

The History of Christianity

(taken from Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity)

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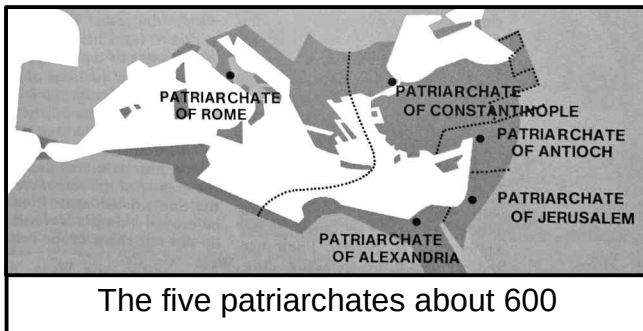
Introduction: The Christian Centuries, Part 5

(excerpts from Robert D. Linder's introduction)

Collapse. In the fifth and sixth centuries, as the barbarian invaders swarmed over the formerly proud Roman Empire in the West, the church remained as the only institutional link with Roman past. As such, it later built upon the foundations of the bygone glories of Rome and became the dominant institution of the Middle Ages. In the East, several national churches emerged, most of which gradually drew together under the leadership of the Patriarch of Constantinople.

The great church of North Africa was lost in 707 in the face of a new and dynamic religious movement: Islam. Islam made its appearance in the Middle East beginning with Muhammad's flight from Mecca in 622. From its original base in central Arabia, the Muslim faith spread like lightning throughout the Middle East, central Asia, and North Africa. By 732, it had penetrated as far as Tours in south central France, where it was checked by the Frankish warrior-chieftain Charles Martel, the grandfather of the Emperor Charlemagne (742-814).

In this way two major centres of Christianity developed in the early Middle Ages: one in Rome under the guidance of the pope, and one in Constantinople under the leadership of the patriarch. At first the patriarch appeared to be more powerful. As time passed it became clear that the patriarch would be subservient to the Eastern Emperors who, in reality, ran both church and state. In the West, the pope eventually emerged as the most powerful religious and political figure, after centuries of struggle with temporal rulers.



“Appointed to give ourselves”

1 Timothy 2:1-7

July 20, 2025

Hartford Bible Church, Pastor Dan Hummel
(#'s in parenthesis () are verses in 1 Timothy 2)

1. Pray 4 ways (1)

2. Pray for leaders (2)

Jer. 29:7

3. Peace for mediation (2-4)

Eze. 18:23, 2 Pet. 3:9

4. Ultimate Mediator (5-6)

Gal. 4:4-5

5. Great mediator (7)

Ex. 32:30-32, Daniel 9

6. Our mediation (1-4)

2 Cor. 5:20-21

7. Distractions (8-15)

[Next week]