Medieval Church History (500 – 1500 AD)

June, 2017
Introduction

Why Study Church History?

• The “Third Testament” – The Record of God’s Work in the Midst of His People
  ➢ Both faithful and unfaithful people
• Intriguing / Useful – Real People facing real problems
  ➢ Some Similar, Some Different than what we face today
• Connection with an Extended Church Family (Hebrews 11, 12:1)

Bounding the Scope

• Time – Discussion will focus on 500 AD to ~1500 AD
• Geography – Discussion will focus on Western Europe
• This is a survey level discussion
  ➢ Condensed a 17 lecture curriculum (already an overview) to ~10 discussions
  ➢ Your favorite crusade, king, church father, or doctrinal dispute may not be covered in detail (or, unfortunately, at all)!

*Hebrews 12:1, 2a* - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith ...
Ancient Church History “Quiz”

For all questions unless otherwise stated consider the time period to be ~100 – 500 AD

The majority of Christian converts during the first half of this period were concentrated in:
   a. Western Europe
   b. Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), the Middle East, and Northern Africa

Two Roman Emperors noted for severe persecution of Christians during the mid 3rd and early 4th century were:
   a. Decius and Diocletian
   b. Augustus and Marcus Aurelius

Two Roman Emperors noted for promoting Christianity within the Roman Empire during the 4th Century were:
   a. Septimius Severus and Julian the Apostate
   b. Constantine and Theodosius

Gnostics believed in salvation by:
   a. Faith
   b. Knowledge
   c. Works

There is no evidence of the modern-day New Testament canon (list of the books of the New Testament) having been written down before 500 AD. (True / False)
Ancient Church History “Quiz”

Donatists believed that:
- a. Salvation came through knowledge
- b. Jesus was hierarchically subordinate to the Father
- c. Clergy who had surrendered or burned scriptures during persecutions were irredeemable and could not legitimately perform sacraments

Arius and Arians believed that:
- a. Salvation came through knowledge
- b. Jesus was hierarchically subordinate to and created by the Father
- c. Clergy who had surrendered or burned scriptures during persecutions were irredeemable and could not legitimately perform sacraments

The main substantial modification to the Nicene Creed that emerged from the Council at Constantinople in 381 concerned further doctrinal detail about:
- a. God the Father
- b. Jesus, the son
- c. The Holy Ghost

At the Council of Ephesus in 431 Augustine’s position on salvation by the grace of God triumphed over Pelagius’ position that a man has the ability to overcome sin. (True / False)

Most historians consider 476 AD as the official date of the fall of the entire Roman Empire. (True / False)

None of the barbarians who overran the western Roman Empire in the 5th century had any exposure to Christianity and when they heard about it they were immediately hostile to it. (True / False)
Shout out a list of people, places, things, and events that you associate with the Medieval period. Don’t limit yourself - they need not be church-related nor necessarily even real!

“Since it is so likely that children will meet cruel enemies, let them at least have heard of brave knights and heroic courage.” - C.S. Lewis

What are the thoughts when you hear the phrase “Medieval Church”?

“The history of the Western Church in the Middle Ages is the history of the most elaborate and thoroughly integrated system of religious thought and practice the world has ever known.” – R.W. Southern

“the whole form of divine worship in general use in the present day [1540’s] is nothing but mere corruption.” – J.Calvin
Topics

• Introduction

• Transitioning from “Ancient” to “Medieval”

• The Byzantine Empire and Eastern Orthodoxy

THE MEDIEVAL WESTERN CHURCH

• Spread of Christianity

• Early Medieval Learning & Theology

• Monasticism

• Church and State

• The Sacramental System & Medieval Doctrine

• The Papacy

• Sneak Previews of The Reformation
Medieval* Period - Context

Christianization of Roman Empire (313-400)

Fall of Western Roman Empire (476)

~100

“Ancient” Church History Course

Empire
Strong Bureaucracy
Urbanization
Greek Philosophy
Greek & Roman Classics

~500

Early Medieval Period
“Dark Ages”

War Lords
Feudalism
Local “government” – city states
“Ruralization”
High Illiteracy
Emphasis on where one fits in the Hierarchy
Superstition?

