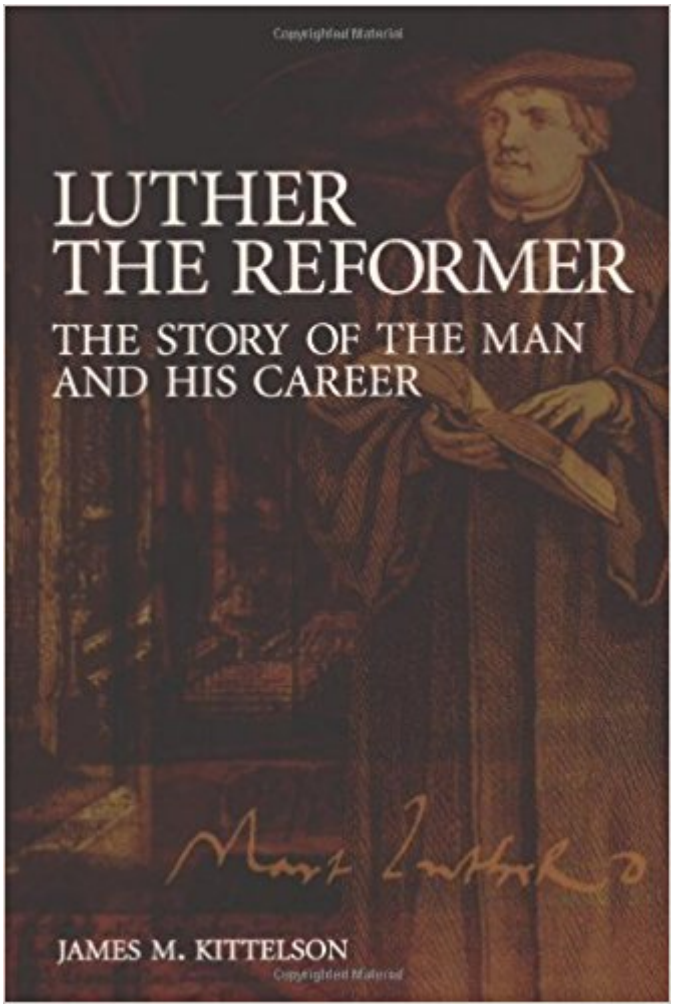
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Luther The Reformer: The Story Of The Man And His Career



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Synopsis

Engaging and authoritative, Kittleson’s important and popular biography is here Ã¢â ¬â • represented with a new cover and new preface by the author. His single-volume biography has become a standard resource for those who wish to delve into the depths of the Reformer without drowning in a sea of scholarly concerns.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The best complete biography of Luther for our times." -Lewis Spitz, Stanford University

James Kittelson is a professor of church history and director of the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation. He is author of over thirty articles and several books, and was senior editor of The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation (1996).

This is a well organized and reader friendly presentation of Luther as a reformer. It follows his progression of thoughts and actions and the actions of his peers. This should be a staple for anyone wanting to learn more about the man or about the reformation --particularly from the vantage point of Martin Luther.

In my freshman year of college, I was first introduced to Martin Luther. He was portrayed as a stubborn challenger to the status quo. A few years later, I learned more about this man and how he

became one of my own spiritual ancestors. Then, in the late 90s, I was given Rolan Bainton’s Here I Stand, which allowed me to know the reformer even better.Martin Luther was not an easy man to get along with. He demonstrated an inability to compromise even on reasonable points regarding the Lord’s Supper. He displayed an unfortunately naÃƒÆ’Ã Â ve approach to politics. Luther saw everyone who didn’t accept his interpretation of the Gospel as an enemy (a view which has colored his legacy to the present). Despite his numerous accomplishments, Luther was, in many ways, a medieval man to the end.Yet, for all of his weaknesses, Luther had plenty of admirable attributes. He was a skilled team-builder. He became, at 42, a loving husband and, eventually, the father of six children. Luther’s wit and intellectual acuity remained sharp through his last year of life. We can all learn much from his love of Scripture and emphasis on trusting Jesus for justification before God. Further, no one can question Luther’s skill at polemics and prodigious literary output. Finally, his belief and practice of confessing his sins regularly to a fellow believer (cf. James 5:16) is something all Christians can learn from today.The author must be commended for putting together a work that covers all of Martin Luther’s life. Though his actions during the early years of the Reformation are well-known, Luther’s later years entailed numerous events that should not be overlooked.

I’ve read only the first third of the book, so it may change. I’m traveling to Germany in December for a trip called "In the Steps of Martin Luther". I was looking for something about the life of Luther. So far the book had been mostly theological. It’s okay, and important and interesting, but I was looking for more about his life apart from his theology, which I’m already somewhat familiar with.

I found this book to be excellent. It gives a excellent treatment of Luther’s life, his career, as well as his ideas. It helped me to understand more fully how revolutionary he was in his times. The author shows Luther’s weaknesses as well as his strengths. It is written at a level that lay people can grasp, and it is a good read

Objective, accurate, and readable...Kittelson provides an honest portrait of the man who restored the teaching of the gospel of forgiveness and salvation by Christ alone. To his credit he also shows the failures and shortcomings of Luther with equal objectivity.

Excellent bio of Luther. I bought it because our pastor uses it in a class where we are covering the Reformation. Helpful to have a copy of the Book of Concord handy.

Brought up as a Roman Catholic in the thirties and forties, I had a negative take on Luther. He was the heretic who caused so much trouble. I am no longer a Catholic, but mostly Buddhist. However, unable to find a Buddhist community in my area with which I could identify --- I tried some Christian churches, of which, naturally there is an abundance. I happened upon Peace Lutheran Church here in Las Cruces, NM, and found a place where I thought I might settle down at least for the sake of some spiritual community.I decided to read a biography of Luther -- starting but not finishing -- one by Ronald Bainton. I stopped reading it partly because of the writing style, and because i wanted some more time spent on Luther's theological explorations and the views that he came to have about Jesus and the Church.Luther the Reformer by Kittelson fitted my needs almost perfectly: It was clearly stated, well written, interesting, delving below the surface, but still not getting bogged down in erudite details.It was insightful, helpful, and an enjoyable book for me. Highly recommended.

The book is written in an easy to read format. The author has done extremely well in relating Luther's life, making Luther a very real person with spiritual and human challenges. Culture existing in Germany in the 15thand 16th centuries is well described, and helps to understand social and political circumstances during Luther's life. The book makes clear the great accomplishment that Luther achieved in bringing about the Reformation, and defining Grace alone, Faith alone and Scriptures alone as Christian faith fundamental doctrine.Luther the Reformer was purchased from .

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