

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Turning Points of the Reformation

How the Bible turned the world upside-down.

Councils, Popes, & the Priesthood of All Believers

Background

Councils, Popes, & Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation

The Priesthood

- ▶ The priesthood is founded upon the biblical tribe of Levi...

Numbers 18:2-4 (ESV)

And with you bring your brother also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, *that they may join you and minister to you* while you and your sons with you are before the tent of the testimony. They shall keep guard over you and over the whole tent, *but shall not come near to the vessels of the sanctuary or to the altar* lest they, and you, die. They shall join you and keep guard over the tent of meeting for all the service of the tent, and no outsider shall come near you.

The Priesthood

- ▶ The priesthood is founded upon the biblical tribe of Levi...

The Priesthood

- ▶ The priesthood is founded upon the biblical tribe of Levi, but Catholics also acknowledge a **universal priesthood**.

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

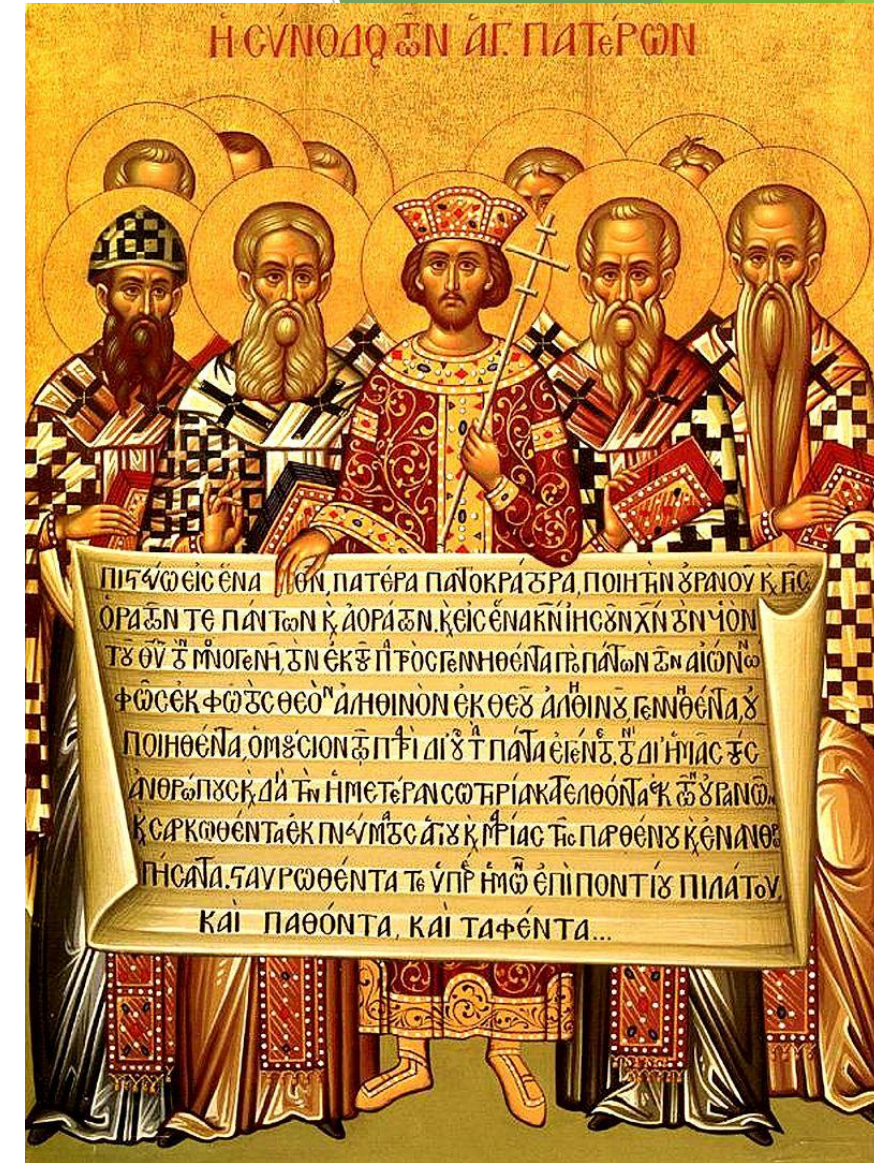
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

The Priesthood

- ▶ The priesthood is founded upon the biblical tribe of Levi, but Catholics also acknowledge a **universal priesthood**.
- ▶ Priests are **mediators** between God and human beings; they offer sacrifices and intercede for the people of God.
- ▶ *Priests act in the person of Christ during the Eucharist.*
- ▶ **Celibacy** was not mandated for *all* priests under canon law until 1139, but mandates for celibacy go back to (at least) 306 CE.

