

# Church History 1453-1555

Church History's Pendulum		
Beliefs and Practices based on Experience and Emotions	Years	Beliefs and Practices based on Intellect and Rituals
Montanism	150	
	150-300	Gnosticism
Monasticism	300-1000	
	1000-1300	● Scholasticism
● Mysticism	1300-1500	
	1500-1600	<b>Reformation</b>
<b>Holiness</b>	1600-1800	
	1800-1900	Liberalism
Pentecostal Movement	1900-2000	
	2000-??	???????



## **1176 Peter Waldo founds the Waldensians**

- 1140-1215
- A Wealthy merchant who read translations of the Gospel and experienced a spiritual conversion in 1176
- Imitating St. Alexis Waldo left his family, gave his goods to the poor and took a vow of poverty.
- Many followed his example in Lyons.
- He became an itinerant preacher and vigorously campaigns against the worldliness of the Church.
- He organized his followers into two classes: the Perfect and the Friends (or, Believers)
- He translated the Latin Bible into the languages of people.
- Pope Alexander III approved his lifestyle at the Third Lateran Council in 1179, but forbid him to preach without local approval.
- They were known as the "Poor Men of Lyons" and lived poor to condemn the churches wealth.
- Waldo ignored Alexander III and continued to preach and was condemned as a heretic.
- This group has survived into modern times in Europe, North and South America.
- The Waldensian church as a modern membership of about 35,000.

## **1179 Third Lateran Council**

- Rome Council III
- 12th Church Council
- To enforce Ecclesiastical discipline
- Declared all usury (regardless of interest rate) forbidden. (Thus the Christian was not required to repay debts to the Jews.
- 2 Waldenses appeared to seek approval. They gave the pope a translation of their Bible for approval. The council mocked them and called them simple. When asked if they believed in the persons of the Trinity the Waldenses said "Yes." When asked if they believed "in the Mother of Christ." They also said "Yes." The whole committee burst out laughing at the ignorance because it was not proper to believe "in" Mary but to believe "on" her. The Waldenses were excommunicated.

**1324-1384**

**John Wyclif**

- The Morning Star of the Reformation
- He was of Saxon blood and studied at Oxford.
- He several appointments including one from the king
- In 1366 he was one of the king's chaplains
- In 1374 Wyclif went for the king to negotiate peace with France and to meet with the pope's agents on filling of ecclesiastical appointments in England.
- ON his return to England he began to speak of religious reform.
- He preached in Oxford and London against the pope's secular sovereignty.
- IN one of his tracts he called the bishop of Rome "the anti-Christ, the proud, worldly priest of Rome, and the most cursed of clippers and cut-purses."
- Wyclif said that the pope "has no more power in binding and loosing than any priest."
- In 1378 he was tried for heresy
- He then began to write in English the Scriptures
- He organized traveling preachers to take his message
- He rejected transubstantiation, priestly absolution in the confessional and indulgences.
- His followers were called 'Lollards' and were arrested
- He suffered a stroke in 1382 that left him partially paralyzed
- While saying mass in his church he was struck again with paralysis and died two days later on Dec. 29, 1384.
- Wyclif was said to have lit a fire that would never go out.

**1415**

**John Hus Burnt at stake**

- He began preaching to the people of Bohemia in their own language
- He criticized Catholicism at first on a moral basis.
- He upbraided the luxury and license of the bishops and pope and drew a graphic picture of Christ riding on a donkey and the pope on a stallion being kissed on his feet.
- Hus movement restored the cup to the laity and not just to the priest
- Students at the University of Prague burned the papal bull of indulgence and were executed. Hus protested and was sent into retirement and wrote "On the Church"
- At the Council of Constance the council proposed to examine Hus.
- Hus welcomed the suggestion and was guaranteed a safe journey there and back.
- Upon arrival Hus was shocked by the blatant immorality of the priests.
- Hus was imprisoned
- Hus was accused of teaching the doctrines that he did not teach.
- He was burned by the council and said while burning, "O Christ, thou son of the living God, have mercy upon me. O thou, who wast born of the virgin Mary. . ."
- Even the dirt around the stake was dug up and removed so there would be no relics.

