

Church History Sr. 10

says it's hard to see how one man can make so many mistakes as this poor old man made in his few months as pope. He was--a story that was spread through the middle ages was that one of the cardinals made a hole down through the wall from his room above and that through this when Celestine, the old monk, would be at his prayers that he would whisper down. Celestine had the difficulties with administration of papacy and didn't know what to do with many of the problems. He would say, "Resign. Resign", and Celestine thought it was a voice from the sky and he resigned, and then after he resigned, this cardinal became pope under the name of Boniface VIII and thinking that the poor old abbot who had formerly been pope might be a danger to his own power he put him in protective custody and he died in prison a year later. THE CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA says it probably was necessary that he be put in prison but it was certainly unnecessary that such cruelty be used toward him as was used by Boniface VIII. At any rate the Roman catholic church has made the old monk one of its saints. Saint Celestine, or Celestine V, is one of the two popes of the last five hundred years who are called saints by the Roman catholic church. Boniface VIII who succeeded him, they said, came in like a fox, ruled like a lion and died like a dog. That was the summary of his rule that was given later. He ruled from 1294 to 1303. He tried to force France to do what he wanted it to and the French refused to obey, so he ordered that France should be under an interdict and that no one should be-- the French king should be treated as an outlaw and spurned by all his people. Instead of doing that they marched under his direction to Rome and seized Boniface himself and he died of the cruelty of his treatment there. He died like a dog, as the statement said there. He tried to make the great claims that Innocent III made and he was not able to carry them out, and so far did he fall short of this that the next pope only lived less than a year but the one after that was elected by the French influence with the promise that he would move the papacy to France, so we have the Babylonian captivity from 1305 to 1376. Seventy-one years when the papacy was in Avignon in southern France and Rome was left to its own nobles. (Student) Well, Urban. One of the Urbans was the one who