Ecumenical Councils

- ▶ *Ecumenical* means “general, universal, from the whole world.”
- ▶ An emergency conference of ecclesiastical leaders which is invoked by a Christian Emperor (who also enforced the rulings).
- ▶ Schisms begin to *divide the church* starting with the third council.
- ▶ Soon, “ecumenical” councils are declared *without the “other side” invited*.
- ▶ In a “quirk” of history, the Roman Bishop is seemingly always on the “right” side of the ecumenical controversies.



Emperor Constantine and the bishops of the First Council of Nicaea (325), holding the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed of 381

The Pope

- ▶ *Hierarchy became increasingly important in the medieval period.*
- ▶ *Pope* means “father.”
 - ▶ Pope was once a term for all bishops, but was officially reserved for the bishop of Rome in the 11th century.
- ▶ Originally, there were three **Patriarchs** in the historic centers of Christianity:
 - ▶ Rome
 - ▶ Antioch
 - ▶ Alexandria
- ▶ In 545 CE, Emperor Justinian I added two more **Patriarchs**:
 - ▶ Jerusalem
 - ▶ Constantinople

Pentarchy

- Rome
- Constantinope
- Antioch
- Jerusalem
- Alexandra



Islamic Capture

- Rome
- Constantinople
- Antioch
- Jerusalem
- Alexandra



Crusades

- Rome
- Constantinople
- Antioch
- Jerusalem
- Alexandria



Luther's Day

- Rome
- Constantinople
- Antioch
- Jerusalem
- Alexandra



The Pope

- ▶ During the decline (and fall?) of the Western Roman Empire—especially in the time between emperors Romulus Augustus and Charlemagne—the Patriarch of Rome—the Pope—remained a constant authority figure.
- ▶ Rome was historically protected by the Byzantine empire, but as Byzantium weakened, Pope Stephen II turned to the Franks to protect his lands from the Lombards.
- ▶ *In thanks, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as Roman Emperor...*
A remarkable precedent.
- ▶ The relationship of the Pope to the Western Emperor—the Church to the State—becomes a **major** problem.

The Dark Age of the Papacy?

- ▶ *Saeculum obscurum*, “the Dark Age”
- ▶ Many politicians, monastics, and clergy criticized the bishops, popes, and the office of the papacy at this time.
- ▶ From 904-964 (or perhaps 867-1049?):
 - ▶ The papacy is plagued by corruption and vice.
 - ▶ Popes are imprisoned, starved, killed, and deposed by force.
 - ▶ Popes were effectively **purchased** by the emperor.
 - ▶ Popes held orgies in the Lateran Palace.

Alleged sexually-active popes

Name	Reign	Married?	Offspring
Pope Sergius III	904–911	not married	Yes
Pope John X	914–928	not married	No
Pope John XII	955–963	not married	No
Pope Benedict IX	1032– 45, 1047–1048	not married	No

