

Historical and Theological Contours of the Reformation

CLASS 12 – THE BRITISH REFORMATION

DECEMBER 17, 2017



Course Outline

Date	Topic	Teacher
Oct. 1	Introduction	David Hwang
Oct. 8	Early/Pre-Reformers	David Hwang
Oct. 15	<i>Sola Scriptura</i>	Rev. Peters
Oct. 22	Magisterial Reformers: Luther	David Hwang
Oct. 29	<i>Sola Gratia & Sola Fide</i>	Paul Lee-Bentham
Nov. 5	Magisterial Reformers: Calvin & Zwingli	David Hwang
Nov. 12	The Radical Reformation	Stephen Tom
Nov. 19	Baptism & the Lord's Supper	Stephen Tom
Nov. 26/ Dec. 3	<i>Solus Christus & Soli Deo Gloria</i>	Sunny Wong
Dec. 10	Council of Trent & Counter-Reformation	Stephen Tom
Dec. 17	The English Reformation	David Hwang
Dec. 24	The Reformation & Rise of Denominations	Stephen Tom
Dec. 31	Relevance of the Reformation Today/Q&A	Panel Discussion

Previously...

The Protestant Reformation

Historical Background of the Protestant Reformation

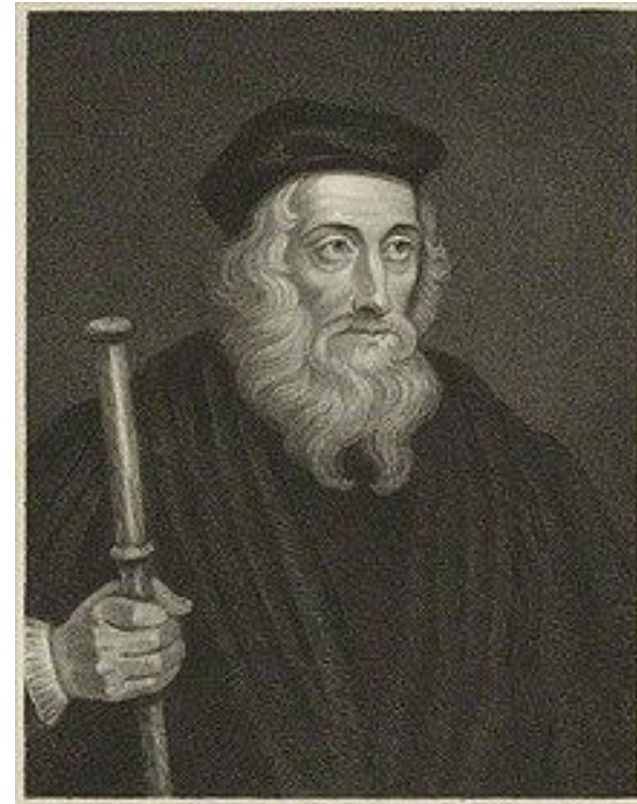
- Coalescence of factors multiple factors enabling the Reformation (where previous reforming efforts may have failed)
- Internal religious factors within the RC Church
- Intellectual/societal/cultural factors stemming from the Renaissance
- Political & economic factors

Previously...

Pre-Reformation: John Wycliffe (c.1328-1384)

“The Morning Star of the Reformation”

- A forerunner of the Reformation in Britain
 - Translated the NT
 - Attacked Papal authority
 - Emphasized Scripture’s authority in the life of the believer
- Followers became known as Lollards
 - Persecuted but continued on after Wycliffe’s death



The Reformation in Britain

- Background factors
 - Intermingling of political & religious factors
 - Rise of the Enlightenment / humanism
 - Resentment against control of Popes, especially during the 'Babylonian captivity' (Popes based in Avignon)
 - Dissemination of writings of Martin Luther & other Reformers
 - Wide circulation; debated at Oxford & Cambridge

William Tyndale (c.1494-1536)

