

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Turning Points of the Reformation

How the Bible changed the world

Crusades & Indulgences

Introduction

- ▶ Each session is stand-alone.
- ▶ Each session will look at
 - ▶ One theme/idea/movement/event in the medieval world,
 - ▶ the way that was transformed in the Reformation, &
 - ▶ the way the Reformation backed up its claims with Scripture and teaching.

Indulgences

Penance, Crusade, & The 95 Theses

Background

From the time of Christ, Jerusalem shifted hands for more than 600 years. For the vast majority, it was controlled by Roman-Byzantium.

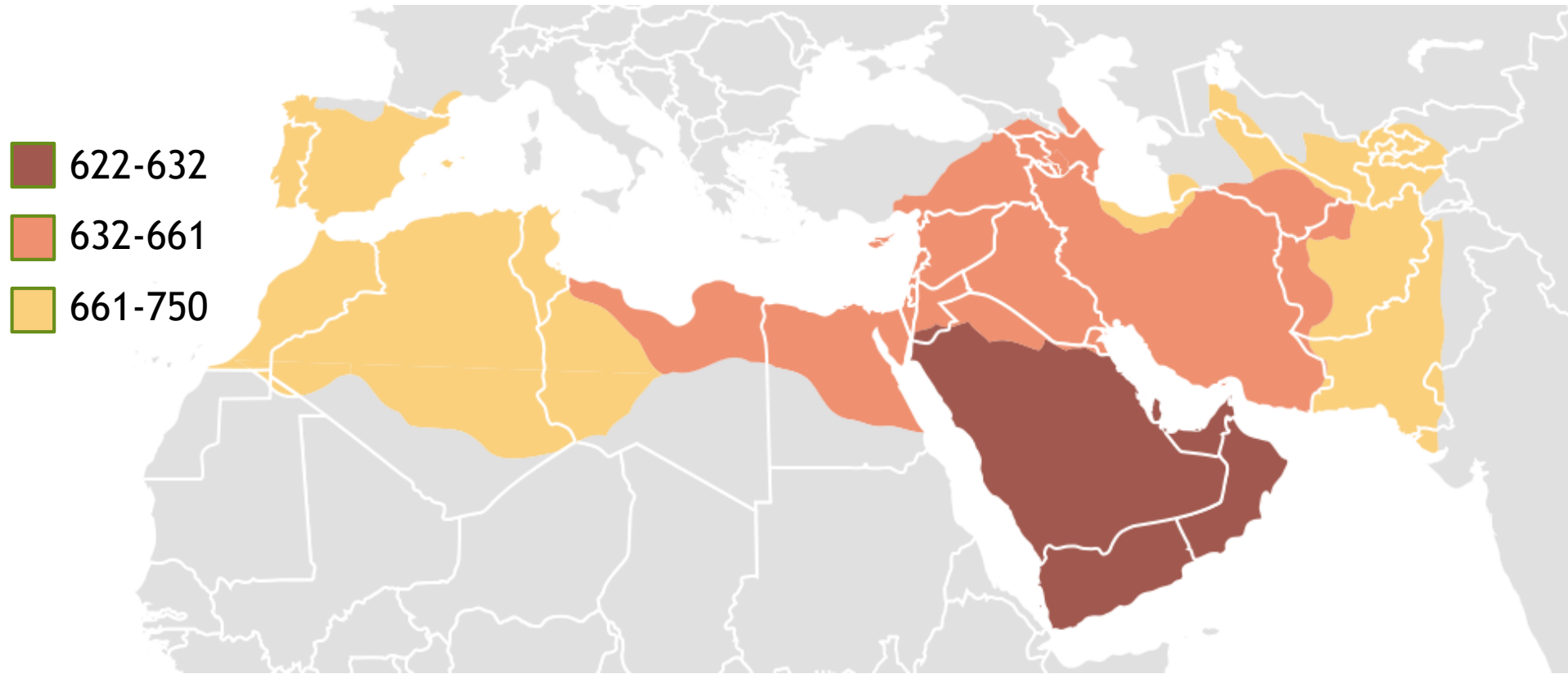
In 614 CE, the Sassanid (Persian) Empire took Jerusalem and captured the “True Cross”, damaging the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**



Background

- ▶ In 630 CE, **Emperor Heraclius** of Byzantium recaptured the city from the Sassanids.
- ▶ But there's a big new movement on the scene in world history!

