


St. Therese Catholic Church


Church History
Fr. Leonard Andrie

January 18, 2022

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Epic: Timeline Bookmark (12 Periods – Color Coded)

WEAK LEADERS & SCHISM	PROTESTORS & DEFENDERS	THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION	REVOLUTIONS & MODERNISM	A WORLD AT WAR	THE NEW SPRINGTIME	THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE
Black: <i>Dark Time of the Church</i>	Oranges: <i>William of Orange</i>	Gold: <i>Holy Saints Reform the Church</i>	Grays: <i>Clouds of Industry & Intellectual Confusion</i>	Bright Red: <i>Color of Fascism and Communism</i>	Bright Green: <i>The Springtime of Renewal</i>	Marian Blue: <i>Pope John Paul II & Mary Our Lady of Hope</i>
1300–1499	1500–1544	1545–1699	1700–1913	1914–1957	1958–1977	1978–Present
Vienne (1311–1312) Constance (1414–1418) Florence (1431–1445)	Lateran V (1512–1517)	Trent (1545–1563)	Vatican I (1869–1870)		Vatican II (1962–1965)	
	Mustard Yellow: <i>Parable of the Kingdom of God [Mt. 4:30 – 32]</i>	Dark Red: <i>Blood of the Martyrs</i>	White: <i>Empire Clothed White in Christ</i>	Purple: <i>Royalty of the Holy Roman Emperor</i>	Navy Blue: <i>Color of France; Land of Crusaders</i>	
	33–99	100–312	313–499	500–999	1000–1299	
			Nicaea I (325) Constantinople I (381) Ephesus (431) Chalcedon (451)	Constantinople II (553) Constantinople III (680) Nicaea II (787) Constantinople IV (869)	Lateran I (1123) Lateran II (1139) Lateran III (1179) Lateran IV (1215) Lyons I (1245) Lyons II (1274)	

<https://ascensionpress.com/products/epic-a-journey-through-church-history-timeline-bookmark>

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Chapter 4: Bright Lights in a Dark Time (Read pages 147 – 171)

- Saints Patrick and Benedict
- Pope St. Gregory and St. Boniface
- Rise of Islam
- Battle of Poitiers

Goldy Studying



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Collapse of Roman Empire (West)

- Rome was sacked in 410 by the Goths. In 455 Vandals sacked it. Western part of the Roman Empire collapsed in 476 with the last Roman emperor. The Church will fill the vacuum left by the void of a central governing authority.
- **Key:** The Church will be the main administrator in holding the European fabric together.
- Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire) will continue until the 15th century (1453) when the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople.

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“Dark Ages”

- The era from the collapse of the Roman Empire to the beginning of the eleventh century.
- **Thomas Spratt:** The period was “quiet as the night” (148). In reality, there was a lot happening in this time period!
- Archeological and other sources show that this period was marked by “immense cultural, economic, and political development” (148).

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“Dark Ages”

- Major challenges during this era:
 - Loss of an established Roman civilization with its cultural, intellectual, and spiritual heritage
 - Frequent invasions and raids of the Vikings
 - Rise of Islam that will occupy and conquer ancient Christian lands (149).

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“Dark Ages”

- The Christian faith experienced a major transformation during this period:
 - Ancient world had lots of cities, but in the middle ages cities were not as important. Christianity was a Roman religion, inside the Roman Empire. It was an urban religion. Conversions in the country lagged.
 - **Key:** After the Roman Empire collapses, the dominant institutions will be in the countryside and Christianity will look different.

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“Dark Ages”

- Bright lights in a dark time:
 - Catholic missionaries spread the gospel and converted the remaining pagan and Arian Germanic tribes.
 - Technological advances – harnessing water and wind to create power and introduction of the open-field systems of agriculture.
 - Eradication of slavery in Europe – post-Roman world dominated by the Church witnessed end of slavery in the European mainland (149).

