

# ***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



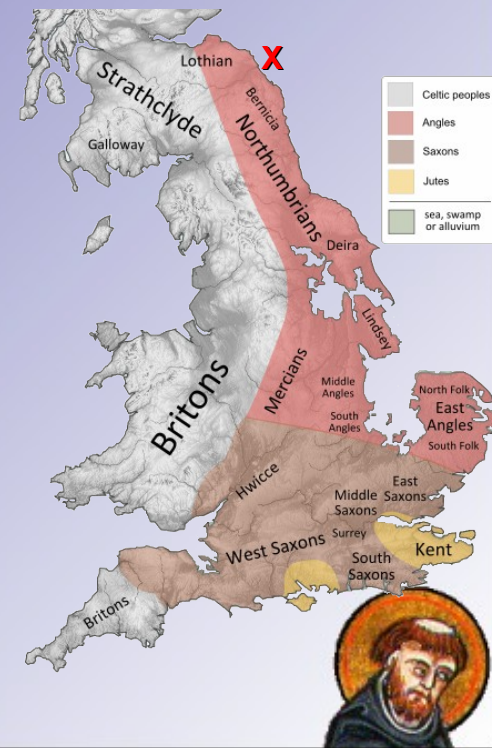
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- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
  - *The “Dark Ages” Overview*
  - *Flagrant Abuses of Authority: Zeno, Theodoric, and Clovis*
  - *Auctoritas Sacrata Pontificum: Gelasius*
  - *The Rise of the Monk: Benedict, Brendan, and Dennis*
  - *The Politics of Death: Justinian and Columba*
  - *Kingdoms of God*
  - *Streamlining the Church*
  - *European Empires: The Carolingians*
  - *European Empires: The Northmen (part two)*



# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Important stuff was going on up north...
  - 793    The Vikings ransacked Lindisfarne
    - [NOTE: That's the monastery that the Venerable Bede visited last week, just off the coast of northern Northumbria]





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - As much as I love the movie, *Prince Valiant*, these are so not Vikings
  - Vikings didn't wear horned helmets, or fur kilts, or go sailing bare-chested amidst the fjords of Norway or carry big, double-headed axes like this
  - All that comes from centuries of myth that have obscured what Vikings were *really* like



