



# Why Protestantism Matters

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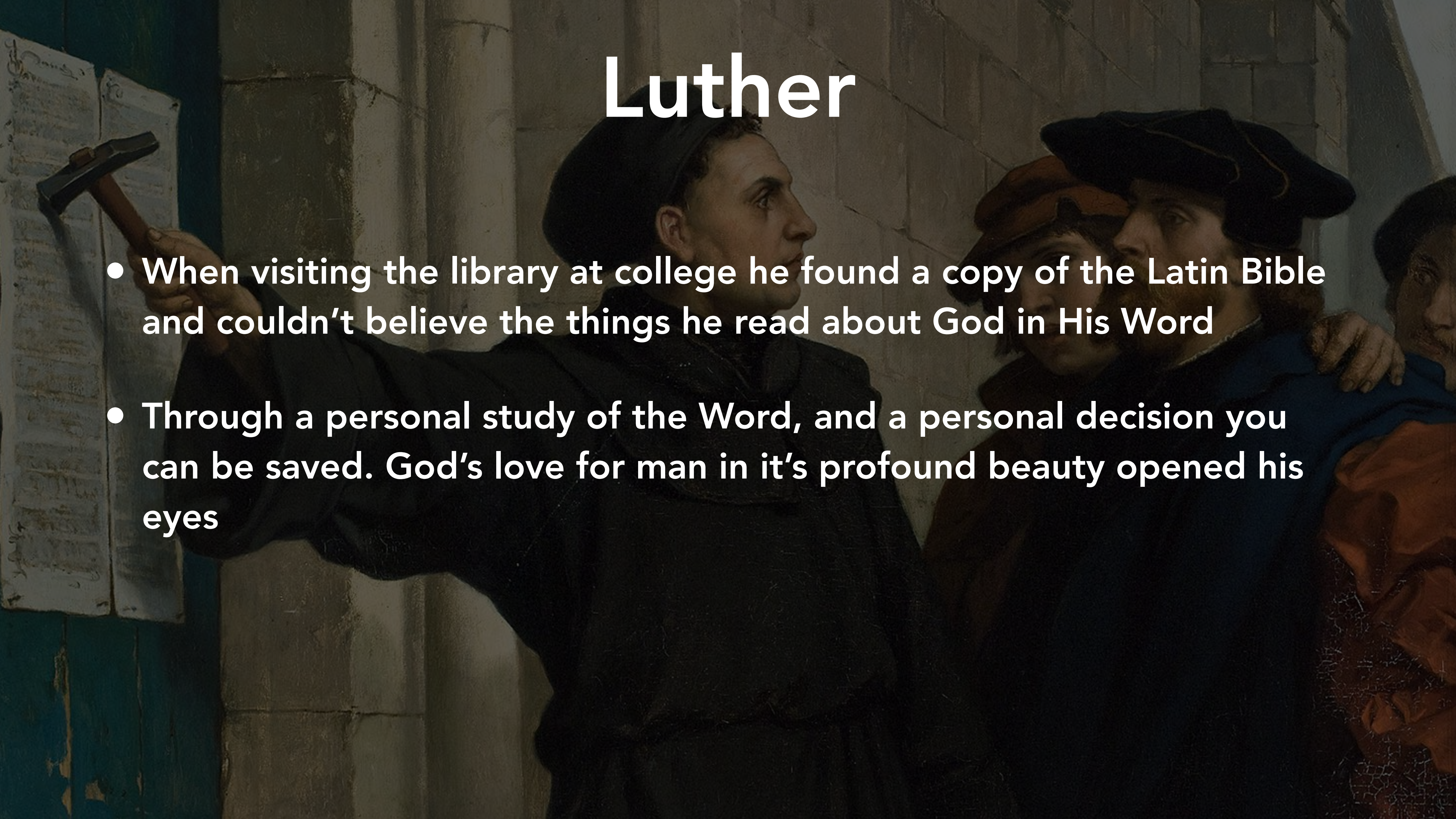
# Lineage

[www.lineagejourney.com](http://www.lineagejourney.com)



# Luther

- When visiting the library at college he found a copy of the Latin Bible and couldn't believe the things he read about God in His Word
- Through a personal study of the Word, and a personal decision you can be saved. God's love for man in it's profound beauty opened his eyes





# Luther

- His fervent desire to be free from sin led him to a monastic life
- If someone could be saved by their works, like Paul stated in Philippians 3, then certainly he would have achieved it
- Johann Von Staupitz, the vicar general of Luther's monastic order, helped Luther to see his lack of understanding of the Gospel
- He needed to see the power of God to transform the life, to offer pardon freely, and to set them on the road to life. And to recognize that this is found by faith in Christ, not in works.



