

Introduction

History is the study of the past and is broadly divided into three periods—Ancient, Medieval and Modern. We have already studied about the Ancient Period which was the time of the rise and fall of civilizations and dynasties. Let us discuss about the Medieval Period in this chapter.

The word 'Medieval' comes from the Latin word '*medi*' which means 'middle' and '*ev*' which means 'age'. So, the word 'Medieval' literally means 'of the middle age'. In the context of India, Medieval Period is the time between AD 8th and 18th century divided into two—Early Medieval Period (AD 8th–12th century) and Later Medieval Period (AD 13th–18th century). The Medieval Period begins with the establishment of the Delhi Sultanates and ends with the entry of the East India Company and fall of the Mughal Empire. In the history of Europe, the time between AD 5th century and 15th century is

known as the Medieval Period or the Middle Ages. The beginning of this period is marked by the fall of the Roman Civilization and continues till the beginning of **Renaissance**.

Birth of Christianity

Christianity is the religion of over two billion people in the world but the faith began as a small movement. By the middle of the 1st century BCE, Romans had conquered most of the Western world and had firmly established a huge Roman Empire, ending the Greek rule and the reign of the Hasmonean dynasty in Israel. They conquered Palestine and began their rule over the Jews. Around 40 BCE, Herod was declared the 'King of the Jews' by the Roman **Senate**. But Herod was never accepted by the Jewish people because of the injustices **meted** by him on them. He was unjust and oppressive. The people of Palestine were disheartened and were looking for a saviour, and they found their messiah in Jesus Christ.

Birth of Jesus

During the reign of Caesar Augustus, a census was ordered under which all Jews were asked to go back to the town of their ancestors. Joseph, who belonged to the royal family of King David, went to Jerusalem with his pregnant wife Mary. They did not find any place to spend the night and had to stay in a stable where Mary gave birth to a boy. The boy, Jesus, grew up in Nazareth in Galilee.



Jesus preaching people

It is believed that Jesus was baptised at the age of 30. He fasted and meditated for 40 days and began his **ministry**. He went to nearby towns to preach. He and his 12 loyal disciples travelled throughout Galilee. People were attracted to his teachings and his powers of healing the sick and diseased. They became his followers. His followers believed that he was the 'Son of God', who would bring peace to the world and lead mankind away from

GOOD TO KNOW

The region of Palestine, a geographic region between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River (modern-day Israel and Palestine), is the birthplace of **Judaism** and **Christianity**. It is situated at a strategic point between Europe, Asia and Africa.



Birth of Jesus

evil. His followers called him Christ, a Greek word meaning 'the chosen one' because they believed that Jesus was chosen by God to be His messenger. In time, the followers of Jesus came to be known as Christians.


Main Teachings of Jesus

Through his **sermons**, Jesus taught his Gospels to people. 'Gospel' is a Greek word which means 'good news' and his message was of love, hope and **salvation**. He taught his followers to be humble, pure in heart and forgiving. His message to them was of devotion to God and kindness towards each other. He asked people to have faith, attend to those in need or pain and bless those who cursed them. He wanted his followers to be forgiving in their thoughts and actions.

The main religious leaders of that time were the Pharisees. Their aim was to strictly follow the Jewish religious laws. The other group was of scribes who studied law and expounded it. While the common man found his messiah in Jesus, the Pharisees and the scribes opposed him strongly. Jesus's growing reputation as a healer and miracle worker increased their hatred for him. They were upset because he

LET'S DISCUSS

Why are people against a new idea/ideology? Are they scared or do they feel threatened? Discuss.



criticized their traditions and **scruples**. He called himself the son of God and mingled with the lowest of the society.

The Jewish leaders got in touch with the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. Jesus Christ was arrested and later sentenced to death by **crucifixion**. Jesus's sufferings and later death by crucifixion is the base of Christian **doctrines** of salvation and atonement. The body of Jesus was put in a new tomb and on the third day the tomb was found empty by his disciples. It is believed that Jesus rose from



Religious Heads Opposing Jesus



Crucifixion of Jesus



Resurrection

dead. Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, two days after Good Friday.

