

Retro CHURCH



UNDERSTANDING HOW WE GOT HERE

Why Study Church History?

1. Humbles us
2. Warns us
3. Guides us
4. Encourages us

Ground Rules

- This is PROTESTANT church history
- Historical transition came gradually
- Doctrine only developed as need arose
- Past leaders must be analyzed in their context
- I am NOT a historian

My Teachers

Church History in Plain Language

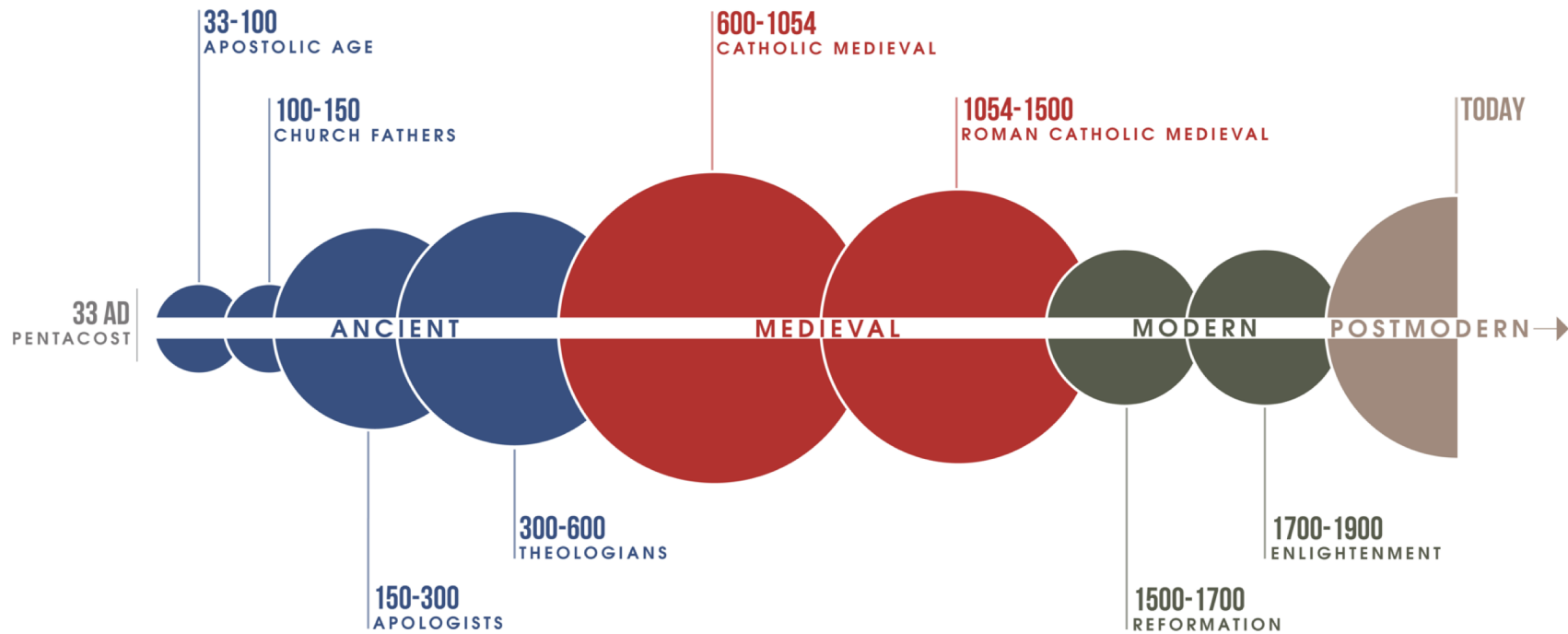
by Bruce Shelley

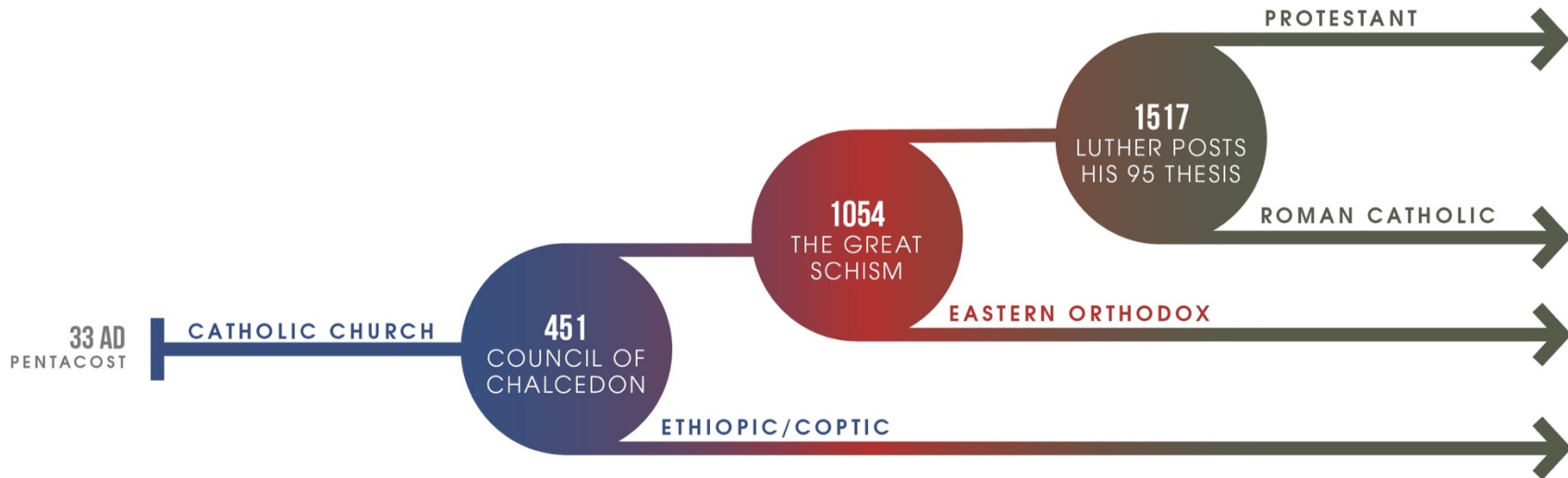
The Story of Christianity: 2 Volumes

by Justo Gonzalez

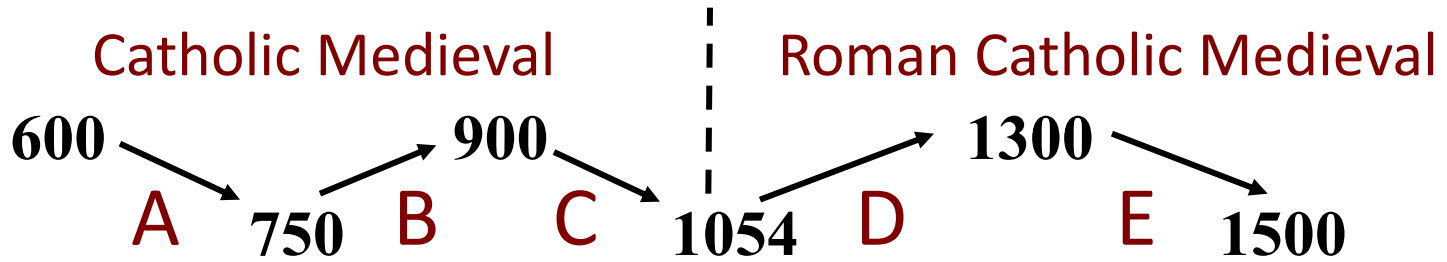
Our Legacy: The History of Christian Doctrine

