

## Level 5, Quarter C—Church History Outline

### 1. Age of the Church (AD 30-2000+)

This era encompasses twenty centuries of church history: Jesus commands His followers to make disciples of all nations. The Holy Spirit descends on believers, empowering them to witness about Christ. The Church expands from Jerusalem to reach all people groups. Finally, on a much-anticipated day in the future, Christ and His bride, the Church, will celebrate their marriage.

This era can be summarized into four major sections:

- **Great Commission** (AD 30) *Jesus commands His followers to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28).*  
Key People—Jesus Christ, apostles  
Key Places—Mount of Olives, Jerusalem
- **Pentecost** (AD 30) *The Holy Spirit descends on believers, empowering them to witness about Christ (Acts 2).*  
Key People—Holy Spirit, 120 disciples  
Key Places—Upper Room, Jerusalem
- **Church Growth** (AD 30–2000+) *The Church expands from Jerusalem to reach all people groups (Revelation 5:9-14).*  
Key People—all true Christians  
Key Places—all nations of the earth
- **Wedding Supper** (AD ???) *Christ and His bride, the Church, celebrate their marriage (Revelation 19:5-9).*  
Key People—Christ, all believers  
Key Place—Heaven

### 2. Age of Persecution (AD 30-300)

During this era, fearless Christians endure persecution and death for their faith in Christ. Emperor Nero outlaws Christianity and accuses believers of starting the huge fire that destroyed much of Rome. He tortures thousands of Christians. In AD 70, General Titus demolishes the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. Many Jews are killed. While all this is taking place, Christian apologists write to defend the true faith against false teaching.

This era can be summarized into four major sections:

- **Christianity Outlawed** (AD 64–313) *Emperor Nero accuses Christians of burning Rome; tortures thousands.*  
Key People—Cruel Emperors: Nero, Domitian, Decius, and Diocletian; Martyrs: Polycarp, Perpetua, Justin Martyr, Cyprian of Carthage, Ignatius of Antioch  
Key Places—the Roman Empire
- **Jerusalem Destroyed** (AD 70) *When the Jews revolt, General Titus demolishes the city and Temple.*  
Key People—Titus  
Key Place—Jerusalem
- **Heresies Refuted** (AD 85–150) *The apologists write to defend the true faith against false teaching.*  
Key People—Origin, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Clement  
Key Places—Antioch, Alexandria, Carthage
- **Church Growth** (AD 30–300) *Persecuted Christians inspire others with their heroic examples.*  
Key Missionaries—Gregory of Armenia, countless others  
Key Places—Armenia, North Africa, France, Portugal

### 3. Age of Influence (AD 300-600)

During this era, influential Christians introduce the Gospel message to many people. Clear-thinking believers attain respect within and beyond the bounds of the Roman Empire. Emperor Constantine officially ends persecution of believers in the west. Leaders debate doctrinal issues and write creeds to summarize orthodox beliefs. Scholars confirm the twenty-seven divinely inspired New Testament Books. Jerome translates the entire Bible into the common language of the people—Latin.

This era can be summarized into four major sections:

- **Christianity Sanctioned** (AD 313) *Emperor Constantine officially ends persecution of believers in the west.*  
Key People—Constantine, Theodosius I  
Key Places—Constantinople, Rome
- **Church Councils** Meet (AD 325–451) *Leaders debate doctrinal issues and write creeds to summarize beliefs.*  
Key People—Athanasius, Augustine, Cyril, Ambrose, Chrysostom, Gregory I  
Key Places—Nicaea, Constantinople, Carthage, Ephesus, Chalcedon
- **New Testament Books Collected** (AD 367–404) *Scholars confirm 27 divinely inspired NT Books; Jerome translates the Bible into Latin.*  
Key People—Athanasius, Eusebius, Jerome  
Key Places—Carthage, Bethlehem
- **Church Growth** (AD 300–600) *Influential Christians introduce the Gospel message to many people.*  
Key Missionaries—Martin, Patrick, Columba, Benedict  
Key Places—British Isles, Afghanistan, Central Asia

### 4. Age of Authority (AD 600-900)

During this era, the Church grows in prominence. Resourceful Christians gain political power, but many neglect personal humility and holiness. Charlemagne, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, unifies European culture and learning. Farther to the east, Muhammad declares himself “Prophet of Allah” and writes the Quran (Koran) that all his followers (Muslims) are obligated to obey.

