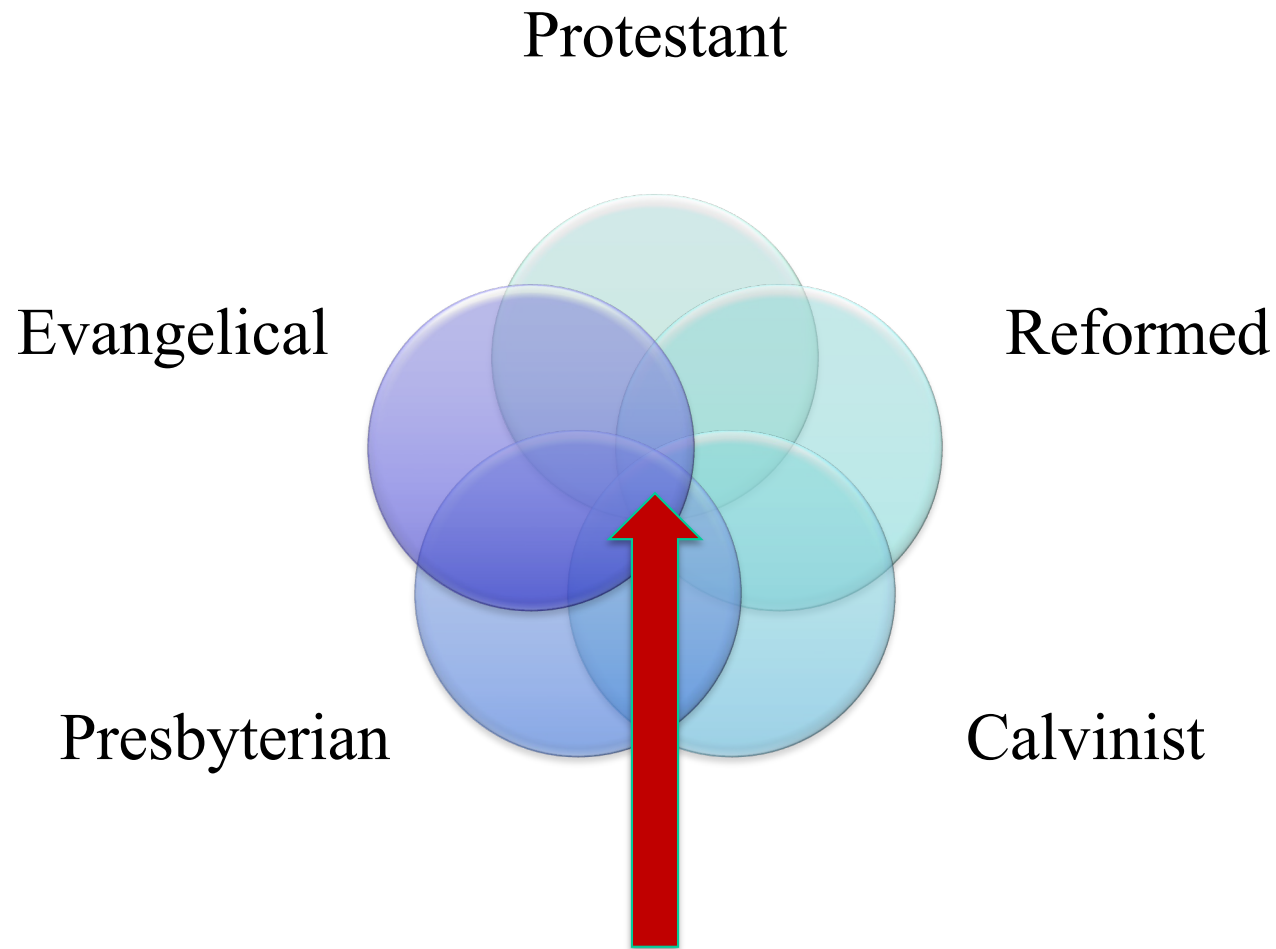


What It Means to be: *Protestant* **Part 1**

Luther: German Reformation,
Part 1

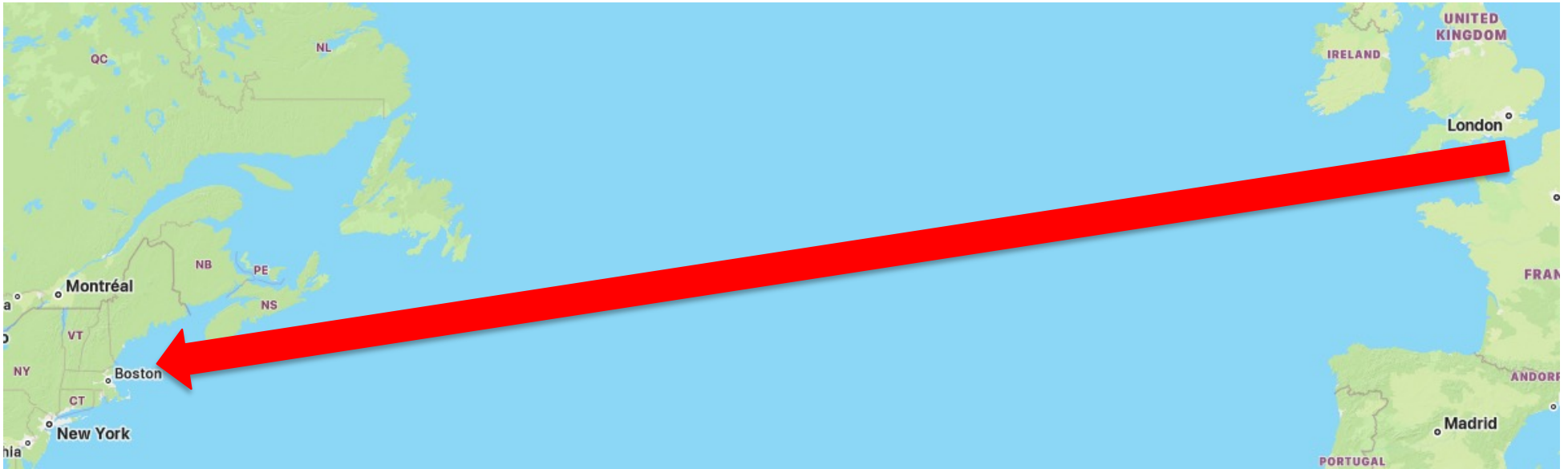
Bill Petro
your Friendly Neighborhood Historian

