



The Biblical Heritage Center's

## ***DISCOVERING THE BIBLE***

*Viewing the ancient messages of our Bibles in their cultural & historical context. Understanding the journey of our biblical heritages.*

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## **Learning About the Past to Understand the Present**

By Jim Myers

In the previous edition we read a very important quote by **Hershel Shanks** from the Biblical Archaeological Society (**Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism** © 1993 Biblical Archaeological Society; p. 315):

Before the 4<sup>th</sup> century it is misleading to refer to Christian "heresy" because there was no dominant orthodoxy before this time. It is also misleading to use the terms apocryphal and canonical because the New Testament canon was not closed until the 4<sup>th</sup> century at the earliest.

The seed from which Christianity sprouted was the Yeshua (Jesus) Movement, which began between 24 and 27 CE. Some sources indicate that Yeshua led it for about one year, while others believe it was closer to three years. Under his leadership it was an exclusively Jewish sect. The primary source of information about the Yeshua Movement is the Christian New Testament, but the canon used today was not canonized until the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE ó over 300 years after Yeshua.

In the last newsletter I asked three questions that I believe every Christian should be able to answer, especially if that person is going to be telling everyone that he or she has the absolute truth.

- (1) **How did an exclusively Jewish movement of the first century become an exclusively Gentile religion three-centuries later?**
- (2) **Are the beliefs of Christianity today the same as those of Yeshua?**
- (3) **What is the source of the Christian truths that are found in the creeds and statements of faith of churches today?**

Very soon after **the Roman soldiers executed Yeshua, which was done by the authority of a decree issued by a Roman governor**, the question that would dominate Christianity for over the next 500 years was already being asked -- **Who was Yeshua?** This was a very different question from the one that people asked him while he was teaching ó **Are you the Mashiach (Christ)?** More importantly, there was an important change in who was asking the questions. *Those asking if Yeshua was the Mashiach were Jews, but those asking who he was were Gentiles.*

The key to understanding the historical Yeshua and his movement is learning about his culture, which was the Late Second Temple Judaism period. We don't choose our culture any more than we chose our parents. **We all think, act, and communicate in ways that are primarily predetermined by our culture.** We arrived on earth and found ourselves in a particular family and culture. Everything we learned from that first moment forward was linked to our culture. Pay close attention to definition of "culture."

***Culture is the whole behavior and technology of any people that is passed on from generation to generation. Culture consists of the knowledge, beliefs, language, morals, laws, religion, customs, concepts, habits, skills, institutions, and any other capabilities of a given people in a given period.***

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz provides additional information about the Jewish culture:

***A culture is more than a set of rules to guide behavior; it is a comprehensive worldview and way of relating to one's fellow human beings. Like all complex cultures, Jewish culture does not spell everything out literally, but leaves much to inference. A culture's strength lies not only in what it says, but also in what it chooses not to say, and this too must be learned.***

When most Americans open their Bibles they are reading words that were written by Jews or about Jews, but they are "thinking American," not Jewish. Yeshua and his original followers "thought and behaved according to their Late Second Temple Galilean/Judean culture." The words of Yeshua that were recorded spoke were heard by people who shared the same native language. There was no need to define his words, because the audience knew what they meant. Their institutions, languages, beliefs, holidays, calendar, etc. were very different from the Gentiles.

When the Gospels were written in Greek and began to circulate among people from different cultures, a language in which Yeshua had not delivered his messages but was already known by them, a major transition began to take place. Three centuries earlier Alexander the Great had conquered many of the lands into which Christianity would spread. As a result, the Greek language was widely known by people from many cultures. The point that must be understood is that the readers of the Greek Gospels already had meanings for those words before they ever read the Gospels. The problem was that the Jewish and Greek meanings were sometimes very different.

As I pointed out earlier, the primary question on the minds of Yeshua's Jewish audience was whether he was "the **Mashiach**" or not. For them "Mashiach" meant -- "the **Anointed One**." "The Anointed One" during the Late Second Temple Period was the prophesied person that the Jewish people believed would become the **King**. He had to be a direct male descendant of King David who would hold the titles of "MASHIACH" and "Son of God." The Jewish kings received both titles at their coronation ceremonies when they were anointed with oil by the High Priests. It was at that time that the king became the "adopted Son of God."

He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish **the throne of his kingdom** for ever. **I will be his father**, and **he shall be my son**. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men. (2 Samuel 7:13-14)

The Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Mashiach" is "CHRISTOS," which also means "anointed." However, Gentile Greek speakers did not share the Jewish cultural connection to the office of the king,

but they knew what it meant. When English translators translated the Greek manuscripts they made a decision that would make it impossible for their readers to understand either the Hebrew or Greek meanings above. Instead of translating the word ὁΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ, which would have been ὁanointed, they decided to transliterate it as ὁChrist. As you can see, all they did was drop the ὁ-OS ending to create an English word that had no meaning outside of the New Testament for their English readers. Interestingly, ὁCHRISTOS appears in other verses unrelated to Yeshua, but the same translators translated it ὁanointed instead.

As was pointed out above, the other title for a Judean king, ὁthe Son of God, was a completely different matter when Gentiles encountered it. The mythologies of the Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Persian, and other Gentile cultures contained many stories about ὁsons of gods ὁ ὁApollo, the son of Zeus; ὁOsiris, son of Ra; ὁDionysus is the son of the god Zeus and the mortal woman, Semele; etc. In their cultures a ὁson of god was understood to literally be an offspring of god ὁ not the title of a human king. This difference would become significant as the movement spread to those cultures.

However, there was a much earlier issue over it among Jewish followers who understand what the title meant in their culture ὁ **When did Yeshua become the Son of God?** It may have been Paul's answer that played a major part in causing other books to be written, especially the Gospels. Paul's answer was written about 60 CE and is found in Romans 1:4 -- ὁAnd declared to be the Son of God . . . **by the resurrection from the dead.** There is a tremendous difference between ὁthe Son of God being **a living person anointed king by a Jewish priest** and **a person who was dead becoming "the Son of God" when he was resurrected by God.** The choice one makes about when Yeshua became the Son of God has important implications attached to which definition one chooses.

One would have been very important to Paul and his followers. **If Yeshua didn't become the "Son of God" until his resurrection, then everything he did or taught before that point was done before he was the "Son of God." This would mean that the only apostle appointed by Yeshua when he Son of God (and Christ), would have been Paul.** Another reason that Paul's position may have been popular among Gentiles was that by the time the first Gospel was written in **72CE**, the Jerusalem Temple had been destroyed and there was no land for a Jewish king to rule. The Roman Emperor was the ruler of the lands of the Jews. What interest would future Gentile followers of Yeshua have in someone becoming a Jewish king, anyway?

