THE CLIMAX OF THE INVESTITURE CONTROVERSY

Scripture: II Corinthians 10:1-6
Prayer
Hymn: 512 "The Son of God Goes Forth to War"

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INVESTITURE OR STATE-CHURCH CONTROVERSY FROM CHARLEMAGNE TO HENRY III:

Charlemagne rescued Pope Leo III from his enemies and Pope Leo crowned Charlemagne emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Each claimed superiority over the other.

Charlemagne had his son, Louis the Pious, crown himself. French feudalism and the controversy: the feudal lord gave benefices to vassals. If a lord built a church on his land he claimed the right to appoint the clergy. In French feudalism the custom appeared of giving bishops a ring and a staff as symbols of office. The practice spread through the church.

Pope Nicholas I and his attempts to establish the superiority of the church.

The domination of the church by Roman nobles in the Age of Pornocracy.

The sins of simony and nepotism.

The Lorraine and Cluny Reformers

Early German attempts to rescue the church and back reform:

Otto I and Pope John XII: John crowned Otto in 962

Otto II tried to break hold of Roman factions, making his chancellor, Peter of Pavia, Pope John XIV.

Otto III appointed a German pope, Gregory V (996-999) and a French pope, Gerbert of Aurillac, as Pope Sylvester II (999-1003).

The Tusculan popes: Benedict VIII (1012-1024), his brother, John XIX (1024-1032), and John's nephew, Benedict IX (1032-1046).

The Scandal of the Three Popes: The Tusculan pope, Benedict IX;

The Crescenzio pope, Sylvester III (1044-1046); John Gratian as Pope Gregory VI (1045-1046).

The domination of the papacy by Henry III: Synod of Sutri in 1046 go rid of the three popes and Henry III appointed four German bishops in rapid succession:

Clement II (1046-1047) (Suidger, bishop of Bamberg)
Damasus II (1047) (Poppo, Bishop of Brixen)
Leo IX (1049-1054) (the cousin of Henry III, Bruno, bishop of Toul).
Victor II (1055-1057) (another relative of Henry III, Gebhard of Eichstadt)

The highwater mark of the German domination of the papacy.

The emperor died in 1056, leaving the throne to his six Empress Mother, Agnes. Pope Victor II died less than a year later.

THE CONTROVERSY DURING THE MINORITY YEARS OF HENRY IV:

The Reformers had awakened to the fact that they had changed one master for another—the Roman nobles for the German Emperor. Hildebrand, a Cluny reformer of Rome, and who had been a deacon under Pope Gregory VI, and who went into exile with him, had returned to Rome as a pilgrim, and became a sub-deacon under Pope Leo IX and had been put in charge of the property of the church. Hildebrand had become a leader in the Reform Party.

The Reformers secured an alliance with and support from Duke Godfrey of Lorraine who had married the widowed countess of Tuscany in 1054. He was the most powerful and wealthy person in central Italy and an enemy of Henry III. The reforming cardinals chose Godfrey's brother, Frederich, a monk of Monte Cassino, then abbot, and then cardinal, as Pope Stephen IX (1057-1058). Cardinal Humbert published his Three Books Against the Somoniacs in which he declared that simony was heresy and that for a cleric to receive office from a secular power was simony. This was an open challenge of the practice
of Henry III.

Another papal schism: At the death of Pope Stephen IX in 1058, the Tuscan nobles elected the bishop of Velletri as Pope Benedict X—the last Tuscan pope. Hildebrand was on a mission to the court of Henry IV. When he returned the Tuscan nobles and their pope, Benedict X, had driven the reform party out of Rome. Hildebrand gathered the cardinals in Siena where they chose a Burgundian who had become bishop of Florence, Gerhard, as Pope Nicholas II (1058-1061). They had the backing of Godfrey—Florence was the center of his Tuscan lands. With military aid from Godfrey, Benedict X was driven out, and Nicholas II was seated in Rome. Nicholas II, guided by Hildebrand, secured an alliance with the Normans of Southern Italy and Sicily. The pope recognized their conquests. The Normans in return recognized the pope and promised military aid—the Normans were the toughest fighters in Europe. The pope really had no title to southern Italy and Sicily—both the Byzantines and the Germans claimed these lands. Both were angered by the pope's actions, but it enabled him to completely beat down his rival, Benedict X. Hildebrand also secured an alliance with the Patarini, rebels in Milan against the Lombard nobles. He was able also to complete an alliance with the French as arch foes of the Germans.

The electoral decree of 1059: A new law governing the election of the pope was set forth by a Roman synod—this decree sometimes called the oldest written constitution still in force. The cardinal bishops would choose the new pope. Other bishops and the people would give their approval. The role of the secular ruler was left vague, declaring that honor and reverence was due the young emperor. Robert Guiscard, the Norman, swore to support any pope chosen by the cardinals. The Germans held a synod in 1060, condemning Nicholas and annulling all his acts.

Another papal schism: When Nicholas II died in 1061, Hildebrand secured the election of Anselm of Baggio, Bishop of Lucca, a Lombard and good friend of Peter Damian and Hildebrand. He had distinguished himself as the military leader of the reform party in Lombardy. He was installed in Rome in 1061 as Pope Alexander II. Hildebrand had won over the Roman nobles and had the Norman nobles and had the Norman army outside the gates of Rome.

