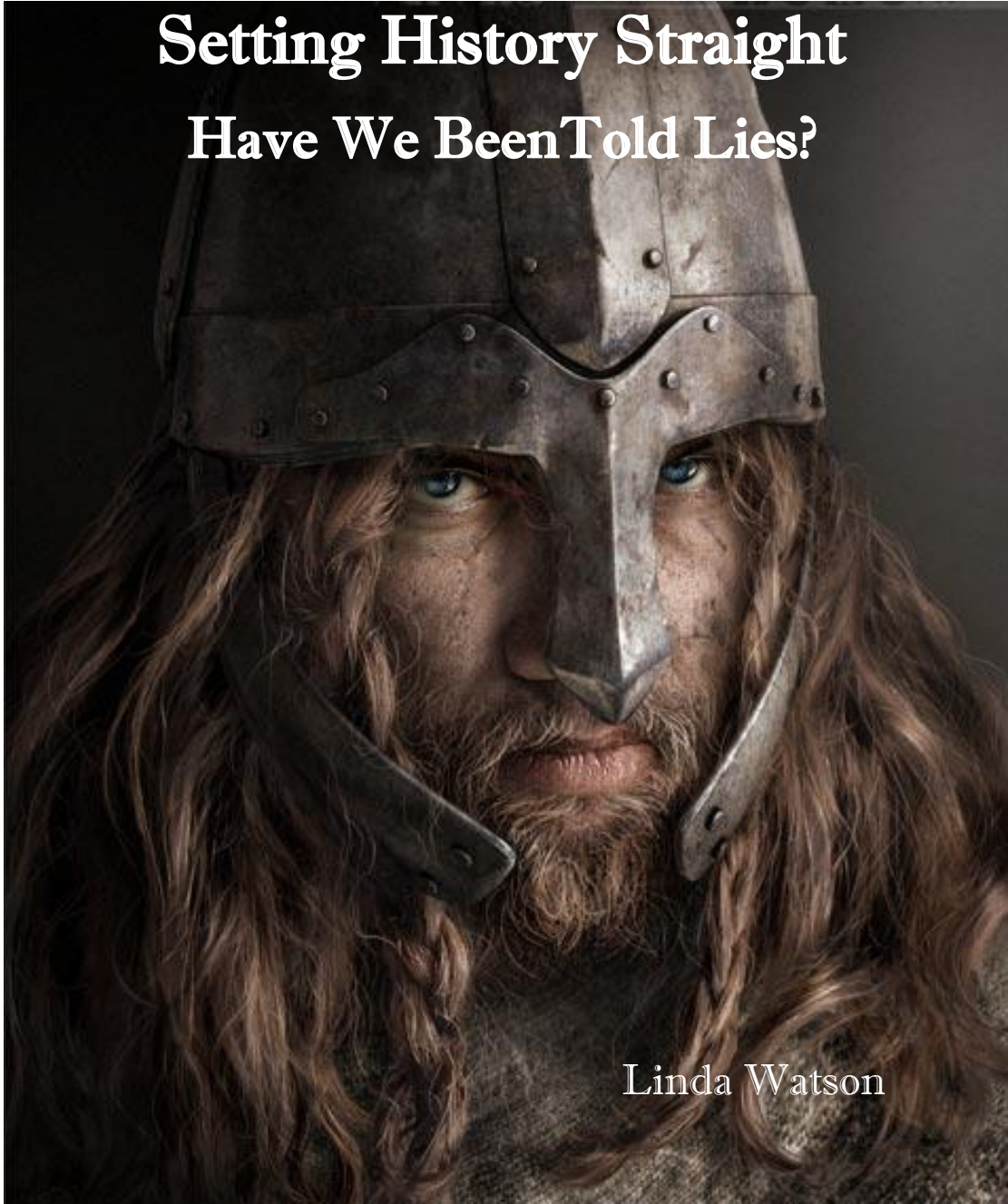


Setting History Straight

Have We Been Told Lies?



Linda Watson

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By Linda Watson

Have we been told Lies?

The book is designed to be short, concise and able to be read in one sitting. This is more than historical account; there is a message for us from an ancient nation. Studying history is pointless unless we learn from it. One of the main reasons for studying history is to prevent us from repeating mistakes.

Deu 32:7 Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations; ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.

Most of us can trace our ancestry back to Europe, Britain, Scotland or Ireland. This is the story of our ancient ancestors -- a story we have never been told. The account began twelve hundred years ago with the ancient Parthian. Most of us have never heard of them! By revealing the history of these ancient people, we will discover that much of Christian history has been deliberately left out or distorted by the mainstream education systems. We plan to correct the historian account and fill in gaps.

History is written from the Greek and Roman Perspective

In the American school systems we learned about the Greeks, the Romans and the Roman Catholic Church. History today is told from the Greek and Roman perspective. All high school students are very familiar with the history of Rome. However, they know little about the Germanic tribes which settled Europe and Britain. We are taught about the Roman Catholic Church, but we know almost nothing about the Celtic or the Assyrian Churches. During the Middle Ages both of these churches were as large, if not larger than the Catholic Church. The Protestants have been completely left out of history.

Christian History has been left out!

All Christianity history is written from the Roman Catholic Church standpoint. Again, why? THERE ARE HUGE GAPS IN HISTORY BECAUSE THEY HAVE LEFT OUT HUGE PORTIONS OF THE HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS. There has been a huge effort among the university scholars to eradicate Christian teaching. In this writing we are going to discover some amazing facts and correct some of the falsehoods. The Protestant Revolution did not start with Martin Luther, it started with these amazing Western European people in the 3rd Century. There were major historic events that have been left out and other history has been altered.

