

# BARRIERS & BRIDGES WEEK 4

“Liturgy & Revivalism :  
Anglican/Episcopal, Puritan, & Methodist”

## REVIEW LAST WEEK : REFORMATION RUMBLINGS

- Rome’s excesses lead to questions
- John Wyclif & the Bible in common tongue
- Reformation rumblings solidify:
  - Anabaptists – in a prayer meeting
  - Lutherans – in a monastic cell
  - Calvinistic (Presbyterians) – at a scholar’s desk
- Martin Luther’s ‘95 Thesis, Oct. 31, 1517

## SOME REASONS FOR DENOMINATIONS

- Geography
- Theological differences (great & small)
- What the authority?
- Inability to reform the status quo
- Practice (the way the church is governed or operates)

## THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND

- The drama of King Henry VIII
  - Wrote a popular book that attacked Martin Luther and supported the Church of Rome. In 1521 Henry was given the title “Defender of the Faith” by the Pope
  - wanted a son...& a new wife... Pope said “no”
  - King Henry VIII excommunicated by Rome in 1533
- The Church IN England becomes The Church OF England

## THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

- King is the head of the church, rejects Rome/Pope
- Archbishop of Canterbury is highest office
- Under Henry VIII nothing changed theologically from Rome
- Civil [state] religion : Christian beliefs private

## THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND 2.0

- King Henry’s son, Edward VI, rules 6 years
- Notable changes to the Anglican Church
  - Allows priests to marry (not Bishops)
  - “Book of Common Prayer”
  - Articles of Faith
- “Bloody” Mary is crowned Queen in 1553- devout Catholic
- Although she only wore the crown 4 years she sent about 300 Protestants to the burning stake, including the Archbishop of Canterbury...this emboldened many
- Elizabeth I became Queen & returned the state religion to the Anglican tradition

## BIG CHANGES IN THE WORLD

- Remember John Wyclif?
- William Tyndale ordained in the Anglican Church; “*If God spares my life, before many years pass I will make it possible for a boy behind the plow to know more Scripture than you do.*” Prints English Bible
- Tyndale burned at the stake in 1547; his last words “*Lord, open the King’s eyes...*”
- In 1611 King James Bible is commissioned (authorized) by the King for the Anglican Church
- 1607 first British Colony in the New World formed Jamestown, Virginia

## THE CHURCH PURIFIED

- Puritans sought to “purify” the Anglican Church from Roman error
- Jonathan Edwards, 1<sup>st</sup> President of Princeton University
- American “Ivy League” colleges train ministers; Harvard’s “Rules & Precepts” of 1646 : “*the maine end of [a student's] life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life...the only foundation of all sound knowledge and Learning.*”

## THE CULT OF REASON OF THE 1700's

- Biblical literacy was a problem, especially outside of the Puritans
- *"As to Jesus...I have...some doubts as to his Divinity, tho' it is not a question I do no dogmatize upon, having never studied it, and think it needless to busy myself with it now... I see no harm, however, in its being believed, if that belief has the good consequence...of making his doctrines more respected and better observed."* –Benjamin Franklin
- Thomas Jefferson – Deism... "The Jefferson Bible", "Nature's God"- a term also used in the Declaration of Independence

## THE WESLEY BROTHERS & WHITFIELD

- John Wesley, like his father, was an Anglican priest
- John, his brother Charles, & George Whitfield attended Oxford together- "Bible Bigots", "Holy Club"
- 1735 John traveled to the American Colonies to pastor there & was caught in a storm...Moravian influence
- Wesley admired Moravian message of Justification by faith & small group (method) system for spiritual growth
- George Whitfield preached anywhere, eventually John did too
- Charles Wesley penned more than 7,000 hymns: "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today", "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"
- John Wesley traveled ~250,000 miles in his lifetime; 10x around the world

## BOOKS & ARTICLES REFERENCED:

"Handbook of Denominations in the United States, 14th Edition" by Roger E. Olson (Mead, Hill, Atwood)

"Church History in Plain Language" book by Bruce L. Shelley

"Know the Creeds And Councils" book by Justin S. Holcomb

North American Mission Board, "Major American Denominations"

<https://www.namb.net/apologetics/resource/major-american-denominations/>

"Anglican 39 Articles of Faith"

"Book of Discipline" by John Wesley...also updated versions by the United Methodist Church

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