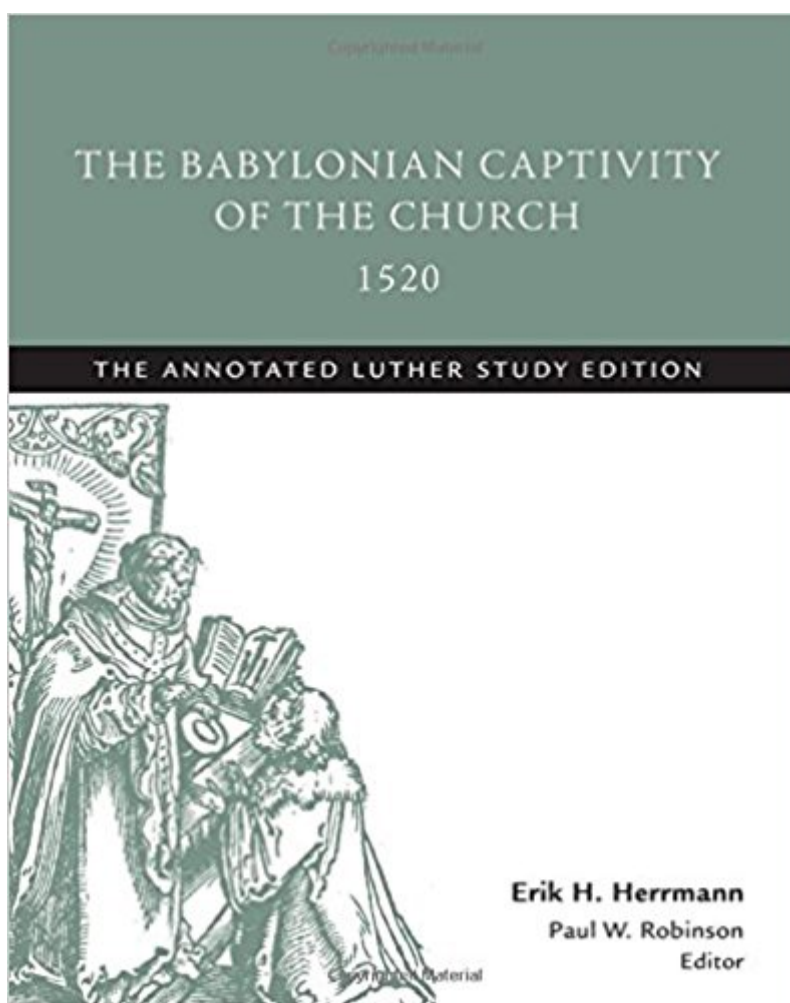


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# The Babylonian Captivity Of The Church, 1520: The Annotated Luther, Study Edition



## Synopsis

In his *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, Martin Luther set forth a reconsideration of the sacramental Christian life that centered on the word. His thesis is that the papacy had distorted the sacraments with its own traditions and regulations, transforming them into a system of control and coercion. The evangelical liberty of the sacramental promises had been replaced by a papal absolutism which, like a feudal lordship, claimed its own jurisdictional liberties and privileges over the totality of Christian life through a sacramental system that spanned birth to death. Yet Luther does not replace one tyranny for another; his argument for a return to the biblical understanding of the sacraments is moderated by a consideration of traditions and external practices in relation to their effects on the individual conscience and faith. This volume is excerpted from *The Annotated Luther series, Volume 3*. Each volume in the series contains new introductions, annotations, illustrations, and notes to help shed light on Luther's context and interpret his writings for today. The translations of Luther's writings include updates of *Luther's Works, American Edition*, or entirely new translations of Luther's German or Latin writings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Erik H. Herrmann is associate professor of historical theology and director of the Center for Reformation Research at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Paul W. Robinson is professor of historical theology and dean of the faculty at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He

teaches Medieval and Reformation history.

I am a pastor and I ordered 19 of these books for my congregation. As part of our 500th Anniversary of the Reformation activities, we are walking through this treatise. I was skeptical about how this would be received by my congregation. I shouldn't be any more. My congregation loves this. I've never had a Bible Study so well attended, nor have I had a Bible Study that spurred such great conversations. This book is well assembled, the notes are very helpful, and with the direction of a pastor, it's accessible to the laity. When Luther took his stand at the Diet of Worms, this treatise was one of the main things for which he was asked to repent. Once my people knew that factoid, they were keenly interested in understand what Luther said here (and why he said it). I commend this anyone who's looking to start reading Luther and hasn't done so before. I also commend this to pastors who might have a small core Bible Study group who would like to tackle something with a bit more "oomph" to it.

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