

Lessons in Church History



I. The Study of
Church History

II. Preparation
for the Ministry
of the Church

III. Ephesus
30-100
The Church that
Lost Its First Love

IV. Smyrna
100-300
The Suffering
Church

V. Pergamos
300-450
The Compromised
Church
(with the seat of Satan)

VI. Thyatira
450-1500
The Tolerant Church
(Mystery Religions accommodated)

VII. Sardis
1500-mid 1700s
The Dead Church

VIII. Philadelphia
1700-mid to late
1900s
The Revival Church

IX. Laodicea
mid to late 1900s-
The Lukewarm
Church

I. The Study of Church History

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Methodology

- His story
- Our story
- Environmental influence
- Devotional considerations
- Limitations
- Discerning Patterns
- Recommended Reading

The Framework of Church History

- Organization of Church Ages
- Comparing the Ages
- World Ages
- Church Ages (commonly taught)
- The Seven Churches

Spiritual Affirmation

- Affirmation of Conviction
- Affirmation of God's Redemptive Plan
- Affirmation of our position in church history

Spiritual Commitment

"History teaches us that man learns nothing from history...What experience and history teaches us is that people and governments have never learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it."

– Hegel

"Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

– Winston Churchill

Methodology

His story

Our story

Environmental influence

Devotional considerations

Limitations

Discerning Patterns

Recommended Reading





This survival of the fittest, which I have here sought to express in mechanical terms, is that which Mr. Darwin has called natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life.

(Herbert Spencer)

"There is a feminine as well as masculine side to truth (and) these are related not as inferior and superior, not as better or worse, not as weaker or stronger, but as complements – complements in one necessary and symmetric whole"

-Anna Julia Cooper
Educator, Author, Activist, Scholar
(1858-1964)





- **Bibliology:** Study of the Bible
- **Theology Proper:** Study of God in general and God, the Father
- **Pneumatology:** Study of spirit beings and God, the Holy Spirit
- **Christology:** Study of Christ
- **Anthropology:** Study of man and his nature
- **Hamartiology:** Study of sin (from *hamartia*, “missing the mark,” falling short of the glory of God)
- **Soteriology:** Study of salvation and sanctification (don’t confuse the two!)
- **Ecclesiology:** Study of the church
- **Eschatology:** Study of the End Times (from *eschatos*, last or end)

Technological: Such things as the Roman infrastructure and the invention of the printing press with movable type have affected the direction of church growth

Philosophical: Platonism, Aristotelianism, Scholasticism, Augustinianism, Gnosticism, Rationalism, Romanticism, and much more have been used to attempt to organize and interpret truth which have given rise to theological dispute

Social/Political: people groups and classes vying for power have imposed their ambitions on church history and the use of governmental organization, hierarchy, and sponsorship has shaped the conflict of church history

Geo-political: The natural boundaries and movement beyond those boundaries has affected the restriction and expansion of church activity

Ecclesiastical: the politics and practical operation of church ministry would especially lead to centralization vs. decentralized business models

The Conflict of the Kingdoms: The Kingdom of the World (Kosmos) vs. The Kingdom of God (Ouranos)

Confusing Salvation and Sanctification: The soteriological issue of the relationship between works and faith that is caused by the problem of sin in the Christian life

Compromise and Reaffirmation: The dynamic of doctrinal corruption and recovery through reaffirmation of Biblical authority

Intellect vs. Emotion: Devotion, passion, and mysticism vs. more philosophical perspectives that marked the trends in thinking

Biblicism vs. Innovation: related to Compromise and Reaffirmation, “new” doctrine or practices were added on to the established

Emotional vs. Intellectual Trends

Montanism	2 nd c.	
	2 nd – 3 rd c.	Gnosticism
Monasticism	3 rd – 10 th c.	
	11 th – 14 th c.	Scholasticism
Mysticism	14 th – 15 th c.	
	16 th – 17 th c.	Reformation Orthodoxy
Pietism and Methodism	17 th – 18 th c.	
	19 th – 20 th c.	Fundamentalism and Modernism
Charismatic	20 th c. –	

