

A photograph of an open Bible showing the beginning of St. Matthew's Gospel. The page is aged and yellowed. The text is in a traditional Gothic script. The title 'ST. MATTHEW.' is at the top, followed by 'CHAPTER 1'. The text describes the genealogy of Jesus, starting with Adam and ending with Jesus.

- ◆ Foretold & Established
- ◆ Growth & Strengthening
- ◆ Warnings & Problems

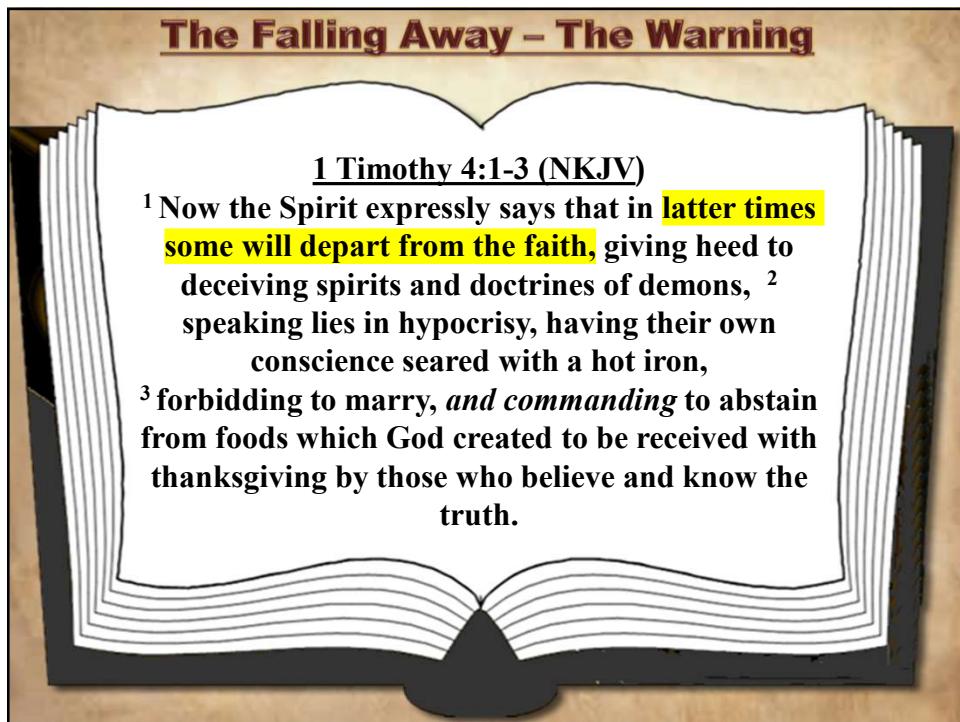
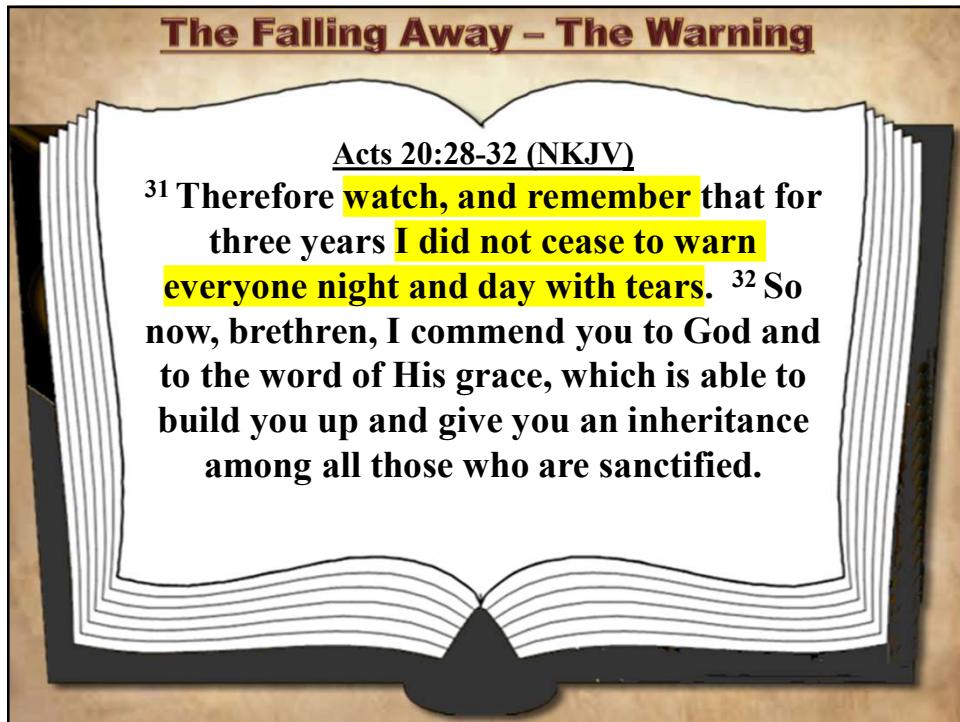
A Quick Review

