

# ***Church History***



# ***Church History***

- *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



# ***Church History***

- *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 “Dark Ages” Overview*
  - *Flagrant Abuses of Authority: Zeno, Theodoric, and Clovis*
  - *Auctoritas Sacrata Pontificum: Gelasius*
  - *The Rise of the Monk: Benedict, Brendan, and Dennis*
  - *The Politics of Death: Justinian and Columba*





# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- The Fall of Rome left a power vacuum  
Strong leaders arose to grab power for themselves
  - There's a "civilized" monophysite kingdom in the East, now led by Justinian
  - There's an barbarian Arian kingdom in Italy, now led by Athalaric, grandson of Theodoric
  - There's a barbarian Catholic kingdom in Gaul, now led by Chlothar, son of Clovis



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
- 533
  - Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - He rightly saw that Athalaric and Chlothar weren't as strong as their predecessors, and he also saw that the West was falling apart
    - The East was still as “civilized” as ever, while the West was slipping more and more backwards
    - For instance, it was at this point in history that the Church began using incense censers in their services—*not* because incense was burned in Old Testament services, but because the smell of unwashed human body odor was becoming so offensive in medieval services





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force  
533 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - He rightly saw that Athalaric and Chlothar weren't as strong as their predecessors, and he also saw that the West was falling apart
    - The East was still as “civilized” as ever, while the West was slipping more and more backwards
  - His wife, Theodora, encouraged him
    - She had been a famous exotic dancer in the city, and renowned not only for her sexiness, but also for her “street-smart” ruthlessness





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - In order to finance his military conquests of the West and treaties with the Persians, Justinian regularly over-taxed his citizens, stole from his nobles, and otherwise defaulted on loans, lied about his personal wealth, etc.
  - Strangely, this didn't go over well with his subjects
    - In 532, tempers erupted at a chariot match, and fans of opposing teams joined together to oppose Justinian, and the rioters spilled out into the city itself, chanting, “*Nika!*” (“*Níka*” or “Conquer!”)
    - In the process, they destroyed much of the city of Constantinople, including the *Μεγάλη Ἐκκλησία* (“*Megálē Ekklēsiā*” or “Great Church”) that John Chrysostom had preached in
      - Later, Justinian rebuilt it and it became known as the *Hagia Sophia* (or “Holy Wisdom”)





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - In order to finance his military conquests of the West and treaties with the Persians, Justinian regularly over-taxed his citizens, stole from his nobles, and otherwise defaulted on loans, lied about his personal wealth, etc.
  - Strangely, this didn't go over well with his subjects
    - When the rioters besieged the palace and tried to crown their own emperor, Justinian decided to abandon his throne and escape into exile
    - But Theodora declared that she was staying put
      - “Purple is a perfect color to wear at one's funeral” she said  
(i.e.; “I'd rather die as royalty than live as a commoner again”)





# *The Early Middle Ages*

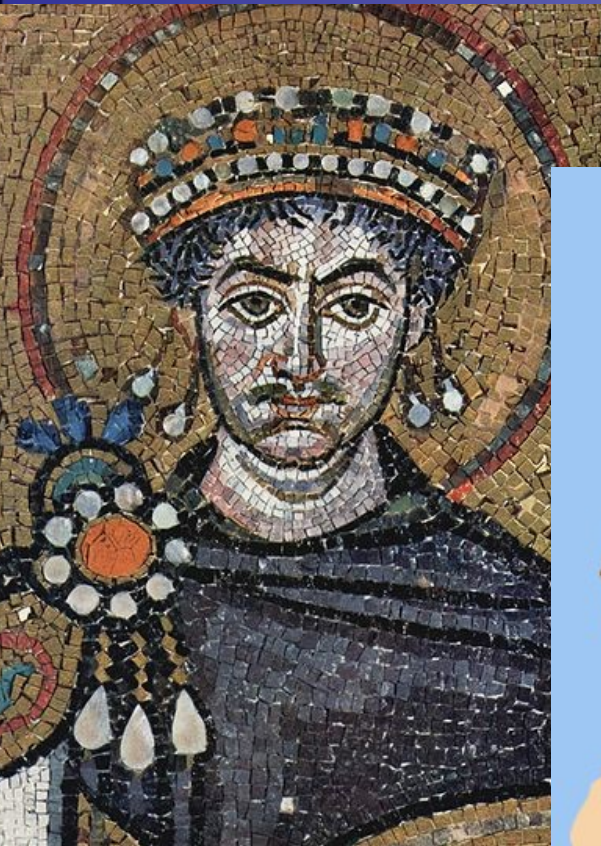
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - In order to finance his military conquests of the West and treaties with the Persians, Justinian regularly over-taxed his citizens, stole from his nobles, and otherwise defaulted on loans, lied about his personal wealth, etc.
  - Strangely, this didn't go over well with his subjects
    - When the rioters besieged the palace and tried to crown their own emperor, Justinian decided to abandon his throne and escape into exile
    - So Justinian rallied, came up with a sneaky plan, and ended up killing 30,000 of his own people to quell the riots
      - With few enemies left alive to stand against him, he finalized his plans to take back the West





