

# The Reformation and the Solas

True or False:  
Martin Luther was the first Reformer.

## "Pre-Reformers"

### Emergence of the Sola Scriptura principle

We often think of Martin Luther as the first Reformer, but others before him began to emphasize the preeminence of Scripture, challenging the authority and practice of the RC Church.

- John Wycliffe (1329-1384)**
- An English Reformer who insisted that Scripture alone should be the final authority concerning doctrine
  - Scripture should be translated into the language of the people
  - Did not believe in transubstantiation or in the efficacy of indulgences

- Jos. Hus (1372-1418)**
- Bohemian Reformer, influenced by Wycliffe
  - Translated Scripture into Czech
  - Questioned papal authority and the selling of indulgences

Hus was tried and condemned at the Council of Constance and burned at the stake. Wycliffe had already died, so the church dug up his remains and burned them.



## Martin Luther

(1483-1546)

German Reformer - Originally trained in Law, but left that life to become an Augustinian monk. Luther was "converted" when studying Paul's letter to the Romans in Greek. He was eventually ordained and began to teach justification by faith ("sola fide") in Wittenberg.

Luther is probably most famous for his 95 Theses, which were originally written to inform the pope about the abuse of indulgences. It was never his intent to leave the church. Charges were brought against him and he was tried before the Emperor.



## Ulrich Zwingli

(1484-1531)

Swiss Reformer - True or false? Zwingli was a protégé of Luther who desired to replicate Luther's reformation in Switzerland.

**FALSE:** The Reformation in Switzerland happened somewhat simultaneously, led by Zwingli. He was the chief preacher at Munster, in Zurich, where he attacked RC doctrines and practices, including Transubstantiation.

Zwingli's view of the Lord's Supper was that it is merely symbolic. The disagreement between Zwingli and Luther on this point was grave, and kept the Reformation from being unified.



## "Humanism" of the 14th-16th Century

- Intellectual and educational movement
- Emphasis on the recovery and study of classical literature
- Christian Humanism led to the study of the Hebrew OT, the Greek NT, and other early Christian works (e.g. patristic & Augustinian)
- Erasmus the "Prince of the Humanists" (1466-1536) never broke from the RC Church, but compiled the first printed Greek NT, accompanied by a Latin translation into Latin



## John Knox

(1513-1572)

Scottish Reformer - Originally ordained as a priest. There was discontent at the corruption of the RC Church by several preachers and monks (George Wishart). As these began to teach and preach against the RC Church, he heard several imprisoned and died on numerous occasions.

During one of these trials, he came to Geneva, where he studied under John Calvin. His return to Geneva empowered him to successfully lead the Scottish Reformation and lay the foundations for the Church of Scotland, where Presbyterianism today fits its roots.



## John Calvin

(1509-1564)

French Reformer - Studied theology and law. When anti-Protestant movements were on the rise in France, he fled Paris and settled in Basel, where he wrote the first of many editions of his "Institutes of the Christian Religion".

This was originally meant to be an apology of the Protestant faith for Francis I to bolster French toleration. Started with only seven chapters. The final edition had eighty.

Only reluctantly led the Reformation movement in Geneva, and with great conflict.



## Further Movements

- Council of Trent
- Council of Basel
- Anabaptist movements
- "The Anabaptists"
- Departed under the leadership of Menno Simons
- Rejected by Catholics and Protestants
- Separated
- Churches and groups that rejected transubstantiation and the Eucharist
- Baptists
- A public debate on the Reformation movement in England
- John Wesley, Baptist, Independent, Quaker, Presbyterian, and Anglican



# Five "solas"

"Sola" is Latin for "only" or "alone"

Five Latin "sola" statements emerged out of the Reformation:

- Sola Scriptura ("by Scripture alone")
- Sola Gratia ("by grace alone")
- Sola Fide ("by faith alone")
- Solus Christus or Solo Christo ("Christ alone or through Christ alone")
- Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone")



**True or False:**

**Martin Luther was the first Reformer.**





# "Pre-Reformers"

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### John Wycliffe (1329-1384)

