



# A History of Missions

1091 AD

GospelMap.com

- Christianity
- Byzantine Empire
- Islam



# Overview of Christianity

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Christianity "has now found a home in almost every country in the world. It has adherents among all the races of men, from the most sophisticated of westerners, to the Aborigines of the inhospitable deserts of Australia; and there is no religion of the world which has not yielded a certain number of converts to it. This is something that has never happened before in the history of the world." – Stephen Neil, *History of Christian Missions*.

As we seek to carry out the great commission, what can we do?

# Key Point 1: God is building his Church.

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Matthew 16:18

Jesus said: “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hades will not overcome it.”

Key Point 2: The Church is part of God's eternal plan.

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Key Point 3: God's ways are not our ways.

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Key Point:  
The Church  
does not  
grow...

- In a logical manner.
- Consistently, geographically or numerically.
- In a way that honors men.

## Key Point 4: – The Church is inexorable.

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“... the gates of Hell shall not stand against it.”

Each time the church encounters something, an empire, a movement, an idea, a culture, that should logically, in our eyes, destroy it, it conquers it, and comes out stronger, with a better view of God.



# Key Point: The Church grows...

- Despite opposition from titanic forces – empires, religions, philosophies.
- Unexpectedly, in weakness, and in odd ways.
- In spite of bad theology, bad motives, and bad methods.

# Key Point 5: We must understand missions as God's work.

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To get a proper understanding of missions is to understand the imperfect, misguided actions of Christians, combined with the wills of empires, philosophical forces, and culture movements, as all being used by God to build His church, not in the way that we think, but as a monument to His skill and ability.

Key Point 6: God is revealing Himself to us (the Church), through the growth of the Church.

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# 70-300 AD – Key Dates

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## Key Dates

- 30 AD – Death of Jesus Christ
- 33 AD – Death of Stephen
- 48 AD – Council of Jerusalem – Gentile Christians accepted into the Church.
- 67-68 AD – Paul and Peter martyred by Nero.
- 70 AD – Destruction of Jerusalem Temple – Center of Christianity moves to Antioch, Alexandria and Rome
- 90 AD – Book of Revelation written.
- 161-180 AD – Widespread persecution of Christians by Marcus Aurelius
- 249-251 AD – Persecution under Decius
- 284-305 – Persecution under Diocletian
- 301 – Armenia becomes first country to adopt Christianity as state religion
- 313 – Edict of Milan – Christianity is legalized by Constantine.

# 30-700 AD Christians – aka, the Yokels

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Who were the Christians in the first three centuries?

We don't really know.

Lower class men and women. One 2<sup>nd</sup> Century critic call them “wool-workers, cobblers, laundry-workers, and the most illiterate and bucolic yokels.”

- “On the surface, the early Christians appeared powerless and weak, they were an easy target for scorn and ridicule. They had no great financial resources, no buildings, no social status, no government approval, no respect from the educators. And after they became separated from their first-century association with the Jewish synagogues, they lacked institutional backing and an ancient tradition to appeal to.” Stephen Neil – A History of Christian Missions.

# 70-300 AD Churches

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Mainly home churches, organized around a central leader or a bishop in each city.

Focused on cities and population centers.

# 70-300 AD Opposing Forces

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## Roman Culture

- An ecumenical culture that allowed all religions. (Christianity was exclusive).
- A pagan culture where community was tied to idol worship and sacrifices.

## Jewish Culture

- The early church initially was tied closely to Judaism, but it was kicked out of synagogues in the late first century after the fall of Jerusalem.

## Roman Empire

- Ruled the known world.
- Persecution was spasmodic.
- Emperor worship was a huge part of civic duty.

## Various Heresies

# Christian Theology in 70-300 AD

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No clarity about scripture.

No consensus on divinity or humanity of Christ or the trinity.

Little understanding of grace.

Frequently legalistic

- Disputes about forgiveness after denying Christ.



# 70-300 AD

## Missionary Efforts

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The strategy and tactics are not particularly remarkable.

Some preaching in synagogues and other public places.

Mainly personal testimony and hospitality and changed behavior.

Everyone was involved in Evangelism.

- “In that age, every Christian was a missionary. The soldier tried to win recruits, the prisoner sought to bring his jailer to Christ; the slave girl whispered in the ear of her mistress; the young wife begged her husband to be baptized....” John Foxe, Book of Martyrs

A huge emphasis was placed on the Holy Spirit and gifts and power.



# Missionary Efforts – Strategy Cont.

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Many different presentations to different groups.

There was a great variety in the gospel preached to the Jew and Greek, savage and philosopher.

One Constant: It was focused on Christ. The call was also for repentance, faith and baptism.

Charity, Evangelists, Martyrs and Literature/Arts all played a role.

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# Missionary Methods – Charity

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They were counter-cultural – calling people out of the pagan, carnal lifestyle of the culture.

They reached out to the lowest parts of society.

