

Multimedia Bible Studies

Series Editor: Lionel Hartley



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The Popes

The Pope is the bishop of Rome and the head of the Roman Catholic church which claims that he is the spiritual descendant of St. Peter. St. Peter is assumed to be the first Pope by Catholic tradition, whereas Protestant tradition assumes the first Pope to have been James the brother of Jesus, Bishop of “The Way” (Church) at Jerusalem.

Popes are elected by the Sacred College of Cardinals. They date their pontificate from their coronation with the tiara, or triple crown, at St. Peter’s Basilica, Rome. Popes had great political power in Europe from the early Middle Ages up until the Reformation. Although the power of the Pope has diminished, in recent times the Papacy has regained an element of sway, in religious, political and fiscal circles, especially with the growth of the so-called Ecumenical Movement.

Webster’s Concise Encyclopaedia offers this possible history:

11th-13th centuries The papacy enjoyed its greatest temporal power under Gregory VII and Innocent III.

1309-78 The papacy came under French control (headquarters at Avignon rather than Rome), referred to as the “Babylonian Captivity”.

1378-1417 The so-called “Great Schism” followed, with rival popes in Avignon and Rome.

16th century Papal political power further declined with the withdrawal of allegiance by the Protestant states at the Reformation.

1870 The Papal States in central Italy, which had been under the pope’s direct rule from 756, merged with the newly united Italian state. At the Vatican Council the doctrine of papal infallibility was proclaimed.

1929 The Lateran Treaty recognized papal territorial sovereignty, even in Italy, only within the Vatican City.

1978 John Paul II became the first non-Italian pope since 1542.

– Webster’s Concise Encyclopaedia
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The Popes

(according to Catholic Tradition)

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14. St. Victor I, 189-99
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17. St. Urban I, 222-30
18. St. Pontian, 230-35
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20. St. Fabian, 236-50
21. St. Cornelius, 251-53
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56. John II, 533-35
57. St. Agapitus I, 535-36
58. St. Silverius, 536-37
59. Vigilius, 537-55
60. Pelagius I, 556-61
61. John III, 561-74
62. Benedict I, 575-79
63. Pelagius II, 579-90
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65. Sabinianus, 604-06
66. Boniface III, 607
67. St. Boniface IV, 608-15
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69. Boniface V, 619-25
70. Honorius I, 625-38
71. Severinus, 638-40
72. John IV, 640-42
73. Theodore I, 642-49
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75. St. Eugene I, 655-57
76. St. Vitalian, 657-72
77. Adeodatus, 672-76
78. Donus, 676-78
79. St. Agatho, 678-81
80. St. Leo II, 682-83
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82. John V, 685-86
83. Conon, 686-87
84. St. Sergius I, 687-701
85. John VI, 701-05
86. John VII, 705-07
87. Sisinnius, 708
88. Constantine, 708-15
89. St. Gregory II, 715-31
90. St. Gregory III, 731-41
91. St. Zacharias, '741-52
92. Stephen II, 752-57
93. St. Paul I, 757-67
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100. Valentine, 827
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103. St. Leo IV, 847-55
104. Benedict III, 855-58
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106. Adrian II, 867-72
107. John VIII, 872-82
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122. John X, 914-28
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126. Leo VII, 936-39
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129. Agaptus II, 946-55
130. John XII, 955-64
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133. John XIII, 965-72
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141. John XVIII, 1003-09
142. Sergius IV, 1009-12
143. Benedict VIII, 1012-24
144. John XIX, 1024-32
145. Benedict IX, 1032-45
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148. Gregory VI, 1045-46
149. Clement II, 1046-47
150. Benedict IX, 1047-48 (3rd)
151. Damasus II, 1048
152. St. Leo IX, 1049-54
153. Victor II, 1055-57
154. Stephen IX, 1057-58
155. Nicholas II, 1059-61
156. Alexander II, 1061-73

