

Who Was Martin Luther?

Martin Luther was a monk and professor from Germany who lived over 500 years ago. He was born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, and grew up in a large family. Although he was supposed to become a lawyer, a terrifying thunderstorm made him promise God that he would become a monk if he survived. So, against his father's wishes, he joined a monastery.

Martin Luther's Life as a Monk

In the monastery, Martin Luther lived a very strict life and studied a lot. He became a priest and later a professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg. However, he was unhappy with the Catholic Church, especially with the sale of indulgences. These were documents sold by priests that promised people forgiveness for their sins if they paid money.

The 95 Theses

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther wrote 95 Theses, which were statements and suggestions on how the church should change. He is said to have nailed these theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. This act marked the beginning of the Reformation, a movement aimed at reforming the church.

Reformation Day

October 31 is now celebrated as Reformation Day. On this day, Protestant Christians remember Martin Luther and his 95 Theses. It is an important day because it marks the beginning of the Protestant Church. In some parts of Germany, this day is even a public holiday.

Luther's Persecution and Bible Translation

Luther was persecuted by the church and the emperor because they found his ideas dangerous. He had to hide in the Wartburg Castle, where he translated the Bible into German. Before this, the Bible was only available in Latin, a language that few people understood. His translation allowed many people to read the Bible for themselves.

Luther's Impact on the Church

Martin Luther's ideas and actions changed the church and the faith of many people. He showed that it is important to ask questions and stand up for what you believe is right. His work led to the creation of the Protestant Church and had a significant impact on European history. Luther believed that only faith in God and His goodness could bring people to heaven, not the purchase of indulgences or other church rituals.

Luther's Later Life

Luther married Katharina von Bora, a former nun, and they had six children together. He wrote many books and letters, preached, and taught until his death in 1546. His ideas spread quickly, especially through the new printing press, and led to the split of the church into the Catholic and Protestant churches.

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