# *The Early Middle Ages*

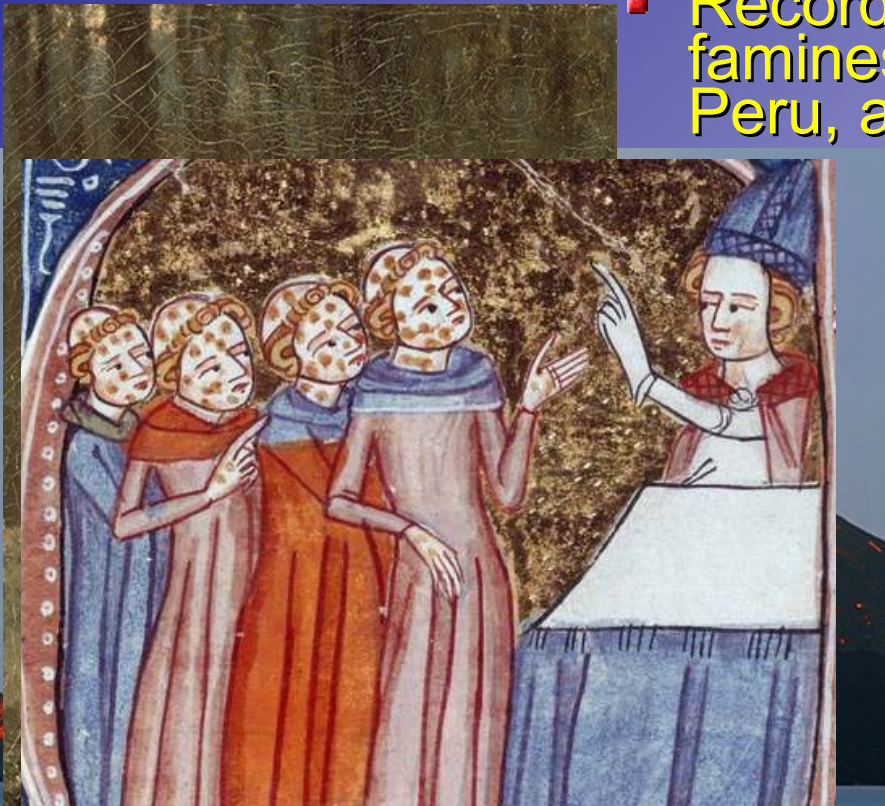
- Every issue seemed to be solved by *force*
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
    - He rightly saw that Athalaric and Chlothar weren't as strong as their predecessors, and he also saw that the West was falling apart
    - Europe had been divided between tribes but Justinian's War made significant gains, and came close to re-creating the Empire
      - But it was *enormously* costly, both financially and in terms of human life





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by *force*
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
    - Back in 535, the Indonesian volcano called Krakatoa erupted
      - The eruption was significant enough that it affected weather patterns around the world for the next year
      - Record cold temperatures, droughts, and famines were reported in China, Ireland, Peru, and across the globe
      - Constantinople began heavily importing grain from Egypt to feed its starving populace
      - With the grain came thousands of rats, and with the rats came millions of fleas, and with the fleas came bubonic plague
        - So the Plague in Europe was ultimately caused by a volcano that erupted 6,000 miles away, 6 years earlier





