



1ST THINGS 1ST

- The Bible tells a **SINGLE** Story with JESUS at the Center.

1ST THINGS 1ST

- All the promises to Israel are fulfilled IN CHRIST.
- The New Covenant Church does not replace Israel.

1ST THINGS 1ST

- Being IN CHRIST, the New Testament Church benefits from the fulfilled promises [i.e. person and work of Jesus Christ].

Old Testament	New Testament
39	27
Gen. – Mal.	Matt. – Rev.
Shadow	Substance
Seed Promise	Fulfillment
Blood Picture	Completion
	[Near / Far]
The Biblical Story	

Old Testament	New Testament
Israel	Church
Physical Promise	Physical Fulfillment
JESUS the Christ	

“GOD WITH US”

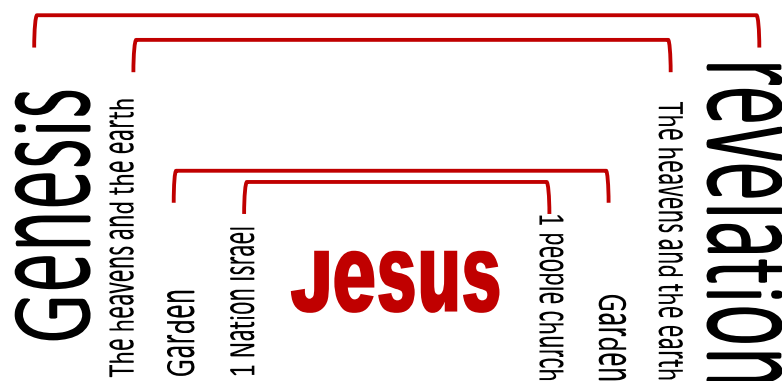
Immanuel (Matt. 1:23)

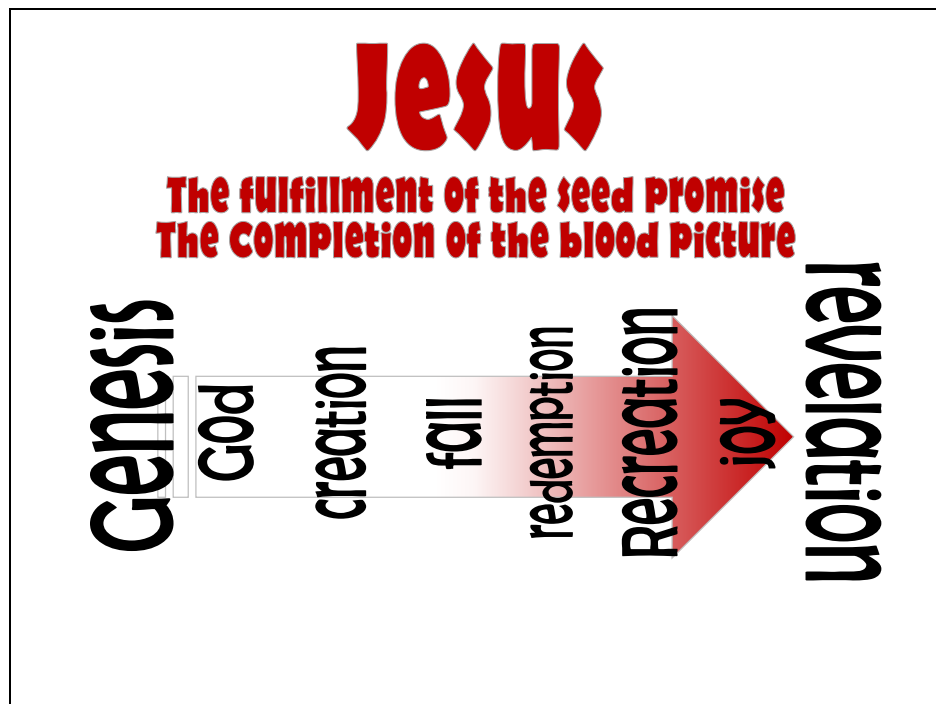
And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

THE META-NARRATIVE

- The Biblical Text – Luke 24:27, 44-48; Acts 17:2, 3; John 1:45; 5:39.
- Is there a center to the biblical *Story*?

