

**OUTLINE OF
CHRISTIAN HISTORY,
A.D. 50-1880**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649490318

Outline of Christian History, A.D. 50-1880 by Joseph Henry Allen

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JOSEPH HENRY ALLEN

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BY

JOSEPH HENRY ALLEN

AUTHOR OF "HEBREW MEN AND TIMES," "CHRISTIAN HISTORY IN ITS
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IN THEOLOGY," ETC.

BOSTON
ROBERTS BROTHERS
1886

BR
149
A4
1886

P R E F A C E .

THIS "Outline" is designed, primarily, as a manual for class instruction. In its plan it follows rigidly the mechanical form which seems best fitted for such a manual. Indeed, in no other way would it have been possible to include the necessary number and variety of topics within so limited a space. And by this method, it is hoped, an amount of information is brought together and presented with sufficient clearness, which will be of value and interest, not merely to the classes for which it is designed, but for any intelligent reader or student of general history.

As to a plan of study, it is recommended that, in first going over the ground, the twelve chapters should be taken in as many lessons, studying only the part in larger type. The general scheme, or course of events, having thus been set clearly before the mind, it may then be best to select particular divisions, or periods, to be studied in more detail. If, for example, the first four chapters, and the four beginning with the Reformation, should be divided into *three lessons each*, the whole course would then occupy thirty-six lessons, or about the work of a single year; the rest being essential to the plan, but less important to be learned, and less easily illustrated from other sources.

Still, it should be remembered, an epitome like this is not history. To make its lessons of any value, they need a broader interpretation than can possibly be given in such a manual. This book, accordingly, refers constantly—as the most compact and convenient summary of the subject from its point of view—to the “Christian History in its Three Great Periods” (3 vols.), published by Roberts Brothers, Boston. It may be, indeed, regarded as a complement, or key, to that series.

Neither that, however, nor any single work, ought to satisfy the student. For a general guide, to both teacher and pupil, such a work of reference as McClintock and Strong’s “Cyclopædia” is perhaps best; or, for the earlier part (eight centuries), Smith’s great Dictionaries of Christian Antiquities (2 vols.) and Biography (4 vols.). The single-volume text-book by Philip Smith (Harpers) will serve as a sufficient and well-illustrated manual of reference for the first ten centuries. Milman’s histories of “Christianity” and “Latin Christianity” ought also to be within easy reach. For the period beginning with the Reformation, abundant books of reference may be readily found, needing no special mention. A more complete list of authorities, with tables of Chronology and other aids, will be found in the “Christian History” before referred to.

J. H. A.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,
September 1, 1884.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.—THE MESSIANIC PERIOD.

Sect.	Page	Sect.	Page
1. The Beginning (A. D. 50) . . .	3	7. Clement of Rome (-95) . . .	10
2. The Apostles (50-70) . . .	4	8. Testimony of Pliny (110) . . .	10
3. Pauline Controversy . . .	6	9. Ignatius (-115) . . .	12
4. The Synoptical Gospels . . .	6	10. Polycarp (-165) . . .	12
5. Persecution of Nero (64) . . .	7	11. Other Apostolical Fathers . . .	13
6. Destruction of Jerusalem (70) . . .	9	12. Bar-Cochab (132-135) . . .	14

CHAPTER II.—THE MARTYR AGE.

13. The Pagan Empire . . .	16	19. Tertullian (160-220) . . .	24
14. The Apologists . . .	17	20. The Alexandrian School . . .	25
15. The Gnostics . . .	19	21. Cyprian (248-258) . . .	27
16. The Clementine Writings . . .	20	22. Constitution of the Church . . .	28
17. The Martyrs . . .	21	23. Development of Doctrine . . .	30
18. The Montanists . . .	23	24. The Last Persecution . . .	31

CHAPTER III.—CONTROVERSIES AND CREEDS.

25. The Christian Empire . . .	33	31. Later Councils (381-451) . . .	39
26. Council of Nicæa (325) . . .	34	32. Latin Fathers . . .	41
27. The Arian Controversy . . .	35	33. The Manichæan Heresy . . .	42
28. Greek Fathers . . .	37	34. The Pelagian Controversy . . .	42
29. The Eastern Monks . . .	37	35. Goths and Vandals . . .	43
30. Theodosius (379-395) . . .	39	36. Western Creeds . . .	44

CHAPTER IV.—THE CHURCH AND THE BARBARIANS.

