

Test your Bible Knowledge

1. *At Ephesus Paul found disciples who had not even heard that there was a Holy Ghost, for they had:*

- a. not been baptized
- b. been baptized only by John and Mark
- c. baptized by John the Baptist
- d. been "baptized into John's baptism"

2. *"For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is...*

- a. knowledgeable"
- b. God"
- c. protected by His office"
- d. also subject to weakness"

1) Acts 19:1-6

2) Hebrews 5:1-2

-Fred Singleton

**Private Bible studies available
anytime!!**

Schedule:

Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00AM

Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:45 PM

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"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16

THE GREAT APOSTASY A Falling Away IV

At this point in our study it is important to take a look at the evidences for early departures.

Change in church organizations

110 A.D. - Letters of Ignatius Bishop of Antioch "Ignatius, who is also called Theophorus, to Polycarp, bishop of the church of the Smyrnaeans . . ." - Letter to Polycarp

"Give ye heed to the bishop, that God also may give heed to you. My soul be for theirs that are submissive to the bishop, to the presbyters, and to the deacons, and may my portion be along with them in God!" – Letter to Polycarp

"Therefore whoever does not meet with the congregation thereby demonstrates his arrogance and has separated himself, for it is written: 'God opposes the arrogant.' Let, us therefore, be careful not to oppose the bishop, in order that we may be obedient to God." – Letter to the Ephesians

"Finally, it is reasonable for us to come to our senses while we still have time to repent and turn to God. It is good to acknowledge God and the bishop. The one who honors the bishop has been honored by God; the one who does anything without the bishop's knowledge serves the devil." – Letters to the Smyrnaeans

Various churches that had bishop-presbytery-deacons arrangement according to the writings of Ignatius:

Church in Ephesus - "Hence it is fitting for you to set yourselves in harmony with the mind of the bishop . . . For your noble presbytery, worthy of God, is attuned to the bishop, even as the strings to a lyre."

It is interesting that by A.D. 110 (approx.), it seems that the church in Ephesus had already followed the bishop presbytery- deacon system.

Could this be the very danger that Paul was warning the elders of in Ephesus around A.D. 58?

“Bishop of Syria” - “. . . that he has counted the bishop of Syria worthy to be brought from the land of the sunrise to the sunset. . .”

Church in Smyrna - “Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, and a witness for Jesus Christ, to Polycarp, Bishop of the Church of the Smyrnaeans. . .”

Is this the same church to which Jesus said “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan” (Revelation 2:9)? In approx A.D. 65 - 70 or A.D. 90-98 depending on when John wrote the Revelation; If it is the same group, it seems that either in a space of 40 years or 20 years, depending on when John wrote Revelation, they had allowed themselves to follow this practice not authorized by the apostles.

Church in Antioch - “Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, . . .” No where in the New Testament is there a mention of a “bishop” of Antioch. Had this been an authorized form of local church government, we would have seen it somewhere. However, it would appear that over the course of nearly 60 years or so that the church in Antioch did accept this unauthorized form of church leadership. The “Bishop - Presybters - Deacons” gave way to expanding the role of the “bishop.”

In the beginning, the role of the single bishop may have been a spokesperson for the eldership. However, as we have seen from Ignatius’ writings, this soon changed. In time, the role of the “bishop” brought with it more authority. The elders or presybters would have to answer to the “bishop”.

In time, each “bishop’s” authority expanded until one “bishop” was over a certain territory, which became know as a diocese. When the territory grew too large for one “bishop,” the territory was divided up and another position was created called “Chorepiscopus” or “country bishop.”

The role of the bishop began to grow over the next two hundred years. A.D. 449 – The title of “ecumenical” (world wide or universal) patriarch was given for the first time to Dioscurus, Patriarch of Alexandria. It was later applied to Roman bishops, such as Leo I, Hormisdas, and Agapitus. A.D. 588 – The title of “Ecumenical Patriarch” or “Universal Bishop” was given to the Patriarch of Constantinople, John “the faster.” A.D. 606 – Boniface III assumed the title of “Universal Bishop” in Rome.

