



# A SURVEY OF THE REFORMATION

ITS HISTORY & DOCTRINE

# HISTORY

1. Intro & Early Church History
2. Church Schisms, & the Decline of the Roman Church
3. Forerunners of the Reformation
4. The Protestant Reformation
5. **Reformation (continued), Puritanism & the Legacy of the Reformers**

# DOCTRINE

6. Reformation Doctrine: 5 Solas & the Sovereignty of God
7. Background to the “5 Points” & Total Depravity
8. Irresistible Grace & “Limited” Atonement
9. Unconditional Election & Perseverance of the Saints
10. Answering Objections & Why the Reformation Matters Today



# RECAP OF REFORMATION HISTORY

A.D. 100-1600

# EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

- Early Persecution & Growth
- Church Fathers: Encouraging, Defending & Protecting the Church
- The Christianized Empire & a Drift in Faith
- Church Councils, Orthodoxy & Heresy
- Monastics & Asceticism
- The Rise of the Papacy
- The Saints, Mary & Eucharist
- Split of East & West

# THE FORERUNNERS OF THE REFORMATION

- Gothic View of Life
- Collapse of the Empire & Rise of Feudalism
- Crusades & the Idea of a Christian Warrior
- Medieval Scholasticism & High Theology
- Bubonic Plague Decimates Europe
- Papal & Priestly Decline (Avignon Papacy)
- Early Renewal Movements: Franciscans, Dominicans, Waldensians, Albigenses (Cathars), Rhineland Mystics
- Forerunners of the Reformation: John Wycliffe, Jan Hus
- The Renaissance & Christian Humanism





# THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

THE 1500s A.D.

# THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

- Political Background of the Reformation
- Invention of the Printing Press & Rise of Literacy
- Erasmus' "Golden Egg"
- Martin Luther's Epiphany & His "Spark"
- The German Reformation: Luther, Melanchthon
- The Swiss Reformation: Zwingli, Calvin, Bullinger, Bucer, Oecolampadius
- The Radical Reformation: Michael Sattler, Menno Simons
- **The English/Scottish Reformations: Cranmer, Tyndale, Knox**



## EUROPE DURING THE REFORMATION

c. A.D. 1550

~ adapted from *Exploring Church History* by  
Howard F. Vos (Thomas Nelson, 1994), pg. 101





# THE ENGLISH & SCOTTISH REFORMATIONS

THOMAS CRANMER, WILLIAM TYNDALE, JOHN KNOX

# HENRY VIII (1491-1547)

- The Reformation in England was spurred on by the monarchy.
- Henry sought a divorce from his first wife, and for political reasons was rejected by the pope.
- Henry responded by claiming himself to be the **head of the Church of England** in 1534.
- He set up Thomas Cranmer as the archbishop of Canterbury.
- He shut down the monasteries, allowed the desecration of Roman shrines (such as at Canterbury).
- But Henry was not Reformed, he had written against Luther, and adopted a Catholic confession for his Church.
- He grew more tolerant of Reformed ideas through the influence of **Cranmer**.



# OTHER INFLUENCES ON THE ENGLISH REFORMATION

- The lasting influence of the Lollards (Wycliffe's following)
- Erasmus' writings – he was a professor at Cambridge (1510-1515)
- Anticlericalism & aversion to Archbishop Thomas Wolsey
- Lutheran converts and the spread of Luther's writings
- Newly printed copies of the New Testament in English (by William Tyndale, John Rogers and others)
- All this combined to form a popular religious sentiment among many people longing for a Reformation of the church in England



# THOMAS CRANMER (1489-1556)

- Became **Archbishop of Canterbury** when the Church of England was established
- He influenced the Church to lean Protestant
- He encouraged the king to allow the Bible to be read in the churches (1537)
- After Henry's death, Cranmer developed the hugely influential **Book of Common Prayer** for the Church of England
- Swiss reformer, Martin Bucer, exiled to England, helped revise it to be even more Reformed in character
- Cranmer helped formulate what became the **39 Articles of the Church of England**, a blend of Lutheran and Calvinist doctrine, but decidedly Protestant in character.
- Martyred for his faith under Bloody Mary.





