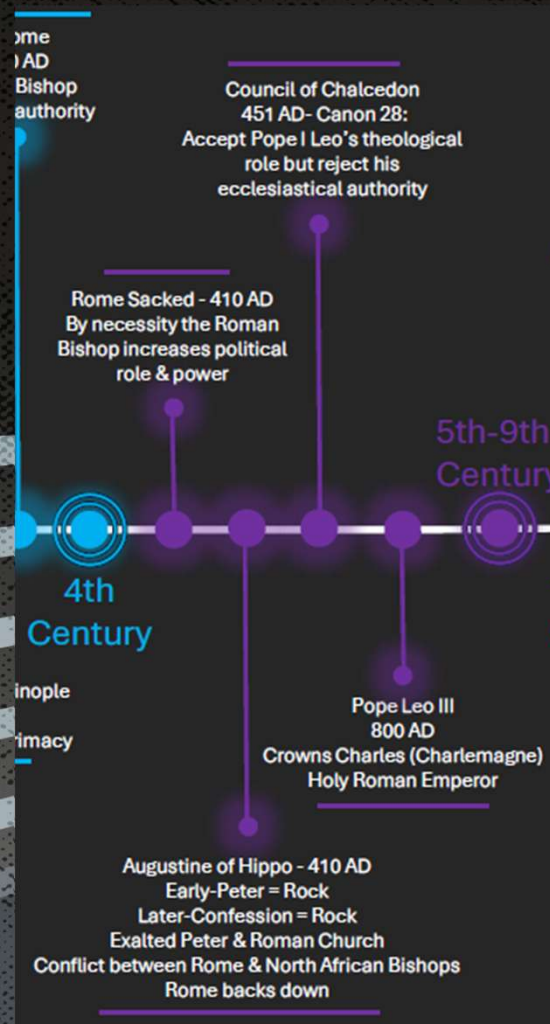


Roman Catholic Apologetics 2025: Early Church Polity & the Origen & Rise of the Papacy



5th-9th Century



410 AD: Rome Sacked



Augustine of Hippo (410ish AD)



"For they have ordained with great wisdom and justice, that all matters should be terminated in the places where they arise; and did not think that the grace of the Holy Spirit would be wanting to any Province, for the bishops of Christ wisely to discern, and firmly to maintain the right: especially since whosoever thinks himself wronged by any judgment may appeal to the council of his Province, or even to a General Council **unless it be imagined that God can inspire a single individual with justice, and refuse it to an innumerable multitude of bishops assembled in council.**"

African bishops letter to Pope Celestine



"The African bishops now rebuffed the pope in the strongest possible terms. *They* had spoken, the matter was finished."

Edward A. Siecienski, *The Papacy and the Orthodox: Sources and History of a Debate*
(Oxford University Press, 2017), 169

OXFORD STUDIES IN
HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

*The Papacy and
the Orthodox*

Sources and History of a Debate



Well, let us suppose that those bishops who decided the case at Rome were not good judges; there still remained a plenary Council of the universal Church, in which these judges themselves might be put on their defense; so that, if they were convicted of mistake, their decisions might be reversed. (Letter 43.19)



Council of Chalcedon (451 AD)

Canon 28: ... For the Fathers rightly granted privileges to the throne of old Rome, because it was the royal city. And the One Hundred and Fifty most religious Bishops, actuated by the same consideration, gave equal privileges (ἴσα πρεσβεῖα) to the most holy throne of New Rome, justly judging that the city which is honoured with the Sovereignty and the Senate, and enjoys equal privileges with the old imperial Rome, should in ecclesiastical matters also be magnified as she is, and rank next after her; so that,