- Priest, scholar, linguist
 - Spoke 7 languages
 - Proficient in ancient Hebrew & Greek
- Came to understand Reformation truths as he read Erasmus' Greek NT (published in 1516)
- Requested permission to translate the NT but was denied
 - Moved to continental Europe to work on translation



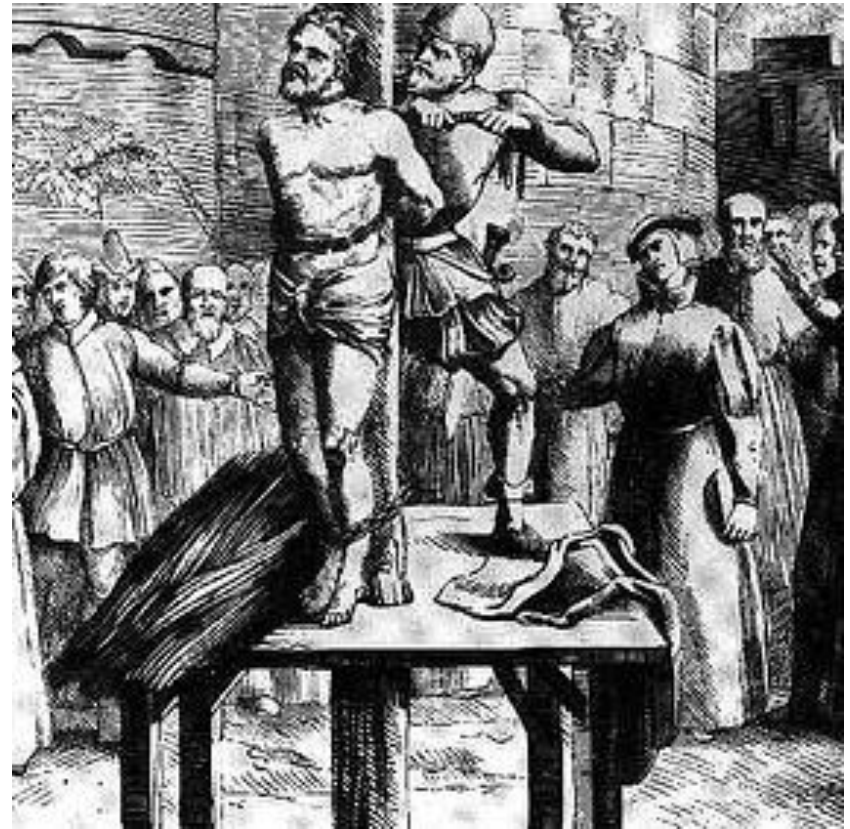
William Tyndale (c.1494-1536)

- 1525: Published his first English translation of NT, in Worms
- Thousands of copies printed & smuggled into England
- Protestant 'flavor' - e.g. 'repent' instead of 'do penance'
- Banned & burned when found
- Started translation of the OT, while evading the religious authorities



William Tyndale (c.1494-1536)

- Captured in 1535, in Antwerp
- Strangled and burned at the stake in October 1536
- Last recorded words: “Lord, open the King of England's eyes!”
- His translations formed basis of the Great Bible (1539)
 - Published by Miles Coverdale
 - Helped shape King James’ Bible



The Reformation in Britain

- Meanwhile, in England...
 - Henry VIII (1491-1547) was King of England (1509-1547)
 - Deeply religious
 - Attended 3 masses/day
 - 1521 – wrote *A Defense of the Seven Sacraments*, against Luther
 - Received title of “Defender of the Faith”



Henry VIII and His Many Wives

- Henry VIII was very concerned about having a son
- War of the Roses (1455-1487)
 - Civil war in which the line of succession to the throne was in dispute
- Wanted a male heir to secure the succession



Henry VIII, in 1509 (age 18)

Henry VIII and His Many Wives

- Catherine of Aragon (1485-1536)
 - Daughter of Ferdinand II, King of Aragon (northeast Spain)
 - Widow of Henry's older brother, Arthur
 - Married Henry in 1509
 - Required special dispensation from the pope



