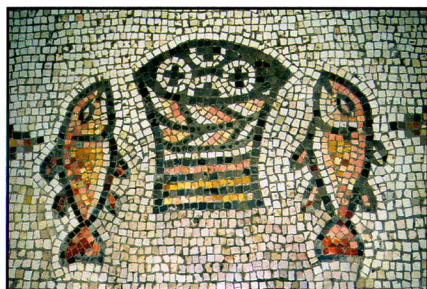


- 4? BC** Birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem of Judea.
- AD 29?** Beginning of Jesus' public ministry, about age 30. He preaches, does miracles and claims to be God.
- AD 33?** Jesus crucified, resurrected, appears to more than 500 disciples at one time (1 Cor. 15:6). Jesus gives his followers the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations . . ." (Matt. 28:19). After 40 days, he ascends into heaven (Acts 1:3, 9).
- 33** Pentecost: the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples in Jerusalem. Some 3,000 people become Christians. They spread the Gospel (the good news about redemption through Jesus) throughout the Roman Empire (Acts 2:8).
- 35** Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is stoned to death in Jerusalem. Believers scatter through Judea, Samaria.
- 35** Conversion of Paul, formerly Saul, the persecutor of Christians. Paul goes on three missionary journeys starting in AD 48 to preach to Jews and Gentiles. He writes 13 letters (epistles) to the new churches.
- 41** Conversion of Roman centurion, Cornelius. Peter and other Christians evangelize Gentiles. Converts among Roman soldiers return to Italy and preach.
- Followers of Christ first called Christians at Antioch.
- 44** Christians are persecuted under King Herod Agrippa. James is executed, Peter is imprisoned. Famine strikes Judea; Christians in Antioch send relief.
- 45-100** The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and the other New Testament books are written.
- 49-50** Council of Jerusalem agrees with Paul that Gentile converts are not required to follow Jewish law. Paul's work with Gentiles recognized.
- 53** Jews expelled from Rome. Jewish believers Priscilla and Aquila flee. They meet Paul in Corinth during his second missionary journey.
- 64** Great fire in Rome blamed on Christians. Emperor Nero tortures and kills thousands of Christians.
- 67-68?** Peter and Paul taken to Rome. Paul evangelizes while under house arrest. Both executed under Nero.
- 66-70** Jewish revolt against Romans. Emperor Titus destroys the Temple in Jerusalem. Jews and Christians flee to all parts of the empire, including Alexandria, Carthage, and Rome. Antioch becomes the center for Christianity.
- 71-81** Colosseum in Rome built. Christians thrown to beasts.
- 81** Roman persecution of Christians under Domitian. Jews oust followers of Jesus from synagogues.
- 85-150** Writings of apostolic fathers (early church leaders) Barnabas, Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp.
- 90** Rise of Gnostic heresies within the church. Some gnostics deny Jesus' humanity (Docetism), saying that he merely appeared to have a body. Gnostics claim to have secret knowledge beyond divine revelation and faith.
- Christianity spreads to Egypt (Mark), Sudan (Ethiopian eunuch), Armenia (Thaddaeus, Bartholomew), France, Italy, Germany, Britain, Iraq, Iran, India (Thomas), Greece, Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Croatia (Titus), Asia Minor (Turkey today), Albania, Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia (Africa).

- c. 100** Death of John, the only one of Jesus' 12 disciples to die a natural death. All others are martyred.
- c. 107** Martyrdom of Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, who wrote letters of encouragement to the early churches.
- c. 125** Gnosticism spreads.
- 132-135** Second Jewish rebellion. Jerusalem destroyed. Most of the population dies or flees.
- c. 144** Marcion is excommunicated for heresy. He taught that there was no connection between the Old and New Testament, between the God of the Jews and the God of the Christians. He rejected the Old Testament. The heresy persists in some areas for several centuries.

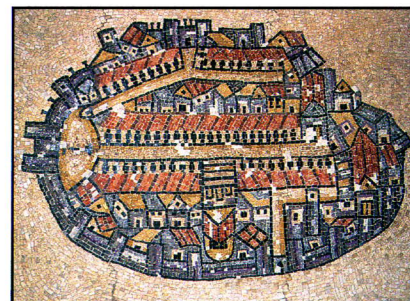


Early Christians created this mosaic floor in a church in Galilee to depict Jesus' miracle of the loaves and fishes.

- c. 155** Justin Martyr, theologian, writes his first *Apology*, a rebuttal to Greek philosophers.
- Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna and disciple of the apostle John, is burned at the stake at age 86+. Polycarp refers to Old and New Testament books as "scriptures."
- c. 156** Montanus of Phrygia preaches a form of religious extremism called Montanism.
- c. 180** Irenaeus of Lyons, student of Polycarp and great theologian, writes *Against Heresies*. He lists 20 New Testament books as *canonical* (officially accepted and recognized as authoritative).
- 193** Roman persecution under Septimius Severus.
- 196** Easter controversy concerning the day to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Western Christians prefer Sunday; eastern Christians prefer linking Easter with the Jewish Passover regardless of the day of the week.
- 197** Christianity sweeps the empire. Tertullian writes "There is no nation indeed which is not Christian."
- The Apostles Creed and the *Didache* (an important document describing Christian beliefs, practices, and church government) are written during this century.
- By AD 200 the church recognizes 23 New Testament books as canonical, but it is unlikely these are collected yet into one volume.

Christianity expands to Morocco, Bulgaria, Portugal, and Austria. Widespread conversion to Christianity in North Africa.

- 200** The Scriptures now are translated into seven languages, including Syriac and Coptic (Egyptian).
- Christians in Egypt viciously persecuted, thousands martyred.
- 215** Clement of Alexandria, theologian, dies.
- c. 220** Origen, theologian and student of Clement, founds a school in Caesarea. He writes many works, including commentaries on most of the New Testament books. Origen writes, "The gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached in all creation under heaven."
- 235-270** Roman persecution under several emperors. Christianity grows rapidly.
- Carthage becomes a major center for Christianity in Africa.
- c. 242** Manichaeism originates in Persia (Iran today). This dualistic heresy denies the humanity of Christ, and reappears in different forms over the centuries.
- 261** First church buildings erected as rectangular shaped basilicas. Previously Christians met in homes.



The Madaba map, a mosaic from the 500s, shows basilicas built by early Christians in Jerusalem.

