

Church History: 1054 to 1300
Papal Power and the Crusades

Shelley: “Modern times are marked by the idea of autonomous, sovereign states without religious affiliation and by the concept of the church as a voluntary association apart from the rest of organized society. But neither of these ideas existed in the Middle Ages. Drawing upon Augustine’s vision of the “City of God”, Charles the Great engrafted the Christian concept of a universal, Catholic church on the stock of the traditional Roman view of empire and gave to the medieval world Christendom, a unified society mingling religious (or eternal) concerns with earthly (or temporal) affairs.”

Picture - Notre Dame is a fitting symbol of the high Middle Ages as man reaches for God and the church wields God’s power on earth. See the flying buttresses and tall spires, an architectural innovation, which drew the Middle Ages gaze up to heaven. My time in Notre Dame.

The East-West church split is now final. From 1054AD until the end of the 13th century the Roman Catholic church, particularly the papacy, grew in power.

In mid-11th century the Western Church was reforming and attempting to free itself from secular authority and place the pope in final control of church matters. This was clearly seen in 1059 when the church created the College of Cardinals for the election of the pope, still in effect today, freeing that process from state control. Before this time the state had a major role in who would lead the church. The man who would become pope, as Gregory VII, was behind this shrewd move to diminish state power over church appointments and to set the church’s course toward greater unity and power.

Gregory VII – 1023-1085 – See picture

1. Gregory was a German whose surname was “Hildebrand.”
2. Born to poor parents.
3. Entered the Benedictine order.
4. Gregory served 8 popes over 25 years - high up in church affairs - and was named pope in 1073. He initially resisted being elevated to pope preferring a more behind-the-scenes role.

5. Gregory was determined to restore the power and place of the church, and consequently the power of the pope, as the first order of business during his papacy. For example:
- He enforced clerical celibacy – no more marriage. Not popular among many priests who were married!!
 - He fought with kings and emperors over who should appoint bishops – pope or kings. Lay investiture.
 1. Emperor Henry IV of Germany/Archbishop of Milan – fight over appointment. Pope excommunicates Henry and releases his subjects from his rule.
 2. There was a back and forth between the pope and king over who had the power. The pope gained support from the nobles and Henry got trapped.
 3. Eventually Henry had to ask the pope for forgiveness and absolution.
 4. Henry played chicken and lost.
 - Durant: “The emperor came in person to Canossa ... bringing with him only a small retinue ... He presented himself at the gate of the castle, barefoot and clad only in wretched woolen garments, beseeching us with fears to grant him absolution and forgiveness. This he continued to do for three days, while all those about us were moved to compassion at his plight, and interceded for him with tears and prayers ... At length we removed the excommunication from him and received him again into the bosom of the Holy Mother Church.”
6. Gregory succeeded in humiliating the emperor, not an original act incidentally. Shelley puts it this way: “(Gregory) claimed unprecedented power for the papacy. He insisted that the spiritual power was supreme over the temporal.” This drive for power found its fulfillment and its demise during the next 250 years, particularly in the Crusades.

The Crusades – 1095-1291

Nothing captures the spirit of Medieval church history quite like the Crusades. The first Crusade was called in 1095AD and the last fizzled out in 1291AD. By 1300 pretty much everything in the Middle East went back to the way it was

before the First Crusade was called. Despite the failures of the Crusades, they are still in the modern mind and conversation some 700 years later.

Let's start by giving some background for the Crusades so that we can, hopefully, place them in their proper context.

1. Background

- a. At the beginning of the 7th century the Christian world seemed to be settling down. The Arian controversy had died down; The Frankish tribes in Gaul (France) were uniting; the Byzantine Empire was still strong from Justinian the Emperor, especially in North Africa where the signs of the Vandal conquest were all but gone.
- b. Then something very unexpected happened deep in Arabia – the Prophet Mohammed had a vision from God – whom he called Allah.
- c. Just a couple of things about Muhammed:
 - He was a military man and a good one. Durant: “During his ten years in Medina he planned 65 campaigns and raids, and personally led 27.”
 - He died at age 59 in 632AD and his religion and empire was built by others over succeeding centuries, through religious, political and military means.
- d. It is difficult to conceive how rapid the advance of Islam was during the 7th and early 8th centuries.
- e. **See maps – 632AD and 733AD**
- f. **Gonzalez**: “By the middle of the 8th century, a hundred years after the Arab conquest of Jerusalem, at least 50% of the world's Christians found themselves under Muslim rule. The great centers of Christian life in the early centuries, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, Carthage were forced to submit to the dominion of Islam.”
- g. Jerusalem was conquered by the Muslims in 638AD. Ironically, the Byzantines (Eastern Empire) had recovered Jerusalem from the Persians only 8 years prior and now the Holy City was in Muslim hands.
- h. Why did the Muslims care about Jerusalem? Two important things here:
 - First, Islamic legend has it that Mohammed ascended to heaven from the high point of the Old City, which formerly was the site of Solomon's Temple and is now the Dome of the Rock shrine in

Jerusalem. Muslims consider this site as the third holiest site in Islam.

