

THE HISTORY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Martin Luther

SAINTS

- Beginning with the veneration and adoration of Mary, Rome suggested that heavenly saints may intercede in some way between the church and the LORD Jesus Christ.



SACRAMENTS OF ROME

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. The Eucharist (the Mass)
4. Penance
5. Anointing of the Sick
6. Holy Orders
7. Matrimony

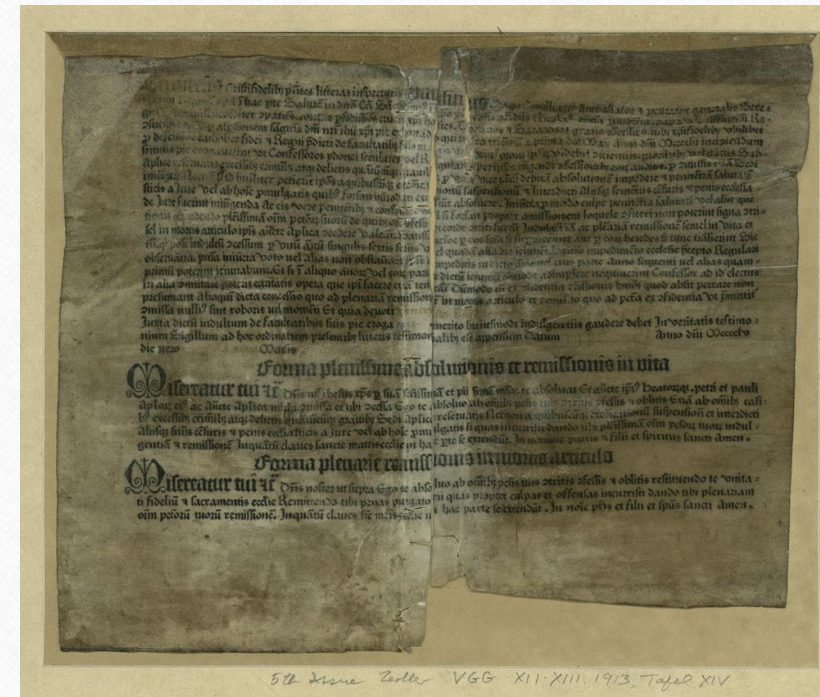
INDULGENCES

1471 The doctrine and practice of indulgences in the Church are closely linked to the effects of the sacrament of Penance.

What is an indulgence?

"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."⁸¹

"An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin."⁸² Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead.





BIRTH

- Eisleben, Saxony, Holy Roman Empire
- Nov. 10, 1483 (possibly 1484)



FAMILY

- Hans and Margarathe Luther
- Hans, son of a farming family of modern day Germany, made his living in the burgeoning industry of copper mining.
- Margarathe came from a middle-class family in Eisenach.



ERFURT

- Luther was sent to the university at Erfurt to study law.
- Pictured: the student living quarters (Georgenburse) where Luther was believed to have stayed from 1501 to 1505.



LUTHER THE MONK

- “Though I became a monk under pressure, and against the will of my father, my mother, and the Devil, in the time that I was a monk I reverentially respected the pope in such a way that I could challenge everyone who was papist and who still are because I didn’t make my vow for the sake of my stomach but for the sake of my salvation. I kept all the rules rigorously” (cited from Selderhuis, p.50).



LUTHER THE MONK

- Luther reflects, many years later: “We wanted to be the most devout of all and thought that we could earn heaven with the horrible idolatry of the mass, with the veneration of the saints, and with our own monastic holiness” (cited from Selderhuis, p.57).



VISIT TO ROME

- Luther was appointed to visit Rome to appeal a case before the Pope, in hopes that a dispute in the Augustinian order might be resolved.
- Pictured: Antonio Lafreri, *Pilgrim's Visiting the Seven Churches of Rome During the Holy Year of 1575*



SCALA SANCTA

- “In Rome I wanted to rescue my grandfather from purgatory. So I climbed the stairs of Pilate and prayed the Lord’s Prayer on every tread. There was a conviction that whoever prayed in this way could save a soul. But when I arrived at the top, I thought, ‘Who knows whether this is really true?’”



WITTENBERG

- Luther was transferred by his order to the university at Wittenberg, where he obtained his doctorate of theology and began teaching and preaching.
- Luther's tasks as a professor were essentially three: *lectio*; *praedicatio*; *disputatio*.



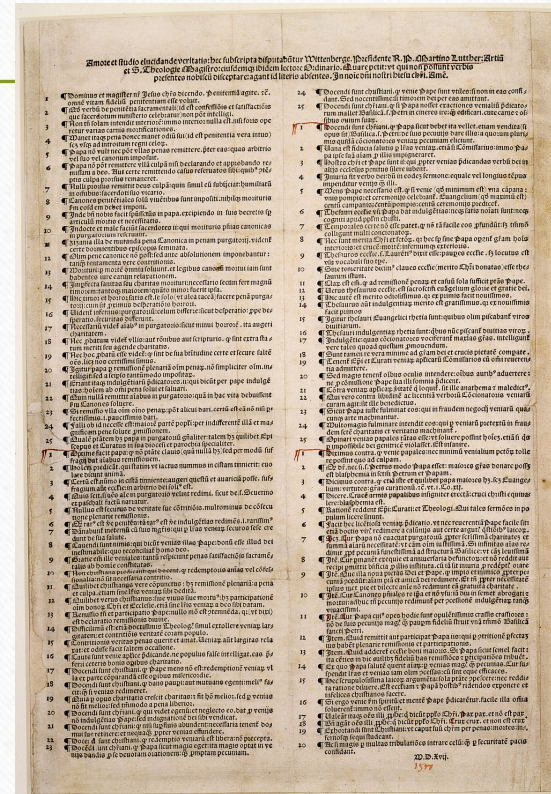
LUTHER'S NINETY-FIVE THESES

- Pictured: Present day, the doors at Wittenberg Castle Church.



LUTHER'S NINETY-FIVE THESES

- Ninety-Five Theses or [a] Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences
- *“Out of love and zeal for truth and the desire to bring it to light, the following these will be publicly discussed at Wittenberg under the chairmanship of the reverend father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology and regularly appointed Lecturer on these subjects at that place. He requests that those who cannot be present to debate orally with us will do so by letter.”*



27. They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory.

53. They are enemies of Christ and the pope who forbid altogether the preaching of the Word of God in some churches in order that indulgences may be preached in others.

66. The treasures of indulgences are nets with which one now fishes for the wealth of men.

48. Christians are to be taught that the pope, in granting indulgences, needs and thus desires their devout prayer more than their money.

50. Christians are to be taught that if the pope knew the exactions of the indulgence preachers, he would rather that the basilica of St. Peter be burned to ashes than built up with the skin, flesh, and bones of his sheep.

91. If, therefore, indulgences were preached according to the spirit and intention of the pope, all these doubts would be readily resolved. Indeed, they would not exist.

5. The pope neither desires nor is able to remit any penalties except those imposed by his own authority or that of the canons.

6. The pope cannot remit any guilt, except by declaring and showing that it has been remitted by God; or, to be sure, by remitting guilt in cases reserved to his judgment. If his right to grant remission in these cases were disregarded, the guilt would certainly remain unforgiven.

35. They who teach that contrition is not necessary on the part of those who intend to buy souls out of purgatory or to buy confessional privileges preach unchristian doctrine.

36. Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters.

37. Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church; and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters.

1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent,” he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.

3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortifications of the flesh.

