

# A Biblical View of the Reformation

# What was the Reformation

- The Reformation was a movement to purify the Roman Catholic Church from some of its errors.
- Popularly it began with Martin Luther, a German monk when he nailed his 95 Thesis to the door of the church in Wittenberg Germany.

Why was it needed?



# Two Lines of Church History

Old Latin Bible - c. 150 AD  
Syriac Bible - 157 AD

Montanists  
c. 150 AD

Novatians  
c. 200 AD

33 AD

Ephesus  
Apostles - 200 AD

Origen - c. 185-254 AD

Textual criticism  
Replacement Theology  
Allegorized Scripture  
Questioned Creation





# How did corruption enter in?

- Rev. 2:4 They left their first love.
- If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
(John 14:15)
- He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me... (John 14:21a)

They began to use words, phrases and concepts that were not expressly stated in Scripture.

- Clement of Rome (30-100 AD) taught that pastors are like the High priest therefore they must be over the laity.
- Ignatius the Bishop of Antioch (80-115AD) was the first person to refer to all Christians as the "Catholic Church" He called believers "Sons of the Church" when we are the Sons of God.

Jn 1:12

- Papius: (60-130) Claimed that the Gospel of Mark came from Peter who was in Rome. He also claimed that John did not write the book of Revelation
- Epicurus: (50-120) Attempted to marry philosophy and the Bible.
- Basilides: 133 was a Gnostic who did not believe Jesus really died on the cross. He believed



- Justin Martyr (100-165) was a Christian philosopher who taught that man is regenerated by the sprinkling of water.

- Polycarp (69-155) "Faith is the mother of us all." This small seed of error grew into the devastating doctrine that the new birth comes from the church.

They reject the deeds of the  
Nicolaitans

● Nicolaitans is a compound word combining two words, Nicao which is to conquer, overcome, rule; and Laos, which is the common man, the people, or the laity.



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Smyrna 200-325 AD

Rev. 2-8-10

● Smyrna = bitterness and death

● Jn 19:26

● Is. 60:6

# A Major Error Appears

- Replacement Theology, Rev. 2:9



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Pergamos  
325-500 AD

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Augustine - c. 354-430 AD

Emperor Constantine  
And the Church-State System  
(Roman Catholicism)  
325-500 AD

Jerome 340-420 AD  
Corruption of the Latin Bible  
Into the Vulgate  
383-405 AD





# Pergamos 325-500 AD

## Rev. 2:12-16

- Pergamos = Much Marriage
- This age began with the marriage of "church" and state under the Roman emperor Constantine in 325 AD.

# Key Errors

- The doctrine of Balaam.
- He had two methods of attack: have them eat things offered to idols and get them to commit fornication.
- There were those in Pergamos practicing this heinous religion.



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Pergamos  
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Thyatira  
500-1000 AD

