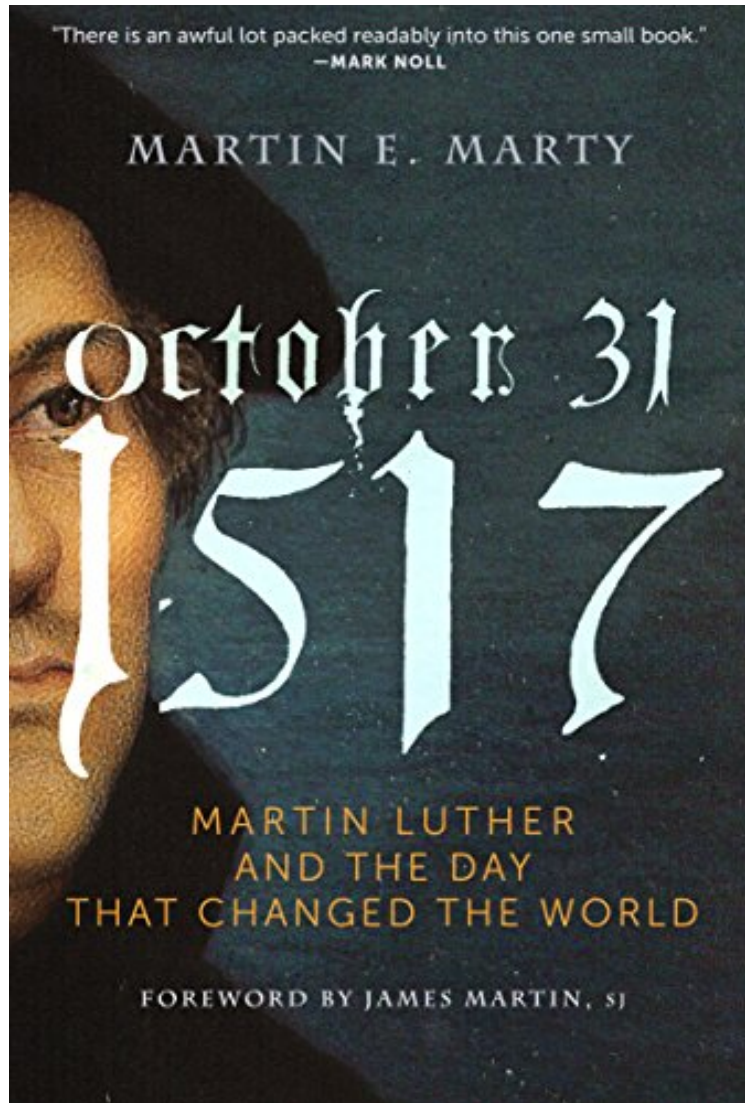


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## October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day that Changed the World

*Martin E. Marty*

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**Martin E. Marty : October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day that Changed the World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day that Changed the World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This was more of an 'apology' written by a Lutheran ...By D. Gregg Munson This was more of an 'apology' written by a Lutheran minister to discuss the lingering issues that separates the Lutherans from the the Roman Catholic church. I'm afraid that I did not learn any more than I already knew, certainly

no more regarding Luther himself and his motives. 22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. The book's title may mislead, but this is a 5-star book. I agree with many of the other reviewers of this book ironically, the many-star reviews and a bit of the few-star reviews. As a lifelong journalist, I understand why the book's "headline," its title, is misleading and I'm adding my own 5-star review here to help clarify. Clearly, the cover image, title and subtitle were chosen to sell more copies of this book at the 500th anniversary of the date Luther supposedly nailed up his complaints about the Catholic church. When I first saw the cover, I expected a book all about that day and that era. Instead, this is indeed a very important small volume written by Marty and also by the best-selling Catholic author James Martin, who wrote the Foreword to this book examining the issues that sprang from that date and cascade down to us, half a millennium later. To be fair to the low-star reviews here, they're right: If you're buying this book expecting a gripping historical narrative about 1517, then you'll be mistaken. What has happened in the decades leading up to this anniversary is many, many dialogues and studies involving Lutheran and Catholic leaders. No, not all Lutheran groups participated. But there was historic involvement by a number of Lutheran leaders, especially in Europe and that led to the amazing start to this "anniversary year" in late October 2015 including Pope Francis in Sweden in joint worship with Lutherans. This is the first centennial of the key date in Luther's career that is being jointly commemorated by Catholic and Lutheran leaders together in Europe. This volume, both Marty's short text and James Martin's Foreword, seek to clarify issues surrounding this history and to point toward areas of emerging convergence. Obviously, many Christians still object and disagree on these issues. But, if you do buy and read this volume, you'll understand a whole lot more about how the events Luther set off in 1517 have an important legacy in our contemporary world. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Illuminating. By Roy Flinchbaugh. Illuminating writing for a troubled but significant period.

This volume is small but weighty and a solid addition for all modern Christianity collections. Ray Olson, Booklist With foreword by James Martin, this book by Martin Marty answers the question: Why is the Reformation relevant today? Most importantly, this book is about how the Reformation impacts us devotionally as Christians of any denomination. As we move toward the commemoration on October 31, 2017, this is the book you need. Accessible for church groups or personal reading, this is not a historical narrative of Reformation events, but an explanation of the issues that led to Luther's posting of the 95 Theses and their implications for the Church and the world. As one of the world's preeminent Luther scholars, Martin Marty also explores the concept of repentance as a central theme of the Theses. In a foreword, James Martin, SJ, offers context and a shared vision. This year began with the joint ecumenical commemoration in Lund, Sweden, on October 31, 2016, attended by Pope Francis and members of the Lutheran World Federation and other Christian churches. Martin Marty explains how this event, and indeed all ecumenical dialogue that has happened over the past few hundred years and will happen in this coming year, represents a change of heart. Valuable insight. Kathleen Norris

This book has a lot packed in it for such a short volume (90 pages and then an appendix of Luther's 95 Thesis), and I found it very informative and thought provoking, especially Marty's beautiful examination of what repentance really means. Rather than being for or against Luther, as the Reformation debate often dwells upon, Martin Marty traces Luther's influence on the church, as well as history at large, and shows where Catholics and Lutherans have sought unity in more recent times. He closes with thoughts on how this unity can be developed further. Both Catholics, Lutherans, and all the denominations in between will learn something from this little book and be convicted towards the kind of whole-life-encompassing, inside-out repentance that Luther advocated as it relates to being one bride of Christ. Well-researched and graceful, Marty has a great perspective on a potentially explosive topic. Amanda Rogozinski