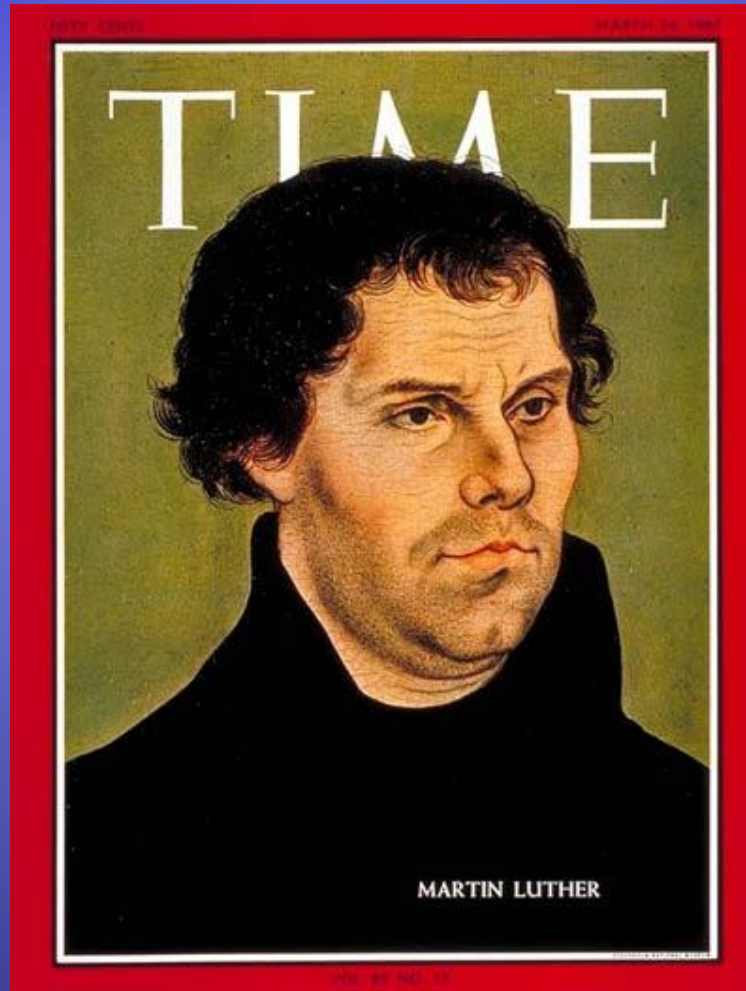




A silhouette of a person in a prayerful pose, with hands clasped and head bowed, set against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, glowing clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and light blue. The word "PRAYER" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters with a subtle blue outline, positioned on the right side of the image. Below the text, there is a faint, reflective effect on the clouds.

PRAYER

Time Magazine's Person of the Millennium?



MARTIN LUTHER & THE REFORMATION





WHY DO WE CALL
OURSELVES "LUTHERANS"?

A.) Martin Luther's World...

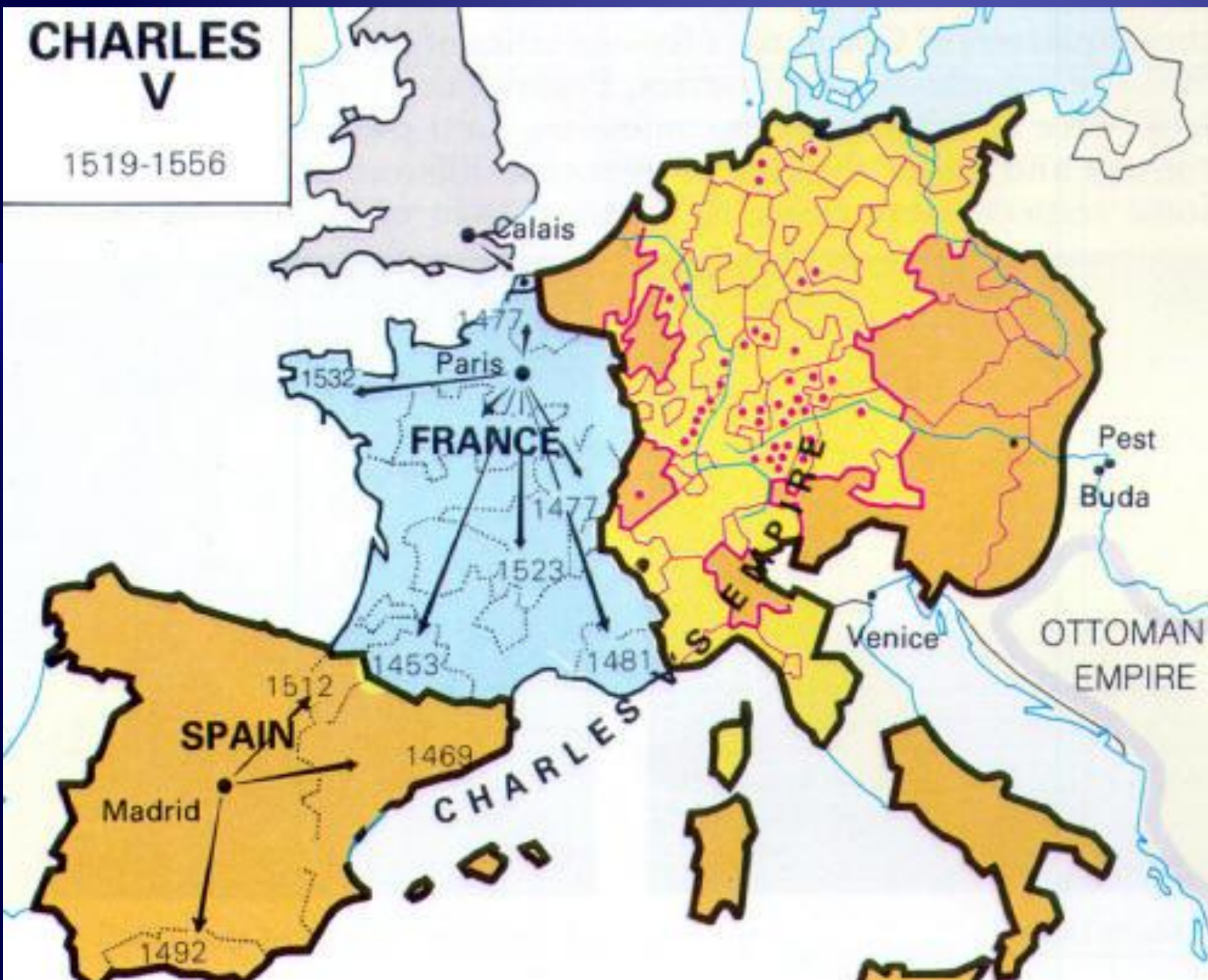
...a time of rapid social, economic, political, and religious change.