Village Seven Presbyterian is:





1620



1600s

- Pilgrims / Puritans (Calvinists)

1700s

- Great Awakening (Evangelicalism)
- Enlightenment (Rationalism)
- Founding Fathers (Evangelical & Rational.)

Luther: billpetro.com/martin-luther

Christmas: billpetro.com/christmas

Class Slides and Recordings:

billpetro.com/compass

Presentations and recordings for the **Compass Community** at [Village Seven Presbyterian Church](#)
for: Winter 2025 -Spring 2026, by [Bill Petro](#)

Updated 12/09/25

 Signifies lesson *audio recording*

• Links to articles for *further reading*

	DATE	TITLE	PDF LINK
Village Seven Presbyterian is: 	Dec 7	1. Introduction to Reformation History  Dec-7_Intro • Rome • Florence • Renaissance Art	Introduction
	Dec 14	2. What Does it Mean to be <i>Protestant</i>: German Reformation, Part 1  Dec-14_Luther-1 • Martin Luther • Faith in a Time of Plague	Luther, 1
	Dec 21	3. What Does it Mean to be <i>Protestant</i>: German Reformation, Part 2  Dec-21_Luther-2 • Life of Luther Series • Protestant	Luther, 2
	<i>Dec 28</i>	<i>Post-Christmas Week, no classes</i>	No Lesson

Recordings

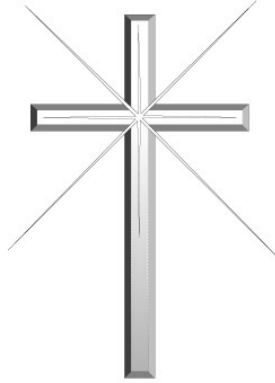
- Signifies lesson *audio recording*
- Links to articles for *further reading*

Slides

	DATE	TITLE	PDF LINK
Village Seven Presbyterian is: 	Dec 7	Introduction to Reformation History  Dec-7_Intro - Rome - Florence - Renaissance Art	Introduction

