

Eastern Christianity History and Geography

Historical Theology
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I. PENTARCHY

Roman empire divided into 5 territories each overseen by the Bishop of the most significant city in the region. The cities are:

- A) Rome
- B) Constantinople
- C) Antioch
- D) Alexandria
- E) Jerusalem

II. COUNCIL OF NICEA (325)

- A) Called by Emperor Constantine the Great
- B) Nicene Creed
- C) Arianism Opposed

III. COUNCIL OF EPHESUS (431)

- A) Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople condemned for heresy by some, but not all.
 1. Nestorius taught that Jesus has 2 separate natures a God-nature and a Man-nature within him. He is **PART** God and **PART** man.

IV. COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON (451)

1. Is Jesus **OF** two natures or **IN** two natures?
2. Eastern church still divided into Chalcedonian and Non-Chalcedonian branches over this issue.

V. FILIOQUE CONTROVERSY (6TH CENTURY)

- A) Latin churches begin adding the word "Filioque" to the Nicene Creed to describe the Holy Spirit as coming from the Father and the Son instead of from the Father alone.

VI. MUSLIM CONQUEST

- A) Alexandria (641), Antioch(630s) and Jerusalem (637) are conquered by Islam leaving only Rome and Constantinople of the original Roman Empire Pentarchy.

**VII. CONVERSION OF KIEVAN RUS'
(9TH OR 10TH CENTURY)**

- A) There is dispute about exactly who did exactly what and exactly when, but what is agreed is that the Patriarch of Constantinople sent church officials to both Belarus and Kievan Rus' who both eventually left paganism to follow Christianity as taught in Constantinople.

VIII. GREAT SCHISM (1054)

- A) Who rules the Church, Rome or Christ?

**IX. CRUSADERS SACK
CONSTANTINOPLE (1204)**

- A) It would later be remarked that the Turks were more humane to the Christians of Constantinople than the Crusaders were.

**X. ATTEMPTS TO RECONCILE THE
GREAT SCHISM (1274 & 1439)**

**XI. TURKS CONQUER
CONSTANTINOPLE (1453)**

- A) Turks see Bishops as rulers, so they choose who the bishops will be and assign them both religious and political authority.

XII. NESTORIAN CHURCH

Still support Nestorius. Eventually renamed Persian Church, Assyrian Church or Church of the East. Eventually isolated from Western Churches by Muslim conquest.

xiii. PERSIAN and Assyrian CHRISTIANS

Closely related to Nestorian Church although not strictly Nestorian. Eventually adopt the name Church of the East possibly to demonstrate to local antagonists that they are not sympathetic to the Roman Empire.

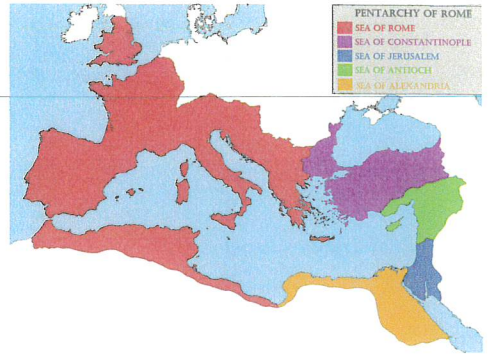
Sent missionaries to Turks, Mongols, Chinese, India, etc. When Westerners finally reached these areas they were occasionally shocked to find Christians present.

xiv. MONGOLIAN CHRISTIANS

Probably converted through efforts by Persian Christians.

xv. SYRIAC CHRISTIANS

Probably converted through efforts by Persian Christians



<https://www.deviantart.com/georgianpatriot/art/Pentarchy-of-Rome-951243881>



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