# *The Early Middle Ages*

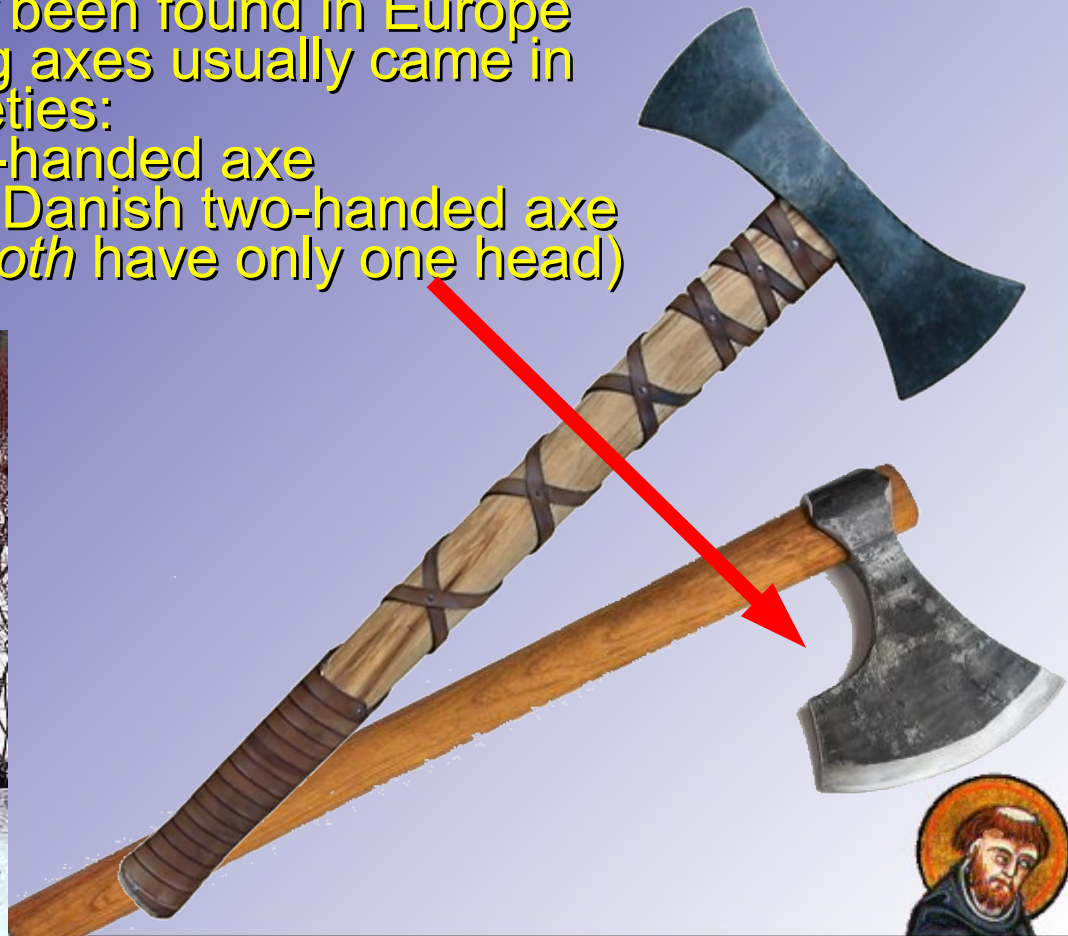
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - As much as I love the movie, *Prince Valiant*, these are so not Vikings
  - *Myth #1*: Vikings wore horned helmets
    - Note the differences between a *fake* Viking helmet (on the left) and a *real* Viking helmet (on the right)
    - The *fake* type was created by Germanic poets and artists in the 19<sup>th</sup> century because it looked more “barbaric” and exotic





