

# TWENTY CENTURIES

## A Survey of Church History



RICHARD D. PHILLIPS  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENVILLE, SC

### THE TWELFTH CENTURY

# THE TWELFTH CENTURY



- The Rise of Scholasticism
- More Crusades
- Resistance to the Papacy

# The Rise of Scholasticism



- The Renewal of Scholarship

- In the aftermath of Anselm, a number of brilliant scholars rose up in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- Europe benefited from access to the scholarship of Greece, Rome, and the Arabs.
- Key was translation of Aristotle; goal was to reconcile faith and reason
- The first universities began: Oxford in 1096 (?) and the Sorbonner (1160)

- Peter Lombard (1095-1159)

- Student of Abelard, taught in Paris
- Wrote his *Sentences*, which was the primary systematic theology until the Reformation. Quotes “sentences” from the Bible and church fathers and discusses different views. Reason was used to decide between viewpoints. Identified 7 sacraments, which became RCC dogma
- Provided the theological grid that was standardized in Roman Catholicism.

# The Rise of Scholasticism



- Peter Abelard (1079-1142)

- Student of Anselm who opposed his work; shows the danger of “faith and reason.” Believed we should believe only what we can prove by reason. The first liberal.
- Fell in love with Eloise, an aristocratic nun, got her pregnant out of wedlock and married. Her enraged family committed violence against him which caused him to live as a monk. Their romantic correspondence was famous in the Middle Ages.
- Wrote *Yes and No*, a collection of Bible controversies and “inconsistencies”
- Opposed Anselm’s satisfaction theory of the atonement with the subjective theory (taught in liberal churches today).
- Also opposed Augustine’s doctrine of original sin and the trinity
- Condemned for teaching a form of Arianism and was excommunicated; forced to Cluny in exile, where he repented and died “in the faith.”

“Abelard’s view was that nothing was to be believed until it could first be reasoned and understood... With Abelard, we find theology becoming more of a science than a meditation. The weakness of Abelard’s thought was the tendency to move away from the objective truths of Scripture to a subjective, rational view” (Iain Campbell).

# The Rise of Scholasticism



- **Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)**
  - The leading spiritual figure of the century. Combined Anselm's intellect with vigorous leadership ability. Doctrinally a follower of Augustine.
  - Reformed the monasteries as a leader in the Cistercian movement. Opposed aristocratic excess of Cluny with rigorous self-denial. Later regretted this.
  - A mystic and poet. Author of many hymns still sung today (*O Sacred Head Now Wounded, Jesus thou Joy of Loving Hearts, Jesus the Very Thought of Thee*).
  - A mover and shaker in church affairs; influential in mentoring and electing popes
  - An avid supporter of the Second Crusade: viewed its failure as a spiritual failure.
  - A defender of orthodox doctrine – the leading opponent of Abelard.
  - Challenged the early medieval view of Christ as sword-bearing conqueror; replaced it with more soothing image of Mary with the babe in her arms.
  - A powerful expository preacher: 86 sermons on SoS 1-3.
  - Greatly respected by Reformation leaders like Luther and Calvin.

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# More Crusades



- **Events Preceding**

- First Crusade (1096-99) had succeeded, leaving Christian kingdoms in the Middle East.
- Turks captured Edessa in 1144, prompting Pope Eugene III to call for a Second Crusade
- Bernard of Clairvaux enlisted to preach the crusade. Persuaded the kings of France and Germany personally to lead their armies.

- **The Second Crusade (1147-8)**

- Arriving in the East, the Crusaders were opposed (not openly) by the Byzantine Emperor, who organized Turkish attacks.
- Both the French and German armies were individually defeated. Still they reached Jerusalem.
- Launching from Jerusalem to Damascus, they were defeated with heavy losses and the Crusade failed.
- Bernard preached that God was punishing Europe for its spiritual sloth.

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# More Crusades



- **The Third Crusade (1189-92)**
  - Launched to retake Jerusalem, which Saladin had conquered in 1187.
  - Led by Frederick Barbarossa, Philip II of France, and Richard I of England
  - Frederick drowned, Philip returned to France. Richard achieved some success, then made a treaty with Saladin.
  - Heavily-armed crusaders struggled with light/medium cavalry of the Saracens. Effective guerrilla warfare by Saladin made the crusade a failure.
  - Except that Richard the Lion-Hearted won a brilliant victory at Acre, securing a treaty with Saladin that guaranteed Christian access to Jerusalem.

# Resistance to the Papacy



- **The Powerful Popes**

- After Hildebrand's successes in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the papacy was greatly strengthened.
- Rome assumed a power far beyond anything justifiable by Scripture.
- The popes defended their power with an effort to discover "heretics" (Lateran Council of 1179), which laid the foundation for the later Inquisition.
- Biblical reform movements opposed the papacy and sought biblical reform.
- Kings and nobles resented the Church power and in various ways would oppose and undermine the papacy.



# Resistance to the Papacy



- **The Waldensians**

- The Waldensians, led by Peter Waldo, in 1175 revolted against Rome.
- Waldo opposed the church's accumulation of wealth and power, took up a life of poverty and preaching.
- Waldensians translated Bible into common tongue and made the Bible the supreme rule of faith and practice. As a result, they rejected transubstantiation, purgatory, indulgences and the infallibility of the pope. Practiced biblical literalism.
- The Archbishop of Lyons prohibited their preaching in 1181, but Waldensians refused to obey. The pope excommunicated all the Waldensians in 1184. The excommunication was for preaching without permission of the pope.
- They organized themselves as the one true church. Spread to Spain, Austria, and Italy. Were persecuted under the Inquisition. Remained until the Reformation as the first Protestants.

# Resistance to the Papacy



- **The Albigensians**

- The Albigensian movement grew similarly, with support from aristocrats.
- Taught a Gnostic dualism between spirit & matter
- Leaders were required to be celibate, but followers could marry
- Downplayed humanity of Christ; denied the incarnation, atonement, and resurrection. Salvation by enlightenment.
- Bitterly opposed Roman Church and its sacraments. Were willing to suffer persecution.
- Innocent III called a crusade against them (1208), leading to an invasion of southern France by nobles from northern France. Ended in mass slaughter (1244).

# Resistance to the Papacy



- **Henry II vs. Thomas a Becket (1118-70)**
  - The church in England demanded Church courts to try the case of any clergy. Even for civil offenses like murder, the king was forbidden to try or punish them.
  - King Henry II fought back, subjecting clergy to civil courts for criminal cases, and forbade appeals to Rome. A Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury (1162-1170), opposed the king.
  - Becket stood for church independence, was exiled; responded by excommunicating bishops who supported Henry.
  - Upon Becket's return to Canterbury, was murdered by four of the king's knights at the altar (1170).
  - English society was shocked; Becket became a symbol for church independence. Was hailed as a martyr-saint. Henry was forced to do penance and give up his cause.