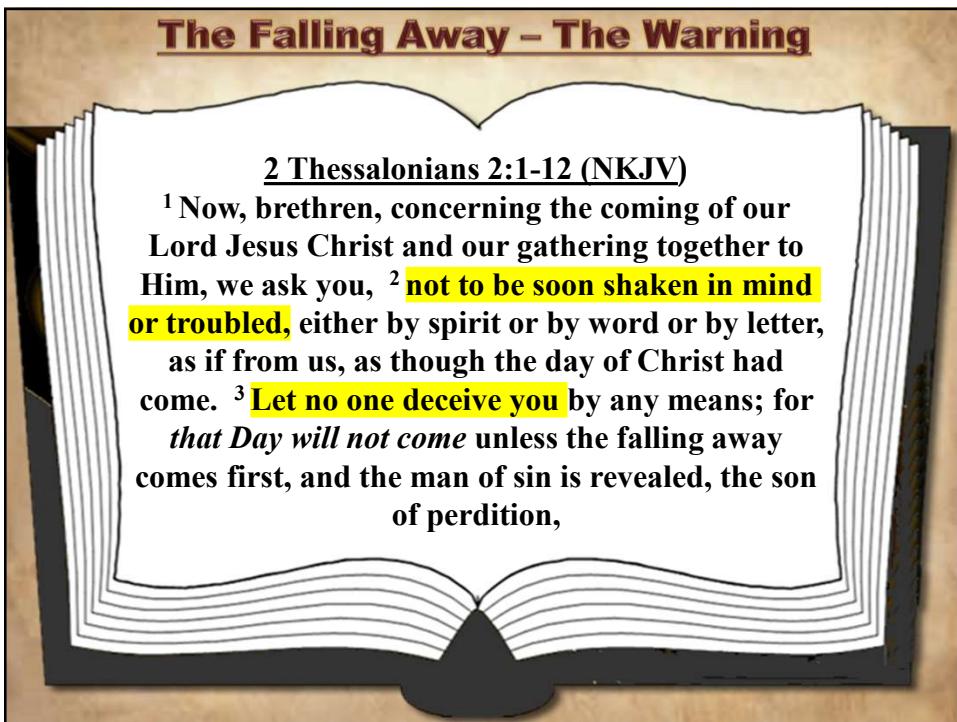
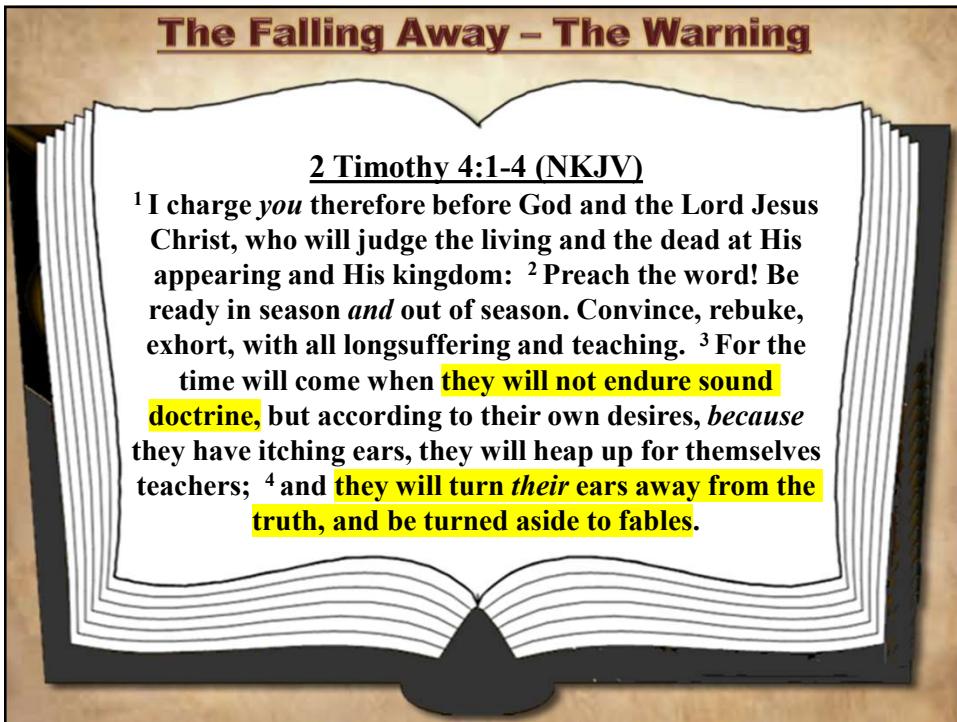
- **Matthew 1:21**
- **Matthew 16:13-18**
- **John 4:23-24**
- **Acts 2:47**
- **Ephesians 1:22-23**
- **Colossians 1:18**
- **Philippians 1:1**
- **I Corinthians 1:10-17**
- **John 17**

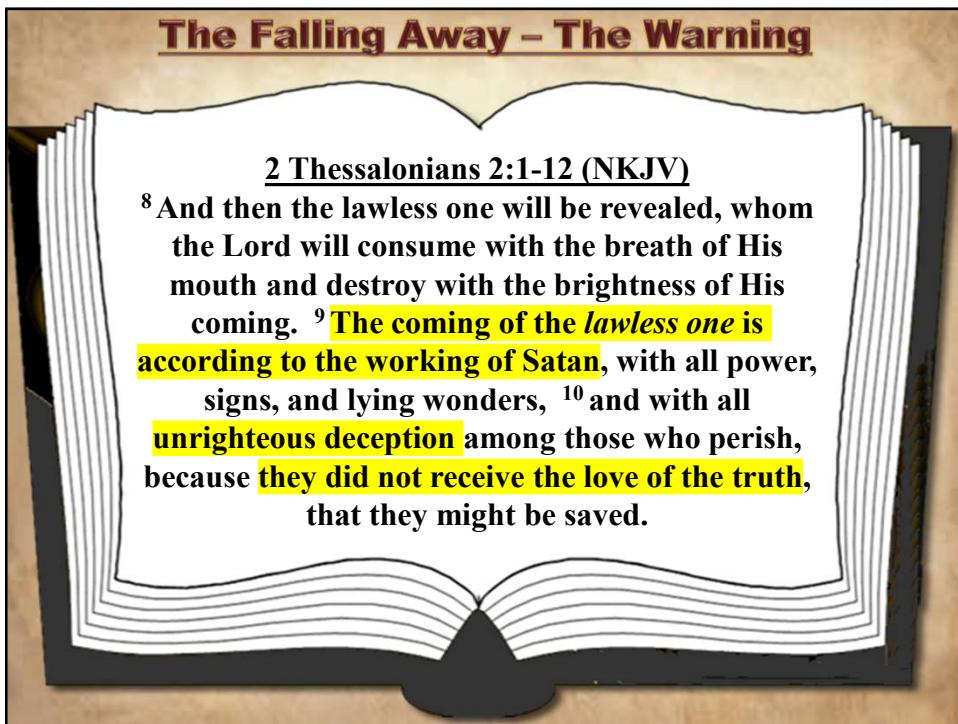
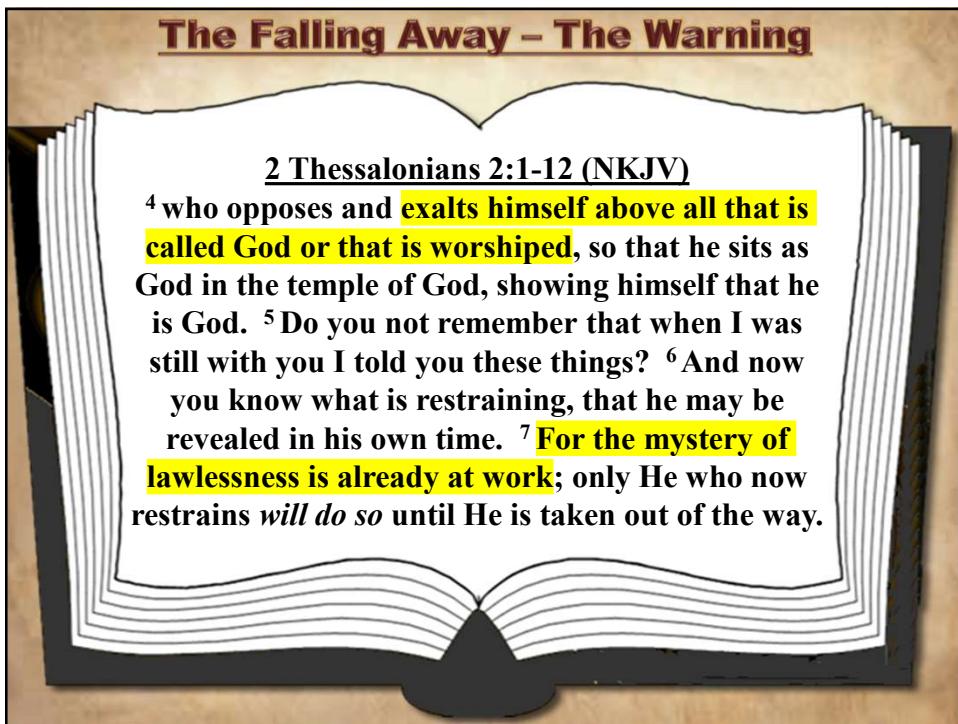
The Falling Away – The Warning