- Secondly, Mohammed's Islam was a religion of conquest, military conquest. Through military victory and conquest Islam can grow and unbelievers have a chance to "submit" to Allah. In fact, Islam means "submission." Mohammed and his descendants believed in conquest.
- i. What were the results of the Muslim takeovers? Generally,
 - You were given the option of converting or be put to death.
 - There were exceptions: Those who worshiped one god (Christians, Jews) were allowed to live under certain conditions: 1) not allowed to ride a horse or carry weapons and 2) must pay annual tax called the *jizya*.
 - In the centuries prior to the First Crusade, the experience of believers in Muslim lands varied pretty widely, with some treatment being very harsh and some generally respectful.
 - j. After Muhammed died the Muslims were led by "caliphs", initially relatives of the Prophet. Disputes arose as to who the legitimate caliph was which led to a split in Islam – Shiites and Sunnis. Those divisions are still around today.
 - k. The occupation of the Holy Lands was dominated by this struggle for power among the various factions in Islam and various conflicts between the Muslims and the Byzantines until the First Crusade.
 - l. Big Picture in mid-11th century in Middle East: Things were tense for Christians living in the Holy Lands and those wishing to visit the Holy places.

2. Immediate Causes of the Crusades:

- a. First, the advance of the Seljuq Turks from central Asia.
 - In the mid-11th century the Seljuk Turks (Muslims) swept down from central Asia into the Holy Land.
 - In 1070AD the Turks took Jerusalem from the Fatimids, an Islamic sect from Cairo.
 - Christians were barred from the Holy City.
 - The Seljuks crushed the Byzantine army at Manzikert, in Turkey, in 1071 and captured the Byzantine Emperor Romanus IV Diogenes.
 - A completely humiliating loss for the Byzantines.

- Just as important, pilgrimages to the Holy Land had now become very dangerous.
- b. Second, the weakening of the Byzantine Empire.
- For hundreds of years the Byzantines had controlled an empire – politically, religiously and militarily. Now their empire did not extend too far beyond the royal city – Constantinople – in the east and south.
 - After the east-west schism in 1054, discord and dissensions and defeats like Manzikert left the Empire too weak to fight back against the Turks.
 - So, the Eastern Emperor reached out to the West for help.
- c. Third, the desire of powerful Italian cities – Pisa, Genoa, Amalfi, Venice and others – to extend their influence and commercial interests. Muslim rule in the Holy lands and across North Africa crimped business!
- d. There were 8-11 crusades depending on how you reckon a crusade, including a Children’s Crusade. The Crusades dominated this time period of church history. Given our limited time, I will only comment on the first 4 crusades. As we move chronologically through these crusades I will stop at strategic points to consider other people and events of importance that happened during this period.

3. Call of the Crusades – 1095AD

- a. The call to the Crusaders:
- Emperor Alexius I begged Pope Urban II to come and deliver the East from the onset of the Turks/Muslims. His reasoning was that it made more sense to beat back this threat here in the Middle East rather than have to fight the Muslims on Europe’s soil if Constantinople fell. Who could forget the Battle of Tours in Spain in 732AD where Charles Martel beat back the Muslim advance in western Europe.
 - In 1095 at the Council of Piacenza Pope Urban supported the idea of defending Constantinople and the Holy Lands.
 - Later in 1095 Urban toured through his native France seeking support from leaders. It was in Clermont that Pope Urban II delivered what many consider the most influential speech in medieval history.
 - **Here is an excerpt:**

- “Freshly quickened by the divine correction, you must apply the strength of your righteousness to another matter which concerns you as well as God. For your brethren who live in the east are in urgent need of your help, and you must hasten to give them the aid which has often been promised them. For, as the most of you have heard, the Turks and Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory of Romania [the Greek empire] as far west as the shore of the Mediterranean and the Hellespont, which is called the Arm of St. George. They have occupied more and more of the lands of those Christians, and have overcome them in seven battles. They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the empire. If you permit them to continue thus with impurity, the faithful of God will be much more widely attacked by them. On this account I, or rather the Lord, beseech you as Christ's heralds to publish this everywhere and to persuade all people of whatever rank, foot-soldiers and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that vile race from the lands of our friends. I say this to those who are present, it meant also for those who are absent. Moreover, Christ commands it. "All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested. O what a disgrace if such a despised and base race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent God and is made glorious with the name of Christ! With what reproaches will the Lord overwhelm us if you do not aid those who, with us, profess the Christian religion!”

b. What did the Pope hope to accomplish?

c. **Gonzalez:** “The hope was to defeat the Muslims, who threatened Constantinople, to save the Byzantine Empire, to reunite the Eastern and Western branches of the church, to reconquer the Holy Land as well as other territories that Islam had previously taken by means of a similar use of military force, and in so doing – to win heaven.”

