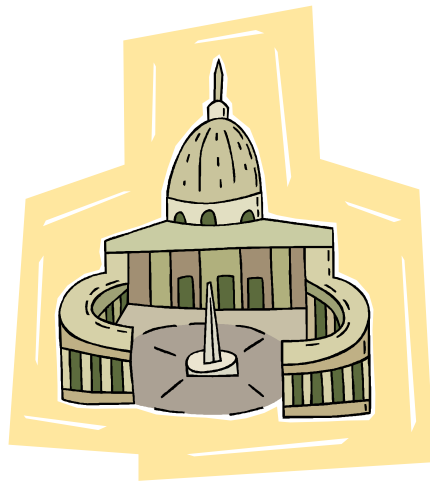


15 Minute Religion

Thinking About Religion



15 Minute Religion

A Survey of Religious History and Thought, Focusing on Judeo-Christian Theology and Practice

Edited, Compiled, and Written 2010-2011 by Stephen Kirsch

This work is a reflection solely of its author and as such reflects no great scholarship or pride of ownership. As a whole, the parts belonging to the author are probably best kept by him and as a matter of fact are probably not fit for reproduction. Still, like any children, I must claim them as my own. Any inaccuracies, similarity to other works, or downright lies should be considered par for the course. For truly, and this work provides some proof of it, there are few original thoughts in the world¹, except perhaps, wrong ones and even those have been tried already.

As for that, those parts which may be considered new or as not belonging to the author and appropriated from others, belong to them as should be noted by citation (*mea culpa* if not) and should not be considered a part of this work except by guilt through association.

¹ Or in the words of Qoheleth “*There is nothing new under the sun.*” (*Ecclesiastes 1:9*)

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Thanks

This series relies on the impetus of two people and a series of philosophical lunchtime ‘lectures’, but it is founded in the gift of so many. So first to Julien and Allison, thanks for the *Food For Thought* challenge. To my parents and everyone else, thanks for showing and giving me the love God and later of art, critical thinking and philosophy. Thanks especially to my wife, Alice, who married me even though I had a degree in philosophy and a minor in religious studies. Finally, as always, an apology to my kids, as they had no choice in the matter.²

As for theology itself, I also owe a debt of gratitude to the saints, priests, nuns, sisters, preachers, Monks of St. Joseph Abbey and the Jesuits of The Pontifical Gregorian University and to the many others who spent their time giving us such a rich history of Faith; what more can I say?

By Way of Introduction...

If one agrees with Hegel on this matter³, then this preface will be short.

So why write another book about religious thought?

Despite the moniker, as with any work in this series, there is no promise that it will only take 15 minutes to understand all of the myriad theologies out there! The idea of the original lectures was to take about 15 minutes of reading and a lifetime of understanding. Not too much to ask or expect? I have tried to translate the spirit of those weekly lunch-time lectures into this printed format.

As for this work, it will pretend to be at first no more than an historical survey of religion and religious thought but may end up with some survey of overall concepts through time. The religious thought and theology presented here is in fact much deeper and wider than we discuss, and to a much deeper degree than is shown in the book. The pericopes included in this work show the limited nature of the limited nature of this discussion.

As for myself, I hold but a mere undergraduate minor in this field. Why do I feel qualified to produce such a work? Well, I hold a mere undergraduate minor in this field.

As for the subject matter, this first work follows the maxim of ‘write what you know’, or at least what you think you know. Later works will attempt to follow more of a world religions survey. This work is more focused on the rise of religious thought which culminates in Judeo-Christian theology.

Dedication

I dedicate this book to everyone who has struggled with the idea of belief, and especially to those who struggled to teach me the fine art of theology.

² “THE appearance of this volume demands more than the usual amount of apology.” Introduction to *Humanism*, by F.C.S. Schiller

³ And one should; c.f. *Phenomenology of Spirit*, 1, Georg Hegel

Faith And History

This is a borrowed/enhanced timeline to give a sense of the movement toward Judeo-Christianity.

