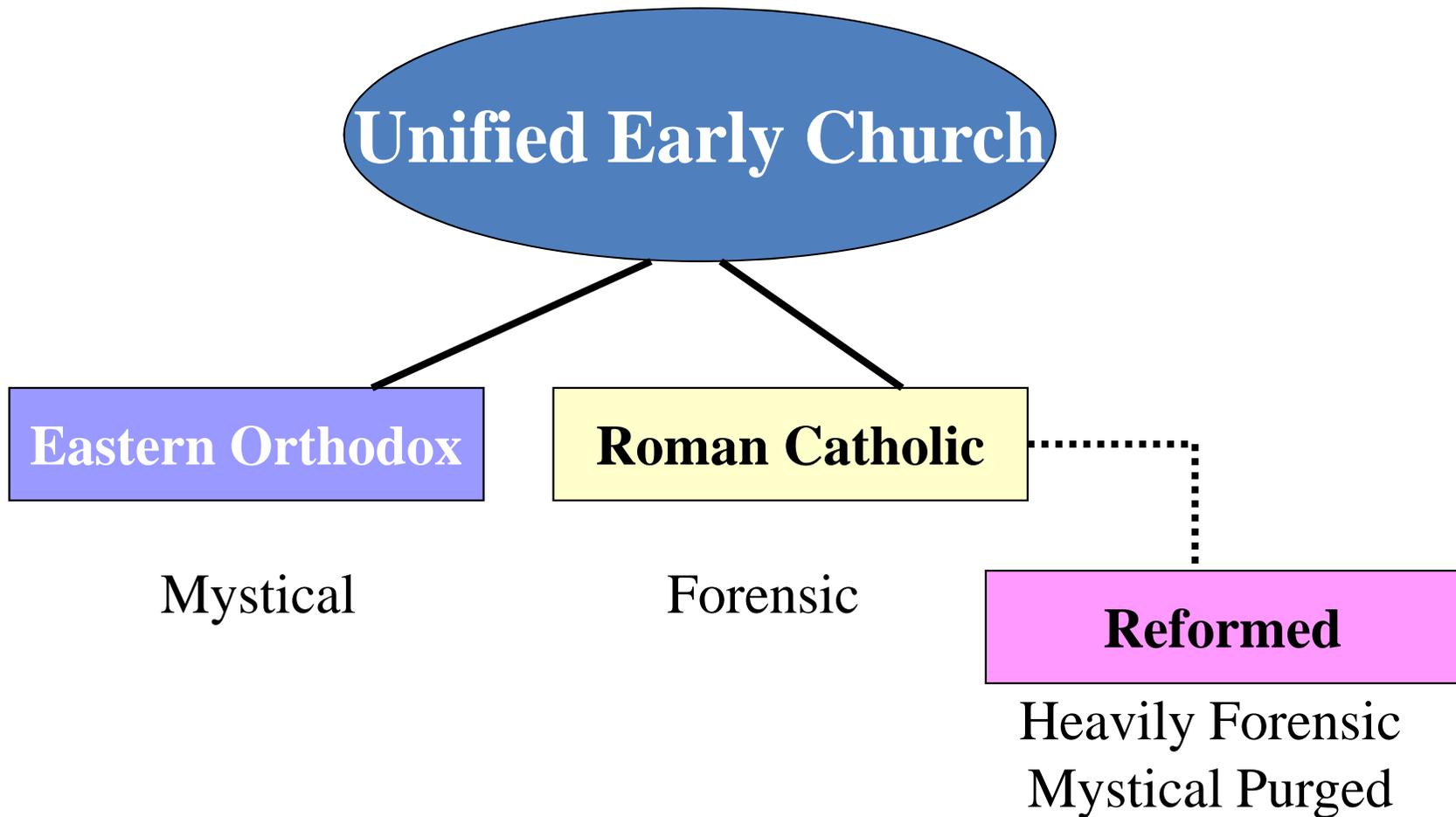




# Medieval Church: Roman Catholic Theology

Randy Broberg  
Grace Bible Church  
2002

# Theology: Major Trends of Divergence



# The Development of Roman Catholic Theology

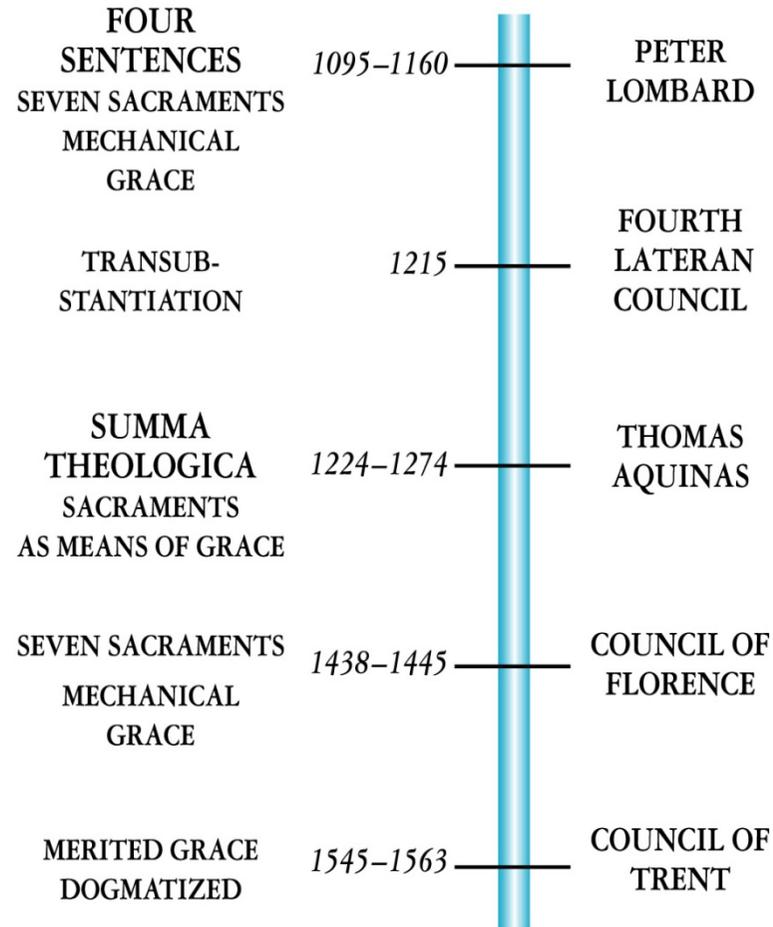
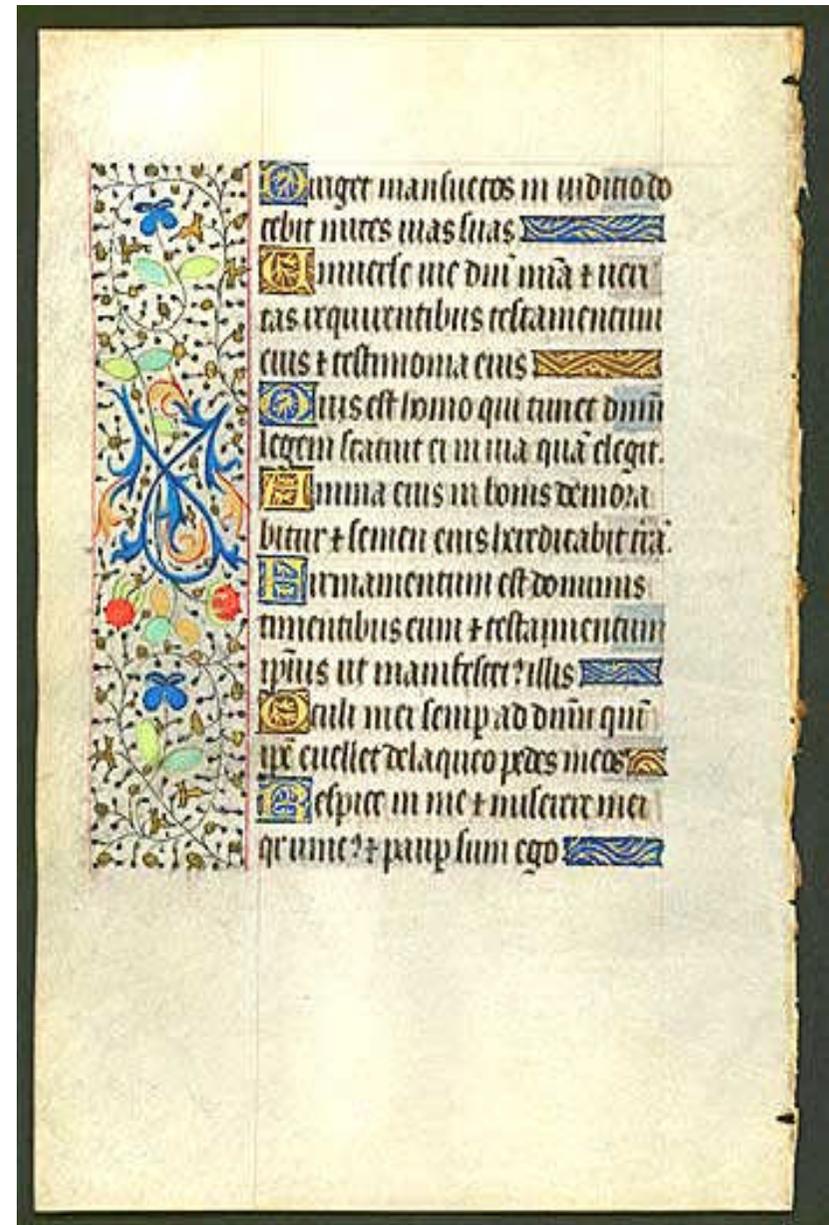