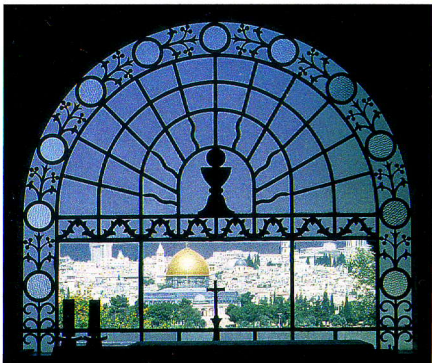
- During this century, monasticism begins in Egypt: *eremitical* (individual hermits) and *cenobitic* (religious groups or orders).
- 287** Mass conversion of Armenia under Gregory the Illuminator; King Tiridates makes Christianity the state religion.
- c. 292** Diocletian divides Roman Empire into East and West. Regions are different culturally and politically. Rome's influence wanes.
- 295** Some Christians refuse military service and are executed. Galerius begins to doubt that Christians in the army will obey orders. He persuades Diocletian to expel Christians from the legions.
- The phrase "catholic" is used to mean all churches that agree with the whole apostolic teaching, as opposed to the heretical groups that follow a "secret revelation" or knowledge based on one teaching.
- Christianity expands to Switzerland, Sahara, Belgium, Edessa, Qatar, Bahrain (Assyrian Church), Hungary, and Luxembourg.

- 303-4** Violent persecution of Christians under Diocletian. Scriptures burned; thousands killed.
- 311-411** Donatist schism in North Africa. Christians who stayed faithful during Diocletian's persecution oppose leniency toward those who lapsed.
- 312** Constantine (emperor of the western provinces) sees a vision of the cross of Jesus that he credits for giving him victory in battle.
- Constantine I, legalizes Christianity. His mother, Helena, a devout Christian, goes to the Holy Land to locate key places in Jesus' life, and builds many churches.
- 313** Edict of Milan (Toleration). Constantine and Licinius (emperor of the eastern provinces) agree to end the persecution of Christians, but it continues in the East.
- 320** Arius claims that Jesus Christ is a created being and not God by nature. His beliefs are called Arianism.
- 324** Eusebius writes *Church History*.
- 325** Council of Nicaea is convened in response to numerous heresies. It condemns Arianism and produces an early version of the Nicene Creed—a clear definition of the Trinity.
- 330** Constantine establishes the capital of the empire at Byzantium and renames it Constantinople.
- 337** Constantine baptized a few days before death.
- 339** Severe persecution of Christians in Persia (Iran).
- 346** Death of Pachomius, father of monasticism in the East and founder of the monastery at Tabennisi, Egypt.
- 350** Eastern church is mostly Arian. Arianism spreads to the Goths.
- 361** Emperor Julian the Apostate attempts unsuccessfully to restore paganism to the Roman Empire.
- 364** Basil, bishop of Caesarea, opposes Arian teachings.
- 367+** Canon of the New Testament slowly collected and confirmed. Books recognized as authoritative by Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, in the East, and the Council of Carthage in the West.
- c. 376** Goth and barbarian invasions of the Roman empire begin.
- 381** Council of Constantinople I finalizes the Nicene Creed and condemns heresies about Jesus.
- 391** Theodosius makes Christianity the official religion.
- 398** John Chrysostom, great orator, becomes bishop of Constantinople.
- Christianity expands to Afghanistan and Ethiopia.



400

- 395-430** Augustine, bishop of Hippo (N. Africa), authors numerous theological works including *City of God* and arguments against Donatists, Pelagians, and Manichaeans. His writings dominate Christian theology in the West for centuries.
- 404** In Bethlehem, Jerome finishes translating the Old and New Testament into Latin after 22 years of work. The Vulgate, as it is known, is the Bible used for the next 1000 years.
- 410** Arian Visigoths sack Rome.
- 428** Nestorius, patriarch of Constantinople, teaches that there are two distinct Persons in Jesus Christ (Mary is mother of the human part only), therefore some of Jesus' actions were human and some were divine.
- 431** Council of Ephesus condemns Nestorianism and Pelagianism (which claims man can attain salvation by works). The council defines Mary, Jesus' mother, as *Theotokos*, "bearer of God" to show that Jesus has one nature that is fully human and fully divine.
- 432** Patrick evangelizes Ireland. Over the next 30 years most of the country has been converted.
- 440** Leo the Great becomes pope. He persuades Attila the Hun to spare a weakened Rome.
- 451** Council of Chalcedon focuses on the divine and human natures of Christ. It confirms Pope Leo's *Tome* and condemns Apollinarianism, Nestorianism, and Monophysitism (also known as Eutychianism, which denies the humanity of Christ). Copts of Egypt and Ethiopia divide, the majority form monophysite or "One Nature" churches.

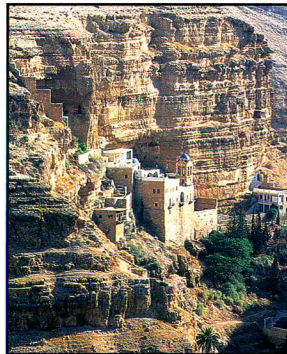


Early Christians commemorate this location on the Mt. of Olives, as the place where Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

- 476** Fall of the western Roman Empire. Emperor ousted. This marks the beginning of the Middle Ages.
- 496** Clovis, king of the Franks, converts to Christianity.
- 499** By the end of this century, the Scriptures have been translated into 13 languages.
- Christian spreads to Western No. Africa, the Isle of Man, San Marino, Liechtenstein, the Caucasus, Ireland, and tribes in Central Asia.

500

- 500** Syrian Orthodox church establishes a monophysite monastery in Ethiopia.
- 520** Irish monasteries flourish as centers of learning, spiritual life, and training for missionaries to other parts of the known world.
- Nestorians gain converts throughout Asia and continue to influence religious life for many centuries.

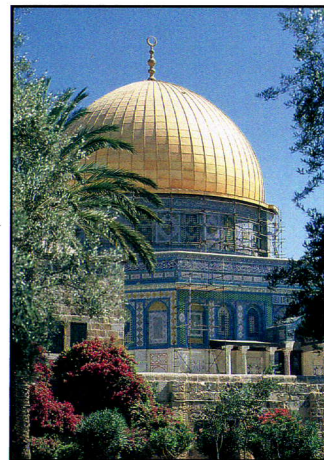


The monastery of St. George of Koziba in the Judean Wilderness was built in 480.

