

1 & 2 Samuel Series

Lesson #222

July 21, 2020

Dean Bible Ministries

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# 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> SAMUEL

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S  
OVERTURNING AUTHORITY:

AUTHORIZED OR UNAUTHORIZED?  
2 SAMUEL 15 AND 20

- 1. Review *The Magdeburg Confession***
- 2. The impact of the Doctrine of the lesser magistrate on the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution of 1680.**
- 3. Then relate the importance of *The Magdeburg Confession* to the relationship of the colonies to the king and the colonies to Parliament.**
- 4. Contrast the American War for Independence and the French, Bolshevik, Chinese Cultural Revolutions, and current events.**

# Evaluation Criteria

## Christianity

**GOD**

**Personal-Infinite**

**+Righteousness / Justice, Love**

**MAN**

**Created,**

**Image of God**

**PROBLEM**

**Sinful, Corrupt**

**SOLUTION**

**Redemption of**

**Christ**

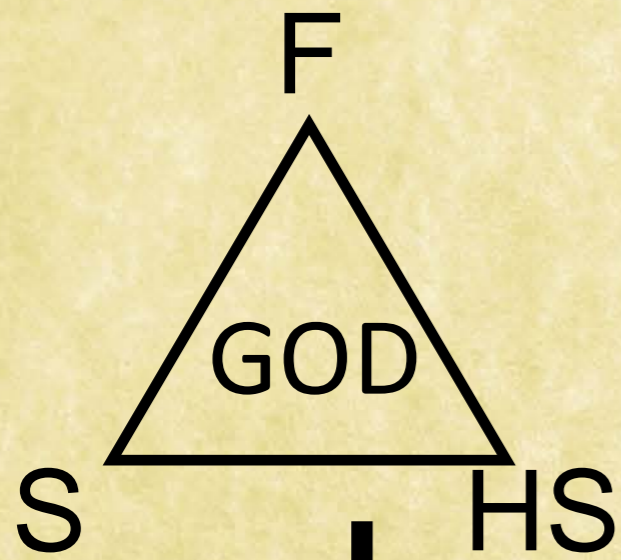
**HISTORY**

**Linear,**

**Kingdom**

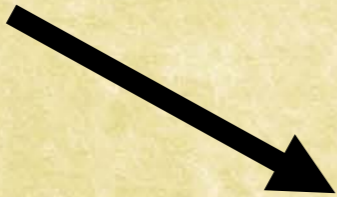
**CAUSATION**

**Divine Providence**



ABSOLUTE  
ULTIMATE  
AUTHORITY

Direct  
authority



Delegated  
authority



**We obey God  
instead of man  
when human  
authority  
contradicts  
God's authority**

# 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

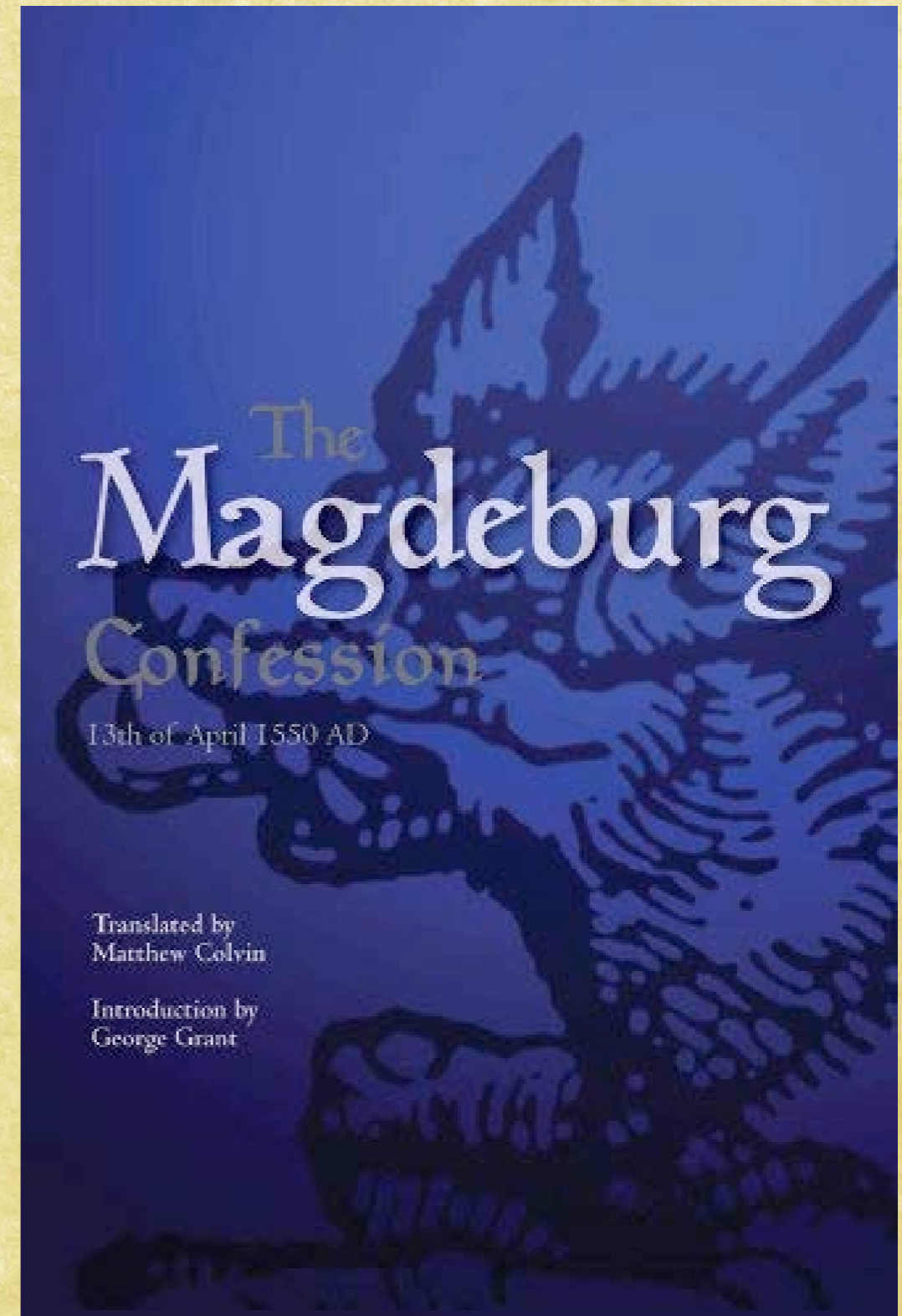
God is for government, not anarchy (or tyranny)

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.

# ***The Magdeburg Confession***

**or**

# **The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrate**



# Background to *The Magdeburg Confession*

1. **Oct. 31, 1517: Reformation Day. Luther nails the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany.**

**1500**

**1600**

**1517**

**X**

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**Oct 31**

**Reformation**

**Day**



# Background to *The Magdeburg Confession*

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

1500

1600

1517

1521

X

X

Oct 31

Diet of

Reformation

Wörms

Day

(*Voerms*)

**“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.”**

**~Martin Luther, Diet of Wörms**

**“Luther’s conscience was captive to the Bible, but the court was quick to ask, ‘what if everyone simply followed his or her own conscience?’ The result is obvious, you have chaos and nothing certain.”**

**~Mark Noll, *Turning Points***

**“For this reason we forbid anyone from this time forward to dare, either by words or by deeds, to receive, defend, sustain, or favor the said Martin Luther. On the contrary, we want him to be apprehended and punished as a notorious heretic, as he deserves, to be brought personally before us, or to be securely guarded until those who have captured him inform us, whereupon we will order the appropriate manner of proceeding against the said Luther. Those who will help in his capture will be rewarded generously for their good work.”**