- “These impious Galileans (*Christians*) not only feed their own, but ours also; welcoming them with their agape, they attract them, as children are attracted with cakes... Whilst the pagan priests neglect the poor, the hated Galileans devote themselves to works of charity, and by a display of false compassion have established and given effect to their pernicious errors. Such practice is common among them, and causes contempt for our gods.” Emperor Julian the Apostate

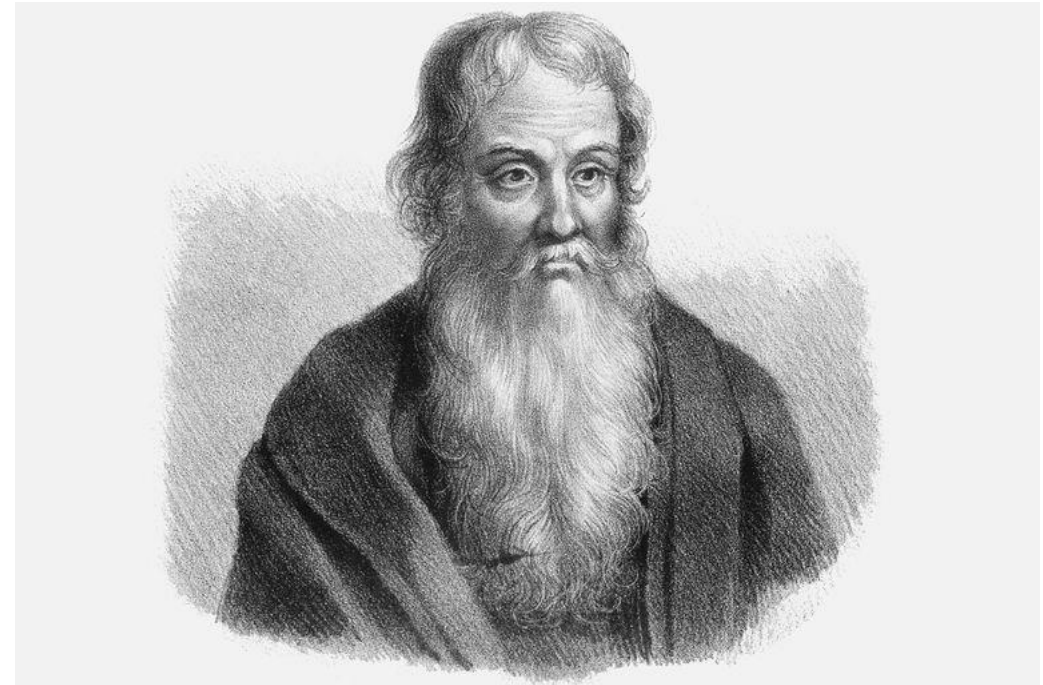
They showed charity.

- Atheism is being specially advanced through the love care devoted to strangers and through their care of the burial of the dead. It is a scandal that there is not a single Jewish beggar; while these Godless Galileans [whom some call Christians] care not only for their own poor, but for ours as well; while those who belong to us look in vain for the service we should render them. “ Emperor Julian the Apostate

# Missionary Methods – Evangelists

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“At that time [about the beginning of the second century] many Christians felt their souls inspired by the holy word with a passionate desire for perfection. Their first action, in obedience to the instructions of the Savior, was to sell their goods and to distribute them to the poor. Then, leaving their home, they set out to fulfill the work of an evangelist, making it their ambition to preach the word of the faith to those who as yet had heard nothing of it, and to commit to them the books of the divine Gospels. They were content simply to lay the foundations of the faith among these foreign peoples: they then appointed other pastors, and committed to them the responsibility for building up those whom they had merely brought to the faith. Then they passed on to other countries and nations with the grace and help of God.” ([Ecclesiastical History](#), III, 37, 2-3). – Eusebius – Church Historian in 260-340.



# Missionary Methods - Martyrs

“The blood of martyrs is the seed of the church.” Tertullian

Much of what is written is probably been revised over the years to treat many of the martyrs as greater than they were.

However, the truth is that there many of these people did give their lives for their faith.

This no doubt had a huge impact on missions/evangelism in the early church.



# Missionary Methods – Literature/Arts

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This time was the end of Roman/Greek culture.

There mighty philosophers and poets were all gone.

Christian art and literature emerges and begins to develop.



# 70-300 AD – Summary

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From the Beginning to an Official Religion of the Roman Empire

Summary: The growth of the early Church was without precedent or comparison.

These few Galileans spread their good news across the entire known world.

They did it without all of the things we think of as necessary for missions now:

- Clear Theology
- Knowledge of other cultures
- Administration and organization
- Funding

If in 70 AD the Church had ceased to exist, no one would have known or cared. By 300 AD, Christians made up almost 10% of the Empire.