- 525** Christianity spreads throughout the Middle East, including the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Oman today).
- 529** Monk Benedict of Nursia, founder of Monte Cassino Abbey in Italy, writes the *Rule*, a guide for monastic life. Benedict is considered the father of monasticism in the West.
- 545?** Death of Dionysius Exiguus, a monk, who was the first to date history by the life of Christ, leading to the B.C. and A.D. designations. His calculations were off by at least four years.
- 553** Council of Constantinople, convened by Emperor Justinian, condemns the "Three Chapters," (the writings of several theologians including Theodore of Mopsuestia) for alleged heresies.
- 589** Third Council of Toledo. Visigoth king renounces Arianism, accepts church teachings.
- 590** High ranking Roman official, Gregory, resigns his post and donates his wealth to church relief efforts for the poor in 574. He is elected pope in 590. Known as Gregory the Great (or Gregory I), he institutes reforms and sends missionaries (including Augustine of Canterbury) to re-evangelize England, after Angle and Saxon pagans force Christian Britons to Wales. He also promotes liturgical music and the growth of monasticism. He is the first of the medieval popes.
- 597** Death of Columba, evangelist of Scotland and founder of an important monastery at Iona, Scotland.
- Christianity spreads to North Yemen, Ceylon, Malabar, Nubia (Sudan), Channel Islands, and Andorra.

600

- 600** Plainsong "Gregorian" chants begin to develop.
- 610?** Muhammad declares himself to be Prophet of God, after claiming to receive divine revelations. He founds the religion of Islam. In 622 he is persecuted and flees (*hegira*) from his home in Mecca to the oasis of Medina. There he founds a Muslim community. In 630 he launches a military campaign and defeats his opponents in Mecca. His teachings and deeds are called the Qur'an (Koran). By Muhammad's death in 632, Islam has spread to much of Arabia.
- 632** Islam sweeps through Palestine and Syria. Muslims (those who follow Islam) conquer Jerusalem. By 640 Islam invades Egypt and North Africa, almost eradicating Christianity (which had numbered more than one million believers). Three hundred years later very few Christians remain in the region.
- 663** Synod of Whitby aligns the English church with Rome for the next nine centuries.
- 676-709** Earliest Old English (Anglo-Saxon) translations and paraphrases of portions of the Bible are made by Caedmon and Aldhelm.
- 680-692** Eastern and Western churches drift further apart due to differences in church practices and expression of theology. On clergy celibacy: the Eastern church allows priests to be married, provided that they are married before ordination. The Western church discourages it.



- 688-691** The Dome of the Rock, gold domed shrine of Islam, is built on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem by caliph Abd al-Malik. Its ornate interior and location were designed to impress travelers. Some of the beautiful columns in the shrine are adorned with crosses, indicating that they were removed from Christian churches.

Christianity spreads to China, Andorra, Netherlands, Indonesia, Niger, Mongolia. Christianity declines in Northern Africa.

700

- 711** Muslim Moors invade Spain and Portugal, their first foothold in Europe. They are driven out in the 1200s.
- 716** Boniface, an English missionary, known as the "Apostle to the Germans," evangelizes southern and central German cities and establishes Benedictine monasticism.
- 720** Bede translates the Gospel of John into English; writes *Ecclesiastical History*.



The use of icons was debated throughout the East for 100 years. In 787 the Second Council of Nicaea decided in favor of those who venerated icons.

- 726** Controversy over the use of icons in the East. Emperor Leo condemns the veneration of sacred images and relics (supports iconoclasm, *image-breaking*). In 731, Pope Gregory III condemns iconoclasm and supports the veneration of icons.
- 732** Charles Martel defeats the Muslims in France, stopping the Muslim advance in Europe for 100 years.
- 754** A council of 300 Byzantine bishops endorse iconoclasm. The council is condemned by the Lateran synod of 769.
- 754** Pepin, son of Charles Martel, unites and rules the Franks. At the request of Pope Stephen II (III), Pepin invades Italy to defend it against Lombard invaders. Pepin gives conquered land to the church (called the Donation of Pepin) which establishes the papal states.
- 768-814** Charlemagne, son of Pepin, expands his empire through military conquest to almost all of what is now France, Germany, and Italy. He forces the German Saxons to convert.
- 787** Council of Nicaea II condemns iconoclasm (the belief that venerating sacred images is idolatry) and Adoptionism (belief that Jesus was not Son of God by nature). This is the last council that is recognized as binding by both the eastern and western churches.

→ Built near the Pools of Bethesda in Jerusalem, the Church of St. Anne, is one of the finest examples of Crusader architecture.

Christianity spreads to Iceland, Pakistan, and East Germany.

800

800 Charlemagne crowned Roman emperor by Pope Leo III. His administration reforms the law and church organization. He also encourages all monasteries to teach reading and writing. Through the influence of the scholar Alcuin, schools are founded and scriptoria set up to copy the Bible and Latin classics. This commitment to culture is known as the Carolingian Renaissance. The Western church's prominence begins to increase; the Eastern church's declines.

800 Egbert, king of the West Saxons, unifies England and becomes the first king.

814 Charlemagne dies.

829 Sweden is evangelized by Anskar, "Apostle of the North."

837 Christians in Egypt are persecuted and forced to wear 5-pound crosses around their necks.

843 Charlemagne's empire is split between his three grandsons.

845 Nestorians are persecuted in China.

846 Muslims invade Italy and attack Rome.

857 Photian Schism: communion between Eastern and Western church broken when Patriarch Photius of Constantinople (Orthodox Church) rejects the Roman pope's claim of primacy among the bishops of the East as well as the West.

861 Slavs are converted by Greek missionary brothers Cyril and Methodius, who translate the Scriptures and other works into Slavonic.

871 Alfred the Great, king of Wessex, translates portions of the Psalms, Exodus, and Acts into Old English (Anglo-Saxon).



Christianity spreads to Tibet, Burma, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, and Norway.

900

902 Muslims advance and gain control of Sicily.

909 William, Duke of Aquitaine, founds the Benedictine Abbey of Cluny, France, which becomes the center for reform under Abbot Odo (926).

950-999 Conversion of royalty across the empire, including Olga of Kiev (Ukraine today), Miesko of Poland, and Stephen of Hungary.

962 Otto I, the Great, founder of the Holy Roman Empire, is crowned by Pope John XII. This empire continues until 1806.

988 Conversion of Vladimir of Kiev, grandson of Olga, to Eastern (Orthodox) Christianity. According to tradition, Vladimir considered other religions, but chose Orthodoxy because the splendor of the worship at the Church of St. Sophia in Constantinople convinced him that "God dwells there among men." Vladimir orders the population of Kiev to choose Christianity. He wipes out paganism, builds churches, and establishes schools. At his death, he donates all of his possessions to the poor.



The iconostasis of an Orthodox church separates the nave (the central area of the church) and the altar.

996 In Egypt, Caliph El Hakim persecutes Copts, destroying thousands of churches and forcing people to convert to Islam.

999 Leif Ericson converts to Christianity while in Norway. The next year he brings the Gospel to his father's colony in Greenland.

Christianity in Western North Africa virtually wiped out by Islam.

Christianity spreads to Hungary, Kiev (Ukraine today), Greenland, Bohemia, and Poland.