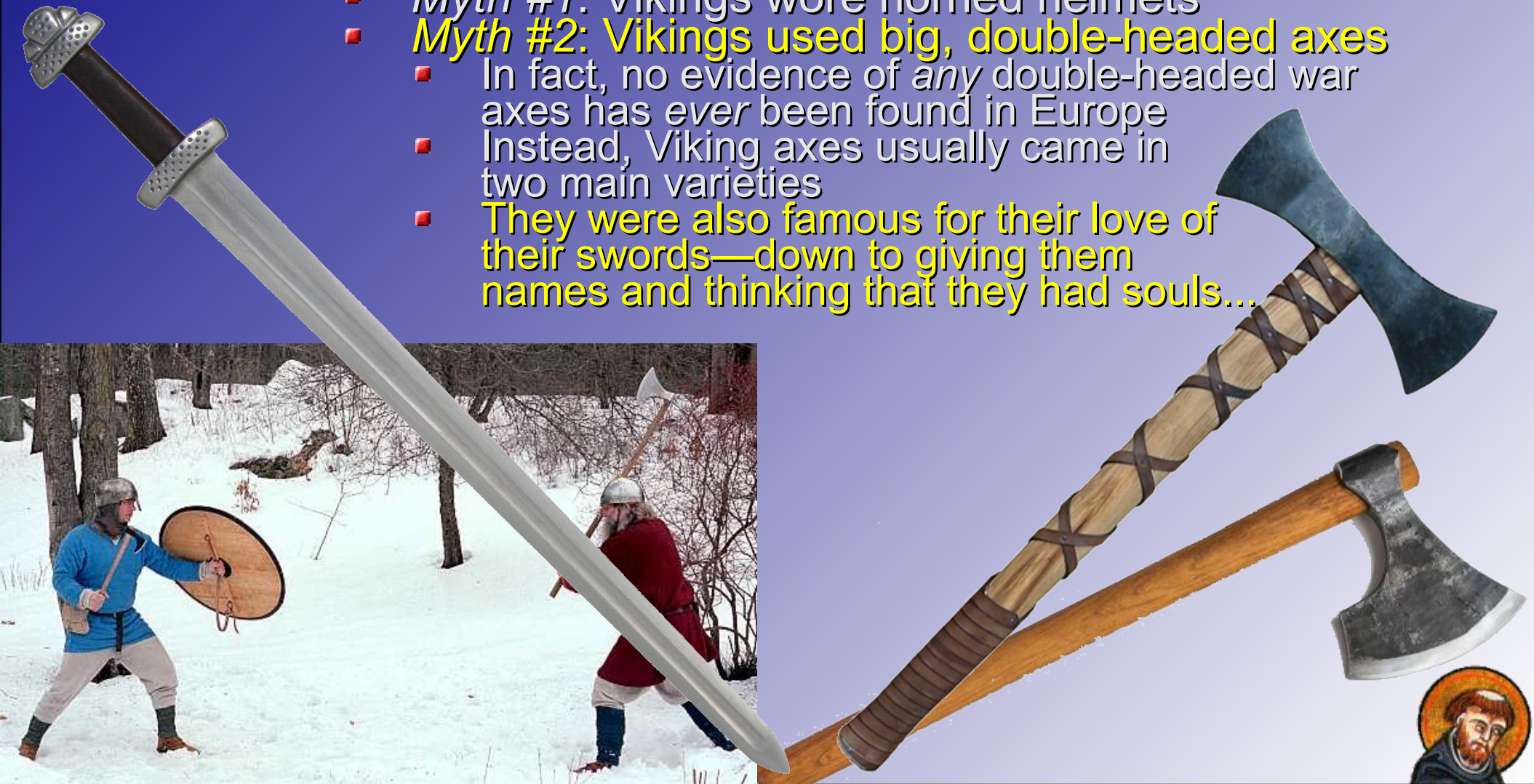
# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - As much as I love the movie, *Prince Valiant*, these are so not Vikings
    - Myth #1: Vikings wore horned helmets
    - Myth #2: Vikings used big, double-headed axes
      - In fact, no evidence of *any* double-headed war axes has ever been found in Europe
      - Instead, Viking axes usually came in two main varieties:
        - a) the one-handed axe
        - b) the big, Danish two-handed axe



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    - Instead, Viking axes usually came in two main varieties
    - They were also famous for their love of their swords—down to giving them names and thinking that they had souls...





# *The Early Middle Ages*

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  - As much as I love the movie, *Prince Valiant*, these are so not Vikings
    - Myth #1: Vikings wore horned helmets
    - Myth #2: Vikings used big, double-headed axes
    - Myth #3: Vikings were filthy, long-haired brutes
      - First off, they were *famous* for being *clean*
        - Unlike most medieval Europeans of the time (who may only bathe once or twice a year), the Norse bathed every week, on Saturday
          - In fact, they officially named the day “bath day”—a bathing pool was called a “laug” and Saturday was *Laugardagur* (in modern Swedish, it's still *Lördag*, and *Lørdag* in Norwegian)



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      - First off, they were famous for being clean
      - Secondly, they didn't wear their hair long
        - They usually shaved the back of their heads and let their hair grow long in the front (which is why most of the contemporary accounts describe the Danes as being “bald in the back and blind in the front”)





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—

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describe the Danes as being “bald in  
the back and blind in the front”) and  
they kept their beards well-trimmed  
So this is so not the way that  
they looked



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - As much as I love the movie, *Prince Valiant*, these are so not Vikings
    - Myth #1: Vikings wore horned helmets
    - Myth #2: Vikings used big, double-headed axes
    - Myth #3: Vikings were filthy, long-haired brutes
    - Myth #4: Vikings were pillaging pirates
      - Okay, this one is sorta true, but bear in mind, so were a lot of people back then
      - When Maewyn Succat (AKA Patrick) was captured by pirates, they were from *Ireland*, not Scandinavia
      - Any sea-going people were capable (and often willing) to perform coastal raids
      - The Vikings just did it so well... and they were one of the few sets of people willing to attack *holy* places like monasteries, and that freaked people out