Let us begin . . .

Chapter One – the Star of Bethlehem

We begin our account around the first century when there were many unbelievable miracles that occurred in history. But they have not been recorded. We all know the story about the star of Bethlehem. The star brought the wise men to the stable where the Messiah was laid. But many people do not know that IT WAS NOT A MERE STAR!! It has been recorded as a MAJOR ASTRONOMICAL EVENT!!

It was the early evening of June 17, 2 BC, All the cities around in Mesopotamia area noticed a spectacular astronomical event being witnessed in the western sky. The planet Venus moving eastward among the stars on what appeared to be a collision course with the planet Jupiter.

¹ It was Roger W. Sinnott, writing in the astronomical journal *Sky and Telescope*, who was the first to draw attention to this unusual conjunction of Jupiter and Venus. He said it was a brilliant “double star” which finally gave the appearance of merging into a single “star” as the planets drew nearer the western horizon.²

In 1980, a conference was held at Griffith to discuss the astronomical events that occurred in the years 3 and 2 BC It was led by the biblical historian Professor Jack Finegan of Berkeley, California. At the conference scientist discussed the astronomical events that occurred from May, 3 BC to December, 2 BC³

During the first century, prophetic prophecies were spreading like wildfire. Many people in the Middle East and surrounding areas were expecting something to occur. The year 2 BC the Roman poet Virgil, in his *Fourth Eclogue*, gave a prophecy that a child was destined to bring a time of

peace and prosperity in their era. Many people were expecting the birth of the Messiah. It is obvious that our creator was announcing the birth of his son, the Messiah. C.A. Federer, editor-in-chief of *Sky and Telescope*, said that "Sinnott's results make the Star of Bethlehem more plausible astronomically than it has seemed heretofore."⁴

Meteor Event on March 23, 687 BC

That is not the only celestial event recorded in early history. The Bible records a Meteor Event during the time of Hezekiah.

2Ch 32:1 After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself. 2Ch 32:2 And **when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem,** 2Ch 32:20 And for this cause Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven. 2Ch 32:21 **And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria.** So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

The Talmud describes this event. It was described as blast that fell on the camp of Sennacherib's army of 185,000 soldiers. They were preparing to attack Jerusalem the next morning. "Their souls were burnt, though their garments remained intact. The phenomenon was accompanied by a terrific noise. It was probably an interplanetary lightning bolt."

From Immanuel Velikovsky's book, *WORLDS IN COLLISION*, "I believe that the time of the Israelite escape from Assyria took place March 23, 687 BC."

It appears that Venus on one of its passages pulled the planet Mars from its orbit which brought it on a course very close to the earth. That was the night of the passage **March 23, 687 BC**. Some believe this night was Passover.

How do events such as this remain hidden? It is quite obvious; if historians recorded these events the people would know there is a God in heaven that does mighty miracles. When events such as these occur, historians simply pass them off as consequence. How can the death of 186,000 soldiers be chalked up to a mere consequence?

Chapter Two – the Christians leave Jerusalem

Many of the missing pieces in history occurred during the Middle Ages. We will begin during the first century after the death of the Messiah. 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 AD. The Disciples 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 AD. The siege ended with the sacking of the city and the destruction of its famous Second Temple. Tiberius tricked the Jews into entering the city of Jerusalem for Passover. Once they entered the city, he locked the gate and they were not able to leave from April to August. Most of the people literally starved to death. The 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.⁵

THE BAR KOCHBA REVOLT (132-135)

In March 130 AD 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 and banners with pigs were placed in the city instead.

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.⁶ Jewish Christians had to choose between Christ and 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, they would be considered traitors. It caused permanent hostilities between the Jewish and Christian communities.

In 135 AD, Hadrian outlawed Sabbath keeping and circumcision under penalty of death.⁷ Exactly a year later on AV the ninth Day of 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.

God's Calendar

It is important to note that God does not work off our Gregorian calendar. He uses the Biblical calendar established from the beginning of history.

Listed below are all the historical events that occurred on the Av the 9th⁸

1. Ten of the 12 spies returned with a bad report on the 9th of Av.-1435 BC.
2. Solomon's temple was destroyed by the Babylonians on the 9th of Av. 587 BC.
3. The second temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE on the 9th of Av.
4. In 71 CE the Roman army plowed the city of Jerusalem with salt on the 9th of Av.
5. Bar Kochba was killed and his army destroyed on the 9th of Av, in the year 135 AD.
6. In 1290 CE, England expelled all Jews from the country on the 9th of Av.
7. In 1492, Spain expelled all Jews from their country on the 9th of Av.
8. In 1914, on the 9th of Av, World War I was declared.

People from the Middle East Region Flee

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 AD). The city of Rome was also overrun by many foreigners who were sun-god worshippers. Those were mainly Edomites and Samaritans who were removed also from Palestine.⁹

Many fled to Antioch. It was a city immersed in Greek culture and pagan beliefs. Antioch was known as a great trade center. It was originally the seat of the Seleucid Empire; the Seleucids reigned from Antioch. 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. During the first century, the City of Antioch became the new center of the Jewish faith.

Where did the Christians Go?

The followers of the Apostles were called Nazarenes. According to Epiphany (in *Panarion*), Nazarenes fled because of Jesus' prophesy on the coming destruction of Jerusalem. **They fled to Pella.**¹⁰

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.”¹¹

Epiphanius, Jerome, and Augustine of Hippo called the 4th Century Christian sect located in Transjordan **the Nazarenes**. The priest Jerome told that the “Nazarenes” dwelt in Syria, Asia Minor, and Armenia.¹²

Christian considered Heretics

It is important to note that the early Christian who followed the teachings of the Messiah was considered heretics by the early Roman Historians.

