


St. Therese Catholic Church


Church History
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March 22, 2022

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 **St. Therese Parish**

Epic: Timeline Bookmark (12 Periods – Color Coded)

WEAK LEADERS & SCHISM	PROTESTORS & DEFENDERS	THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION	REVOLUTIONS & MODERNISM	A WORLD AT WAR	THE NEW SPRINGTIME	THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE
Black: <i>Dark Time of the Church</i>	Oranges: <i>William of Orange</i>	Gold: <i>Holy Saints Reform the Church</i>	Grays: <i>Clouds of Industry & Intellectual Confusion</i>	Bright Red: <i>Color of Fascism and Communism</i>	Bright Green: <i>The Springtime of Renewal</i>	Marian Blue: <i>Pope John Paul II & Mary Our Lady of Hope</i>
1300–1499	1500–1544	1545–1699	1700–1913	1914–1957	1958–1977	1978–Present
Vienne (1311–1312) Constance (1414–1418) Florence (1431–1445)	Lateran V (1512–1517)	Trent (1545–1563)	Vatican I (1869–1870)		Vatican II (1962–1965)	
	Mustard Yellow: <i>Parable of the Kingdom of God [Mt. 4:30 – 32]</i>	Dark Red: <i>Blood of the Martyrs</i>	White: <i>Empire Clothed White in Christ</i>	Purple: <i>Royalty of the Holy Roman Emperor</i>	Navy Blue: <i>Color of France; Land of Crusaders</i>	
	33–99	100–312	313–499	500–999	1000–1299	
			Nicaea I (325) Constantinople I (381) Ephesus (431) Chalcedon (451)	Constantinople II (553) Constantinople III (680) Nicaea II (787) Constantinople IV (869)	Lateran I (1123) Lateran II (1139) Lateran III (1179) Lateran IV (1215) Lyons I (1245) Lyons II (1274)	

<https://ascensionpress.com/products/epic-a-journey-through-church-history-timeline-bookmark>

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The Great Divorce (Part I)

- Read chapter 7 (pages 333 - 376)
- Factors that led the Protestant Revolution
- Martin Luther and Salvation
- Indulgences and the 95 Thesis
- Luther's Three Treatises
- Advance of the Protestant Movement



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Overview

- The sixteenth century witnessed a religious revolution that involved a conflict in two phases:
 - The first was an internal conflict within the Church, as most people regarded the issues as a theological quarrel that would quickly be resolved.
 - The second witnessed a separation of Christendom into Catholic and Protestant. What began as a "spiritual family quarrel" soon became a "spiritual family war" that devolved into an "actual civil war in arms" (335).

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Overview

- The sixteenth century is one of the most fascinating periods of Church history.
- It is colored orange as it is associated with a Protestantism (especially in Ireland) from William of Orange (William and Mary) who solidified England as a Protestant nation by leading a revolt against James II, the Catholic King of England in 1688.
- A strained marriage over the last couple hundred years led to a divorce in the sixteenth century.

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Factors – Protestant Reformation

- **Weak leadership:** Church was in a very poor state because of weak leaders (Avignon papacy and Great Western Schism, Renaissance popes, etc.)
- **Ecclesiastical abuses:** Nepotism, pluralism (heavy fees and annual revenue from dioceses to Rome)
- **Absenteeism:** Bishops did not reside in their dioceses; Milan was without archbishop for 100 years
- **Bad clerical behavior:** Priests and bishops not living promise celibacy gave poor example of Christian living.

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Factors – Protestant Reformation

- **Secular Governments:** Had been exercising more autonomy and less influenced and more resistant to the wishes of the pope.
- **Advanced Technology:** The printing press had been invented earlier by Johannes Gutenberg wherein book publishing, especially in Germany, became popular (337).
 - A religion of the books needed books! Martin Luther was a prolific writer, e.g., by 1525, three million copies of pamphlets about Luther’s teachings were in circulation in Europe (338). He wrote a treatise every two weeks from 1516-1546.

