

SESSION THREE

March 3, 2024

High Middle Ages Through the Renaissance, 1054-1500

1. Crusades/Armed Pilgrimages.

During his reign as Emperor Constantine ordered the transformation of Jerusalem into a Christian city. He basically reclaimed Palestine as a the Roman territory. He and Helena, his mother, located various Christian sites and built church over them. They did this so that pilgrims could come, see the sites, and worship. St. Jerome moved here in 386 and spent the remaining years of his life there, completing the Vulgate in 400. In 451, a Patriarch was located in Jerusalem. The pilgrims who came brought money and prestige. They found relics (many of which were not authentic) and took them back to their homes and churches in Europe. Lodging, hospitals and hospices were built for pilgrims. By 600, just before the Muslims took the city, there was a well developed pilgrimage trail.

This all changed when the Muslims captured Jerusalem in 638. Suddenly pilgrims were not able to safely get to Jerusalem. This was a big shock to the Western church. This is when places like Santiago de Compostela became alternative pilgrimage sites. As the story goes the Apostle James, brother of John, went to the Iberian Peninsula to preach. When he returned to the Palestine he was beheaded by King Agrippa (Acts 12:1-2). After his death his disciples took his body to Jaffa, had him put on a stone ship, which took him to the site of Santiago de Compostela. The body was not discovered here until the 9th century.

The Byzantine Empire, on the other hand, had little interest in recovering Jerusalem. It had moved the significant artifacts and relics to Constantinople, which it considered the New Jerusalem: the true cross which Helena had found; an icon of Mary and Jesus as a child supposedly painted by St. Luke; and numerous other relics of apostles and the saints were in Constantinople.

But in 1071, the Byzantine Empire was defeated by the Muslims at the Battle of Manzikert. This caused the Emperor Alexios I (1048-1118), to request military aid from Western Europe to help him recover land taken over by the Muslims (Saracens). It was the emperor, not the Patriarch, that call out to the Pope Urban II, not the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, for military assistance. Why? Voltaire (1694-1778) was famous for saying "The Holy Roman Empire was in no way holy, nor Roman, nor an empire." In Byzantium the balance of power between church and state was tilted toward the state. But in the Western church the power of the Papacy was often more important than the state because of "The donation of Constantine. This a forged document that emerged in the Middle Ages containing an imperial decree supposedly given by Emperor Constantine on March 30, 315. It transferred authority over Rome and the western part of the Roman Empire to the Bishop of Rome. It was used to support the claims of both the Pope's political and ecclesiastical authority.

Why would the Western Church have responded so favorably to Emperor Alexios I's request ? Especially in light of the early church being against serving in the military. The Western Europeans did not have a notion of Jihad as the Muslims did. There were several reasons: (1) Western Christians had become accustomed to the idea of Holy War. There is evidence that beginning about 173 one of the primary ways the gospel

spread was through the conversion of soldiers who moved throughout the Empire. Also, Augustine of Hippo (354-430), had advanced a Just War theory. The Muslim invasion of Europe (711) until the Battle of Tours (732) taught Christians the concept of Holy War; i.e., Jihad in Islam. Both Constantine (272-337) and Charlemagne (748-814) had lead their soldiers into battle with a cross in front. It was commonly agreed by the medieval period that Augustine was right: war to defend or expand the faith was acceptable. (2) Pilgrimage had become an acceptable way to do penance, and it was important to Christians to do penance on Jerusalem. (3) Economic prosperity in Western Europe made adventure possible. People had barely survived in the Dark Ages. There had been long period of pandemics from the sixth through the eighth century. It had been impossible to replace the population. But improvement in agricultural technology (metal instead of wooden plows, use of horses instead of oxen), improved varieties of grains, better milling procedures, etc. Suddenly the population of Europe was growing. By the 10th century the population had reached late Roman levels. All this led to villages and towns. The economy became more diverse. There were new professions: mining, timber, textiles, various kinds of smiths, etc. All this created trade, which caused new methods of ship building; i.e., ships became cheaper, larger, stronger, faster. Weaponry also advanced in this era. There were suddenly importers/exporters. There was greater use of coined money. Most Crusaders traveled on land, but these ships carried needed supplies chains to Crusaders to the Middle East. No foreign overseas military expedition which required supply chains had been attempted like this since the Romans in the first century BC.

