Luther: The Final Years

1530-1546
Seven headed Luther Catholic pamphlet against Luther 1529

1. Scholar
2. Monk
3. Priest
4. Turban-wearing Turk
5. Fanatic goaded by hornets
6. Church visitor
7. Barabbas

Title page of pamphlet by Johann Cochleus, 1479-1552
Two thieves on the cross
1545
Good thief = Lutheran church
Bad thief = pope. Note devils
Phillip Melanchthon
1497-1560
First edition of the Augsburg Confession

I will also speak of your decrees before kings, and shall not be put to shame. Ps 119

From the Rare Books Collection of LSTC
Coburg Castle—four days travel away from Augsburg
John the Steadfast
1525-1532
Elector of Ernestine Saxony

The name of the Lord is the strongest tower
Luther and Melanchthon
A good confession before many witnesses
1 Tim 6:12
1730
Luther, John the Steadfast, Melanchthon
Christian Beyer hands over the Augsburg Confession to Emperor Charles V 1830 This is such a confession that with the help of God can stand up against the gates of hell.
Augsburg Confession June 25, 1530

- Presented to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (1500-1558)
- Written in German and Latin
- Written by Melanchthon with significant input from Luther who stayed at Coburg Castle (Veit Dietrich was with him)
- First twenty-one articles reaffirm Catholic teaching; seven articles opposed to various abuses (both kinds in the Lord’s supper; marriage of priests, monastic vows). But no attacks on purgatory, indulgences, the Mass, or the papacy.
- Article 7: Church is where the gospel is preached and sacraments rightly administered
- Roman Catholic “Confutation” by Eck presented on August 3
- Lutheranism is The Church of the Augsburg Confession
Apology (or Defense) of the Augsburg Confession

• Appeared April-May 1531 (quarto)
• Second edition in September 1531 (octavo)
• 186 pages. More than four times as long as the Augsburg Confession
• Luther, 1532: Philip would never have published his apology if he had not been forced to—he always wanted to improve upon it.
• Octavo translated into German by Justus Jonas
Henry VIII—Catherine of Aragon 1485-1536---Ann Boleyn queen 1533-1536 executed
Henry VIII

• Catherine of Aragon could not provide a male heir. She was the aunt of Charles V!
• Luther did not support Henry’s divorce in 1532
Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Warning to his Beloved Germans 1531

• One of Luther’s harshest polemical works
• Adherents of Rome were murderers and bloodthirsty dogs who intend to wage war
• The defenders of Rome had made a terrible mistake at Augsburg because my life will be their hangman and my death their Satan.
• Luther sanctioned armed resistance to the emperor
• Deeply angered Duke George of Saxony who wrote a rebuttal
• Luther’s response: “Against the Assassin at Dresden”
Duke George of Albertine Saxony
George the Bearded
1471-1539. Opposed Luther’s doctrine of grace. Persecuted Lutherans. Succeeded by Henry IV (1539-1541) who was a Lutheran.
Luther’s Complete Bible

1534
Depiction of creation in 1534 Bible

From the Rare Books Collection of LSTC
Smalcald Articles 1537

• Luther’s “last will and testament” requested by John Frederick 1532-47, Elector of Ernestine Saxony. 32 pages. Part of Book of Concord
• Dealt with the Mass, clerical celibacy, good works, monasticism, and the like.
• Published with Melanchthon’s treatise on the power and primacy of the Pope written by Melanchthon 15 pages
• Luther at this time had a kidney stone in his bladder. They fed him a mixture of horse manure and garlic!
• Luther urinated 1.5 gallons!
Antinomian Controversy 1539

- Main culprit was John Agricola 1493-1566, who thought that since law was not an agent in salvation, it also had no role in the moral life. The gospel is the only source of the moral life.
- Agricola was rector of the school in Eisleben
- Luther: I was born to go to war and give battle to sects and devils. That is why my books are stormy and warlike. I must root out the stumps and bushes and hack away the thorns and brambles.
- Agricola forced to recant
Phillip of Hesse
Phillip of Hesse