Life and teachings of Jesus made a huge impact on people. His followers believed that he suffered for their sins and died for them. He was their saviour who had come to end their sufferings and lead them to the kingdom of God. His four disciples John, Mark, Luke and Mathew wrote all about his life, teachings, crucifixion, burial and resurrection in what are collectively known as 'Gospels'.

While the Gospels of John and Luke end after stories related to the resurrection of Jesus, the Gospels of Mark and Mathew state that Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out into the world and spread his word. His teachings were spread throughout Palestine by his disciples. The most notable among them was Peter or Saint Peter, who is recognised as the leader of disciples or Apostles. He was responsible

for converting non-Jews to Christianity. Saint Paul, who was earlier a Pharisee, was an important exponent of Christianity. He travelled throughout the Roman empire and spread the word of Jesus. He also established the fundamentals of Christianity which were based on the teachings of Christ. Paul spread the message of Christianity based on faith in Jesus. Anyone could follow Christianity and attain salvation. He laid the groundwork on which the religion was later built. As more and more non-Jews became Christians, Christianity gradually became a new and independent religion. This did not go well with the Roman emperors and Christians were persecuted.

In AD 312, Constantine won a major battle and claimed the throne. In AD 313, Emperor Constantine officially legalised Christianity. He also played an active and important role in building leadership of the Christian Church.



St Peter's Church, Rome

He built a new imperial capital at the site of the ancient Greek city of Byzantium (now Istanbul) and built churches within city walls. The capital was shifted from Rome to this new city which was called 'New Rome' but was later named Constantinople.

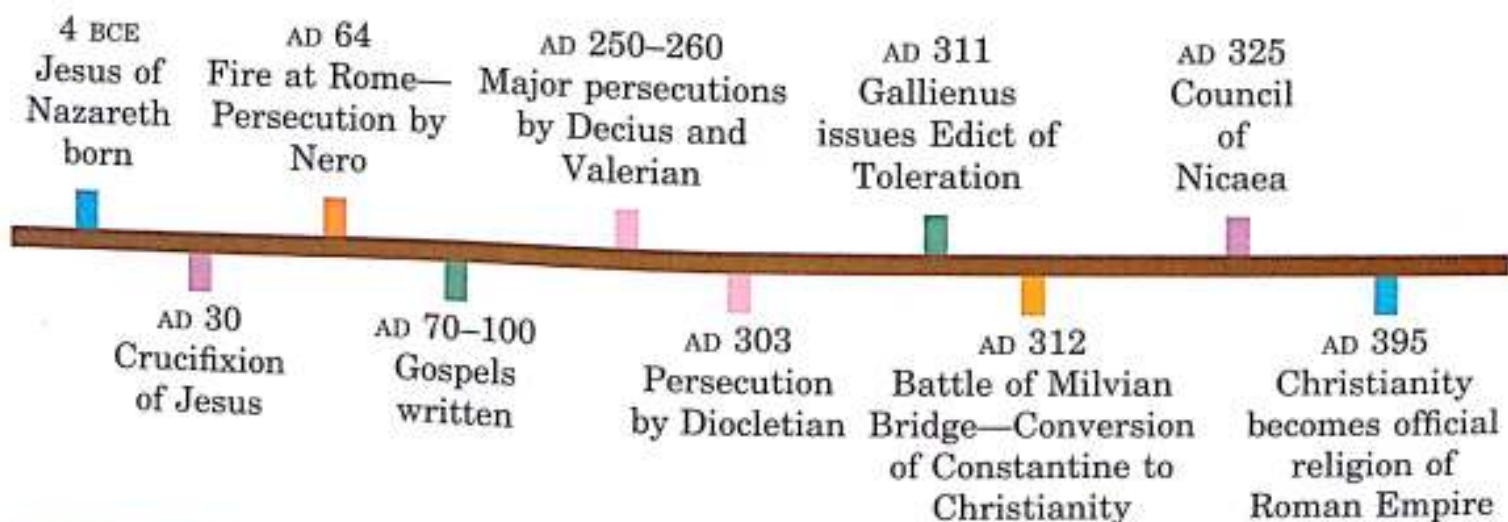
In the Council of Priests at Nicaea, decisions regarding Christ's divinity were taken which formed the basis for all Church doctrines from then onwards. Constantine died in AD 337

but Christianity continued to grow. By the end of 4th century, the number of Christians was estimated to be 6 million. Christianity became the official religion of Rome and the Pope (Bishop of St Peter's Church in Rome) became a spiritual power in the world and a political power over Europe.

