

**Executing Changes**  
From Henry VIII to Elizabeth I  
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Slide 1

1. This is the second of three presentations about the English Reformation.
2. Before we begin today, it is useful to summarize what we learned last week by quoting the late William Placher, who taught theology at Wabash: **“Many believe that England became Protestant because Henry VIII wanted a divorce, which the pope would not grant. Like much of what everyone knows about history, this is not particularly true. The tradition of reform begun by Wyclif in the fourteenth century had never died out entirely, and Protestant ideas imported from the continent had reinforced it from the earliest days of the Reformation.”** Placher, *A History of Christian Theology* at 227.
3. Today we will look at the period from Henry VIII to early in the reign of Elizabeth I that most people associate with the English Reformation.
4. As we will see, that was a period characterized by almost unimaginable brutality in the name of different conceptions of religious truth.
5. It is a period worth studying if only to learn what can happen when people of faith get the power to enforce their beliefs against others.

Slide 2

1. As we saw last week, during the early part of his reign, Henry VIII was a staunch supporter of the authority of the pope, earning the title “Defender of the Faith” from Pope Leo X for his vigorous repudiation of the anti-papal views of Martin Luther.
2. But the need for a male heir changed Henry’s views about the pope.
3. When we ended last week, 42-year-old Henry had married Anne Boleyn while still married to Catherine of Aragon, who had born only one child who lived, Mary.
4. Although the pope had rejected his argument, Henry was convinced that his marriage to Catherine was invalid because she was the widow of his brother, an arrangement he believed *Leviticus* prohibited. *Leviticus* 20:21.
5. When Anne immediately became pregnant and virtually all the soothsayers predicted the child would be a boy, Henry knew that marrying Anne was God’s will.

6. He had only to legitimize the male heir he knew was coming.

#### Slide 3

1. By the 1530s, **“antipapal sympathies in England were running high”** and Henry correctly **“calculated that he would face little popular opposition so long as he renounced papal authority in England and avoided troublesome doctrinal questions.”** Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language* at 266.
2. Thomas Cromwell, a lawyer and Member of Parliament, designed a plan to accomplish Henry’s objective of being free from his marriage to Catherine.
3. In early 1533, Cromwell persuaded Parliament to enact the Act in Restraint of Appeals, making it illegal to appeal religious questions to the pope.
4. It was now only necessary to find someone in England with authority to declare Henry’s marriage to Catherine illegal.

#### Slide 4

1. Anne Boleyn had met Thomas Cranmer when he stayed at her father’s home.
2. Knowing of Henry’s interest in marrying Anne, Cranmer, a theologian, wrote a treatise on why Henry’s marriage to Catherine was invalid and tried unsuccessfully to get European universities to accept his views.
3. In March 1533, with Anne now visibly pregnant, Henry VIII confirmed Cranmer’s appointment as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, with instructions to resolve the so-called “Great Matter” of the validity of Henry’s marriage to Anne.

#### Slide 5

1. Archbishop Cranmer convened an ecclesiastical court, which determined that Henry’s marriage to Catherine was invalid and his marriage to Anne therefore valid.
2. As planned, Catherine, who refused to appear and rejected the court’s conclusion, was unable to appeal because of the Act in Restraint of Appeals.
3. Cranmer’s decision had the effect of making Henry’s daughter Mary, then 17, illegitimate, something she never forgot.
4. Cranmer personally crowned Anne, then 32 years old, in a lavish ceremony at Westminster Abbey.
5. On September 7, 1533, Anne gave birth to a girl they named Elizabeth.

## Slide 6

1. In March 1534, Pope Clement VII announced from Rome that Henry's marriage to Anne was invalid because he was still legally married to Catherine.
2. In response, Thomas Cromwell convinced Parliament to pass the Act of Succession to put to rest any question about the validity of Henry's marriage to Anne.
3. This Act confirmed the validity of Henry's marriage to Anne and made their children, including Elizabeth, legitimate heirs to the throne.
4. By its terms, the Act required adult men to take an oath upholding the Act of Succession and declared that anyone refusing to take the oath was guilty of treason.
5. To make sure that people understood the need to take the oath, “[s]ome reckonings in blood were still required.” Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 209.
6. On April 20, 1534, Elizabeth Barton, a nun who had prophesied against Henry's marriage, along with priests who supported her, were hung and then beheaded.
7. The demonstration worked – in the spring and early summer of 1534, thousands of clergy and laymen took the Oath of Succession.