**Key Factors: Lay missionaries, Individual Witnessing, Charity, Martyrs and Literature and the Arts.**

# 300-500 AD Summary

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- From an Official Religion to the Fall of the Roman Empire
- Tremendous growth for the Church, yet through turmoil.
  - The Church becomes a recognized religion of the Roman Empire (persecution stops), then then religion of the Roman empire, then the Roman empire is destroyed – all in 200 years.
  - Growth is both in numbers, clarity of theology, and administrative structure.
  - Church is diluted by influx of pagans.
- Tremendous growth for the Church, yet without normal missionary efforts.
  - The Church grows through cultural adoption (even by barbarians).
  - The Church grows by conversion of leaders of countries and people groups.
  - Focus is on theological debates and combating heresy, not witnessing to pagans.
- We see the predecessors for future missionary efforts.



# 500-1200 AD – Key Dates

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622 – Mohammed believes himself to be a prophet.

635-42 – Muslim armies conquer Damascus, Jerusalem, Ceasarea, and Alexandria.

732 – Charles Martel turns back the Muslim invasion of Europe.

800 – Charlemagne crowned emperor by the Pope.

909 – Monastic movement begins at Cluny.

988 – Vladimir, Prince of Kiev, chooses Eastern Orthodoxy to be the official religion of the Russian people.

1054 – East-West Schism – Eastern and western churches split.

1095 – Pope Urban II launches the first crusade.

1173 – Peter Waldo founds a reform movement emphasizing poverty, preaching and the Bible.

# 500-1200 AD – Summary

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From the Fall of Rome to the Middle/Dark Ages

Tale of Two Enemies – the Muslims and the Barbarians

The Church during this time experienced unprecedented growth.

- At 1000 AD, the church was at the height of its global reach and influence. By 1400, the Eastern church was gone and the church itself was only a fraction of its size. Only recently, in the last 200 years, has it recovered that reach.
- The Western Church came close to destruction early in 720 when the Muslims invaded France.

The sword/conquest had the greatest impact on the spread of Christianity.

- We see this everywhere from the conquest of the barbarians to the Crusades, to the destruction of the Eastern Church

Missionary efforts aided by royal favor, martyrdom and monasticism.

- Conversion often begins with the rulers.
- Priests and church leaders are willing to go repeatedly into areas where their predecessors were martyred.
- Monasteries lead the way.

# 1200-1500 AD – Key Dates

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1204 – Sack of Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade

1216 – Pope approves Dominican and Franciscan mendicant (“begging”) orders.

1247 – Mongols raid through Poland to the edge of Germany

1266 – Thomas Aquinas writes Summa Theologica

1378 – Rival claimants to papacy.

1380 – John Wycliffe translates Bible into English

1415 – John Hus is burned

1453 – Constantinople falls to Ottoman Turks

# 1200-1500 AD - Christians

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The wealth disparity becomes complete with the rise of the aristocracy.

Most poor Christians can't read and never hear a word of scripture in a language they can understand.

Members of the Clergy continued to be wealthy and powerful.

- Indulgence sales during this time were hugely profitable.

# 1200-1500 AD - Church

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The Western Church remains the strongest and most powerful institution in Europe, yet weakness and internal strife weakens it.

- The Popes power wanes and the power of the nation states of Europe surges.
- The excesses of the Church brought it almost to bankruptcy.
- The Papal Schism saw not two, but three popes at the same time, each denouncing the others.
- Reformers (including Wycliff) subscribed to the notion that the state had the ability to remedy abuses by the Church.
- The Western Church refused to reform its behavior, setting the stage for the Reformation.

Very little pastoral care in the Western Church.

The Eastern Church's destruction is completed.

# 1200-1500 AD Theology

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The legalism of the Catholic Church is taken to its logical extreme with indulgences.

The structural theology of the Church leads to the inquisition. The Church justifies torture to preserve the purity of the church community.

The logical and theological treaties of the day were unmatched in their analysis of theology.

- Summa Theologica or a Summary of Theology by Thomas Aquinas is the first major Systematic Theology.
- Much of our understanding of God, man, justification, and sin is based on these works.

Reformers begin to push back against the legalistic, cold theology and structure of the Catholic Church.

- Francis of Assisi, Peter Waldo, John Wycliffe and John Hus

# 1200-1500 – Opposing Forces

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Church itself – Inquisition, Crusades and Initial Reform Movements

Black Plague – Wiped out 30 to 60% of Europe Population during a four year period from 1347 to 1351.

Mongols

Stronger National Leaders.



# Crusades

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A response to Muslim conquest of the Middle East.

Misguided, petty, and ultimately a tremendous waste of resources.

- Conquest of Constantinople stands as the pinnacle of the hypocrisy of these wars by a religion of peace.

There were not an unproportionate response.

There were not out of context for how Christianity was spread during this time.



# The Inquisition

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This is a name that is given to a group of institutions within the Catholic Church that were designed to combat heresy.

- This was justified on the basis of a Christian community that needed to be protected.

Inquisitor was judge and executioner.