VALUE LEARNING

What should be our behaviour with others?
What values does Christianity lay stress on?

Timeline



VOCABULARY

Renaissance: revival of interest in art and literature

Senate: state council

Meted: harsh treatment

Ministry: priesthood

Judaism: religion of Jews

Sermons: talk on religious or moral subjects

Salvation: source or means of being saved from harm

Scruples: values

Crucifixion: an ancient form of execution in which a person was nailed or bound to a cross

Doctrines: set of beliefs, ideology

LET'S REGALL

- Medieval means 'of the middle age'. In Europe the medieval history is the period between 5th and 15th century. It started with the end of Roman Civilization and continued till the beginning of the Renaissance period.
- By the 1st century, Romans had most of Europe under their control including Palestine. Herod was made the King of Jews but was not accepted by them as he ill-treated his people.
- During the reign of Caesar Augustus a census was ordered for which all Jews had to go back to the town of their ancestors. Joseph, who was from the line of King David went to Jerusalem with his pregnant wife. They could not find a place to spend the night and had to spend it in a stable. Jesus was born that night.
- He was baptised at the age of 30 and started preaching in Galilee. His messages and gentle nature attracted many people and they became his followers. They believed that he would bring peace to the world.
- His popularity increased and that angered the religious heads who complained to the Roman Governor. Jesus was tried and given a punishment of death by crucifixion.
- Jesus was crucified and his body was put in a tomb. On the third day, his disciples found the tomb empty. This day is celebrated as the day of resurrection of Jesus.
- As per Gospels written by four of his disciples, he told them to go out into the world and spread his message of love and faith. St Paul and St Peter were the two most notable disciples who did much to spread Christianity and ensure its continuity.
- In AD 313, Emperor Constantine declared Christianity as a legal religion. He built a new city with churches and encouraged Christianity.
- In AD 325, at the council meeting in Nicaea, decisions were taken about Christian doctrines and eventually Rome and the Pope became the spiritual and political power.

1. Fill in the blanks.

- (a) Roman Senate declared as the King of Jews.
- (b) A census was ordered during the reign of
- (c) Jesus was born in in Galilee.
- (d) Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on
- (e) Emperor legalised Christianity.

2. Match the following.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Religious heads | (i) Israel |
| (b) Hasmonean Dynasty | (ii) Apostle |
| (c) Chosen one | (iii) Pharisee |
| (d) St Peter | (iv) Constantinople |
| (e) New Rome | (v) Christ |

3. Write true or false.

- (a) Joseph was made the King of Jews.
- (b) The most notable disciple of Jesus is Mathew.
- (c) The Jewish leaders approached the Roman Emperor Constantine to fix Jesus.
- (d) Roman Emperor, Pontius Pilate, officially legalised Christianity.
- (e) The Pope became a spiritual power in the world.

4. Define the following.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| (a) Renaissance | (b) Judaism |
| (c) Crucifixion | (d) Sermons |
| (e) Doctrines | |

5. Answer the following questions in brief (40-50 words).

- (a) What do you understand by the term 'Medieval'? Explain.
- (b) Why was Jesus born in Jerusalem?
- (c) Why is the Council of Nicaea important in Christian history?
- (d) What are Gospels?
- (e) Why was Jesus crucified?
- (f) What were the roles of Peter and Paul in spreading Christianity?

6. Write in detail.

- Write about Jesus's ministry.
- What was the contribution of Constantine in popularising Christianity?
- Discuss the festivals associated with Christianity.