# WILLIAM TYNDALE (1494-1536)



- Influenced by Luther & Erasmus, he translated the NT from Erasmus' Greek into English.
- He once expressed amazement at the ignorance of the clergy – and a priest resented that. Tyndale replied: *"If God spares my life, before many years pass I will make it possible for a boy behind the plow to know more Scripture than you do."*
- He was a scholar of the first rank, and his work was perhaps more influential in stabilizing the English language than even Shakespeare's influence.
- Over 70% of the text of the **King James Version** (1611) originally comes from Tyndale.
- His NT came out in 1526, and numerous editions followed – all smuggled into England illegally. He started work on the OT but was captured, and died for his work in 1536.

*"Lord, open the king of England's eyes."* ~ Tyndale's words when he went to be burned at the stake. 1 year later, the Matthews Bible was allowed to be read in the churches, and in 1539 the Great Bible was officially authorized.

# YOUTHFUL WOULD-BE PROTESTANT MONARCHS



- **Edward VI**, son of Henry VIII was a protestant king, and his managers were Protestant.
- At age 15 he was sick unto death, and he contrived a way to keep the monarchy in Protestant hands by naming his cousin Lady Jane Grey as his successor.
- **Lady Jane Grey** was Queen for 9 days before Edward's sister, Mary took the throne.
- Jane was held in the Tower of London, and eventually executed.



**“I pray you all, good Christian people, to bear me witness that I die a true Christian woman, and that I look to be saved by none other means but only by the mercy of God and the merits of the blood of His only Son Jesus Christ.” ~ Lady Jane Grey, age 16**

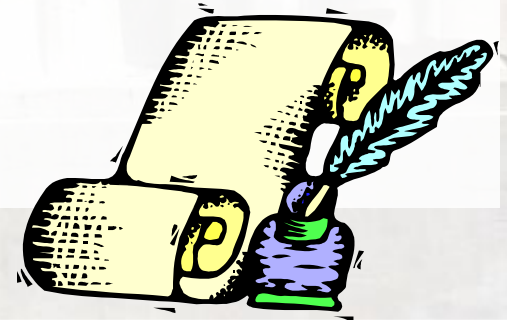


# LADY JANE GREY, CHRISTIAN MARTYR

*Strive, then, always to learn how to die. Defy the world, deny the devil, despise the flesh, and delight yourself only in the Lord. Repent of your sins, and yet don't despair. Be strong in faith, with humility. With St. Paul, I desire to die and to be with Christ, with whom, even in death, there is life.*

*Rejoice in Christ, as I trust you do. Since you call yourself a Christian, follow as closely as you can in the steps of your master, Christ Jesus, and take up your cross. Lay your sins on His back, and always hold him dear.*

*~ Lady Jane Grey  
writing to her sister before she died*



# “BLOODY” MARY (1516-1558)

- Daughter of Henry VIII, became Queen in 1553.
- She was a devout **Catholic**, and restored the “true faith” under her brutal rule.
- Some 300 Protestant ministers and leaders were martyred.
- The bravery of those who died was remembered through John Foxe’s *Acts and Monuments* (known as **Foxe’s Book of Martyrs**)
- Mary died in 1558, and her short reign gave way to a Protestant ruler once again.
- **Elizabeth I** would usher in a compromise, allowing a Protestant faith that looked and felt much like Catholicism – her long peaceful reign kept religious warfare at bay, but Puritan sentiments for further Reformation were growing.





# EARLY SCOTTISH REFORMERS

- **Patrick Hamilton** was influenced by Luther when a student in Paris and returned home to Scotland to preach.
- He was burned as a heretic in 1528.
- The spot of his execution is marked by his initials at the University of St. Andrews – and students avoid stepping on it for fear of flunking out.
- **George Wishart** was another leader, who was influenced by Zwingli.
- Wishart was martyred in 1546.
- The depravity of the clergy in Scotland was perhaps worse than in all of Europe, and this coupled with Scottish sentiments for martyred heroes helped keep Reformation fires burning.



