The History of Martin Luther

- Luther: The Road to Reformation (1483-1519)
- Luther: The Greatest Years (1520-1522)
- Luther: Husband, Father, Hymn-writer, and Teacher (1523-1529)
- Luther: The Final Years (1530-1546)
John Wycliffe 1328-1384

• The Morning Star of the reformation
• Criticized the luxury of the pope and monasticism
• Attacked veneration of saints and the sale of indulgences
• Responsible for first translation of the (Latin) Bible into English
• All copies hand made; 250 survive!
• Declared a heretic at the Council of Constance 1415
• Body exhumed and burned in 1428
John Hus 1369-1415

• During his lifetime there were three popes simultaneously
• Criticized indulgences and secular power of the pope
• Burned at the stake at the Council of Constance 1415 even though the emperor had given him a letter of safe conduct.
• His followers were called Utraquists (communion under both kinds)
Luther: Holy Johannes Hus prophesied about me when he wrote from his Bohemian prison that they might now be roasting a goose, (Hus) but in a hundred years they will hear a swan sing, which they will not be able to silence.
1617

Obverse: May it shine forever! Luther removes a shade from a candle (= the gospel or the Word of God). 1617

Reverse: God’s word is Luther’s teaching, Therefore, it will not fade away now and forever. Martin Luther Doctor of Theology. First Jubilee
Savonarola 1452-1498
Florence, Italy

Preached against the corruption of the clergy and the pope.
Executed by Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503) in 1498.
Christ the Judge

Lily from right ear = the redeemed, who are ushered into paradise by angels.

Devils drag damned from their graves by their hair

1498
Devils lead People and Pope Into the jaws of Hell

Early 16th century
Hans Luder and his wife Margarethe
Hans was a copper miner; later he owned six mine shafts.
Life in the 15th and 16th centuries was nasty, brutish, and short.
On June 29, 1530, Hans Luther father of Dr. Martinus died a Christian. He actually died in May.
On June 30, 1531, Margareta Lutherin, mother of Dr. Martinus, died a Christian.
Luther’s Birthplace in Eisleben

Infant mortality ran as high as 60%
The chronology of Luther’s life

- Born in Eisleben, November 10, 1483; baptized November 11 (Luther was not sure of the year of his birth)
- Studied at Mansfeld from 1488-1497. (1492 Columbus discovers America)
- Maximilian I Holy Roman Emperor 1493-1519
- 1497 Studied at Magdeburg. Brethren of the Common Life. Little is known about this period
- 1498 studied at Eisenach. Parochial school of St. George.
- 1501 enrolled at University of Erfurt, graduated in 1505. Rose at 4 a.m. and worked until 8 p.m. Students spoke Latin to each other. Faculty permeated with Via moderna Occam (1285-1349), not via antiqua (Thomas Aquinas and Duns Scotus). Knowledge acquired by faith was not demonstrable by reason
Luther’s life continued

• July 17, 1505 entered Reformed congregation of Augustinian Hermits as a friar.
• Degrees: 1509 Baccalaureus Biblicus at Wittenberg; Senteniarius at Erfurt.
• November 1510-April 1511 trip to Rome
• Oct 19, 1512 doctorate at Wittenberg
• Posted 95 Theses 1517
• Met with Cardinal Cajetan at Augsburg 1518
• Debated with John Eck at Leipzig 1519; Charles V became Holy Roman Emperor
Martin Luther

• Three great treatises 1520
• Excommunicated 1521
• Diet of Worms 1521; Luther labeled as an outlaw; Pope Leo X dies
• Translated the New Testament 1522
• Married June 13, 1525
• Published Small and Large Catechisms 1529
• Augsburg confession adopted 1530
• Published translation of the whole Bible 1534
• Published Smalcald Articles 1537
• Wrote offensive treatises against the Jews 1543
• Dies in Eisleben 1546
Early education

• Goal: to impart a spoken knowledge of the Latin tongue.

• If one was caught talking German, one wore a donkey mask called asinus.
Luther began study of law at Erfurt. Luther nearly struck by lightning, July 2, 1505.

Help me, St. Anna, I will become a monk! His father was furious.
Statue of St. Ann Erfurt
Johann von Staupitz, 1460-1524, supervised Luther during a critical period in his spiritual life. Luther: If it had not been for Staupitz, I should have sunk in hell. Staupitz died a Catholic monk, but is commemorated in the Lutheran church on November 8.
Julius II, Pope 1503-1513

- The warrior pope
- Patron of the arts—Sistine chapel ceiling
- Laid foundation stone for St. Peter’s Basilica
Became part of Black Cloister in Erfurt 1505

First mass on May 2, 1507

Awareness of secret sins almost drove Luther to despair.

A trip to Rome to protest centralization of his Augustinian order 1510

Transferred to University of Wittenberg 1511
Received Doctorate
Grave of Johann Zachariae

Accused Jan Hus at Council of Constance

When he entered into Augustinian order, Luther prostrated himself on this slab
Lectures at Wittenberg

- Psalms 1513-1515
- Romans 1515-1516
- Galatians, Hebrews, and Titus 1516-1519
- Psalms 1519
Theological developments

• How can a Christian live with a **righteous** God whom she or he can never satisfy?
• God’s **righteousness** is a quality God gives to believers, making them acceptable to God.
• People on the other hand are turned in on themselves (**curvatus in se**).
• The law destroys **our** sense of righteousness
• Salvation starts from being sinful and knowing it (sin boldly)
• He who through faith is **righteous** will live (Habakkuk; Paul)
• A Christian is a sinner in fact, but **righteous** by the imputation of Christ’s **righteousness**
• A person is justified by faith alone Romans 1:17
A Noble Spiritual Book

• Luther’s first publication in 1516
• Written by an unknown 14 century mystic
• Our inability to merit forgiveness
• Against the intellectualism of the scholastics
As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs. Johann Tetzel
Johann Tetzel  
1465-1519  
Money needed  
For St. Peter’s in Rome and for debts of Cardinal Albrecht of Mainz.
#1 When our Lord Jesus said repent, he wanted the entire life of a Christian to be one of repentance.