~1050

High Medieval Period

~1300

Late Medieval Period

~1500

“Modern”

Renaissance
Reformation
Nation States
New World / Colonization
Rediscovery of Ancient Classics
Emphasis on Worth of the Individual
Reason
Enlightenment

* - “Medieval” and “Middle Ages” will be used interchangeably
Medieval Timeline 500 - 1050

**Early Medieval Period “Dark Ages”**

- **500**
  - Justinian I
  - Clovis
  - Arthur?

- **553**
  - II Council at Constantinople

- **649**
  - III Council at Constantinople

- **664**
  - Synod of Whitby

- **674**
  - Council at Nicaea

- **787**
  - IV Council at Constantinople
  - Photian Schism
  - Radbertus & Ratramnus

- **800**
  - Rapid Expansion of Islam
  - Tours
  - Vikings

- **869**
  - Cyril & Methodius missions to Moravia
  - Vladimír baptized – beginning of Christianization of Russia

- **900**
  - Bede
  - Alcuin
  - Gottschalk
  - Vikings capture Paris

- **988**
  - Vladimir
  - Beowulf Manuscript

- **1000**
  - John of Damascus
  - Augustine of Canterbury
  - Isidore of Seville

- **1050**
  - Leo I (390-461)
  - Gregory I
### Medieval Timeline 1050 - 1500

**High Medieval Period**
- 1200
  - Founding of Universities at Paris & Oxford ~1150
  - Bernard of Clairvaux
  - Bernard of Cluny
  - Innocent III
  - Dominic Francis
  - Thomas Aquinas
- 1300
  - John Wycliffe
  - Jan Hus
  - Avignon Papacy
  - The Black Death

**Late Medieval Period**
- 1400
  - Geoffrey Chaucer
  - Councils at Basel, Ferrara, Florence 1431-45
- 1500
  - Martin Luther b. 1483
  - Savonarola

### Key Events
- **1050**: Norman Conquest of England
- **1099**: Crusaders take Jerusalem
- **1100**: Anselm
- **1179**: Gregory VII
- **1187**: Fall of Jerusalem
- **1215**: Council at Lyons
  - Lateran III
- **1245**: Council at Vienna
  - Lateran IV
- **1274**: Councils at Lyons & 1274
- **1291**: The Black Death
- **1300**: Magna Carta
  - Henry II & Thomas Becket
- **1311-12**: Council at Vienna
  - Lateran III
- **1312-18**: Council at Constance
- **1323**: Council at Lyons
  - Lateran IV
- **1328**: Council at Lyons
  - Lateran V
- **1339**: Council at Pisa
  - Lateran VI
- **1414-18**: Council at Constance
- **1431-45**: Councils at Basel, Ferrara, Florence
- **1483**: The Reformation
- **1492**: Columbus

### Figures
Back-up Slides
# Kings, Emperors, Popes 500 AD – 1000 AD

## ENGLAND

- Various from Anglo-Saxon “Heptarchy”
  - Kent
  - East Saxons (Essex)
  - South Saxons (Sussex)
  - East Anglia

- Offa (Mercia)
  - Northumbria (Bernicia & Deira)
  - Mercia
  - West Saxons (Wessex)

- Alfred the Elder (Wessex)
  - Aethelstan
  - Edmund I
  - Edward the Peaceable
  - Eadwig
  - Edgar the Martyr
  - Aethelred the Unready

## HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

- Charlemagne
- Louis the Pius
- Charles the Bald
- Charles the Fat

## FRANCE

- Hugh Capet
- Robert II

## POPES

- Symmachus
- Hormisdas
- John
- Vigilius
- Pelagius II
- Gregory

- (Gregory)
- Honorius
- Sergius

- Gregory II
- Gregory III
- Zacharias
- Stephen II
- Adrian
- Leo III

- (Leo III)
- Nicholas I

Lists not exhaustive – some filtered for importance
Kings, Emperors, Popes 1000 AD – 1500 AD

