

Church History Sr. 10

went I believe. There were a lot of popes in the seventy-one years--maybe ten of them but they reigned up there in Avignon in southern France where they were very much in control of the king of France, although declaring themselves superior to the German emperor and the king of England. They were very much under the French domination at this period. Then in 1376 the papacy was brought back to Rome and then we have a great schism, you remember. From 1378 to 1417, in which you have two popes, one of them at Avignon and one at Rome, each of them declaring he was the true pope. Some countries recognized one; some countries recognized the other, and each pope was constantly excommunicating the other one, and so this carried on for a period of about forty years. We went into it in considerable detail two and a half years ago, you remember. (Student) 1378-1417. In 1410, I believe it was, approximately that at least, the Council of                      tried to put an end to the schism and ordered the two popes removed and appointed a new one, but now there were three of them, and all three were excommunicating one another until at the Council of Constance in 1417 all three were removed and a new pope was established who                      to be subject to the council. Then the rest of that century we have the Renaissance. As you know the Renaissance was the movement in Italy, which spread into other countries but it reached its height in Italy, the movement of joy in art, in literature, in study of the classics, a great forward movement in civilization but an utterly secular movement, a movement which was not connected with religion at all but which took control of Italy including the papal headquarters and during this period of the Renaissance we have many a pope who had no interest in religion at all except as an administrative means of enriching his court and of carrying on his interest in art and in literature. Most of them had an interest in these things during this period. It reached its climax, of course, in Pope Alexander VI                      pope.                      names two others who he thinks are worse popes. He says were perhaps the worst men who ever were popes, but it's hard to imagine anyone much worse than Alexander VI. the Spaniard who had been in Rome for many years, who was one of the wealthiest men in the world before he became pope. The man who was pope after him claimed that he had spent