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by *force*
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
    - Back in 535, the Indonesian volcano called Krakatoa erupted
    - At its height, the Plague was killing 5,000 people a day in Constantinople
      - It ultimately killed half of the population of Europe—upwards of 100 million people
      - As we've said, much of Europe (especially the cities) became abandoned ghost towns
      - And still, Justinian continued collecting his massive taxes
        - In fact, if your neighbor died of plague, you were now responsible for *his* taxes, too





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
    - Back in 535, the Indonesian volcano called Krakatoa erupted
    - At its height, the Plague was killing 5,000 people a day in Constantinople
    - Even Justinian contracted the plague
      - He didn't die from it, but he was scarred for life, both physically and psychologically
      - And with the massive loss of life and revenue that came with the plague—especially among the Empire's military—Justinian's reconquest of Europe began to fizzle
        - They just couldn't hold onto what they'd re-conquered

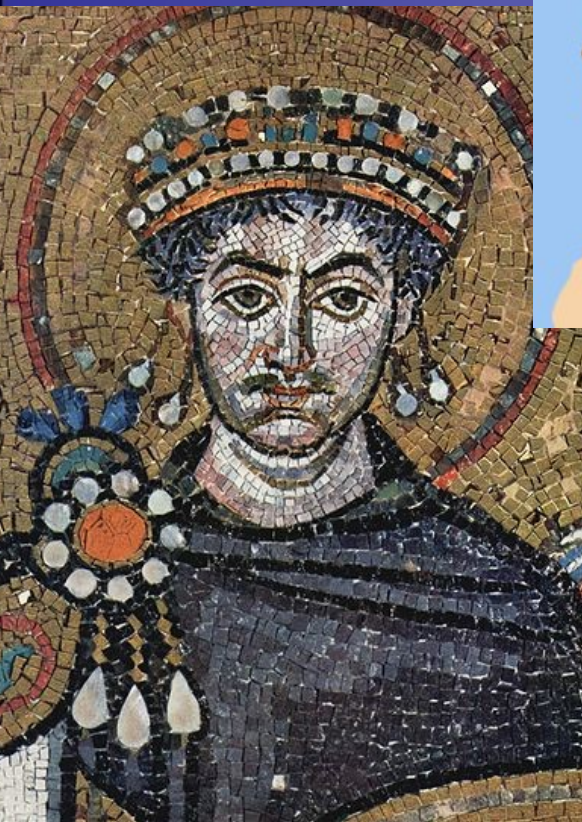


# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by *force*

533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West

541



- Ironically, though the initial result of the reconquest was an increased sense of unity and communication throughout Europe, stretching the resources of the East so far, so fast, arguably led to the ultimate collapse of *any* kind of centralized structure across the continent





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
    - Irony #2—it was the horrors of the plague that drew the increasingly superstitious survivors in Europe to cling to any rituals that made them feel safe in the midst of such devastation and thus, the *Candlemas*—seen since Gelasius as primarily the “*Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary*”—became suddenly popular
      - People prayed to a purified Mary that she would purify and preserve *their* bodies from the plague as well



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - In 520, a monk named Fionán (or Finnian) in Clonard, Ireland, received a vision from an angel that he should found his own monastic order
  - The school he founded quickly grew to 3,000 monks, and included the famous *Dá apstol décc na hÉirenn* (“The Twelve Apostles of Ireland”)—almost all of whom went on to do spectacular things for the Kingdom of God
    - including Brendan, whose voyage we talked about last week





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - In 520, a monk named Fionán (or Finnian) in Clonard, Ireland, received a vision from an angel that he should found his own monastic order
  - The school he founded quickly grew to 3,000 monks, and included the famous *Dá apstol décc na hÉirenn* (“The Twelve Apostles of Ireland”)—almost all of whom went on to do spectacular things for the Kingdom of God
    - including Brendan, whose voyage we talked about last week, and Cainnech, who founded the *Cill Chainnigh* (“The Church of Cainnech”) from which Kilkenny, Ireland, gets its name



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - In 520, a monk named Fionán (or Finnian) in Clonard, Ireland, received a vision from an angel that he should found his own monastic order
  - The school he founded quickly grew to 3,000 monks, and included the famous *Dá apstol décc na hÉirenn* (“The Twelve Apostles of Ireland”)—almost all of whom went on to do spectacular things for the Kingdom of God
    - including Brendan, whose voyage we talked about last week, and Cainnech, who founded the *Cill Chainnigh* (“The Church of Cainnech”) from which Kilkenny, Ireland, gets its name, and a young monk originally named Crimthann





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment<sup>2</sup>—
  - Crimthann was born to the line of high kings (the *Uí Néill*, or “Sons of King Niall”—later, the O'Neill) in County Donegal, but chose the life of a monk
  - When he did so, he changed his name from *Crimthann* (“The Fox”) to *Colum Cille* (“The Dove of the Church”) to demonstrate his desire to live a more peaceful life in humble service to God...  
...which didn't really end up happening...