Torture was authorized, but most punishments were less, like wearing a cross, or going on a pilgrimage.

Its darkest hour was in Spain, where it helped force the conversion or expulsion of all the Jews living there.



# Mongols

THE FIRST MAJOR ADVANCE  
IN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY  
SINCE THE ROMAN LEGIONS.

CONQUERED ASIA IN A VERY  
SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

RUTHLESS, ALMOST BEYOND  
DESCRIPTION. THEY KILLED  
MILLIONS.



# Death of Ogedei Khan

“At one moment it had seemed as if all Europe would succumb to a terrible menace looming up from the East. Heathen Mongol hordes from the heart of Asia, formidable horsemen armed with bows, had rapidly swept over Russia, Poland, Hungary, and in 1241 inflicted simultaneous crushing defeats upon the Germans near Breslau and upon European cavalry near Buda. Germany and Austria at least lay at their mercy. Providentially in this year the Great Khan died in Mongolia; the Mongol leaders hastened back the thousands of miles to [Karakorum](#), their capital, to elect his successor, and Western Europe escaped.” Winston Churchill



# Mongol Destruction of the Muslims

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From 1250 to 1260, the Mongols destroyed the Muslim kingdoms in modern day Iraq, Iran, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

While they were eventually stopped, the strength of the Muslim empires was broken for years to come, and they were never a great military threat to Christian Europe.

# 1200-1500 AD – Missionary Efforts

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During this time period, the old missionary efforts (broadly speaking) of conquest slowly begin to give way to the new ways of kindness, love and reason.

- The Church was confronted with the fact that they could not militarily defeat the Muslims.
- The Church had no answer whatsoever to the Mongol horde.

Through the actions of reformers and scholars, small groups began to use kindness and reason as part of the missionary efforts.

- Francis of Assisi used kindness and care for the poor as part of his ministry.
- Raymond Lull and Thomas Aquinas used reason in an attempt to convert the Muslims.

# Witnessing to the Mongols

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The Mongols were not religious and like the Romans, allowed all religions.

The Roman Catholic Church attempted on several occasions to witness to leader of the Mongol horde.

Mongols leaders often married Christians and kept Christians in their households.

But, they rejected all of the advances, viewing the Pope (correctly) as a leader of Europe and demanding tribute and obedience from him.

- “Now you should say with a sincere heart: ‘I will submit and serve you. ‘Thou thyself, at the head of all the Princes, come at once to serve and wait upon us... If you do not observe God’s command, I shall know you as my enemy...”

A later Khan actually sent an Christian emissary (a patriarch from the Eastern Church) to the Roman Catholic church, seeking an alliance. However, the Roman Catholics were slow to respond, and that Khan died and his son became a Muslim.

When the Mongol Empire fell to infighting and the Black Plague, Muslim nations rose in its place.

