

MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY



Lecture # 4

Content of lecture:

1. Introduction
2. Characteristics of the medieval period
3. Patristics (St. Augustine)
4. Scholastica (Thomas Aquinas)
5. Nominalism and Realism
6. Recommended readings

Introduction

- The origin of medieval philosophy lies in the period of early Christianity
- The hallmark of medieval philosophy was its close relationship with Christianity
- Christianity became the dominant worldview in Western Europe at that period of history
- Through the relation "God - man" addressed the structure of the world, man's place, and the system of moral values

Introduction

- Therefore, medieval philosophy had theocentric character (the Greek word - theos - God)
- The main function of medieval philosophy was justification of religious precepts (цағыздар/постулаты)
- According to many historians, the philosophy of the period turned into a “servant of theology”
- There were two main periods in the development of medieval philosophy in Europe: the patristic and scholastic

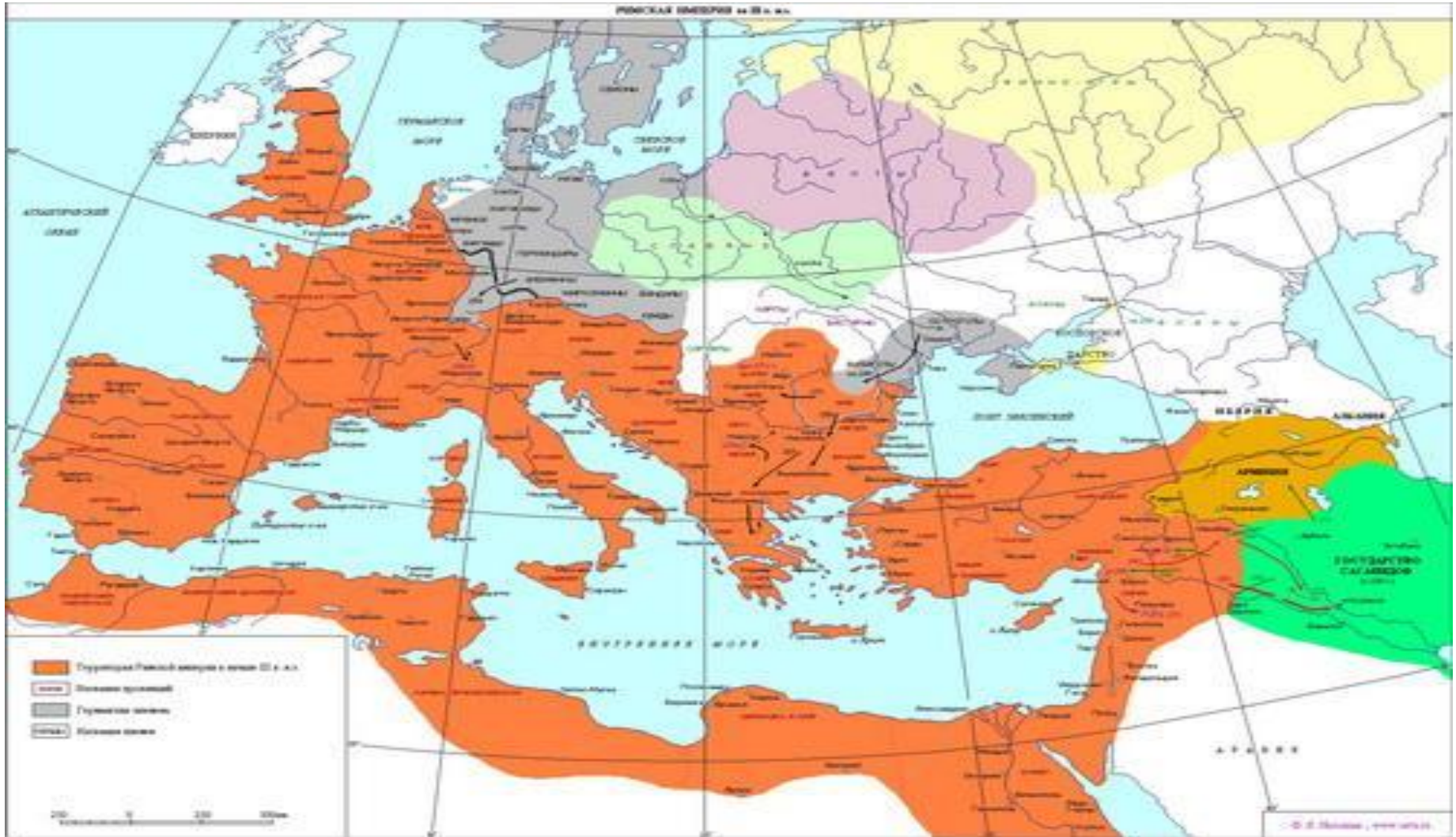
Patristics and scholastica

- Patristics (Latin word “pater” – “father”) - a set of theological and philosophical doctrines of Christian thinkers of II-VIII centuries
- Scholastica (Latin word “scholastica” – “school”, “scholar”) defines a central role in the justification of the theological philosophy of dogmas (IX-XII centuries)
- Opposing positions to patristicism and scholasticism appeared in realism and nominalism
- At the heart of these conflicts was the confrontation of faith (наным/сенім/вера) and knowledge
- **Догма** (догма) - *учение, объявленное истиной и не подлежащее критике*

