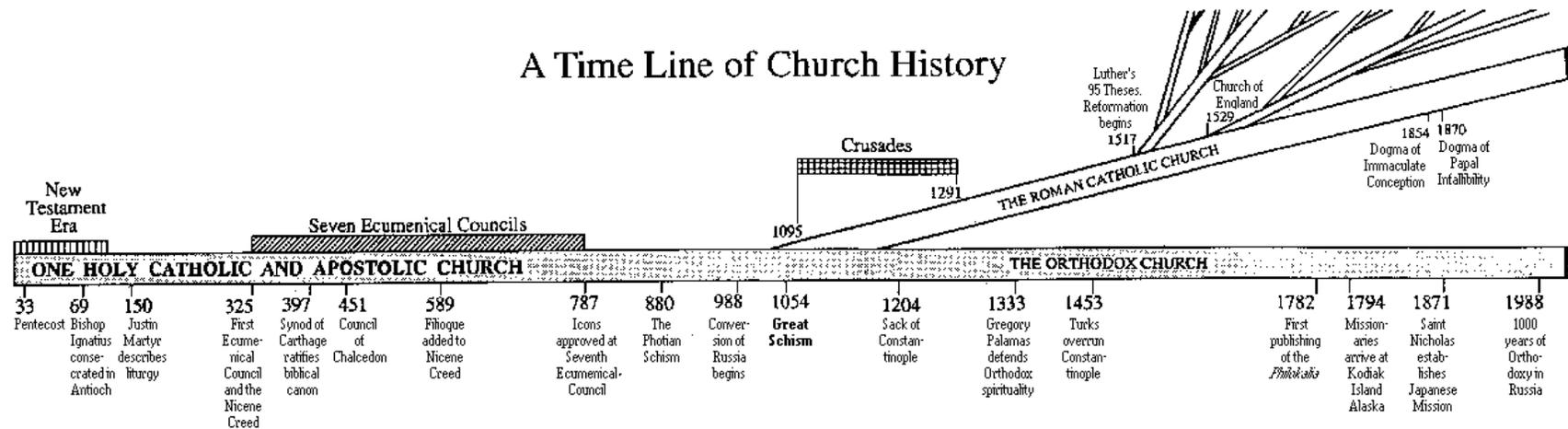


A Word About Church History

For the first thousand years of her history the Church was essentially one. Five historic Patriarchal centers - Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome, Alexandria, and Constantinople - formed a cohesive whole and were in full communion with each other. There were occasional heretical or schismatic groups going their own way, to be sure; but the Church was unified until the 11th century. Then, in events culminating in A.D.1054, the Roman Patriarchate pulled away from the other four, pursuing its long-developing claim of universal headship of the Church.

Today, nearly a thousand years later, the other four Patriarchates remain intact, in full communion, maintaining that Orthodox apostolic faith of the inspired New Testament record. The Orthodox Church and her history is described herein, from Pentecost to the present day.



33 A.D. - Pentecost (A.D: 29 is thought to be more accurate)

49 - Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15) establishes precedent for addressing Church disputes in Council. James presides as bishop.

69 - Bishop Ignatius consecrated in Antioch in heart of New Testament era--St. Peter had been the first bishop there. Other early bishops include James, Polycarp, and Clement.

95 - Book of Revelation written, probably the last of the New Testament books.

150 - St. Justin Martyr describe's the liturgical worship of the Church, centered in the Eucharist. Liturgical worship is rooted in both the Old and New Testament.

325 - The [Nicene Creed](#) is established. The Council of Nicea settles the major heretical challenge to the Christian faith when the heretic Arius asserts Christ was created by the Father. St. Athanasius defends the eternity of the Son of God. The Arians continue their assault on true Christianity for years. Nicea is the first of Seven Ecumenical (Church-wide) Councils.

451 - Council of Chalcedon affirms apostolic doctrine of two natures in Christ.

589 - In a synod in Toledo, Spain, the *filioque*, asserting that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father *and the Son* is added to the [Nicene Creed](#). This error is later adopted by Rome.

787 - The era of [Ecumenical Councils](#) ends at Nicea, with the Seventh Council bringing the centuries-old use of [icons](#) back into the Church.

988 - Conversion of Russia begins.

We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth, for surely there is no such splendour or beauty anywhere upon earth. We cannot describe it to you: only this we know, that God dwells there among men, and that their service surpasses the worship of all other places. For we cannot forget that beauty. - Envoys of the Russian Prince Vladimir, after experiencing the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople in the year 987.

1054 - The Great Schism occurs. Two major issues include Rome's claim to a universal papal supremacy and her addition of the *filioque* clause to the Nicene Creed. The Photian schism (880) further complicated the debate.

1095 - The Crusades begun by the Roman Church. The Sack of Constantinople by Rome (1204) adds to the estrangement between East and West.

1333 - St. Gregory Palamas defends the Orthodox practice of hesychast spirituality and the use of the [Jesus prayer](#).

1453 - Turks overrun Constantinople; Byzantine Empire ends.

1517 - Martin Luther nails his 95 Theses to the door of the Roman Church in Wittenberg, starting the Protestant Reformation.

1529 - Church of England begins pulling away from Rome.

1794 - Missionaries arrive on Kodiak Island in Alaska; Orthodoxy introduced to North America.

1854 - Rome establishes the Immaculate Conception dogma.

1870 - Papal Infallibility becomes Roman dogma.

1988 - One thousand years of Orthodoxy in Russia, as Orthodox Church world-wide maintains fulness of the Apostolic faith.