



Outline: CHWNE Module 4 Lesson 2: Henry II and Persecution of the Protestants

READ: 2 Chronicles 10: Rehoboam increases the yoke on his subjects - worse than his father Solomon.

Henry II Lived (1519 -1559). Ruled from 1547 -1559

Under **Henry II**, persecution of the French Protestants was taken up a few notches worse than under his father, **Francis I**.

- When **Francis I** died and **Henry II** came to the throne, Henry was urged by the **Guise** family, to implement the German principle that *the religion of the ruler should be the religion of the people*.
- **Guise brothers, arch-enemies of the** Protestant nobility and all French Protestants.
- In 1538 their sister, **Mary of Guise**, had married **James V of Scotland**.
- In 1542 she had a daughter known as **Mary Queen of Scots**.
- **Henry's son, Francis II (1544)**, was betrothed to **Mary Queen of Scots** when he was 4 and she was 6 years old. **They were married in 1558**, when he was 14 and she was 16.
- **Henry II** had hoped to use her as a claim to the throne of Scotland
- In June 1551, Henry issued '**The Edict of Chateaubriant**'.
- Enforced from the **Office of Constable of France (Lieutenant General and 2nd in command to the King)** whose name was **Anne de Montmorency**.



Henry and Persecution

- In **1547** after the death of Francis 1, Henry II unleashed more persecution on the French Protestants, especially ministers, by **cutting out their tongues for speaking heresies** or **burning them at the stake**.
- **Edict (Chateaubriant 1551)**. In it he gave both church and state the authority to 'detect' heretics. Informers were rewarded with $\frac{1}{3}$ of the heretic's properties.
- **Edict of Compiegne (1557)** acknowledged that previous edicts were ineffective against stamping out heretics. The Edicts increased severity with the aim to wipe out the French Reformers.

The Edict censored:

- **Freedom of the Press**
 - **Sale of Printed Material**
 - **Policing of Printed Materials**
 - **Policing Import of Books**
 - **Thought Control**
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- **The Death Penalty was invoked for:** heresy, visiting Geneva and publishing books there, illegal preaching or participation in religious gatherings private and public

The Role of Anne de Montmorency

- Anne de Montmorency was the **Constable of France** when **Marguerite of Navarre** was still alive. She had appealed to him on behalf of **Louis de Berquin**.
- In early **1538** Francis made him **Constable of France**. That same year Montmorency supported making a failed peace treaty with the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V
- By **1547**, he was responsible for a new judicial chamber (**The Burning Chamber**) was created to judge cases of heresy.
- The edict had the effect of precipitating the **French Wars of Religion** and armed civil wars. Protestant noblemen raised armies to protect their religious freedoms.



- **Persecutions which began in 1538** were not diffused until **Henry IV** came to the throne and passed the **Edict of Toleration (The Edict of Nantes)** in **1598 (60 years)**.
- The French court saw Geneva as the '**source of contagion**' for the French reformation, and **John Calvin** gained '**undisputed religious supremacy**' in **1555**. That was the same year that the **French Reformers** was organized as a synod in **Paris**, not far from the royal palace at the Louvre.