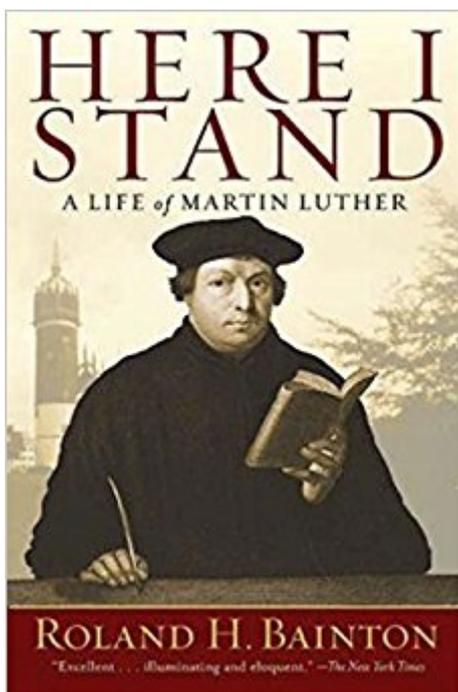


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Here I Stand: A Life Of Martin Luther



Synopsis

The Reformation of the sixteenth century was a vast and complicated movement. It involved kings and peasants, cardinals and country priests, monks and merchants. It spread from one end of Europe to the other, and manifested itself in widely differing forms. Yet in spite of its diverse and complex character, to start to understand the Reformation you need know only one name: Martin Luther. Roland Bainton's *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* remains the definitive introduction to the great Reformer and is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand this towering historical figure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Easily the most readable Luther biography in English." --Time
"Of the many superlative treatments, a half-century-old study by Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*, has justly won a reputation as a classic work on a classic subject." --Mark Noll, author and historian
"A sound and well-rounded picture of the man and of his role in history." --Chicago Tribune
--This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

Roland H. Bainton (1894–1984) was born in England and came to the United States in 1902. A recipient of many degrees, Dr. Bainton was a specialist in Reformation history. For many years he was Titus Street Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Yale University. His other books include *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*, *The Travail of Religious Liberty*, *The Age of Reformation*, and *Christian Attitudes Toward War and Peace*.

This is a classic that allows you to understand Luther as you never could before. The book is clear, concise and at times funny. But always, you come off understanding the Gospel as new and fresh through Luther's (and Biblical) eyes. At the same time, you see the people he had to contend with (both Catholic and Protestant), and how they twisted Scripture, and you come to realize they were not that different from us in the early 16th century. The edition I bought was the \$15 paperback, and the printing quality was poor, which is the only reason this did not get 5 stars. Also, the many 15th century illustrations (from Luther's books and pamphlets and from those of his opponents) were so small it was hard to see the points Bainton was making as he discussed each. I gave up and bought the Kimble edition. What a refreshing change (for only \$6). The font was much easier to read, and the figures were clear as they were and could be "opened" to zoom in on all the details. Now if only my old iPad2 wasn't so heavy. :)

Very, very well written biography of Luther and the beginning of the Reformation. Recounts the revolution in technology, society and the effect of intellectual thought and the courage of Luther as well as others who paved the way for awakening of human thought inside and outside of Christianity.

This is a most comprehensive and fascinating study on the life of Luther as well as the history of the church around him. However I will have to reread it & have a dictionary at hand to use often. This time thru I am just getting the main idea, but I'm certain much has been lost in the forest of words I do not know! Definitely happy with it & it's a "must have" in your library.

Briskly paced, exciting read. The scope of Luther's life is staggering. Should he not be considered the most influential figure of the last two millennia? I find it truly fantastic that God used a single man to up-end the religious, economic, social, and even artistic, climates of Europe. What remained untouched? This is a good read. Though the first Lutheran biography I've read, I'm a little surprised at how highly this work is praised. Many other biographies that I've read are styled and narrated better. Perhaps this is because to understand Luther you must understand the development of Luther's thought worldview before you consider any of his life's consequences. Luther is ever quotable and thankfully Bainton doesn't shy away from a modest number of quotes including excerpts from sermons and Table Talk. The biography is generally balanced considering its only a 400 page book. Luther was a complex man, mostly balanced but not without contradiction. This

biography takes on the same sense of proportion. Like most biographers, Bainton seems eager to praise and quick to move past shortcomings. "Here I Stand" highlights the man's theology and his passion for truth yet Bainton doesn't show the reader the trailheads of all that the Reformation brought about. At the end of the book the reader is treated to brief sections on Luther's preaching, his hymns, his prayers and his depression. At times, I found Bainton's writing style a bit bland. Lutheran quotations provided frequent relief. In the hardback Hendrickson edition, more than 50 illustrations are included and serve to compliment rather than distract from the author's ideas. The Reformation is nothing less than a rediscovery of the Bible and the Gospel. Luther is nothing less than the Father of the Reformation. This is a good book of a great man.

I was thoroughly swept up in this book's detailed narrative and history of Luther and his time. It's unflinching in its recounting of his life, even some of the terrible things he wrote especially later in his life, but it also doesn't romanticize the things he is well known for. You get a real deep look into what made Luther tick and it's really helpful the way the author relates Luther's struggles as a Christian to us today. I found a lot of encouragement going through this book.

Incredible! The book reads easy, while detailing the remarkable story of Martin Luther's life. I would highly recommend the book to any Christian who is striving to grow to the person that God has called you to be. Semper Fidelis

Still the best single book on Luther...goes into more theological detail than most reader may want but presents a great explanation of the times Luther lived in and the historical perspective. I believe the author is both an accomplished historian as well as a theologian...and it shows. I do agree with other reviewers that the actual printing of this edition could have used an easier-to-read type face, but one gets used to it...

This is the best biography about Martin Luther that I have read. The author starts from the beginning, doesn't jump around, and follows up with Luther's final days. It might appear that the author is somewhat biased but he does state the facts. I would have liked to read more about Luther's anti-Semitic thoughts, writings, and other activities. Still, I couldn't take my eyes off the book. If you want a very accurate story of Martin Luther, his attempts to reform the Catholic Church from its unethical status and make the appropriate changes to ensure the Scriptures were correctly interpreted and explained to Christians of his time, be sure to give this a read.

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