Chart 100

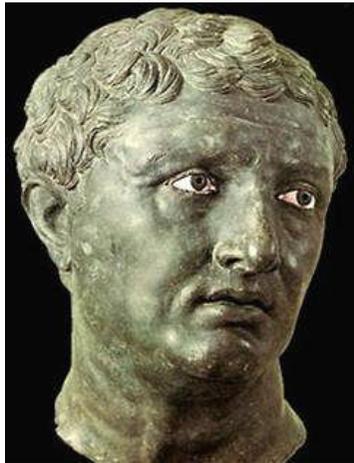


- The Arabs preserved the scientific works of the Greeks .
- Scholars gathered at cities like Damascus, Baghdad, and Cairo, at eastern end of the Mediterranean, and at Cordova and Toledo, in Spain, at the western end by the 11th century.
- Beginning in the 12th cent. after the reconquest of Spain, the Arabic versions of Greek works were translated into Latin
- Averroës, an Arabic philosopher whose interpretations of Aristotle were translated into Latin, was one of the first to influence Western philosophical thought away from strict rationalism and spiritualism. he attempted to delimit the separate domains of faith and reason, pointing out that the two need not be reconciled because they did not conflict.

## Ancient Works Arrive from Arabs

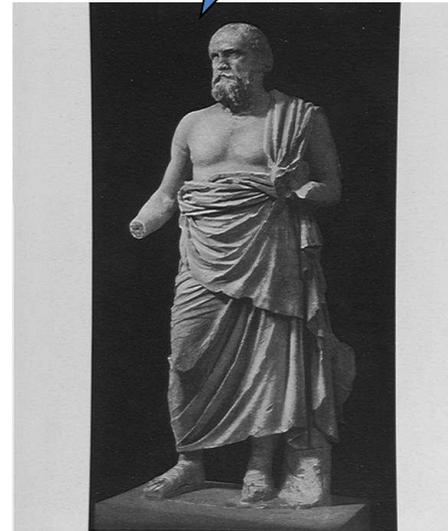


Nor did I think your orders were so strong that you, a mortal man, could over-run the god's unwritten and unfailing laws.



Sophocles

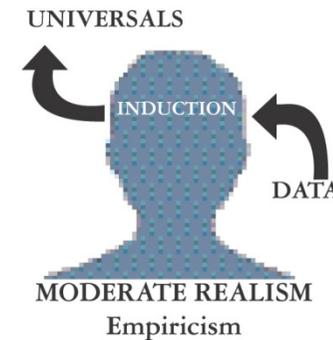
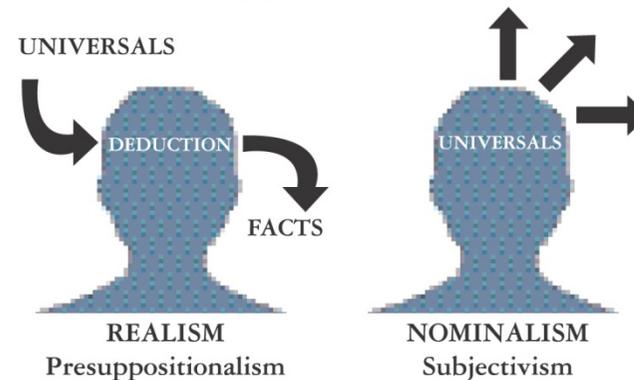
Do the gods love piety because it is pious, or is it pious because they love it?



# Scholastic Method

- Basic to all scholastic thought was the conjunction of faith (spiritualism) and reason (rationalism).
- use of reason was essential to deepen the understanding of what is believed on faith, or dogma, and ultimately to give a rational content to faith.
- attempts to reconcile reason and faith, philosophy and revelation.
- Developed obscure doctrines: how many angels could dance on the head of a pin, what hour Adam sinned.