Epiphanius (church father) wrote in Panarion 390 AD:

“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.”¹³

In 70 AD, Rabbi Zakkai relocated to the city of Yavne/Jamnia, where he received permission from the Romans to found a school of Halakha. 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.

"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."¹⁴

Religions in Roman Empire

Many factors had a strong influence on the mainstream Christian faith in the Roman Empire. The migration of all of these people from the Middle East into the Roman Empire had a profound influence on the religious makeup of the early church. We need to cover some background information on the Roman Empire before the Goths arrived in the next chapter.

Mithraism was the main religion in the Roman Empire before the arrival of the Goths. Romans worshipped the Sun. Mithraism had overspread the Roman Empire. A day of the week was dedicated to each one of these seven heavenly bodies.

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 AD. There may have been possible contact between Zoroaster and 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 but taught the trinity.¹⁵

The Roman Emperors in the early centuries were pagan rulers. One of the most influential emperors on the early Roman Church was Alexander Severus. Roman Emperor Alexander Severus (222-235 AD) 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 of many pagan practices into the state church which was in its early development.

Alexandria and its influence on the early Roman Church

Alexandria was another religious center. When Jerusalem fell, many people fled to Alexandria, 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 Alexandria as well as religious leaders from Rome. These Church fathers taught Asceticism. They lived extremely austere lifestyles. The origins of monasticism are to be found in Egypt. They refrained from worldly pleasures and material riches.

This began with Philo Judaeus (30 BC-45 AD), who was a Jewish teacher of the oral traditions. He added Greek philosophy to Christian teaching. Philo founded the Alexandrian School where he trained Clement, who succeeded him in 180 AD. Clement trained Origen, and became director of the School in 202 AD. As early as 150 Justin Martyr taught Tatian; Tatian also taught Clement. Justin Martyr introduced the concept of Sunday

worship ¹⁶and attempts to convince his friend Trypho of the correctness of this practice.¹⁷ Clement boasted that he would not teach Christianity unless it was 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.

Valentinus was a native of Jewish birth in Egypt around 100 AD 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 in 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. Many teachings were introduced into the Roman church by the Emperors, the Alexandrian School, and many pagan foreigners and Romans.

Chapter Three – Arian Christians Enter the Roman Empire

Most countries know their history and origins. The British people know their history began with King Brutus in 1100 BC. But America is totally ignorant of their origin. Our history did not begin with the American Revolution. However, most of our history textbooks never cover any information about our origins.

We know the majority of the people who settled America originally came from Western Europe, England, Scotland and Ireland. Most of us can trace our ancestry back to Germanic tribes who began migrating into Europe in the second century. The Western Europeans know they descended from these great people. The early settlers in America are the direct descendants of these Germanic tribes. We need to ask why we were never taught about the Germanic tribes.

History students are taught about the Greece and Romans history but the great superpowers of Parthia and Scythia, who lived during the Roman era, are never mentioned. They were huge superpowers that were COMPLETELY LEFT OUT OF HISTORY!! It is the belief of this author that this is done to prevent students from discovering that their ancestors were Christians.

The Roman Empire was noted for their military superiority but they were never able to conquer their main rival, Parthia. The Roman Empire actually went war with Parthia thirteen times and never won a single battle. Parthia lay in the crossroads between the Roman Empire and the Far East. Parthia kept the Romans land-locked. They were never able to expand their empire eastward because of Parthia. Julius Caesar died the day

before he was to lead a military campaign against Parthia. If he had lived to conquer this great nation all history would have been changed. This may have been God's hand in protecting these wonderful people.

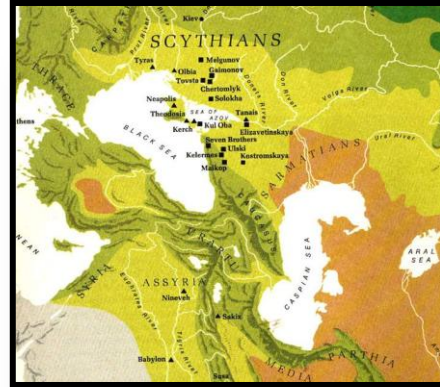
The Parthian Empire began in 247 BC and it was centered on the Black Sea. When the Persians overthrew the Parthian Empire in 226 AD, they expelled the Parthian from the region. The Parthian fled northwest toward the Black Sea. They joined with the Scythians who were their kinsmen. During the third century, they began to move into the Roman Empire. They were known as the Germanic tribes. Let us see the proof that the Germanic tribes came from Scythia. The Ency. Britannica records that the Scythians were the peoples who moved into Europe.

"The main movement from Asia into Europe which went north of the Caucasus was in early times that of the Scythians."¹⁸

Jordanes wrote the history of both the Goths and Rome. His work "Getae" is the only existing history of the Gothic people today. He claims to be a descent of the Gothic people. He states:

"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 Azou and then spread themselves westward to the North bank of the Danube."¹⁹

Jordanes tells us the Goths came from the area around the Black Sea. Notice the map, the area around the Black Sea is Scythia.



Historians today labeled these great people as pagans and barbarians. But we will see that they were neither. The Goths were Christians. We know that at least four of the ten tribes were Christians.

When the Goths arrived in Europe, they were surprised to learn that they were thought of as heretics. The Goths refused to go along with new Alexandrian teachings being introduced into the Roman Churches, the Romans quickly branded any competitor Arian. Anyone who did not follow Nicene teaching was branded an Arian. Notice below, the Germanic tribes were not pagans; they were called Arians. They were Christians before they came into the Roman Empire.

