

**Passing
on
the
Torch!**



WE BEGIN . . .

We begin our study in the first century events after the Messiah. Many historians recorded the life of the Messiah. They recorded his miracles and his miraculous resurrection. Most historians who wrote about the Messiah were not believers. Josephus, Suetonius (A.D. 75-160) and Roman historian Tacitus documented the history of the Messiah. There is no doubt he existed.

HISTORY REPEATS

- Ecc 3:15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.
- Ecc 1:9 The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is* that which shall be done: and *there is* no new *thing* under the sun.
- Isa 46:9 Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; I *am* God, and *there is* none like me,

TWO THEMES

There are two themes that are consistent throughout history:

- ◉ God punishes his people when they backslide and they have always returned to their Christian roots.
- ◉ God always provides a place of safety for his people during a time of prosecution.

This should give us hope for the future!

BACKGROUND

FIRST,

**We need to discuss background information-
- what was going on the Roman Empire --
before we introduce the Europeans
Christians.**

There were two major migrations out of Jerusalem after the time of the Messiah.

- 1) The Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD**
- 2) Bar Kochba Revolt in 132 AD**

SIEGE OF JERUSALEM IN THE YEAR 70 AD

- ◉ There were seven miracles God sent to the people of Jerusalem in the spring of 66. The Disciples that were still in Jerusalem at the time left with their followers in 66 AD after the heavenly signs at the temple. They took the signs as a warning to leave. But many Jews felt it was a sign for them to fight the Romans.
- ◉ Tiberius Julius Alexander besieged and conquered the city of Jerusalem, which had been occupied by its Jewish defenders in 66. The siege ended with the sacking of the city and the destruction of its famous Second Temple.
- ◉ Temple was destroyed on the ninth day (Av)
- ◉ Josephus claims that 1,100,000 people were killed, and that 97,000 were captured and enslaved.

PERSECUTION OF HADRIAN

- ◉ In March 130, around Passover, Hadrian and a group of his favorite male companions came to Jerusalem.
- ◉ He intended to wipe out the Jews and their God and any memory of them in history. **He built a temple to Jupiter on the temple mount. Jewish signs were eliminated. Banners with pigs were placed in the city. In 135 AD, Hadrian outlawed Sabbath keeping and circumcision under penalty of death.**
- ◉ Exactly a year later on Av ninth Day 136 AD, the Roman Emperor Hadrian ordered the Turnus Rufus to plow up the city of Jerusalem. He rebuilt it and renamed it "Aelia Capitolina" after himself. The land was renamed Syria Palaestina (Palestine) after the Philistines.

THE BAR KOCHBA REVOLT (132-135)

- A Jewish revolt occurred during the years 132 to 135 AD and was led by Bar Kochba (Kokaba, Cocheba). He proclaimed himself to be the Messiah and it was quickly affirmed by Rabbi Akiva.
- Jewish Christians had to choose between Christ or Bar Kochba as the Messiah. If they chose Bar Kochba they would have to support the revolt. If they chose not to support the revolt and were seen as traitors. It caused permanent hostilities between the Jewish and Christian communities.

- Masses of people rushed from the Middle East into the Roman Empire after Bar Kochba Revolt.
- They were forced out by Emperor Hadrian.
- Many foreigners from the Middle East were brought into the city of Rome as slaves. They eventually gained their freedom and settled in Rome. They were granted their freedom during the reign of Emperor Aurelian(270 to 275).
- The city of Rome was also overrun by many foreigners who were sun-god worshippers. Those were mainly Edomites and Samaritans. They were removed also from Palestine.

ANTIOCH

- ◉ Many fled to Antioch. It was a city immersed in Greece culture and pagan beliefs. Antioch was known as a great trade center. It was originally the seat of the Seleucid Empire.
- ◉ It was on the main commerce route between Rome and India. Many of the people who came out of the Middle East were wealthy merchants who continued to practice their trades.
- The City of Antioch became the new center of the Jewish faith. Lucian had a tremendous influence on Antioch and he founded a college there.
- The Protestant denominations are built upon that manuscript of the Greek New Testament sometimes called the Textus Receptus, or Received Text. It is that Greek New Testament from which the writings of the apostles have been translated into other languages. It was restored by Erasmus. It is altogether too little known that the real editor of the received text was Lucian.

ALEXANDRIA

- Alexandria was one of the original religious centers. Many people fled to this region also when Jerusalem fell. The origins of monasticism are to be found in Egypt.
- It was the place where the Jews and the Greeks ideas merged.
- Alexandria had, for more than two centuries before Christ, been the real capital for people who were compromising with paganism.
- The church that developed was influenced and founded on the teaching of the Ante Nicene Fathers in Alexander as well as religious leaders from Rome.
- These Church fathers taught Asceticism. They lived extremely austere lifestyles. They refrained from worldly pleasures and material riches.

CLEMENT, ORIGEN, JUSTIN MARTYR

- This began with Philo Judaeus (30 BC-45 AD) who was a Jewish teacher of the oral traditions and Greek philosophy to Christian teaching. According to the Wikipedia, "His ancestors and family had social ties and connections to the Priesthood in Judea; Hasmonean Dynasty; Herodian Dynasty and Julio-Claudian dynasty".
- Philo founded the Alexandrian School where he trained Clement, who succeeded him in 180 A.D. Clement trained Origen, and became director of the School in 202 A.D.
- As early as 150 Justin Martyr who was a Jewish teacher who taught Tatian; Tatian also taught Clement. **Justin Martyr, introduces the concept of Sunday worship** (*ANF*, Vol. 1, *First Apology*, LXVII, pp. 185-186) and attempts to convince his friend Trypho of the correctness of this practice (e.g. see *ANF*, Vol. 1, *Dialogue with Trypho*, Ch. XII, p. 200).
- Clement boasted that he would not teach Christianity unless it were mixed with pagan philosophy.
- Victor I, bishop of Rome, entered into a compact with Clement, about 190 AD, to secure support to help make Sunday the prominent day of worship in the church.

WHERE DID THE CHRISTIANS GO?

- According to Epiphany (in *Panarion*), Nazarenes fled because of Jesus' prophecy on the coming destruction of Jerusalem. **They fled to Pella.**
- The apostles left in the spring of 66 after the 7 heavenly signs in Jerusalem.

This is also verified by Gibbons:

“The Jewish converts, or as they were afterwards called, the Nazarenes, who had laid the foundations of the church, soon found themselves overwhelmed by the increasing multitudes, that from all the various religions of polytheism enlisted under the banner of Christ... The Nazarenes retired from the ruins of Jerusalem to a little town of Pella beyond the Jordan, where that ancient church languished above 60 years in solitude and obscurity.”

Gibbons, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, V.1, Ch.15.

NAZARENES

- The followers of the Apostles were called Nazarenes.
 - Epiphanius, Jerome and Augustine of Hippo called the 4th Century Christian sect located in Transjordan **the Nazarenes**.
- Catholic priest Jerome, told that the “Nazarenes” dwelt in Syria, Asia Minor, and Armenia.

WHO WERE THE NAZARENES ?

We shall now especially consider heretics who... call themselves Nazarenes; . . . **the Nazarenes do not differ in anything, and they profess all the dogmas pertaining to the prescriptions of the Law and to the customs of the Jews, except they believe in Messiah.... They preach that there is but one God and His Son Yeshua the Messiah. . . They differ from Jews because they believe in Messiah and from Christians in that they are this day bound to Jewish rites, such as circumcision, the Sabbath, and other ceremonies.**

Epiphanius (church father), Panarion 29, 390 A.D.

- In 70 CE, Rabbi Zakkai relocated to the city of Yavne/Jamnia, where he received permission from the Romans to found a school of Halakha (Jewish law). This school became a major source for the later Mishna.

- Jamnia was also the town where the Sanhedrin relocated after the destruction of the Temple.

Wikipedia, Council of Jamnia

"We are aware that early in the Byzantine period Jamnia, once the seat of the Sanhedrin, was almost entirely Samaritan. [There were] dense settlements in small farming villages across the Sharon, Shephelah and into the hill country of Samaria." • pp.59-60

Alan Crown, ed., *The Samaritans* [Tubingen: J.C.B. Mohr] 1989)

HERESIES BEGAN

In this section we will show how teachings were being introduced into the Roman Church by the Alexandria School.

