

# ***Church History***



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21<sup>st</sup> century



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- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16<sup>th</sup> century
  - *Martin Luther*
  - *Conquests of Various Kinds*
  - *The New Martyrdom of the Church*





# The Reformation

- Revolution tends to breed revolution...

1523

Reform hit Zurich hard

- Zwingli set forth the basic theology of his new, Reformed, *Bible*-based church
- Bavarian Catholic pastor Balthasar Hubmaier extended Zwingli's thoughts in what seemed to him like a logical progression—
  - If we are saved "*sola fide*," then we're not saved by any actions, but by internal relationship with God
  - If we emphasize "*sola scriptura*," then we should abandon any theology that doesn't come from Scripture (especially if it seems to *clash* with the Bible's teachings)
  - If Zwingli's correct that unbaptized children should be instructed before they are baptized, then shouldn't *everyone* be so instructed first?
  - If Scripture teaches that baptism is simply an expression of the internal faith that we have, then it's a ritual only for those who actually *have* faith, and can be rightly instructed, correct?
  - Thus, baptism should be restricted to believers—and that, by definition, eliminates infants
  - This is true, even if it means *re*-baptizing a believer who was "baptized" as an infant
    - Thus was born the *Anabaptist* movement...





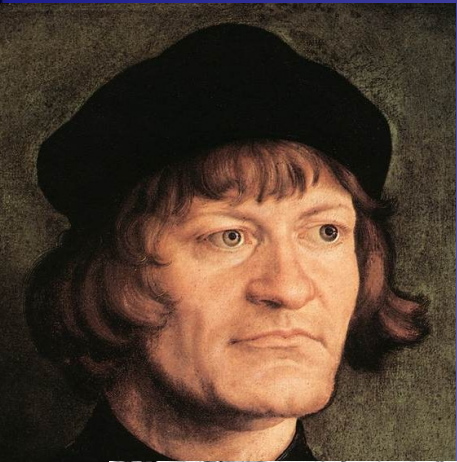
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- Zwingli disagreed that this was a logical progression, and declared Hubmaier a heretic
  - Petitioning Archduke Fernando of Austria, Zwingli called for Hubmaier's arrest and torture
  - At his hearing, Hubmaier provided multiple quotes from Zwingli, stating the foundations for what he'd been preaching
  - Zwingli simply replied that the quotes had been taken out of context, but provided no contrary interpretation for them
  - A very confused and disillusioned Hubmaier was found guilty of heresy and, after being tortured on the rack, recanted all that he had taught on the subject



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- For that matter, when the Catholic Church later came down hard on Zwingli, he re-instated the Mass that he himself had abolished earlier
  - It was one thing to promote new ideas when public opinion is on your side and everyone's excited about the novelty of them—but it's really hard to keep it up under pressure, once the "honeymoon" wears off





# ***The Reformation***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - All of this wasn't uncommon at this point in time
    - Remember—much like in the first two centuries of the Church, everyone was again trying to figure out just exactly what to believe
      - They could easily see multiple things that were clearly wrong with the Roman Catholic Church at the time, but that doesn't mean that “Reformer” theology was all figured out yet



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    - For instance, in 1521, Thomas Müntzer and other Reformer “prophets” from Zwickau began preaching the equality of all men, believers’ baptism, and Christ’s imminent return
      - That would seem to place him in the same camp as Hubmaier, at least on the surface
      - But Müntzer thought it was a sin to re-baptize a believer who had been baptized as an infant
        - (thus he was not an “*Anabaptist*,” even though he was still a “believers baptist”)





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      - He also led part of the German Peasants' War in 1524
        - (when most other iterations of “Baptists”—including Hubmaier—taught a strict code of non-violence)



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      - He also led part of the German Peasants’ War in 1524, setting up a quasi-communist system of government in the town of Mühlhausen, based on what he saw as the “continued revelation of God”
        - (much like the modern Church of Christ, he believed that “God is still speaking”—i.e.; that the canon is still open for new and evolving theology)



“Never place a period  
where God has placed a comma”

(Grace Allen)



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      - He also championed the Catholic dogma that taught that Mary was the Queen of Heaven, and the sinless mediatrix between us and God
        - (because of her sinlessness, Mary was able to usher in a new age, where all of us—by God's grace—can become sinless)





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  - So the Reform movement came *at* this Reform from multiple—often clashing—directions
    - Luther changed the foundations of its dogma, but kept much of the trappings of the Catholic Church
    - Zwingli fought against those trappings, but agreed (especially under pressure) to hold to *some* bits
    - Hubmaier threw out almost all of the Catholic background, and emphasized a believer’s baptism, even if it required re-baptism
    - Müntzer agreed with Hubmaier to abolish the Mass, but denounced re-baptism and preached Mariology
    - “Reformed” theology was kind of up for grabs, at this moment...



