

**Great Controversy Series**  
**Are You A True Reformer?**  
**Chapter 6 - Huss and Jerome**  
Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr, pastor

Review

**If you are in darkness and apostasy what MUST take place?** A TRUE revival and reformation!

Revival = Wake Up / Reformation = Re-FORM-ation, reorganization – from old man to new! Reform - To change from bad to good; to remove that which is bad or corrupt. To abandon that which is evil or corrupt, and return to a good state.

**What sparks a true revival & reformation?**

- 1) God Word is light (Psa 119:105)
- 2) Ten Commandments is light (Pro 6:23)
- 3) Bible Prophecy (2 Pe 1:19)

2 Ti 2:15 Study [diligence-earnestness] to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Word of God is the most powerful weapon of against error, darkness, and apostasy.

**What sparked a revival and reformation during 1260 years of Roman Papal rule and suppression from 538 to 1798?** The Word of God, His Holy Bible getting into the hands of the common people!

**What is going spark a true revival and reformation in these last days through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?**

The study and application of God's Word. “Profession”, lip service, and intentions will not cut it. You MUST develop an active investigation and implementation of God’s Word. There is no way around, through it, under it or over it.

**What is the true condition of ALL “PROFESSORS”?**

Matthew 15:8-9

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their **heart is far from me.**

9 **But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**

**Eze 33:31** And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee *as* my people, and they hear thy words, **but they will not do them:** for with their mouth they shew much love, *but* their **heart goeth after their covetousness.**

**Who woke up to God's truths built the foundation the of the protestant reformation? He father of the protestant reformation who exposed the pomp, pride, error, and corruption of the papacy.**

John Wycliffe (14<sup>th</sup> Century – John the Baptist)

**What was two of his key roles that sparked protestant reformation worldwide?**

- Translation of the Holy Bible from the Latin Vulgate to English – the language of the common people in England
- Published several Bible study tracts that exposed the corruption and true purposes of Papal Rome.

**What major papal Roman “fight” helped John Wycliffe complete the translation of the Bible from Latin to English?**

**The Rival Popes**

- As a result of pope Gregory’s XI death two opposing popes were elected from two opposing cardinal groups of the Papal Roman Empire. This is known as the Papal Schism that lasted for about 40 years from 1378 to 1417. Before it was all over a third rival pope joined the fight for supremacy.

**How did John Wycliffe die?** Palsy in December 31, 1384

**How did Papal Rome show it intense hatred against John Wycliffe?** They exhumed Wycliffe's bones, burned them, and then poured his ashes in the neighboring brook 40 years after his death.

Like the reformer of the past in the Old Testament, New Testament, and the protestant reformation were not cowards. They were humble but bold for the truth! In the last days we also must be humble and bold for the truth!

**What are ALL true reformers called to do in the last days?**

**Micah 6:1-2**

- 1 Hear ye now what the LORD saith; Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.
- 2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

We must fight for the TRUTH with the TRUTH, God's Word! We must plead to the world the main mission of Jesus Christ, repent, for the kingdom of heaven is a hand.

**When God revealed the apostasy through His Word to reformers like John Wycliffe and to true reformers in the last days, what are we commanded to do?**

**Isaiah 58:1**

- 1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Is this an option? NO! This is a message of genuine love

Will you lose friends and family? Yes. Does it require boldness and genuine faith? Yes. Did Jesus say it would be easy? No.

**How long are God’s true reformers in the last days to give this urgent loud cry of truth to turn from sin and turn to Jesus? How did God answer the prophet Isaiah when he asked this same question?**

**Isaiah 6:11**

11 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

### **What was the condition of the professed people of God, Judah, at the time of prophet Ezekiel?**

Remember many in Judah was taken in a siege to Babylon by force because of their disobedience and rebellion against God. Judah who saw the total destruction and fall of the Northern kingdom of Israel did not learn from their example of rejecting the truth. Judah was in DEEP DEEP apostasy and time of DEEP spiritual darkness.

God rose up Ezekiel in the midst of the apostasy and darkness to awaken God's people out of sleep and spark true reformation.

Ezekiel was one of the captives take to Babylon to call for true revival and reformation among the captives in Judah and to give them words of hope and encouragement.

### **What is Jesus' last day CRY of mercy and plea from heaven?**

Revelation 18:1-2, 4

- 1 And after these things I saw another angel [4<sup>th</sup> Angel] come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.
- 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.
- 4 And I heard another voice from heaven [Voice of Jesus!], saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Even after many in Judah saw a wave of their people taken captive to Babylon the people of God DID NOT LISTEN OR LEARN, especially the LEADERSHIP.

