

# ***Church History***



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21<sup>st</sup> century



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- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
  - *The “Dark Ages” Overview*
  - *Flagrant Abuses of Authority: Zeno, Theodoric, and Clovis*



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- The Fall of Rome left a power vacuum
  - 476 Romulus Augustus was *deposed* as Emperor
    - Odoacer reigned over an independent Italian *kingdom*, disconnected from any official ties to Rome or to Constantinople's "Byzantine" Empire
    - But the Byzantine Emperor Zeno nonetheless cultivated a relationship with Odoacer, acknowledging him as the rightful "Dux" of Italy
      - But that didn't stop Odoacer from expanding his territories eastward, toward Constantinople in part, because of the rise of Clovis in Gaul





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  - But the Byzantine Emperor Zeno nonetheless cultivated a relationship with Odoacer, acknowledging him as the rightful "Dux" of Italy
  - And Zeno was having his own problems with the rise in popularity and strength of Ostrogoth chief Theodoric within his own territories





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  - 476 Romulus Augustus was *deposed* as Emperor
    - So Zeno got clever—he encouraged the Rugians to attack Italy from what's now Austria which forced Odoacer to turn north and take his army into Austria to cut them off from their support from their home base
    - Then Zeno encouraged Theodoric to take *his* tribes and invade a relatively undefended Italy
      - Thus, Zeno dealt with two potential problems without “firing a shot” from his own military



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Theodoric actually looked more like this
  - Even his *name* has been muddled by bad history
    - Several medieval Church historians connected his name to the Greek *Theodoros* (Θεό-δωρος or “Gift of God”), pointing to him being blessed by God, even at birth
    - But his name was actually the Old Germanic *Theudorix* (*Þeudo-rīks* or “Ruler of the People), completely etymologically unrelated to the Greek name
    - But it *does* suggest something about Theodoric's nature and his upbringing





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- The Fall of Rome left a power vacuum

476

493

Romulus Augustus was *deposed* as Emperor

Theodoric made a treaty with Odoacer

- He called Odoacer back from Austria and offered to co-reign over the Kingdom of Italy
  - They held a great banquet together in Ravenna which is where Theodoric murdered Odoacer publicly, with his own hands, declaring himself sole ruler of Italy





# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Other than that, Theodoric was really a pretty good king and ruler
  - He kept Clovis bottled up in Gaul and eased tensions between the barbarian tribes
  - He even married Clovis' sister to help draw the tribes closer together politically



# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Other than that, Theodoric was really a pretty good king and ruler
    - He kept Clovis bottled up in Gaul and eased tensions between the barbarian tribes
    - As a strong Arian Christian, Theodoric urged the conversion of the pagan tribes to Christianity while still protecting the rights of minority religions
      - For instance, when Arian mobs in Ravenna burned down the synagogues in the city in 519, he demanded that the city leaders rebuild all of them at their own expense





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    - He kept Clovis bottled up in Gaul and eased tensions between the barbarian tribes
    - As a strong Arian Christian, Theodoric urged the conversion of the pagan tribes to Christianity while still protecting the rights of minority religions
    - He also protected the rights of former Roman citizens—they were subject to Roman (Byzantine) law, while his Ostrogoths were subject to their own Germanic laws
    - Under Theodoric's reign, Europe experienced more peace than it had known in over 200 years



# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- **The Fall of Rome left a power vacuum**

476 Romulus Augustus was *deposed* as Emperor

493 Theodoric made a treaty with Odoacer

496 Clovis was baptised in Rheims

- Theodoric had been busy growing his kingdom, but so had Clovis and his Franks

- But Clovis was a staunch pagan, and Theodoric had encouraged the Germanic tribes to convert to Arian Christianity—so now Clovis was running into more and more tension, as the Christian tribes resisted joining his growing kingdom





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**Clovis was baptised in Rheims**