# *The Reformation*

- Revolution tends to breed revolution...

1523 Reform hit Zurich hard

1525 Anabaptism wouldn't go away

- Hubmaier wasn't alone in feeling that Zwingli's reforms naturally led to restricting Christian baptism to those who are actually Christians
  - New Anabaptist leaders such as Konrad Grebel, Catholic priest Jörg vom Haus Jakob, and scholar Felix Manz all engaged Zwingli in public debate against infant baptism and the concept of a "State Church," attached to the government
  - Local authorities sided with Zwingli's more traditional beliefs, and demanded that all babies be baptized within the week—on pain of exile from the community
  - But with every debate, secret house churches continued to grow
    - In 1525, George Blaurock stood up from prayer at one of these secret meetings, and asked Konrad Grebel to baptize him upon his confession of faith—and then Blaurock, as the pastor, baptized everyone else present upon *their* confessions
      - The church they founded became known simply as the "Swiss Brethren"





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    - In 1525, George Blaurock stood up from prayer at one of these secret meetings, and asked Konrad Grebel to baptize him upon his confession of faith
    - Even for those of us who drift more paedobaptist, this is a significant step—the first example of a *Reformed* focus on a *personal relationship* with Christ





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  - 1526 Another HUGE year in European history...
    - Luther wrote a book against the growing number of Sacramentarians



# ***The Reformation***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - The Sacramentarians were those who—like Zwingli—believed that Christ is not physically present in the Communion elements
  - They believed that the elements are “sacraments” that contained His spiritual essence—and many of them believed that the elements thus conveyed a spiritual blessing to those who partake in them—but that Jesus was not Himself physically devoured in the service
  - Luther argued that such Sacramentarian belief diluted the grace provided in the Eucharist
  - The Sacramentarians argued that they still saw that a grace was being provided—but that, as Zwingli argued from Scripture, we don't *need* to devour Christ's actual, physical flesh, since “The flesh profiteth nothing” (John 6.63)
  - Luther denounced them as heretics



# *The Reformation*

- Funky little teaching moment<sup>2</sup>—
  - In Luther's time, to be a “Sacramentarian” in Protestant circles was to be a liberal who diminished the mystical holiness of the Eucharist by denying part of the Divine Presence
  - Ironically, in modern parlance, a “Sacramentarian” in Protestant circles is to be a *traditionalist* who *upholds* the Divine Presence
  - The modern debate surrounds whether Communion could be best thought of as a “sacrament”  
(a “holy action” that conveys a mystical grace on those who take part, because God is uniquely present in the ritual)





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  - The modern debate surrounds whether Communion could be best thought of as a “sacrament” or an “ordinance”  
(an action which we do because God “called” us to do so—as a *remembrance*, not to receive a mystical grace from God)



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  - The modern debate surrounds whether Communion could be best thought of as a “sacrament” or an “ordinance”
  - So whether you as a “Sacramentarian” are a dangerous rebel who *denies* the Presence of Christ or a dangerous reactionary who *upholds* the Presence of Christ is largely a question of dates...





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    - Luther wrote a book against the growing number of Sacramentarians
    - **William Tyndale published his English translation of the New Testament**





