**A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS: SPAIN**

by Dr. Clifton L. Holland

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**Historical Overview:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Iberian Peninsula under Roman domination:</td>
<td>1st century AD</td>
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<td>Invasion of Spain by “barbarous tribes” from Central and Northern Europe:</td>
<td>409</td>
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<td>Visigoth Kingdom in Spain:</td>
<td>5th century</td>
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<td>Conversion of the Visigoths from Arianism to Roman Catholicism:</td>
<td>589</td>
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<td>Visigoth Kingdom invaded by the Moors (Arab Muslims):</td>
<td>711</td>
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<td>Emergence of Spain as a modern state under Isabel &amp; Ferdinand (Moors expelled):</td>
<td>1492</td>
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<td>Period of Spanish explorations in the New World:</td>
<td>15th-16th centuries</td>
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<td>Spanish Colonial Period in the Americas:</td>
<td>16th-19th centuries</td>
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<td>Spanish Inquisition established:</td>
<td>1478-1834</td>
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<td>The First Republic established with some measure of religious tolerance:</td>
<td>1868-1874</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Second Republic established and its Constitution favored freedom of religion:</td>
<td>1931-1939</td>
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<td>Spanish Civil War:</td>
<td>1936-1939</td>
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<td>Dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco:</td>
<td>1939-1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Constitution guarantees religious freedom:</td>
<td>1978</td>
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<td>Number of North American mission agencies in 1996:</td>
<td>84</td>
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</tbody>
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Indicates European society*

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**Significant Protestant Beginnings and other important Events:**

- **1517** - Lutheran communities of some significance in Seville and Valladolid.
- **1570s** - The Spanish Inquisition forced Protestants to flee from Spain.
- **1602** - The Reina-Valera version of the Spanish Bible was published in Basil, Switzerland (produced by Casiodoro de Reina and Cipriano de Valera, two 16th century Spanish reformers).
- **1806** - The Bible Society of London printed 3,000 copies of the New Testament in Spanish, and by 1817 it had published 30,000 Spanish bibles; the Society for the Evangelization of Spain was founded to distribute the
Scriptures to crew members of all Spanish ships that made port in Great Britain, as well as to Spanish prisoners of war.

1836 - *Plymouth Brethren house meetings held.

1836 - *George Borrow distributed 14,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures to the southern, central and northern parts of the Iberian Peninsula on horseback between 1836-1840; Lt. Craydon did a similar work along the Mediterranean coast, from Barcelona to Málaga between 1835-1838.

1838 - *The first known Evangelical church founded in Spain (reported by the Rev. William H. Rule, a Methodist).

1850s - *Bible distribution by English and Scottish colporteurs: Luis de Usoz y Río, Francisco de Paula Ruet and Manuel Matamoros.

1855 - *Society for the Evangelization of Spain: José Vásquez in Seville; thousands of Bibles, New Testaments and scripture portions were distributed.

1866 - The Evangelical Church of Málaga formed as a network of house churches.

1868 - *Anglican Church established in the British colony of Gibraltar.

1868 - *Spanish Reformation Church established in Andalusia; becomes the Spanish Christian Church in 1871; after merging with the Congregationalists of the Ibero-Evangelical Union in 1890, it adopted its present name: Spanish Evangelical Church; in 1953, the Methodist Church of Cataluña and the Balearic Islands joined this body.

1868 - *The Methodist Church of Great Britain begins work in Cataluña and the Balearic Islands.

1868 - *Christian Brethren or Brethren Assemblies (Plymouth Brethren) established.

1870 - *The first Baptist church was founded in Madrid; Baptist work was organized in 1876 with the arrival of Richard Lund from Sweden; later affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention in 1921 and renamed the Spanish Evangelical Baptist Union.

1880 - *Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church established in Madrid and Seville, under Juan Bautista Cabrera (later affiliated with the Church of England).

1903 - Seventh-day Adventists begin work.

1921 - Southern Baptist Convention, Foreign Mission Board (now, International Mission Board); affiliated with the Spanish Evangelical Baptist Union.