God exposed the deep apostasy in Jerusalem to Ezekiel in vision in Ezekiel 8. The house of God, His sanctuary, became a habitation of devils - a house of idol worship! A house drinking the wine of Babylon!

### **What abominations did it lead to?**

Idol worship

Sexual promiscuity / homosexuality

Sun Worship

**All of this was shown happening among the leaders of Judah in the temple in a vision that God gave to Ezekiel in Ezekiel chapter 8. A place of SUN WORSHIP!**

### **What did God reveal to Ezekiel in vision would happen to those who continue in this deep dark apostasy?**

His wrath would be poured out with out mixture.

Revelation 14:9 reveals that the same is true for all those who “worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand”

### **According Ezekiel's vision who did not receive the wrath of God?**

Ezekiel 9:1-6

- 1 He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man *with* his destroying weapon in his hand.
- 2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them *was* clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.

- 3 And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which *had* the writer's inkhorn by his side;
- 4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.
- 5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:
- 6 Slay utterly old *and* young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom *is* the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which *were* before the house.

In the last days true reformers cry aloud and expose the abominations in the house of God, calling people out of the dark pit of Babylon into the marvelous Light of Truth by using the Holy Scriptures of God.

During the darkness of the Papal Roman Empire God rose up people who where at one time blinded by the papacy but God revealed truth to them through the WORD of God.

### **Another "John" = "Jehovah is a gracious giver": John Huss, a true reformer**

Born in 1369 in the Kingdom of Bohemia (today known as Czech Republic)

Around 15 years old when the reformer forerunner, John Wycliffe died in 1384

Grew up very poor, father died when he was young.

Mother as a poor widow was strong and spiritual woman in encouraged John to study hard

Received a charity scholarship at the University of Prague

"He was accompanied on the journey to Prague by his mother; widowed and poor, she had no gifts of worldly wealth to bestow upon her son, but as they drew near to the great city, she kneeled down beside the fatherless youth and invoked for him the blessing of their Father in heaven. Little did that mother realize how her prayer was to be answered." {GC 98.1}

Show map of Bohemia and University of Prague

### **Years before John Huss in Bohemia, the "Heart" of Europe – Light of Truth Shined**

In the ninth century (period of 801 to 900 A.D.) over 560 years before John Huss was born the light of the gospel truth was spread through Bohemia (Heart of Europe) under the shadows of the Papal Roman Empire

Many of the Waldenses and Albigenses, driven by persecution from their homes in France and Italy, came to Bohemia.

The Bible was translated, and public worship was conducted, in the language of the people

Corruption of the papacy was exposed and denounced in Bohemia

Bible and public worship in local language became illegal as Papal Rome strengthen it grip in Bohemia

Many in Bohemia were persecuted and killed by Papal Rome as a result

Centuries before Huss, a martyr of Bohemia who was about to be killed said this:

One of those who "taught that salvation was only to be found by faith in the crucified Saviour," declared when dying: "The rage of the enemies of the truth now prevails against us, but it will not be forever; there shall arise one from among the common people, without sword or authority, and against him they shall not be able to prevail." - GC 98

### **University of Prague – the Pride of Bohemia**

Winning attitude, hard study, and blameless life earned him universal attention and the pride of nation

Sincere seeker of truth as a follower of the Roman Catholic Church

After graduation Huss became a priest and rose up within ranks of the Roman Catholic church and also had influence in the court of the king in Bohemia

Professor and rector (head) of the University of Prague today known as Charles University

### **The Beginning of the Work of Reform**

Preacher of Bethlehem Chapel in Prague in around 1402 (fairly new)

The founder of Bethlehem chapel before Huss preached and read scriptures in the language of the people. Papal Rome stopped it

Huss saw how ignorant and corrupt the people were as a result of the papacy's actions.

Huss taught against evil and promoted holiness and purity based on God's Word

Jerome of Prague gave Huss some the writings of John Wycliffe!

John Wycliffe's tracts were made available by the Queen of England, Anne, who used to be a native Bohemian princess who was converted through Wycliffe writings. She wanted her native people to know Bible truth.

Believed in many of the reforms advocated in Wycliffe's writings

Wanted to reform the church of Papal Rome.

### **Two Strangers From England – Artist of Truth**

At the time when Huss was studying the writings of Wycliffe two strangers from England preached on the street corners of Prague about the false teachings and truth of the Word of God. The authorities stopped them.

As artist they drew two large pictures for the public to see. One with a humble Christ sitting on a donkey followed by his disciples. The other of the Pope led by pomp, high and lifted up.

The pictures spoke thousands of words and impressed the light of truth Huss mind which led to a deeper study in God's Word.

## **Light of Reformation From Bohemia to Germany**

Huss taught his students at the University of Prague the light of the truth and many of the reforms that Wycliffe taught.

