

1 Peter Series

Lesson #068

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Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

THE MAGDEBURG CONFESSION; THE WILL OF GOD: DO GOOD

1 PETER 2:13–17



1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY

The Believer's Responsibility

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pres mid impera 3
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“to subject; to
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κτίσις *ktisis*
dat fem sing
“creation,
creaturely
institution or
ordinance”

ὑποτάσσω *hupotassō*
pres mid impera 3
sing
“to subject; to
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1 Pet. 2:14, “or to governors, as to those who are sent by him [the governor] for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.”

**πέμπω *pempō*
pres mid part
masc plur dat
“to send”**

Fallacy of the excluded middle:

Option 1

Divine right of kings

“Christians are required to submit blindly to every law and policy of the government.”

Option 2

God is for government not anarchy (or tyranny)

God established the institutions of government, but does not approve of every government. God opposes anarchy. Therefore, opposition to tyranny while holding to government is permissible.

Acts 4:19, “But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

Acts 4:20, “ ‘For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.’ ”

Acts 5:18, “and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

Acts 5:19, “But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, [a divine mandate]

Acts 5:20, “ ‘Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.’ ”

Acts 5:27, “And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them,

Acts 5:28, “saying, ‘Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!’”

Acts 5:29, “But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’ ”

Acts 5:33, “When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.”

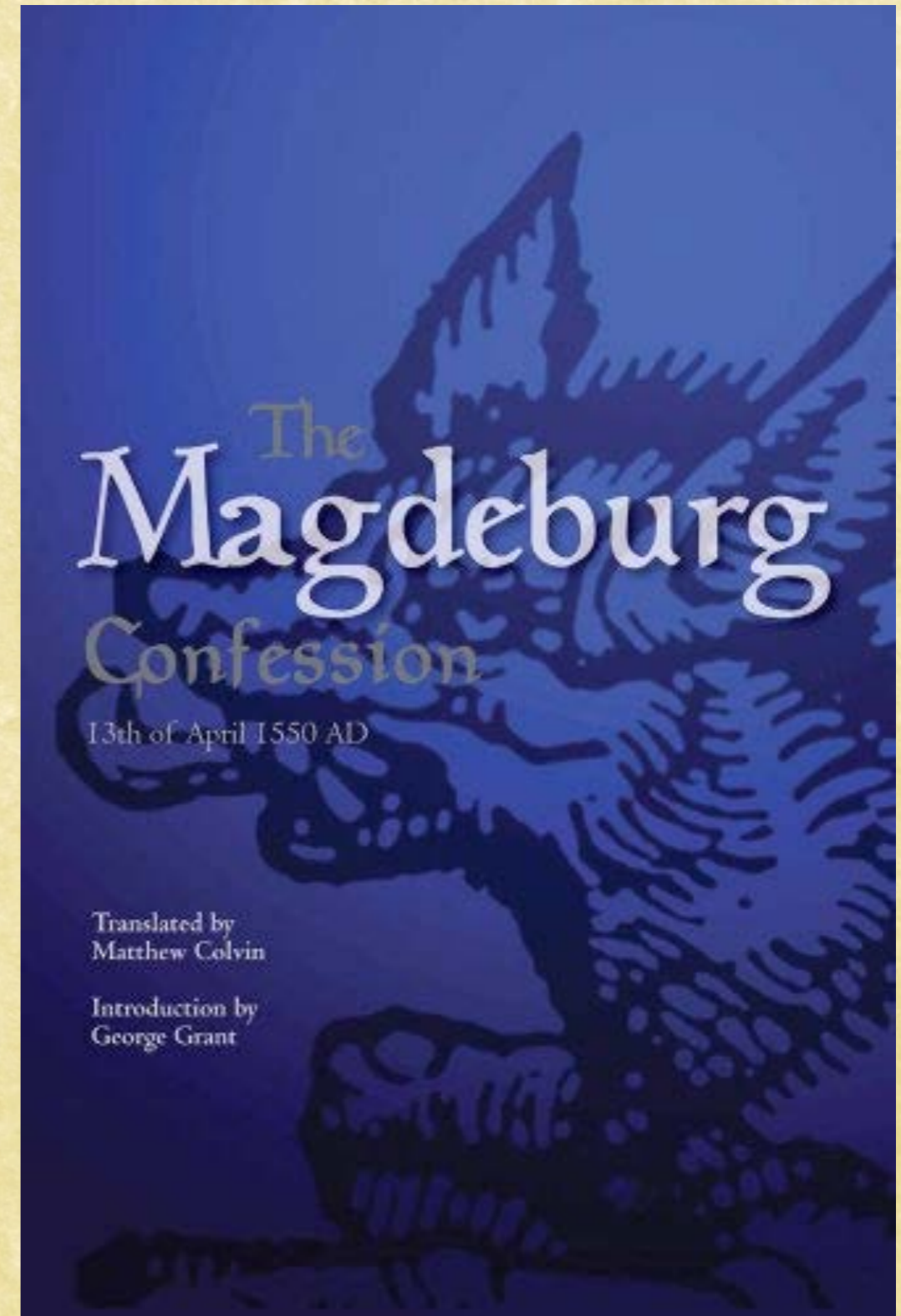
Acts 5:40, “And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.”