## Slide 7

1. In November 1534, Parliament enacted the Supremacy Act, which declared: **“The king's majesty justly and rightly is and ought to be and shall be reputed the only supreme head in earth of the Church of England called *Anglicana Ecclesia*.”**
2. The Treason Act, also enacted in November 1534, declared that anyone denying that Henry or a successor was the supreme head of the Church was guilty of treason.
3. With these statutes, **“Henry's ecclesiastical authority – an expression of his imperial kingship – was total and complete.”** Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 215.

## Slide 8

1. In January 1535, King Henry appointed layman Thomas Cromwell his Vicegerent, delegating Henry's **“new royal supremacy over English religion to Cromwell.”** MacCulloch, *The Reformation* at 200.
2. One of Cromwell's early tasks was to get oaths from some important holdouts, including members of the Carthusian Order, an important order of English monks.
3. When the monks continued to refuse to take the Oath of Succession, three leaders of the Order were hanged, brought down while still alive, drawn and then quartered.

4. Fifteen other Carthusians were killed for refusing the oath, some of whom were starved to death.

#### Slide 9

1. Bishop John Fisher, who had burned Luther's books and had rejected the annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine, also refused to take the oath.
2. With Fisher imprisoned in the Tower of London, Pope Paul III made him a cardinal, angering Henry and sealing Fisher's fate.
3. He was beheaded on June 22, 1535, his head displayed on a London Bridge pole.

#### Slide 10

1. Thomas More, the author of *Utopia*, was an early ally of King Henry in resisting the influence of Luther's ideas.
2. On behalf of Henry, he wrote scathing articles attacking Luther and his rejection of papal authority.
3. He opposed efforts of William Tyndale to publish an English version of the Bible.
4. As Henry's Lord Chancellor between 1529 and 1532, More authorized and participated in the burning of Lutherans for denying the authority of the pope.
5. More could accept the children of Henry and Anne Boleyn as heirs to the throne, but he refused to accept Henry as head of the English Church, which would have been a repudiation of the entire basis on which he had sent people to their deaths.
6. Thomas More was beheaded on July 6, 1535, and his boiled head replaced that of Bishop Fisher on London Bridge.
7. Because of the show of force, the people refusing to take the Succession Oath **"can be counted almost on fingers and toes."** Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 211.
8. In August 1535, Pope Paul III issued a sentence of excommunication against Henry, but suspended the sentence in hope Henry would eventually rejoin the Church.

#### Slide 11

1. With the questions of succession and loyalty to Henry effectively settled by the end of 1535, Vicegerent Cromwell was able to turn to raising money.
2. The hundreds of monasteries that existed in England at the time, many of them small, were an obvious source.

3. One author estimates they contained **“almost one-tenth of the national wealth.”** Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language* at 267.
4. In 1536, at Cromwell’s urging, Parliament passed the Dissolution of Monasteries Act, ordering the dissolution of monasteries with incomes less than 200 pounds per year.
5. The ostensible reason for dissolving the monasteries was a study that claimed that the inhabitants were guilty of **“manifest sin, vicious, cardinal and abominable living.”**
6. However, **“booty was the prime mover.”** Moynahan, *The Faith* at 402.
7. As shown in this chart, hundreds of monasteries were closed, with their assets going to King Henry.
8. **“Some nine thousand monks and nuns were turned out – some willingly – and an enormous amount of wealth changed hands.”** Bokenkotter, *A Concise History of the Catholic Church* at 236.
9. The lands of the dissolved monasteries were sold or given to English gentry.
10. **“Henry succeeded by this one stroke in reducing the opposition to his policy and gaining new friends.”** Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language* at 267.