## Scholastic Approaches to Knowing



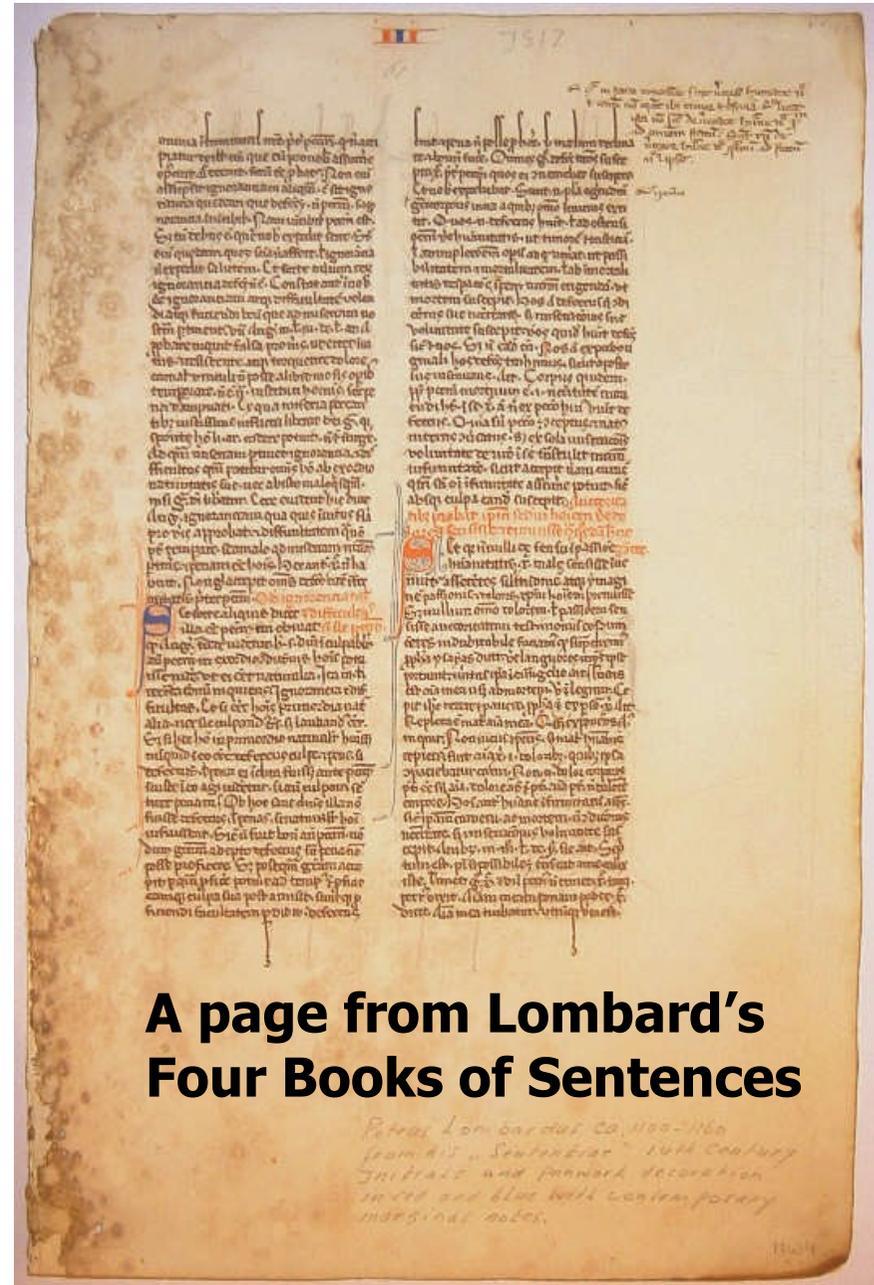
# Trends in Scholasticism

- Augustinianism and Aristotelianism
  - For Augustinians- priority of faith
  - For Aristotelians- priority of reason
- Thomism and Scotism
  - Thomists: **intellect**, preeminent characteristic of God
  - Scotists: **will**, preeminent characteristic of God



# Peter Lombard c. 1100-1160

- French bishop and theologian.
- His *Four Books of Sentences* (1148-51), a systematic collection of teachings of the Church Fathers and opinions of medieval theologians, served as the standard theological text of the Middle Ages.
- He asserted that sacraments are the cause and not merely the signal of grace and that human actions may be judged good or bad according to their cause and intention.
- "father of systematic theology in the Catholic Church" (Schaff).



**A page from Lombard's  
Four Books of Sentences**

# Lombard's Concept of Merit

## Peter Lombard: The Source and Application of Merit

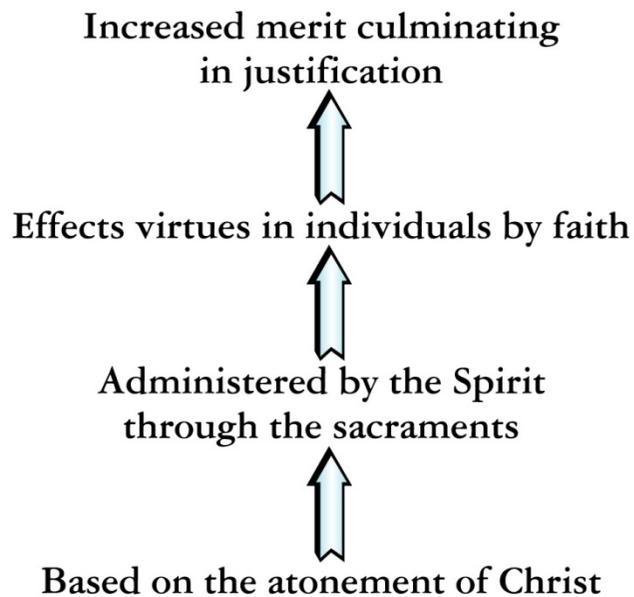


Chart 130

## Peter Lombard: The Concept of Grace



Chart 131

# Anselm

1033 -- 1109

“I believe in order that I may understand”

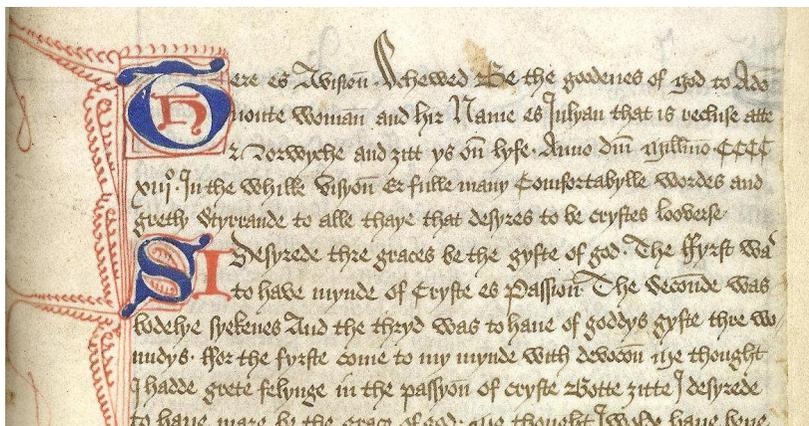
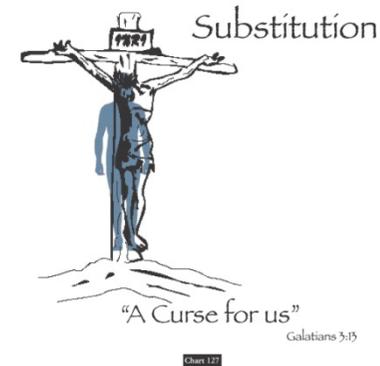


- Born in Lombardy, Anselm entered the Benedictine monastery at Bec (in Normandy) in 1057 and became abbot in 1078.
- Anselm succeeds Lanfranc as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1093.
- first scholastic: used reason to demonstrate the truth of Christian doctrine, even though he carefully pointed out that reason was not necessary when faith was present.
- Reacted against the mystical tendencies of medieval theology
- In the Investiture Controversy, he asserted that only an ecclesiastical authority—not a secular one—could invest him with the symbols of office.
- In 1077 he wrote the Monologium to demonstrate God's existence and attributes by reason alone.
- He then wrote Proslogium, which established the ontological argument for the existence of God.