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“Dark Ages”

Europe is comprised of various tribes.

Arian Christians Tribes	Pagan Tribes
Ostrogoths & Lombards (Italy)	Franks (France)
Visigoths (Spain)	Angles & Britons (England)
Burgundians (France)	Celts (Ireland)
Vandals (North Africa)	Saxons (England & Germany)

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<http://www.mrgrayhistory.com/world-history/the-early-middle-ages/missionaries-monks/>

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St. Patrick

- Born in late fourth century in Britain.
- Evangelized Ireland, which would become the “nursery of saints.”
- Age 16, kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland to tend sheep as a slave.



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St. Patrick

- Born in late fourth century in Britain.
- Evangelized Ireland, which would become the “nursery of saints.”
- Age 16, kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland to tend sheep as a slave (6 years). Provided Patrick with spiritual development and learn the culture of the Irish.
- Escaped as a slave and made way to Britain.

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St. Patrick

- Discerned a call to the priesthood and consecrated a bishop.
- 18 years later, returned to Ireland as a missionary. Patrick secured the Faith's permanence, shaped its course, and made it a power in the land (150).



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St. Patrick

- Three main objectives in Ireland:
 - Organize the Church (recruit native clergy)
 - Convert the remaining tribes (150 kings)
 - Connect the Church in Ireland with the Church in Rome, making Ireland fully, mistakenly, and devotedly Catholic (150).

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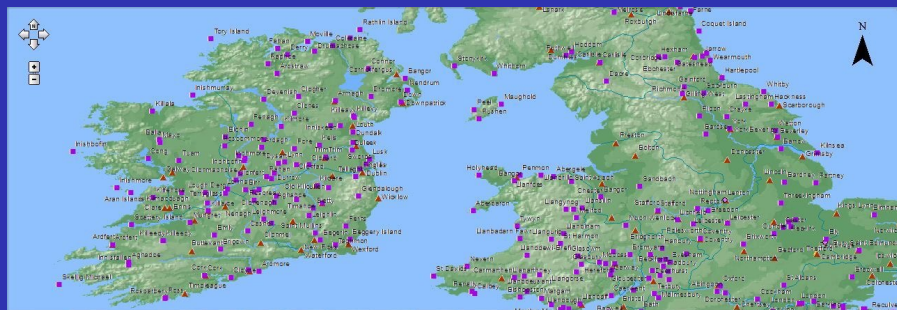
St. Patrick

- St. Patrick's lasting legacy
 - Within a half-century after his death, the entire island had converted to the Catholic faith and their ties to Rome solidified (no martyrs).
 - The Irish founded monasteries and convents throughout the island and lived in strict, organized lifestyles that embraced aesthetical practices. Their worked helped ensure the survival of the ancient Greco-Roman literature and culture (151).

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Medieval Monastic Settlements



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/32721534764788718/>

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St. Patrick

- St. Patrick's lasting legacy
 - St. Patrick's work created a generation of missionaries who regularly sailed to Scotland, Wales, and the Continent in order to spread the Faith.
 - Irish missionaries introduced private and frequent articular confession (151). Thank you Irish missionaries!

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St. Columba – Monastery of Iona in Scotland (AD 563)



<https://www.visitorsguidetoscotland.com/2019/09/iona/>

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St. Columba – Monastery of Iona in Scotland (AD 563)



<https://www.visitorsguidetoscotland.com/2019/09/iona/>

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St. Benedict (480 – 543)

- Father of Western Monasticism
- From a noble Roman family, but renounced his worldly life and lived as a hermit in solitude for three years.
- Overcame temptations to selfishness, sensuality, and anger (151).



<https://www.shconroe.org/blog/1129-o-god-be-with-us>

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St. Therese Parish

St. Benedict (480 – 543)

- Holiness attracts! People begin flocking to Benedict wherein he forms a community focused on deepening their relationship with God.
- Founds Monte Cassino in AD 530 as a “school of divine service” where monks in obedience practiced the faith in love in order to achieve holy humility.
- Benedict’s lasting contribution to the monastic movement was the writing of his *Rule* (152).

