

1384 REFORMATION

1415 JAN HUS

TIMELINE

1445 GUTENBERG

1483 MARTIN LUTHER

1484 HULDRYCH ZWINGLI

1485 JOHANNES BUGENHAGEN

1491 MARTIN BUCER

1497 PHILIPP MELANCHTHON

1501 MARTIN LUTHER ENTERED THE UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT

**JOHN WYCLIF**  
John Wyclif (c.1320-84) was a prominent English reformer of the later Middle Ages. Wyclif attacked some of the central doctrines of the medieval church. He wrote many books, including Summa Theologica and initiated a new translation of the Latin Vulgate Bible into English: The Wyclif Bible.



Wikimedia Commons  
The Trial of Wycliffe A.D. 1377 by Ford Madox Brown, a mural at Manchester Town Hall.

**JAN HUS**  
Jan Hus (c. 1369-1415) achieved fame as a martyr to the cause of church reform and of Czech nationalism. Hus emphasized personal piety and purity of life. Although travelling under the Emperor's safe-conduct, he was tried and condemned to be burnt at the stake, with no real opportunity to explain his



Wikimedia Commons  
Painting of Jan Hus in Council of Constance by Vaclav Brozik

**GUTENBERG PRINTING PRESS**  
About 1445, Johannes Gutenberg (c.1398-68) began to pioneer with moveable metal type at Mainz in Germany. The first complete book known to have been printed in the Christian world was the Bible.



Shumaker Collection  
The first printer of Luther's writings is the printer of the University Johann Rhau-Grunenberg (working 1508-1525). From 1513 to the spring 1527 his print shop is situated in the Augustinian convent or in its vicinity.

November 10, 1483  
**MARTIN LUTHER IS BORN**  
Martin Luther (1483-1546) was born in Eisleben.



Shumaker Collection  
Martin Luther by Lucas Cranach der Aeltere, Painted in 1528

January 1, 1484  
**HULDRYCH ZWINGLI IS BORN**  
Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531), the Swiss Reformer, was born 1 January 1484.



Wikimedia Commons  
Huldrych Zwingli

June 24, 1485  
**JOHANNES BUGENHAGEN IS BORN**  
Johannes Bugenhagen (1485-1558), pastor and friend of Martin Luther, was born June 24 in Pomerania.



Wikimedia Commons  
Lucas Cranach (I) - Johannes Bugenhagen

November 11, 1491  
**MARTIN BUCER IS BORN**  
Martin Bucer, German Protestant reformer, was born November 11.



Wikimedia Commons  
Stamp from Deutsche Post AG from 2001, 450th anniversary of the death of Martin Bucer

February 16, 1497  
**PHILIPP MELANCHTHON IS BORN**  
Philipp Melanchthon, German Reformer, was born in Bretten February 16.



Shumaker Collection  
Painting by Lucas Cranach 1568  
The portrait shows the scholar in a furred overcoat with a book in his hands, which was a popular style of portraiture in the 16th Century. The panel is part of double portrait with Luther.



Wikimedia Commons  
University of Erfurt

1502

September 1502  
**SEPTEMBER: MARTIN LUTHER EARNED HIS BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE**

1505

January 1505  
**IN JANUARY, MARTIN LUTHER EARNES HIS MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE**

1505

May 1505  
**IN MAY, MARTIN LUTHER BEGAN LAW STUDIES**

1505

July 1505  
**LUTHER JOINS AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY**  
In July 1505, Luther joined a closed Augustinian friary in Erfurt, after taking a dramatic vow during a thunderstorm.



Shumaker Collection  
Augustinerkloster Erfurt

1507

**LUTHER ORDAINED**  
Luther was ordained in 1507 and after studying theology was sent to the University of Wittenberg teach moral theology.



Wikimedia Commons  
University of Wittenberg, 1644

1509

July 10, 1509  
**JOHN CALVIN IS BORN**  
John Calvin (1509-64) was born in Noyon, Picardy.



Wikimedia Commons  
John Calvin by Georg Osterwald (1803-1884)

1512

**LUTHER EARNS DOCTORATE OF THEOLOGY**  
Luther became a doctor of theology and professor of biblical studies at Wittenberg in 1512 after returning from Rome on business of the Observant Augustinians.