- 1099 Wrote *Why Did God Become a Man?* explaining the reasons for Christ's death.
- first formulated the satisfaction theory of the atonement, Introduced satisfaction theory of atonement based on God's majesty being offended

## Anselm on the Atonement

Anselm and the Meaning of the Atonement

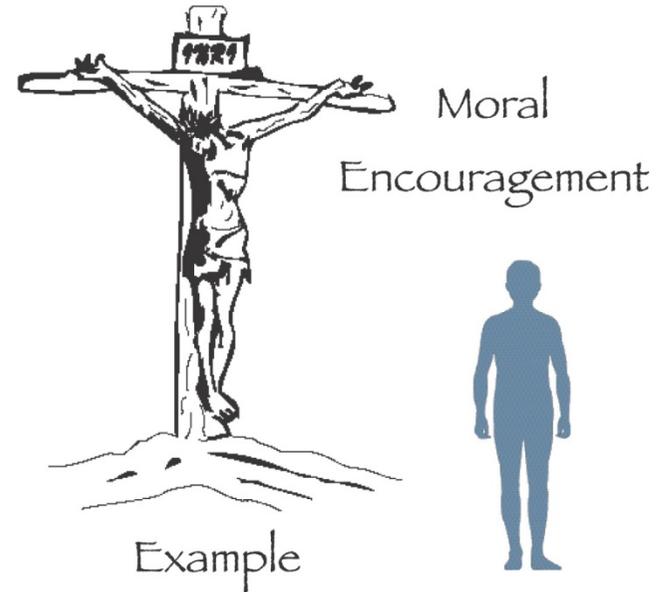


# Peter Abelard

1079-1142

- An unstable, arrogant but popular and scholarly teacher
- *Sic et Non*, a work which exhibited the contradictions in the earlier work of church fathers, and did not resolve them.
- Known for his shameful love affair with one of his pupils, Heloise.
- Became a monk after castrated by henchmen hired by the girl's enraged father.
- Used dialectics to attempt to explain the mysteries of the faith and contradictions found in the church fathers.

## Abelard and the Meaning of the Atonement



“I believe that which I may understand.”



- German cleric and philosopher.
- Son of a wealthy German lord, he studied at Padua, where he joined the Dominican order (1223).
- At the University of Paris taught during the time of ferment caused by the arrival of Arabic and Aristotelian philosophy there.
- Albert was significant in bringing about the acceptance of Aristotle as a legitimate interpreter of philosophy.
- He believed that many points of Christian doctrine were recognizable both by faith and by reason.
- In 1248 he organized the first Dominican seminary in Germany at Cologne
- Thomas Aquinas was his chief disciple.
- His works represented the entire body of European knowledge of his time, and he contributed greatly to the development of natural science.

## Albertus Magnus (c. 1200-1280)



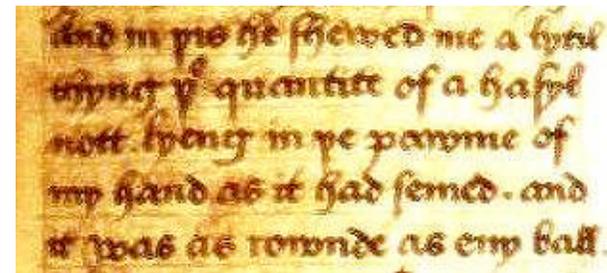
# Thomas Aquinas 1225-27 -1274



- Philosopher, theologian, Doctor of the Church
- Foremost philosopher and theologian of the Roman Catholic church.
- Born of noble parents at Roccasecca, Italy, he studied at the University of Naples, joined the Dominicans, and taught at a Dominican school at the University of Paris.
- Student of Albert the Great
- In 1277, after his death, the masters of Paris condemned 219 propositions, 12 of them Thomas'.
- He was nevertheless canonized in 1323, named a Doctor of the Church in 1567, and declared the champion of orthodoxy during the modernist crisis at the end of the 19th century.

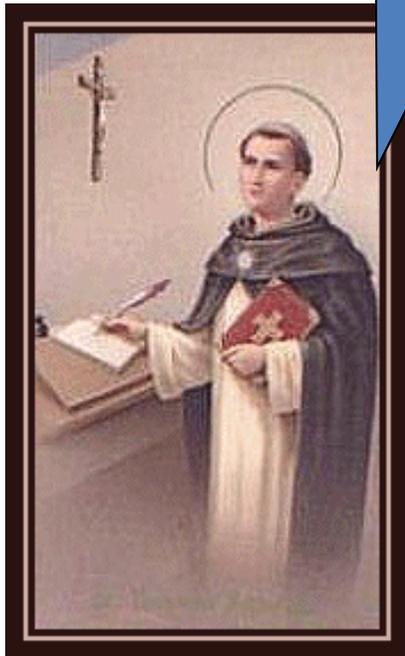
# Acquinas and Aristotle

- Christianized Aristotle during the high middle ages
- Synthesized Aristotle and Scripture
  - Begin with Reason
  - Revelation complements and completes Reason
- His time in Paris coincided with the arrival of Aristotelian science, newly discovered in Arabic translation; his great achievement was to integrate into Christian thought the rigors of Aristotle's philosophy, just as the early church fathers had integrated Plato's thought in the early Christian era.



# Acquinas and Human Reason

I understand,  
in order that I  
may believe.

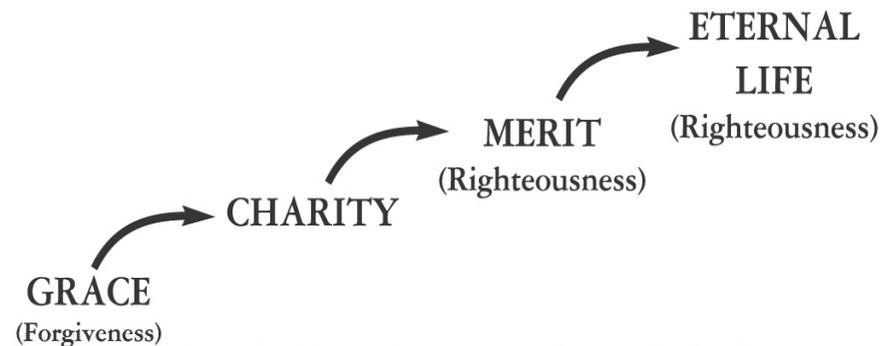


- Reason is given full weight, but perhaps not undue weight. It is considered a valid tool, but it cannot discover all the mysteries of the faith. Certainly many things, like the existence of God, can be proved by human reason. Others, like the Trinity, come only through revelation.
- He held that reason is capable of operating within faith; while the philosopher relies solely on reason, the theologian accepts faith as his starting point and then proceeds to conclusion through the use of reason.
  - Through reason we could know the truth of things... His Proofs of God - "Summa theologica".

# Acquinas and “Natural Theology”

- For Aquinas, the value of natural theology is its provision of a foundation of truth accessible to all
- Other truths about God (i.e., his Tri-unity) are not available through natural theology. These must be accepted on the authority of the Church
- Grace complements and completes Nature
- he argued that to detract from the perfection of creation was to detract from the creator.

## Thomas Aquinas: Divine Redemption and Merit



“The meriting of eternal life depends principally on charity.”

