

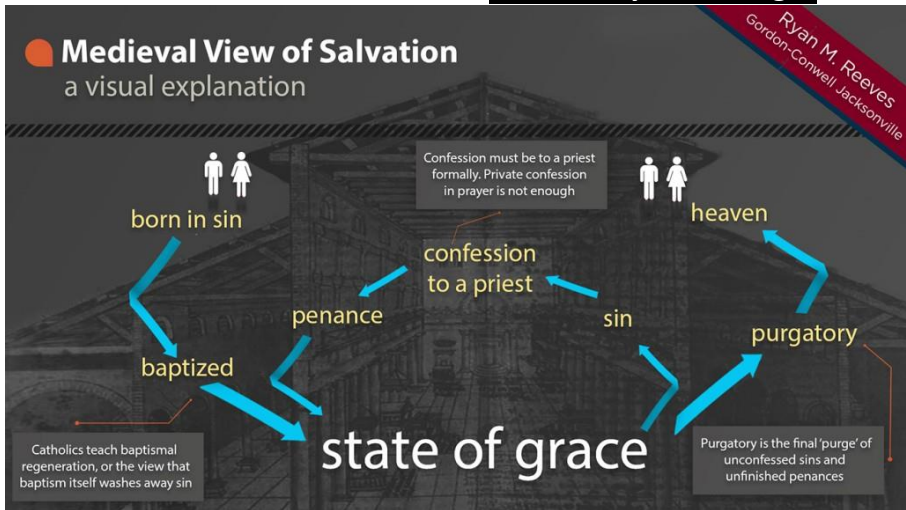
## 5. THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES – FROM 1000 – 1500

Matthew 11:25-30, At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

### 1. THE MEDIEVAL SCHEME OF SALVATION

Immanuel Church Brentwood

### 4. The early Middle Ages



Scripture

### 1. The fifth and sixth centuries

#### (a) Political fragmentation

Barbarian invasions reshaped and then dismantled the Roman Empire. In their place, kingdoms took root. The Huns came from the north and moved south. Tribes like the Visigoths, Anglo-Saxons are pushed into the Roman Empire – sometimes invited.

In 410, Rome is sacked by Alaric the Visigoth. The Western Roman Empire is

## **2. KEY EVENTS FROM 1000-1500**

### **(a) Kings and the Church in 1000AD**

Charlemagne (d.814) → Vikings, Magyars, Saracens  
His heirs: Louis the child, Louis the Lazy!

### **(b) The investiture controversy and church-state conflict**

Feudalization of the church and “Simony” (sale of church offices)  
Conflict between Kings/Emperor and popes  
4<sup>th</sup> Lateran Council (1215) and “Consiliar” movement

### **(c) Conflict within the church**

3 rival popes!  
Extreme worldliness, e.g. Pope Sixtus IV (d.1484), Pope Alexander VI (d. 1503)

### **(d) Growth of Monasticism**

Cluniacs, Cistercians (e.g. Bernard of Clairvaux),  
Franciscans (Francis of Assisi, d.1226), and Dominicans (Dominic Guzman).

Why? Dominicans: to repress heresy  
So what? Monks/nuns = “the religious” people in society

### **(e) The Crusades**

Jerusalem seized in 638... subsequent tensions... then in 1095 Pope Urban II calls for armed assault:

40,000 people on People’s Crusade (1096)

Nine crusades (plus other expeditions) from 1096 – 1291.

*Why did Christians engage in these wars?*

- (i) to save the holy land from the infidel.
- (ii) to protect national interests.
- (iii) to earn favour with the church.
- (iv) to do penance for sin.

*What were the consequences of the Crusades?*

- (i) vast amounts of bloodshed.
- (ii) it led, indirectly, to the Inquisition.
- (iii) it exposed the west to Muslim scholarship and the ideas of Aristotle.

### **3. TRUTH AND ERROR IN THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES**

#### **(a) The Scholastic movement**

- **It's form:** precision... formal logic... questions... distinctions

- **Anselm (d.1109)**

"Faith seeking understanding" = use unaided human reason to prove Christian truths without *ever* falling back on the Bible.

*Proslogion* (The Address) and *Cur Deus Homo* (Why God became man)

- **Thomas Aquinas**

Christianity + Aristotle → *Summa Theologiae*.

High view of reason... God is the first unmoved mover... we cannot know what God is like... grace is given so we merit eternal life... we must cooperate with God... no substitutionary atonement... church is God-like extension of the incarnation

#### **(b) Catholic calls for Reform**

Corruption + plague (1/3 of Europe dead in mid-1300) = despair

New popular programmes for spiritual advance:

- Thomas a Kempis (d.1471), *Imitation of Christ*

Dietrich Kolde, *The mirror of a Christian man* (1470):

There are three things I know to be true that frequently make my heart heavy. The first troubles my spirit, because I will have to die. The second troubles my heart more, because I do not know when. The third troubles me above all. I do not know where I will go."

➤ Application: be careful which well you drink from...

**(c) Persecuted movements – and roads to the Reformation**

*Cathars* or Albigensians 1100-1300. Gnostic dualists, denied the incarnation.

*Peter Waldo* (d.1218). Authority of Scripture... role of the laity in the church... denied transubstantiation & the immorality of the church

*John Wycliffe* (d.1384), opposed papal authority... rejected transubstantiation... began Bible translation... Lollards.

*Jan Hus* (d.1415) Bohemian follower of Wycliffe

*Girolamo Savonarola* (d.1498), a Renaissance Friar who denounced evil in the church

**(d) Back to the Bible!**

1199 Pope Innocent III banned all unauthorized versions of the Bible

Wycliffe's English Bible, 1383

Printing press!

Renaissance humanism: "*ad fontes!*" (*To the original sources*).

Erasmus of Rotterdam and Lorenzo Valla

Accurate Bible translation.

E.g. Matthew 4:17

Original Greek: Μετανοείτε (*metanoite*).

Latin Vulgate: Poenitentiam agite = "Do penance"

Now: "Repent!!!!"