

The Collapse of Christendom



Church Crisis of the Late Middle Ages

- ▣ Review: What events caused the prestige of the Roman Church to decline during the late Middle Ages?



The Great Schism

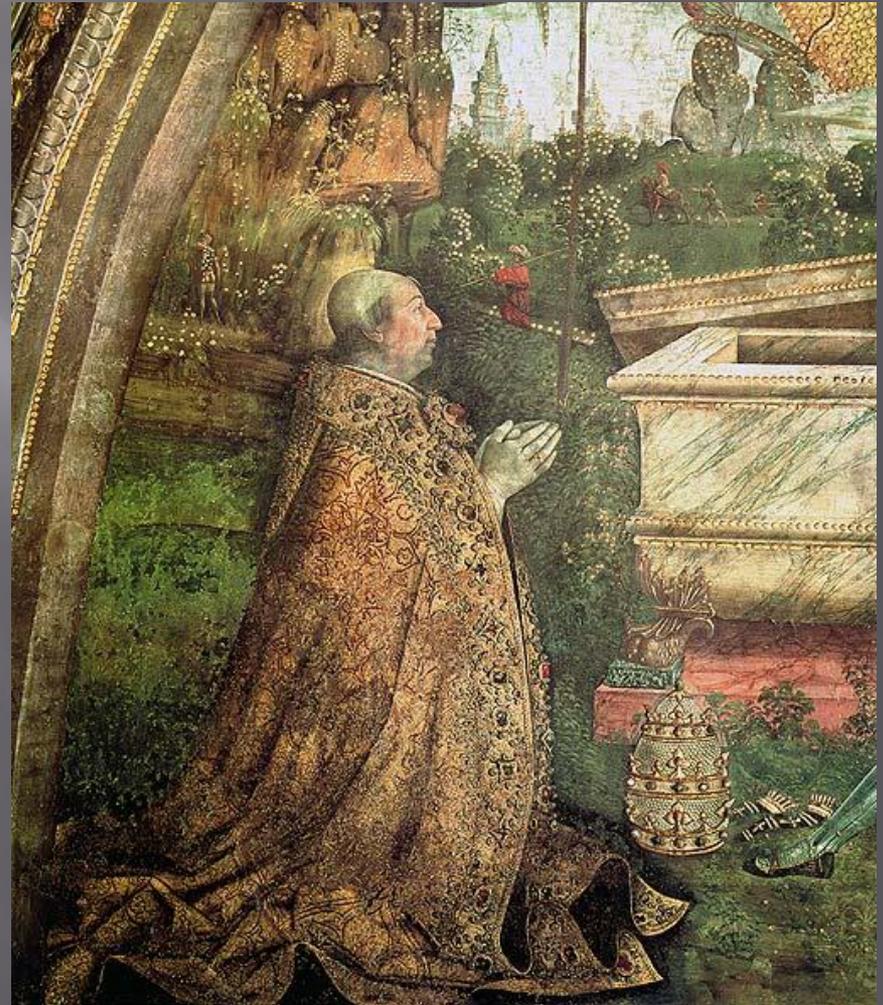
Anticlericalism

- ▣ What caused the educated laity to criticize the clergy?
 - Immorality
 - Ignorance
 - Pluralism



Widespread Resentment of Church

- ▣ Social and economic
 - New urban poor despised the wealth of the Church
- ▣ Political
 - Church held $\frac{1}{4}$ of Europe's wealth
 - Poor princes desired these lands!
- ▣ Spiritual and intellectual
 - Christian humanists criticized the abuses and corruption in church, including simony



Revival of religious piety

- ▣ Spain – Cardinal Francisco Jimenez
- ▣ Holland – Brethren of the Common Life
 - Thomas a Kempis *The Imitation of Christ*
 - Foundation of Christian Humanism
- ▣ Italy – Oratories of Divine Love



Early Years of Luther

- ❑ His father wished for him to study law and become a public official
- ❑ Luther entered an Augustinian friary in 1305
 - Priest in 1307
- ❑ Professor of theology at Univ of Wittenberg
- ❑ Due to his disobedience, he grappled with his own sinful nature and deep fear of hell
 - How could one really achieve the righteousness needed for salvation?