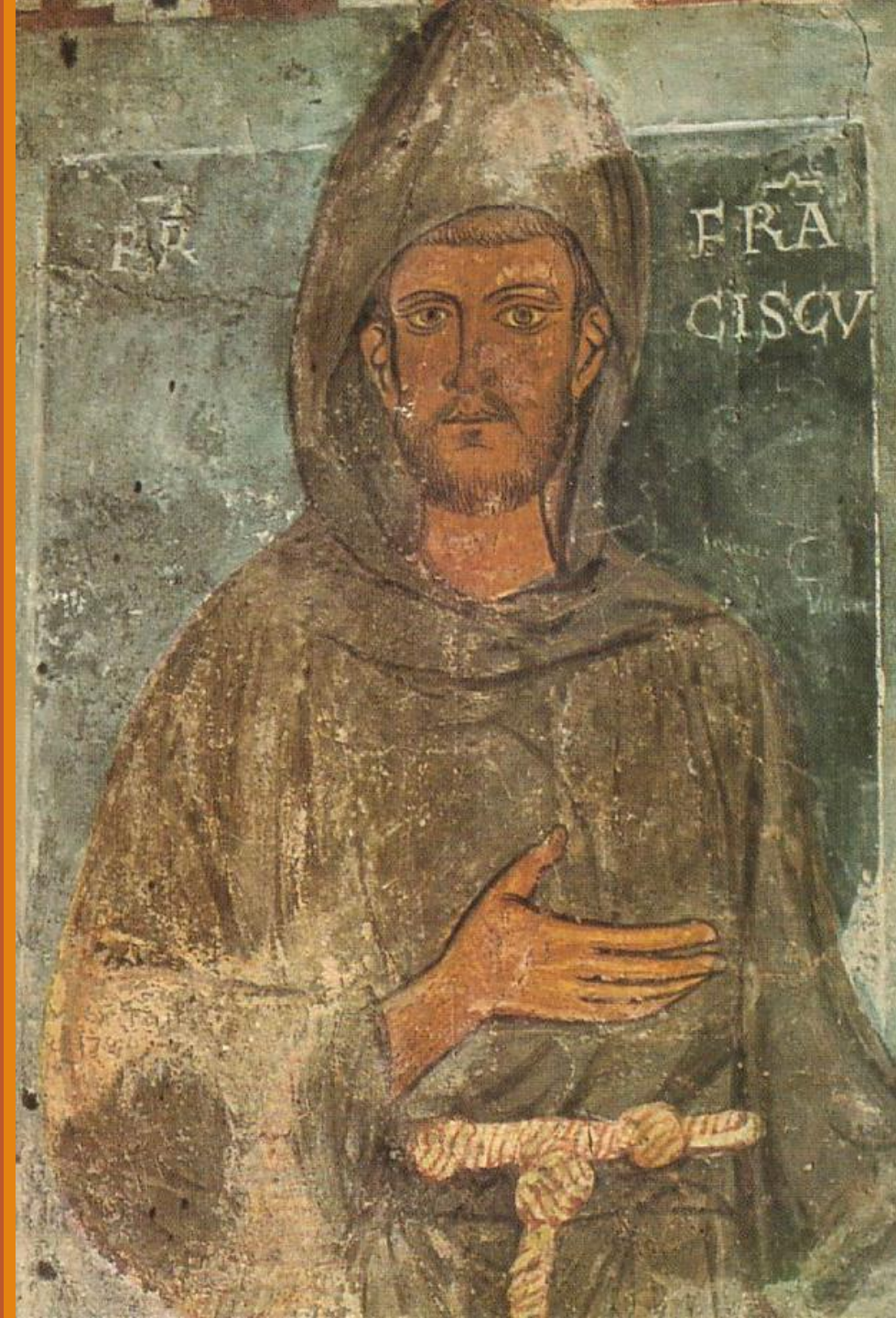
# Francis of Assisi

Francis was from a rich family, but he abandoned his inheritance after several religious experiences.

He was determined to bring the gospel to all peoples of the world and convert them. He himself spent a substantial portion of his life encouraging Christians to follow Christ in living a simple life.

He established several catholic orders that were dedicated to poverty and care for the poor. At one point, he spent several years nursing lepers.

He even sought to witness to the Sultan of Egypt during the Crusades. He didn't convert him (although he tried), but such was his impact and testimony that the Sultan allowed him and his order to remain in Jerusalem.



# Missionary Efforts - Thomas Aquinas

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According to tradition, Thomas Aquinas wrote his second great work, *Summa Contra Gentiles* to be used to help missionaries in Spain convert the Muslims and the Jews there.

This work is directed to non-believers and functions as an attempt to use reason to convert them.





# Missionary Efforts - Raymond Lull

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A contemporary of Aquinas.

He dedicated himself to converting the Muslims, and specifically, the nomadic Muslim Saracens, the most feared and hated enemies of Christianity.

He studied Arabic.

He set aside funds to take care of his wife and children, and left them to focus on the ministry.

He set up training facilities to teach Arabic.

He traveled to Tunis where he debated the Muslim philosophers, and preached the gospel until he was stoned and ordered out of the country.

His message was very offensive to the Muslims – he would hold up the Ten Commandments and tell the Muslims how Mohammed had violated every single one of them.

But, he was a pioneer of the idea that reason and rationale discussion should be used to reach the Muslims, not conquest.

# Missionary Efforts – Eastern Church

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Mostly unknown, yet incredible.

They had to deal with many different languages, and different cultures.

- Some of these cultures were very advanced, such as the Chinese.

They permitted use of other languages and the incorporation of other cultures.

- Russia chose the eastern orthodox church for this very reason.



# 1200-1500 AD – Impact and Conclusion

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We once again see God preserving the Church from the Mongols and the Muslim Empire.

We see God revealing things about himself in the midst of one of the worst abuses of the Church.

The conquest method of evangelism stops, thankfully. The Church's physical and material power decreases.

Multiple reformers are rejected by the Church.

But, we see the groundwork being laid for not only the Reformation, but a major Roman Catholic missions movement.

# 1500-1800 – Key Dates

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1492 – Columbus discovers America.

1517 – Martin Luther publishes his 95 Theses.

1534 – Creation of Anglican Church of England.

1540 – Creation of Society of Jesus or Jesuits.

1562 to 1598 – Wars of Religion in which France was regained for Catholicism.

1620 to 1650 – Thirty Years War involving Protestants v. Catholics in and around Germany

1616 – Condemnation of Galileo by the Church

1620 – Pilgrims Land in America

1720 to 1750 – Great Awakening

1776 – Declaration of Independence

1789 – French Revolution

# 1500-1800 - Church

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One church becomes many churches, with many different beliefs and experiences.

Church and state are separated.

Church against Church are often in conflict in Europe.

# 1500-1800 - Christians

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Christians again come from all walks of life.

During this time period, they were much more likely to have a Bible in their own language.

They were likely to be at war with other Christians.

They are likely to be exposed to other beliefs and other lands and cultures.

