

Hello. /We will begin the sixth lecture on “Church History.”

## **Part 2: Medieval Church History**

/Medieval history is the 920 year period from the accession of Gregory I (590) to the start of Martin Luther’s Reformation (1517).

### **/Chapter 1: The Transitional Period (590-800)**

#### **I. Introduction**

##### **/1. The center of history shifted during this period**

/In other words, it shifted from the East to the West. /Let us take a look at the **reasons** for this. /First, the Eastern Orthodox Church had been drained of its internal life. /Second, Islam was on the rise.

/Third, the Roman Catholic Church greatly expanded its power. The Latin people used their political qualifications to build the Roman Catholic Church. /Heroes became Popes to get a hold of authority and government.

/Furthermore, church law was established, and this strengthened the papacy. /Charlemagne (Charles) the Great (742-814) and Otto the Great (912-973) became heroes, and they cooperated with the church.

/As a **result**, where there is power, there is corruption. /The people fell into ignorance and superstition. /Not only was there political unity, but they also found themselves in the same ideological system.

##### **/2. Religious life during the Middle Ages**

/The beautiful national character of the Germanic people was demonstrated in the church. /Also, the people saw a spirit of upright living form within them. /The period produced many saints and great names. /Furthermore, architecture, sculpting, and painting flourished and developed.

##### **/3. The period saw religious revival**

/Monasteries, not the Roman Catholic Church, were the centers of revival. /A large portion of the Roman Catholic Church’s modern theology and systems come from the Middle Ages.

##### **/4. We can divide this age into four periods**

/First, the transitional period. /The transitional period is the period of transitioning from ancient history to medieval history. /The time frame is from Gregory I to the accession of Charlemagne. We call this period the transitional period.

/Second, the age of the growth of the Roman Catholic Church. /The years are from 800 to 1073. It is from the time of Charlemagne the Great to the accession of Gregory VII.

/Third, the age of the height of the Roman Catholic Church. /The period is from 1073 to 1303. It is from Gregory VII to the accession of Bonifacius VIII.

/Fourth, the age of the decline of the Roman Catholic Church. /It is from 1303 to 1517. /It is from the time of Bonifacius VIII to the beginning of the Reformation by Martin Luther.

## **II. Gregory the Great**

### **/1. His Life**

/Gregory the Great, or Gregory I, was born in 540 to a wealthy family of Rome. /He was raised in a family where his mother and two aunts were called saints. /After his father died, Gregory donated his possessions to monasteries, and he himself became a monk.

/Gregory was sent by the Pope to Constantinople as an emissary, and he also worked as the Pope's secretary. /The church and the Senate wanted him to be Pope. /However, he declined, disguised himself, and ran away, but he was caught and in September of 590, he became Pope.

### **/2. His Achievements**

/Gregory the Great hired monks to take on important church positions. /He prohibited the sale of church positions. /He did not allow church officers to marry after they took on their position. /He also strengthened the papacy.

/To evangelize Britain, Gregory sent Augustine the missionary (he died in 604). /This Augustine isn't Augustine of Hippo.

/Gregory strongly supported the idea of purgatory. /He advocated worshiping the Virgin Mary and worshiping saints.

### **/3. His Failures**

/Gregory failed because of his attitude towards someone named Phocas. /Phocas was a man who called himself the Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire. /Doing this, he formed some enemies. Phocas killed in front of their parents the sons of six people who were against him. /However, Gregory I gave this man a congratulatory message.

## **III. The Rise of Islam**

/We study the rise of Islam for the following reasons. /Because of the rise of Islam, the center of the church shifted from the East to the West. /With the expansion of Islam, Christianity lost hold of Turkey, Constantinople, to Islam.

### **/1. Characteristics of Arabia**

/Arabia is a desert region. /Many tribes were living there, and the small tribes were at war with each other.

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/People did serve Allah before Islam became the predominant religion, but in the region, people worshiped many gods. /Mecca was the religious center. /As the center of the Islamic religion, Mecca was home to 360 idols.

## **/2. Mahomet Mohammed**

/Muhammad is the original pronunciation. /Mohammed was born in Mecca, Arabia in 570. /As an orphan, he was very poor. /When he was 25 years old, he married a rich widow.

/Mohammed was a businessman. /While conducting business, he travelled to foreign places and came into contact with Judaism and Christianity. /At the age of 40, saying that he received a revelation from Allah, he created a monotheistic religion. /For this reason, people kicked him out of Mecca.

