

SOME IMPORTANT DATES IN CHURCH HISTORY

REFORMATION DATES:

- 1370s – 1380s John Wycliffe sets the stage for the Reformation when he writes several documents that attack the authority of the pope and point to the authority of Scripture; develops the first English translation of the Bible
- 1415 Jan Hus condemned to death as a heretic for promoting the idea that Scripture, not the pope, is the ultimate authority; In July 1415, he was stripped naked, adorned with a dunce hat painted with devils and labeled “Arch-Heretic” — all as he prayed for his enemies. Wycliffe, who had died in 1384, is also declared a heretic. His remains are dug up, burned and dumped in the River Swift.
- 1440 Printing press invented
- 1505 Martin Luther attending law school
- 1510 Luther travels from Germany to Rome and sees it as a pilgrimage – maybe he could find or earn peace with God; what he witnessed was vast corruption
- 1515 Luther now a Doctor of Theology at Wittenberg
- 1516–17 Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar and papal commissioner for indulgences, was sent to Germany to raise money to rebuild St Peter's Basilica in Rome
- October 31, 1517 Reformation Day; nailed the 95 Theses to the church door; Luther wrote to Albrecht, Archbishop of Mainz and Magdeburg, protesting against the sale of indulgences. He enclosed in his letter a copy of his "Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," which came to be known as *The 95 Theses*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninety-five_Theses
- 1519 At a public debate in Leipzig in 1519, when Luther declared that "a simple layman armed with the Scriptures" was superior to both pope and councils without them, he was threatened with excommunication.
- 1519-1520 Luther replied to the threat with his three most important treatises: The Address to the Christian Nobility, The Babylonian Captivity of the Church, and On the Freedom of a Christian. In the first, he argued that all Christians were priests, and he urged rulers to take up the cause of church reform. In the second, he reduced the seven sacraments to two (baptism and the Lord's Supper). In the third, he told Christians they were free from the law (especially church laws) but bound in love to their neighbors.
- June 15, 1520 Pope Leo X issues Papal Bull threatening ex communication if Luther would not recant

Dec 10, 1520	Luther burned the Papal Bull
1521	Holy Roman Emperor Charles V presides over the Diet of Worms; Luther summoned and ordered to recant his writings; refuses to recant and makes the speech on April 18; charged as a heretic and excommunicated on May 26
1521	Luther hides out in a castle provided by Prince Frederick III, Elector of Saxony; during this time Luther translates the Bible to German He protected Martin Luther from the Pope's enforcement of the edict by faking a highway attack on Luther's way back to Wittenberg, abducting and then hiding him at Wartburg Castle following the Diet of Worms.
1523	Helped nine nuns escape from a monastery in Catholic-controlled area and married one of them (Katharina von Bora) and they had six children
1524-1525	German Peasants' Revolt occurred where, stirred on by the reformation, the peasants rose up against aristocracy; estimates of 100,000-300,000 were slaughtered
Oct 1529	William Tyndale develops English translation of Bible and has published Marburg Colloquy; The Marburg Colloquy was a meeting at Marburg Castle, Marburg , Hesse , Germany which attempted to solve a <u>disputation</u> between Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli over the <u>Real Presence</u> of Christ in the <u>Lord's Supper</u> . Resulted in split of Lutherans and Reformed Churches.
1522-1546	Luther published about 130 books and preached thousands of sermons
1536	William Tyndale condemned as a heretic for preaching salvation by grace through faith, for his English Bible, and for speaking against the authority of the pope. Tyndale is strangled and burned at the stake.
1543	Perhaps the darkest point in Luther's life when he published a book deemed to be anti-Jewish questioning why the Jews could not see Jesus as the Messiah
Feb 18, 1546	Martin Luther dies
1546	Holy Roman Emperor Charles V attacks Wittenberg and destroys the farm that Luther had left his wife

1545 – 1563

Council of Trent is convened

The importance of the Council of Trent lies in its being two things at the same time: 1) the heart and soul of the Catholic Reformation (the authentic reform of the Church); and 2) the definitive moment of the Counter Reformation (the reaction against the Protestant Revolt) “By almost universal agreement, the counter-attack of the Church to the movement that is known as the Protestant Reformation begins seriously with the Council of Trent.”

The primary purpose of the council was to condemn and refute the beliefs of the Protestants, such as Martin Luther and John Calvin, and also to make the set of beliefs in Catholicism even clearer.

- Some reforms related to corruption and misuse of indulgences.

- But clearly stated that authority rests with the Church, Pope and Councils
- The Apocrypha was Sacred Scripture.
- Tradition is equal with Scripture.
- Confirmed Purgatory as Church teaching.

OTHER DATES OF IMPORTANCE:

400 BC	End of prophetic revelation; What we consider to be Old testament times; Begins the Intertestamental time period;
400 BC – 0	Intertestamental period; other Jewish books are written; including books of the Apocrypha
200BC - 0	Septuagint was written; translated Hebrew books into Greek Included Greek translation of Apocryphal or Deuterocanonical books (at least some of them)
382 – 405 AD	Jerome translated the Latin Vulgate from the Septuagint; Jerome actually included the Deuterocanonical books but included notes to clarify they were not true Old testament Scripture; called them Apocrypha
400s	various Synods / Councils approve Latin Vulgate as the official canon
Seven Councils	In the history of Christianity , the first seven ecumenical councils , from the First Council of Nicaea (325) to the Second Council of Nicaea (787), represented an attempt by Church leaders to reach an orthodox consensus, restore peace and develop a unified Christendom
325	Council of Niacea
381	Council of Constantinople
431	Council of Ephesus
451	Council of Chalcedon
553	Constantinople II
680	Constantinople III
787	Niacea II
700-1000	Roman Church began to assume more superiority; Bishop of Rome (Pope) became “first among equals”; power and authority became more centralized and Roman Catholic Church claimed to be true successors of the apostles
1054	Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Church split over two issues:

1- theological issue pertaining to the Holy Spirit (Protestants side with RC Church on this matter)

2- Power and authority of church was being claimed by RC over the eastern church; RC claimed to be superior and true successors to the apostle Peter (whom they claim to be the first Pope); RC Church was becoming more monarchical in nature while Eastern Church claimed more equality among churches; distribution of power among local churches (in this matter, Protestants would have more in common with Eastern Church)
Catholic Cardinal delivered an anathema to head of Eastern Church and he anathemated him right back.

1343

Pope Clement VI issues a papal bull (dogma; irrevocable); was the first to declare that the Roman church possessed a "Treasury of Merit" stored up by the merits of the saints and available at the disposal of the Church. Clement's 1343 papal bull declaring a jubilee year opened the door for the offer of indulgences, which became a widespread practice within just a few years.