1515

**ZWINGLI MET ERASMUS IN 1515 AND WAS DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY HIM**



Wikimedia Commons  
Erasmus by Hans Holbein the Younger, 1523

1517

**ORATORY OF DIVINE LOVE**  
In 1517, the same year that Luther posted his Theses at Wittenberg, the Oratory of Divine Love appeared in Rome. An informal society of about fifty clergy and lay people, the Oratory stressed reform along liberal lines similar to the ideas of Erasmus.



Wikimedia Commons

1517

October 31, 1517  
**NINETY-FIVE THESES**  
Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenburg, attacking the teaching behind the sale of indulgences and the church's material preoccupations.

1517

December 1517  
**LUTHER'S CONFLICT WITH ROME**  
In December 1517, the archbishop of Mainz complained to Rome about Luther. Faced with opposition, Luther's stand became firmer; he refused to recant, confronted Cardinal Thomas Cajetan in Augsburg, and fled when summoned to Rome.

1518

**PHILIPP MELANCHTHON MEETS MARTIN LUTHER**  
Philipp Melanchthon taught Greek, first in Tübingen, then at the University of Wittenberg. There, in 1518, he met Luther—a decisive encounter that changed Melanchthon from a humanist into a theologian and reformer.



Wikimedia Commons  
Portrait of Martin Luther & Portrait of Philipp Melanchthon

1518

**A SERMON ON INDULGENCES AND GRACE**  
A sermon on Indulgences and Grace was a pamphlet written by Martin Luther in Wittenberg published in April 1518.

1518

April 26, 1518  
**THE HEIDELBERG DISPUTATION**  
In the spring of 1518 Luther was invited to defend his theology before a large, learned, and public meeting at the triennial gathering of the Augustinians. Luther presented his theology in the broadest terms possible.

1518

August 1518  
**LUTHER CITED TO ROME BY POPE LEO X**



Wikimedia Commons  
Pope Leo X. Detail from a painting by Raffaello Sanzio

1518

August 7, 1518  
**DIET OF AUGSBURG**  
Diet of Augsburg with Cardinal Cajetan as papal emissary.

1519

June 24, 1519  
**THEODORE BEZA IS BORN**  
Theodore Beza (1519-1605), who eventually succeeded Calvin in Geneva as leader of Reformed Protestantism, is born.



Wikimedia Commons  
Theodore Beza by Edouard Fregeville (1804-c.1860)

1519

June 28, 1519  
**CHARLES I BECOMES EMPEROR**  
After the death of Emperor Maximilian I, Charles I of Spain is made Emperor Charles V.




Wikimedia Commons  
Portrait of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, traditionally attributed to Titian, today attributed to Lambert Sustris

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Wikimedia Commons  
Albert of Mainz, painted by Lucas Cranach the Elder in 1526

**1519**  
July 4, 1519  
**LUTHER BURNS PAPAL BULL THREATENING HIS EXCOMMUNICATION**  
During a disputation at Leipzig with Johann Eck, his sharpest opponent, Luther denied the supremacy of the pope and the infallibility of church councils. He burned the papal bull which threatened his excommunication.



**1520**  
**LUTHER WRITES THREE KEY TRACTS IN 1520**  
To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (August), Prelude on the Babylonian Captivity of the Church (October), and On the Freedom of a Christian (November).

**1520**  
June 15, 1520  
**POPE LEO RESPONDS TO LUTHER'S NINETY-FIVE THESES**  
Pope Leo X issued a papal encyclical in response to Luther's Ninety-Five Theses, Exsurge Domine ("Arise, O Lord"). This gave Luther 60 days to submit.




*Wikimedia Commons*  
Image of the title page of Pope Leo X's Bull, Exsurge Domine, threatening to excommunicate Martin Luther, scanned from a first edition copy in the library of Concordia Theological Seminary

**1521**  
**RADICAL REFORMERS**  
Luther experienced fierce opposition from radical reformers who wanted more wide-ranging changes. While he was held prisoner in the Wartburg (1521-22), Andreas Karlstadt took over leadership of the reform movement in Wittenberg, setting the church in a more extreme direction.



*Wikimedia Commons*  
Andreas Bodenstein von

**1521**  
**MELANCHTHON'S COMMONPLACES**  
In 1521, Melancthon wrote Commonplaces (Loci communes), the first book to describe clearly the teachings of the Reformation.