Picture-based Questions

1. Look at the picture given below and answer the following questions.



- Name the church. Where is it located?
- Name the emperor who officially legalized Christianity.
- Name the imperial capital built by the emperor Constantine. Where is it located?

2. Identify the picture and answer the following questions.

- Which religious leader is being shown here?
- What is being depicted in the image?
- When is this day celebrated?

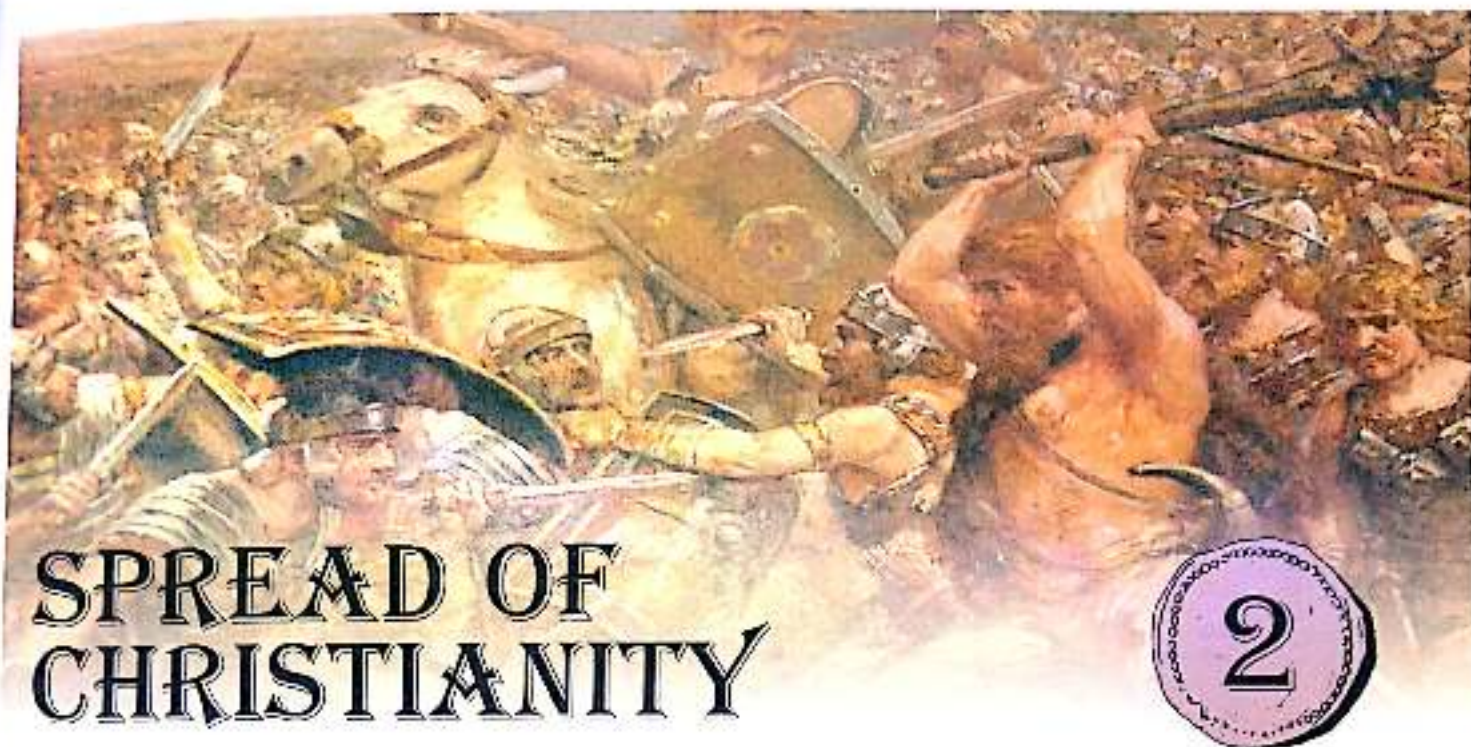


Project work

Collect information and write an essay about the early life of Jesus.

For more information, please log on to...

