

CHAPTER 11

THE REFORMATION IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

Importance of British Reformation

Relation to ourselves and modern world history

Touching illustrations of God's providence

Explains nature of Church of England

English monarchs of This Period

Tudor monarchs:

Henry VIII (1509-1547)

Edward VI (1547-1553)

Lady Jane Grey (July 1553)

Mary I, Tudor ("Bloody Mary"; 1553-1558)

Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

Stuart monarchs:

James I (1603-1625)

Charles I (1625-1649)

(Commonwealth under Parliament and Cromwell,
1649-1660)

Charles II (1660-1685)

James II (1685-1688)

Causes of the British Reformation

- Continuing work of the Lollards
- Tudor development of a strong state (1485-1603) producing prosperity thru a strong middle class business community

- Vast Romanist land holdings and papal taxes
- Tolerance of Lord Chancellor and papal legate; Thomas Wolsey, “burn heretical books, not heretical bodies”
- Circulation of Luther’s writings; “Captivity of Babylonian Church” was popular
- Bible scholarship and translations

John Colet at Oxford

Translations of Tyndale and Coverdale

Political and Ecclesiastical Reforms of Henry VIII

Henry’s six wives:

1. Catherine of Aragon (annulled; bore Mary)
2. Anne Boleyn (annulled then beheaded; bore Elizabeth)
3. Jane Seymour (died after giving birth; bore Edward)
4. Anne of Cleves (annulled; sent back to Germany; outlived the others)
5. Katherine Howard (annulled then beheaded)
6. Catherine Parr (survived Henry)

Henry’s first marriage

Married his brother’s widow, Catharine of Arragon

Problem with canon law (Lev. 20:21)

Pope Julius II granted special dispensation

Kept Spanish dowry and alliance for England

Henry’s divorce

Henry put away Catherine after 23 years

Passion for Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn, a lovely and vivacious English lady in waiting in a French court who came to Henry's court; highly intelligent and educated; became a Protestant in sympathy; a copy of her personal copy of Tyndale's New Testament is in the British Library; Henry wanted her, but she refused his advances unless he would marry her

No male heir, many miscarriages; 6 infant daughters, of whom only Mary survived (to become Queen Mary Tudor, "Bloody Mary"); Mary brought up a strict Catholic

Pope Clement VII stonewalled request for marriage annulment

Didn't want to contradict predecessor

Didn't want to offend Catherine's nephew, Charles V, who was occupying Rome

Thomas Cranmer's (1489-1556) recommendation

Young Cambridge scholar influenced by Luther

Had taken annulment request to Rome

Suggested to Henry he refer the question to the universities whether his marriage was a valid one; if a positive decision, he could arrogate to himself the power of divorce

Cranmer made ambassador to Germany where he married the daughter of the Reformer Osiander

Later appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by Henry VIII in 1543

Resolution of the question of divorcing Catherine

Most universities reply the marriage is invalid

1530, Cardinal Wolsey died on the way to his treason trial

1531, Henry badgered Catholic clergy and monasteries; they begin to submit to him as "The Protector and Supreme Head of the Church and Clergy of England . . . as far as is permitted by the law of Christ."

Parliament called to squeeze off payment to papacy and to forbid appeals to courts outside of England; 1533, when Henry appointed Cranmer Archbishop of Canterbury, all bishops and archbishops would henceforth be consecrated without application to the Pope

1533, Henry married Anne after 2-year separation from Catherine (Anne already pregnant, with daughter Elizabeth, to be Queen Elizabeth I)

Act of Succession made official the divorce 11 weeks later

Break from Roman hierarchy made official

Act of Supremacy, 1534

“The King, our sovereign lord, his heirs and successors, kings of this realm, shall be taken, and reputed the only supreme head in earth of the Church of England, called the Anglicana Ecclesia”

Roman Catholic Lord Chancellor Thomas More could not support the Act, resigned; later imprisoned in Tower of London and beheaded, still loyal to the pope

