

# Forging the Faith

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Saturday session 2

1. Pope Urban II promised participants in the First Crusade all of the following except which?

- A. freedom from tithing
- B. guaranteed entry into heaven
- C. reduced time in purgatory
- D. exemption from taxes



2. Martin & Katie Luther had friends in their bedroom on their wedding night. Why?

- A. in Germany at the time, it was customary to have witnesses observe the marriage consummation
- B. Catholics had vowed to kill Martin & Katie before they could produce “schismatic offspring”
- C. it was customary to “bless the bed” to make the wife more fruitful
- D. Martin & Katie had no guest bedroom, so they had to keep friends who had come for the wedding

3. Which of the following has not been a Communion issue over which Christians have killed one another?

- A. should people get both bread and wine or just the bread?
- B. should bread or a cracker be used?
- C. does the bread contain Christ's body or merely represent Christ's body?
- D. can white grapes be used, or must they be purple grapes as in Palestine?



4. What do Noah's beard, Mary's milk and Joseph's breath have in common?

- A. they were all white
- B. they were all warm
- C. they were all alleged relics contained in medieval churches
- D. they were found last year in a cave in Israel, neatly labeled and in a remarkable state of preservation

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## 2: The Medieval Church & the Reformation



# The Middle Ages

- So with a strongly hierarchical Church, what could individuals do to pursue God...?
- The ultimate Christian heroes used to be martyrs, but this had now been removed as a “career option”
- Asceticism was the new option
- No longer called on to die physically for their faith, devout believers needed a new goal: “dying” to self and bodily needs and desires; fuelled by Gnosticism
- Unfortunately, it could also lead to self-obsession and insanity

# A sanitised image of asceticism





# Monasticism

- A community of ascetics, recognising that complete solitude was not healthy
- Like asceticism, saw life as a dynamic struggle between good and evil, requiring constant vigilance and discipline
- Recognised benefits of accountability and community, including helping others on their spiritual journeys (mentoring)
- Monasticism had advantages and disadvantages

# The Seven Sacraments

- First clearly identified by Peter Lombard in 1150AD
- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Marriage
- Confession/penance
- Eucharist
- Extreme unction
- Ordination
- Clergy control from cradle to grave



# The role of relics

- Items associated with saints (or part of them)
- Very numerous, seen as having spiritual power
- Pope's power partly due to the relics of Peter & Paul
- Charlemagne's throne filled with them
- Papal indulgences (began 11<sup>th</sup> century) based on supererogation
- Pope has the "keys" to this treasury; could be applied in this life or in purgatory

# Renaissance

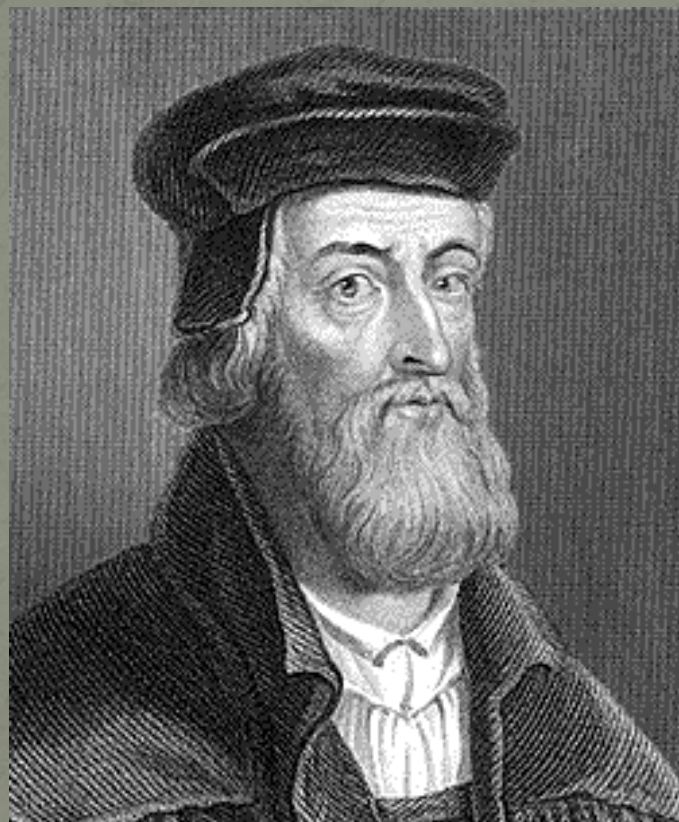
- Literally “rebirth”
- Greater interest in classical writings due to a greater unity between Roman and Greek churches, plus exodus of scholars when Constantinople fell
- Universities had arisen in key cities
- Humanism began to emphasise sources
- New emphases in art and culture on the individual. Portraits become common; Popes became art collectors
- Fascination with original languages



# Voices in the Wilderness

- John Wycliff was an Oxford scholar and Roman Catholic priest
- Rejected transubstantiation, purgatory, pilgrimages, worship of saints, veneration of relics and the infallibility of the Church because he couldn't find these things in scripture
- Declared the Pope to be vicar of anti-Christ
- Saw the wealth of the Church as a curse
- Translated Bible into English (from Latin)
- His followers were called Lollards; lay preachers

