



LADY JANE GREY

ROYAL MARTYR OF THE ENGLISH REFORMATION

Christian Biographies
Richard D. Phillips
Second Presbyterian Church

House of Tudor

1485-1603



HENRY VII
1457-1509



ELIZABETH OF
YORK
1466-1503



PHILIP II OF
SPAIN
1527-1598



MARY I
1516-1558



ELIZABETH I
1533-1603



EDWARD VI
1537-1553

LOUIS XII OF
FRANCE
1462-1515

MARY TUDOR
1496-1533

CHARLES
DUKE OF
SUTFOLK
1484-1545

HENRY
GREY
1517-1554

FRANCES
BRANDON
1517-1559

House of Stewart



FRANCIS II OF
FRANCE)
1544-1560



MARY QUEEN
OF SCOTS
1542-1587

JAMES IV OF
SCOTLAND
1473-1513

MARGARET
TUDOR
1489-1541

MARY OF
GUISE
1515-1560

JAMES V OF
SCOT;AND
1512-1542



LADY JANE
GREY
1437-1554

GUILDFORD
DUDLEY
1534-1554



EARLY LIFE

Born 1537 to Henry and Francis Grey

Raised with great severity and harshness

Began her study of Greek, Latin, and modern languages at age 6.

Loved by her kind nurse, Miss Ellen, and inspired by her tutor, John Aylmer. These Christians led her into God's Word and brought her to an early faith in Jesus.

A PRINCESS AT COURT

Sent to court to keep her prospects active, she attended school with other aristocrats and with young King Edward VI.

Both studious, intelligent, and fervent in faith, Jane and Edward VI became friends.

Her first mother figure was Catherine Parr, Henry VIII's godly and beloved wife, an active Reformed Christian. Catherine published the first book by a woman in England, *Lamentation of a Sinner*, defending Justification through Faith Alone. After Henry VIII died, Jane lived with Catherine and was with her when she died.

By Henry VIII's 1549 Act of Succession, Jane was 4th in line to the throne (with her 2 female cousins technically disqualified).

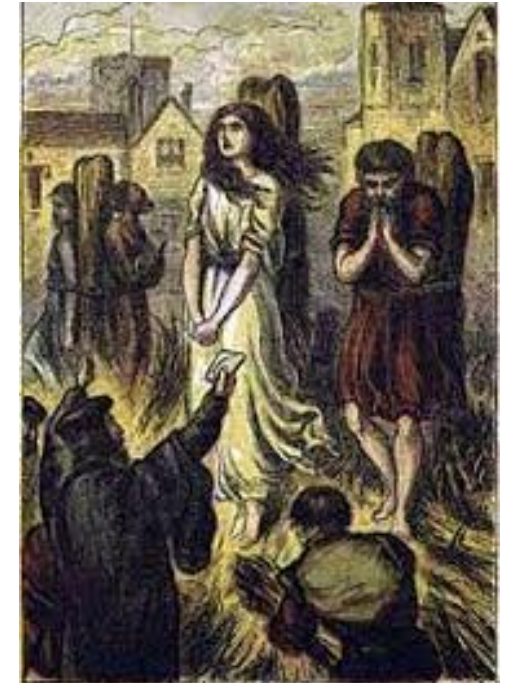


JANE'S GROWTH IN FAITH

Under the influence of Catherine Parr and others, especially her Reformed tutor, Jane grew to a fervent faith.

Interacted with leading Reformers like Thomas Cranmer and Martin Bucer, who saw her as important to the future Reformation.

Was present when Catherine Parr narrowly escaped arrest and execution for her bold witness, and was friends with Anne Askew prior to her martyrdom. Developed a boldness in faith and witness.



EXCERPTS FROM JANE'S JOURNAY AND LETTERS

Journal Prayer:

O merciful God, consider my misery, best known unto thee; and be thou now unto me a strong tower of defence, I humbly require thee. Suffer me not to be tempted above my power, but either be thou a deliver unto me out of this great misrey, or else give me grace to bear thy heavy hand and sharp correction.”

Letter to Heinrich Bullinger:

“You exhort me to embrace a genuine and sincere faith in Christ my Saviour. I will endeavour to satisfy you in this respect as far as God will enable me to do; but as I acknowledge faith to be his gift, I ought to promise only so far as he may see fit to bestow it upon me. I shall not however cease to pray. . . That he may of his goodness daily increase it in me.”

