

deeper

word faith life

Season 4

The Doctrine of the Church

The Priesthood of Believers

The Mission of the Church

Church History

The Reformation

Calvinism and Arminianism

Acknowledgements:

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Episode 6 – Church History

The Medieval Age (590-1517)

This is the longest era in the history of the church and one of the most difficult to grasp and interpret. Also called the dark ages, it seems that the church seemed to lose her way. But the gospel always prevails. We'll have a look at the timeline of events rather than go into too much detail.

AD 590 - Gregory becomes pope and shapes much of the Catholic Mass still in use today.

AD 596 - Pope Gregory sends Augustine (a monk, not the earlier Augustine) to England with 30 monks to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. Their first convert is Ethelbert I, king of Kent, who appoints Augustine as Archbishop of Canterbury

AD 622 - Mohammed begins Islam, based on ideas borrowed from the Hebrew Old Testament, Christianity, and ancient Arabian mystic teachings. Muslim forces captured Jerusalem in AD 638.

AD 664 - At the Synod of Whitby, King Oswy (Oswig) of Northumbria, abandons the Celtic Christian church and accepts Rome's form of Christianity, the Roman Catholic Church. The Celtic church begins to decline. The church in England starts to embrace the Roman Catholic Church as was the trend emerging in the rest of Europe.

AD 700 - The Psalms are translated into Anglo-Saxon.

The Muslim Arabs capture Tunis and Christianity all but disappears from North Africa. By AD 732 they had conquered Spain and were advancing on France. They were defeated at the Battle of Tours and driven back. Christianity in Europe was saved.

AD 771 - Charles becomes king of the Franks, he is also known as Charlemagne, or Charles the Great.

AD 772 - Charlemagne conquers Saxony in Germany and converts the people to Christianity.

AD 800 - Pope Leo III crowns Charlemagne as Holy Roman Emperor. Church and state become one entity.

AD 878 - Vikings are allowed to live in Danelaw (Northern England) only if they become Christians.

AD 921 - Wenceslas becomes king of Bohemia and tries to convert his kingdom to Christianity. He is opposed and killed by his brother in AD 929.

AD 988 - Vladimir of Kiev establishes the Christian Eastern Orthodox Church.

AD 1000 - Gunpowder is perfected in China.

1052 - The Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex, Edward the Confessor founds Westminster Abbey outside the city of London.

1054 - "The Great Schism" between East and West takes place. The final break between the Byzantine Empire based in Constantinople and the Roman church. The Eastern Orthodox Church becomes completely independent.

1088 - Urban II becomes pope and launches the First Crusade in 1095 after the Council of Clermont where he calls for the "cleansing of the lands of the Christians" from the Muslims. They defeat the Muslims and retake the city of Antioch.

1099 - The Crusaders take Jerusalem.

1147-49 - The Second Crusade embarks.

1198 - Innocent III becomes pope and the papacy reaches its peak of power, wealth and influence. The Third Crusade embarks and ends in 1192.

1202 - The Fourth Crusade embarks and ends in 1204.

1204 - Francis of Assisi grows unhappy with the state of the church and founds the Franciscan Order.

1212 - The Children's Crusade embarks. A misguided disaster without papal consent, it never left the shores of Europe.



- 1215 - Dominic founds the Dominican Order, and at the Synod of Toulouse in 1229, they are granted permission to punish those deemed to be heretics.
- 1217 - The Fifth Crusade embarks and ends in 1221.
- 1228 - The Sixth Crusade led by Frederick II embarks and ends in 1229.
- 1233 - Pope Gregory IX establishes the Inquisition
- 1248 - The Seventh Crusade embarks.
- 1268 - The Muslim forces recapture Antioch from the Christians.
- 1273 - Thomas Aquinas, the Dominican monk, author, philosopher and theologian, completes his famous work, Summa Theologica.
- 1291 - Acre, the last Christian stronghold in Palestine is captured by the Muslim forces.
- 1293 - The first Christian missionaries arrive in China.
- 1305 - Clement V becomes pope and lives in Avignon, France. No pope lived in Rome for the rest of the century.
- 1312 - Phillip IV, king of France persecutes the whole order of the Knights Templar and expropriates their money and property.
- 1337 - Edward III of England declares himself king of France and sparks the Hundred Years War.
- 1376 - John Wycliffe, a philosopher from Oxford University speaks out for church reforms. He believed that God's people didn't need priests to mediate for them. He also disagreed with the teaching of transubstantiation.
- 1378 - A 30 year schism develops with two rival popes, one in Avignon and the other in Rome.
- 1380 - Wycliffe and his team translate the Bible into English. He gets excommunicated for his views in 1414.
- 1415 - John Huss a Bohemian reformer is burnt at the stake. Huss was influenced by Wycliffe at Oxford. He preached against the excesses of the Catholic Church, and taught that only God can forgive sin, Christ is the head of the church, and that authority on earth was the Bible.
- 1430 - Joan of Arc is captured and handed over to the English. She is burned as a witch the following year.
- 1440 - Gutenberg begins printing with moveable type, and publishes the Latin Bible in 1456.
- 1447 - The Renaissance era begins, construction of the Sistine Chapel begins in 1473, and Leonardo da Vinci paints the Last Supper in 1482. Michealangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was only done in the early 1500's.
- 1478 - The Spanish Inquisition begins, and would continue for another 300 years.
- 1490 - The Portuguese explorers sail up the Congo River in West Africa and convert the king of Congo to Christianity.
- 1492 - Christopher Columbus crosses the Atlantic and arrives in the Caribbean.
- 1502 - The first African slaves are forcibly brought to the Americas.
- 1503 - Leonardo da Vinci paints the Mona Lisa.
- 1512 - The Sistine Chapel is completed. Elements of secular humanism are evident in the Renaissance.
- 1516 - Coffee is introduced to Europe. The Dutch theologian Erasmus publishes a Greek New Testament with a preface encouraging the translation of scripture into the common man's vernacular of Europe. By 1559, his books were placed on the index of forbidden books.

Each era seems to present the church with a new set of challenges. In the era of the "Church of the Empire", the church seemed to be its own worst enemy, as it dealt with heresy and internal strife. For most of the "Middle Ages", the church's main adversaries were the Muslims. Losing sight of the main thing, the church was in a battle for territory which it lost. The Holy Land was lost, North Africa was lost, the base of the Eastern Church, Constantinople was lost. The Crusades dragged on for ages, cost a fortune and many lives, only to end in failure. Not only was the fight for territory, but it was also for control. The church had become drunk with its own power. By the 1500's the world and the church were ready for the next move of God; The Reformation.