Prehistory (400th millennium BC to 32nd century BC)	
300th to 51st millennium BC	
223,000 - 100,000 BC	The earliest evidence of Hominids, such as Neanderthals, deliberately disposing of deceased individuals in funerary caches. The graves, located throughout Eurasia, are believed to represent the beginnings of ceremonial rites, although there is some debate about this. Neanderthals placed their deceased in simple graves with little or no concern for grave goods or markers; however, their graves occasionally appeared with limestone blocks in or on them, possibly an archaic form of grave marking. These practices were possibly the result of empathetic feelings towards fellow tribesmen, for example: an infant buried in the Dederiyeh Cave (in modern Syria) after its joints had disarticulated was placed with concern for the correct anatomical arrangement of its body parts.
98,000 BC	In the area of present-day France and Belgium, Neanderthals begin de-fleshing their dead, possibly after a period of ex-carnation prior to burial.
50th to 11th millennium BC	
40,000 BC	One of the earliest anatomically modern humans to be cremated is buried near Lake Mungo (in modern Australia).
33,000 BC	All convincing evidence for Neanderthal burials ceases. Roughly coinciding with the time period of the Homo sapiens introduction to Europe and decline of the Neanderthals.
25,000 - 21,000 BC	Individual skulls and/or long bones begin appearing heavily stained with red ochre and are separately buried. Examples of ritual burials in Iberia, Wales, and Eastern Europe all incorporating red ochre. Additionally, various objects are being included in the graves (i.e. periwinkle shells, weighted clothing, dolls, possible drumsticks, mammoth ivory beads, fox teeth pendants, panoply of ivory artifacts, antlers, flint blades, etc.). The oldest discovered "Venus figurines" appear in graves. Some are deliberately broken or repeatedly stabbed. Representing some unknown social dynamic.
21,000 - 11,000 BC	Convincing evidence of mortuary activity ceases.
13,000 - 8,000 BC	Increased burial activity resumes. Prior mortuary activity had either taken a less obvious form or contemporaries retained some of their burial knowledge in the absence of such activity; dozens of men, women and children were being buried in the same caves which were used for burials 10,000 years beforehand. All these graves are delineated by the cave walls and large limestone blocks. The burials are very similar to each other and share number of characteristics— ochre, shell and mammoth ivory jewelry—that go back thousands of years. Some burials are double, comprising an adult male with a juvenile male buried by his side. They are now appearing to take on the form of modern cemeteries. Old burials are commonly being re-dug and moved to make way for the new ones, with the older bones often being gathered together and cached together. Large stones may have acted as grave markers. Pairs of ochre colored antlers are sometimes poles within the cave; this is compared to the modern practice of leaving flowers at one's grave.
10th millennium to 34th century BC	
9831	The Neolithic Revolution begins and results in a worldwide population explosion. The first cities, states, kingdoms, and organized religions begin to emerge. The early states were usually theocracies, in which the political power is justified by religious prestige.
9130 - 7370 BC	The apparent lifespan of Göbekli Tepe (in modern Turkey), the oldest human-made place of worship yet discovered.
8000 BC	Four to five pine posts are erected near the eventual site of Stonehenge.

7500 - 5700 BC	The settlements of Catalhoyuk develop as a likely spiritual center of Anatolia (modern day Turkey and Syria). Possibly practicing worship in communal shrines, its inhabitants leave behind numerous clay figurines and impressions of phallic, feminine, and hunting scenes.	
3100 - 2900 BC	Newgrange (in Ireland), the passage tomb aligned to the winter solstice is built.	
Ancient history (33rd century BC to 3rd century CE)		
33rd to 12th century BC		
3100 BC	The initial form of Stonehenge is completed. The circular bank and ditch enclosure, about 110 meters (360 ft) across, with perhaps a timber circle.	
3000 BC	Sumerian city-states, ziggurats, and cuneiform emerges, allowing the codification of beliefs and creation of detailed historical religious records.	
	The second phase of Stonehenge is completed and appears to function as the first enclosed cremation cemetery in the British Isles.	
2635 - 2610 BC	The oldest surviving Egyptian Pyramid is commissioned by pharaoh Djoser (the 'Step' pyramid). It is surrounded by temples.	
2600 BC	Stonehenge begins to take on the form of its final phase. The wooden posts are replaced with bluestone. It begins taking on an increasingly complex setup—including altar, portal, station stones, etc.—and shows consideration of solar alignments.	
2560 BC	The approximate time accepted as the completion of the Great Pyramid of Giza, the oldest pyramid of the Giza Plateau.	
2494 - 2345 BC	The first of the oldest surviving religious texts, the Pyramid Texts, are composed in Ancient Egypt.	
2200 BC	Minoan Civilization in Crete develops. Citizens worship a variety of Goddesses. Art evidence of some possible religious practices.	
2150 - 2000 BC	The earliest surviving versions of the Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh (originally titled "He saw the deep").	
2000 - 1850 BC	The traditionally accepted lifetime of the Judeo-Christian-Islamic patriarchal figure Abraham. Likely born in Ur or Haran and buried in Hebron.	
1600 BC	The ancient development of Stonehenge comes to an end.	
13th to 9th century BC		
1350 - 1332 BC	Reign of Akhenaton in Ancient Egypt; ~17 year shift to monotheism.	
1334 BC	Egypt returns to polytheism.	
1300 - 1000 BC	The 'standard' version of the Epic of Gilgamesh edited	
1250 BC	Proposed time of the Hebrew exodus from Egypt.	
1200 BC	The Greek Dark Age begins.	
1200 BC	Olmeccs build earliest pyramids and temples in Central America.	
1100 BC	Approximate time for birth of Zoroaster (a.k.a. Zarathushtra), founder of Zoroastrianism.	
950 BC	The oral Torah begins to be written, the core texts of Judaism and foundation of later Abrahamic religions.	
8th to 3rd century BC		
800 BC	Early Indian Brahmanas are composed.	
800 BC	The Greek Dark Age ends.	
600 - 500 BC	Timeframe of earliest Confucian writing	
	Babylonian exile Torah and other core texts codified	
563 BC	Gautama Buddha, founder of Buddhism is born.	
551 BC	Confucius, founder of Confucianism, is born.	
440 BC	Zoroastrianism enters recorded history.	
312 BC	Alexander the Great captures Palestine.	
245 BC	The Septuagint or Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures is finished.	
2nd century BC to 4th century CE		
139 BC	The Maccabee revolt against the Greek Antiochus IV.	
63 BC	Pompey captures Jerusalem and annexes Judea as a Roman client kingdom.	
7 BC - 36 AD	The approximate time-frame for the life of Jesus of Nazareth.	
50-62	Council of Jerusalem is held.	

