

## Church History

### Part 4

Thyatira [Continual Sacrifice] Rev. 2:18-29

AD500 - 1500 AD

Salient feature - Jezebel introduces Idolatry  
The Dark Ages

Now it is the period of Jezebel, just as this was the dark ages of Israel's history, Thyatira reminds us of the dark ages of the Church. Although even in Israel when Elijah thought he was the only one, God did not leave himself without a witness and there were 7,000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal.

The Albigensis, Waldensians, Lollards, Bernard of Clairvaux etc. Where God's remnant in this period, even though their character had been blackened by the Church of Rome, Jezebel did the same thing to Naboth if you remember.

**1 Kings 21:13** When in fact he refused to surrender his inheritance at any price.

Oh that we would treasure our heritage and not sell out at any price.

Jezebel - biographical sketch!

**1 Kings 16:29-33** Marries Ahab - a compromise to begin with, between the people of God and Paganism.

**1 Kings 18:13** A persecutor of the true saints of God.

**1 Kings 18:19** Supported 450 Prophets of Baal and 400 Prophets of Asherah, promotes pagan practices.  
The parallels with Romanism are so obvious.

Based on a marriage between the world and the church. A system built around a woman, Mary and the Mother Church.

Claims to be a Prophetess. **:20** Just as Rome claims to speak for God, when the Pope speaks ex-cathedra, it is without error or infallible.

Fornication

Responsible for the martyrdom's of multitudes of men and women of God. **Rev 17:6**

**:21** Repented not.

Huss, Luther, Meno Simmons, John Calvin were all Catholic Priests who wanted to Reform the Church and not leave it.

**:22** she will go into great tribulation as the whore of the beast, as opposed to the bride of Christ.

**:26** Temporal power always has been the desire of Rome will instead be given to the overcomer the true believers.

The Dark Ages [Because the Bible was suppressed] also known as The Middle Ages like this is the middle letter, or according to Catholicism the Golden Age.

476 The Fall of Rome. A Northern Invasion, pagans the Vandals, Goths and Visigoths etc. How would this affect the Gospel?

After this the “Bishop of Rome becomes the most powerful man, after the end of the Caesar’s.”

Things of significance, as far as the Church is concerned.

Ambrose of Milan 340AD-397  
Introduced Congregational Singing to the Church.

John Crysostom 349AD-407 Known as Golden Mouth, the first to use the Grammatical / Historical methods of exposition of the scriptures, rather than Allegorical method of Origen.

Jerome 347AD-420 Translated the Latin Vulgate Bible, which would be the Churches Bible for a thousand years! Although not officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church until 1546 and the Counter Reformation!

Gregory 1, The First Medieval Pope.

Gregory 540 -604 AD and founder of the Gregorian Chant. Though he disclaimed the title of Pope, he exercised all the power and prerogatives of the later popes. This he did to assert the spiritual supremacy of the bishop of Rome. Made the tenuous link with Peter and Rome, being the first Pope.

He sent Augustine [not to be confused with Augustine of Hippo, to Evangelize the Angles of Britain. [He saw these handsome creatures in the slave market and said they looked like Angels, only to be told they were the Angles of Britannia.] Augustine ran into conflict with the Celtic Church, which was slowly evangelizing from the North down to the South.

The Synod of Whitby 664AD settled the dispute between the Celtic Church and the Catholic Church, recognizing Catholicism as the official Christianity of the British Isles.

597 King Ethelbert made Augustine the first Arch Bishop of Cantebury.

Gregory held to verbal inspiration of the Bible but strangely gave tradition a place of equality with the Bible. There was a growing tendency to consider the communion as a sacrifice of Christ’s body and blood each time it is performed.

### The Poor condition of the Church

Simony was rampant and perjury common among the clergy; morals were very low.

This was a time of the prevalence of superstition and idolatry.

Relics of the Apostles and Martyrs abounded and there was great competition to secure these spurious objects of veneration. Pilgrimages to the tombs of saints were encouraged, their images worshipped and prayers were made to them.

The Doctrine of Purgatory was propagated in this period.

The False Decretals and the Donation of Constantine.  
Written in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, yet claiming to be much earlier,  
used right into the 13<sup>th</sup> Century and exposed as a forgery in  
1439-40

Forged epistles and decrees, attributed to earlier bishops  
and emperors of Rome. When Constantine moved his seat of  
government from Rome to Constantinople he delegated to  
the successor of Peter and the Vicar of Christ unlimited  
authority over Churches, Nations and Kings.

AD 732 All who speak contemptuously of Images  
excommunicated

AD 784 Image Worship restored to acceptance by the  
Church.

AD 571-632 Mohammed and the Rise of Islam

620 Expelled from Mecca to Medina, where he formed and  
army,  
630 took Mecca  
632 Died, his dying words "Fight every man until all say God  
is Allah"  
732 Conquered Palestine and Turkey  
[Where the seven Churches were]. Egypt, & North Africa,  
Libya, Morocco, Algeria even into Spain.

Europe almost fell to Islam. Charles Martell the King of the  
Franks conquered them at the Battle of Tours. His Son Pepin

the short helped the Pope and gave the Papal States to the  
Vatican.

Again, Islam was a reaction to the idolatry of Image worship  
within the Church.

### The Rise of the Papacy

There had been 5 big Bishoprics, Rome, Constantinople,  
Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria. The Muslims wiped out,  
Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria.

Pope Gregory 1 was a brilliant administrator, and  
established the Supremacy of Rome over Constantinople.  
Pope is from the Latin or Italian Papa or Father.

After the fall of Rome, he now had no Army behind him.