# 1500-1800 - Theology

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Roman Catholicism has reached the peak of its legalism and church structure.

The Reformation brings new, revolutionary ideas about the church and its structure.

There is a great variety of views among Protestants, but fundamentally they hold:

Roman Catholic Church is not the true church.

Bible is the source of truth, not the church, and each Christian should be able to read the Bible in their own language.

Religion and relationship with God is a personal matter, not a corporate or communal matter.

Great Awakening advances Protestant theology, with a focus on repentance of sin, a conversion experience, and sanctification.

# 1500-1800 – Opposing Forces

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Reformation

Much stronger national leaders.

Renaissance – Cultural movement focused on humanism, “man is the measure of all things.”

Age of Enlightenment – the sovereignty of reason and evidence of the senses.





# The Reformation

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Officially began with Martin Luther, although other reformers came first and many more came independently after Luther.

Succeeded because of support by rulers who were tired of demands by Catholic Church.

By 1500, there was a widely held view that the Papacy had refused to reform itself.

Began with Luther and quickly spread during the 16<sup>th</sup> century all over Europe.



PROTESTANT

CATHOLIC

CATHOLIC

ORTHODOX

# The Catholic Response

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Reform Catholic Institution and curb abuses.

Encourage Military/state Level action against the Protestants (Jesuits).

Sent out missionaries to regain the lost ground on an individual level.

# 1500-1800 – Missionary Efforts

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This time period is characterized mainly by Catholic efforts and Russian Orthodox efforts.

But, we will also see the beginnings of a movement by the Protestants.

# The Reformers and Missions

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The reformers were not missional.

Generally, they believed in the return of Christ quickly and/or God's sovereignty to such an extent that Missions was not necessary.

Catholic Critique:

- Heretics [Protestants] are never said to have converted either pagans or Jews to the faith, but only to have perverted Christians. But, in this one century, Catholics have converted many thousands of heathens in the new world.... The Lutherans compare themselves to the apostles and evangelists; yet thought they have among them a very large number of Jews, and in Poland and Hungary have the Turks as their near neighbors, they have hardly converted even so much as a handful. Catholic Priest End of 16 Century.

In response to critiques from Catholics, they maintained:

- The Great Commission was binding only on the New Testament Apostles, who had fulfilled their obligation, thus exempting future generations from the work.
- God had already chosen who he would save.
- Calvin: "We are taught that the kingdom of God is neither to be advanced nor maintained by the industry of men, but this is the work of God alone."

They often hated each other more than Catholics. Anglican saying: "Sooner Papist than Calvinist."



# Catholic Missions

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The response to the Reformation was a period of renewed vigor for the Catholic Church in many areas, including missions.

This began as Portugal and Spain taking the lead in sending missionaries as part of their exploration and conquests.

- Catholic missionaries followed the Spanish conquerors through much of Central and South America.

Different orders participated and were often at odds with each other:

- Jesuits (founded by Ignatius), Franciscians, and Dominicans.
- These orders were well organized, and often had a military like obedience to instructions.

# Sacred Congregation of Propoganda

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Formed in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV, its goal was to spread the faith abroad.

Goal was not to replace culture “Do not regard it as your task and do not bring any pressure to bear on the peoples, to change their manners, customs and uses, unless they are evidently contrary to religion and sound morals.”

Another goal was national pastors. Our goal is “to hasten the conversion of the heathen, not only be proclaiming the Gospel to them, but above all by preparing and raising to ecclesiastical orders those of the new Christians or their children who are considered best suited to the holy state.”

Unfortunately, these goals often conflicted with other elements in the Roman Catholic Church.

# Catholic Missions – The Result

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Frequently, you see a work started by a missionary following these the principles set by the Propaganda, but then Rome would become aware of it, and require the imposition of Roman culture, the Latin language and various Catholic requirements and the work would fail.

Very few national priests and bishops were actually appointed and most churches required Roman culture and liturgy.

“Almost every possible form of missionary work had been tried – accommodation and the fierce refusal of accommodation; individual conversion in China and group conversion in South India; the ordination of priests in Goa and the refusal of ordination in other areas; the appeal of the Jesuits to the rulers and the appeal of the Franciscans to the poor and outcast. Every method had at least its partial success; none escaped from the general disaster and collapse. At the end of two centuries (1800), there was remarkably little to show for so much heroism, labor and self-sacrifice.” Stephen O’Neil



# Roman Catholic Missions - The Failure

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Toward the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Roman Catholic missions collapsed.

Three causes:

The method: “No serious attempt seems anywhere to have been made to face all that is involved in a mission to quite primitive peoples – the need for a deep and accurate knowledge of the language, the understanding of their customs and mentality, the long and patient instruction that must proceed baptism, the endlessly patient pastoral care that must follow it.”  
Stephen Neil.

Collapse of Spain and Portugal as leading powers.

Disbanding of Jesuit Order.

