

ridiculous to think that any one person could honestly order the affairs of the whole church.

In 1382 he published an English Bible, translated from the Latin. It quickly gained acceptance throughout England. His disciples were known as Lollards, and like the men of Waldo, went about the country in groups of two giving out the Wycliffite doctrine. Rome attempted to move against him but his views were extremely popular with the king and he was protected. His principle successor, Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham, did not fare so well and was martyred...chiefly because the new king (after Wycliffe's death) turned back to Rome. (Sir John became the unhappy model for Shakespeare's Falstaff!) At that point as many copies of the Wycliffe Bible as could be found were gathered and burned although many hid them...there are something like 100 known today. In time the Romanists would dig up Wycliffe's body, try him for heresy, and burn him publicly...although it did not seem to cause him much pain by that time. His influence in England was stymied at that point but it flamed in other places and in time would reignite in England as well.

Almost incidental was the passing of a law in the parliament during this time...the statute of Praemunire which forbade any English citizen from taking formative orders from any foreign authority without the consent of the King..as well as a few other minor items. It will largely be ignored until the days when Henry VIII is forsaking Rome and suddenly it will become a meaningful piece of legislation.

#### John Hus (1373-1415)

Hus was a promising instructor at the new University of Prague in Bohemia and he came under the influence of Wycliffe's views when some Bohemian students who had studied in England returned with the heart of the Wycliffite teaching. Of course, much of his perceptions came from his own study, but there was a distinct link in this way. Hus accepted it almost immediately with his own work and by 1402 was preaching against the clerical excesses and the inclusion of the unsaved in the church. He also spoke against the mass as it was celebrated, clerical