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This LightUnit goes with pages 278-334 of  
*Church History – Resurrection to Reformation*

**Key Concepts**

John Wycliffe, an influential priest in England, is remembered as the “Morning Star of the Reformation.”

He and his followers produced the first edition of the Bible in English and emphasized Christian discipleship and obedience.

His followers, the Lollards, carried his teachings across England, eventually facing intense persecution.

**Terms**

**living** – A benefice: the office a priest held over his parish, for which he received pay and housing. Priests often held more than one living (benefice), receiving its income and living elsewhere while paying lesser clerics to carry out the duties of the parish.

**Lollards** – Supporters and followers of John Wycliffe. Some were more political, following him because of his anti-papal views; others followed him because of his emphasis on the Scriptures.

**Morning Star of the Reformation** – John Wycliffe, whose work in the late 1300s foreshadowed the Reformation movement that developed over the next century.



In Chapter 27, “Late Medieval Reform Movements,” read pages 324-328. Stop at the bold heading near the top of page 328.

**Answer the questions.**

1. Based on his study of Scripture and the writings of Augustine, who did John Wycliffe believe had (and did not have) supreme authority over temporal affairs?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When Pope Gregory XI issued a bull against John Wycliffe calling for his arrest, why was he not immediately arrested and punished?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why were John Wycliffe's bones dug up and burned forty-four years after he was buried?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When applied to the followers of Wycliffe by their enemies, what did the term *Lollard* suggest?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Two categories of Lollards existed, supporting John Wycliffe for different reasons. What were these two reasons?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Lollard preachers do with handwritten portions of Scripture they carried with them when they preached?
- 

**Write** *true* if the sentence is *true* and *false* if the sentence is *false*.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ John Wycliffe once met with the pope as a delegate for the English king.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ John Wycliffe held the office of priest until his death.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ John Wycliffe's political ideas made him very popular with the English people.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ John Wycliffe received strong support for his political views from the priests of the Catholic Church in England.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Although the first complete translation of the Bible into English is associated with the work of John Wycliffe, he personally did none of the translating.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Wycliffe's translation of the Bible into English was based on the Latin Vulgate.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Because the church considered John Wycliffe a heretic, his body was not buried in the consecrated burial grounds of a churchyard.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Lollards who were spiritually motivated traveled all across England as itinerant Gospel preachers.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ John Wycliffe held a position as a teacher at Oxford University.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ The Lollards continued their work for many years, but faced only light persecution in England.

**Underline the correct choices.**

17. John Wycliffe was born into a **poor, wealthy** English family.
18. Wycliffe studied at **Oxford, Cambridge** University, receiving several degrees, and eventually teaching there.
19. Wycliffe criticized the **pope, King of England** in his writings.
20. Wycliffe strongly emphasized providing the Bible to the **common people, priests** in the vernacular.
21. John Wycliffe received income from several different **livings, foreign governments**.
22. John Wycliffe's **students, sons** helped to spread his ideas, leading to his becoming popular in England.
23. Because French nobility controlled the English government for several centuries, French was the official language of the leaders in England for nearly **200, 300** years.
24. Wycliffe lost some support in the English church because he criticized the doctrine of **transubstantiation, papal authority**, as well as the practice of **ordaining priests, selling indulgences**.

**Write the letter of the correct answer.**

25. \_\_\_\_\_ A major reason the English disliked the pope at Avignon was because
- he lived an openly immoral life.
  - he was trying to force the English government to submit to him.
  - they associated him with the French, the longtime enemies of the English.
  - he was trying to block various reforms in the church which the English promoted.
26. \_\_\_\_\_ Even though John Wycliffe's political ideas matched those of the English government, why did he leave politics and move away from Oxford?
- He changed his political ideas.
  - Government officials criticized him.
  - He received a more lucrative living in Lutterworth.
  - Strong opposition from church officials forced him to make the move.
27. \_\_\_\_\_ The copies of Wycliffe's English Bible were handwritten because
- the printing press was not yet invented.
  - it was easier to produce handwritten copies in secret.
  - the common people could more easily read handwritten script.
  - English monasteries could produce the copies quickly and cheaply.
28. \_\_\_\_\_ John Wycliffe has been called the "Morning Star of the Reformation" because
- he was first to criticize Roman church doctrines.
  - his work and teachings prepared the way for Reformation.
  - all of today's Protestant churches look to him as their founder.

