

Colt Emswiler

5-3-1 Chapter 3 - Gonzalez

QUESTIONS

1. How did the invasion of the barbarians impact the Western vs Eastern parts of the Empire?
2. From where did the missionaries derive who ministered to the Angles and Saxons in Great Britain?
3. What led to the alliance between the papacy and the Frankish kings?
4. What practices were put into place by Saint Benedict as a lead figure in the monastic movement?
5. What benefits did the papacy provide during times of chaos in the Early Middle Ages?

ANSWERS

1. The impact was much more significant in the West ,where Latin was spoken, than in the East, where Greek was spoken. In the West the Empire ceased to exist and barbaric kingdoms were established.
2. Saint Patrick, who was a missionary from Great Britain, had reached many of the Irish and they in turn became missionaries from Ireland who reached the Angles and Saxons.
3. Invaders that came to Italy from the Germanic nations tried to take over the region. This caused the papacy to call on the Franks for support and to forge an alliance with the Frankish Kings for protection.
4. Saint Benedict established a practice of coming together 8 times a day to read the Word of God, pray, and absorb other inspiring books. Through Benedicts' influence monasticism spread rapidly.
5. The papacy provided stability during times of chaos and was one of the few institutions that remained to preserve the ancient culture. Therefore, the papacy grew in power and influence during this time.

TERMS

Christological controversies – Issues dealing with the notion of how Christ, who is one person, can be divine as well as human.

The Third Ecumenical Council – This was one of the many councils at that time to bring correction to heresy in the church. This particular council condemned the Nestorius position.

Monophysism – A doctrine that believed that Jesus had only a divine nature and not a human nature. The idea was that Christs divinity absorbed fully His humanity.

SUMMARY

In the chapter titled "The Early Middle Ages," Gonzalez outlines the many challenges and pressures facing the church from the invasions of the barbarians in the West, to the schism that would follow between the West and the East. The papacy and the church were strengthened during these chaotic times of cultural and governmental upheaval. Kingdoms jockeyed for power throughout the Western part of the empire and new theological questions arose regarding the divinity of Christ which led to new Councils seeking to bring clarity. The rise of Islam in the East brought pressures on the Byzantine Empire, and Charlemagne and his successors brought much needed support to the Western part of the Empire.