Acts 20:28-32 (NKJV)

²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.** ³⁰ Also **from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.**

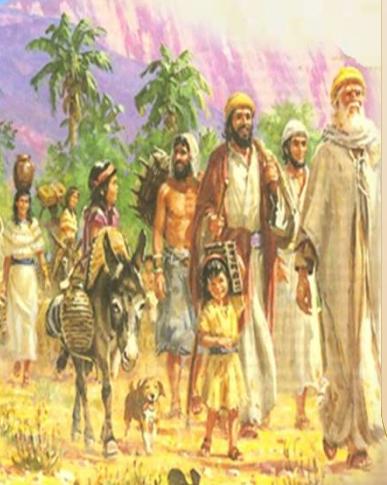






The Falling Away

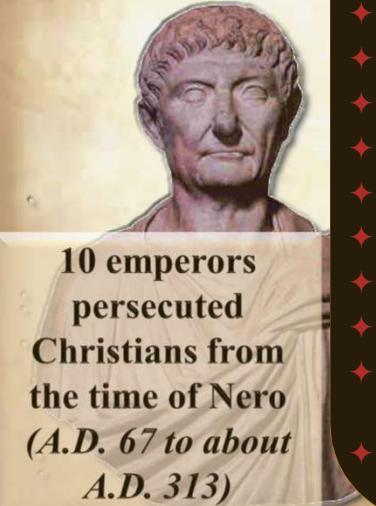
Another Generation



- ◆ After the apostles – there grew up a people that did not hold fast to the truth - *Judges 2:10; 2 Tim 4:3,4*
- ◆ We tend to measure what we do with what we have done slowly departing from the true pattern.
- ◆ Let us NEVER forget that we are only ONE generation away from apostasy

The Falling Away

Persecution of Christians

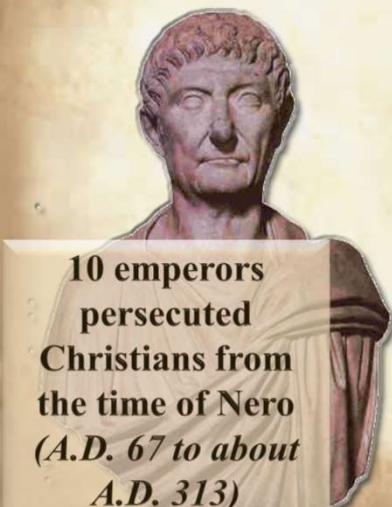


10 emperors persecuted Christians from the time of Nero (A.D. 67 to about A.D. 313)

- ◆ Domitian - (A.D 89-96)
- ◆ Trajan – (98-117)
- ◆ Marcus Aurelius – (161-180)
- ◆ Septimus Severus – (193-211)
- ◆ Caracalla – (211-217)
- ◆ Maximus 1 – (235-238)
- ◆ Decius – (249-251)
- ◆ Valerian (Co-Ruler w/ Gallienus 253-260)
- ◆ Diocletian & Maximian – (Co-Rulers 284-305)
- ◆ Galerius & Maximinus 2 – (Co-Rulers 305-311)
- ◆ Constantine orders toleration – (306-337)

The Falling Away

Persecution of Christians



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(A.D. 67 to about A.D. 313)