- Given such broad and sweeping goals and aspirations it is no surprise that the Crusades ultimately failed.

- d. Thousands heeded the call to arms, including the nobility, commoners and monks.
- e. One main reason why so many responded involved the use of “indulgences” by the pope. For the first Crusade the faithful were offered a “plenary” indulgence remitting all punishments due to sin for those who would fall in the war. This period marked the beginning of the widespread use of indulgences to motivate behavior among the faithful.
 - The use and abuse of indulgences grew dramatically in the next 300 years, culminating in the “spark” that lit the Protestant Reformation – when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church at Wittenberg. These were 95 charges against the abuse of indulgences by the Roman Catholic church.
- f. **Durant**: “He (Pope Urban) assumed, with no serious opposition, the authority to release Crusaders from commitments hindering the Crusade; he freed the serf and vassal, for the duration of the war, from fealty to their lord ... he guaranteed episcopal protection of their property. Now, more than ever, Europe was made one. Urban found himself the accepted master, at least in theory, of Europe’s kings. All Christendom was moved as never before as it feverishly prepared for the holy war.”
- g. The period of the Crusades marked the height of papal power. From about 1095 through the 13th century the Roman Catholic popes grew in power and influence. That power declined thereafter however, in no small measure as a result of the failed Crusades.

The First Crusade – 1097-1099 - *See map*

- a. It took months for the Crusaders to prepare for this “taking up of the cross.”
- b. Waves of crusaders left at different times and under different leaders.
 - 12,000 from France under Peter the Hermit
 - 5,000 from Germany under the priest Gottschalk
 - Feudal leaders had organized their own groups of Crusaders. Interestingly, the first Crusade did not include any kings as the 3 major kings, Philip I of France, William II of England and Henry IV of Germany had all been excommunicated by Pope Urban.
- c. The Crusaders traveled various routes to get to the Holy Land.

- d. Disorganized, poor and soon starving. They arrived at Constantinople destitute. This dynamic marked all the Crusades: Poor planning, privation, disease. Many crusaders died before they ever got out of Eastern Europe. Many more died of disease before reaching the battlefield.
- e. When they got to Constantinople they were surprised by the wealth and luxury of the Eastern Empire capital.
- f. In fact, Alexius I was somewhat concerned that the Crusaders may turn their eye toward Constantinople from Jerusalem or perhaps not give back any lands won from the Muslims. So he bribed them with silver and made them swear allegiance to the Byzantines.
- g. The Crusaders took back Nicea, then Antioch in bloody battles.
- h. In 1098 a large Muslim army advanced on Antioch. Listen to the following anecdote from that battle as it says much about the medieval mind:
 - **Durant:** “To restore courage to the Crusaders, Peter Bartholomew, a priest from Marseille, pretended to have found the spear that had pierced the side of Christ; when the Christians marched out to battle the lance was carried aloft as a sacred standard; and three knights, robed in white, issued from the hills at the call of the papal legate Adhemar, who proclaimed them to be the martyrs St. Maurice, St. Theodore and St. George. So inspired, and under the united command of Bohemund, the Crusaders achieved a decisive victory. Bartholomew, accused of a pious fraud, offered to undergo the ordeal of fire as a test of his veracity. He ran through a gauntlet of burning faggots, and emerged apparently safe; but he died of burns or an over-strained heart on the following day.; and the holy lance was withdrawn from the standards of the host.”
- i. Finally, the Crusader army, reduced to about 12,000 soldiers, stood before the walls of Jerusalem on June 7, 1099. Believe it or not, the Turks, who the Crusaders had come to displace, had themselves been thrown out of the Holy City by the Fatimids, another Muslim sect.
- j. On July 15, 1099, after a short siege, the Crusaders took back Jerusalem and slaughtered both Muslims and Jews.

- k. Jerusalem was then ruled by the Latins until 1189. This was certainly the high point of the Crusades – it was all downhill after this.