*Wikimedia Commons*  
Loci praecipui theologici (a.k.a. Loci communes) return theologicarum) 1552 edition, by Philip Melancthon

**1521**  
January 3, 1521  
**LUTHER EXCOMMUNICATED**  
As a result of his defiance, Luther was excommunicated by the pope on 3 January 1521. He was also outlawed by the Emperor Charles V at Worms in 1521.



*Wikimedia Commons*


**1521**  
April 16, 1521-April 18, 1521  
**LUTHER KIDNAPPED FROM THE DIET OF WORMS**  
Luther refuses to recant before the Diet of Worms, uttering the famous "Here I stand." For his own safety, he was seized and taken to the Wartburg Castle. There he devoted his energies to translating the New Testament into German, so that the Bible might be read by all.



*Wikimedia Commons*  
Luther Before the Diet of Worms, an engraving after the historicist painting by Anton von Werner (1843-1915) in the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart


**1522**  
March 6, 1522  
**DIET OF NUREMBERG**  
The edict of March 6 deferred action on the Edict of Worms.

September 1522  
**LUTHER PUBLISHES HIS NEW TESTAMENT**



*Wikimedia Commons*  
Desk at Wartburg Castle where Luther translated the New Testament

**1523**  
**MARTIN BUCER TAKES OVER THE REFORM IN STRASBOURG**  
Martin Bucer, German Protestant reformer, went to Strasbourg in 1523 and took over leadership of the reform. Bucer became one of the chief statesmen among the Reformers, and was present at most of their important conferences.




*Wikimedia Commons*  
Martin Bucer, original in Icones quinquaginta vivorum held in British Library, London.

**1523**  
**THE REFORMATION IN NETHERLANDS**  
In the Netherlands, reform was inspired by Luther, and people were martyred for Lutheran beliefs as early as 1523.

**1524**  
**THE REFORMATION IN HUNGARY**  
In Hungary, students of Luther and Melancthon from the University of Wittenberg took back to their homeland the message of the Reformation in about 1524, but as in Bohemia, Calvinist theology later took hold.

September 1524  
**THE DANISH REFORMATION**  
In 1524, the Danish church went over completely to Protestantism. Danes such as Hans Tausen and Jorgen Sadolin studied under Luther and then started to preach in Denmark. King Frederick I pressed strongly for church reform, appointing reforming bishops and preachers.




*Wikimedia Commons*  
Portrait of the Danish reformer Hans Tausen as a young man

**1524**  
September 1524  
**ERASMUS'S ATTACK ON LUTHER IN THE FREEDOM OF THE WILL**


**1525**  
**ZWINGLI'S COMMENTARY ON TRUE AND FALSE RELIGION**  
Zwingli's Commentary on True and False Religion, a systematic theology, was published in 1525 and had considerable impact upon Protestantism.

**1525**  
**PEASANTS' WAR**



*Wikimedia Commons*


**1525**  
**WILLIAM TYNDALE'S NEW TESTAMENT**  
The pioneer of the English Bible is William Tyndale, who published the New Testament (1525 and later revisions) and part of the Old Testament.



*Wikimedia Commons*  
Anonymous early portrait of William Tyndale now in Hertford College, Oxford

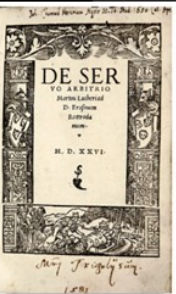
**1525**  
January 21, 1525  
**ANABAPTIST ARISE IN EUROPE**  
On 21 January 1525, the Zurich city council forbade the Anabaptists to assemble or disseminate their views. That evening, in the neighboring village of Zollikon, they met, baptized each other, and so became the first free church of modern times.

**1525**  
June 13, 1525  
**LUTHER MARRIES KATHARINA VON BORA**  
Luther got married in 1525 to Katharina von Bora (1499-1552) - an important step in his development as a man and a reformer - but also one that only further fueled his critics who jeered about the monk becoming a spouse.




*Wikimedia Commons*  
Katharinavon Bora, Gemalde, Lucas Cranach the Elder

**1525**  
December 1525  
**LUTHER'S ON THE BONDAGE OF THE WILL**  
Luther completed On the Bondage of the Will in December 1525 in response to Erasmus's On the Freedom of the Will. The treatise is important (1) as a witness of the serious intellectual debates in the Reformation time; (2) as a contribution to the developing Lutheran teaching on the Holy Scripture; (3) on free will; and (4) on God.



