Chapter 2 in Through Fire and Water

Beginning of the church and New Testament brotherhood

The need for organization and structured authority in the church in response to heresies and other challenges

Debates over Jesus’ divinity and humanity

Figuring out how to talk about the Trinity

The Roman emperor Constantine begins to meddle in church affairs

Zealous men and women withdraw from society as hermits, monks and nuns

The bishop of the church at Rome becomes very powerful, earning the title of “Pope”

Churches in West split from the churches in the East

Popes begin living extravagant and wicked lives

Church Councils try to solve the problems in the church unsuccessfully

Waldensians are formed as people attempt to live holy lives

Sincere believers within the Catholic Church like Catherine of Sienna and Thomas a’ Kempis show that it is possible to still follow Christ with their lives and writings

Wycliffe and Huss speak out about the abuses and problems in the church

The Roman Catholic Church tries to eliminate any competition with its authority by condemning reformers as heretics and executing them