

# **Church History—11<sup>th</sup> Bible**

## **Chapter 7: Everything Falls Apart (AD 1294—1517)**

# I. Stumbling Downward: The Fateful Fourteenth Century

## A. The Pope Who Quit

### – 1. Celestine V (1294)

- a) Franciscan monk is elected pope by cardinals in hopes of reform
  - (1) Comes to Rome barefoot on a donkey
  - (2) Experienced Pastor who loves people

b) Position of Pope has become political

- (1) Palaces, policies, political maneuvering

c) Resigns after 5 months



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b) One

– (1)

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c) Fren

d) Pope

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3. Popes flee Rome and set up shop in French border town of Avignon

4. Avignon

- a) One of the darkest 72 years of the Roman Catholic Church
- b) Bishops sold leadership positions in the church

c) Indulgences sold to increase the wealth of the church and the French King

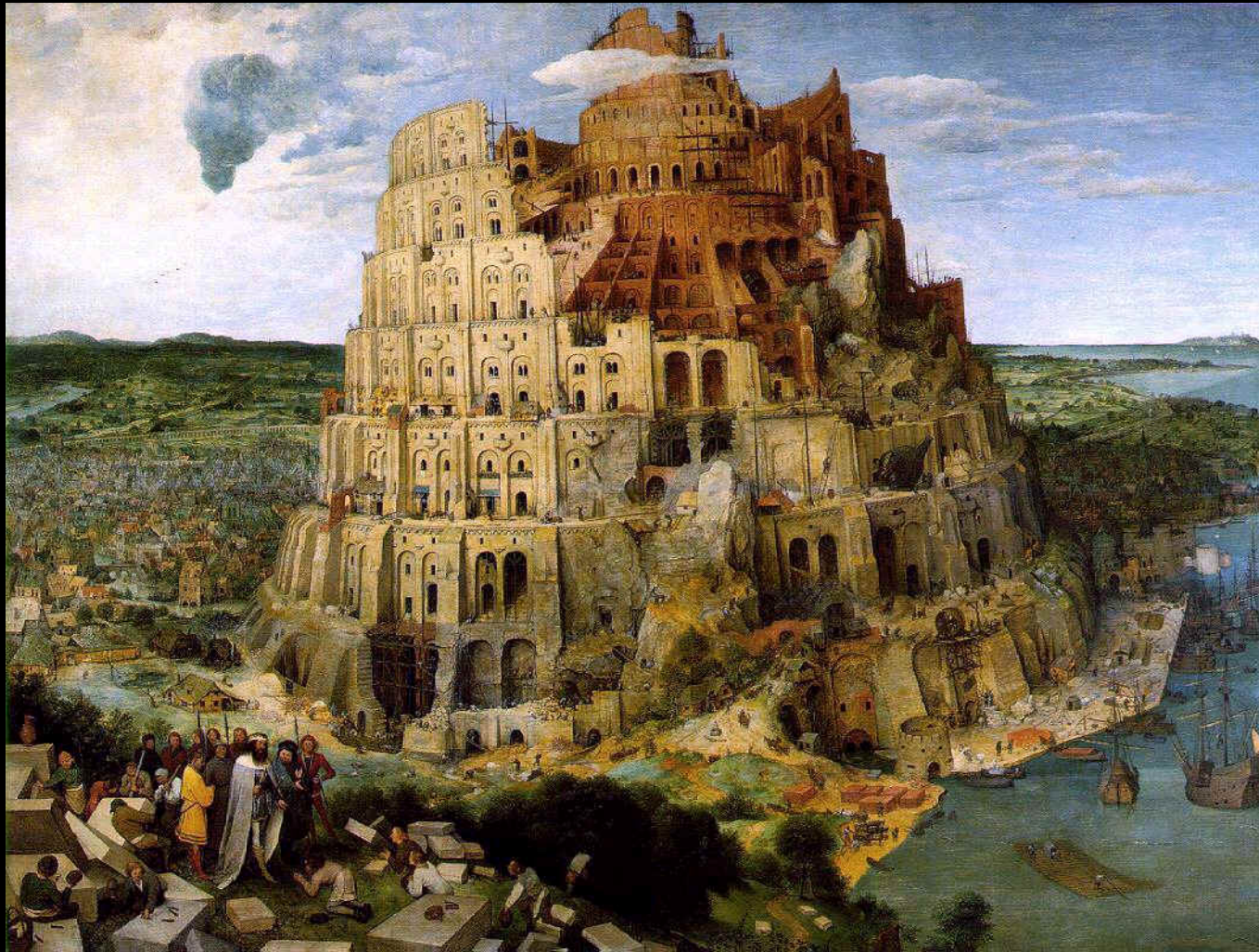
- (1) Indulgences were certificates freeing the owner from acts of penance to show sorrow for their sins.
- (2) Never intended to allow people to buy forgiveness

d) The Church's "Babylonian Captivity"

