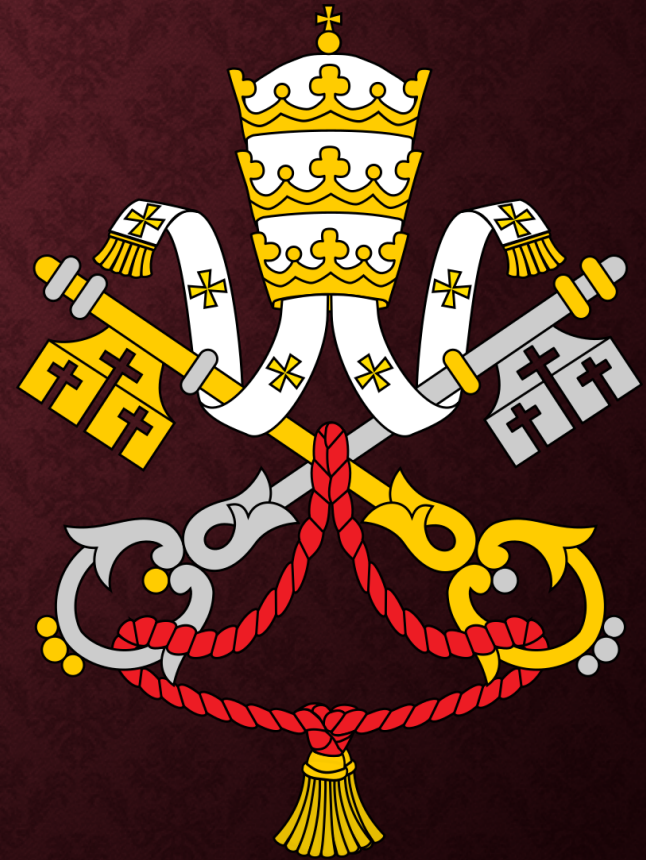


LESSON 2:
THE RISE OF THE PAPACY

Church History 102:
The Medieval Church

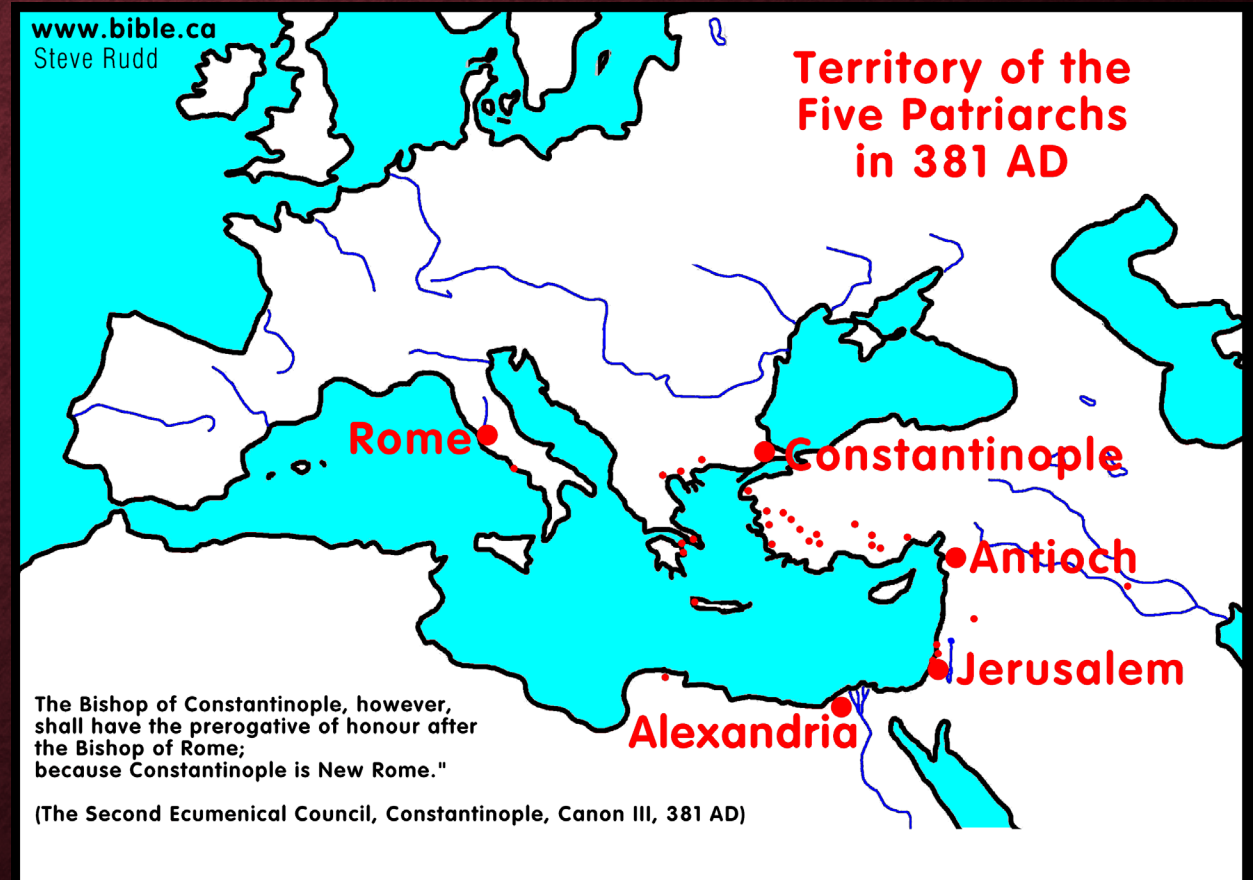
AGENDA

- **Factors Encouraging Church Power in Rome**
- **The First Powerful Popes:**
 - **Leo the Great**
 - **Gregory the Great**



FACTORS ENCOURAGING CHURCH POWER IN ROME

- Evolution of Monoepiscopacy
- Geographic Location
- Political Situation



LEO I

(C. 410-461, POPE 440-461)



- **Deacon, later bishop of Rome**
- **Fought heresy, sought to increase Rome's authority and prestige**
- **Arguments based on Petrine supremacy and apostolic succession**

LETTER FROM LEO TO DIOSCORUS, SECTION I

For you and we ought to be at one in thought and act, so that as we read, in us also there may be proved to be one heart and one mind. For since the most blessed Peter received the headship of the Apostles from the LORD, and the church of Rome still abides by His institutions, it is wicked to believe that His holy disciple Mark, who was the first to govern the church of Alexandria, formed his decrees on a different line of tradition: ...

LETTER FROM LEO TO DIOSCORUS, SECTION I, PART 2

... seeing that without doubt both disciple and master drew but one Spirit from the same fount of grace, and the ordained could not hand on aught else than what he had received from his ordainer. We do not therefore allow it that we should differ in anything, since we confess ourselves to be of one body and faith, nor that the institutions of the teacher should seem different to those of the taught.

SERMON III, SECTIONS II-III

And from [God's] overruling and eternal protection we have received the support of the Apostles' aid also, which assuredly does not cease from its operation: and the strength of the foundation, on which the whole superstructure of the Church is reared, is not weakened by the weight of the temple that rests upon it. For the solidity of that faith which was praised in the chief of the Apostles is perpetual: and as that remains which Peter believed in Christ, so that remains which Christ instituted in Peter.