1.) Bubonic
Plague killed
~1/3 of
Europe's
Population



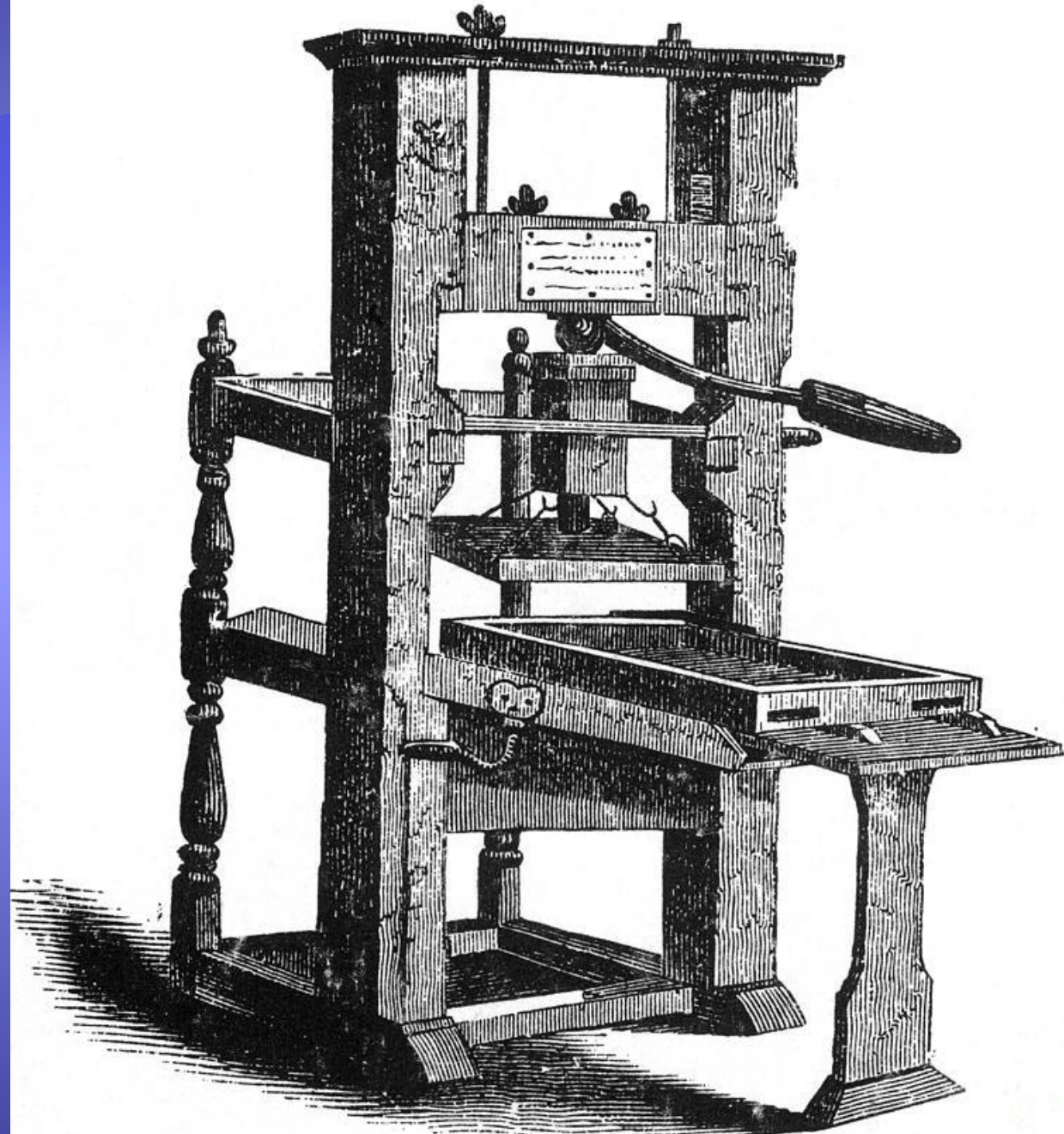
2.) Age of Exploration: Americas Discovered





3.) The Turkish (Muslim) Threat to Europe

4.) Johann
Gutenberg puts
movable metal
type on the
printing press,
allowing for mass
printing of books