However, Jewish followers of Yeshua were hoping that their homeland would be returned to them under the kingship of a Jewish Mashiach. The first of the three **Synoptic Gospels** to be written was **Mark** around 72 CE. **Paul's writings had been circulating for over a decade and it looks like the authors of the Gospels wanted to correct Paul's errors.** Let's see when Mark said Yeshua became the ὁSon of God.

Jesus came from **Nazareth of Galilee**, and was **baptized by John** in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and **the Spirit like a dove descending upon him.** And there came a voice from heaven, saying, ὁYou are **my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased. (Mark 1:9-11)

Mark states that Yeshua became the ὁSon of God before the resurrection and **at his baptism.** Mark's account means that everything that Yeshua did after the baptism was done under the authority of the Son of God, including choosing the twelve apostles. It also meant that Yeshua had lived for about 30 years before he became the ὁSon of God. This moved the date that Yeshua becoming the ὁSon of

Godö back one to three years earlier than Paulø date. Now letø see what the **Gospel of Luke** (written about **80 CE**) says about this subject.

And the angel said unto her, ðFear not, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And, behold, you shall conceive **in your womb**, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and **shall be called the “Son of the Highest”**;ö and the Lord God shall give unto him **the throne of his father David**.ö (Luke 1:30-32)

Yeshua became the ðSon of God (the Highest)ö when he was in his motherø womb, according to Luke. This moves the date back 30 years earlier than Markø and 33 years earlier that Paulø. From before his birth his destiny had been announced. Matthew was written around **90 CE** and agrees with Luke. Luke also introduced something that neither Paul nor Mark appears to have known ó **Yeshua was the offspring of God and a human woman. Luke and Matthew’s Yeshua would clearly appear to be a semi-divine being to Gentile audiences.**

The last Gospel to be written, of those included in the modern New Testament, was John around **95 CE**. It is not one of the Synoptic Gospels and presents a very different position on the subject.

In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word was with God**, and the Word was God. The same was **in the beginning with God**. . . And the **Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-2, 14)

**From John’s point of view, “the Word” existed with God at the beginning of creation, and later, in some unspecified mysterious way, became Yeshua in the flesh.** John says nothing about the union of God with a virgin human female or of Yeshua becoming the ðSon of Godö at his resurrection or baptism. Johnø Yeshua was a completely different and **moved the date all the way back to the before the creation of the universe.** Now letø summarize the above views of when Yeshua became the Son of God in the chronological order of their creation.

- (1) **Paul - when he was resurrected from the dead.**
- (2) **Mark - when John baptized him.**
- (3) **Luke & Matthew - when he was in his mother’s womb.**
- (4) **John öfrom the beginning of creation.**

When we pay attention to the details recorded in the books of the New Testament we discover that they do not always agree. Even though the Gospels in the modern New Testament have the names of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, there is nothing in them that states who their authors were. Scholars feel that each Gospel reflects the beliefs of different Christian communities. This is what Dr. Bart Erhman and Hershel Shanks stated in their writings. This is a very different picture of the earliest years of Christianity than had been traditionally taught. Instead of Christians being in agreement, the picture that is coming into focus is one in which three key issues divided Christianity for the first 300 years:

- (1) When Yeshua become the Son of God?
- (2) What the term ðSon of Godö meant?
- (3) Was Yeshua a human being, a semi-divine being or God?

A rabbi was teaching his students the importance of viewing events in their contextual environment and through the eyes of all of the participants. The same event may look very different, depending on whose eyes it is viewed from. He used the following story to make his point.

One day a little boy went to the zoo with his parents. As he walked along the path he saw a deer on one side and a lion on the other. From the little boy's point of view, he saw two very interesting animals. If we look through the deer's eyes, it saw a little creature standing on the path looking at it and an animal on the other side of the path that it knew was a dangerous and deadly threat. The lion, however, saw an appetizer standing on the path and the main course on the other side of it. A boy, deer, and lion all saw the same things, but viewed them from very different perspectives.

As we follow the historical path of the Yeshua Movement from first century Judea to the founding of the United States of America please view the events through the eyes of all of those that were involved. Pay close attention to the interactions between Christians, Jews and Muslims, because the current events we are witnessing today are just the latest in a long history. Pay close attention to the dates that will be in bold and are all CE (AD) unless specified. We will begin this part of our journey about 40 years after the last books of the New Testament were originally written.

**The first list of approved list of Christian books was created by a man named Marcion about 140.** He was **a wealthy ship owner** who moved to Rome in **138**. Upon his arrival **he made a very large donation to the Church** -- and soon was appointed to the position of being a church leader.

<b>Marcion's Beliefs</b>
(1) Jewish Scriptures have neither relevance nor authority for Christians.
(2) The original apostles corrupted Jesus's teaching.
(3) The gods of the Jews and Church are different gods and completely independent of each other.
(4) The Jewish God is not the Father of whom Jesus spoke.
(5) The Father, the good and merciful God, was unknown until Jesus revealed him to mankind.
(6) The Jewish God is an inferior deity.
(7) Jesus could not have been flesh, because the evil material world was created by the Jewish God.
(8) The role of Jesus was to liberate Christians from the power of the Jewish God.

Marcion's beliefs will have a strong influence on Gentile Christianity. He referred to his collection as **The Gospel of Christ and the Apostle**. *The Gospel* was similar to the *Gospel of Luke*, but Marcion's was shorter and he did not attribute it to Luke. Compare the opening verses of both Gospels.

<b>Marcion's Gospel</b>	<b>The Gospel of Luke</b>
<i>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar - when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Philip tetrarch of Abilene. Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people.</i>	<i>Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word. It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that you might know the certainty of those things, wherein you have been instructed.</i>

The opening words of Marcion's *Gospel* are found in **Luke 3:1** and **4:31**. The verses before and between them, however, are not -- **Luke 1:1-2:52** and **Luke 3:2-4:30**. The missing verses contain some important events, i.e., the Virgin Birth. The obvious question is this -- **Did Marcion omit them or did later Christians add them?** Marcion's *Gospel* was followed by the *Epistles of Paul*, but the order is different from the modern New Testament: *Galatians, Corinthians, Romans, Thessalonians, Laodiceans (Ephesians), Colossians, Philippians and Philemon*. There were internal differences between the Pauline Epistles in Marcion's list the versions that appear today. For example, Marcion's *Romans* did not have the following sections: **1:19-2:1; 3:21-4:25; Chapters 9 through 11** (except for 10:1-4 & 11:33-36); and, **15:1-16:27**. Theologically, these are very significant.

How did Marcion's fellow Roman Christians react to his teachings and list of books? In **144** **they refunded his large donation and excommunicated him**. Marcion represented only one form of Christianity and there were other Christian leaders who also introduced new beliefs and lists of approved books. However, Marcion's new anti-Jewish beliefs found favor in a number of Christian communities. It must be noted that even though Marcion was excommunicated it didn't end of his form of Christianity. As a matter of fact, it continued to grow and expand beyond Rome.