- www.mrdowling.com/702-christianity.htm
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/why-did-they-hate-jesus-2/factsanddetails.com> , World Topics ,



SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

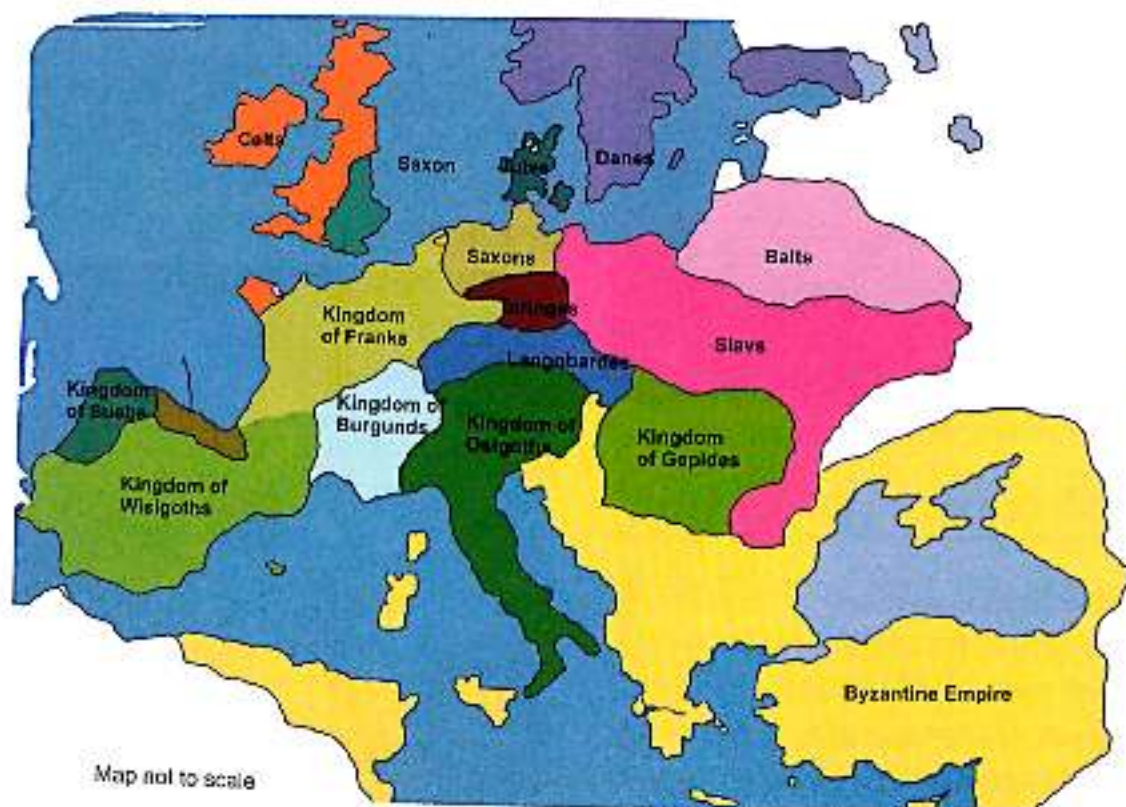


Introduction

Medieval Europe refers to the historical period between the 5th century, when the ancient Roman Empire collapsed, and 15th century, when Renaissance began.

Decline of Ancient Roman Empire

The Roman Empire collapsed and smaller kingdoms were established by **barbarians**, people who were culturally and economically backward. The period between the 5th and



Map not to scale

Europe in the Dark Ages

the 8th centuries is also referred to as the 'Dark Ages' because of the instability of these kingdoms.

Barbarian Invasions and their Impact on Europe

The constant invasions by the Huns from Central Asia weakened the borders of Western Europe. The Goths, who had settled into the Roman territories, invaded and moved further into the land. The Goths, the Balkans and the Franks are referred to as 'Barbarians'. These Barbarians entered all cities of Europe including Rome. The weakened political and economic Roman Empire was no match and it finally collapsed. As a result of these repeated invasions, Europe became rural. These tribes took over all of Western Europe. However, these tribes brought with them different tribal cultures and ethnic traditions—oral and artistic, and epic poetry. This had a strong impact on the future and laid the foundation for what Europe was to become later.