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St. Benedict (480 – 543)

- The Rule highlighted the importance:
 - The abbot to the religious community; he was a father figure elected for life. He was expected to be shepherd and care for his flock.
 - The monks oriented their lives on the motto *ora et labora* (prayer and work) – structured day into a routine of prayer (8 hours), work, study, ascetical practices such as fasting so as to imitate the life of Christ (chastity, prayer, work, obedience) (152). In short, the monk was supposed to be a spiritual athlete.

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St. Benedict (480 – 543)

- The Rule highlighted the importance:
 - Monks were required to do manual labor, a novelty in that this was meant to for slaves.
 - Copy manuscripts to preserve the Scriptures and other literary works, including the works of the Greco-Roman authors, the cultural heritage of the European society. Copying Scriptures took an average of ten months to complete (153).

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St. Benedict (480 – 543)

- The Rule highlighted the importance:
 - Monks were not allowed to own anything; the only possible aristocracy was one of virtue.
 - **Key:** As cities broke down, monasteries became educational centers where the Greco-Roman civilization rooted in a Biblical vision was preserved; without monasteries, the heritage of the ancient world would have been lost.

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St. Benedict (480 – 543)


- St. Benedict had a major impact as by the fourteenth century, his order produced (153):

Benedictine	Impact
24 popes	15,000 bishops
200 cardinals	37,000 monasteries
7,000 archbishops	1,500 canonized saints

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Monte Cassino - Italy



<https://italylimousine.com/tour/monte-cassino-day-trip>

- **World War II: Battle of Monte Cassino 1944**
- Americans bombed the monastery believing Germans were in it.
- 55,000 allied troops died



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St. Gregory the Great (590 – 604)

- Wealthy Roman family and saintly parents.
- Became prefect of Rome, responsible for the city and its inhabitants. He was an excellent civil servant (154).



<https://brianjump.net/2015/07/10/then-end-of-antiquity-the-rise-of-christianity-and-the-beginning-of-gregorian-chant/>

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St. Gregory the Great (590 – 604)

- Feeling a deeper level of service to God, he resigned office and became a monk. Years later he remarked these were the happiest years of his life.
- Pope Pelagius II sent Gregory to Constantinople as his personal representative to the emperor.
- Spent six years in Constantinople, which was not a joyful time for him (154).

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St. Gregory the Great (590 – 604)

- In 590, Pope Pelagius II died from an outbreak of the plague. Gregory returned to Rome to discover the clergy elected him bishop.
- After his time in Constantinople, Gregory wanted to return to his simple monastic life. He asked the emperor to repudiate the decision. The emperor refused.
- Gregory fled the city and hid in a cave for three days, believing another man would be chosen in his absence (154).

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St. Gregory the Great (590 – 604)

- Finally, he accepted that this was God's plan for his life. He agreed to assume the papacy.
- He was the first monk to be elected pope and one of the most important popes in Church history.
- In his 14 year reign, he restored prestige and respect to the papacy and the city of Rome. He organized a system of relief to the poor. He established hospitals to care for the sick and injured (155).

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St. Gregory the Great (590 – 604)

- Began the tradition of the pope's use of the title, "Servant of the Servants of God."
- Gregory reinforced the primacy of the Roman See throughout the Church.
- He removed unworthy clergy and reformed the liturgy and music, introduced Gregorian Chant.
- He wrote a work called *Pastoral Care* on the qualities of a good bishop (155).

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St. Gregory the Great (590 – 604)

- He sent missionaries to the Visigoths (Spain), Franks, Saxons, and Lombards.
- Most famously, he sent missionaries to the Anglo-Saxons of Britain (St. Augustine of Canterbury and forty monks to travel to England in 597).
- His pontificate helped bridge the gap between the collapse of the Roman Empire and rise of the Frankish kingdom, providing God's people with much needed hope (157).

