**Church History Outline 18: The Church in the Early Middle Ages**

I. As the Western Roman Empire disintegrated, the church assumed much of the Empire’s former role as provider of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. During the 300s and 400s, the Western Empire was greatly weakened and was finally overcome by invasions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (“barbarian”) tribes.

1. In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the last Roman emperor was removed by a Germanic king.

2. The former empire was divided among feuding Germanic tribes as Roman society broke down.

B. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the time of the invasions, the Germanic tribes converted to the Catholicism of the Roman church over time.

C. The Roman Catholic Church was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enjoying widespread respect and authority in western Europe.

D. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Rome—the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—began to exercise supremacy.

1. Originally, the bishops of several \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ such as Carthage, Antioch, and Alexandria had status \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the bishop of Rome.

2. The pope claimed supremacy as the bishop of the leading city of the old empire.

3. The pope also claimed to have inherited special \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 16:17–19), who was held to be the first bishop of

Rome.

E. The church, especially in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, also preserved what little was left of Roman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

II. The rise of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ posed a new threat to the church in both east and west.

A. In the east, Muslims greatly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the size of the Byzantine empire, and eventually conquered it in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

B. In the west, Muslims conquered the Germanic kingdoms of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.