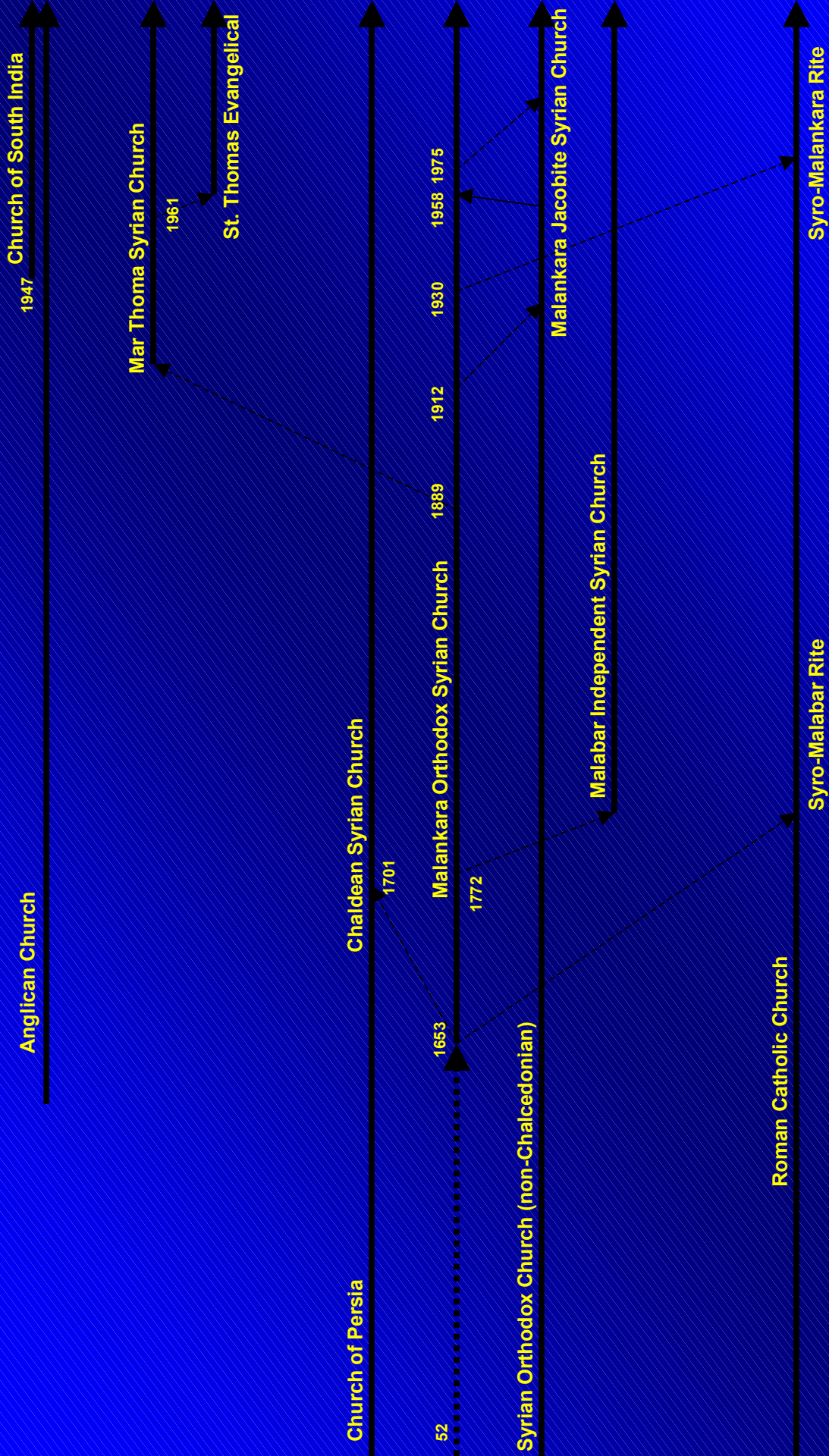


A Brief History of the Church

Churches of Kerala Timeline



Main Ideas

- Continuous- marked by uninterrupted extension in space, time, or sequence
- Organic- characteristic of a developing living being or *organism*
- The Orthodox Church through time
 - We grow in continuity, we change organically
 - We grow organically, we change in continuity



Review on Early Church

- Administratively Hierarchical
- Worship
 - Eucharistic
 - Liturgical
- Theologically
 - Committed to the same fundamental ideas we believe in still, the Holy Trinity and the Incarnation of God the Word, Our Lord Jesus Christ