51-63	Pauline letters are written.	
60-100	The approximate time-frame for the writing of the four canonical Gospels.	
68	Peter and Paul die in Rome.	
70	Siege of Jerusalem and the Destruction of the Temple.	
120	Core canonical writings of the New Testament are done.	
220	Manichaeism is formed by prophet Mani	
250	Some of the oldest parts of the text of Mandaean Gnosticism, are written.	
250 - 900	Classic Mayan civilization, Stepped pyramids are constructed.	
300	The oldest known version of the Tao Te Ching is written on bamboo tablets.	
325	The first Ecumenical Council, the Council of Nicea, is convened to attain a consensus on doctrine through an assembly representing all of Christendom. It establishes the original Nicene Creed, fixes Easter's date, recognizes the primacy of the sees of Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch and grants the See of Jerusalem a position of honor.	
380	Theodosius I declares Nicene Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire.	
381	The second Ecumenical Council, the Council of Constantinople, reaffirms/revises the Nicene Creed repudiating Arianism and Macedonianism.	
381 - 391	Theodosius proscribed Paganism within the Roman Empire.	
393	The Synod of Hippo, the first time a council of bishops of early Christianity listed and approved a Biblical canon.	
Middle Ages (5th to 15th century)		
5th to 9th century		
405	St. Jerome completes the Vulgate, the first Latin translation of the bible.	
410	The Western Roman Empire begins to decline, signaling the onset of the Middle Ages.	
424	The Assyrian Church of the East formally separates from the See of Antioch and the western Syrian Church	
431	The third Ecumenical Council, the Council of Ephesus, is held as a result of the controversial teachings of Nestorius, of Constantinople. It repudiates Nestorianism, proclaims the Virgin Mary as the Theotokos ("Birth-giver to God", "God-bearer", "Mother of God"), repudiates Pelagianism, and again affirms the Nicene Creed.	
449	The Second Council of Ephesus declares support of Eutyches and attacked his opponents. Originally convened as an Ecumenical council, its ecumenicity is rejected and is denounced by the Chalcedonian Council of 451.	
451	The fourth Ecumenical Council, the Council of Chalcedon rejects the Eutychian doctrine of monophysitism, adopts the Chalcedonian Creed, reinstated those deposed in 449 and deposed Dioscorus of Alexandria, and elevates of the bishoprics of Constantinople and Jerusalem to the status of patriarchates.	
451	The Oriental Orthodox Church rejects the christological view put forth by the Council of Chalcedon and is excommunicated.	
480 - 547	The Codex Gigas, <i>Devil's Bible</i> , is written by Benedict of Nursia, the founder of Western Christian monasticism.	
553	The fifth Ecumenical Council, Second Council of Constantinople, repudiates the Three Chapters as Nestorian and condemns Origen of Alexandria.	
570 - 632	Life-time of Muhammad ibn 'Abdullāh, the founder of Islam.	
632-661	The Rashidun Caliphate brings Arab conquest of Persia, Egypt, Iraq, bringing Islam into those regions.	
650	The Qur'an is completed.	
661-750	The Umayyad Caliphate brings Arab conquest of North Africa, Spain, Central Asia. Marking the greatest extent of the Arab conquests bringing Islam into those regions.	
680 - 681	The sixth Ecumenical Council, the Third Council of Constantinople, rejects Monothelitism and Monoenergism.	
	Circa 680 the split between Sunni and Shiites starts to grow.	
692	The Council in Trullo, an amendment to the 5th and 6th Ecumenical Councils, establishes the Pentarchy (Constantinople is added to make a fifth Patriarchy).	
754	The unrecognized Council of Hieria supports iconoclasm.	