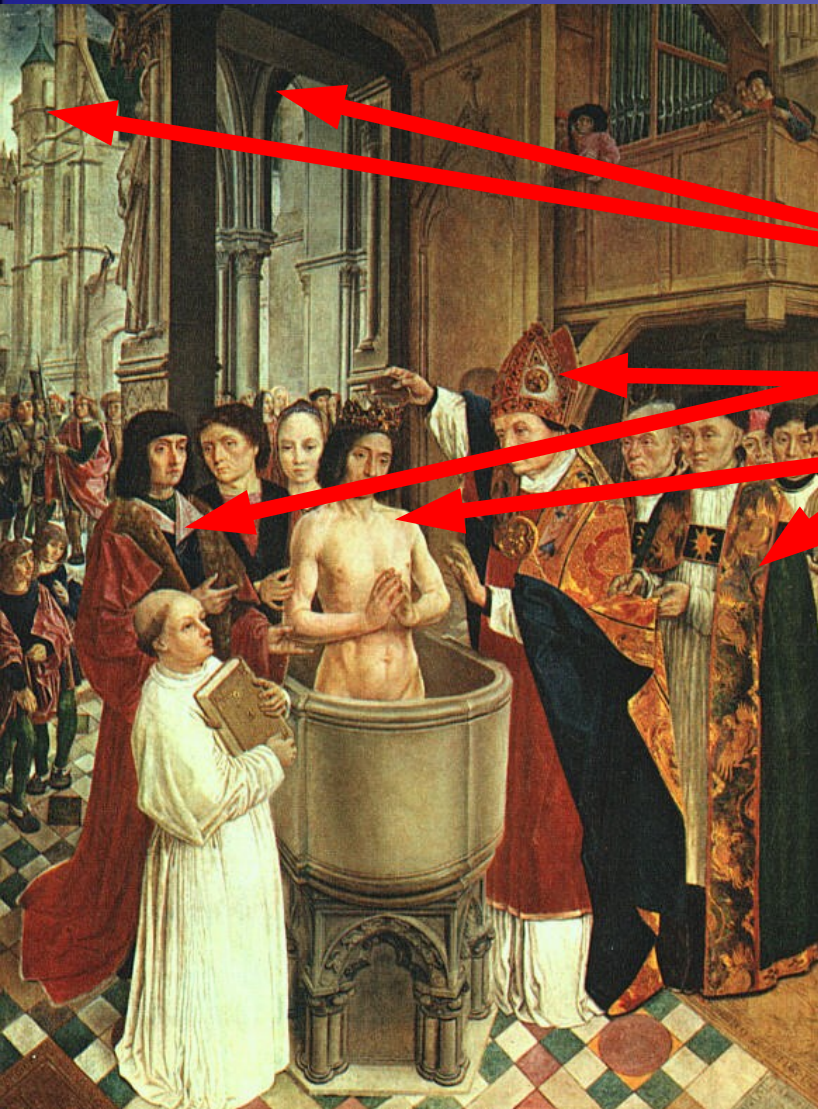
- Theodoric had been busy growing his kingdom, but so had Clovis and his Franks
- **So Clovis' wife, Clothilde, convinced him to get baptised into the Christian faith as a political tool**
  - But Clothilde was Burgundian by birth, and thus *Catholic*, not *Arian*—so Clovis was baptised as a Catholic, too (not that he really believed any of it)





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Clovis had a unique understanding of what it meant to be a Christian
    - He had been baptised, so he was looking forward to going to Heaven
      - (and there are so many things wrong with this painting that I barely even know where to *start* picking on it)
        - wrong architecture
        - wrong clothes
        - wrong hat
        - and Clovis never—never—looked as mild, reverent, or penitent as this