**Irenaeus, the Bishop of Lyons** (France) produced an early version of the New Testament in **180**. He was also the first to develop an *Old Testament* and *New Testament* that were linked together. The books in his *New Testament* were (notice their order) *ó Mark, Luke, Matthew, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, James (?), 1 Peter, 1 John, Revelation of John, and the Shepherd of Hermas*. Did you notice that his New Testament contained four Gospels instead of one like Marcion's? I bet you will never be able to guess why he added three more?

"He (Irenaeus) noted a perfect correspondence between the four points on the world's compass and four principal winds and the fourfold Gospel intended for all the world. Further, he said that in Revelation 4:7 John records four living creatures that surround the throne of God. The conclusion, for Irenaeus at least, was that they directly relate to attributes of the four Gospels. The first is like a lion, corresponding to Mark (royal power); the second, a calf, to Luke (sacrificial and sacerdotal order); the third, with a human face, to Matthew (advent as a human being); and the fourth, an eagle, to John (gift of the Spirit)."

Even though Christians were divided by different beliefs, there was one thing that united them ó Roman persecutions. **Diocletian** decreed the death penalty for all Christians in **304** and **3,500 church leaders were executed, along with 750,000 Christians over a 10 years period**. Other cycles of persecution continued until **Emperor Constantine** had a vision in **312** at the Milvian Bridge. Contrary to popular belief, **Constantine did not make Christianity the official religion of the empire at that time**. That wouldn't happen until **Emperor Theodosius** in **380**. Constantine's program was one of **toleration only**, and **Constantine continued to support both Christianity and paganism**. In **314** the cross appeared on Constantine's coins, along with the figures of **Sol Invictus** and **Mars Conservator**. He raised his children as Christians and secured Christian clergy as personal advisors, but he also retained the title *pontifex maximus* (**chief priest of the state pagan cult**) until his death. Christianity thrived under Constantine, but the danger of renewed persecutions still remained a potential threat for the first decade. It was only when Constantine defeated **Emperor Licinius** in **323** that the state sponsored persecutions ended.

Once the external threats decreased other challenges arose from within Christianity. A major controversy erupted in Alexandria, Egypt between Bishop Alexander and a priest named Arius, which became known as the Arian Controversy. Arius held that if the Father begat the Son, the Son must have had a beginning. Therefore, there was a time when the Son did not exist and the Father and Son were not of the same substance. Bishop Alexander disagreed. Constantine became more agitated with both sides as the controversy grew, so he sent letters to Arius and Alexander hoping to persuade them to resolve their differences. When that didn't work he called for a Church Council to resolve the issue. This would be the first of many Church Councils.

The **Council of Nicea I** was held in **325** and had **318 bishops** in attendance. The bishops debated the issue at length without reaching a decision. The historian Eusebius records that it was the Emperor himself that provided the solution for the bishops when he declared that the Father and Son were "homousious" or "consubstantial," which meant they were "of one substance." *This would lay the foundation upon which the doctrine of the Trinity would later be constructed and it was based on the words of the Roman Emperor and not the Christian bishops.*

In **365** Hilary of Poitiers announced that the end of the world would take place later that year. The end didn't come, but that didn't seem to matter. His student, Saint Martin of Tours, was convinced that the end of the world would happen sometime before **400**. Predicting the end of the world would become a popular and familiar practice in Christian history. Watch for how many times this scenario appears with the same results.

The first New Testament to contain the same books as modern New Testaments appeared in **367**. It was the list created by the Alexandrian bishop Athanasius, a man who was also involved in the Arian Controversy. This list of books was not universally accepted by all Christians, nor would it be considered the final authority by the Roman Church. *The final authority was the Church councils.* Different emperors would also play a role too.

The Roman Empire was beginning to divide when Constantine became involved and it is believed that he was searching for a way to keep it together. Christians were located in almost every region of the Empire and could provide a network that could help accomplish his goal. The connection to the Emperor infused the Roman Church, and its leaders, with power and wealth. For the next half-century that power and wealth greatly increased, but things began to change when the Visigoths (a West German tribe) crossed the border in **378**. They fought the Roman army near the city of Adrianople, which the Visigoths totally annihilated.

The **Council of Constantinople I** was called in **381** and 186 bishops attended. Apollinaris taught that Christ was not true man and the Macedonians taught that the Holy Spirit was not God. The council condemned the teachings of both and ruled the Holy Spirit was the same substance as God and the Son. It also ruled that Christ was true man. Keep in mind that the teachings of Apollinaris and the Macedonians continued to be held by other Christians, especially in the East, despite the Roman or Western position.

Tensions between Christians of the East and West kept increasing until the Synod of Seleucia-Ctesiphon in **410** was called by leaders of the Persian Church. It voted to separate from the Roman Catholic Church and form a new independent church. Relations between Christian and Jews had not been good for centuries, but in 388 Bishop Callicinon increased the tension by ordering the first known burning of a synagogue by Christians.

In 410 the event that changed the political power base took place when the **Goths (an East Germanic tribe) sacked Rome**. The palaces and homes of the wealthy were stripped of their valuables. It was at this time, when the Empire was crumbling, that Christian beliefs underwent a dramatic change too. Around 420 **Augustine** introduced a new doctrine -- **Original Sin**, which would affect the doctrines that are held by most Christians today. His new doctrine taught that every person is a sinner from birth because of the sin of Adam and Eve. God had cursed them and through them all of their future descendants were born as sinners. **He taught that only way of salvation for that sin was through the Roman Church and participation in its ceremonies and rituals.**

**Pelagius**, a British monk, **disagreed with Augustine's total depravity of man Original Sin doctrine.** He argued that Augustine's doctrines were a form of **Manichaeism**, which held that flesh was in itself sinful and denied that Jesus was flesh. **Augustine had been a Manichaean before his conversion to Christianity.** Pelagius taught that **the human will was sufficient to live a sinless life, although God's grace assisted every good work.** The only thing Adam did was set a bad example, but Christ came and offered humanity a path to salvation through sacrifice and instruction of the will. Pelagianism was debated at the **Council of Diospolis** and condemned in 418 by the **Council of Carthage.**

The **Council of Ephesus** was called in 431 and 250 bishops attended. The teachings of **Nestorius** were in the spotlight. He taught **the distinctiveness of the human and divine natures of Jesus.** He also challenged the usage of the title *Theotokos* (Mother of God) for the mother of Jesus and **proposed that the title Christotokos (Mother of Christ) as a more accurate title.** The council voted against Nestorius and decreed that Mary was the *Theotokos*, the mother of God. It also declared **Christ is true God & true man with two natures (human & divine) joined in one person.**

600 bishops attended the **Council of Chalcedon** in 451, which was called to investigate **Eutyches**, who taught that **the humanity of Jesus Christ was absorbed by the divinity; Christ had only one nature, rather than two.** The council condemned his teachings and ruled that **Christ had two distinct natures and he was both true God and true man.** Keep in mind that **the debate over who Jesus was had been going for over 300 years by this point in time.** Clearly, the answers that were becoming Christian doctrine did not originate with Jesus or within his Jewish culture.