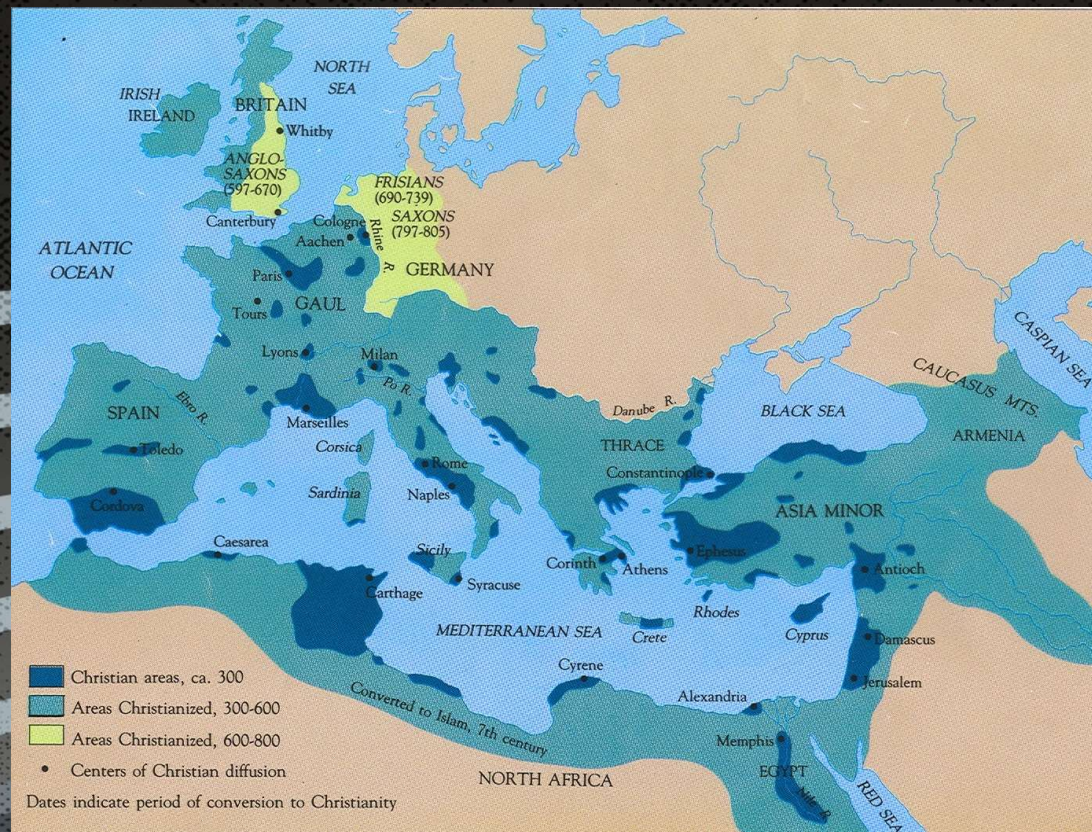


9th Century

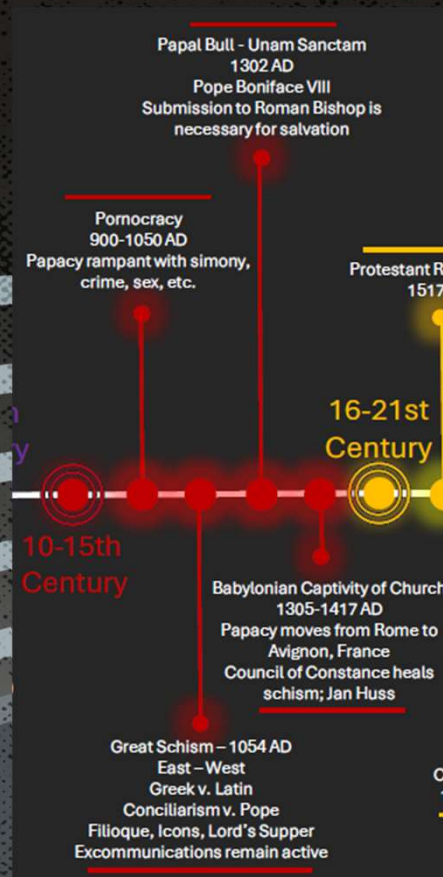
Pope Leo III places crown on Charles (Charlemagne)
in 800 AD as Holy Roman Emperor

