

## **TIMELINES: MARTIN LUTHER & CHRISTIAN HISTORY**

### **A. LUTHER the MAN (1483 – 1546)**

- 1502:** Receives B.A. at University of Erfurt
- 1505:** Earns M.A. at Erfurt; begins to study law
- 1505** Luther “struck by lightning” and vows to become a monk
- 1505** Luther enters the Order of Augustinian Hermits
- 1507:** Luther is ordained and celebrates his first Mass; he panics during the ceremony
- 1510:** Luther visits Rome as representative of Augustinians
- 1511:** Luther transfers to Wittenberg to teach at the new university.
- 1512:** Luther earns his doctorate of theology
- 1513:** Luther begins lecturing on The Psalms
- 1515:** Luther lectures on Paul’s Epistles to the Romans
- 1517:** October 31, he posts his “*95 Theses* (points to debate)” concerning indulgences on Wittenberg Church door.
- 1518:** At meeting in Augsburg, Luther defends his theology & refuses to recant
- 1518:** Elector Frederick the Wise of Saxony places Luther under his protection.
- 1519:** In debates with Professor John Eck at Leipzig, Luther denies supreme authority of popes and councils
- 1520:** Papal bull (*Exsurge Domine*) gives Luther 60 days to recant or be excommunicated
- 1520:** Luther burns the papal bull and writes 3 seminal documents:  
“*To the Christian Nobility*,”  
“*On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*,” &  
“*The Freedom of a Christian*”
- 1521:** Luther is excommunicated by the papal bull *Decet Romanum Pontificem*
- 1521:** He refuses to recant his writings at the **Diet of Worms**
- 1521:** New HRE Charles V condemns Luther as heretic and outlaw  
Luther is “*kidnapped*” and hidden in Wartburg Castle  
Luther begins translating the New Testament into German
- 1525:** Luther opposes the Peasants’ Revolt  
Gets married  
Writes “*Bondage of the Will*” opposing Erasmus’ view of Free Will
- 1527:** Writes the hymn “A Mighty Fortress”

- 1529: Publishes his *Large and Small Catechisms*
- 1530: Attempting to end religious division in the empire, Melanchthon presents the “*Augsburg Confession*,” a statement of Lutheran beliefs at the imperial diet (as an outlaw, Luther cannot attend)
- 1532: Luther is given the Augustinian cloister in Wittenberg for his home
- 1534: Luther publishes the 1<sup>st</sup> German language Bible
- 1536: Attempting to resolve differences with other reformers, Luther agrees to “*Wittenberg Concord*” on the Lord’s Supper; Zwinglians reject it
- 1537: Luther draws up his “*theological last will & testament*” (*The Schmalkaldic Articles*)
- 1538: Luther writes against the Jews in “*Against the Sabbatarians*”
- 1541: Luther writes “*Admonition to Prayer*” against the Turks
- 1545: He writes “*Against the Papacy at Rome, an Institution of the Devil*”
- 1546: Dies in Eisleben on February 18<sup>th</sup>

#### B. OTHER REFORMERS of LUTHER’S TIME

- 1498: Savonarola was burned at the stake in Florence
- 1509: Erasmus publishes Greek New Testament
- 1518: Melanchthon becomes professor of Greek at Wittenberg
- 1519: Zwingli begins New Testament sermons & Swiss Reformation is born
- 1521: Religious unrest in Wittenberg:  
*Karlstadt serves Communion in both elements*  
*Religious statues are destroyed as idols*  
*Pope titles Henry VIII “Defender of the Faith” for attacking Luther’s views*  
*Early Anabaptists arrive in Wittenberg*
- 1522: Ignatius Loyola begins work on Spiritual Exercises
- 1523: First two Protestant Reformation martyrs burned at the stake
- 1525: Anabaptist movement begins in Zurich, spreads to Germany
- 1529: The term “Protestant” is first used
- 1534: Henry VIII makes himself the “*Supreme Head of Church of England*”
- 1535: The Anabaptist uprising at Münster is crushed
- 1536: First edition of Calvin’s *Institutes* is published  
 William Tyndale, Bible translator is burned at stake  
 Denmark and Norway become Lutheran
- 1540: Society of Jesus (Jesuits) founded

#### C. Major World Events & The Reformation

< Pre – 1517 >

- 1453: The Turks capture Constantinople
- 1455: Gutenberg completes printing the Bible using movable type
- 1469: Lorenzo (The Great) de’ Medici rules Florence  
 Ferdinand of Aragon marries Isabella of Castile, creating Spain

- 1470: Portuguese explorers discover Gold Coast of Africa
- 1471: Thomas à Kempis, author of *The Imitation of Christ*, dies 1473  
Copernicus is born
- 1478: Spanish Inquisition established
- 1492: Spanish conquer Granada, expelling Islamic Moors from Iberia  
Columbus's first voyage to the Americas
- 1493: Pope Alexander VI divides the New World between Spain and Portugal
- 1495: Leonardo da Vinci's "*Last Supper*"
- 1497: Vasco de Gama reaches west coast of India
- 1498: Albrecht Durer paints "*Apocalypse*" ["*End of Days*" Theme]
- 1500: Future Holy Roman Emperor Charles V is born
- 1502: Frederick, Elector of Saxony, founds Wittenberg University
- 1506: Pope Julius II begins rebuilding St. Peter's in Rome  
Da Vinci's "*Mona Lisa*"
- 1508: Michelangelo begins painting Sistine Chapel ceiling
- 1509: Erasmus writes *In Praise of Folly*
- 1510: First shipload of African slaves arrives in New World (Hispaniola - Haiti)
- 1513: Leo X (Giovanni Medici) is pope  
Balboa discovers the Pacific Ocean
- 1514: Albert of Brandenburg buys/becomes Archbishop Elector of Mainz
- 1516: Thomas More publishes *Utopia*  
*The Concordat of Bologna* assures French Church autonomy from Rome
- < Post- 95 Theses >
- \*\*1517: Tetzel hired by Albert of Mainz to sell indulgences
- 1517: Luther posts "*The 95 Theses*"
- 1519: Carlos Hapsburg, I of Spain is elected Holy Roman Emperor Charles V  
Cortes enters Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan
- 1520: Suleiman I becomes sultan of the Ottoman Empire (*Turks*) 1521
- 1522: Magellan's expedition completes circumnavigation of globe
- 1523: Clement VII (another Medici) becomes pope
- 1524: The German Peasant Wars begin  
Diet of Nuremberg fails to enforce Edict of Worms condemning Luther 1525
- 1526: First Diet of Speyer postpones enforcement of Edict of Worms
- 1527: Charles V's Imperial troops sack Rome
- 1529: Second Diet of Speyer decides to enforce Edict of Worms  
Turks lay siege to Vienna
- 1531: *Schmalkaldic League* (body of German Protestant groups) formed in self-defense against Charles V
- 1532: Diet of Regensburg & Peace of Nuremberg guarantee religious *toleration* in face of Turkish threat
- 1533: Pizarro conquers Peru
- 1535: Emperor forms Catholic Defense League
- 1540: Prince Philip of Hesse enters bigamous marriage with Luther's consent
- 1543: Copernicus writes that earth revolves around sun
- 1545: Council of Trent to reform the Catholic Church begins
- 1555: Peace of Augsburg allows most rulers to determine religion of their region