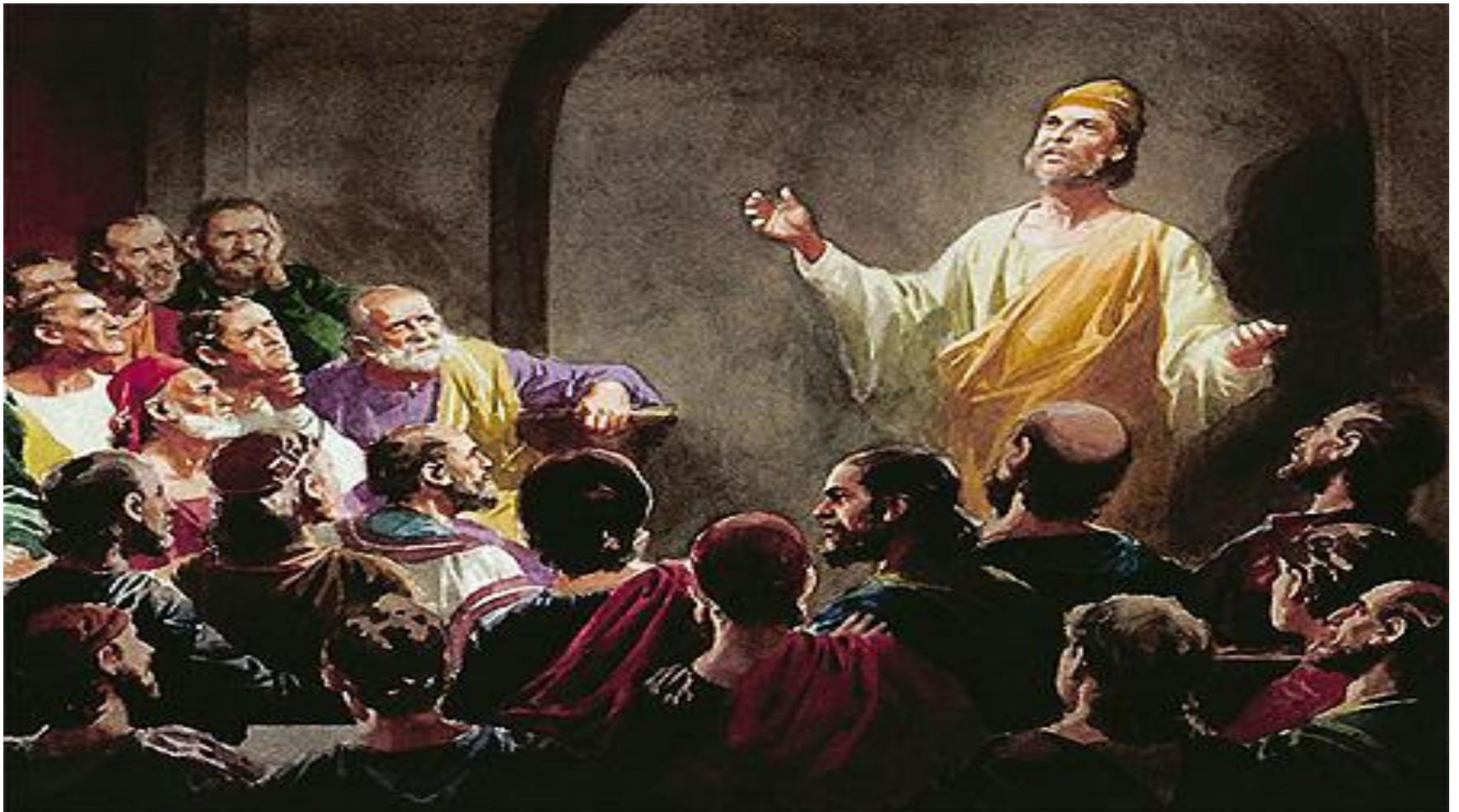
Characteristics of the Medieval period

- Christian worldview has arisen in the first century in Palestine
- Christianity spread within the geographical boundaries of the Roman Empire
- Christianity emerged as the new religion did not divide people into lords and slaves, barbarians and Greeks, etc.
- It opposed the ideas of Roman society and proclaimed values of austerity and worries about the fate of the world