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 The Religious Divisions of Europe, ca. 1555. Prior to 1520, all of Europe was Roman Catholic.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/349803096035562485/>

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Martin Luther

- Martin Luther was a Saxon Monk.
- Saxons were a fierce, wild, tribe that Charlamagne waged a 30-year war campaign to bring them in the faith.
- He was born on November 10, 1480 and named after St. Martin of Tours.



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Difficult Childhood

- Luther's father was overbearing and verbally abusive to him. By his own account, he had a difficult childhood (341).
- "My mother caned me for stealing a nut, until blood came" (341).
- "My father once whipped me so that I ran away and felt ugly toward him" (341).



<https://www.britannica.com/place/Eisleben>

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Conversion Experience

- In 1505, Luther had a conversion experience where he was involved in a violent thunderstorm and a lightening bolt struck near him, knocking him to the ground in fear (341).
- Luther prayed to St. Anne to become a monk. She was the patroness of the profession of his father (a minor). He had not shown an interest in religious life before this moment.



<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/martin-luther-reformation-the-storm-tami-dalton.html>

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Enters Monastery

- Two weeks after the storm, Luther entered the order of the Augustinian monks at Erfurt (focused on intellectual and spiritual pursuits).
- In the monastery, Luther was known as an opiniated, impatient, and angry soul, always ready to debate passionately. He took final vows in 1506 and nine months later was ordained a priest (341-342).
- Recognizing his intellectual abilities, they sent him to the University of Wittenberg in Electoral Saxony in 1508 to teach moral theology. Received a doctorate in 1512 (342).

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Trip to Rome

- Luther was sent to Rome to resolve a dispute between a group of monasteries.
- After a six week journey to Rome, Luther was thoroughly disgusted by his experiences in the Eternal City. He did not speak the language and was shocked by the behavior of the Italian clergy (342).
- Many were not proficient in Latin and celebrated Mass too quickly. He caught malaria while in Italy and suffered deeply from culture shock. He couldn't leave quickly enough. It was his only visit to Rome (342 – 343).

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Luther's Struggles

- Luther suffered from many physical issues (rapid heart beat, severe anxiety, constipation, indigestion, severe kidney stones, ringing in his ears, and depression) (343).
- Luther also had extreme scrupulosity, which led him to frequent confession (sometimes daily for hours at a time) and strict fasting, which could last for several days (343).
- He was also obsessed about his own salvation as he was never convinced that he was justified in the eyes of God.
- **Key:** Luther struggled to receive God's love.

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Luther's Struggles

- Luther also had an extreme fixation on demonic activity. Small happenings were demonic influence. At a wedding, when rings fell on the floor, Luther in violent anger told the devil to go away.
- Perhaps caused in part by his tumultuous relationship with his father, Luther understood God as a tyrant and not as a loving Father. For Luther, God was a strict and wrathful judge.
- Luther had a very strong personality, at times egotistical in that he believed that he understood Scripture better than the pope or people. He was extremely charismatic (he could own a room) and had a violent temper that could erupt at a moment's notice (345).

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Luther's Spark of Protest

- The previously little-known university professor became a household name in Christendom in the fall of 1517.
- The doctrine of indulgences became the theological flashpoint (tip of the spear) for the rebellion.
- **Indulgence:** The remission of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven (in confession).
- **Example:** If break a window, I ask for forgiveness. There is still an effect, i.e., I must pay for the window. An indulgence can be partial or full (plenary).

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Luther's Spark of Protest

- Unfortunately, some preachers wrongly asserted the authority to forgive sins for money (scandalous).
- In 1506, construction began on the current St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. An almsgiving indulgence was approved in Luther's home diocese.
- Johann Tetzel, a Dominican, came to Luther's area for a campaign and played on the ignorance of the people on buying forgiveness. "As soon as the coin in the box clinks, the soul out of purgatory's fire springs." (347)
- Luther was highly upset by this and wanted to debate it.