9th Century

Pope Leo III places crown on Charles (Charlemagne)
in 800 AD as Holy Roman Emperor



10th-15th Century Pornocracy (901-1046ish AD)





East-West Great Schism (1054 AD)

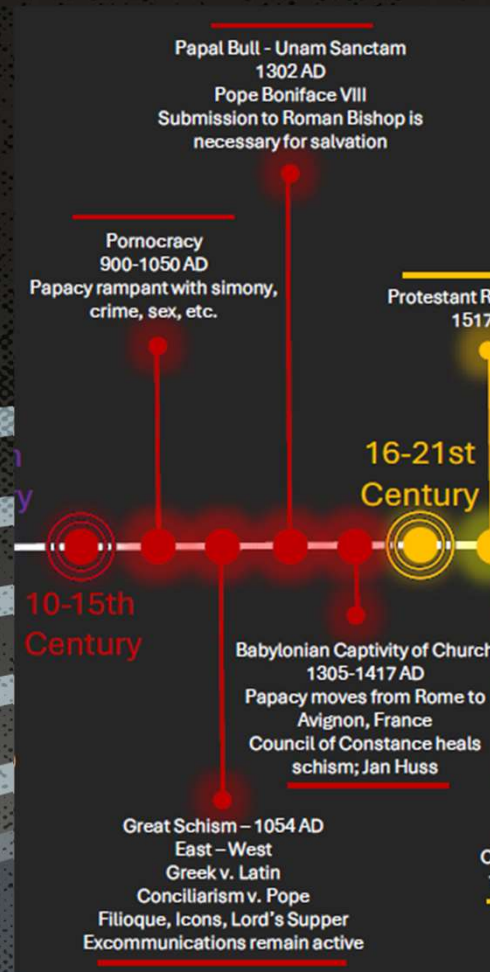


Unam Sanctam: Boniface VIII; Papal Bull, (11/18/1302)

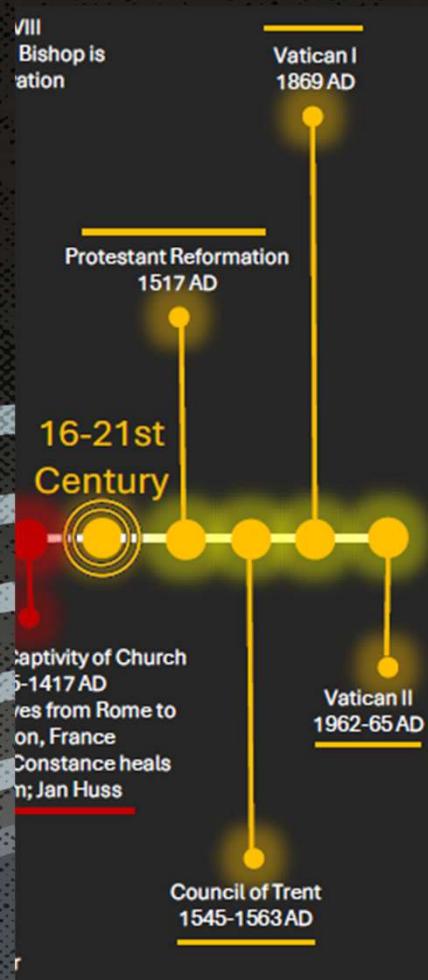
We therefore declare, say, and affirm that submission on the part of every man to the bishop of Rome is altogether necessary for his salvation.



