

Henry VIII to Mary I: A religious rollercoaster

Chronology

1517	Martin Luther's 95 Theses begins Protestantism
17 October 1521	Pope Leo X declares King Henry VIII the <i>Fidei Defensor</i> or Defender of the Faith. The title is given to honour Henry for his book Defence of the Seven Sacraments which attacks the theology of Martin Luther and is dedicated to the Pope. This title is added to the full royal title of Henry as 'Henry the Eighth, by the Grace of God, King of England and France, Defender of the Faith and Lord of Ireland'.
Spring 1527	Henry believes his marriage to Catherine of Aragon is invalid on the grounds that he acted in contradiction of Leviticus 20:21 - 'If a man marries his brother's wife, it is an act of impurity; he has dishonoured his brother. They will be childless.'
May 1527	Ecclesiastical court refers Henry's case to Rome.
22 June 1527	Catherine refuses to agree to a divorce.
1528	Henry blames Wolsey for not getting him an annulment. Wolsey gifts Henry Hampton Court in order to please him. Henry begins to make his own renovations. He builds the chapel royal; the ceiling of the chapel is just how Henry would have seen it.
July 1529	Divorce case is referred to Rome.
Autumn 1529	Thomas Cranmer suggests that Henry be the Head of the Church in England.
April 1530	Universities declare Henry's marriage invalid.
11 February 1531	Henry is declared Supreme Head of the Church in England.
15 May 1532	The Submission of the Clergy reduces the Church's power.
25 January 1533	Henry secretly marries Anne Boleyn who is pregnant.
7 April 1533	Act in Restraint of Appeals removes right of appeal to Rome.
13 May 1533	Cranmer decides Henry's marriage to Catherine is invalid.
7 September 1533	Anne gives birth to daughter Elizabeth.
23 March 1534	Act of Succession declares Henry's eldest daughter, Mary, illegitimate. Her mother is Catherine of Aragon.
April 1534	Oath of Supremacy has to be taken by everyone.



November 1534	The Act of Supremacy in 1534 declares that the King is 'the only Supreme Head in Earth of the church of England' and the Treasons Act 1534 makes it high treason, punishable by death, to refuse the Oath of Supremacy.
November 1534	The Treason Act makes it a crime to deny any of the King's titles.
January 1536	Catherine of Aragon dies.
19 May 1536	Anne Boleyn is executed.
30 May 1536	Henry marries Jane Seymour.
8 June 1536	The Act of Suppression begins the closure of all monasteries.
15 July 1536	The Act of Succession declared Elizabeth illegitimate.
July 1536	The Ten Articles set out the new Church's faith.
12 October 1537	Edward VI is born at Hampton Court Palace.
24 October 1537	Jane Seymour dies at Hampton Court Palace after complications during childbirth. Her innards are buried under the chapel.
1538	After Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church, Pope Paul III excommunicates Henry and rescinds the grant of the title 'Defender of the Faith'.
April 1539	First authorised English Bible is printed.
June 1539	The Six Articles sets out the faith of the Anglican Church.
12 July 1543	Henry marries Catherine Parr at Hampton Court Palace. Mary I was present for their wedding.
1545	Henry decides to rein back on some of his changes to the religion. He expresses concern in Parliament that commoners should not be able to read the word of God as they could disrespect religion in public houses.
1547	Henry dies and Edward VI becomes king. Protestant reforms under Edward VI begin straight away. All images in churches are removed. Stained glass windows, shrines and statues are all to be dismantled. Church bells are taken down and vestments are prohibited.
1549	The Book of Common Prayer is published. This book contained order of services, and prayers for all occasions in English.
1550	Stone altars are replaced with wooden communion tables.
6 July 1553	Edward VI dies, naming his cousin, Lady Jane Grey, as his successor. He disinherited Mary as he did not want the country returning to Catholicism as he knew would happen under her rule.
10 July 1553	Lady Jane Grey is declared Queen of England.
19 July 1553	Jane is deposed and Mary Tudor takes the throne. Mary I puts plans in place to restore Catholicism. It takes Mary a while before England is accepted back into the Catholic church.

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12 February 1554	Lady Jane Grey is executed at the Tower of London.
February 1554	Protestant rebellion is led by Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger.
18 March 1554	Mary I imprisons Princess Elizabeth in the Tower of London on suspicion of being involved in the rebellion.
19 May 1554	Elizabeth is released from the Tower and sent to live at Woodstock Manor where she is watched closely.
25 July 1554	Mary I marries Phillip of Spain.
1555	Mary restores medieval heresy laws and begins taking a more fearsome stance towards Protestants.
16 October 1555	The Protestant churchmen Latimer and Ridley are burned at the stake.
21 March 1556	Thomas Cranmer, former Archbishop of Canterbury is burned at the stake.
17 November 1558	Mary I dies childless leaving the throne to her sister Elizabeth.
13 January 1559	Elizabeth is crowned Queen of England.
29 April 1559	The Elizabethan Religious Settlement is passed by Parliament.
24 June 1559	The introduction of the Elizabethan Prayer Book.
1563	The Thirty-nine Articles are drawn up, which complete the establishment of the Anglican Church.
1570	Elizabeth I is excommunicated from the Catholic Church.
24 August 1572	St Bartholomew's Day massacre. French Protestants were massacred by French Catholics in Paris, is witnessed by English courtiers Sir Phillip Sidney, Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Walsingham.
18 March 1581	Parliament passes strict legislation against Roman Catholics including heavy fines for hearing Catholic Mass.
24 March 1603	Queen Elizabeth I dies and the Tudor dynasty ends.

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