This era can be summarized into four major sections:

- **Islam Founded** (AD 610) *Muhammad declares himself “Prophet of Allah”; writes the Quran (Koran).*  
Key People—Muhammad  
Key Places—Mecca, Jerusalem, Medina
- **Roman Empire Revived** (AD 768–814) *Pope crowns Charlemagne emperor; unifies European culture and learning.*  
Key People—Charlemagne, Alcuin, Leo III  
Key Places—France, Germany, Italy
- **“Iconoclasm Controversy”** (AD 787) *The Nicean Council approves use of sacred images to enhance worship.*  
Key People—Leo, Gregory III, John of Damascus  
Key Places—Nicaea, Rome, Constantinople
- **Church Growth** (AD 600–900) *Resourceful Christians take the Gospel message into new regions.*  
Key Missionaries—Boniface, Anskar, Alopen  
Key Places—Germany, Denmark, China

### 5. Age of Division (AD 900-1100)

During this era, churches in Western Europe depend upon Rome for guidance and protection. Churches in the East look to Constantinople (Byzantium). These two centers often compete for power and disagree with each other. Hostilities grow until 1054 when the Eastern Church and the Western Church sever relations (the Great Schism).

This era can be summarized into four major sections:

- **Monasteries Established** (AD 600–1500) *Regional centers of service and learning flourish throughout Europe.*

Key People—William of Aquitaine, Raymond de Puy, Robert of Molesme

Key Places—throughout Europe

- **Islam Expanded** (AD 650–1250) *Muslim armies invade Persia and threaten Eastern churches.*

Key People—al-Shafi'i, al-Ghazzali

Key Places—Northern Africa, Central Asia

- **"The Great Schism"** (AD 1054) *Church leaders in the West and East compete for power, sever official ties.*

Key People—Leo IX, Cardinal Humbart, Cerularius

Key Places—Rome, Constantinople

- **Church Growth** (AD 900–1100) *Devout Christians travel to northern and eastern lands with the Gospel message.*

Key Missionaries—Cyril & Methodius, Lief Ericson

Key Places—Russia, Ukraine, Bohemia, Greenland

### 6. Age of Crusades (AD 1100-1300)

During this era, church leaders who lacked understanding about the nature of God's Kingdom waged a series of military campaigns against Islam in the name of Christ. Leaders sought to accomplish their goals by rallying the people behind what appeared to be a holy cause—driving Muslims out of the Holy Land. Political and social will was confused with God's will, and God's means of advancing the Gospel was replaced with human means. In the end, the Crusades ("wars for the cross") failed to permanently regain Palestine, to thwart Islam, to unify Europe, or to advance true Christianity.

This era can be summarized into five major sections:

- **Cathedrals Built** (AD 900–1500) *Regional centers of church authority spawn leading universities.*

Key People—regional Bishops

Key Places—Europe

- **Crusades Organized** (AD 1096–1291) *Zealous Crusaders battle Muslims who control the Holy Land.*

Key People—Innocent III, Louis VII, Bernard of Clairvaux, Saladin

Key Places—Jerusalem, Egypt, Damascus

- **Scholarship Renewed** (AD 1100–1300) *Church scholars voice their views through writing and reason.*

Key People—Peter Abelard, Peter Lombard, Thomas Aquinas

Key Places—Oxford, Paris, Bologna, Cambridge

- **Rome Challenged** (AD 1215–1600) *Spiritual decay permeates Rome; renewal movements reject church authority.*

Key People—Peter Waldo

Key Places—France, Bohemia

- **Church Growth** (AD 1100–1300) *Clear-thinking Christians focus on reaching out to others.*

Key Missionaries—Francis of Assisi, Dominic Guzman

Key Places—Italy, Scandinavia

### 7. Age of Unrest (AD 1300-1500)

During this era, disillusioned Christians seek change in the worldly Church, but religious leaders silence those who challenge their authority. For nearly 70 years, different men simultaneously claim the highest position in the Roman Church (the “papal schism”). Much of Christendom is confused and in chaos.