Related
Articles

The Divisions of History



ANCIENT

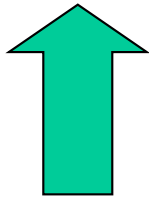
MEDIEVAL

Modern

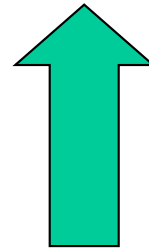
Postmodern



Theological Definition

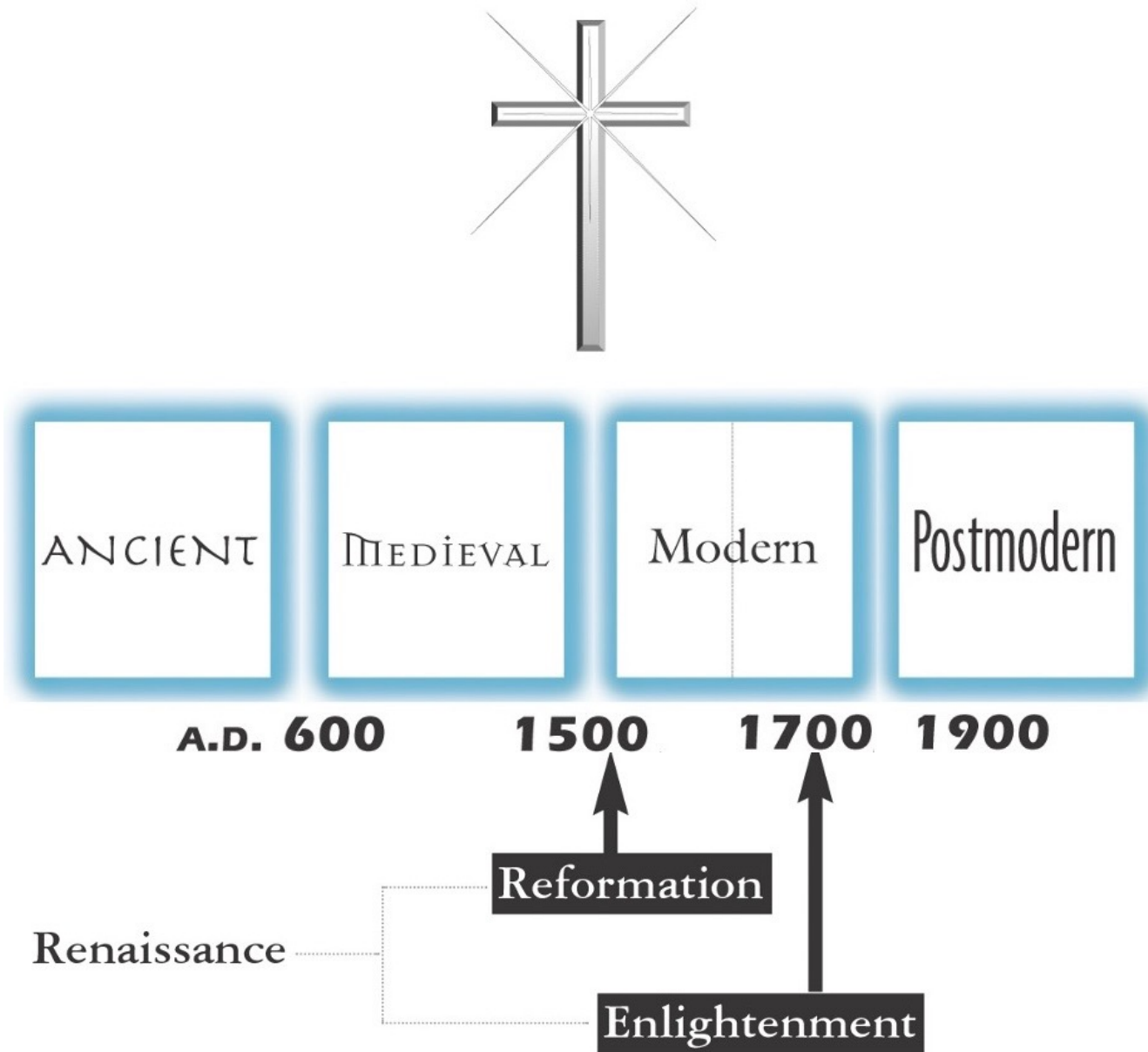


Theological Darkness

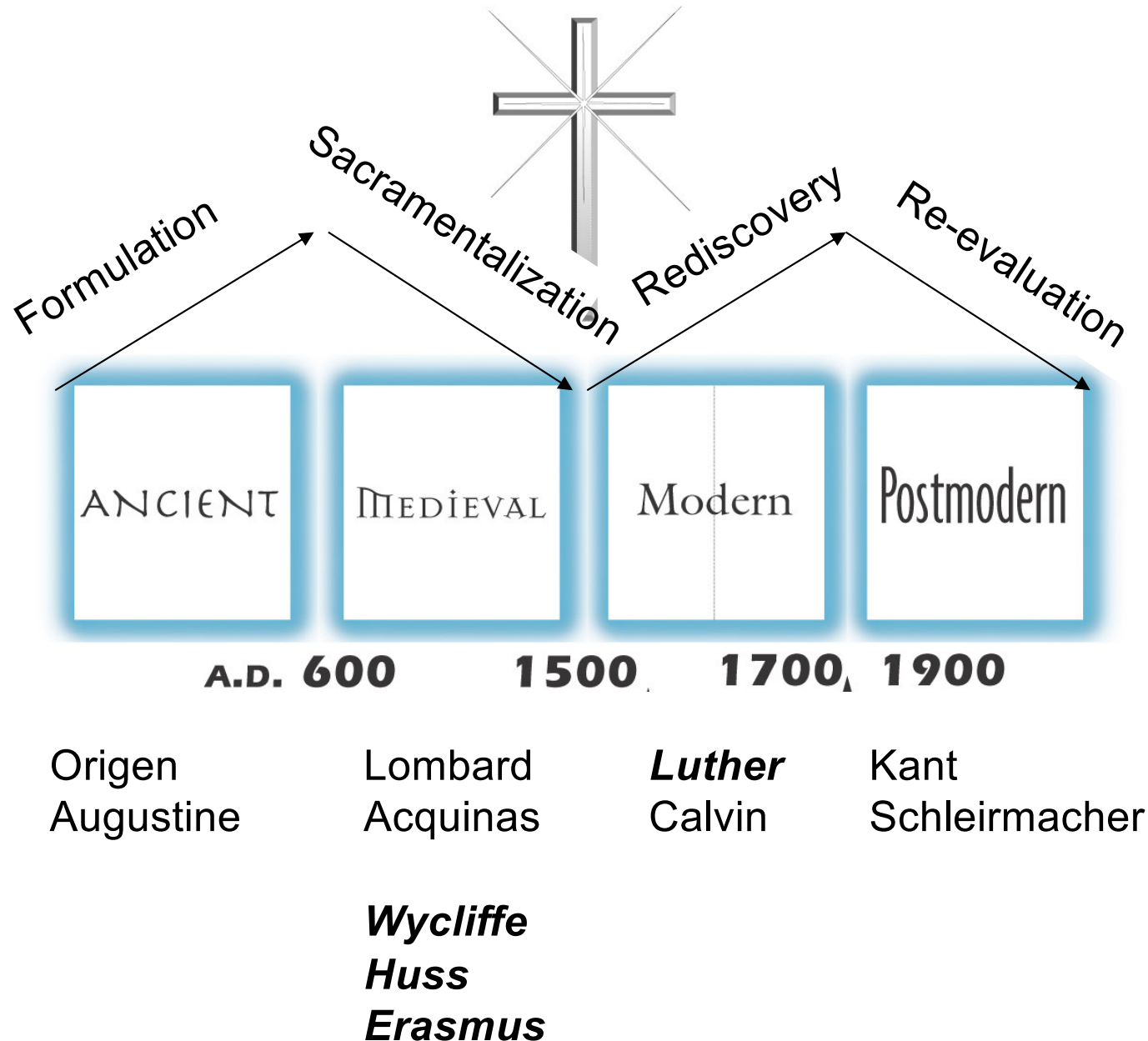


Theological Reformation

The Divisions of History

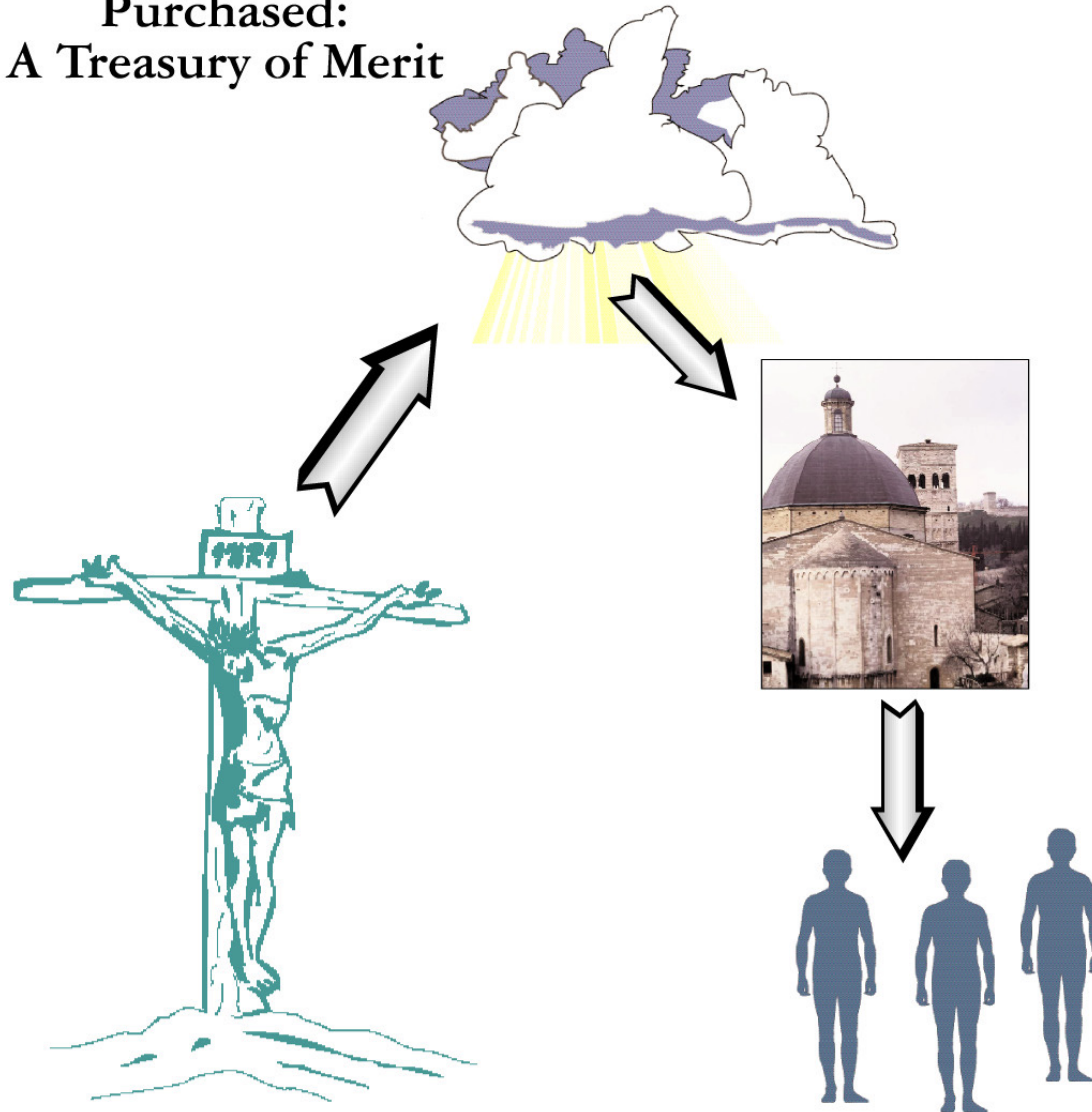


The Divisions of History



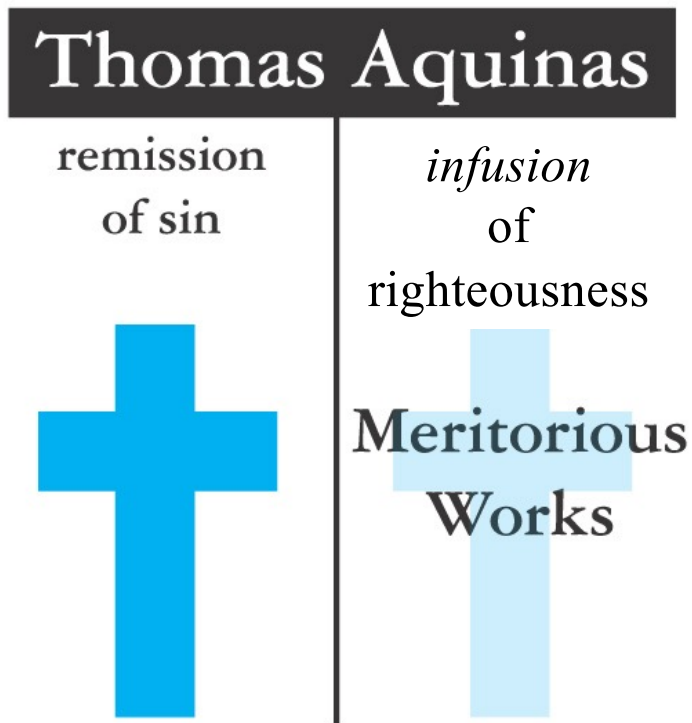
The Accomplishments of Christ: A Treasury of Merit

Purchased:
A Treasury of Merit



Thomas Aquinas and the Reformers:

Views of Justification Compared



Thomas Aquinas and the Reformers:

Views of Justification Compared

Thomas Aquinas		Reformers	
remission of sin	<i>infusion</i> of righteousness	remission of sin	imputation of righteousness
			

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, *you* should be able to:

- Identify key **proto-Reformers**
- List key events & people in **Luther's** *early* life
- Describe early aspects of Luther's **teachings**.