Bernard of Clairvaux: 1091-1153 – See picture

- Near the beginning of the First Crusade, a boy was born in France to knightly parents – Bernard. He would be used by God to address some of the excesses of the Crusade period, including the perversion and wealth of the monastic orders.
- He was a shy and pious youth who was uncomfortable in the secular world – he looked to enter a monastery.
- He was so convinced of the benefits of monastic life that he brought with him 29 others from his family. Later his mother and sisters and father were persuaded by Bernard on the promise that they would “burn forever” if they did not do penance. Bernard had a bit of the “salesman” in him which would benefit the pope later in the call for a 2nd Crusade.
- Bernard was a true believer. High character and high conviction. He was a powerful preacher.
- Although he was harsh with skeptics, he was tender and loving with those who struggled in their faith.
- **Durant**: “When one of his monks, in terror, confessed to him that he could not believe in the power of the priest to change the bread of the Eucharist into the body and blood of Christ, Bernard did not reprove him; he bade him receive the sacrament nevertheless; “go and communicate with *my* faith”; and we are assured that Bernard’s faith overflowed into the doubter and saved his soul.”
- Bernard was sent out to start a new abbey in Clairvaux, France.
- He spent 38 years at Clairvaux, with breaks at the behest of the pope, in one small cell with straw on the floor and no seat. He was an ascetic to the threat of his health.
- **Durant**: “All the comforts and goods of the world seemed to him as nothing compared with the thoughts and promise of Christ.”
- Wrote two famous hymns: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee; O Sacred Head Now Wounded. **Listen to 2 verses from O Sacred Head:**
 1. O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown;

How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn!

2. What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

- You would do well to read these hymns as they are beautiful praises.
- Bernard influenced councils, bishops, popes, kings.
- Gonzalez: “His personality dominated his time, for he was at once the mystic devoted to the contemplation of the humanity of Christ, the power behind and above the papacy (especially when one of his monks became pope), the champion of ecclesiastical reform, the preacher of the 2nd Crusade and the enemy of all theological innovation.”
- Bernard was admired by many, including the Reformers for his piety and devotion to Christ.
- At the time of his death there were 700 monks at Clairvaux.

The Second Crusade – 1146-1148 – See map

- a. In 1146AD, Pope Eugenius II asked Bernard of Clairvaux to “preach” another Crusade because of the Muslim threat to Jerusalem.
 - Bernard persuaded King Louis VII to take up the cross and stand at his side when Bernard called the faithful to go.
 - Bernard tore his own robe to provide relics for the faithful as they left.
 - The Emperor of Germany, Conrad I, answered the call and led the Crusade.
 - Hard for us to understand the seeming contradictions of a man like Bernard who, at one and the same time, was a pious lover of Jesus Christ and the passionate preacher of the Second Crusade. Medieval times presented many such contradictions.
- b. The Second Crusade collapsed outside of Damascus in the face of a large advancing Muslim army. Conrad returned to Germany diseased and disgraced.
- c. Bernard, criticized heavily on the failure of the 2nd Crusade said that the ways of God are beyond understanding and that failure must be due to punishment for sins.

4. It is good to stop here for a moment to remind ourselves that the history of the Crusades is NOT just military history; it is church history. The church called and sanctioned these Crusades. The Crusades are a reflection of the power and politics of the Roman church and her leaders, the Popes, during this entire 250-year period.

The Third Crusade – 1189-1192 - See map

- a. The 3rd Crusade contains some of the most enduring images of the Crusades. It certainly had the most well-known combatants - Richard I, of the Lion Heart and Saladin, the Muslim warrior. You may remember the movie “Kingdom of Heaven” which was about portions of this crusade.
- b. There was relative peace in Jerusalem for 40 years after the Second Crusade, under the rule of the divided Latins.
- c. However, the Muslims were uniting under a single powerful leader, Saladin.
- d. In 1185 one of the Latin leaders, Reginald, captured a Muslim caravan and took Saladin’s sister captive. Saladin was infuriated and swore to kill Reginald and return his sister. He called a holy war against Christians.
- e. Saladin took back Jerusalem in 1187 after a 12-day siege.
 - Saladin is a highly interesting figure in history. He is considered a gentlemen warrior who did show acts of mercy to Christians and Jews living in Jerusalem at time of capture. He was a feared adversary, however, and did not shy away from cruelty when it served his purposes.
- f. As news of the situation in Jerusalem filtered back to the West, new calls for a third crusade were made.
 - Emperor Frederick of Germany was first to set out. His army faltered and Frederick drowned in a river in 1190. Ignominious beginning.
 - Recently crowned Richard 1 – The Lion Heart – of England, at age 31 decided to go for the glory in the Middle East. He demanded that the French King Philip Augustus, 23 years old, accompany him on the crusade to prevent France from attacking England while he was gone.
 - **Picture of Richard and Saladin**