Pope Urban II set out on a tour of potential military leaders to rally support for the crusade. The pope preached an important inspirational message calling for the First Crusade at the Council of Clermont on November 27, 1095. We have copies of his sermon. He guarantees that people who go to fight will receive (1) remission of sin and (2) admission not into purgatory but into heaven. This sermon was preached by Bishops all over Europe. The response in Western Europe was overwhelming. It was to be an armed pilgrimage; a holy war and pilgrimage venture in one. They were to leave on August 15, 1096.

Actually a French clergy named Peter the Hermit left early with a few ill-prepared pilgrims. It was called "The People's Crusade". They left in March, 1096, but they all got wiped out.

The main body of the first crusade , 6 armies of 100,000 traveled overland from various parts of France and Italy. They left on schedule on August 15. The knights carried at least 3 horses, one to ride, one for war, and a spare. They had a lance, a spear, a mace, and a sword. Most soldiers were infantry: dagger, sword, spears, ax, mace, longbow, crossbow, armor covering the head and vital organs (made of metal or chain mail), shield (wood overlaid with metal), etc. Each of the leaders made great financial sacrifices to go. There was not a single leader. Leadership was shared.

When they reached Constantinople Alexios I made everyone swear an oath that he was their overlord and any lands they conquered which had been controlled by the Byzantine's previously would revert to his authority. He wanted to secure his lost provinces. In exchange the Byzantines promised to provided supplies, military expertise, and to secure the route across Asia Minor for the Crusaders.

The Crusader armies won battle after battle with superior tactics. June, 1099, the main body of the Crusaders, now less than half the size of the original group, reached Jerusalem. It is fortunate that they were resupplied by a Genoa's (Italy) ship that had just arrived. And on July 15, 1099, against all odds, the Crusaders broke through the walls of the city of Jerusalem. 30,000 Muslims and Jews were slaughtered. As a result of the victory, several crusader states (Jerusalem, Edessa [now Urfa, Turkey], Antioch [Antakya, Turkey]) were created. They had promised not to do this. The Crusaders said the Byzantine's had not carried through on their promise to supply them and open up the roadways. The representative of Alexios I told him that the Crusaders had all been killed, which was not true. Emperor Alexios I had been betrayed by his representative. This was taken by the Crusaders as a betrayal. Therefore, the vow they had made was invalid. This was the only Crusade that accomplished its mission.

One of the reasons the First Crusade was successful was that there was a division about who had claims on religious authority over Islam. It was an issue of succession: Sunni (Caliph in Baghdad); Shiite (Caliph in Cairo). And there was a major civil war between these groups raging. This played to the advantage of the first Crusade.

The Crusaders held Jerusalem from 1099-1187. During this period there were 2 orders of knight/monks in Jerusalem: (1) Knights Templar, monastic military knights that had headquarters on the Temple Mount; (2) Knights Hospitaller, monastic military knights who founded a hospital on the Temple Mount.

The Kingdom of Jerusalem and the crusader states were lost to Saladin (1137-1193), the Kurdish sultan of Egypt and Syria, in 1187; i.e., movie "The Kingdom of Heaven".

For the next forty years there were a series of Seven more Crusades. Some were famous: (1) the Third Crusade featured Richard the Lionhearted, who negotiated access to the holy places if pilgrims were unarmed; (2) the Fourth Crusade attacked Constantinople instead of Jerusalem; (3) and the Fifth Crusade which took along St. Francis of Assisi who attempted to convert the Sultan. Most of these Crusades were an embarrassment which has left a bad taste in the mind of Muslims. The image of this is burned in the memory of Muslims in the Middle East today. The term "Crusade" is a derogatory term.