The Passover-Easter- Quartodeciman Controversy

EARLY FATHERS

The men below continued to teach the true gospel brought by the Messiah and recorded the correct history. According to historian Eusebius:



Polycarp was "instructed by Apostles" (Irenaeus, op. cit., III, iii, 4)



Polycrates was taught by Polycarp.



Irenaeus was taught by Polycrates.



Hippolytus was a Greek and was a disciple of Irenaeus at Lyons who was taught by Polycrates. Polycarp was a disciple of St. John taught Polycrates.

(Eusebius, op. cit., III, 36; V, 20)

POLYCARP

It is important to mention to provide more information of Polycarp and Irenaeus. Polycarp was also responsible for converting many from Gnosticism. Polycarp struggled with Valentinus. Valentinus was a native of Jewish birth in Egypt around 100 A.D.

Valentinus teachings flourished 136-165 CE in Rome and Alexandria. According to Irenaeus, Valentinus was a native of Egypt who studied philosophy at Alexandria. He moved to Rome c. 136 AD where he established a large school and spread his doctrines in the West. He went to Rome hoping to become the Bishop of Rome. When that did not pan out, he left Rome for Cyprus.

False teachings were now being introduced into the Roman church at this point.

The Passover-Easter-Quartodeciman Controversy

- Polycarp believed that Nisan 14 was the correct time for the spring festival, but Anicetus, bishop of Rome, favored a different date.

- Wikipedia says:

According to the writings of Irenaeus (d. c. 202), the Roman church had celebrated Easter on a Sunday at least since the time of Bishop Xystus (Sixtus I, 115-125).

“According to Irenaeus, Anicetus, was Bishop of Rome, in the 150s or 160, Polycarp visited Rome to discuss the differences that existed between Asia and Rome *“with regard to certain things”* and **especially about the time of the Easter festivals.**

“Irenaeus noted, Anicetus could not persuade Polycarp to forgo the [Quartodeciman] observance ... nor did Polycarp persuade Anicetus to keep it:”

Irenaeus, letter to Victor (bishop of Rome), quoted in Eusebius. "Church History". p. 5.24.14, 5.24.17.

- **Between 189 to 199 the issue came up again.**

Victor I, the bishop of Rome, assembled synods to come to an agreement on the date of Easter.

Victor I issued his decree ordering the clergy everywhere to observe Easter on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox.

-

Clement declared Sunday the Lord's day. This is the first time any writer use the “Lord’s day” in reference to Sunday.

- Victor I excommunicated the church in the East for not following new Easter date. Irenaeus convinced Victor to lift the excommunication.

Religious Background of Roman Empire

RELIGION IN ROMAN EMPIRE

- ◉ Mithraism was the main religion in the Roman Empire before the arrival of the Goths.
- ◉ Zoroaster was the founder of Zoroastrianism, which in its later development was called Mithraism.
- ◉ Mithraism was the official religion of Persian Empires until Mohammedanism in 636.
- ◉ We can see the possible contacts of Zoroaster with Daniel. Zoroaster is said to have conferred with Jeremiah, another prophet of the Hebrew exile.
- ◉ He taught clean and unclean meats, payment of tithe, the ordaining of one high priest, etc. He gave references to Joseph, Moses, and Solomon in the same way as they are presented in the Old Testament. He hated idolatry. Zoroaster proclaimed the trinity.

WHO WAS MITHRA?

- Mithra was the god of light and the Sun. They believed the sun was a living being.
- Romans worshipped the Sun. Mithraism had overspread the Roman Empire. The magi, taught that the five planets, all that were known in their day, with the sun and the moon. A day of the week was dedicated to each one of these seven heavenly bodies.
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- Thus Sunday was devoted to Mithra, the sun god, the greatest of all gods of Zoroastrianism.

- Roman Emperor Alexander Severus (222-235) was from Libya (Edomite) and married Julia Donna who was the daughter of the high priest of Emesa. He pushed his Sun-god cult. He was the first king of Rome who was not a Roman. **Rome never had another Roman king.** From that time forward all the Roman Emperors were foreigners.
- He encouraged the bringing many pagan practices into the state churches. Also because the people from the Middle East mixed with the people with pagan beliefs, it caused the introduction of Idols into their worship.
- There was a lot of conflict between the Christians and Pagans which lead to a prosecution of the Christians.

In Summary:

The Emperors from Severus Dynasty brought their pagans teachings, the Samaritans, the Edomites, Simon Magus, school in Alexandria --- all of these factors had a STRONG INFLUENCE on the main christian faith.

GERMANIC TRIBES ENTER THE ROMAN EMPIRE

GOTHS

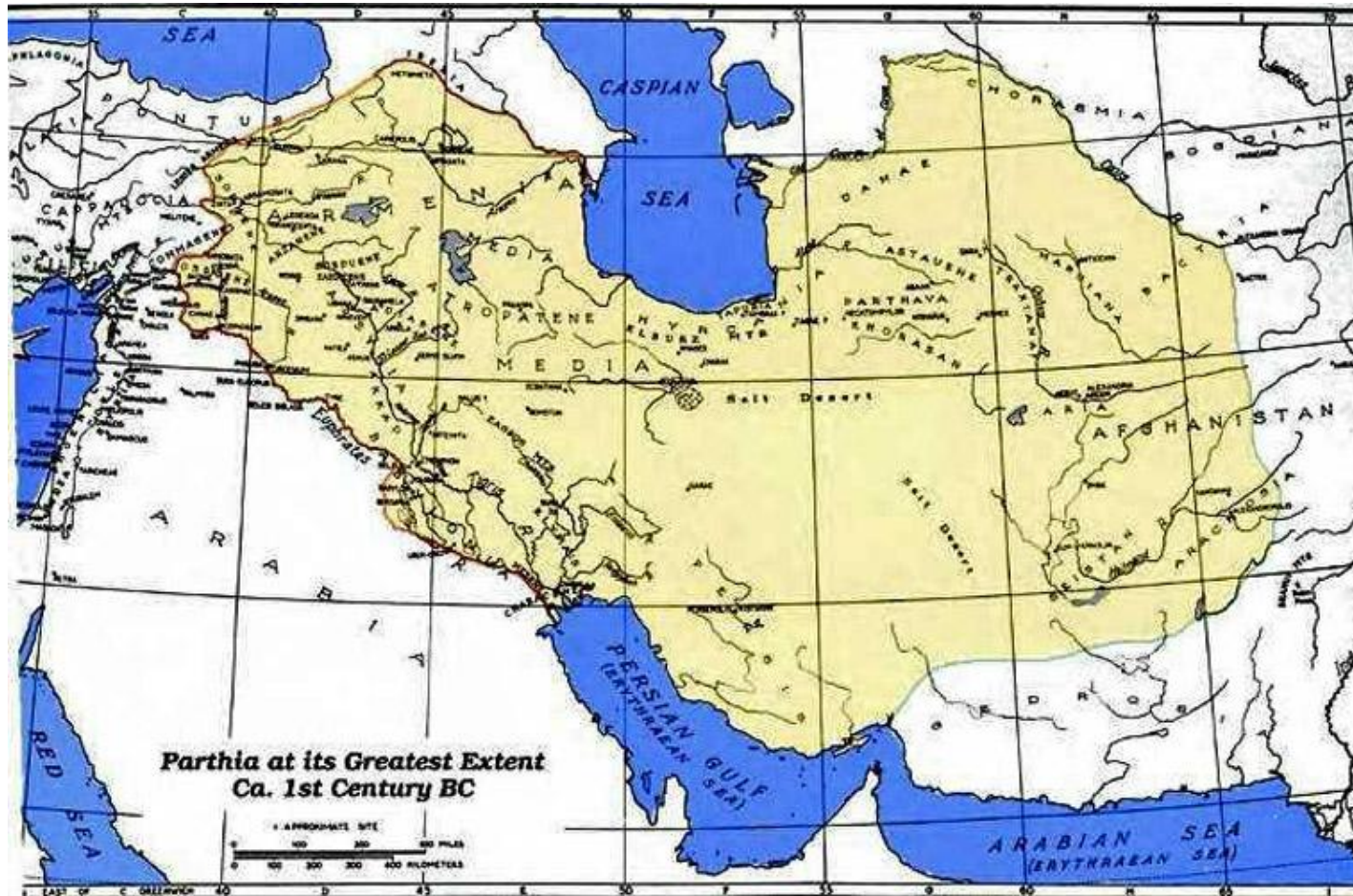
- First of all, it was a blessing for Europe that the Goths poured over Italy and even captured Rome. They came from Scythia and Parthia. These nations were two huge Superpowers in Eastern Europe. History rarely mentions them. Roman Empire went to war with Parthia 13 times and were never able to defeat Parthia.