/He fled from Mecca to Medina. /Mohammed rallied the tribes in the region and occupied Mecca in 630. /After capturing Mecca, he removed idols and made Mecca the center of the rising religion. /He died at the age of 63 in the year 632.

## **/3. Islam**

/a. The origins of Islam /Mahomet Mohammed founded Islam. /Initially, Arabians living in Arabia were interested in religious reformation. /However, as time passed, they developed the purpose of conquering the world.

/They used the sword to evangelize. /They asked people if they would believe in Allah or die by the sword. /Followers of Islam showed a tendency to exclude other religions.

/b. Islamic Doctrine /As a monotheistic religion, Islam denounced all idols. /They said the name of the true god is Allah. /They believed that Allah sent angels, Moses, and Jesus to save humanity.

/However, because the angels, Moses, and Jesus failed, Allah sent Mohammed. /Islam says that Mohammed is greater than angels, Moses, or Jesus. /Muslims say that they must work for their faith for them to go to heaven.

/They serve Allah, but they must make an effort for their god and work for their faith in order to enter heaven. /The word Islam means “submission.” /Much of Islamic doctrine is about the rewards they receive from their god. /They believe that if they commit acts of terror, Allah rewards them.

/c. Islam’s Morals /Muslims pray and aid others. /They make pilgrimages to Mecca. /They do not drink alcohol or eat pork. /They practice polygamy, /and they permit slavery.

/d. The Sacred Book of Islam – The Quran /The sacred book of Islam, the Quran (Koran), is a collection of 114 chapters of Mohammed’s sayings and doings. /They say that as the greatest prophet, Mohammed has authority in religion, politics, and all other things.

/The Quran was compiled twenty years after Mohammed’s death by Mohammed’s disciple Abubeker and Zaid the scribe.

/e. How Islam is Propagated /The khalifa (successor) organized an army, armed the army with weapons, and expanded the territory. /They convinced the people they conquered to fight with them and to lead the attacks.

/Islam's territory grew in the political and religious sense. /It even reached India. Islam spread to West Asia and Central Asia. /Later, North Africa and the Spanish Peninsula came under Islam's territory.

/It even captured Constantinople later on. /Constantinople was renamed Istanbul. /Islam went on to threaten Rome as well.

#### **/4. The Split in Islam**

/a. The cause of the split. /Doctrinal disputes were the cause of the split. /Internal struggles for power contributed as well.

/b. Power struggles among successors. /The first successor was Abubeker, Mohammed's father-in-law. /Abubeker was the leader of Islam from Mohammed's death in 632 to the year 634.

/The second successor was Omar, who was leader from 634 to 644. /The third successor was Othman, who ruled from 644 to 655 and took control of the region of North Africa.

/The fifth successor was Mohammed's nephew, Ali. /However, Ali was killed six years later. /The sixth successor Moawiya I killed Ali and founded the Omaya Caliphate, which kept its power for one hundred years.

/c. Islamic Factions /First are the Sunnis. /The Sunnis came to be during the third generation of the Othman age. /These people acknowledged legends in addition to the Quran. /They called themselves the orthodox group.

/Second, we have the Shiites (Shiism). /The Shiites were formed by people who were against the Sunnis. /This sect was formed by the fifth successor, Ali.

/Third is Sufism. /Sufism is a mystical sect that produced many saints.

#### **IV. The Roman Church Evangelizes West Europe**

##### **/1. Evangelizing France**

/(1) Evangelists. /The first evangelist is Irenaeus. /Irenaeus was the first to evangelize France.

/Second is Martin (361-400). /Martin was a soldier. /Because he was a soldier, he forced his men in a militaristic way to join the church. /He tore down houses for idols all over the country, removed idols, and evangelized.

/ (2) Kings who contributed to evangelism. / Not only were there evangelists, but there were also figures who had the gospel be accepted at a national level. / First is Clovis (496). / He was a king who came to believe in Jesus and promoted Christianity.

/ Our second figure is Charles Martel. / Charles Martel was king of France from 715 to 740. / His passion for spreading Christianity was so great that he sent missionaries to Germany and the Netherlands.

/ Martel's eldest son became a monk. / Furthermore, the king of France at the time convened councils through Boniface. / The Frank Church Council of 742 was a large council. / They came up with several decisions there.

