

# **CHWNE Module 2 Lesson 4**

## **The King's Ransom Vandalism and The Placard Affair**

# The King's Ransom



In **1523** Francis 1 demanded that **Charles de Bourbon**, return to the French state, the substantial lands which Charles had legally inherited from his wife.

Charles de Bourbon thought it was unfair of Francis, and angrily became a traitor to Francis by joining the army of the **HRE**, **Charles V**.





## Charles de Bourbon





In the war with Charles V, Francis I was captured at the **Battle of Pavia** in 1525.

When Francis was captured, **Louise of Savoy** had claimed that it was because he was too lenient to the protestants.

She gave the Parlement and the Catholic nobles freedom to persecute and burn Protestants at the stake.

**Charles V** drove a hard bargain for Francis' freedom. **The King's Ransom** included:





- Giving up  $\frac{1}{3}$  of France
- Giving up any claims to Italy (France owned part of Italy)
- Returning the lands to Charles de Bourbon **PLUS** giving him the lands of Provence
- Betrothal by proxy to **Eleonora Charles' sister and widow of the King of Portugal.** (Francis' wife, Claude had died just before he went to war).



- His 2 sons, **Francis II and Henry II** were to be taken as hostages at Francis' release
- His son, **Henry II had to marry Catherine de Medici** - niece of **Pope Clement VII**, when he attained the age of 14 years (he was 7 years old at the time)
- **PLUS**, he had to give **2,000,000 gold crowns to Charles V.**



**Eleonora**

**Sister to Charles V**

**Wife of Francis I**







When the first four conditions were proposed to him (giving up part of France, his ownership of Italian lands, returning Bourbon lands and marriage to Eleanora), Francis stubbornly responded,

*“I am resolved to endure prison for as long as God wills rather than accept terms injurious to my kingdom!”*

He was imprisoned in a dark tower in Madrid Spain. He wrote sad letters and poems to his subjects revealing tenderness and humility of spirit.





While in prison, he suffered physically from his wounds, recurring migraines, and an abscess in his head.

His subjects prayed for him and the Archbishop of Tournon administered Mass at his bedside, with Marguerite in attendance.



He was prepared to die in prison rather than to give in to the Emperor's extortion.

Instead, he abdicated in favour of his oldest son, Francis. This was unacceptable to his Parlement.

Even though he was uncooperative, French ambassadors negotiated the harsh Treaty of Madrid which **he reluctantly signed in January 1526.**





His parting shot was that

*‘the word and signature of an imprisoned knight were valueless, and it was beyond his power to dismember his kingdom’.*

In exchange for his freedom, he had to comply with the last 3 conditions, which were the exchange of his sons, the 2,000,000 gold crowns, and agreeing to Henry II marrying Catherine de Medici.



His sons were held in prison in deplorable conditions for 4 years as part of the King's Ransom.

In order to get his children back, Francis had to abandon his allies, give up Italy, and pay **2,000,000 gold crowns**. The Catholic clergy promised him \$1,000,000 crowns in return for persecution of the **'heretics'**

Reports vary about the effect of this suffering on Francis although he returned to war again with Charles V in **1528 -1530.**





.Neither side won, and a **Peace Treaty** was negotiated by **Louise of Savoy** (Francis' mother) and **Anne of Austria** (Charles' aunt). (**The Treaty of the Ladies**)

Both Louise and Anne were raised by **Anne de Beaujeu** when they were children.

**In 1530**, Francis I was married to Eleonora as part of the Madrid Treaty.



**In 1531** Francis' mother, **Louise of Savoy** died from the plague.

**In 1533** he oversaw the marriage of **Henry**, to **Catherine de Médici**, the niece of **Pope Clement VII**.



## Vandalism Of The Statues



One night in the **Spring 1528**, there occurred *vandalism of 2 statues, in St. Germain where Francis owned a Chateau*. The heads of the virgin and child were smashed.

It is said that in response, Francis led a solemn procession of clergy to repair the statues, replacing them with a silver one instead.

This event helped to mark the turning point of his attitude toward Protestants.