(Dr. Steven Collins, “Parthia”)

- There were not mentioned in history because our history has been written through the eyes of the Greeks and Romans. It is written from a Greek and Roman Perspective. They were left out because they were christians. They are falsely labeled Barbarians and pagans.



PARTHIA



SCYTHIA



ORIGIN OF THE GOTHS

The Parthian Empire fell in 226 A.D. when it was overthrown by Persia. The Persians expelled the Parthians from the region. Parthians flew northwest toward the Black Sea. They joined with the Scythians who were their kinsmen.

The Ency. Britannica states,

“The main movement from Asia into Europe which went north of the Caucasus was in early times that of the Scythians.”

Jordanes wrote,

“The Goths . . . And some other kindred peoples, united into one great body, first wandered ... through what is now Western Russia, till they came to the shores of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov and then spread themselves westward to the North bank of the Danube.”

Jordanes is best-known for work “Getica” written in Constantinople about AD 551. It is the only existing classical work dealing with the early history of the Goths.

GOTHS

Contrary to popular belief, they were not a war-like people. They were farmers and lived simple lives. They did not attack unless they were provoked.

Many of their rulers allowed religious freedom. They practiced tolerance for religion for Catholics and other religious groups. However, they did destroy pagan temples because their removal was part of their faith system.

The Goths were Christians

First of all, It was said that they came as a Christian people, reverencing and sparing the churches.

Secondly, many of these simple Gothic Christians learned to their surprise that they were considered heretics. Their fellow Christians in the orthodox Church resented them. A decree was issued by the Empire not allowing Romans to marry the Goths. The Greeks called the Arians because they did not follow the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Wikipedia, “Germanic tribes”,

“The Ostrogoths, Visigoths, and Vandals were Christianized while they were still outside the bounds of the Empire; however, they converted to Arianism rather than to orthodox Catholicism, and were soon regarded as heretics.”

Wikipedia, “Arianism”,

“Arianism, which had been taught by the Arian missionary Ulfilas to the Germanic tribes, was dominant for some centuries among several Germanic tribes in western Europe, especially Goths and Lombards (and significantly for the late Empire, the Vandals . . .”

New World Book Ency: “Ulfilas”

Although condemned in most histories as "barbarians," the Gothic tribes who overtook Europe and eventually captured even Rome itself were in reality not pagans, but Arian Christians due largely to Ulfilas' influence.

Socrates Scholasticus, a historian of the same period as Sozomen, says that Pope Felix II was embraced Arianism before being ordained (*Ecclesiastical History of Socrates Scholasticus* II:37).

Some of the original Apostles went to Scythia and Parthia to teach the Goths.

- ⊙ According to Hippolytus: --Andrew preached to the Scythians [modern day Georgia] and Thracians [modern day Bulgaria], and was crucified, suspended on an olive tree, at Patrae, a town of Achaia [Greece]; and there too he was buried.pp. 137-138 of Cave's "*Antiquitates Apostolicae*".)
- ⊙ Thomas brought the gospel to "Parthia", after which Sophornius and others inform us, that he preached the gospel to the Medes, Persians, Carmans, Hyrcani, Bactrians, and the neighbor nations" (Cave's "*Antiq. Apost.*", p. 189).
- ⊙ According to Hippolytus: Matthew wrote the Gospel in the Hebrew tongue, and published it at Jerusalem, and fell asleep at Hierees, a town of Parthia.\224 [Parthia is near modern day Tehran]

VANDALS WERE CHRISTIANS

- ◉ The Germanic tribes had a stabilizing effect on West Europe. They re-established order and moral code.
- ◉ Augustine had said:
'I came from my native town to Carthage, and everywhere around me roared the furnace of unholy love.... the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah practiced...

Into this city of sin marched the Vandal army, one might almost say, when one reads the history of their doings, the army of the Puritans. . . They banished the men who were earning their living by ministering to the vilest lusts. They rooted out prostitution with a wise yet not a cruel hand. In short, Carthage, under the rule of the Vandals, was a city transformed, barbarous but moral."

Hodgkin, *Italy and Her Invaders*, vol. 1, pt. 2 pp. 931, 932.

At the beginning of the 4th century it had an **estimated 6 million followers.**

Keith Hopkins estimates that the Christian community grew from a population of 1.1 million in 250 AD to a population of 6 million by 300 AD.

(Morris Keith Hopkins was a British historian and sociologist. He was professor of ancient history at the University of Cambridge from 1985 to 2000. Hopkins Study, p. 191)

By the eleventh century the Assyrian Church was said to have **outnumbered the Greek and Roman churches combined.**

John Stewart, Nestorian Missionary Enterprise: The Story of a Church on Fire (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1928), pp 204-213

History never mentions the huge numbers of Christians that lived in the Roman Empire. This information has been suppressed by our historians.

The Some Germanic Tribes were originally Saturday Sabbath Keepers.

“The Sabbatati of Europe were not an inconsiderable force. The Church established in Milan kept the Sabbath. It was the practice generally of the Eastern Churches; and some churches of the West ... For in the Church of Millaine [Milan]; ... it seemes the Saturday was held in a farre esteeme ... but that they came together on the Sabbath day, to worship Iesus [Jesus] Christ the Lord of the Sabbath”.

(Dr. Peter Heylyn *History of the Sabbath*, London 1636, Part 2, para. 5, pp. 73-

THE "ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA" PLAINLY SAYS:

"IT WAS CONSTANTINE THE GREAT WHO FIRST MADE A LAW FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF SUNDAY; AND WHO, ACCORDING TO EUSEBIUS, APPOINTED THAT IT SHOULD BE REGULARLY CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE. BEFORE HIM, AND EVEN IN HIS TIME, THEY OBSERVED THE JEWISH SABBATH" [ECCL. HIST. CENT. 4, PART 2, CHAP. 4, SEC. 5.]

The Germanic Tribes were Saturday Sabbath Keepers

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(Dr. Peter Heylyn *History of the Sabbath*, London 1636, Part 2, para. 5, pp. 73-74).

The western Churches under the Goths, had allegedly fallen into neglect of the Sabbath, because of the influence of Rome, even though the Goths themselves were not Catholic, but were so-called Arians.

CONFLICT BEGINS . . .

- ◉ The Germanic tribes settled into the Roman Empire. They were opposed to the teachings of the state church.
- ◉ Almost immediately conflict began between the new Gothic Christians and the rest of the Roman inhabitants.
- ◉ The Goths were viewed as heretics.
- ◉ The Roman Emperors who never practice religious tolerance began a major campaign against these new residents. Prosecution began.

PERSECUTION THE SAINTS

- Maximian ruled in the West (Roman Empire), while Diocletian ruled in the East (Eastern Roman Empire).
- In the spring of 303, began the most severe persecution of Christians in Roman history. 3,000 to 3,500 Christians were torture, imprisonment, or dislocation. Most Christians avoided punishment.
- Christians were compelled to sacrifice to Roman gods or face imprisonment and execution.
- By 311 the persecution left 144,000 Egyptian Christians dead.

Galerius became the leader in the East after Diocletian. Galerius died in late early May 311 from a horribly gruesome disease described by Eusebius.

Before his death in A.D. 311, he issued an edict permitting Christians to worship as they pleased.