“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.” ²⁰

“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.” ²¹

They prized their Latin Bible that was read publicly in all their churches in Italy, France, Spain, Africa, and Germany. It became known as the Itala Bible. Ulfilas wrote the Gothic Bible from the Received Text by Lucian.

Lucian was a bishop in Eastern Europe and he had a tremendous influence on Antioch. He also 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.²² It is that Greek New Testament from which the writings of the apostles have been translated into other languages. It was restored by Erasmus.²³ It is not widely known that the real editor of the received text was Lucian. It was not the same Bible as the Latin Vulgate written by Jerome in the 4th Century accepted as a standard by the Roman Catholic Church.

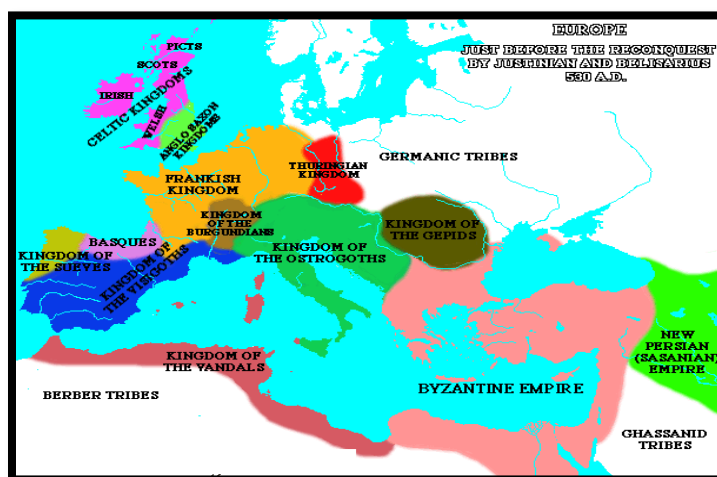
The western churches under the Goths kept the seventh day Sabbath. However, by the 4TH Century the Roman church kept Sunday and fasted on Saturday.

“The Sabbatati of Europe was 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**”.²⁴

As we mentioned earlier, the Greeks referred to tribes as Barbarians. Throughout history this label has stuck with the Germanic tribes. While it is true they were fierce warriors, there was nothing Barbaric about them. They fought only when they were threatened or attacked. They came to Europe to seek homes to raise their families; most were farmers by trade. When they moved into Europe, they destroyed the pagan temples of the Greeks. It was their belief that they should root out all pagan gods found in the lands that they settled.

Deu 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

At first, the Romans allowed the tribes to settle in their empire in exchange for mercenary services during times of war. During the reign of Maximus, the Germanic tribes stopped their mercenary support when they realized that they were the primary fighting force for the Romans. By the fourth century the entire Roman army was mainly comprised of Goths. When the Visigoths sacked Rome in 410 AD, they treated the Roman citizens with dignity and did not decimate the city. In their early history, they ruled the people in Western Europe with tolerance and respect but would not allow pagan temples. By the 5th century, the Germanic tribes were roughly divided into ten nations: Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Allemanni, Anglo-Saxons, Heruli, Lombards and Burgundians. The map below shows where they eventually settled.



Prosecution

There was a lot of conflict between the Christians and Pagans which lead to a prosecution of the Christians. God sometimes allows his people to be prosecuted mainly to strengthen their faith and the faith of the non-believers around them.

Ten Roman Emperors persecuted the Christians –from Nero to Diocletian – not so much the Catholic Church. Many of these emperors died tragic deaths – 2 suicides, 4 murdered, 1 captured and torture, 2 illness.

Nero	Suicide
Domitian	assassinated by court officials
Trajan	3 month illness
Antoninus	Illness
Severus	Died with regrets
Maximus	Troops killed him
Decius	in battle against a foreign enemy ¹
Valerian	Tortured by Shapur
Aurelian	Murdered by his own aids
Diocletian	Suicide

God changes the hearts of the Roman Emperors

In the spring of 303 AD, began the most severe persecution of Christians in Roman history. 3,000 to 3,500 Christians were tortured, imprisoned, or dislocated.²⁵ The Maximian ruled in the Western Roman Empire, while Diocletian ruled in the Eastern Roman Empire. Most Christians avoided punishment. Christians were compelled to sacrifice to Roman gods or face imprisonment and execution. By 311 AD the persecution left 144,000 Egyptian Christians dead.²⁶

But in that same year God brought an end to this prosecution. Galerius became the leader in the East after Diocletian his step father. Galerius set

the imperial palace on fire and blamed it on the Christians. Galerius, who had originally led the prosecution against the Germanic Christians, became suddenly ill and recanted his prosecution plan. Before his death in 311 AD, he issued an edict permitting Christians to worship as they pleased. Galerius died in early May 311 AD from a horribly gruesome disease described by Eusebius.²⁷

The edict was made official by Empire Constantine. Constantine had lived through the time of the Diocletian prosecution. He wanted to stop the bickering between saints and pagans. 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 AD, Constantine issued his famous Edict of Milan which gave every person the right to practice any religion they wanted.²⁸

Constantine succeeded in putting an end to the persecution of Christians. He called for a conference of the bishops in the Roman Empire called the Council of Nicaea. After several days of bickering, Constantine arrived at the meeting with his army and forced the attendees to sign the Nicene decree. It became the foundational document for the Catholic Church. The council also resulted in the exile of any bishop not willing to sign the agreement. Arius, who was opposed to the teachings of the state church, was one of the many that was exiled.

The Roman Emperors throughout history were not tolerant of non-Nicene churches. In 321 AD at the Council of Nicaea, Constantine forbids work on Sunday.²⁹ This was a hardship on the 7th day believers and Jews in the Roman Empire.

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 AD). 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.

