



# Church History

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## Assignment and Final Essay

### Assignment

Watch the following God's Generals Videos.

Visit youtube.com/@RobertsLiardon > Playlists > God's Generals. The name of the video in the playlist is listed after each person.

1. **Maria Woodworth-Etter:** Maria Woodworth-Etter
2. **Kathryn Kuhlman:** Kathryn Kuhlman "The Woman Who Believed in Miracles"
3. **Evan Roberts and the Welsh Revival:** "Welsh Revivalist"
4. **A.A. Allan:** The Miracle Man
5. **John G. Lake:** A Man of Healing
6. **Smith Wigglesworth:** Smith Wigglesworth | Apostle of Faith
7. **William Branham:** "A Man of Notable Signs and Wonders"
8. **William Seymour:** "The Catalyst of Pentecost"
9. **John Alexander Dowie:** God's Generals Series - John Alexander Dowie
10. **Aimee Semple McPherson:** God's Generals Series - Aimee Semple McPherson  
"A Woman of Destiny"
11. **Jack Coe:** God's Generals Series | Jack Coe

### Final Essay

Choose one person that was included in the Church History syllabus or in the list of videos. Write an essay about that person explaining their life and what they did for Jesus. Your essay should be 2-3 pages typed and double spaced. The font size should be 12. Your essay will have a due date and should be sent by email to your instructor.



## Church History

### Lesson 1: Why Study Church History?

#### **1. Many Christians suffer from historical amnesia.**

- This is not God's intention.
- God intended for parents to tell their children about Passover in Exodus 13:8.
- God desired every generation to know about the provision of manna in the wilderness in Exodus 16:33.

#### **2. There are many things we take for granted.**

- Our Bible – Many are martyred for even having a Bible.
- Our freedom to worship is taken for granted.

#### **3. The Christians of history will inspire you.**

- The individuals such as Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
- The common church people – the early martyrs.

#### **4. The study of church history will give us an appreciation for what we have today.**

- The Biblical revelation we have today compared to the Middle Ages.
- The atmosphere of freedom we have for the gifts of the Spirit compared with the early Catholic church.

#### **5. We can understand the present much better if we understand the past.**

- Where did the over two hundred and fifty different denominations in North America come from?
- How did we end up with so many different beliefs and ways of doing things?

#### **6. The study of past evils will help us avoid them in the present.**

#### **1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 11**

**1 Corinthians 10:1** *Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,*

**1 Corinthians 10:2** *all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,*

**1 Corinthians 10:3** *all ate the same spiritual food,*

**1 Corinthians 10:4** *and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 10:5** *But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.*

**1 Corinthians 10:6** *Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.*

**1 Corinthians 10:11** *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

- The study of past heresies and false theology will educate us for the present.
- Anything the devil does is a repeat, nothing new.

**7. The study of church history will stir our faith as we discover that the gospel transformed, not only individuals, but entire cities and countries.**

## Church History

### Lesson 2: The Eight Ages Summarized

#### 1. The Age of Jesus and the Apostles

- This is the model for all the other ages.
- This age demonstrated through the life of Paul, that the gospel recognizes no boundaries of nation, race, sex, or culture.

#### 2. The Age of Early Christianity: 70 – 312

- During this time, Catholicism spread rapidly throughout the Mediterranean world.
- Christians faced the persecuting power of Rome and dared to die heroically as martyrs.
- The seed of the martyr's blood eventually bore abundant fruit in the conversion of the Empire.

#### 3. The Age of the Christian Empire: 312 – 590

- This age began with the conversion of Constantine.
- By the end of the fourth century Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.
- Christians began to hold places of governmental authority and prominence.
- This was also an age of the movement of monasticism.

#### 4. The Christian Middle Ages: 590 – 1517

- This was the age of the Popes and the Catholic Church becoming a sort of empire.
- The crusades also occurred during the time.

#### 5. The Age of the Reformation: 1517 – 1648

- Martin Luther was the prominent figure of this age.
- This age marks the mobilization of Protestantism: Lutheranism, Reformed, Anglican, and Anabaptist.

- The Roman Catholic church resisted the attack on tradition by sending out missionaries to Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The Roman Catholic church put the most people to death than any other institution.

- The denominational concept of the church rose in prominence.

## **6. The Age of Reason and Revival: 1648 – 1789**

- Novel schools of thought filled the seventeenth century. Many asked the question, “Who needs God? Man can make it on his own.”
- This age was the revival of prayer and preaching.
- A series of evangelical revivals took place.

## **7. The Age of Progress: 1789 – 1914**

- This age saw Christians wage a war against secularism.
- Missionary work increased.

## **8. The Age of Ideologies: 1914 – Present**

- During this age Nazism and Communism spread throughout the world.
- Two world wars occurred, followed by the Cold War.
- Missionary work spread throughout the world.
- Denominations struggled, while independent churches grew wildly.

## Church History

### Lesson 3: The Age of Jesus and the Apostles

#### Events

##### 1. The deaths of the disciples and early church leaders.

- James, the brother of John

The person who turned James into the authorities became a believer and was led to Christ the day James was beheaded.

They were both beheaded in AD 36.

- Thomas

He preached to the Parthians, Medes, Persians, Carmanians, Hycanians, Bactrians, and Magians. He was killed in Calamina, India.

- Simon, the brother of Jude and James the younger

He was crucified in Egypt during the reign of Trajan.

- Simon the apostle, called Cananeus and Zealots.

He preached the gospel in Mauritania, Africa, and Britain. He was also crucified.

- Mark

He preached the gospel in Egypt. He was burned and then buried during the reign of Trajan.

- Bartholomew (Nathaniel)

He preached the gospel in India and translated the gospel of Matthew into their native tongue. He was beaten, crucified, and beheaded.

- Andrew, Peter's brother

Roman governor Aegeas forced all Christians to worship Roman gods.

Andrew was accused of converting people to Christianity.

The Council told Andrew he was to not preach the Gospel, or he will face crucifixion.

Andrew said, "I would not have preached the honor and glory of the cross if I feared the death of the cross."

On his way to be crucified, he never expressed any fear. History records Andrew saying, “O cross, most welcome and longed for! With a willing mind, joyfully and desirously, I come to you, being the scholar of Him which did hang on you, because I have always been your lover and yearned to embrace you.”

He did not fear death.

- Matthew

He converted Ethiopia and all of Egypt. He was killed with a spear.

- Philip

He was stoned and crucified. He was then buried next to his daughter.

- James, the brother of Jesus

He preached the gospel from the top of the temple. He was thrown down from the top and then beaten.

## **2. Peter and Paul are executed: A.D. 65**

They were probably both executed under the direction of Nero, in Rome.

Peter, at his request, was crucified upside down. He declared he was not worthy to die in the same manner as Jesus.

Paul, being a Roman citizen, was beheaded.

## **People**

### **Nero**

#### **1. Laying a foundation. Reasons that led up to the persecution of Christians.**

- Rome's basic policy was one of tolerance towards other religions.

If those religions paid homage to the emperor, then Rome did not interfere.

Rome, at one time, even dropped the requirement of burning incense to the emperor because of the Jews. If Rome considered Christians just another Jewish sect, Christians enjoyed the same immunity from imperial pressure. The Jews made it known to Rome that they wanted nothing to do with Christians.

The Jews considered themselves a group that was set apart. They did not actively try to convert people. The Christians, on the other hand, wanted to convert others to do the same.

They, like the Jews, refused to worship the emperor as God. But they also persuaded others to do the same.

- “The set apart” lifestyle of Christians.

The Christian ethic was a criticism of pagan life.

- The rejection of pagan gods.

For a pagan, every meal began with a drink offering to a pagan god. Most heathen feasts and social parties began this way also. Christians could not take part in this. To most people, Christians seemed rude and boring.

Christians rejected other social events that they found morally wrong such as gladiatorial combats.

Christians found it difficult to make a living because of this. Some examples are:

- A mason might make bricks for a pagan temple.
- A tailor might make robes for a pagan priest.
- An incense maker might make incense for sacrifices.
- A schoolteacher was forced to use textbooks that taught stories of ancient gods.
- Hospitals considered themselves to be under the protection of the god Aesculapius.
- The Christian view of slavery.

Christians, even though they owned slaves, treated them well and gave them full rights in the church.

The Romans treated their slaves like animals. An owner had the right to kill his slave.

- The Christian view of children.

Romans believed unwanted newborn children should often be taken out into the woods and left there to die, be eaten by animals, or stolen by robbers.

- The Christian view of sex.

The Christians viewed sex as something only for marriage.

**2. These are some of the reasons that led to the persecution of the Christians by Nero.**

- The suspicion that Christian gatherings were sexual orgies.

Christians called their gatherings “Love Feasts.”

- The suspicion that Christians were preaching cannibalism.

This probably stemmed from the Lord’s Supper.

- Christians were accused of atheism.

The Romans could not understand the worship of a god without an image. Monotheism, the worship of one God, was not popular.

- The popular belief was that disaster would strike if the gods were not worshipped.

In his *Apology* Tertullian writes, “If the Tiber floods the city, or if the Nile refuses to rise, or if the sky withholds its rain, if there is an earthquake, a famine, a pestilence, at once the cry is raised: ‘Christians to the lions.’”

- The tradition of Emperor worship.

This was the main cause of persecution.

Caesar worship was primarily a test of political loyalty.

**3. Nero’s persecution.**

- Rome’s fire.

A fire burned in Rome for six days and six nights in the year A.D 64. A greater part of the city lay in ashes.

A rumor spread that Nero had caused the fire.

To direct the hatred away from himself, Nero blamed the Christians for the fire.

This lie was easy to believe because of the reasons listed above.

- The persecution.

Christians were killed in many ways.

- They were crucified.

- Sown in skins of wild animals. Then dogs were let loose upon them. They were torn into pieces.
- Women were tied to bulls and dragged to death.
- After night fall, Christians were burned at the stake in Nero's Garden. He invited the public to watch the "human candles."

#### **4. Nero, the man.**

- Upbringing

His mother, Agrippina, managed to convince her husband, Claudius, to adopt Nero and put him ahead of Claudius's own son, first in line for the throne. She then murdered Claudius and Nero ruled the world at age seventeen.

- A savage madman

He stabbed his mother to death for treason. Beheaded his wife for adultery. Then, displayed his wife's head to his mistress. Kicked his mistress to death while she was pregnant.

He eventually ended up committing suicide. His last words were, "What a showman the world is losing in me."



## Church History

### Lesson 4: The Age of Early Christianity: 70-312

#### Events

- **Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus: A.D 70**

A revolt against the Roman empire began in A.D 66.

Titus was appointed by his father, the emperor, to lead the Jewish War.

What was the effect this had on the church?

Answer: The early church leaders were accustomed to dealing with the strong Jewish church based in Jerusalem. The Christian Jews were not involved in the revolt. This became an obvious wedge between them and the traditional Jews. After A.D 70, the Christian Jews were not allowed in the synagogue. This became a practical reason for the church to reach out to Gentiles.

\*The next four men were known as “apologists.” They rose at this period in history to defend the Christian faith against rumors of the pagans. The word “apologist” comes from a Greek word that means “defense.” This is the kind of defense that a lawyer gives at a trial.

- **Justin Martyr’s *First Apology*: A.D 150**

Christians saw this holy lifestyle as a proof of the change in their lives. He is proving in his apology that things became different in their lives after salvation.

The first apology made Christianity reasonable to thinking pagans.

- **Irenaeus’ *Against Heresies*: A.D 180**

- What is Gnosticism?

A system of religion based on mixture of Greek and Oriental philosophy and Christianity, which taught through knowledge alone salvation could be attained.

- Irenaeus

He wrote five monumental books against gnostic heresies. He was the leader in the fight against Gnosticism.

His writing influenced writers such as Augustine.

- **Tertullian begins writing: A.D 196**

His writings promoted purity of life and doctrine.

- **Origen begins writing: A.D. 215**

Origen came from a Christian home. His father suffered martyrdom.

He was an influential teacher in Alexandria who used allegory (symbolism) to find the Christian message in the Old Testament.

He demonstrated that faith and philosophy could live in harmony. He was familiar with the wisdom of Greece, its philosophy, and of Christ.

Origen, along with Clement, his teacher, gave leadership in a school in Alexandria. Philosophers often opened schools in major cities. Christians followed in this practice and presented the gospel in the philosophical form to win intellectuals to Christ.

Clement was forced to leave Alexandria because of persecution. This was the same persecution that took the life of Origen's father. Clement left Origen, then eighteen years old, to run the school. He supported his family by selling his own books.

He traveled all over preaching the gospel. Students would come from hundreds of miles to hear him speak.

He not only taught philosophy, but also about Christian character. One student said, "I was stimulated by the acts he performed, more than by the theories he taught."

He wrote many books. He had seven shorthand writers working for him.

He felt free to criticize the church when he thought they were wrong. He was charged with heresy because of his boldness.

Origen quotes Celsus, a pagan writer at his time, who criticized Christians frequently, as saying that he heard Christians saying, "strange, fanatical, and quite unintelligible words, of which no rational person can find meaning." Obviously, he was criticizing the gift of speaking in tongues.

Origen was the first church father to recognize that the supernatural was declining. He cites the reason as a lack of holiness.

He did teach some things that were biblically unsound. He taught that all creation, including the devil, would be saved. He believed Hell would one day be emptied.

He was singled out during persecution in A.D 254. He was put in prison, chained, and tortured. Later he was released, but the torture had taken its toll on him.

He died three years later at the age of sixty-nine.

- **The earliest known public churches are built: A.D 230**

This signaled a shift in Christian life and practice.

- **Empire wide persecution: A.D 250**

This happened under Emperor Decius. It caused thousands to fall away.

- **Anthony takes up solitude: A.D 270**

Regarded by many as the first monk in church history. He was influenced by the words of Jesus to the rich young ruler. At the age of twenty-seven, he gave up all his wealth. Hundreds of people imitated him. This was the beginning of monasticism.

Monks were the ones withdrawing because they saw a decline in the supernatural in the church. They were spirit-filled and operated in the gifts of the spirit. They withdrew so they could be itinerating evangelists and minister.

The model Christian at the time was the one who was dragged into the arena and killed. Now, it began to take a turn to the model Christian were the monks.

He lived to be 105 years old. He had perfect vision and all his teeth.

- **“Great Persecution” begins under Diocletian: A.D 303**

Much propaganda about Christians began to spread. This laid a foundation for the persecution that was about to take place after forty years of peace.

There is not a clear reason why Diocletian began persecuting Christians. He was a highly effective, strategic leader who did not bother with Christians for the first eighteen years of his reign. Two years before his reign ended, he launched the most intense persecution of Christians.

His court was full of Christians. His wife and daughter were Christians, although he was a pagan.

He first ordered his army to be purged of all Christians. Other imperial edicts followed: church buildings were destroyed, worship was prohibited, scripture was burned. Bishops were rounded up, imprisoned, tortured, and put to death. Other Christians were then murdered.

Diocletian divided the kingdom into four parts, or courts. He shared rule with three others. He did this to protect the kingdom from enemies.

Galerius, one of these rulers, was even more intent on exterminating Christians than Diocletian. But, realizing that it could not be done, on his death bed he said, “Thousands upon thousands of terrified Christians had, to be sure, recanted, but other thousands stood fast, sealing their faith with their blood.” Galerius reluctantly, as his last official act, issued an act of toleration.

After his death of Galerius, a struggle for power began. This is when Constantine began to forcefully take over Rome.

- **The Donatist Schism: A.D 312**

The North African Christians, known as Donatists, had a conflict with the Catholic church.

This movement in the church stood for:

- A holy church
- Church discipline
- The resistance of unworthy bishops

Certain bishops had handed over scripture to be burned during the Great Persecution. Some had even made offerings to pagan gods. The Donatists believed that these bishops were unworthy and should not be allowed back in the church. They considered what the bishops had done as an act of apostacy.

They believed that they were the true church, and the Catholic Church was not.

Augustine, the current pope, gave permission for the use of force against his rivals.

## **People**

### **1. Ignatius of Antioch**

He was the first to use the word “catholic” when describing the church. “Catholic” simply means “universal.”

By the end of the second century, the term “catholic” was widely used.

He was very concerned with sound doctrine. He wrote about the deity of Jesus and other church issues.

We know nothing about him. What we do know, we read in his letters written on his way to Rome, the place of his execution.

