

Historical and Theological Contours of the Reformation

CLASS 6 – MAGISTERIAL REFORMERS

ULRICH ZWINGLI & JOHN CALVIN

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Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Swiss Reformer; contemporary of Martin Luther



Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Born January 1, 1484 in Wildhaus, Switzerland, to a farming family



Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Received Bachelors (1504) and Master of Arts (1506) from University of Basel
- Served as parish priest in Glarus, 1506-1516
 - Initially supported the Pope
 - Twice accompanied mercenaries from Glarus as chaplain in Papal armies
 - A crushing defeat (~10,000 Swiss killed) at the Battle of Marignano (1515) left questions in his mind

Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Glarus (1506-1516)
 - Engaged in preaching, teaching, pastoring
 - Also engaged in private study
 - Taught himself Greek
 - Studied Church Fathers & ancient classics
 - Purchased & read a copy of Erasmus' Greek New Testament in 1516
 - Started preaching what he read in the NT, more than a year before Luther's 95 Theses

Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Glarus (1506-1516)
 - Came to understand the Gospel as proclaimed in Scripture
 - *“Before anyone in the area had ever heard of Luther, I began to preach the gospel of Christ in 1516... . I started preaching the gospel before I had even heard Luther’s name... . Luther, whose name I did not know for at least another two years, had definitely not instructed me. I followed holy Scripture alone.”*

Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Einsiedeln (1516-1518)
 - A resort town with a shrine to the Virgin Mary, which drew many pilgrims
 - Zwingli served as priest in Benedictine monastery
 - Became widely-known as a preacher → growing influence
 - Started criticizing some abuse of the Church, e.g. the sale of indulgences



Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Zurich (1518-1531)
 - Zwingli became the ‘people’s priest’ at the Great Cathedral (Grossmunster) in Zurich, in December 1518
 - January 1, 1519 – began expository sermon series through Matthew
 - Continued through the NT over 6 years



Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Zurich (1518-1531)
 - Fall 1519 - plague killed ~25% of Zurich
 - Zwingli almost died of plague
 - A turning point in his life & ministry → trusting in God
- 1520s – Multiple reforms in Zurich
 - Opposition to dietary restrictions for Lent (1522)
 - 1522 – Swiss Diet recommended prohibition of new teachings
 - Resulted in 1st & 2nd Disputations

Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- 1st & 2nd Disputations (1523)
 - Public debates with Roman Catholic authorities
 - Zwingli composed 67 Theses outlining his positions
 - More comprehensive outline of Reformation doctrines than Luther's 95 Theses, affirming...
 - The authority of Scripture
 - Christ as sole head of the Church
 - Christ as the sole mediator between God & Man
 - Salvation in Christ alone
 - Christ's finished work on the Cross

Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Zwingli's 67 Theses
 - Rejected...
 - Purgatory
 - Efficacy of penance & indulgences
 - Requirement for celibacy of the clergy
 - The Mass
 - Priestly mediation

Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- 1st & 2nd Disputations (1523)
 - Zurich city council sided with Zwingli
 - Allowed him to continue his preaching & reforms
 - Removal of images from churches (1524)
 - Clergy permitted to marry (1524)
 - Zwingli publicly married Anna Reinhart in 1524 (after secret marriage in 1522)
 - Mass abolished in 1525 & replaced by Communion → entire congregation partakes of bread & wine

Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Marburg Colloquy (October 1529)
 - Key leaders of German & Swiss Reformation met to discuss union
 - Luther, Zwingli, Bucer, Melanchthon, & others
 - Agreed on 14 of 15 items, but could not agree on the Lord's Supper
 - Luther – 'consubstantiation' – 'real presence' of Christ's body & blood in the bread & wine
 - Zwingli – bread & wine symbolic of Christ's body & blood
 - Luther & Zwingli parted ways