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      - Okay, this one is sorta true, but bear in mind, so were a *lot* of people back then
      - First and foremost, they were *traders*

Viking trade routes took them literally all over the known—and unknown—world, trading in tools, weapons, spices, textiles, art, jewelry, and more



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    - Myth #4: Vikings were pillaging pirates
    - Myth #5: Vikings were based in Scandinavia
      - Okay, this one is sorta true, too
      - They originated in Scandinavia, but they spread across Europe like a storm, which is why so many historians refer to this period in European history as “the Viking Age”



Even the Byzantine emperors began to employ Vikings as their elite Varangian Guard (from the Old Norse *væringi*, meaning “a Scandinavian”)





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      - Okay, this one is sorta true, too
      - They originated in Scandinavia, but they spread across Europe like a storm
  - In fact, many familiar place names were named after them
  - In 911, the Viking Rollo led an invasion of Neustria in northern France, and in the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, King Charles III gave them that land in perpetuity, if they'd help protect the rest of France from other invading barbarians—thus giving Neustria its new name, *Normandy*, after the Norsemen who settled there



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- In fact, many familiar place names were named after them
- In 911, the Viking Rollo led an invasion of Neustria in northern France, and in the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, King Charles III gave them that land in perpetuity
- It was thus the **Normans**—the Francified descendents of the Norsemen—who invaded England 150 years later in 1066





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      - Okay, this one is sorta true, too
      - They originated in Scandinavia, but they spread across Europe like a storm
  - But why was it called “Normandy” instead of “Vikingland” (beyond the fact that that name sounds silly)?



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      - Myth #4: Vikings were pillaging pirates
      - Myth #5: Vikings were based in Scandinavia
      - Myth #6: Vikings were a people group
        - As one website aptly put it, “Viking is not something you are, but something you do”
        - Norse peoples (Northmen) were an occasionally barely interconnected set of tribes—even their languages were only *related* to one another
          - What they shared was a love of the sea and of exploration
- [Which is part of what drove Northman Bjarni Herjólfsson westward in 985 until he reached the coast of the Americas]





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        - What they shared was a love of the sea and of exploration
        - In Old Norse, a *víka* was a unit of length—the amount that a boat would move based on the work of one shift of oarsmen
        - Thus, to go “*fara í víking*” was to go on an expedition that required *several* shifts of oarsmen
        - One who went on such expeditions was called a *víkingr*



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      - Norse peoples (Northmen) were an occasionally barely interconnected set of tribes—even their languages were only *related* to one another
        - What they shared was a love of the sea and of exploration
        - So a “*Víking*” wasn't referring to the ethnicity of the people, but rather the wanderlust of their expeditions





# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Final Quiz—pick out the real Viking:



☐ Fake Viking



☒ Real Viking



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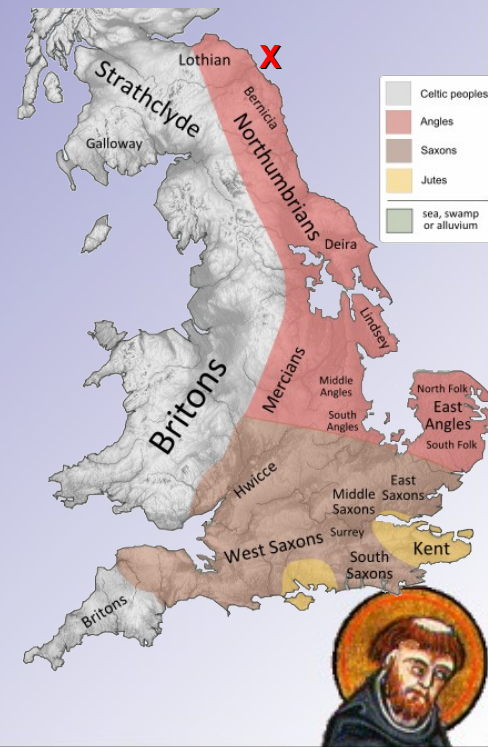
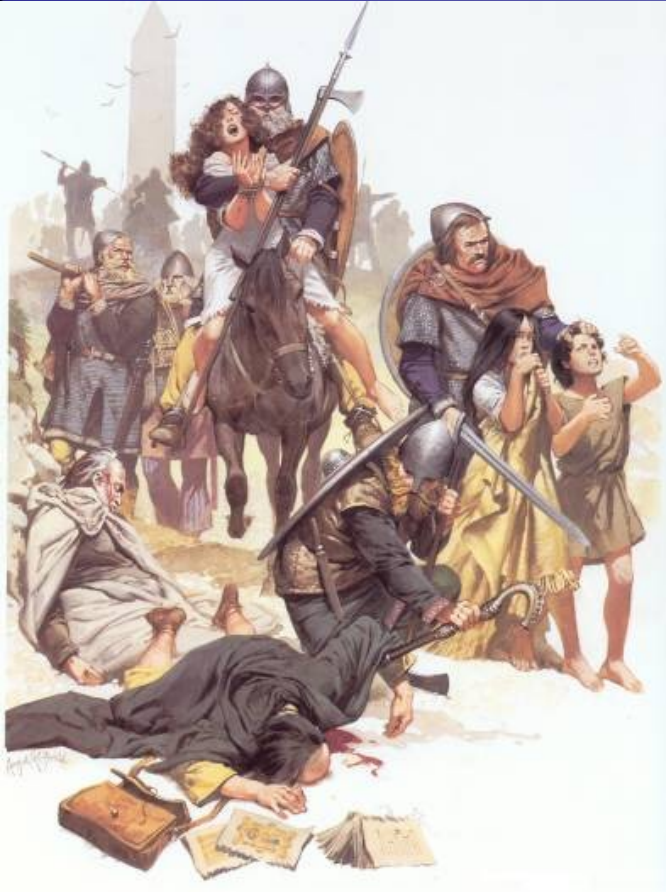


☒ Real Viking



# The Early Middle Ages

- Important stuff was going on up north...
  - 793 The Vikings ransacked Lindisfarne
    - As we've discussed, monasteries were a lot like little towns, except that they were filled with valuables (like food, gold, books, spices, and slaves), and relatively unprotected
      - To the pagan Norsemen, the fact that they were Christian holy ground meant very little, other than that they tended to *hate* Christians