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Luther's Spark of Protest

- Luther wrote what came to be known as the 95 Theses, published on October 31, 1517. He nailed it to the Church door in Wittenberg as it was the normal way to post questions people wanted to debate (bulletin board). They were written in Latin as it was academic.
- Luther denounced the granting of indulgences for money and the authority of the pope to grant them. Eventually things reached the pope, who initially thought it was a disagreement between Dominicans and Augustinians. He was completely wrong in his assessment.
- Pope sent Cardinal Cajetan to discuss the matter. Cardinal Cajetan and Luther met in October 1518.

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Luther's Spark of Protest

- The meeting between Cardinal Cajetan and Luther did not go well. Luther displayed a violent temper. Cardinal Cajetan was a Thomist and a friend of scholasticism, which Luther hated.
- Pope Leo X published a papal bull against Luther – *Exsurge Domine* (“Arise, O Lord”) listing forty-one heretical teachings contained in the works of Luther.
- Luther was ordered to cease preaching and submit his written recantation before the Church. He was summoned to Rome and failure to do so within 60 days resulted in his excommunication. Luther gathered a large assembly of faculty and students from the university and had the bull burned (354).

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The Three Treatises

- In the summer and fall of 1520, Luther wrote three books that laid out his teachings. They became the bedrock Protestant principles.
 - *Appeal to the Christian Nobility of the German Nations:* Advocated National German Church separate from the authority of Rome and abolishment of the priesthood.
 - Mendicant orders should be suppressed and the canonization of saints should cease. Call for married priesthood. Works of Aristotle should be banned.
 - **Key:** Nobility should take control of the Church.

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The Three Treatises

- *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*: Attacked the sacramental structure of the Church. Sacraments enslaved Christians in tyranny of the papacy by requiring them to participate in the sacraments to receive grace.
- Sacraments do not give grace by Christ's grace from the sacrament itself, but rather are divine promises where faith is exercised. There are only two sacraments: baptism and Eucharist. Rejected transubstantiation, instead preferring consubstantiation. Preferred the priesthood of all believers.
- *The Freedom of the Christian*: Reiterated his belief in justification by faith alone (*sola fide*); person is condemned only for unbelief; No good works help justify or save a believer; no evil work makes him wicked or damns him; a person is good or evil by faith or unbelief.

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Luther's Other Teachings

- **Human nature is totally depraved as a result of original sin**: human nature is absolutely corrupted; God who is a wrathful judge should smite man; Jesus is a shield between God and us
- **Denied that man has a free will**: Enslaved either to God or Satan; we have no real ability to choose to do good or to do bad; human beings will choose to do evil
- **God's grace is not transformative**: In being justified, human beings remain a dunghill covered in snow or manure covered by Christ's grace; hence, there is no need for purgatory (no perfecting state) as we remain filthy even in heaven
- **Abolish the Mass**: Overthrow the Church and no need for priests

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Catholic Response

- **King Henry VIII** read Luther's *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church* and wrote a work entitled *Defense of the Seven Sacraments* in response. He was given the title, "Defender of the Faith" by Pope Leo X (360).
- **St. Thomas More** called Luther "an ape, ass, drunkard, a lousy little friar, a piece of scurf, a pestilential buffoon, a dishonest liar" (360 – 361).
- Pope Leo X officially excommunicated Luther with the bull *Decet Romanum Pontificum* January 5, 1521. Things were quite volatile given German resentment against Rome.

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Catholic Response

- Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor, invited Luther to the Diet of Worms in 1521. He provided Luther with safe conduct guaranteeing Luther's immunity from arrest while he traveled to the Diet and attendance at the meeting (362).
- Charles issued an imperial ban prohibiting the copying, printing, buying, and selling of Luther's works (362).
- Luther arrived in Worms on April 16, 1521, to the sound of trumpet blasts, the imperial herald announcing his arrival, and two thousand people assembling to greet him (362).