- The Jesuit Order became materialist and wealthy.
- In 1773, at least 3000 missionaries were withdrawn from the field.

# Missions to the Native Americans

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Another low point in Missions of the Church.

Native American culture was not what it is painted to be by most politically correct recitals today.

- These were barbarians. “With noble courage they combined unbelievable squalor, treachery and bestial cruelty.”
- No established religion, no written language for the most part.

## Key Factors in Failure

The taking of land by colonists was always an issue.

There was no valuation or accounting for the Indian culture.

There was ultimately very little effort.

# John Eliot

Ministered to the Algonquin Indians in Massachusetts from 1646 until the end of the century.

He created Christian Indian towns for them to get them out of their culture.

He was focused on spiritual maturity, not just numbers.

He translated the Bible into the Alonquin language.

By 1660, he had trained 24 Indian leaders and several churches had ordained Indian pastors.

King Phillips War in 1675 between the Indians and the Colonists destroyed all the Christian Indian towns and resulted in the murder or displacement of most of the Christian Indians.





# David Brainerd

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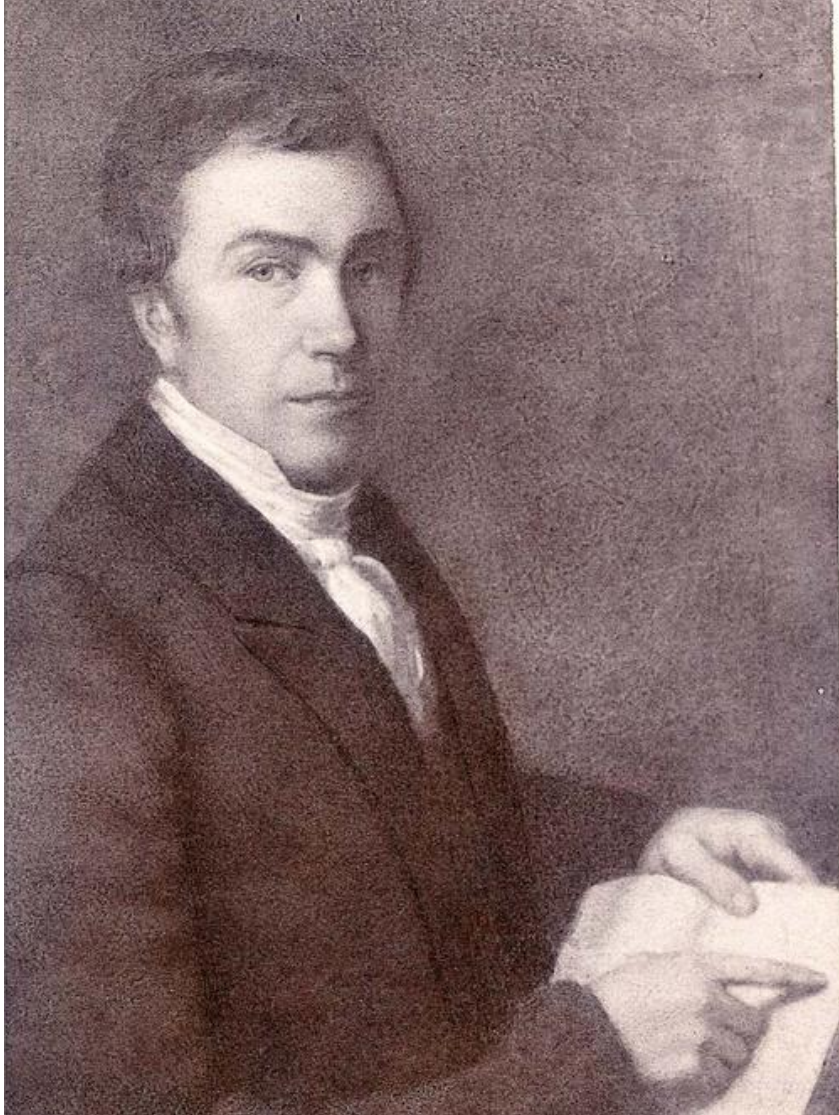
He was from Connecticut and attended Yale.

He dedicated his life to being a missionary to the Indians

He was one of the first paid missionaries.

He viewed the Indians poorly. The Indians thought the White man wanted to convert them to take their land. Brainerd's response was that they were "some of the most jealous people living, and extremely adverse to a state of servitude."

He had little initial success. But, before he died, he did convince a group of Indians to form a settlement and a church of more than 100.



# Isaac McCoy

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A Baptist Missionary from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Initially, had success but he saw repeatedly the impacts that encroachment by Whites had on the Native Americans.

His Conclusion: The Indians must be removed.

He worked with the government to forcibly remove many Indian tribes westward.

He rationalized that they needed to be removed to be evangelized and Christianized.

He initiating the Cherokee removal from Georgia, which led to the Trail of Tears.

# Russian Orthodox Missions

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As the Russian empire grew, Russian Orthodox Churches spread.

