

# 500

## THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

— AT A GLANCE —

GOD

### THE COSMIC WAR BETWEEN GOOD & EVIL

THE OTHER-CENTERED ORIENTATION < GOD IS LOVE < THE TRUTH (singular) ⚡ THE LIE (singular) > GOD IS SELFISH > THE SELF-AS-CENTER ORIENTATION

TWO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED WAYS OF THINKING, RELATING, AND BEING ARE AT WAR IN HUMAN HISTORY (GEN 3:15)

SATAN

#### HEBREW THOUGHT

Abraham > Moses > The Prophets > Christ > The Apostles

- Covenantal
- Relational
- Dynamic
- Bottom Up
- Power Under

# VS

LOVE IS POWER

#### GREEK THOUGHT

Paganism > Plato > Aristotle > Augustine > Romanism

- Coercive
- Deterministic
- Static
- Top Down
- Power Over

#### ISRAEL

God formed the nation of Israel to be “a kingdom of priests.” They were to be a mediating conduit through which His good character and covenant principles might be made known to all the nations of the world, and through which the promised Savior of humankind would come to the world. Through Israel we have “the Law and the Prophets,” or what Paul called “the oracles of God,” all of which pointed to Christ.

#### THE CHURCH

The Church formed by Christ and the Apostles became the continuation of Israel in the world, now an expanded spiritual body transcending all national-ethnic-cultural lines, finding its identity and mission in Christ as the definitive revelation of God’s good character and covenant principles. As “a royal priesthood,” the Church was called to “proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

### THE GREAT FALLING AWAY

**The Fallen Church of Rome:** Scripture foretold that after the time of the apostles a “great falling away” or apostasy would occur resulting in the formation of a paganized version of Christianity that would exalt men to the position of God. **2 THESSALONIANS 2**

**The Underground Church of Christ:** Throughout the Middle Ages the true Church of Christ became an underground movement in order to preserve the truths of the gospel and escape the persecution of the Roman Church. **REVELATION 12**

#### EARLY REFORMERS

<p><b>John Wycliffe</b> (1320-1384) “It is plain to me that our prelates, in granting indulgences, do commonly blaspheme the wisdom of God.”</p>	<p>Wycliffe and Huss were the first prominent figures to lift their voices in protest against the papacy’s abuse of power and its perversion of the gospel.</p>	<p><b>John Huss</b> (1369-1415) “Indeed, no one does more injury in the church than he who acts perversely and yet has the name and order of sanctity.”</p>		
Sola Scriptura	Solo Christo	Sola Gratia	Sola Fide	Soli Deo Gloria

#### THE GREAT MIDDLE REFORMERS

<p><b>Ulrich Zwingli</b> (1484-1531) “Christ is the one eternal high priest, therefore those who vaunt themselves as high priests oppose the honor and power of Christ.”</p>	<p><b>Martin Luther</b> (1483-1546) “I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.”</p>	<p><b>John Calvin</b> (1509-1564) “Faith is like an empty, open hand stretched out towards God, with nothing to offer and everything to receive.”</p>
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#### LATE REFORMERS

**William Tyndale** (1494-1536) ..... Translated the Bible, preached justification by faith and the mortality of the soul  
**Jacobus Arminius** (1560-1609).... Opposed Calvinism, insisted humans have free will and may resist sin by God’s grace or resist salvation  
**Roger Williams** (1603-1683) ..... Pioneer of religious liberty, founded Rhode Island on the premise of freedom to worship  
**John Wesley** (1703-1791) ..... Preached prevenient grace, experiential salvation, the intersection of faith and reason, founded Methodism  
**William Miller** (1782-1849)..... Baptist preacher, opened up Daniel and Revelation, catalyst for the Advent Movement  
**Ellen White** (1827-1915)..... Prophetic voice to Adventism, foretold what the completion of the Reformation would look like

#### COMPLETING THE REFORMATION

500 years ago, the Protestant Reformation set in motion a process of restoring to the world the true knowledge of God and the way of salvation. Completing the Reformation must necessarily involve the formation of a cohesive system of truth that clarifies and magnifies the beauty of God’s character.

“It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world.... The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love” (Ellen White).

“I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory” (Revelation 18:1).