The Framework of Church History

Organization of Church Ages

Comparing the Ages

World Ages

Church Ages (commonly taught)

The Seven Churches

World Ages

1. **Classical Antiquity** (8thc. BC - Fall of the Western Roman Empire, 476 AD)
2. **The Middle Ages**
 - Dark/Early Middle Age* 476-1054
 - High Middle Age* 1054-1309
 - Late Middle Age* 1309-1517 (Fall of the Eastern Roman Empire 1453)
3. **Modern Age**
 - Early Modern* 1517-1750 (Reformation 1517)
 - Late Modern* 1750-1890 (Enlightenment, Revolution, Industrial Revolution)
4. **Contemporary**
 - Modernism* 1890-1950
 - Post-Modernism* 1950-

Church Ages

1. Apostolic Age 30-100

2. Patristic Age 100-476

Ante-Nicene, 100-325, Rise of the Papacy, *Post-Nicene* 325-476

3. Medieval Church Age 476-1453

Early Middle Age 476-800

High Middle Age 800-1300 (Holy Roman Empire 800, Great Schism 1054, Crusades)

Late Middle Age 1300-1450 ("Babylonian Captivity" 1309, Fall of Constantinople 1453)

4. Modern Age 1453 - 1950

Early Modern 1400-1750 (Renaissance 1400, Reformation 1517, Enlightenment 1650-1815)

Late Modern (Great Awakenings, Pentecostalism, Fundamentalism, New Evangelicalism)

5. Contemporary Age 1950 -

Seven Churches of the Revelation (or of Asia)

1. Ephesus 30-100, The Church that Lost Its First love
2. Smyrna 100-300, The Suffering Church
3. Pergamos 300-450, The Compromised Church (with the seat of Satan)
4. Thyatira 450-1500, The Tolerant Church (Mystery Religions accommodated)
5. Sardis 1500-1750, The Dead Church
6. Philadelphia 1750-mid to late 1900s, The Revival Church
7. Laodicea mid to late 1900s-, The Lukewarm Church

Secular history recognizes four time periods. Church historians usually recognize five. There are seven ages described in the Revelation. With all historians, there is variation in the way they categorize time periods because they are reflected by broad generalizations.

Chart

	Four World Ages	Five Church Ages	Seven Church Ages
100	1. Classical Antiquity 8 th c. BC – 476 AD	1. Apostolic 30 – 100	1. Ephesus 30 – 100
200		Patristic 2. Ante-Nicene 100 - 325	2. Smyrna 100 - 300
300			
400		3. Post-Nicene 325 - 476	3. Pergamos 300 - 450
500			
600	Middle Ages 2. Dark/Early Middle Age 476 – 154	Medieval 3. Early Middle Age 476 – 800	4. Thyatira 450-1500
700			
800			
900			
1000			
1100	2. High Middle Age 800 – 1309	3. High Middle Age 800 – 1300	
1200			
1300			
1400	2. Late Middle Age 1309 – 1517	3. Late Middle Age 1300 – 1450	
1500			
1600	Modern 3. Early Modern 1517 – 1750	Modern 4. Early Modern 1450 – 1750	5. Sardis 1500-1750
1700			
1800	3. Late Modern 1750 – 1890	4. Late Modern 1750 – 1950	6. Philadelphia 1750 – 1950
1900			
2000	4. Modernism 1890 - 1950 Post-Modernism 1950 –	5. Contemporary 1950 –	7. Laodicea 1950 –

Spiritual Affirmation

Affirmation of Conviction

Affirmation of God's Redemptive Plan

Affirmation of our position in church history

Spiritual depth
Church Ministry
Doctrine

Dispensational Fulfillment

Fulfillment of Christ's promise

Spiritual Commitment

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II. Preparation for the Ministry of the Church

Preparation for the Ministry of the Church

The Change from the Old Dispensation

Greek Influence on the Jews

The Allegorical Method of Interpretation

The Failure of the Pagan Religion

Roman Organization

Greek Culture

Population Centers

Messianic Prophecies

Political and Religious Turmoil

Apocalyptic Literature

Messianic Figures

Alexandria was home to a large and influential Jewish population.