787	The seventh Ecumenical Council, Second Council of Nicea, restores the veneration of icons and denounces iconoclasm.	
10th to 15th century		
1054	The Great Schism between the Western Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches formally takes place.	
1095 - 1099	The first Crusade takes place.	
1107 - 1110	Sigurd I of Norway wages the Norwegian Crusade on Muslims in Spain, the Balears, and in Palestine.	
1147 - 1149	The Second Crusade is waged in response to the fall of the County of Edessa.	
1189 - 1192	The Third Crusade, European leaders attempt to re-conquer the Holy Land from Saladin.	
1191	Dehli Sulatanate is established.	
1199 - 1204	The Fourth Crusade takes place.	
1204	Crusaders of the Fourth Crusade sack the Christian Eastern Orthodox city of Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine Empire.	
1209 - 1229	The Albigensian Crusade takes place in Occitania (mainly southern France).	
1217 - 1221	The Church attempts the Fifth Crusade.	
1228 - 1229	The Sixth Crusade occurs.	
1244	Jerusalem is sacked again, instigating the Seventh Crusade.	
1270	The Eighth Crusade is organized.	
1271 - 1272	The Ninth Crusade fails.	
1320	Pope John XXII in an attempt to quash superstitious practices lays the groundwork for future witch-hunts with the formalization of the persecution of witchcraft.	
1484	Pope Innocent VIII marks the beginning of the classical European witch-hunts with his papal bull <i>Summis desiderantes</i> .	
Early Modern and Modern era (16th to 20th century)		
16th to 18th century		
1500	African religious systems are introduced to the Americas, with the commencement of the trans-Atlantic forced migration. Many of these will meld with Christianity forming such systems as Voodoo but also producing new denominations.	
1517	Martin Luther posts the 95 theses. In the Spanish Empire, Catholicism is spread and encouraged through such institutions as missions and the Inquisition. Catholicism is brought to America and the far East.	
1491 - 1547	Henry VIII.	
1545 - 1563	Council of Trent.	
16 th -18 th centuries	Constant struggle for political independence by various factions.	
1620	Pilgrims land in Plymouth.	
1789 - 1799	The de-Christianizing of France during the Revolution. The state confiscates Church properties, bans monastic vows, and with the passage of the Civil Constitution of the Clergy removes the Church from the Roman Pope and subordinates it as a department of the Government, replaces the traditional Gregorian Calendar, and abolishes Christian holidays.	
1791	1 st amendment to American Constitution guarantees freedom of religion.	
19th to 20th century		
1801	Following the French Revolution, France and Pope Pius VII entered into the <i>Concordat of 1801</i> . While Catholicism regains some powers and becomes recognized as "...the religion of the great majority of the French", it's not afforded the latitude it had enjoyed prior to the Revolution. The Church relinquishes all claims to estates seized after 1790 by the State. All clergy are state salaried and must swear allegiance to the State.	
1830	The Latter Day Saint movement (Mormonism) is founded by Joseph Smith, Jr.	
1905	In France the law on the Separation of the Churches and the State is passed, officially establishing it as a secular state and putting an end to the state funding of religious groups.	
1917	The October Revolution, in Russia, leads to the annexation of all church properties and subsequent religious suppression.	

	The 1917 Constitution of Mexico is written making the Mexico a secular state.	
1938	The first event of the Holocaust, the Kristallnacht, takes place.	
1939 - 1945	Millions of Jews are relocated and killed by the Nazi government during Holocaust. Many Christians also fall under persecution and are killed.	
1948	Israel is created by UN action. Jews return to their ancient biblical homeland.	
1952	Scientology is created.	
1954	Wicca is publicized by Gerald Gardner.	
1960s	Various Neopagan and New Age movements gain momentum.	
1961	Unitarian Universalism formed from merger of Unitarianism and Universalism.	
1962 - 1965	The Second Vatican Council takes place.	
1966	Religious Satanism begins, with Anton Szandor LaVey's founding of the Church of Satan.	
1983	New code of canon law, catechism and liturgical texts are promulgated based on the teachings of Vatican II	
1989	The revolutions of 1989, the overthrow of many Soviet-style states, allows a resurgence in open religious practice in many Eastern European countries.	
1993	The European Council convened in Copenhagen, Denmark, agrees to criteria requiring religious freedom within any and all prospective members of the European Union.	
1997	New catechism and liturgical texts are promulgated based on the teachings of Vatican II	

Sacred Texts

This is a general and extremely approximate timeline which tries to put the Judeo-Christian Scriptures into some context.



