

Church History

MODERN PERIOD—AGE OF REFORMATION

1518-1689AD

I. THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION

A. Basic Causes

1. Papal Corruption
 - a. Extravagances of the popes
 - b. Worldliness in the church
2. Nationalism
 - a. Greater national pride
 - b. Decreasing papal allegiance
3. Capitalism
 - a. Disappearing feudal system
 - b. Increasing individualism
4. Humanism
 - a. Studying ancient languages
 - b. Producing Bibles
 - c. Encouraging independent thought
5. Pietism
 - a. Emphasizing personal salvation
 - b. Emphasizing fellowship with God

B. Martin Luther

1. His life
 - a. Lived from 1483 to 1546
 - b. A physically sturdy, mentally determined, socially well-adjusted, religiously independent German
 - c. Vowed to become a monk when he was nearly killed by lightning in 1505 at age 21
 - d. Joined the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt in 1507 where he experienced repeated and serious guilt and depression
 - e. Disillusioned when he visited Rome in 1510

- f. Went to University of Wittenburg in 1511 where he taught Psalms, Romans and Galatians
 - g. Convinced of justification by faith through Romans 1:16-17
 - h. Nailed his famous 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg opposing the sale of indulgences to finance St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on October 31, 1517.
 - i. In 1518, ordered to go to Rome to answer charges of heresy but refused
 - j. Interrogated by Cardinal Cajetan in Augsburg in 1518
 - k. Debated John Eck in Leipzig in 1519
 - l. In July of 1520, Pope Leo X issued a bull (decree) giving Luther 60 days to submit. Luther burned the bull.
 - m. In 1521, at the Diet of Worms, Luther stated: *"Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against my conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, God help me. Amen."*
 - n. Returned to Wittenburg in 1522
 - o. In 1525, married a former nun, Katherine von Bora.
 - p. Published complete German Bible in 1534
 - q. Spent later years fighting not only Catholics, but also Anabaptists and Zwinglians
 - r. Wrote *"On the Jews and Their Lies"* in 1543, in the treatise Luther describes Jews as a *"base, whoring people, that is, no people of God, and their boast of lineage, circumcision, and law must be accounted as filth."*
 - s. Died peaceably in 1546
2. His Accomplishments
- a. Wrote many books, commentaries, and pamphlets
 - b. Translated Bible into German
 - c. Completed catechisms both for adults and children
 - d. Wrote many hymns and reintroduced hymn singing as a part of the worship service
 - e. Reemphasized importance of preaching
 - f. Established first Protestant church-state
3. His Doctrine
- a. Taught justification by faith
 - b. Emphasized authority of the Bible
 - c. Opposed many Roman Catholic traditions: indulgences, celibacy, etc.
 - d. Supported priesthood of believers
 - e. Denied five of the seven Roman Catholic sacraments

- f. His consubstantiation was not much different from transubstantiation
- g. Approved of infant baptism—said the infant had faith
- h. Supported persecution of Anabaptists, and Jews

C. Lutheranism

- 1. Augsburg Confession
 - a. Made in 1530
 - b. First Protestant confession
- 2. Philipp Melanchthon
 - a. Lived from 1497 to 1560
 - b. Brilliant scholar
 - c. Became leader of Lutheran movement after 1546
 - d. Characterized by desiring peace and seeking compromise
 - e. Led Lutheran church back toward Catholicism
- 3. Lutheran Church is the established church in Germany, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

II. THE SWISS REFORMATION

A. Political Condition of Switzerland

- 1. A loose confederation of independent cantons
- 2. Swiss known for their being cunning in battle and fierce independence

B. Ulrich Zwingli

- 1. His life
 - a. Lived from 1484 to 1531
 - b. Studied at several schools, including Vienna and Basel
 - c. Ordained to the priesthood
 - d. Served as a chaplain in the Swiss Army
 - e. Called to Zurich to pastor the largest church in the nation in 1518
 - f. Published 67 articles in 1523 which embodied the basic form of Reformed Theology
 - g. Admitted lack of Biblical support for infant baptism, but supported the practice as necessary for a church-state
 - h. A number of his associates became Anabaptists and he eventually encouraged their persecution
 - i. Disagreed with Luther concerning the Lord's Supper

- j. After Zurich and other cantons became Zwinglian, wars developed between the Catholics and Protestants
- k. Killed in 1531, while leading army of Zurich into battle

