

The Spiritual Pilgrimage of Martin Luther.

Martin Luther (1483-1546).



Another version of Martin Luther!



Luther's Germany.



The House Where Luther Was Born in Eisleben.





Luther's Parents, Hans & Margarethe Luder.

Luther's Parents:

- Were hard working and pious.
- His father was a Copper miner.
- His business prospered and he eventually owned six copper mines and a smelting business.
- He was ambitious for his son and could afford a good education for him.
- He wanted him to become a lawyer.

Erfurt, where Luther became a student.



The home of Ursula & Conrad Cotta in Erfurt.

Where Luther sang for his supper.



Part of St Augustine's Monastery in Erfurt.

Where Luther went to become a monk.





Johann von Staupitz

Vicar General of the
Augustinian Order

Once spent six hours listening to
Luther's Confession.

How Staupitz helped Luther:

- He helped Luther to see that his problem was not many individual acts of sin but sin itself.
- Staupitz suggested to Luther that it was as though his repeated confession of single Acts of Sin and intensive penances were an attempt to cure a disease “scab by scab”.

Luther on the monastic Life:

- “If ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery, it was I!”

**In 1512 Luther became
Professor of Biblical Theology
at the new University of
Wittenberg.**

Wittenberg means “white mountain”.

- It is an exaggeration.
- There is no mountain within many miles of the place.
- It was built on sandy heath land beside the River Elbe.

- “Little land, little land, you are but a heap of sand.”

Life in Wittenberg: A “Judensau” at the Stadtkirche (city church).



The response of the Jewish community in modern Germany.



Luther on Psalm 22:

- ◉ *“My God, my God why have you forsaken me?”*
- ◉ (He was to spend hours distracted by the thought, “God smitten by God. Who can understand this?”)

Luther's "Tower Experience":

"I greatly longed to understand Paul's Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, "the justice of God", because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him. Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him. Yet I clung to the dear Paul and had a great yearning to know what he meant. Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that "the just shall live by his faith". Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the "justice of God" had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven ..."

Luther's summary of his new understanding:

“Grace is given to heal the sick, not as a medal to decorate spiritual heroes”.

What happens when you die?

- ◉ Unbaptised babies go to “Limbo”,
- ◉ Exceptionally holy people (“saints”) go straight to heaven,
- ◉ Indeed they accumulate extra merit, which the Pope can access,
- ◉ Exceptionally wicked people go straight to hell.
- ◉ Most baptised Catholics go to purgatory to be purged of sin and made fit for heaven.

What are Indulgences?

- Certificates issued by the Pope,
- They are intended to release souls from either part or the whole of the time they would spend in purgatory (a plenary indulgence).
- This is because the Pope is believed to have access to the “treasury of merits” that the saints have accumulated.

How to get an Indulgence:

- At first you had to do something really challenging,
- Perhaps go on a crusade,
- Or make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.
- As time passed it was enough to make a financial contribution for some worthy project – such as building a cathedral.
- How is this different from telling people they can buy their way into heaven?
- One law for the rich
- The Indulgence trade still operates in some parts of the world.

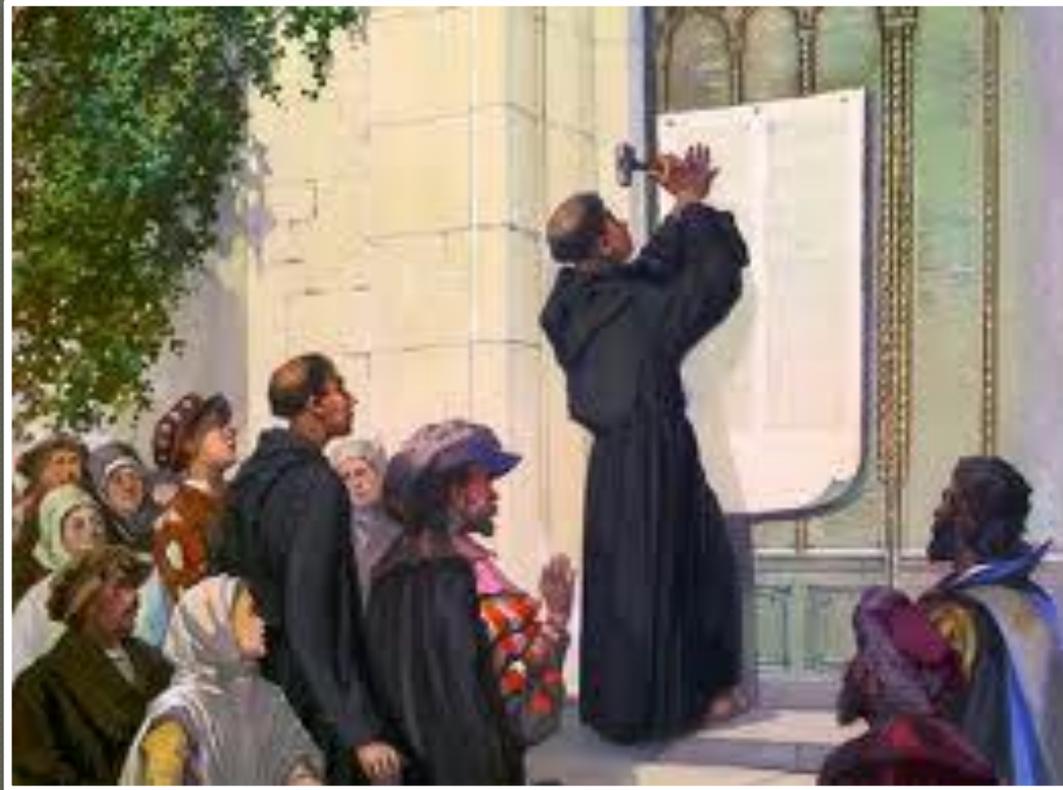
Johann Tetzel (1470-1519).