Date	Bible	History/Other
5000 BC +		<p>4,000,000,000 Big Bang.</p> <hr/> <p>4004 (Sunday 23 October) Bishop Usshers' (1581-1656) date for Biblical creation of the world based on O.T. Chronology. According to Ussher, Adam and Eve were driven from Paradise on Monday 10 November 4004 BC. Ussher was Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland, and Vice-Chancellor of Trinity College in Dublin.</p> <hr/> <p>According to John Lightfoot (1602-1675), Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University and a contemporary of Ussher, man was created on "October 23, 4004 B.C., at nine o'clock in the morning".</p> <hr/> <p>3760 start of Jewish year count.</p>
4000 BC		3100 Pyramid Texts.
3000 BC		
2000 BC	<p>2000-1900 Abraham, b. in Ur.</p> <hr/> <p>2000-1500 possible range for Book of Job</p>	<p>1800 Babylonian Creation Myth.</p> <hr/> <p>1792 Code of Hammurabi, earliest legal codex.</p> <hr/> <p>1760 Gilgamesh Epic.</p> <hr/> <p>1730 Hyksos invasion of Egypt</p> <hr/> <p>1600 Orig. Egyptian Book of the Dead. (Book of Coming Forth by Day).</p>
1500 BC	<p>1500-1350 Origins of Judaism, Moses and the Exodus from Egypt.</p> <hr/> <p>1240 Judges</p>	<p>1500 Zoroaster/Zarathustra.</p> <hr/> <p>1194 Fall of Troy (events described in Iliad/Odyssey).</p> <hr/> <p>1100 Rise of Mayan culture.</p>
1000 - 990 BC	950 Torah/Pentateuch, Song of Songs.	<p>1050 King Saul.</p> <hr/> <p>1010 King David.</p>



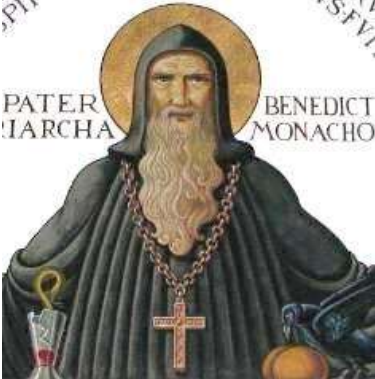
Date	Bible	History/Other
		<hr/> 970 King Solomon. <hr/> 926 Israel and Judah split.
800 BC	740 Book of Isaiah.	800 or 700 Homer: Illiad and Odyssey. <hr/> 800: Hesiod: Works and Days, Theogony
700 BC	700 Books of Deuteronomy, Joshua, Samuel.	721 Assyrian conquest. <hr/> 628-551 Zarathustra/Zoroaster
600 BC	520 Books of Zechariah, Isaiah.	610-570 Sappho. <hr/> 612 Babylon conquers Assyria. <hr/> 600 Babylonian Exile. <hr/> 664-525 Rev. Egyptian Book of the Dead
500 BC	Genesis, Exodus, Numbers myths written.	586 Babylonian conquest.
400 BC	Books of Proverbs, Job. <hr/> 350 w.v. Song of Songs.	330 Alexander conquers the East. <hr/> 360 Critias by Plato: contains story of Atlantis.
300 BC	Book of Jonah <hr/> 285 Septuagint, first Greek trans. of the O.T.	
200 BC	200-120 early Mishnah. <hr/> 164 Book of Daniel. <hr/> 160 O.T. Apocrypha: Tobit, 1 Esdras, Enoch, others. <hr/> 150 Early Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls source).	
100 BC	5-7 b. of Jesus	47 First burning of the Library of Alexandria by the Romans.
1 CE	1-33 Jesus. Events described in the first four N.T. books. <hr/> 33 either April 3, 30 CE or April 7, 33 CE: the Crucifixion. <hr/> 30-96 New Testament. <hr/> 50-63 Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, Philippians. <hr/> 60-80 Acts of the Apostles. <hr/> 68 Destruction of Qumran community. (Dead Sea Scrolls). <hr/> 65-70 Gospel of Mark.	70 Destruction of Jerusalem & Temple by Romans.

Date	Bible	History/Other
	70-80 Gospel of Matthew. <hr/> 70-80 Gospel of Luke. <hr/> 90-100 Gospel of John. <hr/> 81-96 Revelation of St. John.	
100 CE	Nag Hammadi Scriptures. <hr/> 100 Synod of Jamnia, Canon of Hebrew Scriptures set <hr/> Mishna.	
200 CE		
300 CE	(to 14th Cent.) comp. of Midrash. <hr/> 300-400 Nag Hammadi Scriptures in Coptic. <hr/> 382 Jerome commission for Latin Vulgate translation. <hr/> 350 Jewish Talmud and Gemara. <hr/> 325 Council of Nicea, Canon of Christian Scriptures set.	
400 CE	Babylonian Talmud. <hr/> 405 promulgation of Vulgate (Latin Bible).	401 Confessions of St. Augustine.
1000 CE		1054 The Great Schism.
1400 CE	1456 First pub. Vulgate Bible by Gutenberg.	1466-1536 Desiderius Erasmus 1483-1546 Martin Luther
1500 CE	1514-22 pub. O.T. and N.T. Vulgate Translated into Greek by Erasmus. <hr/> 1522 N.T. Translated into German by M. Luther off Erasmus. <hr/> 1525 N.T. Translated into English by W. Tyndale (1494-1536) off Erasmus. <hr/> 1534 pub. entire Bible in German by M. Luther. <hr/> 1535 pub. Bible in English by Miles Coverdale (1488-1569). <hr/> 1546 O.T. Apocrypha declared Canonical by Catholic Church. <hr/> 1582 pub. O.T. of Douay–Rheims Bible in English.	1517 M. Luther's 95 Theses. <hr/>
1600 CE	1609 pub. N.T. of Douay–Rheims Bible in English. <hr/> 1629 O.T. 'Apocrypha' removed from Protestant Bible.	1618-9 Synod of Dordrecht <hr/> 1677 Paradise Lost/Regained by John Milton. <hr/> 1678 Pilgrim's Progress by J. Bunyan.
1700 CE		1789 Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. <hr/> 1793 Thomas Paine's Age of




