Slide 1 –

Our Perpetual Existence

Daniel 2:44 to 1454

Slide 2 – Statue of Nebuchadnezzar - Graphic

Slide 3

Daniel 2:44,45

44“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” - Daniel 2:44, NKJV

Slide 4 – Jesus Taught:

“Kingdom” appears 127 times in the gospels, 56 of them in the book of Matthew alone.

Matt. 4:17   From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Mark 9:1 – Some Standing Here Will Not Taste Death Before The Kingdom Comes

Matthew 16:13-19 – “Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church . . . And I Will Give Unto You The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven”

Slide 5 – On The Day Of Pentecost

1. Prophecy Fulfilled

* vv.16-21 – Joel 2 – God’s Great And Notable Day
* vv. 25-28 – Psalm 16:8-11 – David’s Prophecy

1. Church Starts – v.38-40
2. Kingdom Rule Begins Thru Apostles’ Binding Authority, cf. v.42-47 with Matthew 16:18,19

Slide 6 – Problems In The Church Required Letters

1. The Book of Acts – See the books of the N.T. from a historical perspective.
2. 1 & 2 Corinthians – addressing problems that arose.

Disunity Through Partyism

Taking Brothers To Law

Incest

Denial Of The Resurrection, etc.

1. Colossee – Mysticism, Gnosticism
2. Revelation – 7 Churches – All With Problems
3. Acts 20:28ff – Paul’s Warnings
   1. “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.” (Acts 20:29–30 NKJV)

Slide 7 – How The Kingdom Prevailed

Jesus Gave The Seed Principle Matthew 13

“As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word **and** understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” - Matthew 13:23

Slide 8 - The next 250 year were highly volatile.

1. Though Col. 1:23 says the message went to all under heaven, not all obeyed.
2. Mainly because it was a monotheistic religion that was being immersed in a polytheistic culture.
3. The common thread – Acts 19:24-28 – Demetrius the Silversmith – Christianity was bad for business!
4. The height of opposition came under the Emperors:
   1. Nero – 67 A.D.
   2. Domitian – 81 A.D.
   3. Trajan – 108 A.D.
   4. Marcus Aurelius Antonius – 162 A.D.
   5. Severus - 192 A.D.
   6. Maximus – 235 A.D.
   7. Decius – 249 A.D.
   8. Valerian – 257 A.D.
   9. Aurelian - 274 A.D.
   10. Diocletian – 303 A.D.

Slide 9 – Constantine, The Great

313 A.D. Signed A Law That Christians Would Never Be Persecuted Again By Roman Government

Converted To Christianity On His Deathbed

Made Christianity The State Religion

Slide 10 – Constantine, The Great

1. With the rise of Christianity, the pagan religions of the day were enveloped into Christian Tradition
2. Pagan Temples/Priests Became Christian Temples/Priests
3. Pagan Religious Days became Christian Religious Days – e.g. Christmas/Easter, etc.
4. Even “Christian” Days Of The Week Are Of Pagan Origin

Slide 11 – Roman Church Development

1. The development of the hierarchy of Catholicism came about quite naturally. Needs of a local congregation brought about the determination to find out how other churches were dealing with the same needs.
2. Selections of an elder to represent them in meetings with elders of several churches led to organization.
3. Then one from a district area would be selected to meet with a similar ones selected from other districts.
4. Decision making at the top produced a trickle-down effect.
5. With Constantine’s proclamations, a church-state developed that cause the church to begin resembling the order of the Roman Government Heirarchy. Emperor, Senate, etc. /Pope Cardinals, etc.

Slide 12 – Departures

1. 175 A.D. – It Was Written That A Bishop Was Different From An Elder, One Bishop Over Elders
2. 250 A.D. – Development Of One Bishop Over Diocese
3. 450 A.D. – Spanish churches were adding instrumental music
   1. “Organs seem to have been in common use in the Spanish churches in A.D. 450, according to Julianus, a Spanish bishop (Hopkins and Rimbault, The Organ, London, 1877),” (James Hastings, Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics, vol. 9, p. 32)
4. 606 A.D. – Boniface III – First Universal Head – Pope
5. 660 A.D. – Pope Vitalian Introduced Organs In The Church, but not generally used at that point in time.

Slide 13 – After 1000 A.D. – Dark Ages

* 1. By 1100 – Papal Customs, e.g. Holy Water Introduced
  2. By 1200 – Baptism By Sprinkling (Infant immersion was much earlier)
     + - 1. A Few Years Later, Sprinkling Dead Infants
         2. A Few Years Later, Prayer Thru Mary

She Was Deified In 1967

* 1. 1290 A.D. – Marinus Sanutus Added Wind Organs Into Churches, - McClintock & Strong v.8, p.739
  2. Only Papacy Had The Bible, No Personal Interpretation Allowed

Slide 14 – John Cassian (360-435) (note: a restorationist, but not certain as to the extent)

* + - * 1. Monk and Spiritual Writer of His Day
        2. Strongly Opposed Augustine’s Views On Original Sin & Predestination
        3. Taught that salvation through Christ was available to all that ask, through free will choice.  Therefore they rejected teachings on original sin and predestination.
        4. Cassian in his writings referred back to the early church fathers and Scriptures as a defense of his position.
        5. Western Church rejected his teachings but the Eastern Church accepted them – Western Church Council of Orange – 529AD condemned his teachings.

Slide 15 – Paulicians – Late 500s - (note: restorationists, but not certain as to the extent)

1. An eastern group who were so designated because they upheld the teachings of Paul in the New Testament.
2. They said that they were “Christians who were chosen of God” and called each other “brother or sister”.  They had rejected the infant baptism of the Catholic church teaching that faith is required before baptism. (Remember the edict of Pope Innocent I in 407A.D. was for infants to be immersed.)
3. The Paulicians influenced the church in Scotland/Ireland who were still practicing  
   believers baptism at the time.
4. Paulicians ended up in the Balkans and Bulgaria, and were influential even into   
   the 12th century.
5. Through this group it can be shown that 1st Century Christianity was being practiced widely in Europe throughout the Dark Ages

Slide 16 – Gundulphus – 1025A.D. (note: a restorationist, but not certain as to the extent)

1. The teachings Gundulphus (also known as Gundulf) of Italy were examined by the Bishop of Cambray (Cambrai) and Arras, northern France, in the year 1025.
2. Gundulphus was opposed to the doctrines of the Catholic church and taught against infant baptism, saying, ‘Because to an infant, that neither wills nor runs, that knows nothing of faith, is ignorant of its own salvation and welfare’.
3. Gundulphus it seems was a itinerant travelling evangelist who established and strengthened congregations of the Lord’s people throughout northern France and Belgium.

Slide 17 – Pierre de Bruis – 1100AD (note: a restorationist, but not certain as to the extent)

1. Pierre de Bruis, possibly a Priest who was certainly removed from office and began to preach in Dauphine and Provence, southern France.
2. Followers were known as Petrobusians, although they referred to themselves as Christians.
3. They appealed for a return to the authority of the Scriptures and believers baptism quoting “Go out into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature: he that beliveth, and is baptised, shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” also
4. He is quoted as saying, “But we await a time suitable to faith, and baptise a man, after he is ready to recognise God and to believe in Him, we do not, as you charge us, rebaptise him, because the man who has not been washed with the baptism by which sins are washed away ought never to be called baptised.”
5. Killed by an angry mob in 1131AD

The Johannes Gutenberg Printing Press – 1454 – Dates float about saying that the press was actually produced as early as 1440, but probably closer to 1450, and the Bible was being produced on it and was in circulation by 1455 or 1456.