

# Baptist History

Lesson 2

Baptist Predecessors

# I) Welsh Baptists

- Main Sources: “History of the Welsh Baptists” by Jonathan Davis and “History of the Baptists in Wales” by Joshua Thomas
- II Tim. 4:21
- Claudia and Pudens were married couple from Wales who visited Paul in prison and heard the gospel there.
- They took the gospel to Wales.
- This group of believers were protected by terrain and Rome never really conquered this region.

# I) Welsh Baptists

- First large-scale martyrdom started in A.D. 285
- Alban was first Welsh Baptist martyr
- In A.D. 596, monk Austin went to England and Wales expecting to find pagans
- He found churches instead
- First Baptist Association in North America was made of Welsh Baptists

# Welsh Baptists

- Book “A History of All Religions of the World” said about the Welsh Baptists: “It is conceded that during the dark ages they Welsh churches remained pure and never bowed the knee in submission to the Papal power. The writer has been informed by an eminent Welsh clergyman that there is one Baptist Church in Glamorganshire claiming to have evidence of its existence for 800 years.”

# Montanists

- Named after leader Montanus
- Arose around A.D. 150 in Phrygia
- Focused on living pure lives
- Rejected Infant baptism
- Spread through North Africa and Asia Minor

# Novatians

- Started around A.D. 250
- Leader was Novatian
- Didn't accept Catholic baptism (Mosheim, Institutes of Ecclesiastical History I. p. 203. New York, 1871)
- Also held to strict discipline (G.H. Orchard, A Concise History of Baptists, pg. 55)

# Donatists

- French Historian Crespin wrote Donatists stood for:
    - Purity of church members
    - Purity of church discipline
    - Independence of churches
    - Stood for believer's baptism
- (John Christian's "History of the Baptists: Volume I")

# Paulicians

- Brought to prominence in A.D. 660 by Constantine
- By 11<sup>th</sup> century, there were Paulicians in almost every part of Europe
- “They (Paulicians) say that a man is first baptized when he is received into their community and has been baptized by them and they hold that baptism is of no advantage to infants, since they cannot actually believe.” – Inquisitor Reinerio (W.A. Jarrel, “Baptist Church Perpetuity”)

# Albigenses

- From town of Albi in Southern France
- Prominent in 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Severely persecuted
- Armitage on 279 says, “Seven thousand had taken refuge at the church of St. Magdelene, and the monk Peter tells us with the most ferocious coldness that they ‘killed women and children, old men, young me, priests, all without distinction.’”

# Albigenses

- There were many Catholics in the town, and the “Holy Legate” was asked how these should be spared, when he commanded: ‘Kill them all, God will know His own!’ Lest a heretic escape they piled all in an indiscriminate heap, and the Chronicle of St. Denis gives the whole number as sixty thousand.”
- Albigenses rejected the Catholic church, did not believe in baptismal regeneration and honored the New Testament instead of rituals and ceremonies (Armitage, Pg. 278)

# Waldenses

- From Europe
- Some writers say these people and Albigenses were the same people
- Samuel Morland's book, "The History of the Evangelical Churches of the Valley of the Piemont" (Pages 30-34)
  - Confession of the Faith of the Waldenses, copied out of manuscripts from A.D. 1120.

# Waldenses

- Immersed and adhered to believer's baptism
- During the Reformation, the Waldenses split into two groups: one that continued to be Baptist predecessors and one that joined with Protestants and are similar to Presbyterians today (David Gonnella, "Landmarks of the Baptist Faith," Pages 113-114)