Ecumenical Councils

- Christianity becomes the Imperial Religion
 - Edict of Milan (313 AD)
 - Christianity becomes official religion of Roman Empire
- Nicea- Jesus Christ, the Word, is God
 - St. Athanasius
 - Nicene Creed
- Constantinople- The Holy Spirit is God
 - Cappadocian Fathers
- Ephesus- Jesus Christ is fully man, fully God
 - St. Cyril of Alexandria
 - *One single incarnate nature of God the Word*

The Church of the East

- Persian
- Rejected Council of Ephesus, but was not part of the Roman Empire
- Accepted Nestorius, but perhaps not Nestorianism
- Contacts with the Church in India

Chalcedon- 451 AD

- Revisited issue of Christ's Divinity, struggled to reconcile terminologies of "nature," "person," "substance," etc.
- Imperial Church (Constantinople) anathematizes St. Dioscorus, and many other Alexandrian and Syrian Fathers
- "Oriental" Orthodox Churches become subject to persecution

Are we really so different?

- Nature= Concrete
 - “of two natures” meaning the person of Christ is one composite nature consubstantial to humanity while also being consubstantial to the Holy Trinity
- Nature= Abstract
 - “in two natures...without confusion, without change, without confusion, without separation

East-West Schism

- Filioque Clause- “proceeds from the Father *and the Son*”
- Immaculate Conception of Mary- Doctrine of Original Sin?
- Medieval Scholasticism? Purgatory? Papal Primacy?
- Began in 1054 AD, but continued into 1400s

