

Lecture 24: *The Protestant Reformation and Print Culture*

I. Decline of the Papacy

- A. Babylonian Captivity (1309-1378) and the Great Schism (1378-1417)
- B. Popular Devotion
 - Vernacular Texts and Translations

II. Religious Dissent: Unmediated access to God

- A. John Wycliff (ca. 1335-1384)
- B. Jan Hus (d. 1415)
- C. Martin Luther (1483-1546) the Monk
 - 95 Theses against the Sale of Indulgences

III. Luther and the Idea of Reform

- A. Spiritual Truth and Scriptural Authority
 - B. Protestant Critiques in Print
 - C. Spread of Reform in the 16th Century
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Decline of the Papacy

“Babylonian Captivity of the Church” (1309-1378) – moved the papacy to Avignon (southern France)

The Great Schism (1378-1417) – division of the papacy (popes and anti-popes); resolved only in 1417 at the Council of Constance (1414-1418).

Rise in Popular Devotion

- Vernacular Texts and Translations of the Bible
- Humanists offered a close reading
- Laymen and women = mystical devotion

Religious Dissent and the Critique of the Papacy

- **John Wycliff** (ca. 1335-1384); England - Lollard movement
 - **Jan Hus** (d. 1415) and Jerome of Prague; Bohemia (east of German Empire) – advocated for full participation of lay people in the Mass (take bread *and* wine)
 - **Martin Luther** (1483 – 1546)
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Luther and the Idea of Reform

Martin Luther (1483-1546) the Monk

- October 31, 1517 -- 95 Theses against the Sale of Indulgences

Indulgences = sale by the pope or his representatives of “superfluous merit” to reduce the buyer’s time in purgatory = seems to be buying salvation.

Luther’s Message: Spiritual Truth and Scriptural Authority

sola fides = by faith alone

sola scriptura = by Scripture alone
sola gratia = by grace alone

Protestant Critiques in Print – use of printing quickly spread the message of reform and Luther’s critiques of the Catholic Church

Reforms, like **Ulrich Zwingli** (1484-1531) and **John Calvin** (1509-1564), expand on Luther’s message and spread different versions of Protestantism. This begins to divide Europe according to beliefs. Brutal and violent clashes between Protestants and Catholics follow. – We shall consider what happens in England, the world the Shakespeare writes about, in the next lecture.