

“What Were the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation?”

Prepared by Darryl Eberhart, Editor of ETI & TTT Newsletters // Website: www.toughissues.org
A 1-Page Handout // All emphasis is mine unless otherwise stated. // Jan. 20, 2011 // Mar. 3, 2011

QUESTION: What were the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation?

ANSWER: The so-called Protestant Reformation was a religious movement that started, according to some historians, in the early 16th century. It brought religious liberty and freedom of conscience to many of the peoples of Europe. (Many of the early Reformers were Roman Catholic clerics who initially tried to reform the Roman Catholic Church from within, such as Martin Luther, who was an Augustinian monk and a Roman Catholic priest.) Many Roman Catholics in Europe began leaving the Roman Catholic Church during the early period of the so-called Protestant Reformation, and became Lutherans, Calvinists, etc. The Reformers were unanimous in their identification of the Papacy as both the [Antichrist] “beast” [system] and the “religious harlot” that are described in the Bible, and especially in the book of Revelation. They also saw the Papacy as the “little horn” that is described in Daniel Chapter 7, a “horn” that had “*a mouth speaking great things*” (even “*against the most High*”), and that “*made war with the saints, and prevailed against them.*” The Reformers preached strongly for Christ, and preached strongly against the Antichrist, whom they all identified as the Papacy, an entity that had butchered Bible-believing Christians, e.g., the Albigenian Christians, several centuries prior to the Reformation via “holy” Inquisition and “holy” crusades!

May we never forget the words of French historian Baron de Ponnat, who in 1882 stated: “*Roman Catholicism was born in blood, has wallowed in blood, has quenched its thirst in blood, and it is in letters of blood that its true history is written.*”

Some of the better-know early Reformers included the following: English Reformer and Bible translator John Wycliffe (c.1330-1384); English Reformer and Bible translator William Tyndale (c.1494-1536), who was strangled and burnt at the stake; German Reformer and Bible translator Martin Luther (1483-1546); French Reformer John Calvin (1509-64); Scottish Reformer John Knox (1505 or c.1514-1572); German Reformer Philipp Melancthon (1497-1560); Bohemian Reformer and martyr John Huss (*Jan Hus*) (c.1369, c.1372, or 1374-1415), who was burned to death for his faith; and, Swiss Reformer Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531).

The Counter-Reformation was Papal Rome’s response to the so-called Protestant Reformation, and it was spearheaded by the Jesuit Order. The primary goals of this Jesuit-led Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation were – and still are: (1) to roll back the Protestant Reformation and the freedoms that it brought to many of the inhabitants of this planet; (2) to enhance the power and prestige of the Papacy (and its “White Pope”); and, (3) to have the Jesuit Superior General rule despotically over the governments of the world through the Papacy and its “White Pope”.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REFORMATION AND THE COUNTER-REFORMATION:

1. Read the 317-page paperback book, “*Rome and the Bible*”, by David Cloud. To order this book via credit card, please call toll-free **1-866-295-4143**.
2. Watch the 3-hour color DVD documentary, “*A Lamp in the Dark*”, by Adullam Films. To order this DVD documentary via credit card, please call toll-free **1-888-780-5049**.
3. Please check your local bookstore or do an Internet search for the following books: (a.) “*Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*”; (b.) the 832-page paperback book, “*The Reformation*” by Diarmaid MacCulloch (Penguin Books, 2004); (c.) the 2-volume book set of the “*History of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*” by J.H. Merle d’Aubigné (Hartland Publications, Rapidan, Virginia, 2006); and, (d.) the 1161-page hardback book, “*CHRISTIANITY: The First Three Thousand Years*” by Diarmaid MacCulloch (Penguin Books, 2009; 1st American Edition by Viking Penguin, 2010).

*****PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO COPY*****