

His-Story

Church history and why it matters to me

THE REFORMATION PART II 1500-1600

I. Stand by me!

My God, stand by me, against all the world's wisdom, and reason... Not mine but yours is the cause... I would prefer to have peaceful days and to be out of this turmoil. But yours, O Lord, is this cause; it is righteous and eternal. Stand by me, you true Eternal God! In no man do I trust... Stand by me, O God, in the name of your dear Son Jesus Christ, who shall be my Defense and Shelter, yes, my Mighty Fortress, through the might and strength of your Holy Spirit. Amen (Martin Luther's Prayer on the morning of the Diet of Worms).

II. The Reformation Grows

A. Germany

1. Martin Luther (1483-1546) officially launched the Reformation in 1517
2. 1521: Luther excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church for not recanting his views
3. Many in Germany follow Luther and abandon the Catholic Church
4. The term "Protestants" began to be used, referring to reformers who were protesting the practices of the church
5. 1525: Luther married Katharina von Bora, a nun who had fled from a convent in Nimbsch, Germany
 - a. Luther found husbands for all the nuns who fled the convent, and Katharina was left; Luther decided to marry her
 - b. "Katy my rib" Luther called her
 - c. Luther loved marriage and loved children
 - d. As a married man it expanded his ministry to teach on healthy marriage and parenting
6. Luther known for his candid humor and crass language
 - a. "People who do not like children are swine, dunces, and blockheads, not worthy to be called men and women, because they despise the blessing of God, the Creator and Author of marriage."
 - b. "Sometimes we must drink more, sport, recreate ourselves, aye, and even sin a little to spite the devil, so that we leave him no place for troubling our consciences with trifles. We are conquered if we try too conscientiously not to sin at all."
 - c. "I'd rather my people were in the alehouse thinking of church, than in church thinking of the alehouse."
7. From Germany Luther taught and mentored many theological students who carried on his teachings – eventually forming the Lutheran Church.
8. Thanks to the printing press, most of Luther's writings were printed and distributed throughout Europe, which is how the teachings of the Reformation were able to spread so quickly and widely



Notes

B. Scandinavia

1. Olav (1493-1552) and Lars (1499-1573) Petri: Two brothers who were disciples of

Luther brought evangelical teaching to Sweden

2. Olav brothers supported by King Gustavus Vasa, who made the whole country of Sweden Lutheran
 - a. Adopted the *Augsburg Confession* as the basis of faith
 - b. Augsburg Confession was the official document for the Lutheran Church: composed in 1530 by Philip Melanchthon, a German Reformer and successor to Martin Luther
3. Reformation spread to Denmark and eventually to Norway

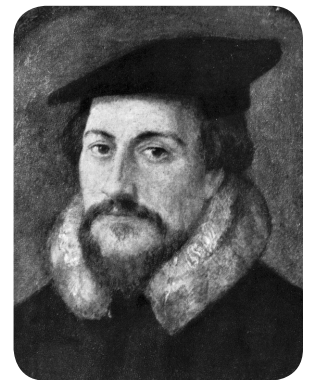
C. Switzerland

1. Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)
2. Early life
 - a. Born into a Swiss peasant family
 - b. Zwingli was a Swiss patriot (loved his country and people)
 - c. Loved languages, philosophy and music
 - d. Loved the bible and was deeply influenced by the teachings of Erasmus
 - e. The more he studied, the more he saw the inconsistencies and abuses in the Roman Catholic Church
3. The Reformer of Zurich
 - a. Ordained as a priest in Zurich
 - b. Preached through biblical passages (his first being the Gospel of Matthew)
 - This was new to the culture: expository preaching (preaching through a book of the Bible)
 - The congregation was excited about learning (Zwingli preached Sundays and Fridays)
 - A true shepherd who loved his people
 - c. 1522: Secretly married Anna Meyer who bore him four children
 - d. Began speaking out more and more against the Catholic Church, especially in areas where the church condemned practices that the Bible never condemned)
 - e. Zwingli's influence eventually won over Switzerland to Reformed theology
4. The true patriot
 - a. Zwingli always seen with a bible and a sword
 - b. Died in battle fighting against the Catholics

D. France

1. Reformation teaching reached France and produced bitter fighting between Catholics and Protestants
2. John Calvin (1509-1564)
 - a. Fled France and settled in Geneva Switzerland
 - b. Began a school in Geneva that attracted Protestant refugees from all over Europe, England, and Scotland
 - c. Calvin wrote the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (two volumes) and taught extensively on most of the books of the Bible
3. Protestants continued to make an impact in a Catholic France (having been greatly influenced by Calvin); French Protestants known as Huguenots*

Notes



* **Huguenot:** any of the Protestants in France in the 16th and 17th centuries, many of whom suffered severe persecution for their faith. The origin of the name is uncertain, but it appears to have come from the word *aignos*, derived from the German *Eidgenossen* (confederates bound together by oath), which used to describe, between 1520 and 1524, the patriots of Geneva hostile to the duke of Savoy. The spelling *Huguenot* may have been influenced by the personal name Hugues, "Hugh"; a leader of the Geneva movement was one Besançon Hugues (d. 1532).
—from www.britannica.com

