

Church History Part 5

The Protestant Reformation

Rev. 3:1-6 Sardis [Escaping Ones]

Hab. 2:4

Rom - The Just

Gal - Shall Live

Heb - By Faith

The Same verse would send shock waves through continental Europe, the Power of the Word of God!

Salient Feature- Having a Name to Live, but thou art dead!

3:1 Thou hast a name – Denominational names! Where did they all come from? This was the Period where Presbyterians, Baptists, Congregationalists, Lutherans, Episcopalians or Anglicans, Methodists to name a few came into being. Sadly, the Truth, of the One Body has been obscured by this!

Many that came out of the Reformation, sadly are now dead. Their creeds are often Evangelical but they are not.

3:2 Works not perfect before God. The Reformation did not go far enough, in fact they brought a lot of Roman Catholic Baggage with them.

Clergy / Laity –Nicolatianism

Repulsive Titles –Reverend etc;

Infant Baptism

Dead Ritualism

Marriage of Church and State –Scotland, England

Lutheranism in Scandinavia

Augustinian Theology-Calvinism

A-millennialism also part of Popish baggage

The Coming of the Reformation

Jon Wycliffe – The Morning Star of the Reformation
1328-84

In 1401 The Vatican pushed a bill through the English Parliament making the death penalty the punishment for preaching Lollard Ideas.

The ideas had already spread to the continent to Bohemia

John Huss [the name means Goose] 1373-1414 “Cooked my goose, but within 100 years a swan will rise out of my ashes and you will not stop him.” Luther saw himself as the fulfillment of this prophecy.

The Causes of the Reformation

1. The Renaissance

The Name means rebirth from latin, and refers to a rebirth of culture after the dark ages. It began with the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Many Greek Scholars left there and brought their manuscripts with them to Rome and the West, to escape the destruction by Muslims. The manuscripts were studied with great interest. Southern Europe being interested primarily in the writings from Ancient Rome and Greece, Plato, Aristotle the so called Classics.

However in Northern Europe the manuscripts which fascinated them and became the object of intense study was the Greek New Testament.

Key Individuals – **John Colet 1467-1519** began a series of lectures at Oxford University on seeking to get to the literal meaning of Paul's epistles. Up to now the allegorical method had been the way to interpret scripture. **Desiderius Erasmus 1466-1536** Published the Greek New Testament in **1516** and men earnestly studied it!

2. The Rise of Nation States and the Middle Class

Particularly the French, Spanish and English. They became very nationalistic and some began to resent

papal interference in the internal affairs [similar to Brexit and Hong Kong at the present time]. As well as this, vast sums were paid into the "Roman Coffers". These nation states opposed the papal claim to have universal power. A growing wealthy Middle class, wanted to keep the wealth in their own countries rather than see it feed to corruption of the Vatican.

3. The Continued Corruption of the Roman Church

The Renaissance literature concerning the old pagan world caught the fascination of the already corrupt popes and continued their trend towards wickedness.

Relics has reached a fever pitch. A single viewing of the 5005 relics of Frederick of Saxony was supposed to reduce ones time in Purgatory by nearly 2 million years.

Indulgences The Indulgence was a document that could be bought with a sum of money and that would free one from the temporal penalty of sin. It was believed that Christ and the Saints has achieved so much merit during their earthly lives that the excess merit was laid up in a heavenly treasury of merit in which the Pope could draw on behalf of the living faithful. Declared to be a Dogma by Clement VI in **1343** a later Papal Bull extended this privilege to souls in purgatory provided their living relatives

purchased indulgences for them. It became a system of raising money which was unblushingly abused.

The Characters of the Reformation

The Reformation in Germany –Martin Luther, Philip Melanchthon

Luther was an Augustinian Monk desperately seeking peace. He went to Rome on an assignment and was shocked by the corruption he witnessed at the Vatican. He was given a post at Wittenberg University and there began studying the Greek New Testament and the Epistle to the Romans in particular. Light entered his soul as he understood the teaching of Justification by Faith. The real clash with Catholicism came about over the issue of indulgences. Johann Tetzel, a Dominican Monk, was raising money for the building of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome with a particularly aggressive campaign, offering freedom from purgatory for dead relatives as soon as the donation hit the bottom of the collection box. Luther wrote his famous 95 Thesis and nailed it to the door of the Wittenberg Church. It sent a signal of freedom around the world. Aided by the newly invented Gutenberg Press!