- An English Reformer who insisted that Scripture alone should be the final authority concerning doctrine
- Scripture should be translated into the language of the people
- Did not believe monasticism or transubstantiation were biblical

### Jon Huss (1372-1414)

- Bohemian Reformer, influenced by Wycliff
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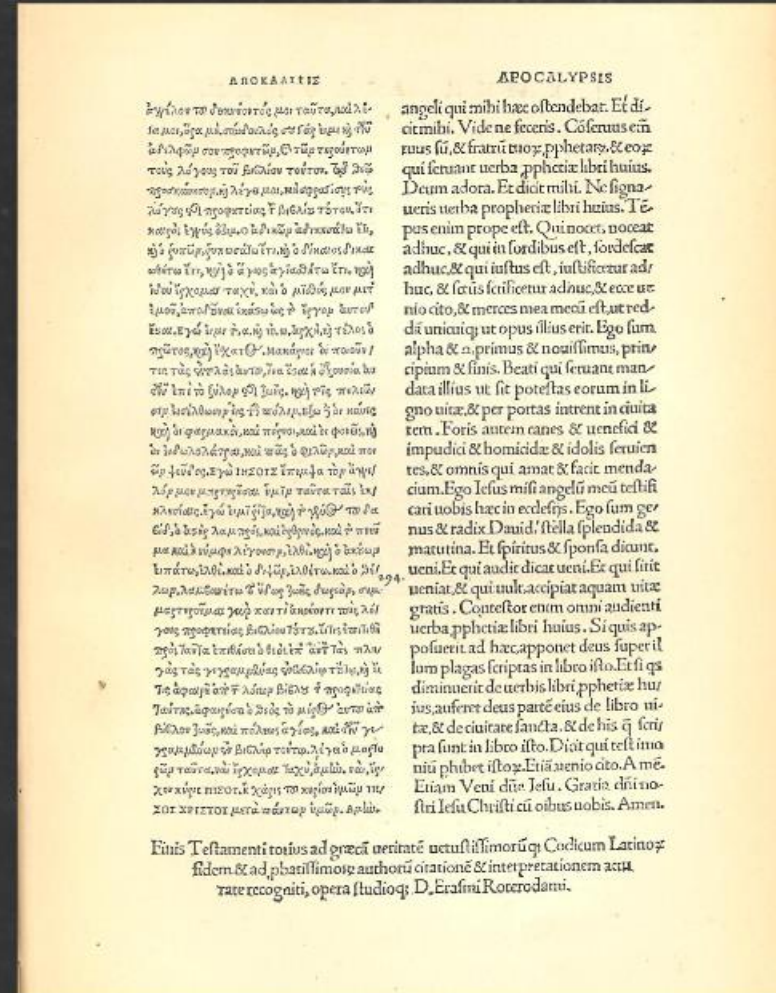
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Romans 9:31-32 Return the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction...

"I greatly longed to understand Paul's Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, "the justice [righteousness] of God," because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I regarded before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merits would exempt me. Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him. Yet relying on the dear Paul and his great pleading to know what he meant.

"Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that "the just shall live by his faith." Then I perceived that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the "justice of God" had filled me with hate, now it became to me, treasurously sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven. (Roland H. Bautson, Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther)

"Since then your own Majesty and your Cardinals seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, neither harsher nor softer. Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen! [http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/28374/Martin\\_Luther/page-8](http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/28374/Martin_Luther/page-8)

## Sola Scriptura Unlocked Everything!

- Salvation is by Grace alone,
- through Faith alone,
- because of the finished work of Christ alone, and all
- to the glory of God alone

This is the Gospel that the Martyrs of the Early Church were willing to die for. Many Reformers would pay the same price for their rejection of RC doctrine that contradicted these principles.



Luther is probably most famous for his 95 Theses, which were originally written to inform the pope about the abuse of indulgences. It was never his intent to leave the church. Charges were brought against him and he was tried before the Emperor.



**Romans 3:21-22** But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it--the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction...

“I greatly longed to understand Paul’s Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression. “the justice [righteousness] of God,” because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him. Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him. Yet I clung to the dear Paul and had a great yearning to know what he meant.