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
    - Finnian had come into possession of a Psalter, which he kept at his scriptorium at Clonard
      - On his own time, Colum Cille (aka “Columba” in Latin) made himself a copy of the Psalter so that he could have one of his own to read
      - Finnian was incensed, and took the matter to the clerical court
        - Remember—books were a commodity in general, and a huge deal to the Irish monks in particular
          - So picture the dueling values of the need for propagation of books (i.e.; Columba) and the respect for them as valuable intellectual properties (i.e.; Finnian)





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
    - Finnian had come into possession of a Psalter, which he kept at his scriptorium at Clonard
      - On his own time, Colum Cille (aka “Columba” in Latin) made himself a copy of the Psalter so that he could have one of his own to read
      - Finnian was incensed, and took the matter to the clerical court
      - The court ruled in favor of Finnian so, in true Irish fashion, Columba the Dove gathered a few thousand of his friends and kinsmen and went to war against the Church and Finnian at the Battle of Cúl Dreimhne
        - (To be fair to Columba, it also served as a political battle between the Northern O'Neill tribes and the Southern O'Neill tribes)



# The Early Middle Ages

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
    - Finnian had come into possession of a Psalter, which he kept at his scriptorium at Clonard
      - On his own time, Colum Cille (aka “Columba” in Latin) made himself a copy of the Psalter so that he could have one of his own to read
      - Finnian was incensed, and took the matter to the clerical court
      - The court ruled in favor of Finnian so, in true Irish fashion, Columba the Dove gathered a few thousand of his friends and kinsmen and went to war against the Church and Finnian at the Battle of Cúl Dreimhne
      - The end result was over 3,000 dead Irishmen, and Columba being threatened with excommunication
        - But his friend (and fellow Irish Apostle) Brendan of Birr stepped in to defend him, arguing for exile instead





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
    - Finnian had come into possession of a Psalter, which he kept at his scriptorium at Clonard
      - On his own time, Colum Cille (aka “Columba” in Latin) made himself a copy of the Psalter so that he could have one of his own to read
      - Finnian was incensed, and took the matter to the clerical court
      - The court ruled in favor of Finnian so, in true Irish fashion, Columba the Dove gathered a few thousand of his friends and kinsmen and went to war against the Church and Finnian at the Battle of Cúl Dreimhne
      - The end result was over 3,000 dead Irishmen, and Columba being threatened with excommunication
      - So Columba chose to go to Scotland, promising to convert as many souls as he had taken in the battle



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
    - His kinsman, King Conall of the *Dál Riata*, granted him a small island, which Columba christened, *Iona*





