



The Mustard Seed Story

A BC to AD Course

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Glossary

Age of the Spirit

The age overlooked by the Rabbis of the first century, but clearly predicted by the prophet Joel. Equivalent to Joel's "last days" (see Acts 2.17), and commonly but less accurately called "the church age."

Alchemist

A quasi-scientist of the middle ages whose highest goal was to discover the **philosopher's stone** (which see below).

Anabaptist

A branch of Christians of the reformation period who practiced only the "baptism of believers," even if it involved a "second baptism" (hence the name Anabaptists, meaning "re-baptizers") subsequent to infant baptism.

Antinomianism

The belief that there are no laws ultimately binding upon individual behavior. Some Gnostic sects were antinomian and engaged in sexual immorality as permissible in their religion.

Antipope

A person claiming to be or elected pope in opposition to the one chosen by church law, as during a schism.

Arianism

The doctrines of Arius, denying that Jesus was of the same substance as God and holding instead that he was only the highest of created beings.

Arminianism

Of or relating to the theology of Jacobus Arminius and his followers, who believed that predestination was conditioned by God's foreknowledge of human free choices.

Ascetic

A person who renounces material comforts and leads a life of austere self-discipline, especially as an act of religious devotion.

Asceticism

A life-style of austerity for the sake of religious devotion.

Auto-da-fé

The public pronouncement of sentence or burning at the stake of a heretic condemned by the Inquisition.

Basilica

A type of building used extensively in the Roman empire, for religious and state purposes. When Christianity became legal in the empire, church buildings followed the basilica floor plan which encouraged a hierarchical form of worship.

Bull

An official document issued by the pope and sealed with a bulla.

Calvinism

Calvinism refers to the religious influence of Calvin whose doctrines emphasized the sovereignty of God and His irresistible grace.

Canon

An ecclesiastical law or code of laws established by a church council. Also, an official list of the books accepted as Holy Scripture.

Chivalry

The medieval system of knightly conduct.

Deism

An emasculated form of Christianity of English origin and popular at the time of America's founding. Deism proposed a Creator who expects us to live morally but does not involve Himself in human affairs.

Ex Cathedra

The Latin word *cathedra* refers to the throne-like seat of a bishop. *Ex cathedra*, meaning, "from the chair," refers to pronouncements by the Pope considered infallible.

Glossary

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Catacombs

Underground corridors stretching for miles under the city of Rome. The catacombs may have been created when the marble was first quarried to build the city. In the early Christian centuries, the underground labyrinths served as places for secret worship by persecuted Christians. The catacombs are an important archaeological source for early Christian customs.

Catholic

Universally accepted.

Chalice

A cup for the consecrated wine of the Eucharist.

Chivalry

A Christianized, military code of life. See page E-46.

Constantine

Flavius Valerius Constantinus, known as Constantine the Great. The first Roman emperor to profess Christianity. Constantine brought an end to the persecution of Christians in the empire, but by his policies launched a synthesis of Christianity with paganism and of church with state.

Consubstantiation

A Eucharistic doctrine that holds that the substance of Christ's body and blood is conjoined with the substance of the bread and wine in the Eucharist.

Coreligionist

One having the same religion as another.

Cosmogony

A theory or model of the origin and development of the earth and the physical universe.

Crusades, The

Military campaigns by European knights attempting to wrest the Holy Land from Muslim occupiers.

Dark Ages, The

A period of social decline in European his-

tory, roughly from the time of the collapse of the Roman Empire until the beginning of the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation (*circa* AD 450 - 1450). Loosely synonymous with *The Middle Ages*.

Decretal

A decree, especially a papal letter giving a decision on a point or question of canon law.

Diet

A formal general assembly of the princes or estates of the Holy Roman Empire.

Diocese

The district or churches under the jurisdiction of a bishop; a bishopric.

Ecclesiastical

Pertaining to the church or church government.

Fall of Rome, The

The dissolution of the Roman Empire that began with the sack of Rome by Alaric the Goth in AD 410.

Feudalism

A social system based on the ownership of land. See page E-45.

Gnosticism

A mystical religion that developed contemporaneously with early Christianity and rabbinical Judaism. The hybrid, Christian Gnosticism, took various forms. Some Gnostic groups were ascetic and some antinomian, but all taught salvation by knowledge of the divinity within us.