1000

1000 Greek Catholicism (Melkite) introduced in Nubia.

1009 Nestorians convert northern Mongolians. Their beliefs spread to Persia (Iran today), India, and China.

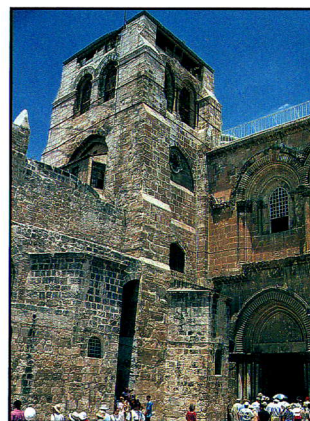
1054 Great Schism between the church in the West and the East. Roman Cardinal Humbart, envoy of Pope Leo IX, excommunicates Patriarch Michael Cerularius in the Church of St. Sophia (Hagia Sophia) in Constantinople. Despite this, there is some cooperation between the Eastern (Orthodox) and Western (Roman Catholic) church against the Seljuk Turks.

1066 Normans (French Christians) conquer Britain, Sicily, and evangelize the Celts.

1071 Seljuk Turks (converts to Islam) from Central Asia conquer Persia (Iran today) and move west toward the Byzantine capital, Constantinople (Turkey today).

1073 Gregory VII (Hildebrand) becomes pope. He works to revive and reform the church. He prohibits simony (the buying or selling of church offices), sexual immorality in the clergy, and lay investiture (the custom of emperors and local rulers choosing local church leaders).

1096 Pope Urban II calls for volunteers for a crusade to repel the Turks: specifically to help Eastern Christians in Constantinople, to liberate the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, and to reopen the Holy Land to Christian pilgrims.



Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Considered by many scholars to be the location of Jesus' tomb.

1097-99 The First Crusade. More than 70,000 people inspired by both noble and lesser motives, join the ranks and head for the Holy Land. In their zeal they slaughter Jews in Germany and pillage villages en route. They capture Jerusalem in 1099 and brutally massacre their opponents. They set up the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem under Godfrey of Bouillon, and build castles and churches.

1100

1115 Bernard founds a monastery at Clairvaux, which becomes the influential center of Europe.

1116 Peter Abelard, philosopher and theologian.

1122 Concordat of Worms focuses on the controversy over lay investiture. (Worms is a city in Germany)

1123 Lateran Council ratifies the Concordat of Worms.

1129 The Knights Templar, an order of monastic soldiers sworn to protect Holy Land pilgrims, is recognized.

1130 Disputed election of Popes Innocent II and Anacletus II. Innocent becomes pope.

1139 Second Lateran Council focuses on pseudo-popes (popes elected by unauthorized councils).

1146 Second Crusade is preached by Bernard of Clairvaux in response to the Muslim conquest of Edessa, the crusader capital (Turkey today). The crusade, led by Louis VII of France and Emperor Conrad III of Germany, fails.

1150 Syrian Orthodox church reaches zenith.

College of Cardinals is established by pope.

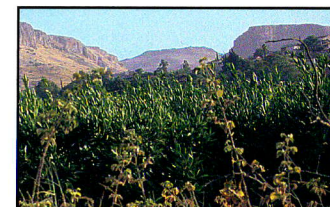
1162 Thomas Becket becomes archbishop of Canterbury. A close friend of Henry II and chancellor of England, Becket resigns his chancellorship after conflicts with Henry over the power of the church and the throne.

1170 Becket is murdered by knights of Henry II.

1174 French merchant and reformer Peter Valdes gives his wealth to the poor and becomes an itinerant preacher, the beginning of the Waldensians. His beliefs are accepted by the church, but his practice of appointing ministers and preaching without permission draws criticism and eventually excommunication.

1177 Third Lateran Council denounces the Waldensians and Albigensians. (Albigensians were heretics that believed that Jesus was an angel with a phantom body, and therefore did not die or rise again.)

1187 Muslim general Saladin defeats Crusaders at the Horns of Hattin (Galilee) and captures Jerusalem.



The Horns of Hattin (flat mountain, center)

1189-92 The Third Crusade, led by Richard I (the Lion-Heart) of England, Philip II of France, and Barbarossa the Holy Roman Emperor, captures Cyprus, Acre, and Jaffa. Richard negotiates access to Jerusalem for Christian pilgrims.

Christianity spreads to Finland.

1200

- 1201** Pope Innocent III claims the right of the pope to oversee the moral conduct of heads of state and to choose rulers, including the emperor. The height of papal authority.
- 1202** Innocent III launches Fourth Crusade to defeat Egypt. After some setbacks, Crusaders defy the pope and sack Constantinople, center of the Orthodox church. A three-day massacre by the Crusaders alienates the eastern and western church for centuries.
- 1208** Church declares a crusade against Albigensians.
- 1209** Francis of Assisi gives away his wealth and starts group of traveling preachers (Franciscans).
- 1211** Mongol Genghis Khan, whose mother is a Nestorian, rises to power. Conquers China, Iran and Iraq.
- 1212** Children's Crusade disaster. Thousands of children die at sea or are sold into slavery.
- 1215** Fourth Lateran Council condemns Waldensians and Albigensians; affirms doctrine of transubstantiation. In 1231, the Papal Inquisition is established.
- 1216** Dominican order forms, dedicated to spiritual reform.
- 1217** Fifth Crusade to defeat Egypt fails. Francis of Assisi crosses enemy lines to preach to the sultan.
- 1229** Crusaders recover Jerusalem by negotiation. In 1244 the Muslims recapture Jerusalem by force.

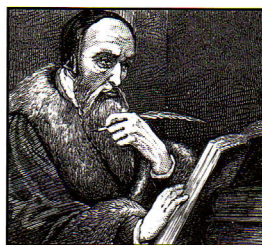


The seaport Acre, the last Crusader stronghold, falls to Egyptian Mamluks in 1291.

- 1255** Thomas Aquinas, the most influential medieval theologian, writes *Summa Theologiae*.
- 1266** Mongol leader, Kublai Khan, asks the pope to send 100 Christian teachers to baptize him and teach his people. The pope sends seven. In 1295 the Mongols begin to convert to Islam.
- 1274** Byzantine Empire rebuilt. Second Council of Lyon decrees unification of the eastern and western church, but unification is rejected in the East.

1300

- 1302** Pope claims supremacy over secular rulers.
- 1302** Franciscans active in Mongol empire.
- 1309** The "Babylonian Captivity": for the next 70 years, the papacy resides in Avignon, France. The new pope favors French policies; convenes the Council of Vienne that abolishes the Order of Knights Templar and gives their wealth to King Philip IV of France.
- 1312-1324** Marsilius of Padua writes *Defensor pacis*, stating that the church should be ruled by general councils. He is condemned as heretical.
- 1348-51** The Bubonic plague, also known as the Black Death, kills 33% of the people in Europe (about 40 million). People blame the disease (which is transmitted by fleas living on rats) on the Avignon papacy, the Jews, or personal immorality.