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St. Boniface – Apostle to the Germans

- Probably the greatest missionary since St. Paul (157-158).
- Extensive travels and successful evangelization of modern-day Germany.
- Pope changed name from Winfrid to Boniface.



<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-boniface>

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St. Boniface – Apostle to the Germans

- Boniface evangelized chieftains and established Benedictine monasteries, including the great monastery of Fulda in AD 744.
- Pope Gregory consecrated him archbishop of all Germany east of the Rhine and placed his territory under papal jurisdiction (158).
- Boniface returned to Germany in 723 and evangelized modern Germany and the Netherlands.

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St. Boniface – Apostle to the Germans

- Village of Geismar gathered around the “Thunder Oak” dedicated to the god Thor.
- The annual event including offering a human sacrifice, usually a small child to the pagan god.
- At the time of sacrifice, Boniface grabbed an axe and chopped down the Thunder Oak of mighty Thor.
- The Germans were astounded that a lightning bolt did not strike the Christian dead (159).

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Thunder Oak – Dedicated to god Thor



<https://kittentoob.com/crew-rescues-cat-stuck-in-tree-for-3-days-after-being-dropped-by-hawk/>

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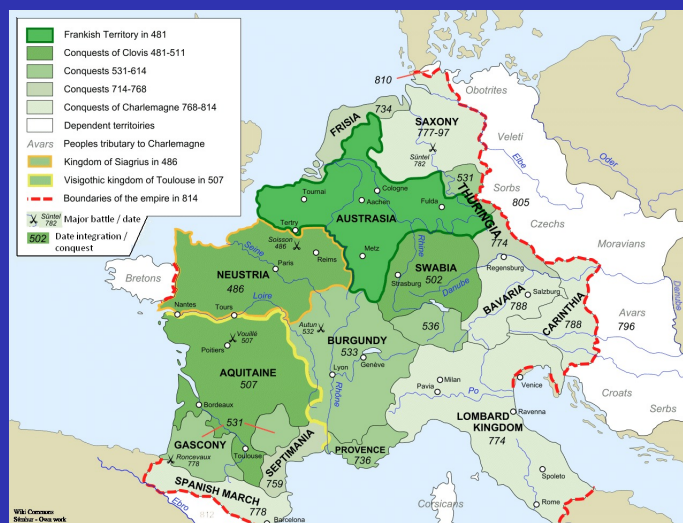
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St. Boniface – Apostle to the Germans

- Boniface preached the gospel to the people, using a little fir tree behind the fallen tree.
- He said, “This little tree, as young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace. It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are evergreen. See how it points to heaven. Let this tree be called the Christ-child; gather about it, not in the wild wood, but in your own homes; there it will shelter not the deeds of blood, but loving gifts and kindness” (159).
- Boniface and fifty monks were martyred in AD 754 in Frisia.

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https://www.tf.uni-kiel.de/matwis/amat/iss/kap_b/illustr/sb_3_2.html

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Rise of Islam

- In the seventh century, a militaristic and imperialistic movement known as Islam developed in the Arabian Peninsula (163).
- Islam is founded upon Muhammed, who was born in Mecca in AD 570.
- **Note:** There is a lot of disagreement about the origins of Islam as the first recorded public reference to Muhammed occurred sixty years after his death and the first biographies about him were not written until 150 years later (161).

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Rise of Islam

- When Muhammed was 40 years old (AD 610), he was awoken from sleep in a cave near Mecca. Heavenly voice told him that he was a messenger from God.
- He thought he was possessed by an evil spirit and distraught, contemplated suicide (162).
- Muhammed received revelations for three years. In 613, he was ordered to make them public. He revealed the content of his private revelations in Mecca, which were initially met with indifference (162).