Guess how much of the Crusades were funded? Three primary sources: (1) Money extorted or stolen from European Jews. (2) Donations of wealthy Kings and Noblemen. (3) Money raised by Dominican friars who were instructed to preach about the Crusades and receive offerings. (4) The sale of Indulgences to non-combatants to get their loved ones out of purgatory. After the Crusades, St. Peter's Basilica, originally built by Constantine in 326 over the tomb of St. Peter in Rome. It was rebuilt from 1506-1626.

2. Beginning of medieval European universities.

Long before the Renaissance, universities were established. The first university was the University of Constantinople founded in 425. It had 16 Chairs teaching in Greek and 15 Chairs teaching in Latin across all the academic disciplines.

Universities came a bit later in the West. They grew out of the monasteries and cathedrals: University of Bologna (1088), University of Italia (1119); University of Paris (1150); University of Oxford (1167); and University of Cambridge (1200). The universities were initially to train clergy. Later studies were added in Law, including canon law, and Medicine. Universities taught the 7 liberal arts: grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy (Ptolemaic system, formulated by the

Alexandrian astronomer and mathematician Ptolemy about 150, which said the Earth is stationary and at the center of the universe) Each of these was grounded in the Bible and Christianity. There were no large university buildings. Students moved from one teaching master to another. They were located at various monasteries and churches. Colleges grew out of student resident halls that were located near these faculty members. As time passed scholars lectured for pay by students.

3. Worship in the Middle Ages.

Cathedrals contained a seat of a bishop. The seat of the bishop was a place where a person escaping punishment could be granted sanctuary. If you got hold of the bishop's seat before the law or your enemy could take you, you could remain free in the Monestary from then on.

The cathedrals contained windows or icons that told the story of the Gospel for the illiterate. There would probably be wood carvings or stone work depicting Jesus, Mary, Joseph, or Anne.

There might be gargoyles (demons) on the roof of the cathedral.

The entire service would be in Latin.

There would be a rood screen (choir screen, chancel screen) separating the altar area from where the congregants stood. It is typically an ornate partition between the chancel and nave, and often constructed of wood, stone, or wrought iron. Until the 6th century the altar of Christian churches would have been in full view of the congregation, separated only by a low altar rail around it. Then, however, following the example of the church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, churches began to surround their altars with a colonnade which supported a decorated architrave beam along which a curtain could be drawn to veil the altar at specific points in the consecration of the Eucharist and this altar screen, with widely spaced columns, subsequently became standard in Western and Eastern churches. The decrees of the Council of Trent (1545–1563) enjoined that the celebration of the Mass should be made much more accessible to lay worshippers; and this was widely interpreted as requiring the removal of rood screens as physical and visual barriers, even though the council had made no explicit condemnation of screens. The screens began to be replaced with altar rails in Western churches.

Following the doctrine of transubstantiation at the fourth Lateran Council of 1215, clergy were required to ensure that the reserve sacrament was to be kept protected from irreverent access or abuse. This gave birth to the tabernacle to hold the reserve sacrament.

The scripture and the mass was read in Latin, but the sermon was delivered in the language of the people, in front of the rood screen or altar rail, before the congregation.

There were chapels on the sides of the church. People would leave money in trust for priest to say masses to get your loved ones out of purgatory.

Architecture in the 11th and 12th century was Romanesque. Gothic architecture became prominent in the 12th through the 16th centuries. Renaissance architecture emerged in the 15th and 16th centuries. And Baroque architecture came in the 17th century.

4. The Seven Sacraments: outward signs that conferred the grace of Christ.

While the idea of 7 sacraments originated from Peter Lombard (1100-1160), the bishop of Paris, and these sacraments were confirmed by the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215,

the theology of the sacraments was primarily written by the Dominican monk, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), "Doctor Angelicus/Doctor of Angels." The works of Aristotle had been translated into Latin in the 12th century, and Thomas learned from dialectical thinking from him. He also learned Aristotle's philosophy, ethics, physics, cosmology. He used Aristotle's dialectic thought processes to integrate faith and reason. He produced 90 works in his short 49 years of life. His massive theological book "Summa Theologica" ("The Summary of Theology") laid out the seven sacraments; each sacrament infuses the grace needed to live each stage of life. He is still the gold standard for Catholic theology today.

