

Topics

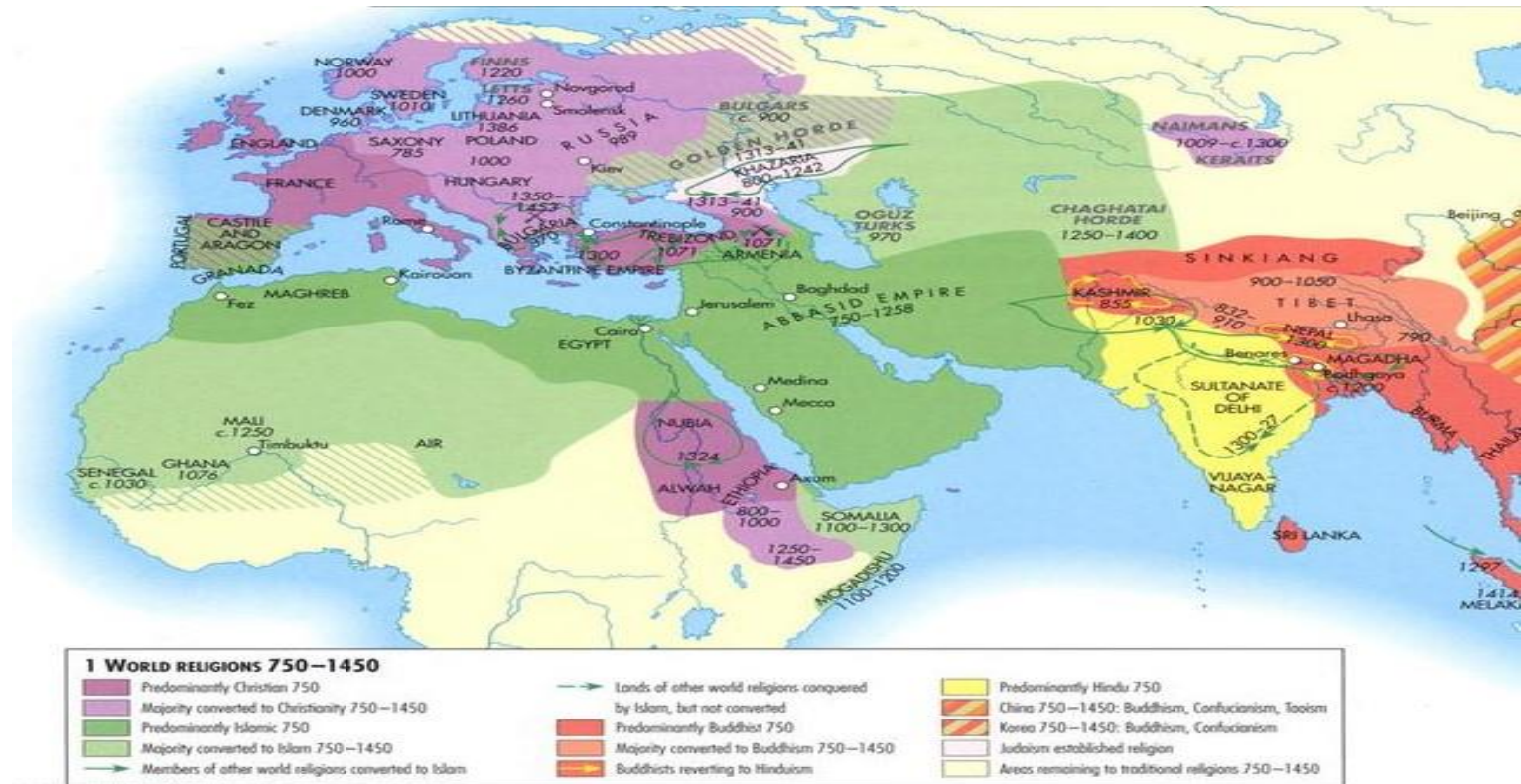
- Introduction
- Transitioning from “Ancient” to “Medieval”
- The Byzantine Empire and Eastern Orthodoxy

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

Expansion of Christianity



- Four Major Missionary Centers
 - Rome
 - England and Ireland (after they convert to Christianity)
 - Constantinople
 - Persia
- Charlemagne as Founder of [Christian] Europe