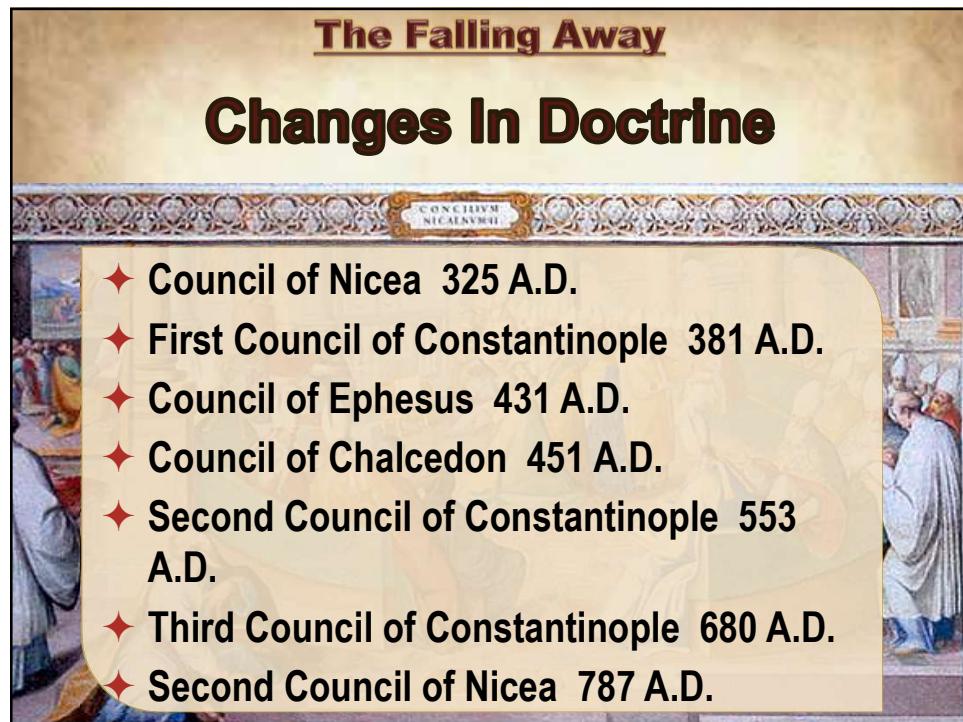
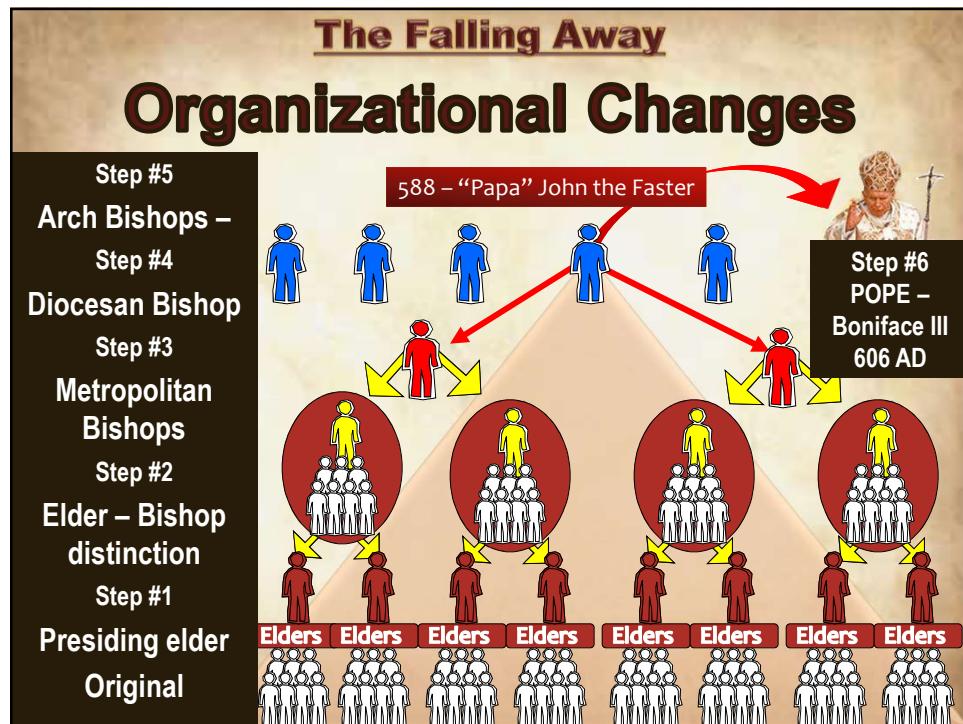
- ◆ Kept the church free from pretenders –
- ◆ Kept false doctrine from being too widespread –
- ◆ Caused many to renounce their faith and compromise

The Falling Away

Organizational Changes

- ◆ 150 AD One elder exalted above the others (elder/bishop still one office)
- ◆ 200 AD One Bishop per church overseeing the eldership (elder/bishop two offices)
- ◆ 250 AD One diocesan Bishop overseeing other Bishops of other churches.
- ◆ 300 AD One Metropolitan Bishop overseeing other diocesan Bishops (Creeds replace Bible)
- ◆ 381 AD One Patriarch overseeing Metropolitans (Man replaces Creeds)





The Falling Away

Changes In Doctrine

- ◆ Use of Holy Water – 120
- ◆ Sprinkling for Immersion – (250) – (1311)
- ◆ Infant Baptism – (370) – (416)
- ◆ Celibacy – (313) - (1073)
- ◆ The Latin Mass – 394
- ◆ Purgatory – (220) – (1070)
- ◆ Penance – (157) – (411)
- ◆ Transubstantiation – 1000
- ◆ Indulgences – 1192