(1) **Baptism.**

Baptism is both an act of initiation and a means of regeneration. Both Roman Catholics and Church of Christ believe in baptismal regeneration. It reverses original sin. If you ask a Roman Catholic, "Are you born again?" they are likely to say, "Yes, I have been baptized." Now you can see why the Crusaders forced Muslims to be baptized. Being baptized does not mean you automatically go to heaven when you die at age 80. You will still have to deal with your mortal and venial sin, but it makes final salvation possible.

(2) **Confirmation.**

Confirmation is a sacrament that is done after baptism. It involves a public profession of faith. The Holy Spirit is conferred to the Confirmand by the bishop who is in Apostolic succession. The Orthodox Church confirms children; the Roman Catholic Church confirms young adults.

(3) **Penance/Reconciliation**

The Council of Trent called Penance "the second plank of justification for those who have made shipwreck of their faith." It restores the salvation destroyed by our sin.

Before we can talk about Penance we have to talk about Mortal and Venial sin. And we have to discuss the Treasury of Merit.

Jerome was the first person to distinguish between these two forms of sin.

Mortal Sin (1 John 5:16-17) is sin that destroy the justifying grace that was given to you in Baptism. It is sin that send you to hell. If you die with mortal sin without Penance you go to hell.

Venial Sin is sin that does not destroy justifying grace. It causes you to go to Purgatory. Venial sin does not require Penance.

i.e., Aquinas says lust inside of marriage is a venial sin; lust outside of marriage is a mortal sin.

The Treasury of Merit is like a spiritual bank from which you receive forgiveness. You are not forgiven by the mercy of Christ alone, but the merit of the saints is also in the Treasury of Merit. Saints are people who die without Mortal or Venial sin and therefore go straight to heaven, bypassing purgatory. They die with excess merit, called works of supererogation=works above and beyond what is needed to achieve heaven, which go into the Treasury of Merit. This is a doctrine developed by Pope Innocent III (1161-1216).

Penance involves 4 things: (1) confession (to a priest), (2) contrition (being sorry), (3) absolution (by a priest; restores the state of grace), (4) works of satisfaction (doing prescribed good works; "Say 10 Hail Mary's and 5 Our Fathers"). The Reformers had

no problem with the first 3. But they had a problem with works of satisfaction because it did not take seriously enough the finished work of Christ.

Annual Penance was required by the Fourth Lateran Council of 1215.

Priests were never allowed to reveal sins confessed, which has created problems for the church in the sex abuse crisis.

He idea of private confession developed in the 6th century among Irish monks. It is often done in groups (Reconciliation) today.

(4) **Eucharist.**

In the Synoptic Gospels and I Corinthians we find Jesus speaking at the Jewish Seder and commanding us to continue with the meal. Both the Fourth Lateran Council of 1215 and the Council of Trent of 1551 taught transubstantiation. The bread and wine does not change in form but in substance; change into the flesh and blood of Christ, even though the elements appear to remain the same. "By the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood". The Orthodox Church believes in Trans-Elementation, which means there is a spiritual but not physical change in the elements.

(5) **Matrimony**

The church was a Johnny-Come-Lately to weddings. The State had been doing weddings for hundreds of years before the church decided this is a sacrament. And that is why in Europe people get married in the courthouse and then go to the church to have their weddings blessed. This is the only sacrament not performed by a priest. The reason is because Jesus did not performed the wedding in Cana. He blessed the union. Priests are witnesses for Christ and they bless the union. Which is one of the reasons some Catholics are upset that priests are now able to bless same-sex unions. Also, marriage creates an indissoluble bond, which cannot be destroyed by divorce. Annulment is a legal fiction.

(6) **Holy Orders.**

Ordination. In Catholic theology it confers a power that are not present for those not ordained. It must be conferred by a bishop in Apostolic Succession. It gives a person an indelible mark forever. "Once a priest, always a priest." The other 6 sacraments require a person with holy orders. The Reformation option of the "Priesthood of all believers" would challenge this.

(7) **Extreme Unction.**

In the New Testament, this is a healing rite (James 5:13-18), but Aquinas said you could only get it once in a lifetime, so it became a death rite. It was considered additive to Penance. Vatican II corrected this error and restored it as a healing rite.

