

ULRICH ZWINGLI

- Was born at Wildhaus near Toggenburg in the canton of St Gall 1484 - within seven weeks of Luther's birth
- Both Zwingli and Luther developed extra-ordinary musical talents
- Zwingli spoke Schweizerdeutsch (Swiss-German)
- He taught himself Greek and Hebrew to better understand the Scriptures
- Zwingli studied at Vienna and Basel universities
- He copied by hand the Pauline epistles from Erasmus' Greek New Testament and then memorised them
- Whereas Luther was educated in the theories of William Occam, Zwingli studied Thomism (Thomas Aquinas) which stressed the priority of divine grace and man as the instrument of divine predestination. Zwingli also absorbed much more of Renaissance humanism than did Luther
- Zwingli was more of a radical and republican than Luther. He was a Swiss patriot who advocated the use of the sword to defend his country and the Gospel. He died by the sword in battle
- Zwingli was not troubled like Luther with a predicament over his own soul. He battled with his lusts. While a pastor at Einsieden he acknowledged a sexual affair. He later said, "Out of one hundred, nay out of a thousand, there is scarcely one chaste priest."
- In 1519 while a pastor in Zurich, the plague decimated the city with nearly three out of ten dying. Zwingli was struck with the disease while ministering to the sick and dying, but recovered and composed a hymn about the ordeal
- On 29 January 1523, the First Zurich Disputation, the mayor and council decreed Zwingli free to preach - virtually an open door to the Reformation
- From 26 to 28 October 1523, the Second Zurich Disputation eliminated images and the Mass. At this time the absolute central importance and primary authority of the Word of God were acknowledged
- Zwingli was responsible for the Zurich Council Ordinance of 12 January 1525 to take the assets of the monasteries and use the funds to benefit the poor and schooling
- In 1529 Phillip of Hesse invited both Luther and Zwingli to a Colloquy at Marburg Castle - hence called the Marburg Colloquy. The Reformers agreed on 14 of 15 points but each held strongly to their views on the Lord's Supper
- Zwingli believed strongly that civil order came from God and when a number of his fellow reformers wanted to carry on the work of Reformation, he invoked civil authority against those who became known as Anabaptists
- Zwingli had written to the Bishop of Constance for permission to marry. He had secretly married Anna Reinhart a young widow with three children. After two years, he married publicly and had three children - added to his wife's three
- Ulrich Zwingli died in a battle between Protestant and Catholic Cantons at Kappel.
- He lay on his back on the battlefield amidst the dead from the battle. As one approached he saw Zwingli nigh unto death and asked if a priest should be fetched for confession. He said nothing and shook his head. Then they told him that he should have the mother of God in his heart and call on the beloved saints to plead to God on his behalf. Again he shook his head. Whereon the Catholics grew impatient and said that as one of the cantankerous heretics he should get what he deserved. Then Captain Fuchinger of Unterwalden thrust him through with his sword. His body was subsequently quartered and burnt (with pig's offal)