The center piece of **HISTORY** is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.





THE META-NARRATIVE

- At its simplest, the word means “Big Story.” The meta-narrative of the Bible is the Story about God.

THE META-NARRATIVE

- The Bible tells one unfolding Story of redemption against the backdrop of creation and humanity's fall into sin.

THE META-NARRATIVE

- As Tom Wright has put it, “the divine drama told in Scripture offers a Story which is the Story of the whole world. It is public truth.”

THE META-NARRATIVE

- Is there one Story that makes sense of all lesser stories?



THE META-NARRATIVE

- Today's modern thinker does not believe in the biblical **Story** and rejects it as absolute.



READING THE BIBLE AS ONE STORY IN SIX ACTS

1. God
2. Creation
3. Rejection / Fall
4. Redemption
5. Re-Creation / Restoration
6. Joy through Worship

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

- In the **beginning**, **God acted** and through this act, He created a **Garden** where He would **meet** with His people for their **joy**. This Garden would display His glory.

I WILL DWELL

- The idea of God dwelling with His people is **relational**. It is more than mere theory or abstraction. He is their God and they are His people.

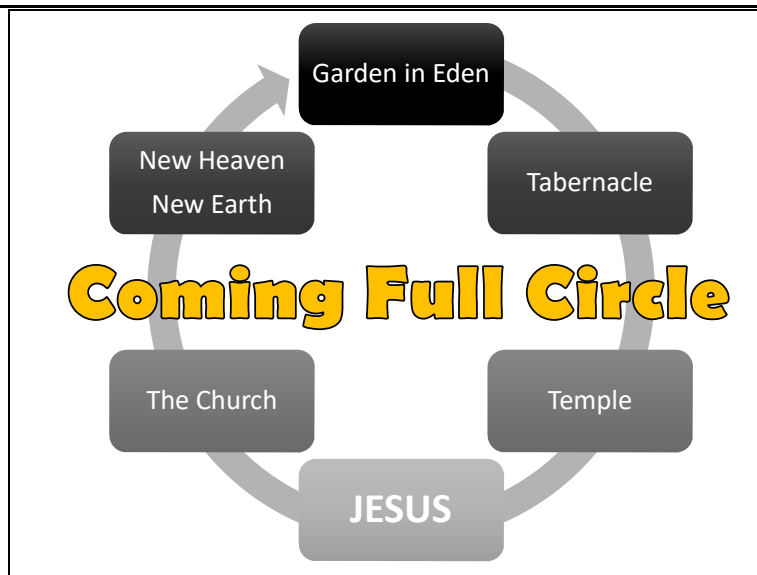
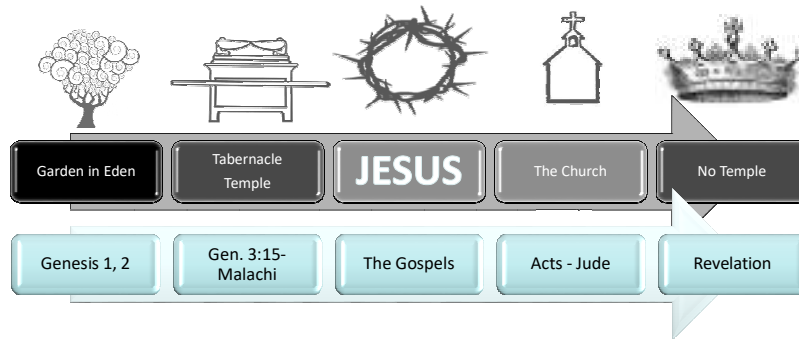
FOR THEIR JOY

- This is His desire and this is His design.

THE PROBLEM WITH SIN

- Sin robs us of joy. It gives “shadow” joy, but such joy falls short of such statements as those found in Psalm 16:11.

