

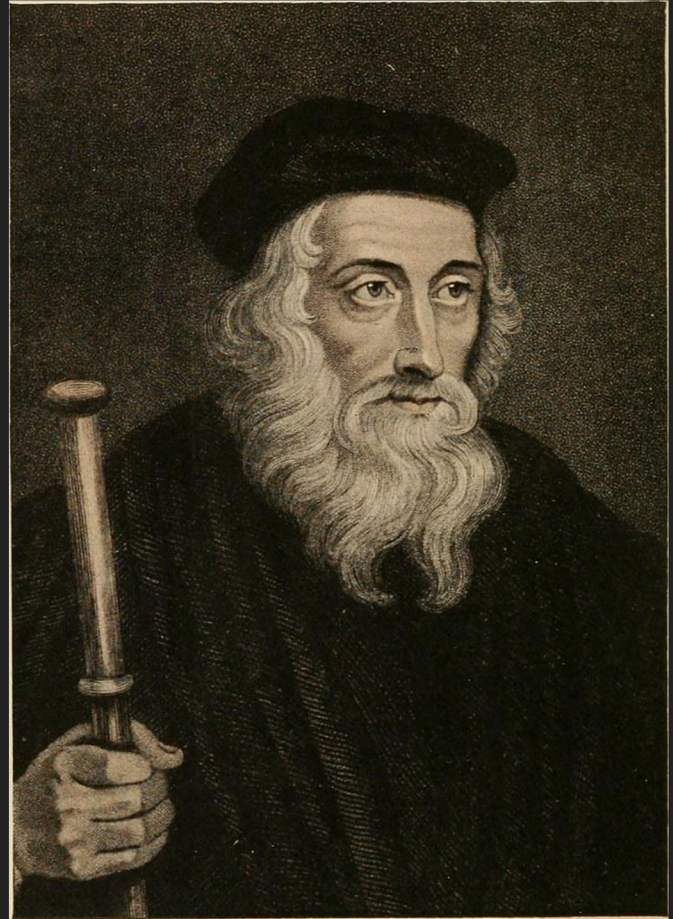


# The English Reformation

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# John Wycliffe

- Pre-Reformer who championed Bible translation
- Followers were called Lollards, who were persecuted fiercely after his death
- Bible translation and distribution of translated copies were banned







## William Tyndale (1494-1536)

- Studied at Oxford and learned about the teachings of Wycliffe and the Lollards
- Became proficient in 8 languages and grew a passion to translate the Bible
- Fled to Germany under threats of persecution

A man once told Tyndale that the people are better without God's law than without the pope's law. Tyndale replied: "I defy the Pope and all his lawes. If God spare my life [for] many years, I will cause a boy that driveth the plough [to] know more of the Scripture, than thou doest."

- Spring of 1526 - Tyndale, while living in Worms, finished his English translation of the New Testament. Printed copies made their way to England that fall.
- 1529 - Tyndale was likely shipwrecked, losing books, writings, and his working translation of the Pentateuch.
- 1530 - Tyndale completed his translation of the Pentateuch.

- 1535 - Tyndale was imprisoned for 500 days in Belgium
- While in prison, he wrote *Faith Alone Justified Before God* where he argued that this doctrine (Justification by Faith alone) is the key to understanding Scripture.



On October 6, 1536,  
at age 42, Tyndale  
was martyred.



“Lord, open  
the king of  
England’s  
eyes.”





# King Henry VIII



- Henry married Catherine of Aragon, who had previously been married to his older brother.
- They had a daughter, Mary, but could not have a son.
- He began to think his marriage was cursed: “If a man takes his brother’s wife, it is impurity. He has uncovered his brother’s nakedness; they shall be childless.” (Lev. 20:21)

- An appeal for an annulment was made to Pope Clement VII, but the appeal was denied.
- King Henry formed the Reformation Parliament to deal with this 'great matter'.
- In 1533, the marriage was annulled by Thomas Cranmer.
- Parliament pushed through legislation that eroded the papacy's power, ending in the Act of Supremacy.





