


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

Introduction

- This lesson focuses on the first half of the Medieval period (500 – 1000)
 - Significant portion of this period is characterized by migration, war
 - Ancient classical literature (Christian and pagan) exists only on non-durable papyrus
 - Effort directed toward conversion of pagans and heretical Arian Christians and later on combatting heresies (e.g., use of icons, Adoption)
 - Literacy rate is negligible even among priests
 - Relics and associated miracles are very important
- Results affecting scholars and theologians we'll discuss
 - Scholars are scarce – farmers and fighters are more useful
 - Emphasis on preserving works from the ancient world (religious and academic)
 - ❑ Academic literature, especially Philosophy, is seen as necessary for the proper study of the Bible
 - Standardizing Christian education for all but especially for clerics
 - Standardizing Christian liturgy
 - Relics and miracles are prominent in works of the period

Boethius (480 – 524)

- High ranking official under Ostrogoth King Theodoric
- Knew Greek well
 - Translated classics (e.g., Aristotle) from Greek to Latin preserving them for the Middle Ages
 - Foresaw rift between Roman and Eastern churches
- Defined content of Medieval liberal arts education
 - Quadrivium (Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, Astronomy) added to Trivium (Rhetoric, Logic, Grammar)
- Produced many theological writings
 - Most famous is The Consolation of Philosophy
 - ❑ Why do bad things happen to good people [like me]?

“Bad” fortune should be expected with the good. God is goodness. “Bad” that happens to good people benefits them by drawing them closer to God so is really good. “Good” that happens to bad people distracts them further from God so is really bad.
 - ❑ How do we reconcile God’s foreknowledge with free will?

Man exists in temporal, ordered time. God does not. Therefore God’s foreknowledge does not preclude man’s free will.



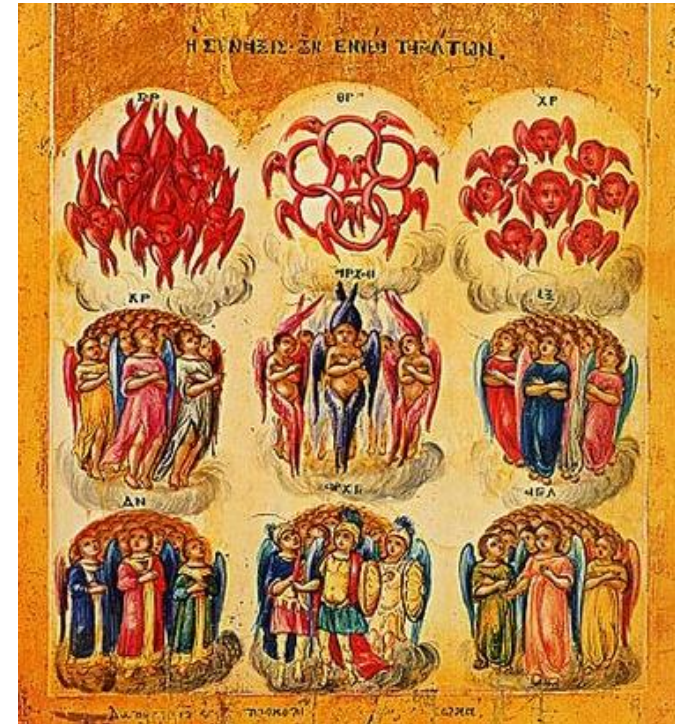
Boethius and Lady Philosophy



“Thou hast resigned thyself to the sway of Fortune; thou must submit to thy mistress’s caprices.” – Boethius in The Consolation of Philosophy

Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite (5th or 6th C.)

- Writings originally said to be from Dionysius of Acts 17
 - By tradition the first Bishop of Athens
- Examination of writing leads most to place him in the late 5th or 6th century
 - Writings show familiarity with Cyril of Alexandria's writings from early 5th century
- Mix of Christian and neo-Platonic ideas
 - Emphasis on what we don't know about God (apophatic) influences Eastern Church and later western mystics
 - Celestial Hierarchy and Ecclesiastical Hierarchy
 - ❑ Celestial – “great chain of being”; 9 orders of angelic choirs
 - ✓ Triad 1 – Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones
 - ✓ Triad 2 – Virtues, Dominations, Powers
 - ✓ Triad 3 – Principalities, Archangels, Angels
 - ❑ Ecclesiastical – Church on earth should reflect a hierarchy like the one found in heaven



The Orders of Angels

Acts 17:34 - *Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was **Dionysius the Areopagite**, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.*