The whole of the biblical *Story* expands on, explains, and explores the why of Creation.



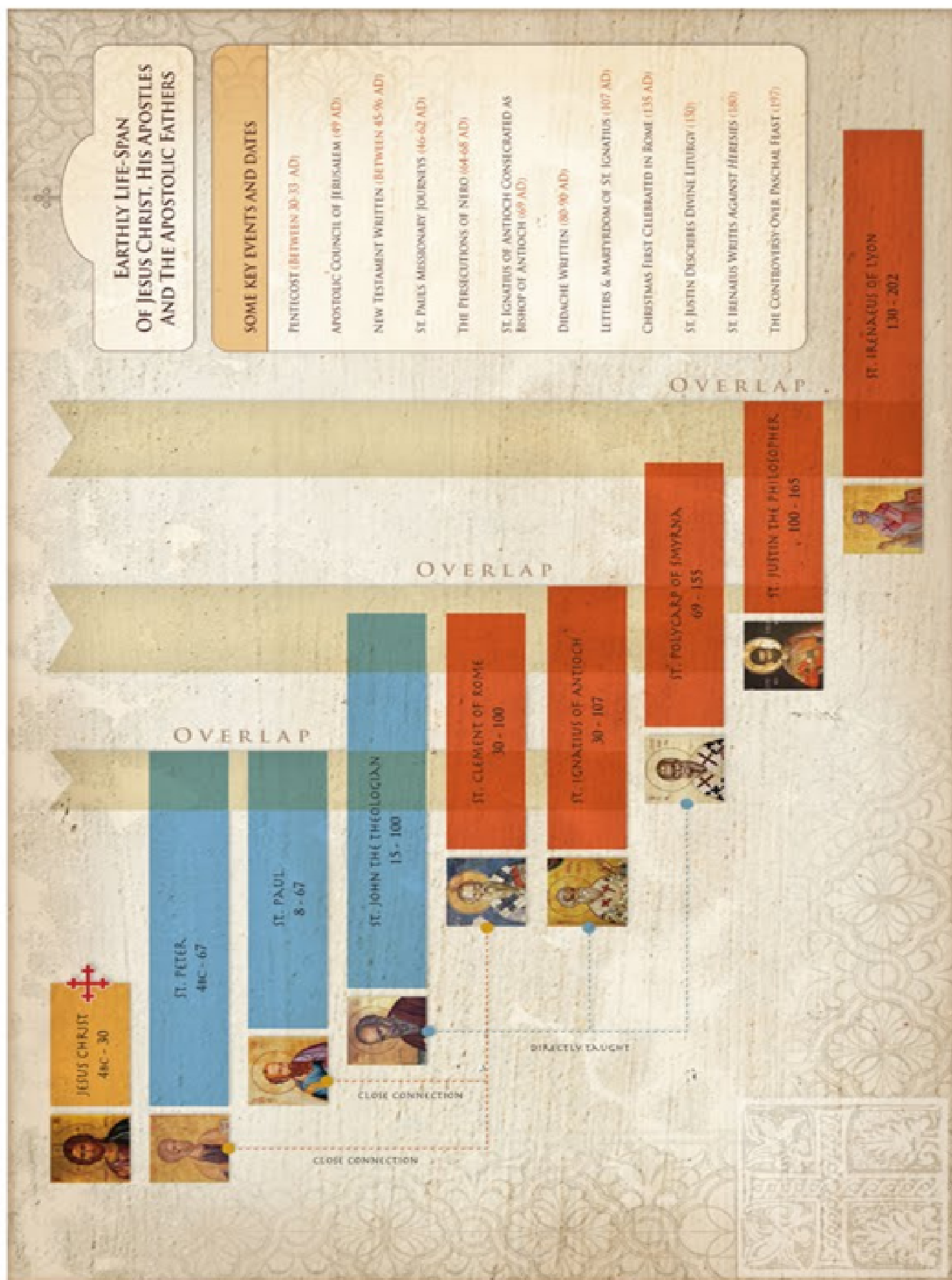
CHRIST... IS

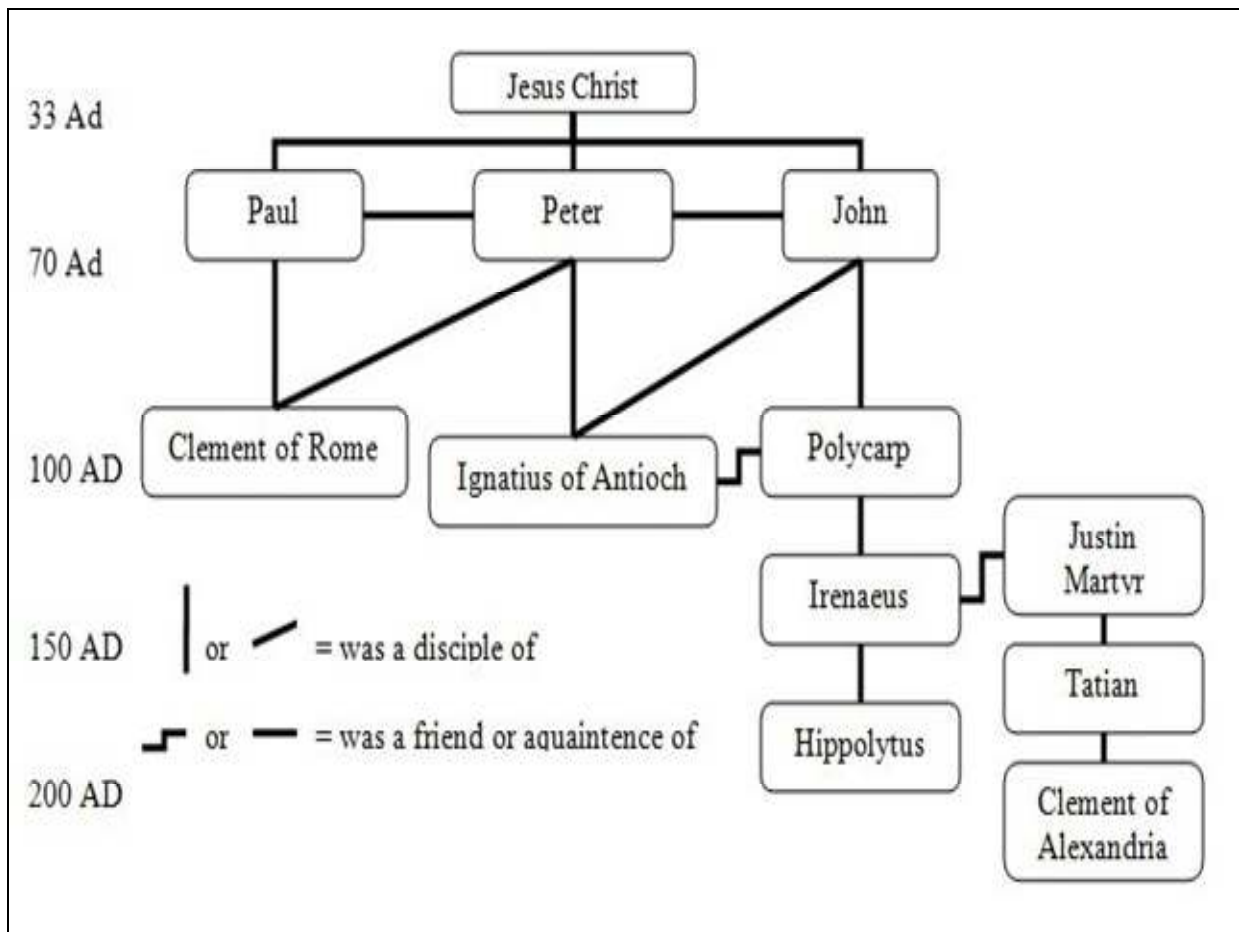
- "Christianity is the system of religious truth based upon the belief that Jesus of Nazareth was the expected Messiah, or Christ, and that in him all the hopes and prophecies of Israel concerning the future have been fulfilled."
- <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/4366-christianity-in-its-relation-to-judaism>

