

1415 AD – THE COUNCIL OF CONSTANCE

**“For the house of Israel
and the house of Judah
have dealt very treacherously against me,
says the LORD.” (Jeremiah 5 v 11)**

HISTORY

The **Council of Constance** convened from **1414** to **1418**. In **1415** the Council ordered the works of **Wycliffe** burned. **Jan Hus** was attending the Council under promises of safe conduct. In **1415** he was seized by Church authorities, tried for heresy by the Council, then turned over to local secular authorities for punishment: to be burned at the stake.

The **Council of Constance** was convoked for the purpose of naming a single Pope. There had been competing Popes in Avignon and in Rome. See our paper [1322 AD](#). In **1415** Pope **Gregory XII** of Rome resigned and gave authority to the Council to choose a new Pope.

JOHN WYCLIFFE

John Wycliffe lit a spark that became a popular movement for Church reformation in England. He took the debate outside the hallowed halls of academia, of church councils, and king's councils and took his truth to the masses. **Wycliffe** published tracts which were distributed widely and provoked debate among all classes of people. It was a formula for revolution which was repeated later in history. **Wycliffe** the scholar empowered the people.

Wycliffe published Twelve Theses on the Lord's Supper in which he declared the doctrine of transubstantiation to have no foundation in the Word of God. He went further and declared all who hold to the view of transubstantiation are heretics. See our paper [1381 AD](#).

The Roman Church did not pause to reconsider its doctrine. The truth was secondary. What was needed was to put a lid on **Wycliffe** because he was stirring up all England to ponder the meaning of the Bible each man for himself. This could only lead to one thing which was weakening support for the Roman Church. **Wycliffe** died in **1384**. His Bible was published in **1408** and a movement called Lollards continued **Wycliffe's** mission.

In **1415** at the **Council of Constance Wycliffe** was posthumously declared a heretic. It was decreed his books be burned and his mortal remains be exhumed and burned. In **1428** his grave was opened, his bones were burned, and his ashes were scattered on a river.

JAN HUS

Jan Hus was an early Christian reformer born in the Kingdom of Bohemia, present day Czech Republic, a contemporary of **Wycliffe** and a pioneer of church reformation a hundred years before it took hold in northern Europe. Followers of **Hus** were called 'Hussites'.

Hus made progress in preaching and publishing reformist views because the Roman Church was distracted by the controversy over Papal authority: **Benedict** in Avignon or **Gregory** in Rome. **Hus** became Rector of Charles University in Bohemia. His influence strengthened when staff and students loyal to Papist views departed for another place.

In **1409** the Avignon Pope issued a bull commanding all **Wycliffe** writings to be burned. **Hus** protested. Nevertheless all the writings of **Wycliffe** were destroyed.

In **1412 Hus** made a speech to his faculty in which he asserted Popes had no right to take up the sword. Furthermore, **Hus** said sins are forgiven through repentance not through donating money to the Roman Church. The Pope condemned these doctrines.

Hus had become popular in Bohemia. King **Wenceslaus**, his government and the common people supported **Hus**. The hierarchy and control of the Roman Church was resented.

In **1414** the King of Hungary, who was the brother of the King of Bohemia, invited **Hus** to attend the **Council of Constance** under the promise of protection. But **Hus** was seized and put in a dungeon. In **1415** after a trial he was condemned as a heretic along with his writings.

PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH 5 V 11

"For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me says the LORD" (Jeremy 5 v 11)

As all Bible students know, Solomon was a mighty King but he oppressed the people of Israel by laying many burdens on them to support his lavish lifestyle and building projects. The son of Solomon was **Rehoboam**. The people came to **Rehoboam** and pleaded with him to lessen the burden: **'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the**

heavy yoke and we will serve you’¹. **Rehoboam** consulted the **elders** who said ‘If you will be kind to these people and give them a favorable answer they will always be your servants’²

But **Rehoboam** consulted with the young men who had grown up with him. They told **Rehoboam** ‘Tell the people... ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist. My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.’³

Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders and followed the advice of the young men. When all the people heard the words of **Rehoboam** they said ‘What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse’s son? To your tents O Israel! Look after your own house O David!’⁴

After this the kingdom was divided into the north – called ‘**Israel**’ – and the south – called ‘**Judah**’. There were many wars between them, and over time both became very wicked.

So when we consider the prophecy:

“For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me says the LORD” (Jeremy 5 v 11)

We can see the application clearly to the events in **1415**.

The so-called Western Schism, or papal controversy between Avignon and Rome, was an omen of the division of the Roman Church into Protestants and Catholics, first through the Reformation and later through the 30 Years War.

John Wycliffe and Jan Hus (**the elders**) of the Roman Church (**Rehoboam**) gave wise counsel to lighten the burden on the people and repent of its ways. But the Roman Church chose the opposite path (**‘scourging with scorpions’**): burning elders at the stake. The elders taught authority was in Scripture – but the Roman Church usurped that authority and ruled in its own authority (**‘treachery against Me’**). Before long, the result was the Roman Church would be divided into Catholics and Protestants – both in doctrine and in the loyalty of lands.

All this was foretold in the prophecy of Isaiah **5 v 11**.

¹ 2 Chron. 10:4

² 2 Chron. 10:7

³ 2 Chron. 10:10-11

⁴ 2 Chron. 10:16

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Jeremiah **5 v 11** is the **19,070th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **19,070** = **10 x 1907 [292]**

The spiritual meaning of **10** is 'Testimony'

The spiritual meaning of **292** means 'King of Kings'.

The spiritual meaning of **1907** means 'Faith Perishes in Fires of Persecution'.

Jesus came to a very religious people who were the residents of Judah. They loved their Temple and they loved their priests. But those priests condemned **Jesus** and turned him over to the secular authorities to be killed by public crucifixion. **Jesus'** crime was he claimed God was his father. **Jan Hus** came to another religious people who loved their temples (cathedrals) and loved their priests (popes). But those priests condemned **Jan Hus** and turned him over to the secular authorities to be killed by public immolation in a fire. **Jan Hus'** crime was he believed the words of Jesus and the words of the apostles of **Jesus** were the words of God.

The question every generation must ask is: Who is the King of Kings? Is it the man who sits at the top of an ecclesiastical hierarchy – a pope? Or is it the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ who sits on the throne of David far above every kingdom and principality that can be named?

On a more practical level in the local community: Who has lordship of the church? Is there a priest or minister or pastor that rules over the people? Who monopolizes all teaching and does not permit the elders to speak up in the congregation? Who requires the people to come to a temple of wood and stone and puts burdens on them of financial support? Such a place and such a man are not in the will of God. Salvation is through Christ alone and He is the only legitimate King and ruler of the faithful.

It will be so forever and ever. Amen.

PART TWO

Jeremiah **5 v 11** is the **1,415th** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The number **1,415 = 5 x 283**

The spiritual meaning of **5** is 'Weakness'

The spiritual meaning of **283** is 'King Rejected'.

The Roman Church wished to preserve its power and place in the world by putting to death those who preached that Jesus Christ has authority over the people of God. To them Christ was 'King Rejected' – they proved this by rejecting the words of Christ and his apostles as authority in the church.

But by striving to preserve their own power, they only inherited 'Weakness'.