A reward of 1,000 crowns was promised to anyone finding the perpetrator. It is not known if the perpetrator was found.

Another event which definitely turned the tide for the Protestants was known as **The Placards Affair**.

**By 1530**, it was said that the **'heretics' in Paris were between 300 and 400** and were described as 'vigorous heretics'.





In 1534, Anti-Catholic posters were printed by **Antoine de Marcourt in Neuchatel in Switzerland** and distributed throughout Paris and other main cities of France such as Tours, Rouen, Blois and Orleans) of France.

One even got placed on the door of Francis I's bedchamber *at his palace in Amboise*. He took it as a personal affront and a serious breach of security.



His policy of leniency, protection and tolerance toward Protestants was completely reversed.

The placards carried the title *"Genuine articles on the horrific, great and unbearable abuses of the papal mass, invented directly contrary to the Holy Supper of our Lord, sole mediator and sole savior Jesus Christ"*





Catholics saw this as a direct attack on the Eucharist and very insulting because the doctrine of the Eucharist is pivotal to Catholicism.

The following Sunday in many parishes around Paris, processions were organized with Francis himself marching in one under the canopy which carried the Eucharist.



This was the turning point in Francis' support for the Protestants and instead, giving in to the demands of the Catholics who were by now, exasperated.

A reward was announced for the apprehension of the perpetrator of this outrage. When found, they were to be burned at the stake.





Because of the immediate public outcry, prominent protestants leaders, scholars and poets, fled France.

So too did **John Calvin, William Farel and Nicholas Cop.**

Many of Calvin's followers, followed him to Geneva where they were taught and trained by him and returned to France to spread Reformation teaching.



A second set of newspapers against the sacraments were again distributed across Paris, sparking **the banning of all printing by royal decree.**

**In January of 1535**, Francis participated in a procession which culminated in the burning of 6 heretics. *The Parlement at Meaux were allowed to arrest 74 of them, burning 18.*

*His edict ordered the 'extermination of the heretics' including anyone giving them refuge. He even promised rewards for snitches.*





**By the end of 1535**, Francis temporarily reversed his policy inviting Philip Melanchthon to Paris because of his fame as a Reformer..

That year, **John Calvin**, wrote a letter of defence of the Christian faith, addressed to Francis I, dated **23rd August 1535**.

