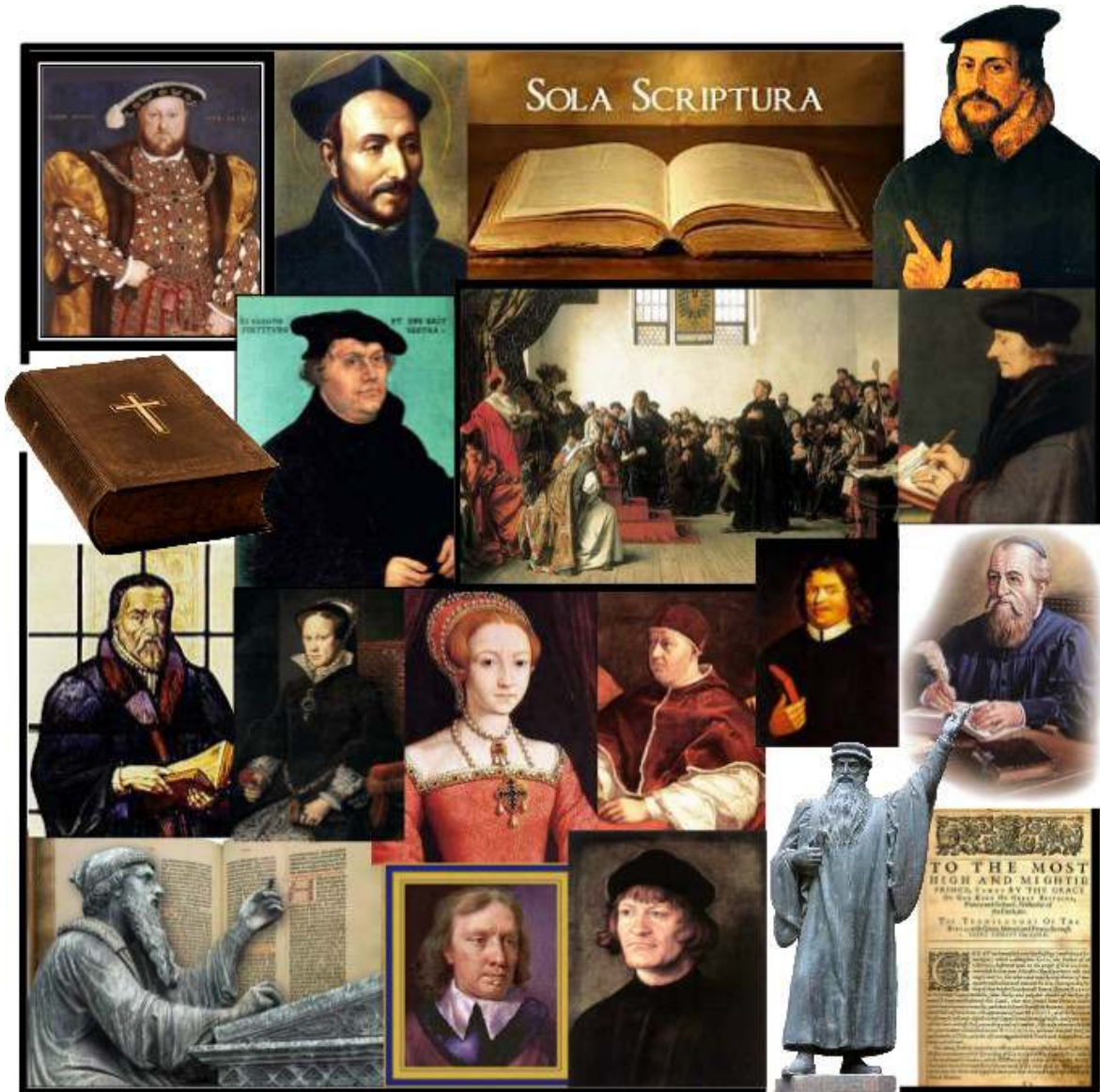


The Areopagus Seminar in Christian History

The Reformation Era

1500-1650

PART 2



The Areopagus

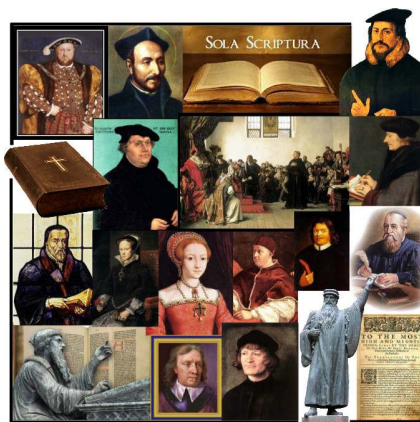
The Reformation Era

Part 2

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Breshears

Times and Locations:

- **Tuesdays**, August 15 - Nov. 14
7-8:30 PM
Perimeter Church, The Ministry Center
— or —
- **Wednesdays**, Aug. 16 - Nov. 15
7-8:30 PM
Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Room 108



Text:

- There is no official textbook for this course. For a list of recommended readings, see the next page(s).

Supplemental Notes:

- A complete set of detailed outline notes will be provided for this course. A spiral-bound Study Guide of the course is available for \$15.

Course Fee: \$60 / \$100 per couple (not including the Study Guide).

Overview

“The Reformation Era” is an in-depth, two-part series that focuses on the major people, issues and events associated with this momentous period in Christian history.