Islamic Expansion from 622-750



Background

- ▶ In 638 CE, Muslim armies conquered Jerusalem, wresting it from Byzantium.
- ▶ Islamic forces controlled Jerusalem for more than 400 years.
 - ▶ Christians and Jews were allowed to remain in the city.
 - ▶ Christians and Jews were allowed to make pilgrimages to the city.
- ▶ In 1009, **Fatimid caliph Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah** ordered the complete destruction of the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** as part of a campaign against Christian places of worship in Palestine and Egypt.
- ▶ Eastern Christianity is waning, but Western Christianity is ascendant.

Crusade

In 1095, Byzantine Emperor, **Alexius I Comnenus** saw an opportunity and appealed to **Pope Urban II** for aid for Christians in the East.

Urban makes an appeal to Western Christians to not only help the Eastern Christians, but liberate the Holy City of Jerusalem!



"All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested. O what a disgrace if such a despised and base race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent God and is made glorious with the name of Christ!"

-Pope Urban II, *Appeal at the Council of Clermont for the First Crusade*, 1095 CE

This is a big deal.

Sin & Penance

- ▶ When you sin, what do you do?
- ▶ In the ancient church, **penance** was prescribed for major sins.
- ▶ What is penance?

Penance

- ▶ A “Sacrament”
- ▶ 2 Parts
 - ▶ Confession of sin
 - ▶ Satisfaction for wrong
- ▶ “Right the wrong.”

How did the church justify its practice of penance?

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

-Matthew 18:15-20

Sin & Penance

- ▶ When you sin, what do you do? **Penance**. “Right the wrong.”
- ▶ In the ancient church, **penance** was prescribed for major sins.
 - ▶ In the 6th century Catholic Christians in Ireland developed *Penitentials*, handbooks for confessors assigning penance. These included suggested penances.

Penitential Handbooks

- ▶ “If someone in a great theft steals a four-footed animal, a horse or an ox, or breaks into a house, he is to fast one year and repay that which he has stolen, or fast two years. If he steals more goods, he is to fast 4 winters or as his confessor judges.”

-Junius 121 (X26.06.01) 100a

- ▶ “If a bishop commits fornication secretly, according to the judgment of the canon he is to *fast for 12 years* and give alms generously and with the shedding of tears ask God's mercy for himself; some wish that he also be divested of holy orders.”

-Junius 121 (X01.01.01) 87b

Sin, Penance, & Indulgence

- ▶ When you sin, what do you do? Penance. “Right the wrong.”
- ▶ In the ancient church, **penance** was prescribed for major sins.
 - ▶ In the 6th century Catholic Christians in Ireland developed *Penitentials*, handbooks for confessors assigning penance. These included suggested penances.
 - ▶ By the 7th century, penance became such a popular part of piety that a “canonical penance” was *prescribed for every sin!*
 - ▶ By the 10th century, penances could be *reduced through pious donation*. This practice is called an **Indulgence**.
 - ▶ By the 11th century, the value of penance shifts from growth in repentance, love, and discipleship to a *reduction in the temporal punishment due to sin*.

Plenary Indulgence: the “Big One”

- ▶ At the Council of Clermont, Pope Urban II promised a **plenary indulgence**—*forgiveness of all sins*—to anyone who took part in the Crusade to take back the Holy Land.

"All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested. O what a disgrace if such a despised and base race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent God and is made glorious with the name of Christ!"

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Plenary Indulgence: the “Big One”

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- ▶ The message is spread throughout Christian Europe. Funds are raised and the “cross” is taken up by people from all walks of life.



The Siege of Jerusalem

Though Crusaders are worn out by the long journey, **Peter Desiderius** has a vision:

If the crusaders fast and march in barefoot procession around the city walls, the city will fall!
(Think *Joshua and the Battle of Jericho*)

The assault succeeds, but when the crusaders enter the city, they butcher defenders *and* civilians.



Crusades

- ▶ Within 100 years, Muslims led by **Salah ad-Din** (aka Saladin) retook Jerusalem.
- ▶ Many crusades followed:
 - ▶ First, People's, 1101, Norwegian, Venetian, Second, Third, 1197, Fourth, Children's, Fifth, Sixth, Wendish 1147, Swedish 1150, Barons', Livonian 1198-1290, Seventh, Prussian 1217-1274, Swedish 1249, Shepherds' 1251, Eighth, Lithuanian 1283-1410, Swedish 1293, Ninth, Poor 1309, Shepherds' 1320, Smyrniote 1343-1351, Alexandrian 1365, Savoyard, Barbary, Nicopolis, Varna, Portuguese
- ▶ No crusade succeeds like the first.

