



John Wycliffe

The Dawn of The Reformation

Overview: Historical context

100 years before the start of the reformation period

The Black Death between 1349 and 1353

War with France renewed in 1369

The Western Schisma: A split within the Catholic Church lasting from 1378 to 1417 in which bishops residing in Rome and Avignon both claimed to be the true pope

Conflict between the state (English Monarchy) and the Catholic Church (Papacy)

- King Richard II's government was anti-papal

- Disproportionate amounts of English property owned by church

- 'Taxes' imposed by the church

- Financial exemptions of the clergy

- Church had significant power base in the politics of England

Overview: Who was John Wycliffe?

Considered one of the most important and authoritative thinkers of the Middle ages.

Philosopher

Theologian

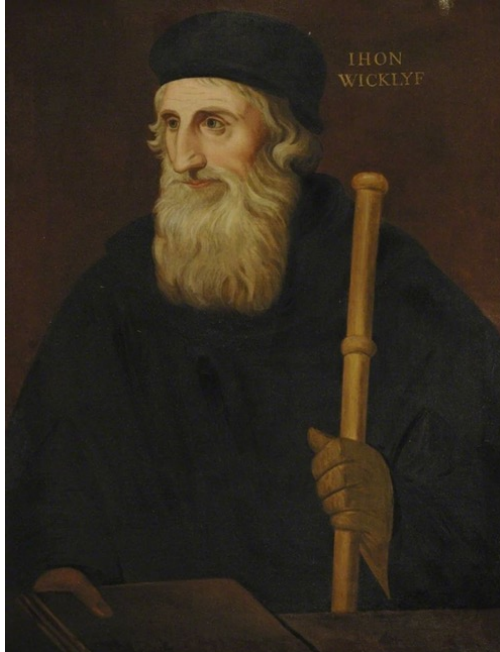
Priest

Political Activist

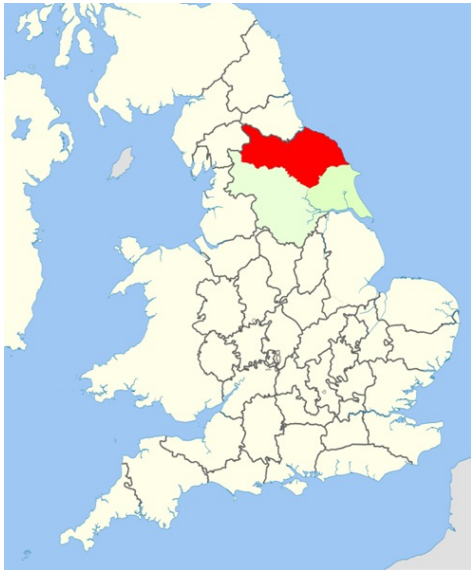
Complex man

Strong influence on John Hus

Translation of the Latin Vulgate in Middle English



John Wycliffe – Early Years



Born: Sometime between 1324 and 1332 (1328).

Location: Village of Hipswell, Yorkshire, England

Little is known until record of his presence at Oxford in 1345

Became a Priest in September of 1351

John Wycliffe – Education



Merton College of Oxford University



Balliol College of Oxford University

Oxford University:

1356: Completed his arts degree at Merton College as a junior fellow.

1361: Master of Balliol College

1369: Bachelor of Theology

1372: Doctorate of Theology

Theological posts:

1351: Ordained as a Catholic Priest

1361-1368: Parish of Fillingham in Lincolnshire

1362: Prebendary at Aust in Westbury-on-Trym

1365-1367: Head of Canterbury Hall & Warden

1368: Rectory of Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire

John Wycliffe – Politics

- Close relationship with John Gant:
 - Duke of Lancaster
 - 3rd surviving son of King Edward III of England
 - Father of King Henry IV
 - Leveraged Wycliff's influence at Oxford
 - Protected Wycliff from attacks by the church
- 1374: Wycliffe was appointed as a delegate of the Crown for a meeting with Pope Gregory XI @ Avignon.
- Supported the idea that the Church should be subjected to the secular government.
- Wycliffe was asked to give the king's council his opinion on whether it was lawful to withhold traditional payments to Rome, and he responded that it was.
- Did not support the church's right of sanctuary.

