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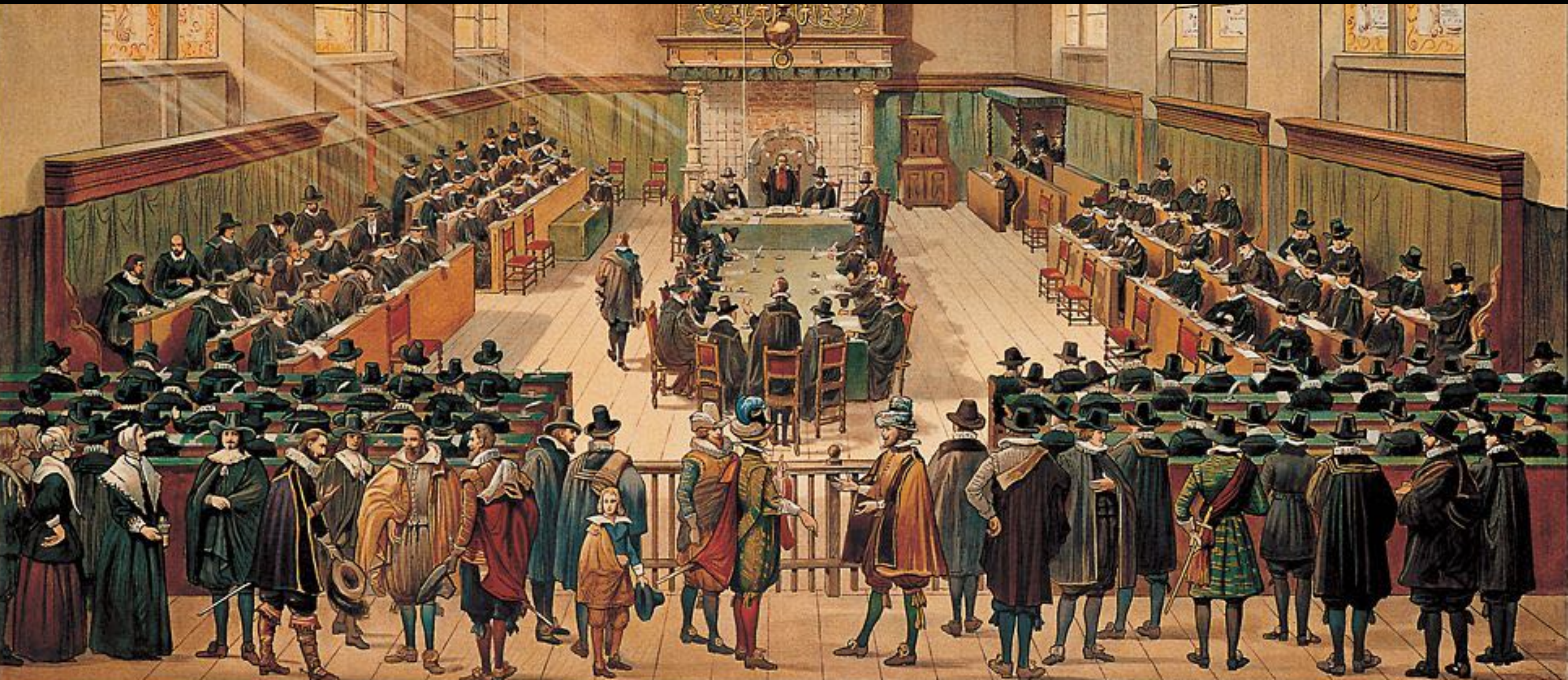
SOTERIOLOGY:
THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION
THE REFORMATION DEBATE

"SOTERIOLOGY"

- *Sotēria*, σωτηρία = "salvation"
- Soteriology = How we are saved through the work of God
 - Calvinism vs. Arminianism?
 - Question of the Reformers: 5 Solas and the Catholic Church

THE REFORMATION DEBATE

HISTORICAL SETTING



HISTORICAL SETTING

JACOBUS ARMINIUS (1560-1609)