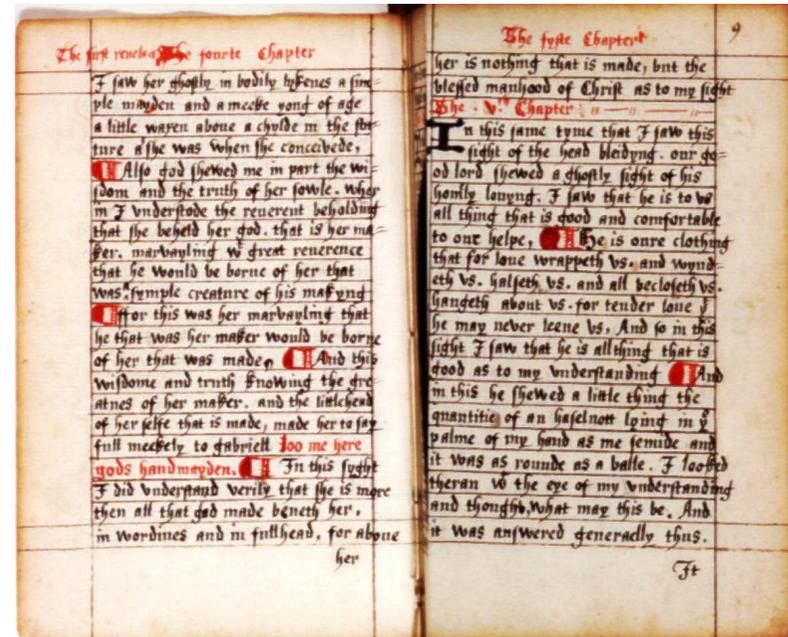
“Our merit is the secondary cause.”

“A man merits an increase of grace by each and every meritorious action.”

“He cannot merit the first grace.”

# Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*

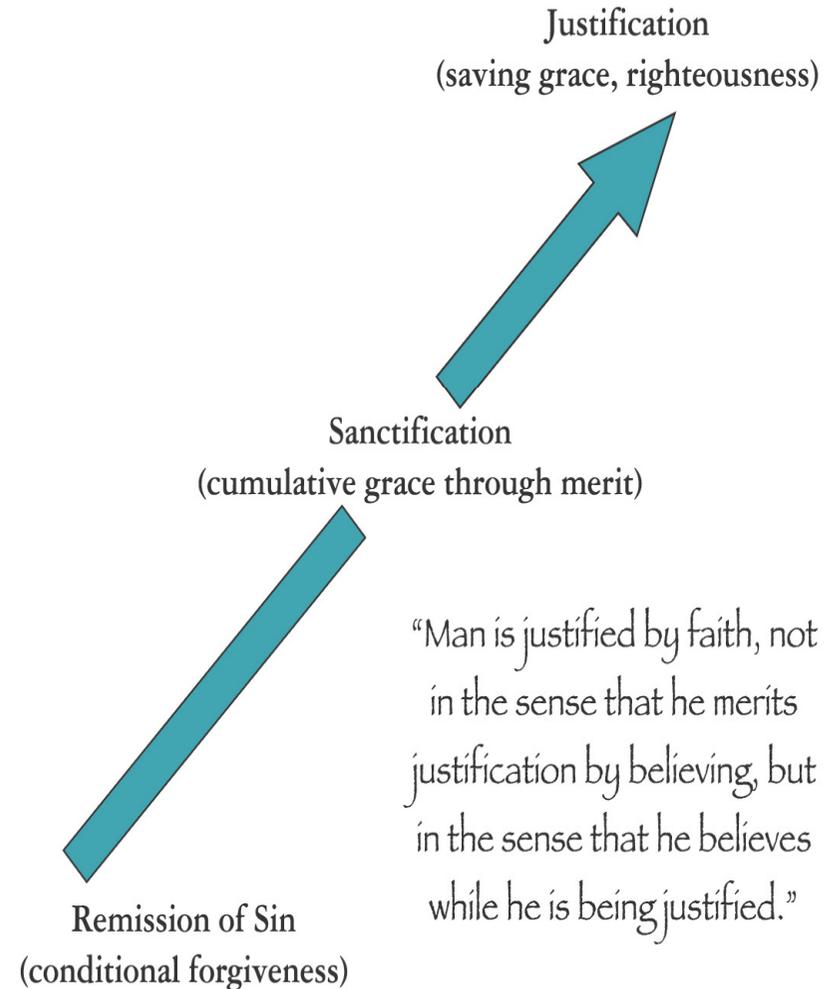
- his genius was in systematization, and he systematized and buttressed Catholic thinking like no one before or since.
- A prolific writer, he produced more than 80 works, including *Summa contra Gentiles* (1261-64) and *Summa theologiae* (1265-73).
- Wrote *Summa Theologiae*, (“Compendium or Totality of Theology”)
- Most important theology text to come from the Scholastic period.
- *Summa Theologiae* presents doctrine in the scholastic way, as a series of questions and pro and con answers.
- The *Summa* consists of three parts
  - God as he is in himself
  - God as man’s end (and the way back to God)
  - Christ as man’s way to Go



# Theology of Aquinas

## Thomas Aquinas and Justification: Forgiveness without Righteousness

- Other than the Immaculate Conception, his theology *is* Roman Catholic theology.
- The sacraments are seven in number (not original with Aquinas, but it was only at this time that the number became fixed).
- Transubstantiation is established.
- Submission to the Roman pope is necessary for salvation.
- No Immaculate Conception



