

The Reformation in Great Britain

Sources

- J. I. Packer, *The Heritage of Anglican Theology* (2021)
A. G. Dickens, *The English Reformation*, 2nd ed. (1989)
J. H. Merle D'Aubigné, *The Reformation in England*, 2 vols. (1977)
Brian Moynahan, *God's Bestseller* (2002)
J. C. Ryle, *Five English Reformers* (1960)
Jane Dawson, *John Knox* (2015)
James Stalker, *John Knox: His Ideas and Ideals* (1904)

I. The Theological Reformation in England

A. Forerunner: John Wycliffe and the Lollards

1. Oxford professor (1320-84) called "Morningstar of the Reformation"; foreshadowed many of the themes of the later Reformation
 - a. Stressed preaching over sacramental role of the priesthood
 - b. Stressed Bible translation and providing the Word of God to all people
 - c. Resisted the political power of the papacy
2. Lollards, or "poor preachers," preserved Wycliffe's cause until the Reformation

B. Major Leaders

1. Thomas Cranmer
 - a. Archbishop of Canterbury
 - b. As Henry VIII was author of the political Reformation, Cranmer, was author of the religious Reformation (Dr. Panosian)
 - c. Sometimes vacillating in character but Protestant in convictions
2. William Tyndale and the translation of the Bible
 - a. Skilled language scholar
 - b. Forced to work from the Low Countries, where he translated and printed Bibles; arrested & burned at the stake in 1536. "Lord, open the king of England's eyes."

C. Major Bible Translations

1. Tyndale Bible: NT and part of OT; basis of all Reformation translations
2. Geneva Bible: translation by "Marian exiles"; most popular of Puritan Bibles
3. Authorized (King James) Version

II. The Political Reformation in England

A. Character of Henry VIII

1. Originally trained for church, remained more or less Roman Catholic
2. Ardently desired a male heir
3. His divorce from Catherine of Aragon sparked the political Reformation

B. Break with Rome

1. Pope Clement VII, virtual prisoner of Charles V (Catherine's nephew), could not grant the annulment
2. Henry broke with Rome & became "Supreme Head of the Church in England."

C. Course of the Political Reformation

1. Henry used political repression to further policies (e.g., execution of Thomas More)
2. Religious policy of "reformed Catholicism"
 - a. Originally supported a mild, moderate Protestantism (denied Masses for the dead and purgatory; asserted three sacraments including penance)

- b. Later reaffirmed Catholic dogma
 - D. Results
 - 1. A separate church in England
 - 2. An Erastian (state-controlled) church
 - 3. Doctrine—Between Catholicism and Protestantism
 - E. Under Henry's Successors
 - 1. Edward VI
 - a. Strongly Protestant policy by Edward and his regents
 - b. Portrayed as Josiah (godly boy king) and Solomon (building the temple his father could not complete) by Protestant leaders
 - c. Brought in continental reformers
 - d. Cranmer's Means of reform
 - 1) *Book of Common Prayer*: Guide for how to worship
 - 2) 42 Articles of Religion: Protestant confession of faith
 - 3) Homilies: Official set of doctrinal sermons
 - e. Question: How Protestant were the people?
 - 2. Mary Tudor
 - a. Attempted Catholic restoration
 - b. "Bloody Mary": 300 executed and hundreds exiled
 - c. Her death ended Catholic threat
 - d. Ironically, revulsion against her makes England more pro-Protestant politically as well as religiously
 - 3. Elizabeth—A Later Story
- ### III. Reformation in Scotland
- A. Situation
 - 1. A separate nation
 - 2. Catholic rulers
 - a. Mary Guise, queen-regent (French)
 - b. Mary Queen of Scots
 - B. Reformers
 - 1. Early martyrs (Patrick Hamilton, George Wishart)
 - 2. Lords of the Congregation: Protestant nobility
 - 3. John Knox
 - a. Unflinching
 - b. Brooked no compromise w/ Roman Catholicism
 - c. Calvinistic
 - d. Key: OT covenantal emphasis to view Scotland like Israel
 - C. Course (González 100-104)
 - 1. Early efforts crushed—Knox exiled
 - 2. Resistance to Mary Queen of Scots
 - 3. Laid basis for the Presbyterian Church of Scotland
 - a. Reformed in theology
 - b. Instituted tighter discipline
 - c. More austere than Church of England