

*Reading Holy Scripture in the Anglican Tradition*

*William Tyndale's English Revolution: The English (Language) Reformation*

**1) The Fall of Constantinople (1453)**

- a) Constantinople was captured in the Spring of 1453 by the Ottoman Empire.
- b) Byzantine scholars fled to the West, bringing numerous Greek manuscripts.
- c) This spark ignited the emerging Renaissance humanism.

**2) Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536)**



- a) Dutch humanist and major influencer in Northern Renaissance
- b) Collated numerous Greek manuscripts, producing the first printed Greek New Testament (1516).

**3) William Tyndale (1492-1536)**



- a) Studied at Oxford, then at Cambridge
- b) Became fluent in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Greek and Hebrew
- c) Translated a full New Testament in 1524-25 while in Wittenburg
- d) The first English translation of the Bible was smuggled into the country
- e) Was charged for "Lutheranism" and then strangled and burned in Vilvoorde, Netherlands (now Belgium)



#### 4) Historical-Grammatical Interpretation

- a) Inspired by reformation solas
- b) Articulated during the Enlightenment
- c) Three-fold approach: observation, interpretation, application
- d) "What does it say?", "What does it mean?", "What does it mean for me?"

#### 5) Grammar

- a) Lexical meaning
- b) Syntactical relationships

Matthew 12:38-42

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." 39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. 42 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

1. Find the verb phrase (underline).
2. Find the subject phrase (circle).

An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign,

but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

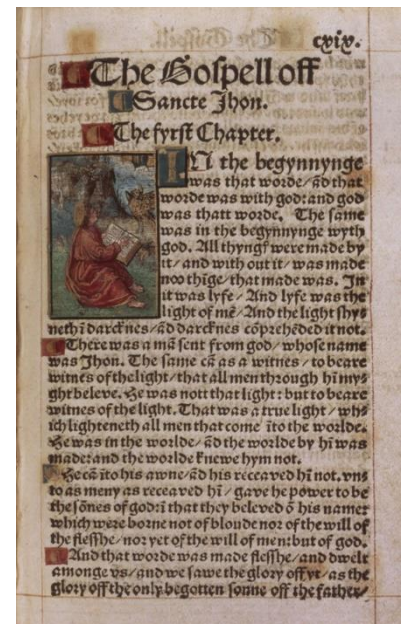
#### 6) History

- a) The Problem of History
- b) Ancient Historiography
- c) Enlightenment Scientism
- d) Historical Criticism
- e) Salvation History

#### 7) William Tyndale's Historical Sensitivity

- a) Scripture is formational, not merely informational
- b) Scripture promotes direct, unmediated encounter with God
- c) Scripture speaks to the current situation.

An English Bible would form  
an English People who were  
biblically literate,  
theologically astute,  
and morally upright.



Notes: