

Church History

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the result was that they took the papacy which had sunk to practically nothing and they lifted it up in order to be a support to their power. Well, when they proceeded to lift it up it meant that they went down to Rome and they got themselves crowned there in Rome and then when they found the extreme degradation at Rome, the situation at Rome and often as soon as they had left the bishop would turn around and crown some local Roman as emperor and ignore the one from Germany, and then the German would have to come back with an army and as soon as he got there with an army the bishop would turn around and support him. It's a long and complicated history which carries us into considerable detail though, of course, all of it from a modern Romanist viewpoint, but he certainly speaks very, very caustically about the nobility and the attitude of the Romans in general at this time. Well one of these men, one of these German emperors introduced down there a Frenchman as bishop, as Bishop of Rome, Sylvester II. We've already mentioned him in connection with the transubstantiation controversy. He only reigned for five years. He was a great scholar but not so much of an administrator and after his death they again sank into a degenerate, into a condition of degeneracy which lasted for half a century. How's that? (Student) 998 - 1003. It was during his reign, as you see, that the year 1000 came, the year that shook all of Europe because everywhere people thought, "A thousand years have passed since the birth of Christ. Now He will return. We have had the millennium, the period of a thousand years in which the pope has reigned in glory over the world. Now the man Christ is coming back and set up the last judgment," and so at 1000 thousands of people went to Jerusalem in order to be there to meet the Lord at His return and all over Europe people were watching for His coming. Some say that was the mid-night cry which is mentioned in the New Testament. At any rate there was a tremendous interest right at that time but it died out when Christ did not return at that time and as far as we can see from our present situation it was midnight. It certainly was midnight as far as darkness is concerned. The