- Wanted to marry a second wife in 1539 and had an affair; he was under so much guilt that he could not attend Lord’s supper
- Phillip’s first wife was the daughter of Duke George of Saxony. She had ten children with Phillip, three after he had taken a second wife!
- Luther: Marry a second wife secretly and keep quiet about it! This was called a “Turkish marriage,” since the Turks allowed marriage to more than one woman. The secret got out (through the new wife’s mother) and Luther’s reputation was badly hurt
- Phillip sought forgiveness from Charles V and lost political power
When faced with Turks’ attacks

• Lord, keep us in Thy Word and work
• Restrain the murderous Pope and Turk,
• Who fain would tear from off Thy throne,
• Christ Jesus, Thy beloved son.

• Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
• Curb those who by deceit or sword
• Would wrest the kingdom from your Son
• And bring to naught all he has done.
• Alt.
Zebaoth, Heilig ist Gott der Herr.
Sein, ehr die gantze welt erfüllet hat.
Von dem Geschrey zittert schwell und ballen gar.
Das haus auch gantz vol rauchs und nebel war.

XXX.
Ein kinderlied zu singen.
Wider die zween Erzfeinde Christi und seiner heiligen kirchen.
Den Bapst und Türecken rc.

Erhalt uns Herr bey deinem wort, und strewr
Des Bapst's und Türecken mort, Die Ihesum Christü.

Deinen Son, wolten stürzen von deinem thron.

Erhalt uns Herr bey deinem wort und stewr des Bapst's und Türecken mort.
Die Ihesum Christum deinen Son wolten stürzen von deinem thron.

Beweis dein macht Herr Ihesu Christi der du Herr aller Herrren bist.
Beschirm dein arme Christenheit das sie dich lob in ewigkeit.

Gott heiliger Geist du tröster werd.
Gib dem volck einkleyt sinn auf erd.
Steh bey uns in der letzten not, gleit uns ins leben aus dem tod.
Luther, Martin. Das Jhesus Christus eyn geborne Jude sey. 18 leaves. Title within beautiful Renaissance architectonic woodcut border. Sm. 4to. Boards.
Wittenberg, (Lucas Cranach & Georg Döring), 1523.
$100.00

Panzer II 1709; Kuczynski 1541; Dormer 561; Knaake 319; Luther, Weimar Ausg. XI, 1900.

Original edition of the famous treatise on Christ’s Jewish origin. Lucas Cranach, who made the beautiful woodcut border, was part owner of a printing press in Wittenberg.
That Jesus Christ was born a Jew 1523

Our fools, the popes, bishops, sophists, and monks— the crude asses’ heads— have hitherto so treated the Jews that anyone who wished to be a good Christian would almost have had to become a Jew. If I had been a Jew and had seen such dolts and blockheads govern and teach the Christian faith, I would sooner have become a hog than a Christian.... I hope that if one deals in a kindly way with the Jews and instructs them carefully from Holy Scripture, many of them will become genuine Christians and turn again to the faith of their fathers, the prophets and patriarchs.
The church has dealt with the Jews as if they were dogs rather than human beings; they have done little else than deride them and seize their property. When they baptize them they show them nothing of Christian doctrine or life, but only subject them to popishness and monkery. When the Jews then see that Judaism has such a strong support in Scripture, and that Christianity has become a mere babble without reliance on Scripture, how can they possibly compose themselves and become right good Christians?
Against the Sabbatarians

- Sabbatarians were Christians who favored a return to observance of the Sabbath.
- Luther suspected that the leaders of this movement were influenced by the Jews. John Frederick had forbidden Jews to dwell in his territory or even pass through it.
- Published in 1538 in German; translated into Latin by Justus Jonas and published in 1539.
That Jesus Christ was born a Jew 1523

1536 John Frederick banned all Jews from his territory

1538 “Against the Sabbatarians”—Jews could not be people of God because they were still waiting for the messiah

On the Jews and their lies

1543—their synagogues should be burned. 60,000 word essay

On the Holy Name and the Lineage of Christ 1543

Reflects his disappointment that more Jews had not converted to evangelical Christianity.