The Roman Empire was dealt a death blow when the **Vandals** (an East Germanic tribe) attacked and plundered Rome in 455. By 480 Christianity overall was splitting into three major institutions: (1) **Church of the West** (Rome and Byzantium - **Roman**); (2) **Church of the East** (Persia - **Nestorius**); and, (3) **Church of Africa** (Egypt and Ethiopia: **Eutyches**). Interestingly, I never heard anything about any of this or the other forms of Christianity at my church. As 500 approached **Hippolytus** and the Christian academic **Sextus Julius Africanus** predicted that **the Armageddon would take place** soon.

In 610 **Muhammad** began a new movement that would become **Islam**. Muhammad's teachings would be written in a book called the **Quran (Koran)** in 651. **Muhammad taught that Allah (God) had sent 124,000 prophets to mankind throughout history, of whom the major ones were Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad.** Islam quickly spread across Arabia, Palestine, and Syria; by 697 it controlled North Africa; by 711 Portugal; by 712 a Muslim state was established in India; by 715 Spain; and by 732 it was spreading into Europe. It wasn't until 772 that **East Germany** was reached by the **first Christians** through **Charlemagne**. In 780 Christians required the **forced baptism** of the Saxon race, which resulted in **4,500 executions in one day** and **the deportation of thousands.** **Christianity and Islam were now on a collision course.**

On Christmas day in **800 Charlemagne** was kneeling in prayer at St. Peter's Church in Rome. The pope walked up and placed the imperial crown on his head. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century the Emperor had come to the rescue of the Church and bestowed it with power. *By this act the pope showed the world that their roles were reversed and it was now the Church that was superior to the State.*

A new economic system was also emerging at this time as military threats increased ó *feudalism*. **Land was the chief form of wealth**. Kings were no longer able to protect their kingdoms against the invading barbarians, so each king divided his kingdom among his leading warriors. There was one condition ó **they had to provide military aid whenever called upon**. The warriors then divided their estates among lesser nobles, who in turn granted smaller sections of land to still lesser tenants, and so on down. Each person receiving land was also required to fulfill the obligations imposed on those above them. Feudalism also increased the wealth of the Church because land owners frequently donated portions of their land to churches or monasteries. **Ultimately, feudalism began the process of decentralizing power and wealth.**

Another wave of Jews settled in Germany around **850**. By **949** over **50% of all former Christian lands had been captured by Muslim armies**. **By 996 Muslims had destroyed over 3,000 churches in Syria and Egypt. Christians were forced to wear a 5-pound wooden cross around their necks.** **Caliph Hakkim of Egypt (1008) claimed to be divine and pressured all non-Moslems to convert. He forced Jews to wear a small "golden calf" around their necks. In 1010 he destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.** The French Christian historian **Raoul Glaber**, however, falsely accused the Jews of destroying the church, which resulted in Jews being expelled from French towns. **Jacob bar Yukutiel** was sent to petition the Pope for help, but a local bishop forced him to leave one of his sons behind as a hostage. **Jacob persuaded the Pope to send an envoy to the area with a papal order "not to kill, injure or rob Jews, nor to deprive them of their religion."**

With the approach of **1000** widespread fear and terror erupted and spread throughout Christianity **because of end of time predictions**. Multitudes journeyed to Jerusalem in **999** to await **Second Coming of Christ**, which they believed would take in 1000. *For the next 150 years there would be many similar pilgrimages to Holy Land by Christians who believed the end of world was drawing near.* The **body of Charlemagne was even disinterred on Pentecost in May 1000**. A legend had arisen that an emperor would rise from his sleep **to fight the Antichrist**. There was a terrible famine throughout Europe from **1005-1106**, which was interpreted as a sign of the nearness of **the end of the world**. **1003** was believed to be **the date Jesus would return** because it was supposed to be the 1000th anniversary of his death and resurrection. *The world didn't end and the Antichrist failed to appear again.*

Power struggles between the Eastern and the West reached a peak in **1054** with the event called the **Great Schism**. This led to an outright separation of the **Roman Catholic Church** (West) and the **Eastern Orthodox Church** (East). Sixteen years later the Turks captured Jerusalem (**1070**). The first degree-granting university in Europe, the **University of Bologna**, was established in **1088**. Knowledge was beginning to be disseminated to an growing number of people. The importance of this trend would not be understood for centuries.

The First Crusade was organized in **1096** to reclaim the Holy Land. 30,000 French and Italian crusaders invaded the Turk empire under the banner **öGod wills it.ö** *Three years later the same Christian Crusaders sacked and pillaged Jerusalem, killing 5,000 Jews.* Christians would now control the Holy Land until **1187**. But everyone wasn't happy with the Christians being in control.

**David Alroy of Persia** promised to lead the **Jews of Baghdad** to and take back Jerusalem from the Christians in **1160**. He declared that God told him that He would miraculously fly them to Jerusalem at night and they would defeat the Christians. When the designated night came, many Jews climbed on to their roofs and stood there waiting for the miracle to take place. They were still standing there as the sun rose. The fact that nothing happened didn't end Alroy's influence. Some of his followers organized themselves into a group called **Menahemites** and continued to live in the **Adzer Bedjan** area, until they eventually faded out of existence. In **1163 Benjamin of Tudela** visited **Baghdad** and found **40,000 Jews living there, along with 28 synagogues and 10 Torah academies.**

In **1147 Gerard of Poehlde** decided that the millennium had actually started in **306** during Constantine's reign. Thus, **the end of the world was expected in 1306.** It didn't end once again.

The **University of Paris** was founded in **1150**. By **1160** groups called the **Goliards** traveled throughout Europe singing songs, reciting poems and performing plays satirized the Church and exalted the delights of wine, love, and song. They mocked the Church, parodied the evangelical texts and sang the Mass of the God Bacchus. Their travels took them all over Europe, and they were best known in England, France and Germany. They continued to flourish until the early 14th century. Their performers were often clerics, but also included a number of lay people, both male and female. The **University of Oxford** was founded in **1167** when Henry II banned English students from attending the University of Paris.

The first sparks of the power of the future information age were beginning to flicker as a growing number of people gained access to a university education. In addition, new ideas were being spread by secular entertainers. Information that had been exclusively the property of the Church concerning its doctrines and the biblical texts began to be disbursed throughout the different communities. As people learned more the more questions they asked.