- The leaders of the 3rd Crusade chose to go by sea to the Mediterranean coast. This would hopefully prevent many of the troubles of the 1st two crusades and the overland routes.
- Philip reached the coast of Palestine at Acre first and put the city to siege. That lasted 19 months before Richard reached the port in 1191.
- Richard conquered Acre, took tribute and released the Muslims to go back to Saladin. King Phillip got sick and returned to France. Richard was now the only leader of the 3rd Crusade.
- Durant: “Richard atoned for the defects of his troops by the excellence of his generalship, the skill of his engineering, and his inspiring valor on the battlefield; in those respects, he excelled Saladin, as well as all other Christian leaders of the Crusades.
- Perhaps the most famous image from any Crusader battle originated during this time. Richard was in Acre, north of Jaffa, a port town on the Mediterranean, and heard that Saladin had taken Jaffa. He immediately sailed for Jaffa to take it back. Durant describes the scene: “Arrived in harbor, he cried, “Perish the hindmost!” and leaped to his waist into the sea. Swinging his famous Danish ax. He beat down all who resisted him, led his men into the City, and cleared it of Moslem soldiery almost before Saladin could learn what had occurred.” Durant
- The remainder of the 3rd Crusade was a series of back and forths between Richard and Saladin’s troops. Most importantly, Jerusalem stayed under Muslim control.
- There were many risks to going on Crusade. For example, as Richard left the Holy Land to go home to England he was captured by the German Emperor and made to pay a ransom before going home. Crazy!
- Saladin died in 1193 at age 55; Richard died in 1199 at age 42.

Pope Innocent III – 1161-1216 – See picture

- a. The Crusades had the effect of centralizing and extending the power of the popes in the West. In fact, the papacy came to the zenith of its influence with the beginning with the 13th century.

b. What Gregory VII started, Innocent completed. No one exemplified that power more than Pope Innocent III, who ruled as pontiff from 1198-1216.

- Born near Rome, son of a count.
- Well educated and appointed pope at age 37. Young!!
- Through a series of shrewd decisions during the first year of his papacy, he became master of Italy.
- He wrote books on theology and had a brilliant mind. He sang and wrote poetry, was personally kind and patient.
- **Durant**: “But in doctrine and morals he allowed no deviation from the dogmas or ethics of the church. The world of Christian faith and hope was the empire that he had been named to protect; and like any king he would guard his realm with the sword when the word did not suffice.”
- Unlike prior reform minded popes like Gregory VII, who were monks, Innocent, and later 13th century popes, were administrators in church government, more like lawyers.
- Innocent was the father of “canon law” – the laws of the church. He had a legal mind and concern.
- **Shelley**: “The successor of Peter,” Innocent announced, “is the vicar of Christ: he has been established as a mediator between God and man, below God but beyond man; less than God but more than man; who shall judge all and be judged by no one.”
- This sounds like the man who started the Inquisition – no one will judge me!
- Also, Innocent’s view of his office seemed to conflict directly with Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:5: “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.”
- But in the High Middle Ages, not many wanted to take issue with the Pope.
- Innocent compelled kings to take back discarded wives; he consistently got money tribute from nation states and involved himself in national politics.
- He was expert at the use of ex-communication and interdict to get what he felt was in the best interests of the church.

1. Excommunication cut off an individual from the church and its benefits – for example, no communion; an interdict cut off an entire nation. He routinely ex-communicated kings and used the interdict 85 times successfully against nation-states.
 2. When King John of England named his own Archbishop of Canterbury, against the pope's wishes, Innocent excommunicated the king and put England under interdict. Eventually John caved, became the pope's vassal and paid a large tribute to the church.
 3. Innocent was used to getting what he wanted.
- Innocent died in 1216 at age 55. The later church denied him canonization but acknowledged their debt to his administration. Maybe the most telling criticism of him – Too much the king, too little the priest.

The Fourth Crusade – 1202-1204 – See Map

- a. The 1st Crusade was the most successful culminating in the re-capture of Jerusalem. The 3rd Crusade was the most colorful with its larger than life figures – Richard the Lion Heart and Saladin the Muslim conqueror. But for me, the 4th Crusade is the most revealing of the Crusades and serves as a fitting symbol of all that was wrong with the Crusades.
- b. The 3rd Crusade had achieved freedom for Acre on the coast of the Mediterranean but Jerusalem was still in Muslim hands. Saladin was dead and his empire was breaking up.
- c. So, Innocent III – the powerful pope – called a 4th Crusade.
- d. The pope's idea was to attack the Holy Lands through Egypt by taking Venetian ships rather than the difficult overland route through Constantinople.
 - Tell the story of Venice and Zadar and Constantinople
- e. In 1204 the Crusaders swept like locusts through the ancient capital of the Eastern Empire. The Latin "crusaders" spoiled the great city like no one ever did, even the Turks.
- f. **Durant**: "The Venetians, familiar with the city that had once welcomed them as merchants, knew where the greatest treasures lay, and stole with superior intelligence; statues and textiles, slaves and gems, fell discriminately into their hands; the four bronze horses that had surveyed the Greek city would now romp over the Piazza di San Marco;