John Wycliffe:

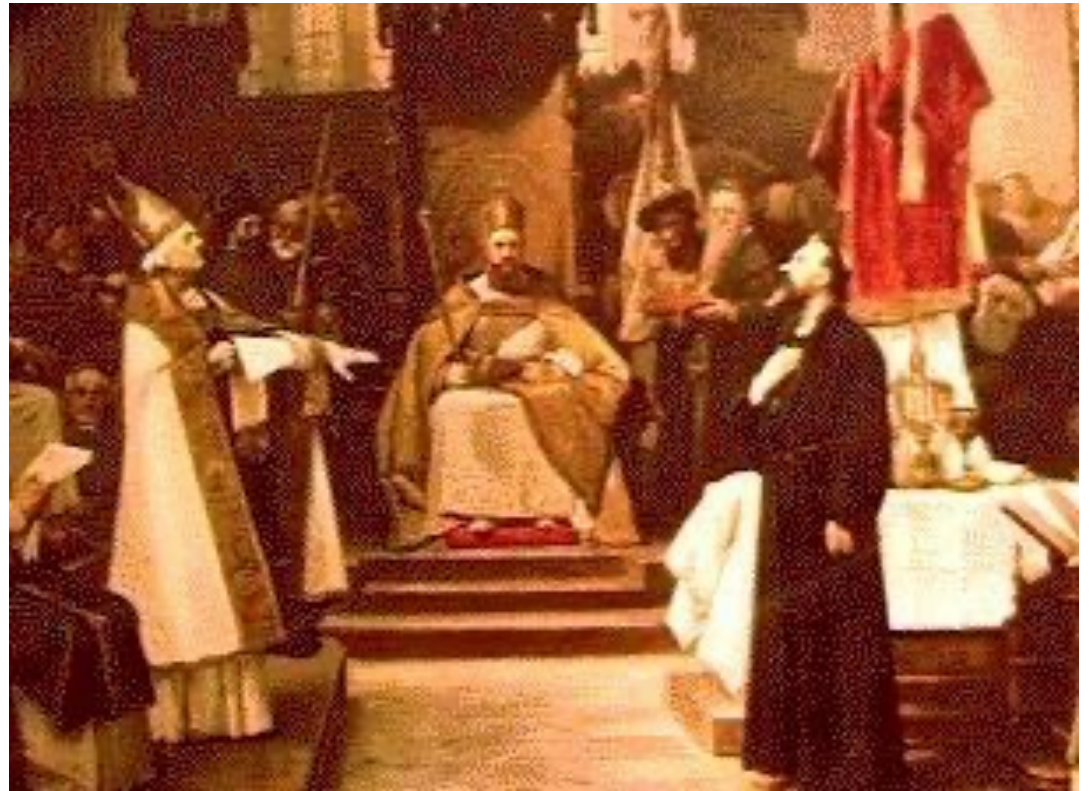
“Morning Star of the Reformation”

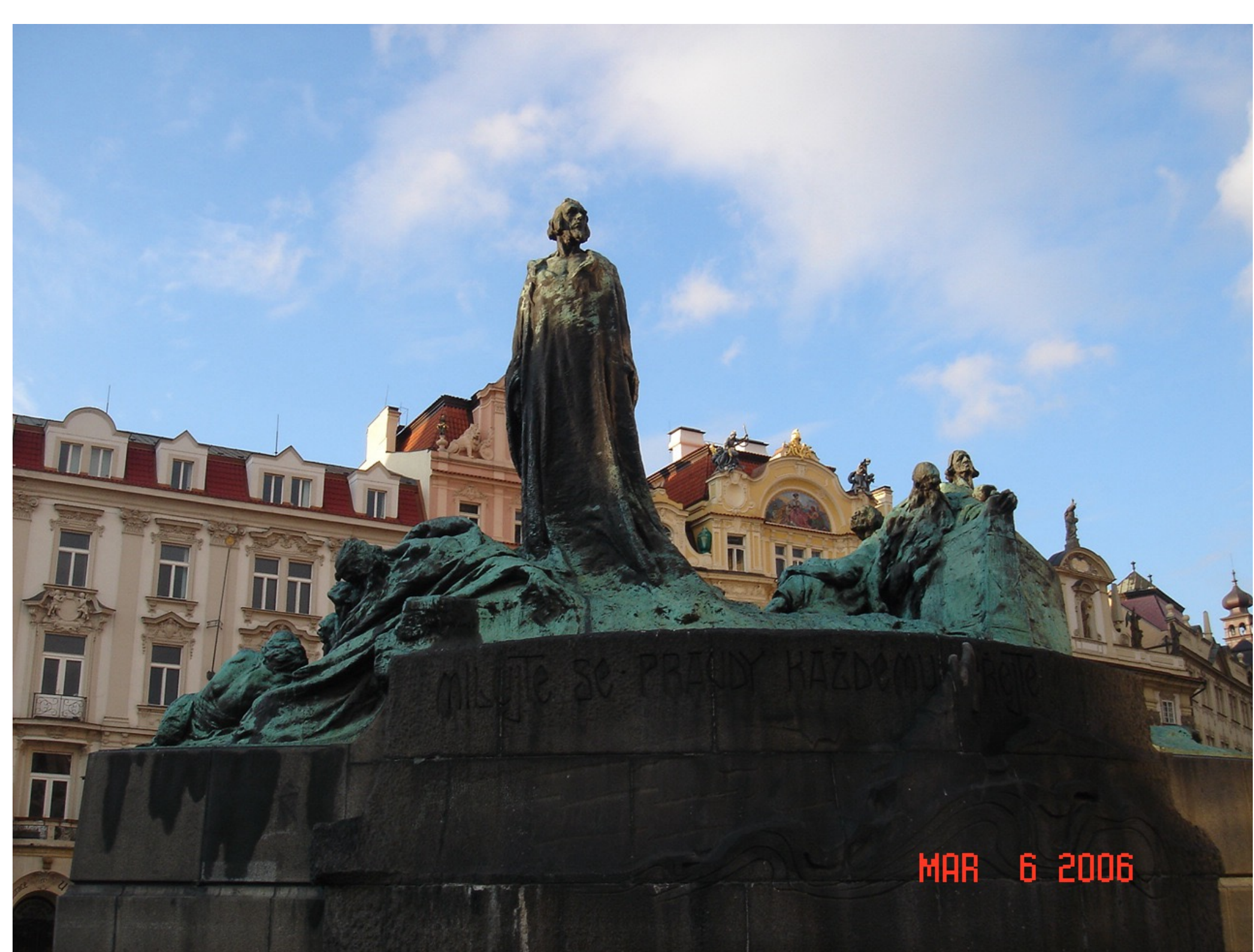
- 1324-1384
- Oxford professor
- Primacy of **Scripture** and **Christ** - over the *Pope*
- Translated first English Bible
 - From Latin Vulgate, 1382
 - 58 years before Gutenberg
- Attacked transubstantiation
- Condemned:
 - Dogma of purgatory
 - Use of relics
 - Pilgrimages
 - Confession
 - Indulgences.