## 1453 Turks Capture Constantinople

- After years of standing against Muslim pressure the Christian city of Constantinople fell to the Turks on May 29, 1453
- This ended the last stand of the former Roman Empire in the form of the Byzantine Empire and gave way to the Ottoman Empire
- This date is seen as the end of the Middle Ages.
- The Greek scholars of the Byzantine Empire migrated into Europe which began the Renaissance

**1414-1418**  
Council of  
Constance  
- in Germany  
- deposed 3  
popes  
- elected Pope  
Martin V  
- Hus invited,  
but betrayed  
and burnt at  
stake

**1415**  
**John Hus**  
**Burnt at the**  
**Stake**  
**- ashes/dirt**  
**dug up &**  
**removed**

**1428**  
**John Wycliffe's**  
**(d.1384) remains were**  
**dug up**, burned and  
thrown into a river by  
order of Council of  
Constance to condemn  
his heresy of translating  
the Bible into English  
and challenging the  
church

**1453**  
**FALL OF**  
**CONSTANTINOPLE**

**1456**  
Johan  
Gutenberg  
invented  
printing press

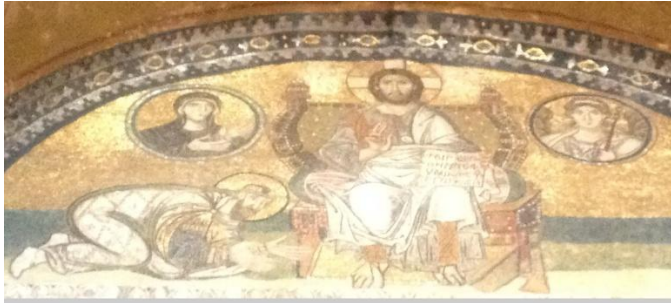
**1478**  
**Spanish**  
**Inquisition**  
- rid Europe  
of heretics  
like  
Crusades  
rid Holy  
Land of  
Muslims