Henry VIII and His Many Wives

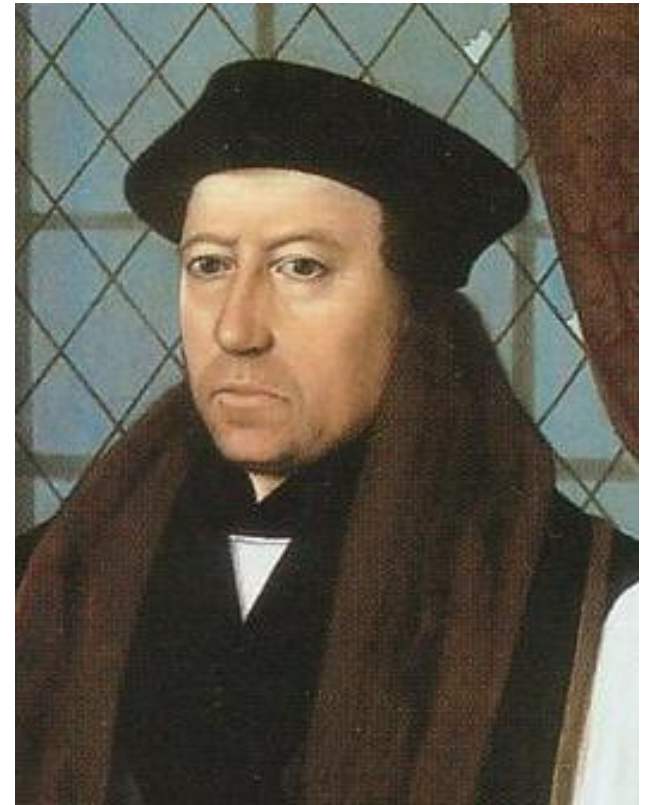
- Catherine of Aragon
 - Had a daughter with Henry (Mary, b. 1516)
 - Multiple stillbirths, but no son...
 - Henry increasingly concerned with the lack of a son...
 - Sought to get marriage annulled by Pope Clement VII
 - Just one problem... Catherine was the aunt of **Charles** – the King of Spain & the Holy Roman Emperor



Emperor Charles V

Henry VIII and His Many Wives

- Henry asserted that he, not the pope, was head of the church in England
 - Engaged scholars to build a case
 - Enacted laws in 1532-33 to increase independence from the Pope
 - Appointed **Thomas Cranmer** (a Protestant) as Archbishop of Canterbury, 1533
 - Act of Supremacy, 1534 – declared Henry the “only supreme head on Earth of the Church of England”



Thomas Cranmer

Henry VIII and His Many Wives

- Anne Boleyn (c.1501-1536)
 - Married Henry in 1533, after Thomas Cranmer declared void his marriage to Catherine
 - Gave birth to Elizabeth, but no sons
 - Eventually lost favor with Henry
 - Accused of adultery and executed in 1536



Henry VIII and His Many Wives

- Jane Seymour (c.1508-1537)
 - Married Henry in 1536, after Anne Boleyn's execution
 - Gave birth to Edward VI in 1537
 - Died in 1537, from complications of childbirth



Henry VIII and His Many Wives

- After Jane Seymour, Henry had 3 other wives
 - Anne of Cleves (1540)
 - Marriage annulled in 1540
 - Catherine Howard (1540-42)
 - Caught in affair & executed
 - Catherine Parr (1543-47)
 - Outlived Henry



Henry VIII & the Church of England

- Henry sought to distance the church in England further from the pope's control
 - Act of Supremacy (1534) – made him the Supreme Head
 - Placed in positions of power/influence people who opposed papal control over the church in England
 - Included many with Protestant convictions
 - Closed monasteries → sold off properties
 - 1538 - Ordered that people should be encouraged to read the Bible