Acts 5:42, “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

The Magdeburg Confession

or

The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrate



Jer. 29:4, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

Jer. 29:5, “ ‘Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.

Jer. 29:6, “ ‘Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished.’ ”

Jer. 29:7, “ ‘And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

Jer. 29:8, “ ‘For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed.’ ”

Jer. 29:9, “ ‘For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD.

Jer. 29:10, “ ‘For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.’ ”

1 Tim. 2:1, “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

1 Tim. 2:2, “for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”

Background to the Magdeburg Confession

- 1. Oct. 31, 1517: Reformation Day. Luther nails the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany.**

1500

1600

1517

X

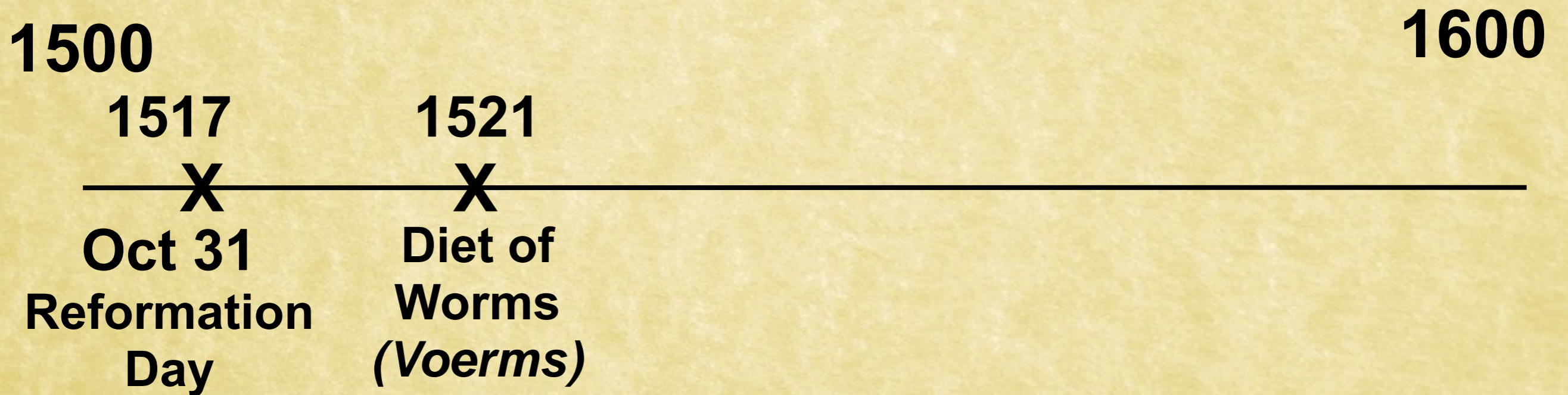
Oct 31

Reformation

Day

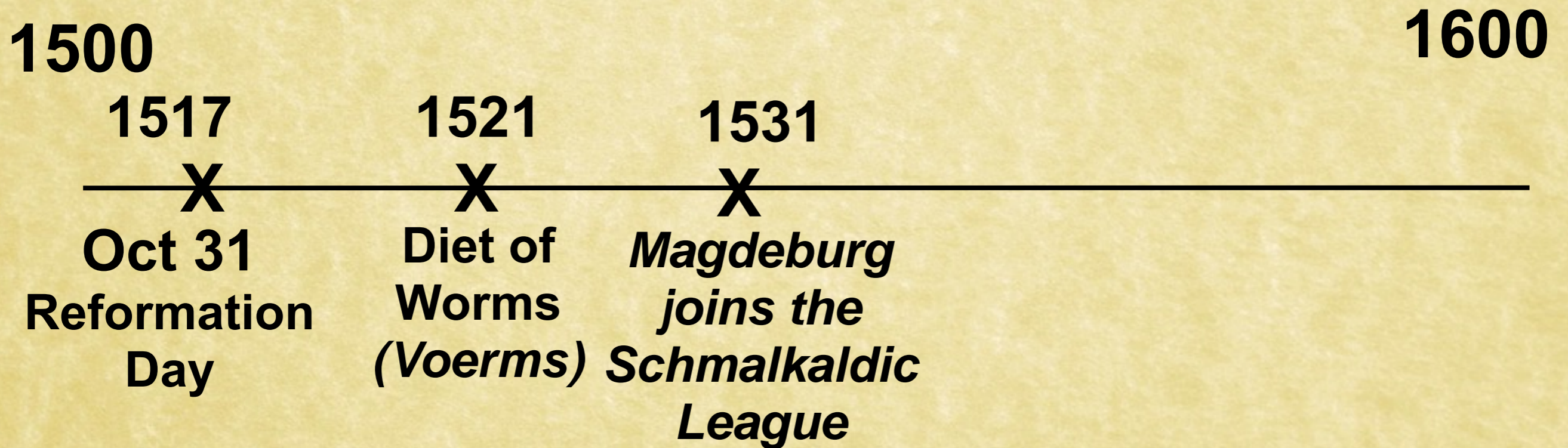
Background to the Magdeburg Confession

2. Jan. 28–May 25, 1521: Luther tried by Emperor Charles V for heresy.



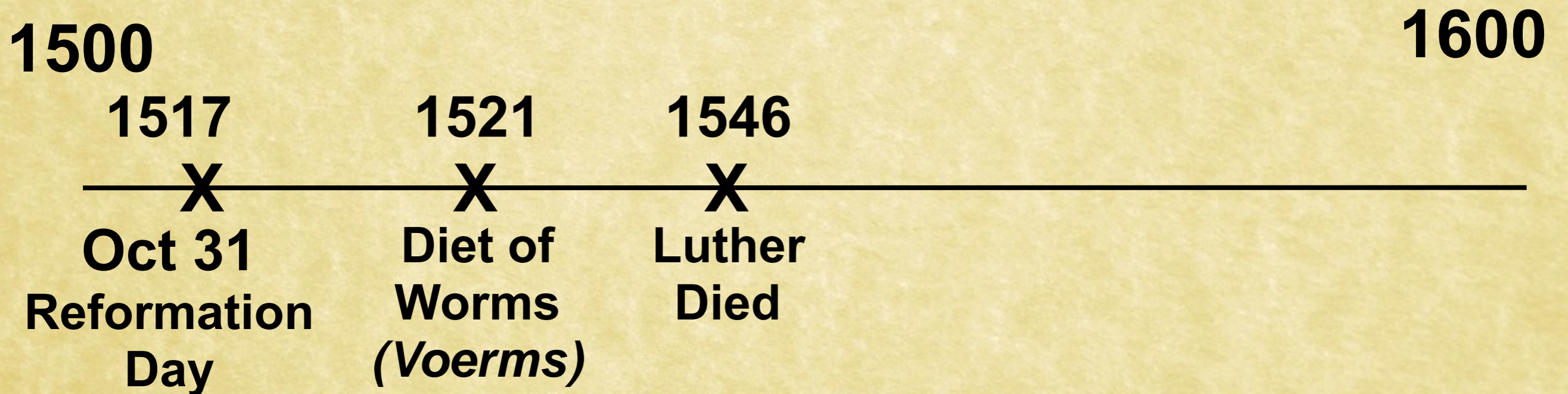
Background to the Magdeburg Confession

3. 1531: Magdeburg joins the Schmalkaldic League.



Background to the Magdeburg Confession

4. 1546: Luther died.



Four months after Luther's death, Charles V entered a treaty with Pope Paul III to end the spread of the Reformation.

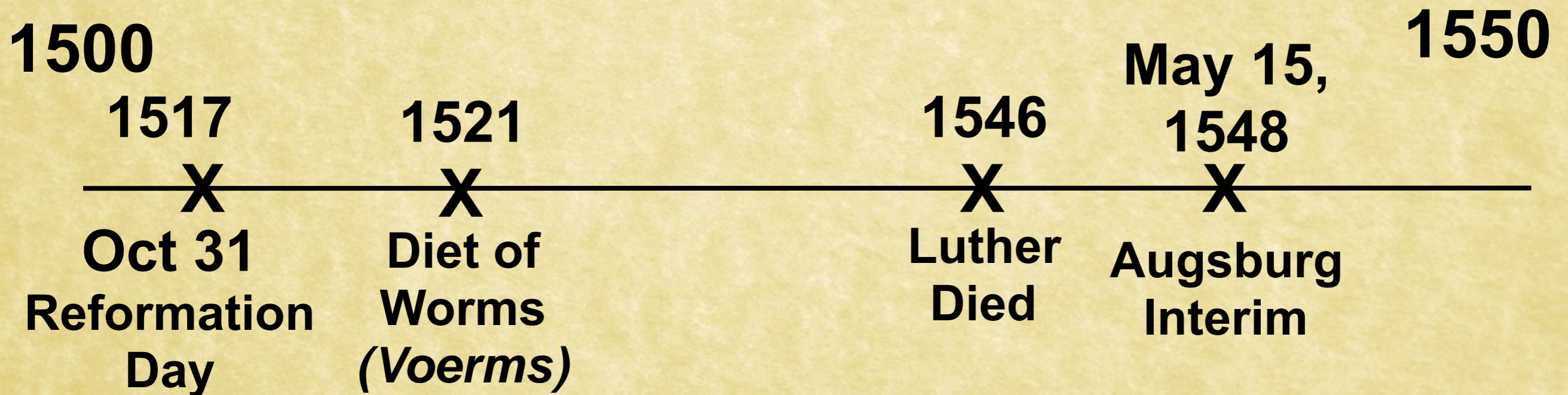
“... his Imperial Majesty should prepare himself for war, ... against those who objected to the Council [of Trent], against the Schmalkaldic League, and against all who were addicted to the false belief and error in Germany, and that he do so with all his power and might, in order to bring them back to the old faith and to the obedience of the Holy See.”