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1. Queen Anne Boleyn opposed Thomas Cromwell’s plan to close the monasteries.
2. She argued that they should be kept open and put to better use and encouraged preachers to support her idea in their sermons.
3. **“Anne now challenged Cromwell for leadership of the evangelical cause, and custodianship of the King’s conscience.”** Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 233.
4. Anne’s challenge to Cromwell came at a bad time for her – she had again miscarried and Henry still did not have the son he wanted.
5. As a result, Henry’s attention had turned to Jane Seymour.
6. Cromwell assisted in charging Anne with adultery and incest and a jury convicted her of the charges, supported by testimony obtained by torture.
7. The ever-dutiful Archbishop Cranmer, a long-time friend of Anne and her family who had crowned her queen, now declared her marriage to Henry null and void.
8. Not wanting to see his wife burned, Henry commuted her sentence to beheading.

9. Because of the notorious ineptitude of English axmen in removing heads quickly and cleanly, Henry afforded Anne Boleyn the courtesy of a French swordsman, who dispatched her on Tower green with one stroke on May 18, 1536.
10. Anne was buried in an unmarked grave not found until the nineteenth century and all records of her marriage to Henry were destroyed, which is why the date of that marriage is not known.
11. Two weeks later, Henry married Jane Seymour.

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1. Henry's break with the pope was not motivated by a desire to change the teachings of the English Church but to marry Anne Boleyn and obtain a male heir.
2. As a result, Henry did not reject the teachings of the Catholic Church; he considered himself **"an orthodox Catholic save in regard to the pope."** Walker, *A History of the Christian Church* at 488.
3. **"[H]is goal was an English Catholic Church rather than a Roman Catholic Church."** Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language* at 267.
4. However, those closest to him, including Vicegerent Cromwell, Archbishop Cranmer and his new wife Jane, were sympathetic to the most important ideas of Protestantism and encouraged Henry to adopt at least some of those views.
5. **"[B]ut Henry would have nothing to do with a distinctly Protestant formulation of the faith."** Walker, *A History of the Christian Church* at 487.
6. In response to demands for a statement of church doctrine, in 1536 Henry himself was involved in drafting the so-called "Ten Articles."
7. The Ten Articles were a unique and confusing mixture of Catholic and Protestant teachings, which one author says demonstrate the **"English talent for concocting ambiguous and flexible documents."** Dickens, *The English Reformation* at 200.
8. For example, they recited the Protestant claim that salvation comes from faith alone, but then stressed the Catholic view of the importance of works of charity.
9. They recited the Protestant claim that the pope has no power to release souls in Purgatory, but maintained the Catholic view of the importance of prayers for the dead.
10. As one author colorfully states: **"If he still had a head, Thomas More would have been shaking it in puzzlement."** Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 238.

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1. The Ten Articles were overshadowed by a serious challenge to Henry's rule in the more rural and conservative sections of northern England.
2. In October 1536, citizens in Lincolnshire and then Yorkshire rebelled against the closing of their monasteries and other changes in the English Church.
3. **“By late October, eight well-equipped rebel armies were on the march, together comprising about 50,000 men.”** Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 247.
4. They marched under a banner showing the five wounds of Jesus in what became known as the Pilgrimage of Grace.
5. Underestimating their own strength and overestimating the power of the king, most of the rebels gave up in early 1537 after Henry promised them a pardon.
6. Up to 216 leaders, including priests, were executed, many drawn and quartered.

Slide 15

1. On October 12, 1537, Queen Jane gave birth to Edward, Henry's only son.
2. She died from complications of birth a few days later.

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1. In 1537, Archbishop Cranmer became aware of an English version of the Bible, called the Matthew Bible, circulating in London.
2. It was published by a Protestant named John Rogers.
3. Cranmer brought the Bible to the attention of Thomas Cromwell, who persuaded Henry to allow people to sell it freely.
4. In 1538, Cromwell encouraged the bishops to promote reading of the Bible among their congregations.
5. Cromwell was not happy with Rogers' translation and asked Miles Coverdale, who had previously been exiled for his Protestant beliefs, to produce a better translation.
6. In April 1539, the Great Bible or the Cromwell Bible was introduced.
7. The new translation drew upon the earlier work of William Tyndale, who had been driven from England because of his efforts to bring the Bible to the English masses.

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1. Tyndale, described as “[u]nquestionably the most remarkable figure among the first generation of English Protestants,” did not live to see the realization of his dream of a Bible accessible to ordinary people in England. Dickens, *The English Reformation* at 93.
2. He was strangled to death in 1536 while tied to a stake in Antwerp, the result of English efforts originating with Thomas More to punish him for his English translation.
3. His last words were: "**Lord! Open the King of England's eyes.**"
4. With the issuance of the Cromwell Bible, the king's eyes **had** been opened.
5. The new Bible “**proved of utmost importance for the English Reformation, chiefly by holding the contemporary church up to the mirror of original New Testament Christianity.**” Walker, *A History of the Christian Church* at 487.

