

8th Annual Reformation Day Addresses

ALCUIN

Flaccus Albinus Alcuinus / Alcuin 730-804 AD

Why have I chosen him?

Douglas Dales

Alcuin's 'influence upon the European church was profound and long lasting...and his gifts as a teacher and a linguist were outstanding. With Cuthbert, Bede and Dunstan he must rank as one of the most outstanding of the Anglo-Saxon Christians.

John Dickson

Alcuin of York...is arguably the greatest European you've never heard of.

Alcuin's beginning

Æthelbert (d. 780 AD) the Archbishop of York

Alcuin

From this natural instinct [i.e. the will to exist], it is the common experience of all human beings to wish to be happy. The appetite for blessedness continues to function in different ways in each and every person. Some value highly being earthly rulers, others the abundance of riches, others being exalted with honour. Some rejoice in the praise of a throng of admirers, while others wallow in fleshly lusts. But it is never possible to find true blessedness in this volatile life. Therefore, the entire course of Holy Scripture urges us to raise ourselves from earthly to heavenly things, where true and eternal blessedness is to be found.

Augustine 354-430 AD

You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.

Head of York cathedral school 767 AD

Wisdom-theology

Douglas Dales

He drank deeply at the wells of the fathers of the Church, especially Augustine and Gregory the Great

Alcuin believed and taught that the whole work of divine love in the incarnation and atonement flowed from the heart of God's own being as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Propositiones ad Acuendos Juvenes / Problems to Sharpen the Young

FRANCE

...the Franks...the Frankish Empire...

- Clovis c460-511 AD and the Merovingian dynasty
- Charles Martel 690-741 AD - the Hammer
- Anglo-Saxon Missionaries to Europe;
 - Willibrord 658-740 AD: Apostle to the Frisians
 - Winfrid 680-754 AD Boniface (doer of good): Apostle to the Germans
- Charles Martel's son Pepin 714-768 AD
- Aistulf King of the Lombards d. 756 AD

Charles 742-814 AD

Also known as _____

Einhard 775-840 AD

Capitulato de Partibus Saxoniae / Ordinances for the Religion of Saxony

Two options for the Saxons: _____!

The Edict of Milan 313 AD

The free and full liberty...to exercise choice in worshipping as each one has seen fit.

Augustine 354-430 AD

No one is to be compelled to embrace the faith against his will.

The Holy Roman Empire 800–1806 AD

So are we doing *Charlemagne* or are we doing *Alcuin*?!

The meeting at Parma 781 AD

WHAT DID ALCUIN DO?

Nick Needham

Alcuin was the grand schoolmaster of the Frankish empire. The most cultured man in Western Europe, he was (among other things) a Bible commentator, textual scholar, liturgical reviser, defender of orthodoxy against the Adoptianists [sic], reformer of monasteries, builder of libraries, and learned astronomer.

Einhard

The most learned man anywhere to be found.

Gerald Bray

[Alcuin] became the most influential of all the Anglo-Saxon missionaries sent to the Continent.

Alcuin

Nothing is more essential to government, nothing more helpful in leading a moral life, than the beauty of wisdom, the praise of learning and the advantages of scholarship.

- **Wrote**

Douglas Dales

As a spiritual guide and teacher, the desire to impart the riches of the gospel was his paramount aim.

- poems
- lives of the saints
- commentaries
- letters
- theology
- pastoral theology
- book on Augustine's theology
- educational material on
 - grammar
 - orthography
 - rhetoric
 - dialectic
 - the calculation of sacred time

- **Stopped forced conversions**

Alcuin

Faith is, as St Augustine teaches, born of will, not compulsion. A person can only be attracted into Christianity: he can never be forced. If a person is forced to be baptised, it is useless for engendering true faith.

Capitulare Saxonicum 797 AD

John Dickson

The incomparable Alcuin...not only guided a European renaissance [rebirth] but also used his privileged position as the "only man who could contradict Charlemagne."

- Encouraged the Carolingian Renaissance

- Paul the Deacon 720-800 AD
- Paulinus of Aquileia 730-802 AD
- Theodulph of Orleans 750-821 AD

Nick Needham

[Alcuin was] the greatest of Charlemagne's scholars... [and] the most influential intellect behind the Carolingian Renaissance.

Douglas Dales

Alcuin [was] at the heart of the Carolingian renaissance that laid the foundations of the medieval Catholic Church in Western Europe.

The light ages

- *Built monasteries*
- *Trained preachers*

Alcuin

Do not set your heart on gold or silver, but on winning souls for Christ...If storms threaten to engulf you, steer manfully the ship of Christ so that you and those in your care may come in the end to the haven of prosperity. Never be silent from holy preaching, nor let your hands be lazy in doing good deeds.

Bible colleges

Douglas Dales

Alcuin's web of friendship and influence underpinned the dynamic development of learning and culture that is described as the Carolingian renaissance.

- *Taught the people*

Charlemagne: the father of Europe

- *Taught children*

Admonitio Generalis / General Admonitions 789 AD

Let the clergy join and associate to themselves not only children of servile condition but also the sons of free men. And let schools be established in which boys may learn to read.

The seven liberal arts:

The Trivium

Grammar (Latin)

Logic

Rhetoric

The Quadrivium

Arithmetic

Geometry

Music

Astronomy

History. Natural History (physical sciences), Theology, Medicine, Law

- *Standardised the Bible*

A definitive edition of Jerome's 382 AD Latin translation.

- *Standardised the liturgy*

One form of liturgy for worship for the whole Western church.

Alcuin

O God, to whom each heart is open, every desire speaks, and from whom no secret lies hidden: cleans the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise you.

Every moment holy

- *Standardised spelling*
- *Latinised the Empire*

One language for Western Europe

- Codified religion
- Stood firm on orthodoxy

Alcuin

There are not two Christs, nor two sons but only one Christ, and one Son – God became man.

It is not possible to posit two sons of God, one begotten before time and the other born in time: but there is only one perfect and complete Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Douglas Dales

Central to Alcuin's teaching and belief as a theologian was orthodox belief in the nature and significance of the incarnation of God in Christ.

- Rejected worship of icons

Alcuin's heavenly birthday

Pentecost 804 AD

Alcuin

I am ashes and dust, and food for worms. Remember therefore to take better care of thy soul.

WHAT DID ALCUIN DO FOR US?

- For scholars

Alcuin

It is a noble task to write out holy books

An army of monk-scholars

90% of the works of ancient Rome exist in their earliest form in the Carolingian manuscript.

Rosamund McKitterick

The essential foundation for European culture after...the bedrock for the subsequent development of medieval European culture.

Education for all

The classical education movement in the US

The first universities in Europe in the 1100s...Bologna, Paris, Oxford, Cambridge.

- For the church

The Nicene Creed

Filioque = _____

Alcuin

The true Holy Spirit proceeds in an indescribable manner from the Father and the Son, remaining in union of being with the Father and the Son.

The Council of Aachen 809 AD

- For everyone

The Bible

A monk

This is a library beyond compare!

Carolingian miniscule **Times New Roman**

If that wasn't enough...

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