Roman Empire



Early Christianity



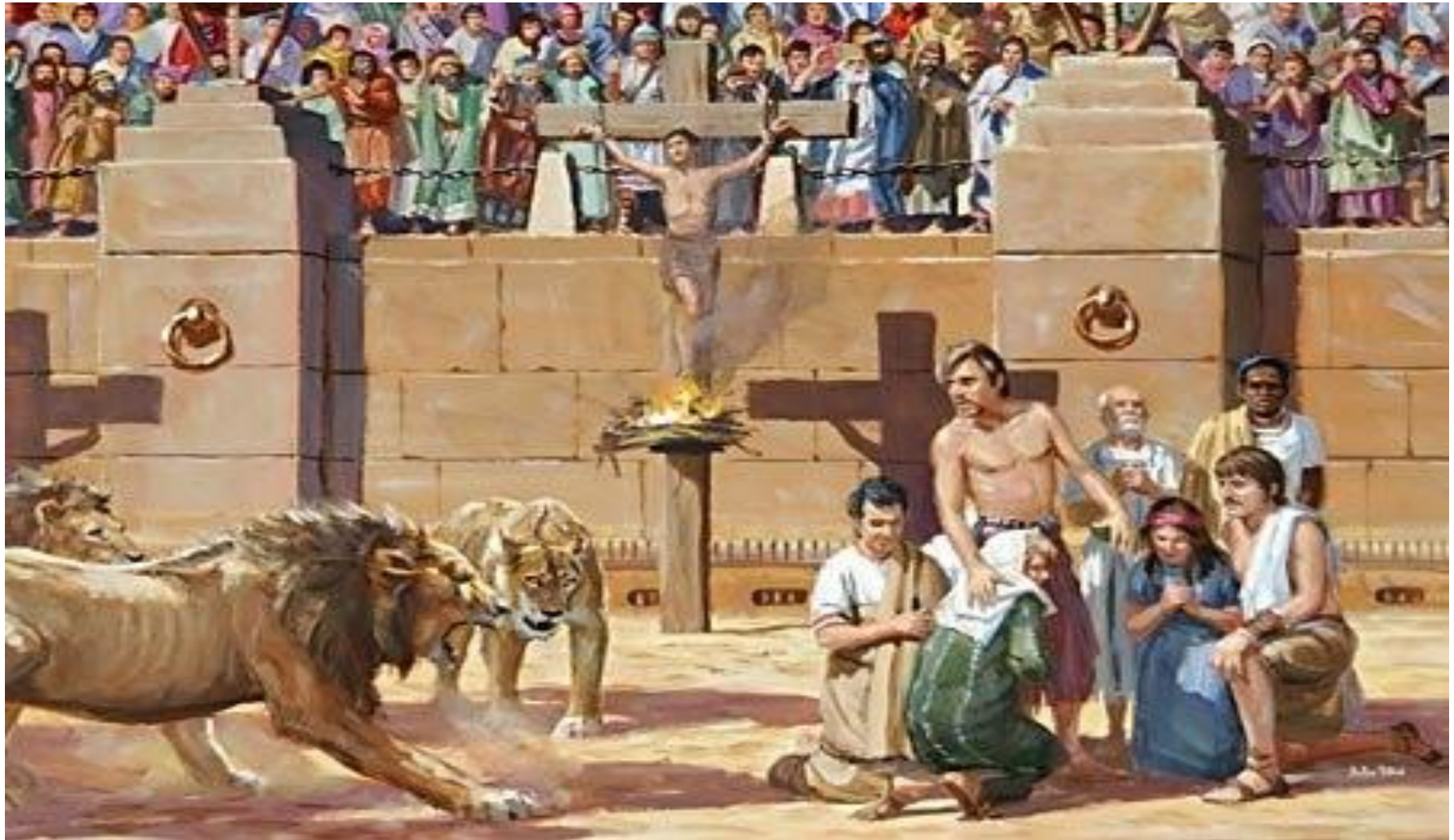
Early Christianity

- Early Christians were cruel persecuted in Roman Empire, as the opposition to the official ideology
- Image of Jesus Christ crucified on the cross, has become the most valuable symbol of Christian ethics
- The Christian world view was based on two postulates: the creation (жарату/творение) and revelation (ашық айту/откровение)
- Creation means the formation of the world and man by God

Crucifixion of Christ



Persecution of Christians



Medieval philosophy was characterized by:

- **Providence.** The method of examination of historical events from the point of view of providence (болжағыштық/провидение) and salvation (құтқару/спасение) of man
- **Creationism** (from lat. creatio - race, creationis - creation). The concept of creation of the world by God from "nothing" within a limited period of time
- **Traditionalism.** This is the concept of the superiority of tradition over mind. This concept is closed to conservatism

Religious worldview of Middle Ages were characterized by:

- **Symbolism.** Every significant phenomenon in nature and history was seen as a manifestation of the divine (күдай берген/божественный) will;
- **Contrast.** All reality is seen as a struggle between good and evil, God and the Antichrist;
- **Absolutism of word.** Word belongs to the God. "In the beginning was the word"

St. Augustine (354-430)

- The prominent thinker of MA. His ideas have determined the further development of European philosophy
- He was born in North Africa, in the Roman province
- His father was a pagan (пұтқа табынушы/язычник), his mother - a Christian
- He received an excellent education. He creatively developed the ideas of Plato and Neo-Platonists
- Literary heritage of St. Augustine is more than 40 books

St. Augustine (354-430)



St. Augustine (354-430)

- The philosopher focused on issues of God and the world, life and times, faith and reason, truth, and knowledge of good and evil
- The main direction of the teachings of Augustine was the relation of God and the world
- This attitude is characterized as creationism, it recognized of the creation of the world by God from "nothing" in a limited period of time
- Augustine denies the presence of any "material", "building bricks" to create the world

