

Now I would like to take a minute to glance at the Council of Constance in the fifteenth century the so-called Sixteenth Ecumenical Council. Perhaps I'm foolish to glance at it because its hard to speak about it in less than one-half hour. But I'll see what we can do in three minutes.

The Ecumenical Council of Constance was called because there were then three men who called themselves Pope. And each of these three men declared that he was the Pope and that anybody who was not obedient to him was excommunicated. Some countries recognized one pope, and some another. Not only that, but as the Roman Catholic Church history state, there were people who the Roman Catholic Church today recognize as saints who considered one of these men as the pope, and there were others who they recognized as saints who recognized another one as pope. So who was the pope? And no matter who you recognized, you had two others to excommunicate. So it was a very unsatisfactory situation. So the Council met at Constance from 1414 to 1418 and one of their first acts was to depose all three popes. They deposed all three of them. And one of the ones they deposed, the one whom they had persuaded to call the council in the first place, his name was John 23, he was one of the three, and when he saw how things were going he tried quietly to leave Constance, and they grabbed him and brought him back again and put him on trial. They accused him of murder, adultery, heresy and six or seven other crimes. Now they decided he wasn't the pope at all, so at present they consider there were only 22 Johns before and each taken the name of that one had. But from day to this no other pope took the name of John so this one can be John 23 as that one was. But after four years at Constance in which the council had burned John Huss at the stake, and had re-affirmed the superstitions that had developed in the Middle Ages, it had deposed all three popes and appointed a colation to select a new pope. But it had declared that a general council is the in the church that a pope is only an executive officer and if the church is corrupt from top to