Peter Waldo began the **Waldense Scholarship** or **Waldensians** movement in Lyon in **1177**. He was a wealthy merchant who went through the streets giving his money away and preaching. He had to finally resort to begging for a living. Preaching required official permission, which he was unable to secure from the Bishop in Lyon. In **1179** he met Pope Alexander III and asked for permission, but the pope ordered him not to preach unless he had the permission of the local clergy. Waldo continued to preach and was declared as heretics because of his "contempt for ecclesiastical power." Waldo and his followers were excommunicated, but they developed a system whereby they would go from town to town and meet secretly with other Waldensians. They would **confess sins**, hold services and then move on to the next town in secret.

In **1179 John of Toledo** also predicted **the end of the world would happen in 1186.** **Joachim of Fiore** predicted that in **1190 the Antichrist was already in the world**, and that King Richard of England would defeat him. The Millennium was predicted to begin sometime before **1205**. In **1198 Pope Innocent III** computed **the date of the end of the world** would be **1284** by adding 666 years onto the date the Islam was founded. The power of making end time predictions was evident by how they created so much fear -- which also resulted in people running back to the Church for protection. *Many gave up their money and property to pay for that divine insurance.*

Master Amaury stirred up controversy at the University of Paris in **1204** when he taught that "all **Christians were members of the Christ and actually suffered the torture of the cross with him.**" *If Christ died for the sins of humanity why should Church members have to pay it a second time*

*through suffering, renunciation, contrition, guilt, penitence and submission to the Church?* He submitted his doctrine to the Pope for his approval, but received instead the pope's condemnation. His followers became known as the **Amaurians**. In **1205** they predicted that *within 5 years all men will be Spirituals, and each will be able to say "I am the Holy Spirit; the woes of Revelation would immediately follow."*

**20,000 Albigensian Christians massacred in 1208 as heretics by a papal order.** Albigensians or Cathars flourished in the 12th and 13th centuries, mainly in Italy and regions of southern France. They were dualists: they believed in both 'good' (spiritual) and 'evil' (material) realms, therefore they led ascetic lifestyles. **They acknowledged no sacraments, ate no meat, eggs, or cheese, and rejected the materiality of Jesus' birth, crucifixion, and death. They were openly against the Church's movement towards lavishness and grandeur in architecture and ceremony.** They preferred a simple, spiritual church.

Notice the explosion of universities that now took place. The **University of Palencia** was founded in **1208** in **Spain** and in **1209** scholars had to take refuge from hostile townsmen in Oxford by migrating to **Cambridge**, which marked the beginning of the **University of Cambridge**. King Henry III placed the University of Cambridge under his protection as early as **1231**. The **University of Salamanca** was founded in **1218** by **King Alfonso IX of Spain**. It was acknowledged in **1254** by **Pope Alexander IV** as being one of the four great Universities in the world, along with the universities of Oxford, Paris and Bologna.

In **1211** another papal order condemned the Waldensians as heretics and three years later over **80** were burned as heretics. The **Waldensians** were still very active and taught that **the Bible was the sole rule of life and faith; rejected the papacy, purgatory, indulgences, and the mass;** and laid great stress on the simplicity of the gospel. Their worship services consisted of Bible readings, the Lord's Prayer, and sermons, which they believed any Christian could preach. They also believed **all Christians were depositaries of the Holy Spirit. Their beliefs will show up over and over in the future of Christianity.**

**The Children's Crusade** took place in **1212** that destroyed **the lives of over 20,000 children**. It began when **a 12-year-old boy named Stephen announced that God had called him** to lead a band of children to the rescue of Christianity. **He said that God would cause the seas to dry up so they would walk on dry ground, like Moses did through the Red Sea, to enter the Holy Land.** Many adults believed him and allowed their children to go. When they reached the sea they waited for the waters to divide, and were bitterly disappointed when nothing happened. Two local merchants offered to provide ships to carry them free of charge to the Holy Land, which Stephen eagerly accepted. Seven ships carried the children aboard and eighteen years would pass before they were heard of again. ***Many died, while most of the others ended up as slaves in Egypt.***

The **University of Montpellier** was founded in **1220** in the south of **France**. The **University of Padua, Italy** was founded in **1222** when a large group of students and faculty left the **University of Bologna** seeking more academic freedom. The **University of Naples Federico II** was established in **1224** at **Naples, Italy** by the **emperor of the Holy Roman Empire Frederick II**. The formation of the **University of Toulouse** was imposed on **Count Raymond VII** as a part of the **Treaty of Paris** in **1229** ending the crusade against the **Albigensians**. As he was suspected of sympathizing with the heretics, Raymond VII had to finance the teaching of theology. **Bishop Foulques de Toulouse** was among the founders of the University.

**Pope Gregory IX** commissioned the **Inquisition** to identify and punish heretics in 1231 for Aragon, Germany, Austria, Lombardy, and Southern France. In 1239 **Emperor Frederick II** opposed papal authority and was not only **excommunicated** by the Church, but he was also declared to be the **Antichrist**. **Pope Innocent IV urged the inquisitors to use fire, irons and the rack to torture and kill.** By 1250 many preachers were warning their followers that **the coming of the Antichrist was imminent.** **This was the year that Cardinal Hugh de St Cher divided the Bible into its present chapters.**

Jews were driven from England in 1290 and from France in 1306. **All churches in Egypt were ordered closed or destroyed by the Islamic Mamluk dynasty in 1301.** **Mongols enslaved or killed 12,000 Nestorian Christians at Amid in 1317.** The worst outbreak of **bubonic plague** swept into Europe -- **75 million died** over 4 years. In Europe 33% of its 60 million inhabitants died; 98% were Christians. **Jews were accused of being responsible and one-million were massacred. They were expelled from Hungary over an eleven-year period. In Germany there would be 350 separate massacres that annihilated 210 Jewish communities.**

In 1309 the **pope moved his office from Rome to Avignon (near France).** The Italians demanded that the pope return to Rome, but the controversy continued for the next 100 years. In 1350 **Gerhard Groote** founded the **Brethren of the Common Life** in the Netherlands, with the goal of **reforming the Church by means of education.** Their schools would influence many future Church leaders.

In 1376 **John Wycliffe**, a professor at Oxford, began to criticize the clergy because **wealth and political power had so corrupted the Church leadership.** Wycliffe called the pope **the Antichrist** and taught that **the Bible, rather than the Church, should be the only rule of faith.** However, at that time **the Bible that was in general use was only written in Latin and could not be read by most people.** In order that Christians in England might be able to **read the Bible for themselves,** **Wycliffe translated it into the English language** in 1382. He also wrote many books.

Wycliffe's followers were known as the **Lollards** and they believed in the "Church of the Saved," the invisible "true Church" of Christ which was the "community of the faithful." It overlapped with, but was not the same as, the visible Roman Catholic Church. They believed in predestination and **advocated apostolic poverty and taxation of Church properties.** They also believed in a lay priesthood that challenged the Church's ability to invest or deny the divine authority to make a man a priest. They **denied any special authority to the priesthood** and said that **confession was unnecessary** since a priest did not have any special power to forgive sins. They **challenged the practice of clerical celibacy** and believed **priests should not hold political positions** (interfere with spiritual mission).

