

Overview of the Coptic Orthodox Church

Background

- Copt = Egypt
- The Coptic Church is an Apostolic church, whose founder is St. Mark, one of the 70 Apostles of Christ.
- St. Mark came to Alexandria in 48 AD, and was martyred in 68 AD.
- Pope Tawadros II, the 118th Patriarch is the present Pope of the Coptic Church.

- 24 Alphabets
- Year 284 AD marks the start of the Coptic Calendar.
- Coptic instruments: one cymbal, and one triangle.
- Seven Major Feasts:
 1. The Annunciation
 2. The Nativity of Christ
 3. The Epiphany or the Baptism of Christ
 4. Palm Sunday
 5. Easter
 6. The Ascension
 7. Pentecost

Capital	Low-case	Greek Name	English
Α	α	Alpha	a
Β	β	Beta	b
Γ	γ	Gamma	g
Δ	δ	Delta	d
Ε	ε	Epsilon	e
Ζ	ζ	Zeta	z
Η	η	Eta	h
Θ	θ	Theta	th
Ι	ι	Iota	i
Κ	κ	Kappa	k
Λ	λ	Lambda	l
Μ	μ	Mu	m
Ν	ν	Nu	n
Ξ	ξ	Xi	x
Ο	ο	Omicron	o
Π	π	Pi	p
Ρ	ρ	Rho	r
Σ	σ	Sigma	s
Τ	τ	Tau	t
Υ	υ	Upsilon	u
Φ	φ	Phi	ph
Χ	χ	Chi	ch
Ψ	ψ	Psi	ps
Ω	ω	Omega	o

Who is St. Mark?

- A Jew from the Levite Tribe
- His birthplace was North Africa, in Libya
- Was born of a rich family, and was well educated in religion
- He was the one who served in the wedding of Cana
- He was the one who carried the water pitcher in the presence of Christ at his mother's house.
- He was one of the 70 apostles.



His Work

- The author of the Gospel of Mark (in Greek) (~61 AD)
- The holy liturgy
- Prayers in Agpeya
- Many others..
- The establishment of the theological college against the pagans



God's Plan for Egypt

- The Lord became known to Egypt:

"In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord." (Isaiah 19:19)

"Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." (Isaiah 19:25)

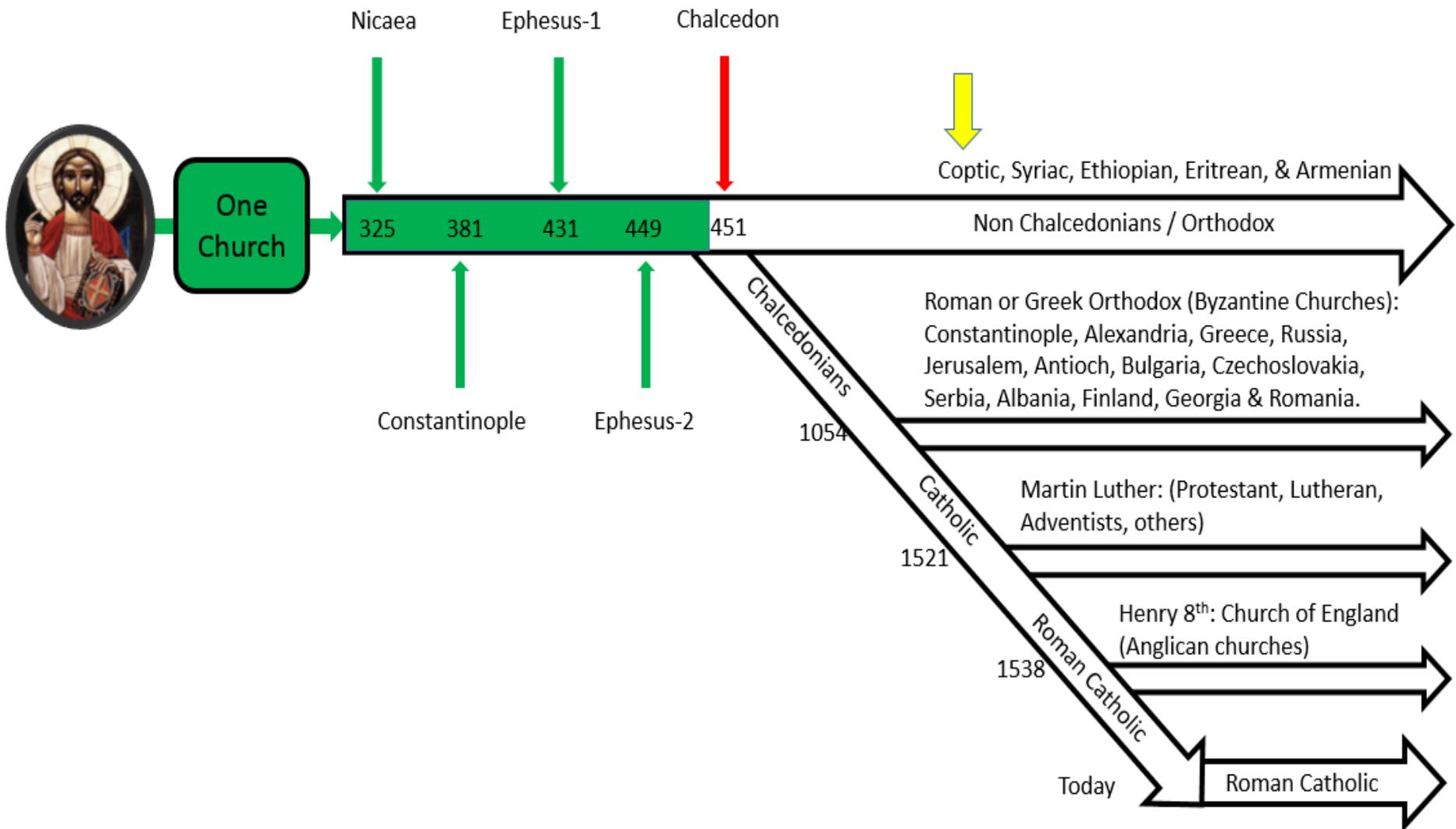


Monasticism

- Was first introduced and established by the Coptic Church.
- St. Anthony (251-356 AD) is the founder of Monasticism in early Christianity, while St. Paul (229-342 AD) is considered to be the first hermit.



Coptic Church & Ecumenical Councils



Traditional Church

- ✓ Trinitarian
- ✓ Scriptural (Biblical)
- ✓ Sacramental
- ✓ Conservative

How Are We Traditional?

Trinitarian:

- Jesus, is the true Son of God
- Incarnate & born
- Died
- Rose from the dead
- Ascended
- Sent the Holy Spirit



How Are We Traditional?

Scriptural (Biblical):

- The Bible as the point of reference
- The Creed is the statement of Faith
- The teachings of the early Church Fathers



How Are We Traditional?

Sacraments:

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Repentance and Confession
- Eucharist (Communion)
- Matrimony
- Unction of the Sick
- Priesthood



How Are We Traditional?

Conservative:

-No changes to the basic matters of Faith, Dogma or Tradition to suit current trends.

Reasons for being Traditional?

- “Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself the chief corner stone” (Eph 2:20)
- “Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” (2Thess 2:15)
- “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.” (2Thess 3:6)

Thank you!