#84 Criticized Pope, who was rich, for using donations of the poor to build St. Peter’s in Rome.

Actually posted? Or sent in a letter to his bishop, Albert of Mainz? 1490-1545.
A copy of the 95 theses from the Rare Books collections at LSTC
Maximilian I 1493-1519

Holy Roman Emperor
1493-1519

His son, Philip the Handsome, died in 1506

Charles V was his grandson

From 1514 he traveled everywhere with his coffin!
Luther sent 95 theses to Albrecht of Mainz, with a letter ordering him to stop the sale of indulgences.

Half of the money went to build St. Peter’s in Rome and half was to be used to pay off Albrecht’s debts to the Fugger banking company, debts acquired in his quest for various church offices. He became a cardinal at 28.
Letter to Albrecht of Mainz
October 31, 1517
Indulgences

• Luther feared that the sale of indulgences would lead Christians away from repentance and genuine good works.

• Albert of Mainz sent a copy of the 95 theses to the pope.
95 Theses and subsequent explanations

• Objects to the avowed object of the expenditure—St. Peter’s in Rome
• Denies the powers of the pope over purgatory
• Urges consideration of the welfare of the sinner—indulgences induce a false sense of security.
• Papacy should grant indulgences gratis
• A penitent sinner should accept punishment in humility and faith
95 Theses #27 and 32

• 27. They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory.

• 32. Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers.
Theses 92-95

• 92. Away then with all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, “Peace, peace,” and there is no peace! [Jer. 6:14].

• 93. Blessed be all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, “Cross, cross,” and there is no cross!

• 94. Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their head, through penalties, death, and hell;

• 95. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace [Acts 14:22].
Prierias, a Dominican

• Rendered an opinion on Luther in three days.
• Affirmed that the Pope is an infallible teacher.
• Anyone who attacks indulgences questions or disputes the power of the pope is therefore a heretic.
• He who does not accept the doctrine of the Church of Rome and pontiff of Rome as an infallible rule of faith, from which the Holy Scriptures, too, draw their strength and authority, is a heretic.
The Heidelberg Disputation 1518

- The law cannot bring us to righteousness.
- The law says, “Do this!” And it is never done. Grace says, “Believe in Jesus!” And immediately everything is done.
- The theologian of glory calls the evil [of a good deed] good and the good [of the cross] evil. The theologian of the cross says what a thing is.
- The one who sees the “rearward parts” of God (Exod 33:23), as seen in suffering and the cross, deserves to be called a theologian
Diet of Augsburg-October 1518

- Luther urged to retract errors before Cardinal Cajetan (1468-1534). Emperor Maximilian I had urged a crusade against Turks at this Diet.
- Luther: The pope and councils can err.
- At the conclusion of the Diet, Luther fled and discovered that the pope had called him a notorious heretic on August 23.
- Luther appealed for a council of the whole church after he got back to Wittenberg (Nov 28, 1518).
- Maximilian died in January 1519. Curia wanted Frederick the Wise elected as his successor. This prevented Curia from attacking Luther vigorously since Frederick was kindly disposed toward Luther, who taught at the university he had founded.
Karl von Miltitz January 1519

• Luther promised to keep silent if his adversaries would.
• Luther wrote a fiery letter to the pope, but von Miltitz submitted a positive evaluation of his interview with Luther.
• January 12, 1519 Maximilian I died.
Charles V

• Elected Holy Roman Emperor on June 28, 1519
• Grandparents Maximilian I and Mary daughter of Charles the Bold
• Parents: Philip and Joanna of Castile, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella.
• Charles born in 1500. Abdicated in 1556.
• Charles addressed God in Latin, women in French, and his horse in German
• Turks headed by Suleiman the Magnificent 1520-66. Failed to conquer Vienna in 1529
Suleiman the Magnificent
Leipzig Debate 1519

The pope was not infallible nor the final authority on the interpretation of Scripture

Johannes Eck 1486-1543

Forced Luther to admit that the church was wrong in executing John Hus in 1415 (Charles V elected Holy Roman Emperor)
Luther at the Leipzig Debate:

• Pope exercised his authority by human, not divine right
• The church of Rome was not supreme over other churches
• Church councils did err
• Scripture was the ultimate divine authority
Leo X 1475-1521

• Only a deacon when he was elected Pope. A few days later he was ordained as priest and then as Bishop.
• Age 37 when he became pope; ruled as pope for 8 years.
• Son of Lorenzo d’ Medici.
• Issued Exurge, Domine, in 1520, identifying 41 errors of Luther. Excommunicated Luther in 1521
• Died of Malaria, December 1, 1521
Adrian VI

- Pope 1522-1523
- Choice influenced by Charles V
- Began some reform measures
- Admitted the Curia’s share of guilt for the schism in the church
Castle Church where Luther posted 95 theses
Johann Tetzel

- Published 106 theses against Luther in January, 1518.
Thomas Murner as cat, Hieronymus Emser as goat, Pope Leo X as anti Christ, Johann Eck as dog, Johann Jakob Lempp as pig. About 1520
Doctor
Doctor bock
Euer Liptsi
Leo papa
Doctor Ehus
Doctor Lemp
Doctor Tuberinus