

# 18 - Once Upon a Time, There Were Three Popes

“Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli.  
And the word of the LORD was rare in those days;  
there was no widespread revelation.”  
~ 1 Samuel 3:1 ~

## I. The Best of Times: Innocent III (Pope, 1198-1216) and the Height of the Medieval Papacy

### A. Innocent III: The Solomon of Roman Catholicism

#### 1. Biographical Info

- a. Life
- b. Reasons for Success

#### 2. International Political Successes in France and England

- a. Rome
- b. France

#### 3. Fourth Lateran Council

### B. The Winds of Change from Innocent III to Avignon (1216-1309, from Justo Gonzalez)

#### 1. Economics

#### 2. Nationalism

#### 3. War

#### 4. Plague - 1347

#### 5. Corruption

## II. The Worst of Times: Decline and the “Babylonian Captivity” (1309-1377)

### A. The Downward Spiral

#### 1. Celestine V (1292-1294)

#### 2. Boniface VIII (1294-1303)

- a. The Man
- b. Political Rivals
- c. Unam Sanctum

*“One sword must be under the other, and temporal authority must be subject to the spiritual...Therefore, if earthly power strays from the right path it is to be judged by the spiritual...But if the supreme spiritual authority strays, it can only be judged by God, and not by humans...We further declare, affirm, and define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that all human creatures be under the Roman pontiff.”*

**3. Benedict XI (1303-1305)**

**B. The Avignon Papacy**

**1. Clement V (1305-1314)**

2. John XXII (1316-1334, elected when 72!)
3. Benedict XII (1334-1342)
4. Clement VI (1342-1352)
5. Innocent VI (1352-1362)
6. Urban V (1362-1370)

**7. Gregory XI (1370-1378)**

- a. Catherine of Siena
- b. The Return to Rome - January 17, 1377

**III. The Worst of Times: The Great Western Schism (1378-1417)**

**A. Urban VI (1378-89)**

**B. Clement VII (1378-1394)**

**C. Three Popes and a Conciliar Movement**

1. Council of Pisa - 1409
2. Popes
  - a. Alexander V (Pisa)
  - b. Benedict XIII (Avignon)
  - c. Gregory XII (Rome)

**D. Council of Constance (1414-18)**

**E. Two Connecting Links**

**IV. Lessons from the Medieval Morass**

**A. The danger of an episcopal form of government**

**B. The glory of Jesus in His place as the King and Head of the Church**

**C. The providential upholding of God's Church on earth**

**D. The necessity of the rule of the Word of God**