Widely quoted by the Nazis

Roland Bainton: One could wish that Luther had died before he wrote “On the Jews and their lies”
Indeed, one hardly knows whether to be more astonished at the crudity of Luther’s language here [in the fourth section] or at the cruelty of his proposals: let their synagogues be burnt, their houses razed, their prayer books seized, let them be reduced to a condition of agrarian servitude, and—as a “final solution”—let them be expelled from the country. It is no wonder that Rabbi Josel of Rosheim, the great Jewish leader who in 1537 had tried in vain to secure an interview with Luther, was moved to say, upon reading the present treatise: “Never before has a Gelehrter, a scholar, advocated such tyrannical and outrageous treatment of our poor people.”
More on the Jews

• Their synagogues and books were to be burned, and they were to be forced to leave the cities, give up their commercial activities, and work as laborers on the land.

• Luther had heard erroneous reports that Jews were trying to convert Christians and perform circumcision on men.
Here in Wittenberg, in our parish church, there is a sow carved into the stone under which lie young pigs and Jews who are sucking; behind the sow stands a rabbi who is lifting up the right leg of the sow, raises behind the sow, bows down and looks with great effort into the Talmud under the sow, as if he wanted to read and see something most difficult and exceptional; no doubt they gained their Shem Hamphoras from that place...
The Last Words of David

• 2 Samuel 23:1-7
• Significant portions of the Old Testament can be viewed as
• Christological prophecies
• Viewed this passage as OT proof for the Trinity
• Saw self-righteousness in Jews (papists, enthusiasts, and Turks)
• His writings against the Jews can be seen as an integral part of a vehement no to any solidarity with the Antichrist, and as an emphatic yes to the gospel.
• Luther cannot help modern Christians on the road towards better Christian-Jewish relations.
In the spirit of that truth-telling, we who bear his name and heritage must with pain acknowledge also Luther's anti-Judaic diatribes and the violent recommendations of his later writings against the Jews. As did many of Luther's own companions in the sixteenth century, we reject this violent invective, and yet more do we express our deep and abiding sorrow over its tragic effects on subsequent generations. In concert with the Lutheran World Federation, we particularly deplore the appropriation of Luther's words by modern anti-Semites for the teaching of hatred toward Judaism or toward the Jewish people in our day.
False report of Luther’s death 1545

• Received by Philip of Hesse on March 9, 1545
• Luther supposedly died and was buried after ordering that his body be placed on an altar and worshiped
• A large roar at night led to his body being exhumed.
• No bones or grave clothes; only the smell of sulfur
The Death of Luther 1546

• On a trip to settle a dispute between two counts of Mansfeld
• Luther spent most of his energies speaking of his assurance in the face of Anfechtungen.
• If I go back home to Wittenberg, I’ll lie down in a coffin and give the maggots a fat doctor to eat.
• We are beggars! That is true. February 16, 1546.
Deteriorating health after 1531: kidney and bladder stones, arthritis, angina

Luther tried to settle a dispute among the three Counts of Mansfeld

The house where Luther died, February 18, 1546, in Eisleben. Buried on February 22 in Wittenberg.

“We are beggars. That is true.”
Luther was given ground unicorn horn!

Justus Jonas: Reverend father, will you die steadfast in Christ and in the doctrines you have preached?

Martin Luther: Yes.

Melanchthon: The charioteer of Israel has fallen. He has been called to the heavenly university.
Narwhale above; unicorn below
February 16, 1546

• Let nobody suppose that he has tasted the Holy Scriptures sufficiently unless he has ruled over the churches with the prophets for a hundred years. We are beggars. That is true.

