Church History

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- *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 "Dark Ages" Overview*
  - *Flagrant Abuses of Authority: Zeno, Theodoric, and Clovis*
  - *Auctoritas Sacrata Pontificum: Gelasius*
  - *The Rise of the Monk: Benedict, Brendan, and Dennis*
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  - *Kingdoms of God*
  - *Streamlining the Church*
  - *European Empires: The Carolingians (part two)*

The Early Middle Ages

- The Frankish Carolingians grew in power
    752   Pepin the Short anointed King of the Franks
- As we said last time, Pope Zachary supported him over the reigning king, Childéric III, who had wanted to back out of foreign entanglements
    - With the Frankish kingdom growing larger and stronger every year, the papacy saw the importance of maintaining a solid political relationship with a loyal Frankish king (particularly when the Church was having so many problems with the Lombards in Italy)
        - (NOTE: the Lombards had actually finally conquered Ravenna in 751)

The Early Middle Ages

Frankish Carolingians grew in power

Pepin the Short anointed King of the Franks

- As we said last time, Pope Zachary supported him over the reigning king, Childéric III, who had wanted to back out of foreign entanglements
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  - Thus, Pepin's rule began the Carolingian dynasty (or *Carlovingians*, or *Karlings*, after his father, Karl Martellus—Charles Martel) when he was anointed at Soissons by the archbishop of Mainz (which, as we said, set a precedent for bishops anointing European kings)

The Early Middle Ages

- The Frankish Carolingians grew in power
  752   Pepin the Short anointed King of the Franks
  753   Pope Stephen II asked Pepin for help
    - The Lombards had nearly complete control over the Italian peninsula, and the papacy was essentially under siege
      - So Stephen crossed the Alps (the first Pope to ever do so) to personally request that Pepin lend his support to the Church
      - Pepin not only promised to conquer the Lombards, but also promised to donate the lands that he conquered back to the Church
        - In response, Stephen gave Pepin (and his sons, Charles and Carloman) a special papal anointing at Saint-Denis in 754
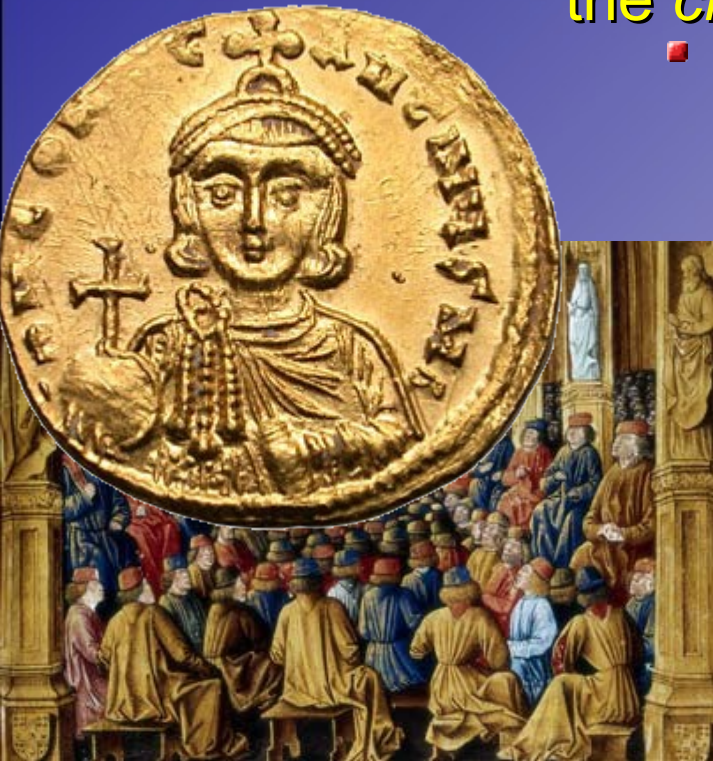
The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Also in 754, the Council of Hieria was called
    - Other names for the Council include "The Seventh Ecumenical Council" (which is what its participants called it), "The Mock Synod of Constantinople" or "The Headless Council" (which is what its opponents called it)
      - See, of the five traditional Patriarchs of the Church, the seat of the Patriarch of Constantinople was vacant at the time, the traditional archbishoprics of Antioch, Jerusalem, and Alexandria were under Islamic control now, and the Byzantine Empire was still at war with the Pope, so there were actually no Patriarchs present at the Council
        - Instead, it was presided over by Byzantine Emperor Constantine V