2. His Doctrine

- a. Emphasized the authority of scripture
- b. Taught that the church was born of the word of God with Christ at its head
- c. Declared man's righteousness in Christ alone
- d. Taught the Lord's Supper as a sign and denied the presence of Christ in the elements
- e. Rejected celibacy, mass, purgatory, images, prayers for the dead, worship of saints, etc.
- f. Emphasized the sovereignty of God

3. His Accomplishments

- a. Initiated the Swiss reformation
- b. The only major reformer of the 16th century whose movement did not result in a church
- c. The most Biblical of the major reformers although he stopped short of his own conscience

C. Heinrich Bullinger

- 1. Lived from 1504 to 1575
- 2. Followed Zwingli as pastor in Zurich
- 3. Tended toward separation of church and state
- 4. Reached a compromise agreement with John Calvin in 1549

D. Martin Bucer

- 1. Lived from 1491 to 1551
- 2. Had been a Dominican monk
- 3. Excommunicated in 1523
- 4. Tried to mediate a compromise between Zwingli and Luther
- 5. Spent his later years in England

III. THE ANABAPTIST MOVEMENT

A. Origin

1. Most history books claim they began about 1525
2. But many of their doctrines can be traced back to the Waldenses and Bohemian Brethren
3. Their doctrines of believer's baptism and separation of church and state can be found in various places throughout church history

B. Name

1. Means rebaptizers
2. Also called Catabaptists, meaning perverters of baptism
3. Later called Baptists, meaning baptizers
4. Theologically called Anti-pedobaptists, meaning against baptizers of infants

C. Major Groups

1. Biblically sound Anabaptists
 - a. Emphasized Scripture more than the other groups
 - b. Did not try to set up a kingdom
2. Chiliastic Anabaptists
 - a. Tried to set up a spiritual kingdom on earth
 - b. Not true Baptists
3. Mystical Anabaptists
 - a. Influenced by German Mysticism
 - b. Emphasized the inner spirit over the written word
 - c. Some of their leaders claimed revelation from God
4. Anti-trinitarian Anabaptists

D. Persecution

1. Very few Anabaptist leaders died a natural death
2. Persecuted by both Catholics and Protestants
3. The major reformers (Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin) all approved their persecution and execution
4. No difference was made between the radicals who led rebellions and the pacifists who would not even defend themselves

E. General Beliefs

1. The Scriptures were their only rule of faith and practice
2. Infant baptism was replaced by believer's baptism
3. A regenerate church membership was required
4. Freedom of will in salvation was stressed as opposed to Calvinism
5. Taught freedom of conscience, i.e., individual responsibility
6. Discounted any connection whatsoever between church and state
7. Many lived in a communal lifestyle
8. Many prohibited the taking of oaths or the holding of office
9. Many were pacifists, even in self-defense and defense of country
10. Many opposed capital punishment

NOTE: These last four points were also characteristic of the Waldenses and other medieval separatist groups.

F. Representative Leaders

NOTE: No individuals stood out in the Anabaptist movement as in the other groups.

1. Balthasar Hubmaier
 - a. Lived from 1480-1528
 - b. Born near Augsburg, Germany
 - c. Studied under Dr. John Eck and received his Th.D. as a staunch Catholic
 - d. Became a Zwinglian in 1521
 - e. Disagreed with Zwingli in 1523 and became an Anabaptist
 - f. Fled to Moravia and ministered there
 - g. Burned at the stake in 1528
 - h. His wife who encouraged him to remain firm was drowned three days later.
2. Georg Blaurock
 - a. Lived from about 1492 to 1529
 - b. A Swiss reformer who came to deny infant baptism
 - c. Frequently imprisoned but continued to preach
 - d. Captured in 1529 and burned
3. Conrad Grebel
 - a. Lived from about 1498 to 1526
 - b. Born in Zurich, Switzerland
 - c. Educated in law
 - d. Became a Zwinglian in 1522
 - e. Separated with Zwingli over infant baptism
 - f. Ordered to be drowned by the Zurich Council in 1526
 - g. Escaped only to die of the plague the same year

4. Felix Manz
 - a. Lived from 1498 to 1527
 - b. Became a follower of Zwingli
 - c. Came to oppose infant baptism
 - d. Ministered much from house to house
 - e. Drowned in 1527 in Zurich