- nine tenths of the collections of art and jewelry that would later distinguish the treasury of St. Mark's came from this well managed theft.”
- g. What started out as a, supposedly, “holy” effort to defend and recover the holy land ended up as a vendetta against other Christians for that most holy of reasons – greed, money and power!! How sad.
 - h. The Byzantine Empire never really recovered from this ignominious blow from the Latins. The Empire fell to the Turks some 200 years later.

Francis of Assisi: 1182-1226 – See picture

- a. The 4th Crusade shined a bright light upon all that was wrong with the Crusades – Money and greed, misplaced priorities, political intrigue, downright evil. However, perhaps the worst part was the accumulated power and abuse of power in the highest ranks of the church. But not everyone in the church believed in power and control. Some like, Francis of Assisi, wanted to go back to a simpler more authentic Christianity.
 - Francis grew up in Italy of wealthy parents. Richest youth in town and popular.
 - Joined the army of the Pope, was captured in battle and spent a year in captivity waiting for his father to ransom him. Came home a changed man and very sick.
 - Francis had a deep religious experience that resulted in his embrace of poverty. The story goes: “One day his friends noticed that he was exceptionally happy. Why are you so happy? they asked him. Because I have married. Whom have you married? Lady Poverty.” Francis founded the Order of the Franciscans with approval of Pope Innocent.
 - Francis had a simple Rule for his fledgling order: Take up Christ's cross, sell all your belongings and embrace poverty and follow Christ's commands to the apostles whom he sent out on mission.
 - Shelley: “Francis feared the spread of worldly power; he dreaded the growth of learning, lest service to the poor be neglected.”
 - He could not bear to see someone poorer than himself and so frequently gave the coat off his back to others that his disciples could not keep him clothed. Francis had a great love for animals and the

environment. You have heard the saying: “He couldn’t hurt a fly.” – That guy was Francis.

- I believe that today he is named the patron saint of the environment by the Catholics.
- He went on several overseas missions and wrote poems and the well-known hymn “All creatures of our God and King” which we still sing today at LG.
- The Franciscans preached the gospel throughout Italy – “Fear and honor God” they said, “praise and bless him ... Repent ... for you know that we shall soon die ... Abstain from evil, persevere in the good.” Italy had heard such words before, but seldom from men of such evident sincerity.” **Durant**
- Francis of Assisi stood as a great antidote to the church’s fling with world power.
- In a cruel irony, a century after Francis died the then Pope John XXII burned some of the most loyal Franciscans at the stake during the Inquisition.

Result of the Crusades

1. There were as many as 11 crusades of different types – major and minor.

After 200+ years how can we sum them up?

- By 1300 virtually any gains made by the Latins during the 200 preceding years were lost. Only way to describe the Crusades is “failure.”
- True, Constantinople was saved for another 170 years and Islam was weakened.
- **Durant**: “The power and prestige of the Roman church were immensely enhanced by the First Crusade, and progressively damaged by the rest.”
- We are left to wonder why anyone thought it was a good idea to kill others in the name of Christ.
- An unintended consequence, however: Trade and travel increased dramatically as a result of the Crusades setting the stage for missionary efforts in the following decades and centuries. God is always at work.

The Age of Scholasticism - The period of the Crusades produced some great works of theology and Christian thinking during an age known as Scholasticism. A key challenge for the Scholastic thinkers was the integration of reason and faith. Many Churchmen at that time felt very threatened at the thought of Christian reason or intellect, thinking that it diminished faith. That tension is much less today but it raged back then.

Two of the most influential thinkers were Anselm and Aquinas.

1. **Anselm of Canterbury – 1034-1109 – See picture**

- Born in Italy of wealthy parents.
- Joined a Benedictine monastery in 1157, against the wishes of his parents.
- He wrote works of theology and apologetics. He believed that the use of reason to defend the faith was important.
- Listen to one of his prayers in his writings: “I do not seek, Lord, to reach your heights, for my intellect is as nothing compared to them. But I seek in some way to understand your truth, which my heart believes and loves. For I do not seek to understand in order to believe, but rather believe in order to understand.”
- In 1093 he was named archbishop of Canterbury in England.

