

Church History as Seen in Israel's History

"Now all these things happened unto them [Israel] for ensamples"

1. **Israel (1462-1415BC) *Fast Start*** / Within 50 years from Egypt as slaves, Israel had a law, new land, pagan enemy conquered, government and a holy nation. / Josh. 11:16-23, 18:1
Church (33-70AD) *Fast Start* / Within 40 years of Christ's death, the church spread through out the Roman Empire, its epistles written and was God's new temple. / Acts
2. **Israel (1372-1065BC) *Oppression from pagan enemies*** / Israel sinned, the enemy came in, Israel repents, a judge would save them, then they fell back into captivity. / Judges 2:11-19
Church (70-312AD) *Oppression from pagan enemies* / After initial Roman liberty, Rome under Nero and others in 10 waves outlawed the Christian faith and fed them to the lions.
3. **Israel (1465-944BC) *A Human Head*** / Changed government in asking for a king when God was their king. She wanted to be like the other nations with a one-man leader. She now had earthly headquarters. Things went well for a while. / 1Sam. 8, 12:11-17, Hosea 13:11-13
Church (313-590AD) *A Human Head* / The Roman emperor Constantine accepted Christianity and persecution stopped. It became popular to be a Christian. *The church and state merged*. Constantine acted as head at times. Things went well for a while.
4. **Israel (944-720'sBC) *False kings*** / King Jeroboam as a false authority, for political gain, institutionalized a counterfeit religion with imitation priests offering imitation sacrifices on an imitation altar to imitations gods (idols) on imitation holy days. Now within the borders of Israel were a false and a true religion. / 1Kings. 12:25-33, 15:26, 34
Church (590-1500's) *False heads* / The authority of the church became the Roman popes. Then came a counterfeit gospel with imitation altars, sacrifices of mass, priests, holydays, and idols. By bondage, its counterfeit rituals kept most in darkness from the true gospel.
5. **Israel (727-640BC) *Reformers*** / Two key reformer kings (Hezekiah and Josiah) brought some revival to Judah. The false religion with its false priests, idols and altars were attacked and destroyed. Their cry was "it is written", 2Chron 31.3. One reformer (Josiah) died by an enemy arrow. Yet later Judah departed from the truth / 2Chron. 29, 35, 2Kings 23
Church (1500's-1700's AD) *Reformers* / Two key reformers (Luther and Zwingli) preached the gospel of faith alone and 'Sola Scriptura'. Many church buildings were rid of their false altars, idols and priests. One reformer (Zwingli) died by an enemy sword. But after deaths and time, many churches departed back into a ritualistic deadness.
6. **Israel (516-444BC) *Revival*** / After judgmental exile, a remnant returned and rebuilt the temple. Offerings to God in His house by His Word were begun again. / Ezra 3, 6, Neh. 8
Church (late 1700's-1900'sAD) *Revival* / Missions to the world exploded with the saving gospel and a renewed interest by many in the church of God, His Word over tradition, the imminent return of Christ and the breaking of bread (where worship offerings can occur).
7. **Israel (444BC-70AD) *Departure*** / Form without passion for God's truth. Various styles of synagogues - divided parties when Jesus appeared - then removal. / Malachi, Matt. 15&16.
Church (1900's-Present) *Departure* / Many Christians now prosperous but without zeal for God's truth. Many divisions based on people's way. But Christ coming to remove church.

An Allegorical Side of the Church's Course in Paul's Ship Ride

1. **Acts. 27:1-3** **Voyage Begins**: Paul the Christian is controlled by Rome but they “gave him liberty” to visit and be refreshed. *Church had Roman liberty for a while*
2. **Acts. 27:4-7** **“The Winds were Contrary”**: Sailing became difficult with the opposition of the wind. *Church entered period of Roman opposition and severe persecution*
3. **Acts. 27:8-13** **“Fair Havens”**: Safe in harbor - sailing was now dangerous but “south wind blew softly” so they left by Rome’s word, not Paul’s’. *Church then accepted by Rome*
4. **Acts. 27:14-20** **Darkness for Many Days**: Entered a horrific storm with no light: “all hope that we should be saved was then taken away”. *Church corrupted by Roman papacy*
5. **Acts. 27:21-29** **Word of Salvation**: God’s word to Paul was that no life would be lost – salvation. He believed and said it. *Church entered reformation; “the just shall live by faith”*
6. **Acts. 27:30-36** **Hearts Revived**: Day and joy came. On hope of salvation they broke bread and threw the wheat into sea. *Church had revival of world missions and Lord’s Supper*
7. **Acts. 27:37-44** **Ship in Pieces**: Ship hit sand and waves broke it up. All individually got to land safely by various means. *Church now greatly divided as each does it his own way*

The 7 churches: a general view of church history in their order

1. **Ephesus**: (desirable) / **Apostolic 70-167AD** / Good doctrine and works Rev. 2:1-7
What to overcome – backsliding by leaving first love and first works
2. **Smyrna**: (myrrh-bitter) / **Martyrdom 167-316AD** / Devil intensely persecutes Rev. 2:8-11
What to overcome – persecution and fear of death
3. **Pergamos**: (marriage) / **Accepted by Rome 316-500AD** / Held Lord’s name but a doctrine He hated Rev. 2:12-17
What to overcome – worldliness in politics mixed with Christian faith
4. **Thyatira**: (sacrifice) / **Papacy 500-1500AD** / Seduced into idolatry and “the depths of Satan” Rev. 2:18-29
What to overcome – false teaching
5. **Sardis**: (escaping ones) / **Reformation 1500-1800AD** / A history of life but went dead Rev. 3:1-6
What to overcome – incomplete works and formal deadness
6. **Philadelphia**: (brotherly love) / **Revival 1800-1940AD** / Little strength but kept Lord’s Word Rev. 3:7-13
What to overcome – the religious houses of Satan and their intimidation
7. **Laodecia**: (people rule) / **Lukewarm 1950’s-present** / Mixture of cold and hot (lukewarm) Rev. 3:14-22
What to overcome – Apathy and materialism that steals the heart

“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” – Lord Jesus