Luther also translated the Bible in German and wrote commentaries on Romans and Galatians. He married an escaped nun called Katherine Von Bora.

When asked why he married her, he said, first he knew it would make the Pope mad, secondly there were a lot worse women out there!

He received a papal bull excommunicating him in 1525 and he burned it publicly!

He was summoned to the Diet of Worms. There when asked to recant his writings, he gave his famous answer.

I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.

My conscience is captive to the word of God, "Here I stand, I can do no other, God help me."

He was kidnapped on his return journey by Frederick the wise, to protect him and locked up in Wartburg Castle for his own safety.

Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor was asked by the Pope to intervene, he was the grandson of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain and a loyal Catholic. He called the Diet of Spires to get the German Princes to arrest Luther, this is where the term Protestant first came into being, as a group of the Princes protested against the demand. Germany was divided between the Southern Princes who largely remained Catholic and the Northern Princes who embraced Protestantism.

The Reformation in Switzerland

Ulrich Zwingli 1484-1531 [Zurich]

Zwingli was arguing 67 theses, beginning with "All who say that the gospel is invalid without the confirmation of the church err and slander God." Though 28 shy of Luther's *95 Theses*, published some six years earlier, Zwingli's arguments were more persuasive:

"Though I was young, ecclesiastical duties inspired in me more fear than joy, because I knew, and remain convinced that I would give an account of the blood of the sheep which would perish as a consequence of my carelessness."

The feeling of responsibility for his charge (rather than, like Luther, a personal search for salvation) motivated Zwingli's increasing interest in the Bible. In an age when priests were often unfamiliar with the Scriptures, Zwingli became enamored with it, first after purchasing a copy of Erasmus's New Testament Latin translation. He began teaching himself Greek, bought a copy of Erasmus's Greek New Testament, and started memorizing long passages. In 1519 he began preaching from the New Testament regularly.

Privately Zwingli also started challenging the customs of medieval Christendom he thought unbiblical. He had struggled with clerical celibacy for some time (and even admitted that as a young priest, he'd had an affair). In 1522

he secretly married. That same year, he broke the traditional Lenten fast (by eating sausages in public) and wrote against fasting.

By 1523 he was ready to take his ideas to a larger audience, and in January he did just that before the Zurich City Council at what is now called the First Disputation. The Second Disputation came in October, and with further approval from the council, more reforms were carried out: images of Jesus, Mary, and the saints were removed from the churches; the Bible was to have preeminence.

Arguments over Supper

Things moved rapidly after that. In 1524 he wedded his wife publicly, insisting that pastors had the right to marry. In 1525 he and others convinced the city to abolish the Mass, with its emphasis on the miracle of transubstantiation, and replace it with a simple service that included the Lord's Supper but only as a symbolic memorial.

As it turned out, it was the Lord's Supper that prevented the uniting of the German and Swiss reform movements. At a **1529** meeting at **Marburg**, [**Colloquy of Marburg**], called to unite the two movements, Luther and Zwingli met. Though they agreed on 14 points of doctrine, they stumbled on the fifteenth: the Lord's Supper. Against Zwingli's view, Luther insisted on Christ's literal presence. Zwingli balked.

Luther said Zwingli was of the devil and that he was nothing but a wormy nut. Zwingli resented Luther's treating him "like an ass." It was evident no reconciliation was possible.

Zwingli died two years later in battle, defending Zurich against Catholic forces, and plans for spreading the Reformation into German Switzerland were ended. Still Zurich remained Protestant, and under the leadership of Heinrich Bullinger, Zwingli's successor, this unique branch of the Reformation continued to blossom.