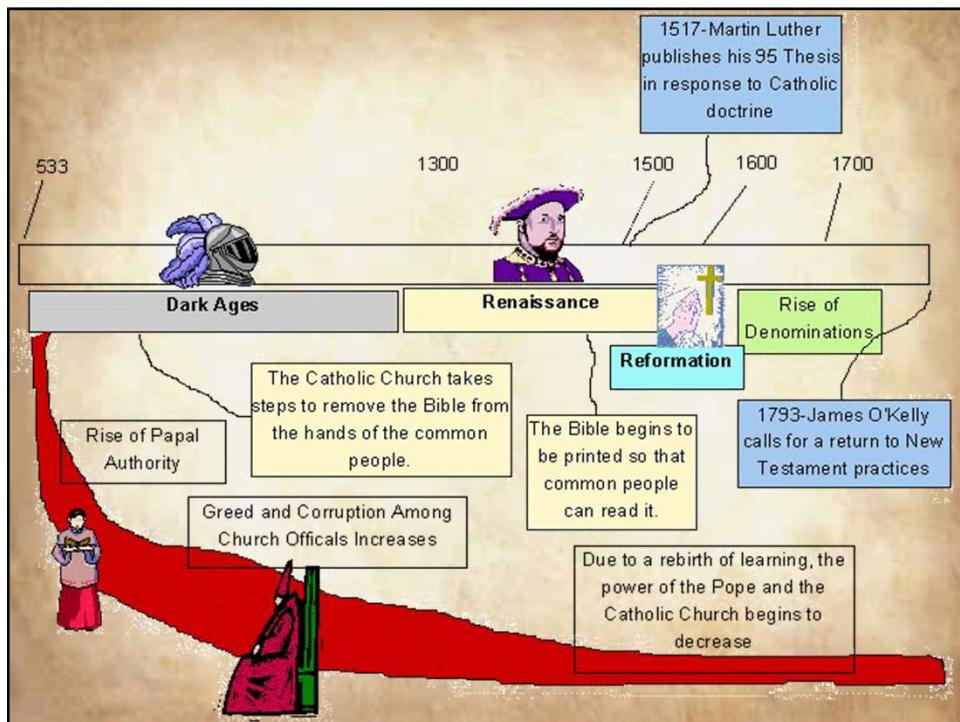
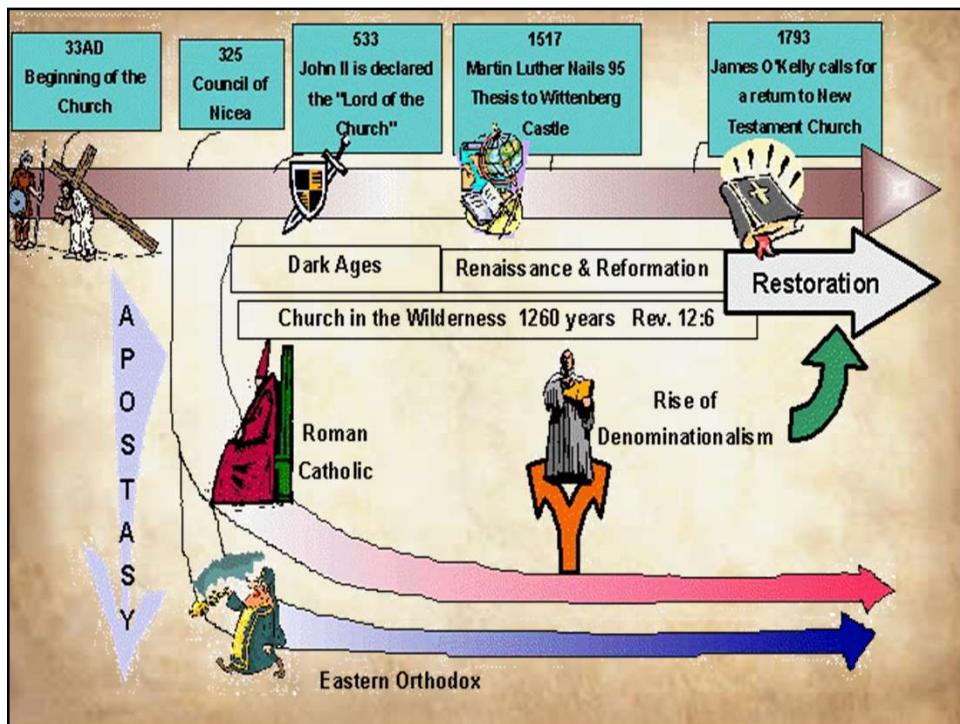
- ◆ Primacy of Peter
- ◆ Worship of Mary
- ◆ Forbidding to Eat Meats
- ◆ Religious Holidays
- ◆ Images
- ◆ Inst. Music

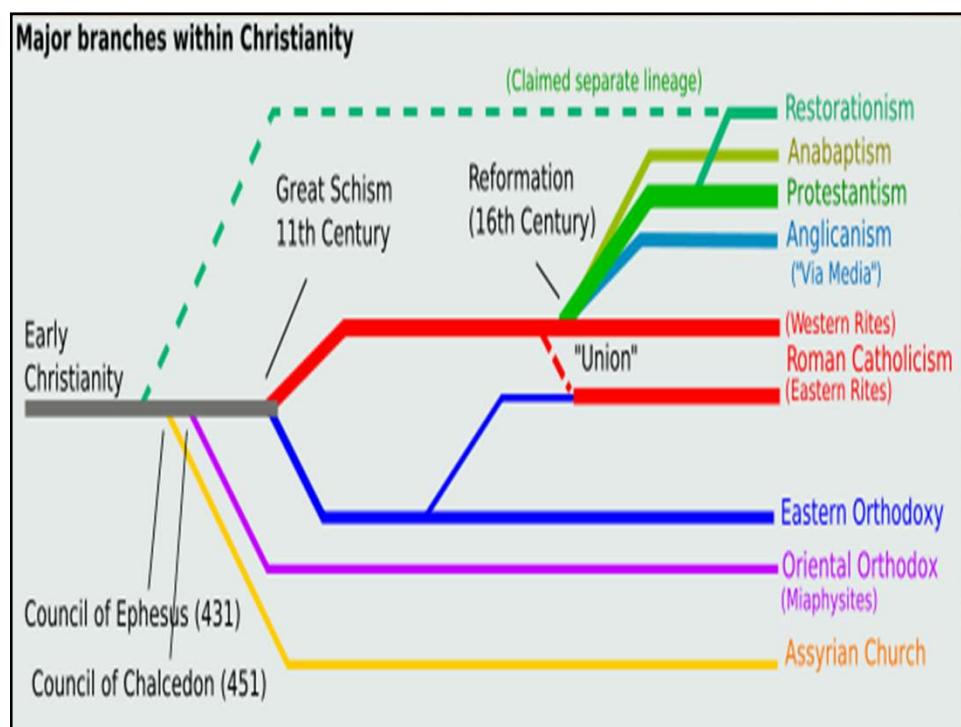
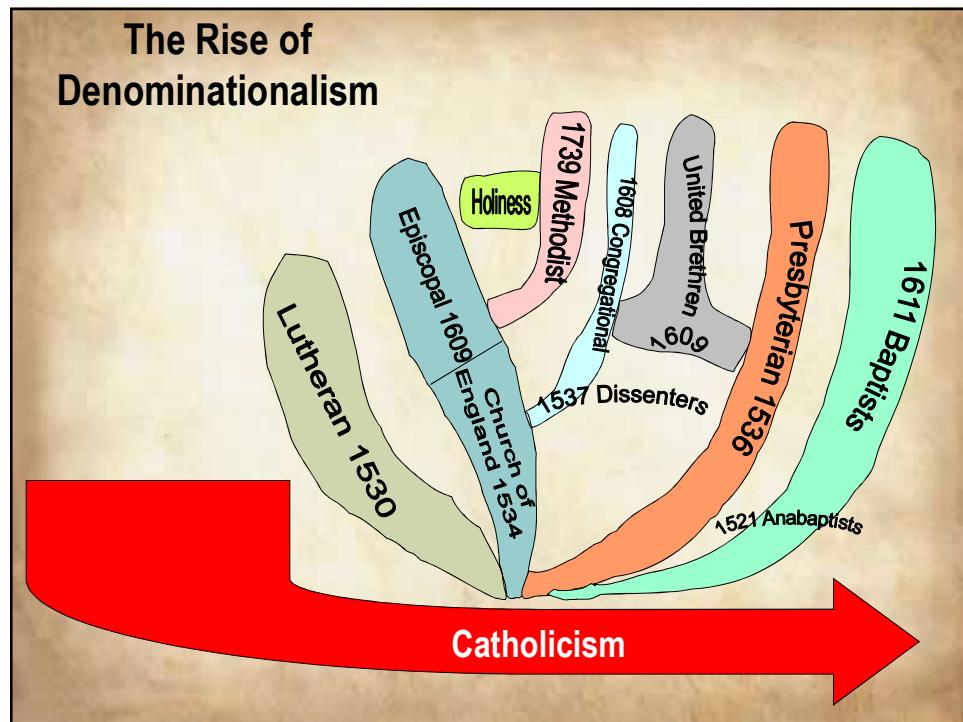
The Falling Away

