

World Religions

Christendom or Christianity? Wednesday, January 28th 2026

A. God's Plan for the Ages- The "Two Timelines":

1. **The Source of TIME-** Principle #2- The Principle of Time
 - a. God's CHOSEN method to REDEEM/RESTORE what was lost!
 - b. The 1st Occurrence of Time in the Bible- Genesis 1:14-19
2. **The Significance of TIME-**
 - a. The 3 "T's" of Stewardship- Time, Treasure, Talents'- Waste; Spend; Invest
 - **TIME= Our MOST PRIZED POSSESSION!**
 - James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
3. **God's Two Time Lines- Two Perspectives-**
 - a. A "Chronological" Perspective- 2 Peter 3:1-9- Page #11- How to Study the Bible
 - **Chronological Timeline SLIDE**
 - AD (Anno Domini vs CE (Common Era or Current) also BCE (Before the Common Era)
 - b. A "Dispensational" Perspective- Colossians 1:25- Page #12- How to Study the Bible-
 - **Dispensational Timeline SLIDE**

B. God's Plan for the Church- The "Three Transitional Books":

1. **DRILL DOWN-** Book of Revelation Overview- **Book of Revelation SLIDE**
2. **The Three Transitional books of the New Testament-** Page #9- "How to Study the Bible"-
 - a. **The Gospel of Matthew-** Transition from the Old Testament to the New Testament-
 - Theme is a Jewish King & Kingdom
 - b. **The Book of Acts-** AKA "The Acts of the Apostles"-
 - Transition from a literal Jewish kingdom focus to a spiritual Gentile focus
 - The transition is complete sometime during the Book of Acts-
 - **Key Thought:** God DRAWS no distinctions in the Church Age (GRACE):
 - Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.
 - Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.
 - c. **The Book of Hebrews-** A transitional section of the New Testament as God transitions from the Church Age to the Tribulation period.
 - Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after **those days**, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:
 - Hebrews 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after **those days**, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

3. The Book of Acts and the Birth of the New Testament Church- Some important facts regarding the Book of Acts: Books of Acts SLIDE

a. The Book of Acts records the beginning of Church History:

b. The Book of Acts is transitional in doctrine:

- It reveals a Transition from the Jews to the Gentiles
- It reveals a Transition from the Nation of Israel to the Church
- It reveals a Transition from the “Kingdom of Heaven” to the “Kingdom of God”
- It reveals a Transition from Peter to Paul

c. The Book of Acts establishes Principles governing the next 2000 years:

- The contrast between Antioch and Alexandria
- Rome: The “eternal city” opposing God
- The book of Acts ends with the Apostle Paul preaching the “Kingdom of God”- Acts 28:31

C. God’s Plan for the Church Age- The “Seven Churches”:

1. The Historical Application- Seven literal historical places- **Asia Minor MAP SLIDE**

2. The Devotional Application- Seven types of believers in church.

3. The Doctrinal Application- Seven distinct periods of Church history- **Church Building SLIDE**

a. The Significance of the “Mystery of Iniquity”- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

b. 2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the **mystery of iniquity doth already work**: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. **“GOD MOVES SATAN COUNTERS”**

4. The Seven (7) distinct periods of Church History- Key Milestones:

a. **Ephesus-** “Fully Purposed”; Revelation 2:1-7 (33AD -200AD): The church which knew what God wanted it to do; but, lost its way. Also known as the “Apostolic Church” period.

- Apostolic Church Fathers- 33AD – 90AD
- Ante-Nicene Church Fathers- 90AD – 325AD
- Post-Nice Church Fathers

b. **Smyrna-** “Bitterness & Death”; Revelation 2:8:11 (200AD – 325AD): The church persecuted severely by pagan Rome with the goal of eliminating Christianity. Also known as the “Persecuted Church.”

- 10 Major Persecutions
- The Church Explodes

c. **Pergamos-** “Much Marriage”; Revelation 2:12-17 (325AD – 500AD): The church that married into the world and settled down with it. Also known as the “Compromising Church.”

- The Battle of Milvian Bridge Pagan Rome- “With this sign you shall conquer”
- Rome transitions from being Pagan to Papal
- Christendom becomes the official religions of the Roman empire

d. **Thyatira**- “Odor of Affliction”; Revelation 2:18-29 (500AD – 1000AD): The church which bore the judgment of God due to its pagan superstitions. Experienced the “black death” at the peak of the Dark Ages. Also known as the “Dead Church.”

- Charlamagne unifies Europe creating the “Holy Roman Empire”
- The Dark Ages/Middle Ages- The Peak of the Holy Roman Empire
- The Black Plague hits Europe

e. **Sardis**- “Red Ones”; Revelation 3:1-6 (1000AD – 1500AD): The church persecuted by the Roman Church and known for its bloody persecutions during the Crusades, Spanish Inquisition and “Bloody Mary” of England. Also known as the “Afflicted Church.”

- The Crusades- Death & Destruction in the Middle East- Eight Crusades
- The Inquisitions- Spanish, Portuguese, Roman
 - Pope Gregory IX authorizes the Dominican Order to kill heretics
- The Inquisitions- Medieval (1184AD); Spanish (1478); Edict of Expulsion (1492); Portuguese Inquisition (1536); Roman Inquisition (1542)
- William Tyndale burned at the stake
- Source- Foxes Book of Martyrs

f. **Philadelphia**- “Brotherly Love”; Revelation 3:7-13 (1500AD – 1900AD): The church of the “open door” in world missions. The English-speaking people take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Also known as the “Missionary Church.”

- The Reformation/Protestant Movement (1517) & the Counter Reformation/Jesuits (1540)
- China (Hudson Taylor); India (William Carey); Burma (Adoniram Judson); Africa; David Livingstone; Davud Brainerd (America)
- The Moravians- Followers of John Huss & John Wycliffe
- America founded on religious liberty- The 13 original colonies & the Seven “Great Awakenings”
- CT Studd quote: “Only one life twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last”
- The American Cults are birthed

g. **Laodicea**- “Rights of the People”; Revelation 3:14-22 (1900AD – Rapture): The church of the “closed door,” The rich yet apostate church concerned only with personal rights. Also known as the “Lukewarm Church.”

- God’s Word corrupted and the birth of the charismatic movement (1912AD)
- The Theory of Evolution & the Scopes Trial (1925AD)
- Emotionally driven culture (1967AD – Present)
- Blinding Materialism (1945AD – Present)