# Acquinas and Salvation

## Thomas Aquinas: The Steps to Salvation

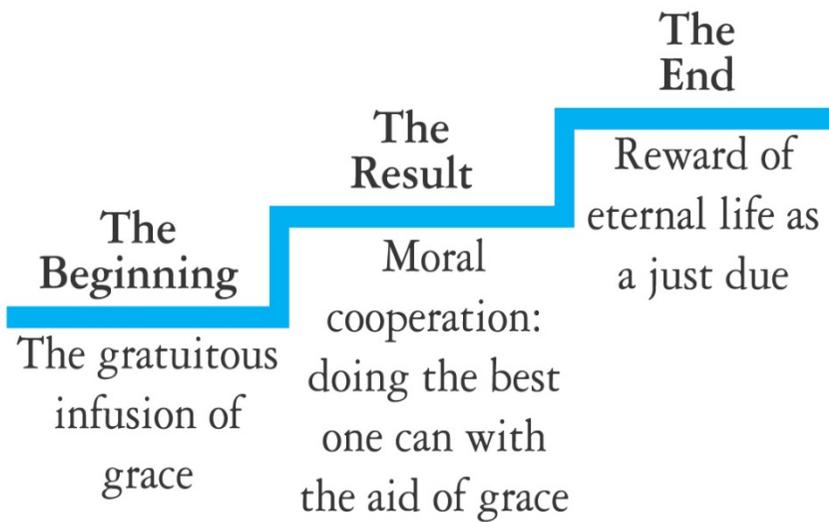


Chart 140

### Thomas Aquinas and Merit through an Increase of Grace

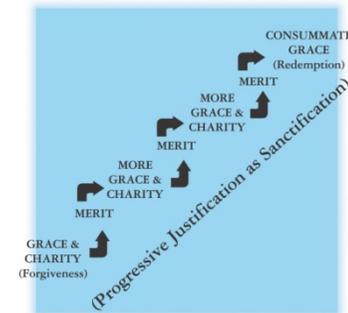
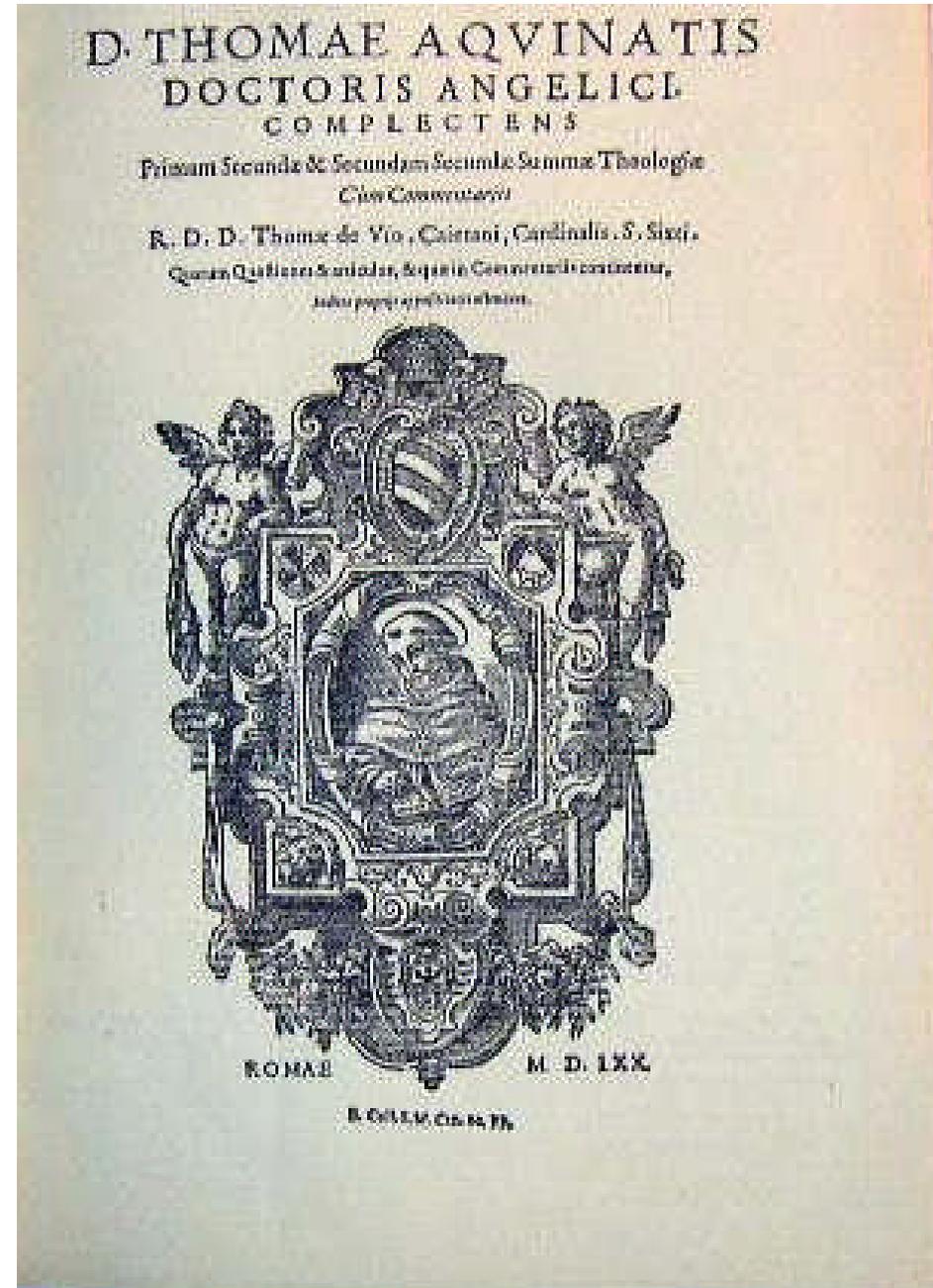


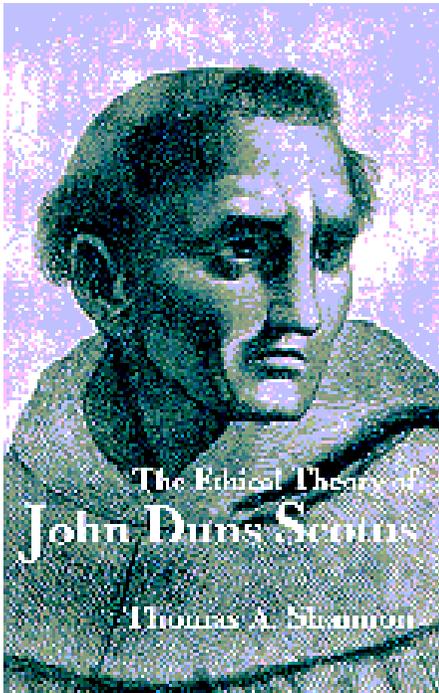
Chart 139

# Acquinas a Mystic? A Charismatic?

- December 6, 1273:
- Following a tremendous mystical experience while conducting Mass, Thomas Aquinas suspends work on his *Summa Theologica*. "I can do no more," he told his servant. "Such things have been revealed to me that all that I have written seems to me as so much straw. Now I await the end of my life."
- The sermons of Thomas Aquinas are frequently confirmed by miracles, and he often experiences ecstasy, especially in the last months of his life.



# Duns Scotus, 1266 --1308



- Medieval Scottish philosopher and scholastic theologian.
- He studied and taught at Oxford, where he joined the Franciscans, and later taught at the University of Paris, from which he was briefly exiled for supporting Pope Boniface VIII in his quarrel with King Philip IV.
- In 1307 he became professor of theology at Cologne, perhaps to escape charges of heresy over his defense of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, which the Dominicans and secular authorities opposed.
- resisted nominalism, skepticism and illuminationism
- Aristotelian in thrust
- founder of a philosophical school, the Scotist School that emerged at the end of the 15th or early 16th century
- origin of the “dunce cap” in erroneous belief that wearing pointed hats help one become wise



**William of Ockham and Gabriel Biel:**  
**The Steps to Salvation**

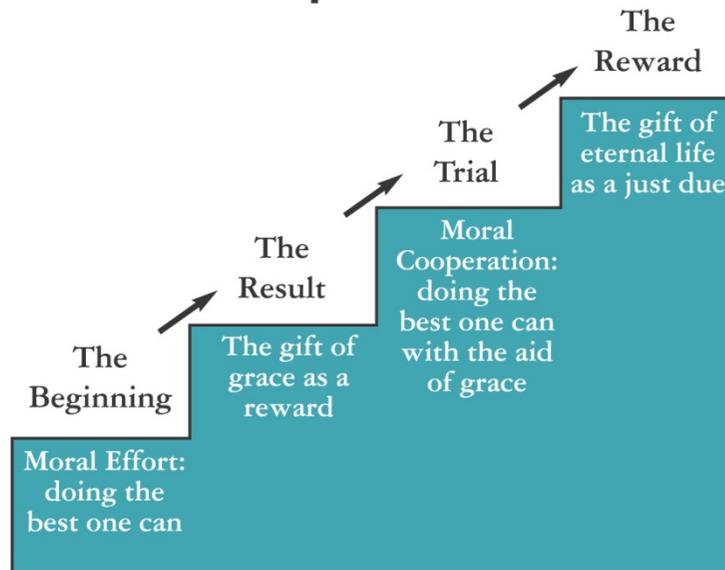


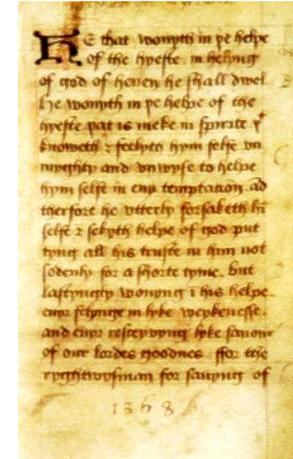
Chart 145

# William of Ockham 1280 -1349

- English student of Duns Scotus
- attacked the reality of universals and hence created nominalism
- Ockham's Razor the principle that entities should not be unnecessarily multiplied
- Reason and Faith are not complementary
- Empiricist
- proclaims unknowability of the divine
- argues for the autonomy of the secular state

