

The Golden Age of the Medieval Church – Part 1

Introduction

a. objectives

1. subject – an overview of the apex of the W medieval church in the papacy and the Crusades
2. aim – to cause us to grasp how the church now fully split into two parts and how each went its way

b. outline

1. The Movement of Renewal
2. The Great Schism
3. The Crusades

c. overview

1. we have arrived at the “middle” of the medieval age (c. 1000) – beginning the **Golden Age**:
 - a. the Carolingian empire of the W has declined, which caused the yearning for a “new order”
 - b. the corruption of the papacy was seen by many of the truly faithful as a great scandal
 - c. thus, it was from the *monasteries* where a wave of reform came that conquered the papacy

I. The Movement of Renewal

Content

a. the early reforms

1. the rise of monastic, canonical, and papal reform (in the late 10th – early 11th C.)
 - a. like the papacy, the monasteries had also fallen to greed and personal aggrandizement
 - b. the monasteries had fallen from the *Rule of Benedict* (i.e. more about property than piety)
2. **reform #1**: a general reenactment of the *Rule* in monasteries emanating from Cluny in France
3. **reform #2**: an attack on *simony* – the buying and selling of ecclesiastical posts
4. **reform #3**: an attack on *clerical marriage* – the rise of celibacy amongst the clergy
5. **reform #4**: the centrality of *papal obedience* – the need for obedience of the entire church to him
6. **reform #5**: the problem of *wealth* – the wealth of the monasteries preventing genuine piety
 - a. it was *this* issue which eventually doomed *most* of these monastic reforms
 - b. however, the *incessant* call for these reforms would lead the church into direct conflict with the W empire it has *itself* created ...

b. the church and the empire clash

1. the issue of reform came to a head between Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand) and Emperor Henry IV
 - a. Gregory insisted on the above program of reformation, but Henry insisted that the emperor still be allowed to appoint bishops that would be supportive of the empire itself
 - b. when Henry deposed a bishop, Gregory ordered him to Rome; a military contingent attacked Gregory on 12/24/1075, and Henry declared him deposed
 - c. Gregory was freed and declared that Henry was “under interdict” (or subject to eternal discipline)
 - d. so, Henry went to Canossa to appeal Gregory’s sentence, had to beg entrance for 3 days, but was eventually forgiven
 - e. this began a series of disputes between crown and pope; eventually the reforming popes prevailed: clerical celibacy became universal in the W, simony died down (for a while), and the power of the papacy continued to grow to its apex in the 13th C.

II. The Great Schism

Content

a. the Great Schism of 1054

1. the issue of clerical celibacy and the use of unleavened bread in communion (as a part of the dogma of transubstantiation) was condemned by the Bulgarian archbishop Leo of Orchid
 - a. this on top of the use of the *filioque* in the Nicene Creed by the W (“and from the Son”)
2. Pope Leo IX sent Cardinal Humbert (his legate) to deal with the issue
 - a. Humbert was a zealous reformer – he despised the married status of the clergy in the E, and the authority of the Byzantine emperor over the church (**see above**)

- b. on June 16, 1054, when patriarch Michael I was about to celebrate communion at the cathedral of *Hagia Sophia*, Humbert barged in, declared the patriarch and his followers *excommunicated*, shook the dust from his feet, and left – the Great Schism was complete

II. The Crusades

Content

a. the goals *romanticized* into the Crusades

1. to save the Byzantine Empire from the Muslim incursion into Constantinople
 - a. which survived, but only into the 15th C.
2. to reunite the Eastern and Western churches
 - a. very briefly, but with the result of even *greater* suspicion and hatred
3. to retake the Holy Lands from the Muslims
 - a. taken for about a century, but retaken by the Muslims eventually
4. to win heaven (in a *direct* participation in military conquest; e.g. *jihad*)
 - a. in direct *contradiction* to the very essence of Christianity itself (*i.e.* faith, hope, and love)

b. the *impetus* of the First Crusade

1. the Muslim control of the Holy Lands, curtailing *pilgrimages* to its holy places
2. the rise of the Seljuk Turks (now Muslim) threatening the Byzantine empire
3. the economic hardships throughout Europe (famine, disease, etc.)
 - a. refueled the “apocalyptic” dreams of earlier centuries (as soldiers of Christ)
4. the call by the Byzantine Emperor Alexis I to Pope Urban II for support against the Turks
 - a. proclaimed at the Council of Clermont (1095) with the cry of *Deus vult* (God wills it)

