

# 12<sup>th</sup> Century “Heretics”

Historical Theology

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- I. PetroBrusians
  - A. Catholic priest in the south of France - Peter de Bruys
  - B. Started a reform movement in 1105
  - C. Main points:
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.
    - 4.
    - 5.
  - D. No organ music, maybe no singing
  - E. He also seems to have questioned the canonicity of NT writings other than the 4 gospels
  - F. Did not hold the O.T. in high regard
  - G. No on Transubstantiation
  - H. Definitely rejected authority of the Pope and the R.C. Church
  - I. He was tossed into a bonfire when he was burning crosses
- II. Peter Abelard
  - A. Frenchman.. traveled around France as a young man learning from many including a teacher that Anselm considered a heretic
  - B. Probably more a philosopher than a theologian
  - C. All theology should come under reason. Philosophers, such as Aristotle, were followers of God
  - D. He became the master teacher at Notre Dame (not the Fighting Irish one, but the one in Paris)
  - E. He had an affair with one of his female students. Since he was considered a member of the clergy, he could not marry
  - F. Eventually, the girl, Heloise went to a convent and Abelard to a monastery
  - G. His main theological claim: Christ went to the cross as the supreme and redeeming example of God’s love for human beings.
  - H. God’s justice was not the primary reason that Christ went to the cross, but love was the primary reason
  - I. Christ’s death on the cross was not necessary for God to forgive
    - 1. Christ forgave Mary Magdalene
    - 2. Christ forgave the paralytic
    - 3. Both actions took place before the cross, therefore the cross is not necessary for God to forgive sin
    - 4. God’s redemption converts people’s fear into love
    - 5. Christ’s death on the cross was an example of God’s supreme love
  - J. Abelard met sharp opposition from Bernard of Clairvaux
  - K. Abelard was excommunicated by the Pope and his works were supposed to be burned
  - L. What was wrong with Abelard’s teaching?
- III. Waldensians
  - A. Begins with Peter Waldo.... In France... about 1170
  - B. He sold his possessions and traveled around preaching

- C. He translated the New Testament into the language of the common person (Provençal)
- D. His disciples were known as “the poor of Lyons”
- E. Declared heretics by the Catholic Church for among other things lay people were preaching including women
- F. The Pope excommunicated the group in 1184, but they continued with their community and their work
- G. The group grew despite persecution
- H. They spread to Austria and southern Germany
- I. Eventually they were influenced by the teaching and life of Jan H
- J. Their preachers were known as “uncles” in contrast to Catholic “fathers”
- K. The group lasts long enough to join the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century
- J. It would last a 1,000 years (Rev. 20: 1-6)
- K. The Church would be purified of all corruption
- L. A new order would evangelize the whole world (including the Jews)
- M. The whole world would become one vast and holy monastery
- N. It would be characterized by love
- O. Should start about the year 1260
- P. What in his teachings might have influenced later reformers?

IV. Joachim of Fiore

- A. A monk from southern Italy
- B. He started a new order: Saint John
- C. He taught the history of the world could be divided into three time periods
- D. The three time periods corresponded to the Trinity
- E. The first period was Old Testament times: The Age of God the Father.
- F. This age was life under the Law and was characterized by fear
- G. The next age was the New Testament: The Age of God the Son
- H. This age was the time of Grace, The Grace of the Gospel and was characterized by faith
- I. The next age would be the age of God the Holy Spirit

### Activity One

This church activist, which we will call John Doe, is going to trial for heresy.

1. Determine whether you want to be John Doe's defense attorney or if you want to be the prosecuting attorney.
2. Put together an argument either to have him acquitted or found guilty. Use scripture or church councils or church doctrine to strengthen your arguments.

Here are the charges against John Doe:

1. Opposes infant baptism – baptism is only for those who profess faith in Christ
2. Claims the church buildings and the church alters are not intrinsically holy
3. Refuses to venerate the cross – in fact, has even disrespected holy crosses by breaking and burning them.
4. Opposes prayers for the dead or doing good works for the dead
5. Opposes the celibacy of the clergy

### Activity Two

Should this leader, Henry of Lausanne, be considered a reformer – much the same as Martin Luther or is he a misguided religious leader?

1. Started out as a monk in Southern France
2. Became unhappy with the corruptions in this order and in society
3. Became "a preacher of repentance"
4. At first, he was held in high honor by the people and even the clergy
5. His reverent attitude and eloquent speaking gained him a wide reputation
6. He preached against "sham Christianity" which showed lack of good living
7. He warned against false guides and worthless clergy
8. He attacked the clergy for vices – particularly unchastity
9. He was a zealot for observing the Hildebrandian reformation on celibacy
10. Many men and women were awakened to repentance
11. It was said that a heart of stone would melt under his preaching
12. His preaching led to people threatening priests and monks with violence over their hypocrisy
13. He was driven out of the area and joined the disciples of Peter of Bruys
14. He was found guilty of heresy and imprisoned for a time but was released
15. After being released he continued teaching and preaching the same message
16. Bernard of Clairvaux claimed that Henry was one of the main reasons that "churches are without flocks, flocks are without priests and priest are not treated with due reverence. Also, the sacraments are not esteemed holy and festivals are no longer celebrated."