Act of Supremacy: “[the King is] The only Supreme Head on earth of the church of England...[including] full power and authority...to visit repress, redress, reform, order, correct, restrain, and amend all such errors, heresies, abuses, offences, contempts, and enormities.”



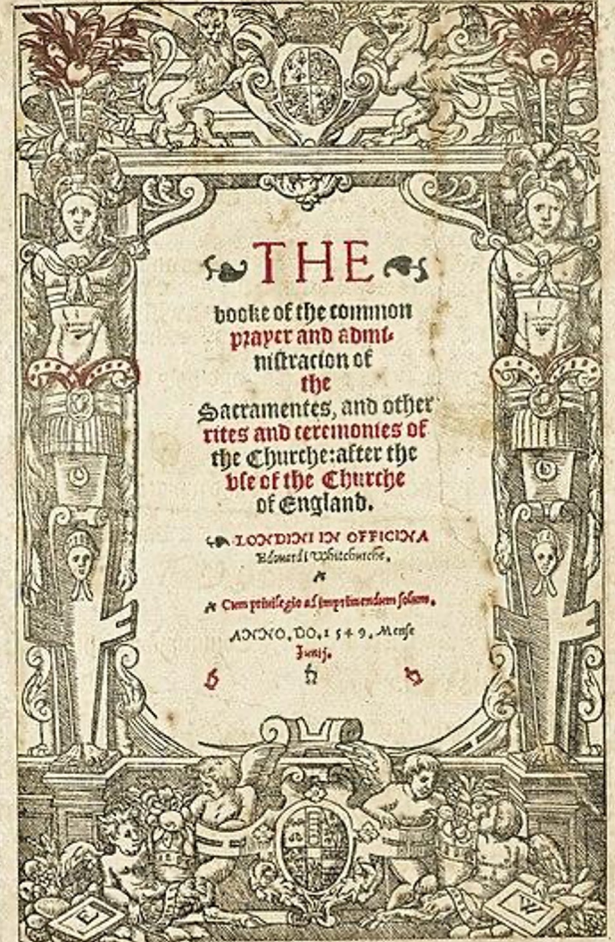
Thomas Cranmer  
(1489-1555)

- Studied and taught at Cambridge University, where he became familiar with reformed teachings
- As the head of the church's organization, on May 23, 1533, Cranmer annulled marriage of Henry & Catherine. Then, nearly three years later, on May 17, 1536 Cranmer annulled the marriage of Henry & Anne.
- Among so much activity, it is unclear when Cranmer became convinced of justification by faith alone because he did not make his position known until the death of Henry in 1547.



# Book of Common Prayer

- First published in 1549, and a second edition came in 1552. The teaching of the book helped bring reform
- What was once understood as the “altar” was changed to “the Lord’s table”
- “feed on [Christ] in thy heart with faith by thanksgiving”



# Prayer of Confession

“Almighty and most merciful father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways, like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us.”

# Prayer of Confession

“But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.”



# Articles of Anglican Church

- Cranmer developed 42 Articles to reform the church's doctrine.
- On June 19, 1553, after much discussion and debate, King Edward promulgated the 42 Articles in the Church of England.
- They were on their way to becoming the official doctrine of the Church of England, but on July 6, 1553 King Edward died.



# Bloody Mary

- Upon Edward's death, Mary came to the throne and worked to reunite Rome and the Church of England.
- She persecuted those working for reform earning the name "Bloody Mary" and the work of reform stalled.



# Queen Elizabeth I

- After Mary's death in 1558, her successor, Queen Elizabeth I, reintroduced measures of reform.
- In 1563, Elizabeth released the 39 Articles (a slight revision of the 42 Articles) which became official doctrine for the Anglican church.
- The content of these articles is thoroughly protestant and they remain the official belief of the Church of England.



# Article 11

“We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by Faith, and not for our own works or deservings: Wherefore, that we are justified by Faith only is a most wholesome Doctrine, and very full of comfort, as more largely is expressed in the Homily of Justification.”



## Article 12

“Albeit that Good Works, which are the fruits of Faith, and follow after Justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's Judgement; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and do spring out necessarily of a true and lively Faith; insomuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit.”

*semper reformanda* -

“always reforming”

or

“always being reformed”