## A Chronology of Martin Bucer (1491 - 1551)

**1491** Martin Bucer born on November 11<sup>th</sup>, at Schlettstadt in Alsace.

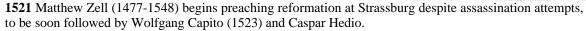
**1506** Became a Dominican Monk, ordained to priesthood as a means toward an education.

**1517** Matriculated at University of Heidelberg – admired Erasmas

**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 Too refuge as chaplain of household of Count Sickengen at Weissenburg in Alsace.



**1523** Excommunicated, Martin Bucer comes to Stassburg - 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 evenutually 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 reulting in objections to his attitudes towards the Catholics. Bucer assented with Luther and Melanchton 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 Schmakaldic War results in Charles V's victory at Mahlberg 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 1551.

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

1560 Tomb Restored by Queen Elizabeth I.