The Barbarians

Byzantium: Birth of a New Empire

The Western Empire fell but the Eastern Empire survived for another millennium. The Eastern Empire or Byzantine Empire had its capital in Constantinople. During this time, it continued to exist as the Roman Empire and was considered to be the most

GOOD TO KNOW

The Goths were people from East Germany and played an important role in the fall of the Western Empire.

powerful political and economic force in Europe. Justinian I, who reigned from AD 527 till AD 565 re-conquered Italy, North Africa and Rome and the empire was stretched to its greatest extent.

During this period, the Roman Church emerged as a powerful and centralised institution of great wealth and influence over European politics. Since the medieval society was illiterate, churches became important centres of learning, art and science. This helped them to extend their influence over the general populace which by that time was **predominantly** Christian. Christianity brought people together. In a span of 500 years, most Europeans had been converted to Christianity.

Monasteries and Their Impact

In Medieval Europe, Church was the only source of authority and it was so powerful that even kings could not go against it. Most of Europe was united under Christianity



A monastery in Europe

People of different customs, speaking different languages had a common identity—that of being a Christian. There were churches even in the remotest villages. It was the duty of the priest or the clergymen to preach to the community and help needy people.

Some **orthodox** priests, who were known as monks, lived in monasteries away from the people. They had strict laws and codes of conduct which they had to abide by. They spent their time in studying scriptures and serving mankind. Women monks were called nuns and lived separately in nunneries or convents. Monks and nuns could not marry and they lived a simple and strict life.

Monks and monasteries became very popular and their influence increased in due time. Most of the rich and powerful families established their own monasteries which led to the **integration** of monasteries into power structures of medieval European society. Monasteries started out as simple structures but grew in wealth and power as more people joined them. Generally, a monastery comprised of a church, dining room, kitchen, dormitory and a visitor area. The larger ones even had a school, hospital and a library. The buildings were surrounded by gardens, grain fields and a mill where the monks worked so the monastery was self-reliant.

Monasteries provided shelter to travellers and gave food and clothes to poor people. They also tended to the sick and wounded people. Monks and nuns spent regular hours praying, meditating and studying the Bible and spent the rest of their time in manual labour for the upkeep and **subsistence** of the monastery.

Monasteries were also responsible for copying manuscripts and preserving them as there was no other source of printing the old records.



The First Crusade led by Richard, the Lionheart

LET'S DISCUSS

What could be the reasons for men and women to become monks or nuns respectively?

Copies of the Bible were also made the same way—writing them by hand.