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Catholic Response

- In a room packed to the point of suffocation, Luther was asked whether he acknowledged the books before him – whether he stands by them or wished to revoke any of them.
- “Unless I can be shown otherwise in Sacred Scripture and evident reasoning, I am not willing to revoke anything.” “Here I stand, I can do no other” is a popular narrative (364).
- Charles V issued a statement declaring Luther a heretic saying that a single monk must error if he stands against the opinion of all Christendom. Otherwise, Christendom itself would have erred for more than a thousand years (364).

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Diet of Worms - 1521



- Following the Diet, Luther was kidnapped and hidden away for a year. He began translating the Bible into German.

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Violence Begins

- Luther's writings were circulated widely throughout German lands. Those who desired to rebel against secular authority used his writings as justification (365).
- Peasant's Revolt in 1525 threw Germany into a spasm of bloodshed and destruction as armed groups rampaged across the land, killing, destroying churches and sacred art, and profaning the Eucharist (366).
- There was concern that things were spinning out of control in Germany. Nobles approached Luther and said his writings were responsible for the revolt.

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Violence Begins

- Luther wrote a work entitled, *Against the Murderous, Thieving, Hordes of Peasants*. Ironically, he said that nothing is more devilish than a rebel. "You can't meet a rebel with reason. You can only punch him in the nose."
- The princes, embracing Luther's advice, began a murderous rampage that left over 130,000 peasants dead. Luther admitted responsibility in the loss of life.
- **Key:** Heresy leads to rebellion, shaking not only the Church, but the civil order resulting in violence, death, and destruction.

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Rejecting the Priesthood

- Every path leads somewhere. Rejecting the Church, including her authority and sacraments, it was only natural for Luther to reject the priesthood and his promise of celibacy to God.
- In his book *On Monastic Vows*, Luther repudiated monastic life, as he believed it was not found in Sacred Scripture and conflicted with liberty and charity (367).
- Subsequently, there was a mass exodus from German monasteries and convents. In other words, ideas have consequences!

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Rejecting the Priesthood

- On June 13, 1525, Luther rejected the promised he made at his ordination by entering into marriage with Katherine von Bora, one of the twelve nuns he helped escape from their convent in 1523. He was 42 and she was 26 (367).
- The two had six children together and raised four related orphans. He gave three reasons for rejecting the priesthood: to please his father, to spite the pope, and to seal his witness as a martyr (367).
- Luther set the Protestant movement on the path of married clergy. Fault lines were developing in the Church family.

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The Sack of Rome

- France and the Holy Roman Emperor were at war over Northern Italian territories. Pope Clement VII allies with French King Francis I.
- Consequently, Charles V sent an army to Rome to break the pope's allegiance with Francis I.
- Charles V defeats the French and advances on Rome. On May 6, 1527, he breaks through the defenses of the city. Pope Clement VII had to run down the covered passageway to Castel Sant'Angelo (368).

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The Sack of Rome

- The pope remained safe, but Rome was ravaged. Many of the Swiss Guard lost their lives; of the 189 Guards on duty that day, only forty-two lived to see another (369).
- **Note:** New recruits to the Swiss Guard take their oath on May 6 to commemorate the Swiss Guard who gave their lives.
- The sack of Rome was terrible. Nearly 12,000 people died in the attack. Priests were mutilated and murdered. Nuns were dragged through the streets. The Eucharist was desecrated.
- **Key:** The sack of Rome prevented the emperor from focusing on the destructive force of Luther's heresy (370).

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Advance of Protestantism

- Protestantism advanced into the 1530s resulting in conflict with Catholics. Town authorities determined that, for the sake of peace, only one religion was allowed (370).
- In many cases, the new Protestant religion was chosen, and laws were passed to ban the celebration of the Mass.
- A wave of iconoclasm broke out. Statues were torn down, sacred art destroyed, altars smashed, and churches emptied of beautiful works of art intended to glorify God (370).