Schmalkaldic League War, July 4, 1546–April 24, 1547.

Charles V defeated them. Imprisoned Phillip of Hesse and John Frederick of Saxony.

Background to the Magdeburg Confession

5. May 15, 1548: Charles V, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, issued the *Augsburg Interim* to end the Protestant Reformation.



**The only city to stand against the Emperor
was Magdeburg.**

“When a higher or superior authority makes an unjust or immoral law or decrees, the lower (lesser) authority in government has the right—even the duty in the sight of God—to interpose against that immoral law or decree, to refuse obedience to the immoral law or decree, and if need be, to openly resist the unjust or immoral law or decree made by the higher authority.”

“the idea of unlimited obedience to the state is an invention of the Devil.”

“When the state makes laws commanding us to do that which God forbids, or makes law forbidding us to do that which God commands, we obey God, rather than the state.”

“... Whether a Christian magistrate can or ought to preserve his State and the Christian teachers and hearers in it against his own superior magistrate, and drive off by force one who is using force to compel people to reject the true doctrine and true worship of God and to accept idolatry.” [49]

Warning

“... Even good men are sometimes carnally impatient of injuries, and can badly abuse opinions that have been rightly handed down to them by employing them at the wrong time or place.”

“... we will gladly render obedience—as much as we are able and we owe you.”

“... That except for the preservation of our religion, nothing else is sought; that when this is gained, our Senate and citizens will be most obedient in all their proper duties according to your Majesty’s laws.”

“We again affirm from the sure Word of God that when superior magistrates attempt to force Papistical idolatry upon their citizens, to overwhelm the true worship of God and His true worshippers, just as they have now begun to do, by unjust maneuvers with their laws, even if they pretend otherwise—then pious magistrates are not only able, but even have an obligation to resist them as far as they are able, to defend the true doctrine, worship of God, life, modesty, and the property of their subjects, and preserve them against such tyranny.”

1 Pet. 2:13, “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,

1 Pet. 2:14, “or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.”

κακοποιός

kakopoios

gen masc plur

**mischievous; evil-
doing**

ἀγαθοποιός

agathopoios

gen masc plur

doing good

1 Pet. 2:12, “having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

1 Pet. 2:14, “or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.”

1 Pet. 4:15, “But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters.”

1 Pet. 2:20, “For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.”

1 Pet. 3:6, “as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”

1 Pet. 3:10, “For *‘He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.*

1 Pet. 3:11, “*‘Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.’*”

1 Pet. 3:16, “having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

1 Pet. 3:17, “For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

1 Pet. 4:19, “Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”

1 Pet. 2:15, “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—”

Contrast with

- **being charged as evil doers in 1 Pet. 2:12**
- **punishment of evildoers, 1 Pet. 2:14**
- **doing good, 1 Pet. 2:15**

1 Pet. 2:20, “For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.”

1 Pet. 3:6, “as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”

1 Pet. 3:17, “For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

3 John 11, “Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.”

1 Pet. 2:15, “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—”

Will of God

- 1. The *revealed* will of God.
We know this by reading Scripture.**
- 2. The sovereign will of God.
What God determines to do, apart from what is revealed in Scripture.**
- 3. The permissive will of God.
What God allows to happen.
Also known as God's permissive will.**

Eph. 6:6, “not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,”

Col. 4:12, “Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

1 Thess. 4:3, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;”

1 Thess. 5:18, “in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

**2 Tim. 1:1, “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ
by the will of God, according to the promise
of life which is in Christ Jesus,”**

Heb. 10:36, “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:”

1 Pet. 3:17, “For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”