Emergence of the Turks and the Crusades

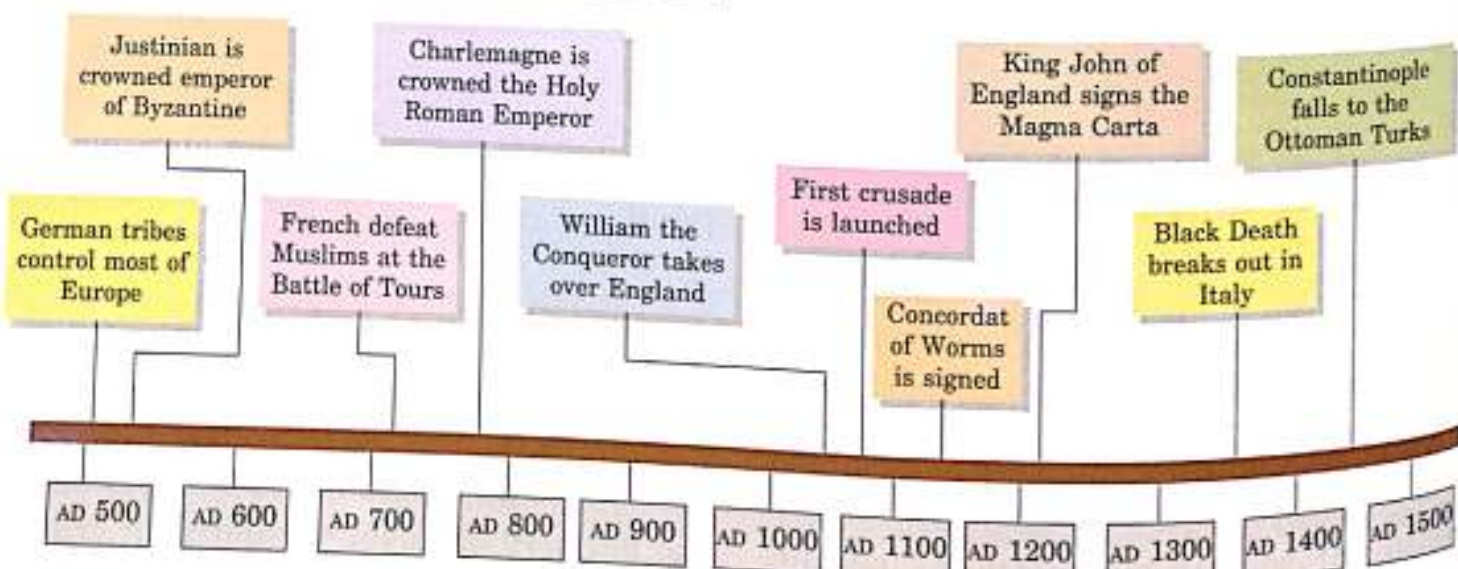
In the late 11th century, the control of the holy city of Jerusalem went into the hands of Seljuk Turks. They not just **persecuted** the Christians but also stopped them from entering Jerusalem. When the Byzantine Empire was threatened by them, it sent

envoys to the Pope for help. The Pope called for a crusade or holy war to recapture the Holy Land. The term, crusade, given to holy wars comes from the old French word 'croi' meaning cross. A crusade consisting of 4,000 mounted knights and 25,000 infantry started moving towards the East. They captured Nicaea and Antioch Citadel. On 14 July, 1099, the crusaders achieved their aim and Jerusalem was back in Christian hands. Five small states were set up under the rule of the leader of the crusade.

There were a total of nine crusades—the first four were called the major crusades and the next four were the minor crusades. The last one was a children's crusade which finally led to the decline of crusades. These wars and the movement of crusaders between Asia and Europe continued for 200 years. In 1291, Acre, the last city under the control of the crusaders, fell in the hands of Mamluk Turks. This was the end of crusades and crusaders.

These crusades were an important factor in the progress of civilization. They brought changes which paved way for modern period of politics, trade and transport and famous voyages to the Holy Land.

Timeline



VALUE LEARNING

Why do people travel to holy places? Does it help them to understand their culture and increase their 'sense of belonging'?

The crusades helped to extend the reach of Western Civilization and Christianity. The Church gained power and wealth and the power of the Pope increased further.

During these crusades, the crusaders met with new cultures that were refined such as the Greeks. They incorporated many elements of their culture into their own. There was increase in demand for luxury goods and transportation which resulted in setting up of new trade links between west and east. The economy of Europe was boosted as shipbuilding and manufacturing activities increased.

The crusaders learnt about medicine, science and the use of gunpowder.

There was a new interest in travel and learning in Europe. This was the beginning of revival of education, learning and art, which paved the way for the Renaissance.

VOCABULARY

- Barbarian: a human who is perceived to be either primitive or uncivilised
- Predominantly: mainly, mostly
- Orthodox: conservative, traditional
- Monasteries: building occupied by monks living under religious vows
- Integration: consolidation, merger
- Subsistence: maintaining or supporting oneself
- Persecuted: oppressed, mistreated