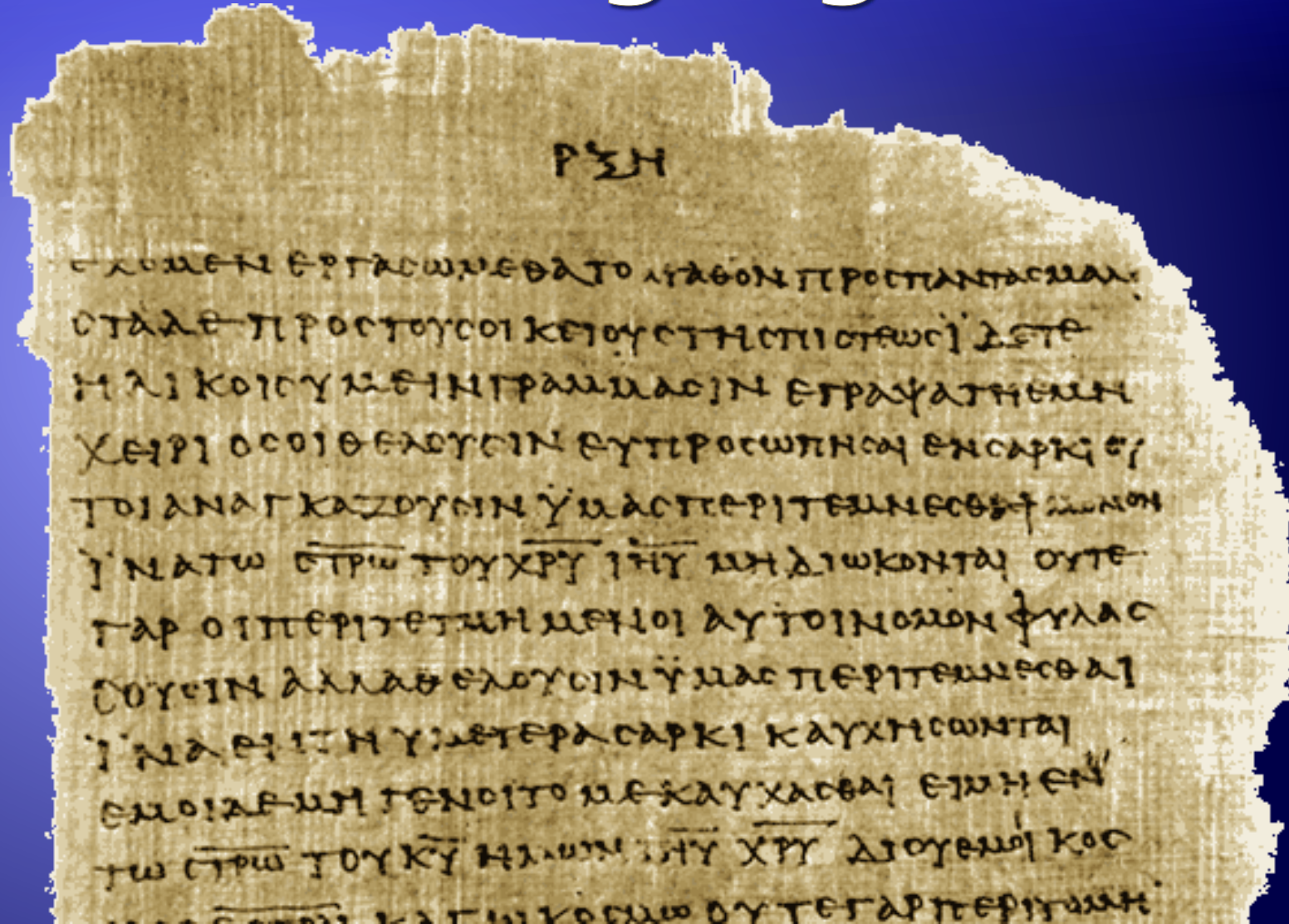


- ◆ The best seller?
- ◆ The Bible



5.) Revival of Biblical language studies

◆ Greek



◆ Hebrew



B.) The Christian Church Before Luther

- ◆ 30-310 AD - Growth and Persecution
- ◆ 311 AD - Emperor Constantine's "Edict of Toleration" ends persecution
- ◆ 400 AD - Bishop (Pope) of Rome claimed rule over all churches

◆ False doctrines in the church:

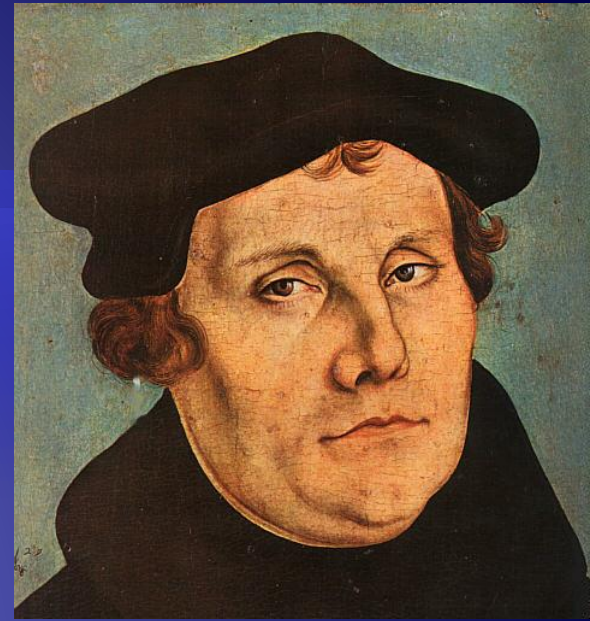
- ◆ Earning salvation and God's favor by good works
- ◆ Purgatory: after death the souls of believers are punished until they've paid for their sins
- ◆ Prayers to saints and Virgin Mary for help, mercy, and forgiveness instead of God
- ◆ Services in Latin which few could understand
- ◆ Church traditions and commands of the Pope more important than what the Bible said

The Need for a Reformation

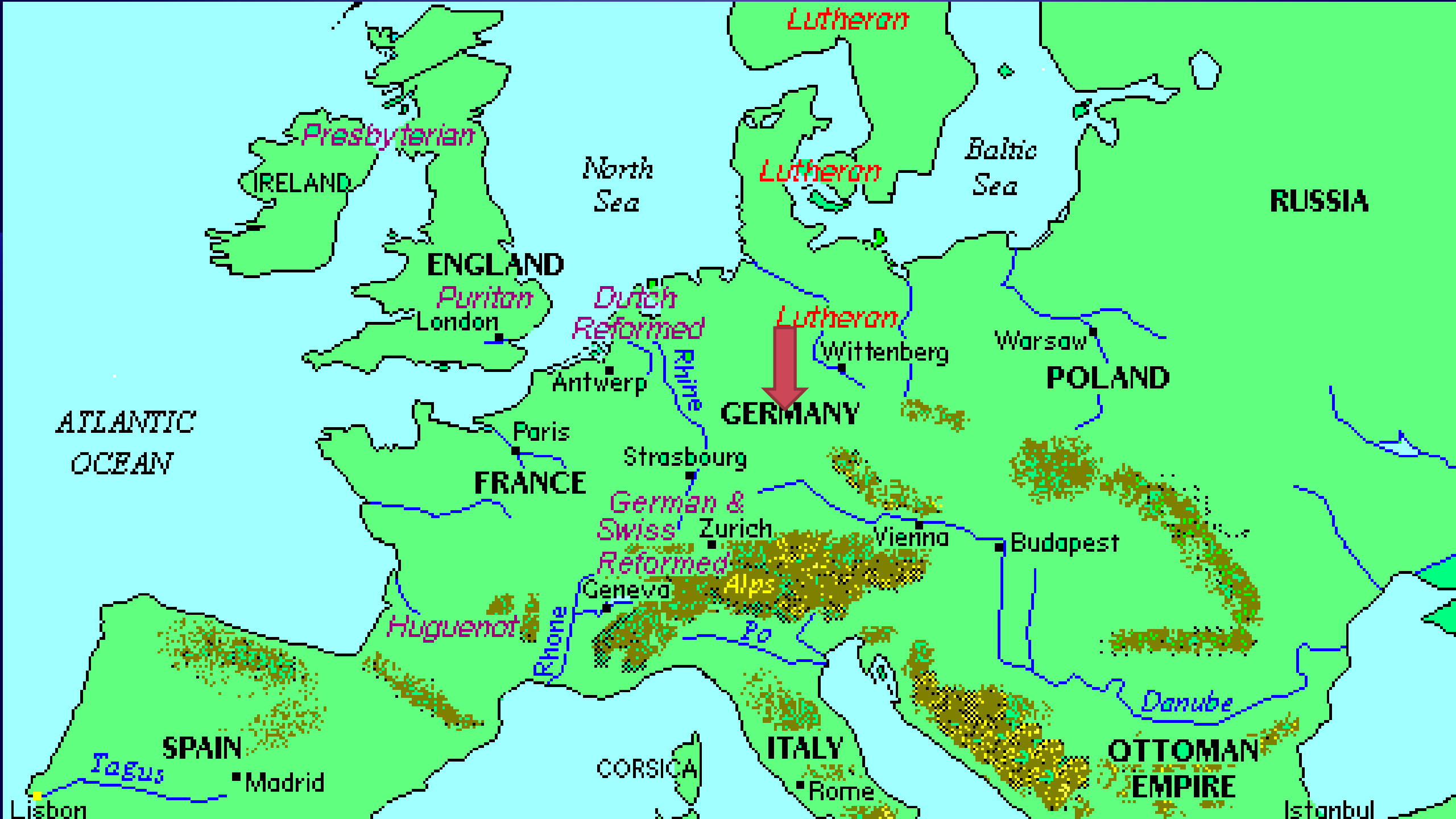
A “re-formation” = going back to the beginning.