SERMON III, SECTIONS II-III, PART 2

For when, as has been read in the Gospel lesson, the LORD had asked the disciples whom they believed Him to be amid the various opinions that were held, and the blessed Peter had replied, saying, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living GOD," the LORD says, "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, because flesh and flood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father, which is in heaven. And I say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock will I build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, shall be loosed also in heaven."

SERMON III, SECTIONS II-III, PART 3

The dispensation of Truth therefore abides, and the blessed Peter persevering in the strength of the Rock, which he has received, has not abandoned the helm of the Church, which he undertook. For he was ordained before the rest in such a way that from his being called the Rock, from his being pronounced the Foundation, from his being constituted the Doorkeeper of the kingdom of heaven, from his being set as the Umpire to bind and to loose, whose judgments shall retain their validity in heaven, from all these mystical titles we might know the nature of his association with Christ.

SERMON III, SECTIONS II-III, PART 4

And still to-day he more fully and effectually performs what is entrusted to him, and carries out every part of his duty and charge in Him and with Him, through Whom he has been glorified. And so if anything is rightly done and rightly decreed by us, if anything is won from the mercy of GOD by our daily supplications, it is of his work and merits whose power lives and whose authority prevails in his See.

VALENTIAN III'S DECREE, 445

Since, then, the primacy of the Apostolic See is established by the merit of St. Peter (who is the chief among the bishops), by the majesty of the city of Rome, and finally by the authority of a holy council, no one, without inexcusable presumption, may attempt anything against the authority of that see. Peace will be secured among the churches if everyone recognize his rule...

