

Church History 1

Apostles to Pre-Reformation

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Schisms, Barbarians & Gregory the Great

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Church History 1 (TH1)

1. Introduction to Church History
2. Apostles to Catholic Christianity
3. Persecution, Heresies & the Book
4. Emperors, Bishops, Saints & Intellectuals
5. Councils, Monks, Popes & Augustine
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7. Charlemagne, Cathedrals, Crusades & Scholastics
8. Poverty, Inquisition, Babylonian Captivity... & Final Exam

Augustine of Hippo

- Born AD 354 in Tagaste, North Africa. His mother, Monica, was a fervent Christian; his father a casual pagan.
- Augustine received the best possible education, eventually studying rhetoric in Latin-speaking Carthage. In addition to studies, Augustine pursued other pleasure – eventually having a child (Adeodatus) by his mistress.
- From reading Roman philosopher Cicero, Augustine decided pursuit of truth was his life goal. He studied Manicheism – a neo-Gnostic dualistic Persian religion that was pointedly anti-Christian – for years, then later became a Neoplatonist. He moved to Rome, then Milan as a professor.
- Neoplatonism answered his doubts about evil; and the preaching of Ambrose of Milan satisfied his doubts about the Bible. He eventually became a Christian, then returned to North Africa.
- In 391 he visited the town of Hippo and was made first a minister and then a bishop, rather against his will.
- He started writing theology, quickly becoming the most influential theologian in the Latin-speaking churches.
- He argued in refutation of Manicheism, especially emphasizing the freedom of the will. (This would be critical later, in the Reformation.)
- He also battled against Donatism, the divisive controversy that was centered there in North Africa.
- But his greatest theological stand was against the Pelagians.

Barbarians and the Western Empire

- AD 378 – Emperor Valens is killed when Gothic rebels win the Battle of Adrianople, near the border of Greece and Bulgaria.
- AD 410 – Alaris and the Visigoths take and sack Rome.
- AD 430 – as Augustine is dying, the Vandals beseiged Hippo.
- AD 439 – Vandals take Carthage.
- AD 455 – Vandals sack Rome.
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- AD 496 – Merovian King Clovis converts & is baptized on Xmas day.
- AD 516 – Frankish King Sigismund converts to Trinitarian Christianity.
- AD 589 – Visigoth King Recared converts to Nicene orthodoxy.