In the church this meant going back to the roots of Christianity, what Jesus and the Apostles had taught and believed.

C.) Martin Luther: Early Life



- ♦ Born in Eisleben, Germany, November 10, 1483

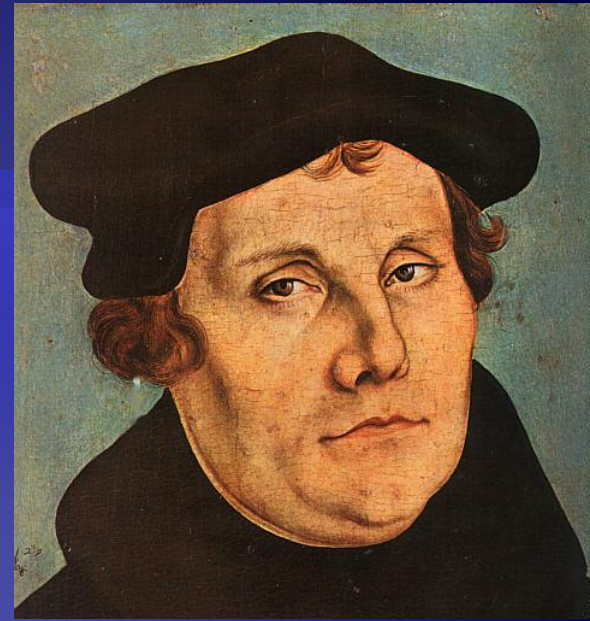




Luther's House of Birth

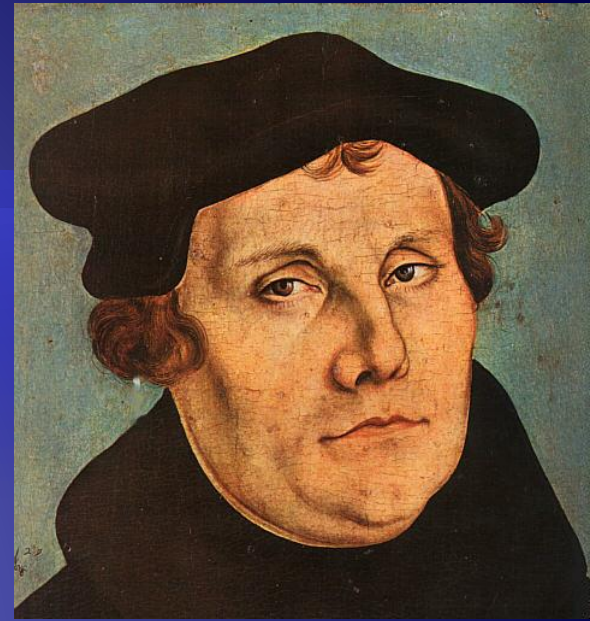


Luther's Parents:
Hans & Margaret



- ♦ Son of a small (but hard working) copper miner
- ♦ Strict upbringing
- ♦ Taught that God was an angry judge who would punish sinners

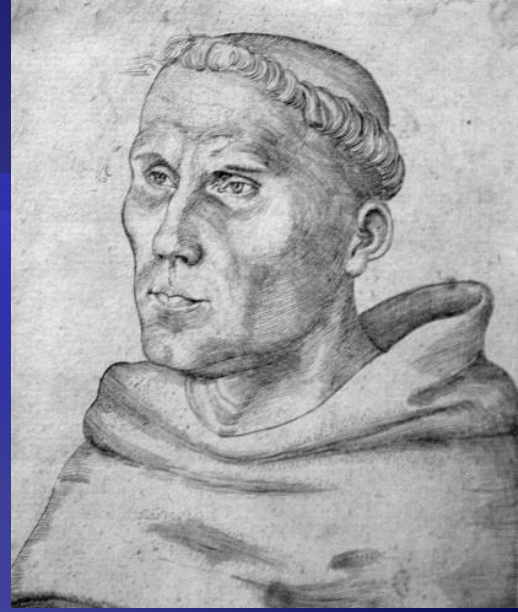




- ♦ Luther had a guilty conscience and doubts about his faith

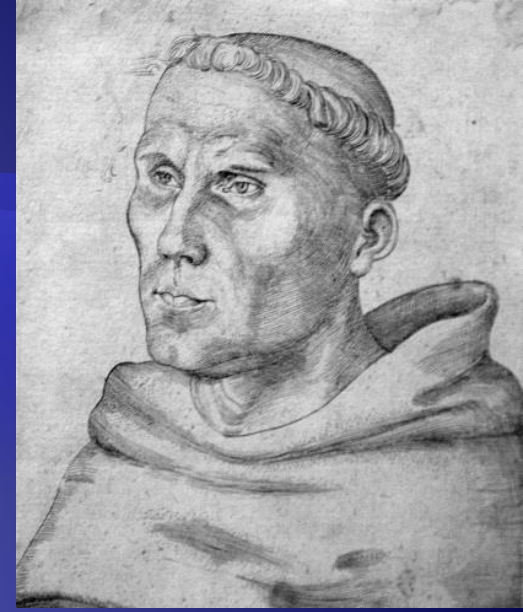
D.) Martin Luther: The Monk

- ♦ On return to law school he was trapped under a tree during a severe lightning storm.



