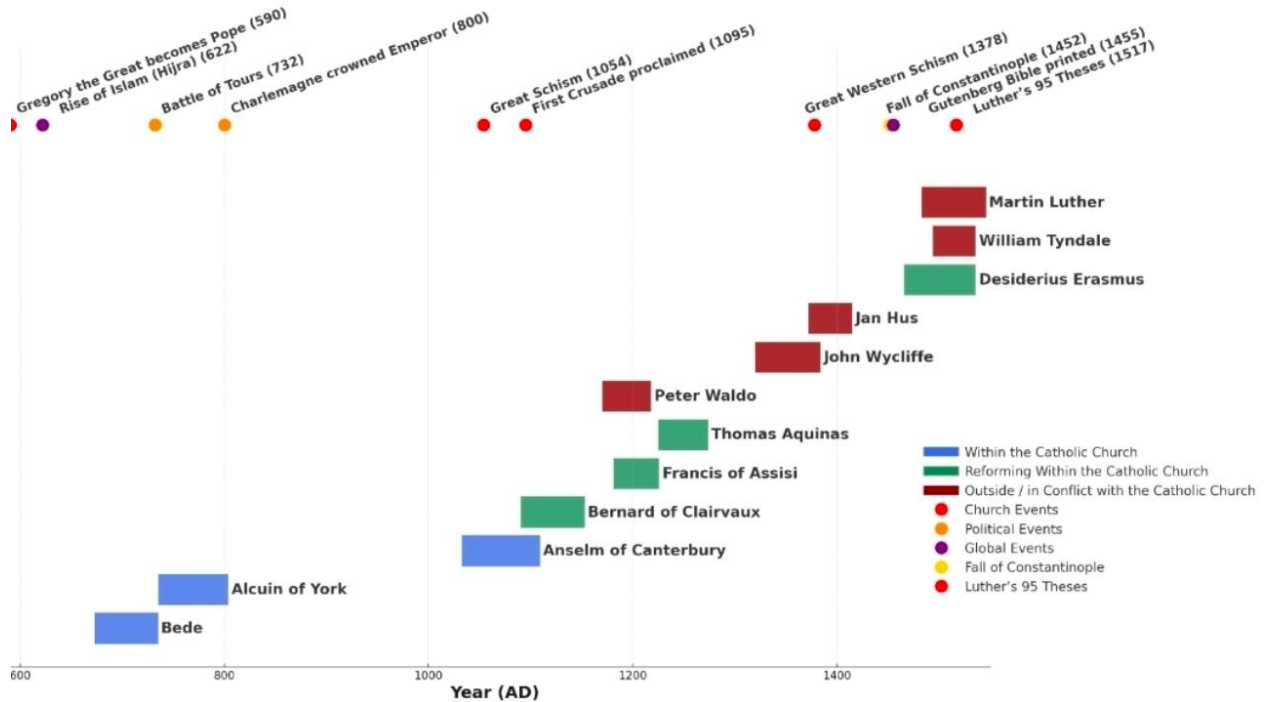


Revelation 2:18-29 Thyatira: The Medieval Corrupt Church

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Church History AD 590-1517



*590-1517 Timeline

FIVE "TOP FIVES"

- Historical Events
- Papal Corruption Stories
- Positive Catholics
- Reformers
- Unbiblical Teachings

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TOP "5" HISTORICAL EVENTS:

- 1. Rise of Islam (Hijra) – AD 622
- 2. Battle of Tours – AD 732
- 2 1/2. Charlemagne crowned Emperor – AD 800
3. Great Schism of the Church– AD 1054
- 3 1/2. First Crusade proclaimed – AD 1095
4. Fall of Constantinople – AD 1453

5. Gutenberg Bible printed – AD 1455

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Top 5 Examples of Corruption within the Papacy

1. Pope Stephen VI (AD 897) – The Cadaver Synod

2. The “Pornocracy” (AD 904–964)

A dozen popes reign via murder and intrigue, initiating 60 years where the papacy was controlled by the corrupt women of the Theophylact family.

3. Pope Boniface VIII (AD 1294–1303) & Unam Sanctam

This papal bull declared, “it is altogether necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman pontiff.”

4. The Avignon Papacy (AD 1309–1377) – “Babylonian Captivity”

Seven popes ruled from France under royal influence, living in luxury while Rome fell into decay.