He was martyred. On the way to his death, he wrote a letter to his Christian friends in Rome saying, “Take no action to prevent my death. I wish to attain to Christ and to be an imitator of the passion to Christ, my God.”

He also said, about his own martyrdom, “I am the wheat of God and am ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I may be found pure bread of God.”

## 2. Justin Martyr

He was an apologist born in A.D 100. He searched for many years energetically for the truth. He attended a variety of many philosophical schools.

One day, he was meditating by the seashore. An old man approached him, and after a conversation with him, the old man exposed the weakness of Justin's beliefs and thinking. The old man challenged him to read the Old Testament. After hearing the old man's argument and reading the Old Testament, he abandoned his former religious and philosophical ways of thinking and rededicated his life to serving Christ.

This was a common experience many people in the early church had.

In one of his writings he wrote, "The prophetical gifts remain with us. Even in the present times. Now it is possible to see among us women and men who possess gifts of the Spirit of God."

In his second apology he wrote, "For numberless demoniacs throughout the whole world, and in your city, many of our Christian men exorcising them in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, have healed and do heal, rendering helpless and driving the possessing devils out of the men, though they could not be cured by all the other exorcists, and those who used incantations and drugs."

He believed in the gifts of the Spirit, and he was used by God to set many people free from demons.

In AD 165, him and others were taken before Roman authorities. When they asked if he would sacrifice before the pagan gods he said, "No one who is rightly mind turns from true belief to false."

He was martyred by being beheaded.

## 3. Polycarp

He was the bishop of Smyrna.

Because he was known around the kingdom as a leading Christian, he was brought to a crowded arena to be thrown to the lions. The soldiers that came to arrest him got treated to a hot meal and some good conversation. Because of the good treatment, they gave Polycarp one hour to pray.

The following is the conversation between the governor and Polycarp that took place in the arena.

Governor: "Simply swear by Caesar."

Polycarp: "I am a Christian. If you want to know what that is, set a day, and listen."

Governor: "Persuade the people."

Polycarp: "I would explain to you, but not to them."

Governor: "Then I will throw you to the beasts."

Polycarp: "Bring out your beasts."

Governor: "If you scorn the beasts, I will have you burned!"

Polycarp: "You try to frighten me with the fire that burns for one hour and you forget the fire of Hell that never goes out."

Polycarp's most famous quotation is, "Eighty-six years have I served Him and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"

They were about to nail him to the stake when Polycarp said, "Let me be as I am. He that granted me to endure the fire will grant me also to remain at the pyre unmoved, without being secured with nails."

The fire would not kill him, so he was stabbed with a dagger. His blood put out the fire.

#### **4. Perpetua**

In A.D 202, Perpetua, a 22-year-old nursing mother, was thrown into prison for being a Christian.

She was told to give sacrifices to the pagan gods, but she wouldn't do it. Her father, who was not a Christian, begged her to recant and sacrifice to the gods. She refused and was thrown into prison.

While she was in prison, she was given permission to have her child with her. She cared for and nursed her baby in prison. She would say the prison was more like a palace because the presence of God was so thick in her cell. She shared an area with others also waiting to be killed for their faith. They would all worship and have church together in their cell. She even shared if she was given the chance to leave, she didn't know if she would want to because the presence of God that was there.

She asked God for a vision. He showed her a vision of her trying to climb up a ladder, but there was a dragon at the bottom that took hold of her before she got to the top. This showed her that she was to die by wild beasts. Also, in her vision, her Christian teacher died first.

Her father would visit her to persuade her in prison and at her trial. She would not give in. After the trial, Perpetua and the others imprisoned with her returned to their cells with high spirits and singing.

Perpetua, and the others she was in prison with, was all put to death by wild beasts.

Written by a witness on the day she and the others were put to death on March 7, 203 A.D: “They marched from the prisons to the amphitheater joyfully as though they were going to heaven with calm faces.”

The crowd demanded they were all to be scourged before a line of gladiators. They all rejoiced in this. They were stripped naked, and the crowd was horrified at the sight of 22-year-old Perpetua, and they fell silent. A mad heifer charged towards her and threw her into the air, and she landed on her back. She did not die, so a leopard was let loose. The leopard killed her teacher. Gladiators came out and began to kill the Christians.

A young gladiator went to kill Perpetua but could not bring himself to do it. She guided his spear to her throat.

## 5. Tertullian

He was an apologist.

He was known as the father of Latin theology. He was born in Carthage around A.D 150.

He wrote many books to promote Christianity. Those written in Greek have been lost. Thirty-one written in Latin have survived. He was one of the most powerful writers of his time.

In his *Apology*, he underlined legal and moral absurdity in the persecution of Christians.

In his other writings he:

- Encouraged Christians facing martyrdom
- Attacked heretics
- Explained the Lord’s Prayer
- Explained the meaning of baptism
- Explained the meaning of the Trinity

He was the first person to use the word “trinitas” (trinity).

When speaking about persecution he said, “Public hatred asks but one thing, not the investigation of the crimes charged, but simply of the confession of the Christian name.”

When writing to Christian martyrs, he said, “Your blood is the key to paradise.”

In many of his writings, he refers to physical healing and deliverance from demons. He also believed in speaking in tongues. In *On Baptism*, he writes, “Not that in the water we obtain the

Spirit; but in the water we are cleansed and prepared for the Holy Spirit.” He also states that “following baptism the hand is laid on us invoking and inviting the Holy Spirit...”

## **Study**

### **Persecution in the Early Church**

- The early Christians’ point of view.

The early Christians took 1 Peter 4:16 very seriously. It says, “Yet if anyone suffers as a Christians, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.”

They felt there was no higher honor than to imitate the death of Jesus.

- Persecution was sporadic.
  - Persecution under Emperor Trajan – A.D 98-117

He became the first emperor to persecute Christians as a distinct group from the Jews.

- Christians enjoyed toleration – A.D 125-160

Only a few martyrdoms are recorded during this time.

- Persecution under Emperor Marcus Aurelius – A.D 161-180

Justin Martyr and Polycarp were killed during this time of persecution.

The emperor made it easy for enemies of the church to act as informers and seize church property.

In 177 A.D, forty-eight Christians were put to death in an amphitheater.

- Persecution under Emperor Septimius Severus – A.D 193-211

Although persecution began to take place again, the church grew in numbers and in strength.

The first building identified as a “house church” was built.

The recorded number of persecutions during this time were mainly new converts and the disciples of Origen in Alexandria.

- Persecution under Emperor Maximus Thrax – A.D 235-238

This persecution was directed at church leaders.

- The church experienced twelve years of peace.
- Persecution under Emperor Decius – A.D 249-251

This was very severe and empire wide.

In December of 249, he gave an order to seize leading Christians. By January 20, 250, the Pope himself had been tried and sentenced to execution.

Thousands recanted during this time. They signed legal documents renouncing their belief in Jesus. Many, to show their sincerity, sacrificed to false gods. In Smyrna, the bishop himself performed a sacrifice.

A mob, in Alexandria, took a female convert named Quinta to a temple of a false god and tried to make her worship. When she refused, they tied her feet and dragged her through the streets, beating her as they went. She was then stoned to death.

Origen was imprisoned and tortured during this time.

- Persecution under Valerian – A.D 253-260

He deported bishops and shut down churches.

In 258, he ordered church leadership to be executed and church property to be confiscated.

Many Christians that were former slaves returned to slavery.

- Forty years of peace – A.D 260-300
- The “Great Persecution” under Diocletian – A.D 303

This persecution, meant to extinguish Christians, saw many die. Entire churches and communities were wiped out.

Constantine becomes emperor through war and Christianity becomes acceptable.

- Interesting fact

It is estimated that more people have been martyred in the last seventy years than in the first three hundred years of the church.

- How did Christianity survive during these persecutions?
  - They became too strong to be defeated.

- They had a majority in many places.
- They were well organized.
- They attracted people.
- Christianity never lost its martyr spirit.
- During persecution, the church increased.

Lactantius, a Christian, explained, “There is another cause why God permits persecutions to be carried out against us, that the people of God may be increased.”

Eusebius, an eyewitness to the persecution, said, “... we ourselves beheld, when we say we were at these places, many Christians all at once in a single day, some of whom suffered beheading, others punishment by fire, so that the murderous axe was dulled, and worn out, was broken in pieces by the executioners grew utterly weary... It was then that we observed a most marvelous eagerness and a truly divine power and zeal in those who placed their faith in the Christ of God. Thus, as soon as sentence was given against the first, some from one quarter and others from another would leap up to the tribunal before the judge and confess themselves Christians...”

- Popular opinion had been changing in favor of Christianity.
- How did the early church view martyrs?
  - Martyr

“Martyr” means “witness”. But the word became known as “a person who died for Christ.”

- Confessors

A confessor was someone who confessed Christ in a trial but did not suffer the death penalty.

- The church viewed martyrdom as an imitation of Jesus.

This is the reason that Christians never used armed resistance. They believed that Jesus was the example of nonviolence at His own trial and execution. Scripture gave a basis for martyrdom.

**Luke 6:29** *To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either.*

**Matthew 5:39** *But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.*

**Matthew 5:10-12**

**Matthew 5:10** *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Matthew 5:11** *Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.*

**Matthew 5:12** *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

**John 15:20** *Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

Stephen, the first Christian martyr, gave the example of a Christ like death. He became the example to the Christian martyrs that followed.

Scripture gave a basis for nonresistance.

**Acts 9:5** *And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."*

**John 15:20** *Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

**Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

**1 Peter 4:13** *but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.*

Although nonviolent, Christians did charge that persecution was wrong.

Christians believed that denying Jesus during trial was the sin of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

It was believed that a martyr's death cleared one of all sin committed after baptism.

- This belief in the virtue of martyrdom led to volunteering. Some activity sought persecution and death. This was a small minority.

Early church leaders did not advocate this behavior.

- The sentiment of the early church towards martyrs led from love to reverence.

“Heavenly birthdays” were held for martyrs on the anniversaries of their deaths. The celebration was held at the grave site.

Blood, bones, body parts, and the clothing of martyrs were held in high esteem. These were known as *relics*.

## Church History

### Lesson 5: The Age of the Christian Empire: 312-590

#### Events

##### **1. Edict of Milan: A.D. 313**

This was a meeting between the two remaining Roman Emperors: Constantine in the west and Licinius in the east. The Edict ended all policies of persecution towards questions. It gave equal treatments towards all religions, but it favored Christianity. It returned all property that was seized from Christians during persecution. This brought the end of Christian martyrdom.

##### **2. The First Council of Nicea: A.D. 325**

About three hundred bishops and deacons from the Eastern part of the empire met in the little town of Nicea. On a table, in the center of the room, lay a copy if the gospels. Constantine was present at the meeting.

The irony of this meeting was that there were church leaders present who had been through persecution. Now, they were sitting with the Roman emperor discussing the scripture. The once persecuted people became the respected advisors to the emperor.

One pastor was missing an eye, and another was crippled in both hands as a result of red-hot irons.

The problem Constantine wanted the Council to solve was the dispute over Arianism.

The doctrine came from Arius, a pastor from Egypt, who believed that Christ was more than human, but less than God. This doctrine stated that God the Father created the Son, who in turn created everything else.

The Council met for approximately two months to discuss the issue.

Some were ready to compromise, but a young deacon, named Athanasius, called for a creed to be written that would call for the full deity of Jesus.

All but two bishops agreed on the creed which states, "... in one Lord Jesus Christ, true God of true God."

##### **3. Basil the Great founds a monastery: A.D 358**

This laid a foundation for religious communities ever after.

#### **4. Athanasius defines the New Testament: A.D. 367**

It was customary at this time for bishops to write letters to each other that discussed matters of importance in the church.

In one of his letters, he lists the books of the Old and New Testament that he describes as canonical (belonging to the Bible). It was the exact list that makes up our Bible today.

This is a major reason why we have our Bible today.

Such unsound writings such as *The Gospel of Thomas* might have crept in.

There was much debate over *Revelation* and *2 Pete*. Luther, although not alive at this time, would have liked to exclude *James*.

#### **5. First Council of Constantinople: A.D. 381**

This council ratified the Nicene Creed.

#### **6. Augustine converts to Christianity: A.D. 386**

He was born in 354. Because of his high intelligence, he was sent to the best schools.

He studied “rhetoric” which is persuasive speech. He concluded, through his studies, that truth was the supreme goal of his life. He searched for truth and embraced many false religions during his search.

In Milan, he met Ambrose, a Christian bishop, who had intellect. He answered objections that Augustine had to the Bible.

Later that summer, while sitting in a garden, he heard a child’s voice say, “Take it and read it. Take it and read it.” Sitting nearby was the *Book of Romans*. He picked it up and read it. He was born again and then ordained a few years later.

As a bishop, Augustine was involved in every major controversy of the day.

He wrote hundreds of works, including *The City of God*, his most famous.

#### **7. Ambrose defies Emperor Theodosius: A.D. 390**

Ambrose refused to give Emperor Theodosius communion after his brutal killing of thousands in Thessalonica.

This act influenced church-state relations for generations.

#### **8. Jerome completes the Vulgate: A.D. 405**

Jerome was born in Italy in 345. He became a Christian and scholar at age 29. In 382, he became secretary to the pope. In his day, the Old and New Testament was in Greek. This was the Septuagint. The common people did not read or speak Greek. Some translated it into Latin, but often the translations were poor in quality.

Jerome wrote to the pope, “If we are to pin our faith to the Latin texts, it is for our opponents to tell us which. For there are almost as many forms of text as there are copies. If on the other hand, we are to glean the truth from a comparison of many, why not go back to the original Greek and correct the mistakes introduced by inaccurate translators and the blundering alterations of confident but ignorant critics and further all that has been inserted or changed by copyists more asleep than awake.”

Jerome began retranslating in 382 and finished in 404 or 405. It took him 23 years to translate from the Greek to the Latin.

He also worked alone to right volumes of other commentaries, and he involved himself in every theological battle of the day.

The word *vulgate* is from the Latin word *vulgaris* meaning “common”. The Vulgate became the standard. Martin Luther would often quote the Vulgate.

What negative results were there?

- The Vulgate became corrupt because of copyists’ errors.
- It was so widely revered that even translators used the Vulgate instead of the Greek New Testament.
- Because of the Vulgate, Latin became the church official language. This resulted centuries later in a worship service and Bible that no one could understand.

## 9. Patrick’s mission to Ireland: A.D. 432

## 10. The Council of Chalcedon: A.D. 451

- Leo the Great’s encounter with Attila the Hun.

Leo the Great was the bishop of Rome from 440 to 461.

Attila and his army of Huns marched to Rome. Leo the Great was a key person in dissuading Attila from plundering Rome.

- Leo at the Council of Chalcedon

For the first few centuries, the person of Christ was debated.

The Council made four crucial points:

- The full deity of Christ was affirmed (fully God).
- The full humanity of Christ affirmed.
- It confirmed Christ as one person.
- The deity and humanity of Christ were to remain distinct.

### **11. Justinian's *Code* is published: A.D. 529**

Justinian's *Code* was a collection of laws and their legal interpretations developed under the leadership of the Byzantine emperor Justinian I.

He commissioned ten men to go through all the known ordinances to weed out all of the obsolete material.

This became the basis for the later canon law in the West.

### **12. Benedict writes his Monastic Rule: A.D. 540**

The Rule of St. Benedict is a short document of about thirteen thousand words. The guidelines contained in it forever shaped monastic life.

He wrote this for three different reasons.

- As a constitution for his own monastery.
- At the request of other monasteries.
- As a response to the pope's request for an official guideline for monks and nuns.

The document contains both theoretical and doctrinal principles.

The Benedictine life consisted of a routine done in a spirit of silence with a dedication to prayer and work.

One story tells how a wall that was under construction collapsed on and killed a monk. Benedict raised the monk from the dead.

History records Benedict casting out demons and also of telling other monks what they had done during the day, in his absence, He also foretold future events.

## **People**

### **1. Constantine**

Whatever his motives, the result was a decline in Christian commitment because Christianity was legalized and required in some instances.

Constantine established Constantinople as the capital of the Roman Empire during his rule.

After Constantinople died, Theodosius I made Christianity the exclusive religion of the state.

Anyone who was not a Christian risked punishment from the state. As a result, many pagans filled the churches.

A universal system of church government began to emerge.

The Bishop of Rome began to take on more power. Out of this came the papacy (the office of the Pope) and sacramentalism (being saved through the sacraments).