VALENTIAN III'S DECREE, 445, PART 2

... Lest even a slight commotion should arise in the churches, or the religious order be disturbed, we herewith permanently decree that not only the bishops of Gaul, but those of the other provinces, shall attempt nothing counter to ancient custom without the authority of the venerable father [Papa] of the Eternal City. Whatever shall be sanctioned by the authority of the Apostolic See shall be law to them, and to everyone else; so that if one of the bishops be summoned to the judgment of the Roman bishop and shall neglect to appear, he shall be forced by the moderator of his province to present himself.

WHAT ABOUT PETRINE SUCCESSION?

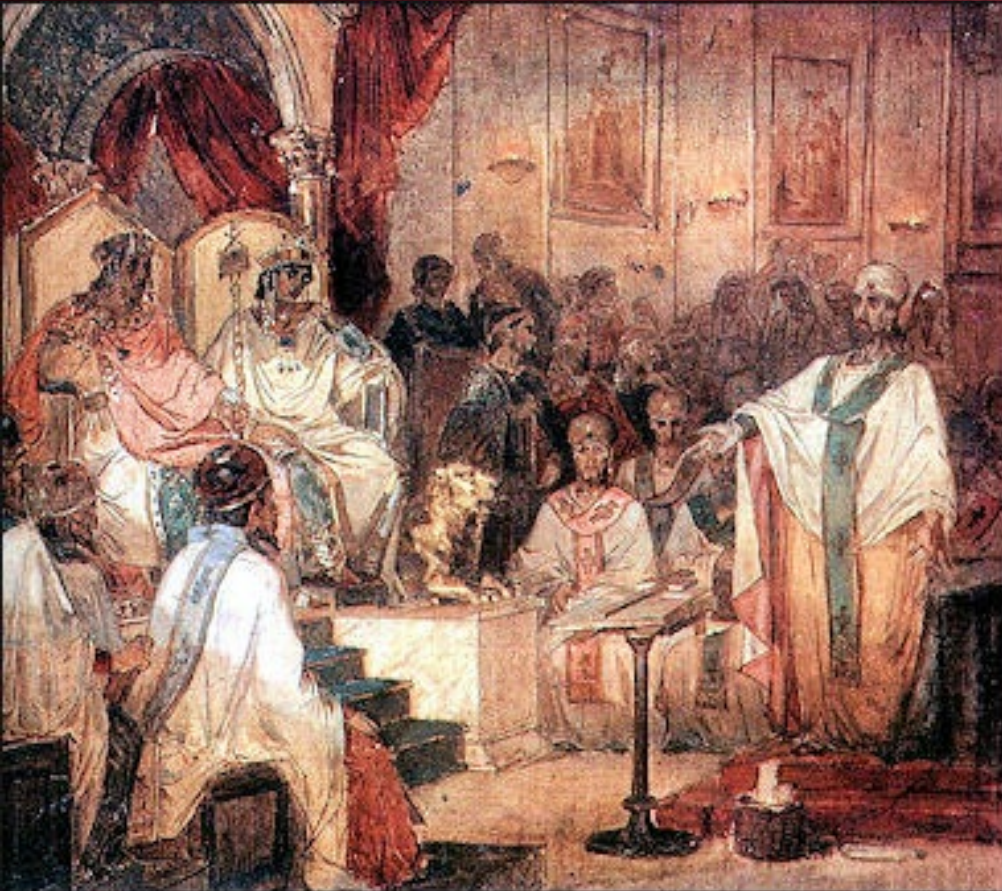


- **Interpretation of Mt 16:18**
- **Peter in the rest of the NT**
- **Peter not founder of Roman church**
- **Peter ministered in other cities**
- **Succession/lineage problem**
- **Bottom Line: Listen to Bible's direct instruction about church government!**

LEO IN ACTION: NEGOTIATION WITH ATTLA (452)