# ***The Early Middle Ages***

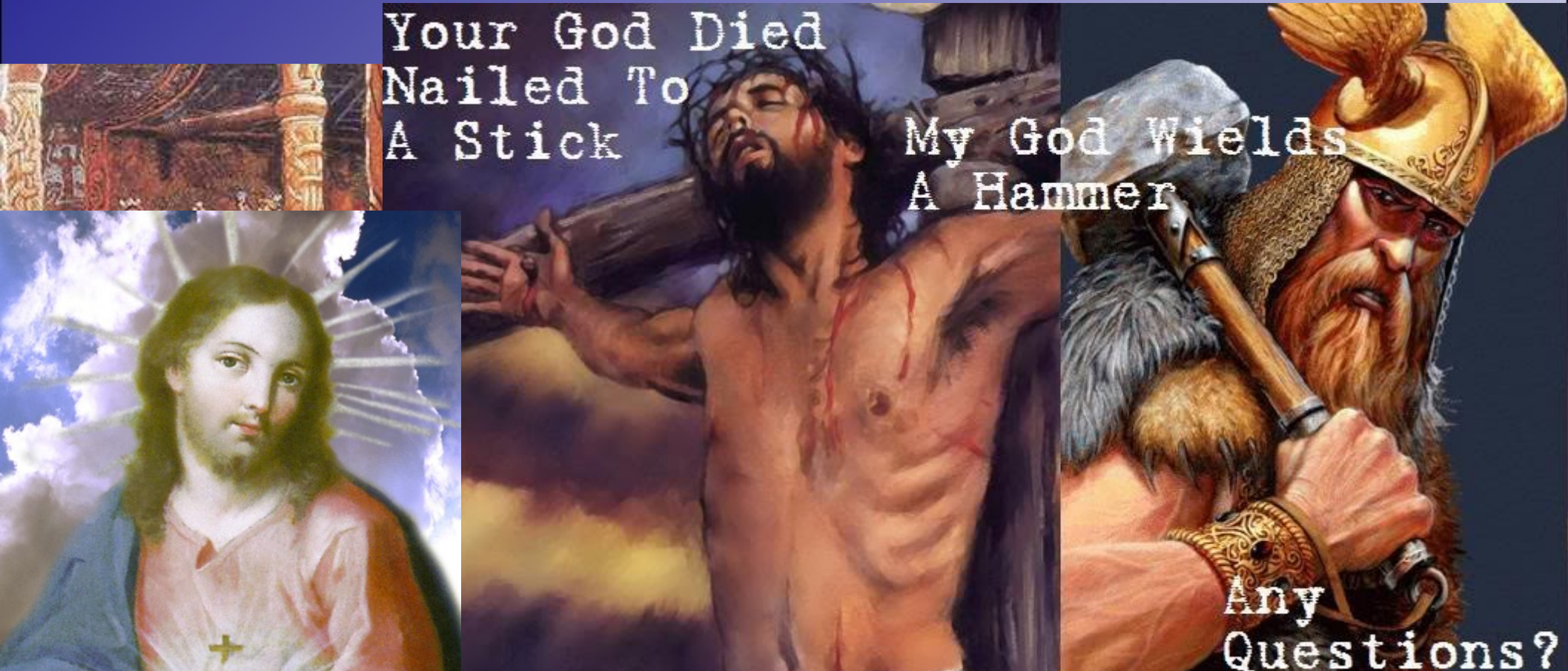
- Funky little teaching moment—
  - To a culture that celebrated heroes of war—  
[you couldn't even get into Valhalla—the Viking version of the afterlife—unless you died in battle]  
[and even then, the Viking idea of Heaven was fighting all day and then drinking all night]





# ***The Early Middle Ages***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - To a culture that celebrated heroes of war, the idea of a Saviour who preached peace seemed... unmanly...  
[This is a sentiment that's still around today]





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - To a culture that celebrated heroes of war, the idea of a Saviour who preached peace seemed... unmanly...
  - So the Vikings had very little respect for the pacifist monks at places like Lindisfarne
    - And yet, they did *learn* to respect Christians over time—especially due to how the Christians responded to *torture*
    - If you'll remember, trial by ordeal was very popular in Europe at this time—proving your worth by undergoing horrific torture
    - The Norsemen liked to hang, impale, flay, burn, or otherwise torment their victims
      - In one particularly nasty form, they would pull out the ribs and internal organs of a living victim (called “the blood eagle”)
    - Watching Christian after Christian get tortured to death without renouncing their “peaceful girlie god” impressed the Vikings, and they grudgingly began to respect Christians as strong-hearted martyrs



