

Revelation 2-3

World Religions

The Great Schism

Wednesday, February 11th 2026

A. The Great Deception- Arianism & The Council of Nicaea:

1. The Significance of Places- Byzantine MAP SLIDE (GREEN)

- a. Antioch, Assyria- Acts 11:25- Good
- b. Alexandria, Egypt- Bad
- c. Constantinople/Byzantium/Modern Day Istanbul
- d. Rome-

NOTE: Nicaea- Key location regarding early church doctrine

2. The Origin of Arianism-

- a. Alexandria, Egypt- Home of Origen of Alexandria (185AD – 253AD)
 - Embraced an allegorical approach to scripture
- b. Arias & Arianism- A student and of Origen and his writings:
 - Arias introduced a doctrine that rejects the truth about the Trinity.
 - It teaches that Jesus was a created being and is therefore distinct from God.
- c. Core Beliefs of Arianism-
 - God the Father is Supreme- Only God the Father is eternal, uncreated, and truly God.
 - Jesus is Created- Jesus (the "Son of God," was created by God the Father before time began and is therefore not eternal or of the same divine essence as the Father.
 - Subordinationism- Jesus is subordinate to the Father, a perfect image, but a finite being with limited power, unlike the Father.
 - No Trinity- Arianism rejects the traditional Christian concept of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as one God).

3. The Council of Nicaea 325AD-

B. The Great Dilemma- An Issue of Authority:

1. How did the division begin-

a. Language & Cultural Barriers-

- The Western Church (Latin); The Eastern Church (Greek)
- Language is the key to a culture
- During the 1st & 2nd centuries Greek was the primary language of the church
- The Western church & culture preferred reading & studying in latin,
- Commissioned Jerome of Stridon to develop a Latin Bible- “Jerome’s Latin Vulgate”
- The Language & Cultural barriers broke down communications between the church

b. Political Barriers-

- The Western church became extremely political (754AD) when it embraced Charlemagne, King of the Franks as its official leader- The creation of the “Holy Roman” empire.
- The Fall of the Western Church by the Barbarians (456AD) created a fractured church
- The Byzantine Empire/Eastern Church was stable, and the Byzantine emperors maintained a good relationship with the Patriarch of Constantinople- Created a college of Patriarch.

c. Theological/Religious Barriers-

- The Filioque Controversy- During the Council of Constantinople (381AD) the Nicene Creed was ratified and became Catholic doctrine- Doctrine: The Holy Spirit came from the Father.
- The Bishops of Spain & Pope Leo the Great were still dealing with issues regarding the trinity- The Western Church added a phrase to the Nicene Creed- “and the Son” to indicate that the Holy Spirit came from both the Father & the Son.
- The Eastern Church was upset that the Western Church had taken it upon themselves to change the Nicene Creed.
- The Filioque Controversy led to who is the final authority on doctrinal issues- The Roman Pope or the Eastern Church Patriarch.
 - This overreach caused the Eastern Church Patriarch to consider the Western church popes as just another patriarch.
- The Great Schism of 1054AD began with Pope Leo IX sending an emissary by the name of Cardinal Humbert to Constantinople. Issued a “Papal Bull” (a formal, authoritative decree or apostolic letter issued by the Pope) of Excommunication
- The Crusades and the Crusaders exacerbated the division because of the behavior- They plundered the Eastern Church’s cathedrals and attempted to plan Western/Roman churches in the east.

2. The Schism is still Ongoing

C. The Great Divide- East vs. West

1. The Schism is in full affect TODAY!

2. WWII/Yalta Conference and the creation of the “Iron Curtain”- Europe divided geographically between East (Soviet Bloc & Western Europe).

a. The creation of the Soviet Bloc & NATO

b. The beginning of the “Cold War”

3. Jesus’ Matthew 24:7 Prophecy- “Nation shall rise again Nation”

a. The Fall of the former Soviet Bloc- AKA The Eastern Bloc

b. The fall of the Soviet Union- Union- December 26th, 1991

c. Russia embraces its Eastern Orthodox church roots

- Putin’s main influence- Alexander Dugin
- Putin embraces the Eastern Orthodox religion and Russian nationalism

d. The Former Yugoslavia & the Balkan War- 1991AD – 2001AD

- Serbia (Eastern Orthodox Church) against its neighbors (Croatia, Slovenian, Bosnia, Kosovo (Roman Catholic Church & Muslim)

4. The Russian & Ukrainian War-

a. Crimea taken in 2014

b. Ukraine invaded in February 2022