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1. By the end of 1538, the pope had determined that Henry would not return to the Catholic Church and issued the suspended order to excommunicate him.
2. For Henry, a threat of force was more consequential.
3. In 1539, the pope demanded that France join with King Charles V of Spain, who was also the Holy Roman Emperor, to attack England and bring it back into the Catholic fold, with or without Henry.
4. To prove that Henry was still a Catholic at heart, in June 1539 Cromwell induced Parliament to pass the Six Articles Act.
5. Rejecting the earlier compromises of the Ten Articles, “[t]he Catholic position was defended in all key areas but papal supremacy.” Moynahan, *The Faith* at 405.
6. The Act, called the “**bloody whip with six strings**” by Protestants, mandated a strict Catholic interpretation of transubstantiation during the Eucharist.
7. “**Disbelief in the real presence was now a felony punishable with death by burning, and no abjuration was permitted.**” Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 275.
8. The Six Articles Act also made marriage by priests punishable by burning, requiring that the long married Archbishop Cranmer send his wife to Germany.
9. Because the threat of an attack never materialized, the Six Articles were not rigorously enforced but remained an important statement of Church beliefs.

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1. Thomas Cromwell had another idea to help defend England against attack -- Henry should marry Anne of Cleves, the daughter of German nobility, to form a link with German Protestants also opposed to Charles V.
2. Cromwell presented Henry this flattering portrait of Anne by Hans Holbein the Younger, now hanging in the Louvre.
3. Based on the portrait and Cromwell's endorsement of her beauty, Henry entered into a contract of marriage and married Anne of Cleves on January 6, 1540.
4. Henry was unable to consummate the marriage, which he blamed on Anne's unexpected unattractiveness.
5. On July 10, 1540, Archbishop Cranmer, always loyal, annulled the marriage.

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1. A humiliated Henry blamed Cromwell for tricking him into marrying Anne.
2. In addition, Henry's religious views continued to be closer to those of Catholics, while Cromwell promoted Protestant teachings and alliances with Protestants.
3. In a fit of pique and supported by Cromwell's Catholic opponents, Henry charged Cromwell with heresy and treason.
4. Cranmer wrote to Henry on his friend's behalf, but hedged his bets: "**[I]f he be a traitor, I am sorry that I ever loved him.**" Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 280.
5. Cromwell was condemned without trial and sentenced to death.
6. Like Anne Boleyn, he was given the courtesy of being beheaded and not burned.
7. One author writes: "**Of the judicial murders sanctioned by Henry, this was perhaps the least intelligible, and in later years he certainly realized the pointlessness of killing the most loyal and industrious minister ever to serve a King of England.**" Dickens, *The English Reformation* at 202.

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1. With Cromwell gone, Henry saw himself free to settle old scores with people who had either challenged his authority as head of the Church of England or supported the validity of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

2. On July 30, 1540, just two days after beheading Cromwell, and then again on August 4, Henry executed a number of enemies he accused of being papists.
3. One of those was Thomas Abell, who was sentenced to **"be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution, there to be hanged, cut down alive, your members to be cut off and cast in the fire, your bowels burnt before your eyes, your head smitten off, your body to be quartered at the King's will, and God have mercy on your soul."**

#### Slide 22

1. On the day of Cromwell's execution, Henry married Catherine Howard, the niece of an important Catholic leader and the first cousin of Anne Boleyn.
2. One author summarizes her behavior this way: **"Before her marriage to Henry, Catherine Howard was sexually active with a succession of handsome men; after it, she saw no reason to stop."** Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 285.
3. After a year of marriage, Catherine was charged with adultery and beheaded with a single stroke.