2. Anselm is known mostly for two things:

- His “ontological” argument for the existence of God – which we are going to ignore!
- His book called “Cur Deus Homo?” – Why did God become man? Book was completed in 1099.
 - a. Anselm wrote this book in response to requests for discussion on the Incarnation.
 - b. In this book Anselm described his theory of the atonement called the “satisfaction” theory.
 - c. Quick description:
 - Our sin poses an infinite offense against an infinite holy God.
 - Fallen humanity could never atone for such an infinite sinful offense.
 - Hence, the Incarnation – Jesus Christ: Fully God, fully man to provide an adequate atonement.

- Only Christ could provide “satisfaction” for sins. Only Christ could satisfy divine justice due to His infinite merit as the god-man.
- This satisfaction theory led to the penal-substitution theory of the atonement which was fully formulated by Aquinas and Calvin in the Reformation.
- **Ritchie:** “... we can be grateful to Anselm. Humanly speaking, it is to him that we owe many truths that we regard as most commonplace and obvious today: the infinite guilt of our offense against God and the corresponding necessity of the infinitely valuable offering; the concept of the justice of God as applied to man's salvation; the relation of who Christ is to what he was able to do, our common statement that punishment must happen somewhere, either to you or to Christ. All these truths are clearly taught in Scripture, but it is to him that we owe their first clear statement.”

3. **Thomas Aquinas – 1224-1274 – See picture**

- Born near Naples of an aristocratic family.
- He was 5 years old when his parents sent him off to a Benedictine abbey for study.
- At 14 he began study at University of Naples.
- He was a large man with a brilliant mind; he was very industrious and had a gentle way.
- He entered the Dominican order at age 20. But, on his way to Paris to study his brothers kidnapped him at their mother’s request to bring Thomas to a castle in Italy. He was kept there a year while family attempted to convince Thomas to change vocations.
- A legendary story tells of how his brothers sent a pretty young woman into his chamber to “shake” him from his life direction, but Thomas grabbed a flaming brand out of the fire and chased her out of his room while branding the door. His life’s direction was set!
- His most famous work is called the Summa Theologica, which is addressed to Christians. It contained sections on metaphysics, psychology, ethics, and law. This work is still studied today at seminaries and schools of philosophy.

- It is very difficult to summarize Aquinas' work because his output was so massive. **Let me quote from Geisler on some of his key theological teachings:**
 - a. "The creation reveals one God and his essential attributes, but not the Trinity or the unique doctrines of the Christian faith, such as the Incarnation of Christ."
 - b. "The Bible is inspired and inerrant. No other Christian writing, neither the Fathers nor the creeds, are inspired or revelatory. They are only human interpretations of God's revelations in Scripture."
 - c. "Although God's existence is provable by reason ... human reason is never the basis for faith *in* God. Demanding reasons for belief in God actually lessens the merit of faith. Believers, nonetheless, should reason about and for their faith."
 - d. "According to Aquinas, there are five ways we can demonstrate God's existence, including cause and effect and design in nature (both anticipating scientific battlegrounds of today), however, there are mysteries of the Christian faith such as the Trinity and Incarnation which can be known only by faith in God's revelation in Scripture. These go beyond reason, but are not contrary to reason."
- Gonzalez summarized Aquinas: "The importance of Thomas and his work cannot be overstated. Not only did he help the church cope with new ideas coming out of the Aristotelian revival, but in doing so he opened the way for modern science and observation."

The Medieval Inquisition – It is fitting that we end tonight with the Inquisition. 2 blots stain the history of the Christian church more than any others since Christ ascended: The Crusades and the Inquisition; both occurred during this time period. While the Crusades started and ended before 1300, the Inquisition began in the 13th century and continued for hundreds of years in various forms.

1. Throughout church history there have always been heresies, challenges to orthodox belief. New heresies arose in the 11th and 12th centuries. Some were harmless and some were condemned leading to torture and burnings at the stake.
2. 2 groups, in particular, were persecuted in the medieval inquisition.

3. The Waldenses:

- Peter Waldo, a rich merchant, commissioned a translation of the Bible and after much study decided that Christians should go back to living like the 1st century apostles – in poverty and humility. This is against the growing wealth and luxury of the established church.
- He gave most of his estate to the poor and began teaching the imitation of Christ. An anti-organized church sect.
- The Archbishop excommunicated Waldo. So he appealed to the Pope. The Pope was initially supportive but restrained them from teaching so Waldo and his followers continued to practice and preach simple poverty.
- The movement spread so the next Pope excommunicated the Waldensians from the Catholic church in 1184.
- Shelley: “The Waldenses wanted to purify the church by a return to the simple life of the apostles. This meant the surrender of worldly power. Their aim, like that of the Roman church, was salvation. But their means were radically different.”