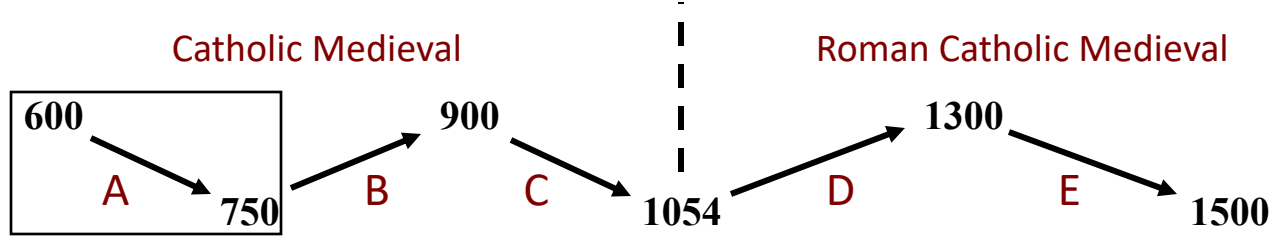
by John Hannah





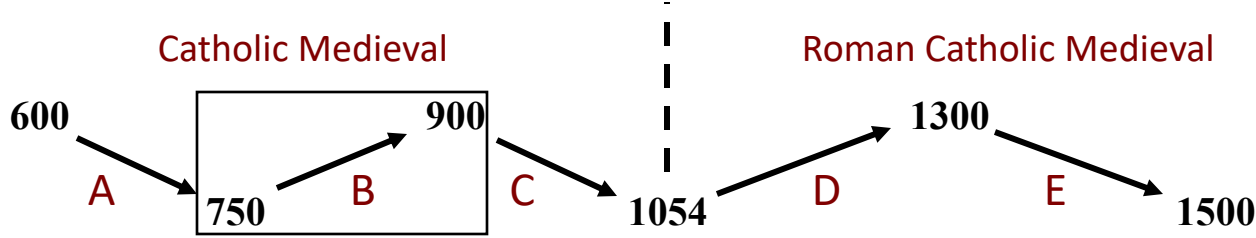
The Medieval Church (600 – 1500)





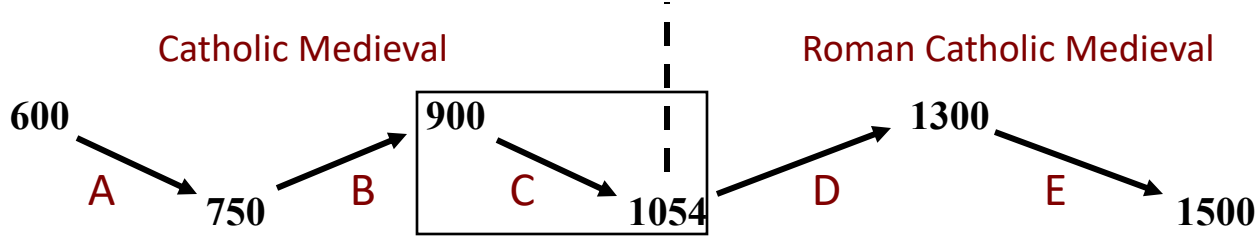
A. Collapse of Rome

- **Political & religious turmoil in the West**
- **Church in Rome becomes stabilizing force**
 - Grew the power of the Pope (Leo the Great; Gregory the Great)
 - Sent missionaries to the barbarians (Patrick; Boniface)
 - Established monastic orders



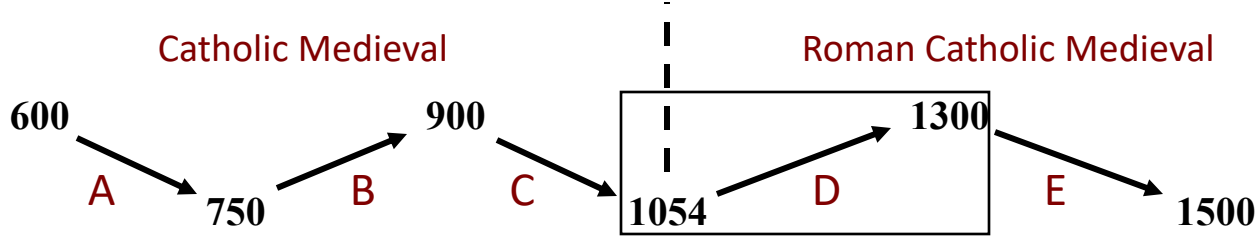
B. Rise of Carolingian Dynasty

- **A new challenge: Islam**
- **Western church turns to the Franks**
 - Charlemagne crowned emperor by Pope – 800 AD
 - So church is the highest power
- **Apostle's doctrine remains mostly intact**