G. Munster Rebellion

1. The city of Munster, Germany, was converted from Catholicism in 1533
2. A number of the city's leaders soon became Anabaptists
3. The city was declared to be the New Jerusalem by Jon Matthys who claimed to be the prophet Enoch
4. Thousands of persecuted Anabaptists flocked to the city
5. When the Anabaptist leaders took control they tried to organize their New Israel after the model of the Old with twelve elders having the power of life and death.
6. When besieged by the authorities, polygamy was introduced, those questioning the government were slain, and sufferings increased daily
7. When the city was finally overthrown in 1535, the survivors were massacred, anyone suspected of being an Anabaptist throughout Germany was put to death, Anabaptists became an utterly despised group, and true Anabaptists did all they could to separate themselves from the Munster group

H. The Mennonites

1. Menno Simmons
 - a. Lived from 1496 to 1561
 - b. Ordained to the priesthood at the age of 28
 - c. After his ordination, he began reading the Bible for the first time in his life
 - d. He began questioning transubstantiation, infant baptism and universal church membership
 - e. Began teaching that the church was composed of baptized believers, that only believers were to be baptized, and that believing required the new birth.
 - f. Led a group of Anabaptists which were later called Mennonites
 - g. He opposed the revolutionary Anabaptists and taught pacifism and the willingness to suffer
 - h. All of his more than 40 existing writings are prefaced with I Corinthians 3:11
2. Doctrines
 - a. The trinity
 - b. Scriptures as the final authority

- c. Congregational church government
 - d. Believer's baptism
 - e. Nonconformity to the world
 - * The Amish are a strict sect of the Mennonites
 - f. Non-resistance concerning military service
 - g. Strict church discipline
 - h. Some practice foot washing
 - i. Many emphasize missionary work
3. History
- a. Flourished early in Switzerland, Germany, Poland, and the Netherlands
 - b. Had religious freedom first in Netherlands
 - c. Under persecution, many moved to the United States and Canada
 - d. The Amish Church split from the Mennonites in the 1690's stressing even greater church discipline and conformity
 - e. Worldwide membership as of 2009 was at approx. 1,616,000 of which approximately 387,000 are in the United States, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had the second largest group at 220,000 members.
 - f. The fastest growing Mennonite church in 1970 was in Indonesia

IV. THE CALVINISTIC REFORMATION

A. Characteristics

- 1. Built upon Zwinglian foundations though very different in several ways
- 2. More earnest, evangelical, disciplined, and consistent than either Zwinglism or Lutheranism
- 3. Assimilated Zwinglism and made great inroads on both Lutheranism and Catholicism
- 4. Became a great influence in many countries
- 5. Formed the foundation for different Reformed Churches, Scottish Presbyterianism and English Puritanism

B. John Calvin

- 1. Characteristics
 - a. High moral sense
 - b. Vast learning
 - c. Keen analytical mind
 - d. Practical organizer
 - e. Administrative ability
 - f. Strong sense of purpose

2. Life
 - a. Lived from 1509 to 1564
 - b. Studied law, languages, and theology at Orleans, Bourges, and Paris
 - c. Experienced a sudden conversion in 1533
 - d. Went to Strassburg, then to Basel (1533-36)
 - e. Published first edition of his Institutes of the Christian Religion in 1536
 - f. On a trip through Geneva, Switzerland, he was convinced to stay as pastor by William Farel (1536). Geneva, which included territory of 109 square miles, was later called the “Protestant Rome”
 - g. Driven out of Geneva in 1538 and went to Strassburg where he pastored French exiles and befriended Martin Bucer
 - h. Called back to Geneva in 1541 where he remained
 - i. Set up a church government which used fines, banishment, execution and torture to maintain order
 - j. Michael Servetus was banned for heresy in 1553 as a result of Calvin’s influence
 - k. While in Geneva, lectured over 200 times a year and preached about 200 times a year
 - l. Continued to expand his *Institutes* (to 1300 pages)
 - m. Wrote commentaries on every book of the Bible
 - n. Died in 1564 at the age of 55

3. Beliefs
 - a. The absolute sovereignty of God
 - b. The total depravity of man
 - c. The subservience of the state to the church
 - d. Physical punishment for spiritual crimes (heresy, failing to attend church, etc.)
 - e. The spiritual partaking of the body and blood of Christ in the Lord’s Supper
 - f. The necessity of infant baptism for the church state
 - g. The predestination of the eternal destinies of men

NOTE: Calvinism has been summarized in TULIP:

1. T=Total Depravity
2. U=Unconditional Election
3. L=Limited Atonement
4. I=Irresistible Grace
5. P=Perseverance of the Elect