1400

1500



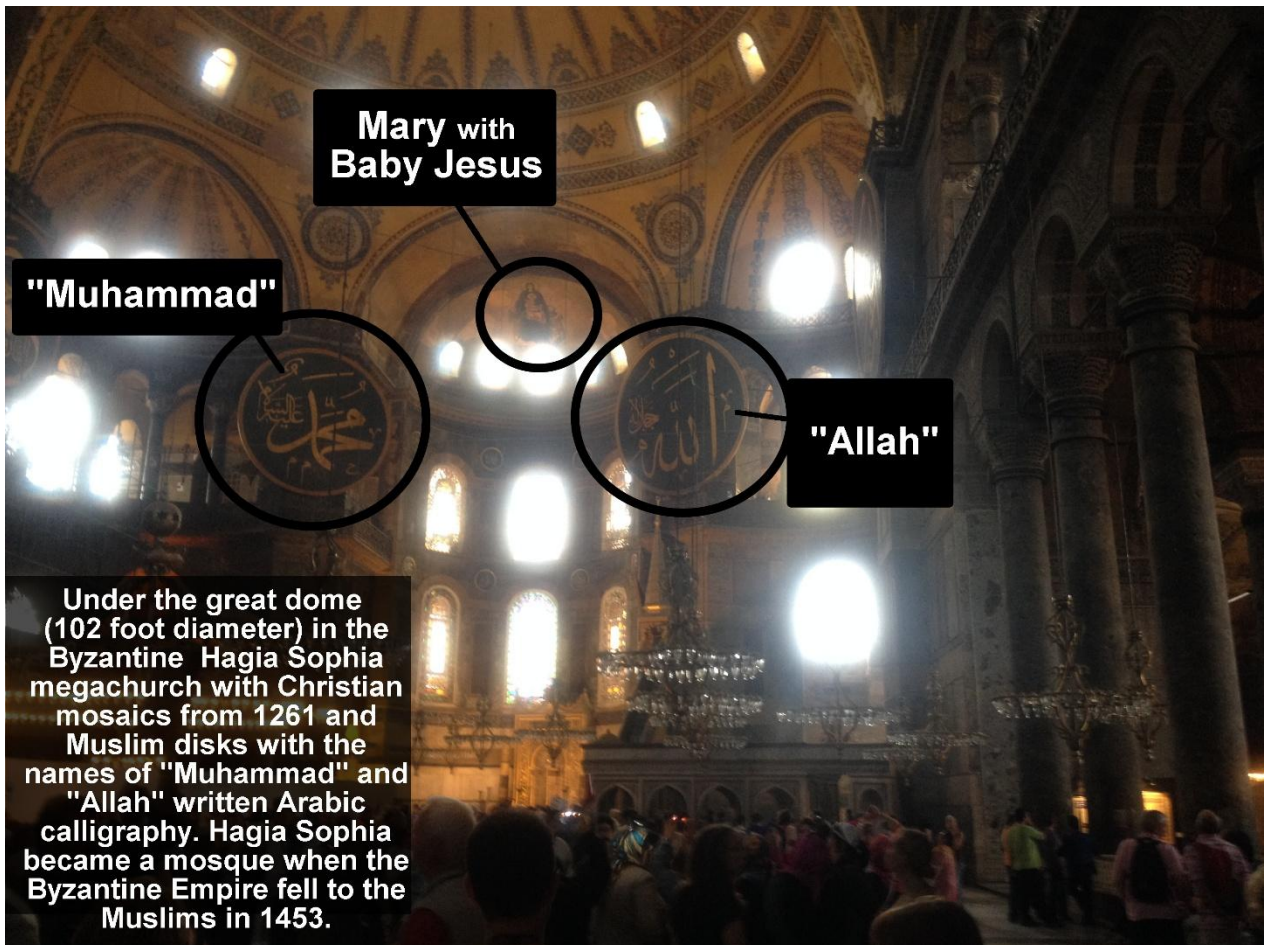
Upon capturing Constantinople on May 29, 1453, Sultan Mehmed II immediately converted the Hagia Sophia from a Byzantine cathedral into the "Great Fatih Mosque," signaling the end of the Roman/Byzantine Empire. The structure was preserved, but its Christian imagery was plastered over, and four minarets were later added, converting it to an Islamic holy site.