#### Slide 23

1. Henry married Catherine Parr in July 1543.
2. Henry died on January 28, 1547, at the age of 55, **"ulcerated and swollen, his girth measuring fifty-four inches."** Moynahan, *The Faith* at 406.
3. Catherine, his sixth wife, survived him.
4. English children were taught a jingle to remember the fate of Henry's wives – **"divorced, beheaded, died; divorced, beheaded, survived."**
5. In *A Child's History of England*, Charles Dickens summarized Henry's tumultuous life this way: **"Henry the Eighth has been favoured by some Protestant writers, because the Reformation was achieved in his time. But the mighty merit of it lies with other men and not with him; and it can be rendered none the worse by this monster's crimes, and none the better by any defence of them. The plain truth is, that he was a most intolerable ruffian, a disgrace to human nature, and a blot of blood and grease upon the History of England."**

#### Slide 24

1. On February 20, 1547, Henry's frail only son, Edward, was crowned King Edward VI in a ceremony at Westminster Abbey.

2. Because Edward was only nine years old at the time, his uncle Edward Seymour, named the Duke of Somerset, became his official protector.

#### Slide 25

1. Somerset, a Protestant like Edward's late mother, wanted to move England further away from Catholicism than Henry had been prepared to move it.
2. As **“the first Protestant to enjoy independent control of the State,”** he now had his chance. Dickens, *The English Reformation* at 227.

#### Slide 26

1. When Edward became king, Thomas Cranmer was still Archbishop of Canterbury, a position King Henry gave him in 1533 as part of the successful plan to annul Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon.
2. Since studying the writings of Luther at the White Horse Tavern in Cambridge as a young man, Cranmer had been a Protestant sympathizer.
3. However, Cranmer understood that the king was the **“only supreme head in earth of the Church of England,”** as declared in the Supremacy Act of 1534.
4. As a result, Cranmer participated in promoting the Six Articles that aligned closely with Catholic teachings, except on the issue of Papal supremacy.
5. A different king was now the supreme head of the Church and that king had been raised a Protestant and had a Protestant protector.
6. Archbishop Cranmer was now in a position to support Somerset in bringing Protestantism to England.
7. With Cranmer's support, Somerset pushed legislation through King Edward's first Parliament that undid much of Henry's support of Catholic doctrine.
8. In late 1547, Parliament repealed the Six Articles Act, which had made denial of transubstantiation and marriage by priests punishable by burning.
9. Parliament also repealed all restrictions on printing, reading or teaching the Bible, as well as Henry's additions to the treason laws used to behead any number of people.
10. The Sacrament Act mandated the Protestant idea that worshippers were to partake of both bread and wine during communion.
11. The thousands of Protestants in England were now freer than before to act in accordance with Protestant teachings.

Slide 27

1. For hundreds of years, English Catholics had built and endowed buildings called “chantries,” where priests prayed to move the founders’ souls out of Purgatory.
2. In December 1547, Parliament passed an act abolishing chantries because of their promotion of Purgatory and masses for the dead, which Parliament declared to be based on superstition and ignorance.
3. The Act resulted in the appropriation of 2374 chantries and related institutions.
4. The lands, buildings and possessions were sold, with the proceeds going to Somerset and his friends and allies.
5. In 1548, reflecting the influence of the Swiss Reform movement, all images were ordered removed from English churches.
6. In 1549, legislation gave priests permission to marry.

Slide 28

1. With the repeal of statutes requiring them to believe a certain way, people were unsure about just what they should believe and how they should worship.
2. It was too early in history to conclude that this was a good thing.
3. In January 1549, Parliament enacted the Uniformity Act, requiring that all priests in England and Wales conduct their worship services in English, not in Latin, and in strict accordance with a prescribed *Book of Common Prayer*, or face fines and imprisonment.
4. The *Book of Common Prayer* of Edward VI, published in 1549, was largely the work of Archbishop Cranmer, drawing heavily upon medieval liturgy.
5. Like much of Cranmer’s work, this book reflected a somewhat clumsy effort to accommodate the views of both Catholics and Protestants.
6. For example, it included the Catholic traditions of prayers for the dead and communion during burials, but forbade priests from lifting the communion host.
7. The required communion administration allowed Catholics to continue to assert that the host becomes the real body of Jesus: **“The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life.”**
8. The *Book of Common Prayer* was unpopular with both Protestants and Catholics, with each group believing the new worship service favored the other.

