

The Early 9th Century Church (Outside of Western Europe)

Historical Theology

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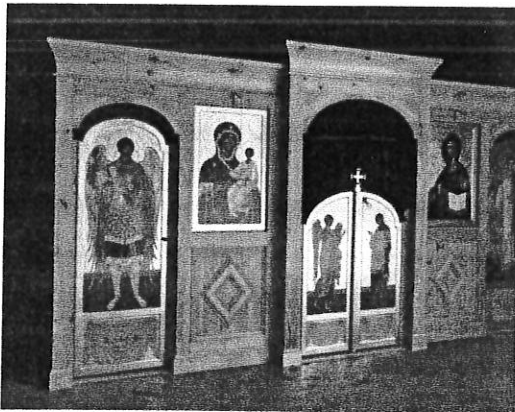
- I. Scandinavia
 - A. Ansgar and a group of monks were sent to Jutland in the year 820
 - Pro-Christian King Harald Klak (Jutland)
 - They had minor success for 2yrs
 - Left when Harald lost his throne
 - B. Ansgar went to Sweden in 829
 - Small congregation established in 1831
 - Included the king's steward
- II. Moravia
 - A. Cyril and Methodius went as missionaries
 - Went in response to a request by the Moravian king for missionaries that spoke the local language
 - Frankish missionaries informed Cyril and Methodius that services had to be conducted in Latin
 - Cyril and Methodius traveled to Rome to settle the dispute quietly
 - Cyril died there but the Pope Adrian II gave Methodius permission to conduct services in the local language
 - A later Pope (John VIII) stopped the use of local languages, but upon a personal visit, Methodius convinced otherwise.
 - B. After Methodius death, his successor as bishop, ruled in favor of Latin only services and the followers of Methodius went into exile.
- III. Bulgaria
 - A. The monarch of Bulgaria, Boris I, converted to Christianity in 863
 - Persuaded by missionaries from Constantinople
 - Boris I did not want his people to be subordinate to Constantinople
 - So, he requested to be recognized as independent
 - Constantinople denied the request
 - B. Boris then turned to Rome for recognition
 - Much to Constantinople's disapproval, Rome granted Boris's request
 - HOWEVER, Rome and Boris found disagreement in which one would get to appoint the bishop for Bulgaria
 - C. So, Boris turned back to Constantinople and the powers there granted the independence Bulgaria desired and thus the Bulgarian Church is Orthodox
 - Then Boris took it one step further by expelling clergy from Constantinople and making Bulgarian the official language of the church and state.
- IV. Rus (Russia, Belarus, Ukraine)
 - Bulgarians sent missionaries to the Rus in the 9th century. and had some success, but it would be years before Christianity would be the dominate religion.
- V. Byzantines
 - A. Byzantines did not think of themselves as Byzantines but as _____
 - B. Charlemagne might have called his realm the Holy Roman Empire, but the Byzantines thought of themselves as the real: _____
 - C. The Byzantines were fighting wars on three fronts:

 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

- D. New Dynasty: Amorian (820-867)
 1. Brought the Byzantine Empire back to glory
 2. Campaigns against
 - Arabs
 - Pagan Russ
 - Bulgars back to the Orthodox faith
- D. Another Dynasty: Macedonian
 1. Emperors Basil I and Basil II
 2. Wins over Muslims in Syria and Macedonia
 3. Recaptured Crete and Cyprus
 4. Re-established power in Southern Italy
 5. Recaptured Antioch, Syria
 6. Annexed Armenia

VI. Worship in Eastern Orthodox

- No Pews, No Pulpit, No Organ
 - No Statues, but many 2-D images
 - "Icons often have olive-oil lamps burning beneath them. The ideas behind the icons is that the worship of the congregation on earth is joining and sharing in the worship of the glorified Church in heaven..... icons are a window into that heavenly worship...."
- Iconostasis (iconstand)- a screen with 3 doors (represents the Trinity). The middle door is a double door—The Holy Doors



- Separates the open area into two sections. The front is for the congregation. The area behind the screen is for the clergy... it is called the altar. It is always at the east end... Represents heaven.

- In the Altar section is what we might call an altar... Orthodox call it the Holy Table or Throne of God. It is draped, and on top are two candles, a crucifix, and a copy of the Gospels. The Holy Table is positioned over relics. Behind the Table is a seat for the bishop and benches for other clergy. The table is used to celebrate the eucharist.



- The clergy leads from in front of the screen. They have portable lecterns to place Bibles and other books.
- Communion is served by the priest using a special spoon in which people receive both wine and bread at the same time.
- Bread is leavened, and is in flat round cakes stamped with Greek letters saying, "Jesus Christ conquers"
- Left over bread is handed out to everyone present after the service.



- Orthodox worshippers do not necessarily do the same things at the same time.
- Sources: *Wikipedia* and Nick Needham's *2000 Years of Christ's Power*