These radical 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. This is the beginning of the Byzantine Empire.

A Roman Ruler becomes an Arian

When Constantine died, his three sons succeeded him. Fighting over power ensued and when all was finished, Constantine II was dead, Constantius was weakened and Constantius took power. Unlike his father and brothers, Constantius became an Arian Christian.³⁰ He was opposed to the teachings of the Roman Church. He exiled the 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 pagan rites would be a capital offense. Mobs of Christians attacked and demolished pagan temples, shrines and altars but did not harm the people.

God sends a Christian Leader

Constantius threw his support to Ulfilas. Great victories for Christ were won by Ulfilas (AD 311-383 AD). 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 St. Patrick was beginning his.

God stops the building of the Temple by a Pagan Ruler

Born in 331 AD, 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 the Greek and Romans. In 363 AD Emperor Julian tried to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. An earthquake, followed by many explosions and balls of fire from the ground stopped the project.³¹ God did not allow a pagan emperor to restore his temple!

Roman Empire Falls to the Visigoths

By the start of the 4th most of the residents of Rome left. In the fourth century, Rome declined steadily in population. The collapse of the Western Empire in 395-476 AD saw Rome decline to 75,000 to 100,000 residents by 500 AD.³² The Gothic War nearly ruined Rome which sank to the level of an armed camp of 30,000 residents.

In 384 AD, the Emperor Theodosius 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"³³

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

Theodosius then issued a decree in November of 380 AD and all Arian churches were confiscated and their meetings were banned. Gregory of Nazianzus, a leader of the Nicene community, was given all the churches confiscated by Theodosius. The emperor enacted a law prohibiting heretics from holding church services.

Next, one of the most stunning events in all of history occurred -- the fall of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire fell into the hands of the Christian Visigoths!! Rome was sacked in 410 AD by the Goths. Emperor Honorius murdered the Visigoth General Stilicho and 30,000 Germanic soldiers. This led to Alaric, Gothic leader, 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 did not destroy the city of Rome. They came into Rome and only plundered the wealthiest home, leaving the poor residents in peace.

It is important to note that the descendants of Parthia had fought their long-time enemy, Rome for over six hundred years. Finally God had given them the victory.

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.

God's Provides a Place of Safety and Refugee for his People

The sacking of Rome brought a time of peace and prosperity to the Roman Empire. During times of peace and prosperity, throughout history, it is typical for Christians to backslide. Notice what was going on in the Roman Empire.

"Christianity of that day was utterly degraded, and the Christians differed very little from the other peoples about them."³⁴

Throughout history Christians always return to their faith. God sends his clergy to point his people back to their religious roots. We see this pattern throughout all of Christian history.

In 496 AD Clovis became the King of the Franks. Little is known about the religion of the Franks but we do know they were kinsmen to the Goths. Clovis had married Clotilda, daughter of the king of the Burgundians who was a devout Catholic. He professed the faith in 496 AD, and his entire army of three thousand was baptized. In 508 AD Clovis, the king of the Franks defeated the Visigoths. He claimed the victory for the Catholic Church. The State church had now established a stronghold on Western Europe and took away the Gothic Bibles.

Many Christian refugees fled from the reign of Clovis to the East and Italy. For many centuries, the Persian Empire took refugees from the Roman Empire. Streams of refugees turned toward Persia to escape persecution in the Eastern Europe. God has always provided a place to escape persecution; this is another consistent theme throughout history.

However, the east was not the only place they fled. King Odoacer had unseated the last Roman Emperor in the West. Theodoric the Great, the Ostrogoth king (454 –526 AD) expelled Odoacer from Italy. Theodoric the Great 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.

“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.”³⁵

Please notice how God provided a place to escape for persecuted believers. They were allowed to go to the East and in the kingdom under Theodoric the Great. It is important to note that they settled in the region of the Alps in Italy. They escaped before one of the most devastating events of earth’s history –the beginning of the Bubonic Plague.

CONSTANTINOPLE, dedicated as the New Rome in 330 AD, grew from a population of 30,000, when she was still the city of Byzantium, to 300,000 by 400 AD By the age of Justinian (527-565 AD), residents of Constantinople, “Queen of Cities,” might have totaled 1,000,000, but perhaps 500,000 to 750,000 is a more accurate estimate.

In 532 AD under Emperor Justinian, 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".³⁶

Great numbers were driven from their habitations. 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".

His general crushed the Vandals in Africa in 534 AD. Historian Gibbon says: "he proceeded without delay to the full establishment of the Catholic Church."³⁷

Bubonic Plague

The Pandemic afflicted the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire) and it struck 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 Pelusiu, 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 throughout the next four centuries. It is estimated that the Plague of Justinian killed as many as 25 million people across the world.

Columbanus is sent to Europe

The persecution by Justinian and the plague brought the people to their knees. God called a Celtic missionary named Columbanus to begin to lead his people back to their religious faith. He stirred up the masses causing huge religious revival. Columbanus (543-615 AD) was born on the border of Carlow and Wexford in 543 AD. Prior to his birth, his mother dreamed of a brilliant light, which arose from her body and illuminated the whole world. He was described as tall and handsome. He studied several years at Bangor, a famous Celtic school in Wales. His ministry spread like wild-fire. The youth of the land flocked to his training centers. He had the support of many Germanic Kings. So many people returned to their faith that the Catholic Church made a decree that Columbanus and his followers were the Antichrist.³⁸

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 (AD 732), the duke of Thuringia could no longer ignore Charles' edict. So in 733-734 AD the Celtic clergy were exiled.

