

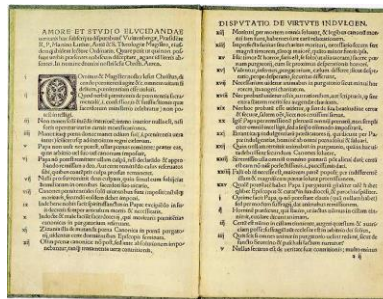
The Protestant Reformation

Among those who made use of Erasmus' Greek New Testament bible was a German monk and teacher, Martin Luther. Luther's study of the bible had led him to question some teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Luther did not believe that the pope in Rome was the head of the Church. Luther only followed the Bible. He insisted that the Bible provided all the guidance people needed to live a Christian life. Luther wanted the Bible to be available to all people so he translated the Bible into German, a language for his common people.



Martin Luther

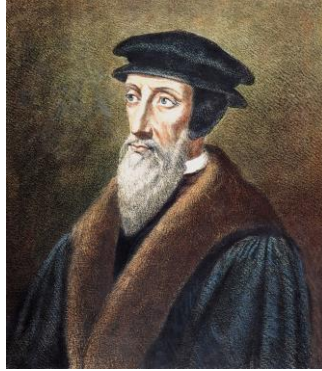
During the Renaissance, the Roman Catholic Church faced serious problems. Popes fought wars for power and land; they lived a rich lifestyle and acted like kings instead of G-d's representatives on Earth. The Church increased its fees for religious services such as marriages and baptism. In addition it also sold **indulgences**. An indulgence forgave a person for his or her sins and allowed entrance into heaven. In the 1500's many Christians wanted to reform the Catholic Church, including Martin Luther. In protest to the sale of indulgences he wrote down 95 arguments against their sale. The arguments are known as the **Ninety-Five Theses**.



Copy of the original 95 Theses

Once completed Luther nailed his works to the large oak doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany in plain sight for all to see. Because of his radical views and actions Luther was excommunicated in 1521. He was declared an outlaw when he would not retract (take back) his teachings. He had become a leader of the **Reformation**, a movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church. The movement eventually led to the establishment of new churches. Followers of Luther's ideas soon began widespread protests against the pope and the Church and known as **Protestants**. Luther began the **Protestant Reformation** and his followers set up the **Lutheran Church**.

John Calvin was another important reformer. Like Luther, Calvin believed that Christians could reach heaven only through faith in G-d. Calvin also believed that people were born sinners. He preached predestination, the idea that G-d decided long ago who should go to heaven. His followers lived strict, disciplined lives. **Calvinism** soon spread across Europe into Germany, France Scotland and England.



John Calvin

Martin Luther	John Calvin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not believe in the sale of indulgences • Followers called themselves Protestants • Believed Christians reached heaven only through faith in G-d • Did not believe priests had special powers • Ideas spread to Northern Germany and Scandinavia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believed Christians reached heaven only through faith in G-d • Believed people were born sinners • Preached predestination • Ideas spread to Germany, France, Holland, England and Scotland • Led a community in Switzerland • Created Reformed, Presbyterian, Congregationalist and Reformed Baptist Churches.

Western European Protestant Reform Movements

France	Huguenots
Germany	Lutherans
Switzerland	Calvinists, Anabaptists (Amish)
Netherlands	Mennonites
England	Church of England (Episcopalian) Anglican Puritan
Scotland	Presbyterian
Italy	Waldensians