

STUDY PACK 28

THE LATER MIDDLE AGES

“Without Christianity, there would no doubt have been some kind of civilization in the West, but it would have been quite a different civilization from that which we know; for it was only as Christendom – the society of Christian people – that the tribes and people and nations of the West acquired a _____.”

~ M. Stanton Evans, *The Theme is Freedom*, p.28 ~

I. THE CHRISTIANITY OF THE MIDDLE AGES

State Christianity was deeply intermingled with paganism. Even so, the Christian influence was dramatically different from the pagan background of the European tribes.

A. The Concept of Liberty

“There is for instance, the curious fact that in the ancient world ideas of liberty as we conceive them quite simply _____. No such concepts were expressed, much less put in practice, in Babylon, Egypt, imperial Rome, the Persian monarchy or the Asiatic kingdoms. The preferred regime in these societies was _____, under one label or another with _____.”

~ M. Stanton Evans, *The Theme is Freedom*, p.26 ~

Because the individual is free before God, he should also be free _____.

B. Representative Government

By the late Middle Ages, ideas of _____ were being seen all over Europe. In Spain, (the Cortes) in France, (the Estates General) in Germany (the Reichstag) and in England, (the Parliament) representative bodies were wielding powers of _____ and sharing _____.

Because every human has a sin nature, no human being could be trusted with _____. The vision of the earthly ruler as deity in the flesh was gone. _____.

Lord Acton, summarized the idea of government as it developed in the later Middle Ages this way, “Representative government, which was unknown to the ancients, was _____. The methods of election were crude, but the principle that no as lawful that was not granted by the class that paid – that is, that taxation _____ - was recognized, not as the privilege of certain countries, but as the right of all... Slavery was almost everywhere _____ and absolute power was deemed more intolerant and more criminal than slavery. The right of insurrection was not only admitted but defined as a _____.” ~ *Essays on Freedom and Power*, p.91 ~

C. The Concept of Civil Rights

During the later Middle Ages, the concept of human rights began to fully develop. Because God gives man the _____ (even though there are consequences for every choice), governments are expected to respect man's right to make many personal choices.

“A second factor is that of the major world faiths, only Christianity has devoted serious and sustained attention _____, as opposed _____.”
~~ Rodney Stark, *The Victory of Reason*, p. 31 ~~

D. The End of Slavery in Mainland Europe

The Christian conception of the _____ led to a rejection of the concept of slavery.

“...slavery was _____. It was that conclusion that enabled the west to abolish slavery. In fact, slavery was abolished in much of the non-western world only because of western pressure and interference...”
~~ Rodney Stark, *For the Glory of God*, p. 3 ~~

“Slavery ended in medieval Europe only because the church extended its sacraments to all slaves and then managed to impose a ban on the enslavement of Christians...”
~~ Rodney Stark, *The Victory of Reason*, p. 28 ~~

II. THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION

“If there is a God, such as the God of the Bible, who is all powerful, all-knowing, and present everywhere at all times and throughout eternity, _____. There is a reason to believe in the order premise. Otherwise, without an intelligent creator, the orderliness of the universe remains a total mystery.”
~~ Henry Morris, *The Bible Basis for Science*, p. 14 ~~

“My answer to this question is as brief as it is unoriginal: Christianity depicted God as a rational, responsible, dependable, and omnipotent being and the universe as His personal creation, thus having a rational, lawful, stable structure, _____.”
~~ Rodney Stark, *For the Glory of God*, p. 147 ~~

As Alfred North Whitehead put it, science developed to new heights in medieval Europe because of the “_____.”

Many religions do not believe in a personal God who created the world and established laws of nature (Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Paganism etc.). Consequently, people do not try to discover laws that they do not believe exist. Islam teaches a creator God but believes that he still dictates individual events, that he does not operate through laws of nature and that man should submit to whatever comes.

The Christian emphasis on _____, _____ and _____ led to the European Scientific Revolution.

Christians believed that God had made man different than the animals in two ways: _____
_____ and an _____ Christianity rejoiced in both of these characteristics.

III. THE INVENTION OF PRINTING

The invention of moveable type and the printing press in the late Middle Ages changed civilization forever. The dissemination of ideas and information to the masses, created opportunity for new movements, organizations and religion that was unparalleled before.

The opportunity to spread God's word created opportunities for the truth. As Paul Johnson wrote, "the smell of printer's ink was the incense of the Reformation."

IV. THE RISE OF THE EUROPEAN NATION STATES

As feudalism brought more and more order to medieval society, people began to think less in terms of tribes and more in terms of regions and nations. Society became _____. Law became more important than tribal identity. Aided by natural geographic barriers, people began to think of themselves as grouped into nations.

V. CHRISTIAN EUROPE

On a continent divided by language, custom, ethnic backgrounds, and ambition, Christianity created a common culture. _____ in Europe were provided by Christianity. Some of the paganism of state Christianity also remained standard in Europe, but common principles of Christianity still unified Europe.

Independent, Gospel preaching churches also maintained influence in Europe. Often persecuted, independent churches still preserved the pure Word of God and sent missionaries throughout Europe. Large numbers of people were influenced by these churches.

VI. SUMMARY

"And just as it was Christianity that eliminated the institution of slavery inherited from Greece and Rome, so too does Western democracy owe its essential intellectual origins and legitimacy _____. It all began with the New Testament."

~~ Rodney Stark, *The Victory of Reason*, p. 76 ~~