### **2. Patrick**

He is the patron saint of Ireland. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.

He was born in Britain. At the age of sixteen he was kidnapped by Irish raiders. He became a slave in Ireland.

While a slave, he had a dream about a ship that was ready to take him back to Britain. He fled from his master, found the ship, and went back to Britain.

While in Britain, he had a dream in which he was handed a letter that said on it “The Voice of the Irish.” As he read it, he could hear the Irish people begging him to return to preach the Gospel to them.

Before returning to Ireland, he studied in a monastery in France for many years.

He returned to Ireland and traveled all over the country preaching the gospel.

He was arrested more than once and lived in constant danger of martyrdom.

There are many legends about him that may not be fact. One legend says that he drove the snakes out to the sea. Another legend tells of how Patrick used the shamrock to explain the concept of the trinity.

Ireland was not only changes, but it became a base for the evangelism of Britain.

He had two works that we know him by:

- *Confessio* – An autobiography
- *Epistola* – a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians

### 3. Ambrose

He was the bishop of Milan. He is remembered for his literary works and hymns.

His preaching converted Augustine.

He was known for being very controversial. In 384, he rejected an appeal for tolerance of pagan members of the Roman senate. The spokesperson of the pagan group was a relative of his.

In 388, he rebuked the emperor Theodosius for having promoted a riot in Thessalonica with a massacre of its citizens. A charioteer was accused of being a homosexual. He was thrown in prison. When the chariot races were about to begin, the people demanded his release. A mob murdered the governor and freed the charioteer. Seven-thousand Thessalonians were killed.

## Study

### Criteria for Canonization

- Authorship
  - An apostle
  - One in authority
- The date of composition
  - The Old Testament books had to be written before 400 B.C.
  - The New Testament books had to be written before the apostle John died.
- Language
  - The Old Testament had to be written in Hebrew or Aramaic.
  - The New Testament had to be written in Greek.
- Internal evidence
  - Inspiration

Claims to be the Word of the Lord were looked for such as the phrase, “Thus saith the Lord.”

The Old Testament says, “The Lord spoke...” about thirty-eight hundred times.

- The context had to be Christ centered.

The books that did not get canonized are more interested in miracles.

- Harmony with the rest of scripture.
- External evidence

It was helpful to the book if others quoted it as the Word of God.



## Church History

### Lesson 6: The Christian Middle Ages: 70-312

#### Events

##### **1. Gregory the Great becomes pope: A.D. 590**

##### **2. Augustine's mission to England: A.D. 597**

Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory with a party of Benedictine monks to distant and barbaric England.

They started in Kent, England. Queen Bertha was a Christian, but her husband, the king, was a pagan. Augustine had meetings with the pagan king, King Ethelbert. The king was touched by these meetings, and he gave Augustine land for a monastery. This is where Canterbury started.

Augustine believed in the supernatural and documented these cases of healing and deliverance.

##### **3. Synod of Whitby: A.D. 663**

The King and Queen of England disagreed on the time period of Lent. This meeting was for the purpose of defining that time period.

This aligned the English Church with Rome.

##### **4. Boniface's mission to the Germans: A.D. 716**

This spread Christianity to pagan northern Europe.

##### **5. Battle of Tours: A.D. 732**

Many remembered Charles Martel's victory over the Muslims in Europe, which earned him the nickname "Martel the Hammer".

In 732 he met these Muslim invaders near Tours, deep within the Frankish kingdom.

Because of his victory, Muslims were never a major threat to central Europe again.

This kept Europe under Christian control.

##### **6. Charlemagne crowned Holy Roman Emperor: A.D. 800**

Charlemagne, seven-foot-tall King of the Franks, was crowned Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas Day.

The Franks had become the dominant German tribe. However, after the death of Clovis, King of the Franks, aristocrats, powerful landowners, became the real powers. Charles Martel emerged as the most influential among the aristocrats. He was called “the mayor of the palace.” The mayor of the palace held the real power, while the King was a figure head.

Charles Martel’s son, Pepin the Short, legalized the power of the mayor of the palace. He turned to the pope for this authority. Boniface crowned him King of the Franks. Later the pope came and anointed him.

Charlemagne succeeded his father, Pepin. He desired political and religious power. He was crowned Holy Roman Emperor as a political move. The pope needed protection and he wanted divine authority.

## **7. The monastery at Cluny is founded: A.D. 910**

This was the genesis of a reform movement that spread to one thousand communities and revitalized monastic life for hundreds of years.

## **8. Vladimir adopts Christianity: A.D. 988**

Christianity went into Russia in the late 900s. Vladimir was the Prince of Russia during this time, and he was a pagan. He was renowned for his cruelty and brutality. He had 800 concubines and several wives. If he was not at war, he was hunting and feasting.

He wanted to unite the Russian people under one religion. In 988, he commissioned people to examine all the major world religions. He ended up adopting Orthodox Christianity because he admired the beautiful worship. He also did this as a political move because all the nations surrounding him were Orthodox Christians. Also, he could marry Anna of the Byzantine Empire if he was baptized as a Christian. So, he was baptized in 988, and he married Anna in 989.

There were changes in his lifestyle:

- He put away his five other wives.
- He built churches.
- He destroyed idols.
- He protected the poor.
- He established schools.
- On his deathbed, he gave all his possessions to the poor.

## **9. The East-West Schism: A.D. 1054**

The long-standing differences between Eastern and Western Christianity finally caused a break.

No single event caused the schism. Many things led up to it.

There were many differences in doctrine and in the understanding of the pope's authority. Also, a political power struggle existed between the East and West.

In 1054, Cardinal Humbert, sent by Pope Leo IX, walked into a cathedral in Constantinople. He walked up to the main altar and placed on it a paper declaring the excommunication of Michael Cerularius, the patriarch of Constantinople.

## **10. Anselm named archbishop of Canterbury: A.D. 1093**

It was from this post Anselm wrote lasting works on the Atonement and proofs of God's existence.

## **11. The First Crusade: A.D. 1095**

This was launched by Pope Urban II.

Prior to the First Crusade, the Muslim Turks were conquering many countries. They even began to threaten Constantinople. They conquered Jerusalem, therefore stopping Christian pilgrimages to the holy sites.

Pope Urban II called for the freedom of Jerusalem from the Muslims.

Soon over 100,000 people were organized, including about 10,000 knights.

This began over three hundred years of similar expeditions known as the Crusades. They were called the Crusades because the "crusaders" wore a cross as their symbol.

Why did so many respond to the Crusades?

- A spirit of adventure

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land were already popular. Now, one could take a pilgrimage and fight.

The idea of fighting for a holy cause was extremely popular.

- It was considered a way to purge one's sin.

Like a pilgrimage, this could free someone of sin and reduce their time in purgatory.

- Many hoped to acquire land and grow rich.

Jerusalem was captured. The First Crusade was a success.

## **12. Bernard founded the monastery at Clairvaux: A.D. 1115**

Known as the father of Western mysticism. He was a spiritual man who wrote much about the Spirit of God. He gained much recognition of supernatural healings in his ministry.

## **13. Universities of Oxford and Paris are founded: A.D. 1150**

- Oxford

Oxford was modeled after the University of Paris, with studies mainly in theology, but also including law, medicine, and the liberal arts.

In the thirteenth century, added strength came into the theology department with the establishment of Dominicans and Franciscans in the village of Oxford, England.

The university had no buildings in the early years. Lectures were given in churches.

John Wycliffe spent most of his life as a resident Oxford doctor.

Studies, over time, turned from theology to science.

- Paris

This university was divided into four faculties:

- Superior faculties
- Theology
- Canon law
- Medicine

The arts were considered an inferior faculty.

Some of the famous professors included St. Bonaventure and Thomas Aquinas.

It was the most celebrated teaching center in Europe during the fourteenth century.

This Catholic university began to decline due to Protestant Reformation.

With the French Revolution, many of France's universities were reorganized. The University of Paris became the University of France. Theology was done away with, and new departments were added. Teaching at the university became secular.

#### **14. Francis of Assisi renounces wealth: A.D. 1208**

#### **15. Innocent III calls for the Fourth Lateran Council: A.D. 1215**

He lived from 1198-1216. He was a new type of "administrator Pope" who used his power to overshadow kings.

"The successor of Peter is the vicar of Christ. He is established as the mediator between God and man, below God, but beyond man, less than God, but more than man, who shall judge all and be judged by no one."

He believed that kings received their power from the Pope. He is a good example of how popes thought following him.

Excommunication - Innocent would use this as a weapon against kings.

Interdict - Excommunicating an entire nation. Innocent would use this as a weapon as well.

He used the interdict eighty-five times.

The Gospel of Poverty arose as a result of resentment of rich clergy (mainly came from Francis of Assisi). In the twelfth and thirteenth century, preachers of poverty turned against the Catholic church. First the Church was tolerant, but the Catholic church later labeled them as heretics. Heretics were subject to the death penalty.

The church created the Inquisition to execute heretics and subject them to deliberate and prolonged torture.

Many who had taken vows of poverty began to be accused as heretics because they urged the church to surrender their property and political power.

A poor monk named Arnold was burned at the stake after trying to overthrow the pope. After his death, Peter Waldo, a former rich merchant, renounced all of his riches and lived a life of poverty. The Church did not label him a heretic, but they decided he couldn't preach. Waldo disobeyed this, so he was excommunicated.

There were people that were reformers before reformers, like Arnold and Peter Waldo. They wanted the Church to go back to the Bible. Scripture should be over tradition. They wanted the Church to forsake the sacraments. This was years before Martin Luther.

## 16. Dominic establishes Order of Preachers: A.D. 1220

Dominic went, with the request of the pope, to many heretics, with the goal of converting them.

To win them over, he went forth among them as a poor man. He had a successful mission which lasted two years in Southern France before Innocent III became tougher.

He became convinced that poverty and preaching belonged together.

The new preaching order, known as Dominicans, were known as beggars.

He raised a young boy from the dead that died from a fall off of his horse.

Once, while traveling through Europe with a group of Germans, Dominic prayed to God to allow him to communicate with the Germans. He did not know the language. Supernaturally, he was able to speak in German and preach the gospel to those men.

## 17. Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae*: A.D 1272

He was born into a wealthy family and attended school at a nearby monastery at the age of five. He was known by his classmates at Dumb Ox because he was overweight, quiet, and serious.

At the age of fourteen he joined a Dominican order, and his family was not in favor of this. They wanted him to be archbishop so he could be financially secure.

He joined the Dominican monastery, but his brother's kidnapped him for fifteen months. His family tempted him with a prostitute and a position as the archbishop of Naples. He did not give in.

He went to Paris to study theology and followed philosophers like Aristotle.

His goal was to extract elements of philosophy and support them with the Bible.

*Summa Theologiae* was an eighteen-volume summation of theology that he wrote. This became the standard for Catholic theology.

His writings were not received well until after his death by both Catholics and Protestants.

Three months before his death, he had a vision. "All that I have hitherto written seems to me nothing but straw compared to what has been revealed to me."

## 18. Dante's *Divine Comedy*: A.D 1321

This gave masterful poetic expression to medieval concepts of heaven, hell, and purgatory. It shaped later thought.

## **19. Catherine of Siena's Letters: A.D 1370**

Catherine of Siena lived from 1347 until 1380.

She was born the last of twenty-six children in her family.

She became a Dominican at the age of sixteen.

She was instrumental in bringing the pope back from Avignone to Rome.

Nearly four hundred of her letters to church leadership have survived.

## **20. The Great Papal Schism: A.D. 1378**

In 1377, after the papacy had resided in Avignone, France for seventy years, Gregory the Eleventh succeeded in bringing it back to Rome.

The Church was divided because three popes were elected at one time, and they were residing in France and Rome.

The Council of Constance put an end to the schism by electing a totally new pope to be the only pope.

## **21. Wycliff supervises English Bible Translation: A.D. 1380**

This left the first complete English Bible.

## **22. Hus burned at the stake: A.D. 1415**

## **23. Constantinople falls: A.D. 1453**

Constantinople falls to the Turks. This ended a millennium of Christianity.

## **24. Guttenberg produces the first printed Bible: A.D 1456**

For centuries, scribes dedicated themselves to copying scripture by hand. It became the primary occupation of monks.

The idea that every believer or family could have a Bible was unthinkable.

By 1440, Gutenberg had assembled all the necessary components to begin printing. In 1448, he began to borrow money for his printing business.

Two hundred copies of Gutenberg's forty-two line per page Bible (*Vulgate*) was complete. Forty to fifty survive today.

By 1483, every large European country had at least one printing press. The Protestant Reformation might not have been impossible without the printing press. The Reformation became a war of books.

## 25. The Spanish Inquisition: A.D 1479

This was under the supervision of Ferdinand and Isabella. It was aimed against baptized Jews and Moors.

## 26. First complete Hebrew Old Testament: A.D. 1488

### People

#### 1. Gregory the Great

He drew most of his views from Augustine.

He reformed the Catholic mass and out of that came the Gregorian chant.

He inherited a palace from his parents and turned it into a monastery.

He was elected pope in 590 and became the first pope known for his social concerns.

He attacked the false doctrine that denied the unity of God the Father and God the Son.

He fought against high taxes. Taxes were so high, people were selling their children at the time. His character flaws:

- His approval of Emperor Phocas

Emperor Phocas became ruler after murdering the current emperor and his family.

The popes often overlooked the sins of emperors for political reasons.

- He often advocated war for the purpose of conversion.
- He did not take any action against the slave trade.

#### 2. Boniface

He is known as the apostle to Germany.

He was born in England and became a Benedictine monk.

He declined many ministry offers that would keep him in England because of his heart for missions.

He destroyed the Germanic god, Thor. He also chopped down the sacred tree while a multitude watched to see if fire from heaven would destroy him.

He was known as harsh and rigid. Missionaries that did not do things the way he liked were punished. Once he wanted to put two missionaries in solitary confinement for personality differences.

He was martyred at the hands of Pagans while reading the Bible.

### **3. Francis of Assisi**

Born the son of a cloth maker.

He was the founder of Franciscans. They had orders for men and women (monks and nuns).

Thousands were drawn to him because of his charity work, his vow of poverty, and his dynamic leadership.

His goal in life was to become a knight. He had a vision that compelled him to move back to Assisi.

While praying, he heard the voice of God saying, “Go Francis and repair my house, which you can see is well now in ruins.” He took this literally and broke into and stole cloth from his father’s shop. He sold it to make money to repair the church in the town. His father got mad about this and took him to court. Francis did not cooperate in court, and in front of the bishop, he took off all his clothes. He gave them to his father to repay him. From this point on, he lived a separate life. He began to travel and preach all over, and he gained twelve followers. All his followers were street preachers with no possessions.

His motto was that he wanted his followers to “Imitate Christ”.

He called all creatures his brothers and sisters.

His order that began with twelve grew to five thousand.

His ministry was accompanied by many signs and wonders, especially paralysis.

When the Holy Spirit came upon him, he could speak perfect French.

He suffered from stigmata - he bled from where Jesus was bleeding during the crucifixion. This is demonic. There is always a purpose of a Holy Spirit sign and wonder.

#### 4. Savonarola

Savonarola was a Dominican monk in Florence, Italy.

Huge crowds packed the largest cathedrals to hear him preach. He often preached against government corruption. He prophesied that God would sweep away the princes of Italy.

Lorenzo, prince of Florence, warned Savonarola that he could be banished. Savonarola responded saying, “Tell Lorenzo to do penance for his sins, for God will punish him. I do not fear your banishments. Though I am a stranger here and he a citizen, and the foremost in the city, I shall remain and he will go. I shall remain and he will go.” He then prophesied the death of Lorenzo within a year. He died one year later.

A Florentine said his sermons “caused such terror, alarm, sobbing, and tears that everyone passed through the streets without speaking, more dead than alive.”

Florence became a republic of France but Savonarola was the real power in the land.

The government acted on his advice and passed laws against gambling, swearing, immoral songs, and horse racing.

Groups of boys called “bands of hopes” went into the streets. They collected money for the church, broke up gambling games, and tore fancy dresses off of women.

The population fasted together. People crowded churches. Taverns closed at six. Those guilty of sodomy were burned at the stake.

In 1497, Savonarola’s followers planned a carnival in which fancy costumes, immoral pictures and books, playing cards, dice, love songs, and musical instruments were burned in a huge pile while church bells rang.