4 ½. “The Great Western Schism” (AD 1378-1417)

Due to a series of unfortunate events, there were three popes at one time and seemingly $\frac{2}{3}$ of the world was excommunicated by all three!

5. The Borgias (AD 1454–1507) –

Period where the Borgia family rose to power, controlled the papacy and gave high church positions to family members. Both this period and the Pornocracy were known for the nepotism, Simony, sexual scandals, and more.

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Top 5 Positive Figures WITHIN the Catholic Church

1. Bede the Venerable (AD 673–735) – Scholar and historian

-Preserved Christian learning and Scripture through study, writing, and translation during the Dark Ages.

-Made the dating phrases “ante incarnationis Dominicae tempus” & “anno Domini” household phrases

2. Anselm of Canterbury (AD 1033–1109) – Theologian of faith and reason

-His Cur Deus Homo articulated the satisfaction theory of the atonement, grounding salvation in divine justice and mercy.

-Quote: “Man owed a debt he could not pay; God could pay it but did not owe it.”

3. Bernard of Clairvaux (AD 1090–1153) – Mystic and reformer of monasticism

-Called the Church back to humility and devotion; advised popes but remained personally austere.

-Quote: "It is not that you have first loved God, but that He first loved you."

4. Francis of Assisi (AD 1181–1226) – Model of compassion and simplicity

-Renounced wealth, embraced poverty, and cared for lepers; rekindled the Church's compassion for the poor.

-Quote: "Preach the gospel at all times; if necessary, use words." (Apocryphal but accurate.)

5. Thomas Aquinas (AD 1225–1274) – Theologian and philosopher

-Wove Scripture, faith, and reason into one grand theological vision that influenced both Protestant and Catholic thought.

-Quote: "All that I have written seems like straw compared to what has now been revealed to me."

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Top 5 Reformers OUTSIDE the Catholic Church (AD 1170–1546)

1. Peter Waldo (fl. 1170–1218) – The Forerunner

-Preached repentance, translated Scripture into the common tongue, and founded the Waldensians—persecuted but enduring.

-Quote: "We must obey God rather than men, and believe what is written in the Gospel."

-In Response: "No one is to preach except those who are authorized by the Church."

— Fourth Lateran Council, Canon 10 (AD 1215)

2. John Wycliffe (c. 1320–1384) – The Morning Star of the Reformation

-Taught Scripture's supremacy, attacked indulgences, and produced the first English Bible translation.

-Quote: "Trust wholly in Christ; rely altogether on His sufferings; beware of seeking to be justified in any other way than by His righteousness."

3. Jan Hus (c. 1372–1415) – The Faithful Martyr

-Summoned to the Council of Constance (1414–1418) under a promise of safe conduct, Hus was condemned and burned at the stake on July 6, 1415.

-Dying Words: "You may roast this goose, but in a hundred years, a swan will arise that you shall not silence."

4. William Tyndale (1494–1536) – The Translator of the Word

-Gave England the Bible in its own language; his words shaped later versions including the KJV.

-Quote: "If God spare my life, I will cause a boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scripture than thou dost."

5. Martin Luther (1483–1546) – The Torchbearer of Reformation

-Posted the Ninety-Five Theses, defied Rome, and restored justification by faith alone.
-Said, "St. John Hus prophesied of me when he wrote from his prison in Bohemia"
-Council of Trent Quote: "Since then Your Majesty and your lordships desire a simple reply, I will answer without horns and without teeth. Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

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Top 5 Unbiblical Practices of the Medieval Church

1. Veneration of Relics and Saints

Claimed power in bones, objects, and holy shrines; mixed pagan superstition with devotion. Often monetized through pilgrimages and relic-selling.

2. Doctrine of Purgatory and Prayers for the Dead

Introduced as a "temporary purification" before heaven, used to justify indulgences and create fear and dependency on the Church.

3. Denial of Scripture to the Laity

Councils such as Toulouse (1229), etc, forbade lay Bible ownership.

4. Sale of Indulgences

Claimed to reduce punishment for sin in purgatory in exchange for money or works.

-Tetzel's slogan: "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs."

5. Claims of Papal Supremacy and Infallibility

The pope declared universal spiritual authority and freedom from error.

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Pope Adrian VI (1521 – 1523)

Genuinely sought reform and acknowledged papal corruption, saying "We know well that for many years the abominable things... have been committed in this Holy See."

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"to him I will give power...as I also have received"

2 Timothy 2:12 — If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.

Revelation 20:6 — Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

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Revelation 22:16 — “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”