism)

Apollinarianism (4th c.) – negated Christ’s human spirit – erred on side of divine

Monophysitism (5th c.) – denied Christ’s human nature, only divine nature which absorbed or utilized Christ’s human faculties

3. Further Christological heresies

Monothelitism (7th c.) – claimed Christ had only one will

Adoptianism (8th c.) – Christ = adopted not natural son of God. Jesus human until Holy Spirit descended at baptism

4. Spirit & Trinity

Montanism (c.150) – glorified Spirit at expense of Christ, expectation of speedy outpouring of Holy Spirit on Church with gift of prophecy, antithesis between immediate inspiration & mediated authority, eventually reinforced idea that revelation had come to an end with the apostolic age so encouraged closed canon of NT. Montanists were **chiliasts**

(another name for **Millenarianism**– theory Christ will return to earth & reign for 1,000 years before the final consummation of all things Rev. 20:1-5). They believed the new Jerusalem would come in Phrygia. Rejection of Montanism reveals that the church is no longer a movement but has become an institution.

Modalism– Father, Son, & Spirit = passing expressions/modes of God, not permanent distinctions. God is an actor playing one role then another: Father active in creation, Son in redemption, Spirit in sanctification

Sabellianism (3rd c.) – Father, Son, & Holy Spirit = three different modes, masks, or personalities through which the one God appeared. Denied independent divinity of Son.

SCRIPTURE:

Canon– (Gk. “measuring rod,” “rule”) books officially received as containing rule of Christian faith. Jews decided Hebrew Canon in late 1c.

Problem: without an authoritative scripture how can the church know the right teaching, but without the right teaching how do you know which are the right scriptures?

But many people in contemporary church, who hold most tenaciously to the authority of the canon, dismiss many of the other “authoritative” decisions of the early church – eg. the authority of Bishops which was affirmed before the canon was ever settled. So the very people who determined the parameters of the canon are dismissed by those same people who today affirm the early church’s canonical choice.

Development of canon is first doctrinal development in history of Christianity.

NT – Gospels accepted c.150, placed on same footing as Hebrew Scriptures between 170 & 220.

367 St. Athanasius in *Festal Epistle* – earliest exact witness to present NT Canon

382 Council in Rome under St. Damasus (Pope from 366) gave complete list of Canonical Books of Hebrew & Christian Scriptures – criteria:

1. use in worship
2. reflect tradition thought to be apostolic in origin
3. “catholic” – universal ie. enjoyed widespread use in churches
4. believed to be “self-authenticating” ie. have always exercised & still exercise unparalleled power

Augustine (354-430) – “I would not believe the gospel unless the Catholic Church moved me.”

Apocrypha – (Gk. “the hidden things”) – 12 or 15 Biblical books received by early

Church as part of Greek version of Hebrew Scriptures but not included in Hebrew Bible (39 books) Accepted in LXX by Palestinian Jews

2 Versions of OT used in Judaism before church:

1. Palestinian Canon – connected with Jews of homeland in Hebrew, contained 39 books now in Protestant Bible

2. Alexandrian Canon – Greek translation of Hebrew Scriptures (LXX – *Septuagint*) included additional books approved in Catholic Bible following Augustine who accepted them

3rd c. – church expands east & west into Gaul, Spain & North Africa

By 200 church had: monarchical episcopate, bonds of communion among Episcopal sees, generally similar liturgy & sacraments, official lists (ie. canons) of sacred books, formulas of belief (ie. creeds), above all an ideology of a tradition (*paradosis*) of common belief handed down from apostles (became religion of empire in 4c.)

c.200 - German Goths create tradition of "best man" by taking their best fighter with them to help abduct brides from neighbouring villages

c.200 – Buddhism introduced to Southeast Asia

c.200 – Persecution of Christians, decline of Roman Empire (see 180)

c.200 – Edessa (Urfa in modern Turkey) becomes first Christian state

c.200 – **Mishnah** compiled, first important work of Rabbinic Judaism, compilation of Oral Torah in written form, not new laws but collection of existing traditions

202 – 6th Christian persecution under Septimius Severus (198-211)

202 – **Clement of Alexandria** goes into hiding in Cappadocia during persecution by Septimius Severus

203 – martyrdom of Perpetua in Carthage, North Africa

205-270 - **Plotinus** (Neoplatonic non-Christian philosopher in Rome) – practical mystic in whose pagan writings central mystic doctrine of union with God is found, writings based on Platonic philosophy had enormous influence on later Christian mysticism. Pessimism towards body, desire to overcome undue anxiety about things of this world & inward division caused by such anxiety, virtue = that which leads one to God through interior transformation of one's being. Goal of philosophy = be so inwardly transformed one could live within society with a freedom derived from a simple regard for "the One." One ultimate reality = "the One" which radiates outward producing the order of the universe as an ongoing process of emanation. Ideal forms of reality located in mind of God, animating force of universe = soul of God, material world = outer limit of divine emanation, a world of shadows holding

only dim reflections of origin in the One. Caught in that material world of shadows, human soul ensnared in ignorance. Plotinus called humans to awaken from ignorance by returning to source, turning inward to divine reason within soul & embarking upon a spiritual journey of the soul back to the eternal being of the One. Positive attitude towards culture.

208 – earliest clear reference to Christianity in Roman province of Britain in writings of **Tertullian** – “places of the Britons unreached by Romans, but subject to the law of Christ.”

211 – Christians tolerated under Emperor Antonius Caracalla

211 – **Origen** “Admantius” becomes head of catechetical school in Alexandria (until 232/233)

c.212 – Christian School of Alexandria begins to become official or semi-official institution in church

c. 215 – **Hippolytus of Rome** *The Apostolic Tradition* teaches that bishops alone ordain presbyters & deacons & bishops are ordained by other bishops

“And first baptize the little ones; and if they can speak for themselves, they shall do so; if not, their parents or other relatives shall speak for them. Then baptize the men, and last of all the women; they must first loosen their hair and put aside any gold or silver ornaments that they are wearing: let no one take any alien thing down to the water with them.”

- becomes first in series of Anti-Popes (illegitimate claimants to papal throne) against Callistus (Pope 217-222). Callistus was the first Pope to readmit to the church penitents who had been guilty of adultery, claiming the church of Rome was the heir of Peter & the Lord had given the keys to Peter to bind & loose the sins of men – first time a bishop of Rome has claimed special authority.

230 – **Origen** (c.185-c.254) ordained priest in Palestine. Alexandrian/Greek biblical critic, exegete, theologian, spiritual writer, student of Clement shaper of Eastern theological tradition, Christianized & theologized neo-Platonism – all souls existed before being united with flesh & all but one fell away from God – this one God chose to unite with his Logos to form Son of Man, rest have individually fallen (emanation) & must find way back to God (return) through help of the *Logos*. Absolute primacy of immaterial & invisible over visible & material, tendency to demean body – there is a whole interior & immaterial world corresponding to the exterior one – 5 interior senses mirroring those of body. Taught ascent of *theoria* (intellect) & *praxis* (virtue)

231 - private house in the city of Dura-Europas on Euphrates adapted for Christian worship = earliest known example of a building that functioned as a church with religious pictures on walls

232-304 – **Porphyry** strongly anti-Christian but important influence in history of Christian mysticism

c.233 – Origen in his *Commentary on Romans* writes – “It is also due to this (hereditary sin)

that the church has a tradition from the apostles to give baptism even to infants.”

235 – Christian persecution under Emperor Maximin (235-238) the Thracian

235 – Origen’s *Exhortation to Martyrdom* in response to persecution in Caesarea:

1. martyrdom guaranteed immediate salvation, deliverance from bondage to body
2. required to properly follow Jesus
3. means of being model to others of true Christian life
4. = way to repay debt to God
5. supplemented Christian sacrificial system

235-284 - Civil War in Roman Empire

236-238 - Maximus emperor of Rome ends Christian schism by deporting Pope Pontian & anti-Pope Hippolytus to Sardinia where they soon die

244 - **Plotinus**, pagan from Egypt, opens school in Rome, emphasizes transcendence of God, God’s incomprehensibility, due to His simplicity. *Nous* is emanated from God & contains ideas of both classes & individuals. Two Souls (corresponding to Plato’s World Soul) proceed from *Nous*. Material creation exists at the bottom of this chain & is the principle of evil. Curiously, Plotinus criticized the Gnostics for their contempt for material reality, considering it worthy of high value as the image of intelligible reality. Plotinus taught that the soul can rise to union with God through purification, the rejection of sense perception in favour of philosophy & science, a stage which is beyond discursive thought, & a final stage of mystical union which is beyond separation. Vladimir Lossky points out that whereas Plotinus viewed union as simplicity & the removal of distinction, Christian mysticism sees God’s incomprehensibility as due not to His simplicity, but as absolute, & thus union with God is a "going forth from being as such." Plotinus died in 269 or 270. His chief disciple was Porphyry, a critic of Christianity, who offered Neoplatonism as a cultured alternative to Christianity among the upper classes.

247 - Dionysius, pupil of Origen, becomes bishop of Alexandria (247-64)

248 – **Cyprian** (200-258) elected Bishop of Carthage, principle authority in Latin Church before St. Augustine, “high church” theologian. Had to deal with problem of those who denied faith in face of persecution & later asked to be received back into church. No salvation outside Church

249 – Rome celebrates 1,000th anniversary

Second half 3d Century – period of severe trial for Roman Empire close to political & social disintegration & economic breakdown. Christianity on rise. By 250 no less than 30,000 Christians living in Rome. By 300 Christians in influential positions, penetrating into every level of society

250 – **Decius** Roman Emperor (249-251) begins 7th persecution of Christians with execution of **Fabian**, Bishop of Rome Jan. 250. All citizens required to give proof of having sacrificed to Emperor as a test of political loyalty. Many Christians give way or escape through bribery,

thousands die – problem of whether penance possible for lapsed. **Cyprian**, bishop of Carthage (248-258) argues no human has power to remit apostasy, leads to Donatist schism. In response to persecution many flee into desert, among them **St. Paul of Thebes** (227-340), said to be first Christian hermit, lived 90 years in cave

For the most part the Roman empire was widely tolerant of a diversity of religious expression. Why was Christianity uniquely singled out for persecution? Seems to relate to Christianity's refusal to offer even a token sacrifice to the Roman gods or to Caesar, a sacrifice which was intended to demonstrate loyalty to the emperor. Also Christians claimed to be morally superior, refused to join popular entertainments, were critical of the world, claimed a monopoly of truth, thought that they alone would enjoy life after death, & were reputed to be "atheists" because they denied existence of all gods but their own. They also operated in secret & were rumoured to practice cannibalism & share in wild orgies.

250-336 - Life of **Arius**, priest at Alexandria (Egypt), founder of Arianism. Arianism was one of the most widespread divisive heresies in history of Christianity. Arius taught (c.318) God is utterly transcendent, can have no involvement in world & therefore created, before all things, a Son who was the first creature, but who was neither equal to nor coeternal with the Father, to work in the world. According to Arius, Jesus Christ was a supernatural creature not quite human & not quite divine. Jesus was closer to God than any other human being, but was born a man. Felt any attempt to recognize the deity of Christ would blur the lines between Christianity & the pagan religions. If Christianity recognized two separate gods, the Father & Jesus, would become a polytheistic religion

Subordinationist - teaching about Person of Christ: there are two Persons substantially similar (*homoiousion*) but not the same (*homoousion*). In these ideas Arius followed the school of Lucian of Antioch

251 – in Rome (population around 1 million) Christians support more than fifty full-time clergy

251 – **Antony** born near Memphis in Egypt.

251 – **Cyprian**, bishop of Carthage writes *Unity of the Church* – "A person cannot have God as Father unless he has the Church as Mother." "Church" meant Christians under bishops.

251 – two candidates for pope - **Novatian** (anti-Pope) – teaches that lapsed who denied faith under persecution, should not be admitted back into church – first major complaint church becoming lax, no forgiveness for sins after baptism. **Cornelius** who wins election as pope – bishop can remit even grave sins

251-253 – Gallus emperor of Rome

253-260 - Valerian, emperor of Rome, executes all bishops, priests & deacons

254 – **Origen** dies from injuries suffered in persecution

257 – 8th persecution under Valerian (253-260)

258 – **St. Cyprian of Carthage** dies martyr's death in Valerian persecution.

260-261 – emperor Gallienus granted toleration by edict & restored confiscated churches & cemeteries

260-268 - Pope Dionysius (25th) rebuilds Roman church after Valerian persecution

260-339 – **Eusebius** – bishop of Caesarea who celebrated emperor Constantine as fulfillment of biblical prophecy

268 - Goths sack Athens, Corinth, & Sparta

270 – Plotinus writes bitter attack against Christians

272 - birth of Constantine

276 – execution of Persian teacher Manichee who taught “a gospel of light.” The Manichees were extreme purists & vegetarians for whom eating meat or having sexual relations meant several more reincarnations before becoming pure. (Augustine was a Manichee “hearer” for nine years) Their ideas resurface in the medieval Bogomils & Cathars.

276-282 – Marcus Aurelius **Probus** emperor of Rome

284-305 – Diocletian emperor of Rome, notorious persecutor of Christians

c.285 – **St. Antony of Egypt** (c.251-356) retires to desert where he attracts a number of disciples. Egypt has a million Christians

286 - Emperor Diocletian divides Roman Empire. He rules East & Maximilian West

290-345 – **Pachomius** establishes 1st monastery in Egypt

296-304 - Pope Marcellinus (29th) apostate, offered pagan sacrifices for Diocletian

296–373 - **Athanasius** disputed Arius & taught Jesus must be divine, because otherwise, could not be Saviour, wrote *Life of Antony*

beginning 4th cent. – Christians = no more than 5% of population of Roman Empire, mostly living in major cities: Rome, Carthage, Alexandria, Ephesus, & Antioch

- Council of Elvira, southern Spain – “bishops, priests, deacons, & all members of the clergy connected with the liturgy must abstain from their wives & must not beget sons.”

4th c. churches develop “public” style of architecture & become recognizable as churches

4th & 5th cents. – bishops of major centres vying for prestige & power:

Alexandria & Rome tended to support each other against -

Antioch & Constantinople who were allies

The tension between these major centres was reflected in the Christological debate: Alexandrians strongly emphasized Christ's divine nature. Antiochians stressed Jesus' human nature.

Donatists – schismatic body in North African Church, insisted church of saints must remain “holy,” believers who had lapsed from Christian faith under persecution, had not received genuine baptism or ordination to priesthood, guilty of mortal sin & could not perform valid sacrament. Believed validity of sacraments depended on moral character of priest. Required second baptism of “lapsed.” Caused rupture in North African church that lasted 300 years & so weakened church that, what had been one of strongest areas was eventually lost to Christianity

300 – Buddhism begins to become prominent religion in China, begins to penetrate Korea

300 – *Codex Vaticanus* written – one of oldest extant manuscripts of the Greek Bible, probably slightly older than *Codex Sinaiticus*. Everything after Hebrews 9:14 has been lost

303 – Diocletian (Roman Emperor 284-305) orders the most systematic & severe persecution of Christians on Feb. 23 by issuing edict at Nicomedia which demanded burning of churches & Christian books = “The Great Persecution”

303 – **St. Alban** first British martyr, killed for his faith in one of few persecutions of Christians by pagans on the island, during governorship of Gaius Junius Faustinus Postumianus. Story told in Bede's (673-735) *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* – when persecution of Christians breaks out Alban shelters fleeing cleric in his home, moved by cleric's example was baptized, when house searched Alban disguises himself as guest & is executed in his place

305 – persecution of Christians continues under Emperor Galienus = last persecution of Christians under Roman authority

c.305 – **Antony** comes out of solitude to organize disciples into community of hermits who live under a rule (an innovation) but with little common life = beginning of early Egyptian Monasticism (Desert Fathers) lasting to death of Simeon Stylites (459)

306 (July 25) – in York, Constantine's father dies. Constantine's troops declare him new emperor of Britain & Gaul

306-312 – Maxentius emperor of Western Roman empire

c.306-373 – **St. Ephrem** best-known & greatest spiritual teacher & writer of the Syriac tradition centered in Antioch & Edessa in modern Syria but also covering much of eastern Turkey, northern Iraq & Iran.

311 – while persecution continued in the east, in the west, the dying emperor Galerius (r.305-311) granted toleration to Christians

312 (Oct. 28) – **Constantine the Great**, emperor of Eastern Empire (from 306-337) defeats & kills Maxentius, emperor of Western Empire (from 308). Constantine converts to Christianity after seeing vision of luminous cross bearing words “*In hoc signo vinces*” (“By this sign you shall conquer”) before the Battle of Milvian Bridge (four miles north of Rome). After this his legions emblazoned on their shields the Chi/Rho – first two letters of Greek for *Christ*. Triumphal arch erected in Constantine’s honour in Rome ascribes his military victories to the “inspiration of Divinity.”

Beginning of period of transition for Roman Empire from being a persecutor of the Church to the Empire being officially Christian

313 - Constantine issues **Edict of Milan**, granting legal rights to all Christians & restoring confiscated possessions. Christianity not yet official religion of Roman Empire

Eusebius (c.260-339), bishop of Caesarea saw promise of Christian kingdom of God on earth fulfilled through imperial rule of Constantine – possibility of establishing theocracy. Argued that if Emperor was going to maintain order of heaven & earth, he (the “Friend of God”) had to establish a uniform system of belief & practice to be shared by all Christians. Under Constantine’s rule, Christian religion would be “catholic” or “universal” to extent imperial power enforced uniformity in Christian beliefs, practices, & social organizations. Emperor acted in ways previously ascribed to Son of God

313 – **Antony** withdraws again, this time to Inner Mountain near Red Sea, shelters in tomb dug out of rock & later barricades himself in unused hut

313 – Miltiades excommunicates Donatus for requiring rebaptism of apostates

313-636 – Byzantine rule of Palestine

314 – **First Synod of Arles** summoned by Constantine to deal with Donatist schism (teaching of Donatus, bishop of Casae Nigrae that effectiveness of sacraments depends on moral character of minister, emerged as result of Diocletian persecution 303 and the question that arose after persecution ended of how to deal with those who had denied their faith under threat of torture or death) – attended by **three Bishops** from Roman province of Britain who signed “Canons” of Council of Arles

c.315 – Amun, associate of Antony left wife, home & land to organize small desert colonies which came to be known as “cells” of renunciates. These colonies combined lifestyle of hermit with new sense of community

315 – first Christian symbols appear on coinage

c.315-367 – **Hilary of Poitiers** – the “Athanasius of the West”

316 – Constantine intervenes in dispute in Carthage between rival claimants to office of

bishop – after persecution, churches in North Africa faced with problem of Christians who lapsed. In Carthage one group of Christians required lapsed to be rebaptized – their candidate for Bishop was Donatus – most bishops in North Africa were more lenient – their candidate was Caecilianus. Constantine sided with Caecilianus, ordered all Donatist churches confiscated – four months later, Donatist Christians who resisted this oppression were killed by Roman soldiers & angry Christians

c.320 – **Pachomius** (c.290-346) founds monastery at Tabennisi in the Thebaid near the Nile, founder of cenobitic (organized/communal) monasticism in Egypt. At his death he was abbot-general of over 9 monasteries for men & 2 for women. Credited with writing the first monastic rule which had a significant influence on the later rules of St. Basil in the East & St. Benedict in the West.

321 – **Arius** deposed as bishop over the issue of his understanding of the relationship between the Father & Jesus the Son. Argued that the Son was the agent of the Father in creation & therefore “created” or “begotten” by the Father whose divinity Arius was seeking to defend.

321 - Emperor Constantine declares Sunday to be a day of rest:

"On the venerable day of the Sun let the magistrates & people residing in cities rest, & let all workshops be closed. In the country however persons engaged in agriculture may freely & lawfully continue their pursuits because it often happens that another day is not suitable for grain-sowing or vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost."

324 – Constantine moves capital of Empire to **Constantinople** (on site of ancient Greek city of Byzantium - renamed Istanbul in 1930, now largest city in Turkey) – Rome no longer centre of power for empire – church begins to fill power gap at Rome. Bishop of Constantinople takes place beside Bishops of Alexandria & Rome. After conquering Eastern empire Constantine’s demand for uniform church organization & unanimity among Christians in matters of religious belief embraced both East & West.

325 – Emperor Constantine convenes & presides over **First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea** (city in present day Turkey), held in his palace. 318 bishops out of the approximately 1,800 bishops in existence attended & took their cue from the emperor. Establishes **Nicene Creed** as fundamental statement of Christian doctrine. The purpose was to settle the dispute over the teachings of Arius (d. 336) that Christ was not equal in divinity to God. Council declares Jesus equal in divinity to God by majority vote & declares Arianism a heresy. Defines relationship between Christ & Father as “consubstantial”/of the same substance (*homoousios*).

As Christian emperor rose in importance (exercising divine kingship, maintaining sacred order, combating evil, & disseminating knowledge necessary to salvation) Son of God rose even higher into heavens, stressing Son’s divinity.

Council also formulated canons governing ordination of clergy, election of bishops, & defining Episcopal authority. Constantine specified that religious toleration of Christianity applied only to Catholic Christians, thus trying to create a unified Christianity for a unified Christian empire.

Did not settle Arian controversy which continued to rage for fifty years with bishops

being exiled or placed in office according to whether Arians were in or out of favour at the Imperial Court. Athanasius was banished & returned to Alexandria five times.

325-590 **Post-Nicene era**

326 – Constantine has his wife & eldest son executed

327 – **Macrina**, elder sister of Sts. Basil & Gregory of Nyssa dies after heading convent of nuns in Asia Minor

328 – **Athanasius** becomes bishop of Alexandria. Defender of *homoousios* (“of the same substance”) against Arians. In response to Arius, wrote that , “As the Lord became human by putting on the body so we who are human are made divine by the Word, by the fact that he has made us his own through the flesh; & from now on we inherit eternal life.”

Christ was a bridge in history between eternity & flesh. This bridge was built by God. “God became man in order that man might become God.”

Defended Church’s independence from Empire.

328-361 - Arians control key political & ecclesiastical posts; orthodox bishops in exile

329 – **Gregory of Nazianzus** b. Cappadocian – “Is it not evident that the Father accepts the sacrifice not because he demands it or feels some need for it but in order to carry out His own plan? Humanity had to be brought to life by the humanity of God...Let the rest be adored in silence.”

330 – old Saint Peter’s Basilica dedicated by Constantine, located over traditional burial site of Peter in Rome on Vatican Hill

330 – **Macarius the Great (Pseudo-Macarius)** begins monastery in Scetis which grows rapidly. Monasteries spring up in Palestine. Mystical experience is an experience of light. Sin & grace coexist in humanity. Chariot race in the heart – one chariot = *nous* (mind) driving with reins of reason. Other chariot belongs to Satan, driver not identified. Satan & Holy Spirit are spectators at the race each cheering their own chariots.

330 – **Basil the Great** b. Cappadocian, gave mystical orientation to monastic movement

331 – Constantine moves seat of Roman empire to Constantinople bringing into existence the Byzantine Empire which survives to 1453 when it falls to the Ottoman Turks

332 – Constantine orders 50 parchment Bibles indicating widespread use of parchment codex (pages) over previously dominant rotulus (roll) by this date

333 – **Antony** comes out of solitude & has profound spiritual impact

335 – **Gregory of Nyssa** b. – believed universe existed as harmonious order emanating from God – “Anyone who tries to describe the ineffable light in language is truly a liar.” God’s

being must be “unknowable, inaccessible & completely inexplicable, beyond both affirmation & negation.”

336 – **Arius** dies peacefully after having been allowed to return to Alexandria when he agreed that the Son was “made of the Father.”

336 - Christmas first celebrated on December 25th, same date as first-century BCE Roman holiday for sun god Mithra.

337 - Emperor Constantine baptized on deathbed (age 49) – empire split between 3 sons: **Constantinus** rules East & is Arian; **Constantine II** orthodox shares rule of West (including Britain, Gaul & Spain) (until 340 when falls in war) with Constans, supported by Pope; **Constans** shares rule of West with Constantine II (rules Italy, Africa, Illyricum, Macedonia, and Achaea) – Constans killed by usurper Magentius in 353 leaving Constantius emperor of whole empire

339 – dedication of Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem = another in Constantine’s systematic destruction & appropriation of pagan sites for Christianity.

c.339-397 – Ambrose Bishop of Milan, famous as preacher and defender of orthodoxy

340 – Death of Constantine II leaves Constans sole ruler of West until 350

340 – **Athanasius**, **Ammonius the Tall**, & **Isidore** visit Rome – monastic ideal spreads in West

346 – death of Pachomius

c.347-407 – **John Chrysostom** patriarch of Constantinople, opposed to allegorical interpretation of Scripture insisting must be interpreted literally

by early mid 4th c. – Syrian ascetics living as hermits near villages are known as *ihidaya* which was also the title of Jesus Christ, the Syriac translation of the Greek *monogenous & monachos* (The One). It means “the single one” on who was single-hearted

mid 4th c. – church building flourishes, great basilicas built on sites of former pagan temples

350 – Roman co-emperor Constans murdered in a military coup engineered by his military commander Magnentius – leads to period of civil war

350 – **Cyril** (c.315-386) becomes bishop of Jerusalem, persecuted by Arians & three times ejected from his see

350 - Christianity first reaches Ethiopia. There are about 33 million Christians in Roman Empire (total population 60 million)

350 – **John of Lycopolis** begins 48 years as a recluse

c.350-440 – **Isaac the Syrian** – a charitable heart “is a heart which is burning with charity for

the whole of creation, for men, for the birds, for the beasts, for the demons – for all creatures. He who has such a heart cannot see or call to mind a creature without his eyes becoming filled with tears by reason of the immense compassion which seizes his heart; a heart which is softened & can no longer bear to see or learn from others of any suffering, even the smallest pain, being inflicted upon a creature. This is why such a man never ceases to pray also for the animals, for the enemies of Truth, & for those who do him evil, that they may be preserved & purified. He will pray even for the reptiles, moved by the infinite pity which reigns in the hearts of those who are becoming united to God.” Such compassion arrived at through contemplation of the Creator’s purposes (*theoria*)

c.353 – **Hilary of Poitiers** elected Bishop of Poitiers & becomes engaged in Arian controversy

354 – **Augustine** b.

356 – **Athanasius** of Alexandria writes to Christian emperor Constantius II extolling virtue of virginity as “a picture of the holiness of the angels,” by which time “the brides of Christ” had become an important Christian institution – God the Son became human “in order that we might become God” – *theosis* – the destiny of humans is deification, does not admit human into the inner “essence” of the Godhead but into the divine “energy.”

356 – **St. Antony** dies Jan. 17 age 105

356 – **Hilary of Poitiers** condemned at Synod of Biterrae & exiled to Phrygia by Emperor Constantius because of his anti-Arian position

358 – **St. Basil the Great** (330-379, Cappadocian) settles as hermit by river Iris near Neocaesarea, gave mystical orientation to monastic movement

359 – Synod of Arminum called by Constantius II to resolve Arian controversy. Attended by some 400 bishops of Western Roman Empire. Eastern bishops attend meeting at same time at Seleucia. Most bishops at Ariminum subscribe to Nicæan Creed (325) but Arians are supported by emperor & reverse majority decision, abandoning *homoousios*. Orthodox majority forced to recant Nicæan Creed & accept Arian creed formulated at Nice in Thracia (but see 361) which was also accepted at Selucia where Hilary of Poitiers unsuccessfully defended the Nicæan position.

360 – **Martin of Tours** takes up monastic life

360 – Huns invade Europe, scrolls begin to be replaced by books (Codex)

c.360-435 - **John Cassian** brought Eastern monasticism to West

361 – Pope Liberius repudiates Arian creed, annuls Arminium Council

361-363 - Emperor Julian the Apostate, nephew of Constantine, Emperor of East, with widespread support tries to restore paganism in place of Christianity by encouraging debate among Christians & pagans because, as a contemporary pagan explained, “there are no wild

beasts as hostile to mankind as are many of the Christians to one another.”

c.364 - **The Church Council of Laodicea** orders religious observances be conducted on Sunday, not Saturday. Sunday becomes new Sabbath, decrees death for Christians who keep 7th day Sabbath:

"Christians shall not Judaize & be idle on Saturday, but shall work on that day."

- names 26 New Testament books, excludes *Revelations*

366 – **Damasus I** becomes Bishop of Rome when his supporters massacre those who opposed him in the election

367 - *Festal Epistle* Easter letter of **St. Athanasius** bishop of Alexandria (c.293-373) offers earliest known list of the New Testament canon of 27 books

370 – **Basil** (c.330-379 Cappadocian) appointed Bishop of Caesarea. Designer of Rule of discipline under which monasticism of Greek Orthodoxy still organized. Insisted law of love of God & neighbour = context for monasticism. “The human being is an animal who has received the vocation to become God.”

c.371 – **Gregory of Nyssa** (c.330-c.395, Cappadocian) consecrated bishop of Nyssa – universe exists as harmonious order emanating from God. Human beings have a proclivity to God, which is the image of God, the goodness or virtue of God in humans. Humans are driven by love for oneness. Spiritual life is a life of ascent from light into darkness. God is utterly ineffable & so is present in the darkness of the human individual.

c.372 – **Gregory Nazianzen** (330-390, Cappadocian) consecrated to see of Sasima – most profound of Greek Fathers

- Cappadocians taught that each of the divine Three in the trinity is an identifiable *hypostasis* (literally substance/individual, reality, from 4c. on translated as “person”) distinguishing between *ousia* & *hypostasis*. In West *hypostasis* was translated as *sub-stantia* (substance) causing belief that the East was teaching that the trinity consisted of three substances (tritheism). Cappadocians distinguished between *ousia* (being) & *hypostasis*. Council of Constantinople settled on “three *hypostaseis* in one *ousia*,” therefore the three are *homoousios* – “of one substance” not the Arian *homoisios* “of like substance”

372 - Buddhism introduced into Korea

374 – **St. Ambrose** (339-397), baptized & made bishop of Milan

375 – **Jerome** spends five years in desert of Chalcis

376 – **Gregory of Nyssa** deposed by Arians remains in exile two years

378 – death of Roman emperor Valens, Arian sympathizer, allowed return of Gregory of Nyssa from exile

379 – Basil the Great d.

379 – Buddhism made state religion in China

379-395 - reign of **Emperor Theodosius I** of Rome – makes orthodox Christianity essential requirement of good citizenship, outlaws paganism & makes heresy liable to punishment = last emperor of united empire. Under Theodosius Christianity emerges from having been a persecuted religion to being a persecuting religion.