He was excommunicated by the pope. Government authorities had him arrested because of the division brought to Florence.

He and three of his followers were tortured. They put one of his arms out of joint and then hung him over a fire.

#### 5. Desiderius Erasmus

Erasmus lived from 1466 to 1536.

He was a Dutch scholar, writer, and humanist.

At the age of 14, his mother and father died. His guardian placed him in a monastic order against his will. He spent six years as a monk. He devoted much of his time educating himself in classic literature.

He left the monastery in 1493.

He became an authority in Latin and Greek.

He worked steadily for two goals—

- The reclamation of Greek and Latin literature from the obscurity in which it had been during the Middle Ages.
- A return to early Christian ideas through the restoration and publication of the Greek New Testament.

He was more of a moralist than a theologian. He did, however, want a society based on the words of Christ.

He did not want to break away from the Catholic church. He considered Luther's behavior reprehensible.

In 1503, he published a little book that later had a great influence in Europe called the *Handbook of Christian Knight*. It was a call to a simplified form of Christianity. It was centered around the thought that “the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

In 1516, he published an edition of the Greek text of the New Testament. It was the first in its field.

He continually wrote to defend himself. He had always been an advocate of reform, but because of his stand against Luther, he was criticized by the reforms. He was also criticized by the Catholics for his attacks on them. The Catholics accused him of “having laid the egg that Luther hatched.”

Erasmus was made famous by his writings of satire. He would often attack religious practices using comedy. This is what made leaders of the Catholic church angry. He criticized:

- Indulgences
- Ignorance and worldliness of the clergy and monastic orders
- Pilgrimages
- Relics

He prepared the way for Luther by his writings.

His own day say him as a humanist, social reformer, comic writer, and a restorer of the Bible text.

## **Study**

### **Everyday faith in the Middle Ages**

- In the 1200's the church began to reach many people through different ways.
  - Preaching - public speaking
  - Art
  - Drama
  - Books and pamphlets
- A great hunger God existed.

People began to find regular church life boring.

People began to seek intense religious lives without leaving their families and jobs.

Between 500 and 900 the Old Testament was widely used. But in the eleventh century, Europe began to discover the gospels.

The illiterate began to have knowledge of the Bible because of the increase of preaching.

There were few good preachers. Those that were good became celebrities. Some of the best preachers were friars belonging to Francis of Assisi's order. Some taught at universities and became theologians. Some went as missionaries to Muslim countries and the Far East.

The Gospel centered faith emphasized the suffering of Christ.

Two holidays were of great importance.

- Good Friday

The death of Jesus was portrayed in art and even imitated.

Crucifixes became more realistic.

- Christmas

This emphasized the humanity of Jesus.

Mary also grew in prominence at this time.

Francis of Assisi was the first to display a “manger scene.”

- Pilgrimages

Pilgrimages, traveling to holy places, were very popular.

Pilgrimages arose from two theological ideas.

- Penance for sin

A pilgrimage was considered penitential like fasting because of the great sacrifice involved. It was also very dangerous. Many pilgrims died of disease, shipwreck, or at the hands of robbers. Some were enslaved. But, to a pilgrim, it was worth it. They were promised forgiveness of sins.

- The cult of relics

Relics, or “relicta”, means “things left behind.”

It was taught that people could ask saints to intercede for them. People believed that the saints were present in a special way at their shrines.

The bodily remains of saints were taken from their graves and placed in receptacles called reliquaries all over the world. The bodies were dismembered for the purpose of having more reliquaries.

Other items were used as relics such as clothing and pieces of swords by which they were executed.

Many thought they would receive healing by visiting the shrines.

- Pilgrims were given a distinct outfit.

Pilgrims had a broad-brimmed hat, knapsack, and a walking staff

- Pilgrims settled all their accounts and paid all debts.
- Before departure, they forgave all enemies and asked forgiveness for all they offended.

Hundreds of thousands made the pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

- A concern for the dead was prevalent.

The doctrine of purgatory was prevalent.

Once you were in purgatory, you could not help yourself. You had to do things in this life to lessen your time there.

They might remain in purgatory for decades or centuries.

People thought they could help others beyond the grave by their prayers, alms, and good deeds.

Saying masses for the dead was popular. This is still done today.

- The doctrine of transubstantiation

The doctrine states that during communion the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.

Confession, penance, sexual abstinence, and fasting always preceded communion.

Stories were told to get the skeptical to believe this doctrine. One story tells of a priest who, when he broke the bread, saw it bleed.

- An intense interest in good works
- Devotion to Mary
- Christian life was not private.

The church was involved intimately in the lives of the people.

Children were baptized at birth. First, outside of the church, the priest would put salt in the mouth of the child to symbolize wisdom and to exorcize demons. Then, inside the church, the baby was immersed in water and anointed with oil. The godparents named the child. Usually, the baby was named after them or a saint. Mothers did not attend the baptism because they were considered unclean for several days following the birth.

Entire families were expected to fast during lent and on Fridays.

Marriages were arranged for political reasons. Divorce was not allowed.

- How the illiterate gained Bible knowledge
  - Drama
  - Mystery plays

These plays presented Biblical topics and were also known as miniplays.

Some plays were: *Creation, Adam and Eve, The Murder of Abel, The Last Judgement, and Noah's Flood*.

Most of these plays were centered around the life of Christ.

These plays became longer and longer. The Acts of the Apostles, performed in France, had four hundred and ninety-four speaking parts and 61,908 lines of rhymed verse. It took forty days to perform.

- Morality plays

These were the allegories. The characters represented things such as greed or gluttony. They also represented virtues such as truth.

- Miracle plays

These depicted the lives of the saints. They could be very elaborate. Sometimes they took place on a stage one hundred feet wide or in a theater. Paradise was above the stage. Hell was below the stage. Earthly scenes were on the stage itself.

Special effects were used such as flying angels, fire breathing dragons, and floods of water.

- Stained glass
- Ivory, metal, and tapestries
- Sculptures
- Mosaic
- Paintings
- The black death

People got black swellings in their armpits and groin areas. They oozed pus and blood. Black blotches appeared on the skin. They would get fevers, spit up blood, etc. People would die within five days. It became worse, and you could die in less than a day.

By 1350, the plague passed through most of Europe. The mortality rate ranged from 20% in some places to 90% in some places.

Approximately one third of the world died. This is about 20 million people.

People considered this the judgment of God. Efforts were made to appease God's wrath. Mass gatherings were authorized by the pope. They would all gather and repent. Upwards of 2,000 people would attend. This spread the disease more.

This intensified from simple gatherings of repentance to people beating themselves, carrying relics, and tearing their hair to hopefully appease God.

The church set their blame towards the Jews. They suspected the Jews of poisoning city wells. Jews were burned alive and entire Jewish communities were eliminated.

If you lived during this time, people became dissatisfied with the church during the plague. Nothing the church told people to do worked to stop the plague. This helped intensify reform movements.

## Church History

### Lesson 7: The Age of Reformation: 1517-1648

#### Events

##### **1. Luther posts the 95 Theses: A.D. 1517**

He posted the ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. The door was a bulletin board for various church announcements.

In his theses, he attacked the use of indulgences.

By 1518, his theses had been reprinted in many cities. Luther's name had become associated with someone who demanded radical change in the church.

Indulgences: Permits issued that gave release from punishment in purgatory. They could be purchased for yourself or others that had already died.

Large sums of money were given to the church at this time. A famous jingle said, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs."

##### **2. Ulrich Zwingli is called as people's priest in Zurich: A.D 1518**

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) helped launch the Reformation in Switzerland by preaching biblical sermons from the pulpit.

Under the influence of Erasmus, he followed the Bible even more stringently than Luther.

For this reason, the reform movement in Zurich did away with candles, statues, and pictures.

He would have no part of the Anabaptist movement in Zurich.

Grebel and Manz, the leaders of this movement, started the first Anabaptist (being baptized a second time) congregation in Zollikon. It was the first church free of state ties.

##### **3. The Diet of Worms: A.D. 1521**

In 1520, Rome threatened to excommunicate Luther unless he recanted his teachings. He refused.

Luther's excommunication was on January 15, 1521.

Emperor Charles V agreed to meet with Luther at the Diet of Worms in Germany.

Virtually all of Germany supported Luther.

Luther appeared before the diet on April 17, 1521, at 4:00pm. He was asked two questions:

- Did he acknowledge authorship of the books brought to the diet that bore his name?
- Would he stand by them or retract anything in them?

He was granted twenty-four hours to reflect upon his answer. His famous answer was given on April 18, 1521, at 6:00pm:

“... I am bound by the scriptures I have sighted, for my convenience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant everything, since to act against one’s conscience is neither safe nor right. I cannot do otherwise. Here I stand, may God help me.”

He was branded a heretic. They demanded the capture of him and his disciples. They called him a demon in the appearance of a man.

Luther fled Worms before he was captured.

#### **4. Anabaptist movement begins: A.D. 1525**

When Luther and other reformers led their movements away from the Catholic Church, practices were changed. Infant baptism was never changed. Baptizing only adults and new converts were radical ideas.

The Anabaptist movement is also known as the Radical Reformation. The name “Anabaptist”, which means “re-baptizer”, was given to them by their enemies.

The immediate cause of the Anabaptist movement wasn’t baptism but rather civil government. To be baptized was a civil issue. To go against it would be to go against “a Christian society”.

These radicals were forbidden to give their viewpoint in the church. They gathered together on January 21, 1525, for a baptismal service.

These other issues also separated them:

- They wanted to do away with the tithe.
- They wanted to do away with military service.
- They did not just want reform, they wanted to restore the church to its original purity.
- They did not believe in church bureaucracies. They felt decisions should be made by the local congregation. They were the first to bring democracy into the church.
- They were pacifists.

Luther and the other reformers did not side with the Anabaptists mainly because their theology was not sound.

They suffered great persecution by fire, sword, and by drowning.

By the 1630s, much of the persecution subsided. Many influential people became Baptists, as they were now called.

Two prominent churchmen squared off in a debate. In a large hall, an Anglican, Daniel Featly and a Baptist, William Kiffin, debated the nature of the true church. Debates attracted large crowds. They were considered a form of entertainment. Many new converts came out of these debates.

The debate lasted for about six hours. Kiffin won the debate although Featly proclaimed his victory. Kiffin demonstrated that the Baptists were biblically articulate and theologically sophisticated.

Two years after the debate Kiffin established the first organized Baptist church in England. He served as the pastor for over sixty years. He became one of the wealthiest merchants of his day. Once he gave King Charles II 10,000 pounds to put in the royal treasury. He was able to use his influence to benefit the Baptists.

One of their courageous leaders, Menno Simmons, was a great evangelist. This is where the Mennonites get their name from. Brethren churches are also descendants of the Anabaptists.

## **5. Colloquy of Marburg: A.D. 1529**

Here, Zwingli and Luther's differing views on the Lord's Supper led to separate Reformed and Lutheran churches.

## **6. Augsburg Confession: A.D. 1530**

This was a summit conference of reformation leaders. They met to draw up a common statement of faith.

Phillip Melanchthon was a young professor of Greek. He drew up the document expressing Lutheran beliefs.

## **7. The Act of Supremacy: A.D. 1534**

In 1521, young King Henry of England wrote a book attacking Luther's views. The pope gave King Henry the title "The Defender of the Faith."

England, like much of Europe, was influenced by the Reformation. In addition to this, there was a growing feeling of nationalism, a higher devotion to England than to the church in Rome.

King Henry sought an annulment from his wife, Catherine. She was in her forties and had only produced one daughter, Mary. The pope stalled on this because Catherine was the Aunt of Emperor Charles V. King Henry already had his next wife chosen. Her name was Anne Boylen. Therefore, King Henry appointed Thomas Cranmer the archbishop of Canterbury. Cranmer declared the marriage invalid. Henry married Anne, who was already six months pregnant by him.

The pope excommunicated Henry.

In 1534 came the Act of Supremacy, declaring King Henry “the only supreme head on earth of the Church of England.”

King Henry was not a Protestant. He wanted a Catholic Church without a pope.

He died in 1547 after having four more wives following Anne Boylen’s execution.

### **8. John Calvin publishes *Institutes of Christian Religion*: A.D. 1536**

Calvin was born in 1509 in Picardy, France.

He studied law at several universities. While studying, he encountered the writings of Luther. It was at this time he had a “sudden conversion.” He broke from Catholicism.

In 1536, he published the first edition of *Institutes of Christian Religion*. This was a systematic theology for Protestantism.

He pastored a church, married, and had a son. His wife and child died and Calvin never married again.

He lived most of his life in Geneva. Because of his efforts, Geneva became a very holy and moral city. It attracted Protestant exiles from all over the world. John Knox said, of Geneva, “... the most perfect school of Christ since the days of the apostles.”

When most people think of Calvinism, they think of his views on predestination. Actually, this did not begin as a Calvinist idea. Luther and most of the other reformers believed the same thing. Calvin is known for it because of his outspokenness on the subject.

### **9. Ignatius Loyola receives approval for the Society of Jesus: A.D. 1536**

Ignatius Loyola received permission from Pope Paul III to begin the new Society of Jesus. These were militant Jesuit soldiers who promised the pope they would go anywhere he sent them to spread the cause of Catholicism.

The goal of this order was to restore the Catholic church to its original position of power that it held under Pope Innocent III.

More than any others, the Society of Jesus stemmed and sometimes reversed the tide of Protestantism.

Francis Xavier was a part of this order. He traveled to India, Southeast Asia, and Japan.

### **10. The Council of Trent Begins: A.D. 1545**

Trent was a city in Northern Italy.

This council, called by the Catholic Church, was in response to the Reformation. It reaffirmed the traditional Catholic views and rejected Protestant thinking.

Some of the things done were:

- The selling of indulgences was done away with.
- The doctrine of transubstantiation was reaffirmed.
- The seven sacraments, necessary for salvation, were reaffirmed.
- Rejected Luther's understanding of justification by faith. It was decided that you could not be sure of your standing with God.
- Rejected the translation of the Bible. The only true Bible was the Latin Vulgate.
- Rejected the Protestant view of "scripture alone". It held that scripture and tradition were inspired by God,

This is also known as the Counter Reformation.

### **11. Book of Common Prayer: A.D. 1549**

A book, drafted by Thomas Crammer, that replaced the old Latin service of worship in England.

It was drafted during the reign of King Edward.

### **12. John Knox returns to Scotland: A.D. 1559**

### **13. Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* published: A.D. 1563**

King Edward died in 1553. Mary, the daughter of Katherine, took the throne.

Queen Mary was a devout Catholic. She tried to lead England back to Rome. As queen, she was more intolerant than her father, King Henry VIII. She sent nearly 300 Protestants to the burning stake.

Most of Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* were filled with martyrs from Queen Mary's rule.

Because of his book, the English people had a long-standing horror against Catholicism.

Foxe gave Queen Mary the nickname Bloody Mary.

The book was published in 1563.

#### **14. The Edict of Nantes: A.D. 1598**

From 1562 to 1598, France experienced a civil war between Roman Catholics and French Calvinists, also known as Huguenots.

They reached a territorial compromise in the Edict of Nantes. The Huguenots gained religious freedom.

#### **15. Separatist pastor John Smyth baptized: A.D. 1609**

The Puritans met in little groups to worship according to the Bible. The Puritans were a movement that began in England that grew impatient with the Church of England in the area of Reform.

This movement has been called "separatism."

Some of these Puritans left for America on the Mayflower in September 1620. They landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts in November. This was for religious freedom.

Some of the separatists went to Amsterdam for religious freedom. Their pastor was John Smyth. He discovered that baptizing babies was not in the Bible.

Smyth and 40 members were baptized. This was the beginning of the First English Baptist church in Amsterdam.

#### **16. Publication of the King James Bible: A.D. 1611**

King James was the son of Mary Queen of Scots, who was executed by her half-sister, Queen Elizabeth I. When Elizabeth died, James, already King of Scotland, became King of England.

When James became King of England, he agreed to a conference with the Puritans in 1604. The Puritans had many problems with the Church of England.

King James gave into some of their demands, a new English translation of the Bible.

In 1607, James appointed nearly 50 scholars. They worked for two years and nine months. Then, the entire text was gone over by a committee of twelve.

They used the original Hebrew and Greek. They also closely followed previous translations. The King James Bible is more of a revision of earlier versions than a translation. The work of William Tyndale is evident in many passages.