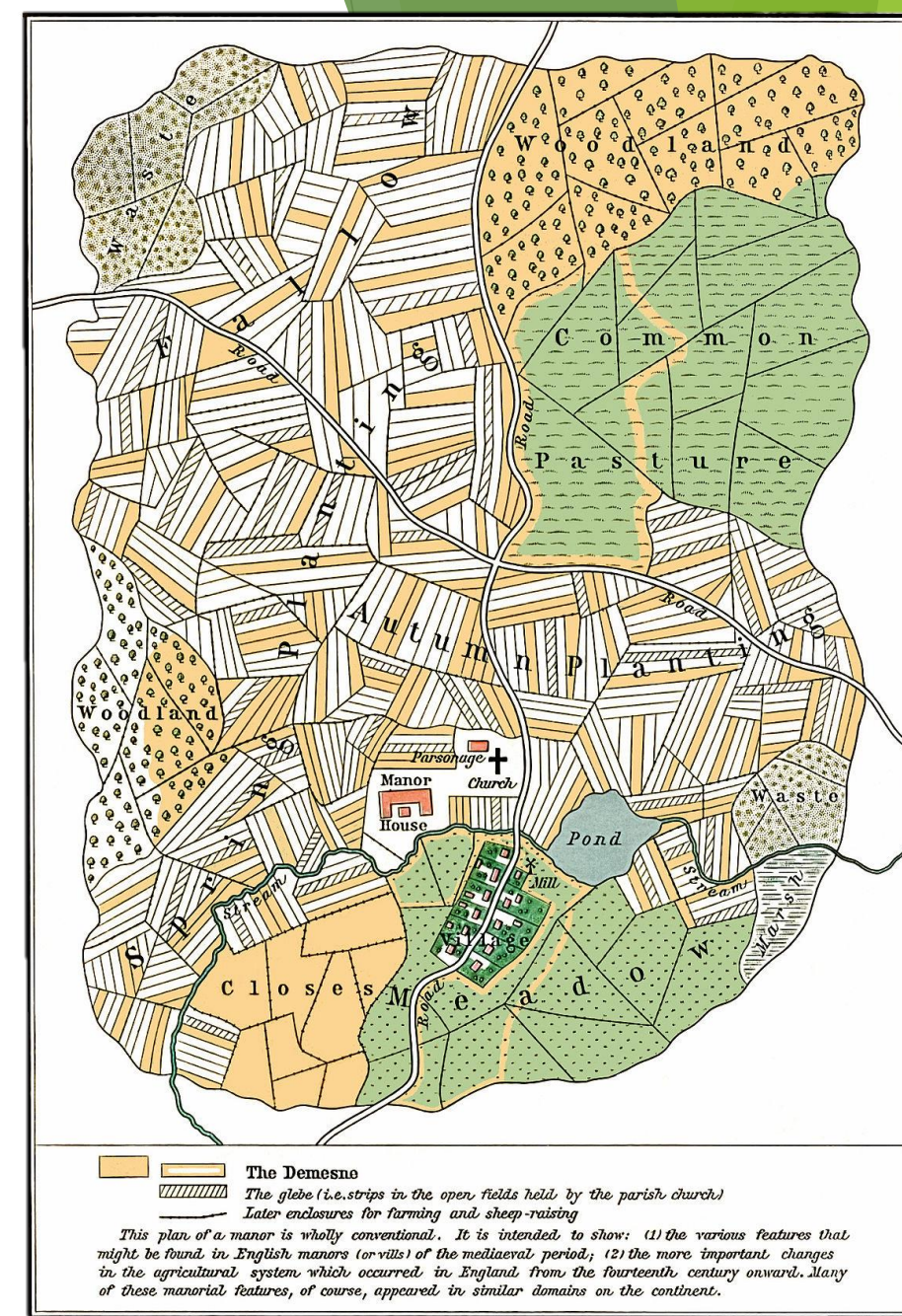
- ▶ Popes were accused of every sexual sin imaginable.
 - ▶ Affairs
 - ▶ Rape
 - ▶ Orgies
 - ▶ Sodomy
 - ▶ Necromancy
- ▶ It almost doesn't matter whether the allegations are true...
The papacy had a major public image problem.

Pope as antichrist?

- ▶ In 991 CE, **Arnulf, archbishop of Reims**, calls Pope John XV the “antichrist”.
- ▶ In the late 11th century, **Cardinal Benno** called Pope Gregory VII “antichrist,” citing necromancy, torture, commissioned assassination, execution without trial, unjust excommunication, and doubting the Real Presence.
- ▶ In 1241, **Eberhard II von Truchsees** calls Pope Gregory IX “antichrist.”