380 - Christianity becomes official religion of Roman Empire under Theodosius I

381 - **First Council of Constantinople**. Convened by Theodosius I, then emperor of East & recent convert, to confirm victory over Arianism, council drew up dogmatic statement on Trinity & defined Holy Spirit as having same divinity expressed for Son by Council of Nicaea 56 years earlier. That statement has been lost, but work of the council established the orthodox teaching of the Trinity as held today as “three *hypostaseis* in one *ousia*”

“We commend that those persons who follow this rule shall embrace the name Catholic Christians. The rest, however, whom We adjudge demented & insane, shall sustain the infamy of heretical dogmas, their meeting places shall not receive the name of churches, & they shall be smitten first by divine vengeance & secondly by the retribution of Our own initiative, which we shall assume in accordance with divine judgment.”

council condemned all varieties of Arianism along with a new heresy, Apollinarianism (no human spirit in Christ – human body, soul & Divine *Logos* – thus lacking in complete humanity). The sessions, which were attended only by bishops of the East, lasted two months. Nicene Creed reaffirmed. Also gave Bishop of Constantinople honorary pre-eminence after Bishop of Rome, a claim the bishop of Rome refused to recognize, also resisted by the Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt who felt his authority was undermined by the elevation of Constantinople.

381 – Egeria, pious woman from north-western Spain embarks on three-year pilgrimage through Holy Land – part of explosion of interest in Christian pilgrimage in 4th cent.

381-after 418 – **Proculus** bishop of Marseilles

382 - **Evagrius Ponticus** (346-399) withdraws to Nitrian desert where becomes friend & disciple of **St. Macarius of Egypt**. Stays in desert until death. From 553 condemned for Origenistic views. Three stages of spiritual progress: practice ending in *apatheia*, knowledge of divine reason, knowledge of the Trinity. In the East this becomes – prayer of lips, mind, heart. In West – purgative, illuminative, unitive.

382-384 – Pope Damasus I has Jerome revise & unify Latin Bibles

383 – **Augustine** leaves Carthage & establishes himself as professor of rhetoric in Italian city of Milan, breaks from Manicheans & joins group of intellectuals including a few Christians

383 – Roman legions begin to evacuate Britain

384-399 - **Siricius** reigned – first bishop of Rome to be called Pope (father)

385 – **Jerome** & companions found monastery near Bethlehem

385 – bishop **Ambrose** in Milan defies Empress, helping establish principle of Church confrontation of State to protect Christian teaching

385 – **John Cassian** (c.360-435, monk) leaves Bethlehem to study monasticism in Egypt. His *Dialogues* is one of most important documents for history of Christian mysticism. Brought Evagrius' thought to West

385 – Priscillian, Spanish bishop with four priests, a poet, & a widow tried at the court of Emperor Maximus & executed for “sorcery,” actually appear to have simply practiced an eccentric occult mysticism & extreme asceticism, probably a form of Gnostic Christianity. Although his execution was ordered by a secular court, the religious motivation was obvious. So, less than seventy years after Rome had stopped executing Christians, Christians had become instrumental in the execution of those with whom they disagreed.

387 - **Augustine of Hippo** (354-430 born in North Africa now Algeria & Tunisia) converts to Christianity, under influence of mother Monica & Bishop Ambrose. Becomes leading theologian in church's history by writing major theological works: *City of God* (in response to charge Rome's fall was due to disregarding old gods & turning to Christianity) & *Confessions* & by writing polemics against heresies. Brought Platonism & Christianity together, emphasizing soul's search for God, made possible by illumination of mind of God. Taught love = central & governing virtue & measure of all activity, pride = chief vice, great emphasis on humility. Responsible for language of soul's interior ascent to God. Battled:

Messalians (Syriac)/ Euchites (Gk.) – Gnostic sect endeavoured to pray without ceasing by continuously reciting Lord's Prayer. Taught spiritual person could no longer sin, material world fundamentally evil, rejected OT & God as Creator, stressed private prayer at expense of sacraments

Manicheans – believed were two deities, one good & one evil, who are at war

Donatists (see above)

Pelagians – humans not born sinful (“evil is not born with us, & we are begotten without fault or sin, & the only thing in man previous to the action of his own will is that which God created in him”), could live sinless lives. All Christians should keep all the commandments. Denied human sin inherited from Adam. Jesus = model for human behaviour not source of grace. Human being = cause of own salvation through ascesis & moral discipline. Forced Augustine to a clear awareness of absolute priority of God's grace. In response to Pelagianism Augustine produced an unacceptable version of predestination in which sovereign grace becomes arbitrary rescuing the elect. Shifted emphasis in Christian theology & spirituality from transfiguration of the universe to the tragedy of the human condition.

388 – **Palladius** (c.365-425, historian of early monasticism) visits Alexandria, Nitiria &

Cellia

389 – **Gregory of Nazianzus** d.

c.390 – **Gregory of Nyssa** writes *The Life of Moses*

390 – **Ambrose** Bishop of Milan forces **Emperor Theodosius** to do public penance for massacre of 7,000 at Thessalonica

390 – first mention of *Apostles' Creed* in writings of **St. Ambrose** – used only in West, East used *Nicene Creed*.

391-392 - monks help destroy Temple of Sarapis at Alexandria

393 – Theodosius I abolishes Greek Olympics

394 - **Council of Carthage** - first council to uphold doctrines of prayers for dead & purgatory

394 – seven monks from Jerusalem visit Egyptian monks

395 – **Gregory of Nyssa** d.

395 – **Augustine** ordained Bishop of Hippo four years after being ordained priest

395 - Roman Empire divided again between East & West, setting stage for eventual division of Christian Church. Latin Christianity based in Rome under leadership of popes, Eastern Orthodoxy develops in east in Constantinople under leadership of patriarchs

395 – Jovinian, celibate monk suggests “virgins, widows & married women, who have once gone through Christian baptism, if they are equal in other respects, are of equal merit.” Declared heretic by Jerome, Ambrose, & Augustine because, “he has dared to place marriage on an equal level with perpetual chastity”

396 – **Augustine** has abandoned earlier confidence in inherent power of the human will & argues human nature severely damaged through Adam & Eve’s original sin in which all human beings sinned & were guilty & therefore could do nothing apart from grace.

397 – **Ninian** builds church & monastery at Whittorn, Scotland

398 – **St. John Chrysostom** (347-407) made patriarch of Constantinople

399 – **Theophilus** turns against teachings of **Origen**, Origenists driven out of Egypt – Origenist controversy dramatically alters monasticism of Egypt

late 4th & 5c – period Roman Empire pulling back from far flung empire in defense against invasions from barbarians from north. Christianity has achieved unprecedented power in Roman Empire.

MIDDLE AGES from fall of Rome (476) to Renaissance (14c.-mid.17c.) – early Middle Ages sometimes referred to as **DARK AGES**

400s - Anglo-Saxon pagan invaders almost eliminate Christianity in England

c.400 – John Cassian arrives in Constantinople & becomes disciple of St. John Chrysostom

401 - Innocent I becomes Pope (until 417) claims universal jurisdiction over Roman Church, decrees Roman custom to be norm for all Christianity

403 – Synod of the Oak condemns Tall Brothers & **John Chrysostom** – presided over by **Theophilus of Alexandria**

404 – Chrysostom’s second & definitive exile

404 – **St Jerome** (rabidly anti-Origenist) translates *Rule of Pachomius* into Latin – profound influence on subsequent forms of Western monasticism

c.405 - St. **Jerome** (c.347 - 419) completes *Vulgate* (“in the common tongue”) - Latin translation of both Old & New Testaments, standard text for 1,000 years remains Latin Bible of RC Church. Cites “expanded” ending of Mark after 16:14, adds pericope of adulteress (Jn. 7:53-8:11)

405–410 - *The History of the Monks of Egypt* (based on the journey of 394) completed

407 – John Chrysostom dies on forced march in exile

407–408 - First devastation of Scetis by Berber tribes – dramatically affects Egyptian monasticism

410 – last Roman legions leave Britain, leaving behind strong Romano-British Christian culture & church

410 (Aug 24) - led by **Alaric**, Goths enter & sack Rome. Pope Innocent I survives because out of Rome, trying to arrange peace with Roman Emperor Honorius. Alaric I of the Visigoths dies later that year, succeeded by brother Ataulf. Sack of Rome caused consternation throughout Empire, motivated Augustine’s *City of God*. Symbolically end of Roman Empire in West. Began period of “barbarian” dominance of Empire in West

410-485 – **Proclus** Greek Neoplatonist philosopher, one of last major Classical philosophers. *Eros* not just expression of human need but universal force binding together all levels of reality & drawing them up toward the One

411 – Council of Carthage condemns **Donatists** (church must be church of saints not sinners, sacraments invalid if administered by those who lapsed under persecution)

412 – **Augustine** begins writing *City of God* analyzing Roman religion, society & history

415 – **John Cassian** (c.360-435) founded 2 monasteries near Marseilles & wrote the *Institutes* – ordinary rules for monastic life drawn on by **St. Benedict**

415 - Hypatia pagan scholar, killed at hands of Christian mob. Close advisor of Orestes, Roman governor of Alexandria, Hypatia had been a popular public lecturer in philosophy & mathematics

417 – Pope Innocent I condemns Pelagianism (original sin did not taint human nature, therefore humans free to choose good or evil without divine aid, Jesus set example but did not redeem humanity)

418 - British monk **Pelagius** (c. 354 - 420) excommunicated at Council of Carthage. Pelagius denied original sin & need for baptism, asserting if God asked men to do good, they must be capable of doing good on their own, condemned by Augustine

419 – **Palladius** writes *Lausiac History of the Friends of God* = most valuable single writing that survives for history of early monasticism

420 – **Cassian** begins writing *Institutes*

420 – **Jerome** d.

423 – **Symeon Stylites** begins living on pole in Antioch, Syria

425 – Bishops of southern Gaul commanded by imperial decree to profess anti-Pelagian views

425 – *Jerusalem Talmud* edited

426 - **Augustine** declares purpose of marriage is procreation.& writes *Grace & Free Will & Rebuke & Grace*, completes *City of God*

429 – vandals ravage Africa

429 – Picts & Scots expelled from southern England by Anglo Saxon-Jutes

430 (Augt 28) – Augustine d. age 76

c.430 - **St. Patrick** (390-460) "Apostle of Ireland," taken captive from England by Irish, escapes & goes to France where he enters monastery, eventually returning to see his family where he had a dream of babies of Ireland pleading with him to return to Ireland to tell them about Christ. Introduced Christianity to pagan Ireland. A Roman Briton, he was born Maewyn Succat & adopted Patrick or Patricius upon becoming a priest

431- **Ecumenical Council of Ephesus** (3rd ecumenical council) denounces teachings of Nestorius (d.451), who argued Christ had completely separate human & divine natures conjoined rather than in essential union ie. Christ exists as two persons – the man Jesus & the divine Son of God, the Logos, rather than as two natures (True God & True Man) of one

divine person

also voted Mary is the mother of God (*theotokos*) as well as of Jesus Christ. Syrian bishops joined by Theodoret (bishop of Cyrrhus in Syria) held rival meeting & excommunicated Cyril (bishop of Alexandria) & Memon (bishop of Ephesus) Split Christianity into East centre in Persia (Nestorian – disagree with Council of Ephesus) & West (Jacobites)

Kabbalah (literally “receiving”) – Jewish mysticism has roots earlier than Christianity. Flourishes in Middle Ages & Renaissance. Struggles with problem of how person can relate to God who is totally other & how God relates to creation.

432 – **Prosper of Aquitaine** (c.390-463) publishes *Against the Confessor* critique of Cassian’s “Conference 13”. Goes to Rome to secure Pope Celestine I’s support for Augustinian doctrine – “The rule of prayer should lay down the rule of faith.”

432 - First celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, to honour arrival of St. Patrick

433 - Attila becomes ruler of the Huns (until 453)

c.435 – John Cassian dies

436 – Nestorius banished to Upper Egypt where dies few years later

440-460 - **Leo the Great**, (46th) first Pope to assert authority over other bishops, claiming bishop of Rome is successor to Apostle Peter

444 – according to legend **Patrick** establishes Episcopal see at Armagh. Christianity in Ireland centres around monasteries rather than cities as in Europe, therefore ruled by Abbot or Abbess, bishops subordinate

449 – country now known as England invaded by **barbarian tribes**: Angles, Saxons & Jutes, kill or drive most indigenous Christians into Western parts of Britain. Christian faith suffers temporary eclipse

Indigenous form of Christian faith survives in British Isles, carrying on their traditions for next 150 years, establishing strong centres:

Scotland through **Ninian** (360-432), **Patrick** (389-461)

Wales by missionary work of **Illtyd** (450-535)

island of **Iona** where monastery founded by **St. Columba** (563)

Lindisfarne with arrival of St. Aidan from Iona (635)

Celtic Christianity did not rely on Roman church, centred rather in local monasticism, lacked administrative organization of Roman Church

449 – Acquittal of **Eutyches** (c.378-454) archimandrite of large monastery at Constantinople. Denied manhood of Christ was consubstantial with ours. Maintained two natures before but only one after Union in the Incarnate Christ, real founder of **Monophysitism** (Gk. *monos*

“one”, *phunis* “nature”)

450 – Mark’s resurrection account added (Mark 16:9-20)

450 - **Athanasian Creed** written by anonymous author in Gaul

451 - Attila invades Gaul but is repulsed by joint forces of Franks, Alemanni & Romans at battle of Chalons. Invades Italy the next year

451- **Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon** (4th ecumenical council) votes Christ simultaneously "truly man and truly God"

traditional belief that Jesus had both a divine & human nature was being challenged at the time by Monophysitism, an outgrowth of the Alexandrian school. Their followers believed that Christ had only a single divine nature. The council rejected that belief. Their Chalcedonian definition, affirmed Christ had two perfect natures (*physis*) which were "...without confusion, without change, without division, without separation but one *prosopon* (person) or *hypostasis* (existence)." This formulation has survived as the traditional belief to the present day among almost all branches of Christendom.

little known statement of the Council was Canon #15 (1):

"No woman under 40 years of age is to be ordained a deacon, & then only after close scrutiny" - appears to be last time in church history ordination of women mentioned as routine practice in any form, certainly establishes women did, at one time, hold church offices

Despite objections of Pope, patriarchal powers formally conferred on Bishop of Constantinople. From this point until schism of 1054, Orthodox E. & Catholic W. struggle for dominance

451 (30 Oct.) - Bishop of Constantinople made sole & independent head (patriarch) of Greek Church of Eastern Empire. Rome dominant authority in West, Constantinople in East, followed in prestige by Alexandria, Antioch, & Jerusalem

455 - Gaiseric leads Vandals in sacking Rome. Vandals invade Rome, pillage it for 14 days & leave, taking treasures & hostages (including Empress Eudoxia & her daughters). Vandals head east to Greece & Dalmatia

457-474 - Leo I becomes emperor of remaining (eastern) Roman empire

459 – death of **Symeon the Stylite**

461 - possible death of **St. Patrick** or 493

476 – abdication of Romulus Augustus, last Roman Emperor in West, Western Roman Empire falls to barbarian armies, leaving church as primary authority in West = end of antiquity. In East, Roman Empire survives until death of Justinian (565) then becoming the Byzantine Empire based in Constantinople which continues for the next 977 years. Means W.

& E. Christians no longer under same political rule & differences in belief & practice grow

Alexandrian Theology – Platonic tradition, sense of reality of spiritual world & tolerance of dualism, transcendence of God, essential godhead of all Three Persons, divine Nature in Incarnate Christ, tended towards tritheism, mystical & allegorical exposition of Scripture

Antiochene Theology – Aristotelian & historical, historical exegesis of Scripture. Emphasized humanity of Jesus. Saw two natures of Jesus as loosely connected

477 - Latest date for invention of stirrup in China. Stirrups provide many advantages to horseback rider: easy way to mount a horse, lateral stability while mounted, make it much easier to strike to the left or right with a sword while mounted without falling

478 - first Shinto religious shrines built in Japan

480-524 - **Boethius**, philosopher & statesman

c.480-c.550 – **St. Benedict of Nursia**, the “Patriarch of Western monasticism,” founder of the Benedictine Order, rule stressed stability, obedience & humility

483 – **Sabas** establishes monastic settlement outside Bethlehem

491 – Armenian church secedes from East (Byzantium) & West (Roman) churches

492-496 - Pope Gelasius I (50th) first to be referred to as “Vicar of Christ”

493 – possible date of death of St. Patrick

494 - St. Valentine's Day set as February 14th by Pope Gelasius I

496 – Clovis, king of Franks leads thousands of Frankish warriors to be baptized by Bishop at Rhemis

c. 500 - Talmud, a compilation of Jewish oral laws & traditions, put in final form in Babylonia. Two parts: oral law (*Mishna*) in Hebrew & commentaries on the oral law (*Gemara*) in Aramaic

500 – anonymous monk writing under pseudonym **Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite** perhaps the single greatest influence on development of Christian mysticism.

Cosmos divided into nine spheres that express God’s rule over all creation & process by which one moves to achieve sense of oneness with God which is the goal of humanity driven by *eros* (humanity’s desire for God). Mystery of God is found in the cloud & the darkness through unknowing. Originates distinction between kataphatic & apophatic. Suggested humans develop along a trajectory through purification, illumination, & perfection, journey to God is an ascent to a divine insight beyond ordinary ways of knowing, described as an entrance into silence or darkness, pointing to the resounding silence of the divine Word &

the bright darkness of the divine light. Tested limits of language to evoke a divine reality beyond sense perception or mental concepts.

In *Mystical Theology* advised, “Leave behind you everything perceived & understood, everything perceptible & understandable, all that is not & all that is, & with your understanding laid aside, strive upwards as much as you can toward union with him who is beyond all being & knowledge.”

500 - Incense introduced in Christian church service; first plans of Vatican drawn up

500 – Inuit begin hunting seals & whales

500 – King Arthur takes up struggle against Saxons

500 – **Benedict of Nursia** withdraws to cave to begin monastic life

503 - Britons, possibly under war leader Arthur, defeat Saxons at Mount Badon

511 – death of Clovis

518 (July) – Emperor Anastasius dies, leaving no obvious successor – Justinian in his thirties living in Constantinople. His uncle Justin is declared new emperor & soon adopts his nephew as his son & heir

520 - Indian scholar Bodhidharma arrives in China. Zen school of Buddhism eventually evolves from his teachings

524 – **Boethius** (b.480) – Roman Christian philosopher wrote *Consolation of Philosophy*

525 - Dionysius Exiguus sets Christian calendar (A.D.) & Jesus' birth at 23 Dec 1 AD, also settles date of Easter for both East & West

526 – Earthquake in Antioch kills 250,000

527 - Justinian's reign begins, last emperor to rule over united Roman Empire, responsible for codification of Roman Law that affects many future civilizations & re-conquest of Africa & Italy

529 - Plato's Academy dissolved by Justinian the Great

529 – Council of Orange condemned Massilian teaching that allowed some initiative, however feeble, of human will (the *initium fidei*) Issued 25 dogmatic *capitula* upholding many of Augustine’s doctrines on nature of grace though repudiating Augustine’s later views on predestination to evil

c.529 - Italian monk **Benedict** establishes monastery on Monte Cassino, in Italy. His Benedictine order eventually establishes Western monastic tradition which spread rapidly throughout Europe. Wrote most important Western monastic rule. (today are 8,500

Benedictine monks around world) 8-12c. Benedictines = only religious life in W

537 - Belesarius, Justinian's commander re-conquers Rome. In response Justinian begins building Hagia Sophia (Divine Wisdom), largest Christian church in the world, in Constantinople as focal point of Byzantine Christianity

538 – Buddhism introduced into Japan from Korea

c.540-604 – **Gregory the Great** Benedictine father of Western spirituality. Emphasis on vision of God, service as integral to spiritual life, humility, guilt, & quest for detachment.

543 – plague in Constantinople from Egyptian & Syrian rats, kills up to 200,000 (40% of Mediterranean manpower) making difficult to collect taxes, spreads to Europe

547 – plague reaches Britain

548 – Theodora, Justinian's wife dies

550 - **Saint David** takes Christianity to Wales

550 – Babylonian *Talmud* edited

553 - **Second Council of Constantinople** (5th ecumenical), convened by Byzantine Emperor Justinian I to settle dispute known as the Three Chapters. West, in general, slow in recognizing it as an ecumenical council, though ultimately it was accepted, chiefly because of the orthodoxy of its pronouncements. Condemned Evagrius' metaphysical system along with that of Origen. Condemned "whoever says or thinks that the punishment of demons & the wicked will not be eternal." Origen had argued the sufferings in hell were "intelligent fires," intended for the education of the soul & therefore not eternal.

562 - End of Japanese power in Korea.

563 - Irish monk **Saint Columba** (Columcille) with twelve companions founds monastery on island of Iona off West Coast of Scotland & begins conversion of Picts to Christianity

565 – (Nov.14) Justinian dies (age 83) with him dies any hope of re-unifying Roman Empire

570 - Muhammad born in Mecca. Founder of Islam ("submission" ie. to will of God – adherents called Muslims) doctrine found in Koran

570-649 – **John Climacus** (John of the Ladder) Thirty rungs to knowledge

579-590 - Pope Pelagius II dies of plague

c.580-662 – **Maximus the Confessor** – gave form to three ways to God – purgation, illumination, union

587 - Visigoths of Spain converted to Christianity

589 - Lombards of Italy converted to Christianity

589 – synod in Toledo, Spain adds *filioque* to Nicene Creed (asserting Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father **and** the Son) rejected by Eastern Orthodox Church who believed that tampering with the Orthodox Creed was heresy, accepted in the West

late 6c. – August 15 is recognized in the East as the festival of the “dormition” (falling asleep) of Mary meaning she escaped normal death. Corresponds in the West to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (belief that, having completed her earthly life, Mary was assumed body & soul into heaven), an idea that first occurs in 4c. texts

590–604 - **Pope Gregory the Great** (c.540-604) plague ravaged Rome, elected Pope amidst great political & cultural decadence begins liturgical reforms & changes in church administration, enhancing both power & prestige of papacy. Originally Benedictine, Gregory creates religious policy for western Europe by fusing Roman papacy with Benedictine monasticism. Establishes Latin church which serves to counteract subordination of Roman popes to Eastern emperors

also commanded way be found to collect & preserve singing of Benedictine monks of Santo Domingo de Silos (now known as Gregorian Chant).

as fourth great "church father," St. Gregory the Great drew his theology from Ambrose of Milan, Jerome & Augustine of Hippo. His concepts of purgatory & penance widen growing theological gulf between Eastern & Western Churches, developed Christian spirituality according to Augustinian distinction between action & contemplation, contemplative life best pursued in monastic context.

596 - Pope Gregory the Great sends **Augustine** (d. 605) Italian monk along with 40 monks to England on missionary journey to spread message of Christianity, surprised to discover indigenous Christianity already established using eucharistic rites different from those in Rome. Lands in Kent (summer 597), favourably received. Christmas Day, 10,000 people are baptized. After few months Christianity formally adopted by Ethelbert, King of Kent, whose wife Bertha had been Christian before marriage. Augustine went to Arles to be consecrated first **Archbishop of Canterbury**, brought spirit of law & order to Church. Meets bishops of **old British Church** – declares they must recognize his authority & bring customs into conformity with Rome; they refuse

Pope Gregory I to Augustine – “If you have found customs, whether in the Church of Rome or of Gaul or any other that may be more acceptable to God, I wish you to make a careful selection of them, and teach the Church of the English, which is still young in the Faith, whatever you have been able to learn with profit from the various Churches. For things should not be loved for the sake of places, but places for the sake of good things. Therefore select from each of the Churches whatever things are devout, religious, and right; and when you have bound them, as it were, into a Sheaf, let the minds of the English grow accustomed to it.”

for nearly 200 years four strands of Christianity survive in English Church:

1. left over Romano-British church from pre-5c. Christian influence
2. Celtic Churches in: Scotland, Northumbria, Wales
3. Churches established by missions from Gaul
4. Churches established by missions from Rome (Augustine) = latest to arrive. Still saw only one Christian Church.

Constant tension between uniformity (Rome) & variety (indigenous), centralization (Rome) & independence (indigenous). Frequently it was church officials who favoured uniformity & monarchs who favoured measure of national independence

BRITISH/CELTIC:
indigenous, variety, independence

ROMAN:
foreign, uniformity, centralization

601 - First cathedral built in England

602 - Earliest Anglo-Saxon code of law: Laws of Aethelberht

603 - Augustine tries, but fails, to reach agreement with Celtic Church surviving in Britain but at variance with Rome on questions of discipline & practice

609 - All Saints' Day (a.k.a. All Hallows' Day) first celebrated on May 13th when Pope Boniface IV dedicated Pantheon in Rome to the Virgin Mary

610 - Pretzels invented by Italian monk who uses them as rewards to children who learn prayers

610 – Muhammad’s reported vision of Allah on Mount Hira (aged 40), begins to receive words that came to him for next 22 years & eventually become Koran

612 – Muhammad begins to preach in Mecca until 622

614 – Fall of Jerusalem to Persians

619 – Muhammad’s wife dies

620 - Vikings begin invading Ireland

622 - Muhammad (“Praised One”) flees from Mecca to Medina, emigration called “Hegira” (year one for Muslims) – official starting point for Muslim era

624 - Buddhism becomes established religion of Japan

625 – Paulinus of Rome comes to convert Northumbria to Christianity

625 - Muhammad begins dictating Koran

625–638 - Papacy of Honorious I shows great interest in church in Spain & British Isles, does much to reform education of the clergy, becomes involved in **Monotheletism**, doctrine

declaring Christ operated with but one will, although he had two natures, opposed intent of Council of Chalcedon

626 – King Edwin of Northumbria founds Edinburgh & begins Christianization

630 – Mecca falls to Muhammad's army

632 - Death of Muhammad (aged 62) – Abu Bakr named first Caliph to succeed Muhammad, followers send message to Byzantine emperor Heraclius (r. 610-641) declaring “God has given this land as an inheritance to our father Abraham & to his posterity after him. We are the children of Abraham. You have held our country long enough. Give it up peacefully & we will not invade your country. If not, we will retake with interest what you have withheld from us.”

632 - East Anglia Christianized

635 - Muslims begin conquest of Persia & Syria. – to 642 take Fertile Crescent (Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamian, Persian & Byzantine Empires)

635 – **Aidan**, monk from Iona founds Lindisfarne

635 - Christianization of Wessex

636 – Southern Irish Church submits to Roman Catholicism

636 - Arab conquest of Palestine; Muslim rule established.

638 – Jerusalem seized by armies of Islam who establish the al-Masjid al Aqsa mosque on the ruins of the Temple Mount & a shrine on the Dome of the Rock. Jews permitted to return to the city for the first time in 500 years & re-establish a major *yeshiva* for training rabbis. Christians were allowed to practice their religion although both were subject to special taxes. Emperor Heraclius responding to loss of Jerusalem & his shrinking empire orders every Jew to be baptized.

640 - Library of Alexandria, "The Center of Western Culture," with 300,000 ancient papyrus scrolls, completely destroyed by fire

641 – Muslims control Syria, Palestine & Egypt bringing three of five patriarchal cities under Muslim control: Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria. Rome & Constantinople remain free of Muslim dominance.

644-650 – Muslims conquer Cyprus, Tripoli in N. Africa & establish Muslim rule in Iran & Afghanistan

c.640 – Caliph Uthman (3rd Caliph of Islam) has Koran written down

648 – Emperor Constans II issues “The Typos” limiting Christian teachings to that defined in first five ecumenical councils. Pope Martin I (d. 655) refuses to sign Typos, is seized & banished to Crimea where he dies

651 – Arab conquest of Persia complete

656 – Uthman ibn Affan – son-in-law of Muhammad (3rd Caliph) assassinated

657 – **Hilda** establishes monastery for men & women at Whitby

661 - Omayyad Dynasty in Islam

663 – **Synod of Whitby** summoned by King Oswy of Northumbria when he discovers he & his wife celebrate Easter on different days. The King accepted British practice, his wife observed Roman custom (meant King finished Lent feasting at Easter while Queen still fasting). Celtic Church arguing for flexibility allowing for local & indigenous practice. King impressed by claims of authority for Roman Pope so Roman custom adopted. **Wilfred of Ripon** speaking on behalf of Pope – “Though your fathers were holy, do you think that their small number, in a corner of the remotest island, is to be preferred before the universal church of Christ throughout the world?” Celtic Christian Church begins decline.

668 – **Theodore of Tarsus** (602-690) sent to England by Pope Vitalian & consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury – works on drawing together factions in England

673 - **Theodore of Tarsus** (7th Archbishop of Canterbury) summons & presides over first Synod of whole Church in England (**Council of Hertford**) named “Ecclesia Anglicana” – still free from Roman control, ties with Rome strengthened but papal supremacy still not established

673-735 - **St. Bede the Venerable** father of English history

674 - Arab conquest reaches Indus River

674 - Churches in England fitted with glass windows for first time

680-81 - **Third Council of Constantinople**. (Sixth Ecumenical Council) convoked by Byzantine Emperor Constantine IV. The council attended by more than 150 bishops from all over world & presided over by papal legates. Just as there are in Christ two natures, divine & human, so there is in Christ not only a divine but also a human will

condemned **Monothelism** very clearly by defining orthodox faith as acceptance of a separate will & operation in each of the natures of Christ. It also condemned several churchmen as Monothelites, among them an earlier pope, Honorius I.

680-754 - **St. Boniface**, “Apostle of Germany”

687- Pepin of Heristal, a Merovingian ruler, unites Frankish territories & builds centre of his kingdom in Belgium. Succeeded by his son, Charles Martel, who creates an alliance with the Christian Church, allowing the Merovingian Dynasty (& Christianity) to expand into Germany. Pepin the Short succeeds his father, Charles Martel, strengthens the convergence of Benedictine missionaries & Frankish expansion

691 – Dome of the Rock Islamic Mosque completed in Jerusalem

692 – The Quinsext Council or The Council of Trullo held in Constantinople made 102 canonical regulations – married men may be priests, only celibates may be bishop, Christians should honour resurrection by not kneeling on Sundays

695 - Spain begins persecution of Jews

end 7th beginning 8th Cents. – **Monophysite** heresy minimizes human side of the Incarnate God, contributes to Iconoclastic Controversy (752-842)

8-12c. – scholasticism so-called for its systematic use of reason in schools where all education was conducted in Latin according to three basic subjects: grammar, rhetoric, & dialectic

700 - Psalms translated into Anglo-Saxon, Lindisfarne Gospels produced

700 - Benedictine missionaries complete conversion of England begun by St. Gregory the Great

700 – **Isaac of Nineveh** d. “So long as you have not reached the realm of tears, that which is hidden within you still serves the world – that is, you still lead a worldly life & the work of God only with your outer man, while the inner man is barren; for his fruit begins with tears.”