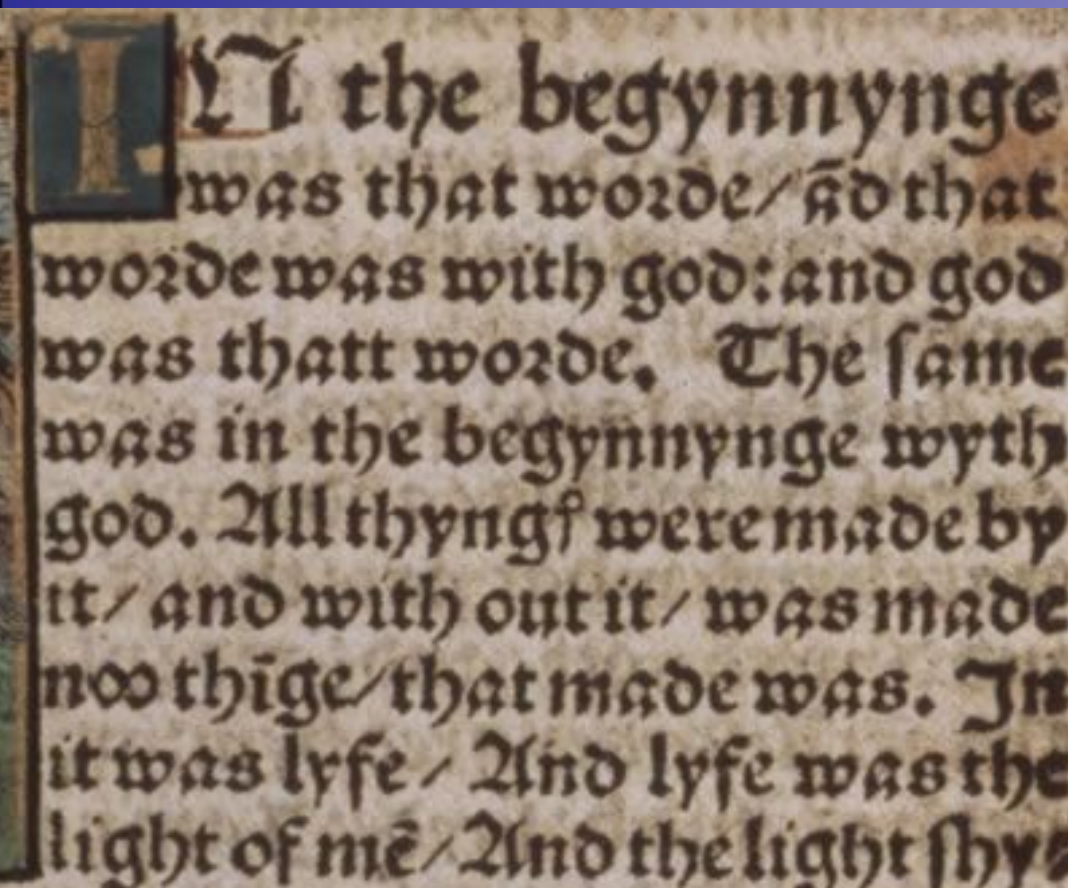
# *The Reformation*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Tyndale was a linguist who had studied at Cambridge—where Erasmus had taught
  - As with so many scholars, the more he read the actual Bible, the more Tyndale realized that the Catholic Church was teaching error
  - His life was changed by a memorable exchange with a Catholic priest, who argued that it is inherently dangerous to critique the Church, since to do so by definition critiques the Pope
    - "We are better to be without *God's* laws than the *Pope's*," the clergyman argued
    - Tyndale replied, "I *defy* the Pope, and *all* his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that drives the plow to know more of the Scriptures than you do!"
    - So Tyndale dutifully asked his bishop for permission to translate the Bible into English—and was flatly denied
    - So he travelled to Germany and completed the work there, publishing it in Worms



# The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Tyndale was a linguist who had studied at Cambridge—where Erasmus had taught
  - Being a linguist, Tyndale was also a wordsmith
    - Many of the Bible words that we're so familiar with are actually *inventions* by Tyndale—particularly those which were agglutinative:



**I**n the begynnyng  
was that worde / and that  
worde was with god: and god  
was thatt worde. The same  
was in the begynnyng wyth  
god. All thyngf were made by  
it / and with out it / was made  
noo thige / that made was. In  
it was lyfe / And lyfe was the  
light of mē / And the light shys

“Passover”—a new English word for Pesach, when the wrath of God “passed over” His people  
“Overseer”—a new English word for the mature Christian who helps “watch over” the newer converts within a congregation  
“Atonement”—a new English word for the work that Christ did to make us “at one” with God





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    - But Tyndale wasn't just trying to be clever and novel—he was trying to undermine (or at least circumvent) Catholicism
      - For instance, the Biblical word, “ἐπίσκοπος” (“*episcopos*”) had been translated several ways over the centuries
        - Sometimes, it was translated as “Elder,” since in Scripture, the word “πρεσβύτερος” (“*presbuteros*,” or “older one”) was often used synonymously with the office of “ἐπίσκοπος”
        - More often, it was translated as “Bishop,” since that was the Old English corruption of the word, “ἐπίσκοπος”
        - Thus, 1 Timothy 3:1 would read, “If anyone sets his heart on being a Bishop, he desires a noble task.” (i.e.; Catholic Bishops are noble, right?)