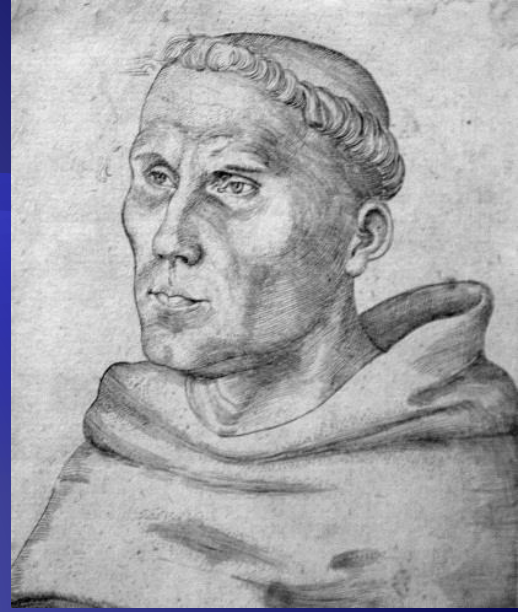


- ♦ Fearing for his life he cried out, "Save me, St. Anne, and I will become a monk."
- ♦ Kept his promise and entered the monastery at age 21
- ♦ Lived a difficult life hoping to earn God's favor and atone for his sins (sleep on the stone floor, starve himself, and often beat himself unconscious)
- ♦ Yet his conscience had no peace or rest
- ♦ "If any monk ever got to heaven by being a monk, I, too would have made it."

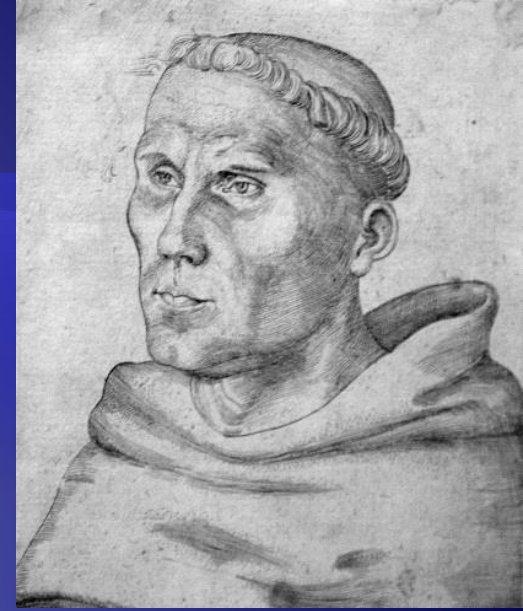


E.) Martin Luther: Priest and Professor

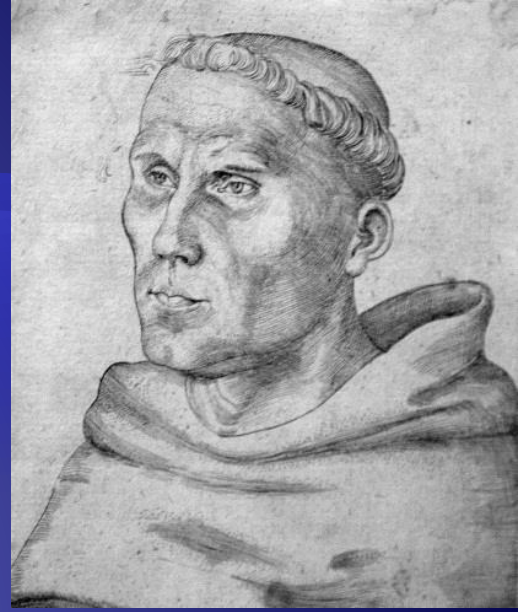
- ♦ Ordained a priest
- ♦ Later became a professor at University of Wittenberg
- ♦ His study of God's Word gradually led Luther to know the love and forgiveness of God that are freely offered in Christ



- ◆ Galatians 3:11 - Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."
- ◆ Once Luther realized sinners are saved by God's grace through faith, he wanted to share it with his students and his congregation
- ◆ To sum up Scripture's teaching concisely Luther taught we are saved...

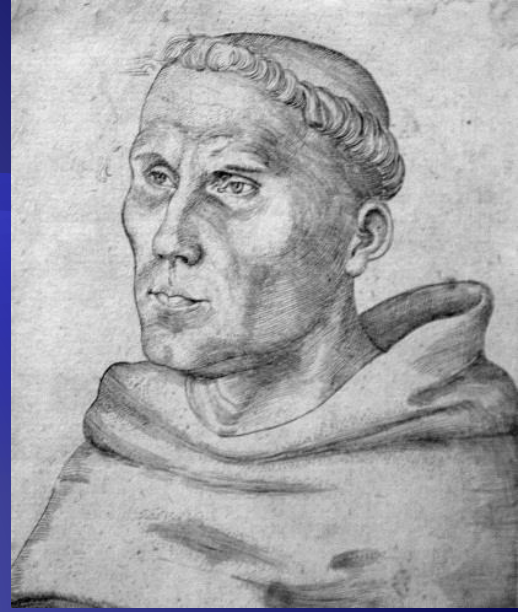


“By grace alone.”



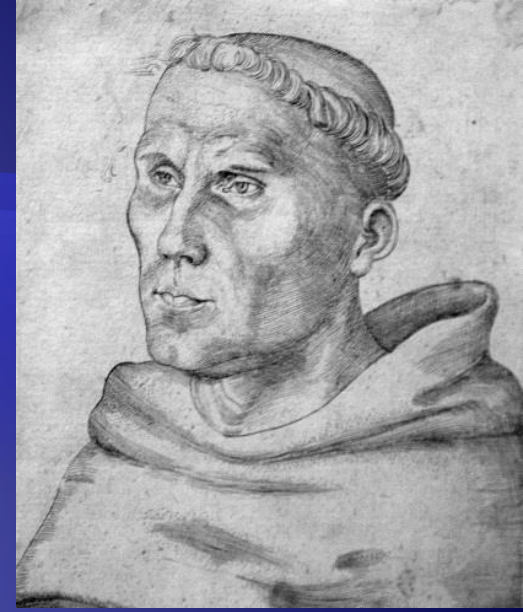
Sinners are saved purely by
God's undeserved love in
Christ.