# Luther

- He began teaching at his old university and was encouraged to preach by Staupitz. His messages got traction and eventually some of his members began to dispute with the church officials which led to him being summoned to Rome
- What he saw there rocked him. The total lack of self denial, the opulent lifestyle, the abuses, the open sin all challenged him to the core
- He went from thinking Rome was the gate to heaven, to thinking it must have been built above hell



# Luther

- While climbing the famous steps in Rome that were thought to have been climbed by Jesus, on his knees Luther heard a voice like thunder, "The just shall live by faith"
- He got up from his knees, walked away, and was never the same
- He had no intention of leaving his church, but that is what eventually happened in later years



# Luther

- Seeing salvation for sale to fund St. Peter's church was the last straw that pushed him over the edge
- Johann Tetzel was sent to collect funds in Germany and was preaching that repentance isn't necessary, that with this purchase all your sins would be forgiven, and that even the sins of the dead could be forgiven
- Tetzel said, "The very moment that the money clinks against the bottom of the chest, the soul escapes from purgatory and flies into heaven." -The History of Romanism, Dowling P. 443



# Luther

- When approached by his parishioners to honor Tetzels indulgences, Luther wouldn't accept them. He considered them to be a sham
- In response Luther preached on indulgences vs the grace of God, and sent a petition to the archbishop and local bishop. These events led him to post his 95 theses on the door of the university church
- Nothing like this from a person of influence had ever transpired against the church. The people were tired of church abuse and joined Luther in opposition, but none had the courage to stand with him publicly



