

TIMELINE OF 16TH CENTURY PROTESTANTISM

- 1517** – [Germany] Luther, a 34-year old priest, posted his 96 Theses against indulgences
- 1520** – [Germany] Luther burned Roman Catholic books in reprisal for his writings being burned
- 1521** – [Germany] Luther was excommunicated by Rome;
[England] William Tyndale, a 27-year old Oxford scholar exclaimed to a priest who was defending the Pope's authority, "I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life many more years, I will cause the boy that drives the plow to know more of the Scriptures than you do!"
- 1522** – [Switzerland] Zwingli, a 38-year old priest, ate sausages during Lent to protest papal authority & secretly got married while publicly protesting the forced celibacy of priests
- 1524** – [Switzerland] Zwingli publicly married his wife before the birth of their first child; Tyndale went to Europe where he worked on an English translation of the New Testament
- 1525** – [Switzerland] "Anabaptism" ("rebaptism") began with a rejection of infant "baptism" on the basis that it was not mentioned in Scripture;
[Germany] Luther married a former nun;
- 1526** – [Switzerland] Zwingli excommunicated by Rome;
[Germany] Tyndale published his English translation of the New Testament
- 1529** – [Germany] While having 14 points of agreement at the Marburg Colloquy, Luther & Zwingli disagreed on the 15th point regarding the Eucharist; Luther taught the body & blood of Christ were present with the elements ("consubstantiation"), while Zwingli taught the elements were "memorial" in nature
- 1530** – [Germany] "Lutheran" rulers published their Augsburg Confession;
[Belgium] Tyndale published his English translation of Moses' Pentateuch ("Five Books")
- 1531** – [Switzerland] Zwingli died during a surprise Catholic attack on Zurich; the "Reformed" movement continued
[Germany] Luther thought Zwingli's death was God's judgment and that by it his erroneous view on the Eucharist would therefore not prevail
- 1533** – [France] John Calvin (23 or 24 years old), trained in philosophy & law, claimed a "sudden conversion" of himself by God to "a teachable frame"
- 1534** – [France] Protestants in France put up provocative anti-Catholic placards around Paris, including one on the bedroom door of King Francis I (1515-1547);
[Switzerland] Calvin escaped from Paris after French protestants were executed;
[England] Parliament declared Henry VIII (1509-1547) the sovereign head of the English Church, permitting the annulment of his marriage
- 1535** – [England] Henry dissolved & seized the assets of Rome's smaller institutions;
[Belgium] Myles Coverdale, a 47-year old English cleric, published the first printed English translation of the entire Bible (the "Coverdale Bible")
- 1536** – [Switzerland] Calvin published the first edition of his Institutes of the Christian Religion; among other things, he upheld the concepts of inherited "original sin" & "total depravity" and denied the existence of human "free will" to choose anything but sin;
[Belgium] Tyndale burned at the stake for his "protestant" work; his final words, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes!"
- 1537** – [Belgium] John Rogers, a 32-year old English cleric, published the first printed English translation (directly from Greek & Hebrew) of the entire Bible (the "Matthew-Tyndale Bible")
- 1538** – [Switzerland] Calvin functioned as a "pastor" in the "reformed" church at Geneva
[England] Henry excommunicated by Rome
- 1539** – [France & England] The "Great Bible" was printed as the first English Bible "authorized" for use in English Church services
- 1541** – [Germany] Because of some friction with the city council at Geneva, Calvin was sent off to serve in the churches of Strasbourg, where he published a second, much expanded edition of his Institutes of the Christian Religion

- 1541** – [Switzerland] Calvin was brought back to Geneva where he worked for the remainder of his life; his Ecclesiastical Ordinances were enforced on the residents via the Geneva Consistory, a religious practice enforcement panel made up of local pastors, including Calvin
- 1542** – [England] Henry dissolved & seized even more of the assets of Rome in England
- 1546** – [Germany] Luther died; “Lutheranism” continued
- 1547** – [England] Henry VIII died; his 9-year old son, Edward VI, continued as the new sovereign head of the English Church with Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, guiding him
- 1549** – [England] Parliament’s Act of Uniformity launched Cranmer’s Book of Common Prayer as the sole guide for English worship. Failure to use it had severe penalties for English Priests
- First Offense – Loss of a year’s pay & six months in prison
 - Second Offense – One year in prison & loss of one’s position
 - Third Offense (Assuming he found another position) – Life in prison
- 1552** – [England] Parliament’s next Act of Uniformity extended the imprisonment penalties to those who attended any services where the prescribed Book of Common Prayer was not used
- 1553** – [England] Edward died at age 15; despite attempts by Edward before his death to stop it from happening, the crown quickly passed to his half-sister Mary (36 years old), who was decidedly Roman Catholic; despite assurances of freedom of religion, Mary imprisoned protestant church leaders and abrogated all the protestant laws of her half-brother and father
- 1554** – [England] Heresy Laws were put back in force
- 1555** – [Switzerland] After years of friction between the Consistory and the Geneva City Council, supporters of Calvin secured a majority on the Council
[England] Lethal persecutions of “protestants” began again; Bishops Ridley & Latimer were burned at the stake; Latimer said, “Be of good comfort, and play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.” Forced to watch, Archbishop Cranmer recanted & was permitted to rejoin the Catholic faith
- 1556** – [England] Queen Mary pushed for Cranmer’s death, despite his recantation; As he was making his final statement before execution, he once again embraced his Protestantism, saying “And as for the pope, I refuse him, as Christ’s enemy and Antichrist with all his false doctrine.”
- 1557** - [Switzerland] English scholars who had escaped to Geneva cooperated in producing a new English translation of the New Testament
- 1558** – [England] Mary died without heir; her half-sister Elizabeth (25 years old), a “protestant,” took the throne; Parliament passed an Act of Supremacy:
- Required all public officers to take an oath acknowledging Elizabeth as the “Supreme Governor of the Church”
 - Established the content of worship services via The Book of Common Prayer
 - Required all Englishmen to attend services once a week or be fined
- 1559** – [Scotland] John Knox’s return from Geneva sparked a Scottish “reformation”
- 1560** - [Switzerland] The English exiles expanded their cooperative efforts in producing a new English translation of the entire Bible (the “Geneva Bible”)
[Scotland] The “Reformation Parliament” established a “presbyterian” form of administration for the Church of Scotland
- 1563** – [England] The “Thirty-Nine Articles,” part of The Book of Common Prayer, sought to clearly define the beliefs of the English Church
- 1564** – [Switzerland] While maintaining strict “reformed” control at Geneva, Calvin supported sending ministers into France where they were persecuted as heretics by the Catholic king reigning there; his final, even more expanded edition of Institutes was published in 1559; Calvin died; “Calvinism” continued
- 1560s-**
- 1570s** -[England] Certain persons felt that the English Church needed to be “purified” of what looked like a remnant of Catholicism (such as clerical garments); they were typically called “Puritans”