

## Timeline of Reformation Events

### PREPARING the Fire for the Reformation

- 1329-1384 - **John Wycliffe**- Wycliff translates the Bible from Latin to English (the common language) and in doing so, focused on salvation by grace, through faith. He trains the “Lollards” to preach in cities and towns across Britain, paving the way for the Reformation.
- 1373-1415 — **John Huss** is burned at the stake for proclaiming salvation by faith in English (understandable) & proclaiming Christ is the Head of the Church and not the Pope.
- 1465-1519 - **Johann Tetzel** sells Indulgences as a way of raising funds for building churches in Rome; essentially selling release from Purgatory by giving more money to the Catholic Church.
- 15<sup>th</sup> century - **Printing Press** - Johann Gutenberg invented the “Printing Press” - just in time for Luther so that in the early 1500's , the production of pamphlets in Europe increased 1,000% & much of that was due to Martin Luther & his writings! See the amazing providence of God in paving the way for the spread of the gospel!

### LIGHTING the Fire of the Reformation

- 1517 - **Luther's 95 Theses**- Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses on the door of Wittenberg Church to initiate discussion on abuses and restore the doctrine of salvation by grace, through faith.
- 1519 - **Ulrich Zwingli** begins preaching the NT (Matthew) in Switzerland.
- 1522 - **Luther's translation**: from December-March 1522 he translated the Bible into the common language of the people: German
- 1525 - **At the Diet of Worms**: Luther is called before a formal tribunal with guarantees of his safety. Instead, an attempt is made to assassinate him. Some German princes support him, seized him & protected him.
  - 1525 - **Tyndale** visited Luther & was influenced by his translation & so he translated the bible into ENGLISH. 18,000 copies were eventually smuggled into England.

### SPREADING the Fire of the Reformation

- In 1526, - **William Tyndale** completed a translation of the Greek New Testament into English. A few years later he also translated the Pentateuch from Hebrew. Shortly after this, he was betrayed, arrested, strangled, burned at the stake & blown up as a heretic. According to Fox's Book of Martyrs, Tyndale's last words were “Lord, Open the King of England's Eyes.” A few years later, King Henry VIII authorized the first Bible to be used in England (“Great Bible”)—a Bible that was largely based on Tyndale's translation work. The Great Bible laid the foundation for the later King James version (completed in 1611). Our English Bibles are largely from Tyndale's work.
- 1530's & 40's - **John Calvin**. In Paris, Calvin delivered a speech calling the church to return to the pure Gospel of the New Testament. His speech was burned, and Calvin fled to Geneva. Disguised as a vinedresser, he escaped the city in a basket. During the next year, some two dozen Protestants were burned alive in France. This provoked Calvin to write his *Institutes of Christian Religion* stressing a biblical way of life & worship in the Church. Calvin helped reform the churches in Switzerland, Holland, Scotland France and parts of Germany.
- 1545 -**The Council of Trent**; here, the Roman Church formally, for the first time, repudiates & anathematizes the doctrines of the Reformation which had ALWAYS been a part of orthodox doctrine & biblical, saving truth.
- 1553 **Bloody Mary**- Mary Tudor [“Bloody Mary”] Roman Catholic daughter of Henry VIII, persecutes Protestants, burning many famous men at the stake; e.g., Rogers, Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Saunders, Taylor.
- 1559 - **John Knox** brings the Reformation to Scotland, battling Mary, Queen of Scots with bold, biblical preaching!
- 1560 - **Geneva Bible** - first translation of bible to English that uses chapter & verse divisions.
- 1611 -**English Bible**- James I of England authorizes the “Kings James Bible” though he hates Protestants and persecutes them. God used him to authorize the publication of the Bible in English. Then the Puritans (17<sup>th</sup> c.).