1536, suppression of monasteries began

Moral abuses found inside

Properties used by Henry as gifts to new, loyal nobility

All church properties confiscated within next 15 years

Bishops expelled from House of Lords

Results of campaign

Church made subject to civil authority

RC doctrine maintained

Leaders of the Reforming party

Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556)

Archbishop of Canterbury under Kings Henry VIII and Edward VI, burned at the stake under Queen Mary Tudor

Headed monastic inspection commission

Got Great Bible sanctioned in 1539 for use in churches

Led in various Protestant revisions of the Articles for the Church of England, and produced the *Book of Common Prayer* (1549, 1552)

Nicholas Ridley (1500-1555)

Eminent scholar trained as Romanist at Sorbonne

Came to Protestant position thru personal study

Opposed Rome's meddling and its doctrine

Worked on 42 Articles of Faith under King Edward

Hugh Latimer (1490-1555)

As a Romanist student, he blasted Melanchthon in his dissertation

Converted under influence of young Thomas Bilney (martyred 1531)

Bilney himself hated the mercenary manipulations of the confession booth, comparing it to the woman with the bloody issue who spent all she had on quack physicians who were "...unlearned hearers of confessions...for they appointed me fastings, watchings, buyings of pardons and masses; in all which things (as I now understand) they sought rather their own gain, than the salvation of my sick, languishing soul." –Bilney as cited in *Expository Times* 107:8:235 (May 1996)

Protected by Wolsey and Henry; chaplain of Anne Boleyn

Jailed 6 years for resisting the Six Articles of the Church of England

Active reformer under King Edward VI

Latimer and Ridley both were burned by Queen Mary Tudor

Thomas Cromwell (1485-1540)

Lord Chancellor under Henry VIII after Thomas More executed

Moderate reformer seeking unity with German Lutherans

At first promoted Anne Boleyn and Reformation; later saw political expediency in getting rid of Anne; masterminded her rigged trial and execution

Was himself executed after debacle of failed marriage proposal to Ann of Cleves; Anna had "already lost the first bloom of youth, was stout of figure, simple in mind, and sadly lacking in social graces, and in all respects . . . was grossly unattractive."

Six Articles of 1539

Mediating response to Roman Catholic backlash vs. the 10 Articles of 1536 which had asserted:

Justification by faith

View of the sacraments not unacceptable to Luther

Use of images and belief in purgatory (mitigated by divorcing pope's claim of freeing souls from purgatory)

Confirmed old Roman doctrines

Transubstantiation; capital crime to deny it

Only the bread to the laity

Celibacy of priests

Private masses

Auricular confession

Renewed persecution of Protestants

Henry tried to be impartial: hanged 3 Romanists at same time as burning 3 evangelicals

New wife, Roman Catholic Catherine Howard, fanned the flames

Edward VI (1547-53)

Sixth and final wife Catherine Parr survived Henry VIII

Edward the son of Protestant mother (Jane Seymore)

Sickly Edward, age 9, ruled with a Protestant regent

Protestant reforms under Edward

England became a haven for foreign Protestants

John Hooper, proto-Puritan returned from Geneva

Bucer, Ochino, Jan Laski and others came at invitation of Cranmer

Many continental writings translated into English

1547, revocation of Six Articles, images, and celibacy

1549, 1st Act of Uniformity

Book of Common Prayer regularized worship in all churches

1552, new Act of Uniformity

Revised Book of Common Prayer

Omitted prayers for the dead

Communion table replaced altar

Statement of faith prepared in the 42 Articles

Formulated by Cranmer and 6 other theologians (e.g., Knox) after failure of Cranmer's earlier attempt at an ecumenical creed welding Lutherans and Calvinists together

Influenced largely by Lutheran creeds such as the Augsburg, but presented Calvinistic view of predestination and Lord's Supper

Reign of Lady Jane Grey (July 1553)

