

KRISHNAGAR ACADEMY

CLASS : VII

SUB : HISTORY

DATE : 19.05.2020

TODAY'S : CH-1 (MEDIEVAL EUROPE
LESSON - Rise & Spread
of Christianity)
(PART-I)

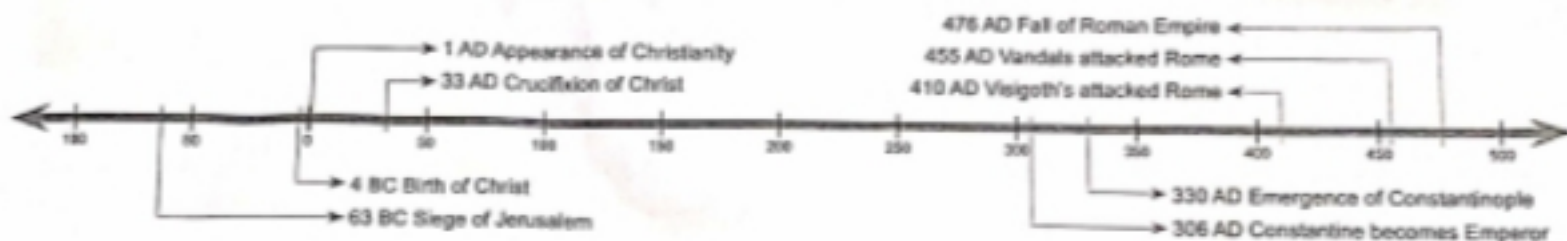
Medieval Europe – Rise and Spread of Christianity



Lesson

- Meaning
- Birth of
- Roman co
- Main Teach
- Jesus' opposit
- Constantine in spreading Christianity
- Emergence of Constantinople as a new Christian Capital
- Decline of the Ancient Roman Empire
- Barbarian Invasions by Goths, Vandals and Franks: its Impact on Europe
- Byzantium: birth of a new empire
- Emergence of the Turks and the Crusades
- Monasteries and their impact

Time line of the Roman Empire



You already know about the division of the past of mankind into **prehistory** and **history**. However, history is further divided into three eras: **ancient history**, **medieval history** and **modern history**. In class VI, you had studied about ancient history. Now, we start our journey into medieval history. Medieval is a Latin word which means 'time in the middle'. So, medieval history is the link between ancient history and modern history.

MEDIEVAL ERA

The medieval era saw important developments in the world such as the spread of Christianity; the birth of Islam and the building of the Islamic empire; the exchange of knowledge of the ancient Greeks, Indians and other civilizations by Muslim scholars to the Europeans; and developments in science and technology. We begin our journey into medieval history by knowing about the birth of Christianity.

Socio-Political System

In Europe the period between 600 AD to about 1500 AD is referred to as the medieval period. This period witnessed many important social, economic and political changes. The Western Roman Empire declined due to barbarian attacks—invasions of Goths, Vandals and Huns, but the Eastern Roman Empire, known as the Byzantine Empire continued till 1453 A.D.

After the decline of the Western Roman Empire, out of the mutual need of the king and the people, there evolved a socio-economic system called **Feudalism**. The later Roman emperors were weak and failed to realize taxes from the people, to pay salaries to the officials and defend the kingdom from the invaders. Against this background, the king distributed land among his nobles called the dukes and earls on the condition of service. It was a hierarchical system in which the king was at

the apex of this organization and the farmers formed the base of this system. From the kings to the lowest nobles (knights), everybody was bound by allegiance to the overlord. Feudalism brought order and stability in the social and economic life of the people. It encouraged good values like loyalty, chivalry, bravery etc. It prevented the government from being autocratic. However, the feudal system had certain demerits like no attention was paid to education or cultural growth. The king had no contact with the common people. It did not encourage individual enterprise. Trade and commerce declined in Europe during the Medieval Period. However, the picture was not same everywhere—like trade did not decline in other areas of the globe as they did in Europe. But exploitation of the peasants was the main feature in the socio-economic sphere everywhere.

Roman Conquest of Palestine

The death of Hasmonean Queen Alexandra Salome plunged Judea into a civil war between her two sons, Hyrcanus and Aristobulus. The siege of Jerusalem (63 B.C.) occurred during Pompey the Great's campaign in the east. Pompey had been asked to intervene in the civil war between Hyrcanus and Aristobulus for the throne of Hasmonean kingdom and the high priesthood in Jerusalem. When Pompey arrived in Damascus in 63 B.C., both the brothers—Hyrcanus and Aristobulus met him there. Pompey informed the opposing parties that he would resolve the issue once he arrived in Judea. But Aristobulus did not wait for Pompey's decision and left Damascus. Aristobulus' supporters did not want to allow the Roman troops into the city of Jerusalem. This angered Pompey, who marched his troops into Judea, had Aristobulus arrested and besieged the city. He conquered

Jerusalem, slaughtered 12,000 defending Jews. Pompey reinstated Hyrcanus as the High Priest but stripped him off his royal title. Judea remained autonomous but was obliged to pay tribute and was made dependent on the Roman administration in Syria. Thus, Judea was incorporated into the Roman Republic as a client kingdom.

BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH

Today, Christianity is the largest religion in the world. It is a monotheist religion as the Christians worship only one God. Christianity was founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ about 2000 years ago. Jesus Christ was



Jesus Christ

born around 4 BCE in Bethlehem, a small village near Jerusalem in the then kingdom of Palestine. The birthplace of Jesus falls in present-day Israel. At the time of the birth of Jesus, Augustus Caesar was the Roman Emperor, and Herod was the king of Palestine which was a part of the Roman Empire.

Mary and Joseph were the parents of Jesus. They were Jews, the followers of Judaism. We know about the birth, life and teachings of Jesus Christ through the holy book of the Christians, the Bible. The Bible has two parts. The first part is called the **Old Testament** and the second part is called the **New Testament**. The Old Testament tells about the religion and God of the Jews before the birth of Jesus. The Old Testament is also called **Tanakh**, the **Hebrew Bible**. It is the holy book of the Jews.

The New Testament describes the life and teachings of Jesus in its first four books which are called **Gospels**. The Gospels were written by four disciples of Jesus—

Know This

Judaism, Christianity and Islam are sometimes referred to as the 'Abrahamic religions' because their holy books describe Abraham as a common ancestor. Abraham is believed to belong to the 20th generation from Adam, the first man created by God.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These are named as—the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Mark, the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of John.

The birth of Jesus Christ is linked with many prophecies in the Old Testament. One such prophecy indicates the birth of a **Messiah**. Messiah is a Hebrew word which means 'one (who is) anointed or appointed by God' with a special purpose (mission) on earth. Messiah also means 'saviour of humanity'. The Christians believe Jesus was the Messiah or Christ whose birth was prophesied in the Old Testament. They worship Jesus as the Son of God and as God incarnate.

Life and teachings of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is also known as Jesus of Nazareth. Nazareth is a city in present-day Israel where Jesus spent his childhood. Not much is known about the childhood of Jesus. On growing up, he became a carpenter like his father. He also started reading Jewish scriptures. This enabled him to see religion in a new light. He found that many religious practices, prevalent among the Jews, were against the spirit of the scriptures.

The most important phase of Jesus' life began when he turned 30. An important event of this phase was his **baptism**. He was baptized

by John the Baptist. Immediately after the baptism of Jesus, God is believed to have spoken from heaven: "This is my beloved son. I love him."

Teachings of Jesus: After his baptism, Jesus realized that the time had come to free men from evil influences and lead them to the path of righteousness. To fulfill his mission, Jesus selected 12 men as his disciples, known as **Apostles**. With these disciples, Jesus toured Galilee in Palestine for three years, spreading his message of love, equality, tolerance and forgiveness. He used **parables** to preach his ideas. The **parables** of Jesus are found in the Gospels.

Know This



According to the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, one God exists in three persons and one substance. The three persons are: Father (God Himself), Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit. One substance means that each of the three persons of the Trinity has one identical essence or nature.

In the above picture of the Holy Trinity, God, the Father and the Son stand on the sides of the Earth, and the Holy Spirit is placed above them.

Christ: the English word for the Greek word 'Khristos' meaning 'the anointed' or 'the Messiah'

God incarnate: God in human form

baptism: a ceremony or action of initiation into something; in Christianity, it is a ceremony by which one is initiated or admitted into the community of Christians

parable: a short story that teaches a religious principle or imparts a moral lesson

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ASSIGNMENT

- Q:1 > What important developments took place in the medieval era?
- Q:2 > Where and when was Jesus Christ born?
- Q:3 > What information do the Old and New Testament provide?
- Q:4 > What is i) Messiah ii) Baptism.
- Q:5 > Which religions are called Abrahamic religions? Why?