

3.1.4. The Spread of Christianity to the Moravians and Bulgarians

1. Who was the ruler who asked Byzantium in the 9th century for missionaries to teach his people Christianity?

The ruler of Moravia, Rastislav, asked Byzantium in the 9th century for missionaries to teach his people Christianity.

2. Who accepted Rastislav's request and why?

The Byzantine emperor Michael III and the patriarch Photius accepted Rastislav's request. Byzantium wanted to expand its influence in central Europe.

3. Who were the two brothers from Thessaloniki who took on the mission?

The mission was entrusted to the two brothers from Thessaloniki, Cyril and Methodius. They were experienced diplomats and known scholars, and they spoke Slavic and other languages fluently.

4. What did Cyril do to make it easier for the Moravians to understand the preaching and the liturgy?

Cyril created the Slavic alphabet. He translated the Divine Liturgy and the holy books into Slavic.

5. What was the significance of the Christianization of the Slavs?

The use of Slavic facilitated the Moravians' understanding of the preaching and the liturgy, and ensured huge success in the missionary work. The two brothers organized the Slavic church (863-866) and introduced the Slavs to the cultural system of the Greeks and Christianity. The Christianization also contributed to the unity of the Slavs, as it strengthened the community of the race with the community of faith.

6. How did the Byzantine church deal with the issue of the Christianization of the Bulgarians?

The Byzantine church clashed with the Pope, who sought to extend the Roman Catholic Church into the immediate neighborhood of Byzantium. The Byzantine army forced the Bulgarian ruler Boris to accept Christianity and be baptized by Emperor Michael III.

7. How did the Patriarch Photius deal with the interventions of the Pope in the affairs of the Bulgarian Church?

The Patriarch Photius defended the independence of the Byzantine Church and the vital interests of the Byzantine State, condemned the intervention of Rome in Bulgaria, and accused the Roman Church of functional and dogmatic errors.

8. What were the eventual consequences of the Pope's intervention in Bulgaria?

The Council of 867 anathematized the Pope, rejected the doctrine of the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Son (filioque), and condemned the intervention of Rome in Bulgaria. With the decision of the Council of 870, the Church of Bulgaria was finally subordinated to the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Quiz : Multiple choice questions

1. Who was the ruler who asked Byzantium in the 9th century for missionaries to teach his people Christianity?
 - Rastislav
 - Boris
 - Michael III
2. Who accepted Rastislav's request and why?
 - The Byzantine emperor Michael III and the patriarch Photius
 - The Pope
 - The two brothers Cyril and Methodius
3. Who were the two brothers from Thessaloniki who took on the mission?
 - Cyril and Methodius
 - Rastislav and Boris
 - Michael III and the patriarch Photius
4. What did Cyril do to make it easier for the Moravians to understand the preaching and the liturgy?
 - He created the Slavic alphabet.
 - He translated the Bible into Slavic.
 - He organized the Slavic church.
5. What was the significance of the Christianization of the Slavs?
 - It strengthened the community of the race with the community of faith.
 - It allowed the Slavs to understand the preaching and the liturgy.
 - It strengthened Byzantium against the Pope

True or false questions

1. The Christianization of the Bulgarians was done by the Pope. False
2. The Patriarch Photius defended the independence of the Byzantine Church. True
3. The Council of 867 anathematized the Pope. True

Fill in the blank questions

1. The ruler of Moravia who asked Byzantium in the 9th century for missionaries to teach his people Christianity was _____.
2. The two brothers from Thessaloniki who took on the mission to evangelize the Moravians were _____ and _____.
3. The Patriarch Photius accused the Roman Church of _____ and _____.
4. The Council of 867 anathematized the Pope and _____