The King James Version has affected our language today:

- “The skin of my teeth.”
- “Woe is me.”
- “A drop in the bucket.”
- “Holier than thou.”

### **17. Galileo is forced by Rome to recant: A.D. 1633**

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) invented the telescope.

His belief that the earth revolved around the sun brought tension between Catholicism and science. He was forced to recant his findings and was put under house arrest for the final eight years of his life.

The Catholic Church formally acknowledged its error in condemning Galileo in 1992!

### **18. Harvard College founded: A.D. 1636**

It was founded by the Puritans during the first decade of their new colony.

Its initial purpose was for the training of ministers.

The precepts and rules of the college stated, “Every student shall consider the main end of his life studies to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life.”

The Bible was to be read twice a day by every student. Students were expected to be ready to give an account of their proficiency therein.

### **19. Westminster Confession: A.D. 1646**

This was the definitive statement of Presbyterian beliefs.

### **20. The Peace of Westphalia ends the Thirty Years War: A.D. 1648**

The Thirty Years War (1618-1648) began with Protestants and Catholics in Germany.

The Peace of Westphalia said that Calvinism, Lutheranism, and Catholicism were all recognized as expressions of the Christian faith.

## **People**

### **1. William Tyndale**

He was born in 1485 near Wales.

He attended Oxford University.

He was influenced greatly by John Colet's lecture on Paul's letter to the Romans. Colet had heard Savonarola in Italy.

Tyndale enjoyed giving lectures to Oxford students on the Greek New Testament. A movement came that forbade the Greek New Testament. Therefore, he transferred to Cambridge where he heard Erasmus.

In 1521, Tyndale was tutoring near Bristol. At this time, there was a continuous stream of Lutheran literature flooding the English ports. Tyndale was influenced by Luther's writings.

Sir John Walsh, the father of the family whom Tyndale lived and tutored, often invited influential clergy over for dinner. Tyndale often argued with these men and had a way of crushing every opponent by using chapter and verse from the Bible. As a result, clergy began to hate him. Sir John Walsh and his wife were soon won over by Tyndale's opinions.

Tyndale thought clergy were very ignorant. A survey of 311 clergy was taken nearly one generation later. It found the following:

- 168 did not know the 10 Commandments.
- Thirty-one could not tell where they came from – the Creation story.
- Forty-one did not know the Lord's Prayer.
- Forty could not name the author of the Lord's Prayer.

It was forbidden to translate the Bible into English. The Bible was not even used as a preparatory book for ministry.

Cochlaeus, a notorious theologian, said, "The New Testament, translated into the language of the people, is, in truth, the food of death, the fuel of sin, the veil of malice, the pretext of false liberty, the protection of disobedience, the corruption of discipline, the depravity of morals, the termination of concord, the death of honesty, the wellspring of vices, the disease of virtues, the

instigation of rebellion, the milk of pride, the nourishment of contempt, the death of peace, the destruction of charity, the enemy of unity, the murderer of truth.”

Someone who believed Luther and agreed that the Bible should be given to the common people was considered a heretic.

Tyndale was soon suspected of heresy because he always proved his points with the Bible.

His preaching stirred up the clergy.

He was brought before the chancellor, but his defense was food and was found to not be a heretic.

Tyndale was convinced that to save the church the common people must have the Bible in their own language. He said, “I perceived how that it was impossible to establish the lay of people in any truth, except the scripture were plainly laid before their eyes in their mother tongue, that they might see the process, order, and meaning of the text.”

Tyndale also said, “I defy the pope with all his laws.” Because of this, a fierce opposition arose against him.

King Henry denounced Luther. The clergy followed his example. Luther was called “a child of the devil” by the clergy. People were put to death for having Luther’s writings.

Tyndale traveled to Germany to have a conference with Luther. There he began translating the New Testament. In 1525, he printed his New Testament. Three thousand copies were ordered to be printed. Tyndale had to flee from the authorities during the printing. Of the three thousand originals, only one remains today.

By 1526, English Bibles were being smuggled into England. Dr. Edward Leigh, writing to King Henry VIII said, “An Englishman, at the solicitation and insistence of Luther, with whom he is, hath translated the New Testament into English and within a few days intendith to return with the same imprinted into England. I need not to advertise, Your Grace, what infection and danger may ensue hereby if it be not withstood. This is the next way to fulfill your realm with Lutherans. For all Luther’s opinions be grounded upon their words of scripture... All our forefathers, governors of the Church of England, have, with all diligence, forbid English Bibles... The integrity of the Christian faith, within your realm, can not long endure if these books may come in.”

Oxford bought one of the first copies.

Bibles were thrown into fires and people that bought and sold them were thrown into prison.

Cardinal Wolsey and Bishop Fisher preached a sermon attacking Luther’s doctrine. Following the sermon, baskets full of Lutheran’s writings and English New Testaments were burned.

Every time English Bibles were burned, more were reprinted. England kept receiving a fresh supply of Bibles. Church authorities would buy the Bibles at extreme prices just to burn them. This would give Tyndale more money to print more Bibles. They began to burn people for importing the New Testament.

From 1526 to 1536, thirty thousand Bibles were imported to England.

In 1528, Tyndale's *Parable of the Wicked Mammon* was printed. This was a defense of the justification by faith. The archbishop condemned it as, "containing many detestable errors and damnable opinions."

Bishop Tunstall, on March 7, 1528, licensed Sir Thomas More to read all of Luther's literature and books relating to the Lutheran heresy. More attacked Luther and Tyndale in his *Dialogue*. Tyndale responded with *Answer*, which was a defense of the Reformation. More than wrote *Confutation*. More wrote against Tyndale until the day of his death. In all, he wrote more than 1,000 articles criticizing Tyndale. Ironically, the writings of More increase the fame of Tyndale.

In October of 1529, Charles V brought into law the punishments of beheading for men, and burning for women, who read the Bible in English or were involved in Lutheran heresies. People were tortured and executed.

Tyndale, at this time, was in exile. Henry Phillips won the confidence of Tyndale. He invited him to dinner then had him arrested.

Tyndale was imprisoned. He converted the prison keeper and his entire household.

Tyndale was strangled and burned at the stake on Friday, October 6, 1536.

He cried with a fervent zeal and a loud voice at the stake saying, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes!"

His prayer was answered. Just after his death, the first Bible printed on English soil came off the press. It was Tyndale's New Testament, printed by the king's own printer.

## 2. John Knox

He was born in 1514 in Haddington, a small town near Edinburgh, Scotland.

During his youth, Luther's literature was being smuggled into Scotland. The Catholic Church tried to suppress it.

In February 1528, Patrick Hamilton, an outspoken Protestant convert, was burned at the stake in St. Andrews. He was the first Protestant martyr in Scotland.

In 1543, a pro-English, and therefore pro-Protestant, policy was initiated in Scotland. Bible reading and the preaching of reformers was encouraged. However, this policy changed in the mid 1540's.

A Protestant preacher named George Wishart courageously preached at this time. John Knox, impressed by his preaching, became his bodyguard. He actually armed himself with a two-edged sword.

Wishart's followers would interrupt Latin Mass and preach fiery, hour-long sermons in the common language.

Wishart was arrested in January 1546. He was tried, found guilty of heresy, strangled, and burned on March 1st. This was ordered by Cardinal David Beaton.

Followers of Wishart, known as the Castillians, broke into St. Andrews Castle, assassinated Cardinal Beaton, and mutilated his body. They then took up residence in the castle. Knox was not involved in this but approved of it.

A French fleet laid siege to St. Andrews in July 1547. Knox, now the leader of the Castillians, was sent to work in the galleys. Galleys were sailing ships that could be propelled by oars. There were twenty-five oars with six men stationed at each.

Knox was released from the galleys at the request of King Edward VI of England. He spent the next five years in England as an honored guest. He assisted the Protestant movement of England.

On July 6, 1553, King Edward VI died. Mary Tudor began her Catholic reign. John Knox called her the "wicked English Jezebel." He left England and went to France in 1554.

Back in Scotland, Protestants had doubled their efforts. Protestant congregations formed.

In 1557, a group known as "The Lords of the Congregation" drew up a covenant for the purpose of establishing Protestantism in Scotland.

Knox returned to Scotland in 1555 and preached extensively. His popularity grew. He became known as "the thundering Scot." He was forced to go to Geneva due to controversy over his preaching.

It was at this time that Knox published his controversial tracts. In one of these, *Admonition To England*, he attacked Queen Mary Tudor for her restoration of Catholicism. He said, "Had she... been sent to Hell before these days, then should not their iniquity and cruelty so manifestly appear to the world."

Knox pondered the idea of overthrowing Catholic rulers. Calvin disagreed with this. This caused a break in their relationship with the publication *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Women*. This tract was aimed directly at Mary Tudor. He concluded that no woman could be a ruler. This tract extended to ordinary people the right and obligation to rebel.

He wrote a tract entitled *A Vindication that the Mass is Idolatry*.

He returned to Scotland in May 1559.

Within days of his arrival, he preached a sermon against Catholic idolatry. When the service was over a riot broke out:

- Altars were demolished.
- Images were smashed.
- Religious houses were destroyed.

In 1560, the English and the French both agreed to leave Scotland. This assured a Protestant Reformation in Scotland.

The Parliament ordered Knox and five of his colleagues to write a *Confession of Faith*. On August 17, 1560, acts were passed that abolished:

- The mass
- Papal jurisdiction
- Laws in conflict with the reformed faith

In August of 1561, Mary Queen of Scots, a Catholic, returned and tried to rule the Protestant Scotland. There was a civil war in the country.

In the mid-1560s, Knox's health became bad due to stress. He insisted on preaching, sometimes being carried to the pulpit.

On November 9, 1572, he preached his last sermon. He died five days later.

The Scottish Reformation brought about changes that were much more radical than any previous reform movement. They totally did away with the following:

- Oral confession of sin
- Invoking Mary and the saints
- Relics
- Using images
- Believing in purgatory

- Saying masses for the dead
- Indulgences
- Pilgrimages
- The Latin mass

John Knox said that one mass was “more fearful than ten thousand armed enemies.”

The reformers smashed religious images and statues.

People were no longer spectators, but they became participants in the service which consisted of preaching, Bible study, and singing hymns to popular tunes of the day.

By 1598, fines were imposed on those that missed services. Fines were also imposed on those that left the service early. In other churches, guards stood at the doors.

At St. Andrews, five men were imprisoned for two hours for missing the sermon.

### **3. George Fox**

He was the founder of the Quakers.

He was born in England in 1624 and died in 1691.

He worked as a cobbler and was a shepherd. He was self-educated. He read and wrote well.

At the age of 11, he made a vow to never behave improperly. At age 20, he said, “I have never wronged man or woman.”

He made an effort to live right and holy. He refused to bargain. “How can it be right to tell a man that this is my highest bid when I actually expect as he knows well to pay a larger sum. These practices are lies. Everyone should tell the truth.”

He had a supernatural experience at the age of 18. He considers this his conversion experience.

His emphasis was the authority of Christ in the believer. This brought about a sharp contrast with the official Church of England. He preached against the King’s authority and that everyone was created equal.

In Northern England, there was a Puritan sect known as the “seekers”. They welcomed Fox. Local congregations were established from this. They renamed themselves “The Society of Friends.” They later became “The Quakers”.

At one point 50,000 quakers were in English prisons because of their belief in the authority of the believer. Hundreds died because of the conditions of the prisons.

Quakers experienced stoning, whipping, beating, and public hanging. Fox was imprisoned eight times.

Quakers did much missionary work. They sent people overseas to Ireland, the Caribbean, and the North American mainland. Maryland and Rhode Island were the two main states.

It was common for Quakers to experience healing and the gifts of the Spirit and speaking in tongues.

They would shake under the power of God – Quakers.

Fox wrote and published many controversial pamphlets.

The Toleration Act of 1689 ended persecutions against Quakers.

#### **4. Thomas Cranmer**

Cranmer was born on July 2, 1489 in Aslacton, Nottinghamshire into a poor family.

He attended Cambridge University in 1503.

He became a priest, following the death of his wife. He threw himself into his studies and became an outstanding theologian.

In 1520, he became part of “Little Germany”, a group of men that met regularly to discuss Luther’s theology. These men would all play a key role in the coming English Reformation. William Tyndale was also a part of this group.

For two years, King Henry VIII had been scheming about how he would divorce his wife Catherine and marry Anne Boleyn. Pope Clement VII would not grant divorce because Catherine was the sister of Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor.

Cranmer innocently got into a conversation with two of the king’s councilors and told them that he believed the king had the right to divorce Catherine.

King Henry VIII commanded Cranmer to write a document backing his right to divorce and to defend it with Scripture.

In 1532, the archbishop of Canterbury died. By 1533, Anne Boleyn was pregnant. It was convenient for King Henry VIII to appoint Cranmer the new archbishop of Canterbury in March of 1533. He took an oath to not “do or attempt anything which will or may seem to be contrary to God’s law, or against His Majesty the King of England.

He declared the king's marriage void and pronounced Anne Boleyn the new wife of King Henry valid.

Cranmer clearly became Protestant in his views. He had tried to keep as much Catholicism as he could but abandoned certain doctrines one by one.

In 1539, King Henry retreated towards Catholicism. He passed a law that required clergy celibacy and transubstantiation. Cranmer disagreed with this and openly opposed the king, something he had not done before. But, as soon as the law was passed, Cranmer gave in. He was also forced to enforce these laws as the king's archbishop.

Some things Cranmer did seem, to most Protestants, to compromise the Reformation. But Cranmer still had Catholic enemies. There were three attempts on his life. These attempts were foiled by King Henry VIII.

King Henry liked Cranmer. He asked for Cranmer while on his deathbed.

With King Edward VI at the throne, England moved more towards Protestantism. In 1547, Cranmer published *Book of Homilies*, which required clergy to preach Reform ideas.

He published *Book of Common Prayer* in 1549 and updated, more Protestant, version in 1552.

In 1553, he produced the *Forty-two Articles* which set the doctrine of the Church of England in a Protestant direction.

After the death of Edward VI, Mary, a Catholic, became Queen of England.

Parliament repealed the acts of Henry VIII and Edward VI and reintroduced heresy laws.

Cranmer was charged with treason and imprisoned in November of 1553.

In February of 1556, a ceremony was held to humiliate Cranmer. He was forced to dress in vestments he had worn as archbishop. The pallium, the symbol of his position, was stripped from him. The chalice, in his hands, was taken away. The New Testament was taken from him. His head was shaved.

He was forced to watch Protestant friends burn at the stake. He was mentally and physically tortured. He broke down under the pressure and recanted "every heresy of Luther."

On March 21, 1556 Cranmer was escorted from his cell and led to a church. He was forced to stand and listen to the sermon preached by Henry Cole. Cole spoke of Cranmer's crimes and about the need for Cranmer to die. He told Cranmer to publicly recant, although he had already done so in writing.

As the congregation knelt to pray, Cranmer remained standing. He exhorted the people to care less for this world and more for the next, to obey the sovereigns out of the fear of God, to do

good to all people, and to be concerned for the poor. He then began to repent for recanting. Murmurs spread throughout the crowd.

Cranmer continued to speak saying, “And as for the Pope, I refuse him as Christ’s enemy and anti-Christ, with all his false doctrine. And as for the sacrament—”

He was interrupted by someone in the crowd. He continued to preach and was taken out of the church. Cranmer rushed to the stake so quickly, that the guards had a hard time keeping up with him!

He was tied to the stake. As the flames rose, he stretched out his right hand into the flames and said, “This hand hath offended.” He was speaking of having earlier written his recantation.

## **Study**

### **1. Keeping the Kings and Queens Straight**

#### **A. Scotland**

- Queen Mary de Guise: 1554-1560

She was the Regent of Scotland.

- Mary Queen of Scots: 1561-1567

Daughter of Queen Mary de Guise. She feared the prayers of John Knox more than all the troops of England. She feared his prayer because he would write them out and send them to her.

- King James VI: 1578-1625

He was the son of Queen Mary Stuart (Mary Queen of Scots).

He was also the King of England.

#### **B. England**

- King Edward VI: 1547-1553

He was the son of King Henry VIII

- Queen Mary Tudor: 1553-1558

### Daughter of Henry VIII

She was referred to as “Bloody Mary”

- Queen Elizabeth I: 1558-1603

She was also the daughter of King Henry VIII.

- James I: 1603-1625

He was also known as James VI of Scotland.