For centuries, the Church tried to maintain a form of godliness without real spiritual power. The laws of men took precedence over the principles of God, and Church politics overshadowed Christ’s purposes. Spiritually hungry individuals began to see that pious-looking rituals, rich garments, and grand buildings were masks concealing the spiritual void that characterized much of Christianity.

This era can be summarized into four major sections:

- **Opposition Suppressed** (AD 1184–1500) *Church leaders silence those who challenge their authority.*  
Key People—Wycliffe, Huss, Savonarola, Joan of Arc  
Key Places—England, Bohemia, Italy
- **“Papal Schism”** (AD 1309–1417) *Several popes claim authority over the church; they reign simultaneously.*  
Key People—Urban VI, Clement VII  
Key Places—Rome, Avignon (France)
- **Printing Press Invented** (AD 1440) *Gutenberg prints the Vulgate Bible; books become accessible to many.*  
Key People—Johannes Gutenberg  
Key Place—Germany
- **Church Growth** (AD 1300–1500) *Valiant Christians take the Gospel message to the common people.*  
Key Missionaries—Raymond Lull  
Key Places—North Africa, West Africa

### 8. Age of Reform (AD 1500-1600)

During this era, steadfast European Christians stand up against enormous pressure and finally break the iron-tight grip of the Roman church. In Germany, Luther posts 95 Theses that criticize church practices. Later, he stands trial for his convictions at the Diet of Worms. Reformers in other countries oppose Roman doctrine and practice—and many countrymen follow. At the Council of Trent, Roman Catholics seek to correct internal and external issues.

This era can be summarized into five major sections:

- **Renaissance Introduced** (AD 1450–1600) *Humanists rekindle interest in arts, literature, and Greco-Roman heritage.*  
Key People—Erasmus, Colet, D’Etaples  
Key Places—Italy, France
- **Reformation Sparked** (AD 1517–21) *Luther posts 95 Theses; stands for his convictions at the Diet of Worms.*  
Key People—Luther, Melancthon  
Key Place—Germany
- **Protestantism Birthed** (AD 1520–) *Reformers lead opposition to Roman Catholic doctrine and practice; many follow.*  
Key People—Zwingli, Tyndale, Calvin, Knox;  
Key Places—Switzerland, England
- **Counter-Reformation Organized** (AD 1545–63) *Roman Catholics seek to correct issues at the Council of Trent.*  
Key People—Pius V, Borromeo, Contarini, Loyola  
Key Place—Italy
- **Church Growth** (AD 1500–1600) *Resolute Christians take the Gospel message into new continents.*  
Key Missionaries—Francis Xavier, Bartolome de Las Casas  
Key Places—Mexico, Central America, Japan, Southeast Asia

## Level 5, Quarter C—Church History Outline

### 9. Age of Piety (AD 1600-1700)

During this era, more Bibles became available than ever before. Believers read the Scriptures for themselves, and they were eager to live in ways that honored the Lord. Groups of stalwart Christians banded together and formed churches and societies based on what the Bible said. God had used the Reformers to call the Church to a right theology. In the next century, God used Pietists to call people to a right relationship with God.

This era can be summarized into five major sections:

- **Anabaptists Opposed** (AD 1525–1800) *Protestants who receive “believer’s baptism” (ana = again) are persecuted.*  
Key People—Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, Menno Simons  
Key Places—Switzerland, Holland, England
- **Puritans Established** (AD 1580–1800) *English separatists hope to purify the Church from all Roman Catholic ideas.*  
Key People—Henry Jacobs, Thomas Cartwright, Oliver Cromwell  
Key Places—England, Holland
- **Deism Fostered** (AD 1630–1800) *Deists believe that God set the universe in motion—but He no longer interferes.*  
Key People—Rene’ Descartes, John Locke, Thomas Woolston  
Key Places—France, England
- **Pietism Promoted** (AD 1660–1800) *Protestants learn to study the Bible and pursue personal holiness.*  
Key People—Philip Spener, George Fox, Johann Arndt, August Francke  
Key Places—Germany, England
- **Church Growth** (AD 1600–1700) *Devout Christians promote religious freedom for all.*  
Key Missionaries—Matteo Ricci, John Eliot, Roberto de Nobili  
Key Places—China, India, New England

### 10. Age of Awakening (AD 1700-1800)

During this era, enthusiastic believers spur the Church to renew its responsibility to fear God and to proclaim the Gospel. Believers are roused to repentance and service. Many unbelievers hear and respond to the Good News. Like a small fire that gradually spreads to overtake its dry surroundings, sparks from the 17th century ignited in England and America spreading like wildfire among the spiritually thirsty people of the 18th century.