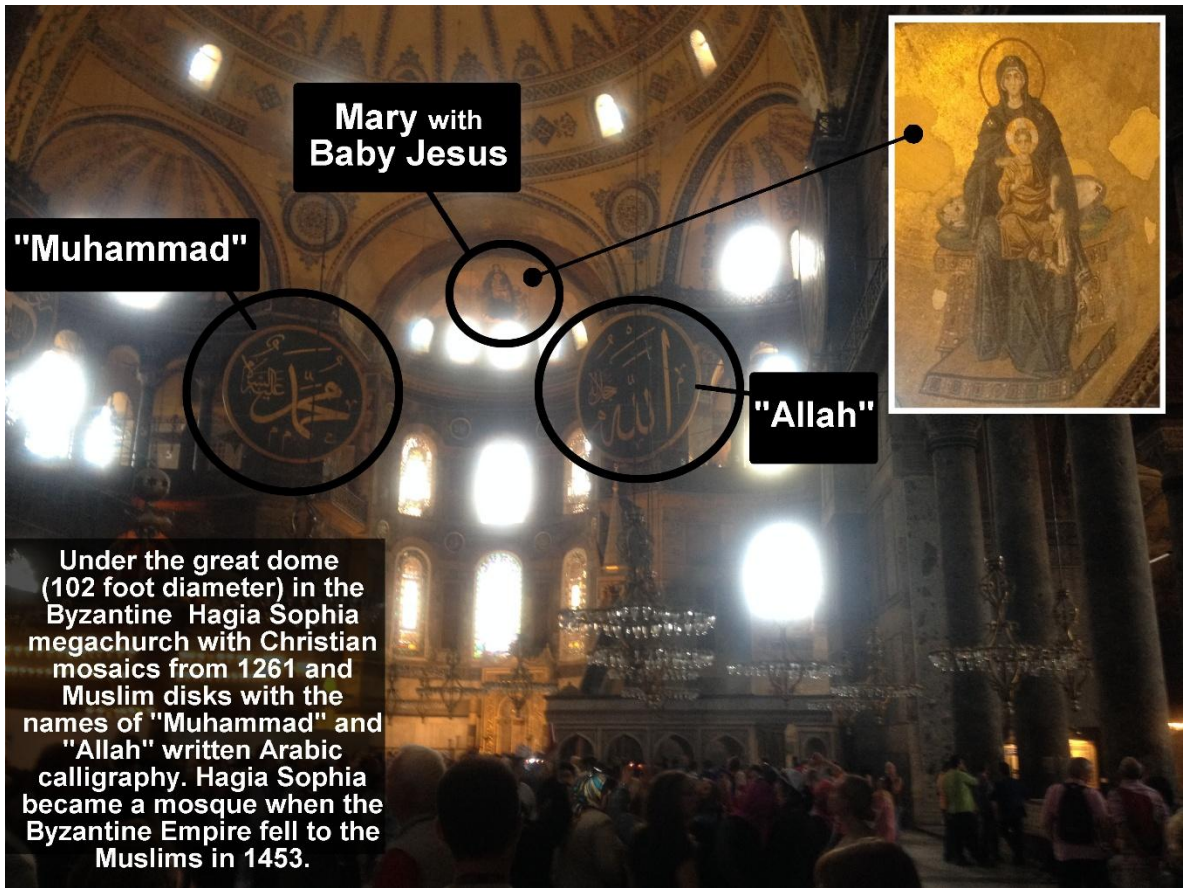


Jesus enthroned, with two medallions, one on the left containing an image of Mary and one on the right containing the archangel Gabriel. The figure of Emperor Leo VI (866-912) is represented on the left, kneeling at the feet of Christ. This mosaic was created the days of Emperor Leo VI (900 AD). The history behind this mosaic and its interpretation is worth Googling.



**A mosaic above the imperial door used only by Christian Byzantine emperors that led from the narthex to the nave of the great church Hagia Sophia.**