700 – Koran edited & begins to reach final form

700 – Buddhism officially established in Tibet; beginnings of Vajrayana school

710 - First permanent capital of Japan established at Nara

711 – Muslims conquer Spain

712 - Yashumaru Ono completes Kojiki, first history of Japan

716 – **Boniface**, “the Apostle of Germany,” sets out to bring gospel to pagan lands

718 - Pelayo, a noble Visigoth who has been elected king, defeats Muslim Army in Alcama in neighbourhood of Covadonga, thus beginning the Christian Reconquest of Spain

c.725 - Earliest known mechanical clock built in China

726 - Byzantine emperor Leo III (c.680-741) begins "Iconoclastic Controversy" by banning worship of religious images (icons) since icons represent only the humanity of Christ, they either divide Christ's unity (Nestorians) or confound it (Monophysites)

732 – Battle of Tours, Charles Martel turns back Muslim invasion of Europe

735 - **Venerable Bede**, Anglo-Saxon Benedictine scholar, writes the *History of the English*

Church and People in Latin, generally regarded as best writing of medieval history

c.740 - Earliest known printed newspaper appears in China

750 - first great English epic poem, **Beowulf**, written in Old English. The work is anonymous & untitled until 1805. It is a Christian poem that exemplifies early medieval society in England & shows roots in Old Testament Law

750 - Irish monks establish early medieval art. Greatest surviving product of these monks is the **Book of Kells**, a Gospel book of decorative art

750 - Feudal system starts to emerge in Europe – system of obligations that bound lords & subjects in Europe during Middle Ages. King owned all or most of land, gave to leading nobles in return for loyalty & military service. Nobles held land that peasants, including serfs were allowed to farm in return for peasants' labour & a portion of their produce. Under feudalism, people were born with permanent position in society.

751 - **St. Boniface** (d.754) anoints Pepin the Short as a divinely sanctioned king, thus Frankish monarchy becomes fused into the papal order

The western European empire, based on the alliance between Frankish monarchy & Latin Church, provides an image of Western cultural unity for Europeans lost since fall of the Roman Empire, though it does not last long

753 – Synod of Hieria called by Constantine V (r.741-745) decrees all icons should be destroyed

756 – “Donation of Pepin” in which Pepin the Short officially bestowed upon pope territories belonging to Ravenna thus providing legal basis for erection of Papal States in Italy as territory under sovereign control of popes

762-775 – “decade of blood” during which hundreds of Christians mostly monks imprisoned, tortured & even killed for harbouring & honouring icons

768 - Pepin's son, Carolus Magnus (**Charlemagne**), succeeds father becoming one of most important rulers of medieval history. Empire, known as Carolingian dynasty, eventually includes much of central Europe, northern & central Italy in addition to realms already conquered by Frankish rule. Charlemagne's system of government divides the vast realm into different regions, ruled by local "counts" who are overseen by representatives of Charlemagne's own court

To aid expansion & administration of the kingdom, Charlemagne promotes what is later called the "Carolingian Renaissance." Prior to this revival of learning, nearly entire kingdom (with exception of Benedictine England) was illiterate due to decay of Roman Empire

Director of the "renaissance" is Anglo-Saxon Benedictine Alcuin, who receives learning from student of Bede. Alcuin sets up schools, sees to the copying of classical Latin

texts & develops new handwriting

772 – **Charles the Great – Charlemagne**, king of Franks (r. 768-814) leads troops into Saxony & destroys Saxon “pagan” sanctuary of Irminsul, declares, “If there is anyone of the Saxon people lurking among them unbaptized, & if he scorns to come to baptism & wishes to absent himself & stay a pagan, let him die.”

778 - Army of Charlemagne suffers defeat of Roncesvalles at hands of the Vascons; death of Roland

787 - **The Second Nicean Council** (7th Ecumenical) meets - last of the seven church councils commonly accepted as authoritative by both Roman Catholic & Eastern Orthodox churches (Bishops in communion with Rome have subsequently met in fourteen “ecumenical” councils). Votes to allow veneration but not the worship of icons

787 - Danes invade England for first time

788 – Shankara b. in India systematizes advaita from the Vedas & the Upanishads d. 820
792 – Caroline Books given by Charlemagne to Pope in Rome attacking legitimacy of empire in East in order to have himself recognized as sole ruler in Christendom thus bringing about Holy Roman Empire combining E. & W. accusing E. of idolatry because of icon veneration & they dropped words “& the Son” (*filioque*) from Nicene Creed

794 - Japanese capital city moved to Kyoto

9c. – one of the most significant centuries in church history – period of renaissance in E. & increasing centralization in W. around papacy

800-1200 - Jews experience "golden age" of creativity & toleration in Spain under Muslim rule

800 - **Charlemagne** (means “Charles the Great” c.742-814) Christmas Day is crowned first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III (750-816) at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. This coronation marks beginning of new relationship between church & state, with emperor's temporal authority depending upon spiritual blessing of pope. Coronation opposed by East, symbolized theocratic nature of medieval empire (Holy Roman Empire lasted until 1806)

800 - Ch'an & Pure Land Buddhism become dominant schools in China; establishment of Tendai & Shingon schools in Japan

801 - Vikings begin selling slaves to Muslims

806 - Hien Tsung becomes Emperor of China. During his reign shortage of copper leads to introduction of paper money

808 – **Pope Leo III** – refuses to accept Emperor's request to include *Filioque* clause in Nicene Creed in spite of its regular use in worship & eventual uniform acceptance in Western

church. Has creed without *filioque* enshrined in silver tablets on doors of St. Peter's

c.832 – **John Scotus** Irishman known as Erigena, arrives at Court of France, translates anonymous text attributed to **Dionysius the Areopagite** (see 500) from Greek into Latin, all humans are microcosm of universe, that which is shared, the essence of all things is God. Regarded in West & East as equal in authority to New Testament (became known as *Pseudo-Dionysius*)

843 - Worship of icons restored in East by Byzantine emperor Michael III (839 - 867), ending "Iconoclastic Controversy"

850 - Acropolis of Zimbabwe built in Rhodesia

856 – earthquake in Corinth kills 45,000

858 – **Photius** (c.810-895) appointed patriarch of Constantinople by Emperor Michael III. When Photius' predecessor Ignatius refuses to abdicate, Michael & Photius send an embassy to Pope Nicholas I to settle the dispute. Pope declares Ignatius still the Patriarch & Photius deposed who defended himself by rebuking the Pope for condoning the heresy of *Filioque*
861-886 – first open clashes between E & W Christians

861 – Pope Nicholas calls council in Constantinople which affirms Photius as rightful patriarch, decision rejected by Pope Nicholas who calls another council in Rome in 863 proclaiming Ignatius bishop of Constantinople – decision ignored

863 – Cyril & Methodius, Greek brothers, evangelize Serbs. Cyril develops Cyrillic alphabet still basis for Slavonic used in liturgy of Russian church, creates hostility with missionaries from Latin Church who believe official language of church should be only Hebrew, Latin & Greek

867 - Photian Schism between Eastern & Western churches begins during first patriarchy of **Photius** (c.820-891). Photius excommunicates Pope Nicholas I (c.800-867) during dispute over various issues, but especially use in Western church of *filioque* clause added to Nicene Creed (meaning: "and from the son"), not accepted in East. The schism leads to Photius' deposition, but he later manages to achieve reconciliation with Rome.

868 – *The Diamond Sutra* printed in China, world's oldest printed book

869 – Cyril & Methodius go to Rome – Pope Hadrian II blesses their work particularly use of native language in liturgy

869-70 - **Fourth Council of Constantinople**, never accepted by Orthodox Church, which instead recognizes council of 880 that supported Photius. Council of 869 was convoked at the suggestion of Basil I, the new Byzantine emperor, to confirm the restoration of St. Ignatius of Constantinople & to the see that Photius had resigned.

Photius had already been condemned, without a hearing, at a Roman synod. At Constantinople his defense was cut short. When he refused to sign his own condemnation, he

was excommunicated. These councils intensify bitterness between East & West.

late 9c. – West enters one of darkest periods of history – new waves of invasions destroy security created by empire of Charlemagne. Church suffers from domination of lay lords, communication with E. virtually cut off

871 - **King Alfred the Great of England** constructs system of government & education allowing for unification of smaller Anglo-Saxon states in 9th & 10th c. Alfred responsible for codification of English law, public interest in local government & reorganization of army. Founds schools & promotes Anglo-Saxon literacy & establishment of national culture. Dies in 899 CE.

874 - Vikings settle in Iceland

877 – John Scotus Erigena d. – only theologian of note in West during 9c. brought strong influence of East theology of Dionysius & Maximus to Western church

879 – Council in Constantinople presided over by Photius clarifies traditional privileges of Pope of Rome in East (accepted by Pope John VIII), creed affirmed without *filioque*

10c. – Bulgaria resentment against increasing Byzantine domination gives rise to popular protest inspired by Slav priest, **Bogomil** who taught that the world and the human body were the work of Satan, only the soul is created by God, true Christian conquered matter by abstaining from marriage, meat & wine & renouncing all possessions, accepted only New Testament & Psalms, viewed Old Testament as work of the devil. Christ did not have a human body, rejected sacraments, churches & relics. Provided creed for medieval puritans known as **Cathars** (Gk for “pure”) who for a time posed a major threat to the Catholic church

900 - Mayans emigrate to Yucatan Peninsula.

910 - Benedictine monastery of **Cluny** in Burgundy becomes place of monastic reform. Two major innovations: direct subjection of monasteries to pope (avoiding the oversight of secular, local & ecclesiastical powers) & building of "daughter monasteries" subordinate to Cluniac "family," which grows to sixty-seven monasteries by 1049 CE & over 1,000 by mid-12th cent.

930 - Althing, oldest body of representative government in Europe, established in Iceland by Vikings

949-1022 – **Symeon** “The New Theologian” emphasized direct experience of God through divine light.

mid 10 c. – church founded by monk **Bogomil** developed moderate dualism based on believe in one God who was father of both Satan & Christ

c.950 - Catholicism is prevalent & dominant religion throughout Europe

950 - Europe enters Dark Ages

950 – Olga of Russia who ruled Russia for seventeen years converts to Christianity

955-1057 – 25 Popes

960 – Athanasius of Mt. Athos (d. 1000) founds Great Lavra opening way for development of monastic republic on Holy Mountain

960 - Mieszko I becomes first ruler of Poland (d. 992)

971 – world's first university founded in Cairo

973-1002 - Otto II & Otto III of Holy Roman Empire distracted by Italian Wars, Holy Roman Empire weakens

977 – Vladimir I (c.956-1015) grand duke of Kiev decides Russia needs monotheistic religion, dispatches ambassadors to enquire about religious beliefs & practices, adopts Eastern faith from Constantinople – Byzantine conversion of Russia to Christianity, founding of Russian Orthodox Church

980-1037 – Ibn Sina known in West as Avicenna, taught human consists of three souls: 1. vegetative – drives basic physical functions, common to all animals & humans, 2. sensitive, 3. intellective – location of consciousness, reason & will, contains two intellects: a. passive – receives information from senses, b. active – transforms sensory data into rational concepts

981 - Eric the Red exiled from Iceland, settles in new land which he calls Greenland in order to attract settlers

995 - Japanese literary & artistic golden age begins under Emperor Fujiwara Michinaga (ruled 995-1028)

c.1000 - Scandinavia & Hungary convert to Christianity

c.1000 - Chinese perfect gunpowder

1000-1200 – early Scholasticism

1002 - Leif Ericsson explores North American coast

1003 – Vikings sail to Vinland (Newfoundland)

1009 - Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem destroyed by Muslim armies under Egyptian ruler Al Haqim

1012 - Germany begins to persecute heretics

1012 – Camaldolese Order founded by **St. Romuald** at Camaldoli - ideal was barest minimum of communal ties

1016 – Danes overrun most of England, 21 year old King Canute acknowledged as King of

England, dies 1035

1021 - Caliph al-Hakim proclaims himself to be divine & founds Druze sect

1022 – **Saint Simeon the New Theologian** d. – wrote influential treatises about indwelling of Holy Spirit in Christians

1033-1109 - **St. Anselm**, Benedictine monk, prior & abbot of Norman monastery in Bec in England became Archbishop of Canterbury (1093) “the father of scholasticism” – “Nor do I seek to understand, in order that I may believe, but I believe, in order that I may understand. For he who does not believe does not experience, & he who does not experience, does not understand.”

1048 – Al Haqim’s successor rebuilds Church of Holy Sepulchre

1050’s – monastic reform movement centred in Cluny focuses on simony (Acts 8:18-24) – the giving or receiving of classical office for money or other considerations & nicolaitanism (Rev. 2:6,14,15) – breach of clerical celibacy

1050 - Theravada Buddhism becomes official religion of Burma; other forms of Buddhism flourish throughout Southeast Asia

1050-1200 - first agricultural revolution of Medieval Europe begins in 1050 CE with shift to northern lands for cultivation, improved climate from 700 CE to 1200 CE in western Europe, widespread use & perfection of new farming devices

Technological innovations include use of heavy plow, three-field system of crop rotation, mills for processing cloth, brewing beer, crushing pulp for paper manufacture, & widespread use of iron & horses. With agricultural advancements, Western towns & trade grow exponentially, Western Europe returns to a money economy

1053 – Pope sends legates to Constantinople in attempt to restore communion between E. & W. – Michael Cerularius (patriarch of Constantinople) refuses to hear papal legates

1054 (July 16) – Cardinal Humbert of Italy head of papal delegation tired of waiting, irritated by lack of respect shown Roman ambassadors places documents of anathema & excommunication against Michael Cerularius on altar of Holy Wisdom cathedral (Hagia Sophia in Constantinople) officially due to removal of *filioque* from Creed (West included in Nicene Creed statement Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father *and* the Son/*Filioque*, added to Creed in Spanish Church from 6c.) & marriage of Orthodox priests, failure to have daily Mass, use of ordinary leavened bread, & wine without water in Eucharist. Cerularius excommunicates everyone associated with July 16 event mostly for divergent liturgical practices such as use of unleavened bread for Eucharist

1057 – Earthquake in Cilicia (Asia Minor) kills 60,000

1059 – Pope Nicholas II establishes College of Cardinals as body responsible for electing popes

1066 - **William the Conqueror** invades England & claims English throne at Battle of Hastings. Banners blessed by Pope Alexander II – Oct. 14 Battle of Hastings, defeated King Harold, crowned king of England. As result England became, & remained for four centuries, unquestionably part of Europe, leading to closer integration between English Church & Church of Rome. However, William refused to do homage to Pope or to allow any Church law to become effective or any citizen to be excommunicated without his consent – thus, united Church & State under monarch.

Because William is both King of England & Duke of Normandy, Norman Conquest fuses French & English cultures. Language of England evolves into Middle English with English syntax & grammar & heavily French vocabulary

French art & literature prevail over previous English art & literature. French language eventually becomes language of political realm. William achieves political stability in England with introduction of feudal system that progresses over next two centuries into national monarchy.

1071 - Turkish armies of the Seljuk sultans (1055-1194) are victorious over Byzantine forces in Battle of Manzikert, leading to sharp decline in power of Byzantine Empire

1073 - **Pope Gregory VII** (“the Great” c. 1020 - 1085) begins widespread & famous reforms of church practice, liturgies & administration (known as Gregorian Reform). Denied rights of any layman to “invest” a cleric, asserted his right to depose any cleric or layman including emperor. In his *Dictatus* he declared the Roman church “Established by God alone, it never has erred & never will err to all eternity.”

1074 - **Pope Gregory VII** excommunicates all married priests

1075 - Investiture fight begins between Pope Gregory VII & Holy Roman emperor Henry IV (1050 - 1106) Gregory denies Henry traditional right to appoint bishops. Henry, who does not accept this is eventually excommunicated & deposed in 1077, but Henry & his supporters, along with an army, drive Gregory into exile during an invasion of Italy (1081 - 1083)

1076 - First recorded execution by axe in England: Earl of Huntingdon

1077 – **Anselm** in *Monologion* suggests three rational arguments to prove existence of God: 1. observing relative degrees of goodness in world in which some things are better than others, must be some absolute good that sets the supreme standard for goodness; 2. everything in world was caused by something to come into existence so must be a supreme cause originally responsible for causing everything to exist, 3. because finite beings are more or less perfect, must be an infinitely perfect being superior to all beings in perfection.

1077 – Henry IV, German King & Holy Roman Emperor readmitted to communion after having been excommunicated by Pope Gregory VII. 1080 again excommunicated, set up antipope Clement III who crowned Henry Emperor 1084

1079 – Synod of Rome – “the bread & wine placed on the altar are, after consecration, not

only a sacrament but also the true body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ... handled by the hands of the priest & crushed by the teeth of the faithful.”

1079–1142 - **Peter Abelard**, philosopher & theologian. Jesus’ life = dramatic demonstration of love that changes people, obstacle to reconciliation with God is in people so they need to be changed

1080 - Order of the Hospital of St. John founded in Italy. This special order of knights was dedicated to guarding a pilgrim hospital, or hostel, in Jerusalem. Order not officially acknowledged until 1113 by the Pope

1084 – Carthusian Order – strictly contemplative, founded by **St. Bruno** at Grande Chartreuse in Alps

1085 - At Council of Clermont First Crusade (out of total of eight official crusades) called by **Pope Urban II** (c.1035-1099) against Muslims in the Holy Lands

1085-1148 - **William of St. Thierry** Cistercian like Bernard, emphasized love-mysticism. Like most medieval theologians, believed image of God was not totally wiped out in humans who maintained a natural tendency for God.

1090-1153 - **Bernard, St.** – Abbot of Clairvaux – viewed three stages of spiritual path to God: confession, devotion, contemplation – “The heartfelt desire to admit one’s guilt brings a man down in lowliness before God, as it were to his feet; the heartfelt devotion finds in God renewal & refreshment, the touch, as it were of his hand; & the delights of contemplation lead on to that ecstatic repose that is the kiss of his mouth.”

the entire movement toward God is driven by love organized in four ways:

1. love of self for the sake of self; 2. love of God for the sake of self; 3. love of God for the sake of God; 4. love of everything even the self, for the sake of God = an “ordered love,” organized solely by the will of God in which any consideration of the self is completely submerged.

1093 – **Anselm** becomes Archbishop of Canterbury, devoted monk & theologian wrote *Cur Deus Homo?* (*Why Did God Become Man?*), exploring atonement, rejected idea that death of Christ could be explained as a ransom paid to the devil arguing, instead, that the death of Jesus was payment to God as a necessary sacrifice to satisfy the justice of God. (see Appendix III)

1095 – **Pope Urban II** delivers sermon in Clermont, in the kingdom of the Franks, in which he asserts that followers of Islam are “an accursed race, a race utterly alienated from God” & calls Christians to enter into battle against Muslim forces of evil.

1096-1099 - First Crusade (continue off & on until 1244) under Pope Urban II actually carried out in effort to aid Byzantine Christians against Muslim invaders. But ends up entrenching divisions between East & West as Western crusaders appear to set up permanent occupation in East, install Latin patriarchs & clergy, & encourage groups to break away from Orthodoxy to obedience to Pope. Every subsequent crusade was a complete failure, failing to

conquer Jerusalem & contributing to division between Western & Eastern Christendom.

1096-1142 - **Hugh of St. Victor** close tie between reason & mysticism, most important of two Victorines (other Richard of St. Victor d. 1173) - "Love surpasses knowledge & is greater than intelligence." "One loves more than one understands, & love enters & approaches where knowledge stays outside."

1098 – Cistercians (from Latin for Citeaux) founded at Citeaux by **Robert of Molesme** as stricter Benedictines, known as "white monks" because their habits were undyed, unlike older Benedictines who wore black

1098 – Crusaders take Antioch from Turks

1098-1179 - **Hildegard of Bingen** (Germany)

1099 (July 15) - Crusaders recapture Jerusalem from Turks, killing 40,000, driven out by late 13c.

beginning 12c. – Aristotle translated into Latin. By end 13c. old theological way of looking at world & humans in world replaced by attempt to adopt theology to technical language of Aristotle

1100 - Polynesian islands colonized.

1100 - new asceticism sought for monks who wish to engage in contemplation & self-examination. Two new orders created: the Carthusian & the Cistercian. St. Bernard of Clairvaux, leader of Cistercians, establishes 343 monasteries before he dies

Accompanying the fervent worship of Jesus during this period is the pronouncement of the Virgin Mary as a saint. This is the first time a woman is given central significance in Christian religion

1100-1135 - **Henry I** of England

1100's–1200's – Sufi orders founded

1100–1300 - Construction of cathedral in Chartres, France

1108-1137 - Louis VI of France

1109 – **St. Anselm of Canterbury** d. – wrote of "ontological proof" for existence of God, defended doctrine of *filioque* & "satisfaction theory" of atonement in which contended Christ on cross was adequate sacrifice necessary to satisfy justice & wrath of God the Father

1112 - **St. Bernard** (1090-1153) with 30 noblemen of Burgundy enter monastery at Citeaux. 1115 establish house at Clairvaux that soon becomes one of chief centres of Cistercian order. At death Cistercian Order consists of 350 Abbeys & 150 dependent cells. Promoted mystical vision of rhapsodic love in which Church described in erotic terms as bride of Christ,

tendency to be anti-intellectual. Cistercians dominate 12c. as Benedictines of Cluny had dominated 10 & 11 cs. & Franciscans & Dominicans would dominate 13c.

1115 – **Guilbert of Norgent**, Benedictine abbot articulated fourfold method of biblical interpretation that had become the norm by 11c. “The first is history, which speaks of actual events as they occurred; the second is allegory, in which one thing stands for something else; the third is tropology, moral instruction, which treats of the ordering & arranging of one’s life; & the last is ascetics or spiritual enlightenment, through which we who are about to treat of lofty & heavenly topics are led to a higher way of life.”

1119 - Hugues de Payens founds Order of Knights Templar in Jerusalem. Name comes from fact headquarters on the site of Solomon's Temple. Originally intended to be a police force to protect Christian pilgrims in Jerusalem. Under St. Bernard became a monastic order of warriors. “The soldiers of Christ can fight the Lord’s battles in all safety for whether they kill the enemy or die themselves, they need fear nothing. To die for Christ & to kill his enemies, there is no crime in that, only glory.”

1121- Peter Abelard castrated for his teachings

1122 -**Concordat of Worms** finally brings end to long-standing investiture fight (claim of Emperor to have power to invest an Abbot- or Bishop-elect with the ring & staff of office & to receive homage from him before his consecration), with a compromise that retains church authority over Europe

1123 - First Lateran Council. Summoned by Pope Calixtus II to signal end of the investiture controversy by confirming the Concordat of Worms (1122) held in the Lateran Palace, Rome, making it the first council to be held in Western Europe. Many of council's decrees became part of the evolving corpus of medieval Latin canon law

1123 - Death of Omar Khayyam, Persian poet

1123 - Japan's ex-emperor Shirikawa imposes Buddhist prohibition against killing any living thing

1124 – fire in Kiev reported to have destroyed 600 church edifices

1135-1202 – **Joachim of Fiore** – Italian monk recognized in his time as a prophet, claimed to have been granted a spiritual understanding that enabled him to unlock the mysteries of the Bible.

1135-1204 - Life of Moses Ben-Maimon, or Maimonides, one of most influential Jewish philosophers during Middle Ages used reason to fight growing Jewish mysticism

1136 - abbé Suger develops the rose window

1139 - Second Lateran Council. Convened at the Lateran Palace, Rome, by Pope Innocent II, attempts to heal wounds left by schism of the antipope Anacletus II (d. 1138) & condemns theories of Arnold of Brescia who had attacked the worldliness of the church & proclaimed

that confession should not be made to a priest but by Christians to one another, also that sinfulness of priest destroyed effectiveness of sacrament & that spiritual people should not possess worldly goods or exercise secular authority.

Pope Innocent II ordered Arnold exiled & his books burned.

Among council's canons were prohibitions of clerical concubinage & marriage & of the use of bows & crossbows in fighting Christians; simony & usury also condemned

1140 - Sefer ha-Kusari of Spanish rabbi Judah ben Samuel ha-Levi argues that all revealed religious thought is superior to rational & philosophical

1144 – Fall of Edessa (crusader state)

1147 - Second Crusade begins following appeal by **St. Bernard of Clairvaux**. Lasts to 1149

1150 – **Peter Lombard** (d. 1160) compiles the *Four Books of Sentences* which collect basic Christian teachings about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, creation, angels, humanity, sin, redemption, sacraments, & eschatology. For nearly 400 years used as basic introductory text for theological studies. Quotes Augustine more than 1,000 times.

1151 - End of Toltec Empire in Mexico

1153 – death of **Bernard of Clairvaux** who by time he died had founded 539 Cistercian monasteries

1154 – Chartres Cathedral built

1154-1189 - **Henry II** r. Plantagenet King of England

1155 - Pope Adrian IV gives Ireland to Henry II of England

1155 – Peter Abelard tried by the Roman Curia as a political rebel (not a heretic) & executed by secular authorities. To the end he was idolized by the Roman populace.

1157 - Torture reportedly introduced as official tool in Denmark

1161 - Explosives used in China at Battle of Ts'ai-shih

1162 – Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury dies, Henry thinks, by making his friend **Thomas a Beckett** both Chancellor & Archbishop of Canterbury he will get his own way in matters of both Church & State. Becket unwilling to be made Archbishop, King insists. Finally Becket agrees but does not act as King wants, resigns as Chancellor, gives up luxurious life, pours energies into maintaining what holds to be rights & privileges of Church.

Since William Conqueror all bishops, priests & clerks in minor orders (ie. virtually all educated people) were tried before Church courts for any offence & were not subject to King's courts. Most severe punishment church courts could give was to reduce offender to

level of layman & consequently make him subject to King's courts. Henry wanted to bring all secular offences under King's courts, making all people subject to same justice – also wanted power to decide which were spiritual & which secular offences. Becket refused, assassinated (Dec. 29, 1170 in his own Canterbury Cathedral). Henry forced to do penance & scourged by monks of Canterbury.

1167 – Oxford University founded, around same time as University of Paris – both become influence towards renaissance & reformation

1172 – **Nicetas**, bishop of the Bogomil Church of Constantinople comes to the West to preside over a major council of the Cathar Church near Toulouse in southern France.

1179 – **Peter Valdes** (formerly but incorrectly spelled Waldo) – rich citizen of French city of Lyons dedicates himself to life of poverty, preaching & service to others based on Scripture of which he commissioned translations from Latin into vernacular French, rapidly accumulated followers who became known as Waldensians. Adopted poverty as strategy for engaging heretics, especially the Cathars who had formed a church that during 13c. would rival Catholics in Europe – derived from Gk. *katharoi* (“pure”) Cathars saw themselves as authentic Christians at the centre of a cosmic struggle between forces of good & evil.

He & followers eventually condemned as heretics & Waldensians suffer great persecution for centuries

1170–1221 - **St. Dominic**, founder Order of Friars Preachers/ Dominicans/ Black Friars

1173 – **Richard of St. Victor** d. possible to arrive at the essentials of Christian doctrine by speculative reason

1175 - Rinzai school of Zen established in Japan

1179 - Third Lateran Council. Convened at Lateran Palace, Rome, by Pope Alexander III after the Peace of Venice (1178) had reconciled him with Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I, it included an envoy from the Orthodox Greeks. The most important legislation was the first canon, which confirmed that the election of the pope was thereafter to be in the hands of the cardinals alone, two thirds being necessary for election.

The council also condemned usury, tournaments, & brigandage. The Albigensians & Waldensians were condemned. The legislation from this council formed an important part of the evolving canonical tradition in the 12th & 13th centuries

1182 - Philip II banishes Jews from France

1182-1226 - **St. Francis of Assisi** (Francesco Bernardone)

1187 – Crusaders lose Jerusalem to Saladin who becomes most famous Muslim

1189-1199 – **Richard I** r. Plantagenet King of England (The Lionheart)

1189 - Last known Norse visit to North America

1189 - Third Crusade begins, led by Frederick Barbarossa, Philip of France & Richard of England. Frederick drowns next year on way to Palestine - German folklore develops tradition that he is hidden in a mountain waiting to return & lead Germany to new & brighter future. Crusade ends 1192

1189 - Jews massacred at coronation of Richard I

1192 – truce between Richard & Saladin leaves battle for Jerusalem unresolved

1193 – **Guigo II** d. Carthusian – “Seek in *reading* and you will find in *meditation*; knock by *prayer* and it will be opened to in *contemplation*.”

1198–1216 - power of medieval papacy reaches its height with reign of Innocent III (1161-1216) who manages to excommunicate both Holy Roman emperor Otto IV (1182-1218) & King John of England (c.1167-1216) in 1209

1199-1216 – **John** r. Plantagenet King of England

1199 - Liverpool, England, founded

after 12c.- centrality of monastic theology in Western Church comes to an end. 13 c. = new age in Christian world. Platonic elements which had served earlier theologians as vehicle for expressing understanding of human condition through life of prayer & contemplation, replaced by or codified in accordance with Aristotelian logic & categories of purely abstract & theoretical nature. Beginning of high scholasticism.

1200 – University of Paris that developed from cathedral schools of 12c. receives its foundation charter

1200 – estimated that clergy control one fifth of the land of Western Europe & receive roughly one tenth of its gross income

c.1200 - Jewish mystic movement Kabala develops in France & spreads to Spain. Kabalists believe every word, letter & number in Bible reveals hidden mysteries via kabalistic interpretation

1200 – Muslim invaders deal deathblow to Buddhism in India after long period of decline

1200 – Pure Land (Jodo) school of Buddhism established in Japan

1200 – Aztecs begin to establish empire in Mexico

1200-1280 – **Beatrice of Nazareth** Belgian Cistercian mystic, associated with Beguines

1202 - Fourth Crusade launched

1204 - Venetians convince soldiers of Fourth Crusade to attack Constantinople before moving

on to Holy Land (= final confirmation of schism between E & W). Residents of City suffer worst devastation in Constantinople's history; Venice reaps the spoils

After Constantinople is sacked by Western Crusaders, Latin domination of Eastern Church begins. A group of defeated Orthodox offers to accept Pope Innocent III's appointment of a new patriarch on the condition that Eastern customs are protected. This concession is refused & instead Thomas Morosini of Venice is installed as patriarch of Constantinople, increasing rivalry between Eastern & Western churches

1206 – rosary reported given to St. Dominic by an apparition of Mary

1206 - **St. Francis of Assisi**, age twenty-five, begins twenty-year allegiance to Christ until death 1226. Founded Franciscan order to imitate life of Jesus by embracing poverty.

1206 - Mongol leader Temujin proclaimed "Genghis Khan," "emperor within the Seas"

1206-1280 - **Albertus Magnus** teacher of Thomas Aquinas - unity of science & mysticism

1207 – Church/State tension flares in England under **King John**, one of Henry II's sons (1167-1216) – Crown & local Church can't agree on who should be new Archbishop of Canterbury. **Pope Innocent III** chooses **Stephen Langton** & consecrates him in Rome in 1207 in violation of long-established tradition King should have some say in such matters. John becomes indignant, prevents Langton from coming to Canterbury until 1213 at which point John gives in in response to Pope's call on France to enforce his rule over England. John is forced to lay his crown at the Pope's feet & take oath of loyalty. Having thus surrendered his kingdom to the Pope he received it back as a vassal of Rome. English people were humiliated.