Gyrovague

A medieval monk who wandered about, taking advantage of people's generosity toward religious men. When a community would weary of such a monk's lack of productivity, the gyrovague would simply journey to the next community. By extension, gyrovague becomes a metaphor for a religious person without accountability.



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Hajj

The pilgrimage to Mecca incumbent upon all Muslims.

Halberd

An axe-like weapon mounted on a pike.

Houris

Gorgeous nymphs promised to Muslim men upon their arrival in Paradise.

Icon

Historically, an image or pictorial representation of a Christian saint.

Indulgence

A form of credit purported to pay for sins and enable a sinner to escape punishments in purgatory.

Inquisition

A religious court that tried people for heresy.

Islam

The Arabic word meaning *submission*, and the name of the religion founded by Muhammad.

Iustitia

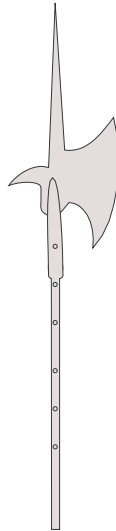
The Latin word in romans 1.17; 3.21,22, translated *righteousness* in our English versions (*dikeosune* in Greek). Luther agonized over this term, thinking it meant *punitive justice*.

Jihad

The Islamic principle of Holy War. The word means *struggle* and can refer to an inward moral struggle, but historically has always been expressed in armed conflict against the perceived enemies of Muslims.

Josephus, Flavius

A Jewish soldier and historian, contemporary of the apostles, who wrote a history of the Jews in which he mentions the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Moravians

The Protestant reform movement in Bohemia and Moravia that, by its evangelistic efforts, began the era of modern missions in the 1700's.

Muhammad

The prophet and founder of Islam, who recited the lines ultimately collated into the Qur'an.

Muslim

An adherent of the religion of Islam.

Orante

An early Christian symbol of filial piety.

Orthodox

Adhering to the accepted or traditional and established faith, especially in religion.

Paradigm

An example that serves as a pattern (or standard model) for doing something.

Paten

A plate, usually of gold or silver, that is used to hold the host during the celebration of the Eucharist.

Philosopher's Stone

The substance sought by medieval alchemists, and believed to have the power of converting baser metals to gold.

Pilgrimage

A journey to a shrine or holy place in the hopes of receiving some blessing.

Pornocracy

A period when the papacy was marked by extreme immorality.

Priesthood of the Believer

The Reformation principle that every believer has direct access to God through Jesus Christ, and does not need to have his or her salvation mediated by another ecclesiastical authority.

Glossary

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Protestant

A member of a Western Christian church whose faith and practice are founded on the principles of the Protestant Reformation, especially in the acceptance of the Bible as the sole source of revelation, in justification by faith alone, and in the universal priesthood of all the believers.

Purgatory

A place of torment, believed in by Roman Catholics and others, where people are purged of the guilt of their sins after death, before proceeding to heaven.

Relic

An object of religious veneration, especially a piece of the body or a personal item of a saint, reputed to have miraculous virtue.

Reliquary

A special place, usually in or near a church altar, for storing a relic.

Scala Sancta

Latin for *Holy Staircase*. Stairs in the Vatican reputed to have once been part of Pontius Pilate's palace, and therefore sacred since Jesus would have walked upon them.

Scourge of God, The

A title given to Attila the Hun, meaning that God had raised him up to chasten compromised Christendom.

Schism

A division over secondary issues within a group holding major beliefs in common.

See

The official seat, center of authority, jurisdiction, or office of a bishop.

Simony

The sale of profitable religious offices or jurisdictions.

Sola Fide

Latin for *only faith*. The Reformation principle that justification is only by faith, not by man's meritorious works or observances.

Sola Gratia

Latin for *only grace*. The Reformation principle that salvation is only by God's grace, and cannot be purchased by money nor meritorious works and observances.

Sola Scriptura

Latin for *only Scripture*. The Reformation principle that the canonical Scriptures alone are the supreme earthly authority for Christian faith and practice, standing far above the authority of the papacy and church tradition.

Synod

A council or an assembly of church officials or churches; an ecclesiastical council.

Theocracy

A form of government in which God is the avowed ruler.

Transubstantiation

A doctrine holding that the bread and wine become the actual Body and Blood of Christ, except for the surface appearance.

Tridentine

Of or relating to an ecumenical council held by the Roman Catholic Church in Trent, Italy, from 1545 to 1563.