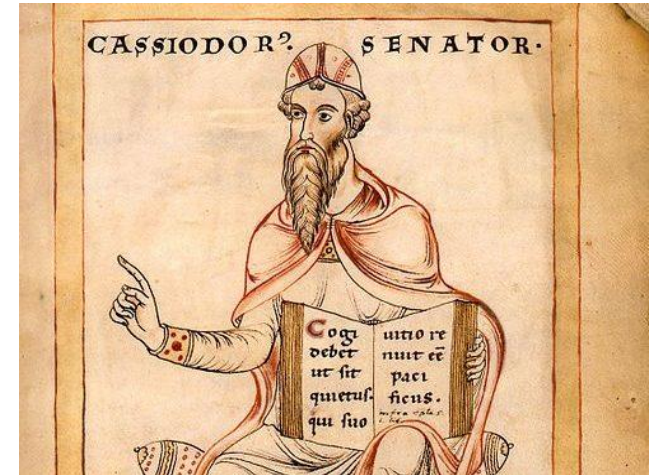
“The theology of Dionysius soars into the great darkness, lit faintly by the very phrases it rejects.”
– Charles Williams in *The Descent of the Dove*

Cassiodorus (490 – 585)

Isidore of Seville (560 – 636)

Cassiodorus

- Writer, statesman, monk from southern Italy
- Supporter of Trivium and Quadrivium content for liberal arts education
- Famous for levying responsibility on monasteries to transcribe classical Christian and pagan texts



Isidore of Seville

- Scholar, Archbishop from Visigoth Spain
- Involved with conversion of Arians in Spain to catholic orthodoxy
- *Etymologies* widely studied throughout the Middle Ages
 - Massive encyclopedia of knowledge of all disciplines from the ancient world



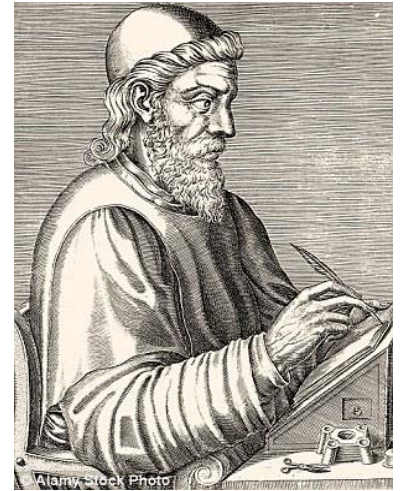
Bede (672 – 735)

Bede – The Father of English History

- Dedicated by parents to become Monk at Wearmouth-Jarrow in northeast England
- Teacher - inspired love of learning in pupils
- Key figure of “Northumbrian Renaissance”
 - Produced extraordinary amount of written output
 - Owned large library by pre-Charlemagne standards (100-300 volumes)
- *Ecclesiastical History of England*
 - History of Christianity in England with focus on Anglo-Saxon conversion
 - ❑ Augustine checks with Pope Gregory (p. 82-83)
 - Salvation by Grace – refute Pelagius (p.65)
 - The power of relics of the saints (p. 160)
- Sources for Cuthbert’s letter on Bede’s death (p. 358)
 - Previous letters about death of a saint (Martin of Tours)
 - Scripture (Hebrews 10:31, 12:6)
 - Benedict’s Rule (Monk should keep death daily before ones eyes)

Hebrews 10:31 - It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God..

Hebrews 12:6 - For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.



Venerable Bede



Cuthbert's remains to Durham

Carolingian Renaissance

(Charlemagne lived 747 – 814)

- Charlemagne's rise was assisted significantly by alliance with the Church, Pope, and missionaries from Britain and Ireland
- Charlemagne and successors emphasize uniformity and discipline in education so that the church and government run effectively throughout the empire
 - Latin language, spelling, and writing
 - Church liturgy, church discipline
 - Government documents and processes
- Palace School established in Aachen – capital of the Empire
 - Alcuin of York is headmaster
 - Learners from throughout the continent attended then went home and studied and taught at local monastic and cathedral schools
 - Schools generally copied and studied existing texts as opposed to authoring a lot of new material



Charlemagne and Alcuin



Aachen (reconstruction)

Proverbs 2:6 - For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

"We have a true shaft of light within the relative cultural darkness of the early Middle Ages"

– Steven Osmet

Radbertus, Ratramnus and the Lord's Supper

- Radbertus (785 - 865) and Ratramnus (died 870) both associated with Carolingian theological school at Corbie (near Amiens, France)
- Radbertus argued for “real presence” of Christ’s body in the eucharist
 - Bread and wine transformed into body and blood
- Ratramnus held view of “spiritual presence”
 - Aligned with what eventually became the Reformed view
- Ratramnus’ position condemned in 1050
- Transubstantiation becomes official position of the Western Church in 1215 at Lateran IV