1207-1273 - **Jalaluddin Rumi** Persian poet b. in Balkh, Afghanistan Sp. 30

1208 - Crusade against the Albigensians (also known as Cathars) & Waldensians launched in southern France by Pope Innocent III. In Beziers alone in 1209, at least 20,000 people are massacred

1208 - First recorded witchcraft trial in England. Gideon, alleged to be sorcerer, is acquitted

1209 - Cambridge University founded in England

1210 – **Francis of Assisi** goes to Rome & receives papal approval from Pope Innocent III to establish Friars Minor

1210-1280 - **Mechtild of Magdeburg** (Germany) associated with Beguines (women who lived strict religious lives but never adopted rule & were condemned as heretics because challenged church authority)

1212 – **Clare** founds Poor Clares

1212 - Spain reconquers Iberian peninsula from Muslims in name of Christianity

1212 - Childrens' Crusade launched with children from France & West Germany. More than 50,000 children died or were sold into slavery

1214 – **Dominic of Guzman** founder of Dominicans despondent over his failure to convert Cathars in southern France withdraws to an isolated cave in woods near Toulouse reportedly visited by Virgin Mary who instructs him to teach her prayer, the Ave Maria – “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, & blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.” She is said to have left him a string of beads to use when reciting the prayer, introducing the use of the rosary.

1214 – King John of England defeated by French at battle of Bouvines

1214-1294 - **Francis Bacon** empiricist philosopher known for his defense of the “scientific method” derive conclusions from observed facts rather than previous conclusions or theories. Claimed there were no absolute rules of in morality.

1215 - Innocent III organizes **Fourth Lateran Council** in Rome in order to discuss & define central dogmas of Christianity. It was one of the most important councils ever held. Its canons sum up Innocent's ideas for church: recognizes necessity of Eucharist, used term “transubstantiation” (external appearance of bread & wine remains unchanged but their substance, essence, & underlying reality are transformed into the body & blood of Christ), penance as sacrament for salvation, call for revitalisation of preaching in church, strengthens authority of popes, requires communion at Easter & annual confession as minimum requirement for church membership, called Easter duty, declares no salvation outside church. Priests forbidden to participate in trials by ordeal. Also called for Fifth Crusade under papal guidance by sea.

By 13c. - writings of ancient Greeks pouring into Europe undermining faith & prompting heresy

1215 - **Magna Carta** signed. English barons force King John to agree to statement of their rights, established principle king could not levy taxes without consent of Parliament & no free person in England could be deprived of liberty or property except through legal process. Pope Innocent III nullifies Magna Carta

Great mistake to think of separation of English Church from Rome solely as the doing of Henry VIII. All along English Church had been resisting Rome where it seemed Pope claimed too much power for himself.

1216-1272 – **Henry III** r. Plantagenet King of England

1216 - Spanish theologian **Dominic** (1170-1221) founds his own Dominican order of monks dedicated to preaching, scholarship & teaching. Order authorized by Innocent III. Purpose to convert Muslims & Jews & to put end to heresy. Dominicans eventually become main administrators of inquisitorial trials.

1217 - Fifth Crusade ends in failure

1217-1274 - **Bonaventure** succeeded St. Francis as head of the mendicant (from Latin *mendicare* “to beg” – monastic orders whose members were forbidden to own property) order of Franciscans, developed philosophical, theological & mystical side of Francis’ thought. “Our mind...when it glimpses the light of the supreme Being, seems to itself to see nothing.”

1218 - Newgate Prison, London's debtor prison completed

1219 – Rumi forced to flee Balkh with father who being attacked by religious enemies & foresaw taking of city by Mongols – for 10 years Rumi & family wandered all over Asia Minor & Arabia

1219 – **Sava** consecrated first archbishop of Serbian lands by Manuel patriarch of Constantinople

1220 - First General Chapter of Dominican Order under **St. Dominic** (1170-1221)

1221 – Genghis Kahn & Mongols enter Persia

1222 - András II of Hungary issues A Golden Bull exempting clergy from taxation & refusing land or offices to Jews or foreigners

1223 – Genghis Khan invades Russia, distances Russia from Western culture

1225-1274 - Life of theologian **Thomas Aquinas**, Italian Dominican monk & priest, most influential theologian of Middle Ages, codifies Catholic theology in works such as *Summa Theologica*, marking high point of medieval scholastic movement. Sought to reconcile faith & reason by showing that elements of Aristotle’s philosophy were compatible with Christianity, understanding of being (existence), principle of analogy – similarities between created beings up the scale between simples forms & God who created them

offered five proofs for existence of God: 1. everything in world is change (change = transition from potentiality to actuality) therefore must be some original mover at start of process of change. God = the unmoved mover, pure actuality. 2. everything is caused by something else, must be a first cause. God = original cause of everything. 3. everything is dependent on something else for its existence, must be something that is not contingent upon anything, that is dependent on nothing but itself for existence. God = the original necessary being. 4. everything is more or less perfect, must be an absolute standard of perfection, truth, & nobility. God = the absolute perfection that exists as the formal ideal, or essential cause that makes all things more or less perfect, good, true, or noble. 5. everything tends toward some goal or end – order, design & goal-oriented nature of universe could not have happened by accident, must be some intelligence guiding things toward their ends. God = the guiding intelligence.

Scholasticism – educational tradition of Medieval Schools, method of philosophical & theological speculation which aims at better understanding of revealed truths, emphasis upon rational justification & systematic presentation of Christian theology

1226 – Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury divides Bible into chapters

1226-1270 - Louis IX (St. Louis) of France

1228 - Sixth Crusade

1229 – Rumi goes with father to live in Konya (southern Turkey) where Sultan built a college for Rumi's father where he taught until death 1231, succeeded by Rumi

1231 - Earliest legislation on topic of torture in Italy

1232 – Emperor Frederick II issues edict for Empire entrusting hunting out of heretics to state officials = beginning of **Inquisition**

1232 - Earliest known use of rockets in war between Mongols & Chinese

1233 - Holy Inquisition is established by **Pope Gregory IX** (c.1155-1241) to abolish heresy wherever it can be found. Dominicans assigned responsibility to carry out Inquisition. Forbids reading of Bible by lay persons. Continues to end of 15c. Canonizes Francis as saint.

1233 – great sage Eihei Dogen who introduced zen into Japan writes a short treatise *Ghenjokam* later included in his great work *Shaboghenzo*

1235 – **Stephen of Bourbon** (1180-1262) becomes an inquisitor travelling widely throughout France to preach, hear confessions, & search out traces of religious error, superstition, or heresy

1235-1315 - **Ramon Lull** Franciscan, logic of science

1240 – Soto School of Zen established in Japan

1241 - William Marise, pirate first person recorded hanged, drawn, & quartered in England

1240 - Mongols capture Moscow & destroy Kiev

1244 – mountain castle in southern France near Foix which is the last outpost of the Cathars is captured by crusaders after a ten-month siege

1244 – Muslims recapture Jerusalem & remain its rulers until 1917

1244 – Rumi reported (by son Sultan Valad in *Secret World*) to have 10,000 disciples

1244 (Dec. 3) - Shams of Tabriz killed by Rumi's followers

1246 – Feast of Corpus Christi developed in France – Host paraded under special canopy with cross, relics, holy water, candles, banners, & other religious regalia from church to church & around perimeter of village

1247 - traditional date for death of Robin Hood

1248 - Seventh Crusade

1248-1309 - **Angela of Foligno** mysticism based on facts of Christ's life & death

1250 - Abolition of trial by fire or water in England

1250 - True Pure Land (Shin Jodo) school of Buddhism founded in Japan

1250–1277 – height of Scholasticism

1252 - **Pope Innocent IV** approves use of torture for religious disobedience, following Innocent III's brutal "inquisitions" against heresy, even dead heretics could be punished by having corpses disinterred & burned

1256 - First recorded official use of torture in Spain

1258 (Feb. 10) – Mongols conquer Baghdad killing 10,000 inhabitants

1258 - Flagellants begin physically punishing themselves in belief will prevent plagues

1260 – Date that the 1988 Vatican-sponsored scientific study places origin of Shroud of Turin

c.1260-1327 - **Meister Eckhart** (Germany) first of "Rhineland" mystics – emphasizes search for inner ground of soul. To know God one must enter into "the darkness of unknowing," the intellect has a power or "spark" "the ground of the soul" which is in all humanity and is equal to God. "My truest I is God."

1261 - Michael Palaeologus (1224-1282) drives Latin rulers out of Constantinople & reestablishes local Eastern Orthodox Rule

1265-1321 - **Dante Alighieri** born in Florence. Italian poet & philosopher. Writes *The Divine Comedy* perhaps greatest literary expression of Middle Ages - in Italian verse. Dante is extensively educated in literature, philosophy & Scholastic theology. His "Comedy" is saturated with belief in immortality through worthy deeds & preparation for everlasting life

1265-1273 – **Thomas Aquinas** writes *Summa Theologica* in which attempts to synthesize philosophy with Western Christian tradition. In process gives impression God can be discussed in same way as other philosophical ideas by prefacing discussion of God with rational demonstration of God's existence using natural phenomena – suggests possible to know God in same way as other realities ie. intellectually through theoretical reason

1267 - Kublai Kahn (grandson of Genghis Khan) establishes city of Beijing

1269 - Louis IX of France orders Jews to wear purple badge

1271 - Marco Polo sets off to visit the court of Kublai Khan

1272-1307 – **Edward I** r. Plantagenet King of England

1273 – Aquinas stops writing *Summa Theologica*, left unfinished

1273 (Dec. 17) – death of Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi in Konya, southern Turkey – after death son, Sultan Velad developed his vision & spiritual practices into structures of Mevlevi order

1274 - Mongols, led by Kublai Khan, attempt to invade Japan

1275 – **Meister Eckhart** joins Dominicans age about 15

1277 - **Roger Bacon** imprisoned for heresy

1280 - Eyeglasses invented & later improved in late medieval period

1285-1349 - **William of Ockham**, English philosopher – no true metaphysical thought can even be attempted, words are empty of content & ideas have no universal application, “Ockham’s razor” – explanations should be kept simple (14c. Nominalism – denied objective intelligibility of creation & of moral law) Influenced *via moderna* which taught theology must be derived from biblical revelation rather than rational argument.

1290 - Margaret, Maid of Norway, dies leaving a struggle for throne of Scotland - 13 people claim title of King

1291 - Saracene armies capture Acre, last Christian outpost in Palestine, thus officially ending Crusades, re-establishing Muslim rule in Middle East

1293-1381 - **Jan van Ruysbroeck** Flemish Rhineland mystic – stages of mystical life

1295 – conversion of Mongol dynasty to Islam led to drastic losses for Nestorian Church in 14c. Remnant fled to mountains of Kurdistan where descendants survive as Assyrian Christians

1295-1366 - **Henry Suso** Rhineland mystic, student of Meister Ekchart

1296-1359 - **Gregory Palamas** Eastern Orthodox mystic influenced by Pseudo-Dionysius – path of negation & affirmation both true, referring to two aspects of God: the essence (cannot be known) & the energy (can be directly experienced)

1296 - Edward I of England deposes John Balliol from Scottish throne, takes control of Scotland

1297 - Battle of Cambuskenneth, Scottish patriot William Wallace defeats English army

1298 - longbow revolutionizes warfare at the Battle of Falkirk

14c.-mid.17c. - **RENAISSANCE** (Galileo, Shakespeare, da Vinci, Michelangelo) cultural rebirth in Europe based on rediscovery of the literature of Greece & Rome. Beginning to think of “secular” & “sacred” affairs – realm for state as well as for church. Often viewed as the beginning of modern times.

1300 – Rome during celebration of a Jubilee Year Pope Boniface VIII seated on throne of Constantine with sword, crown & sceptre declares “I am Caesar – I am Emperor”

1300 – Theravada Buddhism becomes official religion of Thailand; Cambodia soon follows

1300-1349 - **Richard Rolle** “English School” of late medieval mysticism – emphasizes physicality of mystical experience (Rhineland mystic)

1300-1361 - **Johannes Tauler** (Rhineland mystic) Dominican student of Eckhart – inner person became popular among Reformers

1302 - Pope Boniface VIII (c.1235-1303) issues papal bull *Unum Sanctum*, declares pope has supreme & final authority in all matters, both civic & spiritual – “submission on the part of every man to the bishop of Rome is altogether necessary for his salvation.”

1302 (Jan 27) - Dante Alighieri fined & exiled from Florence by Catholic Church

1303 - Pope Boniface VIII is kidnapped by supporters of French King Philip IV (1268- 1314) after threatening to depose Philip. Boniface dies within a month.

1304-1374 - Life of Italian poet Petrarch

1305 - 70-year "Babylonian Captivity" of papacy begins when Pope Clement V (1260-1314) moves papal residence & administrative offices to Avignon in France to escape political turmoil raging in Italy (1377 – Papacy returns to Rome)

1305 - First reported displaying head on London Bridge: Sir William Wallace, Scottish patriot

1306 - Philip IV expels Jews from France

1307 – Knights Templar accused of worshipping the devil

1310 - First reported use of official torture in England: against Templars

1310 – Dante’s *Divine Comedy*

1310 – **Marguerite Porete** d. French mystic, author *The Mirror of Simple Souls*. Taught love as the road to God without much dependence on the Bible or the church. Burned at stake as heretic.

1311 – Council of Vienne condemns Beguines

1314 - Battle at Bannockburn: Robert Bruce defeats armies of Edward II gains Scottish

independence. Edward I died 1307 on a march north to defeat Bruce

1314 – Knights Templar disbanded & its leaders publicly burned

1315 - Bad weather & crop failure result in famine across northwestern Europe. Unsanitary conditions & malnutrition increase death rate. Even after revival of agricultural conditions, weather disasters reappear. Mixture of war, famine & plague in Late Middle Ages reduces population by half

1316 - Pope sends eight Dominican monks to Ethiopia in search of Prester John, a legendary Christian emperor

1317 – **Pope John XXII** – condemns the Spirituals (Franciscans who hold to Francis' commitment to poverty). They had split from the Conventuals (Franciscans who believed they should own convents, churches & libraries)

1321 – death of **Dante Aligheri**

1322 - Pope John XXII forbids contrapuntal music in churches

1323 – Pope John XXII, in response to the Spiritual Franciscans who sought to remain true to the ideal of holy poverty objecting that the Franciscans had become too wealthy & powerful, declares as heresy the belief that Christ & his apostles had lived in absolute poverty.

1325 - Aztecs found Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City)

1326 – Ottomans conquer Bursa & make it capital & set themselves up at head of Muslim empire

1327-1377 - **Edward III** r. Plantagenet King of England

1326 – **Gregory Palamas** (1296-1359) enters one of the monasteries on Mt. Athos, becomes prominent defender of *hesychast* tradition arguing that it is possible to experience the immediate presence of God. Develops distinction between the divine essence of God (necessarily beyond human experience or knowledge) & God's "energies" (or action) which involves a direct & immediate presence of God in the world.

1327 – (b. 1260) German Dominican Meister **Eckhart** defines individual soul as "spark" of the divine at its most basic element. By renouncing all knowledge of self, one is able to retreat into that "spark" & reach God. Most of his teachings are condemned by papacy.

Two strands of mysticism arise from Eckhart's theories: heterodox, belief in unification of God & man on earth without aid of priests as intermediaries, & orthodox, belief in possibility of joining soul with God & awareness of divine presence in everyday life

1328 - England recognizes Scottish independence, with Robert Bruce as King

1328 – Philippe VI (de Valois) becomes king of France, despite England's better claim to

throne through Edward III

1329 (March 27) – Pope John XXII condemns 29 propositions of Meister Eckhart

1333 – **St. Gregory Palamas** defends Orthodox practice of *hesychast* spirituality & Jesus prayer

1335 - Pope Benedict XII issues sweeping reforms of monastic orders

1336-1339 – Christian armies of *Judenschlager* (“Jew Killers”) exterminated hundreds of Jewish communities in southern German region of Bavaria

1337 – Edward III of England claims throne of France – beginning Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) between France & England

1340-1384 – **Gerhard Groote** founder of *devotio moderna*, a devotional movement of clergy & laity providing manuals, instruction & guidance for Christian spirituality focused on Eucharist (Thomas a Kempis)

1342-c.1415 - **Julian of Norwich**, anchoress, author *Revelations of Divine Love*

1343 - William of Ockham's *Dialogues* argue for separation of church & state

1345 - Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris completed

1346 – council upholds teaching of Gregory of Palamas who distinguished between unknowable & incomprehensible Essence or Super-essence of God & actions, operations or energies of God which are truly uncreated & divine (such as divine light) communicated to humans by divine grace & open to human participation, knowledge & experience

1346 (Aug. 26) – Battle of Crecy major battle of 100 Years War – English bowmen defeat far superior French force led by Philippe VI, French losses ca. 11,000, incl. 1,200 knights, exceed entire English army

1347 (Oct.) – Black Death (form of Bubonic Plague) central traumatic event of western history – how do you account for devastation of this magnitude?

- begins in Sicily reaches Cyprus from eastern Asia. Jan. reaches France, Aug. first reaches England

- eventually kills nearly 1/3 population of Western Europe. Cities worst hit: Avignon 50% (ca. 25,000), Paris 50% (ca. 50,000), London 1/3 (ca.18,000). 200,000 villages in Europe wiped out

- continues to 1351 with sporadic outbreaks for another sixty years

1347-1380 - **Catherine of Siena** mystic advisor to Pope Gregory XI

1348 - Jews blamed for Black Death systematically persecuted

1348 – Black Death reaches England between June & August, Nov. 1 reaches London. 30-40% population of England dies. Results in rise of prices & wages, greater value placed on labour, farm land transferred to pasture land requiring less labour, boost in cloth & woollen industry, peasants move to towns, decline of Feudal system, disillusionment with church whose power begins to decline leading to English Reformation

1348 - Italian Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375 CE) begins writing *Decameron*, collection of stories about love, sex, adventure & trickery told by seven ladies & three men on a journey into country to escape Black Death

Boccaccio's work is first literature written in narrative prose, realistic portrayal of men & women in stories, rather than blatantly moral or immoral as in earlier romances

1349 - new period of persecution of Jews sweeps Germany, particularly at hands of the flagellants who declared war on all people they imagined as enemies of Christ

1349 – William of Oakham d. – logic cannot be applied to theology

1350-1500 – Black Death, Hundred Years' War, gradual breakdown of feudal system, growing dominance of wealthy educated urban class, decline of Holy Roman Empire, emergence of new nationalisms, loss of morale due to Great Schism, intellectual barrenness of much late medieval theology, religious system that had run out of steam & needed major reform

c.1350 - Renaissance begins in Italy to mid 17c. – often considered beginning of modern era

2nd ½ of 14c. - *Cloud of Unknowing* emphasis on “unknowing” God – part of Pseudo-Dionysius apophatic tradition (see Appendix V)

1350-1400 – anonymous mystical treatise *Theologia Germanica* rediscovered. Counsels poverty of spirit & abandonment to God as means of transformation by love into participation in the Divine nature. Popularized by Luther who supervises its first printed edition (1518)

1354 - Earliest extant documentation stating existence of Shroud of Turin.

1356 – Battle of Poitiers, major battle of 100 Year's War (Sept. 19) English under Edward the Black Prince vs. 20,500 French under King Jean II. Bowmen throw French into confusion, English mounted flanks converge – 4,500 French killed, King Jean & sons captured, English losses light

1359 – **Gregory of Palamas** d. monk of Mt. Athos, practitioner of method of prayer called *hesychasm* (*hesychia* = silence)

1360 – recurrence of Black Death

1360 – Theravada Buddhism established in Laos

1367 – Pope Urban V returns to Rome, meets resistance, returns to Avignon, dies 1370

1368 - Ming Dynasty established in China by peasant's son who had become a monk but later led 13-year rebellion against corrupt & ineffectual Mongol rulers. Ming means "brightness." Dynasty continues until 1644

1369 – recurrence of Black Death

1373 – **Julian of Norwich** (c.1342-c.1417) suffers a near fatal illness during which over a period of twenty-four hours she has sixteen visions provoked by the sight of a crucifix hanging by her sick bed. She writes down these visions after reflecting on them for twenty years.

1376 - **John Wycliffe** (1329-1384) Oxford don, English philosopher, theologian, reformer, writes *Civil Dominion* calling for reforms in Church. Appointed Vicar of Lutterworth. Argued Pope's claims not founded on Scripture. Questioned transubstantiation, argued Bible (which began to translate into English) only basis for Christian action & belief & preceded papal authority. "The Gospel by itself is a rule sufficient to rule the life of every Christian person on the earth, without any other rule." Condemned in 1382. Less educated followers after death known as Lollards

1377-1399 – **Richard II** r. Plantagenet King of England

1377 – **Catherine of Siena** (1347-1380) makes trip to Avignon to persuade Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome, he does but meets resistance in Rome. Dies there March 1378

1378 - "Great Schism" begins when election of Urban VI (c.1318-1389) to papacy is challenged by French cardinals who in turn elect Clement VII (d. 1394) to same office. Clement becomes known as "antipope" resides in Avignon. England supports Urban, France Clement. Both Rome & Avignon have rival popes for next 40 years. For 8 years three rival popes rule

1379-1471 – **Thomas a Kempis** adherent of *devotio moderna*, author of *The Imitation of Christ*

c.1380 - **John Wycliffe** (c.1320-1384), English priest, begins first English translation of Bible

1380-1471 - **Thomas a Kempis** stresses practice of piety & asceticism, finest expression of "*devotio moderna*" which downplays Rhineland mystics concern with contemplation & speculative theology

1381 – English peasants' revolt. Peasant army seizes London, beheads Archbishop of Canterbury & burns down Savoy Palace

1382 - John Wycliffe expelled from Oxford University because opposed traditional Church doctrines, later known as "Morning Star of the Reformation," translates Latin Vulgate into English

1384 - John Purvey, follower of John Wycliffe, revises Wycliffe's translation

1387 - Poet **Geoffrey Chaucer** begins work on masterpiece "The Canterbury Tales"

1389 – Pope Urban VI formally establishes Feast of Corpus Christi in Christian sacred calendar as a holy period with same status as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, & Assumption

1394 - 1423 Benedict XIII is antipope at Avignon

late 14c. – *Sir Gawain And The Green Knight* – Arthurian romance sets up moral test-case exploring practical implications of what it means to be faithful

1391 - Spanish Jews forced to convert to Catholicism for sake of "social & sectarian uniformity"

d.1395 – **Walter Hilton** English mystic (see 1494)

1396 - Ottoman Turks conquer Bulgaria

1399 - In England, death penalty becomes punishment for heresy, many Lollards, Wycliffe's lay followers, convert

1400 - Holy Roman Emperor Wenceslas IV deposed due to drunkenness

1400 - Czech students of John Wycliffe bring Wycliffism to Bohemian capital of Prague. Preacher John Hus (1373-1415 CE) adopts Wycliffe's theories to support his own claims against ecclesiastical extravagance

1400 - Northern provinces of Italy devise own systems of government. Government of Venice becomes a merchant oligarchy; Milan is ruled by dynastic despotism; Florence becomes a republic, ruled by rich. The three cities expand & conquer most of Northern Italy.

1401 - England introduces *de Heretico Comburendo*, giving Church power over heresy

1401-1464 - **Nicholas of Cusa** German mystic part of revival of Platonism in Renaissance, emphasized incomprehensibility & paradoxicality of God

1408 - Council of Oxford forbids translations of Scriptures into vernacular unless & until fully approved by Church authority; sparked by Wycliffite Bible

1409 - Council of Pisa attempts to end Great Schism declaring both rival popes deposed & electing third: Alexander V. Previous two popes intransigent, resulting in three rival popes

1409 - Pope Alexander V publicly burns 200 of John Wycliffe's writings

1410 – Rublev's *Holy Trinity* icon painted

1412-1431 - **Joan of Arc**

1413 – **Margery Kempe** d. mainly known as biographer of Julian

1414 - Lollard uprising in England fails. Some Lollards retreat underground & aid Protestant Reformation in sixteenth century

1414-1418 – **Council of Constance** 16th Ecumenical Council in Roman Catholic Church, largest Church meeting in medieval history

- condemns Wycliffe's works, except biblical translations which continue to be used with heretical prologue removed

- declares doctrine of concomitance legitimating lay communion with only bread, affirming the whole of Christ is present in the bread. Practice had become common due to fear of spilling the blood of Christ.

1415 - **John Hus** travels to Council of Constance to propose reforms for Church. Upon arrival tried for heresy & burned at stake (July 6). His death encourages further revolt by his followers

1415 (Oct.25) – Battle of Agincourt Major Battle of 100 Years' War English (mostly archers) under Henry V defeat 25,000 French under Constable d'Albert; French losses exceed 8,000, English – 400

1417 - **Council of Constance** ends Great Schism. Council gains secular support & elects Martin V as pope, deposing all three rival popes, also replaces papal monarchy with conciliar government, which recognizes a council of prelates as pope's authority, mandates frequent meeting of council. This new period known as Italian territorial papacy lasts until 1517 CE.

1420 - Hus' supporters defeat German "crusaders." Lower-class Hussites led by General John Zizka

1427 - **Thomas a Kempis** writes *The Imitation of Christ*, manual directing individual through Orthodox mysticism. Originally in Latin, translated into European languages for lay audience. Major themes concern path of Christian piety for those active in everyday life, communion with Christ, biblical meditation & moral life. Only sacrament suggested is Eucharist. Sceptical about attaining any vision of God. Characterized by anti-rationalism & distinction between natural & supernatural.

1427-1486 – witch-hunting flourishes in northern Italy & southern Germany (estimated 100,000 people 80% women, killed as witches over 300 years)

1429 - **Joan of Arc** (Jeanne d'Arc; 1412-1431), peasant girl in France, seeks out French leader & relates her divinely-inspired mission to drive English out of France. She takes control of French troops & liberates most of central France

1430 - Joan of Arc captured & taken to England. English accuse her of being a witch, condemn her for heresy, publicly burned in city of Rouen

1430 – **Andrew Rublev** d. greatest Russian iconographer

1431 – Vatican library acquires **Codex Vaticanus**, dating from 4c. originally complete Bible from which Genesis, some of Pss., part of Hebs., pastoral epistles, & Rev. disappeared. Along with Codex Sinaiticus (see 1844) most authoritative ancient source for text of NT

1431-1449 – **Council of Florence** (originally Council of Basel) – anti-papal atmosphere, declared Council superior to pope & required all Popes to swear an oath upon election

1438 – **Council of Florence** declares Immaculate Conception a doctrine of the faith declaring Mary conceived & kept free from the taint of original sin

1438 - **Johannes Gutenberg** invents printing press pioneering technology of movable type, creates first Bible printed with movable type in Mainz, Germany, press becomes means for disseminating new ideas, catalyzing political & theological change

1438-1439 – **Council of Florence** attempts to find grounds for reconciliation between Christians of the East & the West. Announced unity never actually materializes. Taught that all unbaptized adults will go to hell even if they have committed no sin because they have inherited the “original” sin from Adam.

1439 – **Juan de Torquemada** (1388-1468) Dominican theologian made Cardinal. First inquisitor-general of the Inquisition in Spain. Known for his severity especially against those found to be illegally practicing Judaism. Estimated 2,000 people executed during period in which he was in charge of the Inquisition.

1447-1510 - **Catherine of Genoa** mysticism spurred in part by neglect & abuse of husband, trauma becomes mystical, argues purgatory = stage on mystical path. Concerned with the spiritual combat between the pure love of God & humanity’s tendency to self-love.

1448 – Russians elect their own Metropolitan without waiting for word from Constantinople

1450-1500 – about 100 printings of the Bible on paper, but still an expensive luxury for most people who remain illiterate learning Bible stories through popular “Miracle,” “Passion” & “Morality” plays.

1452-1498 – **Girolamo Savonarola** Dominican monk/preacher who warned Christians in Northern Italy to repent before imminent destruction brought by the judgment of God

1452-1519 - **Leonardo da Vinci** Italian artist, scientist, & inventor – great example of “Renaissance” man

1453 - last emperor of Byzantium, Constantine XI, leads force of 4,000 troops, succeeds in holding off 160,000 advancing Turks for seven weeks

1453 (May 29) - Ottoman Turks under Sultan Mohammed II defeat Byzantine Empire taking Constantinople renaming it Istanbul = end of Byzantine Empire, which had come into existence in 330 when Constantine I had dedicated Constantinople as his Eastern capital. Remains capital of Turkey until 1923 when moves to Ankara.

1453 - Bordeaux falls to French, Hundred Years' War ends without a treaty

1455-1485 - Wars of the Roses series of wars between House of Lancaster (Red Rose) & House of York (White Rose) in England. Forces of Lancaster win & their leader Henry Tudor (father of Henry VIII) becomes king.

1459 –Turks conquer: Serbia, Greece 1459-60, Bosnia 1463, Egypt 1517 – for next 400 years Muslim Turks hold sway over Orthodox Christians in former Byzantine empire in East

1462 – **Marsilio Ficino** established in a villa outside Florence by Cosmo de Medici to translate Greek texts of Plato into Latin. Before translating Plato instructed to translate collection of Greek manuscripts ascribed to the ancient Egyptian priest, philosopher & visionary Hermes Trismegistus (“Thrice-Great” Hermes), writings known as *Corpus Hermeticism* from 2nd & 3rd c. CE – believed to convey wisdom from ancient Egypt contemporary with Moses, confirmed greatness of human soul in which supreme God resides.

1463 – Pope Eugenius IV authorizes Christian kingdom of Portugal to subdue & convert unbelievers of the Canary Islands who according to King Duarte I of Portugal might appear human but “are not united by a common religion, nor are they bound by the chains of law; they are lacking in normal social intercourse, living in the country like animals.”

1469 - Sir Thomas Malory writes *Le Morte D'Arthur*, poetic legends about King Arthur

1469 – Isabella & Ferdinand marry, joint rulers of Christian Spain

1469-1536 - **Erasmus** Christian humanist opposed Luther in debate over grace & human freedom, assigning greater role in conversion to grace

1469-1538 – Nanak first Sikh guru tried to unite Hindusim & Islam adopting beliefs from both faiths

1470 – Dominican Alanus de Rupe (d. 1475) tells legendary account of rosary given by Mary to Dominic of Guzman (1214)

1473-1481 - Sistine Chapel built under supervision of Giovanni de Dolci

1473-1543 - **Nicolas Copernicus** Polish scholar first produced workable model of solar system with sun at centre, replacing Ptolemaic model of universe & providing foundation for modern astronomy

1475 – witch-hunter Jacob Sprenger founds the Confraternity of the Rosary to promote & popularize this ritual technique of devotion to Mary

1475-1564 - **Michelangelo** Italian painter & sculptor

1476 – **Pope Sixtus IV** offers indulgences which remit punishment for sin after death & thousands of people take advantage of the offer

1477 - First book printed in England

1478 - Spanish Inquisition established by Ferdinand & Isabella with consent of Pope Sixtus IV. Main goal to punish & persecute all "converted" Jews who still managed to practice their old faith in secret

1480 – Ivan III (“The Great”) ends Mongol rule in Russia

1483 - Inca Empire established in Peru

1483 (Nov. 10) - **Martin Luther** born at Eisleben, Germany

1484 - **Pope Innocent VIII** officially denounces pagan practices bestowing his blessing on witch-hunting

1484-1531 - **Ulrich Zwingli** Swiss reformer who viewed Eucharist as purely symbolic bringing him into conflict with Luther

1485 – 1509 – **Henry VII** king of England

1485-1603 - strong **Tudor** dynasty in England

Hensley Henson *The Church of England*, 1939, p. 7 – “The key to a right understanding of the modern Church of England lies in a just appreciation of the unique character of the English Reformation.”