# Avignon's excess



# Avignon as Babylon





## 5. Hundred Year's War begins

- a) King Edward of England claims French throne (1337)
- b) Nephew of previous French King
- c) Continuous war between France and England for 116 years

## B. “And No Bells Tolloed” (Black Death)



1. Transferred to humans by the fleas of infected rats

2. Brought to Europe in 1347 on cargo ships

3. “Black Death”

– a) Dark spots swelled on body

– b) Oozed black blood and pus

4. Destroyed the population of Europe in 4 years

– a) Constantinople lost 88% of population

– b) Paris has 800 people die daily

– c) about 1/3 of Europe dies (23,840,000 people)

5. Ring around the  
posies, ashes, as

- a) flushed c
- (ring around
- b) Pockets f
- the smell of
- c) Bodies burr
- too many to



## 6. Peoples' varying responses

- a) Some: Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die
- b) Some: This is God's judgment--beg for forgiveness
- c) Some: The disease is from the Jews—butcher Jewish communities

## 7. The Church's varying response

- a) Priests who loved God and others  
—took care of the sick and died with them
- b) Priests who loved themselves—fled from the sick and lived to rule the church after the plague passed.

## C. The Church Has Double Vision

### 1. Catherine of Sienna





- a) Italian Mystic, Dominican Nun
- b) Received vision to help the poor
- c) Gave to the needy, preached to the prisoners, took care of the sick (even those with the plague)
- d) Vision: Pope to return to Rome (1370)
  - (1) writes letter to Pope
  - (2) Preaches against the sins of Avignon
  - (3) Pope returns to Rome (1377)

## 2.The Great Papal Schism--Two Popes

- a)Gregory XI, who returned to Rome, dies
- b)French Cardinals want a French Pope
- c)The People want a Roman Pope
- d)Compromise: Italian Pope—Urban VI

## e) Conflict between Urban and the pro-French Cardinals

- (1) He refuses to support them
- (2) They withdraw their previous decision
- (3) They elect another French Pope
- (4) Urban refuses to step down

## f) Western Church split between Avignon and Rome

## D. Triple Trouble at an Italian Pisa Party

1. Cardinals from Rome and Avignon decide to end the schism.

2. Council of Pisa

– a) “The Church’s oneness does not depend on or come from the Pope’s oneness”

– b) i.e. Unity is not found in the Pope

3. Rejected both current Popes and elected a new Roman Bishop

4. Two previous Popes refuse to resign

- a) Now there are 3

5. Each Pope excommunicates the followers of the other.

6. People losing trust in the Roman Catholic Church

# E. Where Is the Church? (John Wycliffe)

## 1. John Wycliffe

- a) Philosophy professor at Oxford University, England



## 2. Only the true church could correctly understand Scriptures

- a) This is the official Roman Catholic teaching
- b) Wycliffe applies new definition of 'church'

### 3. Wycliffe's "true church"

- a) The church is every person called by God to faith in Jesus Christ
  - (1) trust is proved by a Godly life
- b) The church is not popes, priests, or sacraments



## 4. Wycliffe's Bible translation (mid 1300s)

- a) Thought everyone should strive to understand the Bible
- b) Translated the Bible into English (1<sup>st</sup> time)
  - (1) “Christ taught the people in the language that was best known to them, why should people today not do the same?”

c) Church leaders were angry and labeled him a heretic

- (1) This is not the first translation out of Latin

- (2) Each new translation is fought against.

d) Two attempted trials but they never were able to actually meet.

