



Joel 2:28

And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy

John 14:26

But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthenener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

2 Peter 2 – Beware of False Teachers

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed.

They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, 13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.

15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

Words of Caution

Scoffers always show contempt and disdain for opponents rather than graciousness. This is a sign that they do not see themselves as sinners saved by grace. Instead, their trust in the rightness of their views makes them feel superior. – Tim Keller

Whenever we find that our religious life is making us feel that we are good - above all, that we are better than someone else - I think we may be sure that we are being acted on, not by God, but by the devil. – C.S. Lewis

Christian Vocabulary

These fellows use our vocabulary, but they don't have our dictionary. Dr. Vernon McGee

False Teachers Denials

- Absolute inspiration of the Bible by God
- Trinity
- Deity of Christ
- Virgin birth of Christ
- Christ's death as a substitute for sinners
- Value of Christ's shed blood
- Christ's bodily resurrection
- Eternal punishment
- Salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Bible miracles

Matthew 18:6

Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Jonestown – Guyana – South America

- Jim Jones (born 1931) – founder of The Peoples Temple
- Pentecostal upbringing
- Minister in the Independent Assemblies of God
- Charismatic personality
- Supported by famous Christian leaders
- He moved his church and 1,000 followers to Guyana's jungle
- November 18, 1978 – mass murder-suicide

False Teachers Warning

Jesus: “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

Matthew 24:24

Mainstream Churches – Jesus is not God or equal to the Father

- Unitarianism
- Universalism
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Mormonism
- Scientology
- Christadelphianism

False Teachers Warnings

Jesus: “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves” Matthew 7:15

Paul: “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.” Acts 20:29

Apostles Creed

Core Christian Beliefs (120-250 AD)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Apostles Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

Apostles Creed

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Apostles Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places

Nicene Creed

Addressed Heresies (325 AD - 589 AD)

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

Nicene Creed

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.

Nicene Creed

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,

and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried.

Nicene Creed

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory

to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

Nicene Creed

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come.

Amen.