The Scriptures Not Followed



- ◆ Elders NOT highest office
- ◆ The gospel was NOT sufficient
- ◆ Burial in water NOT essential -
- ◆ Purity of life NOT necessary
- ◆ Men became the standard
- ◆ A Religious-Political organization
- ◆ Worship became ritualistic
- ◆ A different institution





The Apostasy – In Full Force

The Falling Away
100A.D.-1450 A.D

- ◆ Next Generation
- ◆ Persecution
- ◆ Organizational Changes
- ◆ Changes In Doctrine
- ◆ Not the Church of Christ



The New Testament

- **REFORMATION**
- ref-or-ma'-shun:
- The word is found only in **Hebrews 9:10**, being the translation of diorthosis, in its only occurrence. This Greek word means etymologically "making straight," and was used of restoring to the normally straight condition that which is crooked or bent. In this passage it means the rectification of conditions, setting things to rights, and is a description of the Messianic time.

Webster

- **Definition of reformation**
- **1:** the act of reforming : the state of being reformed
- **2 capitalized :** a 16th century religious movement marked ultimately by rejection or modification of some Roman Catholic doctrine and practice and establishment of the Protestant churches

The Falling Away

2 Kings 10:28-31 (NKJV)

²⁸ Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel.

²⁹ However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, *that is*, from the golden calves that *were* at Bethel and Dan.

³⁰ And the Lord said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in doing *what is* right in My sight, . . .



The Reformation

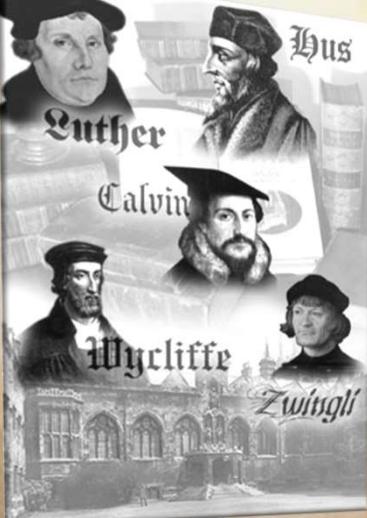
Elements Behind the Reformation

- ◆ **Corrupt practices of Catholicism (popes, indulgences, doctrines)**
- ◆ **Internal problems leading to split (1054)**
- ◆ **The Inquisition (1229-1834)**

The Inquisition was a powerful office set up within the Catholic Church to root out and punish heresy throughout Europe and eventually the Americas. Beginning in the 12th century and continuing for hundreds of years, the Inquisition is infamous for the severity of its tortures and its persecution of Jews and Muslims. Its worst manifestation was in Spain, where the Spanish Inquisition was a dominant force for more than 200 years, resulting in some 32,000 executions.

The Reformation

Elements Behind the Reformation



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- ◆ **The Renaissance**

The Renaissance was a fervent period of European cultural, artistic, political and economic “rebirth” following the Middle Ages. Generally described as taking place from the 14th century to the 17th century, the Renaissance promoted the rediscovery of classical philosophy, literature and art. Some of the greatest thinkers, authors, statesmen, scientists and artists in human history thrived during this era, while global exploration opened up new lands and cultures to European commerce. The Renaissance is credited with bridging the gap between the Middle Ages and modern-day civilization.

Renaissance Religion

Humanism encouraged Europeans to question the role of the Roman Catholic church during the Renaissance.

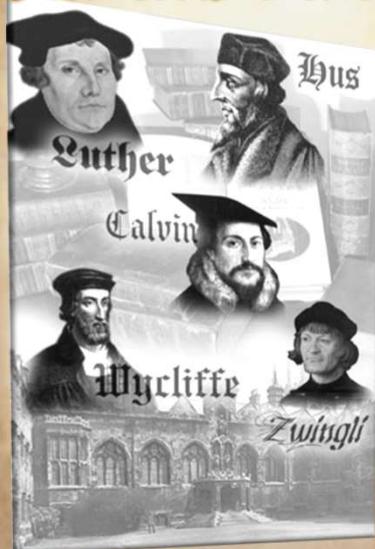
As more people learned how to read, write and interpret ideas, they began to closely examine and critique religion as they knew it. Also, the printing press allowed for texts, including the Bible, to be easily reproduced and widely read by the people, themselves, for the first time.

In the 16th century, Martin Luther, a German monk, led the Protestant Reformation – a revolutionary movement that caused a split in the Catholic church. Luther questioned many of the practices of the Catholic church and whether they aligned with the teachings of the Bible.

As a result, a new form of Christianity, known as Protestantism, was created.