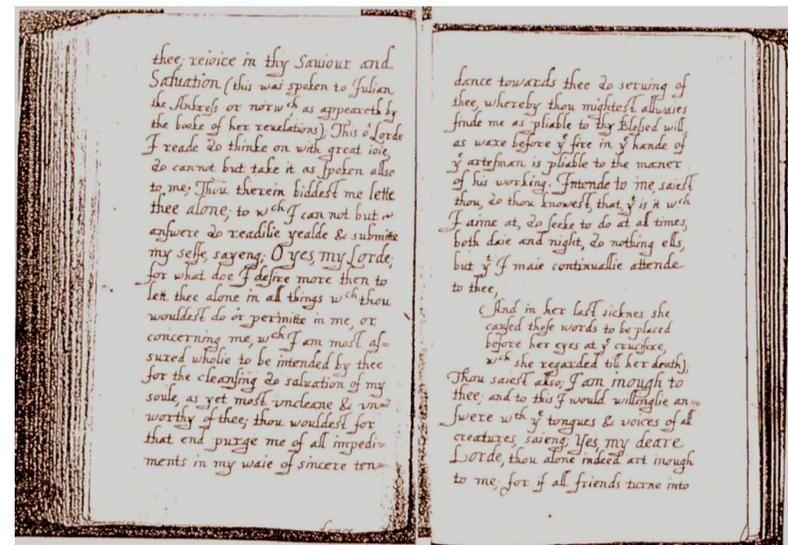
# SCHOLASTIC THEOLOGY: Benefits

- Scholasticism is the “immediate antecedent of the Reformation”
  - Provides the background for Reformation, especially late medieval nominalism
- Scholasticism provided much useful theological vocabulary
  - E.g., the term *satisfactio*, in relation to the atonement of Christ



- Much discussion about useless/unprofitable questions
- Much mental activity and the development of elaborate systems with endless distinctions and differences
- Priority of reason over revelation
- Methodologically: No clear authority governing how one does theology
- No *principium theologiae*, “first principle,”
  - How does that differ from today!?
- The Word of God was greatly neglected
- Many could not read the biblical languages and worked only with the Latin Vulgate
- Instead, there were several substitutes for the authority of the Word
  - Tradition
  - Philosophy
  - Mysticism

## Scholastic Theology: Defects



- The *Chanson de Roland*, written about 1095, depicted Charlemagne (d. 814) as a messianic ruler who triumphed over all Muslims and pagans.
- German Hildegard of Bingen (1098 -1179) predicted that lay princes would forcibly take away land and riches clergy had amassed, and Christendom would enter an era of millennial prosperity and peace. Though disarmament would entice pagans to attack Christian nations, she believed Christians would eventually win. Ultimately, the Roman emperor would lose almost all authority, and the pope would only rule Rome.
- Count Emich of Leisingen, a leader of the First Crusade, massacred Jews who refused to convert because he was convinced God had summoned him to be a Last World Emperor.

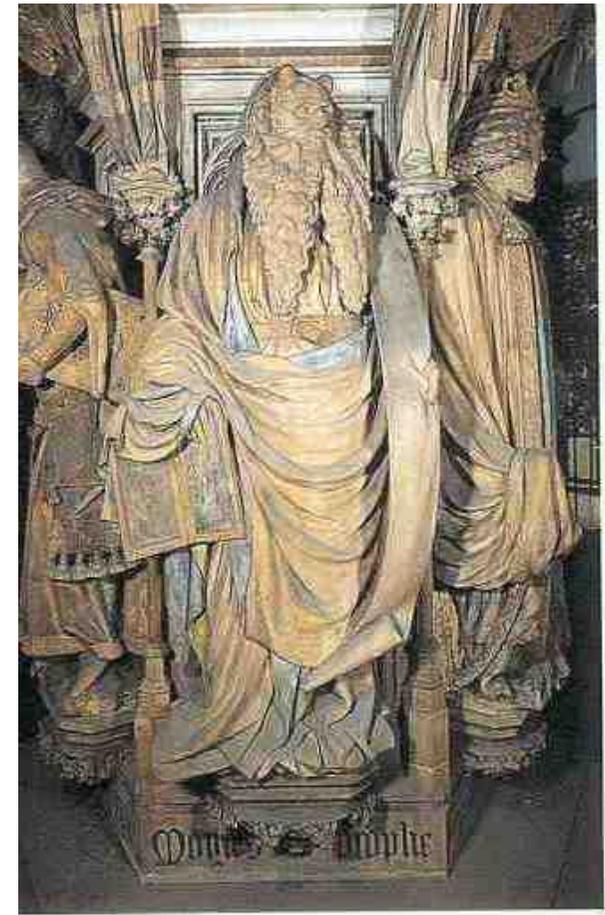
## Developments in Eschatology



The Sealing of the Elect  
(Spanish Monk Beatus, 10th century)

# Adso's Antichrist

- 950 AD, a monk named Adso wrote the most complete treatise on the Antichrist to date.
- The Antichrist would come from the Jewish tribe of Dan, and would be raised in the East.
- Before he could come, however, a Frankish king must reign. This king would triumph over all the enemies of Christendom and rule a peaceful, Christian world. He would then go to Golgotha to surrender his crown, and this would signal the coming of the Antichrist.
- Adso's notion of "The Last World Emperor" became widespread, and soon became the ideal for temporal power.



# Was Emperor Frederick II the Antichrist?

- The rivalry between the popes and the emperors culminated in the 1240s when Pope Innocent IV waged "total war"—a war of both swords and words—against emperor Frederick II.
- Frederick's supporters hailed him as a *messiah*, wonder of the world (*stupor mundi*). But Innocent and his supporters branded Frederick the **Antichrist**. Even after the Holy Roman Emperor died in 1250, at least one Innocent supporter refused to believe it—the emperor had not accomplished all the evil that was expected of him as Antichrist. This conflict reverberated in apocalyptic texts well into the 1300s.



