

# Historical Background of John Bunyan

Pilgrim's Progress

1678



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## 1324 to 1384 - John Wycliffe

- Catholic, doctor of theology.
- Discovered Scripture contradicted Catholic Church.
- “Morning Star of the Reformation”
- First English Bible - hand-written
- Preached salvation through grace and Bible as final authority.



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## 1369 to 1415 - John Huss

- Disciple of John Wycliffe
- Spent 73 days in confinement, tried, condemned to death as heretic
- While burning said, “In 100 years, God will raise up a man whose calls for reform cannot be suppressed!”
- 102 years later, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses



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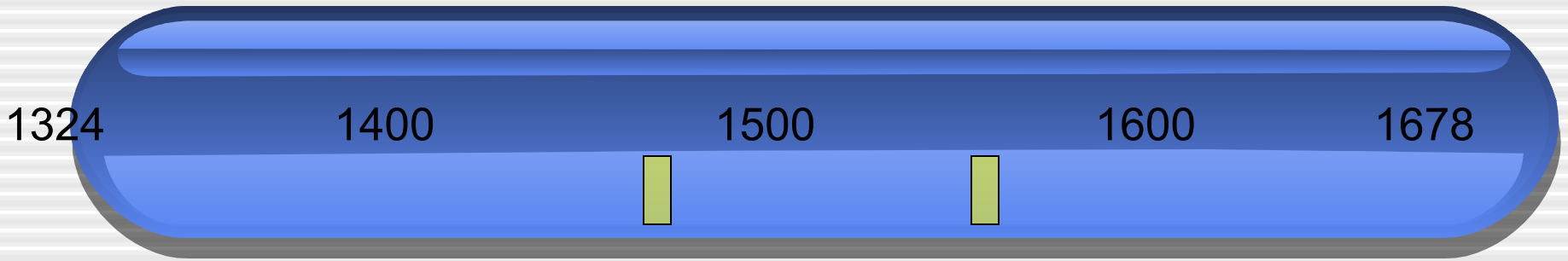
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- 1517 - Martin Luther posts 95 Theses
- Soon exiled - translated Bible into German
- At same time, Catholic Church's opinion of scripture is revealed by William Tyndale's bishop "We are better to be without God's Laws than the Pope's"
- Tyndale, "I defy the Pope and all his laws. If God spare my life ere many years, I will cause the boy that drives the plow to know more of scriptures than you!"



## William Tyndale

- New Testament from Greek to English
- (Wycliffe used Vulgate)
- 1450's used Johann Gutenberg's press
- 1536 - convicted, strangled, burned for heresy
- 1536 - John Calvin arrives Switzerland
- Worked with Reformation

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# Reformer's Doctrines

- Sola Fide
- Sola Gratia
- Sola Scriptura
- Soli Deo Gloria
- Solus Christus



## Back to Tyndale - 1536

- Last words - “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes!”
- Henry VIII - Church of England
- Followed by son Edward VI - sympathetic to reform - died 1553
- Blood Mary
- Elizabeth I - Good Queen Bess

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## Under Elizabeth I

- 1559 - Act of Uniformity
- All must use “Book of Common Prayers” and attend service every week or be fined
- Puritans rejected some teachings in this book - tried to change Church of England from within
- Those who left the church were called “Separatists” if they followed Pastor Robert Brown, or, if they followed Thomas Cartwright, they were called “Presbyterians”





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## After Elizabeth died - 1603

- James I - Presbyterian Church of Scotland, but was purely political
- Called conference to discuss Puritan concerns, but attendees opposed Puritan ideas
- Conference produced 1611 King James Bible, based on Tyndale's work



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## Early 1600's

- 1611 - King James Bible
- 1620 - Mayflower carries Pilgrims (Separatists)
- 1625 - King James dies, Charles I king
- 1628 - Massachusetts Bay Colony (Puritans "Non-separating Congregationalists")
- 1628 - John Bunyan born



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## 1640's

- Charles I enforces “Uniformity”
- Persecution
- Scots rebel
- Cavaliers loyal to King
- Roundheads follow Oliver Cromwell (Puritan)
- Bunyan served under Cromwell - 1644 to 1647
- Charles executed in 1649

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## Puritan Freedom 1649 to 1658

Bunyan in spiritual struggle 1648 to 1652

Found Luther's Commentary on Galatians

“What I struggle with, I see is common.”

1653 - Bunyan begins to preach but is not licensed

April, 1660 - Cromwell dies - persecution

Nov., 1660 - Bunyan arrested, 12 years in jail when refused to stop preaching

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## 1660 to 1688

- Supported family from jail (made shoe laces and wrote books)
- Became pastor when released, met in a barn
- 1677 - Again arrested for preaching without a license - 6 months sentence
- Finished Pilgrim's Progress, a story he told his children during their visits
- After release, continued to preach and write
- Died in September, 1688 after catching cold from being in the rain while trying to reconcile a father and son