John Huss (Jan Hus)

- 1369 - 1415
- Dean of Philosophy, University of Prague
- Translated **Wycliffe** into Czech (Bohemia)
- “*Jesus is only Pontiff*”
- Appeared before Council under safe conduct of **Emperor Sigismund**
- July 1415, burned at stake, *guilty* of over 30 charges
- “Today, you are burning a goose...”





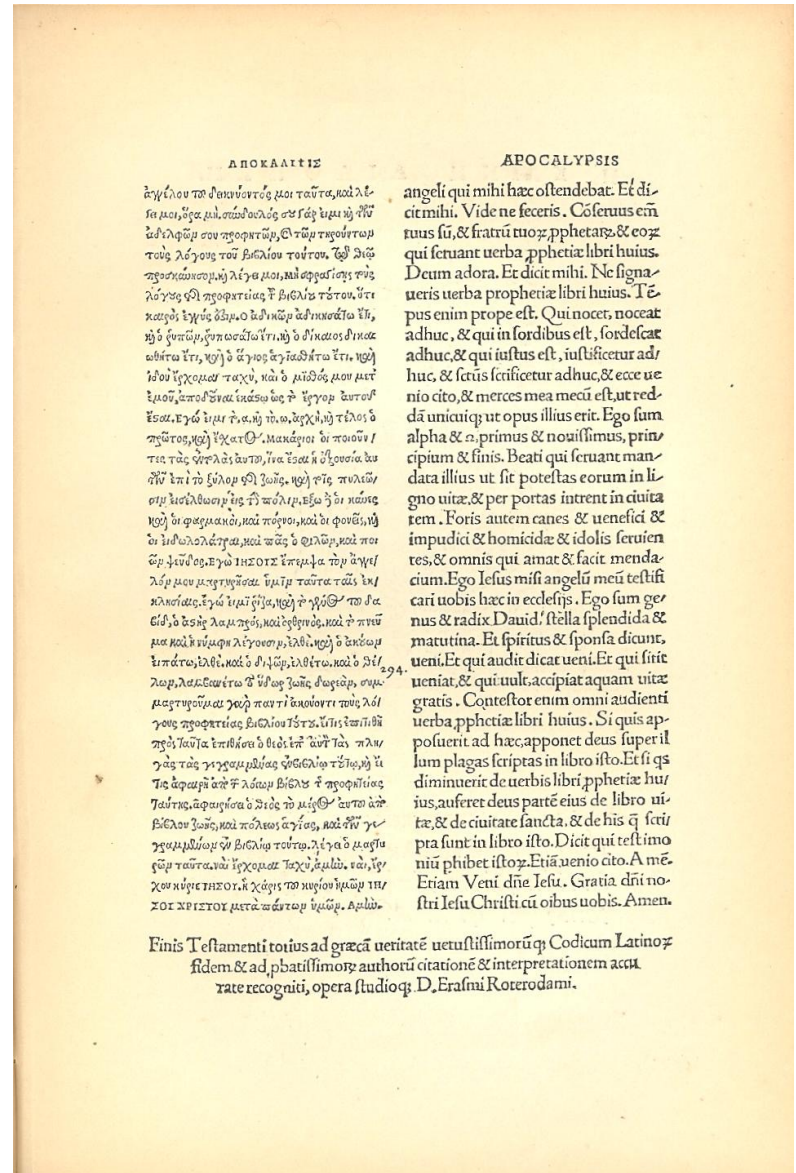
Desiderius Erasmus

- 1466-1536
- Greatest of all Renaissance Humanists
- *In Praise of Folly*
 - Satire on priests, blind leading blind
 - Superstition of indulgences
- *Freedom of the Will*
- Greek NT, 1516.



Question:

- In what language was the New Testament *originally* written?



Finis Testamenti totius ad græcā ueritatē uetustissimorūq; Codicum Latinoꝝ fidem & ad pbatissimorū authorū citationē & interpretationem accuratè recogniti, opera studioq; D. Erasmi Rotterodami.

Question:

- In what language was the *Medieval Bible* written?

(Hint: think *Rome*)



The Latin Vulgate:

The Need for New Translations

Matthew 4:17 and Penance

do penance (outward practice)

repent (inward psychological state)

Luke 1:28 and Mary

grata plena (full of grace, or favored one)

Ephesians 5:31–32 and Marriage

sacramentum (sacrament)

mysterion (mystery)

Luther: Born in Eisleben

- Eisleben, Germany, on November 10, 1483
- *“In this house Dr. Martin Luther was born, the 10th of November 1483.*

*God's Word is Luther's lore;
which abides for evermore.”*



Baptistery:

In Saints
Peter and
Paul Church





Nativity with Miners and a Lamp



Mary, Jesus, and St. Anne

Luther: Early Childhood in Mansfeld

- **Father** found work in local copper mines
 - Owner/part-owner of several mines & smelters
 - Member of City Council
- **Martin** begins Latin school in 1491
- Lived here 1484-1496.