“The Apocolypse”

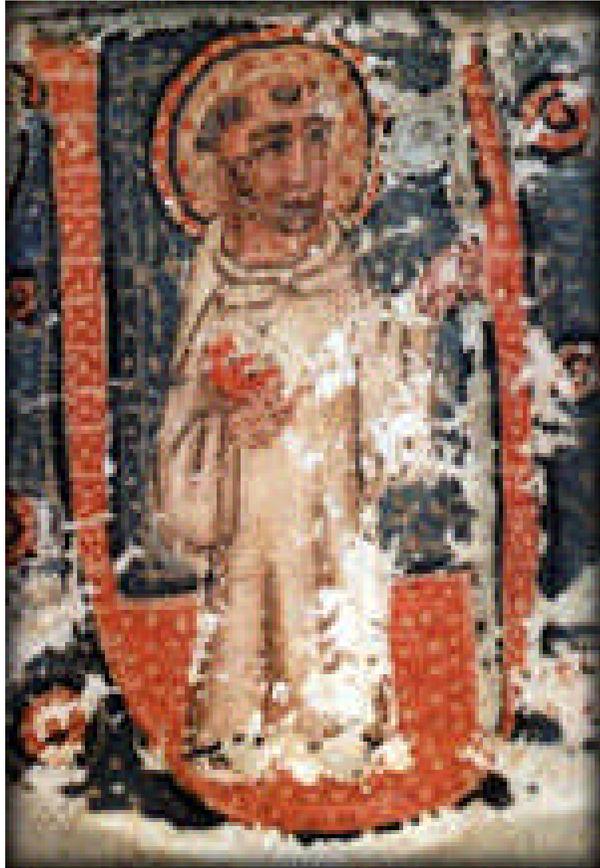
# Hildegard of Bingen 1098-1179

- Benedictine abbess
- documented her allegorical visions and apocalyptic prophecies in text and illuminations
- Most famous work was Scivias written from 1141-51



Hildegard's image of the AntiChrist born from the church

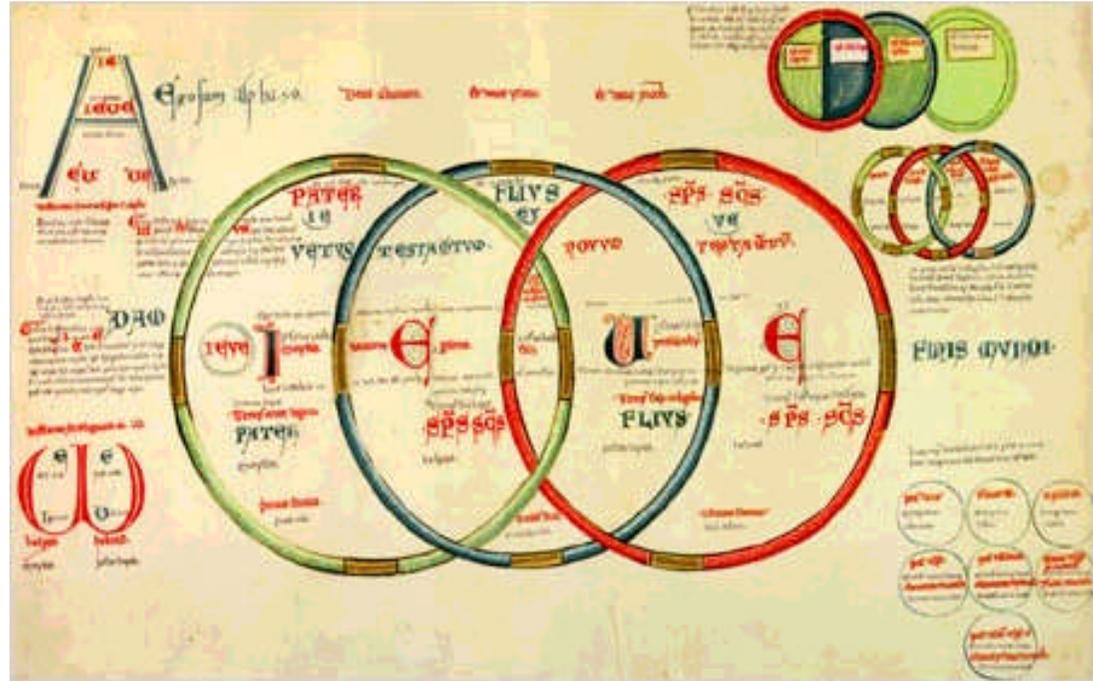
# Joachim of Fiore (1132-1202)



- Italian Benedictine Monk
- Leading Intellectual Figure of his day -- theologian, historian; prophet
- Joachim constructed two schemes for understanding the past and the future. One divided history into two times, that of the Jews and that of the Gentiles, culminating after 1200. The other scheme divided history into three *status*, paralleling the Trinity and the three orders (laity, clergy, and monks).
- Joachim compared Christendom to Babylon because everyone wanted money, power, and worldly fame. Shortly after 1200, he speculated, two anti-Christian forces, possibly Muslims and heretics, would attack, defeat, and severely persecute Christians. Thus purified, a reforming pope and monastic orders would create a holier world in which people would attain unsurpassed understanding of the hidden meaning of the Scriptures. For an indeterminate period, Christians would dominate the world in peace.

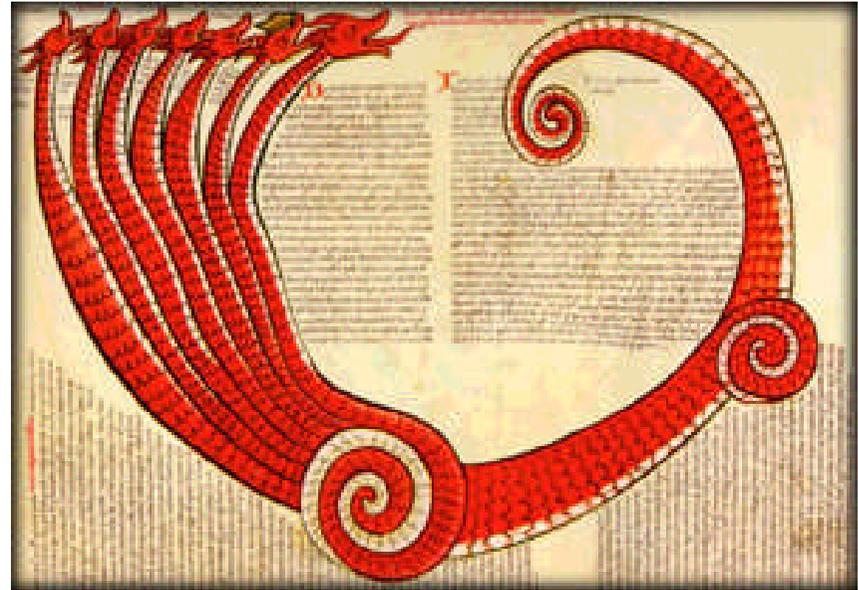
# Joachim's Three Ages of History

- Era of the Father - Old Testament
- Era of the Son - New Testament
- Era of the Holy Spirit - following the Antichrist
- Each era lasts 42 centuries
- Generations last 40 years
- Each era began as a seed in the preceding era
- The final era would be a contemplative utopia of the Holy Spirit
- Believed the final era was within 60 years



# Joachim's Seven Headed Dragon

- Reads Revelation as literal prophecy and reveals historical events
- Christians will suffer persecution
- Each Head represents persecutors of the church
- Sixth head represents Saladin
- Seventh Head represents Antichrist



# Questions to Consider

- Did Scholastics go too far in the direction of logic and knowledge at the expense of emotions and feeling?
- Do we understand the world through the lenses provided by our faith or do we understand our faith through the lenses of our knowledge and experience?
- Can we prove the existence of God?



The Franklin