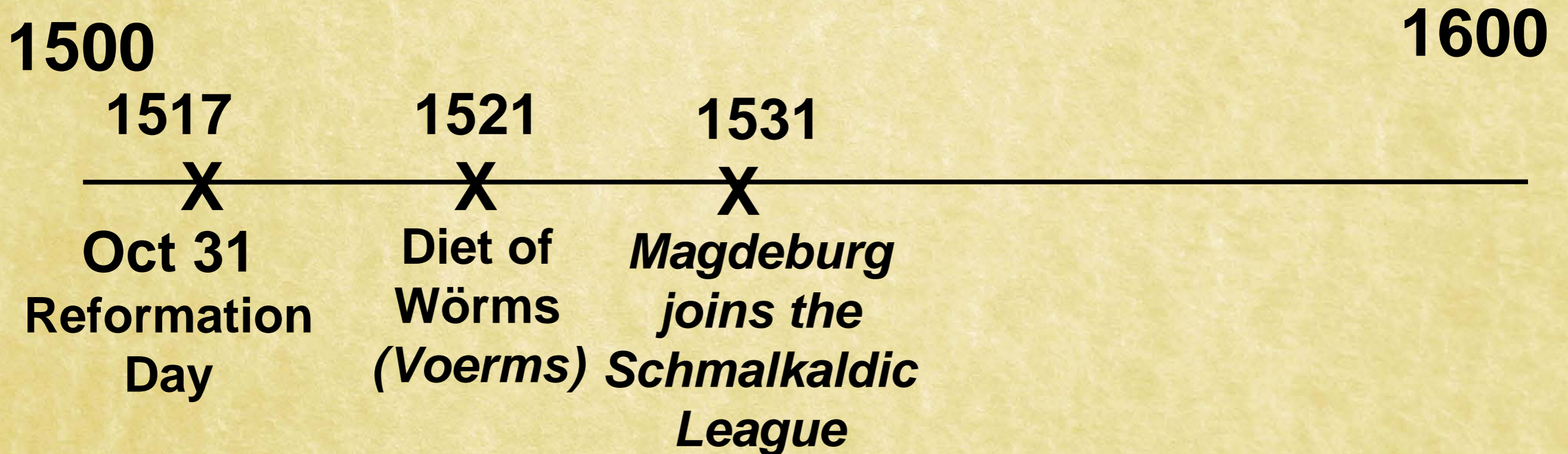
**~The Edict of Wörms**

# **The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates**

**When a higher authority enacts an unjust law, then a lower authority has the right and the responsibility to interpose himself between the higher authority and the citizen to protect the citizen from an unjust law.**

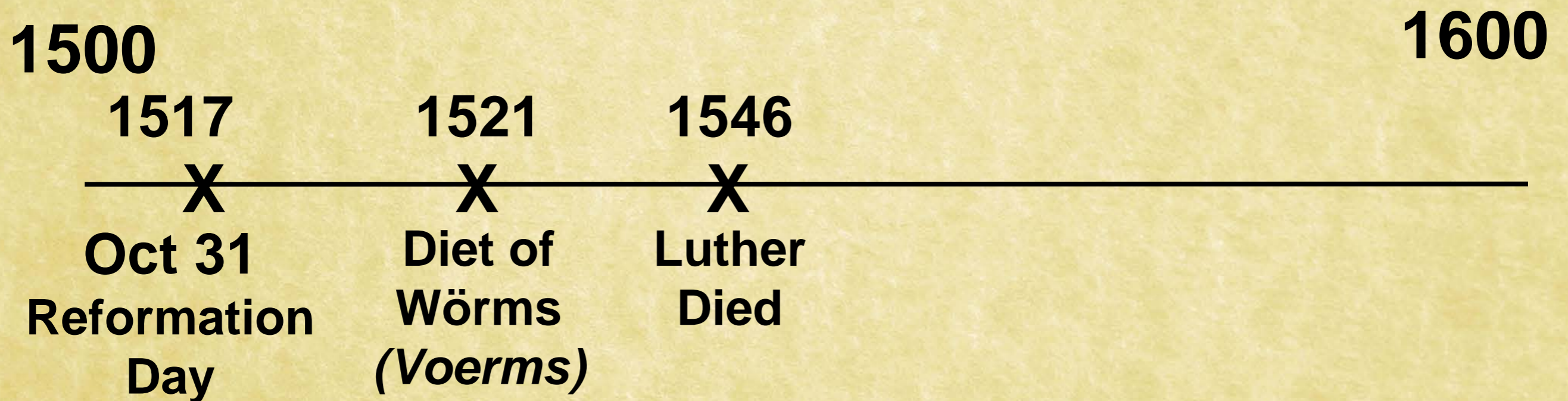
# Background to *The Magdeburg Confession*