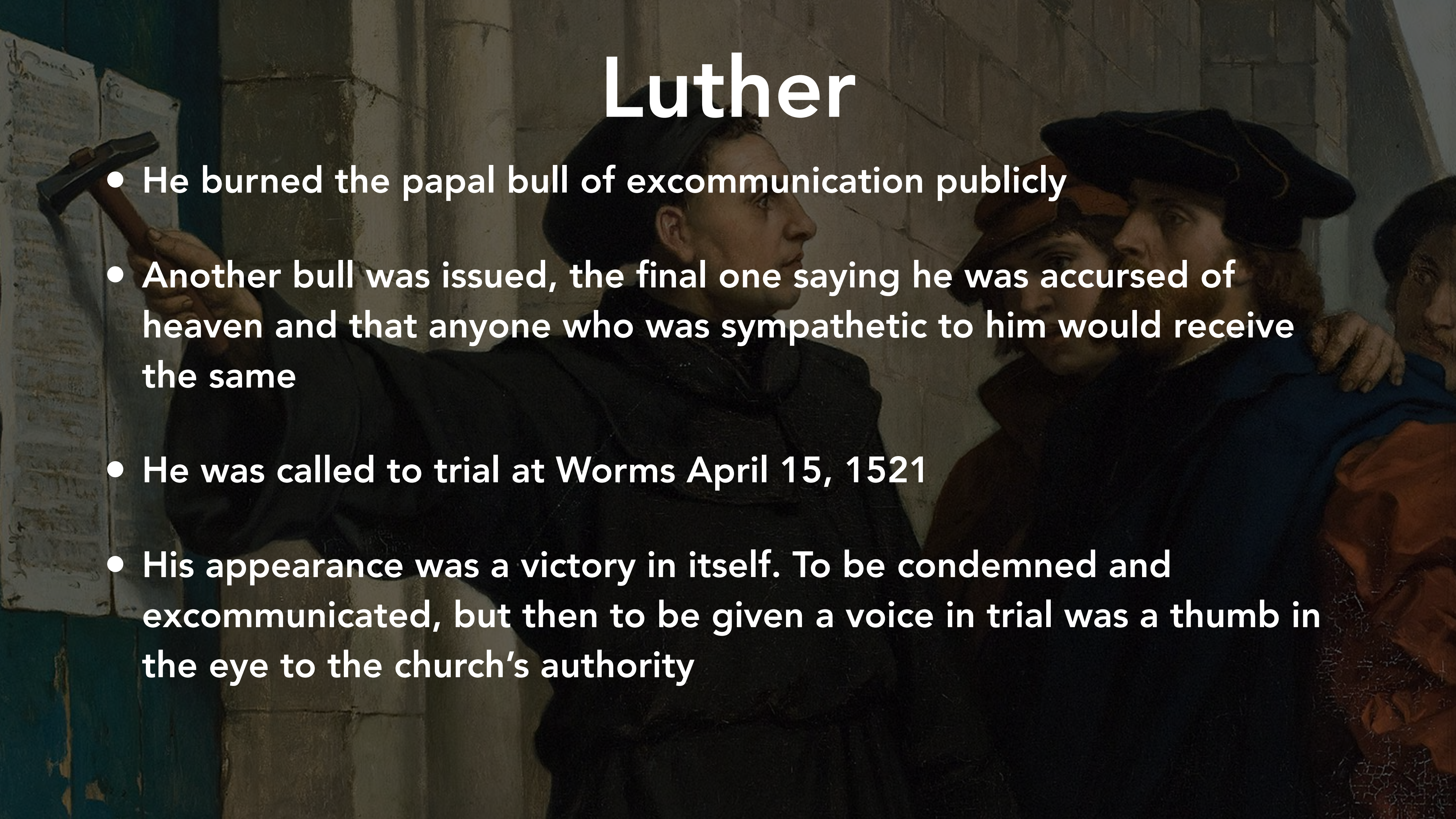
# Luther

- Luther was summoned again and this time the fury of the church was great. The trial was set for Augsburg, Germany.
- Philip Melanchthon, a friend and a great balance to Luther stood by him in support during this time
- He was asked to retract his statements, but stood his ground based upon the Bible alone. He then went on his way
- His writings continued to gain traction and so a papal bull was issued and he was given 60 days to recant or be excommunicated



# Luther

- He burned the papal bull of excommunication publicly
- Another bull was issued, the final one saying he was accursed of heaven and that anyone who was sympathetic to him would receive the same
- He was called to trial at Worms April 15, 1521
- His appearance was a victory in itself. To be condemned and excommunicated, but then to be given a voice in trial was a thumb in the eye to the church's authority





# Luther

- Even at this stage he wasn't to the point of leaving his church yet. He wanted it to accept the Word of God as the chief authority
- When accusations were brought against him he asked them to show from the Bible where his error was
- An army general pulled him aside and told him that what Luther was doing was more important than any battle he himself or anyone else would fight and to go forward in the fear of God



# Luther

- In the trial he was asked two things, are the books yours? and will you retract?
- He admitted the books were his, but asked for time to construct a response. This led the assembly to see that he was not shooting from the hip and made his answers even more compelling
- He divided his works into three categories: 1) Faith and Works and even his enemies considered them to be harmless 2) He denounced the corruption of the papacy, and said to denounce these would be to endorse the abuses of Rome 3) He denounced those who defended the evils of the papacy



# Luther

- While he admitted he could have been less hard or more tactful in some of his responses, he still refused to retract
- His first response was in German, but when asked to do it in Latin he did, even though he was worn out and it furthered his case because now everyone in the chamber could understand what he said
- Then they pressed him, will you retract or not?
- This is when he gives his famous statement



# Luther

- “Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils. For they have contradicted each other. My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen”



# Luther

- They were speechless. No one had ever challenged the authority of the church like this before
- Asked to retract one more time he replied, "May God be my helper, for I can retract nothing"
- The threats continued. Eventually Frederick III of Saxony and some of Luther's friends kidnapped him and protected him at Wartburg Castle. Even Frederick didn't know the location. But Luther being kept there gave him freedom to write. It also protected him from battle and flattery.



# Luther

- While in captivity he translated to New Testament into German. He later translated the Old Testament when he returned to Wittenberg
- Word gets to him that fanaticism and violence is being proposed as a solution, so he returns to Wittenberg to speak and address this issue
- He made the point that though he agreed the mass was wrong, no one should be forced to violate their conscience not matter how strongly you feel about what they believe or are doing



# Luther

- In 1529 the council of Speyers took place where the princes of Germany and church leaders met together. The church recommended peaceable approach, but then force if necessary.
- In the dialogue on what to do liberty of conscience was the main thing at stake. Does Rome have the right to coerce conscience? Can it forbid free inquiry? They were attempting to limit where these teachings could go
- The response of the princes, "Let us reject this decree. In matters of conscience the majority has no power"



# Luther

- They saw that the state's role was to protect liberty of conscience, and that this was the limit of its role in religious matters
- In this response they used the word protest. This is where the word "Protestant" comes from. A great chapter on this is found in the Great Controversy, it's called "The Protest of the Princes"
- They said that the principles contained in this protest are the essence of protestantism. They oppose the abuse of man in two areas of faith.
  - 1) The intrusion of the civil magistrate
  - 2) The arbitrary authority of the church