# *The Early Middle Ages*

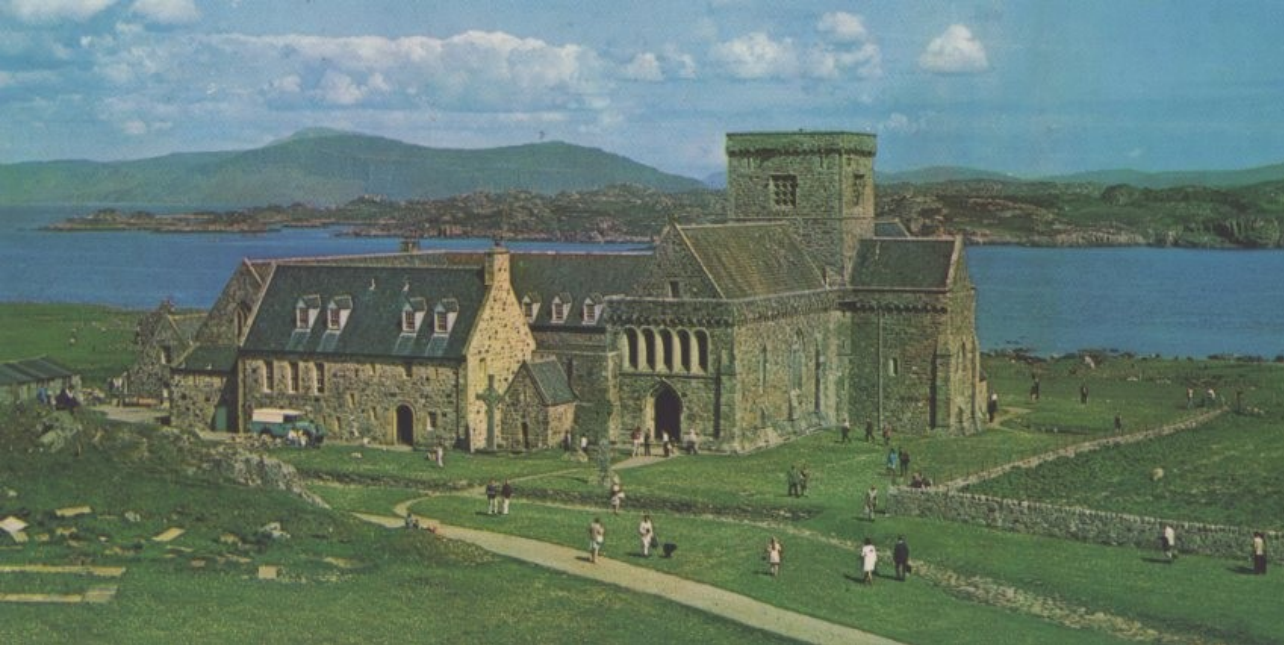
- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
    - His kinsman, King Conall of the *Dál Riata*, granted him a small island, which Columba christened, *Iona* (the Latin form of “Jonah” — which, in Hebrew, means “dove”)





# *The Early Middle Ages*

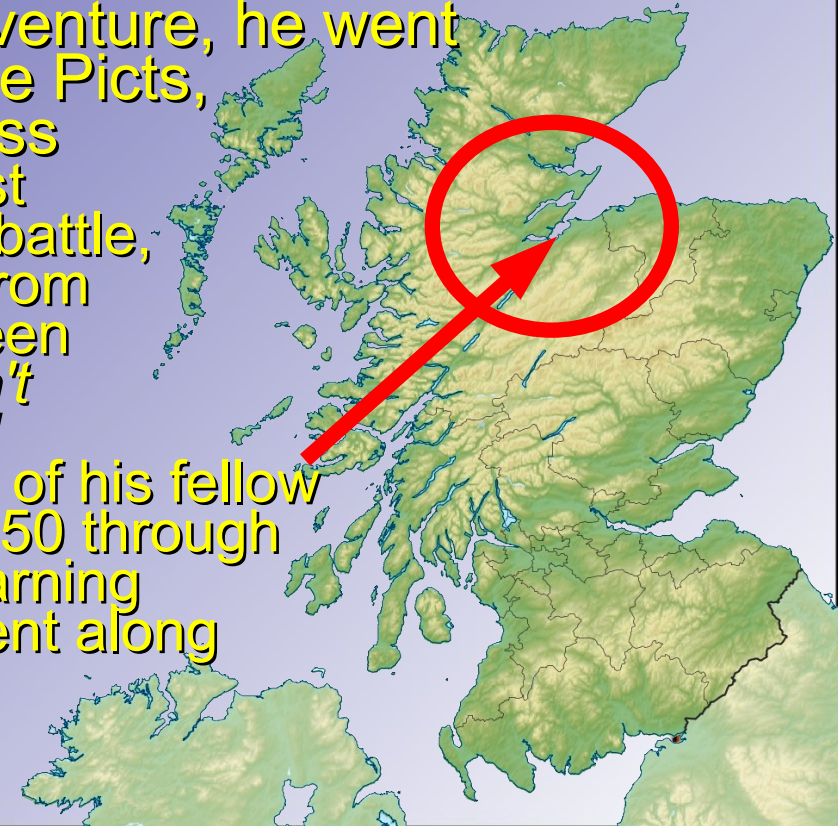
- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
    - His kinsman, King Conall of the *Dál Riata*, granted him a small island, which Columba christened, *Iona*
      - Here, he established a monastery which is still active and famous to this day





