

**MARTIN LUTHER
& THE
PROTESTANT
REFORMATION**



Martin Luther

Who was Martin Luther?

- Born in Germany in 1483.
- After surviving a violent storm, he vowed to become a monk.
- Lived in the city of Wittenberg.
- Died in 1546.



Definitions

Protest

To express strong objection

Reform

To improve by correcting
errors

Problems in the Church

- Corruption
- Political Conflicts

Corruption

- The Church raised money through practices like simony and selling indulgences.



Advantages of Buying Indulgences

Go Directly to Heaven!

- Do not go to Hell!
- Do not go to Purgatory!
- Get through Purgatory faster!
- Do not pass Go!

Political Conflict

KINGS AND QUEENS



POPES



Papal Schism



Rome



Avignon

- In 1301, the king tried to tax the French clergy.
- The pope threatened to excommunicate the king and so was arrested. He was later released.
- The next pope, Clement V, moved the headquarters of the Church from Rome to Avignon in southern France.
- Many people felt that the French kings controlled the Church.

Three Popes!

- The next six popes lived in Avignon. Pope Gregory then moved the papacy back to Rome in 1377.
- When Gregory died, the French cardinals did not like the new pope in Rome, so they elected a different pope in Avignon.
- Later, a Church council elected a third pope.

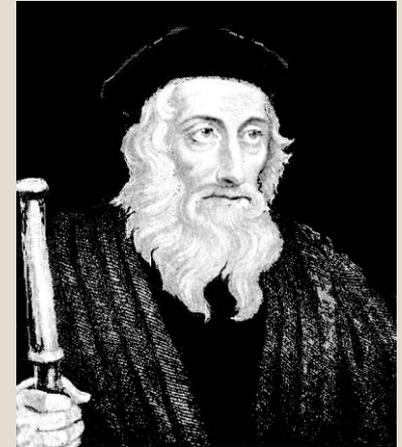
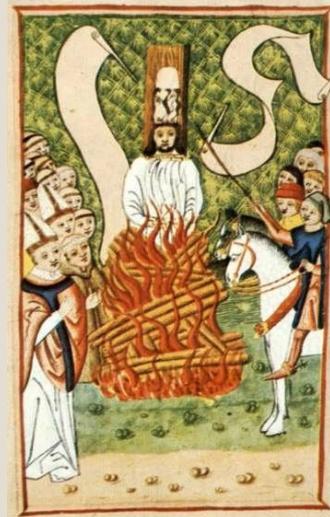


Calls for Reform

- John Wycliffe (1330-1384)
 - Questioned the authority of the pope

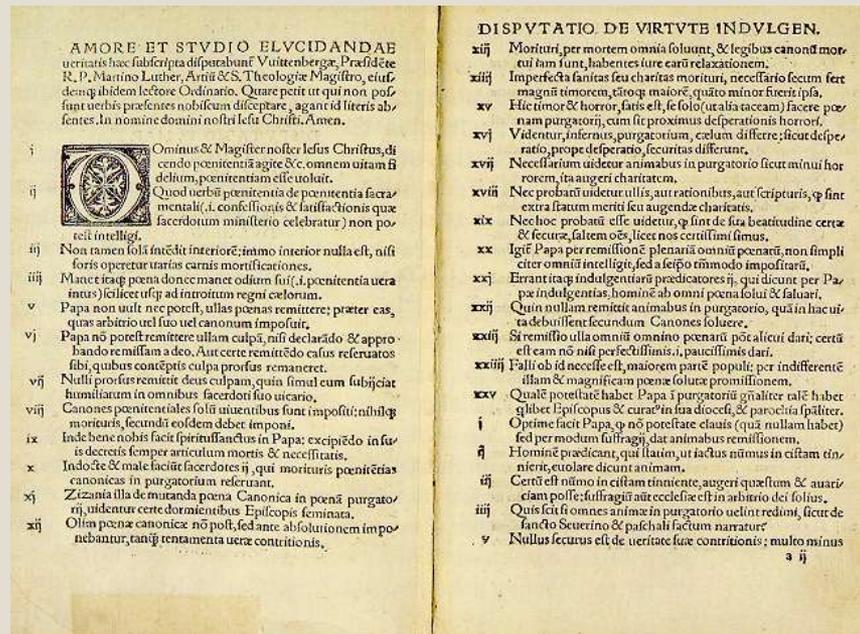
- Jan Hus (1370-1415)
 - Criticized the vast wealth of the Church