## 5. Wycliffe's followers

- a) Friends called them: “the Poor Preachers”
- b) Enemies called them: “Lollards”—  
‘mumblers’ or ‘darnel weeds’

## F. Unhushable Hus

1. Wycliffe's ideas and translation spread quickly throughout Europe
2. Bohemian bishops banned Wycliffe's writings.

### 3. Jan Hus (1400)



- a) Bohemian professor and priest
- b) Popularizes Wycliffe's call for reform in Eastern Europe
- c) Preaches Wycliffe's reform from pulpit in Prague
- d) Church revokes his right to preach (1407)

4. Claims the people should obey the church only when the church agreed with the Bible.

- a) This is laying the groundwork for an all out revolt against church authority
- b) He also disagrees with how the church does communion for the laypeople

5. Put on trial for his outspokenness  
against church authority

– a) Never makes it to his own trial

– b) Kidnapped and put to death (1415)



## 6. Council of Constance

a) Labels both Wycliffe and Hus heretics

b) Ends the era of 3 popes

- (1) Imprisons the Pope of Pisa'

- (2) Deposes Pope of Rome

- (3) Retires Pope of Avignon

- (4) Elects new Pope, Martin V.

## II.Looking Inward: The Mystical Alternative.

- A.Church leaders losing touch with the needs of the people
- B.Scholastics losing touch with the needs of the people
  - 1.Writing about things they do not experience in their own lives
  - 2.i.e. God's power

## C.Common Life Movement

### 1.Criticize current church practices

- a)Dutch Christians denounce corruption among Priests and Bishops
- b)Careful never to denounce the Church itself

### 2.Blend of scholarship and mystical devotion to Jesus (Head AND Heart)

- a)Modern Devotion—focus on personal devotion to Jesus

### 3. Thomas A'Kempis

#### a) *The Imitation of Christ*

–(1) This book is still used by Christians around the world



## (2) Opening of Chapter 1

"He who follows Me, walks not in darkness," says the Lord. By these words of Christ we are advised to imitate His life and habits, if we wish to be truly enlightened and free from all blindness of heart. Let our chief effort, therefore, be to study the life of Jesus Christ.

The teaching of Christ is more excellent than all the advice of the saints, and he who has His spirit will find in it a hidden manna. Now, there are many who hear the Gospel often but care little for it because they have not the spirit of Christ. Yet whoever wishes to understand fully the words of Christ must try to pattern his whole life on that of Christ.

What good does it do to speak learnedly about the Trinity if, lacking humility, you displease the Trinity? Indeed it is not learning that makes a man holy and just, but a virtuous life makes him pleasing to God.

I would rather feel contrition than know how to define it. For what would it profit us to know the whole Bible by heart and the principles of all the philosophers if we live without grace and the love of God? Vanity of vanities and all is vanity, except to love God and serve Him alone.”



## D. Joan of Arc

1. England conquered France  
(1415)

2. French Peasant girl  
vision(1428)

– a) Believes God  
English out of France



3. Joan becomes a  
Battle. She takes  
Northern France

4. Difficulties:  
on their side

5. Joan captured  
king refuses



6. She is burned at the stake as a heretic

- a) Again, this has nothing to do with her visions.
- b) This is a political move by England. If God gave Joan visions, then what they are doing is wrong (and it probably was).

7. “In the play *Saint Joan* by George Bernard Shaw, Joan of Arc insists that she hears voices that come from God. She is informed by skeptics that the voices come from her imagination. Unmoved, Joan replies, “I know, that is how God speaks to me” (Foster, *Celebration of Disciplines*, p41)

### III. Glancing Backward: The Humanist Alternative

- A. Constantinople is no more (1453)
  - 1. The last of the Eastern Empire falls to the Ottoman Turks (Muslims)
  - 2. Churches turned into mosques

B. Eastern Scholars flee to the west with ancient manuscripts (mostly Greek)

1. Renewed interest in the West of ancient authors

2. Causes a rebirth of interest in ancient art, writing, thinking, etc

– a) The beginning of the Renaissance

– b) Mostly funded by the Church and Italian Nobles

## C. The rise of “humanism”

1. A focus on the ‘humanities’—i.e. the literary culture of Greece
2. Characterized by a focus on the use of reason and the rejection of the supernatural
3. We are saved through reason
4. This is the current religion of Western society (i.e. the Americas and Europe)

## D.Christian humanists applied the use of reason to Scripture

1.Renewed interest on the original intent leads to renewed interest in the original language

– a)Back to the sources! became the mantra

– b)This changed the face of Christianity for the good

- (1)People finding out what it says for themselves without an interpreter



# The Latin Vulgate: The Need for New Translations

## Matthew 4:17 and Penance

*do penance* (outward practice)

*repent* (inward psychological state)