The controversy over the office of the pope continued and in 1378 **the Italians and the French each elected their own pope.** At that time Christianity had two popes and **each pope immediately excommunicated the other.** **In 1400 the Inquisition focused on witchcraft and burned at least 30,000 people from 1400 to 1550. People clearly understood the potential consequences of upsetting Church leaders or challenging its teachings.** In 1409 a council was called in **Pisa** to resolve the having two popes. The Council deposed both and elected **Alexander V** as the new pope. The two other popes, however, refused to give up their office. **The Roman Catholic Church now had three popes.** So, another council was called in 1417 (**Council of Constantine**) and elected an Italian cardinal pope -- **Martin V.** The other three popes, for unknown reasons, resigned.

One of the most important technological advances was achieved in 1438 when **Johannes Gutenberg** invented the **printing press** at Mainz, Germany. **The total number of books that existed in Europe before that date is estimated at about 50,000, all of which were handwritten. Just over 50 years later 10 million books had been printed.** In 1445 Gutenberg printed 150 copies of the Bible, but **over the next 60 years, printers in central Europe will produce 70,000 Bibles in 15 languages, plus an additional 100,000 New Testaments and 120,000 Psalters.**

**John of Wessel**, a professor in the **University of Erfurt in Germany** from 1445 to 1456 taught that "He who thinks to be justified through his own works does not know what it is to be saved," and that "the elect are saved by grace alone." He wrote, "Whom God wishes to save He would save by giving him grace. . ." He rejected the Roman Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation (the bread and wine of the Eucharist turns into the actual body and blood of Christ). **Wessel also attacked the indulgences being sold by the pope.**

**The Church taught there are four sacraments which dealt with the forgiveness, removal of sin, and the cancellation of punishment.** These are *baptism, the Eucharist, penance, and anointment of the sick.* **The Church modified the sacrament of penance by allowing a person to substitute the payment of a sum of money to satisfy that requirement.** When the payment was made the person was given a document called an **indulgence**. Church members could buy indulgences for themselves, as well as indulgences for relatives and friends who were believed to already be in purgatory. **Indulgencies would shorten the time in purgatory.** In 1452 the pope made the decision to build **St Peter's basilica in Rome**, which required a great deal of money. A way to raise the money was by the sale of indulgencies.

In 1492 **Christopher Columbus** sailed from Spain and discovered the "New World." **The same year 180,000 Jews would be expelled from Spain and 350,000 others would be forced to convert to Christianity. They remained in Spain and would be known as the Marranos. 12,000 would be burnt as heretics by Inquisition.** In 1497 **all 200,000 Jews in Portugal (20% of population) were forced to either accept Christianity as Marranos or be deported.** There were **mass forced baptisms of Muslims** in 1499.

As the year 1500 approached predictions that the "end of the world" was about to take place increased. Many claimed to know the exact date that the event would take place. ***Christopher Columbus even predicted that in 155 years all of mankind would be converted to Christianity and that in 1656 the world would come to an end.***

In 1505 **Martin Luther** graduated from the **University of Erfurt in Germany** with a Masters Degree. It was the same university where **John Wessel** had taught fifty years earlier. Luther later wrote, "If I had read the works of Wessel beforehand, it might well have seemed that I derived all my ideas from him." Luther was ordained a priest in 1507 and one year later became a tutor at the same university at the age of 25.

**Professor Jacques Lefevre** (Paris) published a Latin translation and commentary on the epistles of Paul (1512). He wrote that it was **God who saves "by grace alone."** He denied that good works can earn one's salvation. **This was the first record of this belief being taught.**

During this period Luther began to speak out against abuses of the Church, specifically the **papal campaign to sell indulgences** by **John Tetzel**. **Tetzel painted mental images in lurid colors of the**

**terrors of purgatory, while he stressed the cheapness of the indulgence that would provide divine protection.** Tetzel's price began high, but would drop as he came closer to the end of each presentation. He created a jingle that became famous: *“As soon as the gold in the casket rings; the rescued soul to heaven springs.”*

On **October 31, 1517 Martin Luther** nailed his **95 Theses** to the door of the **Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.** I don't think Luther had any intention of creating a new religion when he nailed the document to the church door.

82. To wit: -- "Why does not the pope empty purgatory, for the sake of holy love and of the dire need of the souls that are there, if he redeems an infinite number of souls for the sake of miserable money with which to build a Church? The former reasons would be most just; the latter is most trivial."

83. Again: -- "Why are mortuary and anniversary masses for the dead continued, and why does he not return or permit the withdrawal of the endowments founded on their behalf, since it is wrong to pray for the redeemed?"

84. Again: -- "What is this new piety of God and the pope, that for money they allow a man who is impious and their enemy to buy out of purgatory the pious soul of a friend of God, and do not rather, because of that pious and beloved soul's own need, free it for pure love's sake?"

85. Again: -- "Why are the penitential canons long since in actual fact and through disuse abrogated and dead, now satisfied by the granting of indulgences, as though they were still alive and in force?"

86. Again: -- "Why does not the pope, whose wealth is to-day greater than the riches of the richest, build just this one church of St. Peter with his own money, rather than with the money of poor believers?" (<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/web/ninetyfive.html>)

Luther's accusations were refuted in writing by **Tetzel, Mazzolini, and John Eck.** Luther published his responses in return. In **July, 1518** the **pope issued a summons for Luther to appear before him in Rome.** *If Luther had gone it would have meant his certain death, probably by burning.* But a very powerful friend of Luther's, the **Elector Frederick,** used his influence to have the papal summons canceled. On **July 4, 1519** Luther and Eck faced each other in a debate. Eck out-maneuvered Luther and got him to say that some of the teachings of Hus had unjustly been condemned by the Council of Constance. *Luther condemned himself by openly taking the side of a man officially condemned by the Church as a heretic.*

On **June 15, 1520** Luther was **excommunicated.** The bull condemned as Luther's writings as heretical or scandalous, or false or offensive to pious ears, or **seducing to simple minds,** and standing in the way of the Catholic faith. **It called upon all faithful people to burn Luther's books and forbid Luther to preach.** Luther and his followers were ordered to recant publicly within sixty days. It also ordered the government to seize and imprison Luther and everyone who followed him. Luther responded by publishing **Against the Execrable Bull of the Antichrist.** He **declared that every pope that had ever held the office was an Antichrist.** Luther also **predicted the return of Christ would take place in 1558.** **Luther called a meeting for December 10, 1520 to burn the pope's writings, the books of Church Canon Law and his bull of his excommunication.**

**Pope Leo** appealed to **Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor**, to either bring Luther into obedience or to the stake. Charles V. issued a summons for Luther to appear at a council in the city of Worms, Germany. On **April 17, 1521** Luther appeared before the council. On **May 25, 1521** the **Edict of Worms** was issued which condemned Martin Luther and declared him to be an outlaw and a heretic. The intervention of his powerful German political friends once again provided Luther a safe haven at Wartburg Castle. While Luther was there (**May 2, 1521 until March 3, 1522**) he translated the New Testament into the German language. 3,000 copies were printed and sold out in 3 months at 1 1/2 guilders each (\$50). On **June 13, 1525** Luther married **Catherine von Bora**, a **former nun**. Soon after many priests, monks and nuns followed his example and were married.