4. The Albigensian heresy:

- About the same time another more powerful dissenting group arose in France near a town called Albi. Hence, the name Albigensians – they were also called the “Cathari, from the Greek word for pure.
- The Cathari were much like the ancient Gnostics who troubled the church back in the early days.
- Like the Gnostics, the Cathari believed that the universe was engaged in an eternal conflict between two great powers, one good and one evil. Matter was part of the evil, including body, marriage, material possessions etc. Even the cross on which Christ died was considered evil. Christ was not human, rather he was a life giving spirit. Gnosticism reborn.
- Shelley: “Obviously, the Cathari were heretical in a way Arnold of Brescia and Peter Waldo were not. Arnold and Waldo refused to submit to church authorities, but the Cathari rejected not only popes and bishops but basic Christianity. They tried to escape from evil, not by repentance and faith but by dividing the self in two. The Cathari were an immense peril to the Roman church. Not only had they revived the ancient dualist heresy, by 1200 they had gained the

protection of the princes of Toulouse, a cultural area in southern France, and were spreading at an alarming rate. Three weapons were at the Catholic church's disposal: preaching to return them to the truth, a crusade to crush all hardened resistance, and the Inquisition to uproot heresy completely."

5. The church tried preaching – the rise of the Dominicans traces back to a Spaniard named Dominic who was given the job of peacefully preaching to turn the Cathari away from error. Dominic founded the order of "Dominicans" still active today in the Catholic church. Ironically it would be the Dominicans who would be called upon to lead the Inquisition in later years.
6. Pope Innocent III got impatient with this "peaceful" approach and called for a crusade, not against Muslims but against heretics in the south of France. He got a lot of help from the northern French who wanted a reason to attack the south of France. And did they ever.
7. Shelley: "It isn't often that good Christian men can save their souls and at the same time enlarge their kingdoms by butchering unbelievers. Even Innocent was shocked by the brutality."
8. Routing out the remaining heretics gave rise to what we know today as the Inquisition, or the "inquiry" into a person's beliefs.
 - Initially heresy or harboring a heretic resulted in excommunication.
 - But the popularity of the Catharis called for stricter "inquiry."
 - Innocent III allowed for state punishment and confiscation of property. Bringing the state and church together in the inquisition made it more effective and more tragic.
 - By 1227, Pope Gregory IX was ready to get even tougher because heresy was still growing.
 - Durant: "Gregory appointed a board of inquisitors, headed by a Dominican monk, to sit in Florence and bring the heretics to judgment (1227) ... By 1231, Church and state agreed that impenitent heresy was treason, and should be punished with death. The Inquisition was now officially established under the control of the popes."
9. Durant: "Roman law had permitted the eliciting of confessions by torture. It was not used in the episcopal courts, nor in the first twenty years of the papal inquisition; but Innocent IV (1252) authorized it where the judges

were convinced of the accused man's guilt, and later pontiff's condoned its use. The popes advised that torture should be a last resort, should be applied only once, and should be kept 'this side of loss of limb and danger of death.' The Inquisitors interpreted 'only once' as meaning only once for each examination; sometimes they interrupted torture to resume examination, and then felt free to torture anew."

10. An example of the Inquisitors: "Robert" the Dominican, who in 1239 on one day sent 180 "heretics" to the stake, including a bishop who had been too lenient with heretics. Hard to believe but the inquisitors were emboldened because they were purifying the Church!!

11. What were the results of the Medieval Inquisition?

- Spectacularly successful in eliminating Catharism. Some Waldenses survived and joined the Reformation in the 16th century.
- The Inquisition probably delayed the Reformation by 3 centuries due to its impact on dissent.
- The Inquisition continued on for hundreds of years with new targets, including the Jews.
- Marked the zenith of papal power and abuse of power.

12. Heresy was undoubtedly a problem and needed to be confronted. But today we shrink back from how heresy was dealt with. We will save the heretic, even if we have to kill him! Could anything be further from the spirit of Jesus Christ found in the gospels?

13. I will let Durant give the last word on the Medieval Inquisition: "Making every allowance required of an historian and permitted to a Christian, we must rank the Inquisition, along with the wars and persecutions of our time, as among the darkest blots on the record of mankind, revealing a ferocity unknown in any beast."

14. As a final note, how do we deal with major heresy in today's church? Persuasion, prayer, strong leadership and ultimately excommunication from fellowship.

How to sum up this 250 years?

- **John 18:36:** "Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.'"
- Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.
- The end does not justify the means!
- God is always at work even when things look crazy and dark so trust in Him.
- The stage is now set for new voices (John Wyclif and John Hus) and a reformation (Martin Luther).