*Wikimedia Commons*  
Title page of Luther's work On the Bondage of the Will

**1526**  
June 25 - August 27, 1526  
**DIET OF SPEYER**  
During the summer of 1526, a group of Protestant princes refused to enforce the Edict of Worms, which outlawed Luther and his teachings.




*Wikimedia Commons*  
Speyer cathedral

**1527**  
**REFORMATION IN SWEDEN**  
Two brothers, Olaus and Laurentius Petri, inaugurated the Reformation in Sweden, bringing the evangelical theology of Luther to the Swedish Church. The whole country became Lutheran, and in 1527 the Reformation was established by law.

**1527**  
**ANABAPTIST PERSECUTION**  
By 1527 the Reformers had determined to use all necessary means to root out Anabaptism, and were joined in this by the Catholic authorities. In the next quarter of a century, thousands of Anabaptists were put to death.


**1527**  
**HENRY VIII ANNULMENT FROM CATHERINE OF ARAGON**  
In 1527, Henry VIII of England requested an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Henry's plea arrived when Rome was surrounded by the army of Charles V, Catherine's nephew. When Pope Clement refused Henry's request, the first step towards the English Reformation was taken.



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**1527**  
August 1527  
**“A MIGHTY FORTRESS OF OUR GOD”**  
Luther composes “A Mighty Fortress Is our God”




Wikimedia Commons

**1529**  
January 1529  
**LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM**  
Luther’s Small Catechism was published in January 1529 for the training of children and less-educated laity, utilizing the catechetical form of questions and answers.




Wikimedia Commons  
Title page of Luther’s Small Catechism printed in Cyrillic in Urach, Germany

**1529**  
April 1529  
**LUTHER’S LARGE CATECHISM**  
Luther’s Large Catechism, published in April 1529, was written for the clergy and more-educated readers. He believed all Christian people—laity and priests—needed a guide to comprehend the basic biblical, creedal and sacramental teachings.




Wikimedia Commons  
Title page of the Large Catechism of Martin Luther, printed in Leipzig in 1560

**1529**  
April 19, 1529  
**PROTESTANT MOVEMENT RECEIVES ITS NAME**  
At the Diet of Speyer, the Emperor Charles V attempted to curb Luther’s movement by force. Some of the princes of the German states stood up in “protest”; thus the movement found itself with the title “Protestant.” From this moment the movement separated from Catholic reform, to become known as ‘the Reformation’.




Wikimedia Commons

**1529**  
October 1-4, 1529  
**MARBURG COLLOQUY**  
Luther (with Philipp Melancthon) and Huldrych Zwingli differ over the meaning of the eucharist at the Marburg Colloquy of 1529, resulting in the formation of two different Protestant confessions.




Wikimedia Commons

**1530**  
June 25, 1530  
**AUGSBURG CONFESSION**  
Luther approved the Augsburg Confession drawn up by Melancthon. Luther stated the beliefs of the Protestants at the Diet of Augsburg. The Protestant princes realized that the Emperor intended to make war on Protestantism, so formed the Schmalkaldic league as a kind of defensive alliance, officially established on 27 February 1531.




Wikimedia Commons  
Diet of Augsburg by Christian Beyer

**1531**  
October 11, 1531  
**DEATH OF ZWINGLI**  
The battle of Kappel, at which Zwingli was killed, brought the Reformation in Switzerland to a halt.



Wikimedia Commons


**1531**  
**LUTHER BIBLE**  
The first complete Luther Bible (with the Apocrypha) appeared at Wittenberg in 1534.



Wikimedia Commons  
Lucas Cranach the younger: Title woodcut for the 1541 of Martin Luther’s German Bible


**1534**  
November 1534  
**HENRY VIII HEAD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**  
The Act of Supremacy of November 1534 declared King Henry VIII Head of the Church of England. Henry destroyed the authority of the pope and ended monasticism in England, but among his people a powerful religious movement towards reform was occurring.

**1535**  
November 2, 1535  
**TERESA OF AVILA**  
Teresa of Avila entered a Carmelite Monastery of the Incarnation in Avila in 1535.



Wikimedia Commons  
Teresa of Avila by Peter Paul Rubens


**1536**  
**POPE PAUL III APPOINTED A PAPAL REFORM COMMISSION IN 1536**  
The pope named nine leading cardinals to serve on it, and made Gasparo Contarini its head. Its task was to recommend reforms for the church and to prepare the way for a council.