“Through faith alone.”



God saves sinners who trust in Jesus for forgiveness. Our good works in no way earn God's forgiveness or favor.

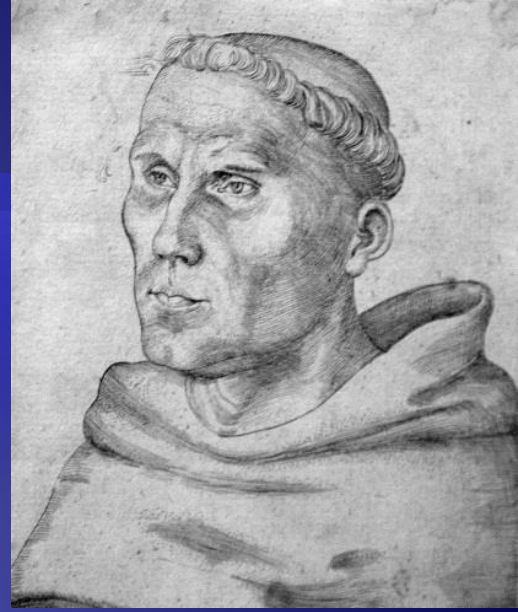
“Found in Scripture alone.”



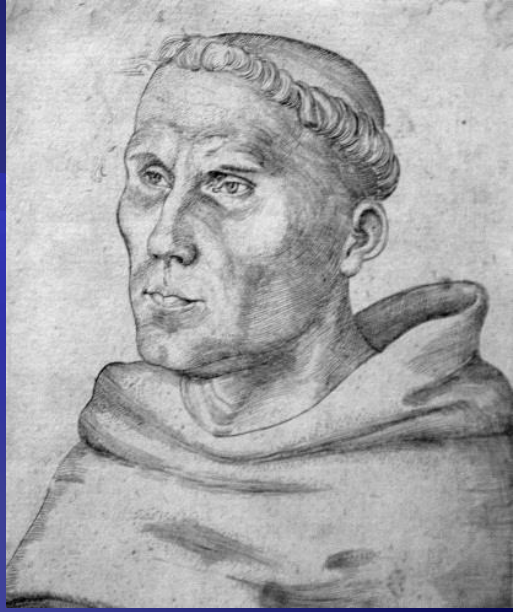
The Bible is the only place
the truth of who God is
and how he was saved us
is found.

F.) Martin Luther: The Reformer

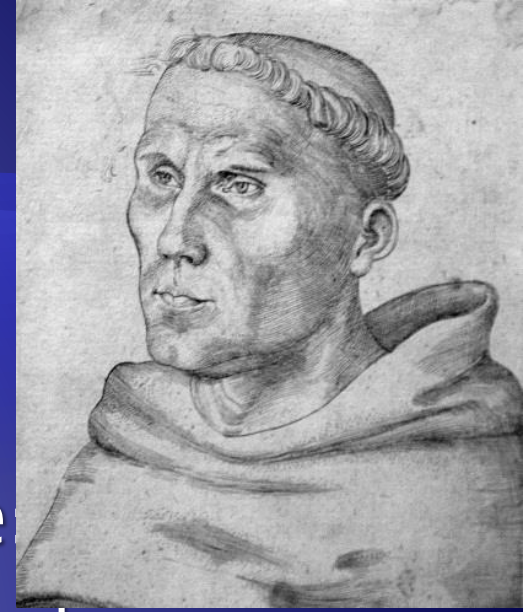
- ◆ Much of what Luther was teaching was embraced by the common people
- ◆ At the same time in order to build St. Peter's Church in Rome the Pope issued indulgences – papers one could buy to free the owner (or a deceased loved one) from suffering in purgatory





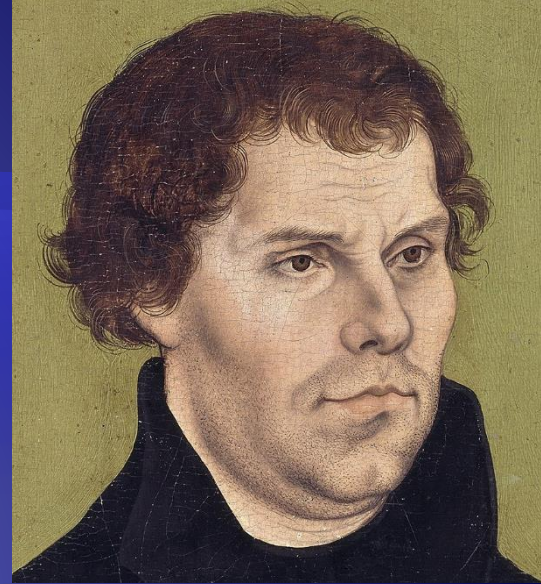


- ◆ In response Luther wrote his “Ninety-Five Theses” questioning the sale of indulgences and other church practices
- ◆ On October 31, 1517, he posted these on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, wanting to debate these issues
- ◆ His theses were quickly translated into German, printed, and spread throughout Germany

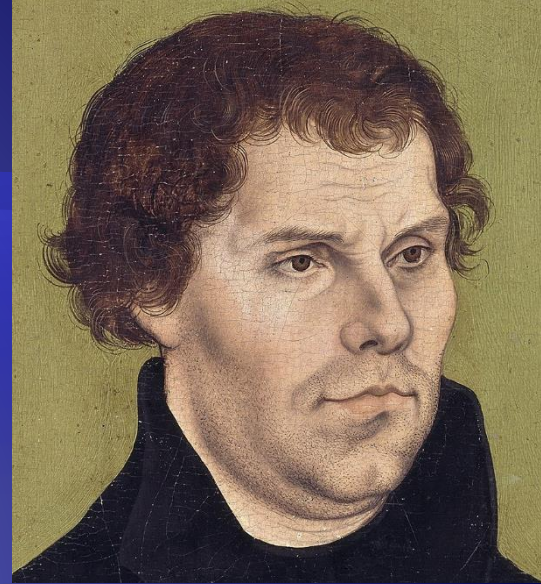


- ◆ Luther argued that the indulgences were evil because
 - ◆ They were promoting people to sin (buy an indulgence and sin for “free”)
 - ◆ No one can buy God’s forgiveness
 - ◆ The Pope should FREELY announce the forgiveness of sins without payment
- ◆ Luther did not WANT to start a new church, rather he wanted to REFORM the Catholic church