The grandson of Charles Martel, Charlemagne was crowned the holy Roman Emperor by the pope. All Roman Emperors from Caesar to Gratian held the title of "Pontifex Maximus." Gratian refused the title and passed it to Pope Damasus. The title's origin comes from Attalus III, who was the last Babylonian King to rule in Pergamum. He willed his empire to Rome and the kingdom of Pergamum merged with the Roman Empire.

In year 772 AD Charlemagne chopped down the Irminsûl, the holy column or tree of the Saxons. Irminsûl is Old Saxon word meaning "great/mighty pillar". Ancient tribes built pillars when they came to live in a new land. He also assassinated approximately 5.000 Saxon noblemen. This cowardly attack initiated the Viking Migration.

These fierce attacks from the Vikings fell on the British Isles, the Atlantic and North Sea shoreline of the Carolingian Empire, Charlemagne's Empire. This included most of what are now France, Germany, and the Low Countries. The earliest date given for a Viking raid of Britain is 789 AD. By 1000 AD, some of the Vikings settled in northern France, where they were called the Normans, or Northman, and the area where they settled is still called Normandy.

Chapter Four

Development of the Celtic Church in England

The Roman conquest of Britain was a gradual process, beginning effectively in AD 43 under Emperor Claudius. The Roman Empire took control of Britain but never was 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.

The Romans 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.

The Celtic Church

It is believed that Joseph of Arimathaea was the first to preach the Gospel in Britain and it is 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.”³⁹

Gildas, a Welsh Celtic Christian monk, wrote that the Christian religion entered Britain during 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).⁴⁰

Cressy, the Benedictine Monk and historian, tells us that St Joseph of Arimathea died at Glastonbury on July 27th, AD 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 (Lovar), in AD 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.”⁴¹

In fact St. Augustine declared that the first church was actually built by the Messiah himself. Archbishop Ussher writes: “The British National Church was founded AD 36, 160 years before heathen Rome confessed Christianity.”⁴²

We know that the early Britons were followers of the Bible before St. Augustine ever entered Britain. There are references from the EARLIEST HISTORIANS – Gildas, Beda, and Caesar. We know that the Celtic people 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 Universal Church. Early church leaders called everyone who followed the Bible Judaizers. 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 “that they derive their custom from a time when the Church was judaizing in many things.”⁴³

St Augustine is not accepted by the Celtic Church

The tide was destined to turn. In 597 AD the king of Kent was Ethelbert, who had married Bertha, the daughter of the Roman Catholic king of the Franks. Bertha consented to this marriage only on one condition, that she should be accompanied to England by her chaplain, St. Augustine. Augustine and his monks landed on the island AD 597. On landing, Augustine went to Canterbury, the metropolis of Kent. He met with Celtic Church leaders. An old sage told the Celtic Clergy to go meet with Augustine but if he does not rise to greet, 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.⁴⁴ 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 wrote about this period of history:

“By making a parade of ascetical life, by pretended Events, 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.”⁴⁵

God sends St Patrick to Ireland

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.

One of the most well known Christian teachers was St. Patrick. St. 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 sixteen where he became 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 from his dream. He boarded the ship and escaped to his homeland. He later had another vision telling him to return to the island to preach to the people. He told the Irish how God had sent him a vision to return back to Ireland. Patrick started over 250 churches in Ireland.

St. Patrick was not a Catholic

The Catholic Church has taught for many years that St. Patrick was a Catholic. However, 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.”⁴⁶

“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.”⁴⁷

Patrick believed and taught the Bible -- not the teachings of the state church. Wherever Patrick 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 *Liber ex Lege Moisi* are still in existence today and can be found in the *British Museum*.

Historian A. C. Flick writes: "The Celts used a Latin Bible unlike the Vulgate, and kept Saturday as a day of rest, with special religious services on Sunday."⁴⁸

"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 labor. They obeyed the fourth commandment literally upon the seventh day of the week."⁴⁹

Alfred the Great setup the Bible as the Law of the Land

Alfred the Great was one of Britain's most beloved kings. Alfred the Great used St. Patrick's Book as the law of the land during his reign as King of Britain.

This is a section from "Building Holy Nations: Lessons from the Bible and America's Christian History" by Stephen McDowell.⁵⁰

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

God sends Columba to Scotland

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. 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.”⁵¹

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 of destiny in the first church built by King Fergus.

The Scots did not follow the teachings of the Catholic Church. Two hundred years after St. Patrick, Pope Boniface expressed: "His chief hatred is to the Scots, and he especially condemns their allowing their priests to marry.”⁵²

Churches fall to Rome

Margaret, of England, married Malcolm the Great, the Scottish king in 1069 AD. Queen Margaret was a devout Catholic set about romanizing the Celtic Church. She called in the church leaders, and held long discussions with them. Her next point was that “they did not duly reverence the Lord's day”. The Scots were not resting on the Lord's Day. At last, with the authority of the King, she managed to turn the ancient Culdee church in Scotland.⁵³ (See "Life of St. Margaret," by Turgot, her confessor.)

The Irish met the same fate as the Scottish. Henry II took control of the Culdee Church and gave its authority to the Papacy.

“Henry II 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 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. 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.”⁵⁴

Chapter five --Church in the East

The split of the Eastern and Western European Churches

We are taught in our modern history that the Protestant Reformation started with Martin Luther. In reality, the Protestant Reformation began in the 3rd Century with the Arians in Western Europe. But the attacks against the Roman Church never stopped. In fact by the 11th Century the Roman Church had its hands full. The Eastern Churches had no intention of allowing the Catholic Church to control them or their churches.

Very little has been written about the churches in Eastern Europe during the middle ages. Strong (who wrote Strong's Concordance) regards them as the Protestants of Eastern Christianity. They were the largest Christian churches during the middle Ages. **By the eleventh century the Assyrian Church was said to have outnumbered the Greek and Roman churches combined.** 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!!

