

西方文明史

第七講： 基督教、伊斯蘭教

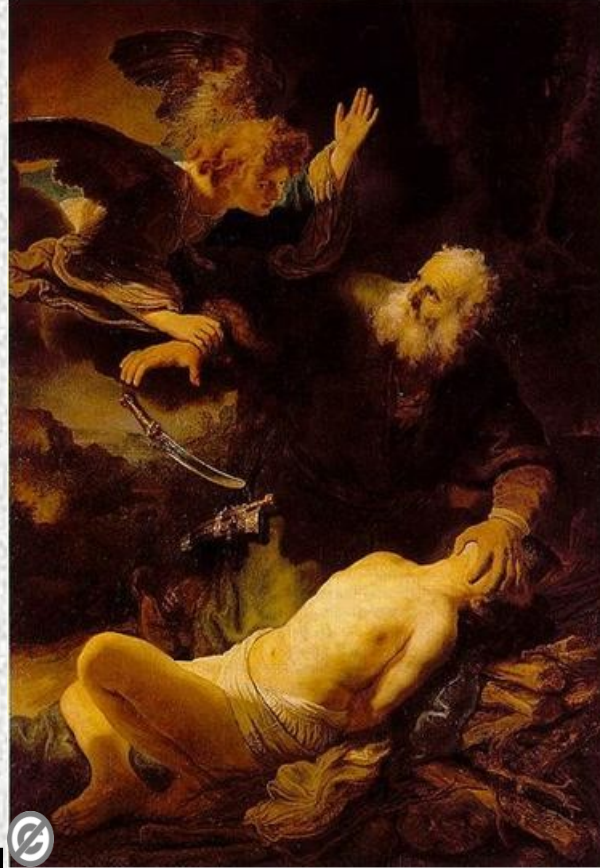
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The three great monotheistic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

- A creator
 - Created the world out of nothing
 - Revelation; covenant
 - Continual intervention in the world
- Philosophical speculation, answers, rituals, something higher than our daily existence



REMBRANDT 1634
Abraham sacrificing Isaac

Ancient religions and Hebrew Monotheism

- Natural forces as gods - Household/civic gods - Personal/saviour gods
- 10th c BCE: national monolatry
 - Transcendent theology (Book of Job, 4th c BCE)
 - Moral precepts (the Torah)
 - Rituals and taboos
- 8-6th c BCE: monotheism
 - Reaction to the Assyrian rule and the Babylonian Captivity
 - Prophetic tradition
- Late Hellenistic Judaism
 - Eschatology (Apocalypse); the Messiah

- 10th c BCE: national monolatry
- 8-6th c BCE: monotheism
- United Hebrew kingdom
 - Saul 1025-1005
 - David 1005-973
 - Solomon 973-933
- Kingdom of Israel
 - 722 annexed by Assyria
- Kingdom of Judah
 - 586 conquered by the Babylonian
- Persian and Greek rule
- Maccabean dynasty 168-63 BCE
- Roman rule



Christianity

1 st c	--	1054	--	16 th c
Christianity	--	Orthodox		
	--	Catholic	--	Catholic
			--	Protestant

- Jesus and Paul
- To the 3rd c CE
- From the 4th c CE
 - Constantine 312, Theodosius 392
 - Orthodoxy, Fathers of the Church, monasticism

From Jesus to the Christ

- Judea: from indirect to direct rule of Rome
- Jesus urged love of God and of thy neighbour
 - Fatherhood of God, brotherhood of humanity; the Golden Rule
 - Shunning hypocrisy
 - Opposition to formalism in Judaism
 - Imminent approach of the kingdom of God: resurrection of the dead and final judgment
- Crucifixion: Pontius Pilate.
- According to the Gospels:
 - Resurrection
 - Incarnation of God – did Jesus see himself as such?
 - Miracles – their place in religions in general
 - Nazareth, Bethlehem etc – the Old Testament foretelling the coming of Christ

St Paul (c.10-c.67)

- Jesus was the anointed God-man who died on the cross to atone for the sins of human
- Universal religion
- Salvation through faith, the grace of God, and sacram
administered by priests – the ‘apostolic succession’
- Pauline epistles
- Executed in Rome, like the apostle Peter



Christianity

1st c -- 1054 -- 16thc
Christianity -- Orthodox
 -- Catholic -- Catholic
 -- Protestant

- Jesus and Paul
- To the 3rd c CE
- From the 4th c CE
 - Emperors Constantine 312 and Theodosius 392
 - Orthodoxy
 - Fathers of the Church
 - Monasticism

Early Developments to c. 300

- Most early converts were artisans, small traders, the poor – urban dwellers
- Reading, discussion, the Eucharist, baptism
 - Meeting in private homes
 - Purpose-built churches by 4th and 5th centuries:
 - Scriptures: the Gospels, Pauline epistles etc
- Cult of the saints (martyrs, ascetics) and relics
- The clergy – based on Roman administration
 - archbishop (province), bishop (diocese), priests (parish), deacons
- The most successful cult in the 3rdc



Leonardo da Vinci, The Last Supper

Further developments from the 4th c

1. Christianity and the Empire

- 1st-3rd c imperial persecution
- 312 Constantine granted Christians toleration and protection
 - Adopted as glue? Christians at most 25%
 - Traditional pagan governing class vs. new ‘middle-brow’ culture of the Christian bishops
- 392 Theodosius decreed Christianity the sole religion of the empire
 - Combat of gladiators replaced with chariot racing; practice of crucifixion ended; infanticide prohibited

2. The Seven Ecumenical Councils

- The emperor (in the eastern part) as the ultimate arbiter for ecclesiastical disputes
 - Heresy consisted officially in the rejection of any of the canons of the Ecumenical church
 - 325 (Arianism), 381, 431, 451 (Monophysite), 553, 680, 787 (Iconoclasm)
 - The Holy Trinity
 - Nestorianism/ Monophysitism/ the Hypostatic union (Hypostasis = person)
- The west

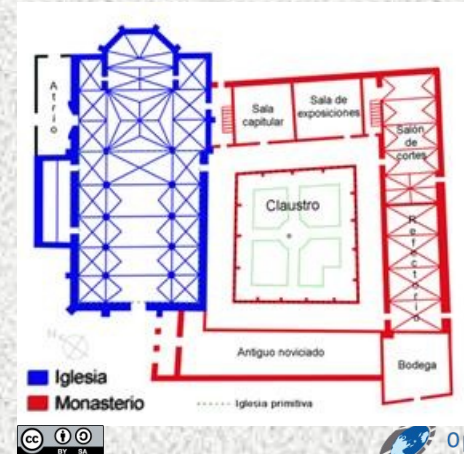
3. St Augustine

- Adam and Eve and original sin
- Predestination
 - God would be purely just if he condemned all humans to hell, but he is also merciful so he elected to save a few:
- Grace, free will and the church: the Pelagian Controversy
 - Pelagius (354-420)
- Human race composed of two societies, the ‘City of Earth’ and the ‘City of God’



4. Monasticism

- Asceticism as the most perfect form of Christian life
 - Greek influence
- St Anthony (c.250-355)
 - Egyptian desert
- St Benedict (c.480-550) and the Benedictine Rule
 - Monte Cassino abbey
 - A regulated life: 'regular' clergy
 - Communal prayer, devotional reading, and work
 - Vows of poverty, chastity and obedience
- Multiple roles, major civilising influence



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