CONSTANTINE

- ◉ Constantine had lived through the time of the Diocletian prosecution. He wanted to stop the bickering between saints and pagans.
- ◉ Then Constantine's plan was to create a universal church that had both Christian and pagan beliefs. This was done in a spirit of compromise.
- ◉ In March 313, Constantine issued his famous Edict of Milan which gave every person the right to practice any religion they wanted.
- ◉ Constantine succeeded in putting an end to the persecution of Christians.
- ◉ He called for a convening of the bishops in the Roman Empire called the Council of Nicaea.

ATHANASIUS

- Athanasius, who led the meeting of the Nicaea Council, was a product of the Alexandrian school. He studied under St. Anthony the Great (251-356).
- The fact that Athanasius led the council of Nicaea proves that the early church was highly influenced by the teachings of the Alexandria school of Clement and Origen.
- The council of Nicaea endorsed many of the beliefs of the Alexandrian fathers.

COUNCIL OF NICAEA

- The Roman Emperors throughout history were intolerant of religious freedom.
- The council also resulted in the exile of any bishop not willing to sign the council agreement. Arius, who was opposed to the teachings of the state church, was exiled for his beliefs.
- In 321 AD at the Council of Nicaea, Constantine forbids work on Sunday.
- This was a hardship on the 7th day believers and Jews in the Roman Empire. However, they were not forced at this point to stop keeping the 7th day Sabbath.

- As a result of the Nicaea Council, many people who kept the 7th sabbath began keeping Sunday in the Western Christian Gothic Churches.

Sidonius says that under Theodoric in 454-526:

It is a fact that it was formerly the custom in the East to keep the Sabbath in the same manner as the Lord's day and to hold sacred assemblies: while on the other hand, the people of the West, contending for the Lord's day have neglected the celebration of the Sabbath (Apollinaris Sidonii Epistolæ, lib. 1,2; Migne, 57).

- The Christians who live in Eastern Europe kept both Saturday and Sunday for the Sabbath.

Sozomen, a contemporary of Socrates, wrote:

"The people of Constantinople, and almost everywhere, **assemble together on the Sabbath, as well as on the first day of the week,** which custom is never observed at Rome or at Alexandria."

BYZANTINE EMPIRE BEGINS

- These changes made Constantine very unpopular and he fled for his safety. He moved his capitol to Constantinople.
- After that point, all of the Roman Emperors ruled from Constantinople.



ULFILAS

- Constantius threw his support to Ulfilas. Great victories for Christ were won by Ulfilas (A.D. 311-383). Constantius called Ulfilas “the Moses of his Day”. His missionary work was in the northern frontiers of the Roman Empire.
- Like Patrick of Ireland, he passed his early years in a land of captivity. The Goths carried away captive the ancestors of Ulfilas who resided in Asia Minor.
- Lucian of Antioch was at the height of his career when Ulfilas was a lad.
- He wrote the Gothic Bible from the **Received Text by Lucian**. It became known as the Itala Bible.
- Ulfilas finished his work about the time that Patrick was beginning his.

CONSTANTIUS

(337 to 361)

- When Constantine died, his three sons took over the empire. Fighting over power ensued and when all was finished, Constantine II was dead, Constans was weakened and Constantius took power.
- Unlike his father and brothers, Constantius was an Arian Christian. He was opposed to the teachings of the Roman Church.
- He exiled Nicene leaders and confiscated their churches.
- Not only did Constantius order temples to be closed, he banned pagan ritual sacrifices.
- Constantius decreed that participation in these kind of pagan rites would be a capital offense. Mobs of Christians attacked and demolished pagan temples, shrines and altars.
- In 306, the Arian Constantius banned the intermarriage between Jewish men and Christian women.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

According to the Talmud, much of the contents of the Tanakh (old Testament) were compiled by the "Men of the Great Assembly" by 450 BCE (time of Ezra), and have since remained unchanged.

(Wikipedia "Tanakh")

The twenty-seven books of our New Testament were ratified by the Council of Hippo (AD 393) and the Third Council of Carthage (AD 397).

Jerome lived in the 4th-5th Century. He translated the Bible into Latin. That was the common language of the day. The translation was called the Latin Vulgate.

Itala version of the Bible translated in Latin during the 2nd Century from the Septuagint. Talmud's oral laws were written

about the same time. Fragments of his translation have survived, notably the *Codex Argenteus* held since 1648 in the University Library of Uppsala in Sweden. A parchment page of this Bible was found in 1971 in the Speyer Cathedral.

"The Goths, Celts, and Franks . . . prized their Latin Bible (not the Latin Bible of Jerome), generally called the Itala, 'because it was read publicly in all the churches of Italy, France, Spain, Africa, and Germany, where Latin was understood; and Vetus (***Vetus Latina*** another Latin translation), on account of its being more ancient than any of the rest." (Truth Triumphant p. 70, 71)

JULIAN

- Born in 331, Julian was the nephew of Constantine and was the last emperor of the Constantinian lineage.
- During his two year reign as Roman Emperor, Julian attempted to restore the old pagan cults of Greek and Romans.
- In 363 Emperor Julian tried to rebuild the temple. An earthquake, followed by many explosions and balls of fire from the ground stopped the project.

Back Sliding Begins . . .

During times of peace and prosperity, throughout history, our Christian people have left their faith ... but they have always returned. God sends his prophets to point his people back to their roots.

“Christianity of that day was utterly degraded, and the Christians differed very little from the other peoples about them.”

Thatcher and Schwill, Europe in the Middle Ages, p. 242.

THEODOSIUS THE GREAT

- Less than a century after Constantine's Council of Nicaea, the east's Emperor Theodosius(384) banned all pagan worship, sought to destroy their temples and with Gratian made the Nicene version of Christianity the only permissible religion of the empire.
- By formally banning any religion other than Nicene Christianity, Europe embarked on a long journey of religious intolerance and continual violence.

"We order all those who follow this law to assume the name of Catholic Christians, and considering others as demented and insane, we order that they shall bear the infamy of heresy"

- During this time, Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan, began a program of destroying all the temples and shrines. The clergy recruited mobs who attacked the Temple of Demeter in Eleusis. Nestorius proclaimed, "mental darkness has now covered the human race".

- He also outlawed all Sunday activities. This move wiped out theaters and circuses which the weekend entertainment after a week of hard work.

- It is during Theodosius' reign that Christmas and Easter become legal holidays. This is the time when age old pagan traditions and festivals were outlawed and then were co-opted and renamed with Christian names in order to help facilitate conversion.

- Theodosius and Gratian decreed the mandatory observation of the first day of the week as the Lord's day. (Codex Theodosianus 11.7.13)

- In 384 or 385, Theodosius ordered Cynegius to destroy the temples and shrines of the pagans.

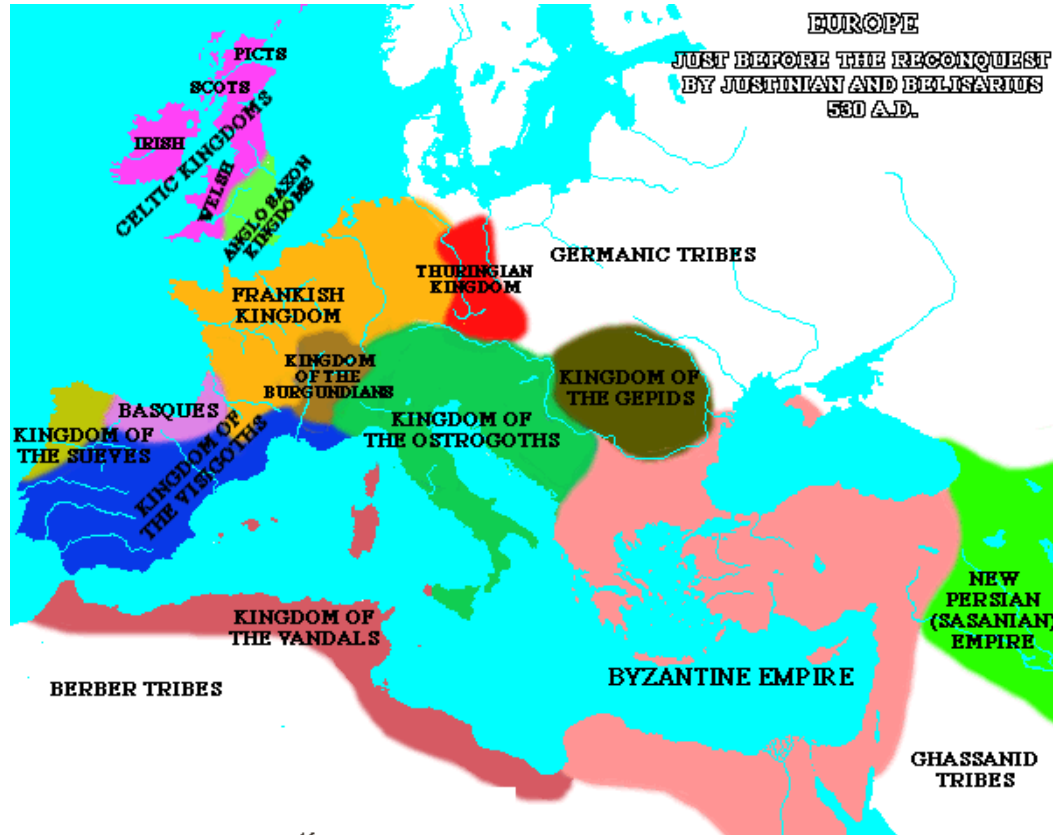
- Theodosius then issued a decree in November of 380 and all Arian churches were confiscated and their meetings were banned.

