

once and for all at the cross. She urged him to repent and turn to God for mercy.

THE NIGHT BEFORE HER EXECUTION

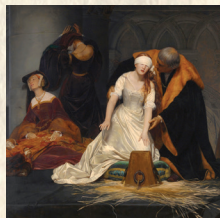
The night before her execution, she wrote letters speaking of her assurance that she would go to be with her Saviour in heaven. She begged her husband to "Omit these moments of grief, for we shall shortly behold one another in a Better Place." She sent a Greek New Testament to her sister Katherine, writing in the back:

"I have sent you, good sister Katherine, a book, which although it be not outwardly trimmed with gold, yet inwardly it is more worth than precious stones ...

Rejoice in Christ, as I do. Follow the steps of your Master Christ, and take up your cross: lay your sins on His back, and always embrace Him ...

Fare you well, good sister, and put your only trust in God, who only must help you."

On the morning of 12 February 1554 Lady Jane witnessed both her husband being taken for execution and then the cart carrying his body. Tears streamed down her face. Then she was led to the scaffold, reading from her book of prayers as she went. She spoke to the crowds explaining how, despite her sin, she would die "a true Christian woman", and thanked "God that of His goodness He hath thus given me a time and respite to repent". She recited all of Psalm 51. She then gave her prayer book to Dr Feckenham. Her executioner asked her forgiveness for what he was about to do. "Most willingly," she replied and asked him to dispatch her quickly. Her last words were, "Lord, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." She was buried with her husband between



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the remains of two other executed queens, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, in St. Peter-ad-Vincula Church in The Tower.

Queen Mary (nicknamed "Bloody Mary") went on to have around 300 men, women and children burnt at the stake because of their faith in Christ crucified and risen from the dead as their only means of salvation. Queen Mary's death in 1558 was greeted with relief and brought an end to the killings. Elizabeth was sitting under an oak tree reading her New Testament when she was told that she would be queen. Overcome with emotion she fell on her knees on the grass and repeated Psalm 118, "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes." A new era was to begin.

For a definitive biography of Lady Jane Grey, order *Nine Day Queen of England* by Faith Cook, available from www.10ofthose.com



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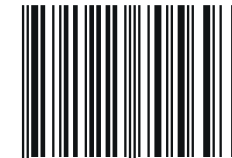
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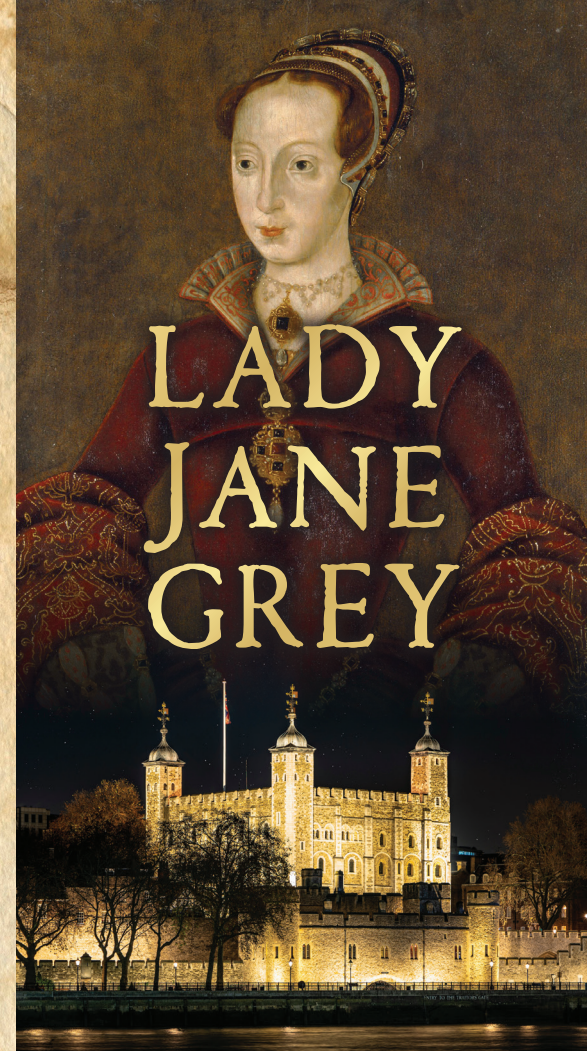
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QUEEN ELIZABETH IS REMEMBERED WITH ESTEEM AS OUR LONGEST REIGNING MONARCH. SHE HAS LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON HISTORY.