**“Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that “the just shall live by his faith.” Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the “justice of God” had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven. (Roland H. Bainton, Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther)**





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Swiss Reformer - True or false?

Zwingli was a protege of Luther who desired to replicate Luther's reformation in Switzerland.



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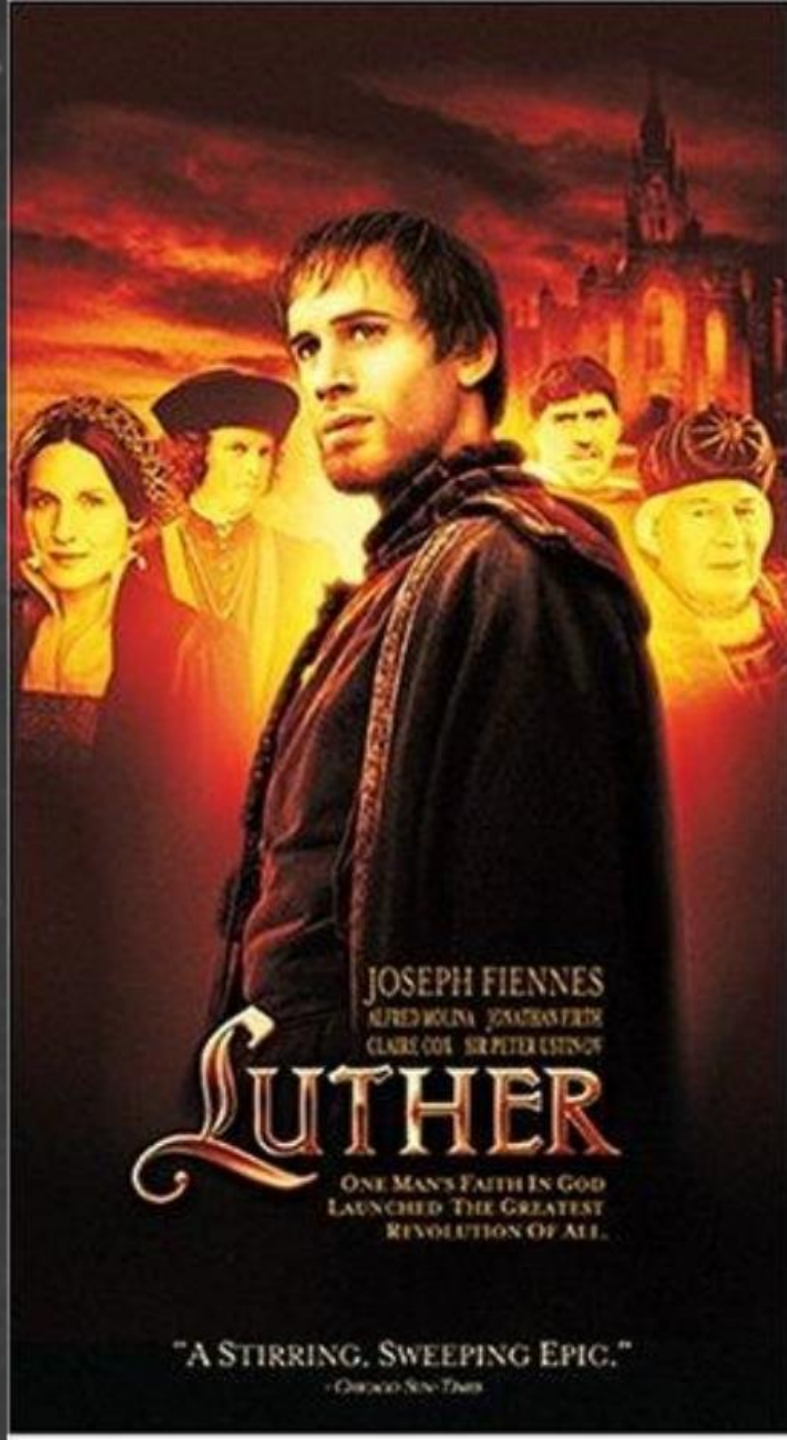
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JOSEPH FIENNES  
ALFRED MOLINA JONATHAN PRIDE  
CLAIRE COLE SIR PETER USTONOV

# LUTHER

ONE MAN'S FAITH IN GOD  
LAUNCHED THE GREATEST  
REVOLUTION OF ALL.