**Review** 

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**Circle the letter of the correct ending.**

29. Beghards and Beguines
- sometimes lived communally but often did not.
  - formed communal groups who took lifelong vows to live in poverty.
30. The Beguines and Beghards were similar in many ways to the Cathari and Waldenses
- and faced the same persecution from the state church.
  - but did not face as much persecution as the southern nonconformist groups did.
31. The Beghards and Beguines sprang up mostly in
- Germany and the Low Countries of Northern Europe.
  - Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and other areas of Eastern Europe.
32. The Beghards who faced the most opposition from the Roman church were those who
- lived in communes.
  - did not live in communes.

Use choices from the box to complete the sentences. One will not be used.

Brethren of the Common Life	Thomas á Kempis	Gerhard Groote
Beghards and Beguines	Friends of God	John Wycliffe

33. \_\_\_\_\_ wrote *The Imitation of Christ*.
34. The \_\_\_\_\_ were well-known for operating schools.
35. \_\_\_\_\_ resigned the priesthood and began emphasizing living by the Gospel.
36. Some priests of Germany who emphasized the inner spiritual life were called the \_\_\_\_\_.
37. Any men and women who lived more holy lives than the average church member might be referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.

Write the letter(s) of the correct answer(s).

38. \_\_\_\_\_ Priests felt threatened by the upright lives of the Beguines and Beghards because
- their own lives were corrupt by comparison.
  - they were in danger of losing their lucrative positions.
  - the Beguines and Beghards started many influential schools.
39. \_\_\_\_\_ When common people began reading the Bible, which result often followed?
- They began to make their own copies.
  - Respect for the Roman church increased.
  - Nonconformist groups began springing up.
40. \_\_\_\_\_ The Magisterial Reformation
- started free churches.
  - led to the formation of Protestant state churches.
  - carried out severe persecution on behalf of the Roman church.
41. \_\_\_\_\_ Which three are true of the Brethren of the Common Life?
- The movement was started by Gerhard Groote.
  - Its members were required to make lifelong vows.
  - Its members faced intense persecution from the church.
  - Its members earned the respect of the people who knew them.
  - Its members lived simply, in community, and had a common purse.

### Key Concepts

John Huss, a priest in Bohemia, became popular through his fiery preaching in the language of the common people.

Although he had widespread support among all classes of people, he was eventually condemned as a heretic and martyred.



**In Chapter 27, “Late Medieval Reform Movements,” read pages 328-331.**

### Answer the questions.

1. Besides preaching, what influential activity did John Huss engage in during the time he left Prague to live in the countryside? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The emperor promised John Huss safe conduct to and from the Council of Constance. On what basis did the emperor think it was honorable to break his promise? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Write *true* if the sentence is *true* and *false* if the sentence is *false*.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ John Huss gained wide support by preaching in both German and Czech.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Political problems in Prague caused John Huss to lose some of his support.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ John Huss attended the Council of Constance at the urging of his friends.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ John Huss was permitted to call witnesses to defend himself when he was tried before the Council of Constance.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ When tried before the Council of Constance, John Huss recanted of most of the thirty errors he was accused of teaching.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ John Huss lived during the era of the Western Schism, when the church had more than one pope.

### Write *Wycliffe* or *Huss* to tell which man each sentence is describing.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ His writings could be easily read by the common people.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ His writings were harder to read, being written by a scholar.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ His preaching was bold and fiery, speaking out clearly against corruption.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Because he was a professor, he could discuss subjects that might be considered heresy if discussed by common people.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ The friendship and support of men in powerful positions helped protect him.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ He brought trouble upon himself by speaking out boldly against corruption at every opportunity.