# *The Early Middle Ages*

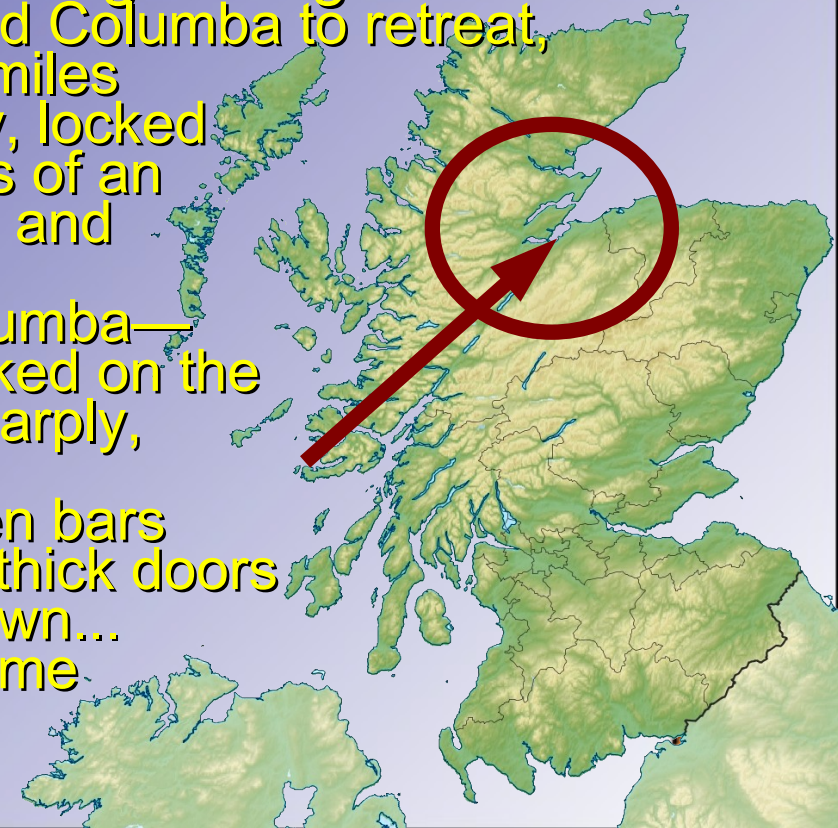
- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
    - His kinsman, King Conall of the *Dál Riata*, granted him a small island, which Columba christened, *Iona*
    - As his first missionary venture, he went to visit King Bridei of the Picts, who reigned in Inverness
      - The *Dál Riata* had just defeated the Picts in battle, so though an envoy from Conall would have been respected, he wouldn't have been welcomed
      - Columba and two of his fellow monks travelled 150 through the Highlands, learning Pictish as they went along





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
- But when they arrived at Bridei's fortress atop Craig Phatrack (a steep hill on the shores of the Ness), the king locked the gates against them
  - The monks counselled Columba to retreat, since they were 150 miles inside enemy territory, locked outside the thick walls of an obviously hostile king and his whole army
  - Columba—*being* Columba—instead prayed, knocked on the thick, oaken doors sharply, and then *pushed*...
    - The heavy wooden bars snapped and the thick doors opened on their own...  
...and Bridei became a Christian...