Benefices

- ▶ Land was granted to monasteries, clerics, and church officials. Revenue from land supported the ministry. Every benefice had spiritual duties attached to it.
- ▶ Benefice lands were often willed, but fell into the “dead hand of the church”— they never left the church’s possession. *This caused substantial political tension.*
- ▶ Benefices could become exceptionally large and prosperous over time, and high-ranking members of the clergy would often hold more than one! *Benefice-holding was soon associated with ecclesiastical corruption.*



An English “glebe” or ecclesiastical parish

Investiture Controversy

- ▶ Pope Gregory VII (1015-85) and Emperor Henry IV (1050-1106) engage in power struggles over who appoints bishops and abbots: Church or State?
- ▶ The controversy erupts all over Europe, eventually leading to 50 years of civil war in the germanic lands.
- ▶ Emperor Henry V and Pope Callixtus II agree to the **Concordat of Worms**, effectively giving the Church the majority of the power to appoint bishops—many took it as a vindication of the *Pope's claim to be God's chief representative on Earth.*

Communion Developments

Concern for worthy & holy reception led to numerous developments in medieval communion practices:

- ▶ The exclusion of laity from administering communion.
- ▶ The exclusion of laity from the cup, or “**Communion in One Kind.**”
- ▶ A dramatic reduction in frequency of communion for laity—in many cases, *never*.

Communion Developments

Concern for worthy & holy reception led to numerous developments in medieval communion practices:

- ▶ An increasing obsession with seeing the communion elements and thereby seeing Christ, or “**Visual Communion.**”
- ▶ A 1215 canonical requirement that the laity confess their sins and receive communion **at least once a year.**
- ▶ *Further distinction between the “spiritual” and “secular.”*

Boniface VIII (1230-1303 CE)

- ▶ *Salvator Mundi* & *Ausculda fili*—Papal bulls retracting all power from the French king.
“God has placed us over the Kings and Kingdoms.”
- ▶ *Unam Sanctam* — “It is necessary to salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman pontiff.”
- ▶ In the following years, Boniface regularly wrote papal bulls against other political opponents.
- ▶ Capture & Death



Boniface VIII, fresco by Giotto di Bondone in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome

The Avignon Papacy

- ▶ Clement the V (1264-1314 CE) is elected Pope, but he doesn't want to move to Rome; so he established his court in **Avignon, France**.
- ▶ **Holy Roman Emperor Louis IV** denies the sole authority of the Pope to crown the Emperor. Rome and the papacy go to war.
- ▶ Note how far we've come: 500 years ago, the Pope depended on others for his defense. Now, he has an army of his own!



Coin of Clement V.

