

9—Queen of the Sciences

“The Story of the Church”

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1. Medieval Scholasticism (1100-1400)

A medieval school of philosophy that employed a critical organic method of philosophical analysis predicated upon the Aristotelian 10 Categories, which endeavored to harmonize his metaphysics with the Latin Catholic dogmatic trinitarian theology.

- A. Tried to solve theological problems by reason
- B. Finding an answer to every problem
- C. Reconciling Christianity with Aristotle

2. Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) Aosta, Italy

- A. Can you explain Christianity by reason without Scripture?
- B. Ontological Status of Universals
 - 1) Realists—universals are real, outside of the mind
 - 2) Conceptionalists—universals have a reality only in the mind, not real
 - 3) Nominalists—universals are nothing but a name that our mind gives
- C. The Ontological proof of God:
 - 1) *“For I do not seek to understand that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand. For this also I believe—that unless I believed, I should not understand.”*
 - 2) *The Standard of Goodness—“There is, then, some one being which alone exists in the greatest and highest degree of all.”*
 - 3) *“Hence, there is no doubt that there exists a being, than which nothing greater can be conceived, and it exists both in the understanding and in reality.”*
- D. Satisfaction Theory of Atonement (replaced Ransom Theory)
 - 1) *“That the restoration of human nature ought not to be neglected, and that it could not be accomplished unless man paid to God what he owed for sin. But this debt was so great that, although man alone owed the debt, still God alone was able to pay it, so that the same person would have to be both man and God.”*

3. Peter Abelard (1079-1142) Le Pallet, France

- A. Challenged all assumptions and traditions of the past
- B. Moral Influence Theory of Atonement
 - 1) *“Jesus bound us closer to himself by love, so that, fired by so great a benefit of divine grace, true charity would no longer be afraid to endure anything for his sake.”*

4. **Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) Roccasecca, Italy**

A. Proofs of God in Natural Theology:

- 1) *"Therefore it is necessary to arrive at a first mover, moved by no other; and this everyone understands to be God."*
- 2) *"First efficient cause, which everyone gives the name God."*
- 3) *"Therefore we cannot but admit the existence of some being having of itself its own necessity, and not receiving it from another, but rather causing in others their necessity. This all men speak of as God."*
- 4) *"There must . . . be something which is to all beings the cause of their being, goodness, and every other perfection; and this we call God."*

5. **William of Ockham (1287-1347) Surrey, England**

- A. Took refuge in Munich and took the side of the Emperor not Pope
- B. Opened the way for democratization of the church.
- C. Father of modern scientific thought, and minimalism
- D. Rejected "universals" and "realism"
- E. *Ockham's Razor*—"If there is a simple explanation don't look for another"
- F. The universe is the way it is because God *wills* it
 - 1) God's absolute power vs. His ordered power
 - 2) God is not limited by anything other than Himself (voluntarism)
 - a) *Potentia Absoluta*—God's power to will other than He does
 - b) *Potentia Ordinata*—God's power to will what He does
 - 3) Morality and salvation are grounded in God's will not His nature