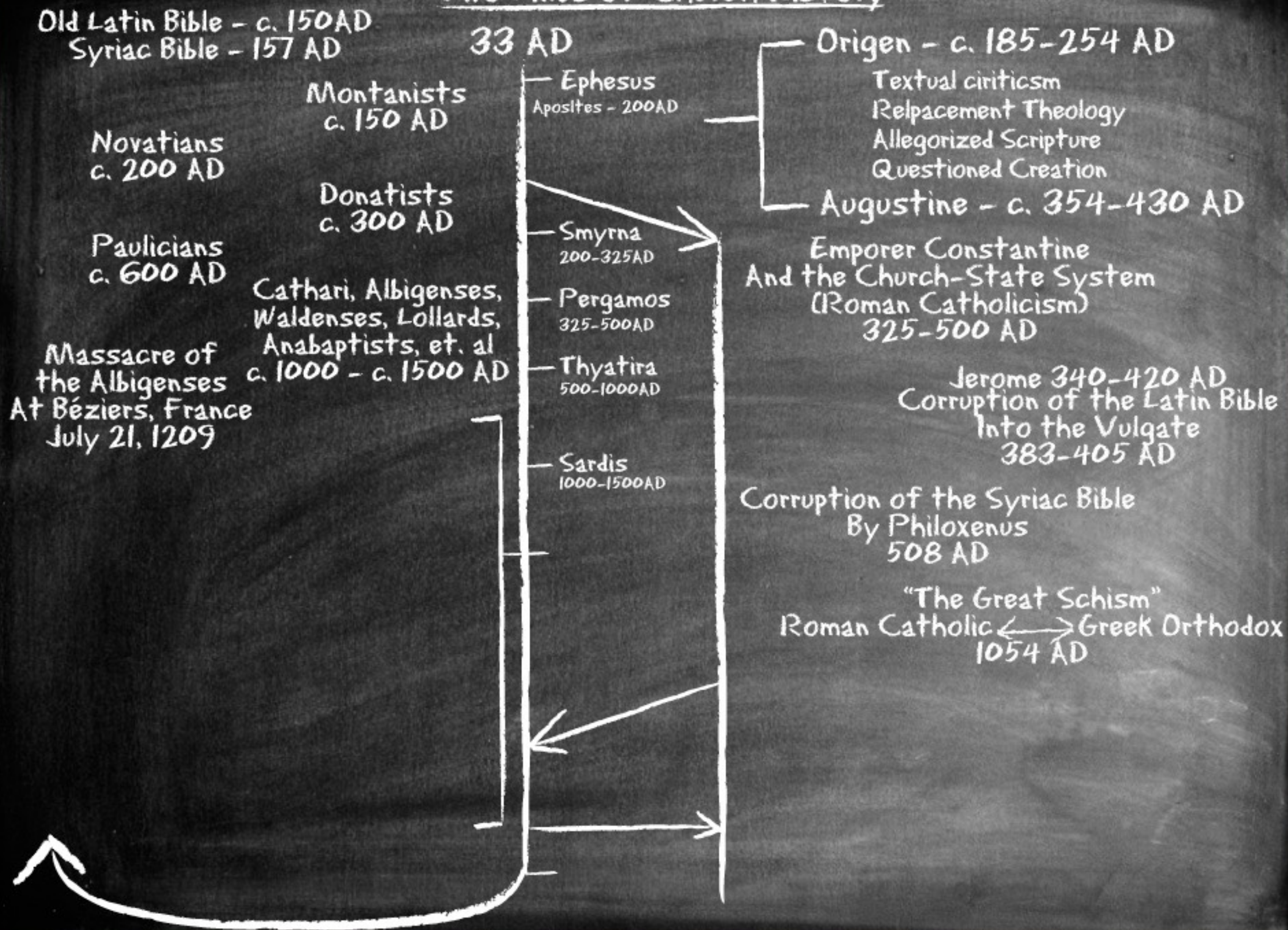
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Corruption of the Latin Bible  
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Corruption of the Syriac Bible  
By Philoxenus  
508 AD





# Two Lines of Church History





Now we come to the time of the  
Reformation

# Key Men

- Martin Luther: Germany
- John Calvin: France, Switzerland
- Huldrych Zwingli: Switzerland
- John Knox: Scotland
- Henry VIII: England (Defence of the Seven Sacraments)

# Second Diet of Speyer 1529

- Notwithstanding, we find daily that despite the cited common law and also Our mandate...this old sect of Anabaptism, condemned and forbidden many centuries ago, day by day makes greater inroads and is getting the upper hand.



● In order to prevent such evil and what may proceed from it, to preserve the peace and unity of the Holy Empire, as well as to dispel all dispute and doubt about the punishment for rebaptism....

● We therefore renew the previous imperial law, as well as Our above-named imperial mandate, ... that ... every Anabaptist and rebaptized man and woman of the age of reason shall be condemned and brought from natural life into death by fire,

● sword, and the like, according to the person, without proceeding by the inquisition of the spiritual judges; and let the same pseudo-preachers, instigators, vagabonds, and tumultuous inciters of the said vice of Anabaptism,



● also whoever remains in it, and those who fall a second time, let them all by no means be shown mercy but instead be dealt with on the power of this constitution and edict earnestly with punishment.”

# Martin Luther on Baptism

- Article IX: Of Baptism. ... that it is necessary to salvation, and that through Baptism is offered the grace of God, and that children are to be baptized who, being offered to God through Baptism are received into God's grace.

- "They (the Lutherans) condemn the Anabaptists, who reject the baptism of children, and say that children are saved without Baptism." Augsburg Confession



# John Wesley

- John Wesley returned to England in 1737, but his enthusiastic mode of preaching and some of his doctrines caused the churches to be closed against him. He drew around him many friends and admirers and formed them into a society in the year 1738, with an Arminian Creed but an Episcopal Government.