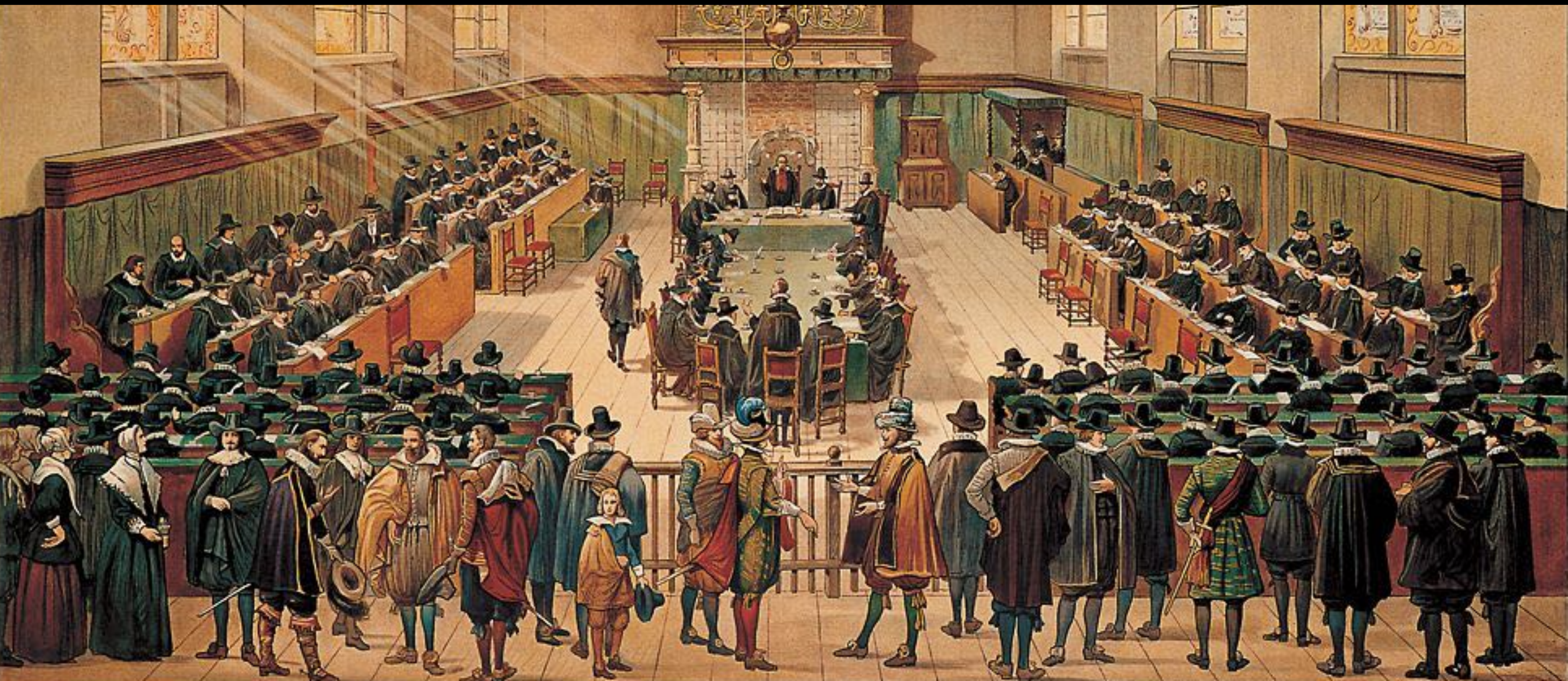
"This decree [of Predestination] has its foundation in the foreknowledge of God, by which he knew from all eternity those individuals who would, through his preventing grace, believe, and, through his subsequent grace would persevere... and, by which foreknowledge, he likewise knew those who would not believe and persevere."

DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS, 1608



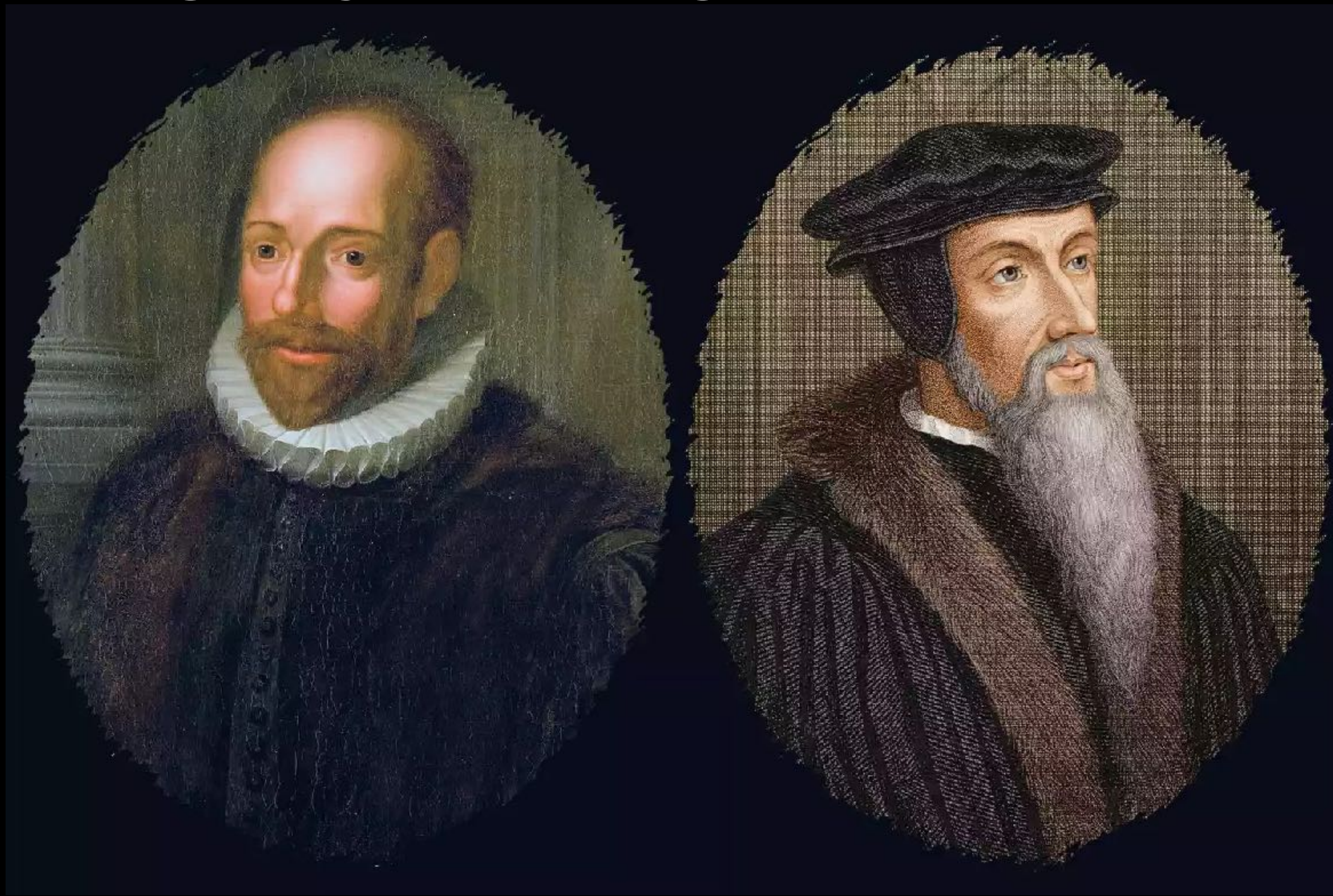
HISTORICAL SETTING

THE SYNOD OF DORT, 1618-19



THE REFORMATION DEBATE

THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

CALVINISM ON TRIAL?

- "TULIP"? (English vs. Dutch/Latin)
- Foundational question of "synergism"
 - To what degree is man "free" in regards to his choice for salvation?