Date	Bible	History/Other
1800 CE		Reason. 1859 Darwins' Origin of Species. <hr/> 1891 Baltimore Catechism. <hr/> 1890-1922 The Golden Bough by Frazer.
1900 CE	1945 Discovery of Nag Hammadi Scriptures. <hr/> 1947-56 Discovery of Qumran (Dead Sea) scrolls. <hr/> Translations of the Bible proliferate.	

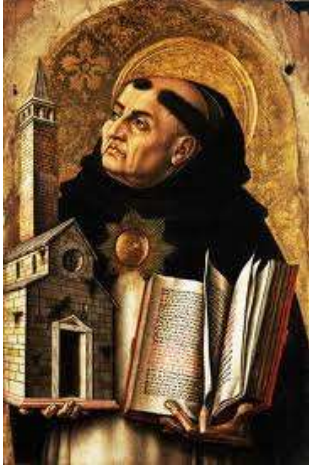

Persons of Interest

Name	Date	Apostolic Age	
St. Peter	~5-68		<p>Jewish, he is born in the back-waters of Israel, in an area known as Galilee, along the lake. He is a fisherman by trade, but is called by Jesus along with his brother Andrew making Peter is one of the 12 closest insiders Jesus gathers around himself. Eventually he shows himself to be their spokesman, and along with James and John, one of Jesus' most trusted friends. He witnesses to the nature of Jesus as messiah, but falls short on supporting him on his arrest. After the Resurrection Peter seems to move into a roaming leadership position, eventually landing in Rome with Paul, where unlike Paul who enjoys Roman citizenship, Peter is summarily executed by crucifixion (upside-down, by tradition) in Nero's circus alongside the Vatican Hill and its necropolis, into which he is buried. Constantine lops off the top of the Vatican Hill to build the great Basilica of St. Peter's over the spot of his grave. Through time many struggle with the meaning of his presence in Rome and 11 centuries later this same Basilica will be the center of much controversy.</p>
St. Paul	~5-68		<p>Jewish, he was born a Roman citizen in Tarsus (in modern Turkey). A pharisaic student of the Law he witnessed to the blasphemy of Jewish Christians and eventually devoted himself to the eradication of the sect. At some point he is converted and devotes himself just as zealously to the spread of the new beliefs. In the process he becomes one of its greatest proponents, rivaling even Peter. After debating with Peter and the rest of the Apostles on the nature of inclusion into Christianity, it is decided that Jews as well as Gentile may have full membership, even without the observation of strict Jewish Law. He travels about the Empire spreading the message and writing the earliest existing Christian literature, what are known as <i>Epistles</i> (or letters). He eventually is taken to Rome where he is tried and executed by being beheaded. Paul's vision of Christianity and his writings become very important to the unity of the fledgling Church and 14 centuries later their interpretation become the center of division within that same Church.</p>
Church Fathers			

Name	Date		Bio
St. Irenaeus	~130-202		<p>He was born in Smyrna (in modern Turkey) and became bishop of Lyon in the Roman province of Gaul (modern France). He survived the persecution of Marcus Aurelius and in the peace that followed became a great spokesman against Gnosticism, which contained the idea of 'secret' knowledge. He was a tireless missionary and preacher and his works <i>Against Heresies</i> mark him as one of the first great post-Apostolic theologians. He emphasized the traditional structure in the Church, especially the magisterium, Scripture, and Tradition. Irenaeus stressed unity and doctrinal authority as evidenced by the councils who decide doctrine in union with the bishop of Rome.</p>
Tertullian	~160-220		He.
St. Benedict	480-547		He.

