

Why So Many Denominations?

Daniel R. Mesa III



“...Over 4,200 religions, churches, denominations, religious bodies, faith groups, tribes, cultures, movements, ultimate concerns, etc.” adherents.com, (February, 2014).

Amos 3:7 - “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”

Up to A.D. 100	The Apostolic church (Time of Christ’s apostles)
A.D. 100 - 300	Early church (From Apostles to–Emperor Constantine)
A.D. 300 - 600	Age of Church Fathers (From Constantine to–fall of Rome)
A.D. 600 - 1600	Medieval church–Roman Catholic Church (From fall of Rome to the Reformation)

Revelation 6:1-2 - The first seal of Revelation 6 shows a church with a conquering faith. Their attitudes were, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (**Acts 5:29**).

Revelation 6:3-4 - The **second** seal showed a persecuted church with a blood stained faith. Christ talked about times like this is **Matthew 24:9-13**, “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

Revelation 6:5-6 - The **third** seal shows a church hungry for the costly bread of life with a compromised faith. Paul had foretold about this time saying in **Acts 20:28-30**, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”

Daniel 8:12 - The world was preparing for a time when the little horn of Daniel’s prophecies would, “cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.” For example, the second Commandment from the moral law was removed (and splitting the ninth into to, so as to keep 10 commandments), which states, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments” (**Exodus 20:4-6**). Idols like Peter (really Jupiter), Mary and baby Jesus (really the Queen of Heaven with her son Simmeramus), crept in as objects of worship.

Daniel 7:25 - The antichrist (the same character as the little horn in chapter 8) would “think to change times and laws.” The holy Sabbath day was officially and legally changed to Sunday, a pagan day of sun worship.

Exodus 20:11 - “In six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD **blessed** the sabbath day, and **hallowed** it.”

“The retention of the old pagan name ‘Dies Solis’, or Sunday... is, in great measure, owing to the union of Pagan and Christian sentiment with which the first day of the week was recommended by Constantine to his subjects, Pagan and Christian alike, as the ‘Venerable Day of the Sun’” (History of the Eastern Church, pg. 184).

Genesis 2:3 - “God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all His work which God created and made.”

Ezekiel 22:26 - “Her priests have violated My law, and have profaned Mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.”

Revelation 6:7-8 - The **fourth** seal opened showing darkness ruling and a dead faith. “When he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.”

“The new Christians were, as far as thinking and habits went, the same old pagans... Their surge into the church did not wipe out paganism. On the contrary, hordes of baptized pagans, meant that paganism had diluted the moral energies of organized Christianity to the point of impotence” (Centuries of Christianity: A Concise History, pg. 58).

During this time there was a union of church and state—which, Biblically, always lead to persecution against Christians.

“Christianity became an established religion in the Roman Empire and took the place of paganism... Christianity as it existed in the Dark Ages might be termed “Baptized Paganism” (Church History, Century 2, ch. 2, sec. 7).

What lead the then-known-world into paganism were the ‘Christians’ accepting human dogmas like church hierarchy, images, indulgences, penances, and traditions over the Word of God. But would the Word of God be trodden down forever?

Proverbs 4:18 - “The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”

During the end of the Dark Ages, groups of people could be found faithful to the Word of God. The Waldenses were a well known group in Italy that held truth higher than human traditions. It was their motive to “contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3).

During the Reformation, near the end of the Dark Ages, Bible truth about salvation was made know with verses like **Romans 8:1**, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”, **Ephesians 2:8**, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God,” and many others.

God couldn't show the full light truth to His people coming out of darkness, else they would have been 'snow blinded,' if you will. **John 16:12** recorded what Jesus said to His Apostles, who weren't ready for all the truth at their time either, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.”

God lead His people out of the Dark Ages and into the light with leaders like the Waldenses, holding the Bible as their guide; Huss, teaching obedience to the Word; Luther, preaching and teaching grace for the sinner; Calvin, teaching spiritual growth with personal Bible study, prayer, and fellowship; Anabaptists, accepting people into their fellowship through baptism; Wesley, teaching holy living through the power of God's Word; Miller, teaching the eminent return of Jesus Christ in glory; and the Advent Movement, accepting all of the previous truths from the reformation, including the truth about the Sabbath, death, and healthful living.

Revelation 12:17 - “The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Revelation 14:12 - “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

Revelation 22:14 - “Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”