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

- Prominent and influential philosopher of medieval Western Europe is Thomas Aquinas (Фома Аквинский)
- After his death he was canonized to the saints
- Thomas Aquinas was born in the count's (аксүйек/графская) family in the Kingdom of Naples
- He graduated from the University of Paris
- He taught at the University of Naples and Paris
- Thomas Aquinas was the author of a number of works. His basic work was "Summa Theological" (1273)
- Aquinas formed ethical doctrine of Catholicism. Its main purpose, as Augustine, was the contemplation (сырттай шому/созерцание, размышление) of God and preparing for the afterlife

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)



Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

- Moral and practical human actions are determined by the mind through the choice between good and evil. Thus emphasizes human responsibility for their actions and activities
- State, according to Thomas Aquinas, was to prepare its members to comprehend (түсіну/понимать) the sacred truths of heavenly (күдай берген/божественный) life
- Civil society must be subordinated (бағыну/подчиняться) to the church and state
- God's representative on earth is the Pope
- The teaching of Thomas Aquinas became the official philosophy of the Roman Catholic Church

Nominalism and realism

- Several centuries the fierce debate between realists and nominalists exerted (эсер эту/оказывать влияние) considerable influence on the spiritual life of medieval society
- Realists developed the theory of Plato's "world of ideas"
- This concept has been redesigned in the spirit of St. Augustine Christian doctrine
- "Ideas" are interpreted as the Creator's creations and designs
- Nominalists (Latin "nominalis - noun," referring to the names) were the founders of the materialistic direction in Medieval philosophy

Nominalism and realism

- They pointed out that the things - first, a concept - is secondary
- The concept of "person" includes all the features of the individual
- As a result, man is endowed (не болу/быть наделенным) with reason more than any other
- Realists views were closer to Christian dogma (doctrine)
- For this reason, nominalists were persecuted by the authorities of Catholic Church and government