

Jacobus Arminius

Date: 01/08/23

Author: W. Scott Negley

INTRODUCTION:

Born in Oudewater, Holland sometime in 1559 or 1560 and died in 1609. The Reformation was in full bloom well before he was born. His life and education were influenced by the Protestant Church rather than the Catholic Church.

I. CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

A. BECAME AN ORPHAN AT AN EARLY AGE

1. His father Herman died when he was an infant
 - a. Was a weapons manufacturer
 - b. Left his wife a widow with small children
2. His mother was killed during the Spanish massacre at Oudewater
 - a. Spanish troops laid siege to the city Oudewater to put down a rebellion against Philip II of Spain
 - b. The siege began on July 19, 1575, and ended in a bloodbath on August 7, 1575.
 - c. As many as half the inhabitants were killed while many set fire to their own homes to spite the looters.

B. HIS EDUCATION

1. Jacobus was adopted by Theodorus Aemilius a priest inclined towards Protestantism.

- a. He was taken to Utrecht where he began his formal education
 - b. After Aemilius died in 1574 or 1575 Rudolph Snelius the mathematician took him to Marburg to continue his education.
2. He studied at the newly opened Leiden University
 - a. He studied there from 1576 to 1582
 - b. He was enrolled as a liberal arts student
 - c. He also pursued an education in theology
 3. His teachers were predominantly Calvinist
 - a. Johann Kolmann was one that opposed high Calvinism
 - b. He was also influenced by the teachings of Luther, Zwingli and the Anabaptists
 4. Ultimately, he came to sit under the teachings of Theodore Beza (Calvin's handpicked successor) in Geneva

II. HIS MINISTRY

A. CALL TO MINISTRY

1. He declined a doctorate at Basel because he believed himself to be too young.
2. He returned to Geneva to complete his education under Beza.
3. In 1587 he answered a call to pastor at Amsterdam

4. He was ordained in 1588 after proving himself to be a faithful pastor and a good teacher

5. He married well in 1590 to Lijsbet Reael

6. His preaching series through Romans had some detractors calling him Pelagian which he staunchly denied

B. HIS MINISTRY IN CONTROVERSY

4. He was asked to refute a modified form of Beza's high Calvinism

a. He studied well and found himself conflicted

b. determined to study further and because he was not a controversialist did not escalate the debate at that time

C. HIS RETURN TO LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

1. He received a doctorate and a professorship in 1603 over the objection of Plancius

2. Although his views were already suspected of unorthodoxy Gomarus approved of his appointment

3. Eventually the debate became public regarding Arminius' view on predestination and both were called to deliver speeches before the Supreme Court in the Hague.

a. The Chief Justice concluded that the differences were subtle details of the doctrine of predestination and could coexist.

b. The two professors were called to tolerate one another lovingly

4. The debate escalated because each published his speech which the court had instructed should not happen

5. Both Arminius and Gomarus were called again to attend a conference in the Hague in August of 1609.

a. Arminius fell ill and returned home.

b. At that point the court requested written arguments from both

c. Arminius died October 19, 1609

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jacobus-Arminius>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobus_Arminius

https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Jacobus_Arminius