John Wycliffe

- 1371** John Wycliffe, English priest and diplomat, proposes that papal taxation and civil power should be limited. He challenges some church doctrines, including transubstantiation. He believes Scripture should be available to the people in their own language. People inspired by Wycliffe (derivatively called "Lollards," meaning mumblers), translate the entire Bible into English (1382) from Latin, and call it the Wycliffe Bible.
- 1373** Julian of Norwich, English mystic.
- 1376** Catherine of Sienna, mystic, sees a vision calling the new pope, Gregory XI, to return the papacy to Rome, which he does in 1377.
- 1378** Great Papal Schism: Two or three popes at one time. The College of Cardinals elects an Italian pope, Urban VI, but later denies the validity of the decision and elects Clement VII instead. Urban remains in Rome. Clement goes to Avignon, France. The schism continues until 1417.

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ROSE
PUBLISHING

4733 Torrance Blvd., #259
Torrance, CA 90503-4398 USA
Email: info@rose-publishing.com
www.rose-publishing.com

ISBN-10: 0-9655082-9-3

ISBN-13: 978-096550-829-2

9 0000 >



Retailers: Order in 10-packs 1-890947-04-0

Acknowledgement of sources: **Photos/art:** John Wycliffe, Gutenberg Bible, Galileo/Northwind Picture Archives; Carey/Christian History Magazine Archives; Moody, Carey, Allen, Luther/Billy Graham Center Archives; Wesley/General Commission & Archives of the United Methodist Church; Joan of Arc, Bonhoeffer/Beverly Hall; all other photographs/G. Goldsmith.

Bibliography: *Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity* (J. McManners), *The Story of Christianity* (J. González), all pre-1900 statistics from *World Christian Encyclopedia* (D. Barrett), *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity* (E. Ferguson), *Catholic Almanac* (1997 ed.), *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 3rd Ed. (E. Livingstone), *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (E. Livingstone), *Who Was Who in Church History* (E. Moyer), *Chronological & Background Charts of Church History* (R. Walton).

The editors wish to thank the following contributors: Bruce Shelley, Ph.D., Senior Professor, Denver Seminary, and author of *Church History in Plain Language*; Mark Galli, M.A., editor of *Christian History* magazine; Gary Burge, Ph.D., Professor of New Testament, Wheaton College; Timothy Paul Jones, M.Div., author of *Christian History Made Easy*; Fritz Runge, Church History Instructor; The Jesus Film Project; and Wycliffe Bible Translators. **For more information on the history of the Bible**, ask your bookseller for the *How We Got the Bible* pamphlet ISBN 0965508269 or pkg of 10: 0965507059

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1400

- 1408** In England, it becomes illegal to translate or read the Bible in English without permission of a bishop.
- 1413** Jan Hus of Bohemia (Czechoslovakia) writes *De Ecclesia*, which supports ideas popularized by Wycliffe.
- 1414-1418** Council of Constance rejects Wycliffe's teachings and burns Jan Hus at the stake as a heretic. It affirms that general councils are superior to popes (conciliarism), a decision later overturned. Pope Martin V is elected; the Great Papal Schism ends.
- 1418** Thomas À Kempis, a German monk, writes the *Imitation of Christ*, a devotional.
- 1431** Joan of Arc, a French peasant girl during the Hundred Years' War, sees visions and hears voices telling her to save France. She leads a successful military expedition at Orleans. Later she is taken prisoner, tried for witchcraft, and is burned. In 1456, the verdict is reversed.



Joan of Arc

- 1438** Council of Florence affirms the primacy of the pope over general councils. It declares reunion between the Roman and Orthodox churches, but is not accepted by the Orthodox.
- c. 1450** Beginning of the Renaissance. The popes of the Renaissance (1447-1521) are notable more for their intrigues and quest for power than for their pastoral care or desire for reform.
- 1453** Ottoman Turks capture Constantinople and make the Church of St. Sophia (Hagia Sophia) a mosque. Scholars flee to the West with Greek literary and scientific manuscripts, including manuscripts of the Bible. These manuscripts help to revive classical learning during the Renaissance.
- Plans to build a new St. Peter's Basilica in Rome begin, including efforts to raise funds for construction.

- 1456** Johann Gutenberg prints the Latin Vulgate, the first book printed using moveable metal type. The invention of printing makes the Bible accessible to more people who previously could not afford handmade copies, which cost a year's wage.



Page from the Gutenberg Bible

- 1479** The Spanish Inquisition begins at the initiation of King Ferdinand V and Queen Isabella of Spain, and is approved by the pope. It is established to investigate and punish heretics. Its cruel methods (torture, death by burning), secret trials, and favoritism toward the Spanish monarchy continue despite protests from Rome. The Franciscan and Dominican friars who serve as judges often misuse their power. Thousands of Jews are deported. Later the Inquisition is used against Protestants. It is finally suppressed in 1820. Catholics today condemn the methods used.
- 1492** The last of the Muslim Moors are removed from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella.
- Columbus discovers the Americas.
- Peak of papal corruption: Rodrigo Borgia buys cardinals' votes and becomes Pope Alexander VI.
- 1493** Pope Alexander VI avoids war by dividing newly discovered lands in the Americas, Italy, to burn luxury items and return to a humbler Christian life. He sells church property and gives the proceeds to the poor. Despite his initial popularity with the common people, he is caught in a political conflict with Alexander VI and is excommunicated. His popularity wanes and later he is executed for heresy.

Christianity reaches Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Kenya, and Equatorial Guinea.

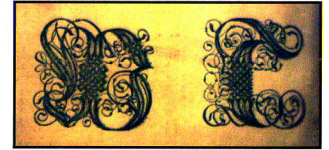
1500

- 1500** Decline of Christianity in China, Persia, Nubia (So. Egypt and Ethiopia), and areas influenced by Islam. Moscow claims to be the center of Christianity after the fall of Constantinople.
- 1503-12** Pope Julius II commissions Michelangelo to finish painting the Sistine Chapel. In 1506, the foundation stone of St. Peter's Basilica is laid.
- 1512-17** Council of Lateran V is held to address a variety of concerns, including church reform.
- 1516** Erasmus, priest and Greek scholar, publishes a Greek translation of the New Testament. Later editions of his Greek text form the basis of the *textus receptus* and are used by Martin Luther, William Tyndale, and the King James Bible (Authorized Version) translators.

Martin Luther, becomes convinced that faith alone justifies the Christian, without works (Eph. 2:8-9) — a doctrine supported by Augustine's writings.