John Wycliffe – Theology

- Theology
 - Predestination
 - Salvation by grace
 - (Focus)Theological graces of Love, Joy, and Hope
 - Authority of the Bible
 - Invisible Church or Church Universal of the elect vs the visible Catholic Church

John Wycliffe – Advocacy

- Advocacy
 - The Bible in a language common to the people.
 - Iconoclasm: social belief in the importance of the destruction of icons and other images or monuments, most frequently for religious or political reasons.
 - Caesaropapism: the idea of combining the social and political power of secular government with religious power, or of making secular authority superior to the spiritual authority of the Church.
 - The church should divest itself of worldly possessions.
 - Discouragement of speculation.

John Wycliffe – Conflict With the Church

- Questioned the legitimacy and authority of the papacy.
- Argued against:
 - The Veneration of Saints.
 - The Sacraments.
 - Transubstantiation.
 - Sacrament of confession
 - Requiem Mass (Mass of the dead).
 - Monasticism (Monkhood).
- Summons
 - 19 February 1377: William Courtenay, Bishop of London.
 - 22 May 1377: Pope Gregory XI sent five copies of a bull against Wycliffe.
 - At Oxford served under house arrest at Black Hall.
 - March 1378: Summoned to appear at Lambeth Palace to defend himself.
 - 1381 – 1382: Anti-Wycliffe synod.
 - 17 November 1382: Wycliffe was summoned before a synod at Oxford

John Wycliffe –Death & Churches Final Attack

- Illness and death
 - 1382: First stroke left him partially paralyzed.
 - December 28, 1384: Suffered his second stroke.
 - December 31, 1384: Dies
- The churches final attack.
 - 1415: Council of Constance -
 - Burned John Hus at the stake
 - Condemned John Wycliffe on 260 different counts
 - Ordered that his writings be burned and directed that his bones be exhumed and cast out of consecrated ground.
 - 1428: At Papal command –
 - Remains of Wycliffe were dug up, burned, and scattered into the little river Swift.
 - Bishop Fleming, in the reign of Henry VI, founded Lincoln College for the express purpose of counteracting the doctrines which Wycliffe and his followers had promulgated

John Wycliffe – Works

- 1356: The Last Age of the Church
 - Based on his experiences during the plague he puts forth that these things were the result of God's wrath on sinful man and the end of the age was upon the world.
- De incarcerandis fedelibus:
 - Demanded that it should be legal for the excommunicated to appeal to the king and his council against the excommunication.
- De officio regis:
 - Concerned with the reform of the Church.
- Translation of the Latin Vulgate into Middle English.
 - Completed prior to 1384.
 - Additional updated versions being done by Wycliffe's assistant John Purvey, and others, in 1388 and 1395.
 - Old Testament Translated by his friend Nicholas of Hereford.

John Wycliffe – Works

1360: De Logica ("On Logic")

1368: De Universalibus ("On Universals")

1373: De Dominio Divino

1375: De Mandatis Divinis

1376: De Statu Innocencie

1377: De Civili Dominio - called for the royal divestment of all church property.

1377: Responsio

1379: De Ecclesia ("On the Church")

1378: De veritate sacrae scripturae (On the Truthfulness of Holy Scripture)

1378: On the Pastoral Office

1379: De apostasia ("On Apostasy")

1379: De Eucharistia (On the Eucharist")

1380: Objections to Friars (1380)

1381: The last age of the pope

1383: Trialogus, a systematic statement of his views



William Tyndale

Father of the English Bible

Overview: Historical Context

- ❖ Fallout from Wycliff Experience:
 - ❖ Church made it a crime, punishable by death for anyone found guilty of unlicensed possession of an English translation of the Bible.
 - ❖ Parliament passed the "Constitutions of Oxford," which forbade anyone from translating or reading a part of the Bible in the language of the people without the permission of the ecclesiastical authorities.
 - ❖ In many cases it was illegal to teach any portion of the Bible in English along with teaching the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments.
- ❖ Martin Luther's works were smuggled into England
- ❖ Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible
- ❖ Invention of the printing press
- ❖ King Henry VIII reigning monarch in England