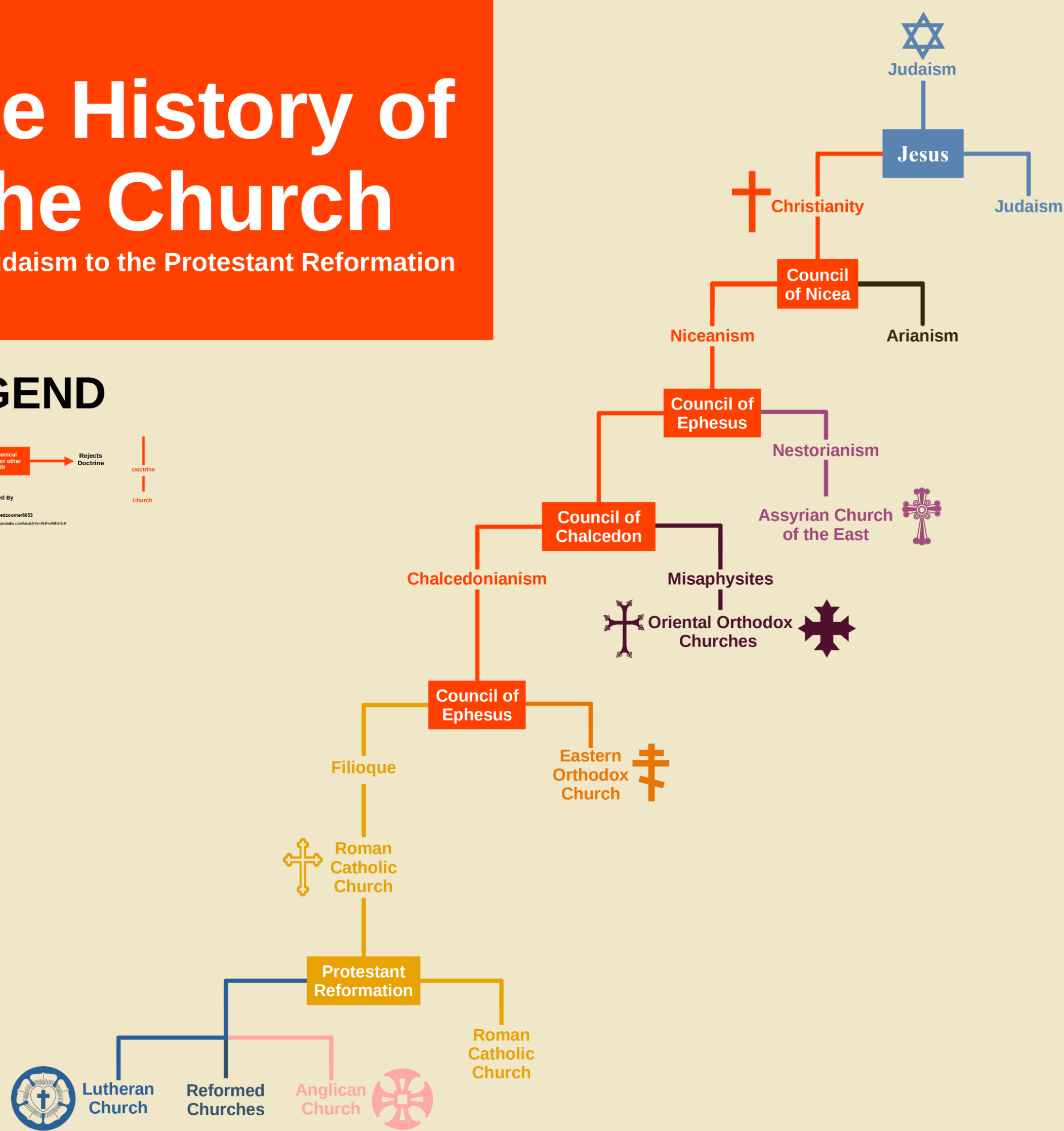
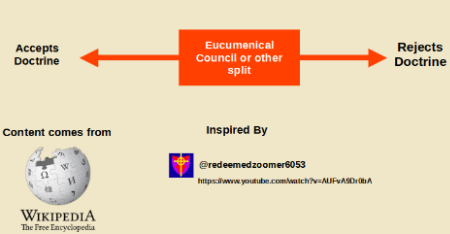
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The History of the Church