John Calvin 1509-1564 Geneva

Worked and preached tirelessly, Geneva was perceived to be the model City. John Knox called it the New Jerusalem on earth. Unless you happened to disagree with Calvin and his theology, like Michael Servetus, who was pronounced a heretic and burned at the stake.

The Reformation in England Hugh Latimer, William Tyndale, Nicholas Ridley & Thomas Cranmer.

Initially the Reformation in England was politically motivated. Henry 8th who was a loyal Catholic and had even written a defense of Catholic Doctrine against Luther and had been awarded by the Pope the title Defender of the Faith. His clash came with the Pope over his desire to divorce Catherine of Aragon to marry Ann Boleyn and the

papacy refused to grant an annulment. Henry, simply got rid of Rome and pronounced himself the head of the Church of England. **1534**

His Son Edward 6 was known as the British Josiah was a genuine believer and encouraged the Spiritual reformation. **1537-1553** he died of a terminal illness and was replaced by Bloody Mary 300 Protestants put to death in **1555**, followed by Queen Elizabeth 1 who was more sympathetic to the Protestant Cause. Via Media, a kind of half way house policy.

As you would imagine the British Reformation began in a pub. The White horse Inn, in Cambridge, where students would meet to discuss Luther's writings. Two of the most significant of these students being Nicolas Ridley and Hugh Latimer. They would become along with Thomas Cranmer the Oxford Martyrs.

The publication of [William Tyndale's](#) English New Testament in **1526** helped to spread Protestant ideas.

The Reformation in Scotland –John Knox **1513-1572**

More Presbyterian than Anglican in nature, Knox has spent time in Geneva with Calvin.

John Knox and Prayer: It is said that Mary, Queen of Scots trembled when John Knox went to his knees in prayer. One time she even exclaimed that she feared Knox's prayers "more than an any army in Europe."

He also prayed –“Give me Scotland or else I die”

Scotland became known as the land of Revivals, with every decade except one between 1527 and 1940 experiencing revival somewhere in Scotland.

The Tragedy of the Reformation

It did not go far enough. So much Roman Baggage came along with it.

Those that wanted to go further, were persecuted by those who felt it had gone far enough.

Three notable examples

Anabaptists on the continent

Conrad Grebel, George Blowrock and Felix Manz believed a man born again should be rebaptized even if he was baptized as an infant. Zwingli, who had argued Luther did not go far enough as far as the Lord's supper is concerned, disagreed with these Rebaptizers. In 1527 Felix Manx was drowned by the Reformers. You want to be re-baptized we

can arrange it. Thousands died, persecuted by the Catholics and Protestants. More Ana-baptists were killed by Reformed Christians, then during the Roman Persecutions. A book called the Martyrs Mirror details these events.

Menno Simons –A Pacifist headed to the USA and from him come the Mennonites

Jacob Ammon –The Amish

Jacob Hutter –The Hutterites

Fled to the USA, live in community as many had been betrayed to the authorities by their protestant neighbors.

Puritans in England

Were not happy with Queen Elizabeth 1 via media or half way house. They loved the Scriptures and wanted a pure church.

Men like Matthew Henry, John Bunyan, John Milton, Joseph Alliene.

1611 KJV

1612 First Baptist Church in England

1662 The Great Ejection –The Act of Uniformity -2000
Pastors kicked out of their manses and lose their salaries
for not subscribing to the book of common prayer. Become
known as non-conformists.

Covenanters in Scotland –Charles 11 had no time for
Presbyterianism and sought to bring them into line with
Anglicanism and Bishops etc.

Men like George Gillespie, James Guthrie, James Renwick
and many others martyred for their convictions.

The negatives – Religion creates wars -30 years war in
Europe after Reformation, Denominations everywhere as
peeling off layers of Catholicism.

The Positives –Gospel Recovered, Throne of grace
re-opened instead of going through Popes, Saints and Mary,
Recovery of Marriage out of Augustine's grip, Primacy of
the Holy Scriptures over tradition.

The 5 Solas of the Reformation

Sola Scriptura, Sola Fides, Sola Christus, Sola Gratia, Sola
Deo Gloria!