Overview: Who was William Tyndale



- ❖ Scholar
- ❖ Gifted linguist – fluent in:
 - ❖ French
 - ❖ Greek
 - ❖ Hebrew
 - ❖ German
 - ❖ Italian
 - ❖ Latin
 - ❖ Spanish
 - ❖ English
- ❖ Student of Theology
- ❖ First translation of the complete Bible from Hebrew and Greek into modern English

Overview: Early Years & Education

❖ Early Years

- ❖ Born: 1494
- ❖ Location: Melksham Court, Gloucestershire, England
- ❖ The Tyndale family also went by the name Hychyns which name he enrolled under at Oxford University
- ❖ 1512: Ordained as a priest
- ❖ 1521: Chaplain and Tutor at the home of Sir John Walsh



Hertford College

❖ Education

- ❖ Little known of his early education
- ❖ 1506: Enrolled in Oxford University -
Bachelor of Arts degree at Magdalen Hall (later Hertford College)
- ❖ 1512: Received his Bachelor of Arts degree
- ❖ 1515: Received his Master of Arts degree
- ❖ Allowed him to study Theology
- ❖ Did not include the systematic study of scripture
They have ordained that no man shall look on the Scripture until he is modeled in heathen learning eight or nine years and armed with false principles, with which he is clean shut out of the understanding of scripture.
- ❖ 1517 – 1521 Enrolled in University of Cambridge

Overview: Theological Posts

- ❖ 1512: Ordained as a Catholic priest
- ❖ 1512-1521: Served as a sub-deacon to the Catholic church
- ❖ 1521-1523: Chaplain and Tutor at the home of Sir John Walsh

Overview: Conflict with the Church & Crown

- ❖ Adopted many of the Reformist's theology.
- ❖ Openly advocated translation of scripture into modern English.
 - ❖ 1529 Cardinal Wolsey condemned Tyndale as a heretic
 - ❖ The church sought his arrest
- ❖ Opposed King Henry VIII's annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon in favor of Anne Boleyn.
 - ❖ 1530, he wrote *The Practice of Prelates*.
 - ❖ King actively sought to have him arrested.