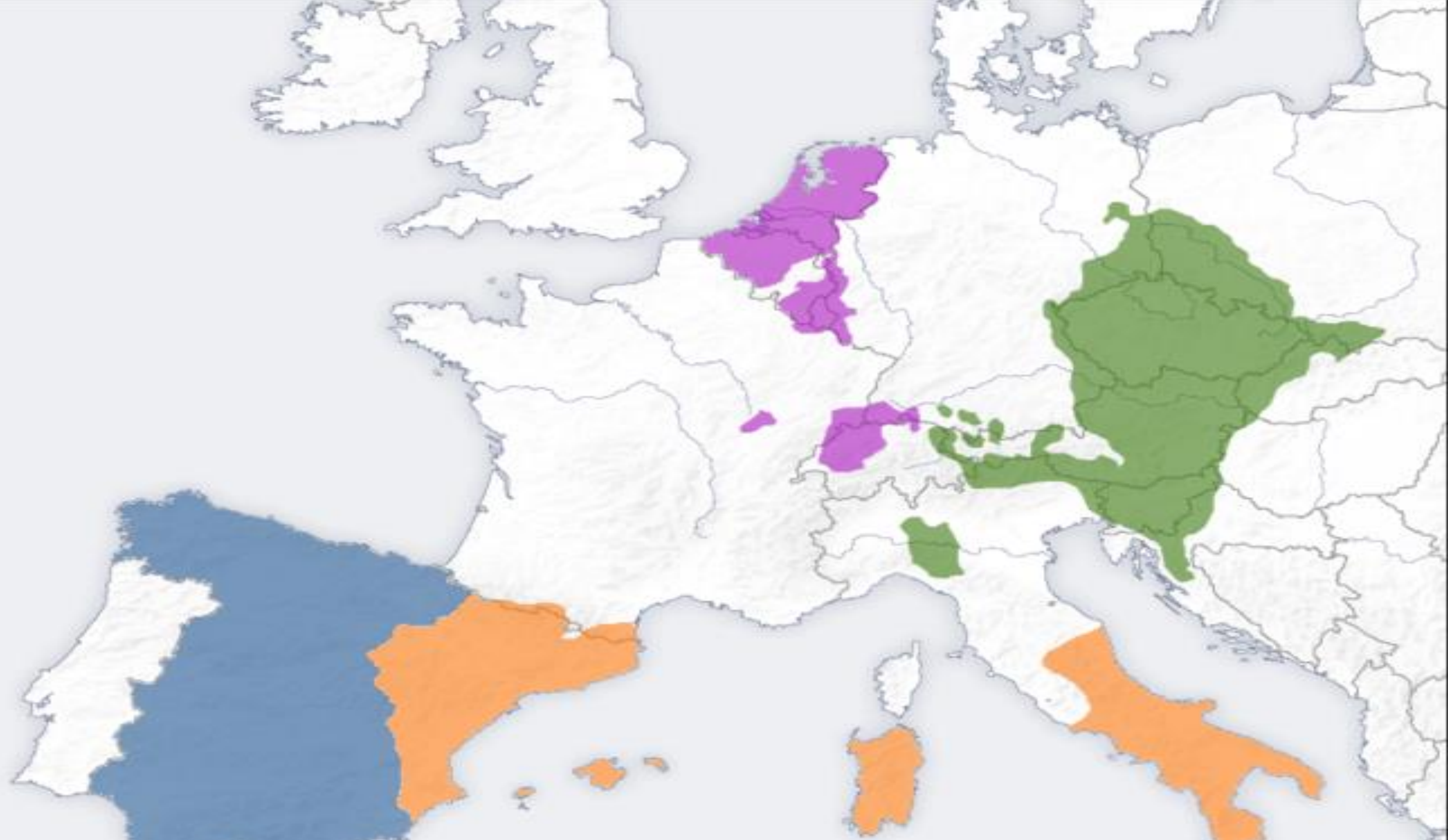
G.) The Diet of Worms (1521)



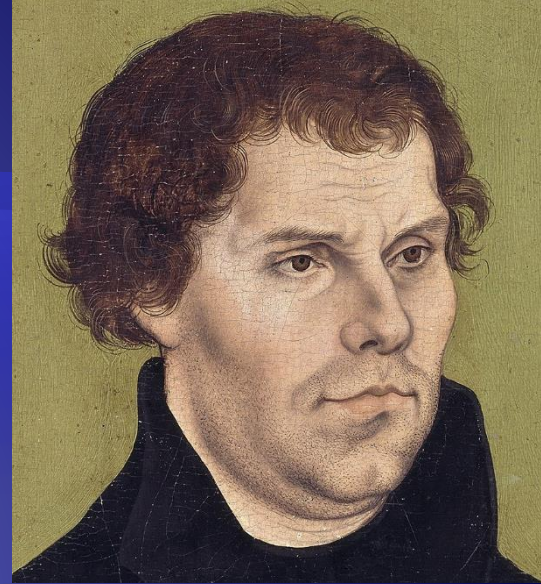




- ◆ As the true doctrine spread several princes in Germany came to agree with Luther. This caused division in the empire and the (Catholic) Emperor (Charles V) needed the princes' help to fight the Turks (Muslims).

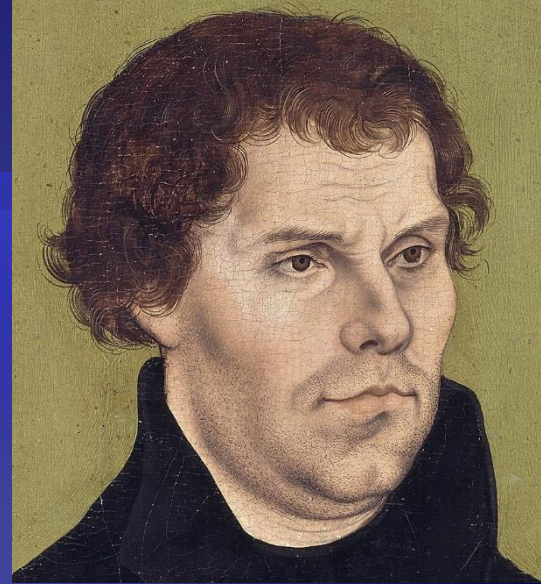


- ◆ In order to end these divisions the Emperor announced an imperial assembly at Worms, but no debate took place. Luther was only asked two questions: "Are these your writings?" "Are you ready to take back what you have written?"
- ◆ Luther knew that if he answered "No." He would be put under the imperial ban (he would be a wanted criminal whom anyone could arrest or kill on sight).