# *The Early Middle Ages*

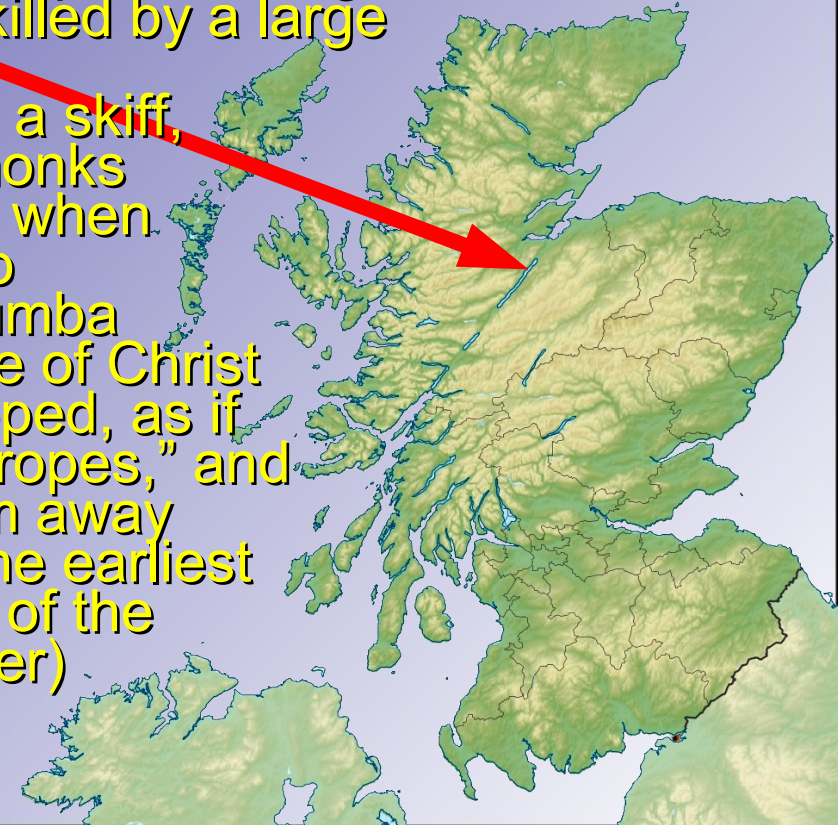
- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
    - His whole ministry was renowned for making use of the miraculous to glorify God
      - He stood against the local Druidic priests time and again, in contests of power not unlike those of Moses or Elijah in the Old Testament
        - For instance, soon after he converted a man and his household to Christ, the man's son died
          - The Druids accused God of being impotent to save him
          - So Columba rushed to the man's house, flung himself on the boy's corpse, and prayed—and the child revived





# *The Early Middle Ages*

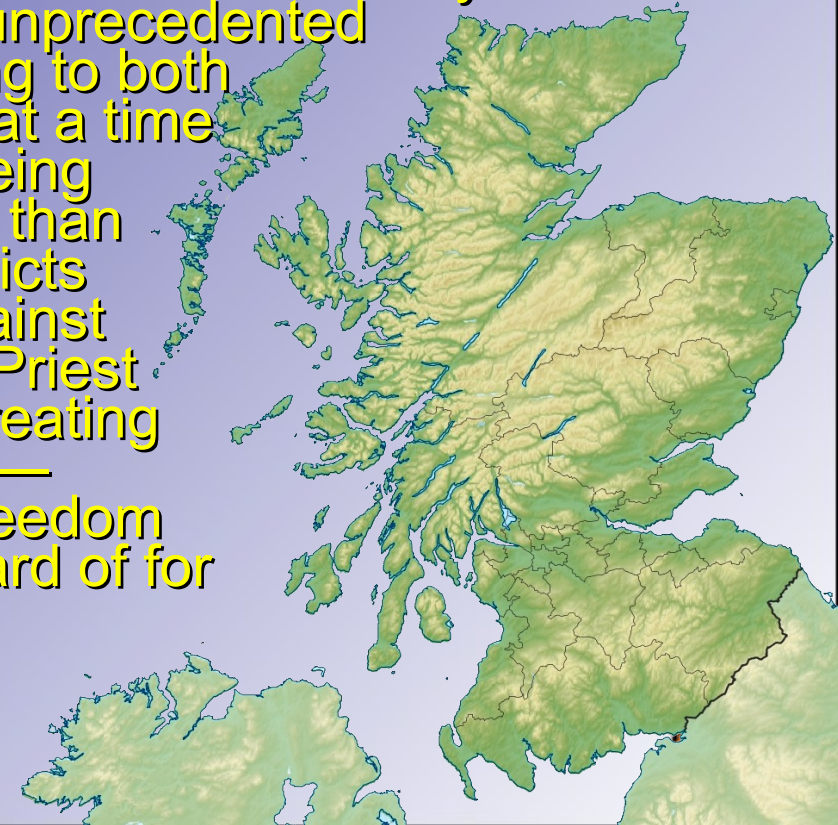
- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
    - His whole ministry was renowned for making use of the miraculous to glorify God
      - On another occasion, upon hearing that a local fisherman had been killed by a large creature in the Ness, Columba went out on a skiff, had one of his own monks swim out as bait, and when the monster arrived to devour the man, Columba rebuked it in the name of Christ
        - The creature stopped, as if “pulled back with ropes,” and then quickly swam away (and yes, this is the earliest recorded sighting of the Loch Ness Monster)





