

Martin Luther **and the Reformation**

Introduction: Post Tenebras Lux
After Darkness, Light

- I. God's Calling on Luther's Life
 - A. Born in 1483 - Eisleben, Saxony
 1. His father was a copper miner
 2. Became an owner of several mines
 3. His dream for Martin was that he would become a lawyer
 - B. Crisis
 1. Caught in a severe thunderstorm
 2. Promised St. Anne that if he lives he would join a monastery
 3. Joins the Augustinian Order in Erfurt
 4. He is soon recognized as an outstanding scholar and excellent preacher
 5. Would spend hours (at times) confessing his sins
- II. Disillusionment
 - A. Terrified by God, viewed him as a severe judge
 - B. While performing the Mass for the first time he "froze up" and could not complete the Mass
 - C. Pilgrimage to Rome
 1. Highly anticipated journey to Rome
 2. As a holy site, Rome contained many relics
 3. Luther was appalled at what he found in Rome
 - a. Corruption
 - b. Sexual immorality among the clergy
 - c. Priests performing 5 or 6 Masses per hour - collecting fees
 4. Sacred Steps (Scala Sancta)
 - a. 28 white marble steps
 - b. Brought from Jerusalem by crusaders
 - c. The steps Jesus climbed as he came before Pilate
 - d. A focal point for Indulgences
- III. Luther's Tower Experience
 - A. Frederick the Wise aspired to make the city of Wittenberg an intellectual/spiritual center
 - B. Recruits Young Scholars to Teach at the University
 1. Luther was foremost among them
 2. He was made professor of Bible
 3. 1513 - Luther begins a lengthy series of lectures on the Psalms
 - C. 1515 - Lectures through the Book of Romans
 1. Romans 1:16-17 proved to be transformational to Luther
 2. Realized it's not a Righteousness we may obtain, but freely received through faith, alone
- IV. Indulgence Controversy
 - A. The Building of St. Peter's Basilica
 1. Initiated by Pope Julius II - the "warrior" Pope. He dies in 1513
 2. Pope Leo X - Sought to carry on the work, but due to corruption, mismanagement, no progress was made
 3. Leo and Albert of Brandenburg make a deal
 4. Money would be raised primarily through the sale of Indulgences

B. How Indulgences Worked

1. The pope, as successor to Peter, held the keys of the kingdom
2. Held the key to the Treasury of Merit
3. An Indulgence would be granted by the pope which would lessen (partial) time in purgatory or grant complete forgiveness so the recipient would go directly to heaven (Plenary)

C. The Controversy

1. Johann Tetzel - Dominican Preacher
 - a. Specialized in selling indulgences
 - b. "Every time a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs"
2. Luther Produces his 95 Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences (see copy)
 - a. Written in Latin, meant for professors
 - b. On October 31, 1517 - Luther nails them to the church door at Wittenburg (Bulletin Board)
 - c. Students translated them into German - made and distributed thousands of copies
 - d. The controversy becomes very public

V. The Diet of Worms

A. Three Important Meetings Leading Up to Worms

1. 1518 - Heidelberg Disputation
 - a. Dispute between Augustinians and the Dominicans
 - b. Theology of Glory vs. Theology of the Cross
2. 1518 - Augsburg Disputation
 - a. Luther meets with Cardinal Cajetan (Foremost Theologian)
 - b. Instead of open discussion/debate, Cajetan insists that Luther recant/repent and promise to never teach these things again
 - c. Cajetan noted that in 1300 the pope authorized indulgences and in 1343 another pope developed the Treasury of Merit
 - d. Luther appealed to Scripture, stating these were not taught in the Bible and that popes could err
3. 1519 - Leipzig Disputation
 - a. Luther debates John Eck
 - b. Eck argued for the authority of church councils (among other things)
 - c. Luther appeals once again to the authority of Scripture over tradition (Sola Scriptura)

B. The Diet of Worms

1. 1520 - Leo X issues a Papal Bull (Edict)
2. Luther burns the Papal Bull
3. 1521 - Diet of Worms (Imperial Council)
 - a. Trial regarding Luther's writings/theology
 - b. It was demanded of him that he recant his writings
 - c. Asks for 24 hours in order to pray about the matter - it's granted to him
 - d. The next day when asked to recant, Luther responded:
"Unless I'm refuted and convicted by the testimonies of scripture or by clear reason - Since I believe neither the popes nor the councils by themselves, for it is clear that they have often erred and contradicted themselves - 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 one's conscience, Here I stand. God help me. Amen."