The Jews of Alexandria embraced aspects of Greek culture while maintaining their distinct Jewish identity and religious practices.

The Septuagint, was undertaken by Jewish scholars in Alexandria and made the Hebrew Scriptures accessible to Greek-speaking Jews and non-Jews alike.

Hellenistic Jewish thinkers, such as Philo, sought to reconcile Greek philosophy with Jewish theology, resulting in the development of allegorical and philosophical interpretations of the Torah.

The Roman Religion

Uniting of Civilized World

Roman Citizenship

Roadways

Safety



West

**Outer Experience
Reductionistic
Individual**

East

**Inner Experience
Holistic
Community**

III. Ephesus

30-100

The Church that
Lost Its First Love

Ephesus 30-100

The Church that Lost Its First Love

The Date of the Age of the Church of Ephesus

Character of the Age

Challenges of the Age

Character of the Age:

The Missions of the Twelve Apostles

Paul vs. Peter

Mistaken significance of Paul's influence

Peter's and Paul's ministries were complimentary

Transitional character of Peter's ministry

Timeline of New Testament Books



IV. Smyrna

100-300

The Suffering
Church

Smyrna 100-300

The Suffering Church

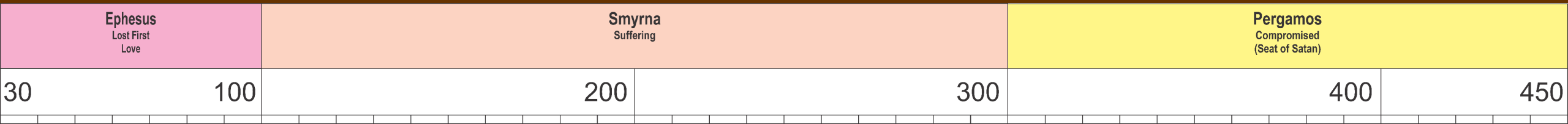
The Date of the Age of the Church of Smyrna

Character of the Age

Challenges of the Age

- Bibliology
- Pneumatology
- Soteriology
- Theology Proper
- Anthropology
- Ecclesiology
- Christology
- Harmartiology
- Eschatology