- 1517** Martin Luther posts his 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg. They call for an end to abuses involved in methods of selling indulgences. The Protestant Reformation begins.
- 1519** Swiss Ulrich Zwingli spreads reform.
- 1522** Luther translates the New Testament into German.
- 1525** William Tyndale makes an English translation of the New Testament from Greek without permission and smuggles copies into England. He is burned at the stake.
- 1525** The Anabaptist movement, predecessor to Brethren and Mennonite churches, teaches believers' baptism only, democratic decision making, and separation of church and state.
- 1529** The term Protestantism becomes associated with Lutheranism, Zwinglianism, and Calvinism. Protestant characteristics: acceptance of the Bible as the only source of revealed truth, the doctrine of justification by faith alone, and the priesthood of all believers.
- 1530** Augsburg Confession adopted by Lutherans.
- 1534** Act of Supremacy makes British monarch Henry VIII head of the English church, breaking away from Roman Catholic control. The new "Church of England" (Anglican Church) sets forth a doctrinal statement: *The 39 Articles*.
- 1535** The Munster Rebellion. Anabaptists take over Munster and are slaughtered. Later, under the leadership of Menno Simons, the group adopts pacifism.



- 1537** The Matthew's Bible is the first English Bible published with the king's permission. On the last page of the Old Testament, the translator prints Tyndale's initials in 2 1/2 inch letters to honor him. Many Bibles in common languages begin to appear.
- 1536** John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* explains Protestant beliefs, including predestination.
- 1540** Ignatius Loyola's Society of Jesus (Jesuits) approved. They vow to evangelize the heathen.
- 1545-63** Council of Trent (Catholic Counter-Reformation) condemns indulgence sellers, immorality of clergy, nepotism (appointing family members to church offices), and Protestantism.
- 1549** The Church of England's *Book of Common Prayer* unites most English churches in a middle route between Catholicism and Protestantism.
- Jesuit Francis Xavier begins missionary efforts in the Indies and Japan: 100,000 converts attributed to him.
- 1555** Queen Mary Tudor restores Roman Catholicism to England, bans Protestant translations of the Bible, and persecutes Protestants. Many Protestants flee to Geneva, Switzerland, where they print the Geneva Bible (1560).
- 1560** John Knox's Reformed church begins in Scotland.
- 1558** Queen Elizabeth I becomes queen of England and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. She aims for a compromise between Catholics and Protestants. In 1570, she is excommunicated by the pope, and in turn persecutes Catholics.
- 1562** Heidelberg Catechism is formed. It is the most widely held Protestant doctrinal statement for centuries.
- 1568** Bishops Bible, Church of England translation.
- 1577** Formula of Concord defines Lutheran beliefs.
- 1582/1609** Catholic scholar Gregory Martin translates the Rheims-Douay Bible from the Vulgate (Latin) while in exile in France.
- 1596** Council of Brest-Litovsk. Most Orthodox in Kiev, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Polish Galicia (Uniat Churches) join communion with Roman Catholic church.
- 1598** Edict of Nantes grants freedom of worship to French Protestants (Huguenots) after 30 years of persecution. In 1685, the Edict is revoked by Louis XIV.
- Christianity spreads throughout Thailand, Cambodia, Macao, South Korea, South America and Africa through Catholic missionary efforts (through monastic orders), conquest, and colonization. Few Protestant efforts during the next 200 years.

1600

1601 Jesuit missionary and scholar, Matteo Ricci, starts evangelizing China by befriending intellectuals in the emperor's court in Peking (Beijing). Ricci is one of the first missionaries to adopt the dress and customs of the land he seeks to evangelize. His methods are criticized by other Catholics as too tolerant toward the idolatrous Confucian custom of ancestor worship.

1603 Dutch Reformed theologian Jacobus Arminius's studies of the Epistle to the Romans lead him to doubt Calvin's doctrine of predestination. He sets forth doctrines that emphasize man's ability to choose Christ and Christ's death for all people (Arminianism).

1605 Gunpowder Plot fails. Catholic fanatics attempt to kill England's King James I and blow up the houses of Parliament in order to seize the government.

1609 The first Baptist church is founded in Amsterdam by John Smyth, who baptizes himself (by pouring).

1611 King James Version Bible (KJV), also known as the Authorized Version (AV), is published. King James I of England commissions 54 scholars to undertake a new Bible translation, which takes six years to complete. The scholars use the Bishops Bible and Tyndale's Bible as well as available Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. After slow initial acceptance, this becomes the most popular Bible for the next 300 years.

A page from the King James Bible, also known as the Authorized Version (even though it never received official royal authorization).



1618 Dutch Reformed Synod of Dort denounces Arminianism and responds to Arminius's five criticisms of Calvinism with five points of Calvinism. They are (using the mnemonic *tulip*): the total depravity of mankind (mankind's inability to choose Christ), unconditional election, limited atonement, the irresistibility of grace, and the final perseverance of the saints (an elect person cannot "lose" his salvation).

1622 Creation of the Congregation de Propaganda Fide for Roman Catholic missionary efforts.

1620-30s Separatists reject the Church of England and sail to America on the *Mayflower*. Later Puritans, who wish to cleanse the church, arrive and start colonies.

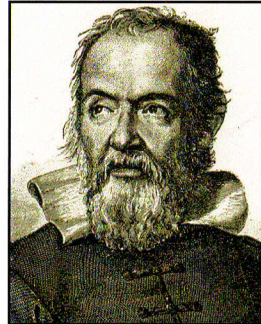
1629 Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople, Cyril Loukaris (Lucar), befriends Protestants and presents the earliest known copy of the Bible in Greek (*Codex Alexandrinus*, fifth century AD) to Charles I of England.

1630 Catholicism wiped out in Japan, thousands of martyrs.

Coptic and Syrian Orthodox churches decline.

1633 The Sisters of Charity founded by Vincent de Paul.

Galileo



1642 Death of Galileo, scientist, who agreed with Copernicus's theory that the earth moved around the sun. He was censured by the church and kept from teaching his views because his proofs were inadequate. The case was closed in his favor in 1992.

Power struggles between Charles I and the Parliament lead to civil war in England. Puritan member of Parliament, Oliver Cromwell, defeats the king's troops. Later as Lord Protector, he seeks tolerance for many Protestant groups.