The Reformation

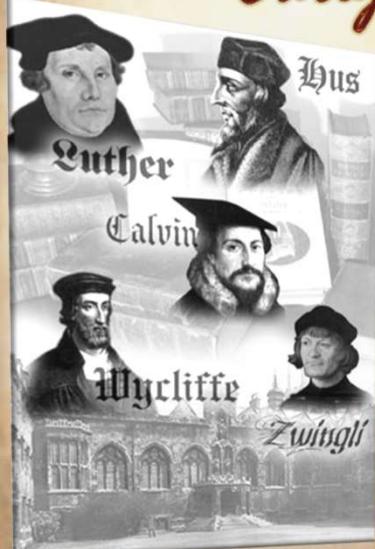
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- ◆ **The Inquisition (1229-1834)**
- ◆ **The Renaissance**
- ◆ **Translation of Bible into different languages**
- ◆ **Invention of the printing press by Gutenberg (1454)**

The Reformation

Early Rebellion



- ◆ **The Albigenses (1208-1400) (destroyed by inquisition)**
- ◆ **Peter Waldo (Puritan – followers suppressed by inquisition)**
- ◆ **Peter Du Pres – (Burned at stake in 1126)**
- ◆ **John Wycliff (1320-1384) – (bones dug up by pope Martin V and burned and ashes thrown in river swift)**
- ◆ **John Huss (1369-1415) – (Bohemia – Burned alive and ashes thrown in the river Rhine)**

The Reformation

The Reformers



- ◆ **Martin Luther**
- ◆ **John Calvin**
- ◆ **John Knox**
- ◆ **Ulrich Zwingli**
- ◆ **Henry VIII – Church of England**
- ◆ **John & Charles Wesley**



WHY WAS A REFORMATION NEEDED?

Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23;
Eph. 4:1-6; Eph. 5:23;
I Timothy 4 & 2 Timothy 4

**A Different Church Had Been Established!
What Was Really Needed Was Restoration!**

The Reformation

Origin of the Lutheran Church (1521)

- Place: Wittenberg, Germany
- Founder: Martin Luther
- Prominent Doctrines:
 - Salvation by Faith Only
 - Infant Baptism
 - Consubstantiation
 - Direct Operation of Holy Spirit on the Sinner
- Organization:
 - Local: church council with pastor
 - Synod: pastors & lay representatives
 - General Body

The Reformation

Origin of the Presbyterian Church (1540)

- Place: Scotland
- Founder: John Calvin and John Knox
- Prominent Doctrines:
 - Calvinism
 - Called the Lord's Day the Christian Sabbath
 - Baptism by Sprinkling or Pouring
- Organization:
 - Elders in each congregation
 - Presbytery consisting of a number of churches
 - Annual General Assembly

5 Points of Calvinism

T – Total Depravity

(Ezek. 18:20; Mt. 18:3; Rom. 2:10-12; Heb. 12:9)

U – Unconditional Election

(1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9; Mt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17)

L – Limited Atonement

(Heb. 2:9; 1 Jn. 2:2; Ti. 2:11-12; Mt. 26:28)

I – Irresistible Grace

(Acts 7:51; 7:57; 13:46; Lk. 8:11-15)

P – Perseverance of the Saints

(2 Pet. 2:20-22; Gal. 5:4; Acts 8:20-23; 1 Tim. 4:1)

The Reformation

Origin of the Church of England (1534)

- Place: England
- Founder: King Henry VIII
- Reason: Pope refused his request for a divorce
- Prominent Doctrines:
 - King of England is Head of the Church
 - A Catholic Church under English Rule
- Interesting History:
 - Brought to America in 1578
 - American Revolution destroyed it
 - Reorganized in 1783 as the Episcopal Church

The Reformation

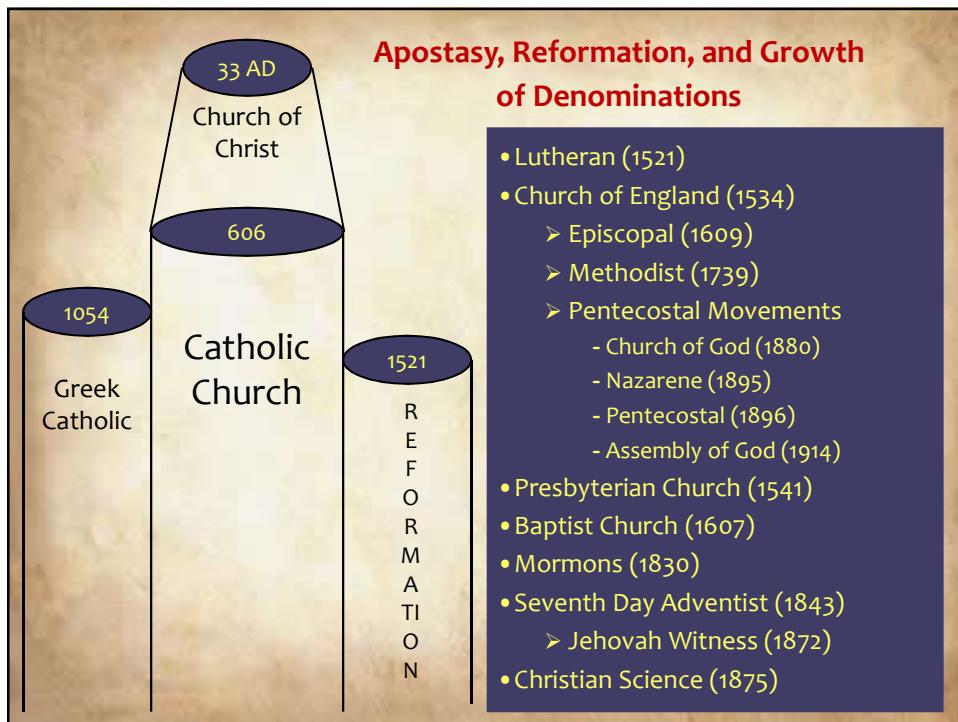
Episcopal Church in America (1783)

- Prominent Doctrines:
 - Children born in sin; therefore, Infant Baptism
 - Saved by Faith Only
 - Jesus dies to reconcile the Father to us
 - Baptism by pouring or immersion
 - Observe special days
 - Believe Ten Commandments still binding
- Form of Government:
 - Parish overseen by a Rector (priest)
 - Wardens – church records and councils
 - Vestrymen – in charge of church property
 - Parishes grouped into Dioceses with Bishop as Head
 - Diocesan Convention annually
 - General Convention every 3 years – Presiding Bishop

