

TIMECHECK: UNDERSTANDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LUTHER'S THOUGHT

Task: Using the timeline which follows, write down three key dates in each of the following three boxes, along with an explanation of how this year saw Luther develop a key aspect of his theology. Select your choices carefully and compare them with a partner.

	How Luther formulated / promoted this idea and when
1. Justification by Faith Alone: <i>Sola Fideism, i.e. idea that we are saved by faith, which is given freely by God to the Elect.</i>	
2. Vernacular Bible: <i>Sola Scriptura, idea that to reveal our faith, we need to read and listen to the Word for ourselves</i>	
3. Priesthood of all Believers: <i>Idea that as we are all predestined, and have to search for faith inwardly, then all of us are equal.</i>	
4. Appearances / Sacraments: <i>Stress on faith, and on the Word, and on equality, means that church is plain and simple and unnecessary services / ceremonies are removed.</i>	

LUTHER AND LUTHERANISM - A TIMELINE

1483	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Born the son of a wealthy silver miner. Strict upbringing.
1505	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gains law degree from Erfurt University. Caught in thunderstorm, pledges to become monk if his life is spared.
1507	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luther is ordained as a priest, but finds little comfort in rituals of Catholic Church. Deeply unsatisfied.
1508	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joins theology department at Wittenberg University. Reads works by Biel, Tauler and the "Augustinisers", all of whom stress the power and majesty of God.
1516	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luther's "Tower Experience": Whilst studying St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans he is struck by the phrase "The righteous shall live by faith". For him, this means that salvation can only be assured "By faith alone" (<i>Sola Fide</i>). He claims that "I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates".
1517	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luther disgusted by the sale of Indulgences by Johann Tetzel.
1517	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luther pins 95 Theses against Church abuses on the door of the University Church at Wittenberg. Massive impact as the printing presses spread them through Germany.
1518	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church seeks to terrify Luther into submission when Cardinal Cajetan summons him to Augsburg. Luther refuses to recant.
1519	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church seeks to intellectually persuade Luther to submit in a head to head debate with Johann Eck at Leipzig; but Luther is thereby forced to openly reject any papal claims to authority that are not clearly based in scripture, even if this makes him a heretic like Jan Hus a century before. <i>Sola Scriptura</i> thereby takes its place alongside <i>Sola Fide</i> as a key tenet of Lutheran belief. Charles V is elected Holy Roman Emperor.
1520	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pope Leo X excommunicates Luther in the Bull <i>Exsurge, Domine</i> ("Arise, O Lord...A wild boar has entered your vineyard"). Luther responds by publicly burning it and writing 3 pamphlets - "The Address to the German Nobility", "On the Babylonish Captivity of the Church" and "Concerning Christian Liberty". Printing presses circulate these all over Europe.
1521 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diet of Worms. Luther given safe passage to appear before Charles V and the Princes to explain his conduct. Refuses to change his beliefs - "Here I stand. I can do no other. So help me God. Amen". Edict of Worms banned Luther and his works.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luther is "imprisoned" in Wartburg Castle by the Elector of Saxony, whose support in next 4 years is crucial.
1521-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lutheran Reformation in Germany is led by Andreas Karlstadt in Luther's absence; Philip Melanchthon collects Luther's works together in the <i>Loci Communes</i>

1522	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luther returns to Wittenburg. • Publishes the <i>September Testament</i>, his German version of Erasmus's Greek New Testament.
1522/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knights' War is crushed - they latched onto the Nationalism of Luther.
1524-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Peasant's Revolt was crushed by nobles. • Luther did not support the revolt and published "Against the Murdering, Thieving Hordes of Peasants".
1525	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage to Catherine von Bora; Elector Frederick of Saxony dies.
1525	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albrecht, Duke of Prussia converted
1526-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip, Duke of Hesse converted • John, the Elector of Saxony, converted. Others follow.
1526	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishes hymns and a Lutheran Mass; • Encourages new schools to be founded out of profits from confiscated monastic lands.
1529	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luther publishes the <i>Great and Small Catechisms</i>, a full statement of beliefs and Church services.
1529	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six Lutheran Princes "Protest" at second Diet of Speyer; • Luther meets Zwingli at the Colloquy of Marburg but fails to resolve arguments between them.
1530	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet of Augsburg. Charles V hopes to unite Catholics and Lutherans against Ottomans by promoting the compromise written by the moderate Lutheran Philip Melanchthon at the Marburg Colloquy; but this is unacceptable to extremists on both sides.
1531	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lutheran Princes and cities join the Schmalkaldic League.
1534	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duchy of Wurttemberg joins. • Luther publishes his German translation of the Old Testament.
1541	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet of Regensburg. Charles V makes one last attempt to unite the sides but fails.
1546	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luther dies in Wartburg Castle; his last years were spent in improving his translation of the Bible into German.
1547	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battle of Muhlberg. Charles V defeats Schmalkaldic League but fails to follow the victory up.
1555	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles V abdicates, agrees to the Peace of Augsburg: the principle <i>Cuius Regio, Eius Religio</i> allows each Prince to decide the religion of his area.

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TEACHER PROMPT SHEET

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1. Justification by Faith Alone: <i>Sola Fideism, i.e. idea that we are saved by faith, which is given freely by God to the Elect.</i>	<p>1516: Sola Fide: In the 'Tower Experience' Luther reads that "The Righteous shall live by faith" in St. Paul's Epistles</p> <p>1520: Reiterated these beliefs in <i>The Babylonish Captivity of the Church</i> he states that as a consequence of Sola Fide, free will "is utterly smashed to pieces"</p> <p>1520: in <i>The Liberty of a Christian Man</i> he stresses that Good Works reflect, but do not in themselves bestow, grace.</p>
2. Vernacular Bible: <i>Sola Scriptura, idea that to reveal our faith, we need to read and listen to the Word for ourselves</i>	<p>1519: Sola Scriptura: Eck forces Luther into a position where he has to declare that anything not in the Bible is not divine.</p> <p>1522: Publishes the September Testament – New Testament in German.</p> <p>1534: German translation of the Old Testament published</p>
3. Priesthood of all Believers: <i>Idea that as we are all predestined, and have to search for faith inwardly, then all of us are equal.</i>	<p>1520: <i>Address to the Christian Nobility</i> – defines Priesthood of All Believers, stresses leadership role of Princes, rejects Papal abuses.</p> <p>1525: Marries Catherine Von Bora</p> <p>1531: Luther finally accepts necessity of military resistance to the Emperor via Schmalkaldic League, after years of insisting that people should obey even an evil ruler (on the basis that God sent them as punishment for our sins)</p>
4. Appearances / Sacraments: <i>Stress on faith, and on the Word, and on equality, means that church is plain and simple and unnecessary services / ceremonies are removed.</i>	<p>1520: <i>Babylonish Captivity of the Church</i> – rejects 4 sacraments</p> <p>1523: Produces a German Mass</p> <p>1540: Encourages Philip of Hesse to make a bigamous marriage!</p>