

# Topics



- Introduction & Context for the Reformation
- Desiderius Erasmus and the Humanists
- Martin Luther & Germany
- Huldrych Zwingli & Switzerland
- Reformation Radicals
- John Calvin & Geneva
- The Reformation in England
- The Reformation in Scotland
- Roman Catholicism during the Reformation
- Results of the Protestant Reformation

[www.rpchurchmanassas.org/drupal/ReformationChurchHistory](http://www.rpchurchmanassas.org/drupal/ReformationChurchHistory)

# Overview

- Biography
- Writings, and Utterances
- Theology
- Nobody's Perfect
- Loose Ends

# Martin Luther (1483-1546) – Just the Facts

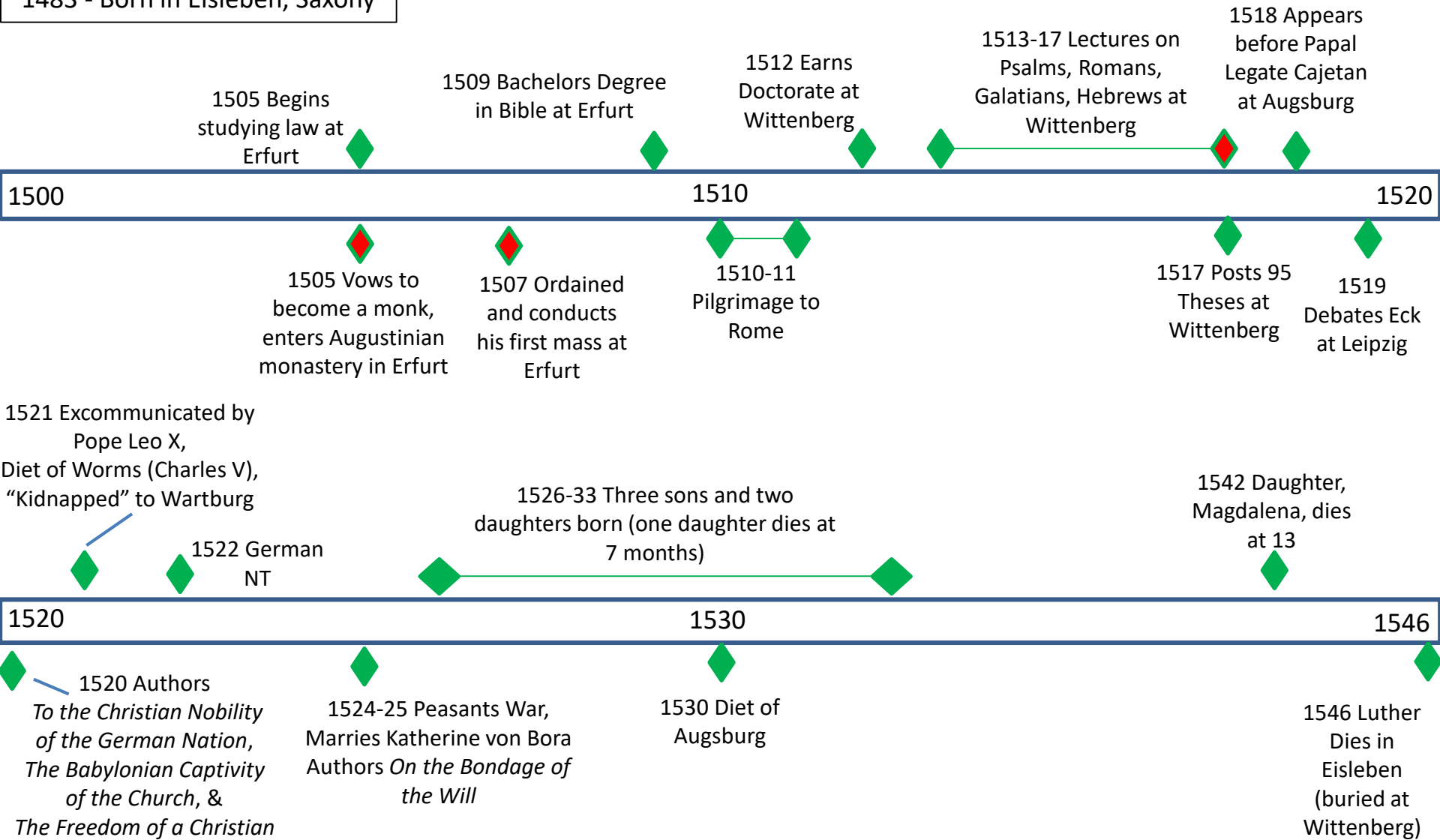


- Born Eisleben, Saxony in 1483
- Initially set out to be a lawyer
- “Stormy” transition from lawyer to Augustinian monk
- School in Wittenberg
- Studies and teaches Bible
- Tetzel and Indulgences
- 95 Theses - Challenges Indulgences (sorta’ OK) and eventually the Authority of the Pope (not OK)
- Excommunicated by the Pope
- Tried (and convicted) by the Emperor
- Briefly In hiding at the Wartburg
- Marriage and family
- Dies in Eisleben in 1546



