

Church History



Church History

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



Church History

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- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th 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*
 - *Kingdoms of God*
 - *Streamlining the Church*
 - *European Empires: The Carolingians (part one)*



The Early Middle Ages

- The early 8th century saw *pivotal* battles
718
 - The Muslims made their move in the East
 - Emperor Theodosius III was, to be blunt, an idiot
 - Realizing that the Muslims were gearing up for an attack against the weak leadership, imperial General Leo wisely led a coup and took over the government in Constantinople
 - Within months, a long-planned siege of the city was carried out by the Muslims under Maslamah ibn Abd al-Malik
[at the same time that Tariq ibn Zayid's Moors were invading Hispania]



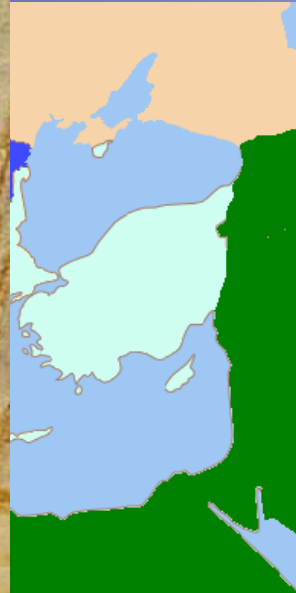


- Luckily, the new Emperor Leo III had two crucial weapons at his disposal to turn them back—
 - 1) The Bulgarian tribes that he'd led on behalf of the Empire
 - 2) A form of naval "flame-thrower" known as "Greek Fire"
- With these resources, Leo III was able to avert the invasion of Europe by the Muslim Caliphate—otherwise most historians tend to believe that we'd all be speaking Arabic today...



The Early Middle Ages

- The early 8th century saw *pivotal* battles
 - 718 The Muslims made their move in the East
 - 730 The Muslims made their move in the West
 - While Rome and Constantinople fought over icons—
 - Remember that from our last session?
 - As the Synod of Elvira had summarized the issue way back in 305, “Pictures are not to be placed in churches, so that they do not become objects of worship and adoration”
 - In 730, Rome (whose bishop had resided in Ravenna for centuries) and Constantinople were literally at war with each other over this



The Early Middle Ages

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The Muslims made their move in the East
The Muslims made their move in the West

- While Rome and Constantinople fought over icons, the Muslims under Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi invaded France with an army of 50,000 men, slaughtering *everyone*—men, women, children, etc.

- They were not simply attempting to *conquer* Spain and France—they were attempting to *become* Spain and France, with no Christian presence left behind them

- With Italy and Constantinople busy fighting one another, there was no one who could stand against them ...except Charles ("The Hammer") Martel and the 30,000 men of his standing Frankish army...

- Outnumbered nearly 2 to 1, he met them at the Battle of Tours in 732



The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Charles was one of the illegitimate sons of King Pepin of the Franks
 - Thus, Charles wasn't really in line for the kingship, and was made *dux bellorum* (warlord) of Burgundy instead



The Early Middle Ages

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Charles was one of the illegitimate sons of King Pepin of the Franks
 - **He had a bit of a love / hate relationship going on with the Church**
 - To help raise funds for the Church in Gaul, he donated a bunch of lands
 - The Church then made money off of the taxes from those lands and the sale of produce from the peasants



The Early Middle Ages

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Charles was one of the illegitimate sons of King Pepin of the Franks
 - **He had a bit of a love / hate relationship going on with the Church**
 - To help raise funds for the Church in Gaul, he donated a bunch of lands
 - But when he saw the growing threat of the Moors invading the Iberian peninsula, he requested money from the Church to build a standing army... which they refused to give him
 - So he *took back* the lands that he'd given to the Church so that he could afford to feed and train soldiers year-round
 - Pope Gregory II (the anti-iconoclast) was in the process of *excommunicating* him when he died in 731—a process which his successor, Gregory III, seemed fine with continuing until he found out about Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi invading France
 - At that point, Gregory III begged Charles Martel's army to step in and stop the advance



The Early Middle Ages

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The Muslims made their move in the East
The Muslims made their move in the West

- The Muslims under Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi invaded France with an army of 50,000 men
- **Charles—being Charles—dug his troops in at Tours and began a “stare-down” with Ghafiqi... for six days...**
 - By the time Ghafiqi blinked first and sent in his men, they were already mentally exhausted and Charles' infantry held like a wall, even against Ghafiqi's heavy cavalry



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- Charles—being Charles—dug his troops in at Tours and began a “stare-down” with Ghafiqi... for *six days*...
- **Then Charles—being Charles—ordered a commando raid behind enemy lines to attack the supplies and plunder in the rear tents**
 - NOTE: This was *not* to actually take the goodies, but to force the Moors to do exactly what they did—
 - Hearing of the raid, many of the cavalry retreated back from the front lines to defend the tents which seemed to the rest of the cavalry like a *general* retreat, and so *they* retreated, too leaving Ghafiqi on the front lines, relatively undefended
 - Though he tried to rally, he was quickly killed



