

THE PROTESTANT Reformation

TIMELINE



The Morning Star of the Reformation

- **John Wycliffe (c. 1330-1384)** was a professor of divinity at Oxford
- Carried a burden to teach the Word of God
- **Pushed against** the control that the papal Christian church and its traditions—such as **saint worship, transubstantiation, and pilgrimages**—had over the people
- **Translated the Bible by hand** from Latin to English, finishing the project in 1380

Wycliffe's Teachings Spread

- Followers were deemed heretics and were mockingly called "Lollards" by the religious leaders of the day, a Dutch term meaning "mumblers" that had been used to refer to other heretical groups in the past
- Wycliffe's teachings continued to spread after his death, eventually reaching Bohemia (present-day Czech Republic) in 1400 and impacting people like **Jan Hus and Jerome**
- Jan Hus was:
 - from Prague
 - a priest, university professor, and preacher
 - burned at the stake in 1415



Martin Luther's Epiphany

- **Martin Luther** was an Augustinian monk who hoped to appease God's supposed wrath and earn salvation through rituals, ceremonies, self-denial, and even forms of self-abuse
- Went on to become a professor at the University of Wittenberg and pursued his master's in divinity
- Could read the Bible in Latin, and one day he came across Romans 1:7: "**The just shall live by faith.**"
- Went on a pilgrimage to Rome and was disappointed with the corruption and lack of spirituality among church leaders there
 - As he was going up the famed Pilate's Staircase on his knees to earn an indulgence promised by the pope, he remembered Romans 1:7 and realized the futility of this endeavor
 - He recognized that **salvation was freely given to him by a loving God and all he had to do was receive it in faith**

The Ninety-Five Theses

- Luther **opposed the selling of indulgences** and refused to accept them from his congregation
- On November 1, 1517, All Saints Day, crowds were expected in Wittenberg to tour the newly built castle church and see its relics
- Luther **wrote out 95 arguments—or theses—against indulgences and corruption within the church**, nailing them to the door of the Wittenberg Church on October 31, 1517
- In 1521, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, called a special meeting—the Diet of Worms (pronounced Dee-et of Vorms)—to discuss Luther's teachings
- At this meeting, Luther was asked to give up his teachings, which **he refused to do**



The Spread of the Reformation Movement

- Because of the printing press, Luther was able to publish tracts and pamphlets, circulating the principles of salvation by faith in Christ more easily
- The Reformation was in full swing in other countries in Europe with the efforts of individuals like:
 - **Huldrych Zwingli**, a leader in the Swiss Reformation
 - **John Calvin**, a leader in the French Reformation
 - **John Knox** in Scotland
 - **William Tyndale** in England
 - **Laurentius and Olaf Petri** in Sweden
 - **Hans Tausen** in Denmark
- Reformers received opposition, and as a result, were forced to separate from the official church and form their own groups
- These later became some of the denominations we know today (**Lutherans, Calvinists, Presbyterians, etc.**)
- A counter-reformation by the church at large denounced the reformers as heretics and sought to oppose their teachings
- Even the Reformers themselves sometimes missed the mark and failed to see their own blind spots
- Anabaptists, who believed in baptism by immersion, were persecuted not only by the official church but also by other Protestants
- Puritans boarded the Mayflower for the Americas to flee the control of the Protestant Church of England and be able to serve God according to conscience
- **The restoration of truth in the Protestant Reformation was a journey that progressed over time**

1 **Sola Scriptura**—Scripture alone

2 **Sola fide**—faith alone

3 **Sola gratia**—grace alone

4 **Solus Christus**—Christ alone

5 **Soli Deo gloria**—glory to God alone

5 PRINCIPLES OF
THE PROTESTANT
Reformation