The Indulgence Crisis

- What is an indulgence?
 - Remission of temporal, not spiritual penalties of sin
- Three underlying principles:
 - God is merciful but just
 - Christ established a treasury of merits
 - Church has the authority to grant sinners the benefits of these merits
- By the late Middle Ages, people began to believe that indulgences excused them from both priest-given and god-given punishments



The Indulgence Crisis

- ▣ Why sell indulgences?
 - Archbishop Albert needed money to pay for his papal dispensation
 - Pope Leo X needed money to build new St. Peter's
- ▣ Albert hired Dominican friar Johann Tetzel to sell indulgences

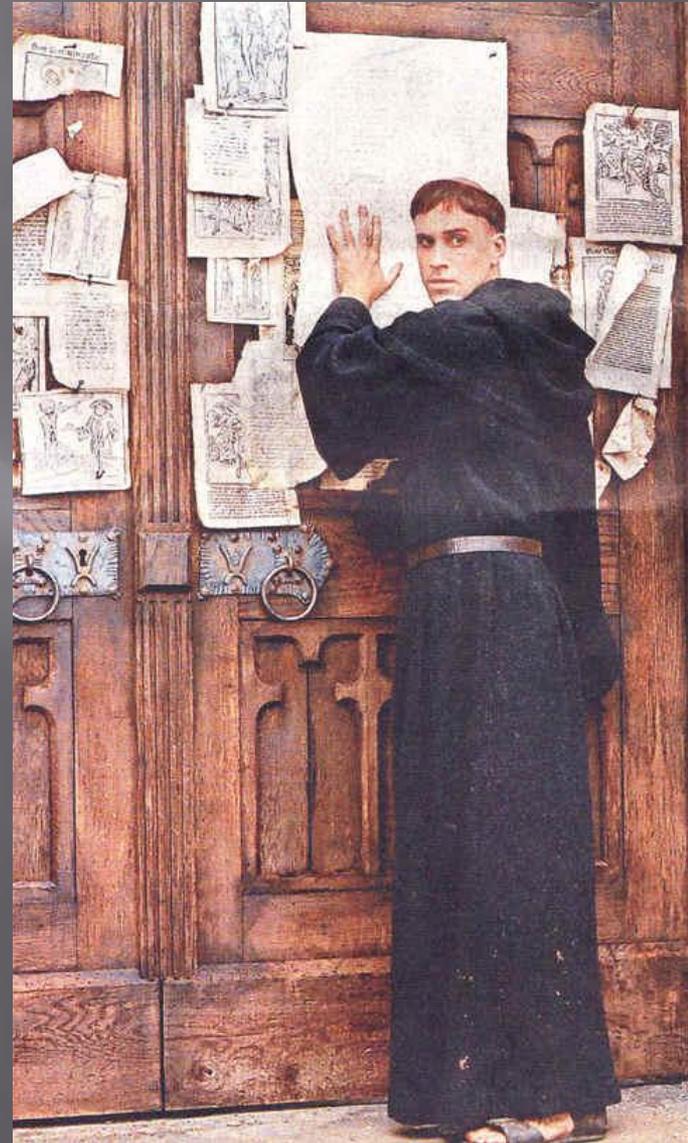


“As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.”



Luther's *95 Theses*

- ▣ October 31, 1517
 - Posted to door of Castle Church in Wittenberg
 - Denied the legality of indulgences
- ▣ Did Luther intend to break from Rome?
 - No, but once his work was published, he became a German national hero!



Leipzig Debate

- ▣ Question: Where did authority lie in the Christian church?
- ▣ In 1519 debate with John Eck, Luther answered this question!
 - Denied the authority of the pope and church councils



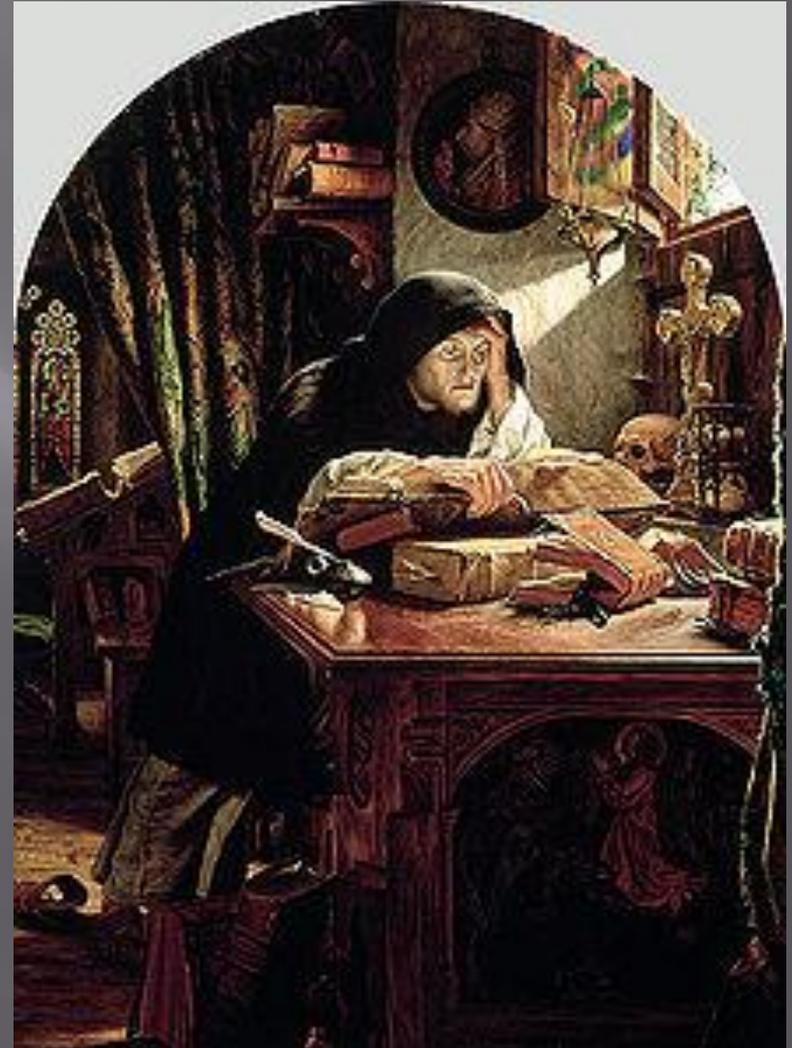
Diet of Worms (1521)