The rise of the clergy:

- ✓ A separate priesthood patterned after the Jewish and pagan systems developed.
- ✓ Only the priests could preach, give Lord’s Supper, baptize, marry, or bury.
- ✓ Celibacy was enforced by Pope Gregory VIII in 1075.

Creeds and Councils:

- ✓ Councils were held as early as the Second century to settle disputes.
- ✓ The first creed was produced by the Council of Nicea in 325.

Infant Baptism:

- ✓ The doctrine of original sin began in the Second century but was made popular by Augustine.
- ✓ The doctrine of “original sin” led to infant baptism.

Sprinkling and Pouring:

- ✓ In 251 Novatian, a sick man, was “soaked” in bed.
- ✓ In 1311 the Council of Ravenna made sprinkling and pouring equally valid as immersion.

Instrumental Music and Choirs:

- ✓ Pope Vitalian in 660 is reputed to be the first to introduce instrumental music in Christian worship.
- ✓ As late as 1250 it was still not accepted in the Catholic Church.
- ✓ In the 4th century a special class of singers became common in the church. (Much of the above information was taken from - John Duvall work book Why are there Division among Churches pg 6-8)

The Mass:

- ✓ "Closed" communion began to be practiced in the 2nd century.
- ✓ Communion "in one kind" began in the 12th century.
- ✓ Transubstantiation was adopted by the 4th Lateran Council in 1215.

Veneration of Mary:

- ✓ "Mary, mother of God" came to be used after the Council of Ephesus in 431.
- ✓ The doctrine of the "immaculate conception" became official in 1854.

Veneration of Images:

- ✓ It was believed that the merits of dead saints could be applied to the living.
- ✓ This gave rise to the sale of indulgences.

Religious Holidays:

- ✓ Many Jewish and pagan festivals were "Christianized."
- ✓ The Council of Nicea determined the date of Easter in 325.

Opposition to Rome:

- ✓ The Greek Orthodox Church broke with the Roman Church in 1054.
- ✓ Peter Waldo, about 1150, translated the New Testament and opposed the Roman Church.
- ✓ John Huss of Bohemia called for a return to the Bible; he was burned at the stake in 1415 by the Catholic Church.
- ✓ John Wycliffe in England translated the Bible into English in 1382; he is called "The morning star of the Reformation."

The Protestant Reformation:

- ✓ In 1517 Martin Luther, a monk, challenged the sale of indulgences. Lutherans adopted the Augsburg Confession in 1530 and became the first Protestant denomination.
- ✓ In 1534 King Henry VIII of England broke with the Pope and formed the Church of England.
- ✓ Ulrich Zwingli was a Swiss reformer who was close to the New Testament pattern.
- ✓ John Calvin led the Reformation from Geneva; published "Institutes of the Christian Religion" in 1536.
- ✓ John Knox led the Reformation in Scotland which resulted in the Presbyterian Church.
- ✓ John Smythe founded the Baptist Church in 1611.
- ✓ In 1739 John Wesley tried to reform the Church of England and founded the Methodist Church.

The Restoration:

- ✓ In the early 1800's men began to plead for a return to the Bible.
- ✓ Their desire was to restore the first century church rather than reform existing denominations.
- ✓ The main leaders in America of the Restoration were: Thomas and Alexander Campbell, Walter Scott, and Barton W. Stone.

If we don't learn the lessons of history, we are doomed to repeat the same mistakes. The Bible is the standard in all ages; every doctrine, every movement must be measured by it. -Fred Singleton

DID YOU KNOW

"The terms "Babylon" and "Babylonia" have different meanings in different contexts. Babylonia represents the ancient kingdoms that dotted southern Mesopotamia, especially in the seventh and sixth centuries BC. The capital city was Babylon (or Bab-ilu, meaning "gate of god"). However, Babylonia describes an even bigger picture. It marks an entire region we now know as southeast Iraq. The adjective "Babylonian" has an even looser meaning. It may refer to the land or its inhabitants, to the kingdom or its subjects, or to one of

the main ancient languages of that area. We know the Babylonians as fierce fighters who eventually took God's people captive." –Illumina Encyclopedia