

The Life and Times of Martin Luther



- 1483** Luther is born in Eisleben on November 11 and is baptized the next day in Petri-Pauli Church.
- 1484** The family move to Mansfeld, where Luther attends Mansfeld City School.
- 1498** He moves to Eisenach, boards with the Cotta family, and studies at St. George's Latin School.
- 1501** Luther begins studies at the University of Erfurt, earning his Bachelor's and Master's degrees.
- 1505** He begins law school at Erfurt. Caught in a thunderstorm in Stotternheim on July 2, he calls out, "Help, St. Anne, I will become a monk!" He then withdraws from law school and enters the Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt on July 17.
- 1507** Luther is ordained as a priest in the Erfurt Cathedral on April 3 and performs his first mass in the Monastery Church on May 2.
- 1509** He begins studying theology at university, even as he lectures on moral philosophy.
- 1510** He travels to Rome (on foot!) on a mission for the Augustinian Order.
- 1511** Luther's superior Staupitz arranges for Frederick the Wise to pay for Luther's doctorate in Wittenberg.
- 1512** He earns his Doctor of Divinity degree and begins life as a professor of theology in Wittenberg.
- 1514** He becomes a preacher in Wittenberg's City Church.
- 1517** Luther denounces the sale of Indulgences, writing a letter of protest to his Augustinian superiors, along with the 95 Theses, on October 31.
- 1518** He meets with Cardinal Cajetan in St. Anna's Monastery in Augsburg from October 12-14, but refuses to abandon his criticism of the Roman Church.
- 1519** Luther debates papal authority with Johannes Eck in Duke George's Pleissenburg Castle, Leipzig.
- 1520** Luther publishes three important works, outlining his new theology on the priesthood of all believers, biblical authority, the sacraments, and the need for reform of the Roman Church. He publicly burns the papal bull denouncing his teaching on December 10 in front of the Elster Gate in Wittenberg.
- 1521** Pope Leo X excommunicates Luther on January 3. In April, Emperor Charles V summons him to Worms for the Imperial Diet, where he refuses to recant his writings. Frederick the Wise of Saxony has Luther kidnapped on May 4, in order to hide him in the abandoned Wartburg Castle under the name Knight George. While in hiding, Luther translates the New Testament into everyday German. On May 8, he is condemned and declared a heretic and an outlaw.
- 1522** Luther returns to Wittenberg and begins to implement his reformation of the church.
- 1525** Martin Luther marries the former nun Katharina von Bora on June 13. They have 6 children.
- 1529** Luther meets with Swiss Reformer Ulrich Zwingli in Marburg to discuss the Eucharist's meaning.
- 1530** With Luther hiding at Fortress Coburg, Lutheran princes protest against Catholic pressure from the German Emperor, reading out the Augsburg Confession at the Imperial Diet on June 25.
- 1546** After suffering with ill health, Luther passes away while in Eisleben, on February 18. He is buried beneath the pulpit in Castle Church in Wittenberg on February 22.



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