## Luke 1:28 and Mary

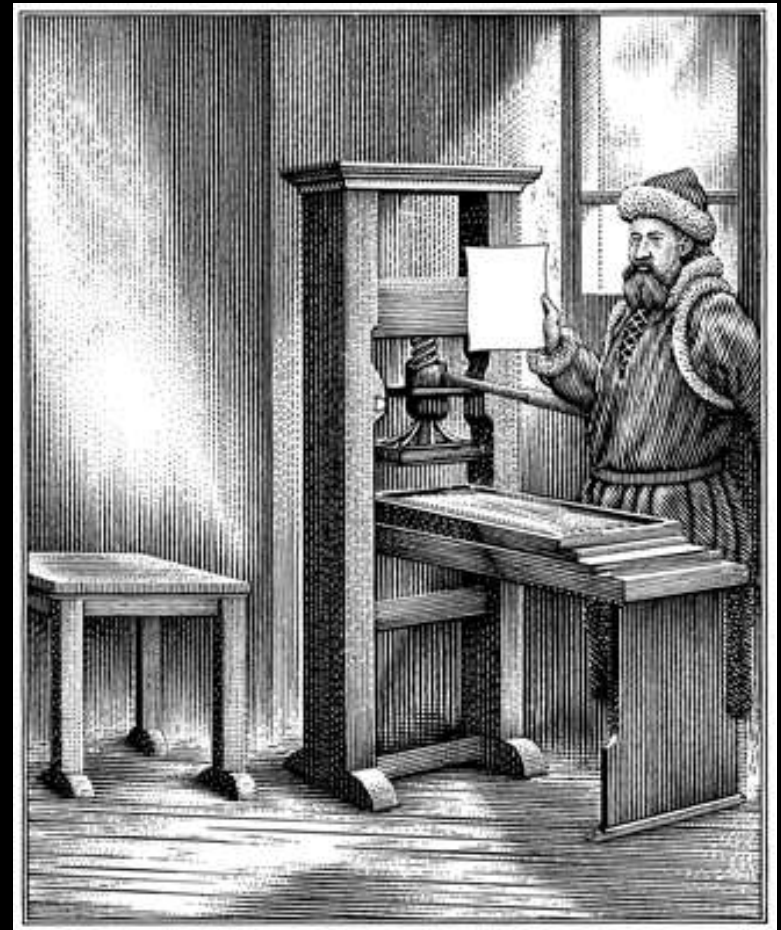
*grata plena* (full of grace, or favored one)

## Ephesians 5:31–32 and Marriage

*sacramentum* (sacrament)

*mysterion* (mystery)

# E. Gutenberg Bible (1453)



1. John Gutenberg discovers how to make moveable metal type.
2. This allows for the mass production of books.
3. The printing press basically allows the Renaissance to happen.
4. The price of books plummet.
5. Bibles and Ancient literature flood into Europe.

F.Reform of the Church become unavoidable

1.Corruption among clergy

2.Abuses of the Spanish Inquisition

3.Increase literacy of the population due to cheap books

4.Renewed focus on Scripture by those outside the Church power structure



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## IV. Lurching Forward

- A. Julius Caesar or Jesus Christ?
  - 1. Pope Julius II refuses a Saint's name and instead takes a Caesar's name
    - a) Military victories

»(1) Forces all foreign soldiers out of Church lands in central Italy.

»(2) Rides triumphant into Bologna, Italy (1507)

–b) Supports the Renaissance

»(1) Funds many of Michelangelo's projects

## 2. Erasmus

a) Greek scholar and Village priest  
unimpressed with Julius II

–(1) Did not think Christ's  
representative should be leading  
an earthly army

b) His teachers had been a part of the  
Dutch Common Life movement



c) Begins highlighting areas for change within the church

- (1) Scholastic speculation (going beyond what the Bible says about the character and nature of God)
- (2) Crusades
- (3) His desire is for reformation, not a split

## d) Erasmus publishes a Greek New Testament (1516)

- (1) Christians can now read Jesus and the Apostles' words in the original language



## B.Calm Before the Storm

- 1.Wycliffe and Hus had packed a powder keg with their ideas of the Bible in everyone's native tongue
- 2.Erasmus wove the fuse by publishing a Greek New Testament,
  - a)allowing for translations into the vernacular
  - b)allowing for Scholars to read original intent, not interpreter's intent
- 3.October 31, 1517, the fuse is lit

# How the Reformation Came About: Three Essentials

MILIEU



trouble inside  
and outside

MESSAGE



*sola scriptura*  *sola gratia*  
*sola fide*

MEANS



printing press