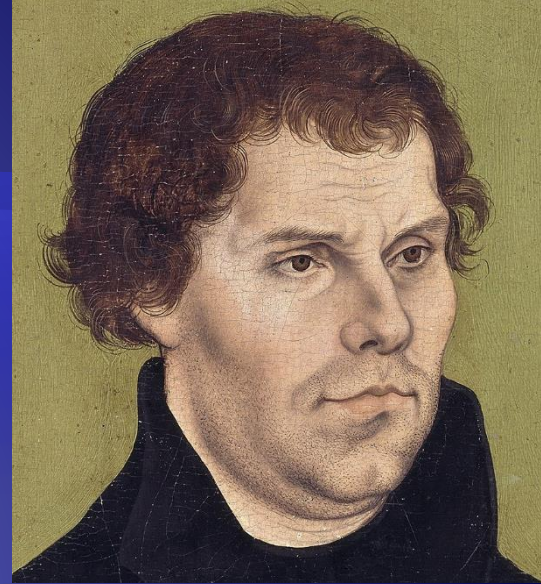


- ◆ After a day of deliberation he responded, “Unless you can prove to me from the Bible that I have made wrong statements, I cannot and will not take back anything. My conscience is bound by the Word of God. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”



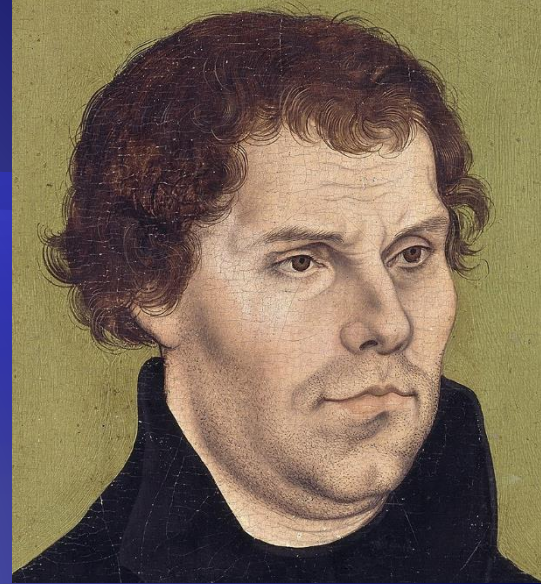
H.) The Reformation Takes Root

- ◆ Luther's life was saved when the Elector of Saxony "kidnapped" him and hid him in Wartburg castle where he stayed for about a year and translated the New Testament into everyday German



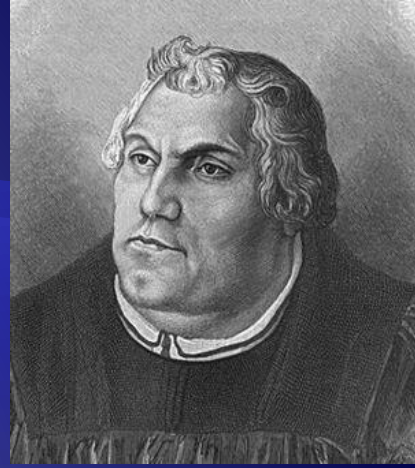


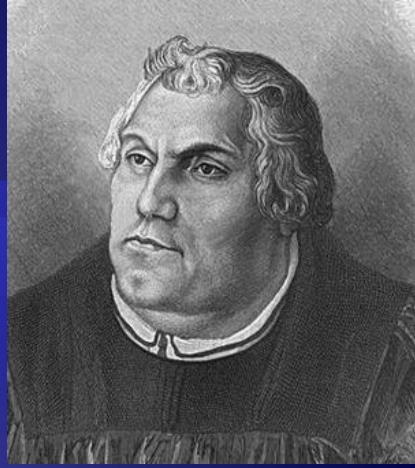
- ◆ The Reformation spread and changes took place:
 - ◆ Sermons and the Sacraments were spoken in language people could understand
 - ◆ Luther wrote his Small and Large Catechism for the instruction of youth and adults
 - ◆ The Old Testament was translated into German



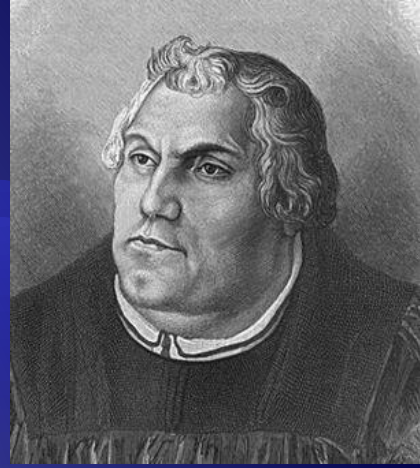
I.) Luther's Later Years

- ◆ Continued writing – one of most prolific writers in history

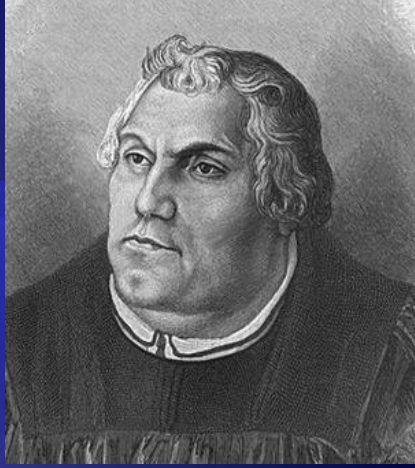




- ◆ Wrote 37 hymns (“A Mighty Fortress”)
- ◆ Suffered from poor health and kidney stones
- ◆ Struggled with depression, death of daughter
- ◆ Died in Eisleben on February 18, 1546, buried in Castle Church in Wittenberg



J.) Luther's Legacy



Why do we call ourselves "Lutherans"?

- ◆ NOT because Luther was a "holy" man, he was a sinner like the rest of us
 - ◆ Often spoke too strongly/insultingly of his opponents
 - ◆ In later years made insulting comments about the Jews
- ◆ We call ourselves Lutherans because we stand with Luther on the truth that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, found in Scripture alone.

If time permits.... Review Study Guide



Assignment for Next Time...

- ♦ Memory work:
 - ♦ Galatians 3:11
- ♦ Complete at-home, open-notes quiz
- ♦ Answer study question:
What do you want to know or learn about the Bible?

