#7 The Protestant Reformation
THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION
Reformation at 500

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
WE RISK MISUNDERSTANDING THE REFORMATION IF WE DON’T CONSIDER ITS HISTORICAL ROOTEDNESS AND CONTEXT.
14th century

15th century

Reformation - 16th

Social/cultural realities
Ecclesiastical realities
1) AGROCLIMATIC FAILURE

* All land under cultivation
* Cold, wet seasons
* Less seeds
* Malnutrition & famines
By 1320 in Great Famine 10% to 25% of population of western Europe died!
2) Black Death Plague

- 1/3 to 1/2 died (1347-51)
- Outbreaks continued 120 yrs
- Population down 60-75% by 1447

COVID
By 3/22
6 million deaths
Why did this disease spread?
Rats on ships from China to Europe

Also spread airborne by coughing

Plague rushes through Europe

Pestis Prima -- the first wave of plague -- moved very quickly along sea and land trade routes.
Rat bites 5 days incubation.
Spread thru lymph nodes
Mortality 50-60%
* Florence lost 45-75% population
* Venice lost 60% in 18 mo.
* Paris 800/day
* Constantinople lost 88%
“Death of mothers in childbirth, infant mortality, limited medical treatment for disease, ineffectual remedies for fever and infection, accidents at work, and the dangers of warfare, ALL WERE COMMON CONCERNS THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE AGES.

(James Peyton)
3) Series of wars and revolts

Shortage of workers
Peasants’ Revolts

France, England, Italy, Germany, Spain
100 years War (1337-1453)
4) Invention of printing press
Context of Reformation:

- SOCIAL/CULTURAL REALITIES
- ECCLESIASTICAL REALITIES
1. FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE TO THE MUSLIMS IN 1453

Roman Emperor made new capitol 313 AD
OTTOMAN TURKS PREPARED FOR FINAL STRIKE ON CAPITAL ON MAY 28 (1453)
Evening believers gathered in famous church Hagia Sophia
Muslim teacher walked into Hagia Sophia and said “There is no god
The next day Ottoman Turks captured entire city
Church remained a mosque until 1935 when Ataturk turned it into a museum
The Hagia Sophia is being turned into a mosque (again.)

Shift in 2020
Thousands of Christian clergy, scholars, & artists fled to Europe. Brought along treasures of ancient Greece. Included mss.
Renaissance Humanism

“Back to the sources”
2) Power of Roman Catholic church over all of life.

Fall of Roman empire 476 AD left power vacuum in W. Europe
Became increasingly wealthy and powerful = people expected they would provide solutions to society’s problems
Expectations not met. Became frustrated with the church and its leaders. This prepared way for Reformers to challenge the church.
3) Corruption of clergy
EXPECTATIONS
* celibacy
* vow of poverty
* humility

REALITY
* Concubines
* Affluence
* Arrogance
* Agricultural failure
* **Black Death (Bubonic) plague**
* Series of wars and revolts
* **Invention of printing press**
* Fall of Constantinople to Muslims – mss to Europe
* **Power of Roman Catholic Church over all of life**
* Corruption of clergy
4. Decline of the papacy
God dispenses his grace

Pope

Christ's vicar on earth
Sold offices and indulgences
Babylonian Captivity of the Church

1309-1378
Pope Clement V refused to leave France and take up residence in Rome in 1309.
Series of 7 French popes ruled here in Avignon, France.

Deferred to wishes of kings of France.
OK I’ll return to Rome !!

But after a few months he died!

Gregory VII – last Avignon pope - 1377
The Great Schism  1378-1415
AFTER DEATH OF POPE GREGORY THE CARDINALS INTENDED TO HEAD BACK TO AVIGNON. PEOPLE HEARD SO SURROUNDED PAPAL PALACE.
“We demand the election of an Italian as bishop of Rome.”

Urban VI (1378) but denounced as false Pope.
Cardinals elected this Frenchman, took the name **Clement VII**. He promptly returned with his cardinals to Avignon.

**Urban VI** found this out & didn’t accept action of cardinals; created new cardinals & claimed to be true Pope!!
I AM THE POPE  NO, I AM THE POPE

URBAN VI  CLEMENT VII

Lasted from 1328-1435
Rise of Conciliarism

Ultimate church authority resided with a council representing the whole church rather than the Papacy.
Council of Pisa 1409
Papal Schism
1378-1417

Three Popes!

1. Clement VII
2. Alexander V
3. Urban VI
COUNCIL OF CONSTANCE 1415-1416

Deposed all 3 popes.
New pope Martin V
(1418-31)
ERA OF RENAISSANCE POPES: Alexander VI (1492-1503)

- Used money to buy votes to get elected
- Flaunted his violation of celibacy
- Promoted children from mistresses (Lucrezia)
THE DAUGHTER OF THE POPE

LUCREZIA
“God has given us the papacy! Let us enjoy it!”
In the light of all this confusion in the papacy do you see why a Reformation was needed?
This didn’t happen in a vacuum


“That incident ignited a flame, but there were innumerable other sparks that had filled the night sky of the late Middle Ages. And they were not all religious in nature, Political and social factors combined with religious impulses to make the Reformation virtually inevitable. The church was entering the modern age, and it is highly unlikely that such a transition or transformation could have been made without major turmoil.”
I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH

Matthew 16-18
NEXT WEEK

NAILED IT