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Martin Luther and the Roots of the Reformation

- 1483 Martin Luther is born in Eisleben, Saxony.
- 1491 Martin Bucer is born in Selestat.
- 1497 Philip Melanchthon is born in Bretten, Westphalia.
- 1512 Luther becomes professor of theology at Wittenberg University.
- 1516 Erasmus publishes Greek text of the New Testament.
- 1517 Luther posts his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.
- 1518 Melanchthon named Professor of Greek at Wittenberg University.
- 1519 Charles V becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1521 Luther is excommunicated by Pope Leo X. Luther defends his teaching before Charles V at the Diet of Worms. Luther then spends ten months in hiding at Warburg Castle where he translates the New Testament into German.
- 1522 Luther's German language New Testament is published with art work by Durer and Lucas Cranach the Elder.
- 1524 Luther publishes *The Bondage of the Will* in which he challenges Erasmus' teachings on freedom.
- 1525 Luther marries former nun, Katharina von Bora.
- 1526 At the first Diet of Spire, Charles V grants limited freedom of worship to followers of Luther.
- 1529 Strasbourg embraces the Reformation under the leadership of Martin Bucer.

- 1530 Melanchthon writes the Augsburg Confession which he and Luther present to Emperor Charles V as a statement of Lutheran theology.
- 1533 Luther's hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" is published.
- 1536 John Calvin publishes the first edition of *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* in Basel and moves to Geneva which has just adopted the Reformation.
- 1538 John Calvin is expelled from Geneva and goes to Strasbourg, where Martin Bucer becomes his mentor.
- 1540 The Jesuit order is formed and the Counter-Reformation is underway.
- 1541 Calvin returns to Geneva.
- 1545 The Council of Trent is called to formulate a Catholic response to the Reformation
- 1546 Luther dies at Wittenberg.
- 1549 Martin Bucer is forced to leave Strasbourg and becomes Regis Professor of Divinity at Cambridge University in England.
- 1551 Martin Bucer dies at Cambridge.
- 1560 Melanchthon dies in his study in Wittenberg.