

### Week 3: Extra Reading

**Activity.** Read the letter from Pope Alexander VI to Girolamo Savonarola.

- How would you respond to this letter?

#### Letter from Pope Alexander VI<sup>1</sup> to Savonarola

Rome, 21 July 1495

Beloved son, greeting and apostolic blessing:

We perceive by the account of many that, among other servants of the vineyard of the Lord of Sabbaoth, you perform the greatest labors, concerning which we most heartily rejoice and return praises to the Omnipotent God, Who has supplied such grace to human understanding. We do not doubt that it is by that same divine Spirit Who distributes grace among mortals that you are able both to sow the word of God among Christian people and to increase the fruit a hundredfold. As in recent days, through your letter about this, we have come to understand your resolve and intention, which is to disclose to the people in your preachings those things which you know to be in God's service, and since people have recently related to us that you subsequently have said in public sermons that those things which you announce are to come you say not from you yourself or from human wisdom but by divine revelation, for that reason, desiring, as is befitting to our pastoral office, to speak with you about these things and to hear them from your own mouth, so that understanding these things better from you yourself, we might carry out what is pleasing to God, we exhort and command by virtue of holy obedience that you come to us as soon as possible. For we shall see you with paternal love and charity.

Dated at Rome at St. Peter's, under the seal of the Fisherman, the twenty-first day of July 1495, in the fourth year of our pontificate.

B. Floridus

[On the outside:] To our dear son, Brother Girolamo of the Order of Preachers of the Observance, living in Florence

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<sup>1</sup> Rodrigo Borgia (1431–1503), elected Pope on the death of Innocent VIII (d. 1492).