• A life spent struggling for the proper understanding of the wisdom of the Bible and the authors of the Greek-Roman world is, at best, the life of a beggar. But beggars are known to be persistent, proud, humble, frustrated, impatient, and at times filled with the wish to die. Luther was all these.
Deathbed portrait
Portrait of the dead Luther by Lucas Furttnagel
The cross signifies faith, which makes the heart glow
The rose signifies peace and joy.
Blue background signifies hope
Golden ring depicts eternity.
Luther Spalatin 1484-1545
friend of Luther,
wrote account of
Diet of Augsburg 1530
John Frederick
Elector of Saxony
Gregor Brueck
1484-1557
counselor of
Frederick the Wise
Melanchthon
1497-1560
The Sacrifice of Isaac

If God had slept an instant, the land would have been dead. I could not have watched. I am not able in my thoughts to follow. Never in history was there ever such obedience, save only in Christ. But God was watching, and all the angels. The father raised his knife; the boy did not wince. The angel cried “Abraham, Abraham!” See how divine majesty is at hand in the hour of death. We say, “In the midst of life we die.” God answers, “Nay, in the midst of death we live.”
Lutherans in Sweden

- Gustavus Vasa I 1496-1460 sent Lutheran missionaries to Lapps.
- Olavus Petri 1493-1552 (translated the Bible into Swedish) and Laurentius Andreae (assisted Petri with translation) 1480-1552 were students of Luther.
Last paragraph of Luther’s will: Finally, I also ask of every man, since in this gift or endowment I am not using legal forms and terminology (for which I have good reasons), that he would allow me to be the person which I in truth am, namely, a public figure, known both in heaven and on earth, as well as in hell, having respect or authority enough that one can trust or believe more than any notary. For as God, the Father of all mercies, entrusted to me, a condemned, poor, unworthy, miserable sinner, the gospel of his dear Son and made me faithful and truthful, and has up to now preserved and grounded me in it, so that many in the world have accepted it through me and hold me to be a teacher of the truth, without regard for the pope’s ban, and the anger of the emperor, kings, princes, clerics, yes, of all the devils, one should surely believe me much more in these trifling matters; and especially since this is my very well-known handwriting, the hope is that it should suffice, when one can say and prove that it is Dr. Martin Luther’s (who is God’s notary and witness in his gospel) earnest and well-considered opinion to confirm this with his own hand and seal. Executed and delivered on Epiphany Day, 1542.
John Frederick the Magnanimous 1503-54
Frederick the Wise 1463-1525
Jesus
Moritz /Maurice of Saxony 1521-1553. Helped Charles V crush John Frederick his cousin, but later turned on Charles and defeated him at Innsbruck. Son-in-law of Phillip of Hesse
Phillip of Hesse 1504-1567
Wolfgang from Anhalt 1492-1546 signed Augsburg Confession, present at Luther’s death
Luther 1483-1546
Bugenhagen 1485-1558
Melanchthon 1497-1560
John Calvin
1509-1564
Institutes of Christian Religion 1536
Polemical depiction of crucifixion in 1545
Marburg Colloquy 1529

• This is my body
• Break with Zwingli and other Swiss Reformed theologians
• Real presence vs spiritual or symbolic presence
• Zwingli: Christ ascended into heaven; cannot be “present” in Lord’s supper
• Luther: The finite is capable of containing the infinite. Opposition, in Luther’s opinion, had a “different spirit.”
• Agreed on 14 of 15 points
Michael Servetus was Burnt on a stack of his own books. Calvin wanted him beheaded.
Catechisms

• Large catechism based on sermons preached in 1528.
Popes in the 16\textsuperscript{th} Century

- Julius II 1503-1513
- Leo X 1513-1521
- Adrian VI 1522-1523
- Clement VII 1523-1534
- Paul III 1534-1549
- Julius III 1550-1555
- Marcellus II 1555 one month
- Paul IV 1555-1559
Paul III began council of Trent
Council of Trent 1545-1563

- Condemned principles and doctrines of Protestants
- Reformation in discipline and administration
- Church’s interpretation of the Bible was final
- Defined the relationship between faith and works
- Seven sacraments and the sacrifice of the mass affirmed.