The King James Bible is named after him.

## 2. American Puritanism

Puritanism began in England under Queen Elizabeth. Puritans were those that sought to make Protestant Reformation a reality in English life and culture.

Some worked patiently to reform the church. Others separated themselves from the national church and became known as Separatists.

Some that had fled to Holland departed for America. They became known as Pilgrims.

About 100 of them set sail for America from Plymouth, England on September 6, 1620. Two months later, the *Mayflower* arrived in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Many continued to live on the ship and about half died during the first winter.

King Charles I became the new King of England. He was king from 1625 until 1649. His archbishop, William Laud, repressed all religious dissent. Therefore, many more chose migration to the New World. About 700 set sail in March 1630. Another 1,300 followed before the year was out. The decade of the 1630's became known as the “Great Migration.”

The population of Massachusetts rose to over 9,000.

Ministers were chosen and the Pilgrims became known as the Congregationalists because each church congregation in the New World handled its own affairs. No bishop ruled over them.

Some important differences from the Church of England were:

- Sunday was a day of worship.
- They did not give attention to Christmas.
- They did not kneel at Communion.
- They did not hear confession.

- They did not treat marriage as a sacrament.
- No priest stood between a believer and God.
- No statues or pictures were allowed.
- *The Book of Common Prayer* was not allowed.
- Above all, nobody was allowed to suggest that salvation would be earned.

The Puritans, in the first decade of their colony, founded Harvard College.

The Puritans never intended to establish a colony in which all religions would flock. They wanted freedom for their religion.

As the decades passed, religious zeal declined. This came to a head in the 1600's over the issue of church membership.

The “Half Way Covenant” was established that allowed unsaved people to be members of the church. It wasn’t until the Great Awakening of the 1740’s that zeal was stirred again.

## Church History

### Lesson 8: The Age of Reason and Revival: 1648-1789

#### Events

##### **1. Cambridge Platform: AD. 1649**

This was a document that defined New England Congregationalism. It was prepared in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

It explained church government, including the principle of the autonomy of the local congregation.

##### **2. George Fox founds the Society of Friends (Quakers): A.D. 1652**

The Quakers gathered 50,000 followers in 8 years.

##### **3. Jakob Philipp Spener's *Pia Desideria*: A.D. 1675**

He lived from 1635 to 1705.

While attending university at Strassburg, he met professors that introduced him to Luther and understood justification by faith.

He went to Frankfurt to preach the gospel. As he preached, he called for repentance and Discipleship. Because of his home meetings, his followers became known as pietists. This was the beginning of the Pietist movement.

In 1669, he preached from the Sermon on the Mount. The response was sudden and surprising. People were converted and family life changed.

The writings of Johan Arndt were famous at this time. Spener wrote the introduction to them. This is what is known as *Pia Desideria*.

In it he recommended:

- The establishment of Bible study groups
- A strenuous Christian life.
- A greater care for the Christian character amongst theological students.
- Simpler and more spiritual preaching

#### **4. John Bunyan writes Pilgrim's Progress: A.D. 1678**

Next to the Bible, the most popular English language book of all time.

#### **5. Isaac Watt's *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*: A.D.; 1707**

This moved the church from singing psalms to the hymns that we know today.

He wrote six hundred hymns including “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” and “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past.”

#### **6. Johnathan Edwards becomes pastor at the Northampton: A.D. 1729**

#### **7. First Moravian missionaries: A.D 1732**

The Moravians preferred to be called the United Brethren.

The Moravians became the first large scale Protestant missionary force in history.

The Moravians originally had in mind a town inhabited only by Christians, a kind of Christian Utopia.

Zinzendorf, a man full of missionary zeal, received his ordination in the Moravian Church. During a visit to Copenhagen, he met a man from the Danish West Indian Islands.

Moravians were known for their long prayer meetings. They also experienced healings of incurable diseases such as cancer.

In 1732, the first of the Moravian missionaries went to St. Thomas.

#### **8. George Whitefield converted: A.D. 1738**

Soon after his conversion, he began open-air evangelism in the U.S. and England.

#### **9. John and Charles Wesley converted: A.D. 1738**

#### **10. The Great Awakening peaks: A.D. 1740**

#### **11. Handel composes *Messiah*: A.D. 1741**

*Messiah* was a symphony about the life of Jesus. He began writing it on August 22nd, 1741. It took him 24 days to compose it.

Handel remained, the entire time, in a little room on the first floor of his home. Speaking of those 24 days, he said, “Whether I was in my body or out of my body when I wrote it, I know not.” He

fasted the entire time. He was only seen by his servant. His servant said he would come in, and most of the time, he would see Handel in the middle of the room in a trance.

“I think I did see all heaven before me and the great God himself.”

His imagination was going so fast, he could not keep pace with his writing.

## **12. Robert Raikes begins Sunday school: A.D. 1780**

Robert Raikes was a newspaper publisher in Gloucester, England.

He was active in a prison reform movement. Because of this he decided that young children, who worked in the factories Monday through Saturday, could be deterred from a life of crime if they received religious instruction on Sundays.

Some opposed this because they thought that educating the poor would lead to a revolution.

When he died, it was reported that 500,000 children were attending Sunday school in the British Isles.

This created a lasting institution.

## **People**

### **1. Blaise Pascal**

Blaise Pascal’s mother died when he was three. His father raised him and his brother and sister.

Occasionally, Stephen, Blaise’s father, took him to meetings of the Academy of Science. Blaise began to have an interest in science.

Before the age of 27 he had:

- Gained the admiration of mathematicians in Paris
- Invented the calculating machine
- Discovered the basic principles of atmospheric and hydraulic pressures.

In January 1646, on an icy day, his father fell and dislocated his hip. The doctors that treated him were Jansenists, which were Catholics who believed in salvation by grace, not good works.

Pascal became an avid student of scripture. He eventually had a born again experience after reading John 17.

He joined a Jansenist monastery called Port-Royal. He was asked to defend their beliefs against the Catholic church.

Pascal wrote eighteen letters exposing Catholic theology. Port-Royal became famous and his letters were read all over France.

Many of his writings were discovered after his death at the age of 39, from a violent illness.

Eventually, the Jansenists were driven out of France by the Catholic church and Port-Royal was destroyed.

## 2. John Bunyan

He lived from 1628-1688.

He enjoyed reading the literature of the English puritans. One of his favorite books was John Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*.

1644 was a tragic year for John Bunyan.

- His mother died in June.
- His younger sister died in July.
- In August, his father married a third wife.
- In November, he was sent to fight in the English civil wars.

He began to take on puritan ideas while in the military. It was taught that you must go through a deep personal search of yourself and rely on free grace for salvation.

Sometime between 1647 and 1649 he was married. He had four children.

His conversion to puritan ideas took about five years (1650-1655). It was a slow process, beginning with a decision not to attend the Anglican Church. He forsook the following things: dancing, bell ringing, and sports.

He became a well-known preacher.

The restoration of King Charles II brought to an end twenty years of church freedom.

On November 12, 1660, Bunyan was brought before a magistrate. He was charged with holding a service which was not in conformity with the Church of England. He refused to give assurance that he would not repeat the offense. He was imprisoned for twelve years.

During this time, he wrote and published *Grace Abounding*. He also wrote most of *Pilgrim's Progress* during this time.

Persecution ended and he became a pastor. He was imprisoned again, however, when persecution began, for six months.

He wrote many other books such as *The Life and Death of Mr. Bad Man* and *Pilgrim Process: The Second Part*.

### **3. Francis Asbury**

Born August 20, 1775, in England. He died in Virginia on March 31, 1816.

He is known as the first bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States.

He was a Methodist preacher. The Methodist was the fastest growing denomination in the New World because of their strategies.

He was saved at the age of fourteen. He had little schooling, but he was still licensed as a preacher. By the age of 21, he was itinerant preaching in England.

He volunteered for service in North America, and he preached wherever he had the chance.

He became John Wesley's personal assistant.

His gift was organization.

He created districts and broke up the New World into these districts. He gave each Methodist preacher a district. He recruited preachers to travel in these districts and they traveled in circuits. Hence the name "circuit riders". He is why the Methodist movement grew so fast.

He favored American independence, and he remained in America when every other preacher sent by Wesley returned to England. He remained faithful to Wesley and pioneered with him.

He crossed the Allegheny Mountains 60 times. He traveled an average of 8,000 kilometers on horseback. In his lifetime, he traveled more than one quarter of a million miles on horseback, visited nearly every state once a year, stayed in 10,000 households and preached 17,000 sermons.

The early growth of the church was a direct result of his efforts. He was the organizational backbone. When he arrived in America, there were three Methodist meeting houses. When he died there were 412. The membership was 214,235.

## **Study**

### **1. Camp Meetings**

- James McGready

James McGready arrived in Logan County, Kentucky in 1798 to pastor three small congregations.

McGready was a fiery preacher who stirred his congregations. After experiencing many radical conversions, McGready and other ministers organized a service to be held at Gasper River Church. Hundreds flocked to the meeting.

So many people came that there were not enough host families. People began encamping. The term “camp meeting” was not used until two years later.

On the third night, McGready said, “Sinners [were] lying powerless in every part of the house, praying and crying for mercy.”

During the following months, camp meetings spread throughout Kentucky and Tennessee. Each seemed to be more dramatic than the last.

John McGee reported that at Desha’s Creek, “Many thousands of people attended. The mighty power and mercy of God was manifested. The people fell before the Word, like corn before a storm of wind, and many rose from the dust with divine glory shining in their countenances.”

- Manifestations at camp meetings
  - Falling

People would let out a piercing scream, fall like a log on the floor, earth, or mud, and appear as dead. This would happen to sinners and believers. Usually, sinners got up saved!

- Jerks

Sometimes people’s heads or entire bodies would jerk back and forth.

- Dancing
- Laughing
- Running
- Singing

## 2. Circuit Riders

The key to the Methodist success in America was itinerant preachers called circuit riders.

Most Americans lived on widely scattered farms or in tiny remote villages. Itinerant preachers provided preaching and church structure to communities who could not afford a full-time minister.

In many regions, Methodists held the only services for miles around.

Unlike Congregationalist and Presbyterian ministers, Methodist preachers were cut from the same fabric as their listeners. Many of them were former farmers, carpenters, shoemakers, hatters, tanners, millers, shop keepers, schoolteachers, and sailors.

The typical circuit rider was a young single man who had experienced a dramatic conversion.

In 1800, a Methodist circuit rider made \$80.00 per year. A Congregationalist minister made \$400.00.

A typical circuit rider was responsible for a circumference of 200 to 500 miles which he called his circuit. He was expected to complete his circuit every two to six weeks. He usually preached twice a day. The morning meeting would be held at 5:00am in the summer and at 6:00am in the winter. Quarterly meetings would be held at centralized locations. Camp meetings eventually took the place of the quarterly meetings.

Methodist circuit riders never used notes. Francis Asbury once urged one of his preachers saying, “Feel for the power; feel for the power, brother!”

John A. Grenade, a circuit rider, would preach only for a few minutes. People would begin to fall over. In one meeting, the people “lay in such heaps that it was feared they would suffocate.”

Meetings were held in homes, court houses, schoolhouses, barns, meeting houses of other denominations, and out in the open.

Every circuit rider preached and traveled at a grueling pace. An example of this is seen in the life of Thomas Smith. In one year, he traveled 4,200 miles, preached 325 times, exhorted 64 times and met classes 287 times.

Mostly, circuit riders stayed in the homes of Methodist families.

They traveled in all kinds of weather. A common saying of the day during stormy weather was, “There is nothing out today but crows and Methodist preachers.”

Circuit riders often had to fight off “rowdies” in the crowd, especially when preaching about sin. They were often threatened with clubs, whips, knives, and pistols. A preacher would often have to bring order in the meeting with a fist to the jaw.



## Church History

### Lesson 9: The Age of Progress: 1789-1914

#### Events

##### **1. Bill of Rights: A.D. 1789**

This guaranteed freedom of speech, assembly, and religion to Americans.

##### **2. The French Revolution: A.D. 1789**

This later led to the Festival of Reason and the de-Christianization of France.

##### **3. William Carey sails for India: A.D. 1793**

##### **4. Abolition of the British slave trade: A.D. 1807**

##### **5. John Klebe's sermon launches the Oxford Movement: A.D. 1833**

On July 14, 1833, John Klebe preached a sermon entitled “National Apostasy” in which he called for the Church of England to affirm that its authority did not rest on the authority from the state.

##### **6. Finney's *Lectures on Revivals*: A.D. 1835**

This explained the methods used by Charles Finney in converting half a million people.

##### **7. Soren Kierkegaard's *Philosophical Fragments*: A.D. 1845**

His works advocated a personal faith.

##### **8. Phoebe Palmer writes *The Way of Holiness*: A.D. 1845**

Her writing spurred the Holiness movement, while strengthening women's ministries, and encouraging the Prayer Meeting Revival.

She was never ordained, yet she traveled as a preacher throughout the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Hundreds and even thousands were converted in her meetings. Hundreds claimed to have received the Holy Spirit.

She said of her meetings, “... people are weeping all over the house.” Also, “The power of God... is felt to be present to heal.”

##### **9. Spurgeon becomes pastor of New Park St. Church: A.D. 1845**

**10. D.L. Moody converted: A.D. 1855****11. U.S. Civil War begins: A.D. 1860****12. *Syllabus of Errors*: A.D. 1864**

Issued by Pope Pius IX, it rejected modern social trends including liberalism and socialism.

**13. The First Vatican Council declares papal infallibility: A.D. 1870****14. William and Catherine Booth found Salvation Army: A.D. 1878****15. Student Volunteer Movement: A.D. 1886**

This movement stirred 20,000 college students to become Christian missionaries.

**16. Billy Sunday begins revivals: A.D. 1896**

He grew up an orphan as an undertaker's assistant.

In 1883, he entered professional baseball. In 1891, he gave up baseball to work for the YMCA.

He began to conduct revivals in major cities in 1896. He was eventually ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1903.

He conducted more than 300 revival meetings with an estimated attendance of 100 million people.

He was active in prohibiting liquor sales in the U.S.

He claimed one million people were converted.

**17. Azusa Street revival begins: A.D. 1906**

This was under the leadership of William Seymour. It spread Pentecostalism.

## **People**

**1. William Wilberforce**

Wilberforce was converted at the age of twenty-five after reading *Rue and Progress of Religion in the Soul*.

Wilberforce, a member of Parliament, lived when the slave trade in England was at its peak. In 1789, Wilberforce made his first speech in the House of Commons on the traffic in slaves. Although eloquent in speech, he needed more preparation.

Wilberforce enlisted the help of his friends in the Clapham Sect, a group of influential men who lived in the village of Clapham.

Two years later, he made another speech to the House of Commons saying, “Never, never will we desist till we have wiped away this scandal from the Christian name, released ourselves from the load of guilt, and extinguished every trace of bloody traffic.”

Wilberforce would drape chains over himself during Parliament sessions in protest to slavery.

He failed to persuade them, but support grew. Wilberforce moved his appeal from the government to the people of England.

The abolitionists used all the modern means of publicity.

- They printed literature, pamphlets, etc.
- Lectures
- Billboards

On February 23, 1807, England abolished the slave trade. Wilberforce, overcome with emotion, sat bent in his chair, his head in his hands, and tears streamed down his face.

Slave traffic was halted but slaves remained in chains.

The Emancipation Act, freeing the slaves, came on July 25, 1833, four days before Wilberforce died.

The Clapham Sect remains the example of how society can be influenced by a few men of ability and devotion.

## 2. David Livingstone

David Livingstone was part of the London Missionary Society, which was started by William Carey.

He expanded geographical knowledge of Central Africa from 1841 to 1873. He fought the Arab slave trade which was destroying potential preaching centers. His purpose was to promote missionary effort.

The slave trade motivated him more than anything else.

He arrived in Africa in 1841. He served for ten years doing ordinary missionary work. But, in his own words, he was drawn to the villages to preach by “the smoke of a thousand villages” that had never seen a missionary.

Before setting out on a great journey he said, “I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the Kingdom of Christ.”

### 3. James Hudson Taylor

James Taylor was always intrigued by China. In 1832, he prayed with his wife saying, “Dear God, if you should give us a son, grant that he may work for you in China.”

James Hudson Taylor was born on May 21, 1832. When he was a boy, he was known to say, “When I am a man, I mean to be a missionary and go to China.” His parents never told him about their prayers until later.