37. Leo the Great (440-461) . . .	46	43. Mahometan Conquests (-732) . . .	53
38. The Barbarians . . .	47	44. The Image Controversy . . .	55
39. Western Monks . . .	48	45. The Venerable Bede (-735) . . .	56
40. Cassiodorus . . .	49	46. Saint Boniface (-755) . . .	57
41. Gregory the Great (590-604) . . .	51	47. Donation of Pepin . . .	58
42. Christianity in England (597) . . .	52	48. Charles the Great . . .	58

CHAPTER V.—THE CHURCH AND FEUDALISM.

Sect.	Page	Sect.	Page
49. The Holy Roman Empire (800)	60	55. Degradation of the Papacy	66
50. The Forged Decretals . . .	61	56. The Saxon House . . .	67
51. Controversies of this Time . . .	62	57. Anglo-Saxon Church . . .	68
52. Nicholas I. (858-867) . . .	63	58. Saintly Kings	69
53. Feudal Revolution	64	59. The Emperor as Protector . . .	70
54. Feudalizing of the Church . . .	65	60. Hildebrand (1048)	70

CHAPTER VI.—GREAT AGE OF THE PAPACY.

61. War of Investitures	73	67. Innocent III. (1198-1216) . . .	80
62. The Crusades (1095-1270) . . .	74	68. The Mendicant Orders	81
63. The Great Monastics	75	69. Scholastic Theology	82
64. Heretics	76	70. Saint Louis (1226-1270) . . .	83
65. Persecution of Heretics	78	71. The Sicilian Vespers (1282) . . .	84
66. Alexander III. (1159-1181) . . .	79	72. Boniface VIII. (1294-1303) . . .	85

CHAPTER VII.—DAWN OF THE MODERN ERA.

73. Popes at Avignon (1309-1378)	86	79. Council of Constance (1414-1418)	92
74. Templars and Minorites	87	80. The Hussite War (1420-1434) . . .	94
75. Later Theologians	88	81. Last Effort at Reform	95
76. The Golden Bull (1356)	89	82. The New Paganism	95
77. John Wiclif (1320-1384)	90	83. The Wicked Popes	96
78. The Great Schism (1378-1417)	91	84. Savonarola	97

CHAPTER VIII.—THE REFORMATION.

85. The Humanists	99	91. Reformation in France	104
86. Indulgences	100	92. Reformation in England	105
87. Luther's Protest (1517)	101	93. Calvin in Geneva (1536)	106
88. Luther at Worms (1521)	102	94. Unitarian Reformers	107
89. The Radical Revolt (1525)	103	95. Luther's Later Work (-1546) . . .	108
90. Reformation in Switzerland	104	96. The Smalcaldic War (-1552) . . .	109

CHAPTER IX.—WARS OF RELIGION.

97. The Catholic Reaction	111	103. Edict of Nantes (1598)	116
98. The Jesuits (1540)	111	104. Revolt of the Netherlands	117
99. The Inquisition (1542)	113	105. Synod of Dort (1618)	118
100. Council of Trent (1545-1563)	114	106. Thirty Years' War (1618)	119
101. Huguenot Wars	114	107. Gustavus Adolphus (1632)	120
102. Saint Bartholomew (1572)	115	108. Peace of Westphalia (1648)	121

CHAPTER X.—THE ENGLISH PURITANS.

Sect.	Page	Sect.	Page
109. Queen Elizabeth (1554-1603)	122	116. Laud's Policy of "Thorough" (1633)	127
110. Ecclesiastical Commission	122	117. The Westminster Assembly	128
111. The Scotch Covenant	123	118. Oliver Cromwell (-1658)	129
112. Hampton Court Conference	124	119. The Commonwealth	129
113. Independents in Holland	125	120. The Restoration (1660)	130
114. The Plymouth Colony	125		
115. Congregationalism in New England	126		

CHAPTER XI.—MODERN CHRISTIANITY.

121. Characteristics	131	127. Church in New England	135
122. Church of England	131	128. The Gallican Church	136
123. Nonconformists	132	129. Jansenism (1640)	136
124. Rational Christianity	133	130. Free-Thinkers in France	136
125. Methodism (1639)	133	131. Revival in Germany	137
126. Christian Philanthropy	134	132. The French Revolution	137

CHAPTER XII.—THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

133. Religious Reaction	139	140. The Oxford Tractarian Movement (1833-1841)	143
134. Concordat of 1801	140	141. Modern Romanism	143
135. Empire of Napoleon	140	142. Syllabus of Errors (1864)	144
136. Papal Restoration (1814)	141	143. Council of the Vatican	144
137. The Holy Alliance	141	144. Abolition of the Temporal Power (1870)	145
138. Catholic Emancipation (1829)	142		
139. Rise of Liberalism	142		

INDEX OF TOPICS AND NAMES	147
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