

The Renaissance – The Reformation

- in the Renaissance, everyday people began to read and write, and this was very powerful
 - when dealing with the Church, now people could make up their own minds about faith
 - could see just how corrupt the church really was

- ‘Reformation’ refers to “Reforming the Church”
- people began to create their own Christian churches
 - decided how and when and why they would worship
 - became known as “**Protestants**”
 - b/c they were protesting the Church’s rule

- **Martin Luther** was the first to openly challenge the church’s authority
 - was a gifted student and model churchgoer
 - became a teacher of other monks but had trouble believing what he was told

- came to the conclusion that the way to heaven was by *faith alone*
 - none of this other corrupt stuff that the church was doing for a thousand years

- he wrote a paper titled ‘**The 95 Theses**’
 - had 95 complaints that he had with the church
 - nailed it to his church’s door in Wittenberg
 - wasn’t very popular at first, but was translated and published and sparked the Reformation!

- once people all over Europe began to read his writing, they also wanted change
 - many different churches sprung up all over
 - ⇒ Lutheran (Luther's church)
 - ⇒ Anglican
 - ⇒ Calvinist
 - ⇒ Anabaptist
 - ⇒ etc.
 - the Catholic Church wasn't happy, but once the information was out, what could they do?
 - tried a **counter-reformation**, but it wasn't successful
 - created the **Inquisition** to torture Protestants into admitting witchcraft
 - thousands died, but people didn't stop their beliefs
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