NOTES: (1) There is no sacrament for single people who are not priests, monks, or nuns. (2) Aquinas looked at male sperm with the naked eyes, assumed these were seeds that grew within a woman and drew the wrong conclusions about birth control.

5. **The Inquisition**

In 1184, Pope Lucius III required bishops to make a judicial inquiry, or inquisition, for heresy in their dioceses, a provision renewed by the fourth Lateran Council in 1215. The purpose of the intuition was to suppress, identify, root out, and punish heresy. It probably started out as an innocent thing, but it became an excuse for brutality. It authorized inquisitors to put people in prison and torture them to determine if they were

heretics. And inquisitors were answerable only to the Pope, not to local bishops. If convicted, heretics were excommunicated and turned over to civil authorities for torture, imprisonment, or execution; i.e., burned at the stake.

The Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions were especially horrible. It was focused on Jews and Muslims who converted to Christianity to avoid antisemitic regulations and persecution. The 4th Lateran Council of 1215 mandated a special dress code for Jews and Saracens (Muslims) to distinguish them from Christians. It was thought that they were secretly reverted to their previous religions.

Some of the famous targets of the inquisition were Joan of Arc (1412-1431), Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498), Martin Luther (1483-1547), King Henry VIII (1491-1547), and Galileo Galilei (1564-1642).

6. The Development of Mariology

It is evident from the writings of the early church fathers and the pictures drawn on the walls of the catacombs that the early Christians had huge respect for Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Many of the first church buildings were dedicated to Mary: Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Palestine in 326; Church of the Mother of God in Egypt in 326; the Ancient Church of St. Mary, built where the Temple of Vesta had been in the Roman Forum in 525; the Pantheon became the Church of Holy Mary and the Martyrs in 609.

From the First Council of Ephesus in 431, when the church approved devotion to Mary as the “Mother of God”, here was a steady growth in devotion to Mary. She was regarded as the first saint. The church saw Mary as the “New Eve”, who instead of saying “no” to God as the first Eve did, said “yes” to God. As at a time when women were regarded as the origin of evil, she was deemed to be perfect mediator between sinful humanity and Jesus who was both King and Judge.

At the Second Council of Constantinople in 553, Mary’s perpetual virginity became a mater of doctrine.

Marian Shrine of Loreto, Italy; i.e., Our Lady of Loreto. Catholics believe it was Mary’s house in Nazareth. It is the place where she was born, raised, and where she raised Jesus. (There is another one in Nazareth.) In 1291, when the Muslims overran Palestine and threatened to destroy it, angels flew it from Nazareth to Tersatto. Croatia. Then in 1294, when it was threatened by bandits, angels again carried it across the Adriatic Sea to its current location. The Basilica of the Holy House was build over the tiny dwelling (31’X13’) in 1468, but it has been a pilgrimage site since the 14th century.

There have been a growing number of Marian apparitions: Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico, 1531); Our Lady of La Salette (France, 1846); Our Lady of Lourdes (France, 1858); Our Lady of Pontmain (France, 1871); Our Lady of Fatima (Portugal, 1917); etc.

Although most early church fathers (Irenaeus, Tertullian, Origen, Basil, John Chrysostom, Ephraim, and Cyril of Alexandria) argued that Mary was capable of sin, Augustine believed she was sinless. His view eventually won out. The Immaculate Conception is the belief that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception became the law of the church at the Council of Trent held between 1545 and 1563, and through Pope Pius IX’s infallible statement in 1854.

Pope Pius XII’s statement that Mary was assumed bodily into Heaven without first dying. This was an infallible statement made in 1950. (There are thousands of frescoes depicting Mary on her death bed.) Orthodox Christians believe that Mary died

a natural death, that her soul was received by Christ upon death, that her body was resurrected after her death and that she was taken up into heaven bodily in anticipation of the general resurrection.

6. Other Random Happenings

A. The Christian conversion of Scandinavia.

Denmark, 10th century; Norway 11th century; Sweden 12th century.