Rome Falls

ROME IS SACKED

- Rome is sacked in 410 by the Goths. After Emperor Honorius murdered the Visigoth general Stilicho, the Roman army murdered 30,000 Germanic soldiers resulting in Alaric declaring war. Even as the Visigoth army was at the doorsteps of Rome, Honorius refused to meet any terms of surrender. As a result, Alaric sacked the city of Rome.
- It is important to note the gentle nature of the Visigoths. They came into Rome and only plundered the wealthiest home, leaving the poor residents in peace.
- However, Alaric agreed to recognize the authority of the Byzantine Emperor.
- This led to an immediate order for the Roman legions to return to Rome, leaving Britain open for invasion. Seizing their chance, the Picts from Scotland and the Saxons from Scandinavia invaded Britain. We will discuss Britain later.

By 500 AD, Europe's Germanic peoples known as the Franks, Saxons, Vandals, Angles, Lombards, Suebi, Burgundians and Goths (Ostrogoths and Visigoths) divided up Western Europe, the old Roman Empire. It would later be called Medieval Europe.



They settled in Europe and never were known by these names again.

Wikipedia "Germanic Tribes", "The Burgundians of Burgundy, the Vandals of Northern Africa, and the Visigoths of France and Iberia, lost some Germanic identity and became part of Romano-Germanic Europe. Likewise, the Franks of Western Francia form part of the ancestry of the French people."

CLOVIS - KING OF THE FRANKS

- Clovis came to power in 496 as King of the Franks. Clovis had married Clotilda, daughter of the king of the Burgundians who was a devout Catholic. He professed faith in 496, and his entire Army of three thousand were baptized.
- In 508 Clovis, king of the Franks, defeated the Visigoths claiming the victory for the Catholic Church.
- The State church had now established a stronghold on Western Europe and took away their Bibles.

THEODORIC THE GREAT

- Odoacer had unseated the last Roman Emperor in the West. Theodoric the Great, the Ostrogoth king (454 -526) expelled Odoacer from Italy. Theodoric reigned at the same time as Clovis.

- While tolerating the Catholic Church, Theodoric considered himself the protector of Arianism; he tried to intervene diplomatically for the Arians who were being persecuted. Catholic Encyclopedia, “Theodoric the Great”

Wikipedia Says,

“Although promoting separation between the Arian Ostrogoths and the Roman population, Theodoric stressed the importance of racial harmony. Seeking to restore the glory of Ancient Rome, he ruled Italy in its most peaceful and prosperous period since Valentinian, until his death in 526.”

CHRISTIANS FLEE

- The refugees fled from the Clovis reign to the East and also found security under the tolerant rule of the Ostrogothic king Theodoric.
- The church in the Persian Empire also take refugees from the Roman Empire where non-Catholic Christians were not welcomed.
- Streams of refugees turned toward Persia to escape persecution in the Eastern Roman Empire.
- God always provides a place to escape persecution; this is consistent throughout history.

JUSTINIAN

- Justinian reigned as Byzantine emperor from 527 to 565.
- In 532 he gave the Papacy was given total supremacy. Justinian declared the pope to be "THE HEAD OF ALL THE HOLY CHURCHES."

- He issued an edict started persecution throughout the West.

By an edict which he issued to unite all men in one faith, whether Jews, Gentiles, or Christians, such as did not, in the term of three months, embrace and profess the Catholic faith, were declared infamous, and, as such, excluded from all employments both civil and military, rendered incapable of leaving anything by will, and their estates confiscated, whether real or personal. Great numbers were driven from their habitations with their wives and children, stripped and naked. Others betook themselves to flight, carrying with them what they could conceal, for their support and maintenance; but they were plundered of the little they had, and many of them inhumanly massacred by the Catholic peasants, or the soldiery, who guarded the passes. Bower, *The History of the Popes*, vol. 1, p. 334.

- His general crushed the Vandals in Africa in 534. Historian Gibbon says : "he proceeded without delay to the full establishment of the Catholic Church."

JUSTINIAN PLAGUE

- Pandemic that afflicted the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire), including its capital Constantinople, in 541–542 AD.
- The Bubonic Plague epidemic was first reported by the Byzantine historian Procopius in 541 AD from the port of Pelusium, near Suez in Egypt.
- Procopius recorded that, at its peak, the plague was killing 10,000 people in Constantinople every day, but the accuracy of this figure is in question and the true number will probably never be known; what is known is that there was no room to bury the dead. It continued to flare through the next 4 centuries.
- It is estimated that the Plague of Justinian killed as many as 25 million people across the world.

COLUMBANUS - GEORGE WHITEFIELD OF HIS TIME

- ◉ God called Columbanus to began to lead his people back to the truth. He stirred a huge religious revival. The persecution by Justinian and the plague brought the people to their knees.
- ◉ Columbanus (543-615) is born on the border of Carlow and Wexford in 543. Prior to his birth, his mother dreamed of a brilliant light, which arises from her body and illuminates the whole world.
- ◉ He was described as tall and handsome. He studied several years at Bangor, a famous Celtic school in Wales. He was a Celtic missionary. King Guntram supported him.
- ◉ He founded a school in Anagrates in the wilderness. In the beginning it was a struggle; King Guntram had food brought to them.
- ◉ This ministry spread like wild-fire. The youth of the land flocked to the young training center. Soon the site became too small.

CHARLES MARTEL & HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

- Italy was still under the Eastern Roman emperor at Constantinople.
- The Irish missionaries were planted in Rome by Columbanus.
- When Boniface arrived there, he at once condemned Ehrenwolf, who was an outstanding Columban clergyman.
- Charles Martel issued a decree to remove all Celtic clergy from the Empire.
- After Charles Martel had won his victory over the Moslems in the Battle of Tours (A.D. 732), the duke of Thuringia could no longer ignore Charles' edict. So in 733-34 the Celtic clergy were exiled.

BRITAIN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

BACKGROUND

- **The Roman conquest of Britain** was a gradual process, beginning effectively in AD 43 under Emperor Claudius.
- Roman Empire took control of Britain but never were able to conquer Scotland and Ireland.
- The Roman army was afraid of the Picts who were fierce warriors living in the interior of Scotland. The Picts painted their faces and bleached their hair before battle. Their appearance was really intimidating to the Roman Army. They eventually built a wall between the land of England and Scotland to keep the Picts out which is called the **Hadrian Wall**. Parts of it are still standing today.
- **This kept the Roman Church out of Scotland.** The fact that Ireland lay outside the bounds of the Roman Empire kept the Universal church from extending their power into Ireland and Scotland.

CELTIC CHURCH BEGINS . . .

That Joseph of Arimathaea was the first to preach the Gospel in Britain is also confirmed by many writers. St. Gregory of Tours in his History of the Franks, and Haleca, Archbishop of Saragossa in his Fragments.

Cardinal Baronius, Curator of the Vatican library, in his "Ecclesiastical Annals", gives this account. He discovered an ancient manuscript in the Vatican library .