LET'S RECALL

- The period between 5th and 15th centuries is called the Middle Ages of Europe. This was the time when the Roman Empire fell in Western Europe.
- Constant invasions by the Barbarians weakened Europe and it became rural. The period till 8th century is also called 'The Dark Ages'.
- Western Europe fell but the Eastern Roman Empire survived till AD 1500 with Constantinople as the new Roman capital.
- The Church grew more powerful as it was the only unifying force for people speaking different languages and having different customs and traditions. Also as the common man was illiterate, churches became important centres for learning and education.
- Priests or clergymen lived among communities and preached and helped people. The more conservative priests renounced worldly comforts and lived in seclusion in monasteries as monks. Women monks were called nuns and they lived separately in nunneries.
- Monasteries gave shelter to travellers and also tended to the wounded and sick. Monks also copied the Bible and other important books by hand as there was no source of printing.
- In the late 11th century, Turks captured Jerusalem and stopped Christians from entering the Holy City. They also threatened the Eastern Empire. The Pope called for crusades or Holy Wars to recapture Jerusalem.
- In the next 200 years, there were constant wars between the Muslims and the Christians and nine crusades were fought during this period. Finally, the last city under the crusaders fell in the hands of the Muslims (Mamluk Turks) and this ended the crusades.
- These crusades helped Europeans discover gunpowder, science, medicines and new trade. All these helped in the progress, and there was a renewed interest in art and culture. This paved the way for Renaissance.

Tasks

1. Fill in the blanks.

- (a) The attack by Goths, Balkans and Franks is also referred to as
- (b) The monks lived away from people in
- (c) The period between 5th and 8th centuries is also referred to as the
- (d) The control of the holy city of Jerusalem went into the hands of
- (e) Jerusalem was back in Christian hands in

2. Tick (✓) the correct option.

- (a) Justinian I/Justin I stretched the Roman Empire to its greatest extent.
- (b) The Church was the only/main source of authority in Medieval Europe.
- (c) Monks lived in villages/monasteries.
- (d) There were a total of 8/9 crusades.
- (e) The first four crusades were called major/minor crusades.

3. Write true or false.

- (a) Collapse of the Roman Empire marked the end of the Middle Ages.
- (b) Barbarians were called crusaders.
- (c) Nuns could only marry monks.
- (d) Monasteries tended to the sick and wounded people.
- (e) Churches were centres for art, learning and science.

4. Define the following.

- (a) Renaissance
- (b) Barbarian
- (c) Nuns
- (d) Monks

5. Answer the following questions in brief (40-50 words).

- (a) Write a short note on crusades.
- (b) What role did monasteries play in politics?
- (c) How did monks spend their day?
- (d) What do you know about the Eastern Empire?
- (e) What is the 'Dark Age'?
- (f) How did the Church become more powerful?

6. Write in detail.

- (a) What was the impact of crusades on Europe?
- (b) Write a note on monasteries.
- (c) What happened in Europe in the Middle Ages?

Picture-based Questions

1. Look at the picture given below and answer the following questions.



- (a) What is this person doing?
- (b) What is he called?
- (c) Where did this person live?

2. Identify the image.

- (a) Who is being depicted here?
- (b) What part of Europe did they overtake?
- (c) Which important European city was completely overtaken by them?



Case study

What did monks do in monasteries?



dominant or recessive traits. He recognised the mathematical patterns of inheritance from one generation to the next.

It took eight years for Mendel to complete the genetic experiments. During this period, he grew more than 10,000 pea plants, keeping track of progeny number and type. Mendel published his results in 1865. He is known as 'Father of Genetics'.

You learned in the chapter that monasteries became centres of science and learning. Here is an example of it. Gregor Mendel (1822–1884) was a monk in Augustinian Abbey of St Thomas in Brno, Moravia region (within the modern Czech Republic) where he worked as a teacher.

In his spare time, Mendel experimented on pea plants and noted down the changes. He concluded that genes come in pairs and are inherited as distinct units, one from each parent. He tracked the segregation of parental genes and their appearance in the offspring.



Project work

Find out interesting facts about Jerusalem and write them on a chart paper.

For more information, please log on to...

- <http://www.heeve.com/middle-ages-history/medieval-europe.html>
- www.thefinertimes.com/Middle-Ages/monasteries-in-the-middle-ages.html
- www.history.com/topics/crusades