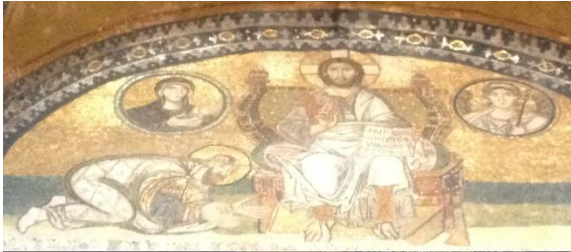




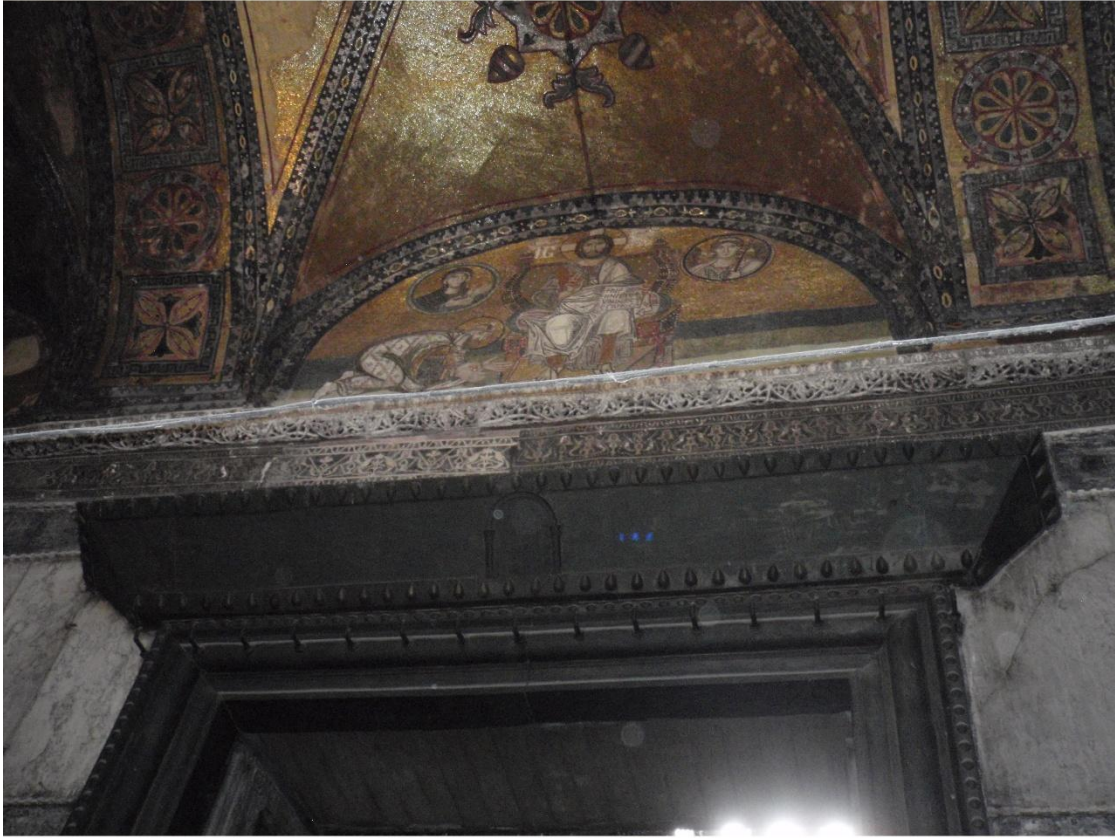


A Christian mosaic panel called "Deesis" (Greek for "prayer" or "supplication") in Hagia Sophia which was created by the Byzantine Christians in 1261, but covered up by Muslims with plaster after Istanbul fell to the Muslims in 1453. The plaster was meticulously removed beginning in 1934. The mosaic shows Mary and John the Baptist asking Jesus for the salvation of mankind.





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## 1478 Spanish Inquisition

- In an attempt to rid the country of Spain of all heresy against the Catholic church.
- Spain sacrificed Jews, Moors (Muslims living in Spain), and Protestants.
- No church organization has ever been more unrestricted than the Spanish Inquisition.
- It was in agreement with the papal Inquisition established by Innocent III in its aim to eradicate heresy. But it was under the direction of a tribunal appointed by the Spanish king and answerable to him. They were completely independent of the bishops.
- The first sitting of the tribunal in 1481 result in six men and woman being cremated alive.
- It began with the Edict of Grace which gave heretics a period of 30-40 days to turn themselves in.
- The priest were then placed under a vow to reveal these names.
- Then 750 of them in 1486 were to march through the streets with candles to the church where they were told 1/5 of their property would be taken and they could never hold public office.
- By 1491, 298 people had been burned and 79 condemned to perpetual imprisonment.
- 1490-1500, 75 were burnt alive and 26 dead were exhumed and cast into the flames.
- In 1500 the entire population of a city was banished by inquisitor-general Deza.
- The crimes of unorthodox faith could be refusal to eat pork on a single occasion, visiting a house where Moorish notions were taught, saying that the Virgin herself and not her image effected cures
- People were tortured into confession and to get a conviction of someone else.
- The water-cure: the victim was tightly bound and stretched upon a rack with the body on an incline and the head tilted back. The jaws were opened and a linen cloth stuck down the victim's throat. Water from a quart jar trickle through it into his body until they held 7-8 jars. Weights were attached to the feet and the body would be raised and lowered to increase the pain.
- Whipping, Galley labor
- By 1488 5,000 were in perpetual imprisonment.
- The last case of an execution by the Spanish Inquisition was a schoolteacher on July 26, 1826. He was accused of being a deist and substituting the words "Praise be to God. For "Ave Maria purissima." He died on the gibbet (gallows or forked stick) repeating the words, "I die reconciled to God and to man."