Timeline Smyrna



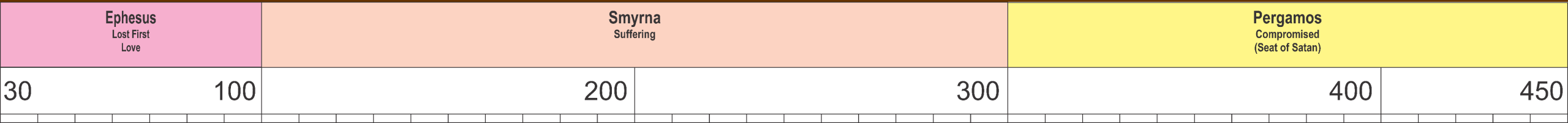
| Death of John §201

| 313 Edict of Milan §201

| 325 Council of Nicea §201

Patristic Age: Ante-Nicene Fathers §202 | Nicene, Post-Nicene Fathers §202

Timeline Smyrna



Ten Persecutions

Montanism p. 100, §246

Manichaeism §231

Augustine §234

Arianism p. 103

Novationism §235

Cyprian § 241

Donatism §244

Clement §247

Ignatius §252

Origen §247

Irenaeus §255

252 Council of Carthage – Baptism §256

70 Destruction of Jerusalem p. 112

132 -135 Bar Kochba revolt – Expulsion of the Jews p. 112

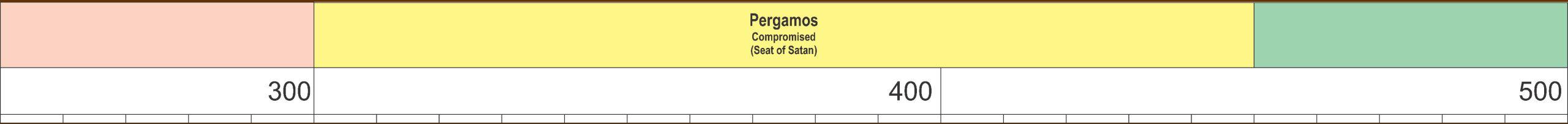
V. Pergamos

300-450

The Compromised
Church

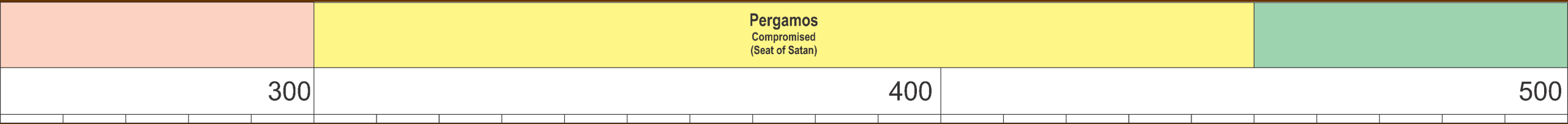
(with the seat of Satan)

Timeline Pergamos



- | 380 Christianity declared official state religion §262
- | 316 Edict against the Donatists §266
- | 371 Edict against the Manichaeans §266
- | 381 Second Ecumenical Council (First Council Constantinople) §266
- Edicts against the Arians §266
- 382 Damasus recognized by Gratian as Pope §278 |
- | 325 Council of Nicaea §289, §300
- Leo I §291
- Siricius I §292
- 590 Gregory the Great §291 →
- | 313 Donatist Controversy §293
- | 325 Arian Controversy - Council of Nicaea §299
- 451 Council of Chalcedon §301
- Pelagius §306
- Augustine §306
- Pelagian Controversy §306

Timeline Pergamos



Pergamos
Compromised
(Seat of Satan)