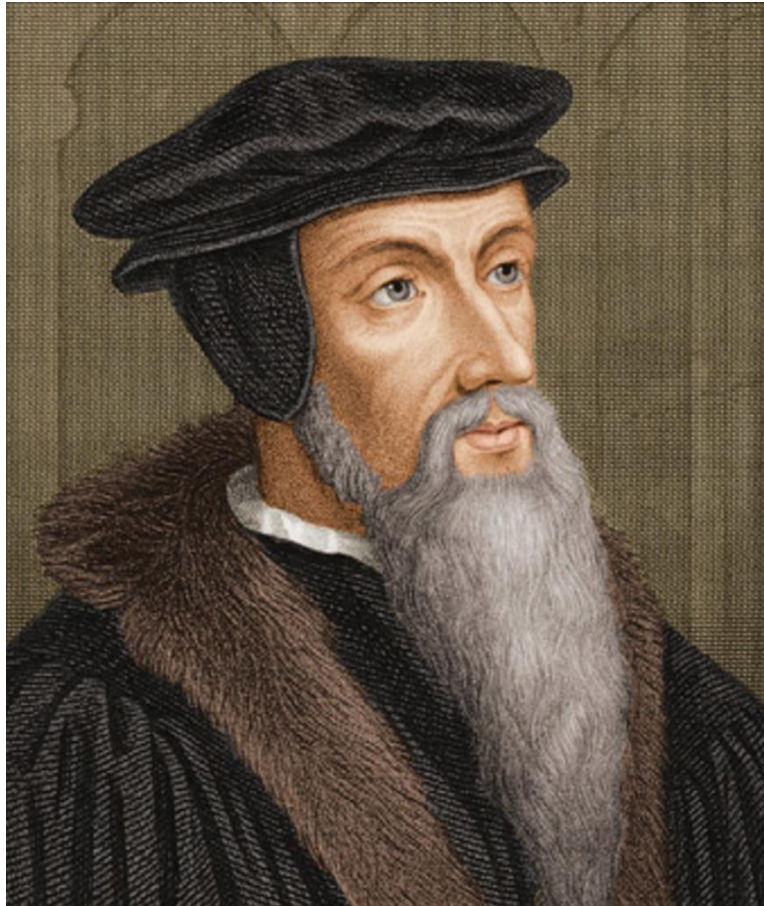
Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Established “School of Prophets” in 1525
 - Trained men to be pastors
 - Taught the Biblical languages (‘gift of tongues’), Biblical exegesis, and preaching
- Died in battle October 11, 1531
 - Defending Zurich against attack by forces from several Catholic Swiss cantons
 - Precipitated in part by Zwingli’s political maneuverings

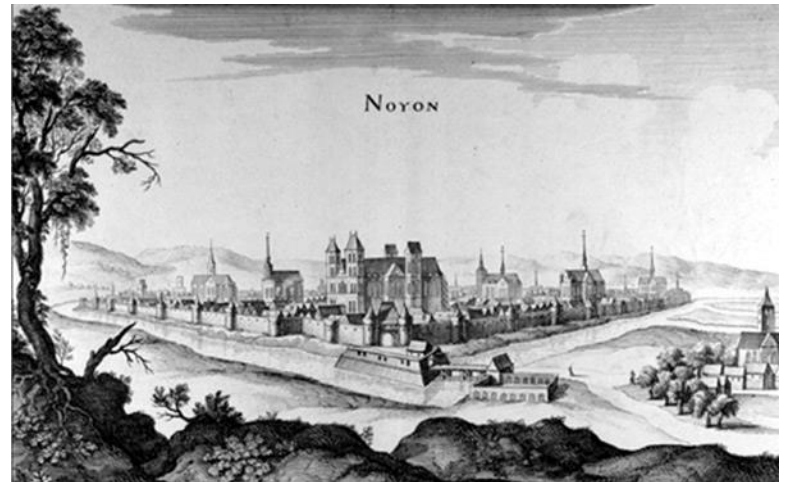
Heinrich Bullinger (1504-1575)