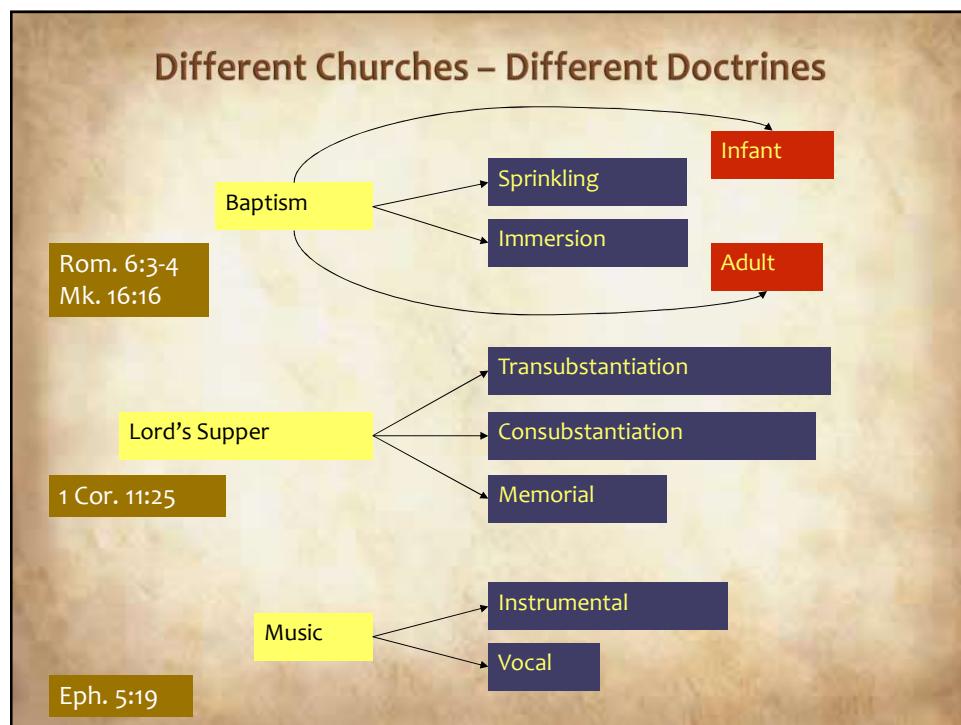
The Reformation

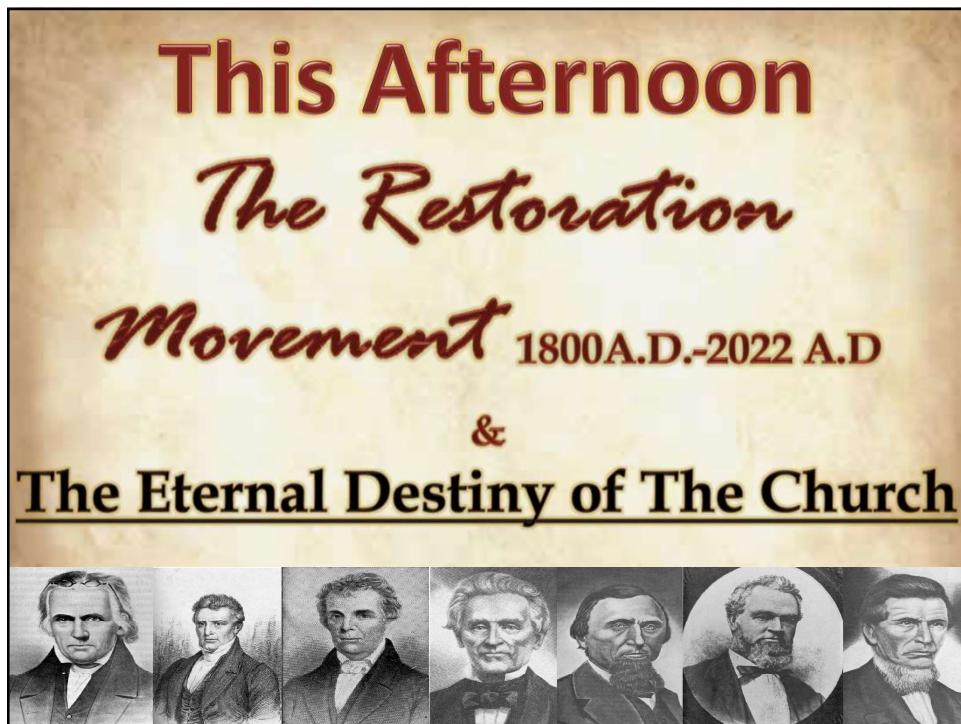
Origin of the Baptist Church (1607)

- Place: Holland
- Founder: John Smythe
- Prominent Doctrines:
 - Total Depravity & Salvation by Faith Only
 - Baptism Not essential to salvation
 - Baptism essential to membership in Baptist Church
 - Candidates for baptism must be voted on
 - Impossibility of Apostasy (once saved always saved)
 - Closed Communion observed usually on 1st Sunday
- Organization:
 - Pastor and Deacons – officers in local church
 - Conventions and Associations



ONE CHURCH in the BIBLE			
Time	Place	Founder	Church
Pentecost	Jerusalem	Christ	Church of Christ
606 A.D.	Rome, Italy	Boniface III	Roman Catholic
1520	Germany	Martin Luther	Lutheran
1534	England	King Henry VIII	Church of England
1536	Switzerland	John Calvin	Presbyterian
1607	Holland	John Smythe	Baptist
1739	England	John Wesley	Methodist
1830	USA	Joseph Smith	Latter Day Saints
1830	USA	William Miller	7th Day Adventists
1866	USA	Mary Baker Eddy	Christian Scientist
1872	USA	Charles Russell	Jehovah Witnesses





GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR SALVATION

Hear the Word of God---Rom. 10:17
Believing In Your Heart--- Acts 16:31
Repenting Of Your Sins--- Acts 2:38
Confess That Christ Is The Son of God- I Jn 4:15
Be Baptized Into Christ--- Gal. 3:26-29
Be Faithful Until Death--- Rev. 2:10; I Cor. 15:58

*The Uniqueness Of The Bible - It Is The Only Word of God-
In It Is The Un- Perverted Gospel Of Jesus Christ*