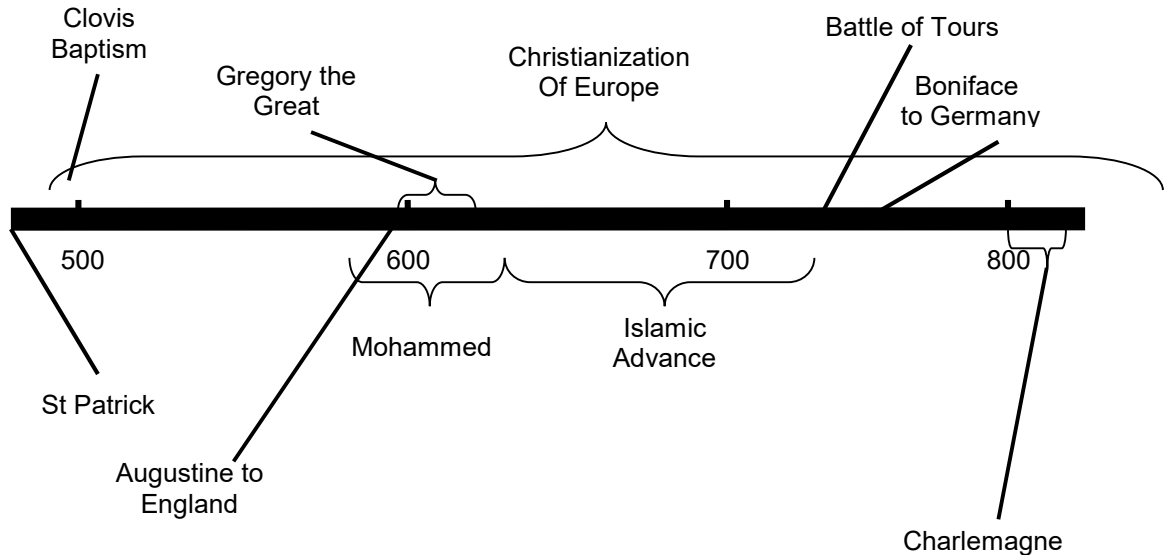


# Church History

Early Middle Ages  
Gregory to Charlemagne

## Early Middle Ages Timeline



## Britain and Germany

- Augustine (597) – sent by Gregory the Great to Angleland
  - Regain the country for Christ
- Boniface (Wyn-fred) (d. 754) – to Germany (Hessia)
  - Cut down the huge oak tree sacred to Thor
  - Was not struck down by lightening by the god of thunder
  - Used the wood to build a chapel
  - Resulted in large numbers of conversions
  - Killed by heathen 30 years later

## Franks

- Franks – extended their rule over all of Gaul (eventually called France)
- First Germanic tribe to adopt Christianity after the invasions
- Clovis – conversion similar to Constantine
  - Baptized on Christmas Day 496 at Rheims
- Adopted orthodox (Nicene) Christianity
- Entire tribes became Christian when their king became Christian
- Tremendous consequences more than 200 years later

## Eastern Church

- Byzantine Empire – Never overrun by Gothic/Slavic migration
  - Enjoyed relative peace
- Justinian (483- 565)
  - economical and military blooming of the Byzantine Empire
  - Age of great learning and promulgation of the Scriptures
  - Reconquered Rome from Ostrogoths
  - Reconquered North Africa from Vandals

- Always at work, he was called the "Emperor that never sleeps."
  - His edification program has left masterpieces as the church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople
  - Considered a "saint" by Eastern Orthodox Church
- 568 – Lombards (*longbeards*) – Germanic tribe retake Po Valley in northern Italy (today – Lombardy)

## Eastern Church

- Effect of Islam
- Mohammed (570-632)
- Flight from Mecca – 622
- Settles in Medina
- Islam spreads to Arabia by death in 632
- "*Allah is great and Mohammed is his prophet*"

## Spread of Islam 622 - 750

### Halt of Islamic Advance

- 496 – Clovis, king of the Franks accepted Nicene Christianity
  - National Christianization
  - Franks became staunch supporters of Roman Church
- 732 – Charles Martel (the hammer)
  - Raised a "Christian" Army to oppose the Islamic Advance
  - Included Friscans from beyond the Rhine
- Battle of Tours – 732

## The Church enters Politics

- 568 – Lombards came to Italy, having converted to Arian Christianity
- Won over to Nicene Orthodoxy
- Gregory I, gladly bestows crown on Lombard king
  - Iron Crown because it contained a "nail from the Cross"
  - Lombards a constant threat to the Papacy
- Friction between Constantinople and Papacy
- Pope turns to the Franks for help

## Frank Influence

- Charles the Hammer – hero of the Battle of Tours
  - High office, but not king of the Franks
- Pepin, son of Charles, not satisfied
- Overthrows Childeric and assumes throne
- Looks to Pope to sanction his new office
- Pope Zacharias readily gives approval
  - "only right that he who holds the power is the king"
- 751 – Pepin anointed and crowned

## Temporal Authority

- Crowning of Pepin simple, but perhaps the most important event of the Middle Ages
- The Pope has the right to take away and grant Kingdoms
- Augustine – the City of God is greater than the City of Man
- Tremendous struggle between Papacy and Empire for much of the Middle Ages

## Pope becomes Temporal Ruler

- One good turn deserves another
- Pepin marched an army into northern Italy and defeated the Lombards
- Pope Zacharias becomes the ruler of the “States of the Church” or the “Papal States”
- Lasts until 1870, when Kingdom of Italy was established

## Charlemagne

- Pepin the Short dies 768
- Sons of Pepin, Carloman and Charles rule
- After his brother dies, 771, Charles rules alone
- 800, Christmas Day, Charles kneels in St. Peter’s and Pope Leo III places the crown of the Empire on his head
  - Law and Order
  - Civilization (knowledge, enrichment, gracious living)
  - Christianity as the true religion
- Becomes known as Charlemagne (Charles the Great)

## Accomplishments of Charlemagne

- Established wise laws and insured enforcement
- Promoted schools and learning
  - He himself became a student (couldn’t write)
  - Favorite book was *City of God*
- Warfare
  - Finished the Lombards
  - Began liberating Spain from the Muslim Arabs
    - Pushed them from the Pyrenees to the Ebro River
  - Subdued the Saxons, forced them to accept Christianity

## Three Empires

- Oldest and weakest – Eastern Roman Empire
- Largest – Empire of the Muslim Arabs
  - India, through Persia, Syria, Palestine
  - Through Africa to the Ebro River in Spain
- Youngest and Strongest – Empire of Charlemagne