The Avignon Papacy

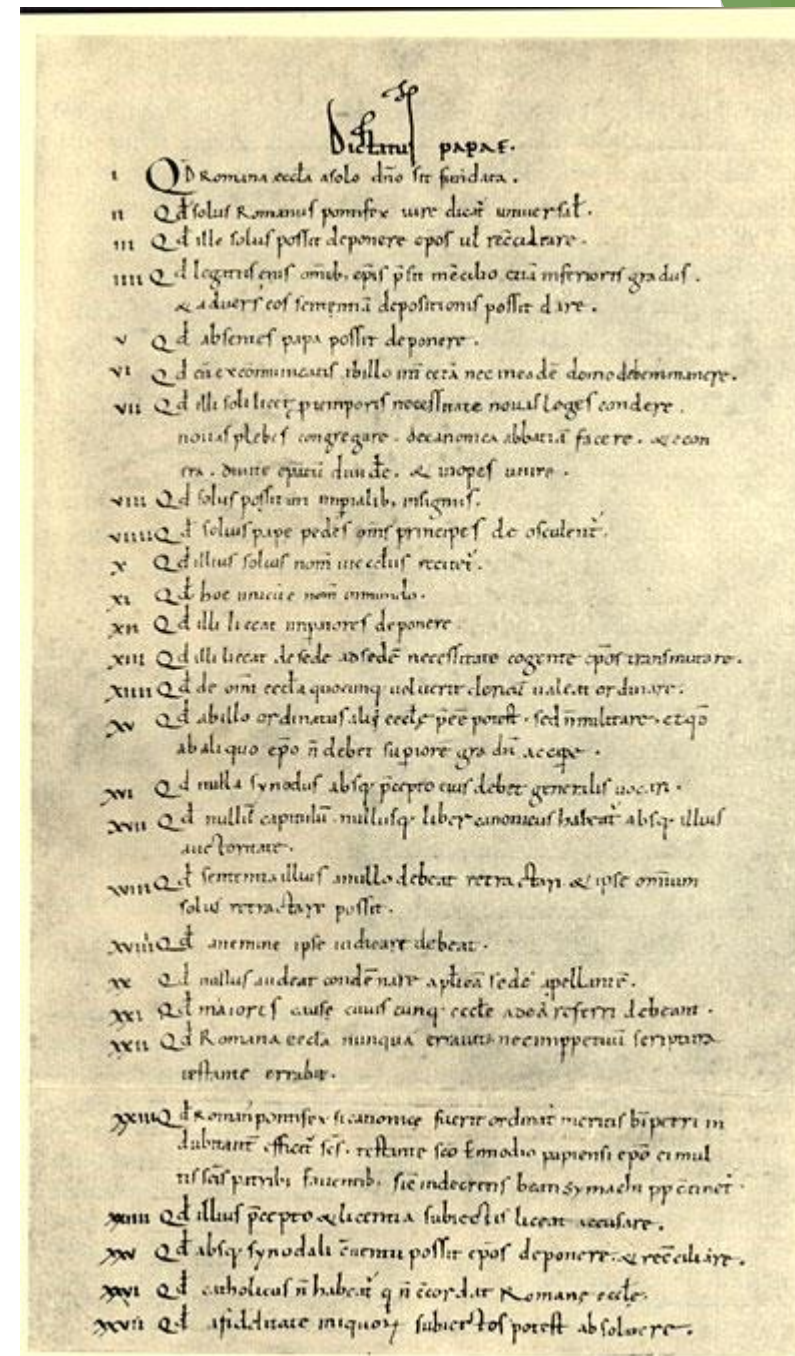
- ▶ In 1376, Pope Gregory XI returns to Rome. When he dies in 1378, a pope is elected in both Avignon **AND** Rome.
- ▶ Neither pope acknowledges the other. Politicians and nations take sides.
- ▶ A **third** pope is elected in 1409. By 1417, an emergency council is called, the **Council of Constance**. It elects Pope Martin V, effectively resolving the controversy.



Map of Rome with a widow in black mourning the Avignon Papacy

Growing Papal Power: Infallibility??

- ▶ *Dictatus papae*—27 statements of papal powers, written 1075/1087 CE, but not widely published.
“The Roman church has never erred; nor will it err to all eternity, the Scripture bearing witness.”
- ▶ *Quia quorundam* (1324 CE)—Pope John XXII denies an early assertion of papal infallibility.
- ▶ Regardless, many of the Pope’s defenders assert his right to judge in matters of doctrine and interpretation.



Conciliarism

- ▶ In light of papal corruption, the secular pressures upon the papacy, the problem of the Avignon papacy, and growing papal power, many councils try to deal with the issues.
- ▶ **The Council of Constance (1414-1418 CE)**—which resolved the Avignon papacy by electing Pope Martin—*declares its authority over the Pope*.
- ▶ In 1460, Pope Pius II issues the papal bull *Execrabilis, condemning conciliarism*.
- ▶ **The Fifth Lateran Council (1512-1517 CE)** successfully denounces the conciliar Council of Pisa, effectively ending conciliarism...

Summary

- ▶ Growing Papal Political Power
- ▶ Growing Papal Religious Power
- ▶ Corrupt Papacy
- ▶ Avignon Papacy & Antipopes
- ▶ Conciliarism
- ▶ Benefices
- ▶ Investiture Controversy
- ▶ State/Church Tensions
- ▶ Corrupt Clergymen
- ▶ Spiritual/Secular Divide

