

Luther and the Reformation

Sources

Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* (1950)

James M. Kittelson and Hans H. Wiersma, *Luther the Reformer* (2016)

J. H. Merle d'Aubigné, *The Triumph of Truth: A Life of Martin Luther* (1996)

Heiko A. Oberman, *Luther: Man Between God and the Devil* (1989)

Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, (1981), vol. 7

I. Steps in the Progress of a Reformer

A. Luther the Monk

1. Entered monastery seeking peace
2. Monastic labors: "If ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery, I was that monk."
3. Feared the righteous God
4. Visit to Rome (1510): Thrilling but disillusioning

B. Wittenberg

1. Professorship at new university
2. Lectures on Psalms, Romans, etc.: Historical-grammatical interpretation
3. "Tower experience": Discovers justification by faith alone
4. Makes friendship w/ Philipp Melancthon, humanist scholar
5. Posts 95 Theses

C. Luther in Dispute

1. Augsburg (1518): Dispute w/ Cardinal Cajetan—Luther suspects the pope & hierarchy
2. Leipzig (1519): Debate w/ John Eck—Luther suspects church councils
3. Diet of Worms (1521)
 - a. Called before Emperor Charles V w/ safe conduct
 - b. No debate; only demand for recantation
 - c. Luther: "Here I Stand"
 - 1) Convinced only by Scripture or "evident reason"
 - 2) No trust in popes and councils
 - 3) "Bound by Scripture" & "conscience is captive to the Word of God"

D. Luther's Later Career

1. Hidden at Wartburg Castle
 - a. Defended by Elector Frederick the Wise of Saxony
 - b. Translation of the NT
2. Marriage to Katherine von Bora

II. Teachings of Luther

A. Beginning: 95 Theses (1517)

1. Attacks indulgences
2. Thrust: Cleaning up abuses

B. Key Mature Ideas

1. Justification by faith alone
2. Priesthood of believers
3. "Two Kingdoms"
 - a. Church and state separate realms w/ separate responsibilities
 - b. Reflects "paradox" (apparent contradiction) in Luther's theology (González, 50)
 - c. "Magisterial": State has a role in the reform of the church

4. Rejected RC sacramental system
 - a. Affirms two sacraments, baptism & Lord's Supper, & denies the Mass is a sacrifice
 - b. Still taught baptismal regeneration & real presence
 5. Augustinian views of sin and grace
 - a. Total depravity of the human will in sin
 - b. Total reliance on the grace of God in salvation
 - c. Rejects all Pelagian teaching
 - d. Contrast w/ Erasmus
- C. Some reactionary views on peasants & Jews
- ### III. Spread of the Lutheran Reformation
- A. Germany
1. Central Factors
 - a. Fragmented character of Germany
 - b. Strong anti-Roman feeling
 - c. Distractions of Charles V
 2. Some German rulers embrace Lutheran teaching
 - a. Diet of Speyer (1529): Lutheran princes protest → "Protestant"
 - b. German wars of religion
 - c. Peace of Augsburg (1555): Each prince decides the religion of his state (*cuius regio, eius religio*)
 3. Augsburg Confession (1530)
 - a. By Philipp Melancthon
 - b. Main Lutheran confession
- B. Scandinavia
1. Imposed by kings and led by students from Wittenberg (González, 110-13)
 2. Scandinavia becomes solidly Lutheran
 3. Older Catholic *forms* with Lutheran *teaching*
 4. Source of much American Lutheranism