

# Congregationalism – Heritage & Future

Section #3 – The English Reformation  
September 30, 2020

## Introduction

- 1) The Protestant (or Magisterial) Reformation had two major early camps:
  - a) **Lutheran** – started in Germany and moved into the Scandinavian countries.
  - b) **Reformed** (later called “Calvinism”) – started in Swiss nations and then went international.
- 2) They were both bottom up Reformations, started by clergy that effect all of society.
- 3) The English Reformation was unique, it was top down, started by the monarch.
- 4) Though influenced greatly by the Reformed Tradition, and a bit by Lutheranism, the main issue of debate was how “purified” the state church (i.e. the Anglican church) should be.

## English Monarchs (& Rulers) of the Reformation

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Period / Ruler</u>
<b>-1527</b>	<b>England a conservative Roman Catholic country</b>
1485-1509	Henry VII – First of the house of Tudor (who won the War of the Roses)
1509-47	Henry VIII – Starts of a staunch Roman Catholic
<b>1527-47</b>	<b>High Church Protestant (Anglican)</b>
1527-47	Henry VIII – Becomes a Protestant to get a divorce
<b>1547-53</b>	<b>Anglican with a strong Reformed leaning</b>
1547-53	Edward VI – Devout Protestant, dies young
1553	<i>Jane</i> – Queen only for 9 days before being executed
<b>1553-58</b>	<b>Militant Roman Catholic</b>
1553-58	Mary I – “Bloody Mary” – Strong Roman Catholic, persecuted Protestants
<b>1558-1649</b>	<b>High Church Anglican</b> (growing radical Romanist & Puritan movements)
1558-1603	Elizabeth I – Returns to a moderate state Protestantism, last Tudor
1603-25	James I – First Stuart king, orders the creation of the KJV
1625-49	Charles I – Sympathetic to Roman Catholicism, executed by Parliament
<b>1649-59</b>	<b>(Puritan) Commonwealth of England</b>
1653-58	<i>Oliver Cromwell</i> – Puritan “dictator” of the Commonwealth
1658-59	<i>Richard Cromwell</i> – Oliver’s son
<b>1660-88</b>	<b>Anglican</b>
1660-85	Charles II – Charles I’s son, restored with limitations to his power
1685-88	James II – Increase Roman Catholic sympathies, leads to his exile
<b>1689-</b>	<b>Moderate Anglican</b> (with growing religious tolerance)
1689-1702	William III – Of Holland, related to James II, asked by Parliament to be a Protestant (limited) monarch

## Timeline

- 1509            **Henry VIII** becomes King England.
- 1516            Mary I born to Henry & Catherine of Aragon.
- 1517            Luther posts the 95 Theses and begins the Reformation.
- 1518            Henry VIII begins to write a book refuting Martin Luther's attack on indulgences.
- 1518-25        Ulrich Zwingli, the first Reformed theologian, begins the Reformation in Zurich.
- 1521            Luther refuses to recant at the Diet of Worms, the Reformation is unstoppable.
- 1521            Henry VIII publishes his book The Defense of the Seven Sacraments that attacks Martin Luther. Pope Leo X gives Henry the title "Defender of the Faith."
- 1527            Henry VIII seeks to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.  
                  The Pope refuses because of Catherine's nephew, Charles V.
- 1529            Marburg Colloquy – Luther & Zwingli fail to find union over Communion.
- 1533            Thomas Cranmer made Archbishop of Canterbury; Cranmer declares Henry VIII's marriage invalid; Anne Boleyn becomes queen. Anne gives birth to Elizabeth.
- 1534            Act of Supremacy – The King is declared "supreme head" of the Church in England.
- 1536            Anne Boleyn executed. Henry marries Jane Seymour.
- 1537            Jane Seymour gives birth to Edward VI. Jane dies.
- 1538-41        John Calvin goes to Strasbourg and learns from Martin Bucer who started the reformation in that city years before. Bucer would later teach at Cambridge University and greatly influence the English church.
- 1538            Henry orders the English Bible to be put in every parish.
- 1539            Henry closes the remaining of the English monasteries.  
                  Henry demands more Catholic theology, including priestly celibacy.  
                  Cranmer sends his wife to Germany.
- 1541            Calvin returns to Geneva and makes the city into a beacon of Reformed activity.  
                  One of its famous visitors is the Scotsman, John Knox, one of the fathers of modern day Presbyterianism.
- 1543            Cranmer accused of heresy by conservative bishops, Henry protects Cranmer.
- 1546            Luther dies.
- 1547            Henry dies holding Cranmer's hand. **Edward VI** becomes King of England.
- 1549            Act of Uniformity – orders the use of Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer.  
                  Along with Shakespeare and the KJV the BCP becomes one of the most influence works on the English language.
- 1552            Cranmer revises the Book of Common Prayer along more Calvinist lines.
- 1553            Edward dies, Cranmer supports Lady **Jane Grey**.  
                  **Mary** enters London in triumph and becomes Queen.  
                  Jane executed, Cranmer imprisoned for treason.
- 1555            Peace of Augsburg allows German states to choose between Lutheranism & Roman Catholicism.

- 1556 Cranmer recants during his trial. Sentenced to death.  
Recants his recanting just before being burned at the stake.
- 1558 Mary dies, **Elizabeth I** becomes Queen of England.
- 1559 The final edition of Calvin's Institutes is published.
- 1559 The Belgic Confession, of the first popular Reformed confessions published in the Netherlands.
- 1560 Geneva Bible published.
- 1560 The Scots Confession is created by John Knox and others.  
It is one of the founding documents of Presbyterianism.
- 1563 The Heidelberg Catechism published in the Palatine of Germany.
- 1563-69 Vestiarian Controversy – English clergy of the “Puritan” faction call for:  
Elimination of cleric vestments, kneeling during communion,  
“emergency baptism” for sickly newborns, organs from churches  
and the reduction of number of saint days.  
  
The Puritans didn't get any of their points, though a growing number started to introduce these reforms in their churches; the beginning of separatism.
- 1564 Calvin dies in Geneva.
- c.1580 Robert Browne creates one of the first separate/autonomous congregations.  
He is considered the first Congregationalist.
- 1588 The Spanish Armada is defeated by the English fleet.
- 1602 John Smyth (a General Baptist) creates one of the first Baptist congregations in England.
- 1603 Elizabeth I dies without children, James VI of Scotland, becomes **James I** of England.
- 1605 Gunpowder Plot foiled. Guy Fawkes is executed the next year.
- 1611 King James Bible published.
- 1620 Radical separatists (i.e. Pilgrims) leave England for the Netherlands and then for North America on the Mayflower and settle in Massachusetts.
- 1625 James I dies, his son **Charles I** becomes king.
- 1636 Harvard university is created to train Reformed Congregational clergy.
- 1639 Roger Williams, in exile in Providence RI, creates one of the first Baptist churches in America. He called for religious tolerance, kind treatment of the local Indians and complete separation of church & state. (Note, there is a difference between believing in religious tolerance & theological liberalism.)