

Renaissance and Reformation

Lesson 3 The Reformation Begins

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do religions develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *Why was the Church under pressure to reform itself?*
2. *How did Luther's reforms lead to a new form of Christianity?*
3. *How did the teachings of Protestant reformers shape the western world?*
4. *How did the Reformation shape England and later its American colonies?*

Terms to Know

Reformation a religious movement that changed the Catholic Church and created Protestant churches

indulgence a pardon, or forgiveness, of sin

predestination a religious belief that God has already decided who will go to heaven

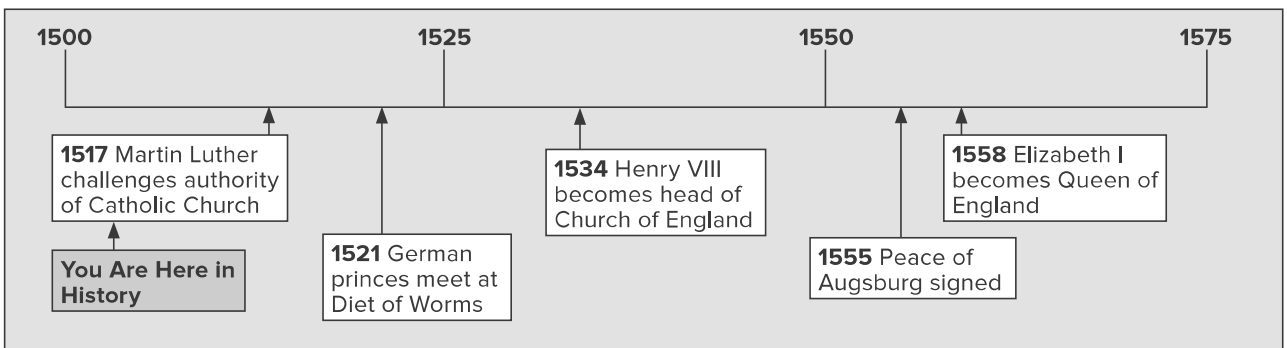
annul to declare not valid

Where in the world?



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When did it happen?



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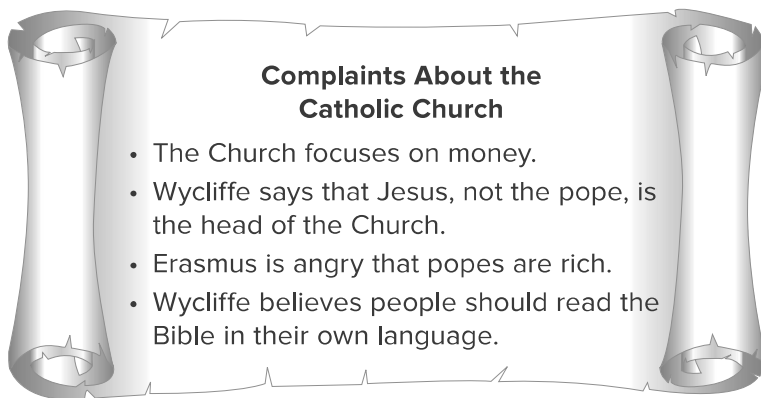
Early Calls for Reform

In 1517 a German monk named Martin Luther challenged the Catholic Church. At first, Martin Luther wanted only to reform, or change, the Catholic Church. This is why these events are called the **Reformation**. By the end of the Reformation, Europe had many new Christian churches.

Church officials had grown rich by selling indulgences. An **indulgence** was a certificate that said a person would not be punished for his or her sins. Many Catholics became angry at the Church for focusing on money.

In the 1370s, an English priest named John Wycliffe said that Jesus was the head of the Church, not the pope. Wycliffe wanted everyone to read the Bible, so he translated parts of it from Latin into English. After he died, his followers finished translating it.

Renaissance humanism led to Christian humanism. Its goal was to restore the simple faith of the early Church. A Dutch scholar named Desiderius Erasmus wrote that people should use their reason to become better Christians. He believed that people should be good in their everyday lives.



Complaints About the Catholic Church

- The Church focuses on money.
- Wycliffe says that Jesus, not the pope, is the head of the Church.
- Erasmus is angry that popes are rich.
- Wycliffe believes people should read the Bible in their own language.