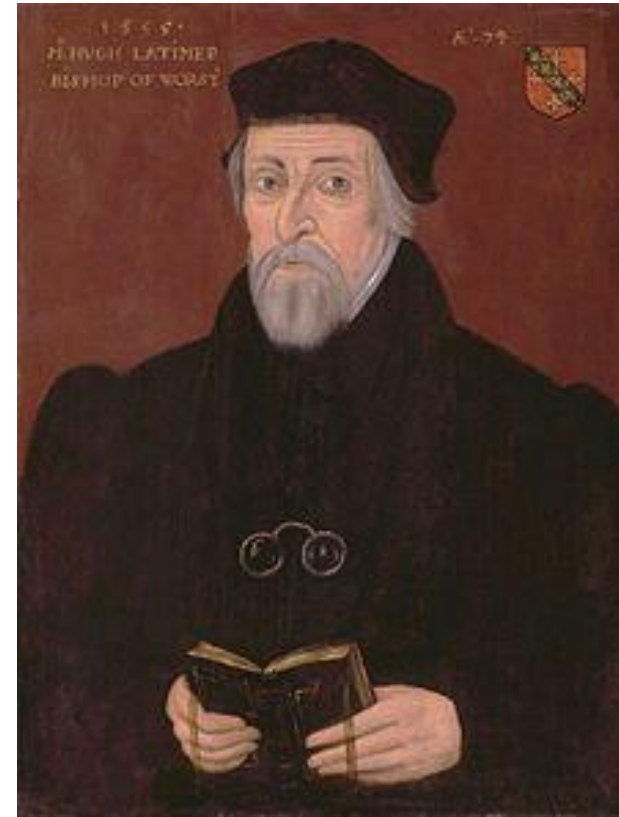
Edward VI (1537-1553)

- Son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour
- Became King at age 9, upon Henry VIII's death in 1547
 - His uncle, Edward Seymour, ruled in his place as Lord Protector
- Held strong Protestant convictions
 - Raised & educated by Protestants under supervision of Catherine Parr



Edward VI (1537-1553)

- Protestant reforms started to be implemented under Edward's reign
 - Preaching in English commanded
 - Notable preachers emerge, e.g. **Hugh Latimer**
 - *Common Book of Prayer* written in English
 - Images of saints removed from churches
 - People received bread and wine in Communion



Hugh Latimer

Edward VI (1537-1553)

- Led by **Thomas Cranmer**, the Forty-Two Articles of the Church of England were issued in 1552
- Defined doctrine & practices of the Church of England
- Decidedly Protestant
- Formed the basis of the later Thirty-Nine Articles



Thomas Cranmer

Edward VI (1537-1553)

- Edward VI died in 1553, at age 15
- Feared a return to Catholicism under his half-sister Mary
- Unsuccessfully tried to place his cousin **Lady Jane Grey** (an evangelical Protestant) on the throne when he died
- Overthrown & executed by Mary after 9 days



Lady Jane Grey

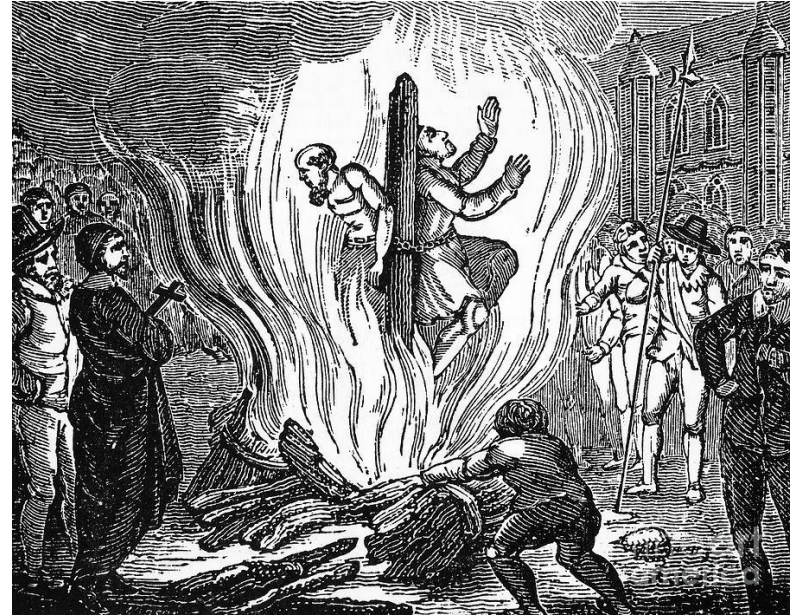
Mary I (1516-1558)