From Judaism to the Protestant Reformation

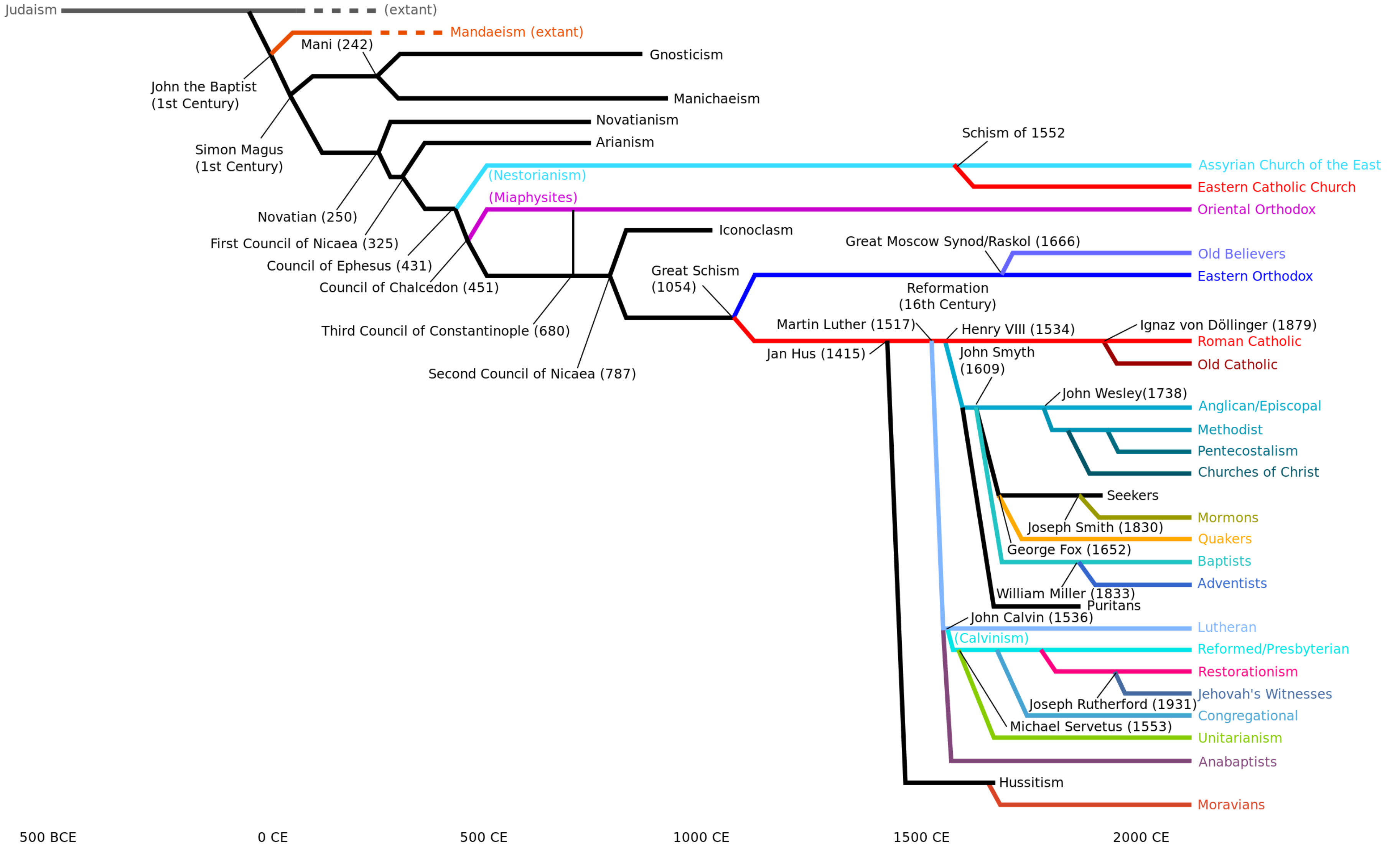
LEGEND



Source: Reddit

Major denominational groups and heresies within Christianity

Source: Wikipedia



USA Evangelical Survey (2016 - 2022) (Sample of 3000 - 711)

