

Chronology of the Reformation

- 1320:** John Wycliffe is born in Yorkshire, England
- 1369?:** Jan Hus, born in Husinec, Bohemia, early reformer and founder of Moravian Church
- 1384:** John Wycliffe died in his parish, he and his followers made the first full English translation of the Bible
- 6 July 1415:** Jan Hus arrested, imprisoned, tried and burned at the stake while attending the Council of Constance, followed one year later by his disciple Jerome. Both sang hymns as they died
- 11 November 1418:** Martin V elected pope and Great Western Schism is ended
- 1444:** Johannes Reuchlin is born, becomes the father of the study of Hebrew and Greek in Germany
- 21 September 1452:** Girolamo Savonarola is born in Ferrara, Italy, is a Dominican friar at age 22
- 29 May 1453** Constantine is captured by Ottoman Turks, the end of the Byzantine Empire
- 1454?:** Gutenberg Bible printed in Mainz, Germany by Johann Gutenberg
- 1463:** Elector Frederick III (the Wise) of Saxony is born (died in 1525)
- 1465:** Johannes Tetzel is born in Pirna, Saxony
- 1472:** Lucas Cranach the Elder born in Kronach, later becomes court painter to Frederick the Wise
- 1480:** Andreas Bodenstein (Karlstadt) is born, later to become a teacher at the University of Wittenberg where he became associated with Luther. Strong in his zeal, weak in judgment, he represented all the worst of the outer fringes of the Reformation
- 10 November 1483:** Martin Luther born in Eisleben
- 11 November 1483:** Luther baptized at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Eisleben (St. Martin's Day)
- 1 January 1484:** Ulrich Zwingli the first great Swiss reformer is born in Wildhaus, Switzerland
- 1484:** George Spalatin is born, later to become companion of Luther, died in 1545, at age 61
- 1484-1496-7:** Martin Luther childhood and early school days in Mansfield
- 1485:** Johannes Bugenhagen is born (died in 1558)
- 1489?:** Thomas Munzer is born in Stolberg, Germany, becomes priest and initially a follower of Martin Luther
- 1492:** Savonarola is ordered to Florence where he subsequently preached boldly against abuses of the church and its leaders and of the government of Lorenzo de' Medici
- 1493:** Maximilian I, 1459-1519, is elected Holy Roman Emperor (Spanish Hapsburg line)
- 1497:** Philipp Melanchthon is born in Bretton, Baden
- 1498-1501:** Luther attends Latin school in Eisenach, 15-18 years old
- 29 January 1499:** Katharina von Bora was born in Lippendorf (Kieritzsch), near [Pegau, Germany](#)
- 23 May 1498:** Girolamo Savonarola is condemned, hanged and burned as a heretic in Florence
- 24 February 1500:** Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor born in the Netherlands, to the Hapsburg line
- 1501:** Luther enrolls as a student at the arts faculty of Erfurt University
- 1502:** Luther takes a BA in Arts at the university in Erfurt. Wittenberg University was founded by Frederick the Wise, which ultimately grows to be the largest university in Germany
- 1505:** Luther receives his MA at the university and starts to study law