More distant relation in royal family

Protestant government officials afraid of strict Catholic Mary and of her allegiance to Spain; installed Jane quickly and privately; never went through public coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey

Lady Jane Grey a young, intelligent, and innocent sovereign for only a few days

Leaders deserted her when it was obvious that the populace opposed her accession

After Mary installed as queen, she had Jane imprisoned in Tower of London, then beheaded; she also had the regent Northumberland and his son executed

Famous painting in British Museum of Art

Reign of Mary I, Tudor (1553-58)

Mary contracted with her cousin Charles V to marry his son, Philip II

Many churchmen fled to Geneva; Presbyterianism later imported

Roman Catholicism reinstated, with a vengeance

Directed by new papal legate, Cardinal Pole, new Archbishop of Canterbury

Parliament revoked all religious reforms of Edward VI

Reinstated laws against Protestant “heretics”

Pope generously allowed owners of church property confiscated by Henry to hold property

Martyrdoms

John Rogers: 1st martyr; editor of Matthew’s Bible

John Hooper: Oxford scholar returned from Switzerland

Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer (d. 1555)

Ridley refused to recant at the stake: “So long as the breath is in my body, I will never deny my Lord Christ and his Known truth. God’s will be done in me.”

Latimer at the stake: “Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.”

Thomas Cranmer (d. 1556)

Archbishop of Canterbury for 26 years; jailed for treason and heresy

Forced in prison to sign statements submitting to the Pope and retracting Protestant principles

Gave good profession at his martyrdom

“Now I come to the great thing that troubleth my conscience more than any other thing that I ever said or did in my life, and that is the setting abroad of writing contrary to the truth which I thought in my heart, and writ for fear of death, and to save my life, if it might be; and that is all such bills which I have written or signed with mine own hand since my degradation, forasmuch as my hand offended in writing contrary to my heart, therefore my hand shall first be punished for, if I may come to the fire, it shall be first burned. And as for the pope, I refuse him as Christ’s enemy and Antichrist, with all his false doctrine.”

Actually did hold hand in fire first

Results of persecutions

Backlash of common people

2,000 of 9,000 priests resigned their office

Reign of Elizabeth I, and the Establishment of Anglican Protestantism (ruled 1558-1603)

Religious situation

2/3 nobility Catholic

Most educated people Protestant

Most of masses favored independence from Rome

Political influences

Fear of Roman Catholic surrounding nations, Spain, France, and much of Scotland

Resistance to new Pope's reclamation of confiscated benefices

Roman Catholic instability

Loss of Mary, Cardinal Pole, and 13 other bishops

Resentment of Philip II, threatened attack against England

Elizabeth's approach

Thoroughly English; a Protestant out of necessity—charms of her father and vanities of her mother

Early caution in church reforms

Allowed several months of RC services

Freedom for Protestant prisoners and exiles

The Elizabethan Settlement, 1559 and thereafter = “Via Media”

New Act of Supremacy: queen declared to be “supreme of all persons and causes; ecclesiastical as well as civil”

Allegiance and payments to pope refused

Scriptures, light of 1st four ecumenical councils, and laws of Parliament to test heresy

Act of Uniformity

Adoption of revision of Edward’s 2nd Book of Common Prayer

Vestments maintained; images and candles snuffed out

Adoption of 39 Articles of Church of England, a revision of the 42 Articles

Deleted condemnations of Anabaptists, millinarians, etc.

