

Preserving the Truth

500 Years & Counting



500



Why start with church history?

1. General Benefits

- Inspiration
- Projection
- Reminder
- Motivation

2. Context

3. Refutation of RC claims



The Roman Catholic Church:

**Satan's greatest
masterpiece**



The danger

- Counterfeit
- Tradition for Scripture
- Pope for Christ
- False history for genuine legacy
- Sacraments for grace
- Mass for genuine corporate worship
- Mary for our True Mediator

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The attraction

- History
- Authority
- Ignorance
- Ritual
- Harmony
- Family



I will build my church

1st Century – The Apostles

- Acts 1:8
- Persecution
- A.D. 70
- Teams of Elders



I will build my church

2nd Century - Martyrs, Confessors & "catholic" Christianity

- Persecution
- False teaching
- Regional leadership
- Antioch
- "catholic"



I will build my church

3rd Century - Persecution, Heresy, Origen & Tertullian

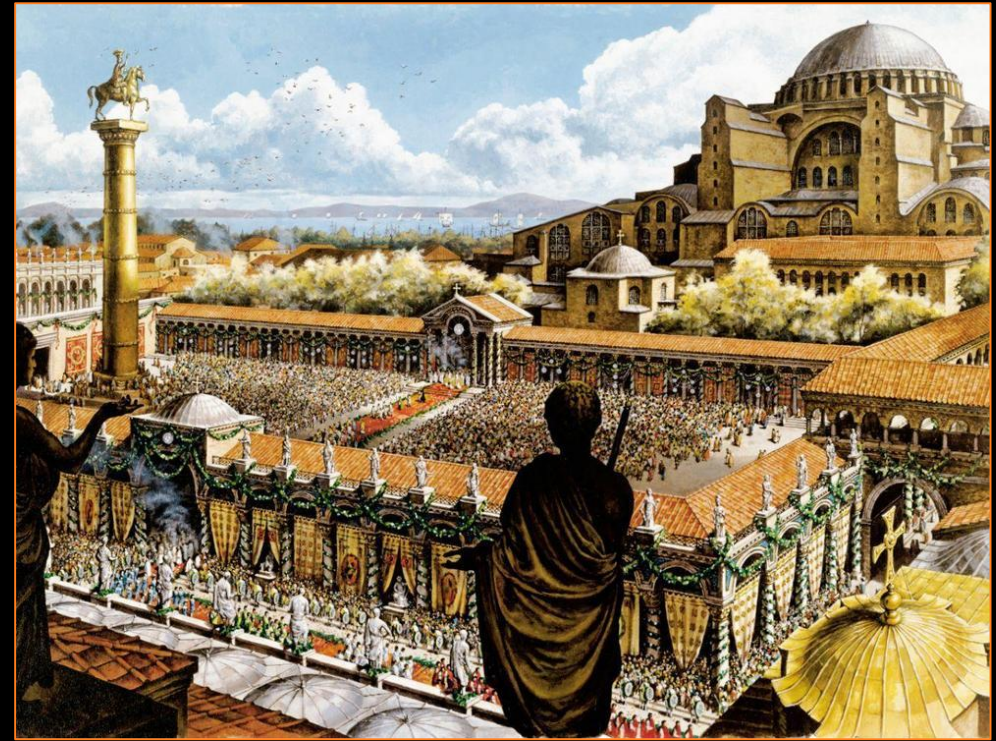
- Lower class
- The popes
- Caesar worship
- Theologians & apologists
- Origen of Alexandria
- Tertullian of North Africa



I will build my church

4th Century - Christian empire emerges

- Severe persecution to moral decay
- 8 significant events
 1. Conversion of Constantine (312)
 2. Council of Nicaea (Turkey, 325)
 3. Constantine moves empire's capital (330)
 4. Council of Constantinople (Turkey, 381)
 5. Damasus becomes Bishop of Rome (366-384)
 6. Jerome begins Vulgate (382)
 7. Conversion of Augustine of Hippo (North Africa, 387)
 8. Councils of Hippo (393) & Carthage (North Africa, 397)
- Antioch became major center of Christianity (half of 500,000)



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5th Century - City of God & City of Man

- Barbarians & fall of Rome (410, 455)
- Pope Leo I (440-461)
- Council of Chalcedon (Turkey, 451)
- Pelagian Controversy



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6th Century - Justinian & Benedict

- Justinian I, builder & defender
- Benedict, patriarch of Monasticism



I will build my church

7th Century - Gregory the Great & the Rise of Islam

- Gregory the Great expanded Rome
- Mohammed gathered a following in Medina (622)



I will build my church

8th Century - Iconoclastic Controversy

- West & East fought over icons
- The 2nd Council of Nicaea (787)