- That he never severed his connection with the Established Church is evident, from his own confession. Some of his dying words were these: "I live and die a member of the Church of England, and none who regard my judgment will ever separate from it".

# Church of England on Baptism

- "We yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased Thee to regenerate this infant with thy Holy Spirit, etc.,



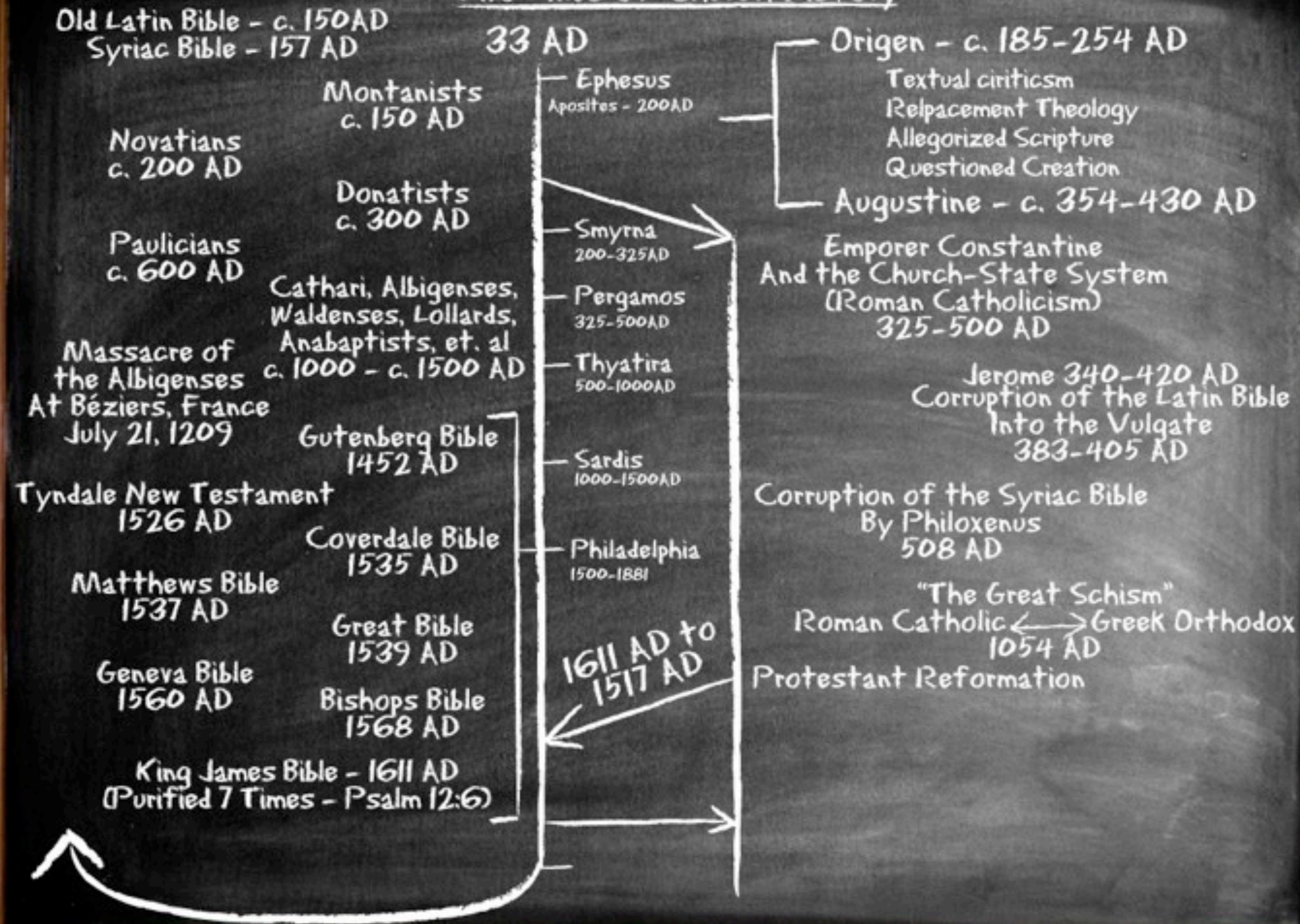
● In the last revision of the Prayer Book we find the following: "It is certainly God's Word that children who are baptized, dying before they commit actual sin, are undoubtedly saved; in other words, we are certain of the future happiness of the baptized, but have no assurance of the salvation of the unbaptized infant."