3 Qualities:

1. assertion of national independence – including repudiation of Pope
2. subordination of Church to State
3. determination to secure at all costs historical continuity of Church of England with that of First Apostles

1486 – *Malleus Maleficarum (Hammer of Witches)* published by Dominican inquisitors **Jacob Sprenger & Heinrich Kramer** as a manual for witch-hunting. Not only witches, but those who denied the existence of witches defined as heretics.

1486 – **Giovanni Pico della Muandola** publishes extensive list of 900 theological propositions drawing on *Corpus Hermeticum*, *Chaldean Oracles*, & *Orphic Hymns* arguing for a harmony between Plato, Aristotle & Christianity, also argued “ancient theology of Hebrews” supported Christianity. Drew on wisdom of Islam. Condemned by Pope Innocent III

1487 - **Henry VII** of England removes right of accused heretics to know names of accusers

1488 – Portuguese navigator **Bartholomew Dias** plants cross at eastern cape of South Africa

1488–1569 - **Miles Coverdale**, Augustinian friar who left the Order, repudiated Catholicism & became first Protestant Bishop of Exeter

1490 – **Girolamo Savonarola** brought to Florence by Lorenzo de Medici & installed as prior of Dominican monastery of San Marco from where he preached against corruption of church & world which he believed indicated world would soon end

1491-1551 - **Martin Bucer** sympathized with Zwingli rather than Luther

1491-1556 - **Ignatius of Loyola** founder of Jesuits, Society of Jesus

1491-1547 - **Henry VIII**

1492 – less than 20% of world’s population is Christian, 90% of Christians live in what will become Europe

1492 - Ferdinand of Aragon & Isabella of Castile having joined forces through marriage (later benefactors of Christopher Columbus), with help of Tourquemada, Grand Inquisitor, defeat last of Muslims in Granada ending Muslim rule in Spain & bringing Spain under Christian rule. Also force conversion or expulsion of all Jews in Spain

1492 - **Christopher Columbus** (1451-1506) discovers Americas in name of Spain, ushering in era of exploration & conquest

1494 – **Watler Hilton** (d.1396) book *Scala Perfectionis* first published. Describes reformation of the defaced image of God in the soul in two stages: “in faith,” then in “faith & feeling,” separated by a mystical “dark night” in which soul is detached from earthly things & directed to the things of the spirit

1494 – French monarch Charles VIII enters Florence banishing the ruling Medici family, leaving a political vacuum in which **Savonarola** establishes a theocratic government

1495 – Pope Alexander VI gives formal approval for use of rosary – Creed holding cross, “Our Father” on large beads, Ave Maria on each of ten smaller beads, last large bead – “Gloria”

1496-1561 - **Menno Simons**

1496 – Canary Islands brutally conquered by Portuguese who justify violence because natives were “savages,” not considered human

1497 - Jews expelled from Portugal

1497 – **Vasco de Gama** (1469-1524) sets off from Portugal in search of sea route to India around top of Africa

1498 – **Savonarola** (May 23), fiery Dominican reformer of Florence in Italy having summoned a council to depose the Pope is hanged as a schismatic & heretic

1499 - **Francisco Jimenez** (1436-1517) Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo, forces mass conversion of Muslims

1491-1556 - **Ignatius of Loyola**, founder of Jesuit order (see 1534)

1494-1536 - **William Tyndale**

16c. – “Third Rome” = Moscow – theory became political reality (“Second Rome” had been Constantinople)

1500 – there are 654 Cistercian convents for women & 730 monasteries for men

c. 1500 – mass proliferation of new invention – the mirror

1501 - Church orders books against papal authority burned

1501 – (Nov. 14) **Catherine of Aragon** (age 16) youngest surviving child of Ferdinand & Isabella of Spain marries Arthur eldest son of Henry VII. Six months later Arthur dies.

1502-1520 - Reign of last Aztec ruler, Montezuma

1502 - Persian shah executes Sunnis who refuse to accept Shiite version of Islam

1505 – **Luther** becomes monk

1505-1572 - **John Knox**, Protestant reformer in Scotland (see 1560)

1506 - Pope Julius II orders old St Peter's Basilica torn down & authorizes Donato Bramante to plan new structure, demolition completed 1606

1506 - Approximately 3,000 converted Jews slaughtered in Lisbon riot

1507 - **Martin Luther** ordained & celebrates first Mass

1508-1512 - Michelangelo frescoes Sistine Chapel's vaulted ceiling.

1509 - Pope Julius II excommunicates city of Venice

1509 (June 24) - **Henry VIII** crowned king of England (to 1547) in joint ceremony with new wife **Catherine of Aragon**

1509–1564 - **John Calvin** preached predestination, good conduct & success are signs of election, most influential of second generation of reformers

1510 – first African slaves taken to Americas

1511 – **Henry VIII** begins proceedings to dissolve marriage to Catherine (commonly done for right price). In this case political considerations came into play. Catherine was aunt of Charles V, King of Spain & Emperor of Holy Roman Empire, ruler of Netherlands, Naples, Sicily, & Sardinia therefore in temporal control of Rome. Henry waited 7 years before trying again.

1512 – Michelangelo completes ceiling of Sistine Chapel in Rome

1512-1573 – extensive Spanish conquests in the Americas result in reduction of native population of Mexico from 25 to 1 million

1513-1572 - **John Knox** Scottish Reformer, disciple of Calvin

1514 – Thomas Wolsey (1474–1530) made Archbishop of York, in 1515 made a Cardinal & month later Lord Chancellor of England – concentration of power effectively uniting Church & State. However, when he failed to obtain Papal dispensation for Henry’s annulment from Catherine he incurred wrath of Anne Boleyn & through her the King’s displeasure. Paved way for Henry to think of the possibility of uniting Church & State under the crown.

1514 - Albrecht becomes archbishop of Mainz & sells **indulgences** in return for contributions to building St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

1515 (March 28) - Teresa Sanchez de Cepeda y Ahumada (**St. Teresa of Avila**) born. Spanish Carmelite nun formed Discalced (barefoot) Carmelites with St. John of the Cross – stages of mystical journey

1516 (Feb.) – **Catherine of Aragon** gives birth to Mary, her only surviving child of seven pregnancies

1516 – Ottomans conquer Syria

1516 – Sir Thomas More’s *Utopia*

1516 – Erasmus (1469-1535), northern humanist produces improvised Greek edition of New Testament, using historical & linguistic methods of biblical scholarship discovers that the author of the texts ascribed to Dionysius the Areopagite could not have been the historical Dionysius of the Book of Acts but rather was written in 6 c. causing texts to begin to decline in importance.

1516 – Indulgence issued for rebuilding of St. Peter’s Rome. **Johann Tetzel** (c.1465-1519) German Dominican friar & preacher of indulgences supports public opinion that mere payment of money could be applied with unfailing effect to deliver soul from purgatory

1517 (Oct 31) - Luther posts **95 Theses** on church door in Wittenberg, protesting sale of indulgences & other corrupt church practices. Frequently identified as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation

Reformation many divisive forces at work in 16c. Europe – translation of Bible into

vernacular, invention printing press, new learning Renaissance – questioning mindless adherence to authority, emergence of new sciences

- desire for a religion of the heart in place of the dominant formalism & over-reliance on externals of Medieval church

- brings to an end Roman papal hegemony over Western Christendom. Catholicism comes to be known as “Roman Catholicism,” one denomination among many. Four major churches emerge: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed (general name for various national Calvinist churches) & Anglican

4 questions Protestantism answered differently from Catholicism:

1. How person saved? not by works but by faith alone
2. Where does religious authority lie? not in visible institution called Roman Church, but in Word of God found in the Bible
3. What is the Church? not institution dominated by Roman hierarchy, but whole community of Christian believers
4. What is essence of Christian living? serving God in any useful calling ordained or lay

1518 – **Johann Tetzel** argues that Luther’s attack on indulgences is an attack on papal authority & that undermining papal authority will cause the neglect of sacraments doubt of preachers, & undermining of Bible, “Everyone will interpret Scripture as takes his fancy. And all sacred Christendom must come into great spiritual danger when each individual believes what pleases him most.”

1518 - At meeting of Augustinians in Heidelberg, **Martin Luther** defends his theology. In October, Luther appears before Cardinal Cajetan at Augsburg, but refuses to recant. In December, his prince, Frederick the Wise, refuses to hand him over to Rome.

1518 – **Huldreich Zwingli** (1481-1531) is appointed by the city government to the major preaching post in Zurich starting the Swiss Reformation. Zwingli preaches against the veneration of saints & launches campaign to remove all religious images from the churches of Zurich.

1519 - Martin Luther claims to understand the "righteousness of God" as "passive righteousness with which God justifies us by faith" [some scholars date this discovery earlier] In July debates Catholic Professor John Eck at Leipzig & denies supreme authority of popes & councils

1519-1521 - Hernando Cortes, Spanish conquistador, conquers Mexico with force of about 500 soldiers using mixture of guile & force against Aztec & Mayan natives

1520 (Oct. 10) - Papal bull *Exsurge Domine* condemns 41 of Luther’s beliefs, gives Luther 60 days to recant or be excommunicated

Luther writes 3 seminal treatises, *To the Christian Nobility*, *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, and *The Freedom of a Christian*.

Luther burns papal bull that excommunicated him as well as books of canon law

1520 - Unsuccessful rebellion of Aztecs against Spanish conquerors. Cortes destroys Tenochtitlan & builds Mexico City in its place

1521 – **Ignatius of Loyola** – after being wounded fighting in France as a Spanish soldier secludes himself in an isolated cave in Manrea Spain where he has a number of deep spiritual experiences that he records in a notebook which later become the *Spiritual Exercises*

1521 - **Martin Luther** condemned as heretic & outlaw at **Diet of Worms** in April. On trial before Emperor Charles V & other leaders of church & state, refuses to recant his writings. After Diet of Worms, he is "kidnapped" by Frederick the Wise & hidden at Wartburg Castle. There begins translating Erasmus' Greek New Testament into vernacular German. Said to Melancthon – “Be a sinner & sin strongly, but even more strongly put your faith & your joyous hope in Christ.”

1522 (March) - **Luther** comes out of hiding & returns to Wittenberg, helping to reestablish order

1521 – at his request title “Defend of the Faith” is conferred upon **Henry VIII** by Pope Leo X in recognition of Henry's treatise *Assertio Septem Sacramentorum* in which he had defended the doctrine of the seven sacraments against Luther.

1522 - **Zwingli** condemns priestly celibacy, leads Swiss reformation from pastorate in Zurich

1522 - **Martin Luther** finishes New Testament translation, first published in September

1522 – reformer **Andreas Karlstadt** publishes *On The Abolition of Images* in which he claims that the use of images in worship is forbidden in the Ten Commandments

1523 – Zurich city government led by Ulrich Zwingli, “puritanical city”

1524 – Luther still wearing monk's habit

1525 – **Luther** marries former nun Katharina von Bora

1525 (Jan. 25) – Conrad Grebel baptized George Blaurock in Zurich, first recorded adult baptism – birth of **Anabaptist** movement develops in Switzerland & Germany, harshly persecuted by both Catholics & Protestants

Anabaptist principles:

- baptism is contingent upon a mature confession of faith based on individual conversion through sincere repentance rather than being a sacrament administered to infants, deny any efficacy in infant baptism

- discipleship – Christian's relationship with Jesus goes beyond inner experience & doctrine to involve daily walk with God in which Christ's teaching & example transform life, assume outward change of behaviour after conversion

- love – pacifism & community
- “congregational” view of church authority
- separation of church & state = almost unheard of idea

1525 (March) – inspired by Luther’s teaching on freedom the tanner Sebastian Lotzer & the pastor Christoph Schappler draw up the *Twelve Articles of the Peasants* listing long-standing grievances over rents, taxes, servitude & forced labour framed in evangelical terms. Motivates south German peasant uprising. Luther responds by writing *Against the Robbing & Murdering Hordes of Peasants* in which he states that anyone who kills a rebellious peasant is performing a service to God. As German princes suppress the peasant revolts over 100,000 peasants are killed. This marks the beginning of 150 years of religious wars

1525-1534 **William Tyndale's** translation of the NT from Greek text of Erasmus (1466). Used as vehicle by Tyndale for bitter attacks on Church, reflects influence of Luther's NT of 1522 in rejecting "priest" for "elder," "church" for "congregation." Tyndale soundly rebuked by Chancellor of Gloucester – “I would sooner the Pope’s Word than God’s.”

Tyndale – “If God spare my life, ere many years pass, I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the scriptures than thou dost.”

up to 80% Tyndale’s wording passed into KJV NT

1525-1624 – **Jacob Boehme** God is the ground of being, *Ungrund*

1526 – **Henry VIII** in conflict with pope Clement VII over annulment of Henry’s marriage to Catherine of Aragon on basis of Leviticus 20:21 (papacy dominated by Charles of Spain – Catherine’s nephew) in order to marry Anne Boleyn

1527 (Jan. 25) - Felix Many first Anabaptist martyr downed at Zurich

1527 – Schleithem Confession – Anabaptist confession of faith rejected what most citizens consider the normal obligations of citizenship: oaths, tithes, military service

1529 - Luther publishes *Large Catechism & Small Catechism*

1529 – Marburg Colloquy – German Lutheran Prince Philip Hesse hoping for a united Protestant front against Catholic military forces brings together Lutherans & Zwinglians who are able to agree to fourteen of fifteen articles but cannot agree on Eucharist. Zwingli believes supper is primarily an act of thanksgiving for the gospel (symbolic & memorial view). Luther believes supper is a concrete offer of the gospel (sacramental emphasis on Christ’s real presence) – the “substance” of the flesh was present “in, with & under the substance of the bread” (“consubstantiation”)

1529 - term "Protestant" originates at Diet of Speyer when supporters of Luther formally protest imperial efforts to limit spread of Lutheranism

1529 - Royal decree in Denmark makes Lutheranism sole religion. At Marburg conference Luther says to Swiss reformers – “Our spirit has nothing in common with your spirit.”

1529 - Japanese Tendai monks massacre Nichiren Buddhists in Kyoto

1529 – **Thomas Cranmer** suggests to Henry consult Universities of Europe for judgment on legal status of marriage to Catherine. Henry so liked the idea employed Cranmer at Royal Court

1530 - Luther, as an outlaw, cannot attend Diet of Augsburg which was held in attempt to end religious division in Holy Roman Empire. Philipp Melanchthon, Luther's co-worker, presents *Augsburg Confession*, statement of Lutheran beliefs & thus founds Lutheran church.

1531 – **St. Teresa** (age 16) sent as boarder to Convent of Our Lady of Grace run by Augustinian nuns

1531 – **Zwingli** killed in Swiss civil war between Catholics & Protestants

1531 - Reported apparition of Mary at Guadalupe, Mexico considered "worthy of belief" by Catholic Church

1531 - Earthquake in Lisbon, Portugal kills 30,000

1531 - Comet, eventually named "Haley's" creates wave of superstition

1531 - Lutheran states form Schmalkaldic League as alliance against Holy Roman Empire

1531 - Inquisition begins in Portugal

1532 – **Thomas Cranmer** travelling in Europe meets & secretly marries Margaret Osiander, niece of Andreas Osiander, Lutheran Reformer. Upon return to England, Cranmer appointed Archbishop of Canterbury

1533 - Francisco Pizarro captures Inca capital Cuzco & conquers Peru, orders execution by strangulation of last Inca

1533 (Jan) – Anne Boleyn becomes pregnant **Henry VIII** secretly marries her

1533 (May 23) - Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine declared invalid by Cranmer. Henry denies Pope's authority over England so can marry Anne Boleyn

1533 (July 11) – Henry excommunicated by Pope Clement VII

1533-1584 - Ivan "the Terrible" Czar of Russia

1534 – Reformers in Geneva overturning altars, breaking statues & stealing consecrated Hosts to subject them to public ridicule

1534 - Luther publishes complete German Bible.

1534 – Henry passes **Act of Supremacy** confirming King & successors with title “the only supreme head in earth of the Church of England called Anglicana Ecclesia” & “the Bishop of Rome hath not by scripture any greater authority in England than any other foreign bishop.” Only in a sense beginning of the Church of England. Henry’s only intention was to seize papal powers for himself & the Archbishop of Canterbury. Law passed forbidding any further payments to pope, but this law is “not to be interpreted as intending to decline or vary from the congregation of Christ’s Church in anything concerning the very articles of the Catholic faith.”

Not religious but political Reformation – nothing changed doctrinally. After connection from Rome severed Church of England continued religious customs & practices as before. Sacraments not altered; services in Latin; priests remained celibate.

1534 - Jesuit order founded by **Ignatius of Loyola** (1491-1556), Spain, helped reconvert large areas of Poland, Hungary, & S. Germany, sent missionaries to New World, India, & China, led Roman Counter-Reformation

1534 – Jacques Cartier explores Canada

1534-1540 - **Pope Paul III**

1535-1537 - Coverdale's Bible (see 1488), used Tyndale's (1525) translation along with Latin & German versions, includes Apocrypha at the end of the OT (like Luther) as in later English versions. 1537 edition receives royal license, but is banned in 1546

1536 – **St. Teresa** leaves home, against father’s will, to join the moderate Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation in Avila

1536 - Luther agrees to Wittenberg Concord on Lord's Supper in attempt to resolve differences with other reformers, but Zwinglians do not accept it

1536 - **John Calvin** arrives in Geneva publishes first edition of his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, destined to become one of most influential works of Protestantism. Details theology of humanity's depravity, necessity of grace for salvation & predestination which became one of the cornerstones of Calvin’s theology. Rejects the universal saving will of God, maintaining that Christ’s atoning death is offered only to the elect who are freely saved by God just as the non-elect are freely damned & denied salvation for all eternity through no fault of their own. Starts theocracy in Geneva but is criticized for forming a “New Papacy” & driven out

1536 – **William Tyndale** strangled & burnt at stake in Brussels, where he had gone into exile in order to continue translating Scriptures into English

One year later Henry VIII authorizes the “**Great Bible**,” be bought & read throughout the realm = **Coverdale's Bible** (Miles Coverdale, an Augustinian friar who left the Order, repudiated Catholicism & became first Protestant Bishop of Exeter), used Tyndale's (1525) translation along with Latin & German versions, included Apocrypha at end of OT (like Luther) as was done in later English versions. 1537 edition received royal license, but banned

in 1546. While defective in many places, was corrected by a Latin version of the Hebrew OT, the Latin Bible of Erasmus, & the Complutensian Polyglot. Last edition appeared 1569, never denounced by Church of England

1536 - **Anne Boleyn** executed. Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour

1536 – Ibrahim, friend of Sulliman murdered

1537 (Nov. 3) – St. Teresa’s final profession

1537-1551 - Circulation of Matthew Bible by John Rogers (1500-1555). This translation based on Tyndale & Coverdale received royal license, but was not authorized for use in public worship. There were numerous editions.

1538 – **Calvin** driven out of Geneva

1538 – Teresa suffers complete physical break down for three years during which she is at one point presumed dead

1539 – enlarged edition of Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion* published becomes the text-book of Reformed theology. Central doctrines: the absolute sovereignty of God, basis of all Christian faith is the Word of God revealed in the Scriptures, inability of anyone to find pardon or salvation apart from the working of God’s free grace.

1539 – *The Six Articles* of Church of England instituted by Henry VIII to prevent spread of Reformation doctrines & practices: 1. maintained transubstantiation, 2. communion in one kind, 3. enforced clerical celibacy, 4. upheld monastic vows, 5. defended private Masses, 6. obligatory sacramental confession. Requirements largely ignored by those holding high ecclesiastical office

1539 – Mercator’s first map shows that the world does not consist of three continents with Jerusalem at the centre

1540’s – Portuguese missionaries arrive in India

1540 – Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) founded by **Ignatius of Loyola** (1534) approved by Vatican & placed services entirely at disposal of pope. (*Exercises* contain rule to “believe that what seems to us white is black if that should be the decision of the hierarchical church”

“A community founded principally for the advancement of souls in Christian life & doctrine,” but also a religious order “for the propagation of the faith by the ministry of the word, by spiritual exercises, by words of charity, & expressly by the instruction in Christianity of children & the uneducated.”

In his *Spiritual Exercises* Ignatius developed techniques for working with mental imagery, emotions, & the internal senses, adapting techniques of visualization from *devotio moderna* “to help the exercitant to conquer himself.” Recommended use of the imagination to make Christ or the Virgin directly present to the powers of the soul.

1540-1700 – The Inquisition examines 49,000 cases & burns almost eight hundred people alive & about an equal number in effigy because it could not get hold of them.

1541 - **Calvin**, invited back by Synod of Geneva to head theocratic Protestant government in Geneva, Switzerland, known as Europe's only "Free City." Works to transform urban "turmoil" of Geneva into Protestant order until his death in 1564.

1542 – **Francis Xavier**, close associate of Ignatius arrives in Goa, South India

1542 - Portugese merchants first arrive in Japan

1542 - Pope Paul II establishes Universal Inquisition in Rome. Dominican cardinals try alleged heretics with no legal counsel

1542-1591 - **John of the Cross** stressed union with God attainable only in denial of self. "Dark night" of the senses – renunciation of all things one appreciates, "dark night of the Spirit" – sense of alienation & isolation which leaves one unable to pray or perform normal duties.

1543 - Spanish Catholics begin burning Protestants at the stake

1543 – **Luther** publishes *On the Jews and Their Lies* which opens with the statement: "I had made up my mind to write no more either about the Jews or against them. But since I learned that those miserable and accursed people do not cease to lure to themselves even us, that is, the Christians, I have published this little book, so that I might be found among those who opposed such poisonous activities of the Jews and who warned the Christians to be on their guard against them. I would not have believed that a Christian could be duped by the Jews into taking their exile and wretchedness upon himself. However, the devil is the god of the world, and wherever God's word is absent he has an easy task, not only with the weak but also with the strong. May God help us. Amen."

Proposed eight-point plan for getting rid of Jews by religious conversion or expulsion including burning their synagogues, schools & homes, confiscating their religious texts, abolishing the guarantee of safe-conduct for them on the highways, confiscating their wealth, and driving them out of the country, "like mad dogs."

1543 - **Nikolaus Copernicus** writes *De Revolutionibus Orbitum Coelestium* "On the revolutions of the heavenly spheres" asserting that Earth & planets revolve around sun. Catholic Church has accorded an official holy status to Ptolemy's geocentric Universe. Copernicus avoids prosecution as heretic by waiting until end of his life to publish controversial claims

1544 - Sweden makes Lutheranism official state religion & bans Catholic worship

1544 – Parliament recognizes "Defender of the Faith" as official title of British monarch

1544 -1547 - Schmalkaldic League (alliance of Protestant Groups in Germany that had united against Charles V) defeated in war with Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (1500-1558)

1545 - Luther writes “Against the Papacy at Rome. Founded by the Devil”

1545-1563 - **Council of Trent** under Pope Paul III marks beginning of Catholic Reformation, or counter- reformation (75% of bishops in attendance are Italian bishops). Sought to meet challenge of Protestantism & clearly define official theology, condemned idea that a human being “can be justified before God by his own works, whether done either by his own natural powers or through the teaching of the law, without divine grace through Jesus Christ.” Accorded full canonical status to *deuterocanonical* Hebrew writings (the *Apocrypha* – Grk “those having been hidden away”) of questionable authorship or authenticity because had not been accepted by Jewish elders into Hebrew canon, & never quoted in NT

1546 (Feb. 18) - Luther dies in Eisleben

1546 - King Henry VIII forbids anyone to have copy of Tyndale's or Coverdale's NT

1546 (Aug 3) - Etienne Dolet hanged & burnt at the stake as a heretic & blasphemer for printing works of humanists, including Erasmus

1547 – Henry VIII dies - Roman mass still in use, no indigenous English prayer book, system of church government unchanged from Rome – only change supremacy of pope has been repudiated

1547 – Ivan III the Terrible (1533-1584) crowned Tsar

1547 - **Edward VI** (age 9) becomes King of England. Country governed by Regency Council which inaugurated time of radical Protestantizing. Thomas Cranmer becomes one of Edward’s most influential advisers

1548 – the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius of Loyola published

1548-1600 - **Giordano Bruno** Hermetic philosopher one of most important philosophers of Renaissance, advocated kind of nature mysticism with strong scientific component.

Hermeticism – followers of legendary figure Hermes Trismegistus (“thrice-great Hermes”), reputed to be an Egyptian writer. Much nature writing of Renaissance found hermetic thought useful because both understood world to be intrinsically interconnected & only understandable once those connections are understood

1549 - **Book of Common Prayer** in England by Cranmer establishes liturgy & practice for Church of England. Made up of English translation of *Latin Beviary* (prayers, hymns, psalms, readings); *Missal* (rights & ceremonies of mass) & *Pontifical* (Episcopal sacraments & rites) Some revision from originals but no difference in essential matters. Did permit clergy to marry, restored Chalice to people, made confession voluntary not obligatory. *BCP* imposed on England by “Act of Uniformity”

1549 - St. Francis Xavier arrives in Japan & introduces Christianity

1551 – Robert Estienne, French printer in Geneva divides Stephen Langton’s Bible chapters

into verses

1551-1552 – Second session of Council of Trent

1552 - Cranmer's 2nd BCP revision making it more Protestant & adding 42 "Articles of Religion" formed basis of later Thirty-Nine articles, but never enforced because of restoration of RC faith under Queen Mary

1553–1558 - Catholic **Queen Mary** (1516-1558) reigns in England, persecuting Protestants & restoring Catholicism as official religion. Known as "Bloody Mary" so violent succeeded in instilling hatred in English people against herself & Papacy. Imprisoned Cranmer & had him tried for heresy. He made several recantations affirming belief in transubstantiation & Papal supremacy in attempt to be obedient to his Queen who he believed reigned by divine right, later renounced his recantations. Cranmer died at the stake March 21, 1556 showing great courage. Mary put a hold on radical Protestantizing tendencies under Edward but also forever makes it impossible for papalism to recapture hearts of the people of England. Some three hundred Protestants were burned as heretics during her reign.

1553 - Pontifical Gregorian University founded at Vatican City

1554-1600 - **Richard Hooker** gives intellectual shape to Anglican Church, opposed Puritan idea that whatever was not expressly commanded in Scripture must not be allowed. Church = organic institution, therefore method of Church Government & ecclesiastical administration will change according to circumstances. Exalted reason, tolerance & inclusiveness

1555 - Peace of Augsburg reduces religious hostilities in Holy Roman Empire by allowing princes to choose Catholicism or Lutheranism for their subjects. Commonly viewed as signifying end of the Protestant Reformation. (see 1648)

1555 - Pope Paul IV orders wall built in Rome to create first Jewish ghetto

1555-1626 - **Lancelot Andrewes**

1558 - **Elizabeth I** Tudor (1533-1603) Anne Boleyn's daughter, succeeds Mary as Queen of England, restores Protestantism as official religion. Puritan movement develops among those dissatisfied with her reforms. Left to Elizabeth to settle between Puritanism of Edward & papalism of Mary, desires to be inclusive/balanced. When she came to the throne she was declared illegitimate by Rome, country as a whole still predominantly Catholic. Some believe that Elizabeth had no strong convictions of her own but was prejudiced against Catholicism for having declared her illegitimate. Also, however, personally disliked Puritans.

Three groups Christians in Church of England:

1. **ROMANISTS** – there from beginning wanted to be subject to Rome
2. **PURITANS** – felt Elizabeth had not gone far enough in Protestant direction, took name from desire to purify Church of England of any traces of origins in Roman Catholic Church. Wanted to start new English Church based entirely on Reform

principles

3. **CHURCHMEN** – preserve doctrine & sacraments known from beginning but keep English Church free from Roman domination = Anglicans

1558 - **John Knox** publishes *First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women* deploring authority of women, & returns to Scotland to lead reformation there after exile in Calvin's Geneva

1559 – Elizabeth I's **Act of Uniformity BCP** imposed on England, absence from church made punishable by fine of twelve pence

1559 – Elizabeth's first Parliament approves new **Act of Supremacy**, reviving father's legislation against Rome & imposing oath on all clergy & secular officials to acknowledge queen as Supreme Governor of both Church & State, assertion of monarch's responsibility before God for welfare of Church of England

1559 – first national synod of Reformed church in France (Huguenots) meets in Paris

1559–1633 – **George Herbert**, poet & parish priest

1560 - Publishing of *Geneva Bible*. NT revision of Matthew's version of Tyndale with use of Beza's NT (1556); OT thorough revision of Great Bible, appointed to be read in Scotland (but not England), at least 140 editions

1560 - Scotch Presbyterian Church founded by John Knox (1505-1572), disciple of Calvin, due to disagreement with Lutherans over sacraments & church government

1561 – **Sulliman** Ottoman Sultan d.

1561-1563 – third & final session of Council of Trent (no Council met for another 200 years)

1561–1626 – **Francis Bacon**

1562 (July) – **St Teresa** returns to Avila, receives permission to found St. Joseph's convent of Discalced (barefoot) Reformed Carmelites, opened August 24

1562 - **War of Religion** begins in France between Catholics & French Protestants (Huguenots who briefly establish a Protestant regime in Lyons)

1562 – **John of the Cross** ordained

1563 – final session of Council of Trent declares that “The true God is offered in the Mass, a proper, propitiatory sacrifice for the living & the dead, & in the Holy Eucharist there are truly & substantially the body & the blood, together with the soul & the divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1563 - **Thirty-nine Articles** motivated by political concerns, Elizabeth passed *Thirty-nine*

Articles, though more Protestant than she would have liked = only attempt at doctrinal statement by Church of England other than Creeds. Shaped by controversies of 16c. Main controversy over understanding of Eucharist in 1552 BCP – “Black Rubric” denied “Real Presence” of Christ in Eucharist

JWC Wand – since, however, Church of England “claimed to represent a continuity of the age-long historic church, it did not find it necessary, as some churches on the continent did, to formulate its whole scheme of Christianity afresh from the beginning. All it needed to do was to make clear its attitude towards Rome & towards the more important changes induced by the revolt against her.”

1564 - To commute his death sentence from Inquisition for dissecting human bodies, Andreas Vesalius makes pilgrimage to Holy Land

1564-1642 - **Galileo** Italian scientist, forced by Rome to renounce belief in Copernicus vision of universe & to assert earth stands still with sun revolving around it

1564-1616 - William Shakespeare

1565 – **St. Teresa** *The Life of Saint Teresa* & begins *The Way of Perfection*

1566 – Suleiman I, 10th Ruler of Ottoman Empire d.

1567 – violent anti-Protestant riots unite Catholics in Lyons

1567 – **Teresa** meets **John of the Cross**

1567-1622 - **St. Francis de Sales** French mystic

1568 - Protestant Netherlands rebel against Catholic Spanish rule, but Dutch independence not finally recognized by Spain until 1648

1568 (Nov.) – Teresa & John of the Cross found first reformed Discalced Carmelite friary for men

1570 (April 27) - Pope Pius V issues **Bull of Excommunication** declaring Elizabeth deprived of her right to throne & releasing all subjects from allegiance to her. Orders Romans to withdraw from church of England and worship by themselves. Marks final separation of English & Roman churches. Didn't work.