The Protestant Reformation was one of the most significant events in Christian history as well as one of the great transitional eras in Western civilization. Protestant Christians look back at this period as a kind of Golden Age in which heroic figures such as Martin Luther, William Tyndale, John Calvin, Menno Simons and others emerged to challenge the Roman Catholic Church’s dominance over the religious, social and cultural life of Europe. Understandably, Catholics view it differently. For them, the Reformation ruptured the unity in the Body of Christ that had prevailed for more than a thousand years and led to the unfortunate fragmentation of Western Christianity into innumerable splinter groups.

The Reformation was certainly a momentous era, and there is much about it that is cause for celebration. For the first time in over a thousand years Europeans had an alternative to the imperial Roman Catholic Church. Not only was the Reformation movement a major grassroots reaction to the corruption and immorality in the Church, but it also offered an incisive critique of many

doctrines and practices of Roman Catholicism by restoring the centrality of the Bible as the source of authority for theological and ecclesiastical orthodoxy. As a result, within 20 years after Luther drafted his Ninety-Five Thesis, the Bible was available to most Europeans in their own language.

With 2017 being the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, it will be discussed and debated extensively throughout the year. In the course of our study we will address issues such as “Was the Reformation necessary?” and “What are the issues that continue to divide Catholic and non-Catholic Christians today?” This seminar will provide you with the necessary knowledge to understand what issues were at stake and why the Reformation was essential.

Note on the Instructor:

Dr. Jeffrey Breshears is a former university history professor, an author, and the founder and president of The Areopagus, a Christian study center and education ministry in the Atlanta area. Dr. Breshears can be contacted at JBreshears@TheAreopagus.org.

Suggested Readings

Prelude To the Reformation

General:

John D. Woodbridge and Frank A. James III, *Church History, Volume 2: From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day* (Zondervan, 2013).

John Wycliffe:

G. R. Evans, *John Wyclif: Myth and Reality* (IVP Academic, 2005).

Anthony Kenny, ed., *Wyclif In His Times* (Oxford University Press, 1986).

Erasmus:

Johan Huizinga, *Erasmus and the Age of Reformation* (Harper TorchBooks, 1957).

Lisa Jardine, *Erasmus, Man of Letters* (Princeton University Press, 1995).

The Reformation Era: General

John D. Woodbridge and Frank A. James III, *Church History, Volume 2: From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day* (Zondervan, 2013).

Rudolph W. Heinze, *Reform and Conflict: From the Medieval World To the Wars of Religion, 1350-1648*. The Baker History of the Church, Vol. 4 (Baker Books, 2005).

Harold J. Grimm, *The Reformation Era, 1500-1650*. Second Edition (Macmillan, 1973).

Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Reformation: A History* (Viking/Penguin, 2004).

Hans J. Hillerbrand, ed., *The Reformation: A Narrative History Related by Contemporary Observers and Participants* (Baker Book House, 1964).

Reformation Era Biographies

Martin Luther:

Heiko Oberman, *Luther* (Random House, 1982).

Roland H. Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* (Abingdon, 1950).

James L. Kittelson, *Luther the Reformer: The Man and His Career* (Augsburg, 1986).

Ulrich Zwingli:

G. R. Potter, *Ulrich Zwingli* (The Historical Association, 1983)

Oskar Farner, *Zwingli the Reformer* (1952).

William Tyndale:

David Daniel, *William Tyndale: A Biography* (Yale University Press).
Brian Edwards, *God's Outlaw* (Tyndale, 1976).

John Calvin and Calvinism:

John T. McNeill, *The History and Character of Calvinism* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1954, 1979).
T. H. L. Parker, *John Calvin: A Biography* (Westminster Press, 1975).

The English Reformation

J. R. H. Moorman, *A History of the Church in England* (Morehouse Publishing, 1980).
A. G. Dickens, *The English Reformation*. Second Edition (Penn State University Press, 1989).
Peter Ackroyd, *The Life of Thomas More* (Random House, 1998).
John Guy, *Thomas More* (Oxford University Press, 2000).
Jasper Ridley, *Thomas Cranmer* (Oxford, 1962).
John Schofield, *[Thomas] Cromwell to [Oliver] Cromwell: Reformation to Civil War* (The History Press, 2009).
R. T. Kendall, *Calvin and English Calvinism to 1649* (Paternoster, 1997).

French Protestantism: The Huguenots

N. M. Sutherland, *The Huguenot Struggle for Recognition* (Yale University Press, 1980).

The Radical Reformation

George H. Williams, *The Radical Reformation* (Westminster Press, 1962).
William R. Estep, *The Anabaptist Story* (Eerdmans, 1963, 1975).
Leonard Verduin, *The Reformers and Their Stepchildren* (Baker Book House, 1964).
Walter Klaassen, *Anabaptism: Neither Catholic Nor Protestant* (Conrad Press, 1981).
George H. Williams and Angel M. Mergal, eds., *Spiritual and Anabaptist Writers* (Westminster Press, 1957).

Religious Persecution and Martyrdom

W. Grinton Berry, ed., *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* (Baker Book House, 1978).
Thielman J. Van Braght, *Martyr's Mirror* (Herald Press, 1938).

The Reformation: Assessments

Mark A. Noll and Carolyn Nystrom, *Is the Reformation Over? An Evangelical Assessment of Contemporary Roman Catholicism* (Baker Academic, 2005).
Kevin J. Vanhoozer, *Biblical Authority After Babel: Retrieving the Solas in the Spirit of Mere Protestant Christianity* (Brazos Press, 2016)
Michael Reeves and Tim Chester, *Why the Reformation Still Matters* (Crossway, 2016).