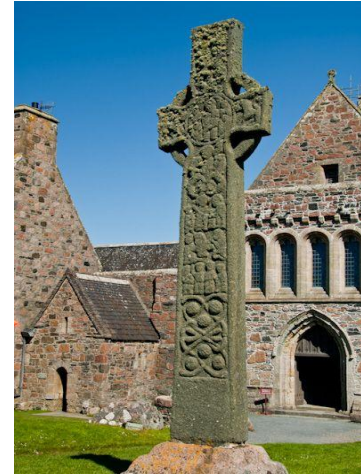
Ireland

- Never part of Roman Empire – pagans not affected by Christianization of the Empire
- Converted through missionary efforts of St. Patrick in the 5th century – “The God of the three faces”
- Irish church organized around monasteries and abbots as opposed to Bishop, Archbishop, Pope
 - Monks copied bible and classics to preserve them (e.g. Book of Kells)
 - Church was extremely missionary oriented
 - ❑ Columba and disciples to Scotland from Iona
 - ❑ Aidan to Anglo-Saxons in northeast England – Lindisfarne (“Holy Island”)
 - ❑ Columbanus to continental Europe

“Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left...”
– excerpt from St. Patrick’s Breastplate

“Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight; be thou my whole armor, be thou my true might; be thou my soul’s shelter, be thou my strong tower: O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power..”
– Be thou my vision

Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.



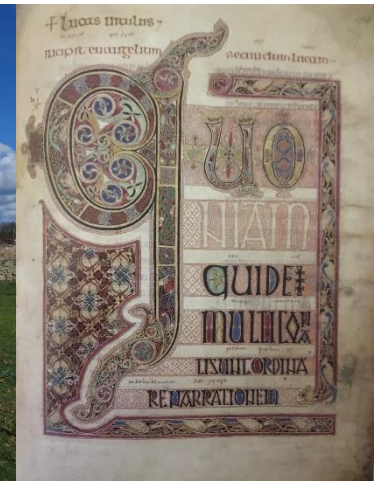
Iona Abbey and Iona Cross



Book of Kells – The four Evangelists



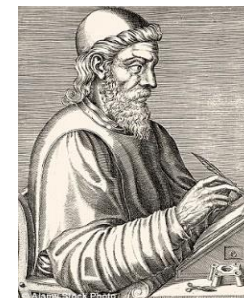
Aidan and Iona Cross – Lindisfarne, England



Lindisfarne Gospel – Luke incipit page

England

- Former part of Roman Empire – significant Christian influence
- Most of [modern day] England overrun by pagan Anglo-Saxons in late 5th century
- Augustine (of Canterbury) commissioned by Pope Gregory as missionary to England from Rome in late 6th century
 - Angles-Angels, In Deiri – De ira [from wrath], Aella-Alleuia
 - Hesitant, takes round about route but eventually gets there in 597
- Ethelbert of Kent converts in 601 and many of his subjects follow
 - Ethelbert's Christian wife Bertha influential in his conversion
 - Augustine becomes first Archbishop of Canterbury
- King Edwin of Northumbria converts to Christianity in 627
 - Influence of Christian wife Ethelburga
 - His council – Coifi's lament, the sparrow and the banquet hall
- England is nearly completely Christian by the end of the 7th century
 - The road to Christianity is paved with war, strategic marriages, baptisms, setbacks, and syncretism
 - Synod of Whitby 664 – When is Easter and how should monks cut their hair?
- Like Ireland, England sends missionaries to continental Europe
 - Wilfrid and Willibrord to Frisia (Belgium, Holland) ca. 695
 - Boniface to Germanic tribes – Adventures in oak tree felling (martyred 754)



Bede
672 – 735



Story of the sparrow in
the banquet hall



Boniface fells the oak of
Thor

Map



Charlemagne (747 - 814)

