Church History

Mr. Myers

**From Elders to Popes**

1. Church leaders in the early church
   1. During the era of the New Testament, we see the apostles appointing two kinds of leaders in the new congregations that sprang up
      1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (also called presbyters, bishops, and pastors)—this team of men led out in worship, in the discipling of converts, and the administration of discipline
      2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—assisted the elders in their roles
   2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gave general oversight to all of the congregations
   3. Over the next 100 to 200 years, most of these congregations developed a structure that placed a single \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the rest of the leadership team
2. The Rise of the Papacy
   1. From early on, the church in the city of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ held a place of special respect among other Christians for a number of reasons: 1) Rome was the largest, most impressive city in the empire 2) Rome was the center of political authority 3) the church in Rome became a very large church with influential leaders. As a result of this, the bishops in the church at Rome, accrued a significant amount of status and clout.
   2. Around A.D. 450, a humble (right!) man named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was chosen to become bishop of Rome. He made the case that the bishop of Rome not only had a special place of respect in the Christian church but also had authority over all the other Christian bishops:
      1. Christ promised to build his church on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the rock for all ages
      2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Rome are the successors to that authority
   3. From that point on, a highly organized structure of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was established in the churches to centralize power in Rome and to establish a clear line of command
3. Popes and Kings
   1. Roman Catholic popes accumulated more and more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until at its height, the papacy exercised authority over most of the kings and political rulers of Europe
   2. One of the most powerful popes ever was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ III (c. 1200). “The successor of Peter is the Vicar of Christ; he has been established as a mediator between God and man, below God but beyond all man; less than God but more than man; who shall judge all and be judged by no one.” He also told the rulers of Europe that the papacy was like the sun while the kings were like the moon. They received their light and power from the pope.