c. the *precursor* to the First Crusade

1. a disorganized mob left from Cologne for Jerusalem (under Peter the Hermit)
2. forcibly taking provisions from other Christians, and killing many Jews along the way
3. most died before reaching Constantinople, the rest joined the *official* crusade there

d. the *official* organization of the First Crusade

1. led by Adhemar, bishop of Puy (Urban II’s personal representative), who died at Antioch
2. the Crusaders came from all over Europe and met up at Constantinople
3. they moved SE and took Nicea (with the Byzantines entering first to retain it for themselves)
4. they continued SE through Asia Minor, struggling through the mountains and various Muslim outposts, before arriving in Antioch in Syria
 - a. the siege of Antioch was difficult: the city had more supplies than the attackers, and the Crusaders had many desertions
 - b. after being “let in” by a Christian inside, the Crusaders found themselves under siege by a Muslim army that arrived four days later
 - c. but, someone had a vision of the Holy Lance (used to pierce Christ’s side) being buried in Antioch; when led to the spot, they dug up a spear!
 - d. convinced it was real, they fasted/prayed for 5 days, and were possessed of such zeal that the Turkish army broke and ran
5. they continued S through Palestine to Jerusalem, arriving there on June 7, 1099
 - a. both sides were prepared for a long siege
 - b. but, hearing that a large army was approaching, the Crusaders marched around the city (Jericho-like) for a few days, then attacked, breaching the wall and taking it on July 15
6. the Crusaders then “reorganized” the conquered lands under the leaders, each taking titles like “King of Jerusalem” (but it was short-lived)

e. the *later* Crusades

1. the First Crusade was the only “official” crusade; but, the crusading spirit lingered for centuries, and various mobs rose up to march to the Holy Lands under the fiery preaching of conquest
 - a. such as the “Children’s Crusades” – the sending of God’s “innocents,” most of which died
2. the Second Crusade – precipitated by the Fall of Edessa (1144) to the Sultan Aleppo
 - a. Louis VII of France and Conrad III of Germany led an army of 200,000, but they were defeated by the Turks and accomplished little
3. the Third Crusade – precipitated by the retaking of Jerusalem (1187) by Saladin, Sultan of Egypt
 - a. Pope Clement III called for a new crusade, which was led by Emperor Barbarossa, Richard the Lionhearted of England, and Philip II of France
 - b. it was a dismal failure, resulting in Richard’s capture by Germany for a ransom

4. the Fourth Crusade – precipitated by preaching against the injustice of the poor vs. the rich
 - a. the goal: attack Saladin in Egypt, with Foulques de Neuilly raising the army
 - b. but, the Crusade was rerouted to Constantinople due to a *rivalry* over the E throne
 - c. the city was taken, and both a Latin emperor and patriarch were named (the Latin Empire)
 - d. the Byzantines resisted until 1261 when the Empire of Nicea retook Constantinople
5. the remaining Crusades
 - a. four more crusades were launched, but they accomplished little, ending by 1270
6. the Spanish Reconquista
 - a. the rise of the ancient Visigothic kingdom of Spain against the Muslims
 - b. beginning c. 1031 and continuing virtually unstopped until c. 1248, completed in 1492
- f. the effects of the Crusades**
 1. the highly increased enmity between Christianity and Islam (even to today)
 2. the highly increased enmity between W and E Christianity (even to today)
 3. the enhanced power of the papacy, especially *internationally*
 - a. they called for the Crusades, appointed its leaders, and defined its *holy purpose*
 - b. to its apex under Innocent III (at the time of the Fourth Crusade and the Latin Empire)
 4. the rise of *mysticism* within Christianity
 - a. increased contacts with the Holy Land increased people's attention to Jesus' *physicality*
 - b. which produced the *eneration* of relics that streamed into Europe
 5. the rise of *monastic military orders* (such as the Templars in Jerusalem)
 6. the use of military force against *heresy*
 - a. **e.g.** the use of force by Innocent III (in 1209) against the *Bogomils* in S France
 - b. **e.g.** the Inquisition
 7. the introduction of *Muslim* and *Jewish* philosophical works into W Europe
 8. the economic and demographic conversion from the *barter system to the monetary system*
 - a. creating an entirely new system of trade (overthrowing the nobility system)
 - b. creating the rise of great cities (the bourgeoisie) and a greater divide between rich & poor