1646 Westminster Confession accepted as the statement of Presbyterianism in Scotland and England.

1647 Beginnings of the Quaker movement (the Society of Friends) under preacher George Fox.

1648 End of the Thirty Years' War. Catholics and Protestants given equal rights in most of the Holy Roman Empire.

1649 In America, Iroquois Indians destroy Huron Indians and their Jesuit mission.

1654 Conversion of Blaise Pascal, French mathematician and theologian.

1655 Waldensians break from Roman Catholicism and embrace Protestantism. Catholics launch persecutions.

1667 John Milton writes *Paradise Lost*.

1673 The British Test Act bans Catholics from holding public office unless they deny certain doctrines.

1678 John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* published.

1685 Edict of Nantes revoked. Huguenots flee France.

1689 English Parliament issues Toleration Act (tolerating all Protestant groups, but not Roman Catholics).

1692 Chinese emperor officially allows Christianity. Ricci's initial 2,000 converts multiply to 300,000.

1698 First missionary societies formed by Protestants.

Christianity spreads to Bermuda, Uruguay, Taiwan, Barbados, St. Kitts-Nevis, Laos, Montserrat, Antigua, Virgin Islands, Grenada, Anguilla, Belize, Gambia, Polynesia, Chad, Micronesia, Gabon, Bahamas, Benin.

1700

1700 Slave trafficking from Africa increases.

1704 Pope Clement XI condemns "Chinese Rites," the mixture of Confucianism and ancestor worship with Christianity in China. Persecution against Christians begins; thousands are killed.

1705 Death of Philipp Jakob Spener, the "father of Pietism." Pietism emphasizes feelings, a personal religious experience, and living a life of intense devotion.

1706 First Presbyterian church in America. It is governed by a board of elders (presbyters).

1707 Isaac Watts writes more than 600 hymns in his life.

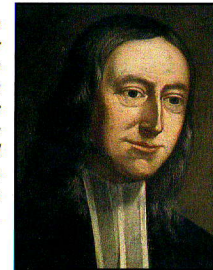
1721 Peter the Great appoints the Holy Synod to head the Russian Orthodox church, putting the church under the state's control until 1917.

1722 Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf welcomes fleeing Hussites from Moravia (Moravian Brethren) to live on his lands. The pietistic colony that forms, "Herrnhut," sends out missionaries to Africa, India, and the Americas.

1724 Greek Catholic (Melkite) church established in what is now Lebanon. Primarily located in Ethiopia and parts of Egypt, the Melkite church had accepted the Council of Chalcedon in 451, rejecting monophysitism.

1729 Jonathan Edwards, one of America's greatest preachers and theologians, preaches in Northampton.

Anglican minister John Wesley and his brother Charles are converted through contact with Moravians.



1738 Conversions of John and Charles Wesley. Their emphasis on living a holy life by doing specific spiritual disciplines each week is derided as "methodist." Eventually the descriptive is accepted with pride, and Methodism spreads rapidly in the Church of England.

Charles Wesley pens more than 6,000 hymns, including "And Can It Be" and "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing," and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."

Freemasonry condemned by Pope Clement XII (and later popes). The pope forbids Catholics to join.

1739 George Whitefield, Anglican preacher, gives open-air evangelistic messages.

John Wesley travels throughout Britain on horseback, reportedly giving 40,000 sermons during his lifetime.

1740 The Great Awakening in New England, led by Whitefield. Revival spreads throughout colonial America.

1741-2 George Frideric Handel writes the *Messiah*.

1759 Powerful Jesuit order suppressed. In 1773, it is dissolved by the pope. In 1814, Jesuits are reestablished.

1764 John Newton, former slave trader converts, writes "Amazing Grace."

1769 Serra founds the first of nine missions in California.

1771 John Wesley sends Francis Asbury to preach in America. The American Methodist Church becomes a separate organization in 1784.

1773 First independent Black Baptist church is established in America.

1780 "Sunday school" is developed in England by Robert Raikes out of concern for urban poor.

1781 Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. Reason cannot deny the existence of God, the soul, or eternity.

1784 "Conference of Methodists" forms a group within the Church of England.

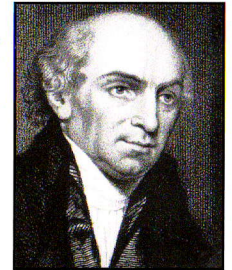
The Russian Orthodox send missionaries to Alaska.

1785 Korean Christianity expands, then is exterminated.

1789 The French Revolution results in a new government and a new religion hostile to Christianity, "The Cult of Reason." Thousands of Catholic and some Protestant clergy are executed. Ten years later the French invade Rome, and take Pope Pius VI prisoner to France.

1792 Second Great Awakening: revival sweeps New England for 30 years.

William Carey, often called the father of modern Protestant missions



1793 William and Dorothy Carey of England sail for India. Carey writes a significant work on the Great Commission and offers strategies for fulfilling it at a time when many Protestants believe that "when God pleases to convert the heathen, he'll do it without consulting you or me."

The Baptist Missionary Society and other missionary societies formed during this century.

1795 Many American churches, including the Baptists, begin to divide over the issue of slave holding.

1797 Methodists separate from the Church of England to form a distinct church.

Christianity spreads to Nepal, Seychelles, Falkland Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Pitcairn Island, Sierra Leone, Norfolk Island, and Tonga.

1800

1801 French leader Napoleon Bonaparte reconciles with new pope temporarily (Concordat of 1801) and makes himself emperor in 1804. France reinvades Rome and takes Pius VII to France as a prisoner.

1807 William Wilberforce, member of Parliament and devout Christian, leads Parliament to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire. He and other Christians also address social problems including exploitative child labor, illiteracy, prison reform, education, and reinstating civil rights for Jews and Catholics.

1811 Thomas and Alexander Campbell's Restoration Movement gives rise to the Disciples of Christ and some Church of Christ groups.

1813 Adoniram and Ann Judson arrive in Burma.

Richard Allen, founder of the AME Church



1816 The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) is founded by Richard Allen, a free Black, in Philadelphia. In 1821, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church forms.

1822 Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith (reestablished by Pope Pius VII) spurs Roman Catholic missionary efforts in Ethiopia, Mongolia, North Africa (Charles Lavigerie, founder of the White Fathers) and Hawaii (Fr. Damien, works with lepers 16 years and dies of leprosy).

1827 John Nelson Darby of the Plymouth Brethren creates the first dispensational system (dividing history into spiritual eras or *dispensations*), which influences Cyrus Scofield's teachings of the 1900s.

1830 Friedrich Schleiermacher, the "Father of Liberal Protestant Theology," teaches that God is *within* human reality, not above it.

Joseph Smith, Jr., founds the Church of the Latter-day Saints (Mormonism), which denies the Trinity.

1833 Oxford Movement calls the Church of England to return to "high church" practices and doctrines.

1835 Charles Finney leads revival in New York.

1836 George Müller opens faith orphanage in England.

1840 David Livingstone, missionary, goes to Africa.

1844 Søren Kierkegaard's *Philosophical Fragments*.

The YMCA and YWCA (Young Men's/Women's Christian Association) form in London during the Industrial Revolution to introduce Christianity to new large populations in urban areas.