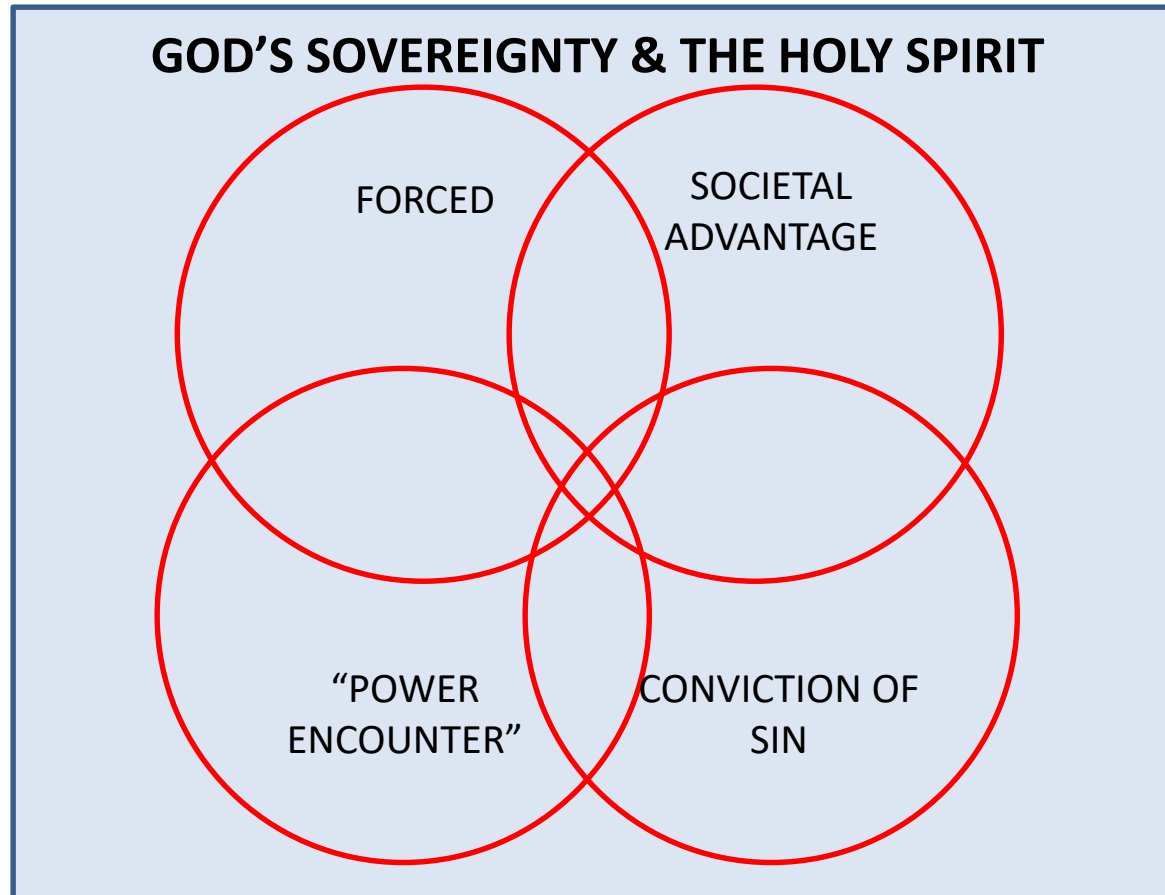
- Charlemagne's ancestors ("Mayors of the Palace") gradually wrestle power from the Merovingian Kings from ~650 – 751
 - Military bonafides – Charles Martel victory at Poitiers / Tours 732
 - Alliance with Church and Pope – defense against Lombards
 - Alliance with wandering Monks (e.g., Boniface) from Britain and Ireland evangelizing the countryside
- Pepin "the Short" with Papal blessing deposes the last Merovingian in 751
 - Pope Stephen journeys across Alps to crown Pepin in northern Europe
 - Pepin aides Pope against Lombards
 - Pepin is an advocate of monastic work and reforms
- Charlemagne assumes throne of the Franks in 771
 - Military successes and spread of catholic Christianity
 - ❑ Lombards (Italy)
 - ❑ Avars (Hungary)
 - ❑ Saxons (NE Germany) – first significant forced conversions
 - ❑ Bavarians
 - ❑ Tip of Spain
 - Pious Christian ruler who emphasized value of Christian education
 - Emperor and "Legacy of Rome"
 - Crowned by Pope Leo III Christmas, 800 as Holy Roman Emperor
 - Center of empire is Aachen in north Europe not Rome



Pope Leo III Crowns Charlemagne Holy Roman Emperor



Why did Medieval Pagans and Arians Convert?



Mark 9:40-41 - For he that is not against us is on our part. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

Matthew 13:30 - Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Back up Slides

Russia

- Olga Queen of Kiev baptized by Germanic Missionaries ca. 950
- Prince Vladimir of Kiev (Olga's grandson) baptized in 988
 - History / legend says Vladimir invited western Christian, eastern Christian, and Muslims to share their religion
 - Somehow eastern Christianity wins out (wondrous stories of the Hagia Sophia?)
- As the Prince went so went the subjects
- Princes of Kiev eventually rule Russia resulting in foundation of the church in Russia and Ukraine
- Christianity key force in maintaining Russian identity during two centuries of Mongol rule
- After the fall of the Byzantine empire (1453) Russians declare Moscow the “Third Rome” (Czar = Caesar)