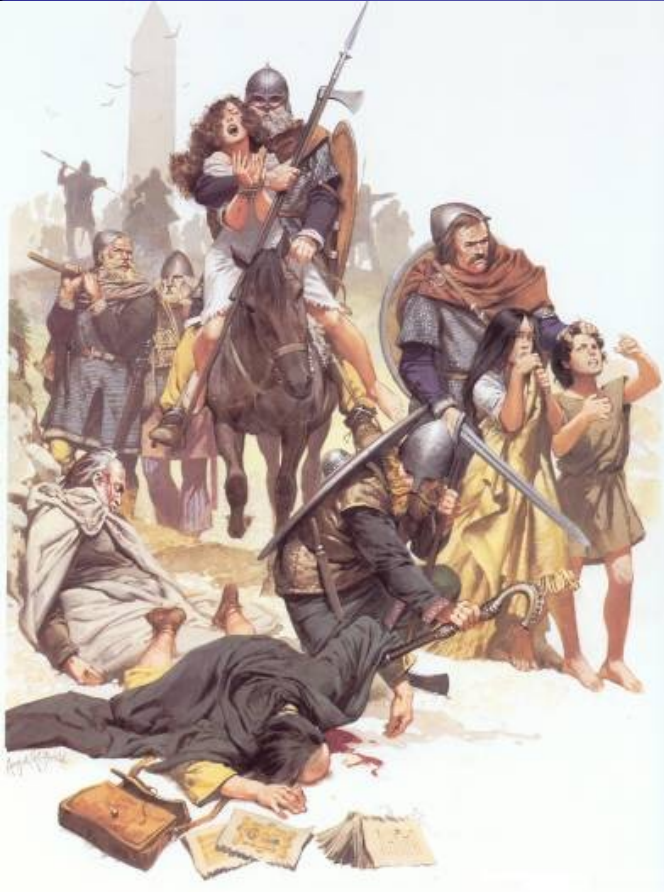
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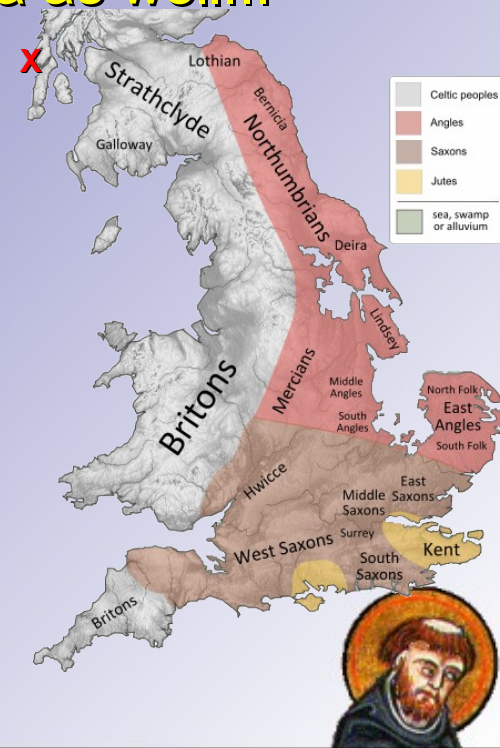
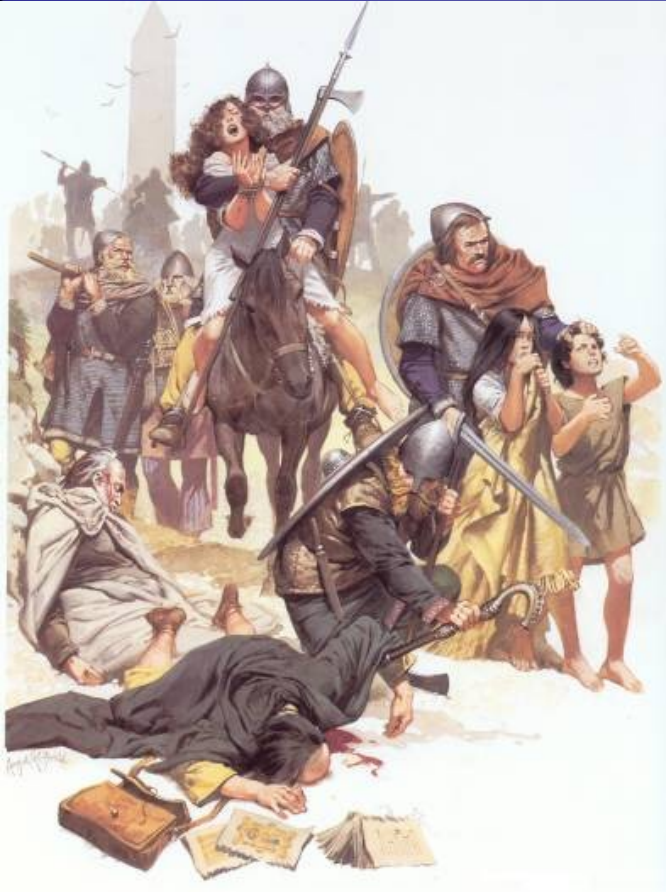
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- To the pagan Norsemen, the fact that they were Christian holy ground meant very little, other than that they tended to *hate* Christians
- Thus—ironically—as horrible as their slavery was, it was actually the slavery that gave Christians the chance to share (and live out) the Gospel with their captors
- Between being impressed by watching Christian men die and having their children being taught by Christian women brought back as slave wives, it was the very *captivity* of Christians that became largely responsible for the eventual conversion of the Vikings...