HISTORY

- 1st Cent. NT Letters
- 2nd – 3rd Cent. Post-Apostles / Ante-Nicene Fathers
- 4th Cent. Nicene Fathers
- 5th Cent. Post-Nicene Fathers







When Giants Walked The Land



- Ambrose 340-397, Bishop of Milan Italy
- Athanasius 296-373 Patriarch of Alexandria
- Augustine 354-430 Bishop of Hippo N. Africa
- Basil of Caesarea 330-379
- Gregory of Nazianzes 329-390 Bishop of Constantinople
- Gregory of Nyssa 335-397 Bishop in Cappadocia
- Jerome 340-420 Pannonia of Italy
- John Chrysostom 347-407 Archbishop of Constantinople
- Martin of Tours 316-397 Bishop of Tours Italy

NICENE

- The Nicene Era, named after the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, is very possibly the most important era of Christian history.

NICENE

- ... the events of the Nicene Era were **earth-shaking**, affecting not only Christianity but the history of the western world.

NICENE

- Constantine the Great was "converted" (in a sense) by his famous vision as he prepared for battle with Maxentius, his rival emperor in the west.

NICENE

- It would prove the end of Christianity as it was known before Nicea.

NICENE

- Though it encompasses only a short time period—from perhaps A.D. 303, the start of the Great Persecution, to A.D. 383, the decree of Theodotus I - ...

NICENE

- The Nicene Era begins with the Great Persecution in A.D. 303. It lasted until it was called off by Galerius in A.D. 311.

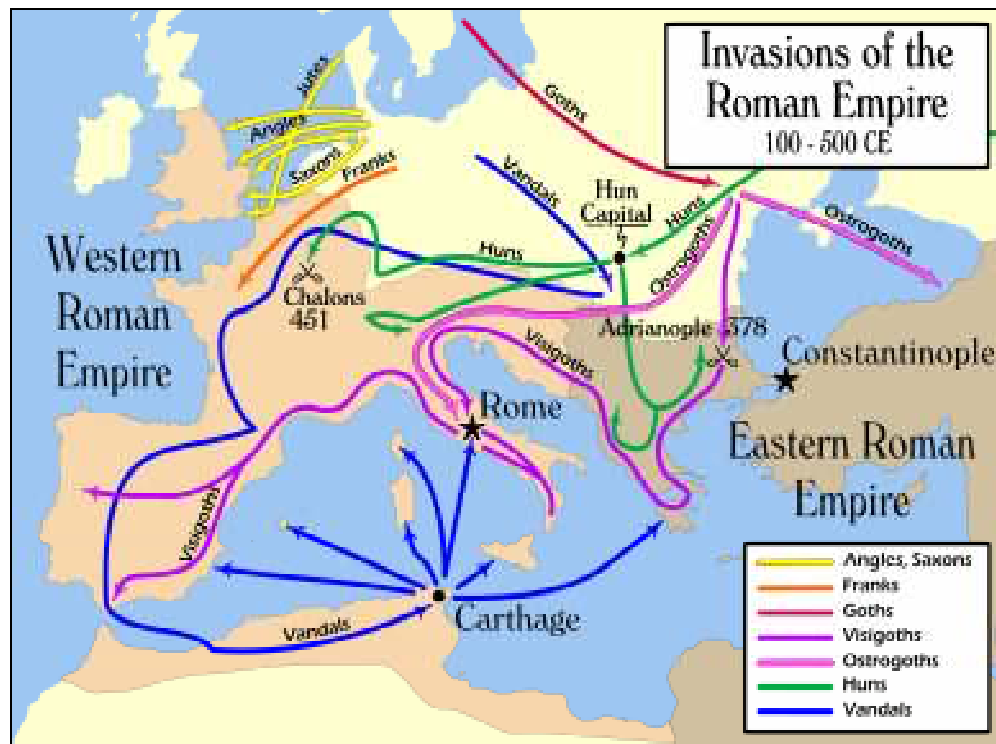
NICENE

- While Constantine would not count himself a Christian until his baptism on his deathbed in A.D. 337, he did grant Christianity a favor and an influence in government that it had never before experienced.