C. Theodore Beza

1. Lived from 1519 to 1605
2. A French theologian
3. Taught Greek in Switzerland
4. Worked under John Calvin
5. Appointed professor of theology at Geneva Academy
6. Published Greek New Testament
7. Discovered New Testament manuscript known as Codex D or Codex Bezae
8. Considered harsher than Calvin in his teaching of predestination

D. The Huguenots

1. Their name
 - a. Origin uncertain
 - b. Refers to French Protestants
2. Beginnings
 - a. Early spread throughout France despite persecution
 - b. First French martyr of the Reformation burned at the stake in 1523
 - c. Followed the Reformed doctrine of the Frenchman, John Calvin
3. History
 - a. Thousands were killed in St. Bartholomew's Massacre which began in Paris on August 23, 1572
 - b. Several religious wars were fought between the Huguenots and the Catholics
 - c. In 1598, King Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes granting religious freedom
 - d. The Edict of Nantes was revoked in 1685 by King Louis XIV
 - i. Thousands were imprisoned and killed
 - ii. About 300,000 Huguenots escaped to other countries
 - e. The Reformed Church of France, though small, still exists

E. The Scottish Reformation

1. Beginnings
 - a. Had been evangelized in ancient times by British missionaries
 - b. Lollard influence had been strong in Scotland
 - c. The spirit of independence was a national trait
 - d. Scottish reformation started by Patrick Hamilton, who was martyred in 1528

2. John Knox
 - a. Lived from 1505 to 1572
 - b. Became a Roman Catholic priest
 - c. Converted to Protestantism about 1542
 - d. Captured by the French in 1547 and served for 19 months as a galley-slave
 - e. Later spent several years in Geneva with John Calvin
 - f. Returned to Scotland in 1559 and was influential in the Protestant triumph in the Civil War of 1560
 - g. Encouraged the adoption of the Protestant Confession of Faith by the Scottish parliament
 - h. Boldly criticized Queen Mary Stuart even to her face
 - i. The Presbyterianism and Calvinism of John Knox were established in Scotland

F. The Arminian Controversy

1. Jacob Arminius
 - a. Lived from 1560 to 1609
 - b. Brilliant Dutch theologian
 - c. Attempted to modify the Calvinistic tendencies to lead to two false conclusions:
 - i. That God was the author of sin
 - ii. That man had no will of his own (fatalism)
2. Five Point Remonstrance of 1610—remonstrance: protest, complain
 - a. God eternally decreed to save through Christ those who believe on Him and persevere to the end; and to leave unbelievers under condemnation
 - b. Christ died for all, but only those who believe will be saved
 - c. Man in the state of sin has no saving grace of himself; he must be born again in order to think, will, and do what is truly good
 - d. Without the grace of God man can do nothing; but this grace is not irresistible
 - e. Those who are saved have sufficient grace to win over all sin and those who accept Christ's help will be kept from falling into the hands of Satan
3. Later history
 - a. Arminianism was condemned at the Synod of Dort in 1618
 - b. Many have taken sides on the issue and fought for several centuries
 - c. Teachings are carried on by some High Church Anglicans, Methodists, the Salvation Army, Nazarenes and holiness groups

V. THE ENGLISH REFORMATION

A. Characteristics

1. A totally English movement
2. A battle of political interests
3. A lack of outstanding leaders
4. A lack of true Protestant reform. The Anglican church was simply a Protestant Catholic Church with no pope
5. A true reform by those who differed with the established church.

B. The Politics of Reform

1. Henry VIII
 - a. Reigns from 1509 –1547
 - b. Only separated from the pope when he wanted a divorce from Catharine of Aragon
 - c. Established the Church of England in 1534
 - d. For a time seemed open to Protestantism
 - i. Allowed the growth of Protestant groups
 - ii. Allowed the reading and distribution of the English Bible
 - e. Suppressed the English Bible in 1543
2. Edward VI
 - a. Reigns from 1547-1553
 - b. A truly Protestant king
 - c. A Calvinist in doctrine
 - d. Died at the age of 16
3. Mary
 - a. Reigns from 1553-1558
 - b. Returned the country to Catholicism
 - c. Called 'Bloody Mary' because of her persecution of many Protestant leaders
 - d. Thousands of Protestants left England during her reign
4. Elizabeth
 - a. Reigns from 1558-1603
 - b. A pragmatic and reserved Protestant
 - c. Allowed the growth of Protestantism with limitations
 - d. Several divisions developed during her reign:
 - i. Anglicans
 - ii. Puritans
 - iii. Separatists
 - iv. Anabaptists

C. The Major Groups

1. Anglicans

- a. Founded in 1534 by an act of Parliament
- b. Retained the liturgy and most of the customs of the Catholic Church
- c. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer was published in 1549. Its use was required of the English clergy by the Act of Uniformity.
- d. The Forty-Two Articles, which outlined Anglican doctrine, were issued in 1552
- e. Divided into the High Churchmen and the Low Churchmen
 - i. High Churchmen were Roman Catholic in all but name
 - ii. Low Churchmen laid greater stress on piety and church practice
- f. The Episcopal Church is the descendant of the Church of England in America. The name was changed at the time of the American Revolution.