# Martin Luther Timeline

1483 - Born in Eisleben, Saxony



# Journey to Grace

## The Augustinian Monk - 1505

- “St. Anne if you help me I will become a monk”
- He did and tried hard
- “If ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery it was I”
- Long confessions – whoops I missed something
- “Go out and do something really bad like kill your father and then come back”

## The Ordained Luther’s First Mass - 1507

- Breakdown – Almost dropped the host
- Overwhelmed – nervous – frightened by God
- God is too close, too frightening, too demanding
- Flee – “I do not love God, I hate God”
- Great, now I’ve committed blasphemy, too
- I can’t live up to God’s requirement for righteousness!

## The Tower (Study Room) Experience - 1517

- Studying Romans 1 (again), the light comes on
- The righteousness of God is not God’s **requirement and judgment** for failing to meet his requirements but rather God’s **gift**
- “Thereupon I felt that I had been born again and entered paradise through wide-open doors”

**Romans 1:16-17**

**“[I] beat importunately upon Paul at that place [v17] most ardently desiring to know what Saint Paul wanted”**

# Writings and Utterances

Work	Driver / Cause	Key Points
95 Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences (1517)	Tetzel and Indulgences in general	<p>Meaning of repent – not penance (1,2)</p> <p>The limits of the Pope’s power to forgive (5,6,20,38)</p> <p>No imposing penalties on the dead (8,10,13,22)</p> <p>Those in purgatory (18,19,29)</p> <p>The abuse of indulgences (27,28,67,72,74,75,79)</p> <p>The insufficiency/inferiority of indulgences (32, 36,37,41-46,48-55, 66,68,78)</p> <p>Theological difficulties presented by indulgences (39, 81,82-89)</p>
To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (1520)	Urging the German nobility to join in opposing the corrupt Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The temporal authority has jurisdiction against the hierarchy of the church. Denies the claim of supremacy of the Spiritual authorities [priests]. Office/function vs. Estate/hierarchy.</li> <li>- Denies that only the Pope can interpret scripture</li> <li>- Denies that only the Pope can convene councils (to address spiritual issues)</li> </ul>
On the Freedom of the Christian (1520)	Lay out a brief, clear summary of teachings	Salvation by faith alone. The proper perspective on good works – they are <i>not</i> the means to salvation
The Babylonian Captivity of the Church (1520)	Addressing inadequacies in the basis for the sacramental system	A scriptural refutation of the sacramental system including the priests’ special role in the sacraments

# Writings and Utterances

Work	Driver / Cause	Key Points
Statement at the Diet of Worms (1521)	Response to Charles V (HRE) as to whether he would recant his works and statements that went against the Pope and Church	<i>“Unless I am convinced by the evidence of Scripture or by plain reason – for I do not accept the authority of the pope or the councils alone, since it is established that they have often erred and contradicted themselves – I am bound by the scriptures I have cited, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. God help me. Amen. [Here I stand.]”</i>
German NT (1522) (Completed OT 1534)	Make the scripture available to the common man	Scripture in the common tongue Luther’s Bible contributed to the formation of a common German language
On the Bondage of the Will (1525)	Dispute with Erasmus on the role of the will in salvation	Salvation is entirely from God, no contribution from the corrupt human will.
Ein feste Burg ist unsere Gott (ca. 1527-29)	Life circumstances - time at Wartburg, threat from Emperor & Pope	Satan’s power God’s greater power Take refuge in God’s might

# Theology

## How to Study Theology

Prayer (**Psalm 119:66-68**)

Study and Meditation (**Psalm 119:10-11**)

Testing – *“It is living, dying, and even being condemned that makes a theologian, not reading, speculating, and understanding.”*

*“It is no wonder that David was such a good theologian because of all he went through. He suffered so much that he could write the psalms”*

## Theology of the Cross

**John 14:8-9**

Medieval Scholastic Theology (The Theology of Glory) – Desired to climb into heaven and get into the secrets of God, answering all the questions that could possibly be asked.