Theologians, Reformers, and Mystics

Name	Date		Bio
Blessed Hildegard of Bingen	1098-1179		<p>Born in Boeckelheim (near Frankfort, Germany), she was a mystic and visionary, as well as a poet, author, and a musician. She preached, communicated with popes, statesmen, and emperors and had the support of the likes of St. Bernard of Clairvaux. It is hard to characterize her influence during her lifetime, but she had the ears of the great and the lowly, and her holiness was greatly venerated. She was in death one of the first persons to whom the newly established process of canonization was officially applied (it was never finalized, hence her title as 'blessed', but many modern churchmen refer to her as a full canonized saint).</p>
St. Francis of Assisi	1181-1226		<p>From the small hill town of Assisi in central Italy, he came to fame as a humble beggar. Not studious, he sought out <i>bon homme</i> and glory as a soldier but was taken prisoner where he fell ill, developing persistent health issues which would follow him through his life. In about 1205 he began to turn to a life of poverty and wandering, of rejecting his middle class father's life and ministering to the poor through alms and preaching. He heard a voice which called him to 'repair my Church' which he mistook to mean a small chapel in Assisi and used his father's trade goods to secure funds, much to his father's chagrin and ire. After a short period of uncertainty he began to seek in prayer and solitude the answer to his call to begin calling for reform from the larger Church and especially the clergy. He began the order of Friars Minor and inspired his cousin Clare to start the order of the Poor Ladies.</p>
St. Dominic	1170-1221		<p>He was born in Castile (part of modern Spain) and became a canon of the cathedral in Osma. Eventually he accompanied his bishop to southern France in a mission of preaching against the Albigensian heresy. Dominic turned to intense study and poverty as a means to continue preaching in the area hoping to have greater effect than the retinue with which he traveled who bedded in splendor. In 1216 he founded the Order of Preachers, dedicated to saving souls by preaching and persuasion. Like the Franciscans, founded a few years before, the Dominicans put great importance on poverty, both of the individual and of the community, and of the need to be involved directly in the world while still living some form of monastic life. At a time when the settled Benedictine monasteries had grown into great and rich institutions, this was a revolutionary and to some a subversive concept. The Friars made a</p>

Name	Date		Bio
			lasting impact on the life of medieval Europe, and the Dominicans, producing such thinkers as Thomas Aquinas, in particular altered the course of intellectual history by making a well-thought-out and rational response to the new learning that was appearing as long-forgotten thinkers such as Aristotle became known once more in the Christian West.
St. Thomas Aquinas			He.
The Church In Schism			
St. Ignatius Loyola	1491-1556		He. Between 1524 and 1537, Ignatius studied theology in Spain and then in Paris arriving during the period of anti-Protestant turmoil which forced John Calvin to flee to Switzerland. Ignatius, concerned for with both the abuses and opulence of the clergy as well as the growing schismatics, with a few followers bound themselves together by vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. In 1539, they formed the Society of Jesus and Ignatius composed the <i>Constitutions</i> for the new order and wrote his <i>Spiritual Exercises</i> . Ignatius' zeal for
St. Francis Xavier	1506-1552		Friend and n of Ignatius, Francis Xavier took on the task of spreading the word to the East, traveling from India to China, dying just off the coast while trying to understand how to get to the mainland. He is considered by many to be the greatest missionary since the time of the Apostles, because in the short space of ten years he visited so many countries, traversed so many seas, and preached the Gospel and converted so many in so many diverse nations.

Terms

A lively glossary of terms used in this work.

A

- **AD:** *Anno Domini* – the year of our Lord (Jesus). A means of demarking eras; see *CE*.
- **Apophtatic:** the art of negative thinking.
- **A posteriori:** a) analytical reasoning based in experience. Thinking based on evidence and rational from a conclusion. b) something that is known from external sources
- **A priori:** something that is pre-known, is the basis for knowledge, or is a ‘given’
- **Aristotelian:** of or applying to the philosophy of the Greek Aristotle.
- **Asceticism:** the doctrine that through renunciation of worldly pleasures it is possible to achieve a high spiritual or intellectual state.

B

- **BC:** *Before Christ* – a means of demarking eras.
- **BCE:** *Before Common Era* – a more politically correct means of demarking eras.

C

- **Cataphatic:** the power of positive thinking.
- **Cause:** action or thought which is the basis for another action or thought.
- **CE:** *Common Era* – a modern means of demarking eras; see *AD*.
- **Consciousness:** a debatable aspect of human existence or essence.
- **Copernican Revolution:** the radical rethinking of held beliefs and ideas, especially as illustrated by Nicholas Copernicus’ (1473 –1543) theory that the Earth orbited the Sun as opposed to the long held *a posteriori* belief of the opposite.

D

- **Doubt:** often the impetus of inquiry, but not of answers if you happen to be a Skeptic.

E

- **Eastern:** an arbitrary designation for division of philosophical thought and systems.
- **Empiricism:** the system by which all knowledge is sense based and there are no abstract universal.
- **Exegesis:** the *critical* discussion or interpretation of sacred texts.
- **Ex nihilo:** the idea of creation from or out of nothing, kind of like most of the author’s discussions.
- **Evil:** a quality which for various groups has various manifestations. Suffice it to say that it is an absence of moral action.