- Russian emperors considered themselves descended from Constantine.

Majority of people there was animists or Buddhists.

Like many efforts, there is good and bad here.

- One missionary received permission to make Christians not pay taxes.
- Other purchased slaves, baptized and put them to work as serfs in fields owned by the missionaries.
- But, many others took the gospel to people living in some of the harshest terrain on earth.

Unfortunately, ending in 1800, the period of missionary work for the Russian church ended.



# English and Dutch Trade

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During the late 17th and 18th centuries, English and Dutch ships traveled the world for the purposes of trade.

Dutch East India Company and the British East India Company controlled most of it.

Before 1800, they had really not started the Empire building, they were simply interested in trade.

These organizations were mainly hostile to missionary efforts because they feared that they would interfere with the customs of the country, thus causing resentment and provoking trade.



# Great Awakening and Missions

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Led by Jonathan Edwards in America and George Whitfield and John Wesley in England.

Focused on evangelism.

In spite of a desire to do missions and much prayer for, very few foreign missionaries were sent as a result of the Great Awakening.

But, we do see a large number of missionaries to slaves during this time period.

# Moravian Missions

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The lone bright spot in Protestant Missions in this time period. They were led by Count Zinzendorf.

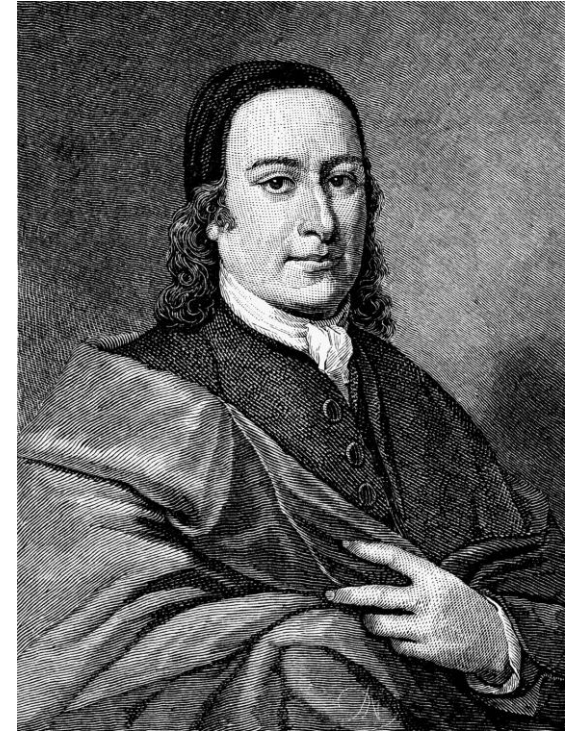
Their all-consuming purpose to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.

They expected that missionaries would be self-supported.

Their message was the love of Christ. They ignored doctrinal truths until after conversion, and focused more on emotional mysticism than theological teaching.

They had missions all over the world, but their most well-known was in Greenland.

They failed due to the emotional focus and due to financial mismanagement, became much less influential before 1800.



# A New Chapter

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The Moravians discovery:

“The method hereto pursued by them consisted principally in speaking to the heathen of the existence, attributes, and perfection of God, and enforcing obedience to divine law... abstractly considered, this method appears the most rational; but when reduced to practice, it was found wholly ineffectual . . . Now, therefore, they determined in the literal sense of the word to preach Christ and him crucified, without laying first the foundation of repentance from dead works and faith towards God. This reached the hearts of the audience, and produced the most astonishing effects. They remained no longer the stupid and brutish creatures that they had been. A sure foundation being thus laid in the knowledge of a crucified redeemer, our missionaries soon found that this supplied the young converts with a powerful motive to the abhorrence of sin and the performance of every moral duty toward God and their neighbor.”

# Conclusions

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In 70-300 AD,

- Incredible growth without infrastructure of support.

In 300-500 AD

- Growth without missions or effort.

In 500-1200 AD

- Conquest and cultural adaption provide the growth.

In 1200-1500 AD

- Apostacy and abuse, but deep theological truth continues to be discovered.

In 1500-1800 AD

- The Reformation and growth in ideas.

# Conclusions

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It is easy to get disappointed when you view history from a human perspective.

But, remember our six key points:

Key Point 1: God is building his Church.

- God uses everything, even corrupt Churchmen, power-hungry nobles, barbarians and secular empires, to grow his Church.
- The greatest armies and forces the world has ever known cannot conquer the church.

Key Point 2: The Church is part of God's eternal plan.

- This growth is not random, there is a purpose in all of it.

Key Point 3: God's ways are not our ways.

- The story of the growth of the Church is not how we would have written it.
- None of these Christians or churches deserved to be in God's plan, but neither do we.

Key Point 4: The Church is inexorable.

Key Point 5: We must understand missions as God's work.

Key point 6: God is revealing Himself to us (the Church), through the growth of the Church.