157. St. Gregory VII, 1073-85
158. Bl. Victor III, 1087
159. Bl. Urban II, 1088-99
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161. Gelasius II, 11 18-19
162. Callistus II, 11 19-24
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164. Innocent II, 1130-43
165. Celestine II, 1143-44
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168. Anastasius IV, 1153-54
169. Adrian IV, 1154-59
170. Alexander III, 1159-81
171. Lucius III, 1181-85
172. Urban III, 1185-87
173. Gregory VIII, 1187
174. Clement III, 1187-91
175. Celestine III, 1191-98
176. Innocent III, 1198-1216
177. Honorius III, 1216-27
178. Gregory IX, 1227-41
179. Celestine IV, 1241
180. Innocent IV, 1243-54
181. Alexander IV, 1254-61
182. Urban IV, 1261-64
183. Clement IV, 1265-68
184. Bl. Gregory X, 1271-76
185. Bl. Innocent V, 1276
186. Adrian V, 1276
187. John XXI, 1276-77
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189. Martin IV, 1281-85
190. Honorius IV, 1285-87
191. Nicholas IV, 1288-91
192. St. Celestine V, 1294
193. Boniface VIII, 1294-1303
194. Benedict XI, 1303-04
195. Clement V, 1305-14
196. John XXII, 1316-34
197. Benedict XII, 1334-42
198. Clement VI, 1342-52
199. Innocent VI, 1352-62
200. Bl. Urban V, 1362-70
201. Gregory XI, 1370-78
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203. Boniface IX, 1389-1404
204. Innocent VII, 1404-06
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206. Martin V, 1417-31
207. Eugene IV, 1431-47
208. Nicholas V, 1447-55
209. Callistus III, 1455-58
210. Pius II, 1458-64
211. Paul II, 1464-71
212. Sixtus IV, 1471-84
213. Innocent VIII, 1484-92
214. Alexander VI, 1492-1503
215. Pius III, 1503
216. Julius II, 1503-13
217. Leo X, 1513-21
218. Adrian VI, 1522-23
219. Clement VII, 1523-34
220. Paul III, 1534-49
221. Julius III, 1550-55
222. Marcellus II, 1555
223. Paul IV, 1555-59
224. Pius IV, 1559-65
225. St. Pius V, 1566-72
226. Gregory XIII, 1572-85
227. Sixtus V, 1585-90
228. Urban VII, 1590
229. Gregory XIV, 1590-91
230. Innocent IX, 1591
231. Clement VIII, 1592-1605
232. Leo XI, 1605
233. Paul V, 1605-21
234. Gregory XV, 1621-23
235. Urban VIII, 1623-44
236. Innocent X, 1644-55
237. Alexander VII, 1655-67
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| 239. Clement X, 1670-76 | 252. Leo XII, 1823-29 |
| 240. Bl. Innocent XI, 1676-89 | 253. Pius VIII, 1829-30 |
| 241. Alexander VIII, 1689-91 | 254. Gregory XVI, 1831-46 |
| 242. Innocent XII, 1691-1700 | 255. Pius IX, 1846-78 |
| 243. Clement XI, 1700-21 | 256. Leo XIII, 1878-1903 |
| 244. Innocent XIII, 1721-24 | 257. St. Pius X, 1903-14 |
| 245. Benedict XIII, 1724-30 | 258. Benedict XV, 1914-22 |
| 246. Clement XII, 1730-40 | 259. Pius XI, 1922-1939 |
| 247. Benedict XIV, 1740-58 | 260. Pius XII, 1939-1958 |
| 248. Clement XIII, 1758-69 | 261. John XXIII, 1958-1963 |
| 249. Clement XIV, 1769-74 | 262. Paul VI, 1963-1978 |
| 250. Pius VI, 1775-99 | 263. John Paul I, 1978 |
| 251. Pius VII, 1800-23 | 264. John Paul II, 1978 – |

– Resourced by Lionel Hartley from various sources.
Dates as accurate as can be determined.

Footnote: Gregory XII, 1406-15 (the 205th. Pope) resigned during “Western Schism” to permit the proper election of a successor.