# John Wesley on Baptism

- "By it we who are by nature children of wrath are made children of God; and by water as a means we are regenerated and born again."

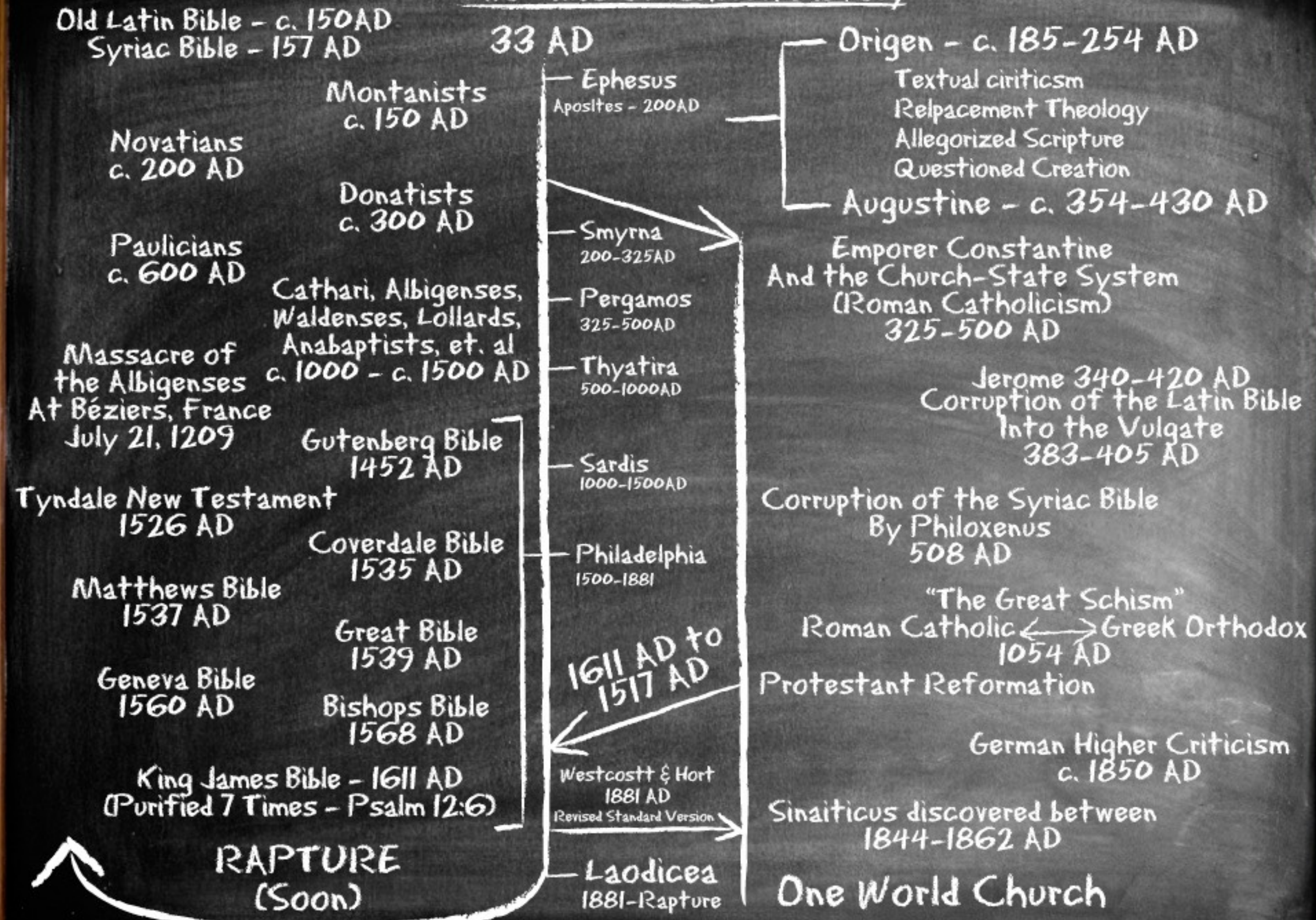


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