The Early Middle Ages

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    - This Council took iconoclasm to a new level, not only outlawing the veneration of images, but even the *creation* of images themselves—
      - "The unlawful art of painting living creatures blasphemed the fundamental doctrine of our salvation—namely, the Incarnation of Christ... If anyone shall endeavor to represent the forms of the saints in lifeless pictures with material colors which are of no value (for this notion is vain and introduced by the devil), and does not rather represent their virtues as living images in himself, etc... let him be anathema."
        - In other words, *live out* the character of the saints—don't *represent* them with that satanic "art" stuff
      - Ironically, the Church was becoming more *Islamic* in their theology...

The Early Middle Ages

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    - Strangely, no one else seemed to appreciate or respect the conclusions of this Council, and it was declared null and void within a few decades...

The Early Middle Ages

- The Frankish Carolingians grew in power
  - 752   Pepin the Short anointed King of the Franks
  - 753   Pope Stephen II asked Pepin for help
  - 756   Pepin conquered northern Italy
  - It took two years and two separate invasions, but eventually, the Franks took control
    - In what became known as the Donation of Pepin, the Franks then gave over several cities to the Pope, declaring them the "Papal States," under the direct *civil* authority of the Pope
      - (NOTE: So the Pope legitimized political rule of the King, who then turned around and legitimized the political rule of the Pope—a nice, closed loop)

The Early Middle Ages

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      - For the first time in history, Christianity was now a true *theocracy* (at least in a limited area)—is that a *good* thing or a *bad* thing?
        - (NOTE: This is the historical background for the modern-day, independently sovereign papal city-state of "Vatican City"—an 110-acre nation located within the city of Rome)

The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - It was roughly around this time that the first Arabic Bible was translated
    - How might history have turned out differently if the Church would have made translating the Bible into native languages a priority—and the Bible had been available to Muhammad 150 years earlier, when he had sought spiritual direction from the Christian monk named Bahira in Mecca?
      - How important is it to get the Bible into the languages and hands of native peoples *today?*
        - *Why* is it important?
        - Does that include getting the Bible into the hands of *English-*speaking people here in America?
          - How many people—even *Christians*—in America regularly *read* the Bible?
          - A recent survey suggests that only 26% of professing Christians in America read their Bibles more than once a week—why *is* that?

The Early Middle Ages

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      - How important is it to get the Bible into the languages and hands of native peoples *today?*
        - *Why* is it important?
        - Does that include getting the Bible into the hands of *English*-speaking people here in America?
        - How can *we*—specifically, those of us here *right now*, in *this church*—work to help our brothers and sisters in Christ embrace the Word more?

The Early Middle Ages

- The Frankish Carolingians grew in power

752	Pepin the Short anointed King of the Franks
753	Pope Stephen II asked Pepin for help
756	Pepin conquered northern Italy
768	Pepin died on campaign in the South