1st 7 Ecumenical Councils

1 st Nicaea	325
1 st Constantinople	381
Council Ephesus	431
Council Chalcedon	451
2 nd Constantinople	553
3 rd Constantinople	680-681
2 nd Nicaea	787



ROME

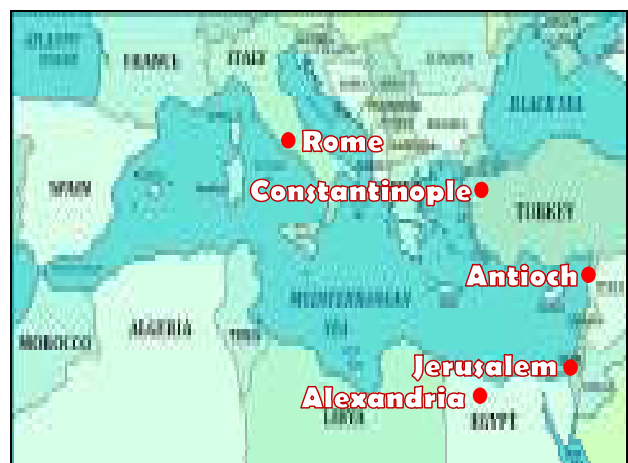
- The invading army reached the outskirts of Rome, which had been left totally undefended. In 410 C.E., the Visigoths, led by Alaric, breached the walls of Rome...

