

Henry to Mary: A Religious Rollercoaster

Chronology

Key

The Official Religion of the Country

Protestant

Catholic

1517	Martin Luther's 95 Theses began Protestantism
17 October 1521	Pope Leo X declared King Henry VIII the <i>Fidei Defensor</i> or Defender of the Faith. This title was given to honour Henry for his book Defence of the Seven Sacraments which attacked the theology of Martin Luther and was dedicated to the Pope. This title was 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 had 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 referred Henry's case to Rome.
22nd June 1527	Catherine refused 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 referred to Rome.
Autumn 1529	Thomas Cranmer suggested that Henry be the Head of the Church in England.
April 1530	Universities declared Henry's marriage invalid
11th February 1531	Henry declared Supreme Head of the Church in England.
15th May 1532	The Submission of the Clergy reduced the Church's power.
25th January 1533	Henry secretly married Anne Boleyn who was pregnant.
7th April 1533	Act in Restraint of Appeals removed right of appeal to Rome.
13th May 1533	Cranmer decided Henry's marriage to Catherine was invalid.
7th September 1533	Elizabeth is born.
23rd March 1534	Act of Succession declared Mary illegitimate.
April 1534	Oath of Supremacy had to be taken by everyone.
November 1534	The Act of Supremacy in 1534 declared that the King was 'the only Supreme Head in Earth of the Church of England' and the Treasons Act 1534 made it high treason, punishable by death, to refuse the Oath of Supremacy.

November 1534	The Treason Act made it a crime to deny any of the King's titles.
January 1536	Catherine of Aragon died.
19th May 1536	Anne Boleyn executed.
30th May 1536	Henry married Jane Seymour.
8th June 1536	The Act of Suppression began the closure of all monasteries.
15th 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 excommunicated Henry and rescinded the grand of the title 'Defender of the Faith'.
April 1539	First authorised English Bible printed.
June 1539	The Six Articles set out the faith of the Anglican Church.
12 July 1543	Henry married Catherine Parr at Hampton Court Palace. Mary I was present for their wedding.
1545	Henry decided to rein back on some of his changes to the religion. He expressed 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 began straight away. All images in churches were removed. Stained glass windows, shrines and statues were all to be dismantled. Church bells were taken down and vestments were prohibited.
1549	The Book of Common Prayer was published. This book contained order of services, and prayers for all occasions in English.
1550	Stone alters were replaced with wooden communion tables.
6th 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.
10th July 1553	Lady Jane Grey is declared Queen of England.
19th 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.
12th February 1554	Lady Jane Grey is executed at the Tower of London.
February 1554	Protestant rebellion led by Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger.
18th March 1554	Mary I imprisons Princess Elizabeth in the Tower of London on suspicion of being involved in the rebellion.
19th May 1554	Elizabeth is released from the Tower and sent to live at Woodstock Manor where she is watched closely.
25th July 1554	Mary I marries Phillip of Spain.
1555	Mary I restores medieval heresy laws and began taking a more fearsome stance towards protestants.

16th October 1555	The Protestant churchmen Latimer and Ridley are burned at the stake.
21st March 1556	Thomas Cranmer, former Archbishop of Canterbury is burned at the stake.
17th November 1558	Mary I dies childless leaving the throne to her sister Elizabeth.
13th January 1559	Elizabeth is crowned Queen of England.
29th April 1559	The Elizabethan Religious Settlement is passed by Parliament.
24th 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.
24th August 1572	St Bartholomew's Day massacre. French Protestants were massacred by French Catholics in Paris, is witnessed by English courtiers Sir Philip Sidney, Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Walsingham.
18th March 1581	Parliament passes strict legislation against Roman Catholics including heavy fines for hearing Catholic Mass.
24th March 1603	Queen Elizabeth I dies and the Tudor dynasty ends.