People can turn to God on their own initiative – 82%

Individuals must contribute to their own salvation – 74%

The Holy Spirit is a force, not a personal being – 55%

Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature – 54%

God accepts the worship of all religions – 58%

My good deeds help to earn my place in heaven – 39%

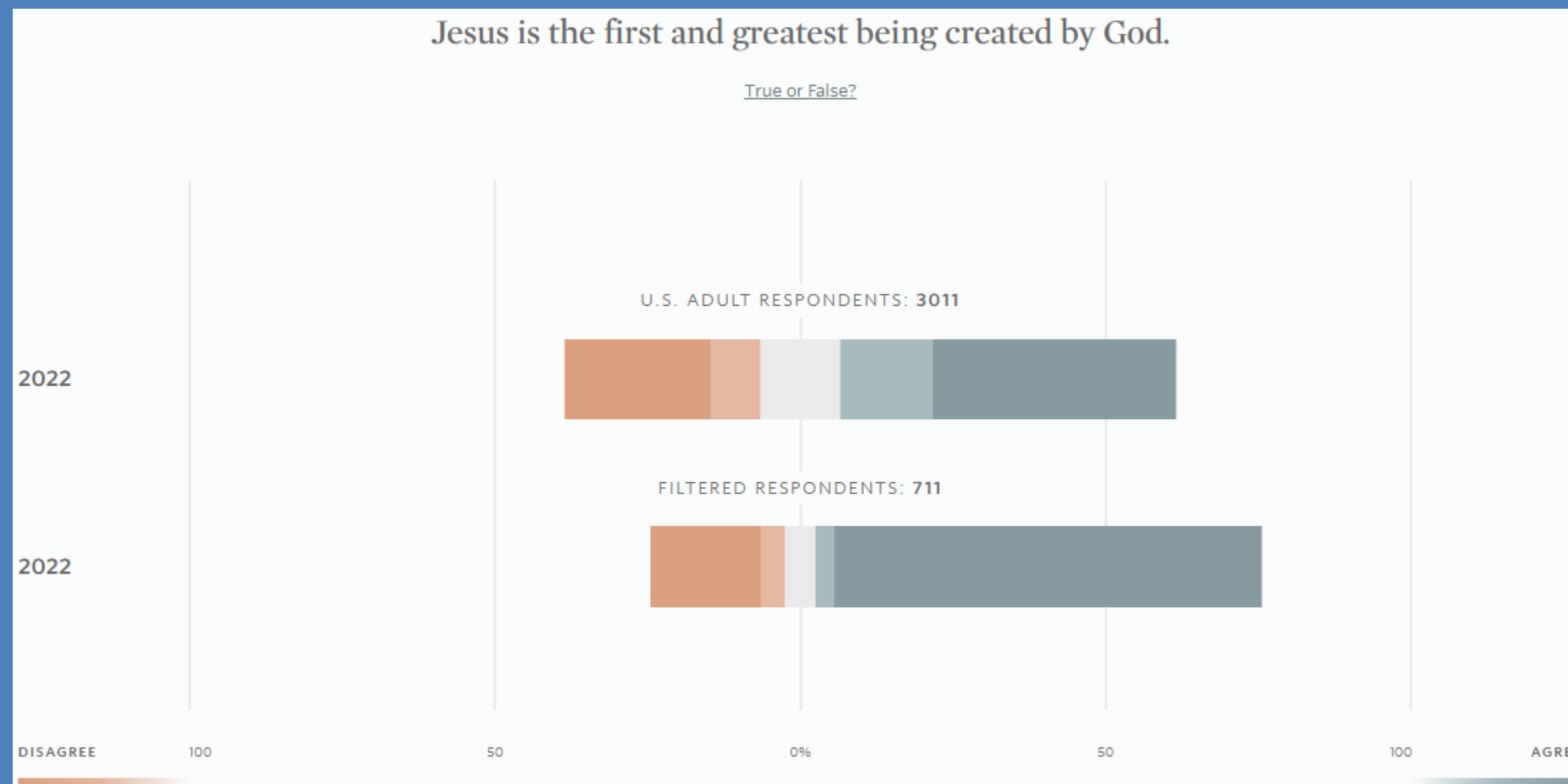
God will always reward faith with material blessings – 37 %

USA Christian Survey (2022) (Sample of 3011)

Jesus was created by God the Father (statement 6) – 55%

Evangelicals – 73% (sample 711)

<https://thestateoftheology.com/> (35 statements, 2024-2022)



Recommended Web References

The State of Theology: What Evangelicals Believe in 2022

- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/state-theology-2022/>

Ligonier Ministries Survey

- <https://thestateoftheology.com/>

Obscure Passages

If I were to take you to a farm, I could say to you, “Now Here you will find apples, peaches, and grapes. And here are watermelons, and cantaloupes, and sweet potatoes.” I could name fifteen or twenty edible fruits or vegetables or grains and say, “Now this is all yours. Take over – work.”

What if I came back a month later and found my guests half-starved? I would say to them, “What’s the matter? You look undernourished.”

They might reply, “Well, we are undernourished because we found a plant that we can’t identify. There is a plant behind the old oak stump back there near the end of the far field just over the hill. We have spent one month trying to identify this plant.”

2 Peter 2:21

For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Food for Thought

“Friends, if you came in here today unsaved and you walk out of here unsaved, I am the worst enemy that you have ever had, because you have heard the gospel and you can never go into the presence of God and tell Him that you have never heard the gospel. You have heard it, and it will be worse for you when God pronounces judgment than for any heathen in the darkest part of the earth today.” – Dr. A.C. Gaebelein

Summary

My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world.

My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world. These people belong to the Christ-denying world. They talk the world's language and the world eats it up. But we come from God and belong to God. Anyone who knows God understands us and listens. The person who has nothing to do with God will, of course, not listen to us. This is another test for telling the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of deception.

1 John 4:1, 4-6