

III. The Conciliar Period: Overall Chart: 325 ---1200 AD

| <u>Divisions</u>   | <u>Historical Conditions</u>  | <u>Conflicts</u>   | <u>Doctrinal Emphasis</u>  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Ecumenical<br/>325--<br/>450 (Chalcedon)</p> <p>Sometimes<br/>called<br/>Imperial</p> | <p>The Roman Empire is essentially divided from the time of Constantine on... into western and eastern segments. The eastern section centers about the new capitol at Constantinople and will continue as a military force until 1453. The western empire will be progressively weaker until the "fall" in 476. For a period of time, the province of Rome will be under the protection of the eastern emperor but this will end before 600 and Rome will be the continuing force of civilization in the west. After the conversion of the Franks and the interregnum of the 7th century, a frankish kingdom will take the military leadership until the formation of the "Holy Roman Empire" in the tenth century. Meanwhile the eastern church, from the 7th century onward, will be harassed by the coming of the Islamic forces and there will be a continued threat of overthrow from the Moslems. Western Europe will pass through the Dark Ages and will see the loss of much of its civilization and enterprise. Feudalism will prevail in the countries of the west and ignorance will be widespread. Only the reform and interest of the monastic orders will preserve learning until the birth of the university (12th century) and the kindred scholastic movement.</p> | <p>In Theology proper the Arian and Sabellian controversies will continue. These are followed by the Appollinarian problem and the following heretical conflicts on Christ's Person.</p> <p>Nestorianism<br/>Eutychianism<br/>Monophysitism<br/>Monotheletism<br/>Adoptionism</p> <p>And there will be a major anthropology question in Pelagianism.</p> <p>A conflict on the use of images (8th century) and the procedure of the holy Spirit will follow with more discussion on the power of the church and the rights of bishops.</p> <p>Sacramental conflicts will be notable and the re-interpretation of Augustine will offer a theological tangle.</p> | <p>The Person of Christ in emphasis dominates this period until 550 AD.</p> <p>Emphasis on worship and the work of the Spirit will be continuing.</p> <p>The middle ages is not rich in doctrinal emphasis due to the political instability and social disorder of the western world.</p> <p>In the eastern church a static condition develops as the church relies upon the state and vice versa. There will be some apologetic work however, in answer to the challenge of the Islamic teachers.</p> <p>Doctrinal emphasis towards the end of the period will shift to a more sacrament-oriented problem and the stress will be on teachings within the religious community.</p> |
| <p>Early<br/>Mediaeval<br/>450--<br/>800</p>   |   |  |  |
| <p>Mediaeval<br/>800--<br/>1200</p>  |   |  |  |