The German bishops joined by the Lombards held a council at Basel in the presence of young Henry IV and his mother, Agnes, and chose Cadalus, bishop of Parma, as Pope Honorius II. The troops of Pope Honorius defeated those of Pope Alexander just outside Rome and Honorius seized St. Peters. Godfrey arrives with his troops just in time to stop Honorius and to rescue Alexander. Godfrey proposed that both retire and that the matter be submitted to a council. Bishop Anno of Cologne, regent for Henry IV, summoned a council at Augsburg. Alexander II sent Peter Damian to plead his case. Bishop Anno was a reformer and gave his backing to Alexander. The council decided in favor of Alexander. Peter Damian had gone on to France and did not know the decision of Augsburg. He sent Anno a letter demanding a general council. The council met at Mantua in 1063. Anno lectured Alexander II on his alliance with Normans, but the council condemned Honorius and declared Alexander II to be pope, ending the schism.

Alexander II as pope: Agnes and Henry IV were determined to maintain the situation as it was under Henry III and had continuing selling
church offices and appointing bishops. Alexander II began a great campaign against simony. He forbade priests guilty of unchastity and simony to conduct the mass. He sent his legates to preach reform in Spain, France, Germany, Southern Italy and Sicily. He compelled the Archbishops of Cologne and Minz and the bishop of Bamberg to come to Rome and stand trial for simony.

Alexander II blessed the Norman conquest of England in 1066. He gave William the Conqueror a consecrated banner. William had appealed to the pope, accusing Harold of perjury and that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stigand, had unjustly replaced the rightful archbishop and had received his pallium from the anti-pope, Benedict X. Alexander sent two legates to preside over a council at Winchester in 1070 which deposed Stigand and Saxon bishops. Lanfranc, abbot of Bec, was appointed archbishop of Canterbury. Lanfrance was an ardent reformer.

Alexander prevented the young Henry from divorcing his wife, Bertha. Henry was facing enough trouble in Germany that he had to submit to the pope.

When the bishop of Florence requested royal approval of his election, instead of seeking the approval of the pope, Alexander II, strongly rebuked him and charged him with contempt of the holy see, "No emperor or king is permitted to meddle in church affairs."

Henry IV came of age in 1065. Despite warnings from the pope he continued filling church offices. Henry appointed Godfrey of Castiglione as archbishop of Milan (1073) Alexander had charged Godfrey with simony. The Pataria of Milan had chosen Atto as archbishop and had secured the approval of Alexander. Alexander looked on Henry as well-intentioned and young, misled by bad advice. Alexander excommunicated the bishops advising Henry, charging them with simony. Alexander died a few days later.

HILDEBRAND (GREGORY VII) VS HENRY IV

Hildebrand was chosen pope by the people in curious disregard of the constitution of 1059. He took the name Gregory VII (1073-1085). He merely informed the emperor of his election.

Gregory VII's Dictatus Papae

Gregory held a council in Rome in 1074 condemning simony and unchastity. Married priests were forbidden to celebrate mass. He renewed the decrees of the council at another council in 1075.

Henry faced trouble in Germany. A revolt of Saxon nobles and war almost cost him his throne. Henry needing the backing of the pope, did penance at Nuremberg in 1074 before the papal legates and promised obedience. When Henry won the war in 1075 his attitude changed.

Gregory VII promised a crusade of 50,000 soldiers to help Constantinople against the Turks.

The clash over the bishopric of Milan: Gregory VII had confirmed the canonically elected Atto as archbishop of Milan. In 1075 the populace rioted against the archbishop and his reformers. In the battles the reformers were defeated. The populace appealed to Henry IV appointed Tedald as archbishop. Gregory VII sent Henry IV a solemn warning December 8, 1075, threatening him with excommunication.

Henry IV denounced Pope Gregory VII and demanded that he step down.

On January 26, 1076 Henry IV called a council of the German bishops and his nobles. A turncoat cardinal, Hugh the White, denounced the pope. The council denounced the pope and rejected his authority. Henry IV sent him his famous letter calling for the pope to step down and for his eternal damnation.
Gregory VII called a council in Rome, February 22, 1076, at which he excommunicated Henry IV, deposed him as king, absolved his subjects from all oaths of loyalty and obedience. He threatened to come to Germany to elect a new king. The German nobles gave Henry IV four months to get the excommunication lifted.

Henry IV crossed the Alps in winter and stood three days in the snow before the castle of Matilda at Canossa where Gregory VII had taken refuge, begging forgiveness (January 1077).

Henry's struggles for control of Germany: In March, 1077, his enemies in Germany, chose Rudolf, duke of Swabia, as king. Civil war followed. For three years Gregory VII offered his mediation. Finally in March 1080 Gregory VII held a synod in Rome, excommunicated Henry IV for a second time, and recognized Rudolf as king. This crystallized German sentiment against Gregory VII. Henry IV held a synod in Brixen in June, 1080, deposing Gregory VII, and appointing one of his bitterest enemies, bishop Wibert of Ravenna, as Pope Clement III (1080-1100). Rudolf was killed in battle in October 1080, giving Henry IV control of Germany.

Henry IV drove Gregory VII from Rome: In 1081 Henry IV invaded Italy. It took three years to take Rome. In March 1084, Wibert was enthroned but Gregory VII held out in the Castle of San Angelo. His Norman allies came to his rescue. Henry IV fled back to Germany. The Normans sacked Rome and took Gregory VII a prisoner to Monte Cassino, then to Benevento, and finally to Salerno where he died, May 25, 1085, saying "I have loved justice, and hated iniquity, therefore do I die in exile."