2. Puritans

- a. A reform group within the Church of England
- b. Stressed moral conduct and legalism
- c. Strongly anti-Catholic
- d. Hyper-Calvinistic in doctrine
- e. Desired to apply Old Testament laws to government
- f. Presbyterian in church government
- g. Called Nonconformists when they would not conform to Anglican practice

3. Separatists

- a. Consisted of Puritans who withdrew from the Anglican Church during the 16th and 17th centuries
- b. Dissatisfied with ritualism in worship and state control of religion in England
- c. Formed the basis for the Congregational Church, which taught that churches should be ruled by the congregation
- d. Other titles:
 - i. Brownists, after Robert Browne (c. 1550-1633)
 - (a) He was one of the first to advocate separation
 - (b) Organized his first church in 1580
 - (c) Wrote *A Treatise of Reformation Without Tarrying For Any* in 1582
 - ii. Independents (a later title)
- e. First came to America in 1620 on the Mayflower

D. Important Men

1. Sir Thomas More (1478-1535)
 - a. Lord Chancellor of England
 - b. A humanist with a close friendship with Erasmus
 - c. Refused to recognize Henry VIII as head of the Church of England
 - d. Tried and beheaded because of his stand

2. William Tyndale (c. 1494-1536)
 - a. Enthusiastic reformer with a strong personality
 - b. Told a scholar, *“If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the scripture than thou doest”*
 - c. His translated English New Testament was printed in Germany in 1526 and smuggled into England by merchants
 - d. He later translated the Pentateuch into English
 - e. Captured, convicted of heresy, and put to death in Belgium
 - f. Cried out before his death, *“Lord, open the King of England’s eyes!”*

3. Hugh Latimer (c. 1485-1555)
 - a. English bishop
 - b. Preached Protestant doctrines which were a mixture of Lutheranism and Calvinism
 - c. Came in and out of favor more than once
 - d. Burned at the stake with Nicholas Ridley under Bloody Mary. When the fire was lit at their feet, Latimer said, *“Be of good cheer, Ridley; and play the man. We shall this day, by God’s grace, light up such a candle in England, as I trust, will never be put out.”*

4. Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556)
 - a. First Protestant archbishop of Canterbury
 - b. Gained power by helping Henry VIII get divorced from Catherine
 - c. Promoted some reform and encouraged circulation of the Bible
 - d. Developed the Anglican Prayer Books and the Forty-Two Articles during the reign of Edward VI
 - e. Recanted his Protestant views when jailed by Queen Mary
 - f. Brought before a large audience to profess his denials, but heroically recanted his recantations.
 - g. As he burned at the stake, he held the hand which had signed the recantations in the flame exclaiming, *“This unworthy right hand:”*

5. Miles Coverdale (1488-1564)
 - a. Published the first complete translation of the English Bible in 1535
 - b. Oversaw the printing of the *“Great Bible”*

6. John Jewel (1522-1571)
 - a. Early Puritan leader
 - b. Published *An Apology in Defense of the Church of England* in 1562

7. John Foxe (1516-1587)
 - a. Great English martyrologist
 - b. Lifelong student of church history
 - c. Close friend to Hugh Latimer and William Tyndale as well as many others
 - d. Published the English edition of *The Acts and the Monuments of the Church* in 1563. It was later known as *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. This book ranks with *Pilgrim's Progress* and under only the Bible in influence on the English-speaking world for the next two centuries.

8. Thomas Cartwright (1535-1603)
 - a. Great champion of Puritanism
 - b. Popular preacher
 - c. Helped formulate a Book of Discipline for Puritans
 - d. Imprisoned and exiled a number of times during his life
 - e. Considered the hero of Presbyterianism in England. (The Puritans as a whole supported the Presbyterian form of church government.)

9. John Whitgift (c. 1530-1604)
 - a. Archbishop of Canterbury under Queen Elizabeth
 - b. Calvinistic in doctrine
 - c. Totally Anglican in church government, bitterly opposing both Catholics and Puritans