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

PELAGIANISM RENEWED

- "Able to sin and able not to sin"
- "Not able not to sin"
- "Not able to sin"



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

PELAGIANISM RENEWED

- "Able to sin and able not to sin"
 - Pelagianism, condemned @ Ephesus, 431 AD
 - Semi-Pelagianism, condemned @ Orange, 529
- "Not able not to sin"
- "Not able to sin"
 - Augustine (pre-/post-Fall; post-Regeneration)



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

SYNERGISM IN SALVATION

“The theology contained in the Remonstrance stemmed from two philosophical principles: first, since the Bible regards faith as a free and responsible human act, it cannot be caused by God, but is exercised independently of Him; second, since the Bible regards faith as obligatory on the part of all who hear the gospel, the ability to believe must be universal.”

J. I. PACKER, INTRODUCTION TO OWEN, P.4



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

SYNERGISM IN SALVATION

- Reconciling Three Core Beliefs in Salvation:
 - 1) The offer of salvation to “repent and believe”
 - 2) The sinfulness of mankind that necessitates Christ’s saving death
 - 3) The sovereignty of God over the whole



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

5 ARTICLES OF THE REMONSTRANCE

ARTICLE I:
PREDESTINATION

ARTICLE II:
THE UNIVERSALITY OF CHRIST'S DEATH

ARTICLE III:
THE RESISTIBILITY OF GRACE

ARTICLE IV:
THE NEED FOR PREVENIENT GRACE

ARTICLE V:
PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

ARTICLE I: PREDESTINATION

“Do we believe because we have been elected
or are we elected because we believe?”

JACOBUS ARMINIUS,
DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS, P.24

“For those whom he foreknew he also
predestined to be conformed to the image of
his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn
among many brothers.”

ROMANS 8:29



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

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THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

ARTICLE III: THE RESISTIBILITY OF GRACE

“For the whole controversy reduces itself to the solution of this question, ‘is the grace of God a certain irresistible force?’ That is, the controversy does not relate to those actions or operations which may be ascribed to grace...but it relates solely to the mode of operation, whether it be irresistible or not. With respect to which, I believe, according to the scriptures, that many persons resist the Holy Spirit and reject the grace that is offered.”

JACOBUS ARMINIUS,
DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS, P.24



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

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THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

ARTICLE IV: PREVENIENT GRACE

“But in his lapsed and sinful state, man is not capable, of and by himself, either to think, to will, or to do that which is really good; but it is necessary for him to be regenerated and renewed in his intellect, affections or will, and in all his powers, by God in Christ through the Holy Spirit, that he may be qualified rightly to understand, esteem, consider, will, and perform whatever is truly good.”

JACOBUS ARMINIUS,
DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS, P.24



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

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THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

ARTICLE V: PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

"I never taught that a true believer can, either totally or finally fall away from the faith, and perish; yet I will not conceal, that there are passages of scripture which seem to me to wear this aspect; and those answers to them which I have been permitted to see, are not of such a kind as to approve themselves on all points to my understanding."

JACOBUS ARMINIUS,
DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS, P.25



THE REFORMERS VS. THE REMONSTRANCE

5 ARTICLES OF THE REMONSTRANCE	5 CANONS OF DORT
ARTICLE I: PREDESTINATION	CANON I: PREDESTINATION (<u>U</u> NCONDITIONAL ELECTION)
ARTICLE II: THE UNIVERSALITY OF CHRIST'S DEATH	CANON II: CHRIST'S SATISFACTION (<u>L</u> IMITED ATONEMENT)
ARTICLE III: THE RESISTIBILITY OF GRACE	CANONS III-IV: MAN'S CORRUPTION & CONVERSION TO GOD (<u>T</u> OTAL DEPRAVITY & <u>I</u> RRESISTIBLE GRACE)
ARTICLE IV: THE NEED FOR PREVENIENT GRACE	
ARTICLE V: PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS	CANON V: <u>P</u> ERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

SOTERIOLOGY: THE REFORMATION DEBATE

DISCUSSION

1. Why is it important to understand how God brings about our salvation?
2. What is the nature of our work with God in relation to our salvation ("synergism")?