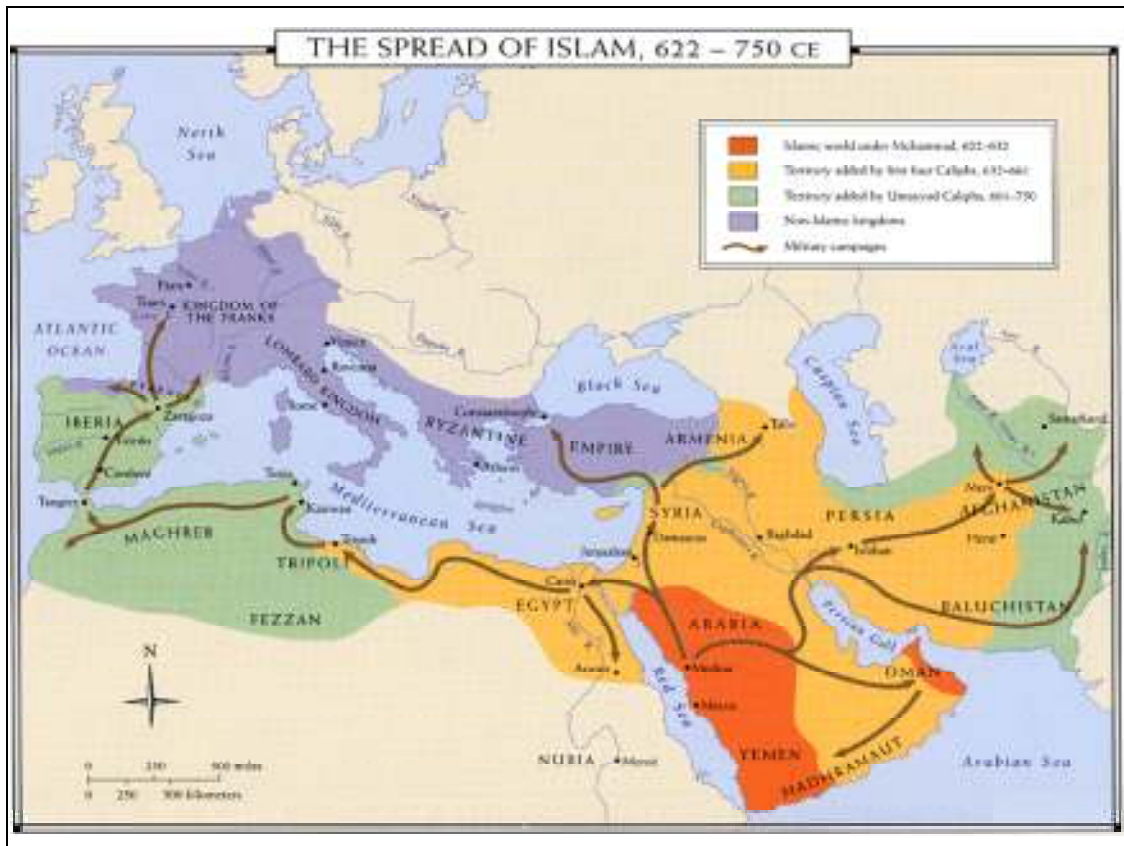
ROME

- ... and sacked the capital of the Roman Empire.
- In 476 C.E. Romulus, the last of the Roman emperors in the west, was overthrown by the Germanic leader Odoacer, ...

ROME

- ... who became the first Barbarian to rule in Rome. The order that the Roman Empire had brought to western Europe for 1000 years was no more.

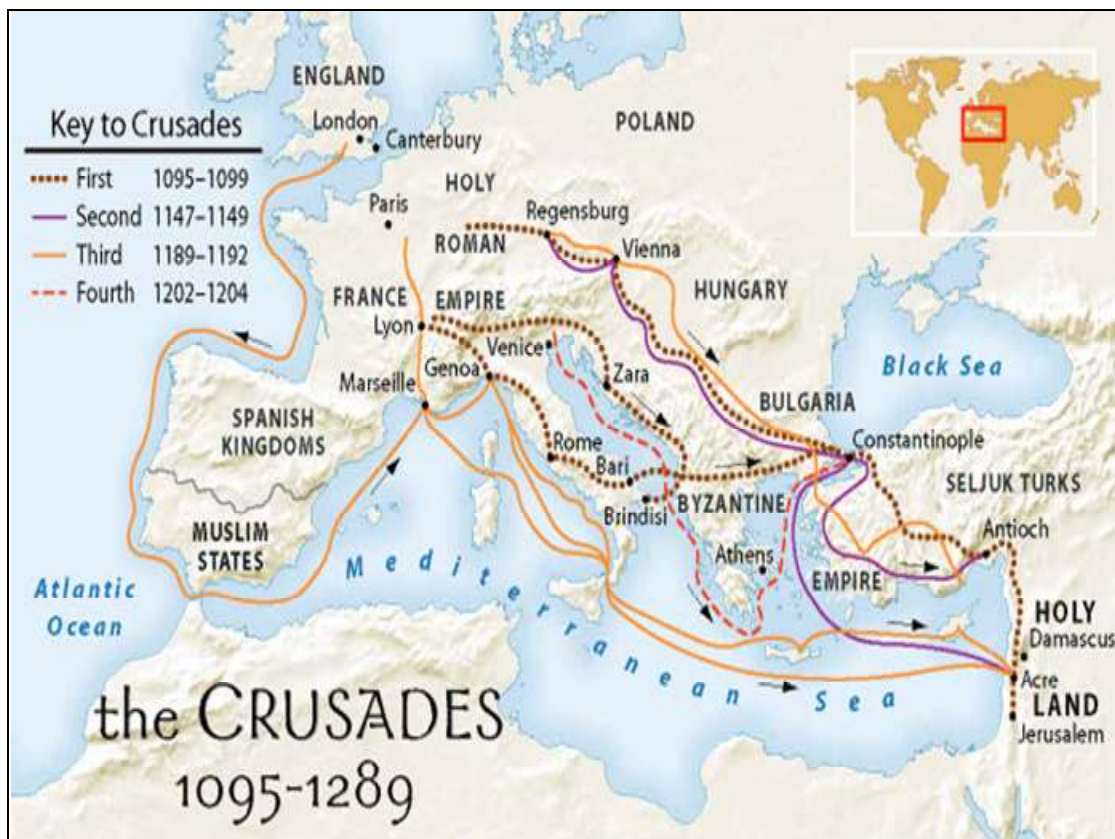




The Great Schism (East-West Schism)