Luther’s Theology of the Cross – Christ centered, biblical, humble. *“It is not sufficient for anyone, and it does him no good, to recognize God in His glory and majesty unless he recognizes Him in the humility and shame of the cross.”*

## God’s Grace / Faith

**Ephesians 2:8**

**II Thessalonians 2:13**

*“There is a clear and present danger that the devil may take away from us the pure doctrine of faith and may substitute for it the doctrine of works and of human traditions. Those who try to obtain God’s favor by doing good works are like the dry earth that tries to produce rain.”* – Luther’s commentary on Galatians



# Nobody's Perfect

- The Peasant's War (1524-25)
  - Luther's contribution to starting it? – *The Freedom of the Christian*
  - Luther chastises both nobility and peasants
  - Luther urges nobility to put down violence with violence – *Against the Murderous and Thieving Hordes of Peasants* (Romans 13:1-2)
- Coarseness, Obscene Language, Vulgar Expression
  - Commissioned carvings of demons defecating cardinals, pope suckled by a naked hag, demons defecating monks
  - Pope Paul III – “Her Sodomitical Hellishness Paulla III”
- The Jews

*“If I had been a Jew and seen such dolts and blockheads govern and teach the Christian faith, I would sooner become a hog than a Christian. They have dealt with the Jews as if they were dogs rather than human beings, they have done little else than deride them and seize their property.” – That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew, Luther in 1523*

... set fire to their synagogues ... destroy their houses ... confiscate their prayer books and money – *On the Jews and Their Lies*, Luther in 1543

# Loose Ends

- Why was Luther not killed (or how did God protect him)?
  - His ideas appealed to many of his peers and students at the Monastery and at Wittenberg University
  - His ideas were well received by German nationalists
  - Philip the Wise, Elector of Saxony
    - ❑ Protective of the people in his territory
    - ❑ Pope Leo X considered him an alternative candidate for HRE
    - ❑ Maximilian, Charles needed his vote for Charles to become HRE
  - Charles constantly has other fish to fry
    - ❑ Constant warfare with France
    - ❑ Needed united empire to fend off Suleiman's incursions
- The Printing Press
  - Critical to the spread of Luther's teachings
    - ❑ 1520's – Luther is the “best-selling author” with no close #2

*“Printing is a gift of God. The printing press makes it possible for a little mouse like Wittenberg to roar across Europe.” – Martin Luther*



- Philip Melanchthon (1497-1560)
  - Professor of Greek, protege of Luther, carried the torch after Luther died
  - Authored Augsburg Confession 1530
  - Irenic – friends with Erasmus, Calvin, desired unity of the Church
    - ❑ After Luther's death drifted toward Calvin and Erasmus on some doctrinal issues



# Loose Ends (cont'd)

- So where does all this leave the German portion of the Holy Roman Empire?
  - 1521 – Edict of Worms **condemns Luther**, Lutheranism
  - 1523 – Diet at Nuremberg **tolerated Lutheranism** to the chagrin of the Pope and the Emperor
  - 1526 – Diet at Spire I **withdraws Edict of Worms** and allows each German state to set their own religious allegiance
  - 1529 – Diet at Spire II **reaffirms the Edict of Worms**
    - ❑ Protesting Lutheran participants called “Protestants” for first time
  - 1530 – Diet at Augsburg – Augsburg Confession presented by Protestants to Charles V – unsuccessful, given 6 months to recant or else
    - ❑ Protestants unite under League of Schmalkalden
  - Aggression by Turks and French require Charles to unite the empire preventing military action against Protestants
  - 1532 – Peace of Nuremberg
    - ❑ Protestant states can stay Protestant
    - ❑ No spreading Protestantism to new states

At his point the German portion of the HRE is a mosaic of states some practicing Catholicism, some Protestantism

# Summary - Luther

- Why is he important?
  - Importance of Scripture alone vs. the Pope and Church tradition
  - Focus on Grace, Faith, Christ
  - Bible in German for common folk
  - Rapid spread and acceptance of his ideas – put the Reformation ball in motion
- What were some of his shortcomings?
  - Vulgar style
  - Poor advice rendered to nobility toward the end of the Peasant's War
  - Late in life writings concerning the Jews

*“All I have done is put forth, preach, and write the Word of God. Apart from that I have done nothing. While I have been sleeping or drinking Wittenberg beer, it is the Word that has done great things. I have done nothing. The Word has done and achieved everything” - Martin Luther*

*“God has given this last age a sharp physician because of the great diseases of the same” - Erasmus*

# Context – Political Situation