Babylonian or Avignonese Captivity 1309-1377 AD

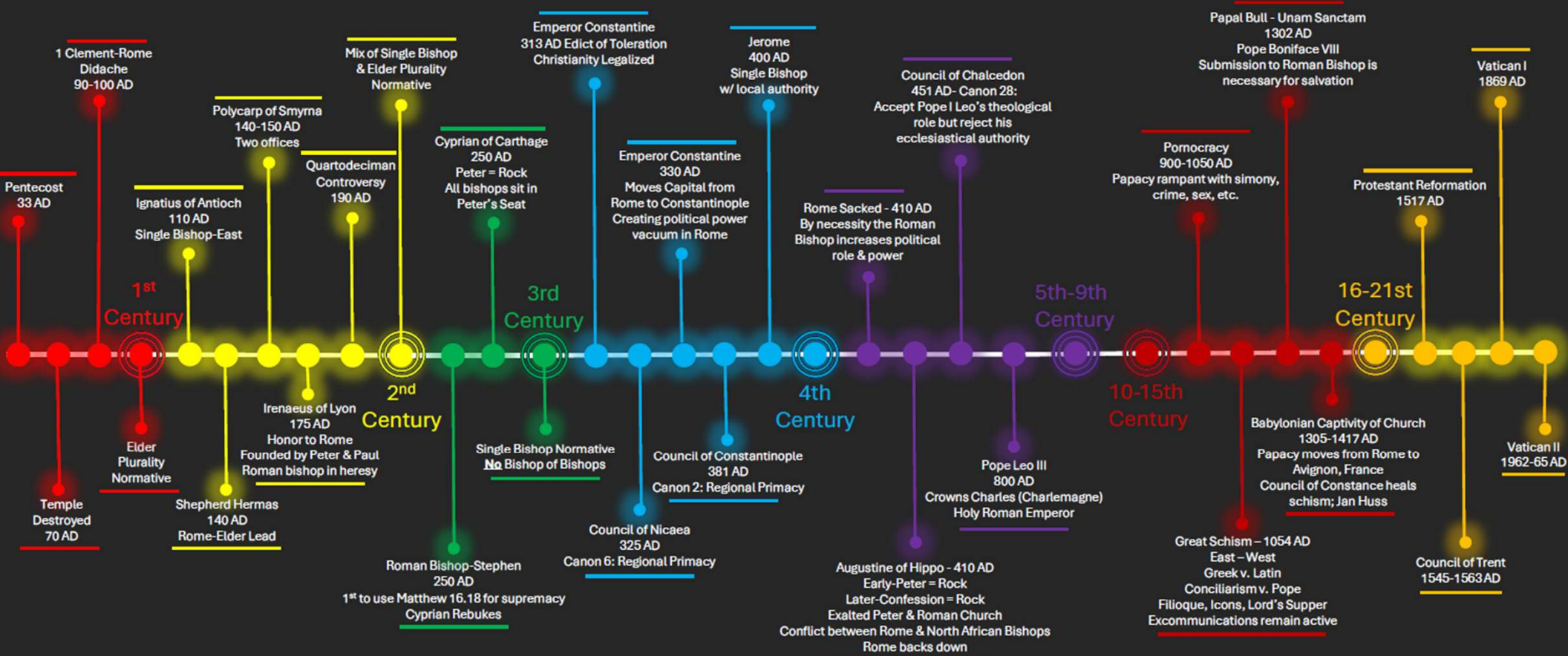


Protestant Reformation



Catholic Apologetics

Origen & Rise of the Papacy



Commonitorium P.8 (Vincent of Lerins) 434 AD: "What, if some novel contagion seek to infect not merely an insignificant portion of the Church, but the whole? Then it will be his care to cleave to antiquity, which at this day cannot possibly be seduced by any fraud of novelty."



What then shall we say to the heathen? There comes a heathen and says, “I wish to become a Christian, but I know not whom to join: there is much fighting and faction among you, much confusion: which doctrine am I to choose?” How shall we answer him? “Each of you” (says he) “asserts, ‘I speak the truth.’ ” (b) No doubt: this is in our favor. For if we told you to be persuaded by arguments, you might well be perplexed: but if we bid you believe the Scriptures, and these are simple and true, the decision is easy for you. If any agree with the Scriptures, he is the Christian; if any fight against them, he is far from this rule. (John Chrysostom: Homilies on Acts. 33 in 400ish AD)



Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers 1.11: Saint Chrysostom: Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistle to the Romans