- “Schism” = split
- The Great Schism, also called the East-West Schism, occurred in 1054 AD
- Resulted in a division between Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism





MID AGES

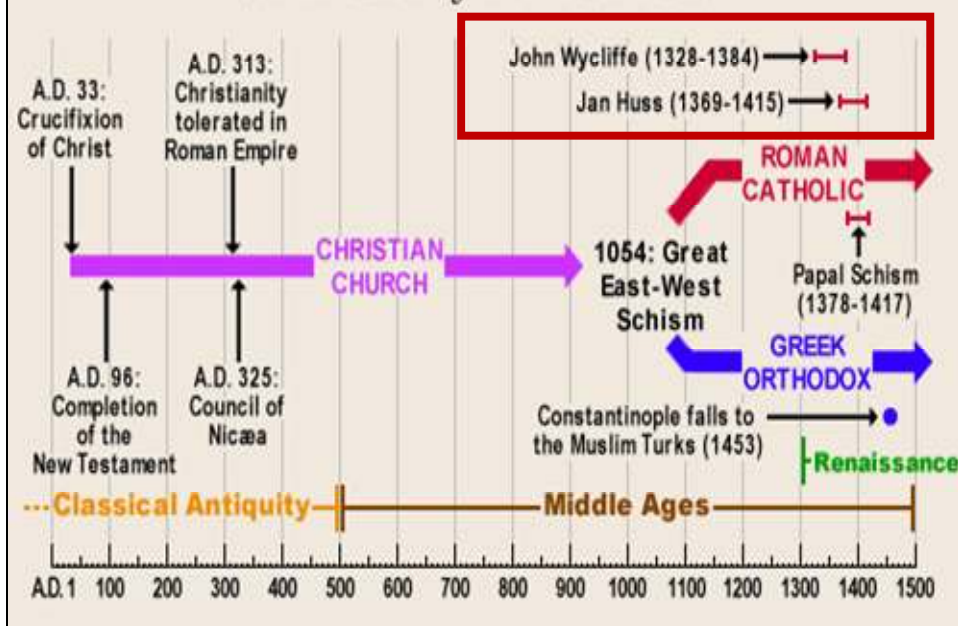
- “In general, the Middle Ages are defined by a lack of central government, decline of trade, population shift to rural areas, decrease in learning, and a rise in power of The Roman Catholic church.”

I What were the middle Ages?

- A) In 476 CE the Roman Empire fell in Western Europe. Without a centralized government, people fled from the cities to the country. Literacy and trade fell.
- B) Historians refer to the years between 476 CE and the **Renaissance** (the rebirth of Western Europe) as the **middle Ages**.
- C) However, at the same time that Western Europe was in the middle ages, the eastern half of the Roman Empire continued as the **Byzantine Empire**, and the Islamic world was experiencing a Golden Age.



Church History to the Year 1500



RISE OF REFORMERS		
EVENTS		REFORMERS
Babylonian Captivity of the Church 1309-1377	1300	
	1325	John Wycliffe c. 1324-1384
	1350	
Papal Schism 1378-1417	1375	John Hus 1373-1415
		Jerome of Prague 1379-1416
Council of Constance 1414-1418	1400	
	1425	
Hussite Wars 1419-1434		
Gutenberg's Printing Press 1450	1450	Savonarola 1452-1498
	1475	
Luther's 95 Theses 1517		Martin Luther 1483-1546
	1500	
	1525	
Diet of Worms 1521		

Protestant Denominations

