



## Martin Luther - the reformator

In 1536, Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar was sent to Germany by the Roman Catholic Church to sell indulgences to raise money in order to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The people bought these letters of indulgence, because they were afraid of hell and believed that only those letters could save them. "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs" - was a famous slogan to get money from the poor sinners. Martin Luther protested against this sale of indulgences and wrote 95 theses where he questioned the church practices.

Instead of indulgences, Luther said, salvation or redemption is a gift of God, attainable only through faith in Jesus who died for the sins of all people.

"The first and chief article is this: Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification (Romans 3:24-25). He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), and God has laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6). All have sinned and are justified freely, without their own works and merits, by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in his blood (Ephesians 3:23-25). This is necessary to believe. This cannot be otherwise acquired or grasped by any work, law or merit. Therefore, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us ... Nothing of this article can be plucked or surrendered, even though heaven and earth and everything also falls (Mark 13:35)."

On 15 June 1520, the Pope warned Luther with the papal bull that he risked excommunication unless he recanted within 60 days. On 18 April 1521, Luther appeared as ordered before the Diet of Worms. This was a general assembly of the estates of the Holy Roman Empire that took place in Worms, a town on the Rhine. It was conducted from 28 January to 25 May 1521, with Emperor Charles V presiding. Here again Luther refused to recant. At the end an edict was released by the emperor that made Luther an outlaw and permitted everybody to kill Luther without punishment. Friends helped him to flee and hide on the Wartburg where he lived under the protection of Frederick the Wise from Saxony and translated the New Testament into German.

Luther's works sparked the Reformation, thanks in part to the printing revolution. Luther's declarations at Worms sparked a revolutionary spirit that had been smoldering among the German people, many of who were tired of seeing their earnings gobbled up by the church.

## His Life

10. November 1483 in Eisleben

1506 - becoming a monk after a thunderstorm

1517 - publishing the 95 theses in order to reform the Catholic Church

1521 - Luther is excommunicated by the Pope

since 1521 he was translating the Bible into German



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