Joseph, with many disciples traveled from the holy land by Phoenician boat and landed at Marseilles (a Phoenician trading post), in the Vienoise province of the Gauls (France) in the year 36 AD. From there Joseph went on to England, to establish seminaries and send out missionaries.

Gildas, a Welsh Celtic Christian monk, wrote Christian religion entered Britain in the reign of Tiberius (who died in 37 AD). Caesare Baronius, in his celebrated "*Ecclesiastical Annals*" (1601), stated Peter went to Briton. "*usque ad Britannos*" (as far as to the Britons).

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA

Cressy, the Benedictine Monk and historian, tells us that St Joseph of Arimathea died at Glastonbury on July 27th, A.D. 82, and on his tombstone was written, in Latin, "After I had buried the Christ, I came to the Isles of the West; I taught; I entered into my rest."

Theodore Martin (Lover), in A.D. 1517 states;

"It is not too much to say that the site of St. Mary's church in the abbey grounds at Glastonbury is the site of the first known above-ground church in the world".

Archbishop Ussher writes: "The British National Church was founded A.D. 36, 160 years before heathen Rome confessed Christianity."

ST. AUGUSTINE WROTE:

“There is a certain royal island of large extent, surrounded by water, abounding in all the beauties of nature and necessities of life. . . . God beforehand acquainting them, found a Church constructed by no human art, BUT BY THE HAND OF CHRIST HIMSELF, for the salvation of his people. The Almighty has made it manifest by many miracles and mysterious visitations that he continues to watch over it as sacred to Himself, and to Mary, the Mother of God.” - a letter written by St. Augustine to Pope Gregory

Early Britons Religious Beliefs

This is references from the EARLIEST HISTORIANS - Gildas, Beda, Caesar.

- Early Britons kept Easter on the 14th of Nissan instead of Sunday.
 - The Celts observed their Easter even on the fourteenth moon, provided it were the Sunday, and so appeared to act "with the Jews" (Beda, *H.E.*, ii, 2; v, 21).
- They read and memorized the Bible.
 - Caesar (in his book "The Conquest of Gaul") wrote:

Speaking about the Druids "It is said that these pupils have to memorize a great number of verses so many, that some of them spend twenty years at their studies.
- They are called Judaizers because they followed the Bible teachings and not the teachings of the Roman Church.
 - GILDAS SAYS: "The Britons are contrary to the whole world [enemies to Roman usages not only in the mass . . . along with the Jews, they serve the shadows of things to come rather than the truth]."
 - Gildas speaking of the Britons "fight with foolish toil against the whole world;" that they derive their custom (in this case their observance of Easter) from a time "when the Church was judaizing in many things" (Beda, *H. E.*, iii, 25; Aldhelm's letter, *Man. Germaniae Hist.*, Epp., iii, 231-235).

THE APOSTLES CAME TO THE BRITAIN

Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre (A.D. 303) informs us that Simon Zelotes preached Christ all along the North Coast of Africa and then crossed to Britain. (Synopsis de Apostol 9, Simon Zelotes)
Next came Aristobulus

Eusebius (A.D. 260-340), Bishop of Caesarea and the Father of Church History says: *"The Apostles passed beyond the Ocean to, the Isles called the Britannic Isles."* Dem. Evangal., 3.7

Dorotheus of the fourth century says, 'Aristobulus, who is mentioned by the Apostle in his epistle to the Romans, Romans 16:10 was made Bishop in Britain'."

THE CELTIC CHURCH

The Historians credit St. Augustine for bring Christianity to the Isles but it was already well established.

The king of Kent at this time (A.D. 560-616) was **Ethelbert**, who had married **Bertha**, the daughter of the Roman Catholic king of the **Franks**.

Bertha consented to this marriage only one condition that she should be accompanied to England by her chaplain, St. Augustine. Augustine and his monks landed on the island A.D. 597. On landing, Augustine went to Canterbury, the metropolis of Kent.

He met with Celtic Church leaders. **A old sage told Celtic Clergy to go met with Augustine but he does not rise to greet them to leave. When they arrived, Augustine was seated and treated them with arrogance.** The bishops in Wales resisted him and told him he had no authority over them.

Bede, Ecclesiastical History of England, b. 2, ch. 2.

COUNCIL OF WHITBY

This council was called by King Iswy in 664 AD to decide when to kept Easter or Passover.

The Roman bishop argued that Peter kept Sunday as the date for Easter. Bishop Colman, abbot of Lindisfarne, was to give the arguments for the Irish side. Agilbert, bishop of the West Saxons, was to make the arguments for the Roman position.

Once Oswy had heard the argument his mind was made up. Since Peter was presumed to be superior to Columba, the Roman practice for the calculation of Easter must be accepted at risk of being rejected by Peter himself at the gates of heaven.

This changed the Celtic Church forever and gave the Roman Church a anchor in Britain.

There is much evidence that the Sabbath prevailed in Wales universally until A.D. 1115, when the first Roman bishop was seated at St. David's.

There was a fight between the Roman and the Celtic Churches. Bertha forced the Celtic missionaries to retire to Scotland or Ireland. St. Augustine only had influence in three British Provinces. The rest continue to follow the Celtic Church teachings until the Norman Conquest.

Historian Albert Henry Newman:

“By making a parade of ascetical life, by pretended miracles, and by promises of earthly advantages, they succeeded in converting Ethelbert, king of the Saxons, who with about ten thousand followers ...When all other means proved unavailing, they persuaded the Saxon king to make an expedition against them. Three thousand of the British Christians were slaughtered on one occasion. For centuries the Christians of the old British type, in Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, as well as in various parts of Germany, resisted with all their might the encroachment of Rome, and it is probable that Christianity of this type was never wholly exterminated.”

Newman, *A Manual of Church History*, vol. 1, p. 411.

But in Wales the result was different. Here the Latin Church was repulsed until the 12th Century, if not defeated; here Celtic Christianity long maintained its position.

- God protected the nations of Scotland and Ireland because they had a special purpose to lead and teach the other European countries.
- They had established many schools for religious teaching.
- These nations were followers of the teaching of the apostles.

ST PATRICK

Patrick was born in Banavem, France to Christian parents. He struck out on his own and was carried off by Irish pirates to Ireland at the age of 16. He was a slave to a pig farmer. His job was to herd the swine.

After seven years Patrick had a dream about escaping. He felt God sent him the dream to show him how to escape. He followed the instructions in his dream which lead him to the same ship he had seen in his dream. He boarded the ship and was able to escape.

He later felt he must return to the island to preach to the people. He told how God had sent him a vision to return back to Ireland. Patrick started over 250 churches in Ireland.

ST PATRICK WAS NOT CATHOLIC

- ◉ There is no evidence that there was any communication between the Catholic church and St. Patrick. There is absolutely no evidence that he was catholic.
- ◉ He (Patrick) never mentions either Rome or the pope or hints that he was in any way connected with the ecclesiastical capital of Italy.
- ◉ He recognizes no authority but that of the word of God.
- ◉ Palladius arrived in the country, it was not to be expected that he would receive a very hearty welcome from the Irish apostle. He was sent by [Pope] Celestine to the native Christians.
- ◉ When Palladius arrived in Ireland, Patrick refused to bow. The stouthearted Patrick refused to bow his neck to any such yoke of bondage.

WHAT DID PATRICK TEACH ?

- ◉ He believed and taught the Bible and not the teachings of the state church.
- ◉ Wherever Patrick went and established a church, he left an old Celtic law book, ***Liber ex Lege Moisi*** (**Book of the Law of Moses**), along with the books of the Gospel. The *Liber* begins with the Decalogue, and continues with selections from Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy .
- ◉ Only four manuscripts of the text of the ***Liber ex Lege Moisi*** are still in existence in the ***British Museum***.
- ◉ Professor James C. Moffatt, DD, in his 1882 book, *The Church in Scotland*, p. 140, states, "It seems to have been customary in the Celtic churches of early times, in Ireland as well as Scotland, to keep Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, as a day of rest from labour. They obeyed the fourth commandment literally upon the seventh day of the week."