- Zwingli's reforms were continued and spread by his successor, Heinrich Bullinger
- One of the most influential Reformation theologians of the 1500s
- Composed the Second Helvetic Confession
 - Adopted by Reformed Churches in Switzerland & multiple other countries
- Significant influence on the English Reformation

John Calvin (1509-1564)



- French/Swiss Reformer
- Born July 10, 1509, to Gerard & Jeanne Cauvin in Noyon, France (~100 km north of Paris)



John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Early years
 - Entered University of Paris at age 14
 - Studied theology, in preparation for priesthood
 - Graduated with Masters (1528)
 - After a falling out between his father and the Church, sent to study law at universities in Orleans & Bourges
 - Exposed to Renaissance humanism & learned Greek
 - Completed law degree in 1532
 - Sudden conversion experience while in Orleans

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- *“To this pursuit [of the study of law] I endeavored faithfully to apply myself, in obedience to the will of my father; but God, by the secret guidance of His providence, at length gave a different direction to my course. At first, since I was too obstinately devoted to the superstitions of popery to be easily extricated from so profound an abyss of mire, God by a sudden conversion subdued and brought my mind to a teachable frame, which was more hardened in such matters than might have been expected from one at my early period of life. Having thus received some taste and knowledge of true godliness, I was immediately inflamed with so intense a desire to make progress therein, that although I did not altogether leave off other studies, I yet pursued them with less ardor.”*

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Flight to Switzerland
 - In November 1533, Nicholas Cop (rector of University of Paris) preached opening address calling for reformation
 - Facing arrest, fled to Basel
 - Calvin may have helped Cop write the speech → also faced arrest and had to flee
- Started writing Institutes of the Christian Religion (1535)
 - Intended as basic instruction to evangelical faith
 - Apologetic defending Protestant beliefs to King Francis (France)
 - Published in 1536 (at age 26!), 2 years after his conversion

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- On to Geneva
 - In 1536, intended to move to Strasbourg
 - To pursue career as a theologian in the hub of the Reformation
 - Stopped en route in Geneva for a night
 - City had recently aligned itself with the Reformation





John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Geneva (1536-1538)
 - While in Geneva, accosted by **William (Guillaume) Farel**
 - Fiery French/Swiss Reformer
 - ‘Convinced’ Calvin to stay in Geneva rather than continue on to Strasbourg



John Calvin (1509-1564)

- *“Farel, who burned with an extraordinary zeal to advance the gospel, immediately strained every nerve to detain me. And after having learned that my heart was set upon devoting myself to private studies, for which I wished to keep myself free from other pursuits, and finding that he gained nothing by entreaties, he proceeded to utter an imprecation that God would curse my retirement, and the tranquility of the studies which I sought, if I should withdraw and refuse to give assistance, when the necessity was so urgent. By this imprecation I was so stricken with terror, that I desisted from the journey which I had undertaken.”*

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Geneva (1536-1538)
 - Calvin stayed in Geneva
 - Preached & helped Farel implement reforms
 - Helped draft new confession of faith for the city
 - Attempted to implement changes to Communion
 - e.g. denying Lord's Supper to those living in unrepentant sin
 - Revolt ensued → Farel & Calvin forced to leave Geneva in 1538

John Calvin (1509-1564)

MIHI PATRIA

COELVM ·



- Strasbourg
- Calvin continued on to Strasbourg
- Met **Martin Bucer**, who 'convinced' Calvin to help with the work there
- Pastored church of ~500 French Protestants fleeing persecution in France

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Strasbourg
 - Happy years for Calvin
 - Fellowship with other Reformers
 - Married Idelette de Bure
 - Freedom to write
 - Commentary on Romans
 - Enlarged the Institutes and translated into French (from Latin)



