"In another world it may be otherwise, but in this world, to grow is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often" (John Henry Newman).

I. Classical Age: Greek and Roman Empires, roughly from 6th BC to 5th AD. Alexander the Great (356-323 BC) conquered the Mediterranean world, which made Greek the common language for all the nations.

A. Apostolic Era: from death of Jesus to the death of the last Apostle. Composition of the books of the New Testament takes place, apparently in Greek (there is a legend of an Aramaic version of Matthew).

49 #0) Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15: against the Judaizers)
Must converts become Jews in order to become Christians?
Pattern set for all councils: "It seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15:28).

B. Patristic Era: 1st to 6th or 7th century AD (all in GREEK because Constantinople (!) was the capital of the Roman Empire!).

325 #1) Nicaea (against the Arian heresy that Jesus is only a creature)
Jesus is NOT a super-creature; He is homoousios with GOD.

381 #2) Constantinople (against the Apollinarian heresy that Jesus is only God)
Jesus is NOT inhuman; He is fully human.
The Holy Spirit is God as the Father is God and the Son is God.

431 #3) Ephesus (against Nestorian heresy that there are two persons in Jesus)
There is only one person (hypostasis) in Christ.
That single person has two natures (hypostatic union of God and man in Jesus).
Because that single person is God, Mary is the Mother of God (theotokos).

451 #4) Chalcedon (against the Monophysite heresy that Jesus has only one nature)
The union of God and human in Jesus does NOT blend divine nature with human nature.
The two natures are "unconfused, unchangeable, indivisible, and inseparable."

The outcome of 400 years of intense debate about the correct interpretation of the Scriptures may be summarized in the two bedrock doctrines of classical Christianity:

Trinity: three persons in one God
Incarnation (Christology): one person in two natures--Jesus is both divine and human.

III. Dark Ages (or early Middle Ages): fall of Rome in 476 AD until around 1000 AD.

553 #5) Constantinople II -- continuing problems with monophysites.

610 "Night of Power" when Muhammad became the "Seal of the Prophets."
622 Hegira: flight from Mecca to Medina; by his death in 632, Muhammad ruled most of Arabia.

680 #6) Constantinople III -- rejected Monothelitism ("only one will in Jesus"). Jesus has a Divine will in His divine nature and a human will in His human nature.

732 Muslims repelled at Battle of Tours--their empire extended from Spain to India.

787 #7) Nicaea II -- against the Iconoclasts, who thought that images (icons) were evil.

870 #8) Constantinople IV -- assertion of papal primacy: power to rule over all other bishops.

1054 Final schism between Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholics. The Orthodox accept the authority of the first seven councils of the Church.

Note well: The first eight councils all used Greek as the official language because it was the official language of the Roman Empire.
IV. Middle Ages: 11th to 14th (Scholasticism; LATIN councils)

- TBQ: How do faith and reason work together?
- Series of crusades (Christian holy wars) against Muslims. Muslims call their holy war a "jihad."

1123 #9) Lateran I -- about investiture: who names bishops?
1139 #10) Lateran II -- sinful priests CAN administer valid sacraments.
1215 #12) Lateran IV -- defined Eucharist & transubstantiation.
1245 #13) Lyons I -- Council deposed Emperor.
1274 #14) Lyons II -- Attempted reunion with the Greeks.
1311 #15) Vienne -- condemnation and suppression of Knights Templar.

1309-1377 Avignon Papacy (the Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy--the pope moved from Rome to Avignon in France; the Italians elected their own pope; sometimes there were three men all claiming to be the pope!).

V. Renaissance: 14th to 16th (Reformation)

1414-18 #16) Constance -- ended the mess with the three 'popes.' That problem was solved and has remained solved to the present day--almost 600 years of undisputed papal elections.
1438-39 #17) Florence -- attempted reunion with Greek Orthodox (again);
- therefore discussed "filioque": the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son
1492 Moors (Spanish Muslims) driven out of Spain by our good friends, Ferdinand and Isabella.
1512-17 #18) Lateran V -- oddly ineffective "reform" council. Good legislation, poor results.

----<1517: Martin Luther launches Protestant Reformation>----

1545-63 #19) Trent
- dealt with Protestant Reformation
- defined seven sacraments
- defined the canon of the Sacred Scriptures (Septuagint plus NT)
- defined the nature of salvation
- opened up the topic of Tradition as vehicle of revelation
- commissioned revision of liturgy ("Tridentine Mass")

VI. Enlightenment: 17th to 18th (Deism; "critical reason")

A. Age of Revolutions: 1776 - 1917: American Revolution to Russian Revolution; Industrial Revolution; in literature, the Romantic rebellion against Classicism.

1870 #20) Vatican I
- lasted two months; interrupted by war
- pope declared to be infallible when speaking ex cathedra
- held that God can be known by reason alone
B. Modernity: World War I - 1960's or so. Some other name will be invented for this period eventually.

1939-45 *The Holocaust*: 6 million Jews (and many millions of other races) slaughtered by Hitler.

1947-8 Modern state of Israel founded. Palestinians flee during 1948 war (launched by Arab nations). In the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel occupies "the West Bank" and Old Jerusalem. No happy campers anywhere in Middle East ever since.

1962-65 #21) *Vatican II*

-- called to *renovate the Church*

-- revised the *Liturgy*--the Mass is now said in local languages

-- attempted to address the *problems and concerns of the modern world* in a form that would be true to tradition *and* intelligible to modern people.

-- saw *union of Scripture and Tradition* as the source of Revelation

-- balanced teaching about the infallibility of the pope with *new emphasis on the teaching authority of bishops*

-- balanced teaching about the roles of the ordained with the *roles of the laity*

-- balanced teaching about the infallibility of the one, true Church with recognition of the grace of God that is active in the hearts of all good people (*ecumenism* among Christians, respect for other religious and philosophical traditions)

C. Post-Modernity: late 20th (*"post-critical reason"*)

1991 The United States goes to war with Babylon. Many dead babies.

1996 Last possible candidate for the authentic end/beginning of the new millennium. If Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, then Jesus was born four years *Before* Christ.

2000 The world hasn't ended yet. There is still hope!

2001 The first year of the new millenium for mathematicians.

2029-33 Next Big Deal in Millenium Madness: the 2000th anniversary of our salvation.

*The Age of Revolutions, Modernity, and Post-Modernity are all mingled together. In our global village, there are many cultures and sub-cultures competing for dominance. More than at any time in history, people have a choice about what kind of culture they will support and participate in.*