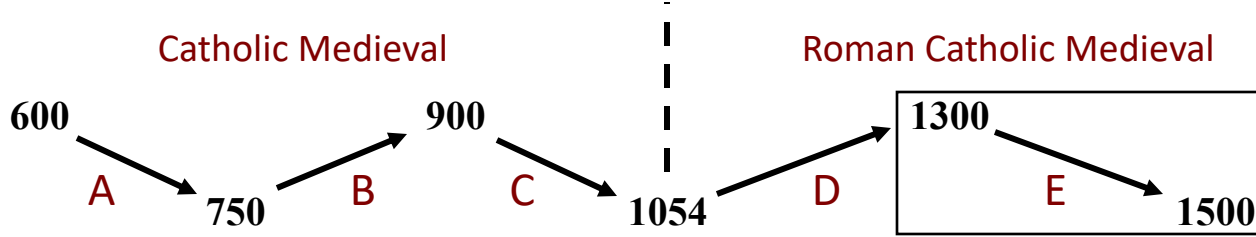
C. Collapse of Car. Dynasty

- **Vikings & Muslims threaten church & state**
- **Church corruption & injustice grows**
- **East splits from West - 1054**
 - Centuries of tension over Rome's claim of dominance
 - Trinitarianism, icons, & celibacy secondary issues



D. Monastic Renewal

- **Monasticism is vehicle of fresh renewal**
- **Enforced celibacy to avoid corruption**
- **Adopted absolute hierarchy of monastery**
 - Climaxes under Innocent III in 1200
 - Allowed church to launch 300 years of Crusades
- **Moved Christianity towards a system of works**



E. Late Medieval Decline

- **Birth of Scholasticism & Universities**
 - Thomas Aquinas, Anselm, Peter Abelard
- **Papacy lost political power**
- **Papacy fell back into corruption**
- **Calls for serious reform**
 - John Wycliffe, John Huss, & **Renaissance** intellectuals
 - But ignored or persecuted by the Church

The Reformation (1500-1700)

- **Reformationsu in the Western Church yield:**
 - 2 Groups of Numerous Protestant Denominations
 - 1 Renewed Roman Catholic Church (RCC)
- **Apostle's doctrine recovered by Protestants**
- **Widespread war & persecution – millions died**

The Reformation (1500-1700)

1. Magisterial Protestants: Church & State united

a) Germany: The Lutheran Church

- Martin Luther discovers grace through faith alone

b) Switzerland & part of France: The Reformed Church

- Zwingli & John Calvin

c) England: The Anglican Church

- "Middle way" – Protestant doctrine, RC ceremony

The Reformation (1500-1700)

2. Radical Protestants: Church & State separate

Anabaptists ("baptized again")

- Sought to return to simple Christianity in NT
- Persecuted for belief in believers' baptism
- Spread to Holland, England, and America
- Precursor to "Baptist" church... and eventually GBC!

The Reformation (1500-1700)

3. Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation

- Starts before Luther
- Reform of practice, not doctrine – root out corruption
- Council of Trent: codified RCC, anathematized Protestants
- Launched Inquisition to enforce Roman Catholicism

The Enlightenment (1700-1900)

= Intellectual & philosophical movement in the west that relied on human reason rather than revelation as source of truth & progress

- roots in the Renaissance
- Rene Descartes – “I think, therefore I am”
- John Locke – pioneered religious tolerance and empiricism
- David Hume – pioneered skepticism and naturalism
- **Immanuel Kant** – separated all into *phenomena* & *nomena*