

*THE
REFORMATION
AND
THE
INVENTION
OF
PRINTING*

1456

invention of printing
(Bible printed by Johan Gutenberg)

1517

beginning of the Reformation
(95 theses posted in Wittenberg)

“To restore
the church again
by doctrine and learning,
it pleased God
to open to man
the art of printing.”

John Foxe

1517-1587

(author of Foxe’s Book of Martyrs)

“Luther’s New Testament was so much multiplied and spread by printers that even tailors and shoemakers, yea even women and ignorant persons who had accepted this new Lutheran gospel, and could read a little German, studied it with the greatest avidity as the fountain of all truth. Some committed it to memory, and carried it about in their bosom. In a few months such people deemed themselves so learned that they were not ashamed to dispute about faith and the gospel not only with Catholic laymen, but even with priests and monks and doctors of divinity.”

Cochleaus (defender of Romanism)

Statistics

Items printed in Germany:

- 1517, 81 items
- 1523, 944 items

Printing of Luther's works:

- by 1524, an estimated 1 million copies
- Luther's New Testament
(5000 of first edition alone)
(Lusk of Wittenberg printed 100,000)

The Gutenberg Bible

the first book printed
with moveable metal type

2 volumes
1,280 pages
double column

40 copies in existence
1 copy sold in the 1960's
for approx. \$500,000

Things To Remember

1. The all-embracing and good providence of God.
2. The importance of the Bible for the church of God.
3. The importance of reading good Christian books (I Timothy 4:13).
4. The necessity of Bible reading and study (John 5:39).
5. The present-day lack of Bible reading and study and of reading other good books today.