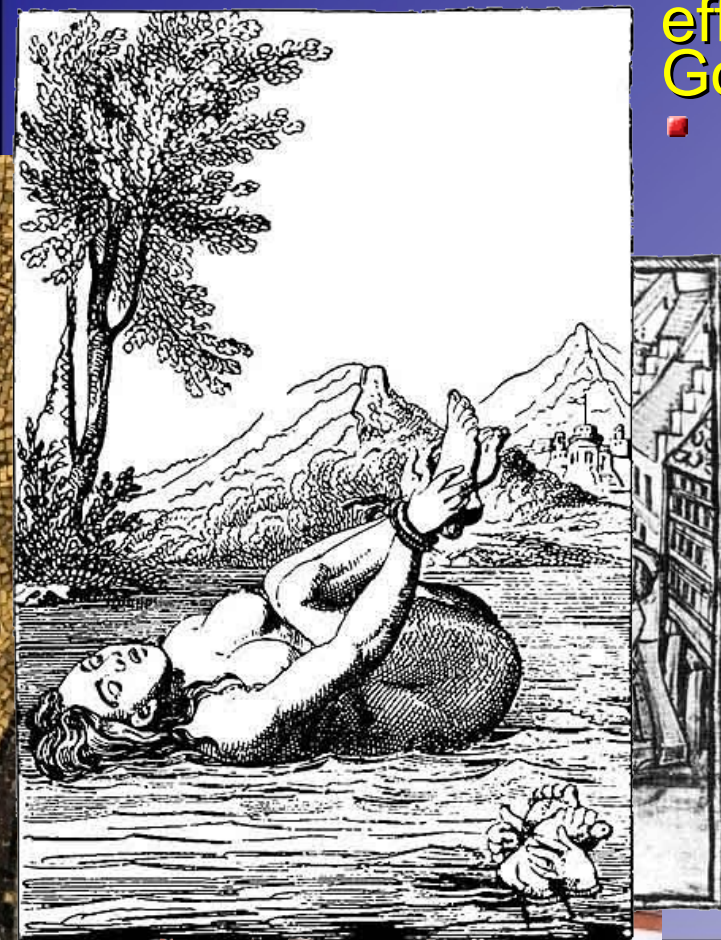
# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Clovis had a unique understanding of what it meant to be a Christian
    - He had been baptised, so he was looking forward to going to Heaven, but he still had no problem making his prayers and sacrifices to the Teutonic gods such as Týr (or Tīw) and the All-Father god called Wōdan and Thórr—the gods from whose names we get our days of the week Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday



# *The Early Middle Ages*

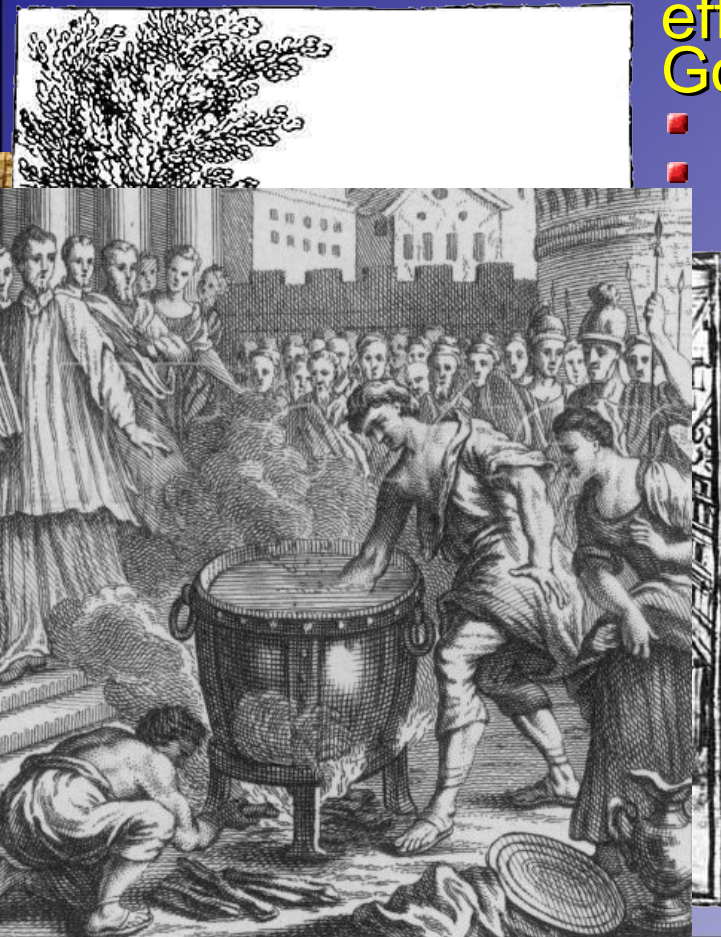
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Clovis had a unique understanding of what it meant to be a Christian
  - He also had a very superstitious take on religion in general, as did many of the barbarians
  - As part of his Frankish law, he signed into effect the law of the Ordeal to gauge the will of God in a criminal trial
  - Variations included the Ordeal of the Water, where the accused was bound hand and foot with a stone tied around their neck, and then was dropped into a stream
  - If they sank, they were guilty and *deserved* to drown (since, if they were innocent, then surely a miracle-working God would have somehow made them float to save them)





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    - As part of his Frankish law, he signed into effect the law of the Ordeal to gauge the will of God in a criminal trial
      - Variations included the Ordeal of the Water,
      - And also the Ordeal of the *Boiling Water*, where the accused was forced to pluck a stone from the bottom of a cauldron of boiling water, then was thrown into a dungeon
      - Three days later, the wounds would be examined by a priest, and if they had festered, the accused was guilty (since, if they were innocent, God would have somehow healed their wounds)