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Advance of Protestantism

- Frequently, Church land and property were confiscated by secular rulers in order to enrich themselves, which contributed to the permanent break in Christian unity. Those newly enriched feared union with Rome, as it meant possible financial loss (370).
- With the rise of the Ottoman Turkish threat in 1529, the emperor could not focus on eradicating the heresy in the Empire as he had to deal with the Turks.
- The emperor issued a decree in 1529, upholding the Edict of Worms (8 years prior) that stipulated no further religious changes should be made (371).

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Advance of Protestantism

- The decree commanded that the celebration of the Mass should be allowed throughout the empire.
- Representatives from fourteen cities issued a written protest to Charles' decree, especially concerning the Mass. The protest over the celebration of the Mass gave the name to the heretical movement sweeping Europe: Protestantism (371).
- Charles tried to unify the empire as a whole by asking the Protestants to develop a statement of their beliefs at the imperial Diet, which met in Augsburg in 1530 (371).
- **Key:** The hope was to construct fruitful dialogue with Catholics.

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Advance of Protestantism

- At the Diet, Luther was represented by his friend Philip Schwarzerd, known as Melanchthon (1497 – 1560) (371).
- Melanchthon wrote a statement of beliefs and sent it to Luther, who approved. Protestant nobles signed the document and presented it to the emperor on June 25, 1530 (371).
- The Augsburg Confession was not a comprehensive statement of Protestant teachings but was divided into two parts:
 - Doctrines held in common with Catholics;
 - Doctrines held in disagreement.

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Advance of Protestantism

- Melanchthon condemned the celebration of the Mass, transubstantiation, the sacrament of confession, monastic vows, and priestly celibacy (372).
- Johann Eck, the longtime nemesis of Luther, read the document and outlined the incompatibility of Protestant teachings with the Catholic faith.
- Charles V issued a proclamation ordering Protestants not to publish any new theological writings, to refrain from proselytizing, and to stop persecuting Catholics (372).
- Protestants rejected Charles' decree. The split led to violence.

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Fruits of Rebellion

- Landgrave Philip of Hesse wrote to Luther asking if a Christian might have more than one wife. Luther initially opposed, but relented when Philip persisted with the stipulation that the arrangement should be kept secret (373).
- Once it became known and people were outraged, Luther retracted the practice of bigamy.
- **Key:** By rejected the tyranny of papal authority with his own, ironically, Luther's subsequent followers developed their own interpretations of Scripture and Christian doctrine resulting in division and destruction. Germany would be consumed with war for the next 117 years.

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A Divided Germany

- By 1540, most of Northern Germany became completely Protestant, while Bavaria remained Catholic.
- **Hilaire Belloc**: “Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine, there’s always laughter and good red wine.”
- The cat is from Bavaria.



https://www.etsy.com/market/lederhosen_cat

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Bavaria

- Comprises the entire southeastern portion of Germany.
- Munich is the largest city; majority lives in small towns
- In 2016, more than 50% of the population identified as Roman Catholic.



<https://www.britannica.com/place/Bavaria>

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Luther's Last Writings

- In 1543, Luther published a treatise *On the Jews and their Lies*. He advocated an eight-point plan to rid German lands of Jews, either by religious conversion or by forcible expulsion (374).
- He called for Jewish homes, schools, and synagogues to be burned. He wanted their sacred writings confiscated and their rabbis forbidden to teach. He demanded forced labor for Jews (374).
- He advocated that secular rulers should show no mercy to the Jews; rather, they should “drive them out like mad dogs.” Luther’s anti-Semitism was picked up by the policies and actions of the National Socialist Government in the 1930s (375).