- Though he'd kept the Muslims out of Gaul, he never could quite dislodge the Basques in Vasconia (modern Gascony)
  - His kingdom was then divided between his sons, Charles (later called "Charles the Great" or Charlemagne) and Carloman
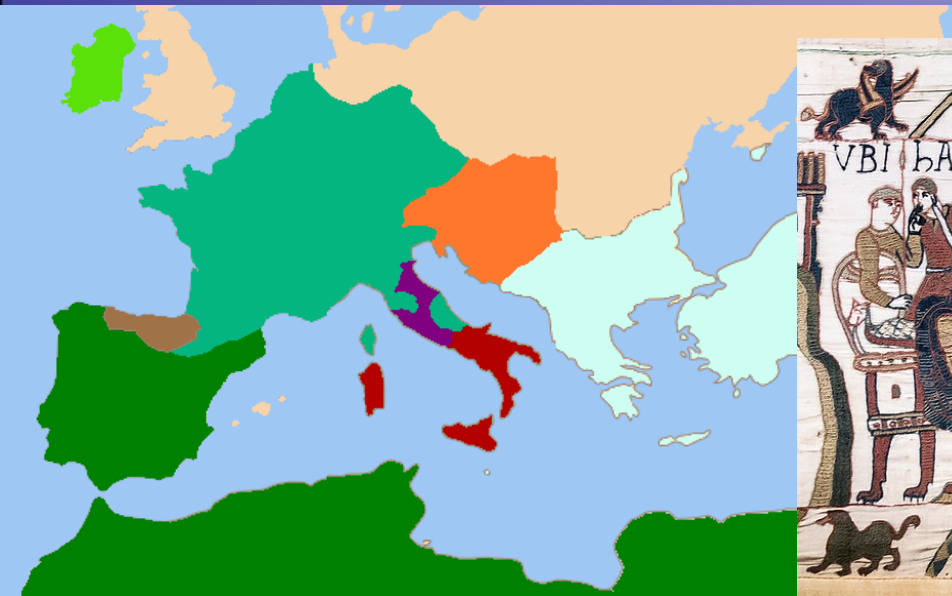
The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Technically, it was divided up more than that—
    - You'll notice that the *overall* Frankish kingdom is pretty large by this time—not much smaller than the Western Roman Empire had been at its height
      - But it still lacked the essential Roman *infrastructure* that had helped make Rome one large, well-integrated empire—it was still a bunch of fairly barbaric Germanic tribes
      - So under Charles Martel (and developed even more fully by Pepin and his son, Charlemagne), the Franks created a system called "feudalism" to help govern the continent)
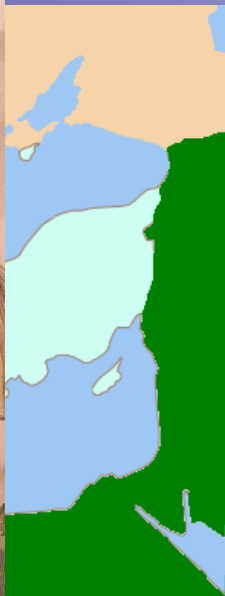
The Early Middle Ages

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Technically, it was divided up more than that—
    - Under feudalism, a king would give a portion of his lands in trust to a leader (in Latin, called a *dux*) who swore an oath of loyalty (or "*fealty*," from the Latin *fidelis*) and pay an annual tribute to him
      - Thus, the dux would be given a *fee*—an expression of his loyalty—of a portion of land to rule over
        - Then people who lived under the dux would pay taxes to pay for the fee (and thus, the kingdom)
        - (NOTE: The Germanic corruption of the word dux became "duke" [in later Italian, "duce"], and the area he governed was called a "duchy")

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      - An <u>arch</u>duke governed a "grand duchy," with lesser dukes governing their own duchies
      - These duchies were further divided into 350 smaller portions for the purposes of better counting up taxes and populations
        - These "counties" were thus ruled by "counts" who oversaw those collections
          - The counties were further divided into baronies led by barons (from the Latin *baro* and Old English *beorn*—both meaning "soldier")
          - Within those standing armies were special cavalry forces called "knights" (from *knechten*—Old German for "bondsmen") that had been specifically trained to counter the cavalry of the Iberian Muslims

The Early Middle Ages

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    - This may seem complicated to us, but the whole point of it was to assure law, order, and stability in the simplest manner possible, without having a centralized infrastructure to prop things up
      - Though decades of *Robin Hood*-type movies have painted the king's tax collectors as base villains, the truth is that this "enlightened self-interest" on the part of the nobles arguably saved Europe from slipping into a *truly* barbarous "Dark Age"

The Early Middle Ages

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  - 753 Pope Stephen II asked Pepin for help
  - 756 Pepin conquered northern Italy
  - 768 Pepin's sons became kings of the Franks
    - On his death, Pepin's kingdom was divided between his sons, Charlemagne and Carloman who didn't really like one another
      - Charlemagne was the *firstborn* son, but there's a decent chance that he was illegitimate—which made 17-year-old Carloman the only *legitimate* heir to the throne
        - Fortunately, their rivalry didn't last long, since Carloman died in 771 at the age of 20 from *a nosebleed...* ...leaving 29-year-old Charlemagne in charge of the whole kingdom (but not before the two brothers together finally defeated the Basques and took over Vasconia)