



Seeking Undenominational Christianity

Tom Rucker – Hardin Valley Church





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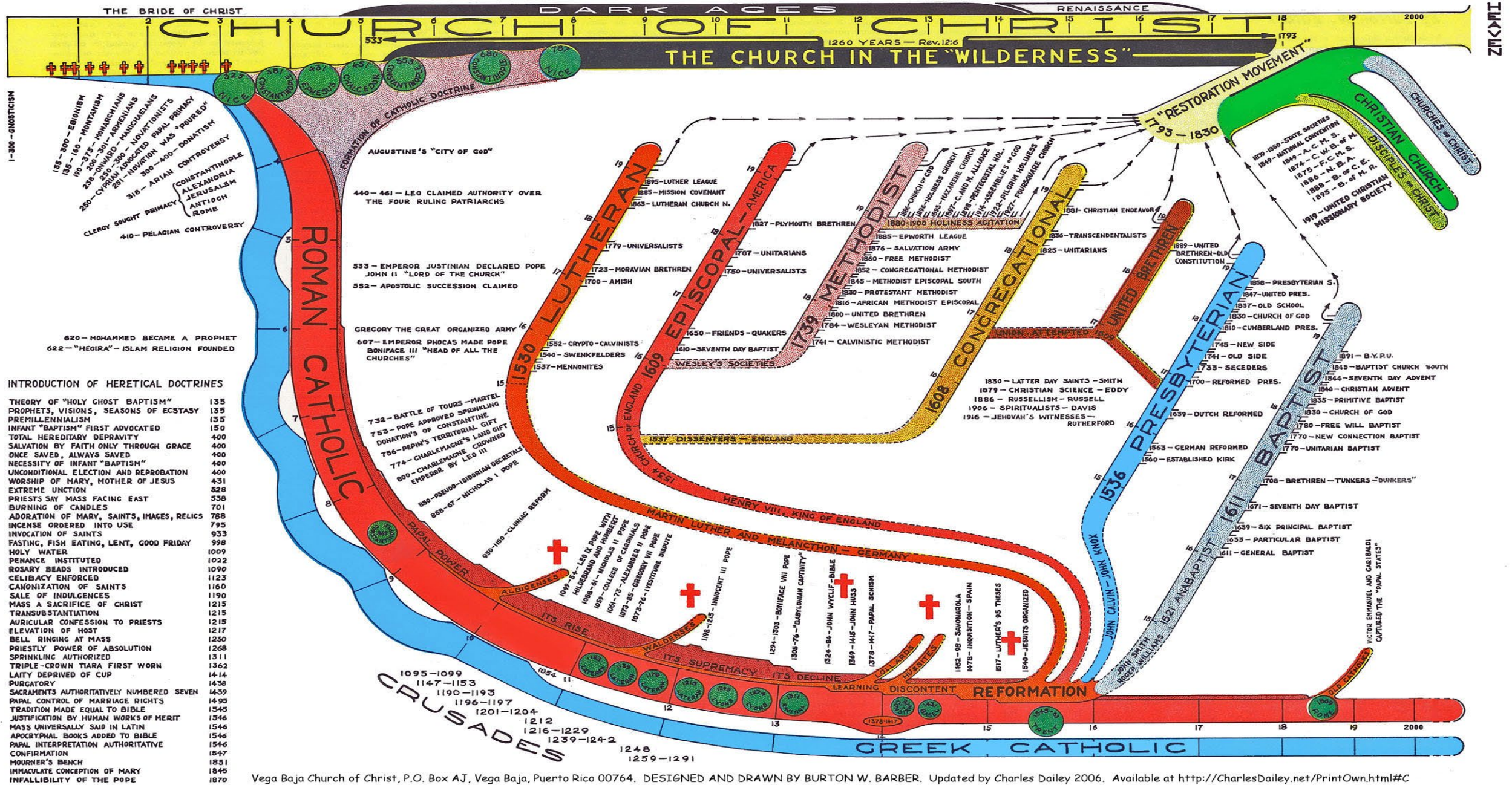
The Long and Winding Road-Part 4