## 1522 Zwickau Prophets arrive at Wittenburg

- While Luther was hidden in the Wartburg castle Nicholas Storch and Markus Stubner showed up in Wittenburg.
- They claimed to be prophets
- They began preaching the Anabaptists' ideas ("ana" means "again, twice" and refers to believers who were being baptized a second time as an adult after having been baptized into the Catholic church as an infant)
- They taught the kingdom of God would soon appear
- Their followers would have special revelations
- Luther risked his life, left the castle and returned to Wittenburg to preach 8 fiery sermons.
- In these sermons he:
  - defeated the prophets
  - stressed the authority of the Bible
  - stressed the need for gradual change in the church

## King Henry VIII's "GREAT BIBLE"

King Henry VIII's translator, **Miles Coverdale**, was a former associate of Tyndale, and used Tyndale's translation along with other sources to produce the first complete Bible ever printed in English. In April 1539 a revised version, **the Great Bible**, was published, and Henry soon issued a royal decree that:

1. The Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments in English were to be taught sentence by sentence on Sundays and holy days throughout the year.
2. At least one sermon on the Gospel was to be preached every quarter.
3. Every parish church in England was to "set up in some convenient place" a copy of the English Bible accessible to all, "the very lively Word of God."

Copies of the Great Bible were chained to the lecterns in the vestibules of churches throughout England, and crowds of people came to read the Bible in English.

## John Calvin in Geneva

- Believed in infant baptism
- Believed sacraments = to word of God and brought salvation
- Jacques Gruet (often misspelled as Groet) was a 16th-century Genevan citizen and political opponent of John Calvin, whose execution in 1547 highlights the intense conflicts over authority and morals in Calvin's Geneva.
- Groet wrote a note calling Calvin a hypocrite and placed it on his pulpit.
- Groet was tortured for one month and beheaded
- Michael Servetus burnt at the stake in Geneva on October 27, 1553 for rejecting the Trinity and the divinity of Christ when he said that Jesus was the "Son of the Eternal God," not the "Eternal Son of God," making him a forerunner to modern Unitarianism. He was a Spanish theologian
- During the intense period between 1542 and 1546, dozens of people were executed by the city authorities for various crimes, including heresy, witchcraft, and adultery. The total number of executions during his time, often at his prompting, was substantial.
- During the first five years of his strict rule, records show that 13 people were hanged, 10 were beheaded, and 35 were burned at the stake. Fifty-eighty people executed
- A girl was decapitated for hitting her mother
- Four men decapitated and quartered for disagreeing with Calving and communion

<b>Five “Solas” of the Protestant Faith</b>	
<b><i>sola scriptura</i></b>	“by Scripture alone”
<b><i>sola fide</i></b>	“by faith alone”
<b><i>sola gratia</i></b>	“by grace alone”
<b><i>solo Christo</i></b>	“by Christ alone”
<b><i>solī Deo gloria</i></b>	“glory to God alone”

<b>Calvanist Theology Compared to Catholic Theology</b>		
	<b>Calvanist (Protestant)</b>	<b>Catholic</b>
<b>Authority</b>	Scripture	Church Tradition, Pope, Councils, Scripture
<b>Apocrypha</b>	Rejected	Accepted
<b>Sin Nature</b>	Total Depravity, Guilt Inherited from Adam	Man's nature is corrupt but not totally Tendency toward evil from Adam
<b>Human Will</b>	In bondage to sin	Able to do spiritual good
<b>Predestination</b>	God Caused it	God foreknew it
<b>Atonement</b>	Christ's death is a substitutionary sacrifice that paid sin's penalty	Christ's death provided the merit for the blessing of salvation that comes to man through sacraments
<b>Grace</b>	Common grace to all Saving grace only for elect	Prevenient grace that enables a sinner to believe
<b>Good Works</b>	Produced by the grace of God, Unworthy of merit of any kind	Meritorious
<b>Regeneration</b>	Work of the Holy Spirit in the Elect	Grace given at baptism
<b>Justification</b>	Judicial act of God	Forgiveness received at baptism, Lost during mortal sins, Regained by penance
<b>Church</b>	Recognizes visible church and also invisible universal church	Outside the visible Catholic church there is no salvation
<b>Sacraments</b>	Means of grace if received by faith	Provide justifying and sanctifying grace
<b>Priesthood</b>	One high priest, Jesus, in heaven All believers are priests	The Catholic priests are the mediators between God and man
<b>Transubstantiation</b>	Rejected	Accepted
<b>Purgatory</b>	Rejected	Accepted