Slide 29

1. Cranmer's first prayer book precipitated the so-called "Prayer Book Rebellion" of thousands of Catholics in Devon and Cornwall.
2. The rebels' motive was clear in their battle cry: "**Kill all the gentlemen and we will have the Six Articles up again, and ceremonies as they were in King Henry's time.**"
3. Their objections "**constituted a comprehensive repudiation of the reforms of the preceding two years.**" Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 329.
4. With the encouragement of Cranmer, the Duke of Somerset, Edward's protector, sent German and Italian mercenaries to put down the rebellion by force.
5. At least five thousand or more Catholic sympathizers, many of them farmers, were killed in battle or executed on the spot.
6. The show of force worked and the rebellion failed.

Slide 30

1. Catholic rebels were not the only ones killed during the reign of Edward VI.
2. On May 2, 1550, Archbishop Cranmer secured from Edward a warrant to burn Joan Bocher, an Anabaptist who rejected infant baptism and central authority.
3. John Rogers, whose publication of a Bible in English had been promoted by Cranmer, refused to protest the execution, saying that burning was the appropriate punishment for heresy as a way to make sure more did not burn in hell.
4. Both Cranmer and Rogers would eventually experience burning first hand.

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1. Members of Parliament blamed Somerset for the Prayer Book Rebellion and accused him of acting and speaking for himself and not for the young king.
2. Although the charges were politically motivated and false, the Duke of Somerset was accused of treason and beheaded on January 22, 1552.
3. The Duke of Northumberland, who had been involved in the conspiracy against Somerset, became Edward's unofficial protector and a political power in his own right.

## Slide 32

1. In 1552, Parliament enacted a new Uniformity Act, requiring that priests use a second version of the *Book of Common Prayer*, also largely written by Thomas Cranmer.
2. This new version made no attempt to accommodate Catholic views.
3. Among other things, “[p]rayers for the dead were omitted; a communion table was substituted for the altar; common bread, instead of a special wafer, was used in the Supper; exorcism and anointing were set aside; the medieval vestments were expressly forbidden.” Walker, *A History of the Church* at 491.
4. The required language of the Eucharist eliminated any suggestion the elements became Christ’s body and blood: **“Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.”**
5. As one author writes: **“Zwingli himself could scarcely have quarreled”** with this formulation. Dickens, *The English Reformation* at 277.
6. Protestantism, in a reasonably coherent form and with hints of the Swiss Reform movement, had now officially come to England through an Act of Parliament.

## Slide 33

1. On June 12, 1553, acting under his authority as Supreme Head of the Church of England, King Edward issued the Forty-two Articles, seeking **“to reform canon law and to codify the beliefs of the church in a document widely acceptable among Protestants.”** Dickens, *The English Reformation* at 279.
2. Even more than the second *Book of Common Prayer*, these articles, also largely written by Thomas Cranmer, reflected the influence of John Calvin, declaring that God had chosen who would be saved **“before the foundations of the world were laid.”**

## Slide 34

1. A month after issuing the Forty-two Articles, Edward VI died at age 15.
2. Henry’s will designated his daughter Mary, a Catholic, as next in line.
3. However, before Edward’s death, the Duke of Northumberland, Edward’s unofficial Protestant protector, had maneuvered to have Lady Jane Grey, the wife of the Duke’s oldest son, proclaimed Edward’s successor.
4. The plan was supported, if not devised, by King Edward, who wanted to assure a Protestant head of the Church of England.

5. On July 10, 1553, Lady Grey, then 16 years old, became Queen of England.

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1. Northumberland had made a fatal mistake in executing his plan – he failed to imprison Mary, who appealed to the country to follow her father’s wishes.
2. **“The people clearly preferred peace, unity, and lawful succession to civil war.”** Walker, *A History of the Christian Church* at 492.
3. Mary, with support from all sides, ousted Lady Jane on July 19, 1553, making Jane the Nine Day Queen.
4. Queen Mary immediately sent Lady Grey and the Duke of Northumberland to the Tower of London, both charged with treason.
5. On August 22, 1553, Northumberland was taken to Tower green for execution.
6. He repudiated his Protestant beliefs before a huge crowd while on the scaffold, but the sentence of death was carried out anyway.