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        - In 806, the Vikings sacked Iona as well...



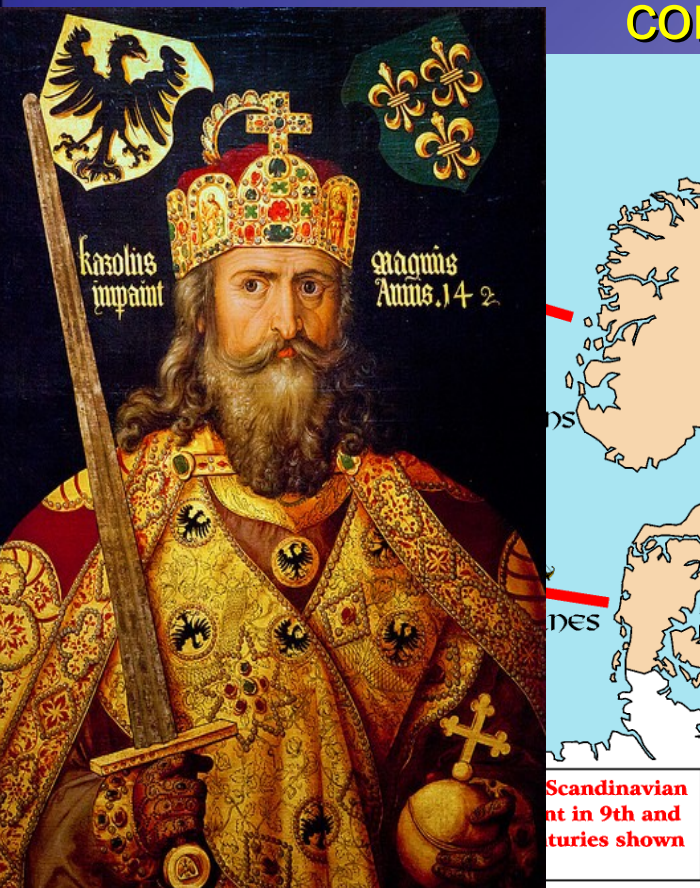
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- Over the next few centuries, the Norse continued to raid the shores of Britain, as well as the European mainland
  - In fact, the constant attacks on Britain and northern Europe threatened the peace and stability that Charlemagne had been working on for so long
    - In order to prevent the ongoing invasions, Charlemagne began paying an annual tribute to the Norse tribes
      - The payment was so exorbitant that, some years, his empire was left completely without currency
        - This was why he moved toward giving the invading Norsemen duchies within Europe to govern, under Charlemagne's ultimate authority



Scandinavian  
raids in 9th and  
10th centuries shown





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  - In fact, the constant attacks on Britain and northern Europe threatened the peace and stability that Charlemagne had been working on for so long
  - Eventually, as with the Moors in Spain, the Norse rulers began seeing diplomacy as a better and cheaper policy than continuous warfare and invasions
    - Thus, in 826, the Danish king, Harald Klak, had himself baptised before Emperor Louis the Pious at his capital in Mainz as a diplomatic gesture, and became the first Norse Christian king

