

# Reformation Timeline

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC, Sunday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>*

The Scriptures consistently warn that Satan (and his agents) would seek to infiltrate the church for their own purposes. (*Mt. 6:15-20; 13:24-32; Acts 20:29-30; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:1-4; 2 Peter 2; Jude*) Satan is a master at using “religion” to keep people from a genuine relationship with God. (Mt 7:23) **Religion is such an effective tool in Satan’s hand because:**

- People are “wired” for “relationship” Ecc. 3:11 *Religion is an “understandable” substitute.*
- It lends itself to “mystery” and deception.
- It can be used to control behavior. Karl Marx called it “*the opium of the masses*”
- Religion without a genuine relationship sickens God! (Is. 1:10-18)  
*Remember that “Blind Religion” brought about the “Dark Ages”! Since “Repentance” involves “Rethinking”, let’s examine how God used the light of His word to pierce the darkness.*

**1215:** English nobility force King John to recognize the rights of the people through the Magna Carta.

**1295:** England’s First Parliament enabled laws made by the people.

**1302: Pope Boniface VIII issued the infamous Papal bull Unam Sanctam delaring that:**

- 1) There is only one true Church, outside of which there is no salvation;
- 2) The Pope is Christ’s vicar (representative) and thus is infallible (in his official capacity.)
- 3) There are two “swords” (powers) spiritual and temporal. Both are used by and for the church!
- 4) Spiritual Authority (the Pope) supersedes Temporal (civil) Authority.

Whoever resists this Authority resists God!

***“We declare, state and define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff.”***

**1338:** Electors of the Holy Roman Empire (Europe) declare that they can select an emperor without approval from the pope.

**1341:** William Ockham (English Philosopher) wrote the “Summa Logicae claiming the church’s authority was only spiritual and not civic. **“Separation of Church and State”**

**1370:** John Wycliffe (English Priest): Proposes limiting the Papal power to tax and challenges some existing church “traditions” and unscriptural doctrines. ***Begins translating scriptures into English.***

**1377:** Pope Gregory XI issues 5 bulls against Wycliffe.

**1382:** Blackfriars Synod condemns Wycliffe and persecutes his followers. **1384: Wycliffe dies.**

**1408: Illegal to read or translate the Bible in common language without Bishop’s permission.**

**1413:** Bohemian priest John Huss writes “De Ecclesia” supporting some of Wycliffe’s reforms.

**1415:** Council of Constance condemns Wycliffe as a heretic and demands Huss recant.

**John Huss is burned at the stake.**

**1483-1509:** *Martin Luther, Zwingli, William Tyndale, Menno Simmons, John Knox and Calvin born.*

**1502: Papal bull orders the burning of any books questioning church authority.**

**1516: Erasmus publishes Greek NT.** (Which becomes the foundation for future translations)

**Oct. 31, 1517: Martin Luther nails his 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Church Door.**

**1519:** Luther questions papal infallibility and Zwingli preaches directly from the Bible.

**1520:** Pope Leo publishes bull against Luther. (Which he publicly burns)

**1521:** Luther is excommunicated and condemned as a heretic. ***He translates bible into German.***

Pope Leo names King Henry VIII “Defender of the Faith” for attacking Luther’s views.

**1521:** William Tyndale translates scripture into English and is charged with Heresy.

**1525:** Ana Baptist groups form in Germany and Switzerland.

**1526:** Tyndale completes New Testament in Worms, Germany.

**1527:** Switzerland orders torture and confiscation of property for harboring an “ana-Baptist”.

**1528:** Thomas Bilney is dragged from his Cambridge pulpit and imprisoned for having reformation sympathies. He’s burned at the stake in 1531!

**1529:** “Protestant” is first used to describe those associated with Luther, Zwingli, Calvin and Knox. Sir Thomas More (England’s Chancellor) writes against Tyndale and Luther.

- 1529:** King Henry VIII, after Pope Clement's refusal to annul his marriage to Katherine, convenes the "Reformation Parliament" to cut ties with Rome.
- 1531:** Zwingli goes to war to force remaining Catholic districts of Switzerland to become "protestant". He's killed in the battle.
- 1532:** King Henry declares himself the head of the English (Anglican) church.
- 1533:** Henry "annuls" his marriage to Katherine and marries "Anne Boleyn" who births Elizabeth 1. *Henry's daughter (by Katherine) "Mary" was proclaimed illegitimate and forced to become a lady in waiting for Elizabeth. Henry refused to reconcile with her until she signs a document acknowledging that her birth was illegitimate. When her father and brother Edward died, Mary claimed the throne, killed Jane Grey and became known as "Bloody Mary" killing over 300 Protestant reformers in England.*
- 1533:** Thomas Cranmer becomes the Archbishop of Canterbury. English "priests" allowed to Marry.
- 1534:** Supremacy and Treasons Acts make it treason (punishable by death) to refuse to acknowledge the King as the head of the Church. High Chancellor of England, refuses to support Henry's outrageous claim and is beheaded.
- 1535:** King Henry has William Tyndale hunted down, arrested and imprisoned. Miles Coverdale (Tyndale's friend) prints his Bible in English, dedicating it to Anne Boleyn.
- 1536:** When Anne miscarries a deformed son; Henry charges her with treason, adultery and witchcraft. *She was beheaded after praying for Jesus to save the King!*
- William Tyndale is burned at the stake after praying: "God open the eyes of the King of England"**
- 1537:** John Rogers (Coworker of William Tyndale) Published the "Mathews Bible" which the King authorized to be used in every English (Anglican) Church!

## Conclusion:

**In 1844: Samuel Morse sends the first "Morse Code" message. It was a Bible verse spoken by the corrupt prophet Balaam who was paid to curse Israel. Instead, when reflecting on God's providential care of His people, Balaam exclaimed: "What hath God wrought!" Num. 23:23**

Only when we're able to look over History from God's perspective will we completely understand the intricate workings of our Great God. It is interesting to begin to see how, even during the darkest of times, God was (and is) still at work. The impact of these events and the scriptures that inspired them cannot be overstated.

**The 1384 Prologue to the Wycliffe Bible contains the following dedication:**  
***"This Bible is translated and shall make possible a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."*** (Does this Sound familiar?)

## Application:

**The reformation reveals the truth of John 8:32**

***"ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."***

We stand in an age growing increasingly dark, and in desperate need of another "Reformation" in our: Country, Communities, Churches, Homes and Hearts. *"The last shall be first" Mt. 19:30*  
**Phil. 2:13,14** charges us to be: *"blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life"*

**Are you willing to "seek" the truth?**

**Are you willing to "serve" the truth?**

*"Almighty God, who through the preaching of your servants, the courageous Reformers, has caused the light of the Gospel to shine forth: Grant us Father, that knowing its saving power, we may faithfully guard and defend it against all enemies, and joyfully proclaim it, to the salvation of souls and the glory of your Holy Name; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen."*

Adapted from an old reformation Book & Hymnal