F

- **Faith:** (*Noun*) the immutable sum and total of truths contained within a religious system; not to be confused with the action of ‘having faith’ or the act of believing.

G

- **Greeks:** a body of thinkers who owe their citizenship to various Greek powers, whether they be on the Greek homeland or scattered about the Greek empire; not to be confused with campus student associations.

H

- **Hedonism:** from the Greek word meaning ‘delight’; finding happiness through pure pleasure; often associated with Epicurus.
- **Hellenism:** the ‘Greek-ifying’ of thought. Mainly through the influence of Plato and Aristotle.

I

- **Imperative:** a thing which must be; for Kant, it also elicits a necessary response.
- **Idealism:** a system in which reality is dependent upon the mind rather than independent of it.

J

- **Justice:** the achievement of balanced results for the individual or the group.
- **Justification:** the rational used in and for an argument; in a salvific sense, the yardstick of righteousness.

K

- **Kantian:** of or applying to the philosophy of the German Immanuel Kant.

L

- **Legal:** something which follows the rules but may not be valid.
- **Licit:** something which is permissible but not necessarily fully following the rules.

M

- **Materialism:** a system in which reality is made up only of material things – empirically sensed.
- **Monastery:** a collection of individuals into a community bound together by a shared desire; for Christians, to live Gospel values in an early Church community style; for Buddhists, .

N

- **Neo-Platonism:** the re-introduction of Platonic ideas into ‘modern’ systems.

O

- **Ontology:** the study of being, that is what is being what does it mean to be.
- **Orders:** the classification of a monastic group bound together by a rule: example – Benedictines and Franciscans.

P

- **Pericopes:** a fragment or section of a larger work.
- **Philosophy:** Come on...you’re kidding, right?

- **Platonic:** of or applying to the philosophy of the Greek Plato.
- **Prime Mover:** designation of the beginning principle or cause.

Q

- **Query:** the asking of questions.

R

- **Rationalism:** knowledge is based in the mind and relies on innate, abstract universal ideas: *see* Descartes.
- **Rhetoric:** teaching method which is discourse conducted by a single person. Often confused with meaningless blather which has usurped the word.
- **Reality:** one of the myriad ways of organizing perceptions. For empiricists, reality is the sum of sensory perceptions; for rationalists it is the sum of the constructs of the mind.

S

- **Sign:** something which contains within itself its meaning; for example, an eight-sided figure on a street corner. Symbol would be its antonym.
- **Sin:** that thing which is probably best defined in non-religious/moralistic terms as that which if it feels *really* good while you feel *really* bad as you are doing it must be wrong.
- **Sine Qua Non:** *without which none.* A pretty basic (though fancy sounding) principle of existence.
- **Skepticism:** the idea that no truth can be determined, *believe it or not!*
- **Socratic:** of or applying to the philosophy of the Greek Socrates.
- **Socratic Method:** the activity of asking questions in order to teach by drawing out answers; used by the philosopher Socrates and many fine teachers after him. See dialectic.
- **Stoicism:** the system which extols the rational over the emotional as culturally expressed in the *Star Trek* character Spock.
- **Substance:** that which makes up a thing, which makes it what it is.

- **Symbol:** something which points to a meaning *beyond* itself; for example, an owl symbolizing *wisdom*. Sign would be its antonym.

T

- **Teleology:** understanding things by their 'end purpose'.
- **Truths:** basics by which other methods, systems or arguments may be measured ('humans think').

U

- **Übermensch:** German for the super- or over- man.

V

- **Validity:** the assertion that an argument has structural merit.

W

- **Western:** an arbitrary designation for division of philosophical thought and systems.
- **Will:** Various meanings depending upon the philosophy; Natural Law; the idea of human thought or action.
- **Word:** .

X

- **Xylophone:** because there always has to be an 'X' entry.

Y

- **Yo-Yo:** the perfect example of Aristotle understanding of *kinêsis*.

Z

- **ZZZZ:** what can happen while reading this work.

The Sacred, Myth, Ritual

- **The Sacred and the Profane**
 - Mircea Eliades
- **The Hero with 1000 Faces**
 - Joseph Campbell

Egyptian

- **Gods and Men in Egypt: 3000 BCE to 395 CE**
 - Françoise Dunand, Christiane Zivie-Coche, David Lorton, Translation by David Lorton, 2004
Cornell University

Hebrew/Judaism

- **Walking the Bible**
 - Bruce Feiler
- **The Jews in the Time of Jesus: An Introduction**
 - 1996, Stephen Weylen

Christianity

- **General Christianity**
 -
- **Christian Theology**
 -
- **Christian History**
 - **Behind the Scenes at Galileo's Trial**, Richard J. Blackwell University of Notre Dame Press

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