Slide 36

1. Beginning in late 1553, hundreds of Protestants began leaving England for the Reform areas in Germany and Switzerland, creating something of a Reformation in Exile that would later return.
2. The refugees produced the Geneva Bible, a popular translation used by William Shakespeare and taken to the New World by passengers on the Mayflower.
3. As we will see next week, the Mayflower Pilgrims were spiritual successors of those who left England during Mary’s reign and began returning upon her death.

Slide 37

1. **“In late 1553, Parliament legitimized Mary by declaring her mother’s marriage to Henry VIII valid.”** Walker, *A History of the Christian Church* at 492.
2. It was now Mary’s turn, as supreme head of the Church of England under the Supremacy Act of 1534, to determine its direction.
3. Raised Catholic by a Catholic mother, she turned in the direction of Rome.
4. Mary, who has been described as **“probably the only really pious English monarch of the sixteenth century,”** restored Roman Catholicism as the official religion of England. Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language* at 269.

5. She repealed the legislation of her half-brother, Edward VI, that had established Protestant beliefs, with the result that worship was returned to the largely Catholic traditions existing near the end of the reign of Henry VIII.

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1. In January 1554, Mary announced that she intended to marry Philip, the Catholic son of King Charles V of Spain, who was also the Holy Roman Emperor.
2. Fearing domination from the hated Spanish, in late January a group of Protestants led by Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger marched toward London, with the goal of removing Mary and installing Elizabeth as queen.
3. The rebellion failed and Wyatt and about 100 of his followers, including the father of Lady Jane Grey, were quickly hung, beheaded, drawn and quartered.
4. Before his death, Wyatt exonerated Elizabeth from any role in the uprising.

Slide 39

1. On February 12, 1554, Mary beheaded Lady Jane Grey, the Nine Day Queen.
2. The 16-year-old, who had been an innocent pawn, went to her death **“calmly and steadfastly assert[ing] her Protestant faith in one of the noblest gestures of the English Reformation.”** Dickens, *The English Reformation* at 290.

Slide 40

1. On July 25, 1554, Queen Mary, then 38, married 27-year-old Phillip, hoping to produce a son to keep her Protestant half-sister, Elizabeth, from becoming queen.
2. Her subjects were not happy with the marriage to a foreigner.

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1. In January 1555, Parliament repealed the Supremacy Act, restoring control of the Church of England to the pope.
2. Many of the most prominent Protestants refused to declare their allegiance to the pope and were declared heretics, subject to burning.
3. The first victim was John Rogers, who had published the popular Matthew Bible and had earlier thought that burning was a suitable punishment for Anabaptists.
4. He was burned in London on February 4, 1555, with crowds of Londoners cheering his courage and collecting his ashes as relics.

5. Mary was not listening to the crowds, but to what she thought was God's.
6. She burned more Protestant leaders, including former bishops Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, whose courage in the face of a horrible death **“created a profound impression.”** Walker, *A History of the Christian Church* at 493.

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1. Mary most wanted to burn Thomas Cranmer, whom she saw as **“the primary architect of twenty years of schism and heresy, as well as the dark destroyer of her parents' once happy marriage.”** Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 404.
2. The 66-year-old Cranmer, not as brave as Latimer and Ridley, signed seven repudiations of his long-held Protestant beliefs.
3. **“He repudiated Luther and Zwingli, acknowledged papal supremacy and the existence of purgatory, promised faithful obedience to the queen and her Spanish husband, and urged all fellow heretics to return to the unity of the Church.”** Moynahan, *The Faith* at 410.
4. Despite his humiliating efforts to avoid the fire, **“[c]onviction was a foregone conclusion.”** Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 397.
5. On the day of his execution, **“something clicked in the elderly archbishop's mind.”** *Id.* at 404.
6. He publicly repudiated all his earlier recantations and called the pope **“Christ's enemy and Antichrist, with all his false doctrine.”** Moynahan, *The Faith* at 410.
7. Cranmer thrust into the flames the hand that had signed the documents accepting the Pope's authority and kept it there until the fire consumed it.
8. Cranmer had become a martyr, further strengthening Protestant support.

Slide 43

1. In late 1555, Mary's husband Philip returned to the continent without her.
2. As one author writes: **“It was a marriage doubtless approved of in heaven, though perhaps not made there.”** Marshall, *Heretics and Believers* at 377.
3. Mary was still childless and the heresies of the Protestants **“showed little sign of being demoralized into submission.”** *Id.* at 405.
4. Mary believed she was at fault.
5. She thought she had yet **“not done enough to satisfy the judgment of God.”** Walker, *A History of the Christian Church* at 493.

