

A Chronology of Martin Bucer (1491 – 1551)

1491 Martin Bucer born on November 11th, at Schlettstadt in Alsace.

1506 Became a Dominican Monk, ordained to priesthood as a means toward an education.

1517 Matriculated at University of Heidelberg – admired Erasmus

1518 Attended Martin Luther's Disputation at Heidelberg - won over to Luther's views.

1521 Obtains a Papal dispensation from monastic vows, and becomes Court Chaplain for Frederick the Elector Palantine, then in **1522**, secular Priest at Landstuhl where he married Elizabeth Sibereisen, a former nun.

1522 – 1523 Took refuge as chaplain of household of Count Sickingen at Weissenburg in Alsace.

1521 Matthew Zell (1477-1548) begins preaching reformation at Strassburg despite assassination attempts, to be soon followed by Wolfgang Capito (1523) and Caspar Hedio.

1523 Excommunicated, Martin Bucer comes to Strassburg - celebrated for its Gothic Cathedral and despite resistance by the bishop, is called as a priest to one of its churches. An Imperial free city, it was governed by a two councils, dominated by the guilds which gave it a stable government. In the reforms that followed not only the ecclesiastical, but also much of social life was altered. Bucer insisted that not only the church, but the whole of human life, individual and social must be ordered according to the will of God revealed in the Bible. Jacob Strum, a partisan took a lead in bringing about Strassburg's reforms.

1527 Bucer published a book of theology that influenced John Calvin's Institutes (1536). They had similar views on the Lord's Prayer, Predestination, linking the keys of the kingdom to preaching the Word, and on the work of the Holy Spirit in bring men to salvation through the Word.

1528 Attended the Disputation at Bern with Wolfgang Capito

1529 The Mass was abolished at Strassburg

1529 Attended the Marburg Colloquy, where Bucer tried to bring together Luther and Zwingli.

1530 The Diet at Augsburg – Hastely prepared the *Tetrapolitan Confession* with Capito (for the "four" So. German cities of Strassburg, Constance, Memmingen, and Lindau). It wasn't even considered by the Diet, but given to Eck for a refutation. They wrote a defense of the Confession in response.

1531 Bucer persuades Strassburg to accept the Schmalkaldic Articles and join the Schmalkaldic League..

1533 Threatened by hostility from without and radicals within, a synod was held at Strassburg and the *Tetrapolitan Confession* is adopted, forcing the radicals to leave, and placing enforcement of doctrinal standards in the hands of a lay committee. Bucer's concept of a godly Christian society supervised jointly by ministers and magistrates, and the four offices of preachers, teachers, elders and deacons, while not accepted at Strassburg, through Calvin it influenced Geneva.

1536 The *Wittenburg Concord* held at Luther's home – attended only by the German Protestants, debated the Lord's Supper and accepted Melancthon's ambiguous summary. This split the Zwinglians in So. Germany.

1538 Johann Strum establishes a Gymnasium (Christian school) which eventually became the University of Strassburg.

1538 – 1541 John Calvin in exile from Geneva in Strassburg ministers to the French refugees there. A fruitful ministry; Calvin began writing commentaries and also married Idelette de Bure while there.

1540 Attempts a Conference with Catholics at Haugenau and at Worms in 1541 resulting in objections to his attitudes towards the Catholics. Bucer assented with Luther and Melancthon to Philip of Hesse's bigamous marriage, resulting in a scandal.



1541 His first wife having died of Plague (she had borne him 13 children); Bucer married Wilibrandis Rosenblatt (widow of Keller, Oecolampadius and Capito) She would bear him 3 more children. (Only two of Bucer's children reached adulthood.)

1541 Attended the Diet of Regensburg which failed to draw Protestant and Reformed support

1542 Attempted to bring reform to Cologne with Melanchton, but failed

1548 The Schmalkaldic War results in Charles V's victory at Muhlberg in April, 1547, which forced Strassburg to adopt a separate peace, the *Augsburg interim* then forced Bucer to leave Strassburg

1549–1551 Goes to Cambridge in England, assists Thomas Cranmer in English Reformation under Edward VI, contributes to the English *Book of Common Prayer*. Bucer's *The Reign of Christ* published in 1550. Martin Bucer died on February 28th, 1551.

1556 Bucer's bones exhumed and burned at the stake by Queen Mary of England

1560 Tomb Restored by Queen Elizabeth I.