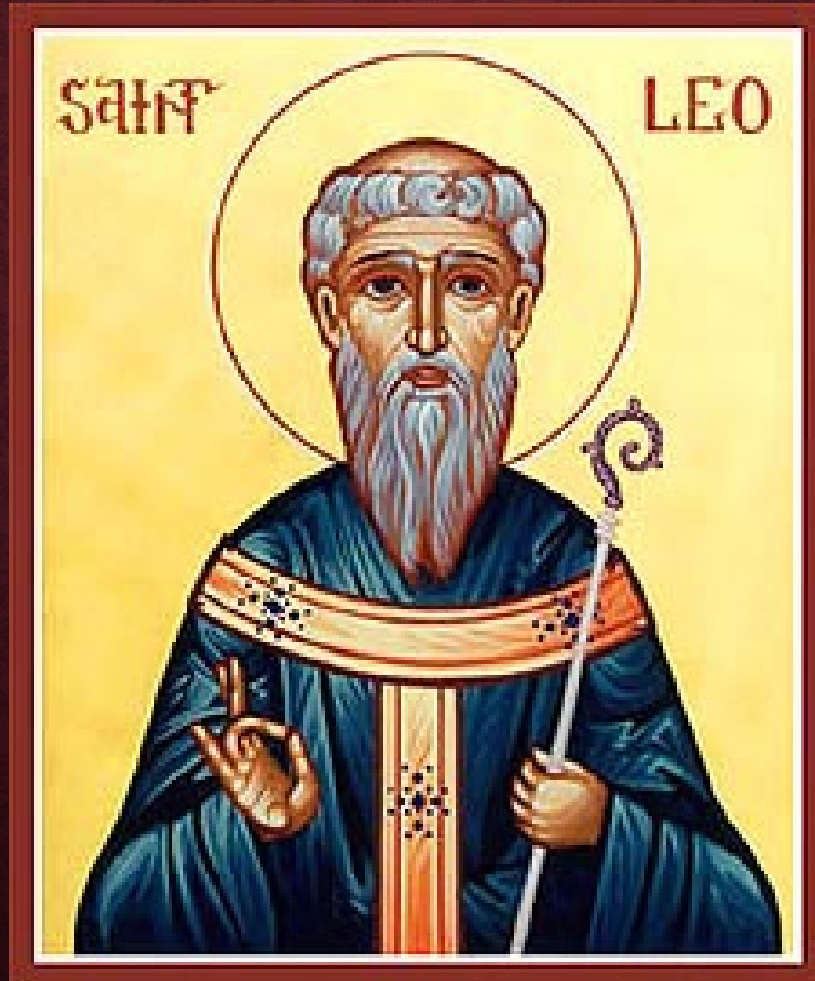


LEO IN ACTION: CHALCEDON, 451



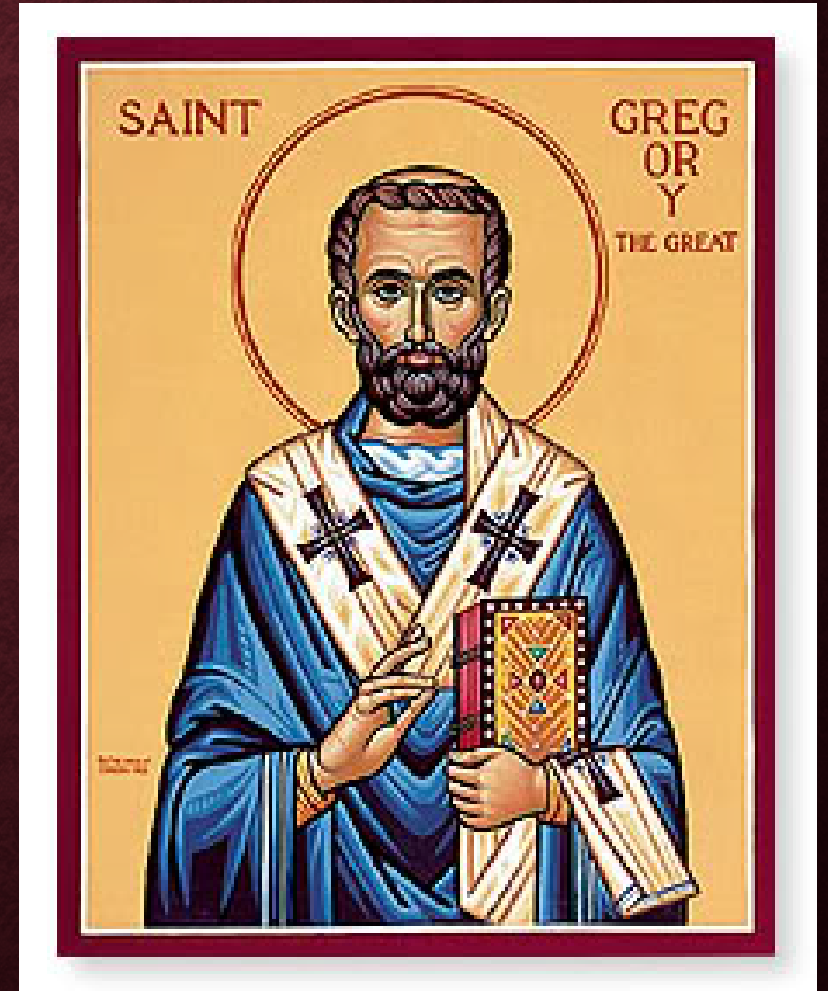
- Alexandria vs. Antioch on the natures of Christ
- Settled by *Leo's Tome*, explained hypostatic union
- Increased authority of Rome, influence of Rome in East

LEO THE GREAT?



