

# Last of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century

Historical Theology

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Author: Lonnie Moore

- I. England
    - A. Viking (Danish) invasion
      1. Halted by Alfred the Great (871-99) who was the king of Wessex.
      2. Forced a peace with the Danes.
      3. Part of agreement: Danish King had to be baptized.
      4. Alfred is the only "the Great" for England. He was known for his virtuous moral character.
      5. Alfred worked to raise the academic and moral standards of the clergy.
      6. Alfred had many Latin documents translated into English including Psalms and Augustine's writings.
      7. Alfred's emphasis on serving as a spiritual leader had a profound effect on England and set the stage for the nation to produce men like John Wyclif (many years later)
      8. Under King Athelstan (925-39) the Danish part of the Isle of Britain became united politically and "spiritually".
    - II. France
      - A. The Norsemen who took over the northwest part of France accepted Christianity.
      - B. These Norsemen were called Normans by the French. Thus, the area called Normandy.
      - C. The Normans conquered southern Italy-taking it way from the Byzantine Empire. This pleased the Catholic Church. (Mid 11<sup>th</sup> century)
      - D. The Normans drove the Muslims out of Sicily. Making the Catholic Church even more glad. (Mid 11<sup>th</sup> century)
    - III. Norman Invasion of England
      - A. The King of England, Edward the Confessor died without a clear heir.
  - B. Four men claimed that they should be the next king of England.
    1. Harold Godwinson: Edward's brother-in-law, was one of Edward's advisors, claimed that Edward promised him the throne.
    2. Harald Hardrada: No direct claim other than related to Danish rulers, had the backing of Harold Godwinson's brother.
    3. Edgar Atheling: A nephew of Edward, closest living relative. May have been promised the throne to continue true Anglo-Saxon rule.
    4. William: No relation to Edward, but had befriended Edward years before. Claimed Edward promised him the throne. William was the King of the Normans.
  - C. Harold goes through the ceremony of being crowned King of England the same week as Edward's death.
  - D. Harald Hardrada invades England in the north. Harold was able to defeat him.
  - E. William invaded in the south. Harold rushes to stop him.
  - F. The Battle of Hastings (1066) Harold and his army made many mistakes and Harold is killed in battle.
  - G. William becomes "the Conqueror" and England is changed for many, many years. The English language undergoes a transformation during those years.
  - H. Makes the Catholic Church stronger in England, especially politically.
- IV. The Papacy
  - A. Emperor Otto II (Holy Roman Empire)
    1. Was HRE ruler 996-1002

2. Named his cousin to the papacy in 996. This cousin took the name Gregory V. He was only 23, but only lived 3 more years.
  3. Otto then tabs a French scholar who becomes Sylvester II. He revived works in mathematics. He invented a mechanical clock. He, also, worked to rid the Church of simony and priests taking concubines.
- B. At the death of Otto, the Crescentius family took control of the papacy.
1. They picked a 15-year-old to be pope: Benedict IX
  2. Twelve years later Benedict gave up the papacy. Gregory VI became pope.
  3. Gregory tried to make many reforms through letters and councils. But the leadership of the Church had become so political over spiritual that he made next to no headway.
  4. Suddenly, Benedict IX decided to claim the papacy again.
  5. To make matters worse the Crescentius family named another man pope: Sylvester III.
- C. The King of Germany, Henry III, stepped in.
1. He called a council (Synod of Sutri) in December 1046.
  2. They immediately removed Benedict and Sylvester.
  3. They liked the attempts to at church reform done by Gregory, but they removed him because he had paid money to Benedict to get him to give the papacy to him.
  4. They name Clement II (1046-47) as the new pope and try to end many corruptions especially simony.
  5. Clement died in a few months, so Henry picks Bruno to be the next pope.
  6. Bruno said he would not take the papacy unless he was elected to it.
7. Bruno, Hildebrand and Humbert journeyed to Rome.
- D. Bruno, Hildebrand, and Humbert
1. Bruno wanted to enter Rome as a pilgrim. He came barefoot. People learned of his journey and lined the roads cheering.
  2. After entering Rome, he accepted the papacy and became Leo IX.
  3. He and his friends worked to end simony and promote clerical celibacy.
  4. These two reforms are tied together to make sure that the church offices don't just go to the rich and powerful.
  5. A person should not be able to buy the office and should not be able to hand down the office to their children.
  6. Leo made trips to Germany and France to try to enforce these reforms. Considerable success in Germany, but very little in France.
  7. Two moves by Leo that he probably would do differently if he had had a chance:
    - a. He led an army against the Norsemen of southern Italy and Sicily. Leo's army lost and Leo was captured.
    - b. He appointed Humber to be an ambassador to Constantinople, but this led to the Schism of 1054.
  8. New pope was elected by Romans but it had to be a German: Victor II. He continued the reforms of Leo IX.
  9. Second Lateran Council: Determined that the popes would be elected by the Cardinals.
  10. First pope elected by cardinals: Alexander II—also a reformer
  11. Next up was Hildebrand: took the name Gregory VII (1073-1085)
    - a. Wanted to unite all the Christian world under the

papacy. One flock, one shepherd.

- b. Bible could NOT be translated into other languages
- c. Teaching and interpretation of the Bible in the hands of Rome.
- d. Planned to take military offensive against Islam.
- e. His reforms were unpopular in France but William the Conqueror in England embraced the system.

12. Gregory vs. Henry (Investiture Controversy)

- a. Henry IV was the emperor of the HRE
- b. He believed he needed to be able to appoint bishops
- c. The result was a long clash between the emperor and the pope.
- d. At one point, Henry was forced to beg for forgiveness.
- e. Later, Henry would march on Rome. This caused Gregory to flee and Henry ended up marching into Rome as the victor.

13. The next elected pope: Urban II  
The First Crusade (1096-1099)

V.

- A. Ground work had been laid by Gregory VII.
- B. Years of getting along with the Muslims in the Holy Land began to erode when the Seljuk Turks took over as the ruling group.
- C. They made life difficult for Christians that still lived in the Holy Land.
- D. They also began to clash with the Byzantines.
- E. The Byzantine emperor requested military help.
- F. Urban II decided to call for faithful Christians to take up arms and march on Jerusalem. Also to keep

“Christian” Knights from fighting each other.

- G. A French priest, Peter the Hermit led the “People’s Crusade”. They committed many atrocities against Jews as they marched through the HRE. They were wiped out of Turkish armies when they marched out of Byzantine territory into regions under Turkish control in what is not Turkey.
- H. Many members of European nobility led the “Princes’ Crusade”. They won three major battles in Anatolia (Turkey). Next, they set siege to Antioch and won. Then they were able to reach Jerusalem. They took Jerusalem and established four Crusader kingdoms in the Holy Land.

From Ligonier Ministries:

The Bible can be a dangerous book if misused and abused. In the history of the church, the misunderstanding of the Bible has led to many serious problems, ranging from false doctrine to legalistic customs and misdirected lives. One of the most blatant examples of this is the Crusades: a series of wars led by Europeans in the name of Christ against Islamic states in the Near East during the Middle Ages.

The idea that Christians can use the sword to advance their cause might seem to be justified by passages like the following: “May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!” (Ps. 72:11); “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel” (Ps. 2:8–9); and “The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth” (Ps. 110:5–6).

To use these verses to justify violence in behalf of Christianity, however, misses the true meaning of these passages, since in reality they point to a spiritual extension of Christ’s kingdom in history and to the final judgment at the end of history. The non-violent message of Christ is clear from many passages:

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. . . . Repay no one evil for evil. . . . If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God. (Rom. 12:14, 17–19)

Eph. 6:11-12

II Cor. 10:3-5