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“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.”⁵⁶

Their beliefs were different from the Roman Catholic brothers. In fact we know that they were opposed to many of the teachings of the Catholic Church. They were so opposed that in the 10th Century they permanently split. In 498 AD the Assyrian Church, renounced all connection with the church of the Roman Empire. In 489 AD the Roman emperor closed the

college established by the Assyrian Church at Edessa. The Church of the East promptly left Edessa and moved the institution to Nisibis, a few hundred miles within the Persian Empire. A great university was established which lasted a thousand years.

Because of the doctrines passed on by the Council of Chalcedon (AD 451), the Ethiopian Church, the Coptic Church of Egypt, the Jacobite Church of Syria, and the Church of Armenia broke 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." ⁵⁷

The Christians in Eastern Europe were actually treated with more tolerance by the Turks than their Western brothers. At this point in history the Roman church was more interested in control than brotherly love. The Eastern Christians found more tolerance among the Turks.

Pope Nicholas I, in the ninth century, sent the ruling prince of Bulgaria a long document for not fasting on Saturday. It was the practice of the Roman Catholic Church to fast on Saturday for many centuries. This was done to discourage people from keeping the seventh Day Sabbath in the Roman Empire. The head of the Greek Church, offended at the

interference of the Papacy, declared the pope excommunicated. Two hundred years later (AD 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.

Their Beliefs:

The Eastern Churches did not follow the teachings of the Catholic Church. 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."⁵⁸

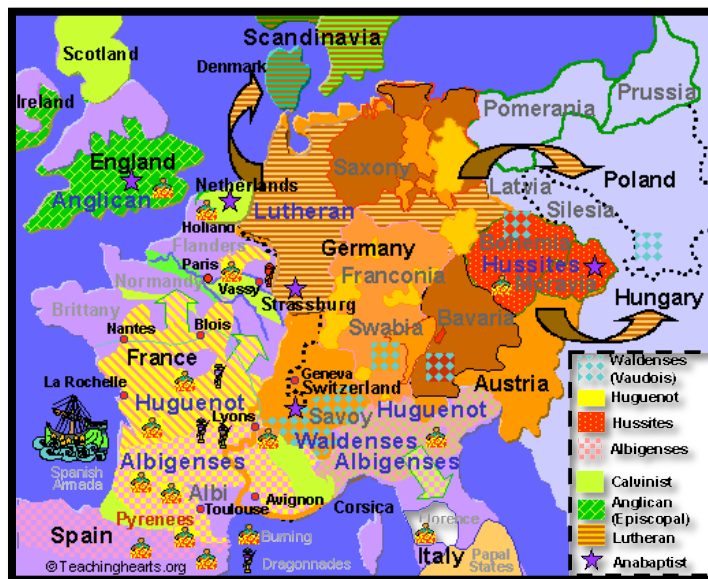
The Nestorians (Assyrian Church) was a branch of the St. Thomas Christians in India. They were strict followers of the scriptures. They fast often, ate no pork, and kept both the Saturday and Sunday. They believe in neither auricular confession nor purgatory, and permit their priests to marry.⁵⁹

W.F. Adeney writes describing the Eastern Churches:

"They have no doctrine of transubstantiation, no purgatory; they do not sanction Mariolatry or image worship; nor will they even allow icons to be exhibited in their churches. Men and women take the communion in both kinds. All five orders of clergy below the bishops are permitted to marry."⁶⁰

Many Protestant Believers

It is believed that the Roman Catholic Church dominated Europe during the Middle Ages. We are also taught that there were “small pockets of Non-believers” that opposed the Catholic Churches teachings. But there were HUGE NUMBERS OF PROTESTANTS BELIEVERS. There were the Hussites, the Albigenses, the Waldenses, the Huguenots just to name a few. In fact, it is estimated that in Bohemia by the sixteenth Century there was three million people Protestants out of a population of four million. The Eastern Churches fought to maintain their religious faith. Throughout the centuries, the groups names changed but the people and their faith continue into the Protestant Revolution.



Albigenses

The first major uprising was done by a group in France called the Albigenses during the 1100's. 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 (AD 1087AD) complains that the Berengarius and Waldenses had corrupted all of France, England, and Italy.

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 AD against one of the Waldensian valleys on the French side of the Alps labeling them heretics. He sent Lanfranc to abolish the church heresies in Western Europe.

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. 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.⁶¹

In the 12th century, there were many famous men who lead the reform movement. Peter de Bruys, Henry of Lausanne, Arnold who was from Brescia and Peter Waldo during the 11th and the 12th centuries. Peter de Bruys waged 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 AD. Henry of Lausanne preceded 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 AD. Henry was condemned and died in prison. Arnold's words were heard in Switzerland, southern Italy, Germany, and France. Followers were called the Arnoldists. He was attacked by both church and state. Arnold's teaching aroused the people into high pitch. Papal bishops and clergy combined against him. He at once fled to the wilderness, and in the valley of the Alps found shelter among people of like views. He later died a martyr. Peter Waldo of Lyons, France, began his work somewhere between 1160 and 1170 AD. 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. The Waldenses felt that their message was too important to be silenced and rejected the Pope's edict.

The Sabbath was kept in Russia as well. The Muscovite Church was first evangelized by missionaries from Asia Minor. These Sabbath-keeping Russians were known as Subotnik (Sabbath keepers). By the 10th century, under the ruler ship of Vladimir I, Russia had adopted the Eastern Orthodox religion, but the Muscovites continued to keep the Sabbath until the 15th century when they fled persecution to the Crimea and the Caucasus. There are remnants of the Muscovites still keeping the Sabbath today.