4. On-going fighting still occurred between Catholics and Protestants
 - a. Calvinists formed a congregation in Paris in 1555
 - b. 1572: St. Bartholomew's Day massacre where many Protestants were killed in cold blood by Catholics
 - c. 1598: *Edict of Nantes* officially recognized the Protestants and gave them freedom to practice their beliefs
 - e. Roman Catholic Cardinal Richelieu (1585-1642) influenced King Louis XIII and sought to strengthen Catholicism in France and in so doing wreaked havoc on the Huguenots (Alexander Dumas depicts Richelieu in a negative light in his famous novel, *The Three Musketeers*)

E. England

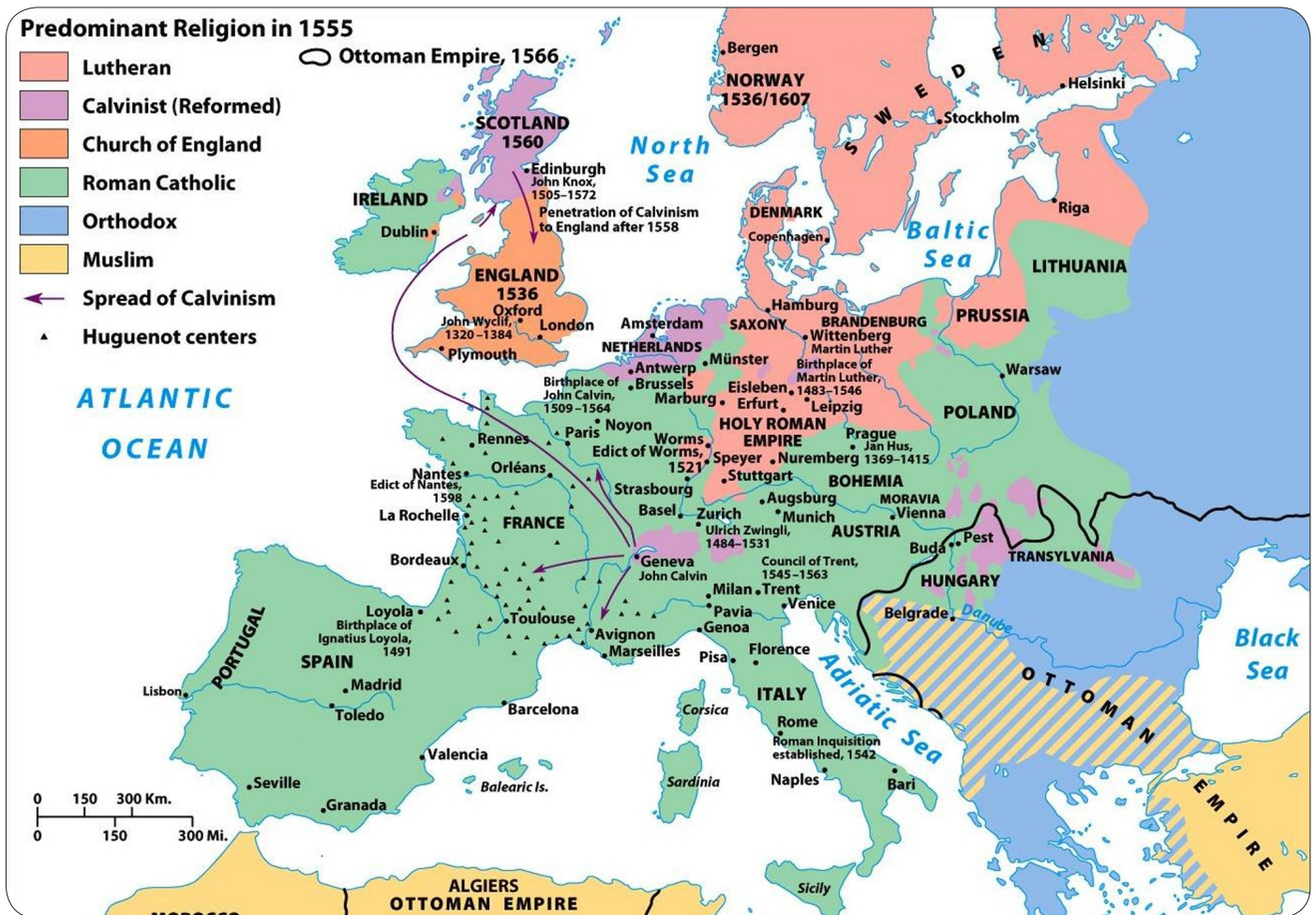
1. In 1534 King Henry VIII declared himself to be Head of the Church in England
 - a. Tension with the Pope in Rome because the papacy refused to sanction Henry's divorce from Queen Catherine
 - b. Henry excommunicated from the church, but he still considered himself a practicing Roman Catholic
 - c. Henry broke all ties with Rome and ended monasticism in England
 - d. 1539: Henry issued the *Six Articles*, trying to revive the traditions of the Catholic Church
2. Lutheranism and Reformed Theology growing in popularity throughout England, particularly during the reign of King Edward VI (1547-1553)
3. Leading English figures promoting the Reformation: Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), Nicholas Ridley (1500-1555), Hugh Latimer (1487-1555)
 - a. Assisted by other Reformed theologians from Europe: Martin Bucer (of Strasbourg), Peter Martyr (of Italy), and John á Lasco (of Poland)
 - b. Considered themselves Calvinists rather than Lutherans
 - c. All were professors at either Oxford or Cambridge where they promoted the teachings of the Reformation
4. Queen Mary (1553-1558) aka "Bloody Mary"
 - a. Roman Catholic who was intolerant of the Protestants
 - b. Sought to restore Catholicism in England and good relations with the papacy
 - c. Many Protestants fled to Europe during Mary's reign
 - d. About 200 bishops, scholars, men and women, were burned at the stake by Mary for their Protestant views
 - e. Because Mary was not liked among the English, she did more to promote Protestantism than to squelch it
5. Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603)
 - a. Mary's half-sister who restored Protestantism and made it permanent
 - b. Replaced Catholic leaders with Protestant ones
 - c. Helped to firmly establish the Anglican Church as former refugees returned to England
 - d. Assumed the title "supreme governor" of the Church of England (and not the Head of the Church as Henry VIII had done).