- After excommunication, Luther is called to the Imperial Diet
- HRE Charles V ordered Luther to recant, but...
 - “I cannot and will not recant anything, for it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.”
- Edict of Worms
 - Banishes Luther from HRE
 - Rescued and housed at Wartburg Castle by Elector Frederick of Saxony



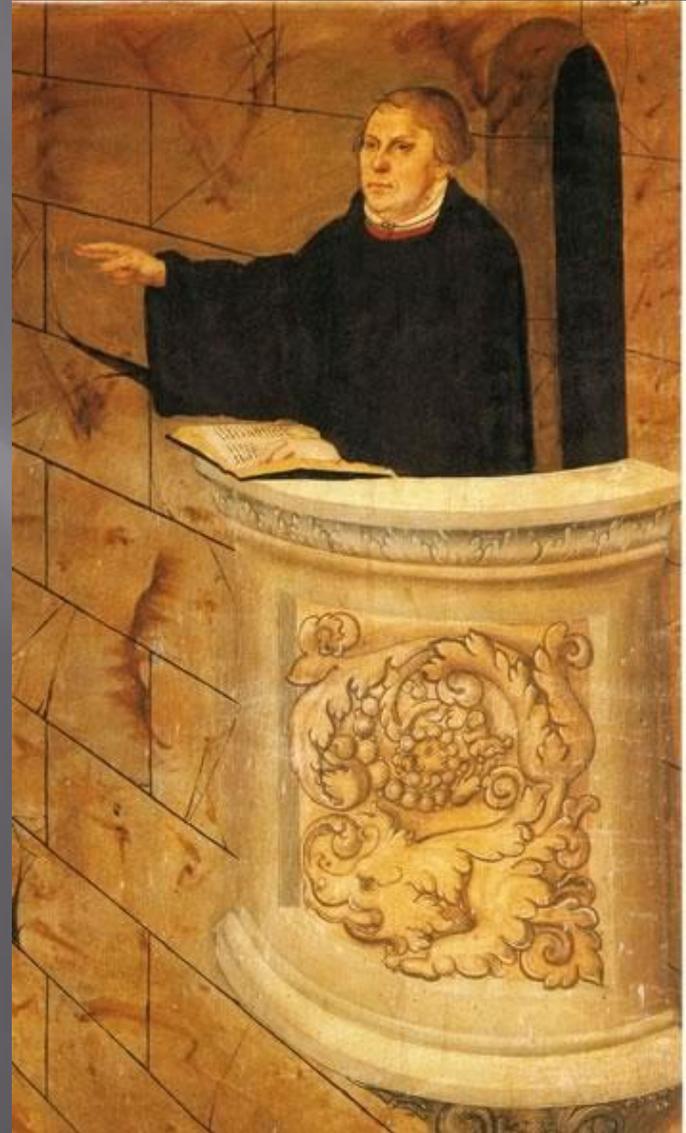
Four Theological Questions

- ▣ How is a person to be saved?
 - L: Faith alone!
- ▣ Where does religious authority lie?
 - L: Word of God interpreted by individuals
- ▣ What is the church?
 - L: Entire community of believers
- ▣ What is the highest form of Christian life?
 - L: Equality of all professions



More Lutheran Changes

- ▣ 2 sacraments
 - Baptism
 - Eucharist
 - ▣ Transubstantiation vs. Consubstantiation
- ▣ Preaching at center of vernacular service
- ▣ Abolition of monasteries
- ▣ Clerical marriage
- ▣ Legality of divorce



Where are we headed?

- How appealing were these ideas?
 - Specifically, how did the peasants react?
 - How did the German princes react?
- How does this movement change the nature of Europe?