I will build my church

9th Century - Struggle for power in the Church

- West & East fought over Nicaean Creed
- Nicholas forged documents



I will build my church

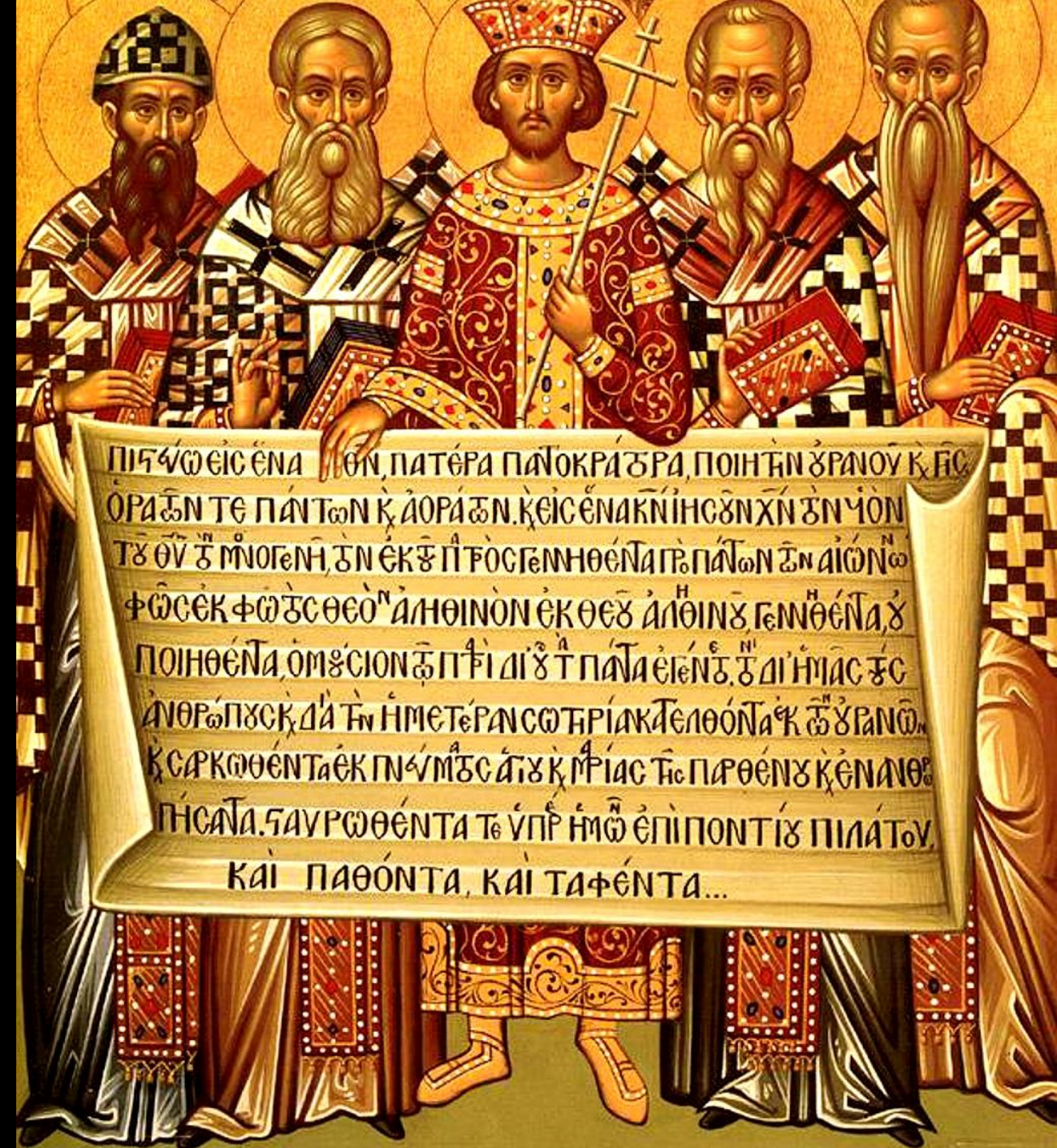
10th Century - the Dark Ages

- Rise of Eastern church power & influence
- Popes in Rome left alone
- Christianity spreads to Slavs

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11th Century - the Great Schism

- West & East split into 2 churches (1054)
- West's clause added to Nicene Creed
- Struggle really over authority in church



I will build my church

Middle Ages & RC Church

- Commentary, tradition usurp Scripture
- Latin became official language of church & Scripture (Vulgate)
- Various forms of idolatry arose
- Babylonian Captivity of the papacy
- Great Papal Schism
- Sacramental system, a means to salvation, invented



I will build my church

Renaissance & Printing press

- Back to the source
- Information age



Satan's greatest masterpiece

Claim of one, historic church with all authority is baseless
– it is a counterfeit church

- Roman region just one of many & not authoritative until it was the last organization standing in the West
 - No unbroken line of apostolic succession
 - Most of today's Roman Catholic dogma was devised in the Dark Ages
 - Rome destroyed the catholic “universal” church, not Luther
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