

CHURCH HISTORY

Lesson 7 – The Middle/Dark Ages (part 1) (600 to 1400 A.D.)

With the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, Europe enters into what is commonly called the "Middle Ages", "Medieval Period", or "Dark Ages".

A. Background/Major Events

1. Why is this period called the "Dark Ages"?
2. During this time, a major world religion began - Islam.
 - a. Who was Mohammed (570 to 632 A.D.) and where did he live?
 - b. What is the Quran (Koran)? What is Sharia law?
 - c. What does "Allah" mean? What does "Islam" mean?
3. Muslims claim a common religious heritage with Bible-believing Jews and Christians. Contrast this with what Islam teaches about the following.
 - a. The nature of Deity and the nature of Jesus?
 - b. The fact of Jesus' crucifixion?
 - c. The purpose of Jesus' death?
 - d. "Jihad" or "holy war"?
4. According to <http://ilmfeed.com/cool-map-shows-spread-of-islam/>, briefly summarize the spread of Islam.
5. Who was King Charles, Charles the Great, or Charlemagne (747 to 814 A.D.)?

B. Authority

1. What are "cardinals" and the "College of Cardinals"? What did they do in the "Gregorian Reform" in 1059 A.D. regarding the selection of popes?
2. What is Roman Catholic "Scholasticism" (1100's to 1400's)?

C. Doctrines

1. According to <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Icon>, what are "icons"? What is an "iconoclast" and an "iconodule"? What did the Seventh Ecumenical council of Nicea II (787 A.D.) decide about icons?
2. According to <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1271-history-of-instrumental-music>, when did churches start using musical instruments?
3. Who were the "Cathari" (1100's A.D.)?

D. Divisions/Conflicts

1. What was the "Great Schism" of 1054 A.D.? What caused it? According to <http://www.orthodoxresource.co.uk/comparative/roman-catholic.htm> (or equivalent), what are the major differences between the resulting two religions today?
2. What were the Crusades (1095 to 1248 A.D.)? What caused them? What was Biblically wrong with them?

E. Special Topics

1. What is "All Saints' Day"? What is the connection between it and Pope Gregory III (730 A.D.)? How is the previous day ("All Hallowed Eve") celebrated?