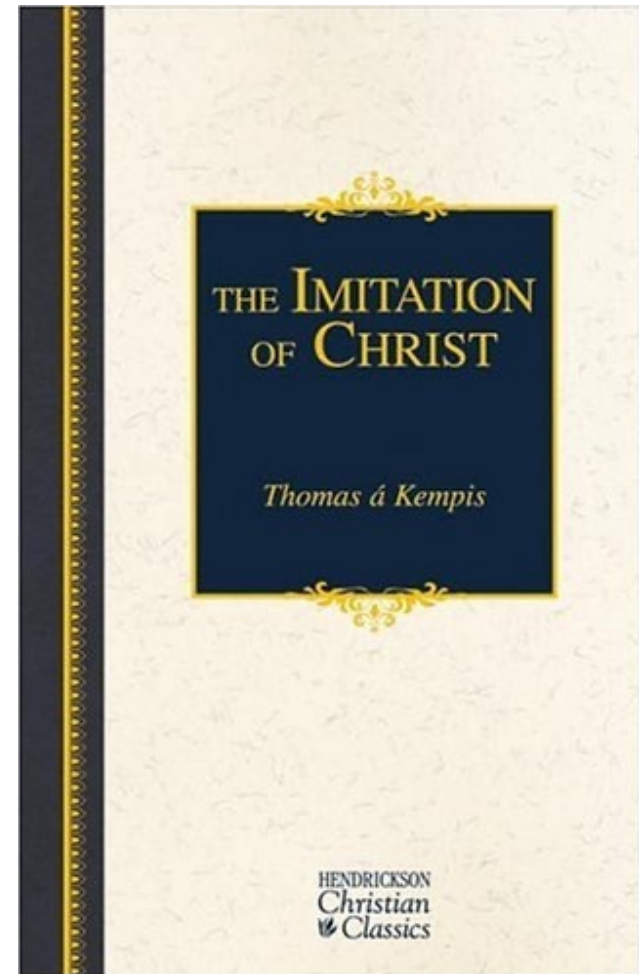
Hans and Margaretha *Luder*

- *Hans*: line of peasants
- *Hannah*: line of middleclass “professionals”
- Family rose to middleclass
- “A free peasant is nobody’s slave”
- *small, short, and swarthy*
- Harsh.



Luther: Boarding school in Magdeburg

- 1497, age 13
- Brethren of the Common Life
 - “*Imitation of Christ.*”



Luther: Grew up in Eisenach

- Sang for his supper
 - “*Bread in God’s name*”
- Loved the Lute!
- Good student.



Luther: School in Eisenach

- 1498, age 14
- Parish school of St. George
- Stays with relatives, later Heinrich Schalbe, classmate's father.



Luther: University of Erfurt

- 1501, age 17 or 18
- 1502: BA
- 1505: MA
- Begins to Study Law
- Father buys him *Corpus Iuris* books.



Thunderstorm Incident

- July 2, 1505
- Returning from parent's home to school in Erfurt
- *"St. Anne Help me!
I will become a monk."*





Augustinian Monastery, Erfurt

AUGUSTINER KLOSTER



Gate to Cloister

Luther: Monk

- July 17, 1505
- In monastery for 6 years
- Augustinian Hermits
- July 1506 (22) takes vows
- 1507 studies theology.

