

Revelation 2-3

World Religions

The English Reformation

“Three Books that Changed a Nation”

Wednesday, May 13th 2026

A. William Tyndale’s “English Bible” (1526)-

1. God’s Plan and Purpose for Language- Confound (Genesis 11) & Connect (Acts 2)
 - a. The significance of the English Language
 - English today- the “Universal Language”
 - America’s tongue & the standard of the world
 - Universal Languages during the 1st (Greek) and 2nd (English) Commings
 - b. The Counter Reformation’s failure to stop the English Reformation-
 - English is the worldwide language because England completed the process of the Reformation
 - England held a unique role due to their geographical location in relation to the rest of Europe as God providentially set them apart
 - The Counter Reformation was a success in all of Europe except one- England; Germany was brought back through war (30 Year’s War); Spain never left; and France gave up early because of the bloodshed on its soil; and the Jesuits infiltrated the rest of the European continent’s institutions
 - The one country they couldn’t fully control was England, hence English Christianity is unique
2. The Primary Reason- They held the “Key of David”- Revelation 3:7-8
 - a. William Tyndale (1484-1536) and the First English Bible-
 - William Tyndale was a very learned scholar who is team at Oxford University
 - He was fluent in seven different languages
 - He was ordained to the ministry at the age of 18 and he was a key player they got used to translate the Bible into the common tongue of England
 - He made it his life's mission to translate the Bible to establish and provide the common man with the truth- knowing that scripture could be laid before their eyes in their mother tongue
 - b. William Tyndale’s Life and Death-
 - He began his work in England to translate the Bible, but was run out of his home country under severe persecution during the reign of King Henry VIII
 - He made his way to Holland and found relative safety and was able to finish 3000 copies of an English New Testament
 - The copies were smuggled back into England which were discovered and the copies of - the Bible were seized and burned
 - The Bible smugglers were burned at the stake due to having copies of the New Testament
 - In spite of severe opposition and persecution William Tyndale found his way home to England
 - Tyndale ultimately paid with his life due to his love for Christ and his desire to provide the common man a Bible in his own language
 - He was burned at the stake on October 6th, 1536, and his last words were “Lord open the eyes of the king of England”
 - 68 years later, in 1604 the Puritan believers in England petitioned King James I for permission to publish an English Bible, which was completed in 1611- “The King James Bible”
 - William Tyndale’s prayer was finally answered!

B. Thomas Cranmer's "Book of Common Prayer" (1549)-

1. Thomas Cramner (1489-1556) was the first protestant Archbishop of Canterbury he was advisor to King Henry VIII and Edward the VI
 - a. As the Archbishop of Canterbury he pushed to put Tyndale's English Bible in churches throughout England
 - He best known for authoring the "Book of Common Prayer" which was used to ultimately push back at the Roman Church in England
 - The Book of Common Prayer is still used by the Anglican/Episcopal church as its catechism and liturgy outline
 - b. Henry VIII-
 - King Henry VIII is perhaps the most fascinating English king
 - He was married six times, and his marriages were the main reason for the break with the Roman church
 - Rome was able to control her kingdom though arranged marriages
 - Henry's father arranged a marriage between his son to Catherine of Aragon of Spain, Catherine was the daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain
 - Henry and Catherine were married in 1516 and Henry's biggest desire was to have a son to carry on his Kingdom
 - Catherine was not able to produce a son but did give birth to a daughter named Mary
 - After 17 years Henry tried attempted to divorce Catherine, he appealed to the Catholic Church to grant a divorce, but the Pope did not side with Henry and refused the divorce
 - c. Thomas Cramner-
 - Henry VIII Took matters into his own hands by tasking Thomas Cramner to investigate Roman Catholic Church doctrines and council writings to find he way out of the marriage
 - He was able to determine that it was the monarch that was in control and not the Pope
 - Thomas Cramner, who despised the Roman church due to what they did to William Tyndale, convinced Henry that he had the authority to divorce Catherine of Aragon
 - In 1533, Henry a devout Catholic due to the threat of being excommunicated
 - He then established the Church of England
 - In 1534, Cranmer commissioned 10 bishops to come up with an English translation of the Bible
 - After not being able to come up with a translation, Cranmer turned to Tyndale's Bible, which became the foundation for seven English Translations including the AV1611
 - 1526- Tyndale Bible
 - 1536- Coverdale's Bible
 - 1537- Matthew's Bible
 - 1539- Coverdale's Great Bible
 - 1560- Geneva Bible
 - 1568- Bishop's Bible
 - 1611- Authorized Version 1611
 - The Doctrine of Preservation- Psalm 12:6-7 6 The words of the LORD [are] pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.
 - Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
 - d. The Gunpowder Plot- Guy Fawkes

C. John Foxe's "Book of Martyrs" (1563)-

1. History of the Book of Martyrs-

a. Published early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and only five years after the death of the Roman Catholic Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary), *Foxe's Acts and Monuments* was an affirmation of the English Reformation in a period of religious conflict between the Roman Church and the Church of England.

b. The core theme is the steadfast faith of individuals who refused to renounce their Protestant convictions, enduring horrific torture and death. Foxe paints these martyrs as following in the footsteps of Christ

c. It covers the first early Christian martyrs, a brief history of the medieval church, including the Inquisitions, and a history of the Wycliffite or Lollard movement. It then dealt with the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI, during which the dispute with Rome had led to the separation of the English Church from papal authority and the issuance of the *Book of Common Prayer*. The final book treated the reign of Queen Mary and the Marian Persecutions.