# Luther

- Instead of these protestantism put the power of the conscience above the civil magistrate, and the authority of God's Word above the visible church
- They rejected civil power in divine things encouraging people to obey God rather than men. They saw that the role of the state was to protect civil liberties, and not to prescribe religious actions to the masses



# October 31, 1999

- Lutheran, and Catholic leaders meet to annul the protest





# The Problem

- The Catholic church's view of salvation is still dependent upon mediation by the church and priests.
- Sacraments, intercession of saints, purgatory remains, etc
- But the biggest issue of these is church authority. Catholicism isn't budging, it's protestants who are making the concessions. They still control the narrative, and are again resorting to revisionist history to make their points.
- The issues at hand 500 years ago are still relevant now



# The Problem

- The authority of the church vs those who stand for the Bible is the issue at hand. Luther stood by the grace of God. But will we?
- Mark 13:9
- A tale of two revivals. Luther's revival and fanaticism involving violence, and force. The same thing will happen again in this crisis. God does not violate liberty of conscience. He does not force.
- The stance of the princes is another lesson for us



# The Problem

- We're being told the protest is over by evangelicals, but we are continually giving away our civil liberties in this country, and our rights of conscience
- Jesus' prayer for unity was never intended to come at the expense of truth



# The Problem

- Romans 13 and other texts exhort us to obey the rulers and authorities but that is all in the context of the Word of God being the supreme authority
- Revelation 13 shows us that a time is coming when our country is going to enforce laws that directly contradict the commandments of God. And it will do this at the behest of religious leaders grasping back towards rome. They will resort, like the false revival in Luther's time to violence and oppression
- Yet this country was founded upon two principles born out of the reformation. Freedom from a pope, and freedom from a king. Liberty of conscience
- God's approach in Revelation 14 is invitation, reason, and a clear explanation of the consequences. Which side will we choose?



# Ellen White on Reformation

- “In our time there is a wide departure from its doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protestant principle,—the Bible and the Bible only as the rule of faith and duty” -{4SP 163.2}
- “From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation. There, with holy calmness, the servants of the Lord set their feet upon the rock of His promises.” -{GC 210.1}
- The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world’s history. Luther had a great work to do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this, new light has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding.  
– {GC 148.4}





# POSITION OF THE REFORMERS

- Martin Luther "We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist...personally I declare that I owe the Pope no other obedience than that to Antichrist." -(Aug. 18 1520) Taken from The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers, Vol. 2., pg 121 by Froom
- John Calvin "Some persons think us too severe and censorious when we call the Roman pontiff Antichrist. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself, after whom we speak and whose language we adopt...I shall briefly show that (Paul's words in II Thess. 2) are not capable of any interpretation than that which applies them to the Papacy." Taken from Institutes by John Calvin





## POSITION OF THE REFORMERS

- Cotton Mather "The oracles of God foretold the rising of an Antichrist in the Christian Church: and in the Pope of Rome, all the characteristics of that Antichrist are so marvelously answered that if any who read the Scriptures do not see it, there is a marvelous blindness upon them." Taken from The Fall of Babylon by Cotton Mather in Froom's book, The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers, Vol. 3, Pg. 113
- John Knox "Knox wrote to abolish "that tyranny which the pope himself has for so many ages exercised over the church" and that the pope should be recognized as "the very antichrist, and son of perdition, of whom Paul speaks." Taken from The Zurich Letters, pg. 199 by John Knox





# POSITION OF THE REFORMERS

- Thomas Cranmer- "Whereof it followeth Rome to be the seat of antichrist, and the pope to be very antichrist himself. I could prove the same by many other scriptures, old writers, and strong reasons." (Referring to prophecies in Revelation and Daniel.) Taken from Works by Cranmer, Vol. 1, pp 6-7
- John Wesley- Speaking of the Papacy he said, "He is in an emphatical sense, the Man of Sin, as he increases all manner of sin above measure. And he is, too, properly styled the Son of Perdition, as he has caused the death of numberless multitudes, both of his oppressors and followers...He it is...that exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped...claiming the highest power, and highest honour...claiming the prerogatives which belong to God alone." Taken from Antichrist and His Ten Kingdoms by John Wesley, pg. 110