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Rise of Islam

- He claimed there was only God, and it was the one who did not have an idol in the Kaaba (162).
- He demanded total submission (*islam*) to the will of God. Those who did so joined a unique community (*umma*), where all were considered equal.
- Those in the community lived in the House of Islam; those outside of it lived in the House of War. This relationship presupposed a permanent state of conflict between the two houses. (163).

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Rise of Islam

- Islamic tradition reports that in AD 620, Muhammed experienced a “Night Journey” in which he was miraculously transported from Mecca to Jerusalem, where he ascended into heaven from the Temple Mount.
- The alleged journey solidified Jerusalem as a holy place of Islam and led to a rivalry with Christians and Jews over the city (163).
- He later settled in Medina, which later became known as the “City of the Prophet.” It later became the base of his combat operations (9 total) (163).

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Octagonal structure in the middle of Temple Mount area in Jerusalem. Built in 685 – 691 as a place of pilgrimage. Original dome collapsed in 1015 and rebuilt in 1022-23.

Dome of the Rock

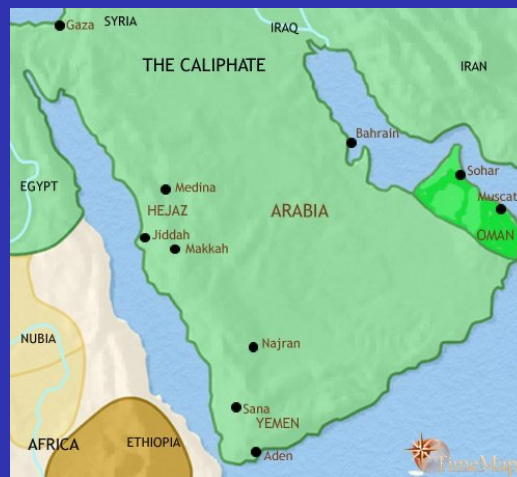


- **All:** Foundational Stone is place where God created the world and the first man, Adam.
- **Judaism:** Site where Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac. Previous site of the second Jerusalem Temple.
- **Muslims:** Revere as spot where Muhammed ascended into heaven.

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Arabian Peninsula - AD 750



<https://www.timemaps.com/history/arabia-750ad/>

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Rise of Islam

- Muhammad's personal life shaped Muslim behavior and formed the foundation for Islamic cultural practice.
- He preached polygamy and had 14 wives, including a 9 year old girl whom he married when she was six. Muhammed was in his 50's.
- Muhammed ordered the assassinations of his political and personal opponents at the end of his life, and instructed his followers to "fight all men until they say there is no God but Allah" (164). He died in AD 632.

45



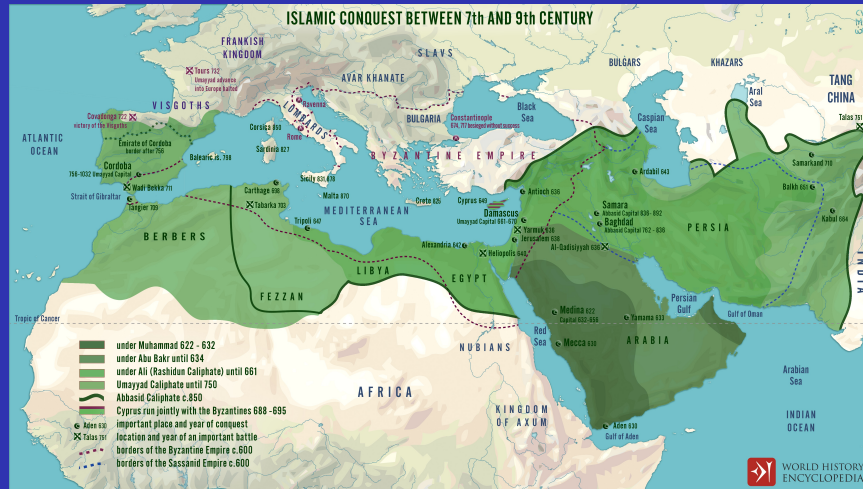
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Rise of Islam

- Muhammed's teachings on the *umma* and *jihad* oriented Islam toward imperialistic expansion.
- Within a decade of his death in 632, Muslim armies conquered the Christian areas of Syria (635), Jerusalem (638), and Egypt (642). They tried to conquer Constantinople in 674, but were rebuffed.
- It expanded westward through North Africa, sweeping away all Christian resistance so that the last Christian stronghold fell in 700. They controlled most of Spain by AD 711 (166-167).

