1540:
Ignatius Loyola:
Accommodation/Vocation/
Difficulties of Discernment

09 October 2007
Week 06 - Lecture 01
If God is more remote, how can we connect to God?

**Conservative answer:**
- give more money to mediating institutions --- masses, indulgences, bequests
- Italian Christian Humanism
- Hybrid: both conservative and yet innovative: reworking of Great Chain of Being

**UNION MAKES POWER**

Obligatory Instruction on the Freedom of Conscience

“A People is great when it knows how to **READ.**”

1906!!!

1906- 1517 = ca. 400 yrs!
If God is more remote, how can we connect to God?

400 yrs: how much of population was literate?

What social classes in particular? Who benefits from this rhetoric?

- KEY ANXIETY: Can we trust God’s word that he will save us???

- FAITH ALONE
  - [SOLA FIDE]

- IN GOD’S WORD ALONE
  - [SOLA SCRIPTURA]

- NEW WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF “DISTANCE OF GOD”
  - i.e.: NOT MEDIATION!
I. Software ↔ ↔ ↔ Hardware:

Gutenberg’s Galaxy

A. Hardware: moveable type / paper
“From facts to meanings:
From “Hardware” [material conditions] to
“Software” [culture = ideas + values]

“What else does the history of ideas prove, than that
intellectual production ["software"] changes in character
in proportion
as material production ["hardware"] is changed?”
Karl Marx, *Communist Manifesto* 241

1. MATERIAL PRE-CONDITIONS [“facts”]: penicillin; transplants; hygiene
2. ORDER: NEWLY THINKABLE [“ideas”]: “I can live to be 100.”
3. ORDER: NEW EXPECTATIONS / ANXIETIES [“values”]:
   “I ought to live to be 100.” “Living to 100 is a good thing.”
Material preconditions for this cultural revolution:
printed books / literacy / private reading / private spaces

Individual access to printed word / private interpretation

1456

Gutenberg’s Bible

Thousand-year-old
scriptorium
Gutenberg’s invention: moveable typeset
The new IBM Selectric II.
The result of everything we've learned about typing and typewriters.

1971

1984
1. **MATERIAL PRE-CONDITIONS [“facts”]:** penicillin; transplants; hygiene

2. **ORDER: NEWLY THINKABLE [“ideas”]:** “I can live to be 100.”

3. **ORDER: NEW EXPECTATIONS / ANXIETIES [“values”]:**
   “I ought to live to be 100.” “Living to 100 is a good thing.”

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**Intellectual-Cultural?**

What is

---material?

---intellectual?

---cultural?
NB: Wants to preserve tradition: illustrated margins / “cursive” script but innovation of typescript [hardware] → [software]: uniformity and precision

Renaissance ideal: the real “true” text
Innovation of typescript [hardware] →
[software]: uniformity and precision
Renaissance ideal: the real “true” text
B. Private Reading of “true texts”

1456 - 1517

YOU CAN’T HAVE SCRIPTURA SOLA WITHOUT BOOKS!!!
By-passing mediation: turn to individual reading

- Private reading of Scripture --- now possible outside monasteries with the invention of the printing press and the availability of books --- provides direct access to God without the need for mediation through clerics [e.g., priests, mass, the “First Order”]
NOTE IDENTITY CRISIS!!! What is the First Estate???

• Note side-effects of private reading:
• If you read psalms outside a monastery/nunnery and have direct access to God via silent reading of your personal Bible --- what separates you from the monks/nuns???
• Identity crisis! Blurred boundaries between clergy and laity.
• Added problem: later marriages for sake of money.. Everyone is non-married!!!
100,000 dead

Peasant revolt: 1381
Martin Luther, May 1525: “Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes of Peasants”
http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/histcourse/reformat/maincore/rupp6213.htm
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C. Saint Jerome as Icon of Bible:
“Patron Saint of Translators”
Important Symbolic Figure:
St. Jerome: he lived ca. 347-420

- St. Jerome: translated the original texts of the Bible [Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek] into the official Latin version [the Vulgate]

- Ask yourself: why is a man dead for 1000 years suddenly everywhere?

Antonello da Messina

*St Jerome in his Study*
(c. 1460)
Albrecht Dürer:  
*St. Jerome* [1512]

Dürer: early follower of Luther

Luther translates Bible into German

For Dürer, Jerome = symbol of Luther

Albrecht Dürer:  
*St. Jerome in His Study*  
[1513]

1515: “Tower Room Experience”

1517: 95 Theses
What does the iconography of St. Jerome --- 4th century --- tell us about the 16th-century “material / cultural preconditions” for Reformation?
1) Humanist translation 2) Printing press 3) Literacy (private reading)/vernacular