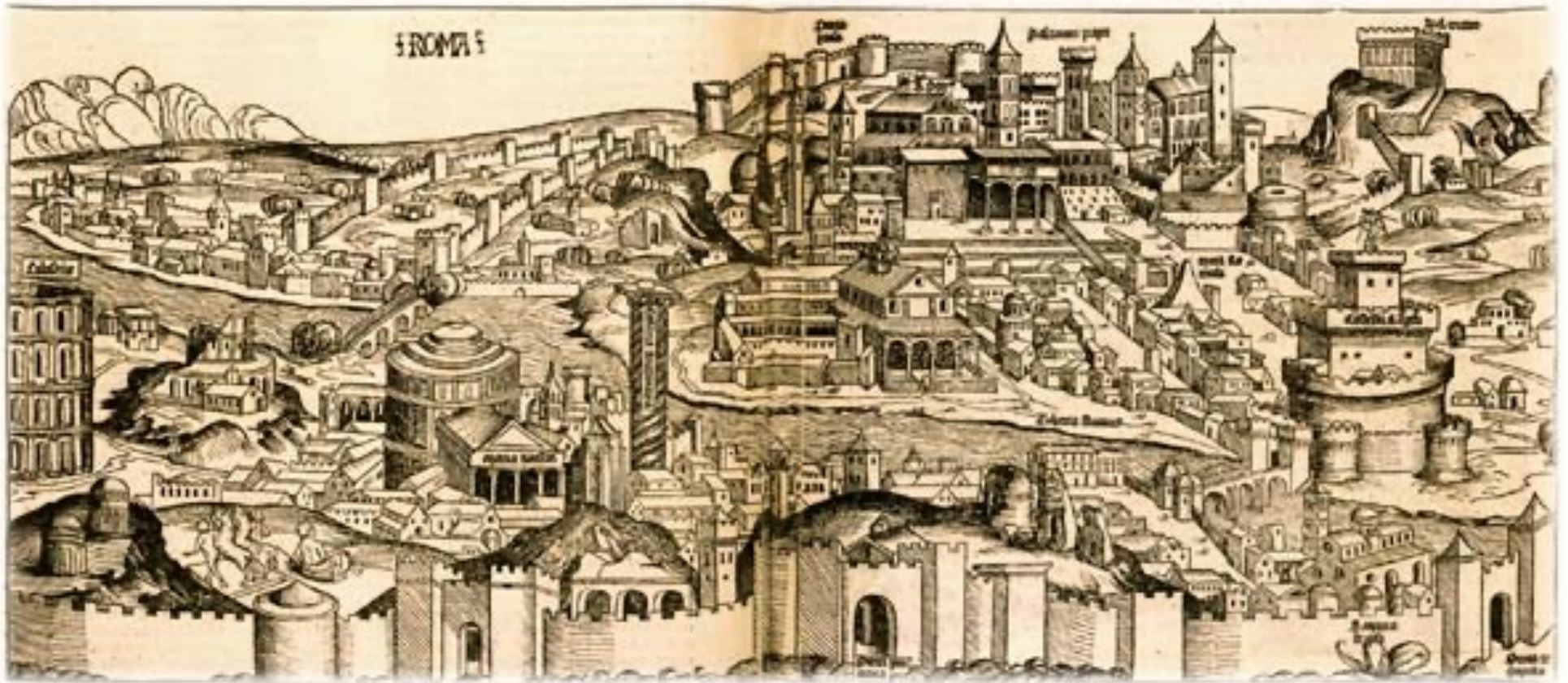


May 2, 1507, 1st Mass

St. Severus, Erfurt



Rome



Luther in Rome

1510 - Stayed at:
Convent of St. Maria del Popolo

Augustinian monastery: famous
pilgrimage church that was the favorite of
the reigning Pope

40-minute walk to St. Peter's



Scala Sancta

Climbing the *Scala Sancta* painfully on his knees among the retinue of pilgrims, and struck as with a flash by these words of St. Paul:

The just by faith shall live



Luther: Professor

- October 19, 1512 –
Doctorate, age 29
- Psalms: 1513-14
- Romans: 1515-16
- Galatians: 1516-17
- Hebrews: 1517-18



Luther: Conversion

- May 1515: Wittenberg Monastery: Tower



Born Again - Romans 1:17

- “*In it the righteousness of God is revealed,*” that had stood in my way. For I hated that word “**righteousness of God**,” which, according to the use and custom of all the teachers, I had been taught to understand philosophically regarding the formal or *active righteousness*, as they call it, with which God is righteous and punishes the unrighteous sinner.
- “In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, ‘He who *through faith is righteous* shall live.’” There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith.

John Tetzel

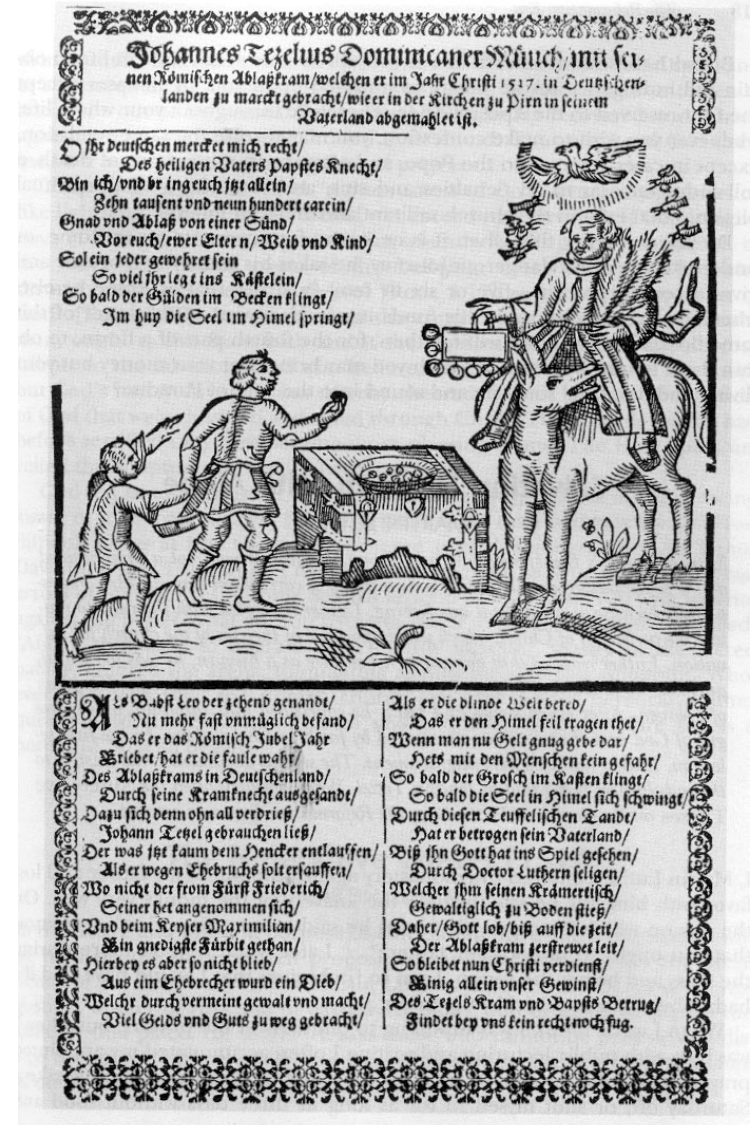
- 1465-1519
- Dominican doctor
- Grand Commissioner
for indulgences
in Germany



*“As soon as the gold in the casket rings
The rescued soul to heaven springs.”*

Indulgences

- Freed the holder from the temporal penalty of sin
- Popular since the Crusades



Wittenberg Door

- October 31, 1517



Luther: Against Indulgences

- 1517, by John Tetzel
- Luther writes: *Disputation of Doctor Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences*



Pope's Excommunication Threat

- June 15, 1520
- Pope Leo X
- *Exurge Domine*
- “*Arise, Lord, and defend thine own vineyard against the wild beast that is devouring it.*”
- Luther has 60 days to recant
- Luther's books are burned.



Luther burns *Exurge Domine*



1-Word Summary

- Catholic Church Merit
- Luther Justification