John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Meanwhile, back in Geneva...
 - Cardinal Jacopo Sadoletto
 - Open letter to the Genevans
 - Invited them back to the Roman Catholic Church
 - Genevan leaders asked Calvin to write a response (!)
 - Calvin responded with *A Reply to Sadoletto*
 - A classic apologetic for the Reformation
 - Defends justification by faith alone
 - “*Wherever the knowledge of it is taken away, the glory of Christ is extinguished.*”



John Calvin (1509-1564)

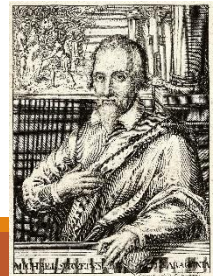
- Back to Geneva
 - City leader invited Calvin back to Geneva in 1541
 - *“Rather would I submit to death a hundred times than to that cross, on which one had to perish daily a thousand times over.”*
 - Persuaded by Bucer & Farel, he returned
 - Upon return, continued expository preaching where he had left off 3 years prior
 - Preached at least twice/week; lectured 3x/week

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Geneva (1541-1564)
 - Proposed multiple reforms upon his return
 - Intent was to reform on the basis of God's Word
 - Annual pastoral visits for every household
 - All citizens required to learn catechism – required for admission to Communion
 - Establishment of a disciplinary committee to ensure orderly society

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Geneva (1541-1564)
 - Faced resistance and opposition until 1555
 - In part because he was a foreigner
 - Many did not like his moral reforms
 - e.g. tried to replace taverns with 'abbeys' for Bible study
 - Continued resistance to his position on the Lord's Supper
 - Execution of Michael Servetus for heresy (1553)



John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Geneva (1541-1564)
 - 1555 – Calvin supporters won elections
 - Those opposed to Calvin forced to leave after rioting
 - Provided Calvin with freedom to expand & spread reforms
 - Established Geneva Academy (1559) to train pastors & missionaries
 - Wrote commentaries on almost every book in the Bible
 - Published final version of the *Institutes* (1559)
 - Published the Geneva Bible (1560) – the first study Bible with theological notes in the margins

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Geneva (1541-1564)
 - Evangelizing France & beyond
 - Developed a network to spread Gospel to France & beyond
 - Over 1000 missionaries sent to France
 - By 1562, over 2000 churches planted with more than 2 million members (Huguenots), including many nobles
 - Secret printing presses in Paris & Lyons
 - Missionaries to other countries, including Germany, Netherlands, Hungary, England, Scotland

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- Final days
 - Calvin struggled with poor health for last decade of his life
 - Fell seriously ill in 1564
 - Called pastors of Geneva to visit him April 28 – exhorted them to persist in the work
 - Died May 27, 1564
 - Buried in an unmarked grave, at his request
 - *“I have no other defense or refuge for salvation than His gratuitous adoption, on which alone my salvation depends.”*

Theodore Beza (1519-1605)

- Calvin's protégé & successor
- Called to Geneva in 1558 to serve with Calvin
- Served in Geneva for 40 years after Calvin
- Gave form to what is now known as Calvinism



Calvinism

- ‘Calvinism’ developed in the decades after Calvin’s death
- Jacobus Arminius taught different doctrines than Calvin, especially re: predestination
 - After his death, his followers put forward the Remonstrance to the Dutch Reformed Church
 - Asked that 5 of his core views be accepted
- In response, the Synod of Dordt (1618-19) produced ‘Five Articles against the Remonstrance’
 - Summarized by the acronym TULIP

Calvinism - TULIP

- T – Total Depravity
- U – Unconditional Election
- L – Limited (or Definite) Atonement
- I – Irresistible Grace
- P – Perseverance of the Saints

Zwingli & Calvin - Some Reflections

- God's mysterious ways of working out His purposes in the Church and the world
- God uses flawed people to work out His perfect plan
- The importance of 'passing the torch' to future generations

The Reformation

