

History and Survey of the Westminster Confession of Faith

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Part 1: History, Context, and Rationale
Class 7: Historical Context: Doctrinal Developments, 4th-15th c.
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I. 1st Millennium

Doctrine of man (4th – 5th c) Pelagius vs. Augustine
Doctrine of sin (6th c) – Cassian vs. Augustine
Hagia Sophia (6th c) – majesty of God’s worship continues to grow
Doctrine of the church – the rise of episcopacy
 Gregory the Great’s vision for a broad Christian commonwealth (6th c)
The rise of Islam, 7th c.
Nationalism on rise – England, France, Spain
 Charlemagne (747-814)
 Y1K
 The Kingdom of God on earth – Cathedrals
 Crusades – 1095-1272
 Church divides east and west (11th c)

II. Landscape changes significantly

Crusades (1095-1272)
The rise of the Ottoman Turks (1227-1914)
Black Plague – 1340s-1700s (1/3)
popes vs. councils
 “Avignon Exile” & the “Great Papal Schism”
 powerful councils
 corruption
Constantinople falls (1453)
Reforming the Church
 Council of Constance, 1415 – Hus, Savonarola, Wycliffe
Renaissance (new birth)
 revival of values of Classical Greek/Rom. civ.
 Humanism – classical education, scholasticism, Erasmus
 1445 – Gutenberg’s Printing Press, Bible, 1456

exploration opened up the world

Spain pushes back against the Islamic invaders
and begins to build an imperialistic empire

1492 - Columbus

Diaz, rounded the Cape of Good Hope

the great age of the explorers

Devotio Moderne

Geert Grooke (14th c) personal piety & service

Radewijns - Brethren of the Common Life

Thomas A' Kempis, The Imitation of Christ

III. Martin Luther

1510 - visited Rome, appalled

1517 - 95 Theses

1521 - Diet of Worms

German Bible

1530 - Lutheran Church

"Protest-ants"

1546 - Luther died

"The Reformers did not feel that they were handling and interpreting Scr., but that God was handling them through Scripture." R. Stupperich

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