

Events:

Monasticism

- Monasticism first began with the early hermits, who were desert ascetics:
 - John the Baptist was their model.
 - Anthony was the first important hermit that we know about, through the writing of Athanasius (The Life of Anthony), who was portrayed as doing regular and real battles with Satan, wild animals and other temptations.
 - Jerome was also a hermit during the last decades of his life.
- The hermits thought that the church was getting too “worldly” and sought to escape *that* worldliness and not worldliness in general.
- The bishops began to try to organize and encourage hermits into communities so that their solitude, inactivity and eccentricity could be controlled.
 - Athanasius and later Ambrose and Augustine in the west.
 - The Cappodocian Fathers in the east.
- Benedict, a very strict ascetic, established the first “modern” monastery:
 - He had been a hermit but was “elected” abbot of a small group outside Rome, but his asceticism was too much so they tried to poison him.
 - He established a monastery at Mount Cassino near Rome in 529.
 - He maintained strict rules of order with seven services a day including a longer “vigil” service at 2 a.m.
 - His monks are the reason that so many of the early writings of the church fathers and other classical works have been preserved through the years.
- Other monastic orders were established over time exercising the three-fold vows of poverty, chastity and obedience:
 - Augustinians – named for Augustine (354-430) established in the 8th or 9th century and confirmed at the Lateran Synod in 1059. They were involved in teaching, writing and spreading the gospel message worldwide.
 - Dominicans – founded by Dominic Guzman (1170-1221) in Spain in 1206 to win heretics over by poverty rather than by ecclesiastical pomp. Pope Innocent III later began an inquisition around 1220 against heretics using Dominicans that continued until around 1300.
 - Franciscans – founded by Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) in 1209 and was confirmed by Pope Honorius III in 1223. It was also a mendicant (poverty) movement designed to spread the gospel to the world and battle heresy.
 - Jesuits (a.k.a. Society of Jesus) – founded by Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) and six friends, mostly Basques, at the University of Paris in 1534 and formalized in 1540. The society has three goals: create schools, convert unbelievers and stop Protestantism. They were instrumental in taking Christianity to India, China, Japan and the New World.
- Convents were also established for females who wanted to become nuns
- Martin Luther was an Augustinian monk who later denounced this “higher way to God” (monasticism) and instead taught that there was only one way to God for everyone to follow (faith)

Christianizing Europe

- For all practical purposes, the Christian Roman Empire ended in 476 when the Germanic commander Odovacar deposed the reigning emperor of one year and took over without bothering to name himself as an “emperor”
 - By that time, most of the Roman army was made up of German soldiers, so it was mostly Germans fighting Germans anyway
- Germany
 - Warlords ruled the German Visigoths, and they loved to fight and drink and gamble. They faced the Romans starting in the 3rd century and eventually moved into unoccupied territories without much struggle. An Arian monk named Ulfilus converted large groups, warlord by warlord, through forty years of missionary work during the middle of the 4th century. His stories of Christ made the warlords believe Christ himself was a great warlord. Ulfilus translated the Bible into Germanic except for Kings, which he felt was too “bellicose” for them.
- Ireland
 - Patrick was born to Christian parents in coastal England. A Celtic raiding party took him captive in the early 5th century. While a captive, he prayed to God for his freedom and was converted. He escaped after six years and went to France (or maybe Scotland). Then one night, he had a dream that the babies in Ireland were praying for him to return and to tell them about Christ. He studied Christianity and was eventually sent by the pope to Ireland as a missionary.
- France
 - Northern France was founded by Clovis (481-511), a Frankish chief, who was married to a Christian Burgundian woman named Clothilda. She tried to teach Clovis about the one true God, but the death of their first child and the illness of their second caused him to cry “Nonsense!” During a subsequent battle in which Clovis’s defeat was certain, he cried out again, “Jesus Christ, Clothilda says you are the son of the living God, you can give victory to those who trust in you. Give me victory and I will be baptized. I have tried my gods and they have deserted me. I call on you. Only save me!” He won. When the Bishop of Rheims baptized Clovis, he advanced to the font like another Constantine. The bishop told him, “Bend your neck. Worship what you burned and burn what you worshipped.” Clovis then asked all his subjects to convert as well, and they did.
- Britain
 - Britain was converted from the north by a Celtic missionary Columba and from the south by Benedictine monks led by (a different) Augustine sent by pope Gregory the Great in 596. The two groups met in the 7th century in the kingdom of one King Oswy. The Romans appealed to St. Peter as the “guard of the gates of heaven”, so Oswy threw his lot in with them and the Celts eventually went home. Gregory appointed Augustine to be the first Archbishop of Canterbury, and Augustine built a monastery there.

Heroes of the Christian Faith
Lesson 13 – 10/25/2009

- Scandinavia
 - The English sent missionaries all over Northern Europe. One important missionary was Winfred (a.k.a. Boniface) commissioned by Pope Gregory II in 729. He was successful at converting many of the pagan populations. Legend tells that he felled a large sacred tree in the forest of Thor with a single stroke of his ax and then used the wood from the tree to build a chapel to St. Peter on that very spot.