He went through a rebellious time as a teenager. His mother locked herself in a room and decided to pray for Taylor until he became a Christian. He was saved that afternoon.

He received the call to China during a time of prayer. He spent the next few years preparing by studying medicine, the Chinese language, and the Bible.

At the age of 21, he left for China. In 1854, the ship arrived in Shanghai. Taylor worked for the Chinese Evangelization Society and learned Mandarin from a local teacher.

He decided to dress in Chinese clothes and wear a pigtail out of respect for the culture. He was severely criticized for this decision by other missionaries.

When he first started, he received a salary of \$80.00 per year.

China was composed of 18 provinces, of which only seven had missionaries. Taylor began to work his way inland, where other missionaries did not go.

Taylor resigned from the Chinese Evangelization Society because of problems within the organization. He did not have any financial support at this time. He decided to trust God.

He married Maria Dyer in 1858. She was the daughter of missionaries and shared the same passion for China as Taylor.

Taylor returned to England due to illness after seven years in China.

While in China, he made plans to start his own missionary organization. He began to make plans to recruit twenty-four missionaries: two for each of the eleven provinces without missionaries, and two for Mongolia. He opened a bank account under China Inland Missions (CIM).

He began to be burdened with China. He could not sit in church saying, “Unable to bear the sight of a congregation of thousands or more Christian people rejoicing in their own security while

millions were perishing for lack of knowledge, I wandered out on the sands alone, in great spiritual agony."

Taylor was determined that his organization would have six distinctive features:

- The missionaries would be drawn from any denomination, provided they would sign a simple doctrinal declaration.
- The missionaries would have no salary but were to trust in the Lord to supply needs.
- No appeals for funds would be made.
- The organization would not be governed by committees in England, but leadership would be stationed in China.
- The organization would press to interior China where Christ had not been named.
- The missionaries would wear Chinese clothes and worship in Chinese-styled buildings.

He left England with sixteen new missionaries.

Taylor performed medical treatment for people, sometimes as much as two hundred people per day. The people would hear sermons as they waited for treatment.

By 1876, the number of CIM missionaries grew to fifty-two. They continued to move into the interior.

Taylor sent unmarried women into the interior, He was criticized for this, but he was bold in everything that he did. In 1881, he asked for seventy more missionaries. By the close of 1884, he had seventy-six more. In 1886, he prayed for one hundred more missionaries by 1887. One hundred and two joined that year!

He was a hard worker and only slept when his body demanded it, catching a couple of hours here and there.

Sickness often attacked the missionaries. Maria died at the age of thirty-three. Four of her eight children died before the age of ten. Also, fifty-eight missionaries and twenty-one of their children died in the Boxer Rebellion.

In 1888, Taylor preached all over Canada. Wherever he preached, young people offered themselves as missionaries to China. Over forty Canadians applied to join CIM.

#### 4. Charles Fox Parham

He lived from 1873-1929. He was an evangelist with Methodist, Quaker, and Holiness influence. His focus was on world evangelism but felt the Church lacked the power to do it.

In October 1900, he opened Bethel Bible College. About 40 students attended in Topeka, Kansas. Prayer was the essential focus of the school. At 11pm on NYE, he reluctantly laid hands on a student for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. "She began speaking in the Chinese language and was unable to speak English for three days."

January 3, 1901, the entire school, including Parham, was filled with the Holy Spirit. Actual tongues of fire sat on their heads.

In 1905, after the school shut down, he went to Houston, TX, he opened a new school to teach about the Holy Spirit. Important Pentecostal leaders came from this school. William Seymour attended this school.

Parham was involved in the Azusa St revival. He was critical of the tongues spoken and had a problem with the lack of racial segregation.

He opened a rivaling revival to compete with Azusa. It did not prosper.

He went to Zion City, Illinois to help with problems in John Alexander Dolly's ministry. He had a problem with a man named Wilbur Voliva who was trying to gain political leadership over the city, which was established as a kind of Christian Utopia.

At least five hundred ministries came out of this revival including:

- F.F Bosworth

He established an independent healing ministry. He preached to crowds of 20,000.

- John G. Lake

## Church History

### Lesson 10: The Age of Ideologies: 1914-Present

#### Events

##### **1. Edinburgh Missionary Conference: A.D. 1910**

This conference drew together over 1,000 delegates from all over the world to consider the problem of world missions.

##### **2. *The Fundamentals*: A.D. 1910**

This was a twelve-volume set, which included articles by both denominational and nondenominational evangelicals.

This helped to spread evangelical ideas.

##### **3. Karl Barth's *Commentary on Romans*: A.D. 1919**

Karl Barth was a leader in the German Confessional church at the time of Hitler.

He emphasized the authority of Christ in the church and the scriptures as the rule of faith and life. He refused to accept Nazi claims of supremacy.

He published *Commentary on Romans* along with many other books.

##### **4. First Christian radio broadcasts: A.D. 1924**

##### **5. C.S. Lewis' conversion: A.D. 1931**

His conversion gave rise to numerous theological and apologetic books that explained Christianity to twentieth-century people.

##### **6. Wycliffe Bible Translators founded: A.D. 1934**

Under the leadership of Cam Townsend, this organization provides Scripture to hundreds of language groups with no Bible.

##### **7. First Christian TV broadcasts: A.D. 1940**

##### **8. Rudolf Bultmann calls for demythologization of the New Testament: A.D. 1941**

Rudolf Bultmann was a German Protestant theologian.

His desire was to study the text of the New Testament and to do away with the myths that had come due to oral tradition.

**9. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Letters and Papers from Prison*: A.D. 1945**

**10. Dead Sea Scrolls discovered: A.D. 1947**

This was the most important archeology discovery of our century.

**11. The Word Council of Churches: A.D. 1948**

The World Council of Churches was formed in 1948 in Amsterdam. Their goal was understanding and Christian unity amongst its members.

**12. Los Angeles Crusade catapultes Billy Graham: A.D. 1949**

This crusade was very successful and widely publicized. Soon after, Billy Graham was conducting several crusades in major cities around the world.

**13. Missionaries forced to leave China: A.D. 1950**

**14. United Methodists grant full ordination to women: A.D. 1954**

This increased leadership of women in mainline and other churches.

**15. Charismatic renewal advances: A.D. 1960**

**16. Vatican II opens: A.D. 1962**

**17. King leads march on Washington: A.D. 1963**

On August 28, 1963, over 200,000 blacks and whites took part in a gigantic civil rights demonstration in Washington D.C.

This is when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his memorable “I Have a Dream” speech. He was calling for the passage of a civil rights bill.

The next year, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Five years later, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

## **People**

### **1. Amy Carmichael**

Amy Carmichael was born in Ireland, in 1867.

Amy's father moved the family to Belfast when she was 16 years old, but he died two years later. In Belfast, the Carmichaels founded the Welcome Evangelical Church. In the mid-1880s, Carmichael started a Sunday-morning class for the "Shawlies" (mill girls who wore shawls instead of hats) in the church hall of Rosemary Street Presbyterian. This mission grew quickly to include several hundred attendees.

At the Keswick Convention of 1887, she heard Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, speak about missionary life; soon afterwards, she became convinced of her calling to missionary work.

She applied to the China Inland Mission and lived in London at the training house for women, where she met author and missionary to China Mary Geraldine Guinness, who encouraged her to pursue missionary work. Carmichael was ready to sail for Asia, but it was determined that her health made her unfit for the work. She postponed her missionary career with the CIM and decided later to join the Church Missionary Society.

Carmichael founded the Dohnavur Fellowship in 1901 in Tamil Nadu, thirty miles from India's southern tip. Carmichael's fellowship transformed Dohnavur into a sanctuary for over one thousand children.

Carmichael often said that her ministry of rescuing temple children started with a girl named Preema. Having become a temple servant against her wishes, Preema managed to escape. Amy Carmichael provided her shelter and withstood the threats of those who insisted that the girl be returned either to the temple directly to continue her sexual assignments.

The number of such incidents soon grew, thus beginning Amy Carmichael's new ministry.

By 1913, the Dohnavur Fellowship was serving 130 girls. In 1918, Dohnavur added a home for young boys, many born to the former temple prostitutes. Meanwhile, in 1916 Carmichael formed a Protestant religious order called Sisters of the Common Life.

Amy Carmichael was a prolific writer, publishing many books and articles about her experiences as a missionary in India.

Carmichael died in India in 1951 at the age of 83. She asked that no stone be put over her grave at Dohnavur.

Other Christian missionaries have cited her as an influence.

India outlawed temple prostitution in 1948. However, the Dohnavur Fellowship continues, now supporting approximately 500 people on 400 acres with 16 nurseries and a hospital.

As a missionary to India, Amy Carmichael served for 55 years without a furlough. Her heart was to serve God by serving others. She resisted what many people turned a blind eye from—saving the mistreated and abused women and children from pagan rituals.

While serving in India, Carmichael received a letter from a young lady who was considering life as a missionary, asking, "What is missionary life like?" Carmichael wrote back, "Missionary life is simply a chance to die."

## 2. Corrie ten Boom

Corrie ten Boom and many of her family members risked their lives to protect Jews and others who were hunted by the Nazis during World War II. After suffering great loss of health and family in concentration camps, Corrie demonstrated the unconditional love and forgiveness of Christ towards the Nazis as well as their collaborators.

Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom was a Dutch watchmaker who, along with her family, harbored hundreds of Jews amid the Nazi Holocaust to protect them from arrest during World War II. It's believed their efforts saved nearly 800 lives.

In May 1940, the Germans invaded the Netherlands.

During the war, the Boom house became a refuge for Jews, students, and intellectuals. The façade of the watch shop made the house an ideal front for these activities. A secret room, no larger than a small wardrobe closet, was built into Corrie's bedroom behind a false wall. The space could hold up to six people, all of whom had to stand quietly and still. A crude ventilation system was installed to provide air for the occupants. When security sweeps came through the neighborhood, a buzzer in the house would signal danger, allowing the refugees a little over a minute to seek sanctuary in the hiding place.

The entire ten Boom family became active in the Dutch resistance, risking their lives harboring those hunted by the Gestapo. Some fugitives would stay only a few hours, while others would stay several days until another safe house could be located. Corrie became a leader in the movement, overseeing a network of safe houses in the country.

On February 28, 1944, a Dutch informant told the Nazis of the ten Booms' activities, and the Gestapo soon raided the home. They kept the house under surveillance, and by the end of the day, 35 people—including the entire ten Boom family—were arrested. Although German soldiers thoroughly searched the house, they didn't find the half-dozen Jews safely concealed in the hiding place. The six stayed in the cramped space for nearly three days before being rescued by the Dutch underground.

All ten Boom family members were incarcerated, including Corrie's 84-year-old father, who soon died in prison. Corrie and her sister Betsie were taken to Ravensbrück, a concentration camp near Berlin. Betsie died there on December 16, 1944. Twelve days later, Corrie was released due to a clerical error.

In 1946, she began a worldwide ministry that took her to more than 60 countries.

In 1971, ten Boom wrote a best-selling memoir about her experiences during World War II, titled *The Hiding Place*. Four years after its release, the book was made into a movie. The 1975 movie was produced by well-known evangelist Billy Graham.

She lived a long life and went to heaven on her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday in 1983.

### 3. C.S. Lewis

Clive Staples Lewis was born on February 29, 1898, in Belfast, Ireland. He died November 22, 1963, in Oxford, England.

He authored about forty books in his lifetime. Most of them were Christian apologetics.

Two of his most well-known works are *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is part of the *Chronicles of Narnia*.

*The Screwtape Letters* is a satire, consisting of thirty-one letters, written from an elderly experienced devil named Screwtape to a rookie devil named Wormwood. The letters explained the subtle art of tempting a young Christian convert.

### 4. Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was the founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation of women dedicated to helping the poor. She was considered one of the 20th Century's greatest humanitarians.

Born in Macedonia to parents of Albanian-descent and having taught in India for 17 years, Mother Teresa experienced her "call within a call" in 1946. Her order established a hospice; centers for the blind, aged and disabled; and a leper colony.

Mother Teresa was born on August 26, 1910. Her parents were of Albanian descent.

In 1919, when Mother Teresa (then Agnes) was only eight years-old, her father suddenly fell ill and died. While the cause of his death remains unknown, many have speculated that political enemies poisoned him.

In the aftermath of her father's death, Agnes became extraordinarily close to her mother, a pious and compassionate woman who instilled in her daughter a deep commitment to charity. Although by no means wealthy, her mother extended an open invitation to the city's destitute to dine with her family. "My child, never eat a single mouthful unless you are sharing it with others," she counseled her daughter.

Agnes was twelve years old when she first felt a calling to religious life. Six years later, in 1928, when she was only eighteen years old, she decided to become a nun and set off for Ireland to join the Sisters of Loreto in Dublin. It was there that she took the name Sister Mary Teresa.

A year later, Sister Mary Teresa traveled on to Darjeeling, India. Afterward, she was sent to Calcutta, where she was assigned to teach at Saint Mary's High School for Girls, a school run by the Loreto Sisters and dedicated to teaching girls from the city's poorest Bengali families.

On May 24, 1937, she took her Final Profession of Vows to a life of poverty, chastity and obedience. As was the custom for Loreto nuns, she took on the title of "Mother" upon making her final vows and thus became known as Mother Teresa.

On September 10, 1946, Mother Teresa experienced a second calling. She was riding in a train from Calcutta to the Himalayan foothills for a retreat when she said Christ spoke to her and told her to abandon teaching to work in the slums of Calcutta aiding the city's poorest and sickest people.

After nearly a year and a half of lobbying, in January 1948 she finally received approval to pursue this new calling. That August, donning the blue-and-white sari that she would wear in public for the rest of her life, she left the Loreto convent and wandered out into the city. After six months of basic medical training, she voyaged for the first time into Calcutta's slums with no more specific a goal than to aid "the unwanted, the unloved, the uncared for."

She rented a room to personally take care of a dying man. Then another was brought to her. She ended up having two rooms full of sick and dying people. She needed a building, so she began to pray. She was given a building by the health officer of Calcutta.

She took patients refused by hospitals.

Mother Teresa quickly translated her call into concrete actions to help the city's poor. She began an open-air school and established a home for the dying destitute in a dilapidated building that she convinced the city government to donate to her cause. In October 1950, she won canonical recognition for a new congregation, the Missionaries of Charity, which she founded with only a handful of members—most of them former teachers or pupils from St. Mary's School.

As the ranks of her congregation swelled and donations poured in from around India and across the globe, the scope of Mother Teresa's charitable activities expanded exponentially. Over the course of the 1950s and 1960s, she established a leper colony, an orphanage, a nursing home, a family clinic and a string of mobile health clinics.

In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work "in bringing help to suffering humanity."

By the time of her death in 1997, the Missionaries of Charity numbered more than 4,000 – in addition to thousands more lay volunteers – with 610 foundations in 123 countries around the world.

She was very outspoken against abortion. She said, "I feel the biggest destroyer of peace today is abortion because it is a direct war, a direct killing, direct murder from the mother herself." She also said, "Abortion is nothing more than a fear of the child. Fear of having to feed one more

child, to have to educate one more child, to have to love one more child therefore the child must die.”

She defined social welfare as the leprosy of the West.

Mother Teresa died in 1997 in Calcutta, India. One million people attended her funeral.

Quotes from Mother Tereia:

"By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus."

"Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your own weakness."

## 5. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

He was born in Breslau, Germany in 1906.

His father was a professor.

At the age of fourteen, he declared to his family that he wanted to be a minister. His father was against this and told Bonhoeffer that the church was self-serving. Bonhoeffer replied, "In that case, I'll reform it!"

He attended the University of Berlin.

At the age of twenty-one, he completed *The Communion of the Saints*. Karl Barth called it a "theological miracle."

He pastored a church in Spain from 1928-1929. It was there that he experienced poverty for the first time.

He returned to Germany to pastor a church.

He then went to a seminary in New York for one year. It was there, at Union Theological Seminary, that he made deep friendships. He also saw first-hand the oppression endured by the blacks in the United States.

The Sermon on the Mount made a great impact on his life while in New York.

He returned to the University of Berlin to teach. Some of these courses have been put into books. In one of these, entitled *Christ the Center*, he describes the Jesus of 1933 as the persecuted Jew and the imprisoned dissenter in the church struggle.

Because of the rise of Nazism, many of the students avoided him.

