

John Wiclif.

1. Called "Morning Star of Reform." —
Living as he did & his life
extended — was coincident
with century witnessed —
the terrific inundation
and after time had —
The Norman yoke —
and results of gradually becoming —
It was the time of
Crey & — It produced
the Commemorate —
It witnessed effluence of —
It was at the time that
Chaucer sang. And it was
also a period of —

2. It is in such an environ-
of his parentage, birth, —
of his first clear glimpse
of him — where he
is the most distinguished
thinker — Oxford was
perhaps even — 30,000
students — where the
trivium & quadrivium —
by this vast, commo. society
of — He was a voluminous
writer — Adequate & honorable
distinctions —

3. From this quiet & cloister-
led life — he proved
himself to be full of —
The occasion of his entry —

to public life was probably
 The demands & requisition
 was made in - It appears
 that Wiclif took active part
 in agitation - In 1374
 another dispute arose between
 over question of "provisions"
 - and a Commission
 appointed to confer -
 Wiclif member of Commission
 & acquitted himself as well
 From this time on -
 & wholly rejected Pope's
 right to interfere in temporal
 affairs & supported
 the Kings supremacy over
 all persons, ~~in~~ ecclesiastical
 in temporal matters -
 For this work well fitted -
 being fine embodiment - Saxon
 & Norman, realist & idealist -
 were blended in this
 work - For once began his
 cited for trial as
 a heretic - But he feared
 no one - until all
 Europe began to thrill -
 Indeed it was he who kindled
 the torch of -

3. More than this in
 denouncing Papal abuses
 as a reformer - They had
 no fixed charge - They became
 an intolerable evil - So
 great, however, was their audacity
 & numerical strength -

Wichiffhammer, exposed & denounced them — caring nothing — and as one means of counteracting — These were honest, good men — These itinerant preachers were not to work as rivals of beneficed clergy, but to attempt to reach the people through their vernacular.

"To be poor without mendicancy, to unite the flexibility of the swift obedience of an order with pre and constant mingling among the poor, such was the ideal of Wycheff's poor priests."

This method of evangelism great success people heard message gladly & a seed sown —

4. Such a crusade as this could not have been — He was above all possessed of deep reverence — His system of theology was not — But he anticipated them — In fact in view of his antecedents — he manifested a more aggressive — It was the judgment of Milton that —

Most vigorous emphasis he placed upon — & less attention to ritual ceremonies &

It was his belief —
Question;

He preached that any individual had right to property —
righteousness was a
indefeasible title to property —
that an unrighteous
clergyman had no such
title & civil govt. had right
to take away — the church
had no concern with temp-
oral affairs.

When these teachings were
opposed by other churchmen, espe-
cially by bishops —

3. The crown of glory of
Wicliffe's life — Although he
may not have accomplished
the work himself — He
was himself a diligent student
of the Bible — at this period
there were very few copies —
Latin version — Wicliffe
saw that the only way —
He saw, moreover, that —
most effective weapon
against Papacy —

Wicliffe's Bible was first
complete edition in English —
Copies were rapidly made
& in spite cost circulated far
& wide — More than a century

must elapse — & Wiclif's
Books were all written in
pen & ink — & must have
been —

In 1382, Wiclif was
condemned tried for 3rd time
for heresy & thus this made
to withdraw from Univer-
sity. The last two years of
his life he spent — Lutterworth
where he died in 1384.

The religious reaction that
followed — No human
power could however
entirely quell career of written
word. The violent abuse
that Wiclif received from
the Romanish clergy is the
greatest tribute that could be
paid to the extent of his work.

Said one churchman: "Christ
entrusted his gospel to the
clergy and doctors of the church,
to minister it to the laity
and weaker sort. But this
Master Wiclif, translating
it, has made it vulgar and
laid it more open to the
laity, and even upon an who
confess that it used to be
to the most learned of the clergy,
and thus the gospel jewel, the
evangelistic pearl, is thrown
out and trodden under the
feet of swine."

After the Council of
Constance, by which his
writings were formally con-

denied, his bones were
exhumed and their ashes
cast into the stream, to
show, as was supposed,
the utter extinction of the
heretic's influence. But
far otherwise was the
actual result. Rome
merely exposed its own
impatience, for as Warton
worth has well sung,

"As thou these ashes, little Brook
wilt bear

Into the Avon, Avon to the tide
Of Severn, Severn to the narrow seas,
Into the main ocean they, the dead accursed
An emblem yield, thy friends & enemies
How the bold leading doctrine, sanctified
By truth, shall spread throughout the
world dispersed."

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