6. After all, there were still Protestants in England.
7. To please God, she continued the burnings, earning her the title “Bloody Mary.”
8. By 1558, she had burned more than 300 Protestants, including about 50 women.
9. **“Faced with death, most victims behaved with defiant dignity, the perfect material for restoring the credibility of English Protestantism after its 1553 debacle.”** MacCulloch, *The Reformation* at 285.

Slide 44

1. The burnings of Protestants, combined with resentment of Mary’s marriage to Philip, **“did more for the spread of anti-Roman sentiment than all previous governments had accomplished.”** Walker, *A History of the Christian Church* at 494.
2. The Protestant reforms of Cromwell and Cranmer, both killed for their beliefs, had taken root in the soil first tilled by Wycliffe and Tyndale and could not be reversed.
3. When Mary died on November 17, 1558, at age 42, her policies had been widely condemned and the country was ready for a Protestant ruler.
4. As a result, there was no effort to keep Mary’s 25-year-old half-sister Elizabeth, raised Protestant, from becoming queen in accordance with Henry’s will.
5. She was crowned Elizabeth I on January 15, 1559, beginning a reign that would last 45 years.

Slide 45

1. Elizabeth’s coronation was a Protestant affair, an **“aggressive statement that she was breaking with the past.”** MacCulloch, *The Reformation* at 288.
2. Elizabeth may have wanted to move slowly in turning the country legally back in the direction of Protestantism.
3. But Parliament, dominated by Protestants as the result of an election near the time of her coronation, was less cautious.
4. On April 29, 1559, Parliament enacted a new Supremacy Act, rejecting once again the authority of the pope and prohibiting all payments and appeals to Rome.
5. However, at Elizabeth’s insistence, her title was changed from “Supreme Head” of the Church of England to “Supreme Governor.”
6. Her objective, to become known as the “Elizabethan settlement,” was to make England Protestant without totally alienating the remaining Catholics.

Slide 46

1. In 1559, Parliament enacted a new Act of Uniformity, again requiring that priests conduct worship in accordance with a prescribed book of prayer.
2. By this time, Thomas Cranmer had become a Protestant hero and the third *Book of Common Prayer* of 1559 was a revision of Cranmer's 1552 version.
3. Given Elizabeth's intent to find an acceptable "middle way" between Catholicism and Protestantism, this third prayer book moved slightly in the direction of Catholicism compared with the 1552 version.
4. It eliminated a prayer directed against the pope.
5. It required that both the bread and wine be given to worshippers and provided language from both the 1549 and 1552 versions, intended to allow anyone, including Lutherans, who believed that the bread and wine became the body and blood of Jesus, to feel as comfortable with the words as those who did not.
6. It added language requiring that priests dress in the traditional vestments of the Catholic Church.
7. The 1559 *Book of Common Prayer* is the basis for the liturgy of the Anglican and Episcopal Churches today.

Slide 47

1. With Elizabeth now in power, the Protestant refugees who had left England under the reign of Bloody Mary began returning.
2. While in Germany and Switzerland, they had experienced the austere Protestantism of Zwingli and Calvin.
3. They returned with a desire to "purify" the English church by removing what they believed were vestiges of Catholicism that found no support in the Bible, including a central authority.
4. Some of their demands were not amenable to the type of compromises that Elizabeth preferred.
5. As William Placher writes: "**[O]ne either had bishops or did not, knelt to pray or remained standing and so on.**" Placher, *A History of Christian Theology* at 228.

Slide 48

1. Next week, we will look at these dissenters, collectively known as the "Puritans."
2. As we will see, the Puritans were not all of the same mind.

3. Some wanted to reform the Church of England and some wanted to leave it.
4. We will look at these Puritans and their largely unsuccessful efforts to change the Church of England to conform to their image or purity.
5. We will follow them to Netherlands and then to the New World, where they sought to establish a church that followed their vision of truth and sometimes used force to achieve that vision.
6. We will see how those views eventually led to the religious freedom we take for granted today.

**Resources:**

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