1923 - Assemblies of God, General Council (officially organized in 1963 in Madrid)

1928 - *Swedish Pentecostal missionaries arrive.
1934 - TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission)
1937 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN)
1948 - United World Mission
1955 - World Baptist Fellowship Mission
1957 - Federation of Independent Churches of Spain (FIEIDE); independent Baptist churches.
1959 - Biblical Ministries Worldwide
1959 - Spanish World Gospel Mission
1960 - Greater Europe Mission
1962 - BCM International
1964 - Christian Church and Churches of Christ (composed of several churches that had connections with the defunct Spanish Christian Mission)
1965 - Baptist International Missions
1966 - Elim Fellowship World Missions
1967 - Child Evangelism Fellowship
1967 - Philadelphia Evangelical Church (begun by a small group of Spanish Gypsies who had been converted in France and returned to Barcelona)
1968 - Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE)
1968 - WEC International (World Evangelization Crusade)
1969 - Pocket Testament League
1970 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International
1970 - Campus Crusade for Christ
1970 - The Navigators
1971 - CAM International
1971 - The Salvation Army, USA
1972 - International Teams, USA
1972 - OMS International, Inc.
1972 - World Team (formerly, West Indies Mission)
1974 - Cadence International
1974 - Free Will Baptist Association
1976 - Gospel Missionary Union
1976 - Mennonite Board of Missions
1977 - Every Home for Christ
1978 - Christian & Missionary Alliance
1979 - Baptist Mid-Missions
1979 - Primitive Methodist Church, USA
1979 - United Pentecostal Church International
1980 - Baptist World Mission
1981 - Church of God of Prophecy
1981 - Church of the Nazarene
1982 - REMAR Association of Spain (Centros de Rehabilitación de Marginados), Church of the Body of Christ
1982 - Youth For Christ, USA
1983 - European Christian Mission
1984 - Arab World Ministries
1984 - CBInternational (formerly, Conservative Baptist Foreign Missionary Society)
1984 - Grace Brethren International Missions
1984 - Walk Thru The Bible Ministries
1985 - FEBInternational of Canada
1985 - InterVarsity Mission
1985 - Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
1985 - The Missionary Church, World Partners
1985 - World Indigenous Missions
1987 - Maranatha Baptist Mission
1987 - Missionary Society for United Methodists
1987 - SEND International
1987 - World Salt Foundation
1988 - Hope for Christian Nationals
1988 - International Pentecostal Holiness Church
1989 - Latin America Mission
1990 - Bethany Fellowship Missions
1991 - AMG International
1991 - Christian Associates International
1991 - Evangelical Mennonite Church
1991 - Fellowship International Mission
1991 - Mission to the World, Presbyterian Church of America
1991 - South American Missionary Society (SAMS)
1991 - UFM International
1992 - Gospel Furthering Fellowship
1993 - Cornell Missionary Ministries
1994 - Evangelical Free Church of North America
1995 - Christ for the City International (associated with Latin America Mission)

Date of Origin Unknown:

Ambassadors for Christ International
Apostolic Evangelical Church of the Name of Jesus
Apostolic Church of the Faith in Jesus Christ
Apostolic Church of Spain
Apostolic Evangelical Christian Church
Brethren in Christ World Missions
Christian Assembly
Christian Reformed Church
Darby Brethren (Plymouth Brethren)
Evangelical Christian Church of the Renewal
*European Christian Mission
Federation of Apostolic Pentecostal Churches of Spain
Friends-Quakers
General Association of Regular Baptists, Canada
Gospel Fellowship Association
Korean Presbyterian Church
New Testament Evangelical Churches
Open Bible Standard Churches
Operation Mobilization  
Pentecostal Apostolic Church  
Pentecostal Church of God  
Presbyterian Church, USA  
Reformed Baptist Association  
Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Southwide Baptist Fellowship  
United Brethren in Christ  
United Methodist Church  
Universal Evangelical Church  
Youth With A Mission (YWAM)

NOTES:

(1) Dates listed indicate the earliest recorded ministry or in case of discrepancies, the date most frequently indicated.

(2) North American Agencies include U.S. and Canadian.

SOURCES:

(1) PROLADES (Latin American Socio-religious Studies Program), international headquarters in San José, Costa Rica: www.prolades.com, prolades@racsa.co.cr

(2) J. Gordon Melton and Martin Baumann, editors, Religions of the World (ABC-Clio Publishers, 2002)

(3) Gabino Fernández (translated by D. Kornegay), “History of the Evangelical Church in Spain” (photocopy, no date)