# JOHN KNOX (1514-1572)

- Knox was an ardent follower of Wishart.
- A fiery figure, had all the enthusiasm of Luther, and steadfastness of Calvin.
- He fled for his life and at one point became a galley slave, before being rescued by the English.
- He ministered in England then fled Bloody Mary's rule and came to Geneva.
- In Geneva he studied under Calvin and also was the preacher for the Scottish refugees there.
- He returned to Scotland in 1559 and organized the Reformation that was already underway.
- Parliament, who had already permitted Bible reading in the vernacular, established the Church of Scotland in 1560.
- Mary Stuart tried to reestablish Catholicism and was opposed forcefully by Knox and his fiery preaching.
- Her son, James VI (soon to be James I of England), made an uneasy peace with Presbyterianism.



# THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION

- The Counter Reformation was a Catholic response to the Protestant Reformation.
- Catholic renewal movements, led by **Erasmus** & others, sought to reform the morals of the priesthood.
- **Cardinal Jimenez** in Spain was so successful at establishing reforms, that the Reformation had little impact in Spain.
- New movements arose too, such as **the Jesuits** under Ignatius of Loyola, seeking to defend the church and serve more faithfully.
- **The Council of Trent**, which met many times during 1545-1563, circled the wagons and didn't give the Protestants any ground. The Apocrypha was canonized, Protestant teaching on justification was condemned as heresy, and salvation was again confirmed to be in the Catholic church and nowhere else.
- Purity in the Church was addressed, however, & the widespread moral laxity of the Middle Ages became a thing of the past.
- Trent became a standard of doctrine the Catholics could agree on in their controversies with the Protestants. (**Tridentine Catholicism**)





# PURITANISM & THE LEGACY OF THE REFORMERS

A.D. 1600-1900



# PURITANISM

- Puritans, sought to **purify the worship** of the Church of England, removing special vestments worn by the clergy, eliminating the use of the Book of Common Prayer, & bringing the liturgy (worship service) more in line with an emphasis on Bible reading and preaching as in Geneva & other Swiss cities (where the exiles had been schooled).
- **The Geneva Bible** was printed in Geneva in 1560 & included study notes with a Protestant edge. It taught against a “divine right” of kings to do whatever they wanted. (This is why King James was so opposed to the Geneva Bible that he cooperated with Puritans in authorizing the King James Bible in 1611).
- Puritans battled against high churchmen, and they were involved in a power struggle, that eventually coincided with the English Civil War under the leadership of **Oliver Cromwell**, a Puritan leader.
- After the monarchy was reestablished, the **Act of Conformity** in 1662 demanded that ministers submit to the high churchly customs and use the Book of Common Prayer. Most Puritan ministers became **nonconformists** and left their official posts and suffered imprisonment fines or loss of ministry.

## PURITANISM, cont.

- During the height of Puritan power, the **Westminster Confession of Faith** was drafted (1646). It was never officially adopted by the English Church, but was adopted by the Scottish Church.
- Some Puritans separated from the Church of England (Anglican church) and became non-conformists or dissenters. The “**Pilgrims**” were separatists who spent time in Holland, for their religious freedom, before emigrating to Plymouth Colony.
- Other dissenters developed Baptist views, and became the ancestors of today's Baptists. The **Particular Baptists** adopted a Confession of Faith largely similar to the Westminster Confession, in 1689. **General Baptists** were probably older than Particular Baptists, and were more influenced (possibly) by Anabaptist movements in Netherlands. They held to a general atonement, and some became heretical. Their movement waned, and most American Baptists trace their roots back to Particular Baptists.

# FAMOUS PURITANS

- John Owen (professor at Oxford, numerous writings).
- John Bunyan (Pilgrim's Progress, Baptist preacher).
- Richard Baxter (*The Reformed Pastor*).
- Matthew Henry (Matthew Henry's Commentary)
- Thomas Watson
- Thomas Goodwin
- Jeremiah Burroughs
- Thomas Manton
- Richard Sibbes
- Samuel Rutherford
- Thomas Boston
- John Flavel

# THE SPREAD OF THE BIBLE

- Greek Editions of the New Testament
  - **Robert Stephanus** 1550 (moved to Geneva around then, his NT was the first to have verses like we do today)
  - **Theodore Beza** 1565, 1598 Calvin's successor, also the namesake of *Codex Bezae* (D) influential early manuscript
- Vernacular translations of the Bible:
  - England: Tyndale (1526), Coverdale (1535), Matthews (1537), Great Bible (1539), Geneva (1560), Bishops' (1568), Rheims-Douay (1582), King James Version (1611)
  - France: Olivetan (1535)
  - Holland: Jacob van Liesvelt's version (1526), Statenvertaling Bible (1637)
  - Germany: Luther's Translation (1534)