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Luther's Last Writings

- In 1545, Luther published *Against the Pontificate at Rome, Founded by the Devil*.
- In this work, he called the pope “the vicar of the devil; an enemy of God; an opponent of Christ, and a destroyer of the Church; a teacher of lies, blasphemy, and idolatries; an antichrist; a man of sin and a child of perdition; a genuine werewolf” (375).
- When asked what should be done with the pope and cardinals, he replied in no uncertain terms that they should be cursed, tortured, and die of disease (375).
- Even the most staunch Lutherans wished he had died earlier.

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End of Martin Luther

- At the end of his life, Luther was taken back by what had transpired from his preaching and writing.
- He lamented the “misery, corruption, scandal, blasphemy, ingratitude, and wickedness” that had infected his land (376).
- Luther also bemoaned that his revolution resulted not in an increase of religious fervor, but greater indifference to the faith.
- In 1546, Luther suffered a stroke and died. After Luther’s death, a doctor found an inscription of one last insult toward the pope on the wall, “I was your plague while I lived; when I die, I shall be your death, O pope!” (376)

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Hilaire Belloc

- The break-up of the united western Christendom with the coming of the Reformation was by far the most important thing in history since the foundation of the Catholic Church fifteen hundred years before (5).
- The Reformation resulted in the division of European civilization into two halves, the Protestant culture and the Catholic culture.
- The universal, spiritual and therefore social upheaval, generally called the “The Reformation,” lasted from its inception to its conclusion as an open struggle, about two hundred years (6).

~Belloc, *Characters of the Reformation*

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Hilaire Belloc

- The Protestant Reformation ran through three stages (*reform/confusion; counter-Church/economic gain; destruction of Catholicism*)
 1. **Reform:** During the first twenty years or so, from 1517 onwards, the revolt against the Church was closely intermixed with a very legitimate determination to reform abuses.

There were grave corruptions in the Church and grave discontent with the organization of the Church on the part of the masses of men who never dreamed of destroying Church unity or interfering with the great mass of Church doctrine and custom (7).

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Hilaire Belloc

2. **Counter-Church:** But at the end of the twenty years there came – round about 1536– 40 – a change in what had hitherto been a confused movement.

This change was primarily caused by the great effect of Calvin, who set out with the greatest lucidity and unparalleled energy to form a counter-Church for the destruction of the old Church. He it was who really made the *new* religion, wholly hostile to the old one.

At the same time the temptation to loot Church property and the habit of doing so had appeared and was growing; and this rapidly created a vested interest in promoting the change in religion (motive for the success of the Religious Revolution) (7).

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Hilaire Belloc

3. **Destruction of Catholicism:** It is about this time, therefore, after a generation after the first revolt, that there arises a distinct effort to impose in various places new laws and institutions to the destruction of Catholicism.

After the middle of the sixteenth century (from 1550 – 60) that change is clearly apparent, and with it, fighting begins: fighting on the part of Catholic Europe to suppress the new Protestant Governments, fighting on the part of these Governments to suppress Catholicism in their own provinces; and in places civil war between the two parties. That fighting goes on during all the second half of the century, roughly from 1550-60 to, say, 1605-1610 (8).

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Hilaire Belloc

- For Belloc, the initial stage of the Protestant Reformation was anarchic and dispersed. It had no form. It was of a violence which was bound to burn itself out, especially as it was resisted by all the organized *central* authorities of Christendom: the Kings and the Emperor.
- The great religious revolution reached firm footing with the *difficult success of the Protestant movement in England*.
- This is the most important point to seize in all the story of the great religious revolution, and it is the point least often insisted upon (8). ~Belloc, *Characters of the Reformation*

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The Great Divorce (Part II)

- Read chapter 7 (pages 376 - 425)
- John Calvin
- Establishing a Theocracy - Geneva
- Radical Reformers
- English Reformation
- Mary Tudor & Elizabeth I
- Political Effects of the Protestant Reformation