"A STIRRING, SWEEPING EPIC."

- Orlando Sin-Thai



**Question: Was John Calvin a French Reformer or a Swiss Reformer?**





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**True or False: John Knox was a protege of John Calvin who wanted to replicate the movement in Geneva in his home land of Scotland.**



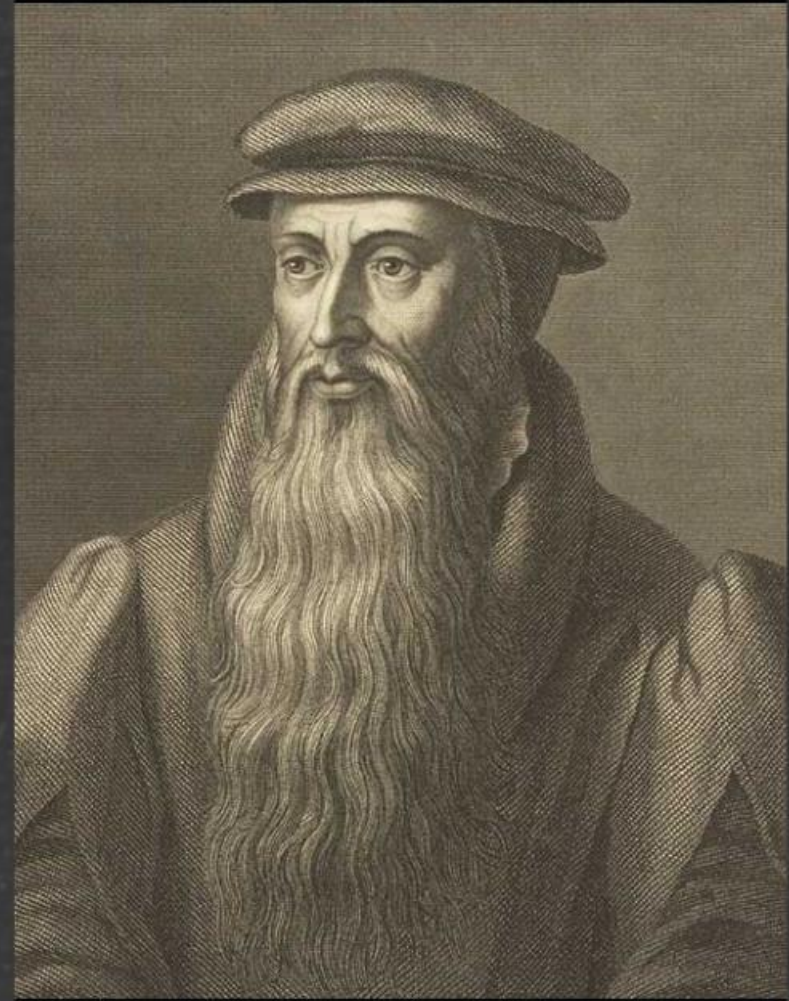


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During one of these exiles, he came to Geneva, where he studied under John Calvin. His training in Geneva empowered Knox to successfully lead the Scottish Reformation and lay the foundation for the Church of Scotland, where Presbyterianism today finds its roots.



**True or False: The Baptist movement descended from the Anabaptist movement.**





# Further Movements

## Counter Reformation

- Council of Trent
- Jesuits
- "Index of Prohibited Books"

## Anabaptist movement

- "Re-baptists"
- Denied validity of infant baptism
- Persecuted by Catholics and Protestants

## Separatism

- Churches and groups that removed themselves from denominations and authorities to protect their doctrine, worship, or polity (e.g. Mennonites)

## English Puritanism

- A push to further the Reformation movement in England
- Division over polity
- Many became Baptists, Independents, Quakers, Presbyterians, and other Protestant forms