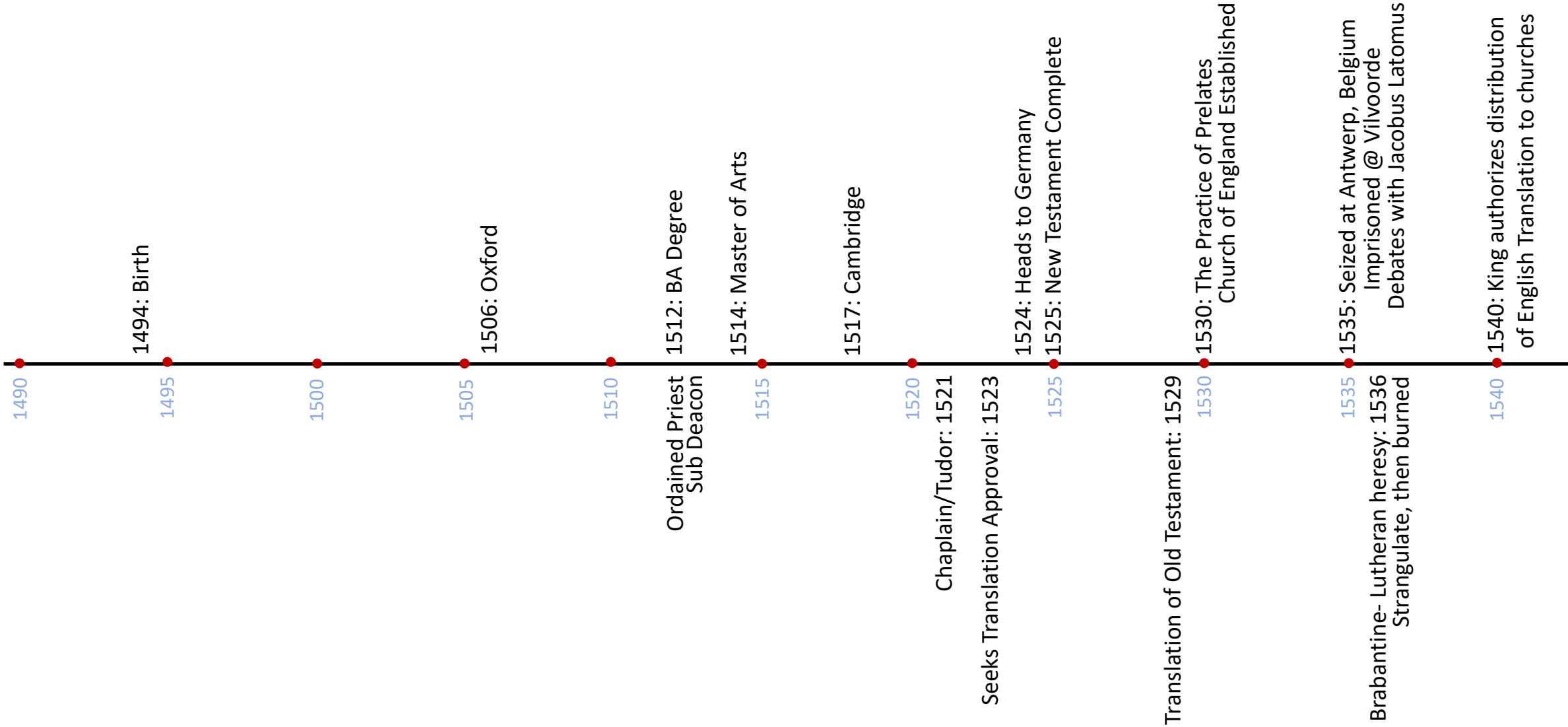
Overview: Translation of the Bible

- ❖ 1523: Sought approval from the church to translate the Bible into English.
- ❖ 1524: Left England for Germany. Began translation of New Testament.
- ❖ 1525: Completed translation of new testament.
- ❖ 1526: Full edition of the New Testament produced and smuggled into England and Scotland.
- ❖ ~1529: Started translation of the old testament.
- ❖ 1535 – 1536: Continued translations while imprisoned.
- ❖ ~1540: King Henry VII authorizes a sequence of four English translations of the Bible printed and distributed to the churches in England which were based on Tyndall's translations.
- ❖ Impact on later publications of the Bible:
 - ❖ 1611: King James Bible 90% from Tyndall's translation
 - ❖ 1952: Revised Standard Version 75% from Tyndall's translation

Overview: Death

- ❖ 1535: Seized at Antwerp, Belgium by the church.
- ❖ Imprisoned in the castle of Vilvoorde (Filford) near Brussels.
- ❖ Jacobus Latomus (Catholic Flemish theologian) gives Tyndall an opportunity to state his theological views in written debate with him.
- ❖ 1536: Turned over to the Brabantine secular arm and tried on charges of Lutheran heresy.
- ❖ Oct 1536: Strangled to death while tied to the stake and then his body burned.
- ❖ His last words:
 - ❖ "Lord! Open the King of England's eyes."

Timeline: William Tyndall



Overview: Phrases he introduced

- ❖ my brother's keeper
- ❖ knock and it shall be opened unto you
- ❖ a moment in time
- ❖ fashion not yourselves to the world
- ❖ seek and ye shall find
- ❖ ask and it shall be given you
- ❖ judge not that ye be not judged
- ❖ the word of God which liveth and lasteth forever
- ❖ let there be light
- ❖ the powers that be
- ❖ the salt of the earth
- ❖ a law unto themselves
- ❖ it came to pass
- ❖ the signs of the times
- ❖ filthy lucre
- ❖ the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (which is like Luther's translation of Matthew 26,41: der Geist ist willig, aber das Fleisch ist schwach; Wycliffe for example translated it with: for the spirit is ready, but the flesh is sick.)
- ❖ live, move and have our being

Overview: Some of the many new words he introduced into the English Language

- ❖ Passover
- ❖ Attonment
- ❖ Mercy Seat