*Luther's excommunication not only placed him outside the Church, but **he was also outside of the Church's salvation**. **Luther's search for a new way of salvation led to the establishment of a completely new religion**. Luther did, however, borrow many beliefs from the Church that had excommunicated him and incorporated them in his new belief system, which included the **Five Solas**. The Latin word *sola* means "alone" or "only" in English. The **Five Solas** articulated five new fundamental authority-based truths, which became the pillars of the **Protestant Reformation** ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five\\_solas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_solas)). I am sure that they will be very familiar to those with a Protestant biblical heritage.*

(1) ***Sola scriptura*** (**"by Scripture alone"**) -- The Bible is the only inspired and authoritative word of God; the only source for Christian doctrine; and, it is accessible to all. The Bible requires no interpretation outside of itself. The Roman Catholic Church held that the Bible could only be authentically interpreted by Apostolic Tradition, i.e., through the pope and bishops.

(2) ***Sola fide*** (**"by faith alone"**) ó Justification, being declared right by God and saved, is received by faith alone, without any mixture of or need for good works. Catholic theology taught that Justification is applied to the soul in the Sacrament of Baptism. In Baptism, even of infants, the grace of Justification and Sanctification is "infused" into the soul, making the recipient Justified even before he has exercised his own faith. Faith was not a prerequisite for Justification.

(3) ***Sola gratia*** (**"by grace alone"**) -- Salvation comes by God's grace or "unmerited favor" only ó not as something merited by the sinner. **Salvation is an unearned gift from God** for Jesus' sake.

(4) ***Solus Christus*** (**"through Christ alone"**) -- Christ is the only mediator between God and man, and that there is salvation through no other. This principle rejects "sacerdotalism," which is the belief that there are no sacraments in the church without the services of priests. Luther taught the "general priesthood of the baptized," which later became "the priesthood of all believers."

(5) ***Soli Deo gloria*** (**"glory to God alone"**) -- Salvation is accomplished solely through His will and action ó not only the gift of the all-sufficient atonement of Jesus on the cross, but by the Holy Spirit in the heart of the believer.

**Luther's new belief system spread rapidly along with his new translation of the Bible.** Since the Bible was the ultimate authority, and individuals now had the power to interpret it for themselves, the demand for copies of the Bible skyrocketed. Under Luther's religion, the common man not only could study the Bible in his native language, but the Holy Spirit would also reveal the true meanings directly to him. It became a very popular belief system. But then something began to take place that Luther

probably never anticipated *ó people began to preach things that they claimed the Holy Spirit revealed to them, but they were in disagreement with what Luther said the Holy Spirit had revealed to him!*

**Ulrich Zwingli** agreed with Luther on his stance against indulgences in Switzerland (1518). Soon after arriving in Zurich he began to enact reforms and in 1520 convinced the city council to forbid all church practices that were not founded on Scripture. Zwingli established the practice of disputations in order to determine whether or not certain practices were *öScriptural.ö* The town outlawed indulgences, adoration of saints, and image-worship, and other practices. He introduced reformation ideas throughout Switzerland. He taught that nothing should be believed or practiced that is not in the Bible. Keep in mind that this was a fairly new belief. Zwingli disagreed with Luther about the Eucharist and would also later persecute Anabaptists. In 1523 an ex-Roman Catholic priest named **Conrad Grebel** established the Anabaptists Movement in Zurich. The Anabaptists denied the need for infant baptism and taught that only an adult could make the required profession of faith, which was a prerequisite for baptism.

The teaching of millennialism spread through the new Protestant groups like a wild fire. A group of astrologers announced that the end of world would begin with the destruction of London on February 1, 1524. Over 20,000 people gathered outside the city on high ground to wait. In 1526 Turks, under sultan **Suleiman I,** slaughtered 200,000 and enslaved 100,000 Hungarian Protestants. In 1527 German bookbinder **Hans Nut** declared himself to be a prophet, and proclaimed that Christ would return in 1528, which would be followed by 1,000 years of free food, love, sex. Anabaptist leader **Melchior Hofmann** predicted the imminent end of world and the beginning of the Millennium in 1533. He declared that Strasbourg would become the New Jerusalem. His followers sold all of their possessions and followed him.

**Henry VIII, the King of England,** applied to the pope for a divorce from his wife, **Catherine,** because he wanted to marry **Anne Boleyn.** The pope allowed a great deal of time to pass without giving his permission. So, in 1534 the king had the Parliament pass a law which decreed that the king öjustly and rightfully is and ought to be the supreme head of the Church of England.ö The Church of England kept all of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, but without the pope. The law was called the *Act of Supremacy.* He appointed the new leadership and quickly received his divorce. Many people did not support this, so Henry passed another law *ó Law of Treason and Heresy.* It stated that to hold any doctrines other than those of the Catholic Church was heresy, and to refuse to acknowledge the king as head of the Church of England was treason.

**Mary** became the Queen of England in 1553 and repealed Henry VIII's laws. England was again under the pope's control. New persecutions of Protestants began and many fled to the Netherlands and other places in Europe. Mary continued the persecutions until the day of her death on **November 17, 1558.** She had 300 people burned, which earned her the name **Bloody Mary.** She was succeeded by her sister **Queen Elizabeth.** Against strong opposition in Parliament, she passed a new *Supremacy Act* on April 29, 1559. *A pope would never be over the Church of England again.*

In 1536 **John Calvin** published his *Institutes of the Christian Religion,* which launched his movement in Geneva. About a year later **Menno Simons** was asked to become an elder of the **Anabaptist** movement. He taught the need of the adult baptism (rebaptism) and introduced a non-resistance, symbolic Eucharist. He was the founder of the Anabaptists Mennonites.

Luther and Calvin became two of the most powerful Protestant leaders, but they did not agree on important beliefs. They **both agreed on the doctrine of predestination**, that **God had from eternity chosen those who are to inherit eternal life**. **They differed on the matter of form of worship**. Luther retained as much as possible of the form of worship of the Roman Church. Calvin permitted only what was expressly found in the Bible. **They also differed on the form of church government**. Luther allowed the State a great deal of power over the Church, while Calvin denied to the State any power over the Church. **Both believed that everyone had the right and duty to read and study the Bible for himself**. **Both were convinced that the members of the Church should be thoroughly grounded in doctrine**.