- Mark 9:28-41

³⁸ John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹ But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ **For the one who is not against us is for us.** ⁴¹ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

THE CHURCH — APOSTASY FROM IT AND RETURN TO IT — HISTORICALLY TRACED



INTRODUCTION OF HERETICAL DOCTRINES

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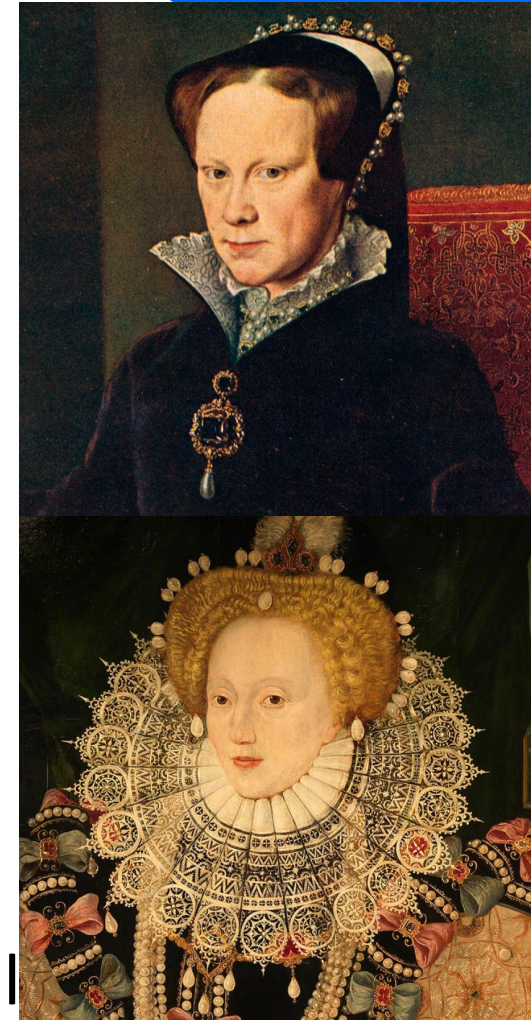
Reformation in England

- Sir Thomas Moore(1478-1519)
 - Remained loyal to the pope but in *Utopia* set forth ideas of a classless society where there was freedom of thought and action.
- King Henry VIII
 - Accepted the Catholic Church with sacraments and priesthood
 - Tolerated “heresy” and reformation as a way to bring pressure on and favor from the pope.
 - In 1533, after the pope refused to grant him a divorce, set himself up as head of the **Church of England** through the appointment of Thomas Cranmer as Archbishop of Canterbury.
 - Thomas Moore and Bishop Fisher were executed for not accepting.
 - The Church of England remained unchanged from the Catholic Church except for the break with the papacy.



Reformation in England

- Queen Mary I (reign – 1553-1558)
 - Mary desired to bring England back under Papal authority.
 - During her reign, 288 persons were martyred because of refusal to acknowledge the pope as head of the church.
- Queen Elizabeth I (reign – 1558-1603)
 - Tried to satisfy both Catholics and Reformers
 - She was excommunicated as a Calvinist by the pope.
 - She required all people to attend church under penalty of fine.
 - There were many Catholic attempts to regain power but all without success.



Rise of Denominations in England

- Protection was given to the more moderate types of reformers who had been influenced by Luther and Calvin while those more radical were treated with great disrespect including burning.
- When satisfactory reform could not be inaugurated in the Church of England, independent groups began to appear.
- The Romanists
 - Those loyal to the pope were commanded by a Papal Bull to separate themselves from the Church of England and loyalty to the Queen.
 - Some did and formed the **English Romanist Church**.
 - Some were executed as traitors when they brought political disturbance.