2 July 1505: Luther caught in thunderstorm near Stotternheim
17 July 1505: Luther enters Monastery of the Hermits of St. Augustine, Erfurt
Summer 1506: Luther takes his monastic vows at age 23
4 April 1507: Ordained as a priest St. Mary's Cathedral, Erfurt and enrolls as a student of theology at Erfurt University
2 May 1507: Luther says his first Mass and is terror stricken over the responsibility
9 March 1509: Baccalaureus biblicus awarded to Martin Luther at Erfurt University
10 July 1509: John Calvin born in Noyon, France, studied for the priesthood
Autumn 1509: Baccalaureus sententiarius awarded to Martin Luther at Erfurt University
1510-11: Luther's pilgrimage to Rome, he is disillusioned over the moral decay among the clergy in Rome, particularly about the Eucharist
1511: Luther transferred to Wittenberg University at the age 28.
18/19 October 1512: Luther receives doctor of divinity as a professor of Biblical exegesis at Wittenberg theology faculty; he is elected the sub-prior of Wittenberg monastery of the Hermits of St. Augustine
1514: Luther is appointed preacher at the town church of St. Mary's, Wittenberg, at age 31
1515: Luther elected district vicar of the ten monasteries of the Hermits of St. Augustine in Thuringia and Meissen
1517: Dominican friar Johann Tetzel starts trading in indulgences in Brandenburg and Magdeburg under the authority of Pope Leo X. Known as "plenary indulgences" they gave total exemption from Purgatory for those who donated money towards the building of St. Peter's Church in Rome
October-November 1517: Luther posts 95 Theses on the Wittenberg Castle church door
December 1517: Public dissemination of the 95 theses
1518: Imperial Diet in Augsburg (Emperor Maximilian, grandfather of Charles V)
March 1518: Luther's "Sermon on Indulgences and Grace" published
April 25, 1518: Chapter meeting of Augustinian Order in Heidelberg, Luther leads disputation on original sin, grace, free will and faith, after walking the entire way to the meeting
12-14 October 1518: Interrogated by Cardinal Thomas Cajetan in Augsburg, Martin Luther refuses to recant; Luther is 35 years old
1519: Emperor Maximilian dies; Johannes Tetzel dies in Leipzig at age 54
January 1519: Papal Envoy Karl von Miltitz invites Luther to Altenburg, where he stays in a house owned by George Spalatin
28 June 1519: Charles I of Spain elected as Holy Roman Emperor (Charles V)
27 June-16 July 1519: Leipzig Disputation between John Eck, Karlstadt (Andreas Bodenstein) and Luther, reportedly won by Eck, took place in the old Pleissenburg Castle, as well as various pulpits around town. Philipp Melancthon was there as Luther's prime assistant.
May 1520: Luther's "On Good Works" written
15 June 1520: Pope Leo X (Giovanni Medici, of Florence banking family) issues Papal bull "Exsurge Domini" threatening Luther with excommunication
August 1520: Luther writes "To the Christian Nobles of the German Nation on the Improvement of the Christian Estate"
October 1520: Luther writes "On the Freedom of a Christian." Charles V crowned King of the Holy Roman Empire"
10 December 1520: Luther burns the Papal bull in public in Wittenberg
3 January 1521: Luther excommunicated by bull "Decet Romanum Pontificem," at age 38

6 March 1521: Luther is served summons to attend the Diet of Worms

17-18 April 1521: Luther attends Diet of Worms, again refuses to recant this time to the emperor and the Empire, where he makes his famous “Here I stand” statement

26 April 1521: Luther leaves Worms

4 May 1521: In a staged abduction Luther is taken at the behest of Frederick the Wise to Wartburg Castle, where he stays incognito as Junker Jorge, a knight and nobleman

8 May 1521: Edict of Worms, imposing an Imperial ban on Luther and his supporters

December 1521-February 1522: Luther translates the New Testament into German in a style that proved him to be a “creative linguistic genius”

1 March 1522: Luther leaves Wartburg after 10 months as Junker Jorge

6 March 1522: Luther arrives in Wittenberg and dismisses Karlstadt

9-16 March 1522: Luther preaches in Wittenberg at age 39

September 1522: Luther’s New Testament translation, the so-called September Testament, is published

1522: Luther conducts first communion in “dual form,” i.e. bread and wine. Johannes Reuchlin dies

February 1523: Luther resumes his university lectures

4 April 1523: Luther asks Leonhard Koppe, town councilor of Torgau; to help Katharina von Bora and eight other nuns escape from the Cistercian convent, near Nimbschen on Easter night

1523: Thomas Munzer organizes peasants into “Eternal Covenant of God” (associated with the anti-authoritarian group called the Zwickau Prophets) and breaks with Luther over the sole authority of the Bible, he was also known as an Anabaptist

December 1523: Luther draws up new divine service regulations, including communion in “dual form”

1524: Landgrave Phillip of Hesse accedes to the Reformation

9 October 1524: Luther casts aside his friar’s habit at age 41

April 1525: German peasants’ revolt, led by Thomas Munzer along socialist/communist lines, starts at town of Muhlhausen, Luther condemns movement; Zwingli supported it and also disagreed with Luther on the Lord’s Supper

May 1525: Luther writes “Against the Rapacious, Murderous Peasant Hordes”

15 May 1525: Peasants are defeated at the battle of Frankenhausen; Thomas Munzer is captured

27 May 1525: German princes execute Thomas Munzer

13 June 1525: Luther marries Katharina von Bora, in the Wittenberg Schlosskirche at the age of 42

1525: Duke Frederick the Wise dies, succeeded by his younger brother, John

7 June 1526: Birth of Luther’s son Johannes

1527: Reformation introduced in Sweden, by invitation of the king, Bugenhagen assists

6 July 1527: Luther is seriously ill and feels deeply dejected

10 December 1527: Birth of daughter Elisabeth

1528-29: Luther (1529), Bugenhagen and others, make “visitations” to the Saxon churches to assess conditions of the parishes and priests, the conditions and fixes needed are reported