This era can be summarized into five major sections:

- **“Reason” Exalted** (AD 1650–1800) *Philosophers promote scientific reasoning above practical experience.*  
Key People—John Locke, David Hume, Immanuel Kant  
Key Place—Germany
- **Believers Awakened** (AD 1730–60) *The Church renews its responsibility to fear God and to preach evangelism.*  
Key People—John Wesley, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards  
Key Places—England, United States
- **Revivals Ignited** (AD 1750–1900) *Preachers take the Good News to the unchurched, leading many to salvation.*  
Key People—Campbell, Finney, Moody, Monod, M’Cheyne  
Key Places—Wales, Scotland, United States
- **Revolutions Fought** (AD 1770–1800) *People reject exploitation, overthrow tyranny, and establish new governments.*  
Key People—John Adams, George Washington, Napoleon  
Key Places—United States, France
- **Church Growth** (AD 1700–1800) *Fervent Christians ignite fires of faith in individuals and nations.*  
Key Missionaries—Carey, von Zinzendorf (Moravians), Schmidt, Brainerd  
Key Places—India, Virgin Islands, South Africa

### 11. Age of Missions (AD 1800-1900)

During this era, indomitable believers take the Gospel message into uncharted regions on every continent. Churches and mission boards from many countries and denominations commission men and women to reach the world for Christ. In addition to their evangelism efforts, Christians labor to reform social ills such as slavery, alcohol abuse, women's lack of rights, and child labor.

This era can be summarized into five major sections:

- **Exploitation Opposed** (AD 1780–1900) *Christians reform social ills: slavery, alcohol, women's rights, child labor.*  
Key People—Raikes, Mueller, Wilberforce, Willard, Howard  
Key Places—England, Africa, United States
- **Missionary Societies Formed** (AD 1800–) *Mission boards commission men and women to evangelize the world.*  
Key People—William Carey, Hudson Taylor  
Key Places—England, United States
- **Liberalism Introduced** (AD 1810–) *Theologians discredit "supernatural" events and the Bible's inspiration.*  
Key People—Schleiermacher, Ritshul, Wellhausen  
Key Place—Germany
- **Armenians Martyred** (AD 1894-96) *Militant Muslims massacre as many as 300,000 Armenian believers.*  
Key People—Sultan Hamid  
Key Place—Armenia
- **Church Growth** (AD 1800–1900) *Determined Christians take the Gospel message into uncharted regions.*  
Key Missionaries—Judson, Taylor, Slessor, Livingstone  
Key Places—Burma, China, Nigeria, Africa

### 12. Age of Ministries (AD 1900-2000+)

During this era, concerned believers begin ministries that penetrate targeted groups. The variety and scope of the ministries that Christians have spawned is endless. Broadcast technology continues to open new opportunities to promote the Gospel. Computers and the Internet bring Jesus' message to people around the world—including countries that are "closed" to conventional outreach methods.

This era can be summarized into five major sections:

- **Ministries Started** (AD 1900–2000+) *Christians establish ministries to penetrate specific segments of society.*  
Key People—William Booth, Cameron Townsend, Teresa of Calcutta  
Key Places—primarily in Western Nations
- **Cooperation Encouraged** (AD 1925–) *Evangelical and mainline denominations form supportive associations.*  
Key People—"National Association of Evangelicals"/"World Council of Churches"  
Key Places—International
- **Mass Evangelism Introduced** (AD 1950–) *Broadcast technology opens new opportunities to promote the Gospel.*  
Key People—Billy Graham, Luis Palau, Bill Bright, "Jesus" film  
Key Places—Worldwide
- **Vatican II Council Convened** (AD 1962–65) *Roman Catholics promote healing, renewal, and outreach.*  
Key People—Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI  
Key Place—Rome
- **Church Growth** (AD 1900–2000+) *Focused Christians take the Gospel message into Third World countries.*  
Key Missionaries—Gladys Aylward, Eric Liddell, Amy Carmichael  
Key Places—China, India, Africa, Asia, Pacific Rim