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Battle of Poitiers (or Tours)

- Muslims move deep into France to soften its defenses for a later full scale-invasion. Their goal was to plunder the shrine of St. Martin of Tours for wealth and psychological impact on the inhabitants of France.
- They came with nearly 30,000 men. Under Charles' Martel ("hammer"), the Franks mustered an equal number of troops.
- Two forces met near the town of Poitiers (120 miles west of Paris). The Muslims used their calvary, but the Christians held strong (168).

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Battle of Poitiers

- When the Muslims became exhausted from repeated Calvary attempts, Charles ordered an advance. The fighting was fierce.
- The Muslim leader, Abul al-Rahman was killed, along with 10,000 troops. Both rested and waited for dawn. The Muslims retreated. The victory was complete.
- The Battle of Poitiers was one of the most important in Western European history (169).

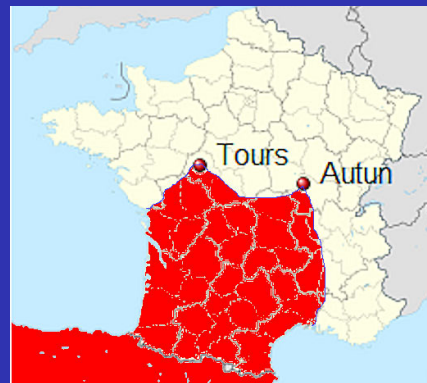
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Battle of Poitiers

- October AD 732
- Charles Martel defeated Muslim invaders from Spain (first defeat in 100 years).
- Halted Muslim advance into Western Europe.
- Had Charles failed, no power could have stopped Islamic expansion.



https://es.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archivo:Islamic_expansion_in_France_in_the_8th_century.jpg

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Battle of Poitiers

- If lost, it would have paved the way for a larger scale invasion and possibly destruction of Frankish kingdom.
- With the fall of the Frankish kingdom, all of European and Church history would have completely changed (169).
- Charles Martel and the Franks succeeded in preserving Western civilization against the forces of Islam at Poitiers (169).

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A Life of Suffering

- Life for Christians under Muslim-occupied territory was marked by subjection and humiliation.
- Non-Muslims had few rights and were harassed, insulted, and belittled by their Muslim neighbors.
- Christians and Jews paid an annual tax called the *jizya*. Christians were forbidden to carry weapons and could not testify in court (170).

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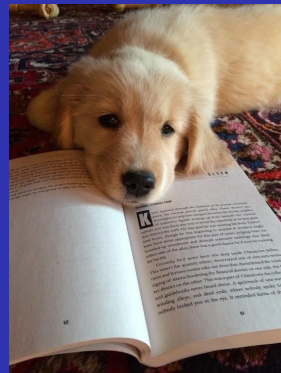
A Life of Suffering

- Churches were destroyed or turned into mosques. No new church construction was allowed. Church bells could not be rung.
- At times, Christians and Jews had to wear special clothing that reinforced their separation from society. They could not hold certain positions and their status was barely above the level of slaves.
- There was heavy societal pressure to convert to Islam. Some did, but most maintained their faith for centuries before a majority embraced Islam (171).

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- Read chapter 4 pages 171 - 200
- Second and Third Councils of Constantinople
- Charles the Great or Charlemagne
- Second Council of Nicaea (AD 787)
- Slide toward chaos and the “year of horror”
- Cluny and the beginning of reform



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