ALFRED'S CODE OF LAW

“Building holy nations: Lessons from the Bible and America's Christian History” by Stephen McDowell:

Alfred's Code of Laws

Alfred the Great was the first king to unite all of England. He ruled from 871 to 899. Alfred instituted Christian reforms in many areas including establishing a government that served the people. Alfred was taught how to read by a Celtic Christian scholar known as Asser. He studied Patrick's *Liber* and established the Ten Commandments as the basis of law and adopted many other patterns of government from the Hebrew Republic. The people in the nation organized themselves into units of tens, fifties, hundreds and thousands and had an elected assembly known as the “Witen.” These representatives were called a tithingman (over ten families), a vilman (over 50), a hundredman, and an earl. The earl's territory which he oversaw was called a “shire,” and his assistant called the “shire-reef,” where we get our word “Sheriff” today. The Witen also had an unelected House made up of the noblemen, but the king was elected; he was not a hereditary king. Their laws were established by their consent. Alfred's uniform code of Laws (890) recognized “common law” and had provisions for individual rights, such as trial by jury and habeas corpus. Alfred's code was derived from Mosaic law and Jesus' golden rule. Noah

- ◉ The Scots did not follow the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- 200 years after St. Patrick Pope Boniface expressed: "His chief hatred is to the Scots, and he especially condemns their allowing their priests to marry."

History of France, vol. 1, page 74, Michelet.

- ◉ It (the Papacy) labored to gather Patrick into its fold by inventing all kinds of history and fables to make him a papal hero. It surrounded with a halo of glory a certain Palladius, apparently sent by Rome to Ireland in the midst of Patrick's success. He also has been called Patrick.

St. Patrick, His Life and Teaching, page 33, note 1, Newell.

COLUMBA

- ◉ Columba did for Scotland what Patrick did for Ireland.
- ◉ “He was born a descendant of Judah, he gave up his claim to the Irish throne to follow the ways of the Messiah. His father, Feidlimid, was chieftain of the territory of Tir-Conaill, in which he was born. As a SABBATH-KEEPER and observer of the Passover, he traveled the wind-tossed seas with 12 companions to the tiny island of IONA. Columba started a mission on the island of Iona in Scotland.”
- ◉ It was to become the most famous mission in all history. So influential was he that the Celtic Church has often been called the Columban Church; and kings of three nations asked to be buried near his grave.
- ◉ John D. Keyser. Columba of Iona -- Keeper of the Stone
- ◉ After the fall of the last king in Tara Hill, Columba immediately set about retrieving LIA FAIL from the deserted hill of Tara and, with his TWELVE companions, set out across the sea to the tiny island of IONA. He placed the stone in the first church built by Fergus.
- ◉ Columba himself, having continued his labor in Scotland for 34 years, clearly and openly foretold his death on Saturday 9th June. He said to his disciple Deirmit, **“This day is called the Sabbath, that is the rest day and such will it be truly to me. For it will put an end to my labors.”**
 - Lives of the Saints, Volume 1, Page 762, Dr. A. Butler.
- ◉ Dr. W.D. Simpson published *The Historical St. Columba* in Edinburgh. He confirms that Columba and his companions kept the day of the Sabbath. Also F.W. Fawcett was commissioned to write his *Columba Pilgrim for Christ* (by the Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe). Fawcett details that the Celts had a married priesthood and that they observed the seventh day as the Sabbath.

CHANGE IN THE 11th Century

Margaret, of England, married Malcolm the Great, the Scottish king in 1069. Queen Margaret was a devout Catholic set about Romanizing the Celtic church. She called in the church leaders, and held long discussions with them. At last, with the authority of the King, she managed to turn the ancient Culdee church in Scotland away from the Sabbath. (See "Life of St. Margaret," by Turgot, her confessor.)

From the *Catholic* historian, T. Ratcliffe Barnett, on the Catholic queen of Scotland:

"In this matter the Scots had perhaps kept up the traditional usage of the ancient Irish Church WHICH OBSERVED SATURDAY INSTEAD OF SUNDAY AS THE DAY OF REST."

Margaret of Scotland: Queen and Saint, page 97, Barnett.

IRELAND FALLS TO ROMAN CHURCH

“Henry II under various pretexts, with the sanction and approval of the Pope, took his armies to Ireland. The Irish chiefs, taken singly, soon submitted to him, and paid him homage. The Bishops agreed to an ecclesiastical union with the Church of England. Then Henry, to suit his own ends, handed over the Irish Church to the Pope of Rome. By these unwarranted acts schism was introduced, and Bishops and priests were appointed by order of the Pope. A few of the Bishops still continued to assert an independent position, and offered here and there a spasmodic resistance, but the independence of the Celtic Church was gone. She had been betrayed by the King of England and the Pope of Rome. Irish national independence, and Irish ecclesiastical independence terminated practically together, and in both cases by fraud and grasping usurpation. The fate was sealed when Gelasius, Archbishop of Armagh, visited Dublin in 1172, and made his formal submission to King Henry II. From this date to the Reformation the papacy held sway, and the history of the 350 years which followed the Synod of Cashel ---- when the Irish Church agreed to an ecclesiastical union with the English ---- is indeed a dreary one.”

The Origin and Early History of Christianity In Britain, by Andrew Gray, D.D., pages 88-89

Also in 1172 Henry II handed the church of Ireland over to the Universal Church.

Pope Nicholas I, in the ninth century, sent the ruling prince of Bulgaria a long document saying they **were to cease from work on Sunday, but not on the Sabbath**. The head of the Greek Church, excommunicated Nicholas I. Two hundred years later (A.D. 1054) the controversy again arose. Hubert declared the Eastern Church excommunicated. A formal split occurred when Pope Leo IX (Roman Pope) excommunicated the Patriarch of Constantinople, Michael Cerularius (Eastern pope), who excommunicated him back.

Church in the East

MAJOR CHURCHES IN THE EAST

- ASSYRIAN CHURCH
- Ethiopian Church
- Coptic Church of Egypt
- Jacobite Church of Syria
- Church of Armenia
- BAGDAD Church
- St Thomas Church in India

- ◉ The churches of the East from the earliest days had sanctified Saturday as the Sabbath, and later Sunday observance crept in, religious services were observed on both days.
 - ◉ Bower, *The History of the Popes*, vol. 2, p. 258; also, note 2, 1845 ed.
 - ◉ Bulgaria in the early season of its evangelization had been taught that no work should be performed on the Sabbath.
 - ◉ *Responsa Nicolai Papae I ad Consulta Bulgarorum, Responsum 10*, found in Mansi, *Sacrorum Conciliorum Nova et Amplissima Collectio*, vol. 15, p. 406; also to be found in Hefele, *Conciliengeschichte*, vol. 4, sec. 478.
- "Because you observe the sabbath with the Jews and the Lord's Day with us, you seem to imitate with such observances the sect of Nazarenes who in this manner accept Christianity in order that they be not obliged to leave Judaism."

ASSYRIAN CHURCH

- ◉ The Assyrian Church of the East was established in Edessa in the first century of the Christian era. It is sometimes referred to as the Nestorian Church. IT WAS THE LARGEST CHURCH IN EUROPE!!

“In 33 AD, the Assyrian Church was founded. By the end of the 12th century, the Assyrian Church was larger than the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches combined. It expanded over the Asian continent from Syria to Mongolia, Korea, China, Japan and the Philippines. But the days of glory were coming to an end.” – Reem Haddad, Reporter

- ◉ By the eleventh century the Assyrian Church was said to have outnumbered the Greek and Roman churches combined.

John Stewart, Nestorian Missionary Enterprise: The Story of a Church on Fire (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1928), pp 204-213

- ◉ The Church of the East uses the Peshitta NT. They did not use the Latin Vulgate.

ST. THOMAS CHRISTIANS

- Strong regards them as the Protestants of Eastern Christianity.

"The Christians of Saint Thomas, in East India, are a branch of the Nestorians. They are named after the apostle Thomas, who is supposed to have preached the gospel in that country."

- M'Clintock and Strong, *Cyclopedia*, art. "Nestorians."
- They were entirely separated from the church at Rome.
- Edward Gibbon shows that the St. Thomas Christians and Syrian Christians were not connected with Rome in any way. He says that when the Portuguese came to India in the sixteenth century, they presented the image of the Virgin Mary to the St. Thomas Christians, they said, "We are Christians, not idolaters."

Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, ch. 47, par. 31

"The Nestorian fasts are very numerous, meat being forbidden on 152 days. They eat no pork, and keep both the Sabbath and Sunday. They believe in neither auricular confession nor purgatory, and permit their priests to marry."

Schaff-Herzog, *The New Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, art. "Nestorians"; also, *Realencyclopædie für Protestantische Theologie und Kirche*, art. "Nestorianer."

ST. THOMAS CHRISTIANS

- St. Thomas Christians of India in that they appealed for help in 1534 to the Portuguese. The following argument was presented to Portugal by the Abyssinian ambassador when asked why Ethiopia sanctified the seventh day:

On the Sabbath day, because God, after he had finished the Creation of the World, rested thereon: Which Day, as God would have it called the Holy of Holies, so the not celebrating thereof with great honor and devotion, seems to be plainly contrary to God's Will and Precept, who will suffer Heaven and Earth to pass away sooner than his Word; and that especially, since Christ came not to dissolve the Law, but to fulfill it. It is not therefore in imitation of the Jews, but in obedience to Christ and his holy Apostles, that we observe that Day.... We do observe the Lord's day after the manner of all other Christians, in memory of Christ's Resurrection.

Geddes, *The Church History of Ethiopia*, pp. 87, 88

- When the Portuguese sent help to the Abyssinians. A number of Jesuits began to win the Abyssinian Church to Roman Catholicism.
- In 1604 they influenced the king to submit to the Papacy. They convinced the King prohibit all his subjects from seventh day observance.

Geddes, *The Church History of Ethiopia*, pp. 311, 312.

- Civil war followed. The Jesuits were expelled and their laws were rescinded.

CHURCH BREAK WITH STATE CHURCH

- ◉ In 498 the Assyrian Church, renounced all connection with the church of the Roman Empire.
- ◉ Because of the doctrines passed on by the Council of Chalcedon (A.D. 451), the Ethiopian Church, the Coptic Church of Egypt, the Jacobite Church of Syria, and the Church of Armenia broke off all connection with Rome.
- ◉ Jacob was called to be the leader of the Jacobites the same year that Aba was made catholicos of the Assyrian Christians.
- ◉ Great masses of believers were bitter over a state-dictated religion being forced them.
- ◉ Edward Gibbon, wrote:
 - ◉ "After a period of thirteen hundred and sixty years...the hostile communions still maintain the faith and discipline of their founders. In the most abject state of ignorance, poverty, and servitude, the **Nestorians and Monophysites [another name for the Jacobites]** reject the spiritual supremacy of Rome, and cherish the toleration of their Turkish masters."

SEPARATION OF THE EAST AND WEST CHURCHES

- Pope Nicholas I, in the ninth century, sent the ruling prince of Bulgaria a long document saying they were to cease from work on Sunday, but not on the Sabbath. The head of the Greek Church, offended at the interference of the Papacy, declared the pope excommunicated.
- • Two hundred years later (A.D. 1054) the controversy again arose. Hubert declared the Eastern Church excommunicated.
- A formal split occurred when Pope Leo IX (Roman Pope) excommunicated the Patriarch of Constantinople, Michael Cerularius (Eastern pope), who in turn condemned the pope in mutual excommunication.

Jacobites

Josephus Abudacnus, writing in the eighteenth century in his history of the Jacobites, stated that they assembled every Sabbath in their churches.

J. Nicholai adds :

“Our author states that the Jacobites assembled on the Sabbath day, before the Dommical day, in the temple, and kept that day, as do also the Abyssinians as we have seen from the confession of their faith by the Ethiopia king Claudius.... **From this it appears that the Jacobites have kept the Sabbath** as well as the Dommical day, and still continue to keep it.”

Abudacnus, *Historia Jacobitarum*, pp. 118, 119.

Alexander Ross writes that the Maronites likewise observed the Sabbath as well as Sunday.

Ross, *Religions of the World*, p. 493.

The Paulicians,

“Mariolatry and the intercession of saints are rejected; image worship, the use of crosses, relics, incense, candles, and resorting to sacred springs are all repudiated as idolatrous practices. The idea of purgatory is rejected. The holy year begins with the feast of John the Baptist. January sixth is observed as the festival of baptism and spiritual rebirth of Jesus. Zatic, or Easter, is kept on the fourteenth Nisan. There is no feast of Christmas or of the Annunciation. When we come to consider the question of doctrine, we note that the word "Trinity" never appears on the book.”

Adeney, *The Greek and Eastern Churches*, p. 218.

- The Albigenses were numerous in southern France. Here they maintained an independence of the Papacy.
- The city of Toulouse in southern France is an example of how certain communities held fast to the doctrines of the apostles.
- Berengarius of France protested the intolerance. His followers were called the Berengarians or earlier Waldenses. Matthew of Westminster (A.D. 1087) complains that the Berengarius and Waldenses had corrupted all of France, England, and Italy.
- Lanfranc was anxious to overthrow Berengarius, whom he considered an enemy in doctrine. He set out to destroy him by the use of his pen, because Berengarius was too prominent and too greatly beloved to be burned at the stake.

WALDENSES

- Three new names were now given to the men of the valleys; namely, Berengarians, Subalpini, and Patarines.
- Some retired to Patara, where they were called Patarines.
“They have given this nickname of Patarines to the Waldenses, because the Waldenses were those Subalpini in Peter Damian, who at the same time maintained the same doctrines in the Archbishopric of Turin.”

Allix, *The Ancient Churches of Piedmont*, pp. 121, 122.

- Pope Gregory VII came to the realm. He is the pope who made Henry IV stand barefooted and bareheaded in the outer court of the castle at Canossa for three days in winter asking for forgiveness and support.
- This Vatican ruler issued a decree in 1096 against one of the Waldensian valleys on the French side of the Alps labeling them heretics.

WORK OF FOUR LEADERS

- **Peter de Bruys** wages war on the teachings of the state Church. At one point, he made a great bonfire of all the crosses and he cooked meat on Good Friday. He was finally apprehended and burned at the stake about 1124.
- **Henry of Lausanne** proceeded Peter de Bruys . Henry, raised his voice to the masses with the truth. The state clergy drove Henry from Toulouse. He fled to the mountains where he was captured and brought before a council at Rheims. This was in 1158. Henry was condemned and died in prison.
- **Arnold was from Brescia.** His words were heard in Switzerland, southern Italy, Germany, and France. Followers were called the Arnoldist. He attacked by both church and state. Arnold's teaching aroused the people into high pitch . Papal bishops and clergy combined against him. A church synod -in 1139 Arnold was condemned to silence and to expulsion from Brescia. He at once fled to the wilderness, and in the valley of the Alps found shelter among people of like views. Later died a Martyr.
- **Peter Waldo** of Lyons, France, began his work somewhere between 1160 and 1170. He was a wealthy merchant who gave away all his goods and began to preach the genuine doctrines of the New Testament. He claimed the Papacy to be the "man of sin," and the beast of the Apocalypse. He devoted much time to translating and distributing the Bible.
- Some priests of Lyons tried to stop his preaching. Peter appealed directly to Pope Alexander III in Rome. The Pope responded that they could preach only if the archbishop of Lyons gave them permission. The Waldenses felt that their message was too important to be silenced and rejected the Pope's edict.
- In 1184 they were excommunicated at a Church council in Verona by Pope Lucius III. Peter Waldo dropped out of history . However, the Waldenses flee to the Alps and lived there for centuries.

In Conclusion:

These wonderful people sacrificed and fought for their Christian beliefs. They fought for 1300 years for religious Freedom. Most never saw religious freedom in their lifetime.

I believe we have entered a period of time when many people in this country have forsaken the God of their fathers. I think we will see God lead his people back to their faith and he will protect his people as he has always done throughout history.

I believe these amazing ancient people are an example for us today and many of us will live to see God's hand in this nation again.

- Many of us are the descendants of these faithful Europeans. We are the nation who has been so blessed with religious freedom.
- It is our job to carry the Torch!

**Will we keep the torch our
ancestors passed to us?**