Many German students withdrew from University of Prague in Bohemia and went to their native land of Germany to spread the light of truth of the Bible and church reform.

### **First Papal Bull!**

Huss reformation work caught the attention of the papacy in Rome!

Many in Bohemia knew if Huss went before the papal council in Rome would be certain death.

King and Queen Bohemia, university and others appealed to have Huss' trial in Prague instead of Rome was denied, an interdict was pronounced on all the city of Prague instead.

Remember the people believe that the papacy held the keys to heaven or hell!

A papal interdict taught that the people would go to hell, no more ceremonies that can "save" the people from hell would be performed by the priest. Neither marriages were performed! All churches were closed!

"A large class denounced Huss as the **cause of all their calamities** and demanded that he be given up to the vengeance of Rome." GC - 101

Huss went back to native home away from Prague in Husinec to quiet the storm.

### **Continued Work of Reform**

"Huss did not cease his labors, but traveled through the surrounding country, preaching to eager crowds. Thus the measures to which the pope resorted to suppress the gospel were causing it to be the more widely extended. "We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." 2 Corinthians 13:8."- GC 101

Returned in Bethlehem Chapel in Prague after things calmed down even with greater zeal to preach truth, advocate for reform, and exposing the false doctrines of papal Rome.

The queen of Bohemia and many other nobles sided with Huss, but he also had powerful enemies against him.

### **Jerome of Prague unites with Huss in ministry**

Jerome joined Huss in ministry in teaching the word of truth and reform to the people

Jerome was very talented.

Under their united labors the reform was more rapidly extended. {GC 102.3}

### **The Rival of Three Popes**

At the time of Wycliffe two rival pope was contending from supremacy.

At the time Huss the rivalry continued but a third pope was added to it! (40 years all together)

The rivalry got very nasty. Weapons and soldiers were acquired and there was war between them.

During this time Huss message got more bolder and bolder. People eyes were opening.

### **Second Interdict Place on Prague**

Another interdict was placed on Prague and Huss went back to his native town never to return to his beloved Bethlehem chapel

God opened an even wider audience to spread His truth to.

### **Council at Constance**

A council was called to try to heal the rivalry between the three popes and to stop others from preaching against the papacy and exposing its false doctrines

John Huss was summoned before the council

Before the council began one of the three rival popes, John XXII came into the city paraded like a king while Huss came into like a humble soldier of Christ.

In a letter addressed to his friends at Prague he said: "My brethren, . . . I am departing with a safe-conduct from the king to meet my numerous and mortal enemies. . . . I confide altogether in the all-powerful God, in my Saviour; I trust that He will listen to your ardent prayers, that He will infuse His prudence and His wisdom into my mouth, in order that I may resist them; and that He will accord me His Holy Spirit to fortify me in His truth, so that I may face with courage, temptations, prison, and, if necessary, a cruel death. Jesus Christ suffered for His well-beloved; and therefore ought we to be astonished that He has left us His example, in order that we may ourselves endure with patience all things for our own salvation? He is God, and we are His creatures; He is the Lord, and we are His servants; He is Master of the world, and we are contemptible mortals--yet He suffered! Why, then, should we not suffer also, particularly when suffering is for us a purification? Therefore, beloved, if my death ought to contribute to His glory, pray that it may come quickly, and that He may enable me to support all my calamities with constancy. But if it be better that I return amongst you, let us pray to God that I may return without stain--that is, that I may not suppress one tittle of the truth of the gospel, in order to leave my brethren an excellent example to follow. Probably, therefore, you will nevermore behold my face at Prague; but should the will of the all-powerful God deign to restore me to you, let us then advance with a firmer heart in the knowledge and the love of His law."--Bonnechose, vol. 1, pp. 147, 148. - GC - 105

Before John Huss reached Constance. He spread the message of truth to eager crowds on his way to Constance from city to city.

Huss was promised safety and liberty while in Constance by the papacy, but they lied and arrested him! Same council of Constance revealed the crimes pope John XXII and threw him the same prison Huss was in also they got rid of the two other opposing popes and selected a new pope.

Bohemia protested against Huss imprisonment, but to no avail.

### **Martyred for Jesus, a true REFORMER**

Huss almost died from the being sick in prison from the cold and dampness of his dungeon

Before the council Huss refused to recant and stood bold before his accusers. In a crowd of many onlookers

He was sentenced to be burned at the stake.

