



Grace Anglican
CHURCH

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Session 2

~The 39 Articles~

An Overview of Key Events
and
Who's Who – Articles 1 through 8

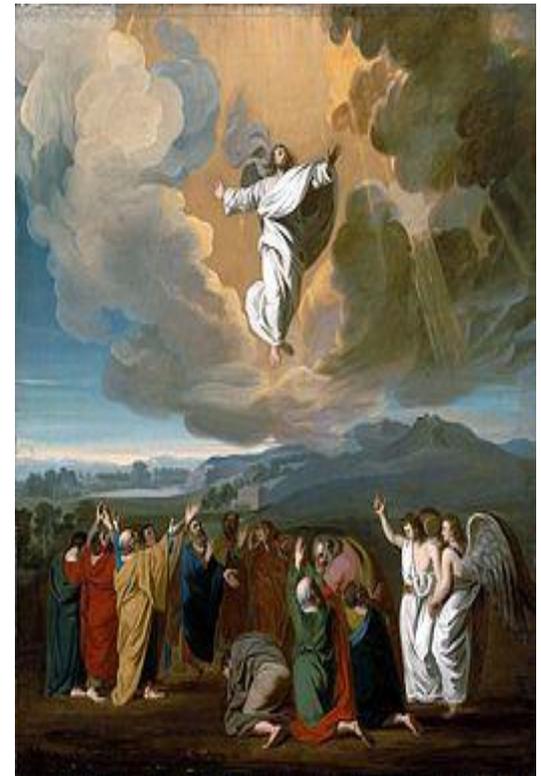
An Overview of Key Events



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What happened leading up to the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion in 1571 that we (ACNA) receive as a foundational formulary of our faith?

- ❖ Jesus ascends into Heaven, commanding the Great Commission (A.D. 34 +/-); Pentecost
- ❖ Persecution of the Jewish believers in Israel
- ❖ Paul is converted by Jesus outside Damascus; meets Peter in Jerusalem (A.D. 36/37)
- ❖ James, half-brother of Jesus, writes to Jewish believers outside of Palestine (A.D. 40-45)
- ❖ Paul's first missionary journey (A.D. 46-47)
- ❖ Mark, Matthew, Luke write the Synoptic Gospels and Acts of the Apostles (50s to early 60s A.D.) Paul begins to write to churches.





The First Century of the Church

Early disputes and factions grew from distortions or rejections of the Gospel. Jews, Romans, and Greeks were furiously against the new “philosophy” and the Person of Jesus.

- ❖ Gnostics – Separated material/physical and spiritual
- ❖ Judaizers – Required Christians fully maintain the Law
- ❖ Pantheists – Believed in many gods, would merely add Jesus

The vast Roman Empire at first ignored Christianity. Not for long.

- ❖ 49 – Claudius expelled Jews from Rome over Jesus disputes
- ❖ 54 – Claudius died. Nero began 14 years of insane horror.
- ❖ 66-69 – Jewish-Roman wars, assassinations, Vespasian wins
- ❖ 70 – Vespasian’s son Titus defiles, destroys Temple
- ❖ 81 – Domitian executes his own relatives, others over Christ; exiles philosophers, sends John to Patmos



Establishing Orthodoxy

- ❖ Paul, Peter, and other apostles/disciples struggle for the purity of the Gospel; they establish the principles of the faith.
- ❖ Because the Church was covert, meeting in private in homes, the period from 100 to 300 involved growing and strengthening individuals and small groups of believers who met in homes (See Paul's greetings in his letters.)
- ❖ Expansion, new converts brought exposure to new pollutants
- ❖ Homoousianism vs Arianism – Numerous Trinitarian arguments led to the essential decision settled later in Athanasian and Nicene creeds
- ❖ Convocation of Councils – Constantine's solution to find agreement among disparate theological concepts: ecumenical; authoritative
- ❖ Seven Councils – Impact almost 1700 years later = The Creeds we accept: Nicene, Athanasian, Apostles



Kings, Queens, Popes – Oh my!

- ❖ Emperor Constantine the Great accepted and elevated Christianity.
- ❖ In 313, his Edict of Milan ended persecutions and in 325, he convoked the 1st Council of Nicaea, a meeting of bishops, source of our Nicene Creed.
- ❖ His mother, Queen Helena, spent extensive time in Palestine and Jerusalem, identified the traditional site of Christ's crucifixion and tomb, and built the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, revered today.
- ❖ Constantine moved his capital from Rome to Byzantium (Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey), where the Roman Empire, most often now called the Byzantine Empire, remained seated for 1,000 years.
- ❖ The dynastic right of succession by royal heirs began with Constantine's children, establishing the "divine right" of kings to imperial legitimacy.
- ❖ A document fabricated some 400 years later, known as the Donation of Constantine, claimed the Emperor's lands and palaces given to Silvester, a bishop of Rome. This "legitimized," popes as political leaders over nations.
- ❖ Wars fought over control of the Holy Roman Empire/Catholic Church