3 August 1528: Death of daughter Elisabeth, 8 months old

April 1529: Great Catechism finished

May 1529: Lesser Catechism published in book form

4 May 1529: Birth of daughter Magdalene

1-4 October 1529: Marburg religious discussions arranged by Phillip of Hesse, between Luther and Zwingli, agreement is reached on 14 articles but disagreement on communion remains

1530: Pope Clement VII crowns Charles V Holy Roman Emperor in Bologna, Imperial Diet is held in Augsburg

23 April-4 October 1530: Luther stays at Coburg Fortress during Diet of Augsburg

29 May 1530: Death of Luther's father, Hans Luther, Martin is 47

25 June 1530: Proclamation of the Augsburg Confession, drafted mainly by Melanchthon

3 August 1530: The Confutation is read in the Emperor's name, in Augsburg

April-May 1531: The Apology to the Augsburg Confession is published

30 June 1531: Death of Luther's mother, Margarethe Luther, one year after her husband

11 September 1531: Birth of Luther's son Martin

11 October 1531: Ulrich Zwingli killed in the 2nd battle of Kappel fought between Protestant and Catholic cantons of Switzerland

1531?: Calvin experiences a "conversion" and leaves the priesthood, fleeing from France to Geneva

28 January 1533: Birth of Luther's son Paul

1534: Duke Ulrich introduces Reformation in Württemberg

September 1534: First complete edition of Luther's Bible translation published

17 December 1534: Birth of Luther's daughter Margaretha

1535-46: Luther is dean of Wittenberg Theological University

1536: King Christian III introduces Reformation in Denmark

1536: Calvin publishes "*Institutes of the Christian Religion*" and leads the Reformed church movement

31 January 1537: Luther leaves Wittenberg for Schmalkalden with Bugenhagen and Melanchthon

7 February 1537: Arrival in Schmalkalden for the first meeting of the Schmalkaldic League

11 February 1537: Luther has serious kidney stone condition during the Schmalkaldic League convention and he starts to feel like he is dying.

26 February 1537: Luther departs from Schmalkalden to return home to die, recovers on trip

1539: Reformation introduced in Saxony and Brandenburg by Duke Henry and Prince Elector Joachim respectively, Luther begins to revise his Bible translation, and conducts the first Protestant service at St. Thomas's church, Leipzig

6 January 1542: Luther makes his (second) will

20 September 1542: Death of daughter Magdalene at age 13 ½

19 December 1544: Last Bible translation session

March 1545: Luther writes "Against the Papacy in Rome, the Work of the Devil"

Late July-16 August 1545: Journey to Leipzig, Zeitz, Merseburg, Halle and Torgau

1545-1563: Council of Trent sets the tone for the counter-reformation where some of the abuses pointed out by Luther are rectified, but not the doctrinal errors. Jesuits are created, and are most active in this area, and the Catholics regain some land areas lost to the Reformation

28 January 1546: Luther arrives in Eisleben

16 February 1546: Luther preaches his last sermon in St. Andrew's church, Eisleben

17 February 1546: Luther concludes mediation of agreement between Counts Albrecht and Gebhard of Mansfield, two brothers, one Catholic and one Lutheran

18 February 1546: Luther dies in Eisleben at age 62 years and 3 months

22 February 1546: Luther is buried in the Schlosskirche, Wittenberg

1546-1547: Schmalkadic War launched by Charles V between Schmalkadic League and the Empire won by Charles V

20 December 1552: Katerina (Katie) Luther dies in Torgue, following a wagon accident

16 October 1553: Lucas Cranach dies

1555: Peace of Augsburg forces Charles V to allow the religion of the governing prince to decide whether the state is Catholic or Lutheran in its religion

1560: Philipp Melanchthon dies in Wittenberg at age 63

27 May 1564: Calvin dies in Geneva at age 55

2 March 1565: Martin, son of Luther dies at age 33

1580: The Formula of Concord is published

Note 1: Following the death of Jan Hus in 1415 the Catholic League-Hussite War broke out in Bohemia and Monravia (Monrovia), with peace coming in 1436. This was in essence a counter-reformation, but did not result in specific lands being awarded, but instead the four articles of the compact were agreed. One of those four articles was communion with both kinds (bread and wine) and one was preaching in the native language, which apparently was allowed only in this area, as they both came up as issues about 100 years later in the Lutheran Reformation. Interestingly Saxony was adjacent to Bohemia and Monravia.

Note2: Following the Peace of Augsburg and the Catholic counter-Reformation the predominately Lutheran areas in the German states have remained much the same to this present time.