

# The Sixth and Seventh Centuries

## History: The Middle Ages

### I. Recap of the Early Church (≈33 A.D. - 300 A.D.)

#### A. Early Church Persecution

1. Nero sets fire to Rome (64 A.D.)
2. Destruction of Jerusalem (70 A.D.)

#### B. Early Church Fathers

1. First Century (≈35 A.D.-108 A.D.)  
Clement of Rome, Ignatius
2. Second Century (≈100 A.D.-200 A.D.)  
Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian
3. Third Century (≈200 A.D.-300A.D.) Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Cyprian, Eusebius

#### C. Early Church Heresies

1. Gnosticism, Marcionism, Docetism



## **II. Recap of the Imperial Church (≈300 A.D. - 420 A.D.)**

### **A. Emperor Constantine**

1. Conversion to Christianity (312 A.D.)
2. Edict of Milan (313 A.D.)
3. Constantinople (330 A.D.)

### **B. Ecumenical Councils**

1. Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.)
2. Condemned Heresies (Arianism, Pelagianism, Donatism)

### **C. Emperor Theodosius**

1. Christianity made the official religion of the Roman Empire (379 A.D.)

### **D. Advancement of Christian thought**

1. Augustine, Athanasius, John Chrysostom, St. Patrick, Pope Leo I
2. Jerome complete the Latin Vulgate (406 A.D.)
3. Christian Schools of Thought in Alexandria and Antioch

### **E. Decline of Western Roman Empire**

1. Visigoths sack Rome (410 A.D.)
2. Rome falls to the Germans (476 A.D.)

### **III. Early Medieval Church (~420 A.D. – 700 A.D.)**

#### **A. Growing Divide**

1. West speaks Latin / East speaks Greek
2. West battled barbarians and the fall of the Roman Empire
3. East battled the Persians, an influence of Mysticism, and the spread of Islam

#### **B. Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.)**

1. Nestorianism condemned as heresy

#### **C. Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)**

1. Eutychianism (aka Monophysitism) condemned as heresy
2. Oriental Orthodox Church splits (Syriac, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Armenian Orthodox Churches)

#### **D. Filioque Controversy**

1. Council of Toledo (589 A.D.)
2. Added “and the Son” to the phrasing of the Nicene Creed
3. Laid foundation for the Great Schism

#### **E. Christian Advancement**

1. Dionysius Exiguus creates A.D. dating system (525 A.D.)
2. Pope Boniface IV consecrates the Pantheon as the Church of Saint Maria Rotunda



3. St. Benedict of Nursia completes *Rule of St. Benedict* (516 A.D.)
4. Pope Gregory I (590 A.D.– 600 A.D.)

**F. Emperor Justinian of the Byzantine Empire (527 A.D.– 565 A.D.)**

1. Overhauled Byzantine laws and tax code
2. Built the Hagia Sophia (537 A.D.)
3. Furthered the divide between the West and East

**G. Rise of Islam**

1. Mohammed establishes Islam (622 A.D.)
2. Islamic capture of Jerusalem (638 A.D.)
3. Muslims capture Spain (720 A.D.)

**IV. Themes Throughout Church History**

**A. God's Sovereignty and Providence**

**B. Spread of the Gospel**

**C. Refining the Church**