# *The Early Middle Ages*

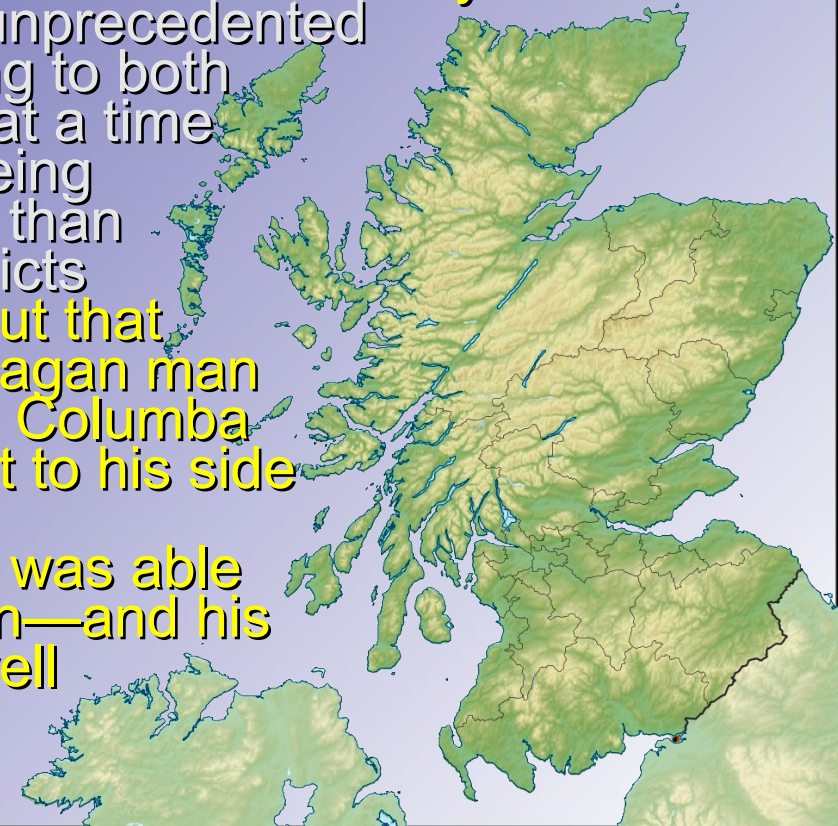
- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
    - His whole ministry was renowned for making use of the miraculous to glorify God
    - But it was also renowned for its sincerity
      - Columba offered an unprecedented pre-marital counselling to both brides and grooms—at a time when women were being treated as little better than possessions by the Picts
      - He also stood against the popular High Priest Broichan for mistreating his Irish slave girl—demanding her freedom (which was unheard of for the time)





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
    - His whole ministry was renowned for making use of the miraculous to glorify God
    - But it was also renowned for its sincerity
      - Columba offered an unprecedented pre-marital counselling to both brides and grooms—at a time when women were being treated as little better than possessions by the Picts
      - And when he found out that a sweet and elderly pagan man was on his deathbed, Columba travelled all day to get to his side to comfort him
        - As it happens, he was able to baptise the man—and his whole family as well





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Every issue seemed to be solved by force
  - 533-40 Justinian decided to re-invade the West
  - 541 The Plague struck Europe
  - 561 Monks went to war over copyright protection
  - 563 Columba left as a missionary to Scotland
  - 585 Columba was called back to Ireland
    - The Celtic Church held a synod to discuss the problem of Arianism in Britain, and so they called Columba back as a well-read, elder theologian to testify for orthodoxy
      - To hold true to his exile of over 20 years, he tied Scottish sod to his feet and blindfolded himself, so that—in his heart—he could feel that he never *truly* left Scotland
      - By the time of his death in 597 at the age of 75, the previously feared land north of Hadrian's Wall had become almost entirely Christian, and Columba was beloved throughout Britain...