POPE GREGORY I (C. 540-604, POPE 590-604)

- **Aristocrat, originally sought government position**
- **574, became a monk**
- **579, became deacon, papal ambassador**
- **590, became pope against his will**



GREGORY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- **Reformed Clergy**
 - **Preaching**
 - **Submission to Rome**
 - **Ascetic Vows**
 - **Developed Relationships**
 - **Compiled Patristic Theology**
- **Provided for People of Italy**
- **Sent out Missionaries**

**JOHN CALVIN, *INSTITUTES*, BOOK IV,
CHAPTER V, SECTION XII**

It appears that in the time of Gregory some of the seeds of this corruption [in Calvin's day] existed, the rulers of churches having begun to be more negligent in teaching, for he thus bitterly complains, "The world is full of priests, and yet laborers in the harvest are rare, for we indeed undertake the office of the priesthood, but we perform not the work of the office." (Gregor. Hom 17)

**JOHN CALVIN, *INSTITUTES*, BOOK IV,
CHAPTER V, SECTION XII, PART 2**

Again, “As they have no bowels of love, they would be thought lords, but do not at all acknowledge themselves to be fathers. They change a post humility into the elevation of ascendancy.” Again, “But we, O pastors! What are we doing, we, who obtain the hire but are not laborers? We have fallen off to extraneous business; we undertake one thing, we perform another; we leave the ministry of the word, and to our punishment, as I see, are called bishops, holding the honor of the name, not the power.”

JOHN CALVIN, *INSTITUTES*, BOOK IV, CHAPTER V, SECTION XII, PART 3

Since he uses such bitterness of expression against those who were only less diligent or sedulous in their office, what pray, would he have said if he had seen that very few bishops, if any at all, and scarcely one in a hundred of the other clergy, mounted the pulpit once in their whole lifetime? For to such a degree of infatuation have men come, that it is thought beneath the episcopal dignity to preach a sermon to the people. In the time of Bernard things had become still worse. Accordingly, we see how bitterly he inveighs against the whole order, and yet there is reason to believe that matters were then in a much better state than now.

GREGORY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- **Reformed Clergy**
 - **Preaching**
 - **Submission to Rome**
 - **Ascetic Vows**
 - **Developed Relationships**
 - **Compiled Patristic Theology**
- **Provided for People of Italy**
- **Sent out Missionaries**

GREGORY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- **Reformed Clergy**
- **Provided for People of Italy**
 - **Roman church had great wealth**
 - **Instituted new system of alms giving**
 - **Excellent system of accounting**
 - **Organized defenses**
 - **Negotiated treaties/alliances**
- **Sent out Missionaries**

JUSTO GONZALEZ, *THE STORY OF CHRISTIANITY*, PG. 246

Since there was nobody else to do it, [Gregory] organized the distribution of food among the needy in Rome, and he also took measures to guarantee the continuing shipments of wheat from Sicily. Likewise, he supervised the rebuilding of the aqueducts and of the defenses of the city, and the garrison was drilled until morale was restored. Since there was little help to be expected from Constantinople, he then opened direct negotiations with the Lombards, with whom he secured peace. Thus, by default the Pope was acting as ruler of Rome and the surrounding area.

GREGORY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- **Reformed Clergy**
- **Provided for People of Italy**
- **Sent out Missionaries**
 - **“Non Angli, sed angeli.”**
 - **Augustine of Canterbury**
 - **England -> Netherlands/Germany**

GREGORY'S LETTER TO EMPEROR MAURICE

Now I confidently say that whosoever calls himself, or desires to be called, "Universal Priest," is in his elation the precursor of Antichrist, because he proudly puts himself above all others. Nor is it by dissimilar pride that he is led into error; for, as that perverse one wishes to appear as above all men, so whosoever this one is who covets being called sole priest, he extols himself above all other priests.

NEXT TIME:

