




The image features a solid blue background with a gradient that is darker at the bottom and lighter at the top. The top edge is decorated with several overlapping, wavy lines in various shades of blue and cyan, creating a sense of movement and depth. Centered in the middle of the frame is the text "THE REFORMATION" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.


# THE REFORMATION


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- The **Reformation** began in **Germany** in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century to try and reform (Change or Improve) the teachings and practices in the Catholic Church.
  - It led to a **division** within the Church.

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- The Church was ruled by the **Pope in Rome**. He had to see that the Bishops and the priests taught the people well and gave them a good example to all Christians.
  - This however was not the case and many **abuses** had grown up in the Church.



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- **Simony** - The buying and selling of Church offices
  - **Nepotism** - appointing relatives to positions of power
  - **Pluralism** – Holding one or two church jobs at the same time e.g. bishop and abbot
  - **Absenteeism** – living in a different place from where the church office was held

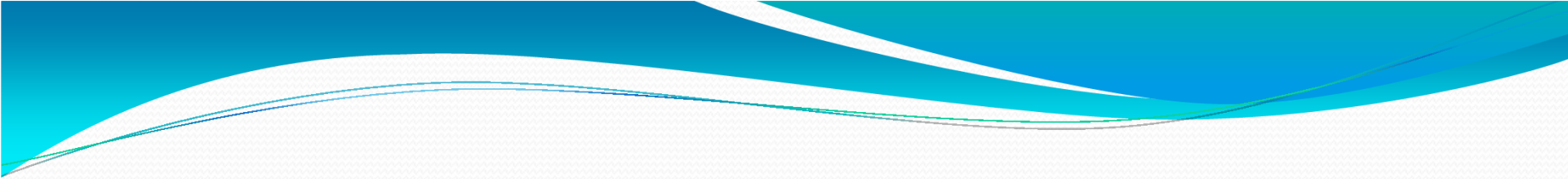
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- **Sale of Indulgences** – this was the reduction in the length of time a soul spent in purgatory. They could be gained by the performance of good works e.g. helping the poor or giving money to the Church. The preachers who sold indulgences misled people into believing that they could buy their way into heaven

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- There was **poor education** among priest. Some of them did not know the Ten Commandments or did not know Latin, the language that the Mass was said in.
  - ‘Of the 311 clergy 171 could not repeat the **Ten Commandments**, 27 did not know who wrote the **Lords Prayer** and 10 could not repeat the words’



# OTHER CAUSES OF THE REFORMATION

- **Influence of the Renaissance:** this was a time when people questioned everything. People like Martin Luther believed that a church which allowed so many abuses could not be the church of God so they left it and set up a church based on their own beliefs.

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- **Resentment of the Power of the Church:** Money collected from the sale of Indulgences, simony and tithes were sent to Rome. Rulers wanted to stop this money leaving the country.
  - **Invention of Printing:** Printing made available the works of people who questioned what was happening in the Catholic Church.



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- **Martin Luther** believed that printing was “Gods latest and best work to spread the true Religion throughout the world”




# The Reformers

- They wanted to **reform or change** the Church and make it more like Jesus Christ had intended.
- They wanted the Popes and Bishops to be good men who would watch over the priests and people and lead them to God.

# Reformers cont'd


- They wanted all **priests** to be **well educated** so that they could teach the people the **Christian Religion**.
- They wanted people to learn about their faith and wanted them to be able to **read the bible** in their **own language rather than Latin**, a language that meant nothing to them.



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- Reform was slow. Popes, Bishops and priests who benefitted from the abuses did not want things to change.
  - Sometimes reformers were known as **HERETICS**. (A person accused of teaching false ideas about the Church). These were often burnt at the stake.

# MARTIN LUTHER

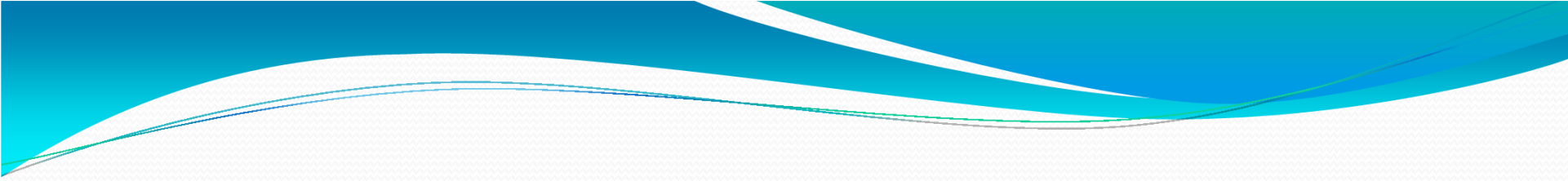
- He was born in **Eisblein** in Germany in 1483
- He had a very **strict upbringing**.
- At 17 he went to the **University of Erfurt** to study **Law**.
- In 1505 he was caught up in a storm and was frightened. If he was saved from this he promised to become a **monk**.
- He was saved, kept his promise and taught in a **University**.


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- Luther wanted to get into heaven and did many good works. However, he still thought he was wicked.
  - He read in the Bible that “**The good man is saved by Faith**”. He got comfort from this.
  - He believed that to get into heaven all you had to do was believe in Jesus Christ.
  - This idea is known as ‘**Salvation through Faith alone**’.



# 95 Theses

- Many Germans disapproved of **paying taxes to the pope** and seeing this money being wasted on paintings, sculptures and luxuries.
- **Pope Leo X** was trying to build a new cathedral in Rome and needed money to do this.
- He announced an **Indulgence** that anybody who gave money to help build the cathedral would find it easier to get into heaven


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- **John Tetzel** sold these indulgences in Wittenburg.  
His rhyme was:
  - **“When a coin in the coffer rings, a soul into Heaven sings”**
  - Luther was appalled by this.
  - He nailed a list of **arguments or THESESES** against the indulgences up on the University walls and became a hero.


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- These were translated into **German** and distributed all over Germany.
  - Luther said Christians should read their **Bibles** and make up their own mind about what was right or wrong instead of obeying the Pope and Priests.
  - The Pope wrote a **papal bull or letter** telling Luther to take back what he had said. Otherwise he would be called a **Heretic**. Luther had 60 days to reply to it. He didn't and burned it instead.




# DIET OF WORMS

- During Luther's protests in Germany, the country was divided into 300 small states, each with its own Prince or ruler.
- These were known as the Holy Roman Empire. Charles V was the Emperor.
- Charles called all the Princes to a **Diet** or meeting held in the city of **Worms in 1521**.
- He called Luther to explain his ideas. He said no.

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- The next day, Charles declared Luther a **Heretic**. He was to be burned at the stake.
  - He was looked after for a year by **Frederick the Wise** and during this time Luther **translated the Bible into German**.

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- Luther set out to reform or change the Church.
  - Instead he actually created a new Church based on his own religious beliefs. Many Princes supported his church.
  - 30 years of war followed between the Catholic and Lutheran Princes.




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- Neither side won but they reached an Agreement.
  - The peace of Augsburg agreed that each prince should decide the religion of his people.
  - Luther's supporters became known as **Protestants**.

## Luther's Beliefs

- **Salvation through Faith alone:** Faith alone would get you into heaven
- **The Bible:** The Bible is the only source of truth. People should read it for themselves.
- **The Mass:** The mass to be said in your own language.
- **Sacraments:** 2 sacraments – Baptism and the Eucharist

## Catholic Beliefs

- Faith and good works are needed to get into heaven.
- The Bible and the teachings of the Church by the pope and priests give people truth.
- Mass to be said in Latin
- 7 Sacraments – Baptism, Confession, Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, Last rights

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- **Marriage:** Priests should marry (Luther himself married)
  - **Communion:** The body and blood (bread and wine) are present in Communion
  - **Priesthood:** Priests should not be a special group. People can read the Bible for themselves
- Priests can not marry
  - The bread and wine are completely changed to the body and blood of Christ
  - A priest is a special person who is ordained. They can say mass and forgive sins.