

# Late 10th Century Highlights

Historical Theology

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## INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

Review God's work at the monastery in France vs. the papal issues in Rome, Italy.

Monastic Reform vs. Pope's Throne...

According to Scott's lesson last week, which is more impactful in transforming the hearts and minds of people? What role does

political/church leadership play in sharing the gospel?

## I. FIRST PATRIARCHATE OF BULGARIAN CHURCH

*autocephalous*: appointing its own head, not subject to the authority of an external patriarch or archbishop

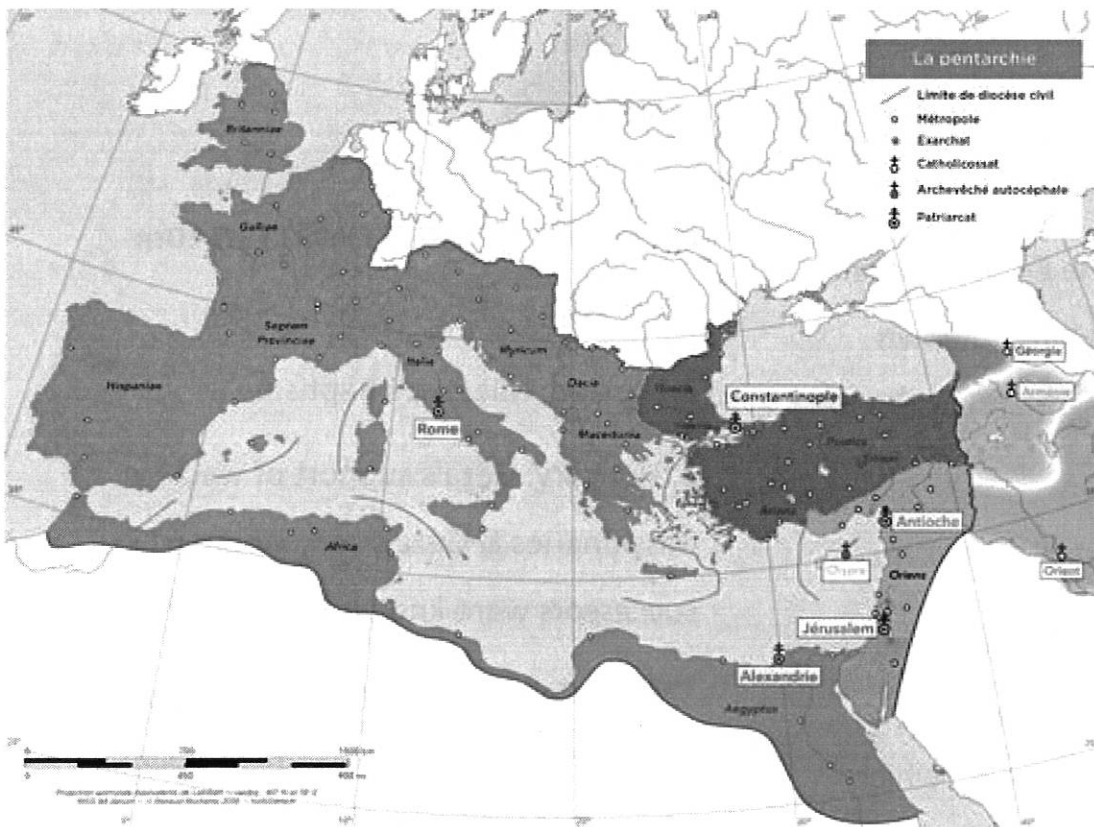
### 1. BULGARIAN RECOGNITION IN 927 AD

"...the Patriarchate of Constantinople recognized the *autocephalous* status of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and acknowledged its patriarchal dignity."

a. "...It was the sixth Patriarchate after the

Pentarchy patriarchates of Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem. The seat of the Patriarchate was the new Bulgarian capital of Preslav."

**Question: Why would Constantinople recognize another patriarchate, especially one so close geographically?**





Patriarchate.”...until 1018 when Byzantine forces overtook it.

Without recapping the history of all patriarchates... “At present, there are nine Orthodox patriarchates: Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, Moscow, Georgia, Serbia, Romania, and Bulgaria.”

What does this tell us about the organization of the Eastern Orthodox church?

## 2. DEMISE IN 972 AD

“On April 5, 972, Byzantine Emperor John I Tzimisce conquered and burned down Preslav, and captured Bulgarian Tsar Boris II.”

## 3. RELOCATION IN 990

“Around 990, the next patriarch, Philip, moved to Ohrid (in present-day south-western North Macedonia), which became the permanent seat of the

## II. SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY IN 10<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

1. Poland: Mieszko’s Baptism
  2. Hungary: Geza’s support of western missionaries & Geza’s son, Stephen I’s successors were known as Apostolic Kings
- \*\*Both Polish and Hungarian leaders successfully used Christianity to maintain power and influence (“Apostolic”)



them about Judaism but ultimately rejected it, saying that their loss of Jerusalem was evidence of their having been abandoned by God.”

A slightly more reliable account:

“In 987, the generals Bardas Sclerus and Bardas Phocas

### 3. Kievan Rus

#### a. Vladimir’s baptism of Kiev

- i. Foreign Options?
- ii. Apocryphal account below but entertaining...

“The *Primary Chronicle* reports that, in the year 986, Vladimir met with representatives from several religions. The result is amusingly described in the following apocryphal anecdote. Upon the meeting with Muslim Bulgarians of the Volga, Vladimir found their religion unsuitable due to its requirement to circumcise and taboos against alcoholic beverages and pork; supposedly, Vladimir said on that occasion: “Drinking is the joy of the Rus.” He also consulted with Jewish envoys (who may or may not have been Khazars), questioned

revolted against the Byzantine emperor Basil II. Both rebels briefly joined forces and advanced on Constantinople. On September 14, 987, Bardas Phocas proclaimed himself emperor. Anxious to avoid the siege of his capital, Basil II turned to the Rus' for assistance, even though they were considered enemies at that time. Vladimir agreed, in exchange for a marital tie; he also agreed to accept Christianity as his religion and bring his people to the new faith. When the wedding arrangements were settled, Vladimir dispatched 6,000 troops to the Byzantine Empire and they helped to put down the revolt.”

\*\*This resulted in a mass baptism in the Dneiper River. See the map on the next page...

“Then Vladimir sent a message to all residents of Kiev, "rich, and poor, and beggars, and slaves", to come to the river on the following day, lest they risk becoming the "prince's enemies". Large numbers of people came; some even brought infants with them.”

Application:

Role of Government? Theocracy?

How do we see God at work in these scenarios? Authenticity?

Philippians 1:15-18 and discussion.



Informally cited references (in no particular order):

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