Adventist Movement begins with William Miller.

1854 Baptist preacher Charles H. Spurgeon draws such great crowds that a church is built for him in England.

Immaculate Conception dogma is pronounced by Pope Pius IX. It states that Mary, Jesus' mother, was free from original sin, a belief debated since the Middle Ages.

Dwight L. Moody



1855 Dwight L. Moody, shoe salesman in Chicago, converts and works with the YMCA. He develops a simple message of repentance and salvation and the work of the Holy Spirit ("higher life"). Moody, Finney, and singer Ira Sankey mark the beginning of "revivalism": revival meetings held in urban areas.

1859 Charles Darwin writes *Origin of the Species*.

1863 Seventh-Day Adventist Church founded.

1864 Catholics in Korea persecuted by revolutionaries.

1865 Hudson Taylor begins China Inland Mission.

1865 After the U.S. Civil War, many former slaves join with other African-Americans to start denominations in America, including the Black Baptists and the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (CME, later the C is changed to mean Christian).

1870 First Vatican Council (Roman Catholic) on faith and the church declares papal infallibility dogma.

1875-9 Christian Science and Jehovah's Witnesses (Watchtower) founded. Both deny Christ's deity.

1878 The Salvation Army is founded by William Booth and his wife, Catherine Munford, both Methodist preachers, to minister to the poor.

1880 Moody leads the nondenominational Northfield Conferences, which emphasize holiness, dispensationalism, missions, evangelism, and the Spirit-filled life.

1887 B.B. Warfield, Reformed theologian at Princeton.

1895 The five "fundamentals" of the faith are set forth by the Evangelical Alliance to define the line between fundamentalism and modernism (radical liberalism). They are the inerrancy of Scripture, the deity of Jesus, the Virgin birth, Jesus' death providing substitutionary atonement, Jesus' physical resurrection, and his imminent return.

1895 Turks massacre 300,000 Armenian Christians.

Christianity spreads to Botswana, Madagascar, Djibouti, Somalia, Zambia, Rwanda, Liberia, Samoa, Transkei, New Hebrides, Lesotho, Uganda, Hong Kong, and Pacific Islands.

1900/2000

1901 Amy Carmichael, Irish missionary to India for 53 years, starts work at Donavur for children in danger.

Boxer Rebellion: Chinese kill missionaries and converts.

Many revivalists now preach premillennialism.

1904-05 Welsh Revival.

1906 Azusa Street revivals, led by William Seymour, emphasize living a holy life demonstrated by Spirit baptism and evidenced by speaking in tongues. Beginnings of Pentecostalism.

Albert Schweitzer writes *Quest for the Historical Jesus*.

1909 Scofield Bible published. Cyrus Scofield links verses from various books of the Bible in an attempt to explain God's actions in human history—fitting history into seven distinct spiritual eras (dispensations).

1914 Assemblies of God, and later Church of God and Four-Square Gospel denominations, form in the wake of the Azusa Street revivals.

1917 Communism spreads anti-religious ideology through Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Christianity is eradicated from education and worship. Millions are imprisoned and killed.

1919 Karl Barth's *Commentary on Romans*. Birth of neo-orthodoxy, which challenges liberalism with an emphasis on the Bible and on God's transcendence.

1925 Billy Sunday, the "baseball preacher," preaches salvation and temperance revivals.

Scopes "Monkey" Trial (State of Tennessee v. John Scopes) on the teaching of evolution.

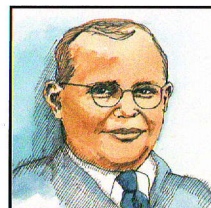
1930-1950 Many Protestant denominations split over issues involving modernism, higher life, or dispensationalism, including the Presbyterian Church in the USA and the Northern Baptist Convention.

1934 Wycliffe Bible Translators is founded by Cam Townsend. Wycliffe and other organizations translate the Bible into other languages. In 1914 there are portions of the Bible in 600 languages. By 1980, the Bible is translated into more than 1600 languages.

1941 Rudolf Bultmann leads movement to "demythologize" the Bible.

1933-45 Rise of Nazism, leading to World War II and the death of 6 million Jews and millions of Christians.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer leads the seminary of the Confessing Church in Germany during the Nazi regime.



1945 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and a leader of the underground church in Germany, is hanged for plotting to kill Adolph Hitler.

1945 Franciscan priest Maximilian Kolbe, prisoner in

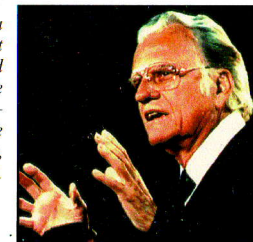
Auschwitz, volunteers to die and is executed in place of a fellow prisoner.

1948 Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest known copies of portions of the Bible (c. 100 BC).

Modern political State of Israel established.

1949 Organized Christian churches exist in every country in the world except for Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Tibet, according to *World Christian Encyclopedia*.

Billy Graham, a Southern Baptist minister, preached the largest crusade in history—1.1 million people in Seoul, Korea, in 1973.



Billy Graham's Los Angeles Crusade launches his ministry. Over the next five decades, he preaches to more people than any evangelist in history.

World Council of Churches formed by representatives from all major Christian denominations except the Roman Catholics.

1954 Scientology and Unification Church founded. Neither accepts the Trinity or the deity of Jesus Christ.

1950-1960's Explosion of Christianity in newly independent African countries. Approximately 200 million Christians by 1980.

1962 Second Vatican Council (Roman Catholic) accepts Protestants as "separated brethren," encourages translating and reading the Bible, revokes the excommunication of the Great Schism (1054), upholds papal infallibility and encourages services (the Mass) to be held in each common language rather than in Latin.

1963 C.S. Lewis, author of *Mere Christianity*, dies.

1964 Baptist minister Martin Luther King, Jr., receives Nobel Peace Prize for civil rights efforts.

1970s Many major national and international crusades held: Latin America (Luis Palau), worldwide Here's Life crusade (Campus Crusade), Korea (Billy Graham). Jesus Movement in the USA; charismatic movement.

Largest church in the world is now in Seoul, Korea.

1997 Death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Catholic nun, who spent 50 years caring for the poor and dying.

Pope John Paul II apologizes for the Roman Catholic Church's lack of moral leadership during the Holocaust.

1998 *The Jesus Film*, an evangelistic film, is seen by more than 5 billion people since 1979.

2004 *The Passion of the Christ* movie released. Depicts Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

Persecution of Christians continues around the world.

Christianity spreads to the Antarctic. There are still 2000 groups of people who have no portion of the Bible in their own language.