## POSITION OF THE REFORMERS

- Roger Williams- He spoke of the Pope as "the pretended Vicar of Christ on earth, who sits as God over the Temple of God, exalting himself not only above all that is called God, but over the souls and consciences of all his vassals, yea over the Spirit of Christ, over the Holy Spirit, yea, and God himself... speaking against the God of Heaven, thinking to change times and laws; but he is the son of perdition (II Thess. 2)." Taken from the Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers by Froom, Vol. 3 pg. 52

















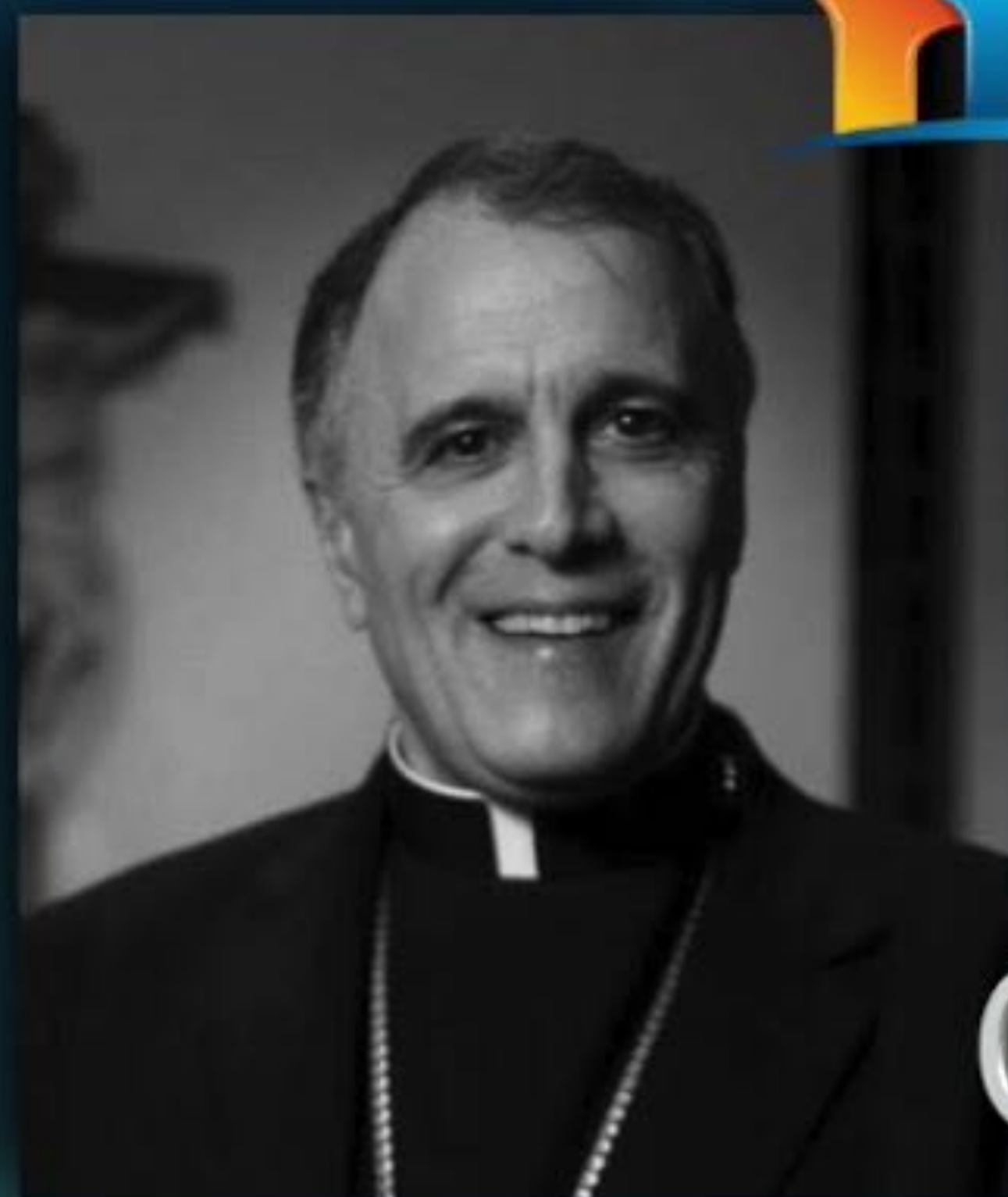
# Kairós 2017

United In Christ

*So the world will know Him*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

October 24-26



Cardinal Daniel  
DiNardo



Kenneth  
Copeland



# Our Duty

- God needs a people who will stand in the midst of opposition through His power
- Our religion has to look like Revelation 14 not 13
- Liberty of conscience, and the authority of the Word of God alone is our strength





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