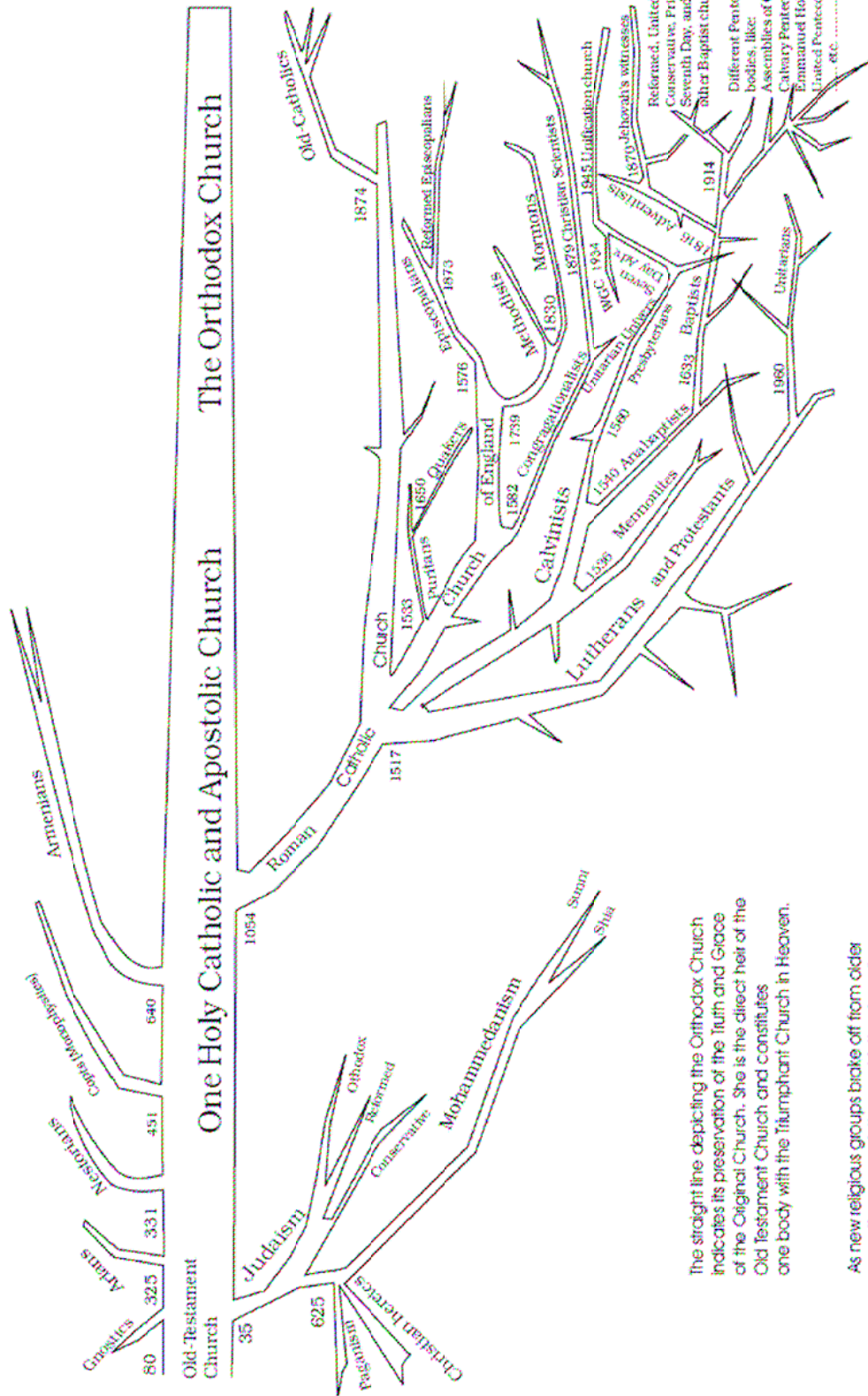
The Protestant Reformation

- Purgatory, Indulgences
- Luther's 95 *Theses*
- Gutenberg Bible
- Anglican Church- 1534 AD
 - “Middle Way...”
 - High, Low Anglican
- Thirty Years War



Protestantism Further

- Doctrine of *sola scriptura*
- Puritanism- Purify Church of vestiges of Roman Catholicism
- Churches move away from liturgical, Eucharistic, hierarchical format
- Place more emphasis on preaching and evangelism
- Modern mega-churches?



The straight line depicting the Orthodox Church indicates its preservation of the Truth and Grace of the Original Church. She is the direct heir of the Old Testament Church and constitutes one body with the Triumphant Church in Heaven.

As new religious groups broke off from older ones, they move further and further from the Original Church and its Apostolic teaching. They become cults rather than churches. This is the case with many of the contemporary fourth and fifth generation "churches" like the Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Unification Church, Christian Science, etc. Their teachings are an amalgam of Christianity, paganism, and eastern philosophical ideas dressed in biblical terminology.

Indian Christianity

- AD 52 St. Thomas arrives in India
- ~1500 years of relative isolation from the Christian community
- Christians, *nazranis*, lived as another distinct group in Malayalee society
- Hierarchically and Theologically dependent on East and West Syrian Churches

Foreign Domination

- 1653- Consecration of Mar Thoma I
- Latin/Portuguese: 1400s-1600s
- English/Protestant:1700s-1800s
- Syrian/Antiochene:1800s-

Syro-Malabar Catholic

- Autonomous Church underneath the Roman Catholic Pope
- Eastern Rite Catholics
- Retain some Eastern Syriac (Assyrian Church of the East) Characteristics
- Head: Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil

Mar Thoma Syrian

- Reformation Theology from CMS
- Introduction of a reformed, Malayalam language liturgy
- Abraham Malpan/Mathews Mar Athanasius
- Court Case of 1889
 - Ignatius Peter III
 - Losing case, the Mar Thoma Syrian Church formed
- Head: Chrysostom Mar Phillipose

Church of South India

- Formed in 1947 from a fusion of protestant Churches in Kerala
- Church of the Anglican Communion in South India
- CSI/CNI/Mar Thoma Church
- Encompasses all of South India
- Head: Most Revd. Dr. B.P. Sungandhar

The Church of Antioch

- Patriarchal line from St. Peter the Apostle in Antioch
- Syriac vs Antiochian (Byzantine)
- Church from which we inherit many of our traditions and Tradition from'
- Catholicate/Maphrianate of the East founded in Persia
 - Edessa/Seleucia/Tigris/Malankara
- Head: HH Ignatius Zaka I

Syro-Malankara (Reeth) Catholic

- Founded by apostate Orthodox Bishop Ivanios in 1930
- Malankara (Jacobite) Liturgy
- A degree of independence but underneath the Roman Pope
- Head: Isaac Mar Clemis

The Catholicate in India

- Restored to India in 1912 by Patriarch Abdul Messiah II
- Independent administratively, reliant on Syrian Church liturgically
- Antioch/Indian Relationship
 - Ideally Catholicos consecrates Patriarch and vice versa
- Orthodox Syrian Church of the East
- Indian Orthodox Church