More Augustinian than Calvinist (e.g., quasi-baptismal regeneration)

Non-conformists replaced

Matthew Parker appointed the new Archbishop of Canterbury (1559-1575), had been the chaplain of Anne Boleyn

Later developments

Jesuit incursions backfired against them in England

1570, Elizabeth excommunicated by Rome; became open game for any loyal Roman Catholic

1585, Act vs. Jesuits

1587, execution of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots

1588, attempted invasion by the Spanish Armada foiled by weather and superior British seamanship

Reformation in Scotland

Situation

Medieval, backward, and turbulent

Power clash between Douglas clan (pro-English) and Hamiltons (pro-France)

Scottish Parliament had forbidden importation of Luther's writings

Patrick Hamilton (d. 1528)

“The Law saith, Pay thy debt; the Gospel saith, Christ hath paid it. The law saith, Where is thy righteousness, goodness, and satisfaction? The Gospel saith, Christ is thy righteousness, goodness, and satisfaction. Faith is to believe God like Abraham believed God, and it was imputed to his for righteousness. He that hath faith is just and good.... Faith is the gift of God, it is not in our own power.”

George Wishart (d. 1546)

Cambridge scholar after continental studies

1543, returned to Scotland, partly in answer to Hamilton's dying prayer

Ministered to plague victims and preached publicly; Knox = bodyguard

Burned by Cardinal Beaton

****John Knox (1514-1572)***

Early career

(after beginning as a Roman Catholic priest and Bishop of Dunblane)

1542, conversion

1547, chaplain for 3 months at St. Andrew's Castle

Read Luther's *Commentary on Galatians*

Spent 19 months as a rowing slave on a French galley

1549, release secured by King Edward VI

Preached in England

An aide to Cranmer

Refused bishopric of Rochester

Knox on the continent

Fled under Bloody Mary

Lived in Frankfurt

Moved to Geneva

Pastored a congregation of English exiles

Contributor to Geneva Bible

Worked out system of right to rebel against tyrannical rulers

1557, invited back to Scotland by proto-Covenanters

1558, wrote *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women* while returning (several women monarchs in Europe at the time, opposed the Reformation); the book alienated Queen Elizabeth

Knox in Scotland

1559, returned to Scotland after death of Mary Tudor

Majority of nobility were Protestant

In late 1557 the Lords of the Congregation had entered a covenant “to establish the most blessed Word of God among His Congregation”

Some pillaging of Catholic churches and monasteries

With English help, the Scots gained independence of France at the death of the Queen regent (1560), Mary of Guise

Scotland embraced the Reformation: establishment of a Presbyterian [state] Church

Scotch Confession of Faith, 1560

Prepared largely by Knox and ratified by Parliament

First Book of Discipline, 1560

Local disciplinary boards of pastors and elders; graded courts follow later

Liturgy: Book of Common Order, 1564

Genevan pattern of free prayers based on models

Knox's plans of using old church properties to maintain the new church and educational system subverted when nobles appropriated properties to themselves. This would have made the church the bulwark of the people against the crown and nobles, giving it a democratic stamp.

Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots

Recognized by Parliament as Queen in 1560

Returned from France, 1561, after death of Francis II

Three interviews with Knox to win him,

Secretly trying to gradually reestablish Roman Catholicism

No interference with established Presbyterian Church

Her private machinations

Negotiations with Philip II to marry Don Carlos

Marriage to Lord Darnley (Henry VIII's nephew)

Son of Margaret, who was daughter of Henry VII, thus next in line to Scottish throne

Darnley a Protestant, but a drunkard and totally unsuited to his position

He assassinated her close Italian advisor, Rizzio

While she was pregnant with Darnley's son (to be James VI of Scotland, James I of England), she ordered men to blow up Darnley's house and kill him; she married her lover, Lord Bothwell; Knox demanded her execution

1567-1568, Mary dethroned and condemned for complicity in Darnley's murder

No support for Mary from Catholic countries for murder and for marrying a divorced man

James VI took the throne of Scotland at age one, with Protestant Lord Murray (her half-brother) as regent

Mary's flight to England, in a boat, disguised

She has assassins dispatch Lord Murray in Scotland

Under royal house arrest for 19 years, shuffled to various houses in central England

Executed by her cousin Elizabeth after convicted of plotting with Spanish to overthrow Elizabeth

Andrew Melville (1545-1622)

