

More than 125 Key Events and People

John Wycliffe
1320-1384



John Hus
1369-1415



Martin Luther
1483-1546



Menno Simons
1496-1561



John Calvin
1509-1564



Reformation Time Line

These men endured pain, persecution, loss, death and the rejection of their own church for the sake of change.

- Illustrations of more than 30 events and people
- Origins of Protestant doctrines
- Map showing the spread of the Reformation
- Family tree of Christian denominations
- History of Bible translation into the English language

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The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a monk in Germany made a list of 95 issues that he wanted the theologians of the Roman Catholic Church to discuss. Little did he know that his list, called the Ninety-Five Theses, would spark the Reformation, a movement that would split the church and form a new kind of Christianity: Protestantism.

The monk was Martin Luther, and his debate caused the boiling pot of discontent to erupt all over Europe. In Luther's wake, the new shape of Western faith was revealed, leading even later to a new kind of nation.

The Reformation Period 1516-1563

1516 • Erasmus publishes a Greek translation of the New Testament ...

Later editions of his Greek text form the basis of the *textus receptus* and are used by Martin Luther, William Tyndale, and the King James Bible (Authorized Version) translators.

1517 • Martin Luther posts his 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany; the Protestant Reformation begins

Luther challenges the Church to a discussion on the subjects of penance, the pope's authority, and abuses in the selling of indulgences. Indulgences are certificates that free their owners from performing the acts of penance that the church requires to show sorrow for certain sins. Indulgences are not intended to let people "buy forgiveness," but instead are supposed to express people's inner desire to turn from their sins. However, many medieval priests and popes distort the original intent of indulgences.

1518 • At a meeting in Heidelberg, Germany, Luther defends his theology; later he appears before Cardinal Cajetan at Augsburg, Germany, but refuses to recant; Frederick the Wise protects Luther from being handed over to Rome

1519 • Martin Luther questions papal infallibility (belief that the pope is preserved from error in matters of faith and morals) and begins New Testament sermon series, starting new era of preaching

• Ulrich Zwingli begins New Testament sermons, ushering in Swiss reformation

1520 • The pope publishes a bull giving Martin Luther 60 days to recant or be excommunicated; Luther burns the document

The Edict of Worms bans the reading or possession of Luther's writings. It condemns Luther as a heretic and an outlaw, permitting anyone to kill Luther without legal consequence. (The edict was not enforced.)

1521 • Martin Luther is excommunicated by the pope; at the Diet of Worms Luther refuses to recant writings; the diet publishes an edict condemning him; Luther begins translating the Bible into German

• Pope names King Henry VIII "Defender of the Faith" for attacking Luther's views of the sacraments

• Lutheran books appear in England

• First Protestant communion at Wittenberg, Germany

• 1521-1523 William Tyndale begins teaching and is arraigned on charges of heresy; translates Erasmus's *Enchiridion* into English

1522 • Luther introduces German-language worship services at Wittenberg

1524 • Erasmus publishes *On Freedom of the Will*, his famous attack on Luther's denial of free will

1525 • William Tyndale plans to print the New Testament in English but is discovered and escapes with only a few printed sections

• The Anabaptist movement, predecessor to Brethren and Mennonite churches, teaches believers' baptism only, democratic decision making, and separation of church and state

• Martin Luther marries former nun Katherine von Bora; writes *Bondage of the Will* (a response to Erasmus)

Luther's work describes the absolute inability of humankind in our fallen state to act morally, a clear opposite to Erasmus' humanistic ideal.

1526 • William Tyndale completes printing of the New Testament in Worms, Germany ...

• Cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop of York, attends public burning of "Lutheran" books

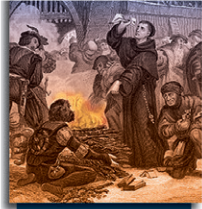
• Reformation reaches Sweden and Denmark where Protestant churches begin to appear

This is the first printing of the New Testament in English and the first English translation of the scriptures from the biblical Greek. The smuggled copies of his New Testaments soon spread throughout England.

1527 • Martin Luther pens "A Mighty Fortress"; writes against Zwingli's views on the Lord's Supper

• First Protestant university in Marburg, Germany, is founded

• 1527-1530 English seek to capture Tyndale; he keeps moving from place to place, continuing to translate the Bible



Luther burns the document



William Tyndale



Katherine von Bora



Erasmus



Thomas More



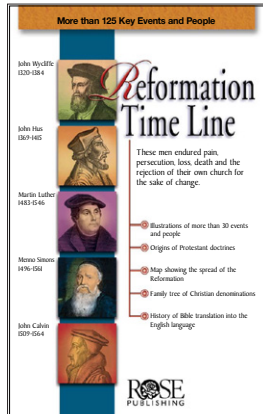
- 1528**
 - Erasmus publishes his English translations of the works of St. Augustine
 - Thomas Bilney, Cambridge preacher and “Lutheran sympathizer,” is dragged from his pulpit and imprisoned
- 1529**
 - Sir Thomas More begins writing *Dialogue* against William Tyndale and Martin Luther
 - King Henry VIII of England summons the “Reformation Parliament” and begins to cut ties with the Church of Rome
 - At the Diet of Speyer (Germany) Luther’s followers are first called Protestants (the term Protestantism becomes associated with Lutheranism, Zwinglianism, and Calvinism)
 - Tyrolean Anabaptists flee to Moravia, region of the Czech Republic
- 1530**
 - Tyndale’s translation of the first five books of the Old Testament into English appears in England

The Diet of Speyer declares that the previously unenforced Edict of Worms is now to be enforced. The Protestant princes profess their faith here for the first time in opposition to the edict.

- Protestant Characteristics**
- Acceptance of the Bible as the only source of revealed truth
 - Doctrine of justification by faith alone
 - Priesthood of all believers

Map of the Reformation





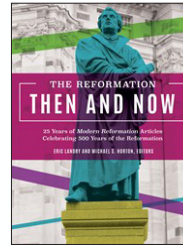
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This helpful pamphlet contains more than 150 fascinating facts, a full-color map of Europe, and a list of major Protestant doctrines. Here you will find a simple explanation of the rise of Christian denominations such as the Lutherans, Anglicans, Presbyterians, and Anabaptists that make up the “family tree” of denominations.

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Reformation Time Line Wall Chart

This concise guide to the Reformation shows a timeline of key people and events. Gain deeper insights into the rise of Protestantism, and the influence of such people as Martin Luther, John Calvin, William Tyndale, and King James. Learn why they wanted to reform the church of their day. Includes: Pre-Reformation Period through Post-Reformation Period 1300 - 1700.

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Fantastic 35-minute DVD on the Protestant Reformation gives you an excellent overview of key people such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, William Tyndale, John Wycliffe, Jan Huss, and Erasmus. This video also covers the most important events, such as the rise of Protestant denominations, the history of the English Bible, the posting of the 95 Theses on church door in Wittenberg.

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