- Reigned 1553-1558
 - Daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon
 - aka 'Bloody Mary'
- Staunchly Catholic
 - Protestantism as the cause of her woes, resulting from annulment of her mother's marriage
- Re-united the Church of England with Rome
 - Repealed Henry's religious laws



Mary I (1516-1558)

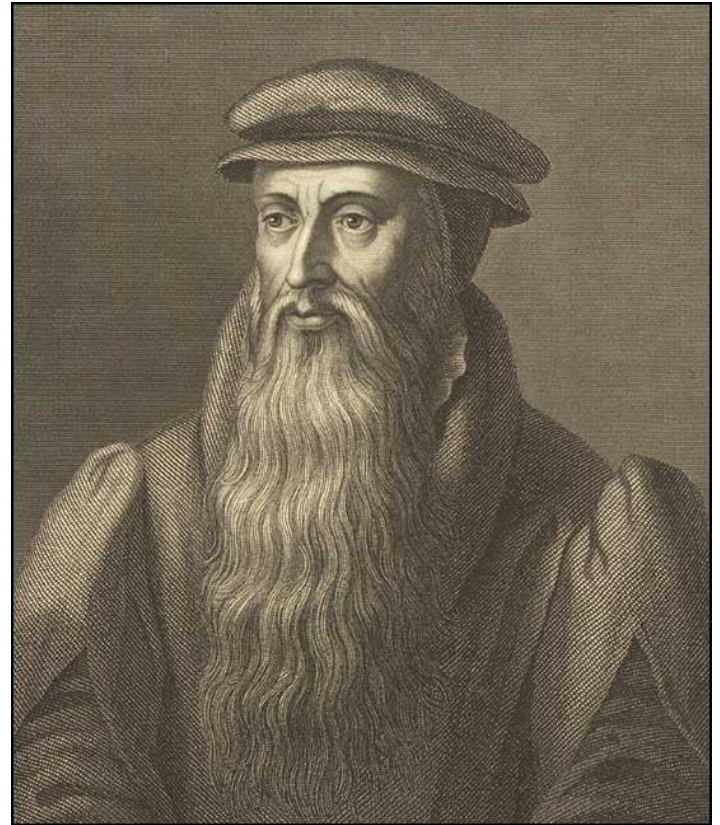
- Worked aggressively to stamp out Protestantism
 - Removed Bibles from churches
 - Restored Roman Catholic forms of worship
 - Imprisoned many Protestant pastors & leaders
 - Almost 300 burned at the stake
 - e.g. John Rogers, **Hugh Latimer**, **Nicholas Ridley**, Thomas Cranmer
 - Their deaths left a deep impression on the people



“Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.”
-Hugh Latimer

Mary I (1516-1558)

- Worked aggressively to stamp out Protestantism
 - Resulted in many fleeing to Protestant areas in Europe
 - Exposed to Calvin & other Reformers
 - e.g. **John Knox** → Geneva
 - Impact of Calvinism on Scottish Protestantism
- Mary I died without an heir in 1558 (likely of cancer)



John Knox

Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

- Reigned 1558-1603
- Daughter of Henry VIII & Anne Boleyn
 - Half-sister of Edward VI & Mary I
 - Like Edward VI, raised & educated as a Protestant
- Restored Protestant doctrine & practice to Church of England
 - Enforced conformity, e.g. fines for missing church services



Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

- Protestant convictions, but balanced by politics
 - Was considered illegitimate by the Pope & Catholics
 - Plots to assassinate her
 - Catholic Counter-Reformation
 - Excommunicated by the Pope, 1570
 - Philip II of Spain (Mary I's husband) attempted to invade England, 1588
- Gradual wearing-down of Catholicism during her long reign



The Puritans

- A diverse movement arising during reign of Elizabeth I
 - A term of derision
 - ‘holier-than-thou’ connotation; ‘purer than everyone else’



The Puritans

- Sought to purify the Church
 - “Reforming the Reformation”
 - Felt Elizabeth’s reforms didn’t go far enough
 - Concerned for inward reality of faith, not just external conformity to religion
 - e.g. Most of the population still had little understanding of justification by faith alone
 - Some advocated separating from Church of England
- Emphasis on the study, preaching, and teaching of the Bible

The Puritans

- Faced increasing persecution during the reign of Elizabeth I
 - Seen as a threat to the unity of the nation
 - Act Against Puritans (1593)
 - Authorized imprisonment of Puritans for failing to attend the Anglican church
 - Some separatist leaders were executed

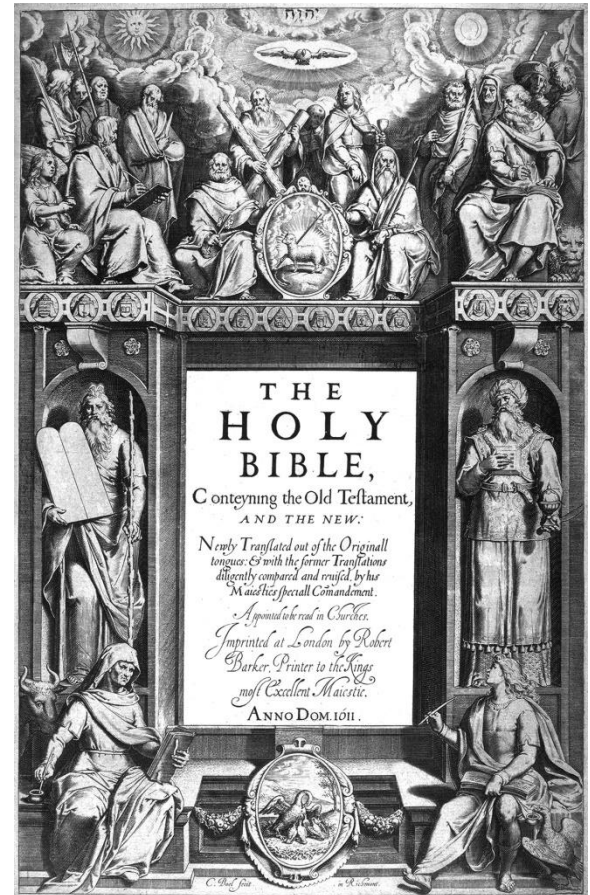
James I (1566-1625)

- Elizabeth I died in 1603 without an heir
- King James VI of Scotland became James I of England
 - Son of Mary Queen of Scots, and great-great grandson of Henry VII
 - Reigned as James I, 1603-1625



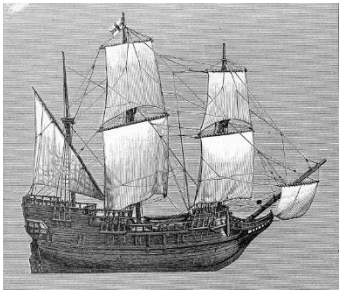
James I (1566-1625)

- Raised Protestant, with Calvinist influences
 - Provided some concessions to the Puritans
 - e.g. authorized a new translation of the Bible in 1604
 - Translation of the “Authorized Version”, aka King James Version completed in 1611
 - Arguably the most influential book in English history



James I (1566-1625)