F. Scotland

1. Patrick Hamilton (1504-1528), a former student of Martin Luther, brought Lutheranism to Scotland
 - a. Hamilton born in Glasgow and studied in Paris
 - b. Came in contact with Lutheranism and returned to Scotland to bring reformation to a corrupt church of Scotland
 - c. Condemned by the church and burned at the stake in 1528

2. John Knox (1514-1572): the father of Presbyterianism
 - a. John Knox continued Hamilton's work
 - b. Strong ties between France and Scotland which resulted in Knox being captured by the French and forced to serve as a galley-slave on a ship (1547)
 - c. When freed, Knox moved to Geneva and studied under John Calvin
 - Described Geneva as... "The maist perfyte schoole of Chryst that ever was in the earth since the dayis of the Apostillis."
 - Pastored and English church while in Geneva
 - d. Knox returned to Scotland in 1559 and boldly launched the Reformation
 - Attacked the papacy and corrupt church practices
 - Queen Mary confessed she feared Knox and his influence – "I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the armies of England."
 - Composed a *Confession of Faith* (1560), a *Book of Discipline* (1561), and a liturgy, the *Book of Common Order* (1564), all of which became the foundation for the Reformation in Scotland and the precursors to the Presbyterian Church

Notes



III. The “Solas” of the Reformation

A. **Sola Scriptura** (Scripture alone)

1. The Bible is our highest authority and the standard for faith and life (2 Tim. 3:16)
2. All men (whether they be popes, bishops, rulers, or kings) are under the authority and instruction of the Scriptures
3. The whole canon of Scripture (66 books) is inspired by the Holy Spirit
4. The whole of Scripture is about Jesus Christ and his redemption of the world (Luke 24:27)

B. **Sola Fide** (faith alone)

1. We are saved not by good works or from any merit of our own making, but we are saved through the exercising of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who becomes for us our righteousness (Hebrews 10:39-11:3)
2. Christ is the author and perfecter of our faith (i.e. even our faith is not our own but is a gift from Christ) (Hebrews 12:2).

C. **Sola Gratia** (grace alone)

1. We don't deserve salvation or the love that God has for us because we are, by nature, sinners (Rom. 3:9-18)
2. Grace is a sheer gift of God to us (Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:3-7)

D. **Solus Christus** (Christ alone)

1. We are saved only through Christ Jesus and not through any other means or name (Acts 2:38-39; Acts 4:11-12)
2. Only in Christ do we continue to grow in the Christian life (Col. 2:6-7)

E. **Soli Deo Gloria** (to the glory of God alone)

1. *Glory belongs to God alone. God's glory is the central motivation for salvation, not improving the lives of people—though that is a wonderful by product. God is not a means to an end—he is the means and the end.* —Justin Holcomb
2. All that we do (including eating and drinking) should be done for the glory of God; not for our glory (1 Corin. 10:31)
3. Therefore life should be lived with God in mind at all times

F. **Practical teachings of the Reformation:**

The Reformers... taught that while God did not want men to be worldly in character, he nevertheless called them to be active in the world in order to fulfill his will. So, rather than teaching, as the Roman Catholic Church did, that the further removed from society a man remained the more holy he was, the Reformers taught that holiness was a matter of conformity to the image of Jesus, which a man ought to exercise as openly in the world as possible. In other words, the Christian shopkeeper or candle maker served his God while he plied his trade as Jesus would—with skill, with excellence, with morality, and with joy... As Luther expressed in his usual blunt fashion, done to the glory of God, even “household chores are more to be valued than all the works of monks and nuns (Stephen Mansfield, *In Search of God and Guinness*).

IV. Why this segment of history matters (or *should matter*) to me

- A. How does this lesson enhance your knowledge of God?
- B. In what new ways are you challenged in your own walk with Christ?