Reuniting the Empire

- After the death of Clovis (see “France” above) the Frankish dynasty declined.
- Muslims invaded Spain in 711 and conquered the weak Visigoths by 718.
- These same Muslims invaded France from Spain. Charles Martel (the hammer) defeated them in 732 and renewed the Frankish empire’s strength.
- Pepin the Short, Charles’ son, succeeded him. In 751, Lombards conquered an area of Italy near Rome known as Ravenna. Boniface crowned Pepin emperor to gain his military support, and Pepin took back Ravenna in 756 and gave these “Papal States” to Rome as a donation.
- Charlemagne, Pepin’s son, succeeded him in 768. He expanded the Frankish kingdom on four sides: southwest into Spain, north into Bavaria and Saxony, east into Hungary and Austria, and southeast into Italy.
- The new “Holy Roman Empire” was established on Christmas day in 800 when Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne following the Christmas mass. Pope Leo did this for service that Charlemagne had rendered earlier that year in putting down a mutiny led by supporters of the previous Pope Adrian I.
- Weaker successors caused the kingdom to fall into feudalism. This is a system in which lords (suzerains) ruled a local area and commoners (vassals) received land and protection from the lord. In return, the vassals paid tribute and provided military service for the lord when needed.
- The Holy Roman Empire remained in name until Napoleon Bonaparte terminated it in 1806.

The Crusades

- Mohammed was born in 570, and by around 610 or so, he had written down the “recitations” (Koran), which he believed he had received from the spirits.
- Jerusalem, Damascus and Cairo fell to the Muslims during the next 100 years.
- Islam spread and first became a real problem in 1065 when the Seljuk Turks began persecuting pilgrims on their way to visit the Holy Land.
- Mistreatment of Christians by the Muslims continued until 1095 when the eastern emperor Alexius I requested help from the western Pope Urban II, and during a sermon in southern France, Urban proclaimed the First Crusade.
- The First Crusade (1096-1099) consisted of 5,000 noblemen as knights from parts of France, Germany and Italy. They defeated the Muslims and took back Jerusalem in a bloody battle.

Heroes of the Christian Faith
Lesson 13 – 10/25/2009

- The Second Crusade (1147-1149) began when Jerusalem again faced a crisis, and Bernard of Clairvaux called for the crusade. Nothing significant occurred, and the crusade melted away after two years.
- The Third Crusade (1189-1192). probably the most famous, began after Muslim leader Saladin retook Jerusalem. King Richard (the Lionhearted) of England led the crusade with two other kings – Philip of France, who turned back, and Frederick of Germany, who was very old and drowned on the way. Richard won many battles against the Muslims. Richard and Saladin eventually agreed to a three-year truce giving free access to Jerusalem by the Europeans.
- The Fourth Crusade (1201-1204) started after Innocent III became Pope. Few responded and those who did found passage expensive. It became a political disaster in which Zara (on the Adriatic sea) and Constantinople were captured, but the soldiers never even made it to the Holy Land.
- A Fifth (1218-1221), Sixth (1228-1229), Seventh (1248-1254) and even an Eighth (1270) Crusade were carried out, but nothing significant happened.
- Acre, the last stronghold of Christianity in Palestine, fell to the Muslims in 1291.

Decline of the Papacy

- By around 1300, national identity similar to what we know today was beginning to establish itself. People began sharing the idea of what it meant to be English, German, French, or Italian.
- The power struggle between the “church” and the “state” was now becoming an increasingly important issue
 - The church had long kept the state subordinate through its powers of excommunication (individuals) or interdict (regions or people groups)
 - The state had long held the power of military force and the perception of what was needed to keep its people protected and in subjection
 - Together, these two powers, the church and the state, had made growth of Christianity possible in Europe
- In 1300, England and France were at war with each other. Both Edward (England) and Philip (France) came upon the same idea of taxing the church in their realms
 - Pope Boniface VIII threatened both kings with excommunication
 - Edward, in turn, threatened to remove military protection from the church
 - Philip, in turn, threatened to prohibit money leaving France going to Rome
 - Boniface, faced with this opposition, backed down gracefully by declaring that the church never meant to cut off contributions for “defense” in times of “dire need” – although the kings defined “defense” and “dire need”
- Other events in the late 13th and 14th centuries further weakened the papacy:
 - King Philip harassed Boniface by legally challenging his election, and the pope died at the age of 86 as the result of these events
 - A new French pope (Clement V) was elected, and he moved the papacy to Avignon, France where it remained for 72 years (Babylonian Captivity)
 - Pope Urban VI was elected in Rome in 1378 but was almost immediately deposed, and so Pope Clement VII was elected. But Urban did not step

Heroes of the Christian Faith
Lesson 13 – 10/25/2009

- down and instead established a new College of Cardinals. So Urban ruled from Rome while Clement ruled from Avignon (Great Papal Schism)
- By 1409, cardinals from both sides met in Pisa. They deposed Urban and Clement and elected a new Pope Alexander V. But neither Urban nor Clement would step down, and so there were now three popes!
 - The Council of Constance (1417) ended the Great Schism by convincing one pope to step aside and deposed the other two. They elected Martin V and established councils supreme over popes.
 - Martin immediately repudiated all the acts of the council except the one that had elected him. He called such “supremacy of councils” heretical.
- By the end of the 14th century, popes had started to move away from the affairs of the church and more toward Italian politics and support of the arts, so the power of the papacy continued to decline