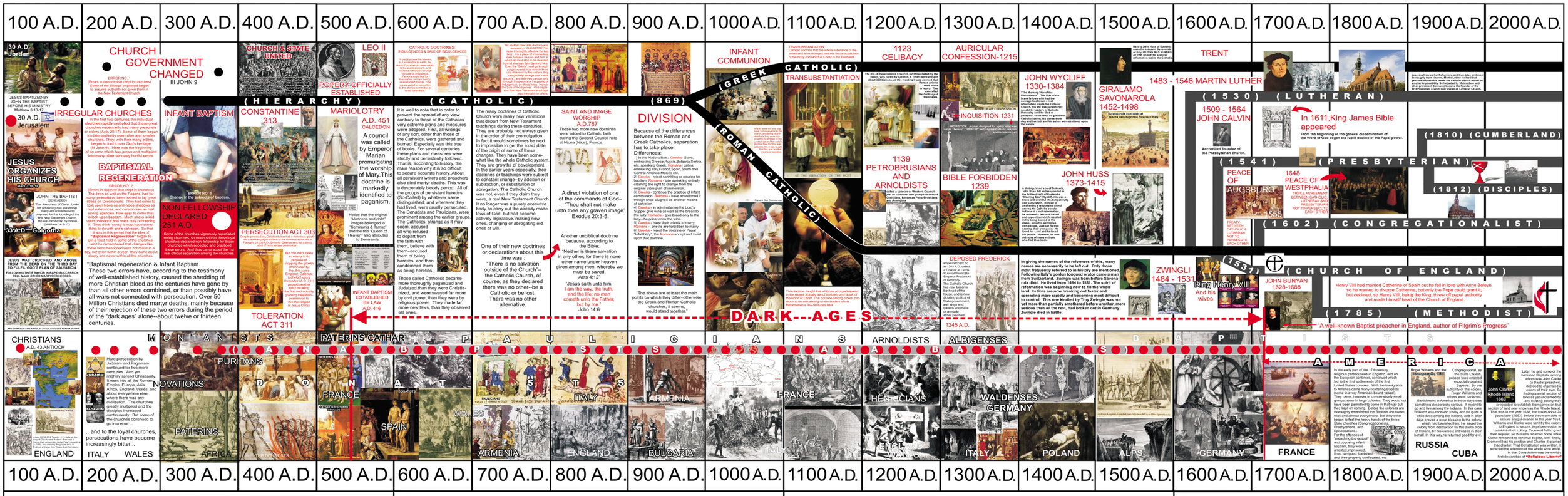
The Trail of Blood

The History of Baptist Churches from the Time of Christ, their Founder, to the Present Day



EXPLANATION OF THE CHART
By Dr. J. M. Carroll
ILLUSTRATING the History of the Baptist Churches from the time of their founder, the Lord Jesus Christ, until the 21st Century.

1. The purpose of this chart is to show according to History that Baptists have an unbroken line of churches since Christ and have fulfilled His prophecy--"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT". -Matthew 16:18. In the irregular churches is clearly seen the growth of Catholicism and Protestantism. Baptists are not Protestants since they did not come out of the Catholic Church.
2. The numbers at the top and bottom represent 20 centuries. The first vertical line is A.D. 1 and the second, A.D. 100 and so on.
3. The horizontal lines at the bottom have between them the nicknames given to Baptists during the passing years and ages--Novations, Montanists, Paulicians and Waldenses.
4. THE RED CIRCLES REPRESENT BAPTIST CHURCHES beginning with the first Church at Jerusalem, founded by Christ during His earthly ministry and out of which came the churches of Judea, Antioch, and others. The red indicates they were persecuted. In spite of the bitterest opposition and persecution, Baptist Churches are found in every age. The first nickname given them was Christians, the next Ana-Baptists, and so on. You will notice that during dark ages, you will notice a continual line of churches called Ana-Baptists. They were continually and bitterly persecuted even unto death by the Catholics. Near the first of the 16th Century the Ana was dropped and they were simply called Baptists. The name "Baptist" is a "nickname, and was given to them by their enemies (unless the name can be rightfully attributed to them as having been given to them by the Savior Himself, when He referred to John as "The Baptist". The name, however, has become fixed and is willingly accepted and proudly borne. It snugly fits. It was the distinguishing name of the forerunner of Christ, the first to teach the doctrine to which the Baptists now hold.
"5. THE BLACK CIRCLES REPRESENT CHURCHES INTO WHICH ERROR CAME AND ARE THEREFORE CALLED--IRREGULAR CHURCHES. The first error was in church Government--Pastors assumed authority not given them by Christ. Pastors of larger churches claimed authority over other and smaller churches. Thus in the 3rd Century the Roman Hierarchy was established. The Emperor Constantine issued a call in 313 A.D. Inviting all churches to send representatives to form a council. The red churches--that is Baptist Churches, refused the invitation but the irregular churches responded. The Emperor was made the head and thus the group of churches known as irregular churches became the State Church. The Emperor continued to head the churches until Leo II claimed authority as the successor of Peter (as the first Pope). Thus is seen how the error in church Government developed into Popery. In the 16th Century the Protestant Churches began to come out of the Roman Catholic Church. They are called Protestants because they protested against the errors of Catholicism.
6. It was in the year 251 that Baptist Churches declared non-fellowship with the irregular churches. They refused to accept Baptism administered in infancy or for Salvation and thus came the oldest nickname--Ana-Baptists which means re-baptizers.

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