

LESSON 36 CHURCH HISTORY: THE REFORMATION (AD 1291–1590)

WHAT WAS THE REFORMATION?

A MOVEMENT THAT SOUGHT TO REFORM THE CHURCH BY RETURNING TO THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE AND THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL.

“THE REFORMATION WAS A DEEPER PLUNGE INTO THE MEANING OF THE GOSPEL.” — PHILIP SCHAFF

KEY QUESTIONS

- AUTHORITY: WHERE DOES TRUTH COME FROM?
- SALVATION: HOW IS A PERSON RECONCILED TO GOD?
- CHURCH: WHAT IS THE TRUE CHURCH?
- CHRISTIAN LIFE: HOW SHOULD BELIEVERS LIVE?

PROTO-REFORMERS (BEFORE LUTHER)

EARLY VOICES CALLING FOR REFORM:

- PETER WALDO — PREACHED SCRIPTURE IN THE COMMON LANGUAGE
- JOHN WYCLIF — TAUGHT BIBLE AS THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY
- JAN HUS — CONDEMNED CHURCH CORRUPTION; BURNED IN 1415
- ERASMUS — PUBLISHED GREEK NEW TESTAMENT (1516)

THESE MOVEMENTS PREPARED THE GROUND FOR THE REFORMATION.

THE REFORMATION BEGINS (1517)

MARTIN LUTHER

- POSTED THE 95 THESES IN 1517
- CHALLENGED INDULGENCES AND PAPAL AUTHORITY
- EMPHASIZED:
 - SOLA SCRIPTURA (SCRIPTURE ALONE)
 - SOLA FIDE (FAITH ALONE)
 - PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

MAJOR REFORM MOVEMENTS

-LUTHERAN

LED BY MARTIN LUTHER IN GERMANY.

-REFORMED

LED BY ZWINGLI AND LATER CALVIN IN SWITZERLAND.

-ANGLICAN

CHURCH OF ENGLAND FORMED UNDER HENRY VIII.

-ANABAPTIST

RADICAL REFORMERS EMPHASIZING:

- **BELIEVER'S BAPTISM**
- **SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE**
- **DISCIPLESHIP AND HOLY LIVING**

MAJOR DIVISION

THE REFORMERS DISAGREED OVER THE LORD'S SUPPER:

- **LUTHER: CHRIST TRULY PRESENT**
- **ZWINGLI: SYMBOLIC MEMORIAL**
- **CALVIN: SPIRITUAL PRESENCE**

THIS DISAGREEMENT PREVENTED PROTESTANT UNITY.

RESULTS

EUROPE DIVIDED BETWEEN:

PROTESTANT REGIONS

GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, ENGLAND, SCANDINAVIA, LOW COUNTRIES

CATHOLIC REGIONS

ITALY, SPAIN, FRANCE, POLAND

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH RESPONDED WITH THE COUNTER-REFORMATION.

THE REFORMATION CHANGED THE ANSWERS TO MAJOR CHURCH QUESTIONS:

- **SALVATION: FAITH ALONE**
- **AUTHORITY: SCRIPTURE ALONE**
- **CHURCH: COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS**
- **CHRISTIAN LIFE: SERVING GOD IN EVERY CALLING**