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Clovis had a unique understanding of what it meant to be a Christian
  - He also had a very superstitious take on religion in general, as did many of the barbarians
  - All of this is to point out how—just like under the Romans—Christianity was again reflecting the contemporary theologies that already existed amongst the people
  - But where in the Roman and Greek cultures, Christianity's theologies had been influenced by the philosophers and pagan temple structures, in this micro-sized and localized *post-Roman* world, theology was being influenced by the superstitions of the local and uneducated *peasants*—which we'll see carried on throughout the Middle Ages (and, for that matter, even into the modern era in isolated places such as Appalachia)





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- Clovis began asking local Catholic bishops and priests to support him—which they eagerly did
  - So even though his faith was probably bogus, his Catholicism *did* serve to create a united political front against the *Arian* faith of other Germanic tribal leaders, and ultimately helped push the Visigoths out of Gaul and down into Hispania



# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - As for the Church itself, it was still splintered after the disastrous Council of Chalcedon in 450
  - Western churches taught Chalcedon's conclusions that supported Pope Leo and argued that Jesus was both fully God and fully human, with no separations





# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - As for the Church itself, it was still splintered after the disastrous Council of Chalcedon in 450
  - Western churches taught Chalcedon's conclusions
  - Southern churches taught monophysitism—which argued that Jesus had one *melled* nature—an unprecedented *combination* of Divine and human



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  - As for the Church itself, it was still splintered after the disastrous Council of Chalcedon in 450
    - Western churches taught Chalcedon's conclusions
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    - Eastern (Nestorian) churches taught dyophysitism—that Christ had two, *distinct* natures





# ***The Early Middle Ages***

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  - As for the Church itself, it was still splintered after the disastrous Council of Chalcedon in 450
    - Western churches taught Chalcedon's conclusions
    - Southern churches taught monophysitism
    - Eastern (Nestorian) churches taught dyophysitism
    - Celtic churches were kinda doing their own thing



to India

to Egypt



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment<sup>2</sup>—
  - Actually—once again—that's par for the course for the Celtic churches
    - Across Europe, Roman power structures and urban centers were crumbling after the fall of the Western Empire
    - But in Ireland, there had never *been* a strong Roman presence like there had been in England (and even after the Roman legions left England, the island still served as a shield for Ireland against invasions by European barbarians)
    - And the rule in Ireland had *always* been localized—never urbanized—under multiple kings and chieftains
      - So the “localization effect” that the rest of Europe was experiencing didn't feel any *different* for the Irish





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    - And the rule in Ireland had *always* been localized—never urbanized—under multiple kings
      - So the “localization effect” that the rest of Europe was experiencing didn't feel any *different* for the Irish
  - In short, the fall of the Western Empire arguably had little to no immediate effect on Ireland or its churches
    - If anything, it took some of the pressure off of them, and Ireland's churches continued to see an explosion of education and growth



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- The Fall of Rome left a power vacuum
  - 482
    - Zeno decided to rectify the Church's division
    - With Patriarch Acacius of Constantinople, he devised the *Henotikon* (ένωτικόν or “act of union”) to appease everyone
      - (historical note: this tactic never works)



to India

to Egypt





# The Early Middle Ages

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  - Zeno decided to rectify the Church's division
  - With Patriarch Acacius of Constantinople, he devised the *Henotikon* (ἐνωτικόν or “act of union”) to appease everyone
  - Basically, their declaration went like this—
    - 1) We're all going to agree to support the condemnation of Nestorius (the *two-natures* guy) and of Eutyches (the *one-nature* guy), just like we did at Chalcedon
    - 2) Then we're never going to talk about how many natures Jesus had ever again
  - Strangely, no one liked this solution
    - The Southern and Eastern churches felt abandoned and patronized
    - Pope Felix III excommunicated Acacius for usurping the authority of Rome and ignoring the *whole point* of the Council of Chalcedon
      - (he was especially frustrated that Acacius had allowed a monophysite bishop to be installed as the Patriarch in Alexandria without excommunicating him)



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- The Fall of Rome left a power vacuum
  - 482 Zeno decided to rectify the Church's division
  - 484 In what became known as the "Acacian Schism," the Eastern and Western Churches officially broke away from each other for the next 35 years
    - It wasn't the *last* time time that this was going to happen...

