Martin Luther & the Reformation in Germany

1. Luther: Texts & Translations
2. Luther: Biographies & Studies
3. Philip Melanchthon: Biography & Theology

1. LUTHER: BIOGRAPHY & THEOLOGY

Few ages have produced personalities as fascinating as those of the Reformation. Perhaps the best way to begin a study of the period is by reading biographies. And Luther, the man who sparked it all, is certainly the one to begin with. There are many, varied interpretations of Luther. This is a sampling of some of the best:


Bernhard Lohse, *Martin Luther's Theology: Its History and Systematic Development*, trans. Roy A. Harrisville (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999). Luther was an unusually prolific writer—over 70 volumes—and his theological work is as wide-ranging and as impassioned as that of Augustine. Lohse offers a valuable survey of Luther’s often paradoxical theology. A good place to start.


Derek Wilson, *Luther: Out of the Storm* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010).

2. LUTHER: TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

**Texts**

The critical edition of the writings of Luther are found in the *D. Martin Luthers Werke: Kritische Gesamtausgabe*, ed. J.K.F. Knaake, et al. (Weimar, 1883)—usually referred to as the “Weimar edition” and abbreviated *WA*.

**Translations**

A superb English translation of Luther’s writings is *Luther’s Works*, 55 volumes, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan (St. Louis: Concordia / Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1955-1975)—usually referred to as “the American edition” and abbreviated *LW*. This translation includes valuable notes. See also:

Timothy Lull, editor, *Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005) (with CD-ROM). Luther was a skilled popularist and had a gift for satire and for the well-turned phrase. He is easy and enjoyable to read. This is the most complete anthology of Luther’s works to date, and the translations are first-rate, drawn from the “American edition.” Included: the 95 Theses, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, *The Freedom of the Christian*, *Invocavit Sermons*, *Confession Concerning the Lord's Supper*. 

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3. PHILIP MELANCTHON: TEXTS & STUDIES

**Texts**


**Studies**


