

CHURCH HISTORY

Lesson 8 – The Middle/Dark Ages (part 2) (600 to 1400 A.D.)

During the latter Dark Ages, the Holy Roman Empire reaches its peak of political power while continuing its doctrinal and moral digression. Such practices set the stage for the Reformation Movement that would shortly follow.

A. Background/Major Events

1. What was the Black Death (peaking in the 1340's thru 1350's, but continuing into the late 1800's)? What was its impact on peasants, persecutions, and the Catholic Church according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consequences_of_the_Black_Death (or equivalent)?

B. Authority

1. According to <http://www.bible.ca/history/eubanks/history-eubanks-24.htm> (or equivalent), how did popes exert political power over civil rulers, especially under Pope Innocent III (1198 to 1216 A.D.)?

2. How did such papal power-brokering backfire under Boniface VIII (1294 to 1303 A.D.)?

3. What was the "Avignon Papacy" (1309 to 1377 A.D.)?

4. What was the "Western Schism" or "Papal Schism" (1378 to 1417 A.D.)?

C. Doctrines

1. What is an "indulgence" and its relationship to penance & Purgatory? What is a "plenary indulgence" and what could one do to qualify for it?

2. What is a "sacrament" (Roman Catholic) or "holy mystery" (Orthodox Catholic)? According to the Fourth Lateran Council (1215 A.D.), what are the "seven sacraments"? Contrast them with New Testament teaching.

3. What decisions were made at the Church Council in Toulouse (1229 A.D.)?

4. Who was John Duns Scotus (1265 to 1308 A.D.) and what did he advocate regarding Mary's conception & birth?

5. What did the Council in Ravenna declare regarding baptism (1311 A.D.)?

D. Divisions/Conflicts

1. Who was Peter Waldo (1140 to 1205 A.D.)? What did he and his followers (Waldensians) teach? What was the response of the Roman Catholic Church?

2. Who was John Wycliffe (1320 to 1384 A.D.)? What did he do in defiance of the Church Council in Toulouse in 1229 A.D.?

3. Who was Jan Hus, a.k.a. John Huss, John Hus (1373 to 1415 A.D.)? What were the main differences between the "Utraquists" and the "Taborites" who followed him?

E. Special Topics

1. Who was Francis of Assisi (1181 to 1226 A.D.)?