



## Luther: Biography of a Reformer

*Frederick Nohl*

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Martin Luther had one goal: peace with God. He didn't find it in the holy relics and indulgences of the church or in life as an obedient monk. Luther discovered God's treasure of truth buried under human laws and regulations. He discovered the Gospel in the Word of God.

## **Luther: Biography of a Reformer Details**

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## **From Reader Review Luther: Biography of a Reformer for online ebook**

### **Kara says**

A good, readable, introductory biography of Luther.

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### **Richard Booth says**

I particularly appreciated the analytic review by "Orthodox Lutheran Reader." Historically and psychologically, this particular biographical rendition of Luther is superficial and terribly incomplete. While I realize that a simple, straightforward work on Luther might assist the very young, I do not see how reasonable adults can rate this book with five stars unless their fund of historical and psychosocial information is deficient.

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### **The other John says**

Don't be fooled by the cover. This is a biography of Martin Luther, first published in 1962. When the movie came out, CPH republished the book, illustrating it with a number of stills from the film--including the front cover picture where Dr. Luther looks like he's going to hit you with a big honkin' Bible. (Maybe they were thinking that it was a good way to illustrate what the Reformation did to European Christianity.) I wonder if it was an attempt to capitalize on the film to sell more books or if the book was meant to push the film. Anyway, I suppose it doesn't matter. This book is better than the movie, but not as good as *Here I Stand* which is a Luther biography for an older audience. This covers all the high points of Luther's life, but the writing seemed a bit flat. Many of the other biographies that we've had to read for school are much more enjoyable to read. I guess Sonlight curriculum just raises one's standards. Still, even if Luther is mere waiting room material, it does do its job and tell the story of this influential man.

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### **Thing Two says**

This is like reading a poorly written account from my elementary school textbook.

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### **Joshua Duffy says**

This book must be about Luther's non-controversial brother, or complete fiction, but it's a severely inaccurate portrayal of the Luther of historical reality.  
But, it can feed the hunger to know more of Luther and the Reformation.

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### **Skye says**

The movie was better. This was all history, no fiction so sometimes dry. But, interesting to learn about Martin Luthor.

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### **Laverne says**

This is a great basic book to learn about Martin Luther's life, beliefs, and how he became the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation of the church. It is very very easy to read and a good place to start.

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### **Jim B says**

Excellent, readable, full of interesting anecdotes -- covered every area of Luther's life mentioned in the 2003 movie "Luther." The book fills in many areas previously not included in popular biographies of Luther.

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### **Petra X says**

*Rewritten Sept. 28th, 2011*

This book is a highly selective biography of Martin Luther by an author who wishes to glorify the originator of a progressive branch of Christianity, whilst carefully omitting all criticism of a man who was anti-semitic, despised gypsies and thought that peasants should remain in their feudal place serving the nobility whose positions had been ordained if not by God, then at least by his paymasters by whose patronage he prospered.

Many atrocities in the Peasants' War of 1525 were committed in his name with his knowledge. The peasants sought to establish a classless society. Luther sympathised with their aims in print but when it came to backing them, he urged the nobility whose society he so enjoyed, to condemn them and put them down as the "mad dogs" they were. Luther made it plain that the peasants should limit their actions in their revolt to those allowed by the authorities. (Since it is authorities who repress people who feel the need to revolt, exactly what actions would be open to them he doesn't make clear).

His sermons hammered home the primacy of core Christian values such as love, patience, charity, and freedom and reminded people that trust in God would bring about change, and that violence was to be abhorred. This he limited to interactions between Christians and did not extend to others. More, his hatred of Jews was so extreme he advocated extreme violence against them.

The book entirely leaves out even a mention that Martin Luther was the inspiration of Hitler, of the Nazis, who used his statements on Jews and what should be done to them as their own propaganda. It is a whitewash job, it exists to praise Luther for reforming what he saw as the corrupt Catholic church, and doesn't address the entirely evil side of him at all.

(As do all other anti-semites, Luther 'forgot' that Jesus was a Jew and practiced Judaism. Matthew 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." [KJV].

Jesus preached only to Jews and St. Paul, quite some time later, directed his interpretation of this fulfillment towards Romans. However, there is nothing in St. Paul's reformation that hints at or encourages violence towards Jews. Luther's great hatred gets its inspiration from nothing biblical.)

I wonder if in five hundred years books will be written about Hitler, Milosevic even on down to Jesse Helms and Jerry Falwell and will laud them as reformers and dismiss in a line or two their essentially hateful, evil character because it doesn't suit the myths that people will have come to accept about them? Is this the destiny of all those so well-beloved by an influential group that their names remain alive centuries after their deaths, that their good points will be lauded and their sins, even when as extreme as Luther's, will be buried along with their bodies?

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### **Dawn says**

A bit dry at times, but interesting nonetheless. It definitely went into far more detail than I was given during my Lutheran school education felt board presentations. I learned more about the background history, what was going on in the world at the time and what kind of man Luther was. I received it as a gift a while ago and its been sitting on my bookshelf. I'm glad I finally read it and got a mini refresher course in the reformer.

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### **Kim Sullivan says**

Easy to read biography of Martin Luther, author the the reform movement to change the Catholic church. Easy to understand while still including many rich details of his life. Focused mostly on his actions, not his teachings. Great to understand the 'why' and 'how' it all came about. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the reformation movement and how it began.

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### **Dawn Roberts says**

I was raised Lutheran, but this is the first biography of Luther I've ever read. It was published by Concordia, so it's doesn't give a very even-handed treatment of Luther's opponents. However, it does paint a fascinating portrait of a mercurial and charismatic preacher and ardent follower of Christ.

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### **Kimberly says**

Well written, concise biography of Martin Luther who started the Protestant reformation. Helpful history of the time regarding Holy Roman Empire, Germany and Europe is interspersed to aid understanding of the times and issues. Great read as we approach the 500th anniversary of the reformation.

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### **Dad Bowers says**

Nohl gives an excellent overview of Luther's passion, humanity, and greatness as he struggled to reform the

Catholic church in medieval Germany. The gospel that Luther sought to clarify for Europe of long ago is clearly stated for readers today. Written for a youth audience, it is good also for adults who are ignorant of the times and places and issues yet who are seeking a quick study of the Reformer.

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### **Nancy Weyer says**

A monk, a priest, a reformer, eventually a husband and father with six kids.  
Who knew!

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