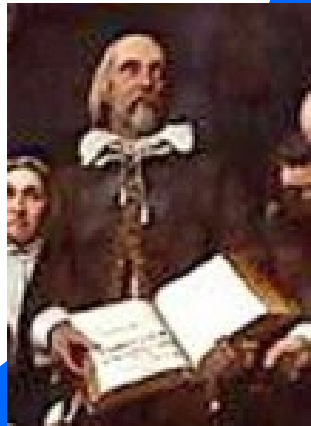
Rise of Denominations in England

- The Dutch Reform
 - In 1567, the Duke of Alva began persecution in the Netherlands of followers of Zwingli and Calvin as well as the Anabaptists. This drove dutchmen to England where they were received.
 - These became the start of the **Dutch Reform Church**.
 - Many Huguenots from France joined them after twenty thousand Protestants in France were massacred in France in 1572 at the instigation of Catherine de Medici on the night of St. Bartholomew's Day.



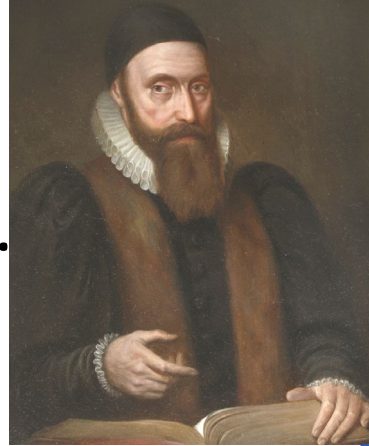
Rise of Denominations in England

- Puritans, Separatists, Congregationalists
 - The term Puritan refers to groups of individuals who differed widely in organization and doctrine, but all desired to purify the Church of England.
 - Began with Luther's ideas, accepted theology of Calvin emphasizing strict morality and protesting worldly pleasure, adopted the Presbyterian form of government.
 - In 1581 Robert Browne moved his whole congregation to Holland, but sent writings back to England to oppose the Established Church.
 - John Robinson read Browne's writings and led a group to Leyden in 1608.
 - This group sailed to America in 1620 and established the first **Congregational Church** in America.
 - The Bible was taken as a code of laws, but interpretations of doubtful passages was not left to the individual.



Rise of Denominations in England

- The Presbyterians
 - In 1570, Thomas Cartwright lectured at Cambridge against Episcopacy and issued pamphlets against the Church of England.
 - This led to the formation of the first **Presbyterian** congregation in England in 1572.
 - They were called **Presbyterians** because of their opposition to the Episcopal (Bishop) system of church government and adoption of the Presbyterian (Elder) system.
 - This opposition spread to Scotland where John Knox became the leader of the Scotch Reformers.
 - After civil war, Knox effectively became ruler of Scotland.



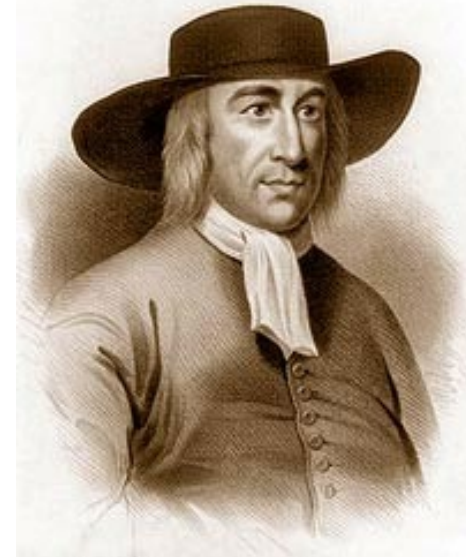
Rise of Denominations in England

- The Presbyterians (Cont.)
 - When James I became king, he was determined to re-establish the British King as Head over the Church and with the help of Richard Bancroft, who became archbishop in 1604, to bring uniformity to the Church of England.
 - He was convinced that Presbyterianism and Puritanism were dangerous and should be suppressed. Up to 300 clergymen were thus deposed.
 - This drove many of the devout Christians to America.



Rise of Denominations in England

- The Quakers
 - The **Quaker** movement in England was a development from within the Anabaptist movement.
 - The Quakers came to be noticed in England about 1650 under leaders George Fox and James Nailer.
 - Nailer was fanatical. However, Fox repudiated the fanatical tendencies and encouraged a deep personal piety.
 - Fox's followers opposed war and refused to take oaths. They objected to ministerial orders and relied upon the individual guidance of the Holy Spirit.

