



Martin Luther

Summary of Martin Luther's Life

Martin Luther (November 10, 1483 – February 18, 1546) was a German monk who became the father of the Protestant reformation. He is most widely known for criticizing aspects of the Roman Catholic Church. In particular he believed that it was the Bible and not the Roman Catholic Church which was the source of legitimacy for interpreting the word of Christ. Martin

Luther also translated the bible into German, making it more accessible to the general public.

Short Biography of Martin Luther

Martin Luther became a student at the University of Erfurt in 1501. He studied Aristotle and was drawn to philosophy and theology. However, he was unsatisfied with just reason. Therefore, he decided to become a monk and devote his life to God. As a monk, he felt a spiritual dryness. This was because he became very critical of his own failings and felt his sin magnified rather than weakened. His spiritual director therefore gave him more work so he wouldn't become so introspected.

In 1517, Martin Luther first protested to the Catholic church about the sale of indulgences. (the full or partial remission of temporal punishment due for sins which have already been forgiven). Martin Luther argued that it is faith alone that could provide the remission of sin and not monetary payments.

The church was slow to respond to the criticism of Martin Luther, and in this period Martin became a prolific writer and his writings were widely distributed throughout Europe.

Excommunication of Martin Luther

Martin Luther was ex-communicated in 1520 for refusing to recant 41 sentences from his writings. In April 1521, the enforcement of banning Luther's writings fell to the secular authorities. Luther acknowledged he was the author of the writings but again failed to recant them. Saying he would stand by them. Luther was condemned as an outlaw and thereafter he feared for his life. However, he managed to remain hidden for several months, before returning to Wittenberg to preach more of his anti-clerical speeches and doctrines. In this period he also translated the Bible from Greek to German

Martin Luther also married an ex-nun thereby giving the seal of approval for clerical marriages in the protestant tradition. With his wife, Katharina von Bora they were to have 5 children.

From 1531–1546, Martin Luther's health deteriorated as he sought to struggle with growing conflict in the reformation movement and the constant fear of arrest by the authorities. In this period, Martin Luther spent more time writing anti-semitic tracts. At first he wished to see the Jewish people converted to Christianity. But, when they seemed uninterested in conversion, he called for the forceable removal of Jews from Germany. This strong anti-semitic stance has colored his reputation as a reformer. However, by setting the seeds of the Protestant reformation, Martin Luther had a huge influence on the development of Western Society.

Martin Luther Bio-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j89_BAh2Q3M



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Occupation: Civil Rights Leader

Born: January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, GA

Died: April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN

Best known for: His "I have a dream" speech

Biography:

Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights activist in the 1950s and 1960s. He led non-violent protests to fight for the rights of all people including African Americans. He hoped that America and the world could become a colorblind society where race would not impact a person's civil rights. He is considered one of the great orators of modern times and his speeches still inspire many to this day.

Where did Martin grow up?

Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, GA on January 15, 1929. He went to Booker T. Washington High School. He was so smart that he skipped two grades in high school and started his college education at Morehouse College at the young age of fifteen. After getting his degree in sociology from Morehouse, Martin got a divinity degree from Crozer Seminary and then got his doctor's degree in theology from Boston University.

Martin's dad was a preacher which inspired Martin to pursue the ministry as well. He had a younger brother and an older sister. In 1953 he married Coretta Scott. Later they would have four children Yolanda, Martin, Dexter, and Bernice.

How did he get involved in civil rights?

In his first major civil rights action, Martin Luther King Jr. led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This started when [Rosa Parks](#) refused to move to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. As a result, Martin led a boycott of the public transportation system. The boycott lasted for over a year. It was very tense at times. Martin was arrested and his house was bombed, but in the end he prevailed and segregation on the Montgomery busses ended.

When did King give his famous "I have a Dream" speech?

In 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. helped to organize the famous March on Washington. Over 250,000 people attended this march in an effort to show the importance of civil rights legislation. Some of the issues the march hoped to accomplish included an end to segregation in public schools, protection from police abuse, and to get laws preventing discrimination in employment.

It was at this march where Martin gave his "I have a Dream" speech. This speech has become one of the most famous speeches in history. The march and Martin's speech were a success. The Civil Rights Act was passed a year later in 1964.

How did he die?

Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN. He was shot by James Earl Ray while standing on the balcony of his hotel.

Fun Facts about Martin Luther King Jr.:

King was the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a national holiday.

At the Atlanta premier of the movie *Gone with the Wind*, Martin sang with his church choir.

There are over 730 streets in the United States named after Martin Luther King Jr. One of his main influences was [Mohandas Gandhi](#) who taught protesting in a non-violent manner.

He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The name on his original birth certificate is Michael King. This was a mistake, however.

He was supposed to be named after his father who was named for the leader of the Christian reformation movement, Martin Luther.

He is often referred to by his initials MLK.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Bio-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ank52zi_s0