“Father of Scottish Presbyterianism”

Establishment of Presbyterianism in Scotland

Second Book of Discipline, 1573

1592, Parliament ratified Presbyterian government as the established faith

King James' views on religion

Protestant education; his love of theology revealed at 1604 Hampton Court Conference

Held to absolutist Divine Right of Kings

Episcopacy naturally accorded better with absolute monarchy; “better a compliant Episcopacy than a stubborn Presbyterianism;” “monarchy and presbytery get along like God and the devil”

Melville called him “God's silly vassal”

The Rise of English Puritanism

Origin of the name

Reaction against the mediating Elizabethan Settlement, the “via media”

Stronger because of Reformation gains under Edward VI and the influx of returning Genevan exiles

The attempt to purify the church, especially in areas of church ceremonies and administration; emphasis on personal piety to halt the spread of antichrist's influence

Questions of church government

Some low church Anglicans sympathetic while defending the Anglican church under Elizabeth:
John Jewel

Call for establishment Presbyterianism; most early Puritans, especially under influence from Scotland or Geneva

Calls for establishment of Independency (Congregationalism)

Ringleader, Henry Jacob

Expelled from parish for writing *Reasons Proving the Necessity of Reforming Our Churches in England*, 1604

Had been influenced by Brownist ideas thru John Robinson

Principles

- a) each local congregation is an autonomous, self-determining church; subject to no outside body except Parliament
- b) spiritual unity of churches recognized w/o meddling
- c) later prominence under Oliver Cromwell, but Independents were distinct from Separatists who wanted no state oversight

Separatists - reformers who rejected a state church

Brownists

Robert Browne (1550-1633)

Went beyond his teacher Cartwright

Imprisoned 32 times for inveighing vs. state church

Wrote *Reformation Without Tarrying for Any*

“The Church of England is not worth reforming. We shall reorganize the church only with the worthiest, be they ever so few.”

Led Pilgrims to Holland only to return to conform to CoE after disruptions in the new colony

Principles of the Brownists

Church of England is no true church

Total separation of church and state, congregationalism; the church is a voluntary organization (a “gathered church”) united by a common covenant among the members operating on democratic principles

Scrooby Congregationalists

John Robinson (1575-1625)

Opposed monarchical head of the church

Participated in controversies with Arminians in Holland

Left Holland via England to forge new world settlement

English Baptists

Thomas Helwys and the General Baptists

1st Baptist church, 1612

Arminian; believer’s baptism by affusion (pouring)

John Spilsbury and the Particular Baptists

1633, broke from Congregationalists

Calvinistic; baptism by immersion (dipping)

Formed bulk of later English Baptists

Early opposition to Puritans

Resistance to Genevan Bible

Provoked by “prophesyings”

Attempt to have regular proclamation of the Word and encourage learning among ministers

Time for critiques by other ministers

Quashed by Elizabeth; preaching fell into contempt, and the Church of England “has never since entirely recovered from the blow” (McClintock and Strong, 8:308)

As early as 1562, Elizabeth had begun ejecting all ministers refusing to conform, forbidding them to preach elsewhere

Court of High Commission (1559-1641) = [Star Chamber]

Commission “to exercise all manner of jurisdiction, under the queen and her successors, in spiritual things;” and “to order, visit, reform, and redress all heresies, errors, schisms, abuses, contempts, offenses and enormities whatsoever”

Actually, an unbridled tool of repression

Used against any unauthorized publications blasting episcopacy or defending the Puritans

Used against any absenting himself from “church, chapel, or other place where common prayer is said according to the Act of Uniformity”

Religious situation at the end of Elizabeth's reign

Mass of the population agreeable to the Gospel; probably 9/10 were Protestant

Most educated persons were Puritans (trained at Cambridge)

Loyal Roman Catholics were a persecuted minority, held in popular suspicion

King James entered the next century openly Protestant and Calvinistic