### Lesson 13

15. \_\_\_\_\_ Although the emperor supported him, the power of the church overruled the emperor.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ An Englishman who wrote in English.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ A Bohemian Czech who wrote in Czechoslovakian.

#### Underline the correct choice.

18. Bohemia is located in **western France, what is now the Czech Republic.**
19. John Huss introduced **congregational singing, public prayer** into public worship, which was unusual for the time.
20. King Wenceslas stopped supporting Huss after he criticized **corruption in the church, selling indulgences to support a war.**
21. Huss left Prague and spent two years preaching and living in the countryside because he didn't want **Prague to be placed under the interdict, to be arrested.**
22. The Council of Constance in 1414 was convened for the purpose of **ending the Great Schism, trying John Huss.**

#### Circle the letters of the correct answers.

23. Two things that helped make Bohemia ripe for church reform.
  - a. Waldenses had been active in this area.
  - b. John Wycliffe had visited Bohemia to preach.
  - c. The people spoke out against some serious scandals in the church.
  - d. The ruler had been free for some years to appoint men to church offices.
24. Five things that are true of the life and work of John Huss.
  - a. He was born into a wealthy family.
  - b. He was ordained as a priest around the age of 30.
  - c. He spoke out strongly against corruption in the church.
  - d. He translated portions of the Bible from Latin into Czech.
  - e. He thought becoming a priest would help him to escape poverty.
  - f. He had purchased indulgences, but eventually spoke out against them.
  - g. He eventually became a well-known teacher and promoter of scholasticism.
  - h. He became very popular by preaching in the language of the common people.
25. Three statements that describe John Huss's sentencing and execution.
  - a. He read his confession before the council.
  - b. He was adorned with his priestly robes and symbols.
  - c. A cone was placed on his head, with the label *arch-heretic*.
  - d. Priests removed his priestly adornments one at a time, accompanied by curses.
  - e. He was led outside, where the executioner strangled him to death before burning him.

## Review

Use words from the box to complete the sentences. Not all words will be used.

Catholic	government	Latin	political
English	Greek	livings	Scripture
French	indulgences	Lollards	transubstantiation

26. John Wycliffe taught that the \_\_\_\_\_ holds final authority in secular and civil matters.
27. Wycliffe personally translated the New Testament from \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_.
28. John Wycliffe died in good standing in the \_\_\_\_\_ Church and was buried in a consecrated burial ground.
29. English \_\_\_\_\_ rulers supported Wycliffe more strongly than did English church leaders.
30. Wycliffe spoke against some official church doctrines, including \_\_\_\_\_ and the sale of \_\_\_\_\_.
31. The \_\_\_\_\_, Wycliffe's followers, became well known for distributing hand-copied portions of \_\_\_\_\_.
32. A priest who enjoyed the support of one or more \_\_\_\_\_ (or benefices) often paid others to carry out many of his responsibilities.

**Circle the letters of two correct answers for each item.**

33. Wycliffe's followers, the Lollards, fell into what two groups?
  - a. People who supported the pope at Avignon.
  - b. People who opposed the English government.
  - c. People with anti-papal and anti-French political attitudes.
  - d. People who supported a more Biblical way of life for the Christian.
34. What did the church do about John Wycliffe many years after his death?
  - a. Declared him a saint.
  - b. Burned all his books.
  - c. Pronounced him a heretic.
  - d. Had his bones dug up and burned.
35. Among the English people, which activities were associated with the Lollards?
  - a. scholarly study, translating Scriptures.
  - b. spreading the teachings of John Wycliffe.
  - c. living in poverty and asking alms for support.
  - d. traveling and preaching; giving out English Scriptures.



### *Lesson 13*

36. Which statements are true of John Wycliffe?
- a. He was martyred.
  - b. He studied and taught at Oxford.
  - c. He worked hard to make the Bible available in English.
  - d. He taught against supporting priests through assigning them to a living (benefice).