- Raised Protestant, with Calvinist influences
 - However, continued to insist on conformity to the Church of England, as Elizabeth did
 - Resulted in increasing numbers of Puritans leaving England
 - Many moved to continental Europe
 - Some emigrated to the New World (Americas)
 - First Puritans leaving for New World departed from Plymouth on board the *Mayflower*, 1520
 - Settled in present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts



Charles I (1600-1649)

- Son of James I
- Ascended to the throne upon James I's death in 1625
- Reign marked by pro-Catholic policies and fighting with Parliament
- Civil war broke out in 1642
 - Charles' army fought armies of Scottish & English Parliaments but was defeated



Commonwealth of England (1649-1660)

- Charles I was imprisoned and ultimately executed in 1649
- Monarchy abolished and a republic established – the Commonwealth of England
- Led by Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), as Lord Protector



Oliver Cromwell

Commonwealth of England (1649-1660)

- Religious toleration
 - Mostly for Protestants of varying stripes
 - Non-conformity to Church of England permitted
 - Various radical sects emerged
 - Jews allowed back into the country (expelled in 1290)
- Attempts to enforce strict Christian code of behavior
 - Theatres closed
 - Adultery punishable by death
 - Strict Sabbath observance
 - 'Superstitious holidays' abolished (e.g. Christmas)

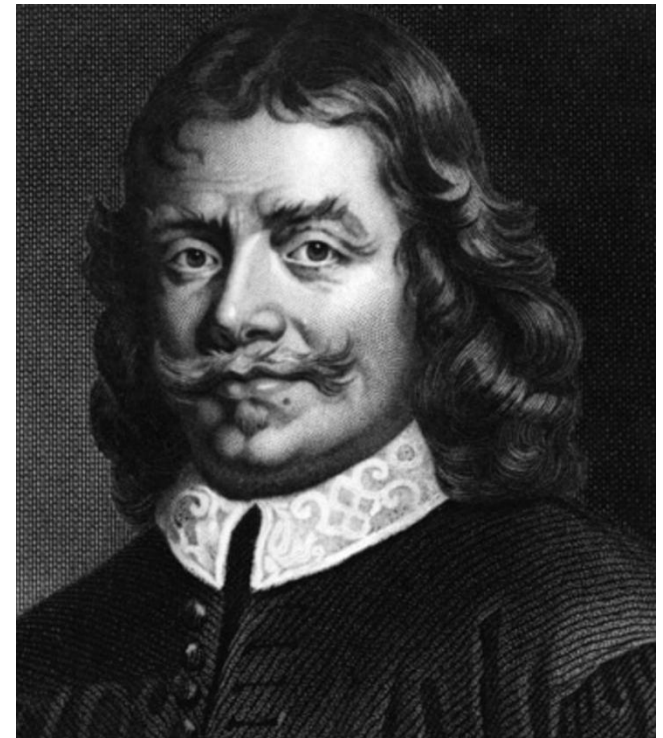
Charles II (1630-1685)

- Son of Charles I
- Ascended to the throne in 1660, after Oliver Cromwell's death
- A nation tired of strict way of life in the Commonwealth



Charles II (1630-1685)

- Renewed and intensified persecution of Puritans
- Public offices & university attendance restricted to Anglicans
- Approximately 2000 pastors ejected from their ministries
- ~20,000 Puritans imprisoned during Charles II's reign
 - Including **John Bunyan**, author of *Pilgrim's Progress*



John Bunyan

The Puritans, revisited

- Puritanism as a movement ultimately died out in England, due to persecution and emigration
- However, its influence continued in parts of other Protestant movements in England and elsewhere
 - Emergence of other Protestant groups in England with similar emphases e.g. Methodists, Baptists
 - Significant influence in North America & parts of Europe

The English Reformation - Some Reflections

- God's mysterious ways of working out His purposes in the Church and the world
 - Henry VIII as His answer to Tyndale's prayer?
- The difficulty (and danger) of intermingling Church and state
- The cost of discipleship, seen in the persecution of Christ's followers
- The ongoing legacy of faithful followers

The Reformation