# John Wycliff 1324-1384





# Erasmus of Rotterdam

- A humanist scholar who sought to reform the Church from its abuses
- Satirised the Church in works like “Praise of Folly”
- His great work was producing the first printed text of the Greek New Testament, as well as a new Latin translation
- This enabled people to evaluate the Vulgate and to undertake vernacular translations
- This was the springboard for Luther’s German translation as well as the King James version

# Erasmus





# Looming Reformation

- In 1500, Europe could still be thought of as Christendom, i.e. a Christian Kingdom.
- Almost everyone recognised the Pope's authority on spiritual issues, but a few years later, this changed
- Partly due to: rising literacy, the printing press, urbanisation, universities, growing awareness of ways the Church distorted scripture
- Crusades damaged Papal credibility
- Growing anti-clericalism due to corruption

# Luther 1483-1546

- An Augustinian monk, desperate to find peace with God, but could not, no matter how he tried
- Breakthrough with Romans 1:16-17 (cf. the genitive tense)
- 95 theses, a reaction against Tetzel & indulgences
- Key 1520 pamphlets: *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*; *To the Christian nobility of the German nation*; *On the Freedom of a Christian*
- Together, these attacked the exclusive right of the Pope to interpret scripture, compared Rome to Babylon, argued for 2 sacraments instead of 7, and the priesthood of all believers



# Luther



# Luther's career continued..

- In danger and in hiding, translates the Bible into German. New Testament printed in 1522
- His theology led to social unrest and open class warfare. Link between theology & society.
- The Pope is seen as accountable to Scripture
- The German Reformation became dependent on the rulers



# Martin & Katy



# John Calvin 1509-1564





# Calvin

- A French lawyer whose greatest work is *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, alongside many commentaries
- While studying law, experienced conversion and broke with the Roman Catholic Church
- Like Luther, a magisterial reformer, i.e. comfortable with close Church-State ties
- Was quite comfortable with executing heretics, e.g. Servetus

# Calvin's theology

- Grounded in God's absolute sovereignty; God is ultimately in charge of everything, even evil serves his purposes. Cf. Acts 2:22-23; Acts 4:27-28
- Therefore God chooses (elects) whom he will save: the initiative is his; the response is ours. Therefore salvation is predestined
- While no-one can really say who is elect or not, the signs are participation in the sacraments, an upright moral life and public confession of faith
- The elect can stand against earthly rulers



# Catholic or Counter Reformation

- By 1540s, Roman Catholicism seemed endangered by Protestantism, then other forces came into play
- Society of Jesus, founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1540 placed heavy emphasis on education and missionary work. Took an oath of loyalty to the Pope, no matter what. “That we may be altogether of the same mind and in conformity with the Church herself, if she shall have defined anything to be black which appears to our eyes to be white, we ought in like manner to pronounce it to be black.” [Spiritual Exercises]

# Ignatius Loyola 1491-1556





# Council of Trent 1545-1563

- One of the most important Councils of the Church
- Met in 3 sessions between 1545 and 1563, considering Protestant doctrine. Protestants attended the 1<sup>st</sup> session
- Aquinas made the “official” theologian of the Church
- Authority based on scripture and tradition
- Latin Vulgate + OT apocrypha affirmed
- Vernacular translations discouraged
- Salvation included faith and works
- Indulgences would continue but improved
- Seven sacraments retained

# Following Trent

- Bishops were directed to establish schools and seminaries
- Jesuits took the initiative in this system and they remain prominent in Catholic education today
- An Index of prohibited books was established
- The Inquisition was reinvigorated
- Trent was a reformation that changed Catholicism and made it into a disciplined and modern institution.
- It was now ready to confront Protestantism



# England's Reformations

- In one sense, England had 2 Reformations: a politically-driven one under Henry VIII and a theological one in the next century
- William Tyndale translated the Greek NT into English (printed in Germany in 1525)
- Completed Pentateuch by 1530
- Completed Joshua to 2 Chronicles before being arrested and burnt at the stake in 1536 with the final prayer, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes!"
- The complete Bible published the year after his death (finished by others)
- 4 years later, the King of England was authorising English Bibles

# William Tyndale 1494-1536





# Henry VIII

- Broke with Rome because it would not allow him a divorce. Created the Church of England by Act of Parliament
- His theology remained Roman Catholic though
- Under Henry's heirs: Edward, Mary and finally Elizabeth, England swerved between Catholicism & Protestantism
- Elizabeth reigned from 1558-1603: a "Golden Age" during which a tone of moderate Protestantism was struck.

# Henry VIII 1491-1547





# Where is the authority in the Reformation era?

- There is no longer one Church, but several, including Lutheran, Reformed and Church of England
- The sacramental system is under threat
- Scripture is now being claimed as the authority, not the Pope or clergy
- In practice this actually moves the authority to the individual, reading and interpreting scripture privately
- The laity is now seen as a spiritual priesthood, going to God directly and serving in any vocation

# Group questions

- Break into groups to discuss questions