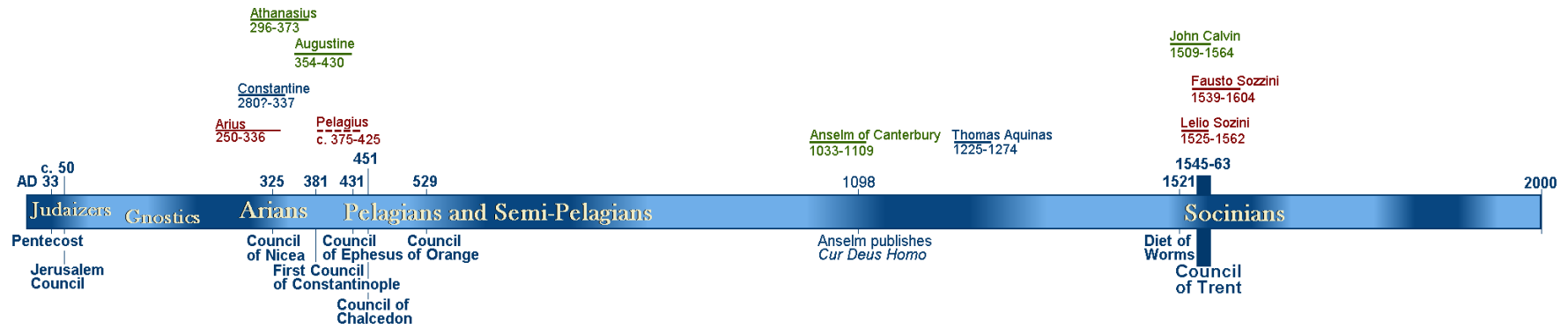


A Survey of Heresies

	Date	Heart of the error	Chief historical proponents	Character	Modern parallels
The Judaizers	1st century	soteriological, adding works to grace as grounds of justification	a group of former pharisees in the Jerusalem church	legalistic, blending OT Judaism with Christian ideas	7th-day Adventism, Roman Catholicism
The Gnostics	2nd century	Christological, denying the reality of the incarnation	various early heretics	mystical, blending paganism with Christian ideas	Most New-Age religions, Mormonism
The Arians	4th century	Christological, denying the deity of Christ	Arius, several bishops	unitarian, denying the full deity of Christ and the Trinity	Jehovah's Witnesses
The Pelagians	5th century	soteriological, denying the primacy and sufficiency of divine grace	Pelagius, Coelestius	anthropocentric, denying human fallenness, elevating free will above divine sovereignty; making the sinner responsible for his/her own salvation	Charles Finney and his theological heirs; Some YWAM literature; "Moral Government Theology"
The Socinians	16th century	soteriological/ Christological	Laelius and Faustus Sozzini	rationalistic, absorbing the worst elements of all heresies	Unitarianism, Theological Liberalism, "Open Theism."

Timeline



The word "heresy" . . . is the English version of the Greek noun *hairesis*, originally meaning nothing more insidious than "party." It is used in this neutral sense in Acts 5:17, 15:5, and 26:5. Early in the history of the first Christians, however, "heresy" came to be used to mean a separation or split resulting from a false faith (1 Cor. 11:19; Gal. 5:20). It designated either a doctrine or the party holding the doctrine, a doctrine that was sufficiently intolerable to destroy the unity of the Christian church. In the early church, heresy did not refer to simply any doctrinal disagreement, but to something that seemed to undercut the very basis for Christian existence. Practically speaking, heresy involved the doctrine of God and the doctrine of Christ—later called "special theology" and "Christology."

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From *Heresies: The Image of Christ in the Mirror of Heresy and Orthodoxy from the Apostles to the Present* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1984), 2.