

"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, *EDD*, 40).

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. This led the Jews to translate their Scriptures (**TNK**) from Hebrew into Greek (Septuagint, **LXX**).

A. Apostolic Era: from death of Jesus to the death of the last Apostle. Composition of the books of the New Testament takes place between ~49 AD to ~100 AD, all apparently in Greek; there is a legend of an Aramaic version of Matthew, but no manuscript has been found. The **Deposit of Faith** was closed with the death of the last apostle (no known year; probably John, perhaps as late as 100 AD).

49 **[#0] Council of Jerusalem** (Acts 15: against the *Judaizers*)
Must converts become Jews in order to become Christians? NO!
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 were in **GREEK** because *Constantinople* [!] had become the capital of the *Roman Empire* and *Greek* was the common language of Mediterranean civilization).

64-305 *Ten great cycles of persecution of Christians by Romans. Things went back and forth in the fourth century with more periods of intolerance and persecution.*

325 **[#1] Nicaea**--against the **Arian heresy** that Jesus is only a creature.
Jesus is NOT a super-creature; He is **homoousios** with the Father (Constantinople later clarifies that the Father and the Son are one-in-being with the Spirit).

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 as 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 (exegesis) of the Scriptures** may be summarized in the two bedrock doctrines (**dogmas**) 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.

Remember: Constantinople, not Rome, was the capital of the Roman empire in 476 AD. The fall of Rome did NOT destroy the Roman empire--Constantinople was untouched by the barbarians.

553 **[#5] Constantinople II** -- continuing problems with **monophysites** ("only one nature in Jesus").

610 "Night of Power" when **Mohammed** 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 **Monothelism** ("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; "iconoclast" means "image breaker."

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. They reject the **primacy** of the Pope and the later definition of papal **infallibility** (cf. Vatican I, 1870). The Roman Catholic Church accepts the validity of all seven sacraments in the Orthodox churches.

IV. Middle Ages: 11th to 14th (Scholasticism; *LATIN* councils)

-- The big question: **How do faith and reason work together?**

-- Series of **crusades** (Christian holy wars) in response to 500 years of "jihad" (Muslim holy war).

- 1123 **[#9] Lateran I** -- about **investiture**: who names bishops?
- 1139 **[#10] Lateran II** -- **sinful priests** CAN administer valid sacraments (the sacraments work "**ex opere operato**"). *This is an acknowledgment that the Church admits that priests can sin.*
- 1179 **[#11] Lateran III** -- reform in method of **papal elections**.
- 1215 **[#12] Lateran IV** -- defined Eucharist & **transubstantiation**--"what was bread and wine is now Jesus, whole and entire"; also taught that "God is *always greater* than that to which we compare Him."
- 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. When a later Pope decided to return to Rome in 1378, the French cardinals rebelled and elected an anti-pope. Eventually, there were three different sets of cardinals and popes, all claiming to be authentic. It was a mess! It is known as "**The Great Western Schism**" (1378-1418).

V. Renaissance: 14th to 16th (**Reformation**). Basic stance: Look back to the **golden age** of Greece and Rome to see how to be a fully developed human being. In the view of those who coined the term, Greco-Roman culture is "**born again**" after being all-but-dead

- 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.*
- 1431-45 **[#17] Florence** (Basil [1431]-->Ferrara [1438]-->Florence [1445])
 - attempted reunion with **Greek Orthodox** (again);
 - therefore discussed "**filioque**": the Spirit proceeds from the Father **and the Son**.
 - "Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus": no salvation outside the Church.
- 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.

----> **October 31, 1517: Martin Luther launches Protestant Reformation** <----

- 1545-63 **[#19] Trent**
 - dealt with **Protestant Reformation**
 - defined **seven sacraments**
 - defined the **canon** (*list*) 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")

Luther	Trent
sola fide : "by faith alone"	Faith requires good works .
sola scriptura : "by the Scriptures alone"	Scripture is part of Tradition .
sola gratia : "by grace alone"	Grace co-operates with nature .
Human nature is corrupted by Original Sin .	We are in an evil condition , but our nature is good .
ex opere operantis : The effect of the sacraments is limited by the goodness of "the one working the work."	ex opere operato : The grace of the sacraments is given by Jesus when the "work is worked." The sins of the ministers of the sacraments do not undo Jesus' work.

VI. Enlightenment: 17th to 18th (Deism; "critical reason"). People of the Enlightenment tend to be **forward-looking**; they pin their hopes on **future developments** based on the success of **critical reason** ("science").

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
- declared pope to be **infallible when speaking *ex cathedra*** ("from the chair")
- 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"*). There are **many varieties** of post-modernism. Some seem to have **lost faith in reason** altogether--"*No one knows anything for certain.*"

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

1996 Last possible candidate for the authentic end/beginning of the new millenium. ***If Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, who died in 4 BC, then Jesus had to have been born at least four years Before Christ.***

2000 The world hasn't ended yet. There is still hope! We even survived the Y2K bug!

2001 The first year of the new millenium for mathematicians.

2026-36 Next Big Deal in **Millenium Madness:** the 2000th anniversary of our salvation. *I was wrong. People are getting torqued up now about 21 December 2012, "the end of the Mayan calendar" (the 13th baktun since 3114 BC--about 5125 years ago). Our calendars end every December 31 and restart on January 1; why people think the Mayan calendar can't restart is beyond me. "The end of the calendar" does not logically mean "the end of the world."*

???? **[#22] Vatican Council III?**

The heresy of **conciliarism** holds that "some future council will endorse unorthodox teachings" and therefore that it is OK to anticipate the findings of the future council by affirming the unorthodox teachings at the present time. So, for example, some feminists (men and women alike) hold that Vatican III will overturn the Church's tradition of ordaining only men or that it will endorse same-sex marriage.

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. Heaven only knows what label future historians will paste on the era we live in.*