## 3. 1531 Magdeburg joins the Schmalkaldic League.



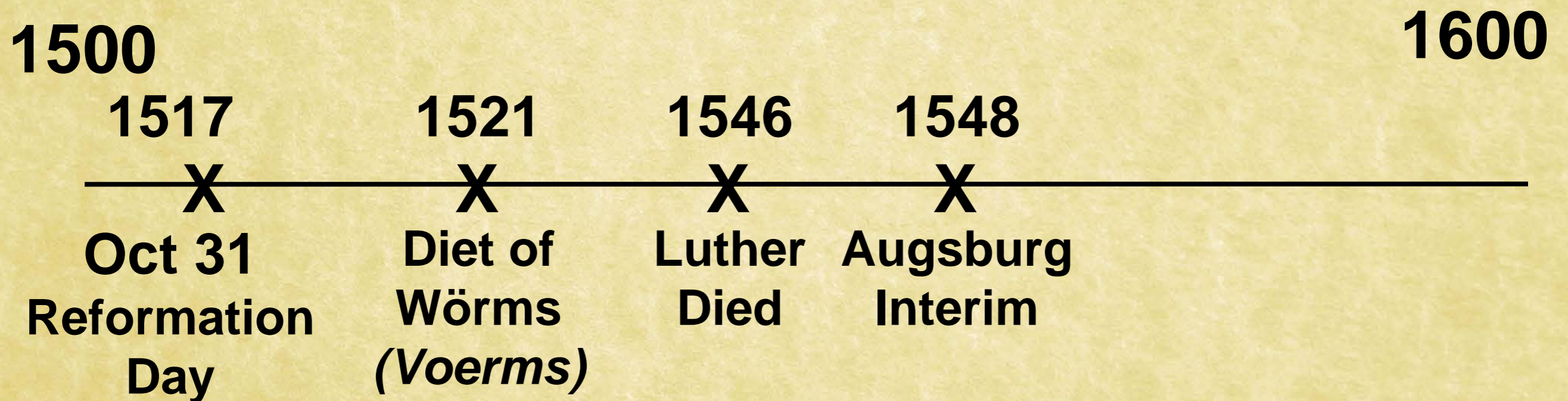
# Background to *The Magdeburg Confession*

## 4. Luther died, 1546



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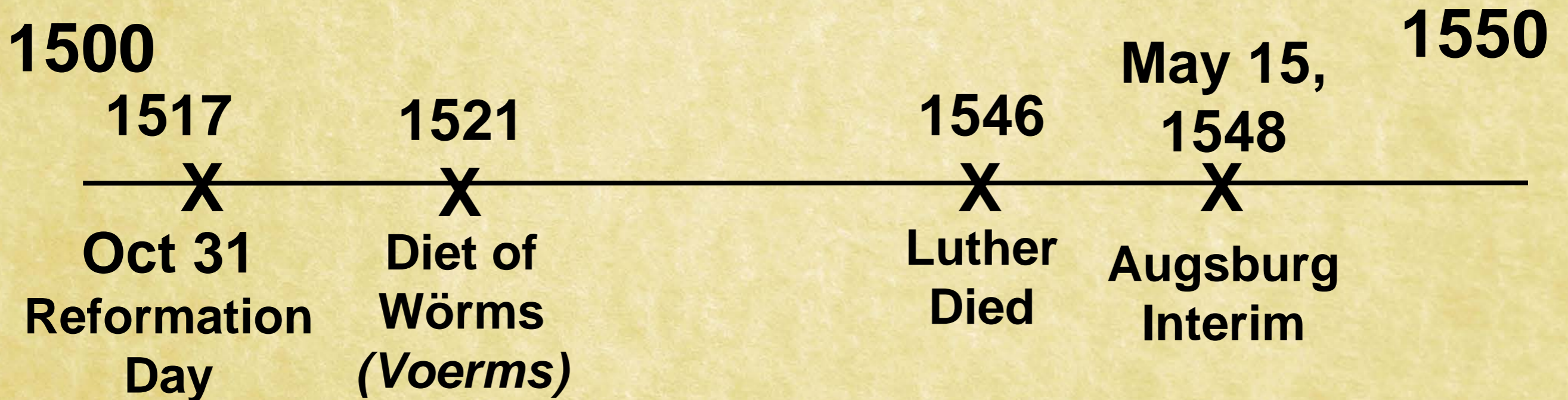
**Four months after Luther's death, Charles V entered a treaty with Pope Paul III to end the spread of the Reformation.**

