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History of Christianity  
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**Questions:**

- 1) What major heresy was represented across some of the Germanic groups that invaded or settled in the Roman empire?
- 2) What sixth century monk developed "Rules" of monastic life that would lead to its spread across Western Europe?
- 3) What social system took hold in the ninth century as a result of societal chaos and economic distress?
- 4) What religion was founded in the seventh century that quickly pushed back on Christian influence in the Middle East, Europe, and North Africa?
- 5) With its influence in Africa and Asia declining, the Byzantine empire focused on and converted which large country in the tenth century?

*Answers:*

- 1) *Arianism.*
- 2) *St. Benedict of Nursia*
- 3) *Feudalism.*
- 4) *Islam.*
- 5) *Russia.*

**Terms:**

Feudalism- the dominant social system in medieval Europe in which land was divided among lord who distributed in among their vassals, exchanging land and military protection for labor and military service

Nestorianism- the doctrine (or heresy) which says there are two natures and two persons in Christ, one divine and one human

*Filioque*- The Latin term meaning "and from the Son", which when added to the Nicene Creed, resulted in the split of the Eastern and Western church in 1054

**Summary:**

The Early Middle Ages is an era of church history that saw many significant events and spanned almost six-hundred years. The East and the West had markedly different experiences during this time. In the West, the Roman empire ceased to exist which led to barbarian kingdoms and perpetual chaos until the eventual adoption of feudalism. In the East, the Byzantine empire was more stable and thus provided more room for theological discourse and clarification of doctrine, particularly Christology. The Byzantine empire, and thus Christianity, lost much ground to Islam but expanded northward to Russia. The East and West broke definitively in 1054.