

CHURCH HISTORY 2

REFORMATION TO TODAY

August 2, 2013 – Catholicism & Counter-Reformation Lecture
Lakeside Institute of Theology
Ross Arnold, Summer 2013

Church History 2 (TH2)

1. Intro – Forces Leading to Reformation
2. Reformation Begins – Luther
3. Other Reformers – Zwingli, Anabaptists, Calvin, Knox
4. Growth of Protestantism
5. Catholicism & Counter-Reformation
6. Orthodoxy, Rationalism and Pietism
7. Beyond Christendom
8. Materialism & Modern Times; Final Exam

Reformation in the Low Countries

- Near the mouth of Rhine River were a group of territories called the Seventeen Provinces (later the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg), under control of Charles V.
- Protestantism came early to these Low Countries – the first two Protestant martyrs burned in Antwerp in 1523.
- Little unity among the Provinces – French-speaking south; Flemish-speaking center; Dutch-speaking north.
- 1555 Charles V put the Provinces under his son, Philip, who became king of Spain in 1556, as Philip II. At his point, the Provinces became secondary and subservient to Spain.
- During this time, while there were Lutherans and Anabaptists, a great many Calvinist preachers came into the area – so the region eventually became predominantly Calvinist.
- Charles V had opposed Protestantism – issuing edict after edict against it. Tens of thousands were martyred, especially Anabaptists. Yet still Protestantism spread.
- Philip was even more intolerant than his father. In 1556 he returned to Spain and left his half-sister Margaret of Parma as Regent of the Provinces, supported by Spanish soldiers.

Reformation in the Low Countries

- Philip also arranged for Catholic bishops in the Provinces to have inquisitorial powers, which frightened everyone.
- Philip proved duplicitous, promising tolerance while actually instructing Margaret to ruthlessly enforce the decrees of the Council of Trent against Protestantism.
- When several hundred nobles and bourgeoisie presented Margaret with a petition to NOT implement Trent, one of her courtiers told her not to fear “those beggars.”
- “Beggars” became the name claimed by these opposition patriots, and they prepared for war. At this point the nationalist movement took on religious overtones, and Protestant iconoclasts started invading and damaging churches.
- The government asked Protestant William, Prince of Orange (who had been a friend of Charles V) for help, and his appeal halted the violence, and a truce exchanged no more violence for toleration.
- But Philip “had no desire to be lord of the heretics” and so in 1567 he raised an army under the duke of Alba and invaded.
- Complete oppression – a “Court of Disturbances” – thousands were executed – men, women and children, even after surrendering.

Reformation in the Low Countries

- William of Orange responded with his own army and invaded, but was consistently defeated by Alba.
- The bright spot for the Protestants were the “Beggars of the Sea” -- privateers who fought Philip and Alba and came to control the seas, leading eventually to near mutiny of Alba’s troops for lack of funds and supplies.
- The Siege of Leiden was one of the last chances for the Protestants, so William suggested the dikes be opened. Four months later the water reached Leiden, along with Beggars ships, and the Spanish army fled.
- 1576 – the Seventeen Provinces sign the Pacification of Ghent – a treaty establishing that what was at stake was national freedom.
- The struggle dragged on for years, with neither side able to win.
- 1580 – Philip II offered a reward of 25,000 crowns and nobility to anyone who killed William of Orange – which someone finally did in 1583. (Philip did not fulfill his promise.)
- But William’s 19-year-old son Maurice turned out to be a great general and led several successful campaigns. In 1607 Spain decided it was no longer worth it and signed a permanent truce.

Reformation in France

- Before 16th Century, France was the most unified and centralized monarchy in Europe – but all that changed.
- Francis I was against Protestants, but to trouble his rival Charles V Francis encouraged Protestants in Germany – so he couldn't do too much against them in France. This fluctuated, however, and eventually many French Protestants (or Huguenots) were forced into exile (like John Calvin).
- Francis' sister, Margaret of Angouleme, queen of Navarre, was a scholarly woman who supported the reform movement and welcomed Protestants.
- In 1547 Francis I died, and his son Henry II is much more constant and cruel in his persecution of Protestants. But Henry soon died, of wounds received during a tournament.
- The next heir was Francis II, whose mother Catherine de Medici was ambitious to rule through her children.
- Catherine's goals were opposed by the House of Guise (or Lorraine) staunch Catholics who had been prominent in the reign of Henry II, but supported by *Princes of the Blood*, or royal relatives, especially the Protestant House of Bourbon.

Reformation in France

- When a plot (the Conspiracy of Amboise) was discovered to kidnap the king and get him away from the influence of Francis of Guise and his brother Charles, it was blamed on the Huguenots and one of the Bourbon brothers, Louis de Conde, was arrested.
- Francis II died unexpectedly, and Catherine took over as regent for her next son, 10-year-old Charles IX. She immediately freed Conde and supported the Huguenots in efforts to counter the House of Lorraine. (By now there were 2000 Protestant churches in France.)
- 1562, in the Edict of St. Germain, Catherine gave freedom of worship to Huguenots, with limitations.
- Two Guise brothers and 200 noblemen responded with the Massacre of Vassy, where worshipping Huguenots were slaughtered, launching the first in a series of religious wars. Protestant mobs attacked Catholic churches; Catholic mobs slaughtered Christians – until both sides fielded armies.
- Between temporary truces there were additional wars in 1567 and 1570. Then the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day...
- 1571 – Henry, duke of Guise swore revenge against Admiral Gaspar Coligny, the leader of the Protestant armies.

Reformation in France

- All Huguenot and Catholic leaders, thinking they were at peace, came to Paris for the wedding of Henry Bourbon to the sister of the French King, Charles IX. Someone tried to shoot Admiral Coligny.
- Catherine then convinced her son the king that the Huguenots were plotting to overthrow him, and on August 23, 1570, he gave permission for a drastic response.
- On August 24, St. Bartholomew's Day, with approval from Catherine and Charles IX, the Catholic under the duke of Guise attacked and killed over 2000 Huguenots in Paris and launching a nation-wide sweep that led to tens of thousands of victims. Even many Catholics were appalled and expressed sympathy.
- But Protestantism was not stamped out. The Huguenots had fortified cities that the Catholic forces could not defeat. Then Charles IX died.
- Henry III returned from Poland to take over the French throne and – seeing it was in his interest to have peace – gave freedom of worship to the Protestants – which led the Guide Catholics to declare another war (the 8th)! Eventually Henry III joined in against the Protestants.
- Henry III had no heir, and the next in line for the throne was Henry Bourbon – a Protestant – which did not set well with the Catholics.

Reformation in France

- The Catholic party produced an “ancient” document claiming Henry of Guise was a descendant of Charlemagne, and so heir to the throne. He marched into Paris and declared himself king –at which point (Christmas 1588) Henry III had his own Massacre – murdering Henry of Guise and his followers in one night.
- Catholics fought back and King Henry had to flee Paris to the only place he would be safe – with Henry Bourbon, who received him graciously. Until, that is, a fanatical Dominican monk sneaked into the camp and killed the king as tyrant.
- Henry Bourbon became King Henry IV, then had to fend off assaults from Philip II of Spain –until Henry changed his religion (5th time) back to Catholicism – though he continued to be accused of being a Huguenot because of his tolerance.
- 1598 – Henry IV grant religious freedom of worship in Edict of Nantes, and ended up as a decent ruler – until in 1610 he was assassinated by a Catholic fanatic convinced Henry was still a Protestant heretic.

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