- Desiderius Erasmus (1469-1536)
 - Attacked corruption in the Church

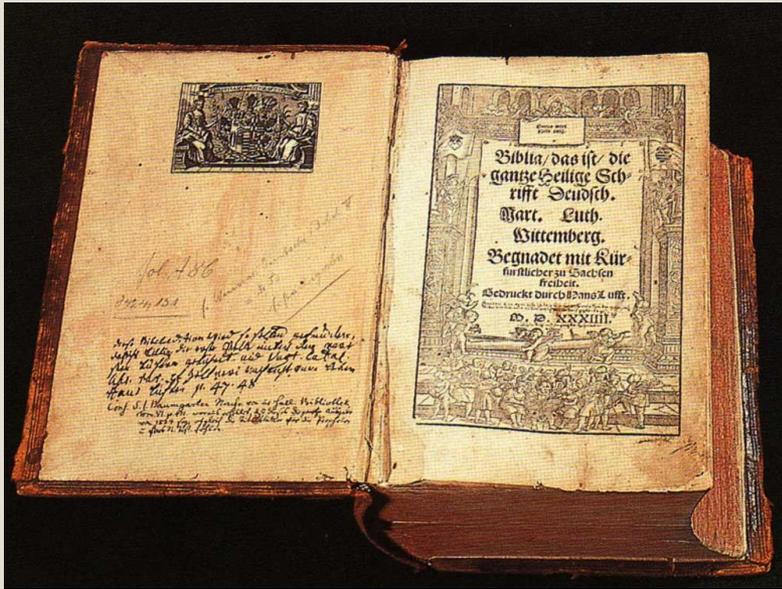


Luther Looks for Reforms

- Luther criticized Church practices, like selling indulgences.
- He wanted to begin a discussion within the Church about the true path to salvation.
- He nailed his *Ninety-Five Theses*, or arguments, to the door of Wittenberg cathedral for all to see.



Protestant Teaching: Justification by Faith Alone



Luther's Bible

- The Bible is the only source of truth.
- People can read and understand the Bible themselves.
- Salvation comes only through faith in Christ.

Excommunication



- Pope Leo X demanded that Luther recant 41 of his *Ninety-Five Theses*.
- Luther was brought before the Diet of Worms.
- In January 1521, Luther was excommunicated from the Church.

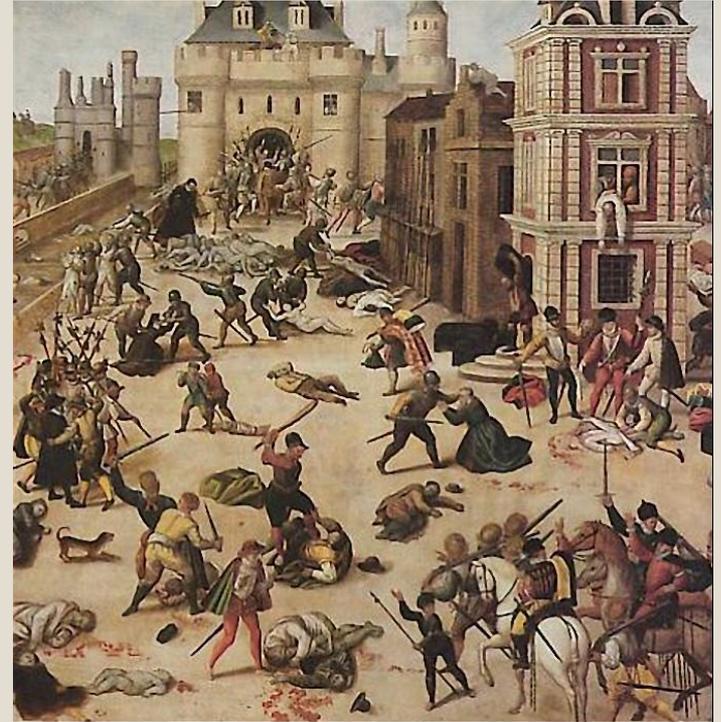
The Printing Press

- Luther's ideas spread quickly with the help of the printing press.
- Luther's supporters distributed copies of his speeches and essays far and wide.
- Millions of people sided with Luther against the Roman Catholic Church.



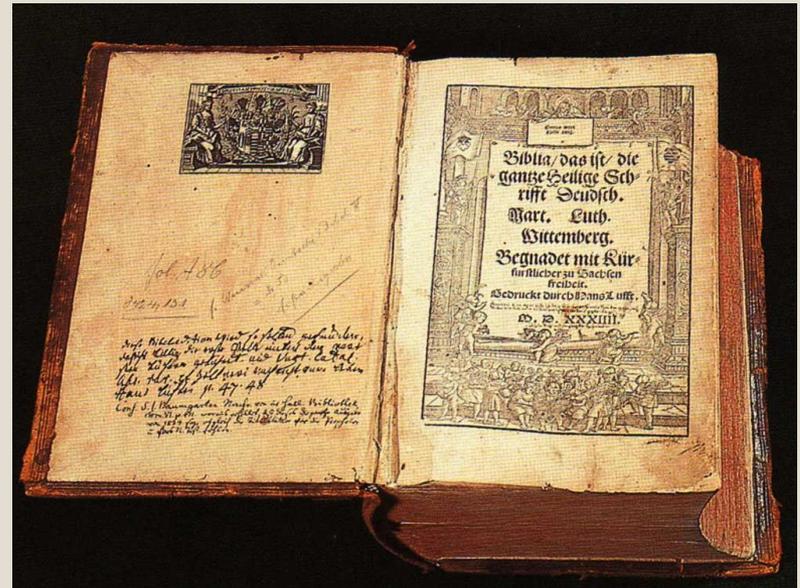
A New Church

- Luther soon had many followers.
- His supporters began to organize a new Christian denomination.
- Several German princes supported Luther.
- Lutherans and Catholics fought each other.
- The first wars ended with the Treaty of Augsburg, but fighting in Europe over religion continued to the mid-seventeenth century.



Lutheranism

- Luther's followers disagreed with many of the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- They rejected the authority of Church councils and the pope.
- Reading the Bible was the only way to learn how to lead a good life.



German

The Reformation spread to other countries.

- France and Switzerland:

John Calvin preached the idea of “predestination” and that some people had been chosen by God for salvation.



- England:

King Henry VIII refused to recognize the Roman Catholic Church and started a new church, the Church of England.