Luther's Reformation

Martin Luther's disagreement with the Catholic Church led to a big change in Christianity. Luther decided that Catholic Church teachings were wrong. He said that a person needed only faith, and not good works, in order to go to heaven.

In 1517 Pope Leo X told church leaders to sell indulgences to get money for a new cathedral. Luther was angry. He wrote a list of 95 reasons why indulgences were wrong. The list became known as the Ninety-Five Theses. People across the German kingdoms read them.



Summarizing

1. What was the major complaint people had about the Catholic Church?



Defining

2. What is an *indulgence*?



Reading Check

3. What were the goals of the Christian humanists?

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Summarizing

4. What were the three main beliefs of Lutheranism?



Reading Check

5. How did the Ninety-Five Theses affect the Catholic Church in Germany?



Identifying

6. According to Calvin, who should control the church?



Reading Check

7. How did Calvinism influence ideas about government?

Luther began to attack other Catholic beliefs. He said popes could make mistakes when they taught about Christianity. He argued that all Christians had a right to read the Bible. He said Christians could confess their sins to God without the help of a priest.

Pope Leo X thought Luther was dangerous. He made Luther leave the Catholic Church. Luther's ideas led to a new branch of Christianity, called Lutheranism. It was the first Protestant church. It was based on three main ideas.

- Belief in Jesus, not good works, brings a place in heaven.
- The Bible is the final source for truth about God.
- The church includes all believers, not just the clergy.

Many German rulers made their kingdoms Lutheran. They took land from Catholic monasteries. In addition, rulers could set their own church taxes and keep the money for themselves. Protestant rulers became stronger. The Catholic Church became weaker.

These changes angered the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Charles V went to war with the Lutheran German rulers, but could not defeat them. Finally, an agreement named the Peace of Augsburg made most of northern Germany Protestant territory. The south stayed Catholic. This division still exists today.

The Reformation Spreads

Martin Luther's reformation spread across Europe. John Calvin agreed with Martin Luther and added other ideas, too. Calvin's main idea was that God has decided who will go to heaven and who will not. This belief is called **predestination**. This means that no matter what people do, God has decided the final outcome of all events.

Another important idea of Calvinism is that kings and bishops should not control the church. The people of the church should choose their own elders and ministers. His ideas influenced people in England, Scotland, and the Netherlands. Calvinism began to give people the idea that they could elect government leaders.

Important Ideas from Calvin

- God has already decided who is going to heaven.
- Kings and bishops should not control the church.
- People should choose the clergy.

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The Reformation in England

In England, King Henry VIII was stubborn and impatient. He wanted a son to rule after him. Unfortunately, he had only a daughter with his wife Catherine. Henry wanted to **annul**, or end, his marriage. An annulment says that the marriage never happened. Then he could remarry.

The pope refused. So Henry had the highest-ranking church official in England end his marriage to Catherine. He then married Anne Boleyn. Because of that, the pope excommunicated Henry from the Catholic Church. Henry had Parliament pass the Act of Supremacy. This made the king, not the pope, the head of the Church of England.

- Henry ordered all priests and bishops to accept him as the new head of the church.
- Some who refused were killed.
- Henry took the Catholic Church’s land in England.
- He gave some of the land to his nobles so they would stay loyal to him.

When Henry’s oldest daughter Mary became queen, she wanted to make England a Catholic country again. Mary arrested or executed many Protestants. When she died, her half-sister Elizabeth became queen. She was a Protestant, so she brought back the Anglican Church.

A group of Protestants called Puritans wanted to purify the Anglican Church of its Catholic ways. Queen Elizabeth I put up with the Puritans, but James I did not. James I and the king who came after him, Charles I, mistreated the Puritans. Many Puritans moved to America so they could practice their religion freely. These colonies became the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Check for Understanding

List two contributions of Martin Luther.

1. _____
2. _____

Name two facts about the Puritans.

3. _____
4. _____

Defining

8. What was a *Puritan*?

Reading Check

9. Why did Henry VIII seize Catholic Church lands in England?



10. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the two tabs *Lutheran Church* and *Puritanism*.

Use both sides of the tabs to record what you remember about the roles of each in the Reformation. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.