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Here I Stand: A Life Of Martin Luther



Synopsis

Here is an authoritative, unforgettable biography of Martin Luther, the great religious leader, who entered a monastery as a youth and who, as a man, shattered the structure of the medieval church. Luther spoke out against the corrupt religious practices that then existed. His demanded that the authority for doctrine and practice be Scriptures, rather than Popes or Councils, echoed around the world and ignited the Great Reformation. Accused of heresy and threatened with excommunication and death, Luther maintained his bold stand and refused to recant. In his crusade to eliminate religious abuses, he did more than any other man to establish the Protestant faith.

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Customer Reviews

This book review is on the work, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*, by Roland H. Bainton. The author covers Luther's life from the beginning, and the point is made that in Luther's early years, nothing set him apart from others his age. There was no indication from his early life that he would later rebel against much of medieval religion. Bainton begins the book with Luther's vow to become a monk during a thunderstorm in 1505. Luther became a monk in order to save his soul, but he soon concluded more was needed. Bainton stresses that Luther felt the need to become perfect in order to obtain justification with God, and this quest defined Luther for the better part of his life. This quest for salvation eventually led Luther against Christian Orthodoxy, thus beginning the Protestant Reformation. Detail is given from the time Luther posted the 95 theses in October 1517 through the Diet of Worms in 1522. During these years, Luther proved to the world that he was a man who stood

up for his convictions. During these years, a strong significance is placed on the fact that Luther always believed he would die for his cause. The years from 1522-1530 are also well covered, particularly in covering Luther's theology. However, only one chapter deals with the final 16 years of Luther's life. The climax of the work occurs in chapter 10, entitled Here I Stand, and it is clear that Bainton's thesis is wrapped up neatly in the title of the book. The author stressed throughout the work that Luther was a man of principle who stood up courageously for what he believed in. Since this was the first biography on Martin Luther that I have read, there is minimal room for comparing this work with any of the other works done about this complicated figure.

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