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 - **Pope Gregory III officially declared Charles Martel to be a hero of the faith—the Savior of Christendom—and supported his subsequent military conquests against Moorish and Christian neighbors alike**
 - The Moors retreated back into Spain, and never ventured back into France in force—which is *another* reason why we don't speak Arabic today



The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Moors had a profound impact on Spain and Spanish culture, extending even into today
 - Think about the culture of Spain
 - The most obvious expression of this is the genetic make-up of the people of Spain
 - Prior to the Moorish invasion, the Germanic people of Spain were mostly fair-skinned, blonde haired, and blue-eyed
- [Note how their medieval hero “El Cid” was depicted in a recent Spanish animated movie]



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- Though there are still native Spaniards who fit that description, the majority of modern Spaniards are darker complected than their medieval ancestors



The Early Middle Ages

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 - The Moors had a profound impact on Spain and Spanish culture, extending even into today
 - **Think about the culture of Spain**
 - The most obvious expression of this is the genetic make-up of the people of Spain
 - **Or think of the music of Spain**
 - Consider the twirling dance moves, the decidedly non-Western guitar riffs, etc.
 - What we think of as a “Latin sound” smacks more of Moorish influence than of anything European, much less Roman



The Early Middle Ages

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - The Moors had a profound impact on Spain and Spanish culture, extending even into today
 - Think about the culture of Spain
 - **Think about the physical places of Spain**
 - Like the Moorish-named cities like Córdoba (قرطبة or *Qurtubah*) or regions like Andalusia (الأندلس or *al-'Andalus*)
 - Or the distinctly Moorish architecture seen throughout Spain
 - Note the Moorish influence on the Cathedral of Córdoba (formerly the Great Mosque of Qurtubah)
 - Or the famous, Moor-constructed Alhambra Palace (الحمراء or *al-ḥamrā'*—"the red [palace]")



The Early Middle Ages

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - The Moors had a profound impact on Spain and Spanish culture, extending even into today
 - Think about the culture of Spain
 - Think about the physical places of Spain
 - **Think about the language itself of Spain**
 - For instance, here's a bit of John 1:1 in Latin:
“*In principio erat Verbum...*”
 - And here is the same bit in Spanish:
“*En el principio era el Verbo...*”
 - What similarities and differences do you see?
 - Latin has no definite articles (like “the” in English)
 - *German* has definite articles (“*der*,” etc.)
 - And who controlled Spain in the 7th century?
 - Arabic also has definite articles (usually “*al*” or “*el*” like in *Al-Debaran*, *Al-Andalus*, or *El Alamein*)
 - And what's the Spanish definite article used in John 1:1?
 - So modern Spanish sounds very much like an *Arab* trying to speak a *German's* version of *Latin*
 - And now you know why...



The Early Middle Ages

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 - 718 The Muslims made their move in the East
 - 730 The Muslims made their move in the West
 - 739 Pope Gregory III appealed to Charles again
 - As we said last time, the Popes were trying to rebuild the walls of ruined Rome
 - But the Lombards who ruled Italy didn't like that idea, and kept attacking both Rome and Ravenna to stop them
 - Since the Roman Catholic Church had cut alliance with Constantinople over the whole iconoclasm debacle, they were left on their own to deal with the Lombards



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 - So Gregory appealed to Charles, offering to ally the Church officially with the Franks if they would come and help Rome—

“Our affliction moves us to write to you once again, trusting that you are a loving son of St. Peter and of us, and that, from respect for him, you will come and defend the Church of God and His peculiar people, who are now unable to endure the persecution and oppression of the Lombards. They have seized the very means set aside to furnish funds for the lights ever kept burning at St. Peter's tomb, and they have carried off offerings that have been made by you and by those who have gone before you. And because, after God, we have turned to you, the Lombards deride and oppress us.”



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 - So Gregory appealed to Charles, offering to ally the Church officially with the Franks if they would come and help Rome
 - So Charles kicked some major Lombard tushy
 - But when he died in 741, the king of the Franks—Childéric III—had no interest in keeping up “foreign wars”
 - Charles Martel's son, Pepin (the Short), as *dux bellorum*, held all of the real power, but none of the real authority, so he wrote to the Pope
 - Pope Zachary sided with Pepin, helped depose Childéric
 - Thus began the Carolingian dynasty (or *Carlovingians*, or *Karlings*, after Karl Martellus—Charles Martel)



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- As we said last time, the Popes were trying to rebuild the walls of ruined Rome
 - Under Pepin's rule, the Carolingian Franks increased their hold on western Europe and he left a large and growing kingdom to his son, *Charlemagne*...