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      - For instance, the Biblical word, “ἐπίσκοπος” (“episcopos”) had been translated several ways over the centuries
        - But Tyndale didn't want people to confuse the Biblical “ἐπίσκοπος” with the Roman Catholic Bishop, as if the two were one and the same
        - Besides, the word, “ἐπίσκοπος,” literally meant “one who watches over”
        - So Tyndale translated “ἐπίσκοπος” literally, into the more value-neutral (and newfangled) word, “overseer”—who could even be a lay person
        - Rome was furious with him
          - So Tyndale was arrested, publicly strangled, then burned at the stake



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1526 **Another HUGE year in European history...**

- Luther wrote a book against the growing number of Sacramentarians
- William Tyndale published his English translation of the New Testament
- **The Ottoman Empire continued its conquests**
  - The Turks were on a roll, so they invaded Hungary and conquered the whole kingdom
  - Almost all of Eastern Europe—all the way to Vienna—was now forcibly converted to Islam
  - And in 1529, the Turks laid siege to Vienna, too...





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- The Italian Medici Pope Clement VII held no great love for the Spanish Emperor Carlos V

- So, looking at the map, Clement threw his support behind France, *against* Spain and Carlos

- So Carlos took his armies into the field against France... but couldn't pay them

- So after a huge victory, the totally pumped army decided to sack Rome to make up their lost pay

- For three days, the Imperial Army looted and pillaged the city
    - The only reason they didn't arrest Clement was that 186 Swiss Guard held off almost 1,000 crazed soldiers long enough for him to escape



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- Then, the army left, Carlos apologized, Clement paid a *ton* of money for his freedom, and the city reverted back to the Papal States

- But things were never quite the same again





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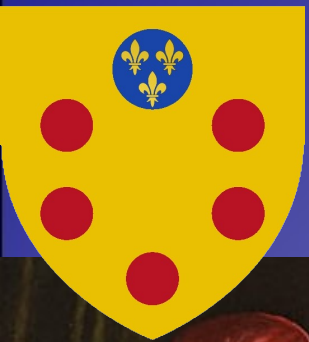
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- Between the loss of revenue, the loss of authority, the loss of artworks, etc., the Sack of Rome is generally considered by historians to be the end of the *classical*-minded Renaissance period, and the beginning of a new, more *contemporary*-focused time



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- Speaking of sacks, this was also the year that Incan ruler Huayna Cápac died from smallpox, dividing his kingdom and giving a portion to his son, Atahualpa—which weakened the kingdom and opened the door for Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro to seize power

- Spanish Dominican Vincente de Valverde first tried to share the Gospel with Atahualpa, but the Incan ruler just threw the Bible on the ground and said that he wanted nothing to do with it

- Thus, Valverde returned to Spanish-held territory and informed Pizarro that Atahualpa was a “mongrel” who intended to bring his 80,000-man army to bear against Pizarro's 160-man retinue

- Pizarro decided to beat Atahualpa to the punch, and attacked first—using his firearms and cavalry to slaughter them





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- Pizarro accepted—and after the Incas had filled the room, he had Atahualpa executed anyway



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- (NOTE: Friar Valverde did intervene and assure Atahualpa that if he converted, the sentence of death could be commuted—so Atahualpa was baptized)

- (which is why—in Christian charity—they strangled him *before* they burned him)





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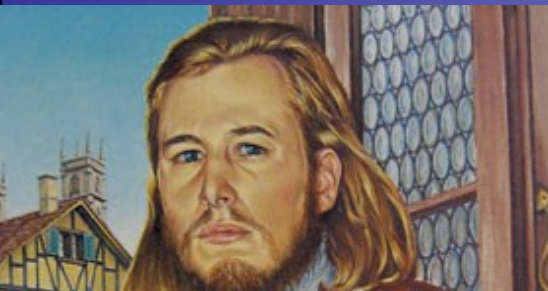
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- **Speaking of executions, in this year, Felix Manz was arrested in Zurich, and sentenced to death by Zwingli and the city council for the crime of re-baptism**

- On January 5, he was bound hand and foot, and then thrown into Lake Zurich to drown

- (NOTE: Archduke Fernando declared that for these "second baptism" advocates, a "third baptism" of drowning was "the best antidote to Anabaptism")

- (NOTE<sup>2</sup>: Thus, "third baptism" became an ongoing joke about the most common means of executing Anabaptists)



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- **Felix Manz thus became the first Anabaptist Reformer to be martyred by *other Reformers* —but far from the last**





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- **Speaking of martyrdom, this was the same year that Michael Sattler was executed**

- A former Benedictine monk, who left Germany in the wake of the Peasants' War, Sattler became an Anabaptist, and had re-settled in Switzerland

- He was the chairman of the Anabaptist commission who created the "Schleitheim Confession"—the seven-point confession of faith that most Anabaptists adhered to (which included their views on baptism, the fact that only believers should take communion, that violence should be avoided at all costs, etc.)