1572 - Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day under Catherine de Medicis in France: 2,000 French Calvinists (Huguenots) murdered by Catholics

c.1573-1631 - **John Donne** first of five Caroline “metaphysical poets:” George Herbert (1593-1633), Henry Vaughan (1621-1695), Thomas Traherne (1637-1674), Richard Crashaw (c.1612-1649)

1573-1645 - **William Laud** Archbishop of Canterbury

1574 – **Everard Mercurian** French General of Jesuits forbade practice of affective prayer & application of five senses, thus limiting prayer to discursive meditation

1575-1624 - **Jacob Boehme** concerned with nature of sin, evil & redemption. Consistent with Lutheran theology, preached that humanity had fallen from state of divine grace to state of sin & suffering, that forces of evil included fallen angels who had rebelled against God, & God's goal was to restore world to a state of grace

1575-1641 – **Dom Augustine Baker** English Roman Catholic priest

1577 - Orthodox creeds of Lutheranism established as Lutheran churches accept Book of Concord

1577 - Francis Drake sails around world (until 1580)

1577-1578 – **John of the Cross** imprisoned & tortured by Carmelites of the Old Observance

1578 – **Queen Elizabeth** orders navigators “to discover & take possession of such remote, heathen, & barbarous lands, as were not actually possessed by any Christian prince or people.”

1578 – Pope Pius V officially recognizes the addition, “Pray for us sinners, now & at the hour of our death” to the Ave Maria in saying the rosary

1582 - Douay Version of New Testament (English translation) completed. After OT translation completed in 1610, becomes first English translation authorized by & for Roman Catholics

1582 - Gregorian calendar introduced into Roman Catholic countries

1583 – first Jesuit missionaries arrive in Japan led by the Italian Matteo Ricci (1552-1610)

1584 - Reginald Scot attacks superstition in *The Discoverie of Witchcraft*.

1585-1638 – **Cornelius Jansen** Louvain professor who became bishop of Ypres in Flanders from whom **Jansenism** takes its name – following Augustine holds to total depravity of human race, inability for any good on the part of the natural human will, irresistible nature of grace & therefore absolute determinism – we have no choice whether we go to heaven or to hell; the decision is predestined, limited atonement, repudiated justification by faith & was anti-mystical & deeply penitential.

1586 - Colony of Roanoke established in Virginia, later disappears under unknown circumstances

1587 – **Mary Queen of Scots**, with whom Romanists along with Pope Pius V had tried to replace Elizabeth, executed for plotting to assassinate Elizabeth. Brings on Spanish attack

1587 - Christians persecuted in Japan for first time. Hideyoshi bans Christianity from Japan when he is refused sex for religious reasons

1588 - Spanish Armada defeated by English fleet under Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Francis Drake & Sir John Hawkins. Removed Spanish threat from England, kindled new nationalism that went on to make England foremost Protestant power in Europe & led to increasing persecution of Roman Catholics.

1589 – Muscovite bishop Job recognized as first Patriarch of All Russia

1590's – Protestant theologian Richard Hooker uses English word “religions” in plural for first time, proposing there are two religions – Protestant & Catholic. Up to this point the word “religion” in English did not have a plural, the only alternative to “religion” being *superstitio*

1590 – Michelangelo's dome in St. Peter's Basilica completed

1591 – d. **John of the Cross**

1593 – Russian Church received approval of status as patriarchate from bishops of Jerusalem, Alexandria & Antioch

1593 - Diet of Uppsala in Sweden upholds Martin Luther's doctrines

1596-1650 - **Rene Descartes** French philosopher & scientist “father of modern theology” “*Cogito, Ergo sum*” = end result of search for something that can not be doubted, relied on reason to explain working of universe, forefather of Enlightenment (18c.) fulfilled the way that had been prepared by St. Thomas Aquinas for radical dualism between soul & body, mind & matter in which body & all physical world regarded as totally deprived of all spiritual or non-material qualities & powers.

“The only profit I seemed to have gained from trying to become educated was to have discovered progressively my own ignorance.”

1596 - Ukrainian Catholic Church forms when Ukrainian subjects of king of Poland reunited with Rome; largest Byzantine Catholic Church

1598 - French king Henry IV (1553-1610) issues Edict of Nantes, ending bloody Wars of Religion & granting religious freedom to Protestants/Huguenots

ENLIGHTENMENT 17 & 18c. – celebration of power of human reason, religious tolerance, desire for freedom from tyranny. Hopes to discover knowledge through observation & experiment, the scientific mind.

Gives rise to “Modernism” (the fulfillment of the 14-17c. Renaissance): loss of any sense of transcendence. Ascendency of technological, deductive, scientific materialism, rationality, & a horizontal view of the universe. Begins to shift in twentieth century to “Post-Modern” view (see Appendix IV).

Quietism – spirituality of 17th c. minimized human activity. Human responsibility is to be perfect by attaining complete passivity & annihilating will abandoning oneself to God –

state reached through mental prayer which refuses all discursive meditation & simply rests in presence of God in pure faith – gave contemplative prayer bad name from 17th to 20th cent., associated with Spanish priest **Miguel de Molinos** (c.1640-1697) & in more moderate form with **Madame Guyon** (1648-1717)

Deism – God = first in series of factors bringing about universe, watchmaker, ‘Supreme Being’ after creation no longer involved in world, rejects supernatural aspects of religion such as belief in revelation in Bible. Stresses importance of ethical conduct

1600 - Giordano Bruno burned at the stake for supporting Copernican astronomy

1600 – **Shakespeare** writes *Hamlet*

1603–1625 - **James I**,(Stuart) only son of Mary, Queen of Scots. King of Scotland since 1567 succeeded Elizabeth I to English throne by right of his mother’s descent from Henry VIII – first to call himself King of Great Britain

1604 - **King James** (1566-1625) of England commissions "King James" translation of Bible, bans Jesuits

1606 – Champlain establishes Port Royal, Nova Scotia

1606 – Jesuit missionary Roberto Nobili (1577-1656) arrives in southern India, learned the language & incorporated local religious practices into his Christian practice

1607 -English settlers establish Jamestown, Virginia first colony in America

1608 - John Smyth (c.1570-1612) establishes Baptist Church due to objections to infant baptism & demands for church-state separation

1608 – Confucianism becomes official religion of Japan

1608 – French colony of Quebec founded

1608-1609 - John Smith (c.1544-1612) Anglican preacher becomes Nonconformist minister, called “the Se-baptist” (self-baptizer), generally considered founder of organized Baptists of England. Called his church “The Brethren of the Separation of the Second English Church at Amsterdam.”

1608-1674 - John Milton

1609 – **Francis de Sales** *Introduction to the Devout Life* published

1609 - Christianized Muslims, called Moriscos, expelled from Spain, depriving Spain of much of its learned class

1610 - tea introduced to Europe

1611 – King James *Authorized Bible* issued after 4 years of work by 54 scholars, commissioned by King James I of England (r.1603-1625). Since KJV trans. more ancient & accurate mss have been discovered (eg. Codex Sinaiticus c.325 & Dead Sea Scrolls found at Qumran in 1947 & Nag Hammadi Library in Upper Egypt 1945) giving much better understanding of world Jesus lived in & of early Christianity

1612 - Christian missionaries evicted from Japan

1613 – Galileo tries to show Copernican theory can exist alongside Church doctrine

1614 - Dutch found colony of New Amsterdam in area of modern-day New York City

1614-1691 – **Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection** Carmelite lay brother in the Paris monastery of the Discalced friars for nearly fifty years where he worked as a cook & sandal-maker. His letters & other fragments of writing were edited after his death & published as *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

1616 – **Francis de Salles** *Treatise on the Love of God*

1616 - Church prohibits Galileo from further scientific work

1617 – Synod of Dort Assembly of Dutch Reformed Church. Condemned Arminianism - theological reaction against Calvinist determinism, insisted that Divine sovereignty is compatible with free will, that Jesus did die for all people, not only the elect. After Synod many Arminians were banished & persecuted.

1618 - Protestant uprising in Bohemia begins Thirty Years' War. Involved: France, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, & numerous states of Germany rooted in national rivalries & conflict between Roman Catholics & Protestants

1619 – first “Negroes” imported from Africa on a ship called “Jesus” by the English colony of Virginia to grow tobacco for export

1619 (Feb 9) - Humanist Lucilio Vanini is tortured & burnt at the stake for atheism

1620 – population of Quebec = 60 persons

1620 - English Puritans, known as Pilgrims, establish colony in America at Plymouth Rock to escape religious pluralism in England

1621- Church bans Johann Kepler's, *The Epitome of the Copernican Astronomer*

1622-1625 - Execution of Christian missionaries to Japan reaches high point

1622-1709 – Cistercian convent of Port-Royal was a centre of Jansenist thought until its dissolution

1623-1662 - **Blaise Pascal**, French mathematician, scientist, religious thinker - reason alone

cannot satisfy people's hopes & aspirations, religious faith therefore necessary. It is prudent to believe in God's existence, nothing lost if wrong, eternal happiness if right = "Pascal's wager." "The heart has reasons of which reason knows not."

1624-1691 - **George Fox** founder Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

1624 - Cardinal Richelieu becomes chief minister in France, continues until 1642, instrumental in raising France to great international power

1625 – **Jean de Brebuf** begins attempts to convert Huron in Quebec

1625–1649 - Charles I (Stuart) King of Great Britain & Ireland

1628 – Jan Amos Comenius, driven from homeland in Moravia, wanders rest of life preaching educational reform & pleading for Christian reconciliation

1632 – Galileo publishes scientific masterpiece showing how Copernican system superior to Ptolemaic, called to Rome

1632-1677 - **Benedict Spinoza** Dutch philosopher argued for form of pantheism & set out arguments like proofs in Geometry

1632–1704 – **John Locke** English philosopher, ardent defender of free inquiry, basis for reason is human experience, argued against the belief that human beings are born with certain ideas already in their minds, rather the mind is a "*tabula rasa*"

1633 (June 21) - Galileo found guilty of disobeying Church order, forced by Inquisition to renounce theories of Copernicus, forced to publicly recant, sentenced to life imprisonment. Descartes stops publishing in France in response to the Church's attacks on Galileo. (1981 Vatican admits error) Books of Copernicus & Galileo officially forbidden to Catholics until 1835.

1633 – **William Laud** High Churchman appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by Charles I, followed vigorous policy enforcing fixed standard of ceremonial & repressing Puritans because they refused to use BCP & wanted altar in nave rather than against east end, they also rejected vestments & used wrong bread at communion. He was unpopular.

1635-1705 - **Jakob Spener** founder of German Pietism

Pietism– seek truth not in church or creed but heart, importance of personal faith, emphasizing presence of God in everyday life, emphasized genuine conversion to God, inner transformation & holiness of life expressed in good works.

Danger of degenerating into spirituality that suffers from sentimentality, biblicism, personalism, exclusionism, fideism, & anti-intellectualism, flourishing in small self-congratulatory groups, impervious to criticism outside the subjective beliefs & structures of its membership because it recognizes no canon of truth. Arises in reaction to disappointing & sterile theology: 15c. nominalism, 17c. German Protestant scholasticism, mid 19c. scientific

positivism, mid 20c. radical theology

1636 – Harvard founded, first university in America

1637 - Japanese outlaw Christianity, foreign books, & contact with Europeans

1637 – Anne Hutchinson claims direct revelation from God, is found guilty of heresy by a Puritan court, excommunicated & banished with her followers to Rhode Island

1638 - Christian rebellion suppressed in Shimabara, Japan

1639 – Baptists from England & Wales form first congregation in Rhode Island (by 1740 there are more than 100 congregations in America). As Baptist church grows, the “General” or “Free Will” (Arminian) churches become more popular than the “Particular” or “Hard Shell” (Calvinist) congregations.

1641- Catholics massacre Protestants in Ulster

1642 - City of Montreal founded in Canada by French settlers

1642–1649 - **English Civil War** (result of Puritan Parliament’s refusal to grant Charles any funds) – between Royalists (Anglicans & Catholics) & Cavaliers (“Roundheads,” Puritans & Presbyterians). Defeat of Royalists meant disestablishment of Church of England & constitution of England as a Republic called the Commonwealth of England

1642-1727 - **Isaac Newton**, English physicist discovered principle of gravity

1643 – **George Fox** begins touring England giving sermons in which he declares that consecrated buildings & ordained ministers are irrelevant to the individual seeking God

1643-1727 - Louis XIV of France, the “Sun King,” palace at Versailles

1644 – Long Parliament directed only Hebrew canon of OT be read in Church of England (effectively removed *Apocrypha*)

1645 (Jan. 10) – **William Laud** executed by Puritans

1646 - Presbyterianism established as national religion in England by Long Parliament. Lasts through English Civil War & afterward during interregnum

1646 – *The Westminster Confession* drafted in Jerusalem Room at Westminster Abbey

1647 - **George Fox** (1624-1691) founds Society of Friends (Quakers) repudiates use of violence & oathswearing. Quakers also worship without ministers or liturgy, teaching existence of "inner light" of divine revelation

1648-1789 – **THE AGE OF REASON AND REVIVAL** (birth of secularism – follow

procedure of science – observation, deduction, reason)

1648 - **Thirty Years' War** ends with Peace of Westphalia, Germany divided between Catholic & Protestant states, end of forced religious conformity in Europe – France emerges as Europe's dominant power. Commonly cited date for end of Protestant Reformation (see 1555)

1648-1717 – **Madame Guyon** French Quietist

1649 (Jan. 30) – **Charles I** executed by Puritans, inaugurating the Commonwealth (1649-1660) during which Puritanism came to ascendancy in England

1649- **Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection** enters Carmelite monastery in Paris where he is in charge of the kitchen

1649 – **Jean de Brebuf** is tortured & killed by the Iroquois, traditional enemies of the Huron who were connected to the French. Iroquois had received guns from the English & Dutch & driven the Huron out of the territory where they had been settling.

1650 - Archbishop James Ussher of Ireland cites Bible to calculate that life emerged on Sunday, October 23, 4004 BCE

1651-1715 – **Francis Fenelon** Archbishop of Cambrai defender of Madame Guyon

1652 - City of Capetown founded in South Africa by Dutch settlers

1653 (July 4) – **Oliver Cromwell** speech at opening of assembly thanks God's providence that he believed had brought England to this point & sets out their divine mission: "truly God hath called you to this work by, I think, as wonderful providences as ever passed upon the sons of men in so short a time". Sometimes known as Parliament of Saints, also called Barebone's Parliament after one of its members, Praise-God Barebone, charged with finding permanent constitutional & religious settlement (Cromwell invited to be member but declined) failure to do so led to its members voting to dissolve it on 12 December 1653 & appointment of Cromwell as Lord Protector of England until death

Puritans banned Christmas, closed theatres, fired clergy, discarded BCP, changed church architecture & structure of Church of England along Presbyterian lines, threw out crosses, denigrated anything associated with Rome

1653 - Taj Mahal mausoleum built in India

1654 – Puritan historian Edward Johnson declares that Puritans leaving England to go to America have escaped captivity in the Old World "to rebuild the most glorious Edifice of Mount Zion in a Wilderness, knowing this is the place where the Lord will create a new Heaven & a new Earth in new Churches & a new Commonwealth."

1654 (Nov.) – **Blaise Pascal**, Catholic layman & outstanding mathematician & scientist has a mystical experience of "fire" which he understands as an encounter with the God of Abraham,

Isaac & Jacob, “not the God of the philosophers & scientists.”

1656 – Quaker missionaries Mary Fisher & Ann Austin arrive in Massachusetts, are arrested in Boston, stripped, searched for marks of witchcraft, & deported. When other Quaker missionaries follow, membership in Society of Friends is declared a crime

1656 – St. Peter’s Rome completed

1658 (Sept. 3) – Cromwell dies, succeeded by son, Richard, overthrown 1660 by George Monk. New parliament elected, monarchy restored under Charles II = “Restoration” return to traditional government, established church, reversion from austerity to luxury, revival of arts, renewal of external authority in religion & theory of arts

1660 - The Amsterdam Synagogue officially petitions municipal authorities to denounce Jewish philosopher Baruch Spinoza as a "menace to all piety & morals"

1660-1685 - Charles II (Stuart) regains throne of England restores Anglicanism as national religion

1662 - **Book of Common Prayer** established as only legal form of worship in England by Act of Uniformity

1662 – Puritans withdraw from Church of England to start own Presbyterian Church

1662 - **Abbot Armand-Jean de Rance** introduces reforms to Cistercian order at La Trappe, France creating The Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (The Trappists)

1662 – Puritans in America declare the Half-Way Covenant in which children of church members are granted partial membership in Puritan churches even if they cannot provide an acceptable testimony of conversion

1662 – Rembrandt completes painting of Prodigal Son

1664 - British forces capture New Amsterdam from Dutch & rename it New York City

1664 - First women condemned as witches in New World

1665 – **John Milton**, *Paradise Lost*

1666 – Great Fire of London

1673 - Roman Catholics & nonconformists in England deprived of public office by Test Act

1675 – Sir Christopher Wren begins new St. Paul’s Cathedral

1675 – **Philipp Jacob Spener** (1635-1714) German Lutheran minister publishes *Pia Desideria* (*Pious Desires*) which becomes manifesto for ‘Pietism’

1675-1751 - **Jean Pierre De Caussade** French Catholic Jesuit

1678 – John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*

1681 – **William Penn** founds American Quaker Colony of Pennsylvania

1685 – James II (Stuart) ascends throne of England openly professing Roman Catholic allegiance. Wants to restore Catholicism & absolute monarchy against peoples’ wishes. People put hopes in his daughter Mary a Protestant. When James II has son who is baptized in RC Church, the nation anticipates permanent entrenchment of Catholicism

1685-1750 - **J.S. Bach** whose music is viewed as one of the most beautiful expressions of Lutheran spirituality

1685-1759 - **George Frederick Handel**

1685 - French king Louis XIV (1683-1714) renounces Edict of Nantes & denies religious freedom to French Protestants, resulting in mass exodus of Huguenots from France

1687 (Nov. 19) – **Quietism** condemned by Innocent XI in bull “Coelestio Pastor”

1686-1761 - **William Law**

1688 – at invitation of English Parliament William of Orange (Mary’s husband) invades England forcing James to flee to France giving up throne to William & Mary II (no bloodshed = “Glorious Revolution”) Had to agree to Bill of Rights severely limiting power of King or Queen

1688-1722 - **Emanuel Swedenborg** detailed understanding of nature mysticism applying it to everything from animal to spiritual world

1689 - Dissenters from Church of England granted rights by **Act of Toleration**. Catholics excluded from the English throne

1689-1752 - Czar Peter the Great starts to modernize Russia

1692 - Salem witch panic & trials occur

1692-1752 - **Bishop Joseph Butler** refuted deism – system of natural religion developed in England in late 17 & 18 c. God is the Creator with no further interest in the world

1694–1778 - **Voltaire** antagonist of Catholic Church, French philosopher known as free thinker

1698 – founding of Society for Propagation of Christian Knowledge

1699 – “planters of St. John’s Harbor,” Newfoundland petition Bishop of London for “a sober clergyman whose first task will be the rebuilding of the church which was here previously, but which was destroyed by the French”

1699 – Pope Innocent XII censures twenty-three propositions from the writing of **Francois Fenelon**. Pope influenced by Jacques Benigne Bossuet, bishop of Meaux (d.1704) who viewed mysticism as “essentially a lamentable extravagance, a kind of spiritual failing tempting the odder saints” & opposed quietism which had earned a bad reputation due to the Spanish priest Miguel De Molinos (c.1640-1697) who taught the need to annihilate all human thoughts & wishes even the hope of heaven or fear of hell in the journey to union with God. Taken to mean there is no lasting purpose in communion with Christ or in participation in Church’s prayers, also accused of teaching there was no point in being chaste.

18c. – in 73 years patriarchal throne of Constantinople changed occupant 48 times

18c&19c. experienced: the Enlightenment, political revolutions in France & America, the Industrial Revolution, the foundation of Modernity when religion no longer dominates spiritually, politically, socially, or intellectually, instead dominance of reason. Few major spiritual writers.

c.1700 – British East India Company formed

1701 – founding of Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

1702-1714 - Anne Queen of England (Stuart)

1702 – Tories (High Church) in power

1703-1758 - **Jonathan Edwards** Congregational preacher & revivalist in America

1703-1791 - **John Wesley** founder of Methodist movement – “I sit down alone; only God is here. In his presence I open, I read his book; for this end, to find the way to heaven.”

Left 57,000 Methodists in England. By 1850 there were more than half a million & more than a million in American, making it the largest church of its day in America.

1704 – **John Locke** d. any opposition to reason should be called madness – “*Tabula Rasa*” – Locke’s belief that at birth human mind = blank slate which gets filled with what perceive through five senses, from which reason forms abstract concepts

1706 - Irish churchman Francis Makemie (c.1658-1708) establishes Presbyterian church in America

1707 - union of England & Scotland

1709 - British invasion of Canada

1711 – Anthony Cooper 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury publishes principle writings, protests against pessimism re: human nature, human beings by nature benevolent, when good simply following their nature

1711-1776 - **David Hume**, Scottish philosopher, known for scepticism, all knowledge based

either on impressions of senses or logical relations of ideas

1712 – bull “*Unigenitus*” reaffirms earlier condemnation of **Jansenism** branch of Catholic thought that emphasized original sin, human depravity, necessity of divine grace, & predestination - human beings born sinful, without divine help human being could never become good. Led Jansenists to seek to exhibit high level of piety & moral rectitude, & to prepare carefully through prayer & confession before receiving Communion so favored less frequent reception. Idea of predestination, based on Augustine's writing, close to Calvinism, only portion of human beings, the "elect", destined to be saved. Unlike Calvinism Jansenism lacked doctrine of assurance, making salvation unknowable even to the "saved."

1712-1778 - **Rousseau**, French philosopher, leading figure of Enlightenment. In natural state people are good but are corrupted by social institutions, became central idea of Romanticism

1714 – Whigs in power until 1760 supported aristocratic families & non-Anglicans (dissenters), while Tories supported Anglicans & monarchy & were hostile to reform

1714-1727 - George I King of England (Hanover)

1716 - Christian religious teaching prohibited in China

1719 - Jesuits expelled from Russia

1720 – collapse of Mughal empire in India, British begin to take power

1720–1760 - American colonies experience **Great Awakening**, widespread conversions emphasizing personal piety & individual interpretations of Bible, associated with Jonathan Edwards & George Whitefield, paralleling Continental Pietism & English Evangelicalism

1721 – all church affairs in Russia are strictly supervised by a “Holy Synod” appointed by the State which remains in control until 1917 enforcing a state religion with the motto, “Orthodoxy, Autocracy, Nationality.”

1721-1742 – Walpole PM of England

1723 - England allows Jews to take oaths without words "On the true faith of a Christian"

1724-1804 - **Immanuel Kant**, German philosopher, cannot know a thing in itself, but only as our mind constitutes it. His critical philosophy revolutionized European thinking about knowledge, morality, & aesthetics

1725 – **tsar Peter the Great** on his deathbed instructs the Danish captain Vitus Bering to organize the discovery & exploration of America

1726 – John of the Cross canonized reawakening Church’s long dormant interest in school of Carmel

1727 – Awakening at Herrnhut launches Moravian Brethren as forerunner of modern Protestant missionary movements

1727-1760 - King George II King of England (Hanover)

1728 – **Jean-Pierre de Caussade** becomes chaplain & spiritual director to a community of cloistered Visitation nuns in Nancy. Sometimes viewed as representing the end of the golden age of 17c. French mysticism looking back to Ignatius Loyola, the Carmelite mystics & Francis de Sales

1728 – *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* **William Law** (1686-1761)

1731 - Expulsion of Protestants from Salzburg

1732-1799 - General George Washington First President of USA

1735 – George Whitefield’s conversion

1736-1819 - **James Watt** develops efficient steam engine

1738 (May 24) – **John Wesley** Aldersgate experience – insists religious revelation matter of personal experience rather than dogma & theory, direct simplicity & appeal to personal feelings helps bring Romantic Movement

1739 – **George Whitefield** begins his tours of the colonies converting thousands in open air preaching

1740 – Russian government establishes the Agency of Convert Affairs to coordinate a sustained assault against non-Christian religions in Russian empire – ordered destruction of hundreds of mosques, also offered financial incentives for conversion

1741 – **Jonathan Edward’s** sermon “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” epitomizes the rigorous New England Calvinism of the First Great Awakening

1743 – Pogroms, anti-Jewish riots begin in Russia

1743-1803 - **Louis Claude de Saint Martin** tradition of Boehme & other nature mystics

1749 – **Jonathan Edwards** expelled by his own congregation in Massachusetts when he tries to restrict communion to people who can testify to their conversion

1749 – Halifax founded

1750 – 15,000 Jesuits teaching in more than eight hundred colleges & seminaries

1750 – Industrial development starts in England based on coal

1752 - Benjamin Franklin invents lightning rod

1756-1763 – Seven Years’ War William Pitt PM of England

1756-1791 - W.A. Mozart

1757 (Nov. 28) – **William Blake** b.

1758 – **Ann Lee** (1736-1784) emerges as leader among the Shakers (The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Coming)

1758 – British East India Company begins to establish political control over various regions throughout the Indian subcontinent

1759 – English defeat French at Quebec

1759-1833 - **William Wilberforce**

1760-1820 - **George III** king of England (Hanover)

1762-1796 - **Catherine the Great** rules Russia

1764 – Empress Catherine II closes the Agency of Convert Affairs & orders religious tolerance in Russia

1767-1814 - suppression of the Jesuits, expelled from Spain, Parma, & Two Sicilies due to conflict over relationship between free will & grace. Jesuits attacked for their lax casuistry (art or science of working out implications of general moral principles in specific cases.) Also concern over the degree of accommodation Jesuits had practiced in missionary work with indigenous people particularly in China

1768-1780 - three voyages of **James Cook**

1768-1834 - **Friedrich Schleiermacher** German theologian tried to reconcile criticisms of Enlightenment with orthodox Protestantism, made appeal to emotion & imagination associated with European Romanticism

1769 – James Watt's steam patent

1770-1827 - Beethoven

1770-1831 - **Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel**, German philosopher, what is real is mind or spirit not material things. History shows gradual unfolding of this mind. Marx treated history as a similar unfolding, but maintained matter, rather than mind truly real

1771 - Parliamentary reporting starts in Britain

1774 – **Ann Lee** moves to America settling near Albany where she establishes Shaker community

1775-1783 - American War of Independence, followed by formation of United States

1776 - Declaration of Independence. Primary theorists of revolution, independence, & new constitutional order in US: Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), James Madison (1751-1836), John Adams (1735-1826), Thomas Paine (1737-1809) all religious rationalists who assumed that the existence of a divine architect of the universe could be inferred on rational grounds. God not a personal being but an abstract essence. New constitution excluded from voting rights all women, children, & blacks who Jefferson declared were “inferior to whites in the endowments of body & mind.”

1775-1817 - Jane Austen

1777 - Christianity introduced into Korea

1779 – **William Carey** “the father of modern mission” converted

1782 – **William Wilberforce** becomes member of Parliament (age 23)

1782 – the *Philokalia* (“The Love of Beauty”) is published in Venice, a collection of ascetic & mystical writings from 4-15th c.

1783 – America wins independence from Britain

1784 - **John Wesley** writes Deed of Declaration, basic work of Methodism & ordains two men from America

1785 – **Church of England in Canada** established after American Revolution (1775-1783) had flooded Nova Scotia with loyalist refugees

1787 – **Charles Inglis** consecrated first Canadian Bishop

1789-1914 – **THE AGE OF PROGRESS**

1789 - Protestant Episcopal Church founded in America as independent branch of Anglicism

1789 (July 14) – storming of Bastille, Paris - French Revolution

1790 - Mutiny on the Bounty - British mutineers colonize Pitcairn Island

1791 – John Wesley d.

1792 – Baptist Missionary Society begins Protestant missionary movement from England to India & the east

1792 (Sept.) – beginning of the reign of terror in France

1792 - Denmark becomes first European country to ban slave trade

1793 – **Mountain Jacob** (1749-1825) consecrated Anglican Bishop of Quebec (only 9 Anglican clergy in Canada)

1793 – execution of French king Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, Republic declared

1793 – **Immanuel Kant** (1724-1804) in his *Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone* seeks to work out the terms & conditions of a rational religion. Concludes that religion is morality & morality is religion. Christianity is the only moral religion, completely incompatible with Judaism which he argued has no authentic religious value & is based on the superstitious premise that it is possible to please God “through actions anyone can perform without even needing to be a good man.”

1794 (July) – execution of Robespierre in France, end of The Reign of Terror & French Revolution

1794 – monks from Valaam monastery in Russian Finland arrive on island of Kodiak Alaska

1796 - First smallpox vaccination used by Edward Jenner

1797 – Second Awakening begins in US (Charles Finney, Lyman Beecher, Barton Stone)

1798 – Pope Pius VI is prisoner of France

1798 – Napoleon’s expedition to Egypt

1798 – **Immanuel Kant** in his *Conflict of the Faculties* calls for the death of Judaism declaring that the “euthanasia of Judaism is pure moral religion, freed from all the ancient statutory teachings”

1799 - **Friedrich Schleiermacher** (1768-1834) publishes *Religion: Speeches to Its Cultural Despisers*, initiating Romantic movement emphasized religious emotions over 18th c. rationalism. Essence of religion found in an intuitive sense of the infinite, an emotional engagement with the unity of the world, & a feeling of absolute dependence upon God.

1799 – foundation of Church Missionary Society

19c. – shift of energy in Western Christianity from Europe to the New World combined with missionary expansion into Africa & parts of Asia

Ultramontanism– devotion to Rome favouring the centralization of authority in the papal Curia as opposed to national or diocesan independence, particularly strong in 19c. with revival of Jesuit Order, issuing by Pius IX of the *Syllabus* in which Catholicism & any form of liberalism held to be incompatible, & 1870 declaration by Vatican Council Pope is infallible

Beginning 19c. – 90% of Jews in world live in Europe, 200,000 in Germany

Early 19c. - Church Missionary Society sends missionaries to “Indians” in Western Canada

1801 – Concordat by which Napoleon restores Church of Rome to France

1801-1877 - Brigham Young, Mormon leader, colonized Utah

1804 – founding of the British & Foreign Bible Society

1804-1814 - Napoleon Bonaparte Emperor of France

1805 - Christian literature forbidden in China

1806 – Napoleon master of Europe

1807 – London Missionary Society sends Robert Morrison (1782-1834) as first Protestant missionary to China

1807 – Hegel writes *Phenomenology of the Spirit*

1807 – abolition of slave trade in British colonies

1808 – French occupy Rome. Pope Pius VII refuses to negotiate, excommunicates those responsible & is arrested & deported.