SO TOO DID ENGLAND'S SHORTEST REIGNING MONARCH.

Lady Jane Grey was born at Bradgate Manor in Leicestershire in 1537. She was Queen for nine days in 1553, but was beheaded at Tower Hill in London in 1554 aged 17. Her husband had been beheaded just one hour earlier. Her father was executed eleven days later.

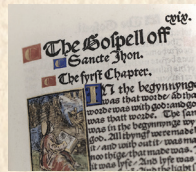
As the niece of King Henry VIII, Lady Jane was young, beautiful with auburn hair, and exceptionally intelligent. She was brought up as a princess, spending three of her childhood years with Katherine Parr, the sixth and last wife of Henry VIII. Lady Jane greatly loved her, and when Katherine died in childbirth it was a deep blow to young Jane.

Jane's day would begin at 6 a.m. when she would be tutored in Greek, Latin and modern languages.

She diligently read her English Bible, much of it translated by the martyred William Tyndale. She was a talented musician but was also taught hunting, hawking, dancing, and needlework. She was introduced to court life in London at the age of seven.

These were times when Bible truths were being rediscovered, and they were exposing deep errors in the Roman Catholic Church's beliefs and practices. There was national, political and religious upheaval. Lady Jane had come to trust Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour. The words of Katherine Parr had become her experience too:

"What! Shall I fall into desperation? Nay, I will call upon Christ, the Light of the world; the Fountain of Life, the relief of all careful consciences, the peacemaker



between God and men, and the only comfort of all repentant sinners."

Lady Jane reluctantly married Lord Guildford in May 1553 after receiving blows and curses from her parents. It had been hoped that Lady Jane would marry the young King Edward VI, who was Henry VIII's only legitimate son. His childhood reign was short: he died aged fifteen having been king for just six years. He had a strong faith in Jesus, believing that Jesus died for the sin of the world, and that His sacrifice on the cross was sufficient for all time and was *not* repeated at the Mass. Before he died of tuberculosis on 6 July 1553, he stated that Lady Jane should become queen.

QUEEN JANE

Political plotting led to the announcement that Jane – rather than either of Edward's sisters, Mary or Elizabeth – would be crowned queen. When she heard, she was so troubled that she fainted. No one moved to help her. When she came round, she wept and said:

"The crown is not my right, and pleaseth me not. The Lady Mary is the rightful heir."

But she had no choice. On her knees she spoke calmly:

"If what hath been given to me is lawfully mine, may the divine Majesty grant me such grace that I may govern to the glory and service, to the advantage of this realm."

Very quickly, through further political manoeuvrings, the reluctant queen was persuaded to relinquish the unwanted crown. But as soon as Mary became queen, Lady Jane and her husband were imprisoned in the Tower of London. On 14 November 1553, she pleaded guilty of high treason, arguing that she should not have accepted the crown. Still, she was innocent and did not deserve to be sentenced; in effect she was to die on account of the fault of others.

Queen Mary sent a Roman Catholic priest to tell Lady Jane of her impending

execution and to try to convert her to Catholicism. Though she really wanted to prepare herself for death, instead they debated Roman Catholic doctrine as to whether a person is saved by faith alone or by faith and works. She affirmed that "faith only saveth, but it is meet for Christians to do good works".

The priest, Dr John Feckenham, also tried to persuade her that in the Mass the bread becomes the body of Jesus, and the wine becomes the blood of Christ, quoting Jesus' words, "This is my body" and "This is my blood". She responded by saying that Jesus also said, "I am the vine" and "I am the door" but in all these cases He was speaking figuratively. She made the point that if the bread becomes the body, how many bodies does Jesus have? She then explained that her faith was in what God had said in the Bible, and not in the church. She believed that when Jesus was being crucified, He was paying the penalty for all sin, and that the work of atoning for sin was finished