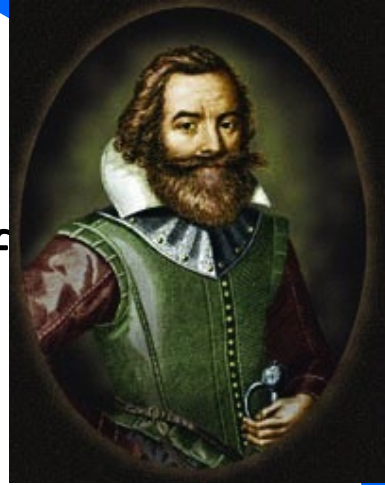


Rise of Denominations in England

- The Baptist Church
 - Out of the Background of principles of Wycliffe and the Lollards and encouraged by the Anabaptist movement on the continent emerged two men responsible for the development of the Baptist church in England, John Smyth and Thomas Helwys who had fled to Holland to escape persecution.
 - Smyth and Helwys began a serious undertaking to rediscover the New Testament church.
 - Smyth and Helwys both accepted Arminianism but disagreed on a Presbyterian form on church organization. This created other churches.
 - Smyth died and Helwys returned to England in in 1611 and set up first **Baptist Church** on English soil.



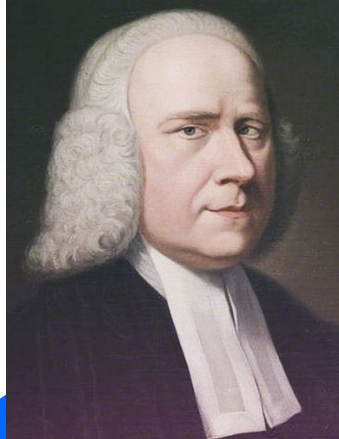
Rise of Denominations in England



- The Baptist Church (Cont.)
 - Helwys' group baptized believers only, but by pouring instead of immersion.
 - By 1640, the mode of baptism became immersion only.
 - The Particular Baptists or Calvinistic Baptists wanted to separate from the General Baptists and by 1633 they were distinct.
 - By 1641 the Particular Baptist organized as a society of immersed believers and by 1644 had seven congregations in general association.
 - By 1644 the General Baptist had 50 congregations and by 1651 organized into an association and in 1654 held their first general assembly.
 - From the beginning the Baptist church was divided in theology between the Calvinistic and Armenian positions.

Rise of Denominations in England

- John Wesley and the Methodists
 - This was a movement in the Church of England to restore piety, spiritual zeal, and a closer walk with God found in the reform movements.
 - Led by John Wesley, Charles Wesley, and George Whitfield.
 - Began by going to communion weekly and studying the Scripture in a “Holy Club” on the campus of Oxford University.
 - On the campus they began to be called “Methodists” because of their insistence upon a “method” of strict observance to all that the prayer book demanded.
 - Their contact with some Moravians in 1735 caused them to be convinced that each believer ought to be able to point to an experience of assurance of individual pardon and salvation.



Rise of Denominations in England

- John Wesley and the Methodists (Cont.)
 - They were determined to remain in the established Church of England.
 - They began work across England reclaiming people from their apathy.
 - Up to 1738 the pulpits of churches were open to them. After that the clergy gave strong opposition to their work.
 - They began “field preaching” and develop a great interest in spiritual revival all over England.
 - John Wesley organized study groups and appointed lay preachers.
 - By 1744, the Wesleyan plan was organized into a distinct system.
 - John never intended to leave the Church of England and remained faithful to it till his death in 1790. The Methodist conference in 1793 declared the same. However, by 1795 it declared powers to confer priestly functions upon ministers.



Discussion

- Why did so many denominations of Protestant Christianity develop in England?
- What good things came out of these denominational developments?
- What bad things came out of the denomination developments?
- What can we do to work toward unity of believers?



Thank you

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