“Huss was at last brought before the council. Loaded with chains he stood in the presence of the emperor, whose honor and good faith had been pledged to protect him. During his long trial he firmly maintained the truth, and in the presence of the assembled dignitaries of church and state he uttered a solemn and faithful protest against the corruptions of the hierarchy. When required to choose whether he would recant his doctrines or suffer death, he accepted the martyr's fate.” - GC 107

A letter he wrote to a friend while in prison - "I write this letter," he said to a friend, "in my prison, and with my fettered hand, expecting my sentence of death tomorrow. . . . When, with the assistance of Jesus Christ, we shall again meet in the delicious peace of the future life, you will learn how merciful God has shown Himself toward me, how effectually He has supported me in the midst of my temptations and trials."--Bonnechose, vol. 2, p. 67. - GC – 107

“When he had been fastened to the stake, and all was ready for the fire to be lighted, the martyr was once more exhorted to save himself by renouncing his errors. "What errors," said Huss, "shall I renounce? I know myself guilty of none. I call God to witness that all that I have written and preached has been with the view of rescuing souls from sin and perdition; and, therefore, most joyfully will I confirm with my blood that truth which I have written and preached." GC - 109

When the flames kindled about him, he began to sing, "Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me," and so continued till his voice was silenced forever.

“Even his enemies were struck with his heroic bearing. A zealous papist, describing the martyrdom of Huss, and of Jerome, who died soon after, said: "Both bore themselves with constant mind when their last hour approached. They prepared for the fire as if they were going to a marriage feast. They uttered no cry of pain. When the flames rose, they began to sing hymns; and scarce could the vehemency of the fire stop their singing."--Ibid., b. 3, ch. 7.” GC – 110

Huss ashes were thrown in the Rhine River. Remember Wycliffe ashes were also thrown in the water ways that lead to the ocean that touched the world. The same was true for Huss

### **Jerome's Fate a True Reformer**

Jerome went to Constance in aid of his friend Huss to help but was soon arrested and thrown in prison and almost died from the treatment.

One year in prison, grieved the death of his friend Huss.

“Death at the beginning of his imprisonment would have been a mercy in comparison with the terrible sufferings which he had undergone; but now, weakened by illness, by the rigors of his prison house, and the torture of anxiety and suspense, separated from his friends, and disheartened by the death of Huss, Jerome's fortitude gave way, and he consented to submit to the council. He pledged himself to adhere to the Catholic faith, and accepted the action of the council in condemning the doctrines of Wycliffe and Huss, excepting, however, the "holy truths" which they had taught.” {GC 111.1}

Remembering the boldness of his friend Huss, Jerome retracted his recantation and denounced papal Rome and was then burned to the stake.

“His last words, uttered as the flames rose about him, were a prayer. "Lord, Almighty Father," he cried, "have pity on me, and pardon me my sins; for Thou knowest that I have always loved Thy truth."--Bonnechose, vol. 2, p. 168. His voice ceased, but his lips continued to move in prayer. When the fire had done its work, the ashes of the martyr, with the earth upon which they rested, were gathered up, and like those of Huss, were thrown into the Rhine.” - GC – 115

“The execution of Huss had kindled a flame of indignation and horror in Bohemia. It was felt by the whole nation that he had fallen a prey to the malice of the priests and the treachery of the emperor. He was declared to have been a faithful teacher of the truth, and the council that decreed his death was charged with the guilt of murder. His doctrines now attracted greater attention than ever before. By the papal edicts the writings of Wycliffe had been condemned to the flames. But those that had escaped destruction were now brought out from their hiding places and studied in connection with the Bible, or such parts of it as the people could obtain, and many were thus led to accept the reformed faith.” GC - 115

### **Papal War against Bohemia**

Responding with horror to the execution of Huss, the people of Bohemia moved even more rapidly away from Papal teachings, provoking Rome to pronounce a crusade (war) against them (1 March 1420): [Pope Martin V](#) issued a [Papal bull](#) authorising the killing of all supporters of reformers like Hus and Wycliffe. - Wikipedia

### **Hussite Defenders of Bohemia**

Bohemian generals and the believers of Huss teaching defended themselves against Papal Rome. God delivered them against the repeated attacks of papal Rome war “machine.”

### **Compromised Treaty**

Papal Rome tricked Bohemians into signing a treaty that made promises of liberty to preach and teach the people the Bible openly. But interpretation and application was given to the authorities of papal Rome and king. Caused years of civil war in Bohemia

### **“United Brethren”**

“As their former brethren, entering into compact with Rome, imbibed her errors, those who adhered to the ancient faith had formed themselves into a distinct church, taking the name of "United Brethren." This act drew upon them maledictions from all classes. Yet their firmness was unshaken. Forced to find refuge in the woods and caves, they still assembled to read God's word and unite in His worship.” GC - 119

True reformers NEVER make a compact with papal Rome! Are you a TRUE REFORMER?