# LEGACY OF THE REFORMERS

- **Missionary Zeal:**

- Calvin sent ministers to **Brazil**, refugees back to their countries, and trained ministers to go to **France** and all over **Europe**
- French Huguenots (after the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 15) spread to the **New World** and over Europe.
- Puritan separatists emigrated in mass droves to the New World.

- **Unitarianism & Schism:**

- The new freedom of thought and lack of a uniform Protestant creed allowed for the growth of **Unitarianism** (Servetus and others) – this became especially influential in Eastern Europe
- Anabaptist sects and other movements, Quakers in England, various Baptist groups, Hutterites, Amish, Mennonites, were the beginning of **countless groups** springing up from the Reformation. The cults of the 1800s (Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Adventists) in America grew from this openness to reformulating doctrine based on individual study of Scripture.

# LEGACY, cont.

- **Theological development:**
  - **Sola Scriptura** – an emphasis on the Bible as the sole authoritative source for doctrine.
  - **Grammatical, historical, literal interpretation** of Scripture as opposed to a fanciful, allegorical method.
- **Recovery of Faith Alone:**
  - **Justification by Faith** was taught sporadically before the Reformation, but since the Reformation has been trumpeted by almost all their Protestant heirs.
- **Worship:**
  - Emphasis on **Preaching**, largely stems from the Reformers, & Calvin's example of systematic verse-by-verse preaching in Geneva.
  - Role of music and **hymnody** was largely encouraged, although Calvin & some Reformed branches preferred **psalms** to man-made hymns.

# LEGACY, cont.

- **Political thought:**

- Calvin emphasized differentiated responsibilities, checks & balances, & avoidance of a concentration of power in any one body both in the church and state.
- We owe a debt to Calvin's thought for the very form of our **republican** style **government**.
- Ultimately, the seeds of these ideas eventually gave birth to **freedom of religion** and **freedom of conscience** (because state and church should be separated as to their powers). This didn't work itself out until America, and the influence of the Baptists. Other Anabaptist faiths had caught this imbalance of the Reformation earlier. But Calvin's thought impacted the development of freedom of religion, ultimately.

- **Political involvement** by Christians:

- Jonathan Edwards *"full and responsible participation in the civil community for the purpose of improving its quality of life."*

- **Worldview**

- Abraham Kuyper (1831-1920, Dutch Reformed politician) *"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry 'mine'"*



# LEGACY, cont.

- **Marriage:**

- Marriage, particularly the marriage bed, had been downplayed.
- If you were holy, you became a priest, nun, or monk – & were chaste.
- If you couldn't hack that, you were a secular person who had to marry.
- Even then, the ideal marriage was mostly (or totally) celibate. Procreation of offspring was the only purpose of the marriage bed.
- Puritans objected, & restored honor to the marriage bed. They taught marriage was to be pleasurable, purifying, and also for procreation.
- The medieval chivalric ideal of courtly romance (& mistresses) transformed into a romantic marriage ideal. Marriage not for status but for companionship & love.

- **Family:**

- The Reformers all crafted catechisms for the education of the young.
- The father was to teach his own children & have family worship.
- Roles of father, mother, & children were taught on by Puritan preachers.
- Puritan pastors even taught that the mother, herself, to breastfeed her baby (in opposition to the common use of wet-nurses).

# LEGACY, cont.

- **Literacy/School:**

- Literacy was about learning to read Scripture.
- 1683 *New England Primer*:
  - **A** “In Adam’s Fall, we sinned all”
  - **Z** “Zacchaeus, he did climb the Tree, his Lord to see.”

- **Puritan work ethic:**

- The value of secular work was enhanced under the Puritan – all of life matters to God, teaching.
- They taught each person had a vocational call from God, and serving on the job was as valuable as serving the church.

***In short, all of life was to come under the sway of the Scripture’s teaching. The Reformation was to reform all aspects of life, and over time it did.***