300

400

500

| 393 Council of Hippo §322

| 397 Council of Carthage §322

Augustine §324, §331, §337, §343

| 325 Council of Nicea p. 133

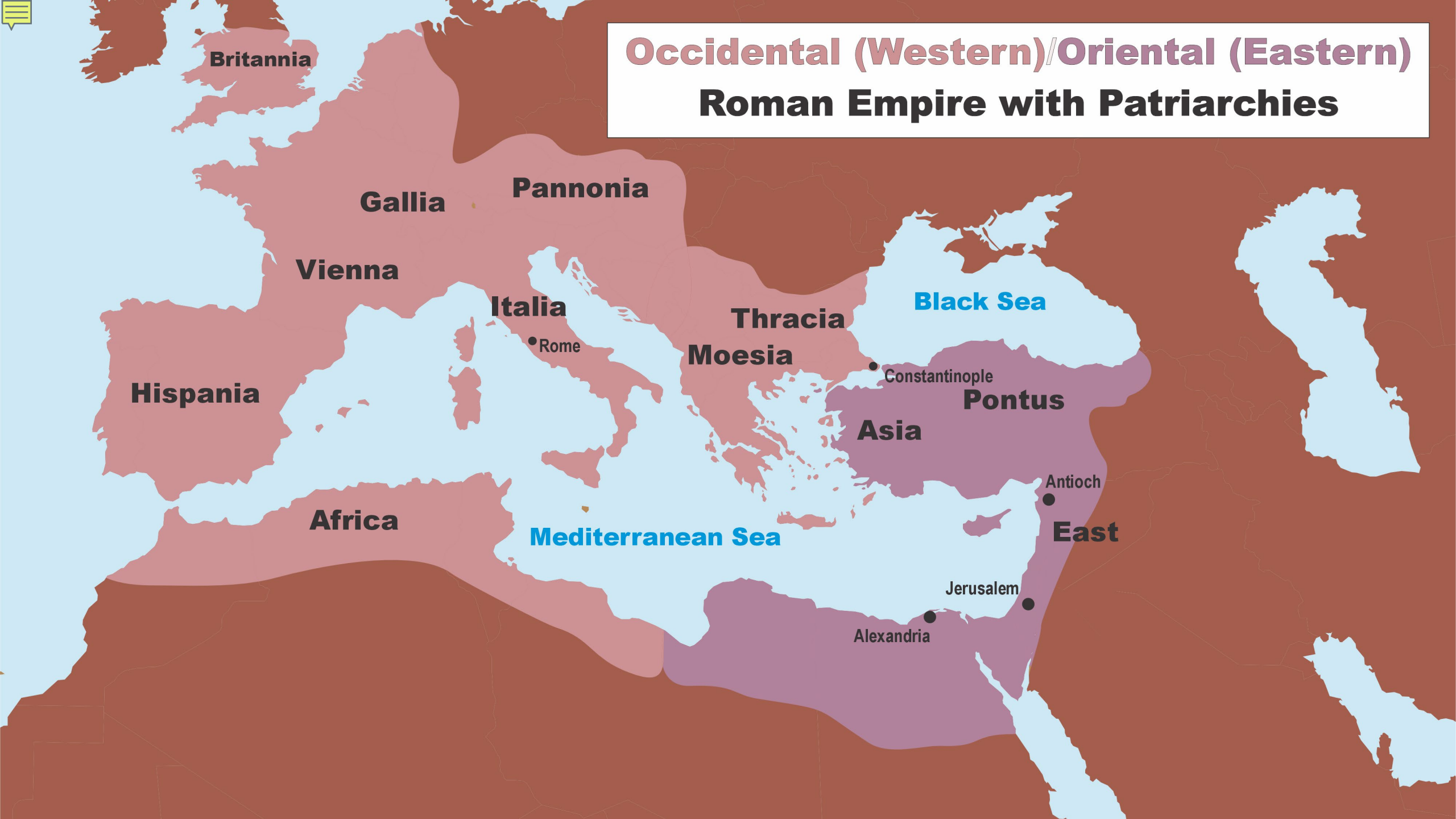
| 451 Council of
Chalcedon p. 133, §328

| 381 1st Council of Constantinople) §266

Cyril §340

The State Church §342

Occidental (Western)/Oriental (Eastern) Roman Empire with Patriarchies



VI. Thyatira

450-1500

The Tolerant Church

(Mystery Religions accommodated)

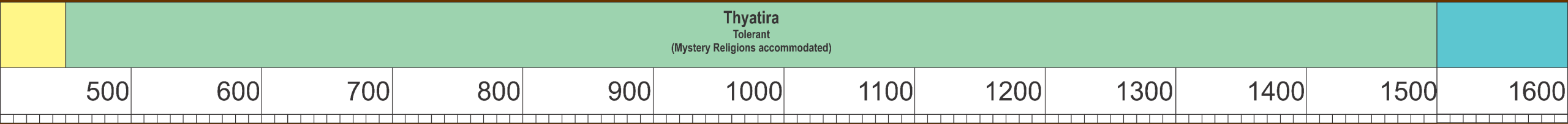
Fade Right §1

Fade Left §1

| Point in time §1

Fixed pd §1.