Bubonic Plague

The Black Death was one of the most devastating pandemics in human history, peaking in Europe between 1348 and 1352 AD. During those five

years, 25 million people died. It started with a merchant ship from Sicily. All the sailors were dead or dying. When the ship was allowed to land, the rats carrying the disease onto land spreading the disease to the nearby communities. The people were terrified and stayed hid in their homes. They painted red crosses on their doors with the phrase "God have mercy on us". Bubonic Plague continued to resurface throughout the next three centuries.

This major event drove people back to their religious roots. The event led the people of that era to question their religious beliefs and value. John Wycliffe lived during this time in history. He began a movement to change religious thought. This monumental event helped feed the fuel for the 15th century Protestant Reformation.

In Conclusion:

Historians in the Western World have written history from a slanted perspective leaving out most of the Christian history. Many Americans are the descendants of the Germanic tribes who came to Europe from Parthia and Scythia. We now know they were Christians. They were not "small pockets" of believers; they were huge churches outnumbering the Catholic Church at many points in history. The Protestant Reformation began very early in the third century.

Their Message for us

I believe these amazing ancient people are an example for us today. I also believe that many of us will live to see God's hand in this nation again. We have entered a period in time when many people in this country have forsaken the God of their fathers. **History always repeats itself.** That is a

promise from God. We are supposed to learn from the past. If this nation does not change and turn back to God, they will be facing the same prosecution their ancestors experienced.

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.

These early Christians took their faith seriously and many gave their lives for religious freedom. They kept both the Old and New Testament throughout the centuries. In 1830, there was a religious movement started by John Darby who taught that the Old Testament laws were done away. By the 1870's this doctrine had spread throughout the seminaries and became part of the foundational teaching in the American churches today. However the original colonist never taught this; the Pilgrims, Puritans and other early settlers kept both the old and new Testaments. Only in the last 130 years have we as a nation stopped keeping the Old Testament.

Many treat the Bible as a supermarket believing they can pick and choose what they want to believe. Many pastors teach a message about tithing and prosperity. They rarely teach the Bible. Instead, they give wishy-washy pep talks. Many offer their congregations a watered-down message with no substance; then they wonder why attendance is down.

We need to return to the whole Bible. These early Christians are screaming for us **to return to the faith once delivered.**

Jud 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Remember at the time the book of Jude was written the New Testament was not canonized yet. The faith once delivered was the Old Testament.

God wants us to enter into a covenant with him. He wants us to enter into the same covenant that the Israelites kept -- Exodus chapters 20-23. The Covenant was not only for the Israelites; it was for us too.

Notice below it was made for those who are there and those who weren't there.

Deu 29:14 **Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath;**

Deu 29:15 But with *him* that standeth here with us this day before the LORD our God, and **also with *him* that is not here with us this day:**

God called the Israelites in the Old Testament the “church in the Wilderness” (Act 7:38). They were also called the “congregation of Israel” because they were to become a church that would spread throughout the world and across many generations.

Once we become a Christian, then we actually become part of the nation of Israel. We become Abraham's seed and heirs to their promise. This promise is not tied to a nationality, race or people. Note the verse below:

Gal 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Abraham's Seed were promised a land inheritance. Notice what King David told the nation of Israel.

I Sam 7:10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

The Israelites were in the land of Canaan when King David wrote this verse. David could not be talking about Canaan; he was talking about a land that was in their future. It is impossible the Promise land to be the land of Canaan. See below the description of the Promise land. It was a land with vast resources where the hills contained brass and Iron. It is a

land that was not inhabited. The land of Canaan does not have these characteristics.

Deu 8:9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any *thing* in it; **a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.**

Jer 2:4 Hear ye the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel:

Jer 2:6 Neither said they, Where *is* the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, **through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?**

This could not be the land of ancient land of Canaan or modern Israel. They can't mine for Brass in the Middle East! It is a land that is not inhabited.

In fact, the Messiah told the Pharisees their responsibilities were to be given to a more holy nation.

Mat 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and **given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**

The early American settlers understood this. They called themselves the New Israel. They referred to this land as the "City sitting on the shining hill." George Whitefield called the American colonist the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel. The word "British" means "Covenant man" in Hebrew. "Berith" is the Hebrew word for Covenant. The word "America" comes from the Nordic word meaning "Kingdom of Heaven". We are a special people with a special purpose. We were supposed to set an example for the rest of the world.

The early Christians carried this torch of faith down through the centuries. We need to ask ourselves these questions. Will our generation be the people which drop the torch or will we carry it forward? Will God have to punish us like he did Ancient Israel or will we return to the faith once delivered?

Endnotes

- ¹ Dr. Ernest Martin, *Star of Bethlehem*, Ch. 1.
- ² Sky and Telescope, December, 1968, 384–386.
- ³ Ibid
- ⁴ Editorial by C.A. Federer, Sky and Telescope, 36 (December 1968), Referencing Roger W. Sinnott, “Thoughts on the Star of Bethlehem,” p 384.
- ⁵ Wikipedia “Siege of Jerusalem”
- ⁶ Encyclopedia Britannica, “Bar Kochba”
- ⁷ Wikipedia “Siege of Jerusalem”
- ⁸ Encyclopedia Britannica, “Tasha be-Av”
- ⁹ Dr. Ernest Martin, *The People History Forgot*, Ch.34
- ¹⁰ David C. Sims, *The Gospel of Matthew and Christian Judaism* 1998, p182 (Panarion 29:5.4; 7:2, 5; 8:1-7)
- ¹¹ Gibbons, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, V.1, Ch.15.
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