

# Roots of Protestantism

Selected Reformation and Post-Reformation core events



<b>6.7.1415</b>	The Czech reformer Jan Hus executed, burned at the stake, as a heretic in Constance, due to his criticism of the church. In response, several "Hussite" religious reform movements grew in Bohemia, some of them still in existence today.
<b>31.10.1517</b>	The Augustinian monk Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses in Wittenberg. This local protest against abuses in the church at that time is the starting point of the Lutheran Reformation.
<b>1520</b>	Luther draws up his major Reformation writings. The focus lies on the one hand on evangelical freedom, on the other hand on the necessary restructuring of the religious and social life.
<b>1521/22</b>	After his excommunication by the pope, Luther translates the New Testament during his stay on the Wartburg. His fundamental conviction is that every Christian should be able to read the Scriptures independently and thereby form their own judgment in matters of faith.
<b>9.3.1522</b>	In the workshop of the book printer Christoph Froschauer in Zurich citizens meet for a meal of sausage. In his sermons, Huldrych Zwingli defends this breaking of the fast as an expression of evangelical freedom. The Zurich Reformation gets underway.
<b>1527</b>	Gustav I. Vasa introduces the Reformation in the Kingdom of Sweden. The most important reformers are Olaus Petri (Sweden) and Michael Agricola (Finland).
<b>1529</b>	At the diet of Speyer the Evangelical princes and the free cities of the Holy Roman Empire submit a „protest“ against the Imperial religion policy. Then, the adherents of the Reformation are for the first time called "Protestants".
<b>1529</b>	Luther publishes the Small and the Large Catechism.
<b>3.11.1529</b>	The English Parliament confirms the independence of the Anglican State Church.
<b>1530</b>	The Lutheran imperial estates hand their commitment over to the Emperor Charles V.: the Augsburg Confession, drafted by the reformer Philipp Melanchthon.
<b>1536</b>	Christian III. introduces the Reformation in Denmark and Norway. The church order is written by Johannes Bugenhagen.
<b>1536</b>	Menno Simons joins the Anabaptist movement and stands up for a radically non-violent following of Christ in a missionary way.

<b>1536</b>	John Calvin first publishes his major work "Institutio Christianae Religionis", which he continues to work on his whole life.
<b>1541/42</b>	Calvin introduces the Reformation in Geneva. The city becomes a Europe wide center for the Reformation.
<b>1549</b>	Through the "Book of Common Prayer", largely drafted by Thomas Cranmer, an Anglican liturgy is introduced to England.
<b>1560</b>	The Scottish reformer John Knox composes the "Confessio Scotica", one of the basic confessions of Reformed Protestantism. He becomes the co-founder of Presbyterianism.
<b>1563</b>	On the initiative of Elector Friedrich III., Zacharias Ursinus and others formulate a Reformed catechism experiencing as "Heidelberg Catechism" experiencing a rapid and large circulation.
<b>1566</b>	The Swiss churches agree on the "Confessio Helvetica Posterior" written by Heinrich Bullinger as a common confessional basis.
<b>1609</b>	In Amsterdam, the former Anglican clergyman John Smyth is baptized because of his personal creed and together with other refugees founds the first Baptist congregation.
<b>1647</b>	After years of spiritual search, the English shoemaker's apprentice George Fox experiences "being heard" and begins to preach in the English Midlands. He sets up a religious movement called „Quakers“ (Society of Friends) which is violently persecuted in Europe but begins to flourish in Northern America sponsored by the aristocrat William Penn.
<b>1722</b>	Members of the Bohemian "Unity of the Brethren" (Unitas Fratrum) settle in Upper Lusatia, on the estate of the imperial Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf. Inspired by him the so-called Moravian Church comes into being - a non-denominational Christian religious movement with strong missionary orientation.
<b>1784</b>	Under the influence of Anglican clergyman John Wesley the "Methodist Episcopal Church" comes into being at the "Christmas Conference" in Baltimore (Maryland).
<b>1815</b>	The Baptist farmer William Miller experienced a conversion. His reflections on the close approaching Second Coming of Christ meet wide-ranging response. Around him forms the religious movement of the so-called Adventists. As the expected Coming of Jesus in 1844 fails to appear, the movement turns into a theologically new direction. The "Seventh-day Adventists", co-founded by Ellen J. White, are the most widespread branch.
<b>1865</b>	In London, the lay preacher William Booth founds the "East London Christian Mission", from which the Salvation Army develops.
<b>1906</b>	In the community of evangelist William J. Seymour intense experiences of the Holy Spirit happen. The "Azusa Street Revival" in Los Angeles is the birthplace of the worldwide Pentecostal movement.