/ First, they gave instructions to keep the rules and precepts. / They strictly prohibited church officers from doing immoral deeds. / They also prohibited priests from getting married. / The council encouraged a life of abstinence. / The Council of Bishops was convened in 747, and here, the council recognized the Pope's judicial power.

## **/2. Evangelizing Germany**

/ Columbanus (543-615) evangelized Germany early on.

/ (1) Willibrod. Willibrod was born in 657 and died in 739. / He was British, / and he was trained by the Irish Church. / He did mission work in the Netherlands and in Denmark.

/ (2) Boniface (680-755; Boniface). / Coming from British nobility, he was highly educated. / Boniface was Willibrod's student. / He helped Willibrod in doing missions work. / In 716, Boniface stopped by Frisia and then evangelized Germany.

/ There was a special incident during this time. / Boniface saw people who had come to Christianity return to their god of thunder. / In the presence of thousands of people, he proceeded to cut down an oak tree in which the people believed their god of thunder dwelled.

/ When nothing happened to Boniface after this incident, many people accepted the faith and returned to Christianity. / Boniface baptized over ten thousand people over a period of twenty years. / In 744, he established a Benedictine monastery in Fulda. / Boniface was martyred at the age of 75.

## **/3. Evangelizing Britain**

/ a. Missionaries. / (1) At around the year 50, soldiers of the Roman Empire entered England, and the soldiers who became believers built churches. / Afterwards, there wasn't much evangelism in Britain. / (2) At around the year 400, Pelagius (354-418) evangelized. / Pelagius was Augustine's enemy doctrine-wise.

/ (3) The next person is Patrick (385-461). He was the first British missionary. / Let us take a brief look at Patrick's life. / He was born to a Scottish family of faith. / He was taken prisoner to North Ireland when he was young, and for six years, he worked as the chief's shepherd.

/He escaped the place and entered a monastery. After his monastic life, Patrick returned home. /In 431, he saw a vision, a vision of the Irish people pleading for help.

/After he was ordained, Patrick went to Ireland and evangelized for thirty years. /He not only gained the trust of regular citizens, but he also won the trust of noblemen. He also built monasteries in every region.

/(4) Our next story is about Augustine and his forty men. /This Augustine is not Augustine the theologian. /In 596, Augustine was sent as a missionary to Britain. /Gregory the Great was the one who sent him.

/Ethelbert, king of Kent, welcomed Augustine and built him a house in Canterbury. /King Ethelbert himself accepted Christianity, and he had ten thousand citizens baptized. /At around the year 601, Augustine became Archbishop of Britain and continued his missionary efforts.

/b. People who contributed to Britain missions. /(1) Finnian of Conlard (470-548). /He greatly improved the monastic system.

/(2) Columba (521-597). /Columba came from royalty. /He built several churches and two monasteries in Ireland. /In 563, he and twelve partners founded an abbey on the Scottish island of Iona.

/(3) Aidan (he died in 651). /Aidan was a monk of Iona. /He established the New Iona monastery.

/(4) Columbanus (543-615). /Columbanus first did mission work in Britain. He was the abbot of Britain's Bangor Abbey. /In 595, he and twelve partners did mission work in Germany. /He founded a monastery in Burgundy. /At around the year 610, he established monasteries in several places in Northern Switzerland. /In 614, Columbanus founded a monastery in Bobbio, Italy.

/(5) The Princess of Kent. /The princess of Kent married Edwin, king of Northumbria. /At that time, Paulinus, one of Augustine's forty men, evangelized the princess. /Edwin, the king of Northumbria, gathered the powerful people of the nation and discussed whether or not they would adopt Christianity. They voted to receive Christianity.

/(6) Bede (673-735). /Bede was a monk /and a lawyer. /He wrote "The Ecclesiastical History of the English People."

/(7) Caedmon (he died in 680). /Caedmon was a poet who contributed greatly to mission.

/c. Problems and Disputes. /A problem occurred in Northumbria. /Civil war had erupted between the North and the South. /King Edwin died in battle because of this. /Paulinus returned to his hometown. /In this way, the North and South were at war with one another.

/However, British representatives and Roman Catholic representatives held a synod in Whitby. /They agreed on the following things. /The Anglo-Saxon king was to be under the jurisdiction of Roman Catholicism. /They would follow the system and worship ceremonies of Roman Catholic law. /They decided to remember Easter on Sunday.

/This concludes the sixth lecture on “Church History.”