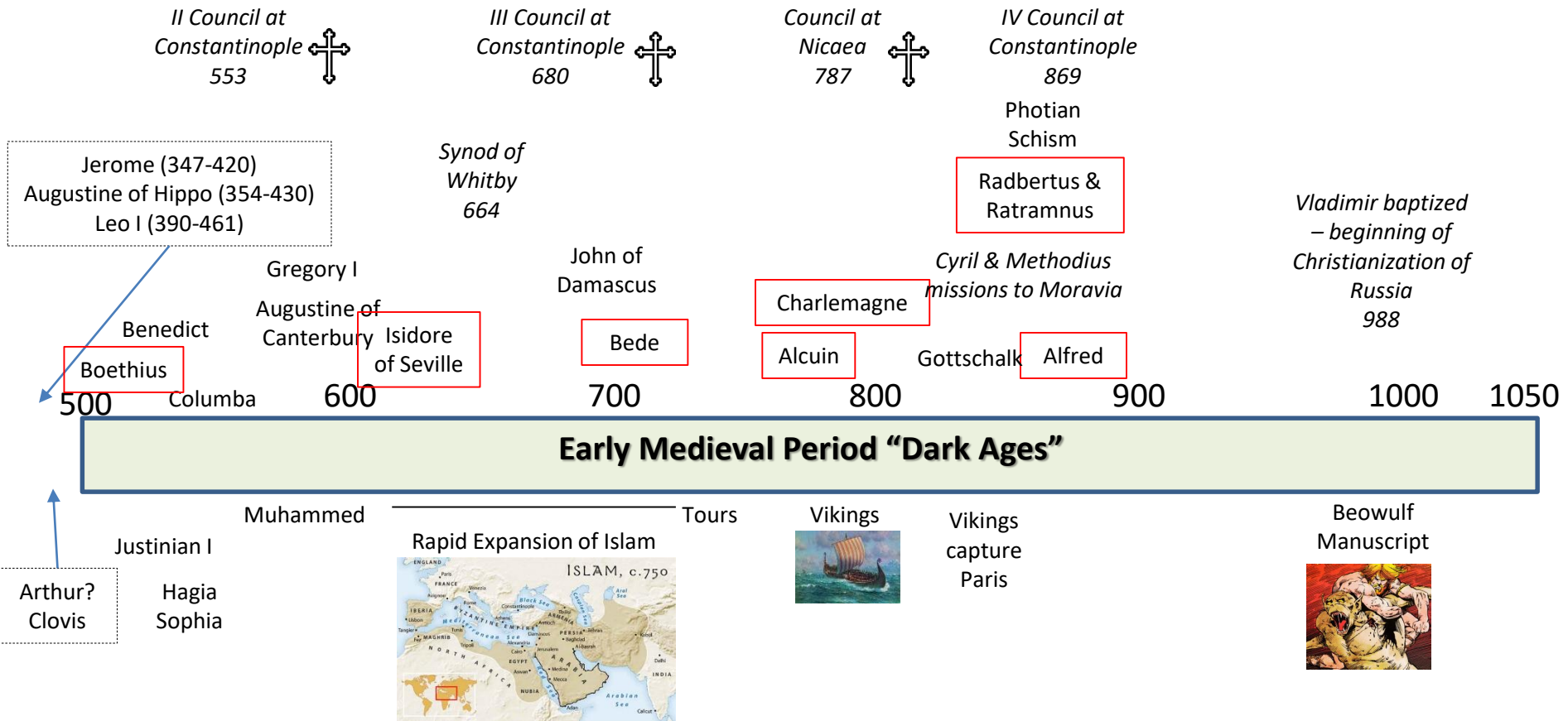


Radbertus

Matthew 26:26 - And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

Back up Slides

Medieval Timeline 500 - 1050



Kings, Emperors, Popes 500 AD – 1000 AD

	500	600	700	800	900	1000
ENGLAND		<div>Various from Anglo-Saxon "Heptarchy"</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kent- East Saxons (Essex)- South Saxons (Sussex)- East Anglia	<div>Offa (Mercia)</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Northumbria (Bernicia & Deira)- Mercia- West Saxons (Wessex)		<div>Alfred (Wessex)</div>	<div>Edward the Elder Aethelstan the Glorious Edmund I Eadred Eadwig Edgar the Peaceable Edward the Martyr Aethelred the Unready</div>
FRANCE						<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hugh Capet- Robert II
HOLY ROMAN EMPERORS				<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Charlemagne- Louis the Pius- Charles the Bald- Charles the Fat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Henry- Otto I- Otto II- Otto III	
POPES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Symmachus- Hormisdas- John- Vigilius- Pelagius II- Gregory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- (Gregory)- Honorius- Sergius	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gregory II- Gregory III- Zacharias- Stephen II- Adrian- Leo III	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- (Leo III)- Nicholas I		
Lists not exhaustive – filtered for importance						

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