Lists not exhaustive – some filtered for importance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pope</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Issues &amp; Decisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lateran I</td>
<td>1123</td>
<td>Callistus II</td>
<td>Lay investiture of clergy is an issue throughout the Middle Ages. We looked at the conflict from 1075-1085 between Pope Gregory VII who took a strong stand against lay investiture and Emperor Henry IV who appointed his own Archbishop of Milan.</td>
<td>Confirmed Concordat of Worms between Papacy and Empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Spiritual authority can emanate only from the church but emperor can decide contested elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Role of clergy man as landed magnate is subservient to the emperor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Abolished claim of emperors to interfere in papal elections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lateran II</td>
<td>1139</td>
<td>Honorius II</td>
<td>Late 11th century reformers seek to outlaw wives and concubines for priests, deacons, and sub-deacons to prevent impurity. Previously priests were allowed to marry so this encounters heavy resistance. Enforcement by Popes Alexander II and Gregory VII is equally enthusiastic. The issue results in appearance of “neo-Donatism”.</td>
<td>- Condemns and represses marriage and concubinage for priests, deacons, sub-deacons, monks, nuns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Fixes period and duration of Truce of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Prohibits jousts or tournaments that jeopardize life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Excommunication of laymen who refuse to pay tithes to bishops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lateran III</td>
<td>1179</td>
<td>Alexander III</td>
<td>Conducted at the conclusion of a schism led by anti-pope Callistus III. Much of the council was focused on recovering from the schism and preventing future schisms.</td>
<td>- Determined method of Papal election by Cardinals only requiring 2/3 vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Condemned Waldensian heresy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Forbids extraction of money for performance of the sacraments (especially marriage and burial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Forbids clerics to receive women in their houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Rules relating to asylums for lepers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Pope</td>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Issues &amp; Decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Lateran IV (The Great Council) | 1215 | Innocent III  | Pope Innocent presents dozens of canons to a large gathering of leadership in the church for approval. | - Dogma of Transubstantiation  
- Exhortation to Greeks to reunite with the Roman Church  
- **Proclamation of Papal Primacy** (then Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem)  
- Annual councils to be held for reform of clerical morals  
- **Forbids establishments of new monastic orders** (too great diversity breeds confusion in the Church)  
- **Forbids judicial trial by water or hot iron**  
- Confession to priest and Communion minimally once per year  
- Legal procedures for charges brought against clergy |

*Modern day aerial view of Archbasilica of St. John Lateran and Palace in Rome*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pope</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Issues &amp; Decisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lyons I</td>
<td>1245</td>
<td>Innocent IV</td>
<td>Emperor Frederick II carried on a long conflict with the popes. He was</td>
<td>- Declared Emperor Frederick II deposed. Little effect as many secular lords backed the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>excommunicated by Gregory IX for not crusading despite a severe fever affecting</td>
<td>emperor and the Pope had no means to enforce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a large portion of Frederick's army. Later he made a crusade against the wishes</td>
<td>- Obliged the Cistercian monastic order to pay tithes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>of the Pope and briefly crowned himself King of Jerusalem. Conflict continued</td>
<td>- Decided Cardinals should wear red hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>between Emperor and Pope over political issues in Italy and other matters.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyons II</td>
<td>1274</td>
<td>Gregory X</td>
<td>Council occurs shortly after the end of the Latin occupation of Constantinople.</td>
<td>- Attempted to achieve union of two churches – east and west. Short term agreements but</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Two important medieval church figures die during the council. St. Thomas Aquinas</td>
<td>nothing permanent (ambassadors of Greek clergy were present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>on the way and St. Bonaventure in Lyons.</td>
<td>- Cardinals shall not leave the conclave for a papal election until a pope is elected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>1311-1312</td>
<td>Clement V (Avignon)</td>
<td>Charges of heresy against the order of the Knights Templars were under investigation.</td>
<td>- Against the advice of the committee examining evidence and under pressure from the French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>king suppression of the Knights Templars is declared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- King of France is absolved for his actions against Boniface VIII and the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- End of Great Western Schism – Martin V emerges as single Pope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Council has authority over Pope (never receives papal confirmation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Writings of Wycliffe declared heretical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Condemnation and execution of John Hus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constance</td>
<td>1414-1418</td>
<td>Gregory XII (Rome)</td>
<td>A council of Pisa (1409) had attempted to restore the unity of the Western Church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John XXIII (Pisan)</td>
<td>under one pope. It failed resulting in three popes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Benedict XIII (Avignon)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>