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Constantine and East and West Roman Papal Church

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Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Constantine and East and West Roman Papal Church.

The Eastern Catholic Churches refer to the Papal Roman Churches that developed in the eastern half of the Roman Empire, including the communities that grew from them and remained in communion with Rome. Since the East was the home of the Lord Jesus Christ they are birthed out of a rich inheritance of apostolic origin.

The apostles travelled to all parts of the known world to spread the Gospel message and Antioch in Syria became an early centre for Christianity, especially following the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD., and it was in Antioch that followers of Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).

The Levant, (meaning to rise, as in sunrise, embraces the east), historically, it includes the region along the eastern Mediterranean shores, roughly corresponding to modern-day Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and certain adjacent areas, and a large region of Syria bordering the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean all these regions served as the cradle of Christianity.

The beginning of Christianity primarily flourished in the following five centres:

1. Jerusalem (the birthplace of Christianity).
2. Antioch.
3. Alexandria.
4. Byzantium.
5. Rome.

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The Roman Papal Eastern Churches: originated from the following three Eastern centres; Antioch, Alexandria and Byzantium, after Constantine recognized Christianity in the Edict of Milan in AD. 313. On 11 May 330 Constantine renamed the Greek city of Byzantium, "Constantinople," in his honour, and though Church authority remained in Rome, Constantinople became the seat of Emperor Constantine himself, and the city gradually became the dominant centre for the Eastern churches.

The Roman Papal Western Latin churches: originated from Rome.

Overtime a gradual division between Rome in the West and Constantinople in the East culminated in a Schism of the Church in AD. 1054. The Western Latin speaking Catholic Church of the Vatican in Rome, separated itself from the Greek speaking Catholic Church in Constantinople in the East.

Facts concerning the empire of Constantine:

- At Constantine's peak he ruled over a million square miles.
- At the time of the Schism of 1054: between Rome and Constantinople, the membership of the Eastern Orthodox Church was spread throughout the Middle East, the Balkans, and Russia, with its centre in Constantinople, which was also called "New Rome.

Catholic Church (West and East combined) embraces:

- Istanbul
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Eritrea
- Armenia
- Syria
- Antioch
- Phoenicia
- Tyre
- Sudan

And various communities living in:

- The Middle East
- India
- Greece
- Russia
- Bulgaria
- Georgia
- and Serbia
- Rome
- Italy
- Brazil
- Mexico
- The Philippians

Due to conversions and missionary activity and the spread of people from their original homeland there are also many in other parts of the world that have embraced Catholicism. The largest number of Catholics in decreasing order of Catholic population are:

- Brazil.
- Mexico.
- The Philippines.
- The United States.
- Italy.

The Eastern Orthodox Church: is also known as the Orthodox Church, and officially as the Orthodox Catholic Church, and is the second-largest Christian Church, with over 250 million members. It maintains that it practices the original Christian faith, passed down by sacred tradition. All Catholic churches are in communion with Rome.

The Bishop of Rome: is the Pope.

Roman Catholic: this title: "stresses the union of all Catholics under the central authority of Rome.

Universal Catholic church: though the individual Catholic Churches in the East and West have their own distinctive customs, practises, and traditions (i.e., in language, liturgy, spiritual tradition, and ecclesiastical doctrine and discipline), according to Catholic tradition, together they form the universal Church of Jesus Christ.

The Eucharistic and Mass: Eastern and Orthodox Catholics generally refer to the Eucharistic celebration as the Divine Liturgy, whereas in Rome it is called the Mass.

The Eastern Catholic Churches: are of mixed European (or European-American) and Asian parentage, but primarily of the Middle East and Eastern Europe, from Ukraine north of the Black Sea south to Ethiopia in East Africa, west from Sicily in the Mediterranean east to India.

The Syrian Christian churches: it was in Antioch in Syria that believers were converted by Paul and Barnabas and where they were first called Christians (Acts 11:26) and it was in Antioch and Syria that Peter served as the first Bishop.

The East-West Schism: is conventionally dated as occurring at 1054, when mutual excommunications were issued, however, both Churches continued to maintain friendly relations for many years, but by the 12th–13th centuries, the two sides had become openly hostile, each considering that the other no longer belonged to the Church that was orthodox and Catholic. Over time, it became customary to refer to the Eastern side as the Orthodox Church and the Western side as the Catholic Church, and in this way neither side was forced to renounce its claim to be the truly orthodox and the truly catholic church.

The name Orthodox: The Eastern Church took the name, Orthodox to distinguish it from the Western church, so that its official name is, "The Orthodox Catholic Church," while the Western Church holds to the name Catholic Church. Since the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, both the Western and Eastern church held to the name Catholic to separate themselves from the Protestant churches. The Roman Catholic Church has been applied to the whole church in English language since the Protestant Reformation in the late 16th century.

The Iraq war: all Christians have suffered severe persecution since the Iraq War. In July of 2014 the terrorist Islamic State marked remaining Christian homes in Mosul with the Arabic letter Nuun for Nazarene (a Hebrew and Arabic term for Christian) and advised residents that they had 24 hours to leave, or convert to Islam, or die. Sixty thousand Christians in Mosul were displaced from their homes, and over one million Christians have fled Iraq since the beginning of the Iraq War in 2003.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.