Attempted Unity through Councils

Council	Date	Convoked by	President	Attendance (approx.)	Topics
First Council of Nicaea	325 (May 20-June 19)	Emperor Constantine I	Hosius of Corduba (and Emperor Constantine)	318	Arianism, the nature of Christ, celebration of Passover (Easter), ordination of eunuchs, prohibition of kneeling on Sundays and from Easter to Pentecost, validity of baptism by heretics, lapsed Christians, sundry other matters.
First Council of Constantinople	381 (May-July)	Emperor Theodosius I	Timothy of Alexandria, Meletius of Antioch, Gregory Nazianzus, and Nectarius of Constantinople	150	Arianism, Apollinarism, Sabellianism, Holy Spirit, successor to Meletius
Council of Ephesus	431 (June 22-July 31)	Emperor Theodosius II	Cyril of Alexandria	200-250	Nestorianism, Theotokos, Pelagianism
Council of Chalcedon	451 (October 8-November 1)	Emperor Marcian	A board of government officials and senators, led by the patrician Anatolius	520	The judgments issued at the Second Council of Ephesus in 449, the alleged offences of Bishop Dioscorus of Alexandria, the relationship between the divinity and humanity of Christ, many disputes involving particular bishops and sees.
Second Council of Constantinople	553 (May 5-June 2)	Emperor Justinian I	Eutychius of Constantinople	152	Nestorianism Monophysitism
Third Council of Constantinople	680-681 (November 7-September 16)	Emperor Constantine IV	Patriarch George I of Constantinople	300	Monothelitism, the human and divine wills of Jesus
Second Council of Nicaea	787 (September 24-October 23)	Constantine VI and Empress Irene (as regent)	Patriarch Tarasios of Constantinople, legates of Pope Adrian I	350	Iconoclasm



Fast-Forward One Millennium

- ❖ The Reformation started before the famous four Reformers: Martin Luther (1483-1546), Thomas Cramner (1489-1556), Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531), or John Calvin (1509-1564)
- ❖ Began with courageous acts of John Wycliff (1328-1384) and Jan Hus (1369-1415); resulted in immolation for opposing RC
- ❖ Major issues – FOR: Bible translation and services in common vernacular, predestination, iconoclasm AGAINST: works over grace, tradition/decrees over Scripture, veneration of saints, caesaropapism, infallibility of popes, deification of Mary, requiem masses, purgatory, multiplicity of sacraments, limitations on Eucharist, transubstantiation, monasticism, simony, indulgences, and the validity of the papacy itself



Examine and Discuss Articles 1-5

- ❖ The Trinity – Our Triune Godhead, also “I AM,” YHWH (Article I)
 - ❖ ... without body, parts, or passions (impassible), no effect from exterior
 - ❖ ... Maker = Creator *ex nihilo* out of nothing, not an arranger of matter
 - ❖ ... Preserver, not a deistic “great watchmaker”
 - ❖ ... visible and invisible, not subject to any angel, demon, or force
- ❖ The Son, the Logos (Word) of the Godhead (Article II)
 - ❖ ... born of a virgin, not a product of human conception, yet fully human
 - ❖ ... to reconcile God, paying for original guilt + all our unique, actual sins
- ❖ The Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit (Article V)
 - ❖ ... proceeding from Father and Son, as on The Mission of the Godhead
- ❖ Particulars of Jesus’ Mission (Articles III and IV)
 - ❖ ... went down into Hell, for His ministry to the dead, as One who experienced death
 - ❖ ... took again His body...ascended into Heaven...[will] return to judge all humans



Examine and Discuss Articles 6, 7, 8

- ❖ Scriptures as the Only Canon = Ruling Authority (Article VI)
 - ❖ ... all things necessary to salvation – nothing more, nothing less, nothing else
 - ❖ ... read it, prove it, or don't require it – “If the Bible says it; I believe it; and, that settles it!”
 - ❖ ... *sola Scriptura* – ended the ungodly power of the papacy
- ❖ Applicability of the Old Testament (Article VII)
 - ❖ ... not contrary to the New
 - ❖ ... not only transitory promises
 - ❖ ... not bound to Old Testament Ceremonies, Rites, or Civil precepts
 - ❖ ... not free from obedience to Moral Commandments
- ❖ Acceptance of the Three Creeds (Article VIII)
 - ❖ ... Nicene
 - ❖ ... Athanasian
 - ❖ ... Apostles'

The Apostles' Creed

In legend, the Twelve Apostles wrote the 12 points:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth. (1-Peter)

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. (2-John)

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit

and born of the virgin Mary. (3-James)

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried. (4-Andrew)

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. (5-Philip)

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father. (6-Thomas)

He will come again to judge the living and the dead. (7-Matthew)

I believe in the Holy Spirit, (8-Thaddeus)

the holy catholic (universal) Church,

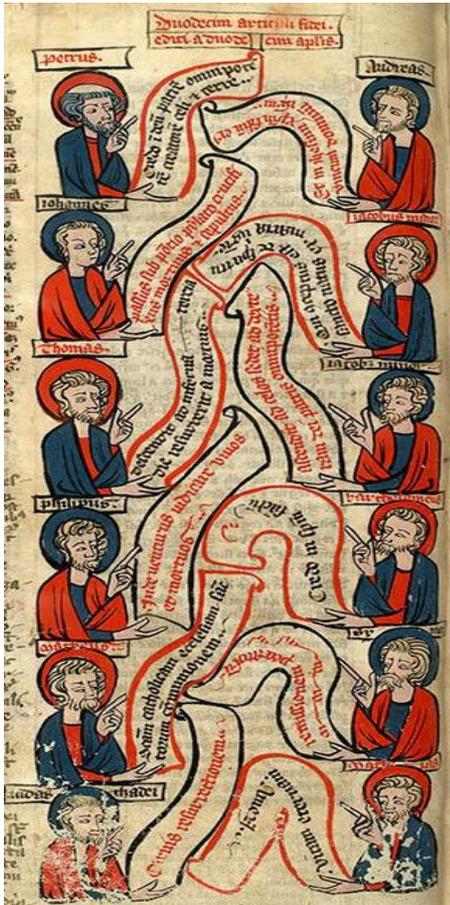
the communion of saints, (9-Simon)

the forgiveness of sins, (10-Jude)

the resurrection of the body, (11-Bartholomew)

and the life everlasting. (12-Matthias)

Amen.



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