1809–1882 – **Charles Darwin**

1810 – Mexico wins independence

1811 – The Campbells begin the Disciples of Christ (“The Church of Christ”), an element within what becomes known as the “Restoration Movement” of American Christianity, primarily comprised of Presbyterians in distress over Protestant factionalism & decline of fervour

1812-1814 – British-American war

1813–1855 – **Soren Kierkegaard**, Danish philosopher, forerunner of existentialism, defined purity of heart as the ability to will one thing

1813–1873 – **David Livingstone**

1814 – after the fall of Napoleon Pope Pius VII returns to Rome & reinstates the Jesuits

1814 - First modern Shinto group, the Kurozumi sect, founded in Japan

1815-1894 - **Theophan the Recluse**, one of greatest Russian mystics of Eastern Christendom

1815 - Battle of Waterloo, defeat of Napoleon, French monarchy restored

1815 – conversion of William Miller (1782-1849) who gained enormous following throughout US as a revivalist preaching that the end of the world was coming in 1843.

Millerites recalculated date after 1843 passed to Oct. 22, 1844

1816 – African Methodist Episcopal Church formed as first independent black denomination in US

1816 – American Bible Society established

1817-1892 - **Bahauallah** founder of Bahai born in Teheran, Persia (now Iran)

1818–1883 – **Karl Marx**

1820-1830 – George IV King of England (Hanover)

1820–1895 – **Friedrich Engels**

1820 - First American missionaries reach Hawaii

1822 – Schleiermacher writes *Christian Faith*

1822-1889 – **Albrecht Ritschl** German Protestant theologian

1823 – Ioann Veniaminov (1797-1879) leads Russian missionary effort to Alaska serving as first priest of Unalaska Island, first bishop of Alaska & eventually as patriarch of Moscow. Canonized as St. Innocent in 1977

1825 – **Seraphim of Sarov** (1759-1833) Russian monk & staretz comes out of seclusion to give spiritual direction to visitors from all over Russia – “Acquire inward peace & thousands around you will find salvation.”

1825 - French law makes sacrilege a capital offense

1827 - Mormon Church founded by Joseph Smith as result of reported visions of Angel Moroni

1828 – England repeals the Test Act of 1673 that had required all holders of public office to receive communion in the Church of England.

1829 - Catholic Emancipation Act in Britain, Roman Catholics allowed to hold public office

1830 – Joseph Smith (1805-1844) produces *Book of Mormon* teaching that around 600 BCE group of ancient Israelites were ordered by God to emigrate to America

1830-1837 - William IV King of England (Hanover)

1831 – **John McLeod Campbell** is expelled from the Church of Scotland for his failure to preach that the Son died in order to satisfy the Father’s just demand for punishment

1832 – **Ralph Waldo Emerson** resigns as a Unitarian pastor & becomes an influential exponent of Transcendentalism – “The simplest person who in his integrity worships God,

becomes God.”

1833 – **St. Seraphim of Sarov** comes out of twenty years of seclusion

1833 – **J.N. Darby** breaks with national church in England = start of Brethernism

1833 – **J.H. Newman** first of 90 *Tracts for the Times*, beginning **Oxford Movement**

1833 – **John Keble**’s sermon “National Apostasy”

1833 – Britain abolishes slavery

1834 – Presbyterian Charles Colcock Jones (1804-1863) leader of interdenominational mission to slaves in southern States publishes *Catechism for Colored Persons* in which he challenges slaves to “serve their masters as faithfully behind their backs as before their faces” because “God is present to see if their masters are not.”

1834 - Spanish Inquisition finally abolished

1836-1886 – **Ramakrishna** renounced the world & embarked on a series of spiritual paths for achieving God-realization, learning Hindu spiritual disciplines & practicing devotion to Buddha, Allah, & Jesus with whom he experienced an intense spiritual union

1837-1901 - Victoria queen of England (Hanover)

1838 – Abolition of slavery in British Caribbean

1839 – founding of Cambridge Camden Society = second phase of Oxford Movement

1840’s – Manifest Destiny popular slogan, used by people who believed US was destined, some said by God, to expand across North American to the Pacific Ocean.

1841 – David Livingston to Africa

1841 – *Tract 90 on 39 Articles*

1844 – Joseph Smith runs for US president but, spurred on by anti-Mormon feeling in Illinois, he is arrested by State militia & murdered by an angry mob. Mormons were forced to leave Illinois, largest group under leadership of Brigham Young (1802-1877) settled in Utah

1844 – with failure of William Miller’s end time prediction to materialize, he is expelled from Baptist church & forms a small Adventist church

1844 – discovery of **Codex Sinaiticus** dating from middle of 4c., contains complete NT, portions of OT, Epistle of Barnabas, Shepherd of Hermas

1844 – Samuel F.B. Morse installs first telegraph line & sends message asking “What hath God wrought?”

1844–1900 – **Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche**, German thinker – “God is dead,” developed idea of “Superman” ideal superior human condition, not bound by conventional notions of right & wrong. May have influenced Nazism

1845 – John Henry Newman received into Roman Church

1845 – US Methodists split over whether a bishop can own slaves. Baptists split over whether a missionary can own slaves.

1846 – Pope Pius IX pope until 1878

1848 - Karl Marx & Friedrich Engles publish *Communist Manifesto*, predicting eventual collapse of capitalism

1849 – Western most Canadian Anglican Diocese of Ruperstland formed

1852-1922 - Life of Charles Taze Russell, founded Jehovah's Witness movement in 1870s

1853 - Commodore Perry arrives in Japan & forces opening of the society

1853 - David Livingstone crosses Africa (to 1856)

1854 - **Pius IX** declares dogma of Immaculate Conception - Mary conceived without original sin

1855 - English nurse Florence Nightingale reforms nursing during Crimean War

1856–1939 – **Sigmund Freud**

1857 - Queen Victoria chooses Ottawa as capital of Canada

1858 - Reported apparition of Mary to Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879) when she was fourteen years old in Lourdes, France, considered "worthy of belief" by Catholic Church

1859 – **George Hills** consecrated at Westminster Abbey first Anglican Bishop Diocese of British Columbia

1859 – Darwin’s *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*

1861 - *Abandonment to Divine Providence* assembled by French Jesuit Fr. Henri Ramiere, SJ from letters of **Jean-Pierre de Caussade** sent to Sisters of Nancy

1861 – Quaker colony established in Pennsylvania by William Penn

1861-1865 - American Civil War

1863 (Jan. 21) – Swami Brahamananda b. at Sclera village near Calcutta

1863-1902 – Narendranath Datta (Vivikenanda) Ramakrishna's disciple taught that the "formless Absolute" is the ultimate truth of all religions. Funded the Vedanta Society in the West

1864 (Dec. 8) – **Pope Pius IX** promulgates the "Syllabus of Errors" condemning: rationalism, socialism, communism, Bible societies, & state independence in cultural & educational matters, rejected separation of church & state, religious liberty, & public education without clerical control.

1865 – **William Booth** founds Salvation Army

1865 (Good Friday) – assassination of Abraham Lincoln

1867 – publication of **Jean Pierre de Caussade's** (1675-1751) *Abandonment to the Divine Providence*

1867 – The British North America Act establishes the Dominion of Canada (pop. 3,463,000), Sir John A. Macdonald (Conservative) first Prime Minister (1867-1873)

1867 – **First Lambeth Conference** result of "The Colenso Affair." Bishop Colenso appointed Anglican Bishop of Natal by letters patent from Crown (1853) has liberal views & published writings. Bishop Gray of Cape Town attempts to depose Colenso who appeals to Judicial Committee of Government who in March 1865 rule in Colenso's favour preserving his episcopacy. Gray excommunicates Colenso. Growing pressure especially from Canadian Bishops to debate Colenso's "heresies" & clarify legal situation in overseas provinces. 1866 Archbishop Canterbury sends 144 invitations to Lambeth, only 76 actually attend, some can't afford to others refuse because fear weakening of church-state links if Privy Council's declaration for Colenso is contradicted. Diocese of Natal declared vacant, Colenso remains in office with another Bishop appointed by Gray in Colenso's place, unresolved until Colenso dies 1883. Gray's one achievement comes in 1874 when Colonial Clergy Act abolishes any canonical oath of obedience even to Archbishop of Canterbury thus achieving independence for all Anglican Provinces

1867 - Tokugawa Shogunate overthrown & Meiji Restoration begins in Japan

1867 – Russia sells Alaska to US

1868 – Meiji government of Japan reinforces the prohibition of the "heretical religion of Christianity."

1869-1870 - **First Vatican Council**, under Pope Pius IX (20th ecumenical) affirms doctrine of Papal Infallibility (i.e., when pope speaks *ex cathedra* on faith or morals does so with supreme apostolic authority, which no Catholic may question or reject), condemned fideism viewed as a subjective, anti-intellectual appeal to the authority of individual experience devoid of reason

1869-1948 – Mohandas Karamchand **Ghandi** ("Mahatma" – the Great Soul)

1870 – Brooke Foss Westcott & F.J.A. Hort develop system for classifying four groups of ancient biblical manuscripts: Syrian texts, Western texts, Alexandrian texts, Neutral texts = texts represented by two oldest & largest codices – **Vaticanus** & **Sinaiticus**. When these two agree, as they usually do, likely as near as possible to original.

1870 – referendum ends temporal power of papacy in Italy

1870 – France becomes republic

1870-1924 - Lenin

1872 – group of students in Yokohama form Church of Christ as first independent Protestant church in Japan

1872 – **Gurdjieff** born between Greece & Caspian Sea in Alexandropol (Gumri)

1873 (Jan. 2) – **St. Therese of Lisieux** b.

1873 (Dec. 2) – Bishop David Cummins who had been assistant bishop Diocese of Kentucky forms the Reformed Episcopal Church in response to perceived loss of evangelical witness in Episcopal Church

1874 – Bishop George Hills of Anglican Diocese of BC charges Edward Cridge, dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria with eighteen violations of Church Discipline Act. Dean loses license to preach & leaves Church of England joining Reformed Episcopal Church

1875 – Christian Science founded by Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910)

1876 – Queen Victoria becomes Empress of India

1876 - At Battle of Little Big Horn, Sioux Indians led by Chief Sitting Bull kill General George Armstrong Custer & all his men

1876-1890 – *Philokalia* (enlarged ed. in 5 vols.) translated into Russian by Bishop Theophan the Recluse

1878 – **Pope Pius IX** dies

1878 – word “anti-Semitism” coined by journalist William Marr who, with Lutheran minister Adolf Stocker, founded the first anti-Jewish party in Berlin in the same year

1878 (March 5) – Ouspensky born in Moscow

1879 – **John Henry Newman** is made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII

1879-1953 - Joseph Stalin

1879-1955 - Albert Einstein, German physicist

1880-1950 – Bhagavan (Lord or God) Sri (honorific title) Ramana (contraction of Venkataraman) Maharshi (great seer in Sanskrit)

1881 – in essay “Heroism & Christianity” Richard Wagner (1813-1883) asserts the superiority of a white Aryan race found in its purest form in Germany where it was strengthened by Christianity. But this nobility of race had been damaged by racial mixing & must be cleansed by the pure Aryan blood of Christ.

1881 (March 1) –Tsar Alexander II assassinated

1881-1894 - Revised Version of the Bible, called for by Church of England, is created, used Septuagint (B) & (S) as well as Massoretic text for OT & included Apocrypha. More accurate than previous versions, scholarship never disputed

1881-1955 - **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin**

1882 – Nietzsche declares “God is dead”

1882 -1952 – Egypt occupied by British

1882 - Mohammed Ahmed of Dongola, Sudan, claims to be Mahdi ("the guided one" – Islamic equivalent to the Messiah) leads bloody rebellion against British-influenced Egyptian rule

1884-1976 - **Rudolph Bultmann**

1885 – Riel rebellion

1886-1968 - **Karl Barth** Swiss Reformed theologian

1887 – Alexander Ulianov (brother of Vladimir Ilich [Lenin]) executed for attempting to assassinate Tsar Alexander III

1887 – Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918) Baptist pastor, leader of the social gospel movement, founds the “Little Society of Jesus”

1888 – **Therese of Lisieux** (1873-1897) enters Carmelite convent, at the command of her superiors writes her autobiography, published as *The Story of a Soul*.

1888 – 145 Bishops attend Third Lambeth Conference, adopt **Lambeth Quadrilateral**:

1. Holy Scriptures of Old & New Testaments as the revealed Word of God
2. Nicene Creed as sufficient statement of the Christian Faith
3. two Sacraments: Baptism & the Supper of the Lord, ministered with unfailing use

of Christ's words of institution & of the elements ordained by Him

4. Historic Episcopate, locally adopted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations & peoples called of God into the unity of His Church

1889 – Japanese constitution guarantees religious freedom to all Japanese subjects

1893 – First Canadian Anglican **General Synod** held in Toronto. All existing provinces & Dioceses brought together in unity of the “Church of England in Canada.” Created office of “Primate of All Canada” – Robert Machray.

Adopted “The Solemn Declaration” – “We declare this Church to be, & desire that it shall continue, in full communion with the Church of England throughout the world, as an integral portion of the One Body of Christ composed of Churches which, united under the One Divine Head & in the fellowship of the One Holy Catholic & Apostolic Church, hold the One Faith revealed in Holy Writ, & defined in the Creeds as maintained by the undivided primitive Church in the Scriptures of the Old & New Testaments, as containing all things necessary to salvation; teach the same Word of God; partake of the same Divinely ordained Sacraments, through the ministry of the same Apostolic Orders; & worship One God & Father through the same Lord Jesus Christ, by the same Holy & Divine Spirit who is given to them that believe to guide them into all truth.”

1893 – Vivekenanda travels to US to represent Hinduism at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago

1895 – “Seekers of Truth” founded, Gurdjieff travels to Europe

1896 – Sri Ramana Maharshi arrives at holy mountain of Arunachala

1896 - Billy Sunday (1863-1955), American Presbyterian evangelist, begins preaching, attracts huge crowds

1897 (March) – Sri Nisargadatta Mahay b. in Bombay

1897 (Sp. 30) – St. Therese of Lisieux d. in Carmel of Lisieux in Normandy

1899-1902 - Boer War leads to British domination of South Africa

20c. – rise of Christian theological reflection on inter-religious relations emerges along three lines:

1. exclusivism – Christians alone are saved, all others are damned
2. inclusivism – people of other faiths might receive salvation if they act like Christians & mysteriously receive the grace of God (“anonymous Christians”), but salvation possible only through Christ.
3. pluralism – all religious paths might lead to salvation. One version of pluralism followed by advocates of the “perennial philosophy” – mysticism represents the common experiential core in all religions, even though that core appears only in the secret or esoteric schools of religious mystics.

20c. – particularly in Europe institutional Christianity goes into decline, previous boundaries within Christianity & between Christianity & other faiths begin to erode. Christianity becomes truly global.

1900 – roughly five million Christians in Africa (1950 – 23 million, 1985 – 200 million)

1900 – Freud *Interpretation of Dreams*

1900 – Hawaii becomes US colony

1900-1990 – number of clergy in Church of England cut in half in a growing population

1901-1910 - Edward VII King of England (Saxe-Coburg-Gotha)

1901 - *American Standard Version* of the Bible, revision of RV published. Includes words/phrases preferred by Americans & follows Greek order of words

1901 - Pentecostal Church formed in Topeka, Kansas under leadership of Fox Parham (1873-1929) in reaction to loss of evangelical fervour among Methodists & other denominations
1902 – **William James** (1842-1910) American pragmatist philosopher & psychologist at Harvard University, *The Varieties of Religious Experience* published in which drew distinction between “once-born” and “twice-born” religious types, & made a scientific analysis of conversion

1903-1914 - Pope Pius X most recent pope to be canonized

1905 (Jan. 9) – massacre of marchers in St. Petersburg (“Bloody Sunday”)

1906 – Azusa Street revival, Los Angeles

1906 – first successful voice broadcast over wireless radio transmitted from East Coast of US to ships at sea on Dec. 24, consists of program of religious music & reading from the Gospel of Luke

1907 – Abraham Joshua Heschel b. Lithuania, became American rabbi & influential Jewish theologian

1908 – Henry Ford introduces Model T

1909 – Gurdjieff finishes 21 years of travelling through Asia, Middle East, Africa, & Europe

1909 (Feb 3) – **Simone Weil** b. Paris (d. Aug. 24, 1943 in England)

1910 – Roman Catholic Church requires that all who hold teaching positions or seek ordination in the Church swear an anti-modernist oath. A “council of vigilance” is established in every diocese & a secret society reports to the Vatican any hidden modernists in the church

1910-1915 - *The Fundamentals: A Testimony of Truth*, published by Moody Bible Institute - 12-volume collection of essays by 64 British & American scholars & preachers, becomes ideological inspiration & foundation of Fundamentalism. Identifies five nonnegotiable Christian doctrines: the literal inerrancy of the Bible, the virgin birth of Christ, the saving sacrificial death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, the imminent return of Christ which ushers in the end of the world

1910-1936 - George V King of England (Windsor)

1911 – **Evelyn Underhill** (1875-1941) *Mysticism* published

1911 – Italy has 67,000 priests

1911 – Chinese Revolution leads to overthrow of Manchu dynasty & establishment of Republic

1912 – Gurdjieff begins teaching in Russia. Ouspensky publishes *Tertium Organum*

1913 – Gurdjieff moves to Moscow

1913-1924 - James Moffat Bible writes first one-man translation in almost 400 years

1914-1980 – AGE OF IDEOLOGIES

1914 - year calculated to be the end of the world by Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916), founder of the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society, which came to be known in the 1930's as Jehovah's Witnesses

1914 – Gurdjieff joined by Ouspensky & Thomas de Hartmann

1914 - Panama Canal opens for business

1914 – Ghandi returns to India after practicing law for twenty years in South Africa

1914 (June 28) - assassination of Crown Prince of Austria-Hungary. France, Britain, Russia (allies) vs. Germany & Austria. April 6, 1917 US joins allies (WWI ends 1918)

1914 – Assemblies of God founded

1915 (Jan. 31) - **Thomas Merton** b. in Prades France

1915 – Ghandi joins nationalist movement in India

1916 (Dec. 16) - Rasputin murdered by Prince Felix Isupov

1917 – **Rudolph Otto** *The Idea of the Holy* – religion originates in a feeling of awe & dread

1917 (Feb.) - Gurdjieff begins journeys through war-torn Caucasus

1917 (Nov.) - Bolshevik Revolution in Russia under leadership of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924)

1917 (Dec. 18) – US Senate passes Eighteenth Amendment in response to the temperance movement outlawing sale & consumption of alcohol

1917 - Reported apparition of Mary in Fatima, Portugal - "miracle of the sun" witnessed by between 70,000 & 100,000 people, considered "worthy of belief" by Catholic Church

1918 – Summer Civil war in Russia

1918 (July 16, 17) - murder of Tsar Nicholas II, family & servants

1918 (Aug) - Iron Cross First Class for bravery awarded to regimental runner in German army, **Adolf Hitler**

1918 (Aug) - Gurdjieff leaves Russia

1918 (Nov. 11) - Germany signs armistice ending WWI

1919 – in Tiflis Gurdjieff establishes first Institute for the Harmonious Development of Man, Mme Jean de Salzman becomes student

1919 – **Karl Barth's** *Commentary on Romans* published, critiquing modernist theology

1919 - World's Christian Fundamentals Association founded

1919 – after WW I, the League of Nations authorizes Britain to administer Palestine

1920 (Jan.) – Hitler becomes chief organizer for German Workers Party, changes name to National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis)

1920 (July) - Gurdjieff goes to Constantinople

1920 (Nov) - end Russian Civil War

1921 – **Evelyn Underhill** becomes a regularly practicing Anglican, same year she begins spiritual direction under Roman Catholic layman Baron von Hugel

1921 – Gurdjieff establishes Priure in France (closes 1924)

1922 – **Karl Barth** (1886-1968) publishes first major work *The Epistle to the Romans* in which he announces a theology of the Word of God suggesting that the God he found in the Bible is radically different from anything human, a distance that can only be bridged by God

1922 - **Mussolini** gains power in Italy

1922 – Russian Central Committee of the Communist party establishes an “Anti-religious Commission” to control religious organizations, to promote atheism & mass education in scientific materialism, & to infiltrate & divide the Russian Orthodox Church

1922 - Ireland becomes independent from Britain

1923 – Martin Buber’s *I and Thou* published, may address existence as an “I” towards an “It” or an “I” towards a “Thou”

1923 (April 25) – Pius XI proclaims beatification of Therese of Lisieux, her bones are solemnly translated to the convent.

1923 (Nov) – Hitler in prison begins writing *Mein Kampf* (*My Struggle*) in which he announces the heroic struggle of the Aryan people to maintain racial purity (*Volk/race*) & establish territorial (*Vaterland/territory*) dominion – these nationalist goals he argues are blocked by obstacles outside Germany, especially Poles, Russians, Ukrainians & other Slavic peoples & by corrupting influences inside Germany: the mentally retarded, the physically handicapped, homosexuals, criminals, & most of all, the Jews

1924 (Dec 20) – Hitler released from prison, *Mein Kampf* is published

1925 – most of Canada’s Methodists, Presbyterians & Congregationalists unite to form the United Church of Canada

1925 (May) – Therese of Lisieux canonized as St. Teresa of the Child Jesus & the Holy Face

1925 (July) – William Jennings Bryan (against evolution) defeats Clarence Darrow in Scopes Trial, Tennessee

1927 – Patriarch Sergii (1867-1944) issues a “Declaration of Loyalty” identifying the Russian Orthodox Church with the Soviet Union

1927 - **Stalin** dictator of Russia (d.1953)

1927 (May 20) – Charles Lindbergh takes off from New York City in “The Spirit of St. Louis” to make first non-stop solo transatlantic flight (3400 miles), became instant hero, nicknamed “Lucky Lindy.” After beginning WWII urged American neutrality.

1929 – Lateran Treaty under Pope Pius XI ends long papal conflict with Italian State & establishes full sovereignty of Vatican City

1929 (Aug) – Nazis gather in Nuremburg for Party Congress, 60,000 Brown Shirts parade past Hitler

1929 (Oct) – Wall Street crash

1929-1939 - The Great Depression

1930 – Pius XI encyclical *Casti connubi* condemns contraception

1930 (Oct.) – Rene Daumal (age 22) meets de Salzmans

1931 (Feb.) – completion of first global radio network, Vatican Network to enable simultaneous communication with Roman Catholics around the world

1931 – Sri Nisargadatta Mahaj meets his guru

1932 (Feb. 29) – Charles & Anne Morrow Lindbergh's first child kidnapped & murdered by Bruno Richard Hauptman, carpenter from the Bronx

1932 – German Christian Movement in its statement of principles declares that “race” & “nation,” are laws that God has bequeathed & entrusted to us. It is God's law that we concern ourselves with their preservation. Mixing of races, therefore, is to be opposed.” Movement had over half a million members spread throughout Germany, dominating theological seminaries, had a broad influence on Protestant leadership & congregations where Jesus & Hitler were both praised in services.

1932 – Alexandre de Salzman begins teaching group

1932 – first volume of Barth's *Church Dogmatics* published final section appears in 1967

1932 (Aug 10) – Hitler comes second in German presidential election & settles concordat with Pope Pius XI

1933 (Jan 30) – National Socialist German Workers' Party comes to power under leadership of **Adolf Hitler** who becomes Chancellor of German Republic

1933 – **Bede Griffiths** (1906-1993) converts to Christianity & enters the Benedictine monastery of Prinknash

1933 – **Dorothy Day** (1897-1980) & Peter Maurin begin the Catholic Worker Movement in New York

1933 – the Pastors' Emergency League is established by Berlin pastor Martin Niemoller (1892-1984) to oppose Nazi legislation known as the “Aryan clause,” which removed Jews from the civil service. Out of the PEL grew the Confessing Church movement.

1933-1945 - FD Roosevelt US President

1934 – Thomas Merton leaves Europe for last time

1934 (May) – Alexandre de Salzman dies, Mme de Salzman assumes leadership

1934 (May) – Barmen Declaration, drafted by Karl Barth, statement of the Confessing Church opposing Nazi-supported “German Christian” movement

1934 (August 2) – Hitler combines in himself office of Chancellor & President of Germany

1935 – **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** (1906-1945) returns from England to Germany where he founds an unofficial seminary at Finkenwalde

1935 (Sept 15) – Nuremberg Laws deprive Jews of German citizenship

1935 (Dec. 19) – Charles & Anne Morrow Lindbergh move to England

1936 – Ouspensky expands work in London meets Robert S. de Ropp

1936 – Edward VIII, King of England (Windsor), acceded & abdicated

1936 – Spring Nazis remilitarize Rhineland in violation of Versailles Treaty neither Britain nor France respond

1936-1938 - Spanish Civil War

1936-1952 - George VI King of England (Windsor)

1937 (Spring) – **Simone Weil** experiences religious ecstasy in same church in which Saint Francis of Assisi prayed, leads her to pray for first time in her life, has another, more powerful, revelation year later. From 1938 on, writings become more mystical without losing focus on social & political issues

1937–1940 – Neville Chamberlain PM of Britain

1938 – **Simone Weil** (1909-1943) spends Easter at Abbey of Solesmes where she is introduced to the poetry of George Herbert

1938 – Munich Agreement signed with Hitler after which Chamberlain promised “peace for our time”

1938 (Nov. 16) – Thomas Merton baptized at Corpus Christi Church, Manhattan

1938 – Rev. J.G. Strydom of the Dutch Reformed church in an essay “Apartheid, A Matter of Faith,” complains “There are people who falsely maintain on biblical grounds that apartheid is wrong. We, however, believe on the basis of God’s Word that He had willed nations to be apart.”

1939 – **Bonhoeffer** teaches in US but voluntarily returns to Germany at the outbreak of war

1939 – Public Declaration of the Official Recognition of Tenzin Gyatso (b. July 6, 1935) as Fourteenth Dalai Lama

1939 (April) – Gurdjieff finishes *All and Everything*

1939 (Sept 1) - Germany invades Poland begin WWII: Germany, Italy, Japan vs. France,

Britain, US, Canada, Russia

1939–1945 – In WWII Nazis slaughter six million Jews in Europe (approximately two out of every three Jews living in Europe), 40 million military & civilian deaths

1939-1958 – r. Pope Pius XII dealt with Nazis using traditional diplomacy without publicly addressing persecution of Jews which he believed would have worsened the persecution. Issued blanket excommunication of all members of communist parties or organizations.

1940 – Taizé community founded in Burgundy by Brother Roger Schutz (1915-2005)

1940's - Communists take power in Eastern Europe

1940 (April) - Germany attacks Denmark & Norway

1940 (May) – Churchill (aged 65) becomes PM of England

1940 (May 10) - Germany invades Belgium, Luxembourg & Netherlands

1940 (May) – 335,000 Allied troops evacuate from Dunkirk

1940 (June 14) – Nazis enter Paris, (June 23) Hitler (age 51)

1940 (Aug 15) - German bombing of London begins

1940 (Sep. 6) - Luftwaffe drops over 4 million pounds of bombs on London Docks

1940-45 – (& '51-'55) – Winston Churchill PM of Britain

1941 (Spring) – Germans conduct first round-up of Dutch Jews

1941 (June 22) – Germans begin invasion of Soviet Union, Stalin fails to respond

1941 (Dec. 7) - Japanese bomb naval base at Pearl Harbor, US enters WWII

1941 (Dec. 10) – **Thomas Merton** enters Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (the Trappists) at the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani, Kentucky

1942 (Winter) – German troops freezing & starving in Russia

1942 (Nov 8) – Operation Torch, Allied forces land in North Africa from where launch invasion of Southern Europe

1943 – **Bonhoeffer** arrested by Gestapo

1943 (Jan 31) – Hitler's Sixth Army defeated at Stalingrad

1943 – first meeting of “The Big Three” Churchill, Stalin & Roosevelt in Tehran, Iran

1944 – German Christian theologian Walter Grundmann (1906-1976) publishes an open letter depicting the German Reich at war as a “parable for the Kingdom of God,” concluding that “faith in the Reich is the German form of Christianity in the twentieth century.”

1944 (May) – Rene Daumal d. (age 36)

1944 (June 6) – Operation Overboard (D-Day) cross channel invasion of France begins at Normandy

1944 (Friday August 25) – Charles de Gaulle enters Paris following liberation of France – 40,000 French men & women murdered by countrymen

1945 (Jan. 26) – Soviet Red Army liberates Auschwitz

1945 – **Nag Hammadi** Library discovered in Egypt

1945 (April) – Nazis execute **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, along with five thousand others accused of participating in resistance, days before Allied liberation

1945 (April 30) – Hitler commits suicide

1945 (May 7) - Germany surrenders

1945 (Aug 6) – U.S. drops atomic bomb (“Little Boy”) on Hiroshima killing 200,000 Japanese

1945 (Aug 9) – U.S. drops atomic bomb (“Fat Man”) on Nagasaki killing 150,000 Japanese

1945 (Aug 15) – Japan announces surrender to Allied powers

1945 (Sept 2) – Japan signs Instrument of Surrender officially ending WWII

1945 (Oct) – Council of the German Protestant Churches presents the “Stuttgart Declaration of Guilt” – “We have for many years fought in the name of Jesus Christ against the spirit which in the name of National Socialism found terrifying expression; but we indict ourselves that we did not more courageously confess, more faithfully pray, more joyously believe, & more passionately love.”

1945 - formation of UN

1946-1952 - *Revised Standard Version* written as revision of ASV "based on consonantal Hebrew text" for OT & best available texts for NT, in response to changes in English usage

1947 - Discovery of Qumran scrolls at north-western end of Dead Sea (aka Dead Sea Scrolls). Written in Hebrew & Aramaic. Nearly all canonical books of OT represented along with many other works. Manuscripts seem to have belonged to a Jewish possibly Essene community centred at Qumran about the beginning of the Christian era.

1947 (March 12) – in speech to Congress President Truman separates world into “free

peoples” & those of “terror & oppression” – beginning Cold War. US starts funnelling aid to France in fight against Ho Chi Minh for control of Vietnam

1947 (Aug 15) – independence of India & Pakistan

1948 (Jan 30) – assassination of Mahatma Ghandi

1948 – **Thomas Merton** *Seven Storey Mountain* published 600,000 hardcover copies sold in first year

1948 – **Dom Henri Le Saux** (Abhishiktananda 1910-1973) arrives in India

1948 – by mandate of United Nations, Israel becomes nation, partition of Palestine, Arab - Israeli War of Independence

1948 - formation of World Council of Churches

1949 - Peoples’ Republic of China founded under Communist rule invades Tibet suppressing Buddhism

1949 – **Billy Graham** begins evangelistic work with rallies in Los Angeles

1949 (April) – NATO created

1949 (Oct 29) – Gurdjieff d. (aged 77)

1950 (August 12) – **Pius XII** encyclical *Humani generis* condemns: existentialism, excessive emphasis on the Word of God to the detriment of reason, unwillingness to identify the Mystical Body of Christ with the Catholic Church, denial that Adam existed as a historical person & that original sin has reached us by direct descent from him, undue freedom in the interpretation of the books of the Old Testament

1950 (Nov. 1) – **Pius XII** defines doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary who it was taught was assumed body & soul into heavenly glory

1950 (Nov. 17) – Dalai Lama assumes political power in Tibet after Chinese invasion, Dec. 16 flees to Dromo (Yatung)

1950-1953 - Korean War

1950-1954 – U.S. sends more than \$4 billion in aid for France’s war on Vietnam

1951 – Campus Crusade for Christ founded by Bill Bright in Los Angeles

1952 - Elizabeth I Queen of England (Windsor)

1953 – chairman of the House Un-American Activities committee declares communists are “foreign to our nation & to our God. In the world of humanity they are aliens.”