B. Europe had a series of physical calamities.

1315-1317, The Great Famine. It is sometimes called “the little Ice Age.” There was a climatic shift that brought about famine. 10 percent of the population of Northern Europe died of starvation. There was theft, murder, and even cannibalism.

1331-1351, The Great (Black/Bubonic) Plague. Spread by fleas, carried by rats, transported through cargo. It started in China. It followed the silk road from there to Constantinople, from there through the Middle East and Europe, and from there into Russia. People died horrible deaths in a matter of days, with no explanation of cause or cure. Over 70 million people died. 40 to 45 percent of the world’s population died.

C. The Western church was in spiritual disarray.

> There were endless wars in Europe between Kings and princes within Christendom. The Papacy engaged in these wars, particularly in Italy. It claimed authority over things sacred and spiritual based on the Donation of Constantine. i.e., 100 Year War (which lasted 116 years) between 1337-1453 between England and France. Joan of Arc (1412-1431), who was later canonized and declared a saint, was a player in this holy war. She heard voices from God and rallied the French to victory in 1428-1429. She was captured by the British in 1430, and burned as a witch in 1431.

> Pope Boniface VIII (1230-1303) claimed salvation required acknowledging the authority of the Pope.

> The Papal Schism of 1378 was a split within the Catholic Church, which lasting from 1378 to 1417. During this period popes resided in Rome and Avignon, France. They were joined by a third claimant in 1409. It was a marked era of decline in morality and discipline within the church. One might ask, “Why Avignon?” The pope had chosen to reside in Avignon from 1309-1377. Pope Gregory XI returned to Rome. When he died, Urban VI was elected. A group of French cardinals declared his election invalid and elected Clement VII as pope. After several attempts at reconciliation, the Council of Pisa declared that both rivals were illegitimate and elected a third purported pope, AntiJohn XXIII in 1409. The schism was finally resolved at the Council of Constance in 1414-1418 when all three popes were deposed and a new pope, Martin V, was elected to reign in Rome.

> Constantinople fell to the Turkish Muslims in 1453. This made life hard for the Patriarch because his power and bureaucracy was dependent on the Emperor. Now the Eastern Orthodox Patriarch had been conquered by the Muslims: Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem. This made the Patriarch of Moscow more important than ever. The first things the conquerors did was it turn the Hagia Sophia into a mosque. This happened to all church buildings. Christians were not able to evangelize or to build new buildings. They had to practice their faith quietly. Life for Christians became very difficult. Their lives were micro-managed. They had a long list of things they had to do and could not do. They could not wear crosses, possess icons, have public processions, testify in court, ring church bells, sing loudly in church, or wail at

funerals, ride horses, or carry weapons; they had to carry a stamp proving they they had paid their “head” taxes (a tax for being a non-Muslim); the sultan had the right to seize male Christian children between 8 and 14 if he needed soldiers or servants in his court; 10 percent of the male children were expected to be offered; these boy soldiers were forced to convert to Islam.

> Invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg (1400-1468) in 1440. This would have a revolutionary impact on the Renaissance and the Reformation.

> There were pre-Reformation voices in the church speaking out against excesses in the Papacy and the Western Church. (1) John Wycliffe, 1330-1384, a Catholic priest and professor at the University of Oxford, translated the New Testament from the Latin Vulgate into English (Wycliffe Version). He also attacked transubstantiation as superstition. After he died, his body was exhumed from consecrated ground and burned. (2) Jan Hus, 1372-1418, Catholic priest and Dean of Charles University in Prague, translated the works of Wycliffe into Czech. He was excommunicated and burned at stake. (3) Girolamo Savonarola, 1452-1498, Dominican friar/priest who preached against the immorality, materialism, militarism, corruption within the church. He preached that Pope Alexander VI (1431-1503) wasn't even a Christian much less a pope—that he was more interested in prostitutes than Christ. He was excommunicated and burned at the stake. (4) Lorenzo Valla, 1406-1457, an Italian priest and linguistic scholar, proved conclusively that the the “Donation of Constantine” was a forgery, thus disproving the Papal claim of temporal authority and primacy among the other regional bishops.