**Calvin differed from both Luther and Zwingli in the doctrine of the Lord's Supper**. **Luther taught that the bodily presence of Christ** was in the bread and wine like the Roman Catholic Church. **Zwingli denied the bodily presence of Christ** and that it was a mere memorial ceremony. **Calvin taught Christ is spiritually present** in the bread and wine. **Both Luther and Calvin believed in salvation by faith alone**, but for Luther it was the doctrine upon which the Church stands or falls. Calvin, on the other hand, believed the doctrine of predestination was the most important.

Polish astronomer **Nicolaus Copernicus** completed *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres* in 1540, which challenged the established Ptolemaic geocentric system of astronomy of the Roman Church. **Copernicus taught that the earth rotated around sun and was not the center of the universe, which contradicted the teachings of the Church**. In 1545 the Roman Church held the **Council of Trent**, which lasted from 1545 to 1563 with from 70 to 252 bishops in attendance. **Its purpose was to address "Martin Luther; Revolt against the Pope; and widespread heresies."** It produced what became known as the **Catholic Reformation**.

In 1550 Swiss Reformed bishop **J.H. Bullinger** believed he had interpreted the numerology of the Book of Revelation and **declared that the world would end in 1666**. This was also the time that **capitalism** was introduced and began to replace feudalism. The impact of capitalism would transform the economic beliefs of the West. As more effective ways to raise food slowly started to release workers and money for other economic pursuits. Capital is money destined for a particular use, which is specifically to gain more money. Wealthy investors funded projects that had the sole purpose of increasing their wealth. Explorers traversed the globe in search of natural resources that could be acquired and controlled by their benefactors.

**Servetus**, a Spanish physician, published a book **attacking the doctrine of the Trinity**. **He was arrested in Geneva, tried, found guilty and burned to death on October 27, 1553**. **Pope Paul IV ordered all Catholics "NOT to read the Bible in their common languages" without special authorization in 1559**. One year later the **Puritan Movement** began in England.

In 1581 **Robert Browne** began to spread Congregational beliefs in England: (1) **each local church is self-governing; each chooses its own pastor, teacher, elders, and deacons; churches have no authority over each other**, but it is their privilege and duty to help each other. They became known as **Separatists** and in 1592 a **Congregational Church** was organized in London. **In the spring of the following year, two of its founders Henry Barrowe and John Greenwood, were arrested, tried and hanged**.

Around 1607 **John Smyth**, along with his **Congregational Church of Gainsborough**, sought refuge in Amsterdam. They became acquainted with the **Menonites** and **adopted their teachings about**

**adult baptism.** A portion of the church returned to England in 1611 or 1612 and **established the first permanent Baptist Church in England.** In the Netherlands the Baptists also had been influenced by Arminianism, which rejected the doctrine of election. The Baptists who adopted Arminianism were called **General Baptists.** In 1633 there would be a conflict over those beliefs and a group split off and formed a new church called **Particular Baptists.** It is very important to keep in mind that **with the formation of every new religious organization a new source for authority-based truths emerged.** **New “truths” would be the result of the decisions of small groups or just a single individual.** With the increase of Protestant believers new forms of Christianity sprung up in increasing numbers from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century -- and the process hasn't slowed down since.

In 1603 **James I** succeeded **Elizabeth** upon the throne of England. In **June of 1606** he granted a charter to a group of London entrepreneurs, the **Virginia Company**, to establish a satellite English settlement in the Chesapeake region of **North America.** On **May 14, 1607**, Virginia Company explorers landed on **Jamestown Island** to establish the Virginia English colony on the banks of the James River. Their instructions were **to settle Virginia, find gold and seek a water route to the East.** They also established the first Protestant church in America at Jamestown. In 1611 the **King James Bible (Authorized Version)** was published. **Lord Baltimore** with 300 Irish Catholics founded **Maryland** for Roman Catholic settlers in North America in 1632. **Roger Williams** founded **the first Baptist church at Providence, Rhode Island in 1639.**

**Francis Bacon** wrote *The New Organon* in 1620 -- **“There are and can be only two ways of searching into and discovering truth.** The one flies from the senses and particulars to the most general axioms, and from these principles, the truth of which it takes for settled and immovable, proceeds to judgment and middle axioms. And this way is now in fashion. **The other derives axioms from the senses and particulars, rising by a gradual and unbroken ascent, so that it arrives at the most general axioms last of all. This is the true way, but as yet untried** (Aphorism 19).  
(<http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/ideas/bacon.html>)

In 1648 **100,000 Jews were murdered** by Christians in Poland. The **Quaker Act in Britain** in 1662 led to the **imprisonment of 15,000 Quakers**, of which 500 died there. The **Edict of Nantes** was revoked by **Louis XIV** in 1685 and **58,000 Huguenots were forced to convert and 400,000 fled from France** to England, South Africa and elsewhere. In 1688 **Aurangzeb demolished 1,000 temples of Mathura and Muslim rulers destroyed a total of 60,000 Hindu temples in India and constructed mosques on 3,000 of the sites.** A division occurred in the congregations of the **Swiss Brethren** in 1693. **Jacob Ammann** felt that the **shunning of excommunicated members** was a biblical command. Others felt that this applied just to the Lord's Supper. Ammann's group became the Amish. 1694 would be the year that **the earliest known printing of the Quran in Arabic.** French thinkers would launch the **Enlightenment Movement** in 1699. It would become a widespread intellectual movement promoting rationalism.

In 1619 the **first Negro slaves arrived in North America** (Virginia) by ship. A year later Bohemia was forcibly made Roman Catholic by Austrian armies and **30,000 Protestants were expelled**, while others were massacred. **West African slave trade accelerated and 5,500,000 slaves would be sold by the year 1800. A grand total of 9,500,000 Africans would be captured and then transported to the Americas where they would be sold as slaves.**

Take a moment to think about everything that had happened in the first 1,500 years of Church history, even before the United States became a nation. How many people had lost their lives, been imprisoned, or forced to leave their home and lost their property in the name of God? **BHC**



## Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Matters of belief & faith are important factors in the quality of life we lead, because they affect the religious, political and social environments in which we live. They influence how we relate to other people by creating the moral and value systems we hold. The Bible and the heritages linked to it are held by over 2,000,000,000 people today. It is extremely important that they have factual information about the critical components of the Belief Systems that influence many of their daily decisions and create the realities through which they view life.

One of our most important missions is to raise the awareness of the power biblical heritages play in Belief Systems by providing factual information so people are able to accurately understand the origins and historical development of the biblical heritages over the centuries. Incorrect information leads to bad and harmful decisions.

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