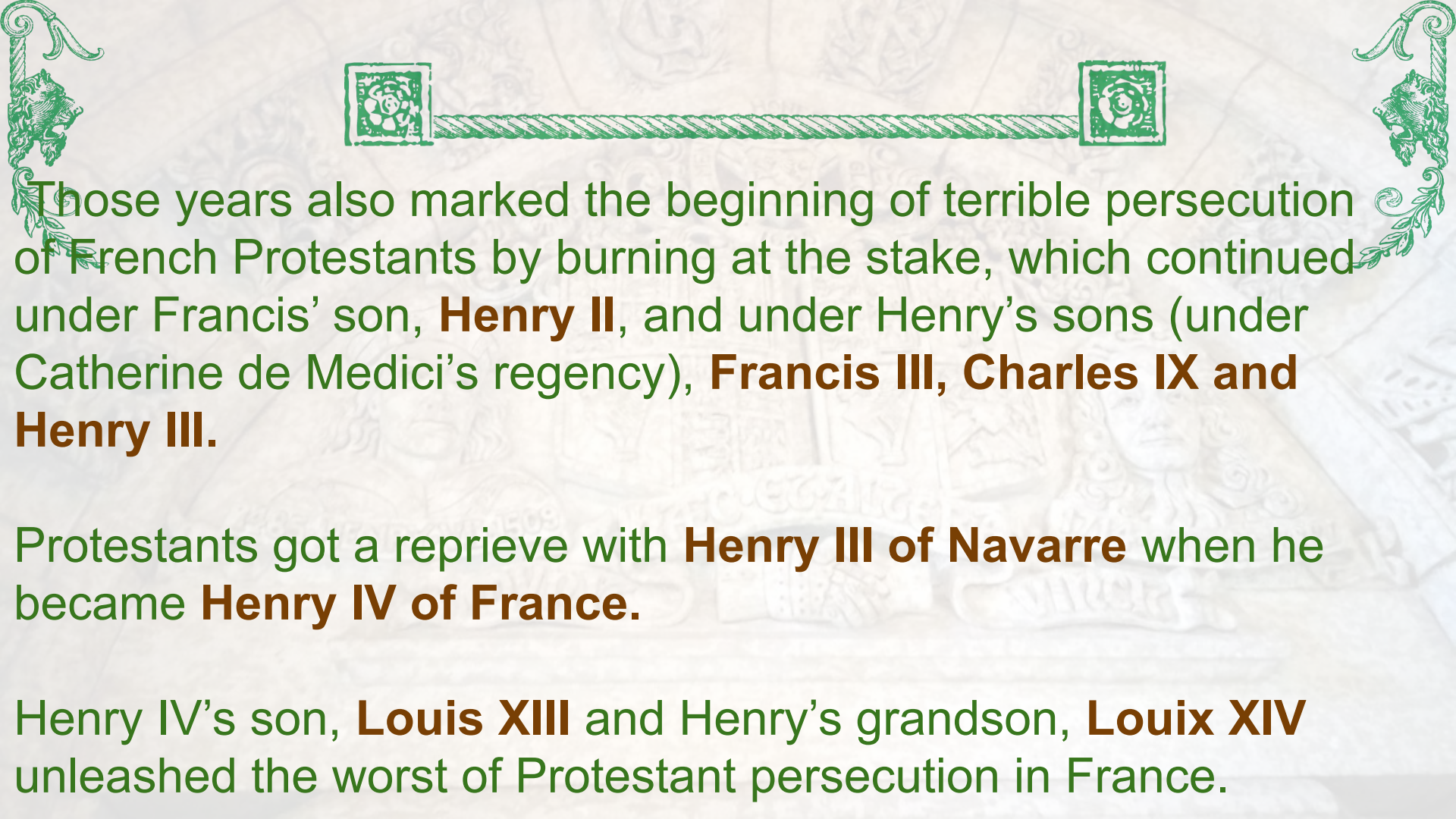
His letter, "**Institutio Christianae Religionis**" (Institutes of the Christian Religion), was published in Latin in **March 1536**.



It was his confession of the Christian faith and that became a unifying call to those who no longer considered themselves Catholics but were vacillating between the teachings of Luther, Zwingli and other leaders of the Reformation.

**By 1540 The Edict of Fontainebleau** claimed that *Protestant belief was "high treason against God and mankind" and so deserved the appropriate punishments of torture, loss of property, public humiliation, and death.*





Those years also marked the beginning of terrible persecution of French Protestants by burning at the stake, which continued under Francis' son, **Henry II**, and under Henry's sons (under Catherine de Medici's regency), **Francis III, Charles IX and Henry III**.

Protestants got a reprieve with **Henry III of Navarre** when he became **Henry IV of France**.

Henry IV's son, **Louis XIII** and Henry's grandson, **Louis XIV** unleashed the worst of Protestant persecution in France.



From 1526 to 1536, France under Francis underwent a lot of turmoil.

- 1525/26 Francis was in captivity; his sons, Francis and Henry, exchanged for his release.
- 1529, Louis de Berquin burnt at the stake; Farel to Switzerland
- 1530, Beda fired
- 1531, Jacques Lefevre d'Etaples to Navarre
- 1533, Cop and Calvin address
- 1534, Placard Affair / Calvin leaves France
- 1535, Melancthon invited to Paris / Killings at Meaux / Waldenses
- 1536 Calvin's Institutes
- 1540, Edict of Fontainebleau





**1530**, the agent of the Sorbonne - **Noel Beda** fired  
In **1531**, d'Etaples was given refuge from persecution by  
**Marguerite of Navarre**.  
**Nicholas Cop** was appointed as the new agent instead of Beda.  
**John Calvin**, he asked for help to write his address for the  
opening of the academic year in **1533**.  
In **1533**, when **Calvin** was on his way out of France, it is said that  
he visited with d'Etaples.