In 800 AD, Charlemagne, was crowned by the Pope as the  
Holy Roman Emperor. This lasted until Napoleon Bonaparte!

Charlemagne was the Political Head  
Pope – The Religious Head  
Monks –Educational -Clerical work comes from Clergy  
Only ones who could read and write latin, all forms were in  
Latin including tax forms. Needed something done had to  
get a monk.

Monasteries – Begun by Benedict 480AD-550

Scriptorium – 800 Books of Kells, Chester Beattie library in  
Dublin

Lindisfarne Gospels -6-700

Preserved learning

Corruption set in –buy ecclesiastical office, even the papacy,

1054 Rome and Constantinople split

Eastern Orthodox Church

1456 Fall of Constantinople – moved North to Russia

Now the Pope has no rival!

1097 A monk called Hildebrand became Pope, became Gregory 7<sup>th</sup> – Introduced Celibate Priests –Expenses are lower, No succession and increased mobility as no ties.

Up to this point an Emperor could appoint a bishop, now Gregory insists only the Pope can make a bishop.

Henry 4<sup>th</sup> appointed a bishop as a direct challenge to the Pope.

The Pope gave a papal interdict –forbidding all Priests to give communion!

The people felt they would go to hell without taking communion and demanded the emperor go and apologize to the Pope. He was at Canossa Castle in the Alps on vacation. Made Henry wait outside 3 days in bare feet before bowing to the Pope in repentance.

1215 Pope Innocent 3<sup>rd</sup> – Transubstantiation and Auricular Confession

1100-1300 Zenith of Papal Power

The Changes which paved the way for the Reformation

The Black Death-1347-50 30% of the Population died in despair-without comfort.

A split among the Popes – The Great Schism 1378

One Pope in Avignon-France the other in Rome Excommunicated each other –made the Papacy a laughing stock. The one in Avignon was supported by Bernard of Clairvaux and eventually won the day. He defrocked all the bishops loyal to the rival Pope, had him excommunicated in death and handed over to Satan.

Education

Oxford University 1096

Cambridge 1209

These Institutions would prove Key in both the Reformation and the Wesleyan Revival

The Pilgrim Church

Their knick names, were given to them by their enemies

All were called heretics – not someone who went against Scripture but against the established Church.

Paulitians 600-1200 followed the teachings of Paul, very prevalent in Asia Minor

Bogomils & Cathars 870 known as the friends of God & enemies of the world

100,000 of them died in Persecutions

Petrobrusians 1117-1131–followers of Peter Dubrys, a French Priest who did not believe in Baptismal

Regeneration, Opposed buildings, Crosses were broken to pieces as viewed as idolatrous, denied sacramental sacrifice, believed the Lord's supper was just a remembrance feast.

Did not believe you could do good works for the dead either.

An angry Roman Catholic mob killed him in or around 1131

Henricians –followers of Henry of Lausanne 1116-1150

Waldenisans – Peter Waldo 1173 also known as Vaudois or people of the valley.

A merchant from Lyon, never ordained, he was dining with friends when one of them dropped dead. It made him consider eternity and manage to read Scripture in search for answers.

Waldensians, also known as the poor men of Lyon or the poor men of Lombardi, held and preached a number of truths as they read from the Bible. These included:

1. The atoning death and justifying righteousness of Christ
2. The [Godhead](#)

3. The fall of man

4. The incarnation of the Son

5. A denial of [purgatory](#) as the "invention of the Antichrist"<sup>[13]</sup>

6. The value of [voluntary poverty](#)

They also rejected a number of concepts that were widely held in Christian Europe of the era. For example, the Waldensians held that temporal offices and dignities were not meant for preachers of the Gospel; that [relics](#) were no different from any other bones and should not be regarded as special or holy; that [pilgrimage](#) served only to spend one's money; that flesh might be eaten any day if one's appetite served one; that [holy water](#) was no more efficacious than rain water; and that prayer was just as effectual if offered in a church or a barn. They were accused, moreover, of having scoffed at the doctrine of [transubstantiation](#), and of having spoken blasphemously of the Catholic Church as the [harlot of the Apocalypse](#).<sup>[14]</sup> They rejected what they perceived as the idolatry of the Catholic Church and considered the Papacy as the Antichrist of Rome.

Albigensis – from a place called Albi

The Crusades 1095-1291

8 Crusades against Islam plus Additional Crusades or Holy Wars against Heretics like the Albigensis. 500,000 Soldiers, 200,000 Albigensis died.

The Pope preached and promised plenary indulgences for volunteers for the crusades, multitudes volunteered to lower their time in Purgatory.

Included a children's crusade 1212, most starved to death on the journey and never made it to the Holy land or were sold into Slavery by deceptive merchants.

Politics and Christianity were mixed,

Bernard of Clairvaux who wrote two lovely hymns in our black book, "Jesus the very thought of thee" and "O head once filled with bruises" organized the second Crusade 1090-1153 and was a sponsor of the Knights Templar and order of military monks!

Lollards in England

John Wycliffe 1330-1384 An Oxford Scholar, known as the morning star of the Reformation. Translated the Scriptures into English, hand written bibles that were then used by his preachers, called Lollards or Mutterers, you can find memorials to martyred Lollards around England.

King Richard 11 married Ann of Bohemia [Czechoslovakia].

Wycliffe's writings found their way to Prague, John Huss 1369-1415 read them and was converted and began to preach – the Bohemian Brethren.

He was invited to the council of Constance and given a guarantee of safety, tried as a heretic and burned at the stake 6 July 1415

John Wycliffe died of natural causes, but the Church dug up his bones and burnt him at the stake as a heretic, threw the ashes into the River Swift.