Many Christians in Germany began to adopt Hitler's socialism as a part of their creed. They were known as "German Christians." Their spokesperson, Hermann Gruner, said "The time is fulfilled for the German people in Hitler. It is because of Hitler that Christ, God the helper and redeemer, has become effective among us. Therefore, national socialism is positive Christianity in action... Hitler is the way of the Spirit and the will of God for the German people to enter the Church of Christ."

Bonhoeffer and his group of "Young Reformers" attempted to persuade church delegates not to vote for pro-Hitler candidates.

In July 1933, just before church elections, Bonhoeffer preached a sermon pleading, "Church, remain a church!" However, a Nazi sympathizer was elected national bishop.

In September 1933, the church adopted the "Aryan Clause." This denied the pulpit to ministers with Jewish blood.

Bonhoeffer openly attacked anti-Jewish legislation.

At the Barmen Synod, in May 1934, "The Confessing Church" affirmed the now famous *Barmen Confession of Faith*. It stated, "We repudiate the false teaching that there are areas of our life which we belong not to Jesus Christ but to other lords..." Those who signed this were made marked men by the Gestapo.

Bonhoeffer was not allowed to pastor a church, so he went to London frustrated. As International Youth Secretary for the World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship through the Churches, he rallied international churches to take a strong anti-Nazi stand.

He directed an illegal seminary in 1935 by the Baltic Sea. It was supported by free will offerings. The seminary's day included prayer, teaching, Bible readings, lectures, and singing black spirituals that Bonhoeffer learned in New York.

His best-known book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, came out of this seminary.

It was closed by the Gestapo in October 1937.

Bonhoeffer became frustrated even with the leadership of the Confessing Church. Some of the members made an oath to Hitler as a birthday gift to him.

He would often use Proverbs 31:8 to explain why he had to be the voice to defend Jews in Nazi Germany. The verse says, "Who will speak up for those who are voiceless?"

On Crystal Night, November 9, 1938, Nazis broke the windows on stores and homes owned by Jews, burned synagogues and brutalized Jews in Berlin. Bonhoeffer was disappointed in the silence of the church after this night.

Fearful that his strong anti-Nazi stand would bring wrath upon the Confessing Church and upon his brother-in-law, who was preparing a military takeover, he left for the United States on June 2, 1939.

He could not stay in America for long. Germany needed him. He left America on July 8, 1939.

He said, "I have no right to participate in the reconstruction of the Chirstian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

When he returned to Germany, he was forced to serve as a member of Abwehr, the military intelligence agency under Hitler. Bonhoeffer took this opportunity to act as a double agent. He helped to smuggle Jews into Switzerland and do other underground work.

He was arrested and imprisoned on April 5, 1943. It was there that he wrote *Letters and Papers from Prison*. He also wrote letters to his fiancé, Maria Von Wedemeyer. She visited him while he was in prison.

On July 20, 1944, an assassination attempt on Hitler failed. Bonhoeffer was connected to the assassination attempt.

On April 3, 1944, Bonhoeffer and others were loaded into vans and taken to the extermination camp at Flossenbürg. They were put in a small schoolhouse. Bonhoeffer led them in a prayer meeting.

Early in the morning of April 9, Bonhoeffer and six others were hanged. The camp doctor, who had to witness the executions, remarked, "I was deeply moved by the way this loveable man prayed, so devout and so certain that God heard his prayer. At the place of execution, he again said a short prayer and then climbed the steps to the gallows, brave and composed... In the almost fifty years that I have worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God."

Three weeks later, Hitler committed suicide. On May 7, 1944, the war ended.

## 6. Billy Graham

Billy Graham was born on November 7, 1918.

He was raised on a dairy farm outside Charlotte, North Carolina and raised in a Christian home.

He made a personal decision to follow Jesus at the age of sixteen.

He met his wife, Ruth, in college.

Growing up during the Depression, he learned the value of hard work, but he also found time to become an avid reader, which was a lifelong pursuit.

After a brief stint as pastor of The Village Church of Western Springs in Western Springs, Illinois, Graham became the first full-time staff member of Youth for Christ, a nondenominational evangelistic organization focused on youth and military personnel. He preached in public rallies throughout the United States and in Europe,

A 1949 citywide evangelistic crusade in Los Angeles unexpectedly vaulted Billy Graham into the public eye. Originally scheduled for three weeks, the meeting extended to eight weeks. Night after night, crowds spilled out of a huge tent that became known as the Canvas Cathedral. Major newspapers and magazines spotlighted the story, and almost overnight Billy Graham became a household name.

For decades, Billy Graham held numerous preaching Crusades in stadiums and sports arenas across the United States and Canada, as well as in India, Africa, Australia, South America, the Middle East, Europe, and other parts of the world.

A 1977 trip to communist-led Hungary opened a new phase in his ministry, eventually enabling him to conduct preaching Crusades in virtually every country of the former Eastern Bloc (including the Soviet Union), as well as China and North Korea.

He is known as a pioneer in the use of new technologies to preach the Gospel, from radio and television to films and the internet. Beginning in 1989, a series of Crusades via satellite extended his preaching to live audiences in more than 185 countries and territories. Mr. Graham wrote more than 30 books, many of which stayed on the best-seller lists for months.

His counsel was sought by presidents, celebrities, and others of influence, yet he always emphasized that the vast majority of his time was spent with ordinary people. He appeared on the Gallup Poll's list of the "Ten Most Admired Men in the World" 61 times—more than any other personality in the poll's history.

He said, "My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship with God, which I believe, comes through knowing Christ."

## 7. Jim Elliot

Jim Elliot was born in 1927 and grew up in Portland, Oregon. He listened carefully as visiting missionaries told him about life on faraway mission fields. He asked them questions and dreamed about being a missionary himself someday.

On February 2, 1952, Jim Elliot waved goodbye to his parents and boarded a ship for the 18-day trip from San Pedro, California, to Quito, Ecuador, South America.

He and his missionary partner, Pete Fleming, first spent a year in Quito learning to speak Spanish. Then they moved to Shandia, a small Quichua Indian village to take the place of the retiring missionary. In six months, both were speaking Spanish well enough to move to Shandia. When they arrived in Shandia, they also had to learn the speech of the Quichuas.

Three years later many Quichuas had become faithful Christians. Jim now began to feel it was time to tell the Aucas about Jesus.

The Aucas had killed many Quichuas. They had also killed several workers at an oil company-drilling site near their territory. The oil company closed the site because everyone was afraid to work there. Jim knew the only way to stop the Aucas from killing was to tell them about Jesus. Jim and the four other Ecuador missionaries began to plan a way to show the Aucas they were friendly.

Nate Saint, a missionary supply pilot, came up with a way to lower a bucket filled with supplies to people on the ground while flying above them. He thought this would be a perfect way to win the trust of the Aucas without putting anyone in danger. They began dropping gifts to the Aucas. They also used an amplifier to speak friendly Auca phrases. After many months, the Aucas even sent a gift back up in the bucket to the plane. Jim and the other missionaries felt the time had come to meet the Aucas face-to-face.

One day while flying over Auca territory, Nate Saint spotted a beach that looked long enough to land the plane on. He planned to land there and the men would build a tree house to stay safe in until friendly contact could be made.

The missionaries were flown in one-by-one and dropped off on the Auca beach. Nate Saint then flew over the Auca village and called for the Aucas to come to the beach. After four days, an Auca man and two women appeared. It was not easy for them to understand each other since the missionaries only knew a few Auca phrases. They shared a meal with them, and Nate took the man up for a flight in the plane.

The missionaries waited for other Aucas to return for the next two days. Finally, two Auca women walked out of the jungle on day six. Jim and Pete excitedly jumped in the river and waded over to them. As they got closer, these women did not appear friendly. Jim and Pete almost immediately heard a terrifying cry behind them. As they turned, they saw a group of Auca warriors with their spears raised, ready to throw. Jim Elliot reached for the gun in his pocket. He had to decide instantly if he should use it. But he knew he couldn't. Each of the missionaries had promised they would not kill an Auca who did not know Jesus to save himself from being killed. Within seconds, the Auca warriors threw their spears, killing all the missionaries: Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Nate Saint, Pete Fleming and Jim Elliot.

Late in the afternoon of Sunday, January 8, Elisabeth Elliot, Jim's wife, waited by the two-way radio to hear Nate Saint and his wife discuss how things had gone that day. But there was no call. As evening turned to night, the wives grew worried. They knew the news was not good.

In less than two years Elisabeth Elliot, her daughter Valerie, and Rachel Saint (Nate's sister) were able to move to the Auca village. Many Aucas became Christians. They are now a friendly tribe. Missionaries, including Nate Saint's son and his family, still live among the Aucas today. The highly publicized deaths of the missionaries brought attention to Jim's life and the pursuit of following God's calling to dangerous places. Eventually many people in this tribe would come to know Christ.

## 8. Brother Andrew

Brother Andrew was born in 1928 in the Netherlands.

In 1955, a young Dutch missionary went to a Communist youth congress in Poland, at that time a part of the Soviet bloc. But he wasn't a communist: he was a Christian. His suitcase contained his Bible, a change of clothes and hundreds of tracts entitled *The Way of Salvation*, which he intended to give away.

The trip was to change his life. Behind the Iron Curtain, he discovered churches desperately in need of Bibles, support and prayer. Above all, he found a group of Christians who felt isolated and alone and who thought the rest of the world had forgotten them.

One evening during that first visit, he went to a Baptist church in Warsaw where he was invited to speak. He tells the story in his best-selling book *God's Smuggler*: "At the end of my little talk the pastor said the most interesting thing of all, 'We want to thank you,' he said, 'for being here. Even if you had not said a word, just seeing you would have meant so much. We feel at times as if we are all alone in our struggle.'"

That young man became known as Brother Andrew. And his trip changed the world.

In subsequent years he was to travel many times behind the Iron Curtain, courageously putting his life on the line to smuggle Bibles at the height of the Cold War.

His work went on to span many decades and geographic locations. In *God's Smuggler*, Brother Andrew's autobiography chronicling those early years, he details dangerous border crossings in his blue VW Beetle – which became known as 'the miracle car', for its ability to miraculously keep going.

He developed a trademark prayer to say as he snuck Bibles and Christian literature across the border: "Lord, in my luggage I have Scripture I want to take to Your children. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Do not let the guards see those things You do not want them to see."

As the work grew, he was joined by others and began a work of smuggling Bibles to believers in Communist countries. And today, Brother Andrew's small Dutch mission has become an international ministry working in more than sixty nations to strengthen the Persecuted Church.

Open Doors still distributes hundreds of thousands of Bibles and Christian books every year. They also train and support persecuted Christians in other ways.

Today, of course, Europe has changed. The main threat to Christians today comes not from Communism, but from radical Islam. Brother Andrew travelled extensively in the Islamic world, talking to the leaders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah. He is among the few Western leaders to regularly travel to the Middle East as an ambassador for Christ to these groups.

Brother Andrew went to be with Jesus in 2022.

## **9. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in 1929.

Dr. Martin Luther King was compelled by the Spirit of God to move when he felt the “inner urge” to help others. His preaching and writings stirred up the conscience of people all over the world to rethink their prejudicial and racial practices.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the preeminent leader of the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968.

His guidance was fundamental to the movement’s success in ending the legal segregation of Black Americans in the South and other parts of the United States.

He rose to national prominence as a leader of the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955–56 and later as the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which pursued civil rights through nonviolent tactics, such as the Selma March (1965) and the massive March on Washington (1963), at the culmination of which, King, an immensely gifted orator, delivered his iconic “I Have a Dream” speech.

One of the most important pieces of Christian literature was written by Dr. King called “Letter from Birmingham Jail”.

He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and is commemorated by the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C.

## **10. David Yonggi Cho**

David Yonggi Cho was born on February 14, 1936, in South Korea.

Cho popularized the idea of cell groups, arguing they are key to discipleship and to fostering the intimate connections that tie individuals to a large and growing church. He was also famous for teaching about prayer and Prayer Mountain, a place of twenty-four-hour prayer founded by him. He learned English from hanging around American military bases, and by the age of 15 began to work for the troops as a translator.

His life changed at 17, when tuberculosis sent him to the hospital coughing up blood and rethinking his understanding of the universe. As a Buddhist, Cho later explained, he had been taught that he must suffer to “become Buddha through hardship.”

After reading a Bible given to him by a young woman, Cho decided to reach out to the Christian God.

When he was later released from the hospital, cured of tuberculosis, he gave the glory to God and claimed a miraculous healing. In 1956, he started attending the Full Gospel Bible College in Seoul, preparing to become a minister.

Two years later, he and his future mother-in-law started holding services in a tent. Only four or five people came to the first service, but within three years, regular attendance had grown to 600.

The church grew into the thousands but then plateaued for several years at 2,400 before Cho developed the idea of cell groups. He started by empowering 20 deaconesses to develop groups in 20 districts in the city. Cho refined and reorganized the groups and the training for leadership as he went, and by 1973, the church had about 18,000 members.

The congregation built a new building in Yoido, the financial district of Seoul. Three years later, Cho founded Church Growth International to teach the principles he had learned internationally.

By 1981 Yoido Full Gospel Church had attracted about 200,000 people, and by the first decade of the 21st century had 1,000,000 worshippers and had sent more than 700 missionaries to hundreds of churches throughout the world.

Cho stepped back from full-time ministry in 2008, passing leadership to Young Hoon Lee, the current pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church. He died at the age of 85.

## **11. Reinhard Bonnke**

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke was principally known for his great Gospel Crusades throughout Africa.

The son of a pastor, Reinhard surrendered his life to Christ at age nine, and heard the call to the African mission field before he was a teenager.

He attended Bible College in Wales and was ordained in Germany where he and his wife, Anni, pastored a small church until 1967.

In 1974, the Holy Spirit spoke to Reinhard in a recurring dream about “a blood-washed Africa”.

He founded Christ for All Nations, becoming the inspiring visionary who always spoke of “plundering hell to populate heaven,” a dedicated preacher who saw “signs following” as the necessary evidence of the power of the Gospel to save, heal, and deliver.

Evangelist Bonnke began holding meetings in a tent that accommodated just 800 people, but, as attendance steadily increased, larger and larger tents had to be purchased, until finally, in 1984, he commissioned the construction of the world’s largest mobile structure at the time — a tent capable of seating 34,000 people.

He began open-air Gospel Campaigns with an initial gathering of over 150,000 people per service. From then on, he conducted city-wide meetings across the continent using towering sound systems that could be heard for miles. The largest recorded attendance in such an open-air meeting was in the city of Lagos during the “Millennium Crusade in November, 2000, when over 1.6 million people thronged the field to hear the Gospel!

Reinhard Bonnke’s passion for the Gospel endured until the day he died.

## Church History

### Lesson 11: Catching the Spirit of the People of Church History

#### 1. The Pioneering Spirit

- The apostles and first believers were a small group with a large task.

**Mark 16:15** *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

- Anthony

When the Spirit had lifted off the organized church, he pioneered a new work.

- Anabaptists
- James Hudson Taylor
  - Many of the things he did were before his time and criticized by other missionaries.
  - He expected his missionaries to wear the clothing of the Chinese people. This had never been done before.

#### 2. The Spirit of Endurance and Dedication

- Early Christian martyrs
- Puritans

#### 3. The Spirit of Compassion

- This was a key to the powerful ministry of Jesus.

**Mark 6:34** *And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.*

- Patrick

He would often dream of the Irish people pleading for him to return to Ireland and preach the gospel to them.

- Mother Teresa

#### 4. The Spirit of Boldness

- The early church in the face of persecution

##### Acts 4:29-31

**Act 4:29** *Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,*

**Act 4:30** *by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."*

**Act 4:31** *And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*

- Methodist circuit riders

Often, they would have to defend themselves against enemies in their crowds.

- Polycarp
- Thomas Cranmer

The spirit of boldness was upon him on the day of his execution.

#### 5. The Spirit of Reform

- Martin Luther
- John Knox
- Savonarola

#### 6. The Spirit of Personal Conviction and Activism

- William Tyndale

He acted on his convictions that the people of England ought to be able to read the Bible in their own tongue.

- William Wilberforce

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## 7. The Spirit of Faith

### 2 Corinthians 4:13

*And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED AND THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe and therefore speak,*

### Hebrews 12:1-2

#### Hebrews 12:1

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

#### Hebrews 12:2

*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*