Indulgences for sale.



The 95 Theses.





The place where it happened!

The door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

Luther on trial at Heidelberg (April 1518).



Luther on trial at Augsburg (October 1518).



Before Cardinal
Cajetan.

The Leipzig Disputation (June-July 1519).



Pope Leo X (1513-21).

“Since God has given us the papacy, let us enjoy it.”



A Papal Bull:

- ◉ A decree issued by the pope,
- ◉ So called because of the seal at the end
- ◉ (“bulla” in Latin),
- ◉ They are always known by the first two words in Latin,
- ◉ On 15th June 1520 Pope Leo X issued the Bull “Exsurge Domine”,
- ◉ From “Arise O Lord and let your enemies be scattered ...”

Luther at Leipzig:

“A simple layman armed with Scripture is to be believed above a pope or a council without it. As for the pope’s decretal on indulgences I say that neither the Church nor the pope can establish articles of faith. These must come from Scripture. For the sake of Scripture we should reject pope and councils.”

King Charles I of Spain (1516-1556).



Also Holy Roman
Emperor Charles V,
(1519-56).

The Diet of Worms:

- ◉ An event that has given rise to much misunderstanding.
- ◉ In old German the word “Diet” means Parliament or Council.
- ◉ It is pronounced “Dee-ayt”.
- ◉ “Worms” is a city in the Rhineland.
- ◉ It is pronounced “Vorms”.
- ◉ William Tyndale produced his first New Testament there in 1526.

Luther at the Diet of Worms (1521).



Luther at Worms:

- “I am conquered by the holy Scriptures I have quoted, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not withdraw anything, since it is neither safe nor right to do anything against conscience. Here I stand. I can do nothing else. God help me. Amen.”



Frederick the Wise.

- Elector of Saxony.
- Luther's Prince & Protector.

The Wartburg Castle near Eisenach.



Luther was in
“exile”
here from
1521-1522.

The room where Luther translated his New Testament.





During his exile in the
Wartburg

Luther disguised himself as
“Junker Jorg”
(Sir George).

Five hundred years on!



Luther's shadow in Eisenach.





Katarina von Bora.

The former nun that Luther married to “spite the devil”.

Luther & his Family.



- A new development in Western Europe.
- The Protestant Minister and his Family.

The House Where he Died.



What was at stake in the Reformation?

Roman Catholicism & Evangelical Christianity give different answers to these questions:

1. What is a Christian?
2. What is the gospel?
3. What is the Church?
4. Where do we get the answers to these questions?

What was at stake in the Reformation (2).

Roman Catholicism is a system of belief where everything depends on “plus”:

1. Authority is founded on Scripture plus the tradition of the Church,
2. We are saved by faith plus our own works,
3. We are saved by grace plus our own merit,
4. We are saved by Christ plus our own faithfulness.

What was at stake in the Reformation (3):

Evangelical Christianity stands by the word “alone”:

1. We are saved by the grace of God alone,
2. By faith alone,
3. In Christ alone,
4. Revealed in the Scriptures alone.

(Luther’s NT added the word “alone” after “faith” in Romans 3:28 claiming it was “good German”.)

For our encouragement:

- ◉ See what God can do in the life of one man in the space of just ten years.
- ◉ What God could do then he can do today.
- ◉ Perhaps he is raising up someone even today to bring revival or reformation to his Church.