**“... 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 German, 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.**

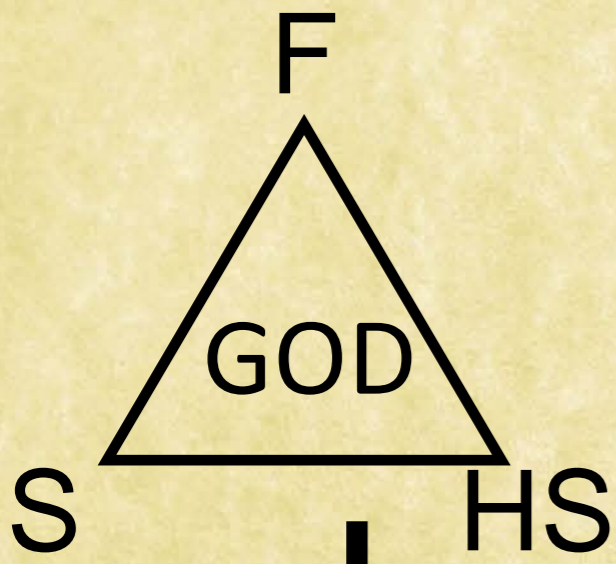
# Background to *The Magdeburg Confession*

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



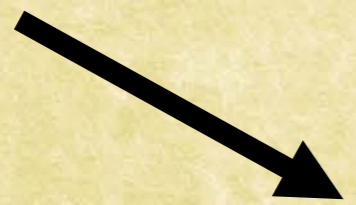
**The only city to stand against the Emperor  
was Magdeburg.**

**“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.”**



ABSOLUTE  
ULTIMATE  
AUTHORITY

Direct  
authority



Delegated  
authority



**We obey God  
instead of man  
when human  
authority  
contradicts  
God's 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.**

**The Declaration of the Causes and Necessities of Taking up Arms (see appendix), in July 1775 penned primarily by conservative delegate John Dickinson, was a declaration of self-defense. It laid out a history of British oppression and once again made the colonists' long-established legal case that Parliament's jurisdiction over the colonies was external, not internal.**

**One of the Declaration's main purposes, according to Julian P. Boyd (1950: 70–72), was providing incentive for the King to take the Congress's Olive Branch Petition seriously. As in the 1774 Petition to the King, the Congress in this petition professed their loyalty to the Crown and blamed present misunderstandings on the false and one-sided information given to him by his minister.**

# **French, Bolshevik, Cultural Revolutions and today.**

- **Atheist**
- **Man is improvable**
- **Attempt to create a utopia, a perfection**
- **Rejected law and wanted to use chaos and violence to totally replace the government**
- **No basis for ethics or justice**

**Comprised of a toxic brew of**

- **Cultural Marxism**
- **Identity Politics**
- **Social Justice**
- **Critical Race Theory**
- **Intersectionality**
- **Post-modernism**
- **Ecumenicalism**
- **White Privilege**