



History of Christianity I – Overview



4BC-95AD – The New Testament Church

The history recorded in the New Testament Itself:

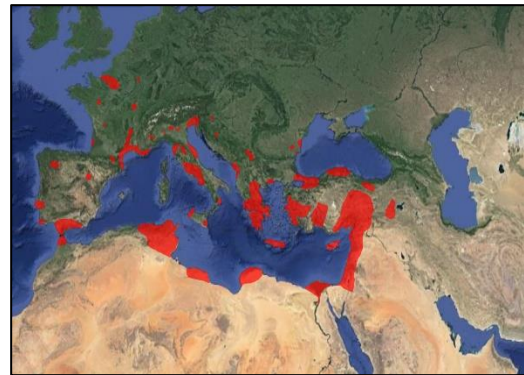
This includes the life of Christ, His training disciples, His death on the cross, resurrection and ascension. The church was begun at Pentecost and the Jerusalem church grew, later expanding to Samaria and to the Gentiles. Missionaries, like Paul travelled and spread the faith into Africa, Europe, and many parts of Asia.



30-313AD – The Early Church

The continued expansion of the church after the NT:

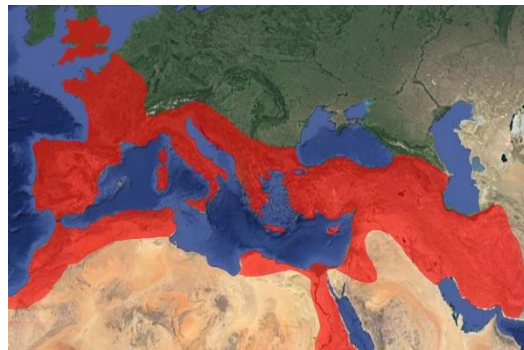
The church continued to expand in Europe, Africa & Asia. The church was severely persecuted, at first by local Jewish leaders, and eventually by Roman officials. The church was developing and unifying its organization and theology, as well as defending and promoting the faith against its detractors and false teachers. There were many martyrs for their faith, as well as the beginning of the monastic movements.



313-500AD – The Roman Church

The church with official status in the Roman Empire:

Christianity was legalized and persecution ceased. Constantine converted to Christianity and became emperor of Rome. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Monasticism continued to develop. The City of Rome fell to barbarian invaders, but the church continued strong under great leaders such as Augustine.



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500-1054AD – The Early Medieval Church

The church consolidated its power and organization:

Many Christian lands in the east, and in Northern Africa, were conquered by violent Islamic invasions. The Roman papacy was elevated because of the loss of the other major bishops to Muslim conquest. And the hierarchical structure of the Roman church was developed and standardized. There were close ties between the church and various imperial governments. There were various developments of theology and practice (not always in a healthy direction). Monasticism continued to develop and have a large influence in the church. Europe was divided into feudal states.



1054-1500AD – The Later Medieval Church

The continued power and influence of the Roman church:

There was a formal split between the Roman and the Eastern Orthodox churches. A series of crusades left from Europe to attempt to reconquer lands lost to Islamic invasions, especially the Holy Land. There was further consolidation of Papal prestige and power, as well as further developments of theology and practice (not always in a good direction). Monasticism continued to develop and have a large influence on the church and its missionary expansion. The Feudal states and empires were developing into modern nations.



1400-1563AD – Exploration, Renaissance & Reform

The church expanded to newly discovered lands:

With the fall of the Eastern Empire to Islam, many scholars fled to Western Europe, bringing their scholarship and ancient manuscripts. Thus, Western Europe was reintroduced to many Greek and Roman ideas, bringing about a Renaissance of learning and arts, coinciding with economic growth. Europe also began to explore different sea routes to the east in order to bypass Islam. This led to the discovery and conquest and/or trade in various lands in Africa, the Far East, and the New World. And Christianity spread to these newly discovered lands through traders and missionaries. There are calls for reform in the church in Europe, especially addressing the moral corruption.