The Rise of Indulgences

- ▶ Pilgrimages
- ▶ Relics
- ▶ Private Masses
- ▶ Charitable Donations
 - ▶ The "Butter Tower" of [Rouen Cathedral](#) earned its nickname because the money to build it was raised by the sale of indulgences allowing the use of butter during Lent.
- ▶ Plenary Indulgences for sale?



Satan Distributing Indulgences, Czech Manuscript, c. 1490

Indulgences

- ▶ You can buy indulgences for yourself, for your friends, or your family.
- ▶ Based on the **Treasury of Merits**
- ▶ Infamously, **Johannes Tetzel** begins, by authority of **Pope Leo X**, to sell indulgences in order to fund the rebuilding of **St. Peter's Basilica** in Rome.

St. Peter's Basilica



Interior of St. Peter's Basilica



Indulgences at the Dawn of the Reformation

“By the authority of all the Holy Ones and in mercy toward you, I absolve you from all sins and misdeeds, and I release you all punishment for ten days.”

-Johannes Tetzel



“If you are a prudent merchant, if you are a desirer of this world, behold I show you some great bargains; see that you lose them not. Take the sign of the cross and you shall gain pardon for every sin that you confess *with a contrite heart.*”

-Bernard of Clairvaux, *Letter to Eastern France and Bavaria Promoting the Second Crusade*, 1146 CE.

Indulgences at the Dawn of the Reformation

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-Johannes Tetzel



“As soon as coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory's fire springs.”

95 Theses & the “Solas”

Turning Points of the Reformation

20. D. Xvij.
1577

95 Theses

- 32. They will be condemned eternally—together with their teachers—who believe themselves sure of their salvation because they have letters of pardon...
- 37. Every true Christian, whether living or dead, has part in all the blessings of Christ and the Church; and this is granted him by God, even without letters of pardon...



Woodcut of an indulgence seller, 1521

95 Theses

- 43. Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better work than buying pardons;...
- 45. Christians are to be taught that he who sees a man in need, and passes him by, and gives [his money] for pardons, *purchases not the indulgences of the pope, but the indignation of God...*



Commemorative Doors of Wittenberg's All Saints' Church, installed 1858

95 Theses

- 67. The indulgences which the preachers cry as the “greatest graces” are known to be truly such, *in so far as they promote gain.*
- 68. Yet they are in truth the very smallest graces compared with the grace of God and the piety of the Cross...



1525 Woodcut of forgiveness from Christ outweighing the pope's indulgences.

95 Theses

- 75. To think the papal pardons so great that they could absolve a man even if he had committed an impossible sin and violated the Mother of God—this is madness...

Print made for the [1617 Reformation Jubilee](#) showing Luther enscribing the *Theses* on the Wittenberg church door with a giant quill



1 Corinthians 12:6-8

Thesis 78

We say, on the contrary, that even **the present pope, and any pope at all, has greater graces at his disposal** [than indulgences]; to wit, the Gospel, powers, gifts of healing, etc., as it is written in 1 Corinthians 12...

1 Corinthians 12:6-8

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

95 Theses

Thesis 82. To wit:—*“Why doesn’t the pope empty purgatory, for the sake of holy love and of the dire need of the souls that are there*, if he redeems an infinite number of souls for the sake of miserable money with which to build a Church? The former reasons would be most just; the latter is most trivial.”



*Pope as the Antichrist, signing indulgences,
from Luther’s 1521 *Passional Christi un Antichristi*
By Lucas Cranach the Elder*

Luther's

Sermon on Indulgences and Grace

Sermon on Indulgences and Grace

“That satisfaction (about which John the Baptist speaks in Luke 3:8) is the duty of the entire Christian life and is generally public and imposed upon everyone.”

Moreover, genuineness of contrition is a prerequisite for indulgences...

It must be feared that frequently indulgences work *against* grace.

Luke 3:8-11

Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.

And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

Solas

The Bible

& Luther

► Sola Gratia

- “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works.”
-Romans 11:6

► Sola Scriptura

- “All Scripture is God breathed...”
-2 Timothy 3:16

► Sola Fide

- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
-Ephesians 2:8-9

- “This evil is planted in all human hearts by nature: If God were willing to sell his grace, we would accept it more quickly and gladly than when He offers it for nothing.”

- “[The Devil] cannot bear to see God speaking. If he cannot prevent it nor hinder God’s word by force, he opposes it with a semblance of piety...”

- “Let no one hope to be saved by another’s faith or work.”

Bibliography

- ▶ 95 Theses quoted from:
 - ▶ Luther, Martin. *Disputation of Doctor Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences: October 31, 1517. Electronic ed.* Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 1996.
- ▶ All images from Wikipedia.
- ▶ All Scripture References:
 - ▶ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version.* Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016.