To Princess Mary:

“How can the bread be our Maker, when the Baker made him?”





EDWARD VI & HIS LORD PROTECTORS

After Henry VIII died, Edward Seymour (Duke of Somerset) took charge of Edward and made himself Lord Protector (1547).

Edward's brother, Thomas Seymour, plotted against Somerset and was put to death (1549). He had been Jane's guardian and was Catherine Parr's husband.

John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, plotted against Somerset, had him arrested and put to death (1552).



UNPOPULARITY OF THE PROTECTORS

Edward's Protectors became unpopular over several aggressive policies:

- Ongoing wars with Scotland, bankrupting the nation.
- Supporting the poor in opposition to Enclosures.
- Removal of the medieval Chantries, with their schools and hospitals for the poor.
- Imposition of the Book of Common Prayer and abolition of the Mass.

Major popular rebellions rose and were savagely put down.



CRISIS OF SUCCESSION, 1553

In late 1552, it became clear that Edward VI was ill and would soon die.

In 1553, Edward signed his “Devise” for “Succession,” naming Lady Jane Grey as heir to the throne.

- The devise was signed by the Privy Council, the bishops, and the London aldermen. Plans were made for Parliament to approve.

With the devise, Jane was married to Guildford Dudley (son of Northumberland)

Edward VI died on July 6, 1553; Jane was proclaimed Queen on July 10. She was 15.

- Jane herself questioned the legality, but was told it was her duty to protect the Reformation.
- Moved to the Tower of London to await her coronation.



THE NINE DAY QUEEN

Northumberland failed to secure Princess Mary, who escaped to East Anglia to rally supporters.

Mary marched toward London on July 14, gathering an increasing mass of loyal subjects.

On July 19, the Privy Council changed sides, declaring Mary Queen. Jane was arrested and moved from the Queen's chambers to a cell.

In November, Jane was tried of high treason and convicted. Sentenced to public burning or beheading. Mary granted her clemency and kept her in prison.

A rebellion in February 1554 showed that Jane was too dangerous as a symbol. Her husband was executed, his headless body brought by her cell: "O Guildford, Guildford!"



INTERVIEW WITH CARDINAL FECKINHAM

Feckenham: Why, then it is necessary to salvation to do good works, and it is not sufficient to believe?

Jane: I deny that, I affirm that faith only saveth; for it is meet for all Christians, in token that they follow their master Christ, to do good works; yet may we not say, nor in any wise believe, that they profit to salvation: for although we have done all that we can, yet we are unprofitable servants, and the faith we have only in Christ's blood and his merits, saveth.



INTERVIEW WITH FECKENHAM, CONT.

Feckenham: You ground your faith upon such authors as say and unsay, both with a breath, and not upon the church, to who you ought to give credit.

Jane: No, I ground my faith upon God's Word, and not upon the church: for if the church be a good church, the faith of the church must be tried by God's Word, and not God's Word by the church. . . . And I say, that it is an evil and no good church, and not the spouse of Christ, but the spouse of the devil, which altereth the Lord's Supper, and both taken from it, and addeth to it. . . . Shall I believe it? God forbid!

"True it is that we shall never meet except God turn your heart, for I am assured, unless you repent and turn to God, you are in an evil case; and I pray to God. . . to send you the Holy Spirit."



EXECUTION OF LADY JANE GREY

To her Father: “And thus, good father, I have opened unto you the state wherein I at present stand; whose death is at hand, although to you it may seem right woeful, to me there is nothing that can be more welcome than from this vale of misery to aspire to that heavenly throne of all joy and pleasure with Christ our Saviour.”

To her sister: “I have sent you, good sister Katherine, a book which, although it is not outwardly framed with gold, yet inwardly it is of more worth than precious stones. It is the book, dear sister, . . . Which shall lead you into the path of eternal joys; and if you with a good mind read it, and with an earnest mind do purpose to follow it, it shall bring you to an immortal and everlasting life. It shall teach you to live and learn you to die.”



AFTERMATH OF LADY'S JANE'S MARTYRDOM

Queen Mary reigned from 1553-1558, restoring Roman Catholicism and savagely persecuting Protestant leaders.

In 1555, Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley were publicly burned in Oxford. Thomas Cranmer followed in 1556.

After Mary, Elizabeth I came to the throne, restoring a moderate Protestant church.

In 1649, Charles I was beheaded for treason by the Puritan Parliament under Oliver Cromwell.



UP NEXT: GEORGE
WHITEFIELD