Wikimedia Commons  
Gasparo Contarini (1483-1542), 16th

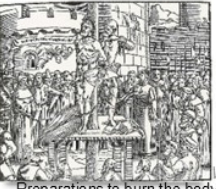
**1536**  
**PROTESTANTISM IN NORWAY**  
In 1536 the Reformation spread from Denmark to Norway, where the pattern was similar to that of Denmark. Most bishops fled and, as the older clergy died they were replaced with Reformed ministers.

**1536**  
August 1536  
**JOHN CALVIN AND THE SWISS REFORM**  
In August 1536, John Calvin was unwillingly pressed to lead the Swiss Reformation in French-speaking Geneva.



Wikimedia Commons  
Christian III

**1536**  
August 12, 1536  
**PROTESTANTISM IN DENMARK**  
When King Christian III succeeded to the Danish throne, the transition to Protestantism was completed. He turned for help to Luther, who in 1537 sent Johannes Bugenhagen who crowned the king and appointed seven superintendents.




Wikimedia Commons  
John Foxe’s Book of Martyrs

**1536**  
October 6, 1536  
**WILLIAM TYNDALE**  
William Tyndale is celebrated for his English translation of the New Testament. He was unable to complete the Old Testament because he was betrayed and arrested near Brussels in 1535, and in 1536 strangled and burnt.

**1537**  
February 1537  
**LUTHER’S SCHMALKALDIC ARTICLES**  
Luther wrote the Schmalkaldic Articles, a doctrinal statement signed by many Lutheran theologians, in December 1536. He nearly died around the time of their discussion in February 1537.


**1539**  
March 1539  
**CALVIN PUBLISHES HIS COMMENTARY ON THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

**1540**  
September 27, 1540  
**IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**  
The Jesuits, of Society of Jesus, were founded by Ignatius of Loyola and approved by the papacy in 1540 as an order of Catholic priests depending solely on charity.




Wikimedia Commons  
St. Ignatius of Loyola by Francisco Zurbaran (1598-1664)

**1540**  
November 25, 1540  
**REGENSBURG COLLOQUY OF WORMS**  
Cardinal Gasparo Contarini, as papal legate to the Regensburg Colloquy of 1541, urged reconciliation with the Protestants, but failed to reach agreement on the sacraments. When Contarini returned to Italy, Rome refused to approve his views on justification and Luther attacked them too.




Wikimedia Commons  
Torture Chamber of the Inquisition

**1541**  
**THE INQUISITION**  
The Inquisition of Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office, which began in 1542 as a means of reform and counter-reform, was largely the work of Cardinal Caraffa. Caraffa and his fellow inquisitors regarded heretics as traitors against God, and the foulest of criminals.




Wikimedia Commons  
Title page of 'On the Jews and Their Lies'

**1542**  
January 1543  
**ON THE JEWS AND THEIR LIES**  
On the Jews and Their Lies is a 65,000-word anti-Semitic treatise written in 1543 by Martin Luther urging the persecution of the Jewish people.




Wikimedia Commons  
Martin Luther in death, workshop of Lucas Cranach the Younger

**1543**  
December 13, 1545  
**COUNCIL OF TRENT**  
Trent was the most important ecumenical council between Nicaea (325) and Vatican II (1962-65). It was to deal with the massive problems posed by the split in the church and with the renewal of the church of Rome. The council met in three main sessions: 1545-47, 1551-52, and 1562-63.




Wikimedia Commons  
Council of Trent in Santa Maria Maggiore church, Museo Diocesano Tridentino, Trento (Italy)

**1546**  
February 18, 1546  
**DEATH OF LUTHER**  
Martin Luther died of an apopleptic stroke at the age of 62 in Eisleben. He was buried in the Castle Church in Wittenberg.



Wikimedia Commons  
Title Page of a 1523 edition of the Vulgate

**1546**  
April 8, 1546  
**THE VULGATE CONFIRMED**  
The Vulgate, the Latin translation of the Bible, was the authentic text of the Bible for the Roman Catholic Church, and this was confirmed by the Council of Trent in 1546.



Wikimedia Commons  
King Edward VI (1537-1553)

**1546**  
**REFORMATION IN ENGLAND**  
Under King Edward VI (r.1547-53), the Reformation in England was positively and effectively introduced, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer.

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