1953 (March) – Joseph Stalin dies

1953 (Aug. 19) – CIA-sponsored coup overthrows PM Mossadeq of Iran & installs Shah as dictator

1954 – Marlon Brando in “The Wild One” & “On the Water Front,” Elvis Presley makes first commercial recordings, popular TV show “Father Knows Best,” Texas Instruments introduces first silicon transistors, Salk vaccine used against polio, RCA introduces first colour TV set, Ray Kroc buys original McDonalds & starts franchising it

1954 – words “under God” added to the words “one nation” in the American pledge of allegiance

1954 (April 22-June 17) – Senator Joe McCarthy conducts televised congressional hearings into alleged Communist infiltration of U.S. Army

1954 – Sun Myung Moon (b. 1920) founds the *Tong Il* movement which emerges internationally as the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity or the Unification Church

1954 – U.S. overthrows democratically elected President Arbenz of Guatemala (200,000 civilians killed)

1955 – Church of England in Canada becomes the “**Anglican Church of Canada**”

1955 – **Bede Griffiths** (1906-1993) goes to India to found a contemplative community

1956 – *Christianity Today* begins publication

1956 – fearing communist win, South Vietnamese Premier Diem & U.S. back elections aimed at reuniting South Vietnam

1956 – Suez War

1957 - United Church of Christ founded by ecumenical union of Evangelical & Reformed Christians with Congregationalists; comprised of both Calvinists & Lutherans

1957 – Southern Christian Leadership Conference under leadership of Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) forms to mobilize Christians against racial discrimination & segregation in America

1958 – Thomas Merton has “epiphany” at corner of Fourth & Walnut in Louisville that causes him to turn from world-denying mysticism to embrace the world

1958-1963 - Pope John XXIII

1959 - **Fidel Castro** (b.1927) leads revolution in Cuba overthrowing dictator Fulgencio Batista

1959 (March 30) – Dalai Lama enters India from Tibet after 14 day journey

1959 – Ho Chi Minh trail established by communists as military route to South Vietnam

1960 (April 30) – Dalai Lama takes up residence in Dharamsala

1960 – Chicago Congress on World Mission declares in its official statement that in the non-Christian world billions of souls “went to the torment of hell-fire without even hearing of Jesus Christ.”

1960 – with strong backing of Roman Catholic Church & support of the CIA US invades Cuba at Bay of Pigs hoping to inspire popular uprising against Castro which does not materialize

1960 – birth control pill approved by FDA

1961 – first human in space

1961 (May 15) – Pope John XIII issues encyclical letter *Mater et Magistra* on “Christianity & Social Progress”

1961 - Berlin Wall built

1961 (Aug) – Anglican Church of Canada ratifies 1959 Canadian *Book of Common Prayer*

1961-1962 – President **John F. Kennedy** authorizes drastic increase in military advisors in Vietnam – within year, 9,000 advisors assisting South Vietnamese fighting communists. Agent Orange used to defoliate countryside

1961-1981 – Thomas Keating abbot of Trappist monastery of St. Joseph’s Abbey, Spencer Massachusetts

1962 (March 20) – Thomas Merton spends first full day in his hermitage

1962-1965 - **Second Vatican Council**, 21st ecumenical council, called by Pope John XXIII in 1959, produced 16 documents that became official after approval by the Pope, purpose to renew "ourselves & the flocks committed to us" (Pope John XXIII)

1963 – Buddhist monks self-immolate on streets of Saigon protesting religious persecution in South Vietnam – with U.S. approval South Vietnamese military stages coup murdering Premier Deem & his brothers

1963 (Aug. 28) – Martin Luther King Jr. speech at Lincoln Memorial Washington, D.C. – “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up & live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’”

1963 (Nov. 22) - President **John F. Kennedy** assassinated

1963-1978 - Pope Paul VI

1964 – Martin Luther King Jr. receives Nobel Prize for Peace

1964 (Aug 2) – North Vietnam attacks U.S. warship in Gulf of Tonkin. U.S. Congress gives President Lyndon Johnson broad powers to wage war, in 3 years over 180,000 civilians die

1964-1973 - US involvement in Vietnam War

1965 – Martin Buber d.

1965 (Jan) – President Johnson initiates Operation Rolling Thunder series of bombing raids against N. Vietnam

1966 – Thomas Merton makes life commitment to eremitical life & publishes *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

1966 - creation state of Punjab in India partially controlled by Sikhs, contains Amritsar, holy city

1966 - RSV Catholic Edition, joint effort between Catholics & the Church of England, published, represents big step towards common Catholic/Protestant Bible

1967 - Six Day Arab - Israeli – Israel takes control of Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza Strip, & Golan Heights

1968 – Bede Griffiths moves to Sacchidananda ashram at Shantivanam in Tamil Nadu

1968 – papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* reaffirms traditional teaching on abortion & birth control

1968 (March 29) - Martin Luther King, Jr. goes to Memphis Tennessee to support the black sanitary public works employees in their strike.

April 3, King gives his “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” address at the Mason Temple, the World Headquarters of the Church of God in Christ.” At the end of the speech King refers to a bomb threat against the plane he was supposed to leave Memphis in earlier that day –

And then I got to Memphis. And some began to say the threats, or talk about the threats were out. What would happen to me from some of our sick white brothers? Well, I don’t know what will now. We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn’t matter with me now. Because I’ve been to the mountaintop. And I don’t mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will. And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over, and I’ve seen the promised land.

I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we, as a people,

will get to the promised land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

April 4 at 6:01 p.m. King was shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel by James Earl Ray. After emergency surgery King was pronounced dead at St. Joseph's hospital at 7:05 p.m.

1968 (April 6) – Thomas Merton writes in his journal –

So the murder of M.L. King – it lay on the top of the traveling car like an animal, a beast of the apocalypse. And it finally confirmed all the apprehensions – the feeling that 1968 is a beast of a year. That the things are finally inexorably, spelling themselves out. Why? Are things happening because people in desperation *want* them to happen? Or do they *have to happen*? Is the human race self-destructive? Is the Christian message of love a pitiful delusion? Or must one just “love” in an impossible situation? And what sense can possibly be made of an authoritarian Church that comes out 100 years late with its official pronouncements?

1968 (June 6) – Robert F. Kennedy assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan

1968 (Dec. 10) – **Thomas Merton** dies Bangkok, Thailand at meeting on interreligious life having just delivered his address “Marxism & Monastic Perspective”

1969 (July 20) – Neil Armstrong first man on moon

1969 – President Nixon begins secret bombing raids into Cambodia, neutral country used by North Vietnam to infiltrate south, resulting destabilization of country leads to genocidal Cambodian dictatorship under Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, murdered millions of own people

1970 (May 4) – Ohio National Guard fires 67 rounds over period of 13 seconds at anti-War protestors at Kent State University killing four students & wounding nine.

1971 – J.K. Kadowaki, S.J. participates in a Zen sesshin at a Catholic zendo built by Fr. Enomiya Lassalle in Akigarua, Okutama, west of Tokyo

1971 – Intel introduces the microprocessor

1971 (Jan 29) – National Executive Council of Anglican Church of Canada agrees to begin process of revision of 1959 *Book of Common Prayer*

1971 - *New American Standard Bible* written, updating ASV using recent Hebrew & Greek textual discoveries

1971 (June) – Nixon announces withdrawal of 100,000 troops from Vietnam

1973 (Jan 27) – Paris Peace Accord formally recognizes sovereignty of both North & South

Vietnam & withdrawal of all American troops by March 29.

1973 – *Roe v. Wade*

1973 – General Synod of Anglican Church of Canada approves ordination of women to priesthood

1973 (Sept 11) – U.S. stages coup in Chile, democratically elected President Salvador Allende assassinated, dictator Augusto Pinochet installed, 5,000 Chileans die

1973 – Yom Kippur War

1974 – 11 women of the Episcopal Church in the US illegally ordained priests at Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia

1974 (Aug. 26) – Charles Lindbergh d.

1975 – Communist Khmer Rouge reach Phnom Penh in Cambodia & take power under Pol Pot killing between 1.7 & 3 million Cambodians

1975 – first women ordained priests in Anglican Church of Canada

1975 (April 30) – last Americans evacuate Saigon as North Vietnamese roll into capital, war finished nearly 30 years after Ho Chi Minh declared independence from Vietnam which is now united under communist government.

From 1964-1975 58,015 Americans died, 304,000 wounded out of 2.59 million who served. It is estimated at least 2 million Vietnamese died

1976 – Frs. William Menninger & Basil Pennington develop spiritual practice called Centering Prayer

1976 (July 2) – North & South Vietnam united under Communist rule as Socialist Republic of Vietnam

1976 (Sept 9) – death of Mao Tse-Tung

1977 – U.S. backs military rulers of El Salvador – 70,000 Salvadorans die, 4 American nuns die

1978 - *New International Version* published uses eclectic Greek text, Massoretic Hebrew text, & current English style.

1978 – Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla becomes **Pope John Paul II**, first non-Italian Pope in 455 years, 263rd “successor to St. Peter”

1979 – **Mother Teresa** receives Nobel Prize

1979 - Islamic Republic proclaimed in Iran

1979-1982 - *New King James Bible*, complete revision of 1611 KJV, updates archaisms while retaining style

1980's – U.S. trains Osama bin Laden & fellow terrorists to kill Soviets, CIA gives them \$3 billion

1980-1988 - Iran-Iraq War

1981 – appearance of the Virgin Mary to six children in Medugorje in former Yugoslavia

1981 – Thomas Keating resigns as abbot of St. Joseph's Abbey & moves to St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado

1981 – Sri Nisgaradatta Maharaj d. (aged 84)

1981 – Regan administration trains & funds “contras” in Nicaragua – 30,000 Nicaraguans die

1982 – Lebanon War

1983 (Aug) – first Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat (modelled on the Zen sesshin) held for two weeks at the Lama Foundation in San Cristobel, New Mexico (five hours of meditation per day)

1984 – Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. established by Thomas Keating

1984 - Italy ends Roman Catholicism as state religion

1985 – *The Book of Alternative Services* published in Anglican Church of Canada

1987 – White House secretly gives Iran weapons to kill Iraqis

1987-1993 – First Intafada – Palestinian uprising in occupied territories

1989 – Berlin wall comes down, communist governments in central & eastern Europe collapse & Soviet Union breaks up

1989 – CIA agent Manuel Noriega (also serving as President of Panama) disobeys orders from Washington, U.S. invades Panama, removes Noriega – 3,000 Panamanian civilians die

1990 – Roman Catholic Church in US has 58.5 million members with 53,000 priests

1990 (Feb) – African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela released after twenty-seven years imprisonment

1990 – Iraq invades Kuwait with weapons from U.S.

1991 – U.S. enters Iraq – U.S. reinstates dictator of Kuwait

1991-2003 – U.S. planes bomb Iraq on weekly basis. UN estimates 500,000 Iraqi children die from bombing & sanctions

1992 – Church of England allows ordination of women priests

1992 – *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reaffirms that Mary was always free of personal sin & perpetually a virgin “even while giving birth”

1993 – Parliament of World’s Religions brings over 8,000 delegates to Chicago, endorses the “Declaration Toward a Global Ethic” which makes a commitment to a culture of: non-violence & respect for life; solidarity & a just economic order; tolerance & a life of truthfulness; equal rights & partnership between men & women

1993 – Oslo Accord – peace talks between Israel & PLO

1994 – blacks & whites vote in democratic elections in South Africa

1994 (Oct) - Belgian homeopathic preacher Luc Jouret leads cult of roughly 50 followers to their deaths in Canada & Switzerland

late 1990’s – Taliban come to power in Afghanistan

1997 – birth of internet

1998 – Clinton authorizes bombing of “weapons” factory in Sudan, turns out to be making aspirins

2000 - Pope John Paul II offers apology & asks forgiveness for Catholicism's history of "violence in the service of truth"

2000 – Christianity is the world’s largest religion, more than two billion members belonging to more than 20,000 sects & denominations

2000-2001 – U.S. gives Taliban-ruled Afghanistan \$245 million in “aid”

2000-2005 – Second Intafada / al-Aqaa Intifada

2001 (Sept 11) – Osama bin Laden uses expert CIA training to bomb World Trade Centre in NY

2001 – U.S. invades Afghanistan

2003 – U.S. invades Iraq & overthrows Saddam Hussein

APPENDIX I

The Story in the Hebrew Scriptures

In the beginning God created everything that is and all that God created was good. Human beings were also created good. Among all of God's creation human beings were created uniquely in the image of God.

Through the exercise of human free will, a tragic flaw entered into God's perfect creation. Human beings lost their awareness of God's presence and began living as if God were absent. Human beings forgot that they were created in the image of God and began to seek satisfaction and fulfillment in things that are not God.

The chaos that followed from humans living as if God were not present is symbolized in a terrible flood from which God graciously rescued humans and animals. After this flood God chose to enter into a relationship of faithfulness with humanity.

After a remnant of humanity was rescued from the terrible consequences of the flaw within human nature, all people were scattered across the earth from the tower of Babel. Human language was confused and human community disintegrated.

This disruption of human community began to be reversed in the story of a man named Abraham who may have lived around 2000 BCE. Abraham was called by God to leave his home. This call was accompanied by the promise that Abraham would become the father of a great nation.

This promise of restoration began to be fulfilled in Abraham's descendants: Isaac and Jacob. During Jacob's life, the Hebrew people settled in Egypt to avoid the famine that was afflicting the land. In Egypt, Jacob's son, Joseph became a powerful ruler. Over many years in Egypt the Hebrew people grew to such a great number that the Egyptians began to fear them and eventually enslaved them.

After Abraham's descendants had suffered under Egyptian oppression for generations, God raised up Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. God promised to bring them to a land in which they could settle and prosper. For forty years, the people wandered in the wilderness on the border of the land God had promised to them. During this time, God gave Moses the law to be their guide. Moses taught the people in the wilderness saying, "*you are a people holy to the Lord your God; it is you the Lord has chosen out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession.*"

(Deuteronomy 14:2)

This status as God's chosen people gave the Hebrews a fundamental confidence in God.

They believed that God would always be faithful to them – *“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”* (Deut. 7:9)

About 1200 years before Jesus, Joshua led the Hebrew people into the land of Canaan. After a bloody conquest, they established themselves as occupiers of the land. At first Israel was governed by a succession of 14 Judges, the last of whom was Samuel. Then, under the three kings: Saul, David (1012-972 BCE), and Solomon, Israel became increasingly established as a nation in Canaan. An elaborate system of religious ritual was developed, centred around the magnificent first Temple built by King Solomon in Jerusalem around 960 BCE.

After King Solomon, the Jewish kingdom was divided in two (930 BCE): Judah, of the line of David, in the South (traditionally one tribe) with its capital in Jerusalem and rebellious Israel (traditionally ten tribes) with its capital in Samaria in the North. During this time of internal division, prophets were raised up igniting the great Hebrew prophetic movement in Israel (750-550 BCE). In the face of terrible military threat from surrounding nations, the prophets encouraged the people of Israel to remain faithful to God and to put their trust in God rather than in political alliances, weapons of war, or the foreign gods of Canaan. Sometimes the people listened to the prophets and trusted in God; at other times they put their trust in human means with disastrous results.

The prophets reminded the people of God’s faithfulness. In the words of Jeremiah, God spoke to the people saying, *“Only if I had not established my covenant with day and night and the ordinances of heaven and earth, would I reject the offspring of Jacob and of my servant David and not choose any of his descendents as rulers over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes, and will have mercy upon them.”* (Jeremiah 33:25,26)

After 19 bad rulers, the Northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed by Assyria and the Jews of the North were scattered (722-720), never again to form a nation. In the South, after 20 kings, Judah was destroyed by the Babylonian Empire in 586 BCE and most of the Jews from the South were taken captive. The great Temple of Solomon was destroyed. This was a time of profound and painful crisis for the Jews.

After 50 years in exile, the Jews of the South returned to their land in three stages. Their hope to be a great people began to be restored. They attempted for about 150 years to rebuild the temple and to restore their former glory, but with little success.

This brings the story to the year 400 BCE, the end of the story contained in that part of the Bible which we know as “The Old Testament.”

For 400 years nothing is recorded in the Bible of the fate of the Jewish people. These years are known as “the silent years.”

APPENDIX II

The Story of Jesus and His Followers

After four hundred years of “silence,” in an obscure corner of the Jewish nation, a boy was born. His name was Jesus.

At the time of Jesus’ birth, Israel was an occupied nation. The people of Israel were living under the rule of the mighty Roman Empire.

The name Jesus means “Saviour.” It is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua. Around the time Jesus turned 30, people began to place their hopes in him that he might be a modern day Joshua, able to return to Israel the promised land which they believed God had given them. The life of Jesus proved to be a desperate disappointment to these aspirations, and eventually those who had hoped Jesus might be their saviour called for his death, and he was executed for sedition against the Roman Empire.

After Jesus’ death, strange rumours began to circulate that he had been seen again. Eventually, the tiny group who had been Jesus’ disciples during his ministry began to teach that they had experienced Jesus’ living presence and received from him the gift of new life. From this message of Good News, the Christian Church eventually emerged and became the dominant religious culture of the Roman Empire.

In the Christian community that we call “the Church,” the effects of the fall which began our story are intended by God to be reversed. Barriers are broken down. Human community is restored. God calls us to live together in peace and harmony across all boundaries and divisions.

The New Testament contains the stories of Jesus in four Gospels. The story of the early church is recounted in the Acts of the Apostles. A series of letters, known as “Epistles” written to early churches encourage believers to fulfill their destiny as God’s reconciling community.

APPENDIX III

Atonement Theories

1. OBJECTIVE THEORIES:

A. CLASSIC/ DRAMATIC/ RANSOM

- Athanasius, Origen, Irenaeus, Martin Luther, Karl Barth
- Mark 10:45; Matthew 20:28; I Timothy 2:6;
Hebrews 2:14; I Peter 1:18,19; I John 3:8b
- through cross and resurrection Christ emerges victorious over sin, death & devil
- Christ is given as a ransom to Satan in exchange for souls of the lost world
- devil could not hold Christ who rose on third day, thus Satan lost both the ransom paid (Christ) and the sinners redeemed
- debunked by Archbishop of Canterbury Anselm (ca. 1033-1109) who argued that this theory gave too much power to Satan

B. SATISFACTION/ JURIDICAL/ PENAL

- Cyprian, Gregory the Great, Ambrose, Augustine,
Anselm, Roman Catholic Scholasticism, Latin view,
Protestant Orthodoxy
- Jesus' life paid as a ransom not to Satan but to God
- sin = dishonour to God's nature which must be satisfied
- sinful humans unable to offer satisfactory sacrifice to satisfy the God's nature
- in response to this dilemma, God became perfect human in the person of Jesus Christ who then offered himself as a sacrifice to satisfy God's holy nature

PROTESTANT DEVELOPMENT (PENAL SUBSTITUTION):

- replaced God's honour with God's justice arguing that God's immutable law must be fulfilled

- purpose of Mosaic law to demonstrate to humans their inability to fulfill God's law
- Jesus the perfect man perfectly fulfilled God's law and thus earned salvation for all human beings by suffering our punishment in our place
- he bore the punishment/curse of sin (Romans 6:23, Galatians 3:13) in our place

C. REPRESENTATIVE THEORY

- preserves objective dimension of atonement
- Jesus identifies with guilt and travail of humans and confesses human guilt to God
- cross testifies to God's forgiveness but does not effect God's forgiveness

2. SUBJECTIVE THEORIES

A. MYSTICAL THEORY -

- early church fathers, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Schleiermacher, liberal Protestantism
- salvation lies in the person not the cross of Christ
- his divine-human nature is communicable
- salvation lies in Christ's divine nature being imparted to humans which is the purpose of the incarnation = divinisation or deification of humans
- Christ entered world as transforming leaven
- Jesus = mirror of divinity who awakens divine consciousness within all who meet him

B. MORAL INFLUENCE/EXAMPLARISM -

- Peter Abelard (1079-1142)
- emphasizes importance of effect of cross on sinner

- purpose of Christ's suffering = subdue alienation of humans by exhibition of self-sacrificing love – when we look at the cross we see the greatness of divine love which delivers us from fear and kindles in us an answering love

- like mystical theory primarily subjective

- reconciliation conceived of as change of attitude God affects in humans not change of God's attitude towards us

- “When I survey the wondrous Cross”

C. GOVERNMENTAL/ARMINIAN/RECTORAL -

- Wesleyan Churches (particularly church of the Nazarene)

- Christ's death is a partial payment

- emphasizes sacrifice and atonement as a precondition to forgiveness, not direct cause of forgiveness

- atonement = exhibition of righteousness of God who forgives on basis of his forbearance if human will acknowledge God's righteousness manifested in the death of Christ and turn to him in repentance and obedience i.e. submit to his governance

APPENDIX IV

POSTMODERNISM

MODERNISM

dominant world-view born during the 17 & 18 c. Enlightenment, consolidated by technological advances of the Industrial Revolution

celebration of the power of human reason, hopes to find knowledge through observation & experiment, the scientific mind

trust in ideas, values, beliefs, culture, & norms of the West

faith in written propositions

desire for freedom from tyranny, encourage religious tolerance

belief in an orderly view of the world, affirming the inevitability of human progress, spirit of optimism, ends in disillusionment when reality demonstrates things do not work all that well

SHIFT

seeds of change present by end 19c.: evolutionary theory suggests human existence can not separate from rest of nature's processes; Marx challenges fixed notions of "society"; psychology argues human motivations are complex & questions objectivity of human reason

20c. experiences: death of European empires & the end of colonialism in Asia & Africa, two world wars, mid-century totalitarianism, Holocaust, Hiroshima, birth of atomic age, rise & fall of Soviet Union, optimism & disillusionment accompanying creation of international organizations for peace or political & economic cooperation (UN & European Union), increase of power & influence of international corporations – demonstrate destructive potential of technology, limitations of political ideologies, dominant power of consumerism & corporate greed

development of rapid international travel & a communications revolution (radio, television, internet) give events world-wide immediacy & impact, instantaneous information exchange, consequent rapid change & shrinking of world community

equality of women, status of social & ethnic minorities

simple answers & optimism of previous age have become impossible

POSTMODERNISM

term began to be used widely in 1970s, coined in 1950s by Arnold Toynbee, English historian, attempted to see a pattern in the rise & decline of civilizations

W.B. Yeats better prophet of future expecting 'mere anarchy' to be loosed upon the world now that 'things fall apart,' & 'the centre cannot hold'

takes for granted a material standard of living higher than most people enjoyed in any pre-modern age, does not hesitate to make use of modern materials, technology & science to achieve this goal

in its extreme form leads to complete nihilism while continuing to affirm the universal validity of its own claims that there are no absolutes or universals

TRUTH/ REASON

concept of normative truth is a contrived illusion, used by those in power to exert control

there is no absolute truth, no perspective is any more valid than any other perspective, since all truths are socially constructed & relative, there is no such thing as any universal truth

no longer able to trust that reason inevitably leads to progress

FRAGMENTATION/ DIVERSITY

human experience is unstable, internally contradictory, ambiguous, inconclusive, indeterminate, unfinished, discontinuous, broken, on verge of complete fragmentation

unifying force of traditional authority is no longer respected

fixed systems of thought & behaviour have fragmented, world is radically plural

diversity increasingly recognized as the reality of human existence

As humanity faces terrifying problems no civilization or race or philosophy is now dominant, since northern, white American superpower is widely hated

individual is 'situated' in a community, preferably freely chosen such as a sexual partnership but also in the given community of a family, neighbourhood, peer group, class or nation. Community provides the spectacles through which life is seen & the 'language game' through which an attempt is made to describe life. There are many voices because there are many communities using many languages.

No ideology is convincing:

not 'socialism' as defined by Marx & other authorities (the ownership, or at least the control, of the means of production, distribution & exchange, with a command over wages, prices & planned developments giving power to the state or the local community on behalf of the people)

not capitalism as advocated by the apostles of the market (reliance for economic progress on private enterprise & free trade, with competition and bargaining freed from bureaucracy's interference)

Instead electorate shops in supermarket of ideas & spiritualities new or old which are believed to 'work.' When one political party or religion seems to have failed to deliver the goods, it is dismissed

CULTURE

world as we perceive it is not simply given to us, it is partly constructed/ interpreted by us out of the context in which we find ourselves

there are multiple culturally shaped meanings & interpretations therefore no one reading is privileged over any other

all cultural values are relative, socially constructed & inherently relative

identity politics rules – you are not permitted to speak about any group unless you belong to that group. Conversation becomes impossible.

TECHNOLOGY/SCIENCE

postmodern conscience knows that a war which would have destroyed 'developed' societies was narrowly avoided by nuclear deterrence, by the threat of 'mutually assured destruction ('MAD'); it does not know what to think about this

cynical about the potential of science, technology, government, business or religion to bring about any positive effects in the world or in peoples' lives

MORALITY

all morality is personal, private, & relative, great confusion about "right" & "wrong"

in personal morality often only agreement seems to be that decisions must be personal unless they are about obvious evils such as murder or cruelty. Emphasis is on the need for the individual to make a decision not between black & white but between shades of grey, between

rival 'goods' ('pro-choice' or 'pro-life')

many landmarks which set the scene for morality (in theory if not in practice) seem to have disappeared: not only God the ultimate law-giver but also assumptions which supported firmly defined roles for gender & class, respectable sex, stable employment, unquestioning attachment to neighbourhood & nation

not that postmodern people have no morality, as sometimes alleged by traditionalists. There are many moral codes. People who have never become Jewish, Christian or 'enlightened' may be quite strictly moral according to their own understanding

in public domain some agreement over moral issues: condemning injustice and the destruction of the environment

Even where difference between good & evil seems clear, there is no confidence good will be chosen. The murder of six million Jews achieved by a rationally functioning bureaucracy using industrial technology has demonstrated that 'radical evil' is an ingredient in human nature

TEXT

decline of the authoritative book

no grand narrative with a climax: even the structured novel of the nineteenth century is abandoned

finds in text a variety of equally legitimate meanings which are available for the person who wishes to 'construct reality' by choosing a vision or seeing 'horizon' which is not the author's

'deconstructs' any 'text' – any writing or series of images – in order to discover what is the vision, the 'construction of reality,' the author is trying to put across by his or her 'signs'

not necessary to claim any one interpretation finally & exclusively, 'the truth': there may be many opinions which seem truths to be read out of the same facts

RELIGION

all religion is equally valid or invalid

often seems to be no place for Christianity, which has always claimed to offer a vision of life which can be defended reasonably & which puts the story of Jesus at the centre of humanity's history, no place for churches with their dogmas & persecutions.

Don Cupitt - 'postmodern religion is religion that fully accepts that it is just human, being made of human signs'; so religion 'must now continually remake itself as art.' This is the

final triumph of postmodernism.

For many options seem to be:

1. fairly loose attachment to historic Christianity, questioning many of its doctrines & ignoring most of its rituals. The connection may be so loose that the person who makes it may be called with justice a 'post-Christian'. This person will be influenced by communities other than the Christian congregation: family, neighbours & friends, loyalties to class or nation, the media, or a variety of "spiritual" associations. In the background there may be a belief in Someone or Something, capable of being named as God. But if not definitely 'dead', God is absent from the foreground. If churches are not actively rejected, at least there will be no acceptance in practice of the right of any church leader to 'tell me what to think.'

2. some seek a closer involvement in organized religion, even in a distinctively Christian community and what has traditionally been called 'faith in Christ'. Then there will be an entry, which may or may not be completely conformist, into a community that may or may not teach the doctrines & morality that were taught in the past. Inside the postmodern culture an individual may decide that he or she needs a traditionalist community or a new religious movement that can supply more spiritual strength than seems to be available elsewhere.

3. Many postmodern people feel they cannot be religious in the sense churches seem to require which they think means the sacrifice of honesty about truth & the surrender of their consciences. The experience a loss but have no idea what to do with it.

POST-POSTMODERNISM

How do we rediscover the universals that underlie the specific local realities of our own context and provide an opportunity for genuine connection without undermining the integrity of the specifics?

How do we move beyond deconstructionist cynicism and irony to recover a degree of innocence and purity without giving up the awareness that all claims to truth are shaped by some degree of context and perspective?

How do we continue to value the gift of human reason while at the same time acknowledging that there are realms of human existence and ways of knowing that transcend reason?

APPENDIX V

SPIRITUALITY QUADRANTS

from Holmes, Urban T. *A History of Christian Spirituality: An Analytical Introduction*.
Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2002.

Spirituality occurs along a sliding scale of polarities:

Horizontal axis – Apophatic (emptying) & Kataphatic (imaginal) poles

Vertical axis – Speculative (mind) & Affective (emotions) poles

Healthy spirituality finds its place in a balanced circle at the centre where each of these characteristics meet. But any particular formulation of spirituality will tend toward one of four possible quadrants depending upon its emphasis.

Quadrant I – Speculative/Kataphatic

Description – intellectual thinking spirituality, uses language & images in theological reflection, emphasis on content and systematic thought. Aims to make sense of & codify spiritual experience

Extreme – rationalism

Examples – Judaism of Jesus' day, Paul, Clement of Alexandria, Origen,
Richard of St. Victor, Dominicans Ignatius of Loyola, John Donne

Quadrant II – Affective/Kataphatic

Description – emphasis on personal feeling-oriented spirituality. Charismatic spirituality, stressing personal renewal. Importance of evangelism, extemporaneous prayer and personal service to others with goal of witnessing to faith

Extreme – pietism

Examples – four canonical Gospels, Evagrius Ponticus, John Chrysostom,
John Cassian, Benedict of Nursia, Hugh of St. Victor, Franciscans,
Julian of Norwich, Walter Hilton, George Herbert

Quadrant III – Speculative/Apophatic

Description – does not depend on words, emphasizes action, passion for transforming society by living the gospel, sacrificial, equates prayer and theology with action rather than concepts or theological formulations

Extreme – encratism – moralistic, unrelenting tunnel vision

Examples – Gregory of Nyssa, Dionysius the Areopagite, John Cassian, John Scotus (Erigena), Meister Eckhart

Quadrant IV – Affective/Apophatic

Description – goal of spirituality is union with God, contemplative, introspective, intuitive, mystical. God is ineffable and unnameable. Practice a life of austerity, asceticism and simplicity in attempt to quiet outside distractions and enable one to listen deeply within

Extreme – quietism – retreat from reality, spiritual passivity and either extreme asceticism or amorality

Examples – John Cassian, *Cloud of Unknowing*

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