

Rise of Christianity: Acts to the Reformation (CH040-512)

Australian College of Theology name: *Rise of Christianity*

Unit Description

In this unit, you will get to explore the history of Christianity from the New Testament period to the time of the English Reformation by looking at key historical figures, periods and beliefs. You will reflect on the development of Christianity as the gospel spread throughout the world in spite of opposition, misunderstanding and conflict.

Exclusions

Prior to 2020, this unit content was delivered under the unit code CH240.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, you will:

A. *Know and understand:*

Demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding of the rise of Christianity down to and including the Reformation of the 16th century

B. *Be able to:*

1. Trace major developments in the rise of Christianity
2. Outline the major contribution of selected people to the rise of Christianity
3. Draw on selected primary and secondary sources to formulate historical viewpoints on the rise of Christianity
4. Present organised evidence-based perspectives on the rise of Christianity

C. *Be in a position to:*

Relate perspectives from this unit to inform ministry contexts

Content

Section A: The Early Church:

- (a) The Spread of Christianity to 312 (The Apologists)
- (b) The Challenge of Other Religions (Irenaeus)
- (c) Wrestling with the Faith (Arianism & Chalcedon)

Section B: Christendom:

- (a) The Conversion of Europe (600-900) (Boniface/Crediton/Alcuin of York)
- (b) Byzantium, Islam and the Crusades

Section C: The Continental and English Reformations:

- (a) The Continental Reformation (Luther and Calvin)
- (b) The Counter Reformation
- (c) The English & Scottish Reformation (Cranmer and Knox)