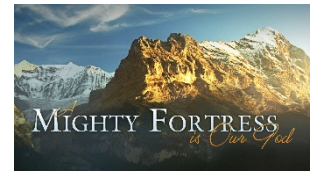


Ein feste Burg



❖ Introduction

- 95 Theses (October 31, 1517): Abuse of Indulgences → Corrupt Mediaeval Catholicism
 - **Quote** (J.I. Packer): Careful Calvin orchestrated Protestant theology most skillfully, but fertile Martin Luther wrote nearly all of the tunes.
- *Martin Luther* (1483-1546)
 - Ideas
 - Justification by Faith: “Tower Experience” ~ Imputed Righteousness (**Romans 1:16-17**)
 - Scripture is Supreme Authority (vs Tradition/Pope/Councils): Scripture → Personal Conviction → Declaration/Preaching (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)
 - Priesthood of All Believers (1520, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*): No priestly order/higher levels of Christian (**1 Peter 2:5, 9; 1 Timothy 2:5**) → ** Vocation
 - End of Clerical Celibacy (**Ephesians 5:25-33**): Married Katherine von Bora (6 kids)
 - Law and Gospel (**Galatians 3:19, 24**)
 - *Simul justus et peccator* (**Romans 8:1-4**)
 - The Two Kingdoms: Civil and Church Realms “in tension” (**Romans 13:1-7**)
 - *Table Talk* (Students in home) and Christian Education (*Large and Small Catechisms*)
 - *Luther Bible* and Congregational Hymns (~ 36 Hymns)
 - Music
 - NB: As a young student, Luther earned money to pay his school fees by singing in the streets of Eisenach. Luther played the lute, and singing was always an important part of his life.
 - ◆ **Quote** (Martin Luther): "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. She is a mistress and governess of those human emotions...which control men or more often overwhelm them...Whether you wish to comfort the sad, to subdue frivolity, to encourage the despairing, to humble the proud, to calm the passionate, or to appease those full of hate...what more effective means than music could you find?"
- *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (circa 1527) ~ Often called the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation." → Paraphrase of **Psalm 46**

❖ Psalm 46

- Context
 - *Hymn* of trust in God's *power* and *presence* (NB: 3 Metaphors ~ refuge, strength, fortress) → Eschatological *peace*
 - Repetition: Verses **1, 7, 11** ~ God is *personal* (“our”) and present (“with”)
- Structure
 - Confession: Trust in Yahweh's Power (**1-3**)
 - NB: Tumult and *chaos* (~ flood—*uncreation*).
 - Confidence: Trust in Yahweh's Presence (**4-7**)
 - *Lord of Hosts* (~ *Lord Sabaoth*): Root ~ military service, go to war, cult service (~ ark in battle) → Divine Warrior!
 - Confession: Trust in Yahweh's Peace (**8-11**)
 - NB: Both world and personal.

❖ Conclusion

- NB: On the base of Luther's tomb is inscribed, *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*. → ** Greatest hymn of the greatest man in the greatest period in German history.
- ** The history and ideas of the Protestant Reformation have shaped the church today.

Soli Deo Gloria