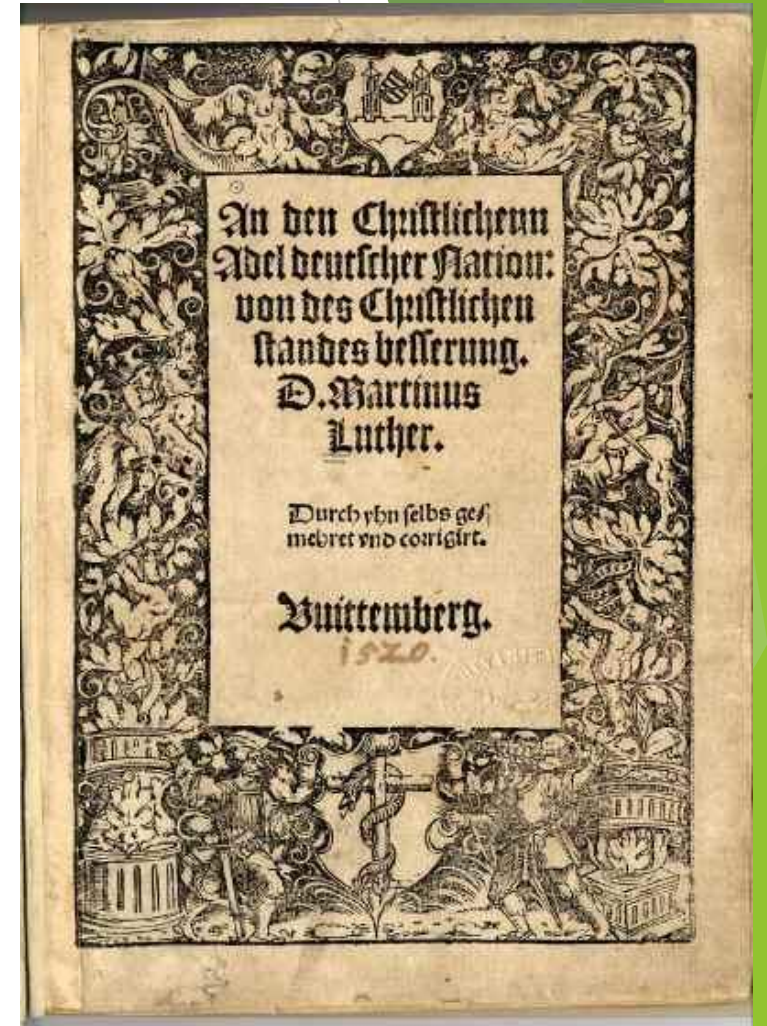
The Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation

The Priesthood of All Believers

The Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (1520)

Luther identifies 3 “*Walls of the Romanists*”

- (1) No temporal power has authority over the Roman Church.



The Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (1520)

- ▶ (1) No temporal power has authority over the Roman Church.
- ▶ Luther's response:
 - ▶ *There is no spiritual estate for bishops, priests, & monks.*
 - ▶ “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” -1 Corinthians 12:12
 - ▶ “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” -1 Peter 2:9

The Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (1520)

3 “Walls of the Romanists”

- ▶ (1) No temporal power has authority over the Roman Church.
- ▶ (2) Interpretation of Scripture belongs to no one except the Pope.

The Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (1520)

- ▶ (2) Interpretation of Scripture belongs to no one except the Pope.
- ▶ Luther's response:
 - ▶ The Romanists have misinterpreted Matthew 18 when they contend that the pope alone holds the “keys” to the kingdom.
 - ▶ “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” -Matthew 18:18
 - ▶ *The keys are given to the whole church, not the Pope.*
 - ▶ *The keys are not for doctrine, but binding and loosing sin.*

The Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (1520)

3 “Walls of the Romanists”

- ▶ (1) No temporal power has authority over the Roman Church.
- ▶ (2) Interpretation of Scripture belongs to no one except the Pope.
- ▶ (3) No one can call a council except the Pope.

The Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (1520)

- ▶ (3) No one can call a council except the Pope.
- ▶ Luther's response:
 - ▶ Peter didn't call the Apostolic Council in Acts 15:6.
 - ▶ Let's have a "truly free council" to discuss the controversies.
 - ▶ The Lord gives authority for building not destroying (2 Corinthians 10:8), and the Pope is destroying...
 - ▶ "For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect."
-Matthew 24:24

The Babylonian Captivity of the Church

The Antichrist

The Babylonian Captivity of the Church

- ▶ Three points:
 - ▶ Withholding the cup from the Laity.
 - ▶ The doctrine of Transubstantiation
 - ▶ The teaching that the Mass is a sacrifice and good work
- ▶ “Babylonian Captivity” language is adopted from attacks on the Avignon Papacy.
- ▶ Luther explicitly calls the pope an Antichrist.



Bibliography

- ▶ Images from Wikipedia.
- ▶ All Scripture References:
 - ▶ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016.*