Timeline Thyatira



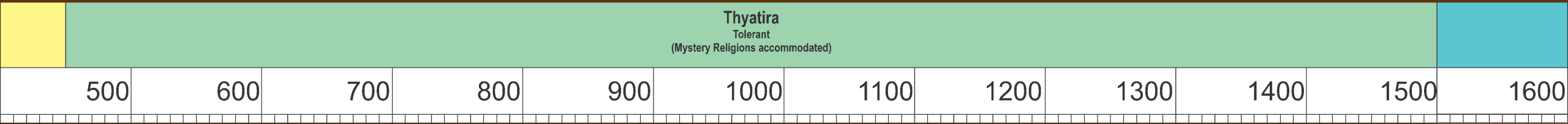
Leo the Great §347

| 476 Fall of Western Roman Empire §347

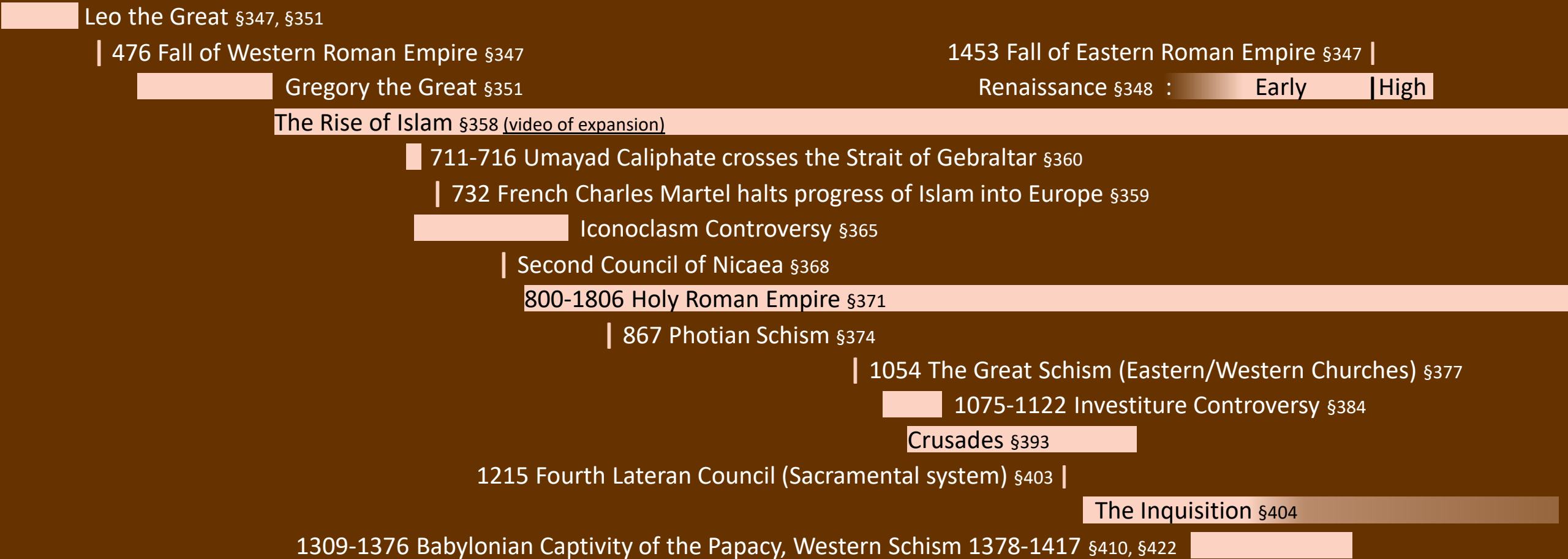
1453 Fall of Eastern Roman Empire §347 |

Renaissance §348 : Early | High

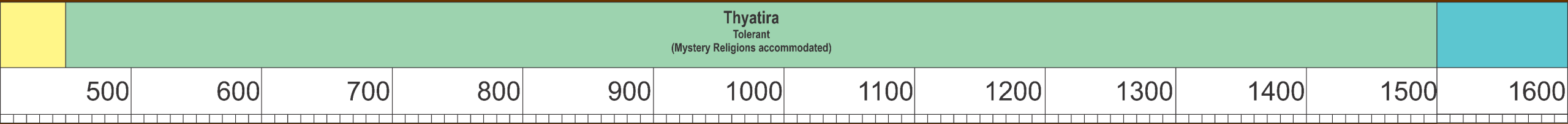
Timeline Thyatira



Thyatira
Tolerant
(Mystery Religions accommodated)



Timeline Thyatira



Scholasticism §426

1453 Fall of Eastern Roman Empire §347 |

Renaissance §348 : Early | High

| 1054 The Great Schism (Eastern/Western Churches) §377

Crusades §393

1309-1376 Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy, Western Schism 1378-1417 §410, §422

VII. Sardis

1500-mid 1700s

The Dead Church

VIII. Philadelphia

1700-mid to late

1900s

The Revival Church

IX. Laodicea
mid to late 1900s-
The Lukewarm
Church