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- **In 1527, Fernando's regent arrested Sattler and several others and charged them with heresy**





# ***The Reformation***

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - These charges—and Sattler's responses—became instant classics in Church History:
    - Charge #1: Anabaptists have acted contrary to imperial mandate, written against following Lutheranism
      - Sattler argued that the mandate was indeed against *Lutheranism*, and that even *Luther* would admit that Anabaptists aren't following his teaching
    - Charge #2: Anabaptists believe that the “real body of Christ the Lord is not present in the sacrament”
      - Sattler readily admitted this, quoting from the Apostles' Creed: “Christ ascended into heaven and, sitteth on the right hand of His heavenly Father whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead”—thus arguing that Christ is physically in *Heaven*, not in the Communion wafer
    - Charge #3: Anabaptists believe that “infant baptism is of no avail to salvation”
      - Again, Sattler admitted to this, citing Jesus that “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16) and Peter that baptism is “the pledge of a good conscience toward God” (1 Peter 3:21)



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    - Charge #4: Anabaptists reject extreme unction
      - Sattler said “We have no problem with oil—God made the oil.” But he argued that no blessing of a Pope changes the oil in any way
    - Charge #5: Anabaptists condemn the Mother of God
      - Sattler agreed that Mary was a great woman and worthy to be blessed—but argued the idea that Mary is a mediatrix between us and God (or that any saint in Heaven is an advocate to be prayed to) doesn't come from Scripture
    - Charge #6: Anabaptists refuse to swear before authorities
      - Sattler cited Matthew 5:34 and James 5:12, arguing that Scripture itself commands us not to swear
    - Charge #7: Sattler had personally abandoned his monastic vows and gotten married
      - Sattler argued that when he saw how so many monks and priests had fallen victim to sexual immorality, and when he recognized his own sorry state, he thought it “better to marry than to burn with passion” (1 Corinthians 7:9)





# *The Reformation*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - These charges—and Sattler's responses—became instant classics in Church History:
    - Charge #8: That Anabaptists say that they'd rather kill Christians than Turks
      - Sattler clarified, "If the Turks should come, we ought not to resist them; for it is written: 'Thou shalt not kill' (Exodus 20:13). We must not defend ourselves against the Turks and others of our persecutors, but are to beseech God with earnest prayer to repel and resist them. But when I said, 'If warring were right, I would rather take the field against the so-called Christians, who persecute, apprehend and kill pious Christians, than against the Turks,' it was for this reason: The Turk... knows nothing of the Christian faith, and is a Turk after the *flesh*—but you (who would be Christians, and who make your boast of Christ) persecute the pious witnesses of Christ, and are Turks after the *spirit*."



# ***The Reformation***

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
  - These charges—and Sattler's responses—became instant classics in Church History
  - **He was found guilty of heresy, and sentenced to torture and death**
  - His sentence read: “Michael Sattler shall be committed to the executioner. The latter shall take him to the square and there first cut out his tongue, and then forge him fast to a wagon; and there, with glowing iron tongs, twice tear pieces from his body; then on the way to the site of execution, five times more as above, and then burn his body to powder as an arch-heretic...”





# ***The Reformation***

- **Revolution tends to breed revolution...**

- 1523 Reform hit Zurich hard

- 1525 Anabaptism wouldn't go away

- 1526 Another HUGE year in European history

- **1527 The Renaissance ended...**

- The Imperial Army sacked Rome

- Speaking of sacks, this was also the year that Incan ruler Huayna Cápac died from smallpox

- Speaking of executions, in this year, Felix Manz was arrested in Zurich, and sentenced to death

- Speaking of martyrdom, this was the same year that Michael Sattler was executed

- **By this time, Balthasar Hubmaier had recanted his recantation and started preaching again... so the next year, Zwingli oversaw the slow torture and execution of both Hubmaier and his wife as well...**

