

David Gray's Reformation Rap

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How does a pastor, monk, son of a miner and a German

Posting ink in the middle of a church door

By providence ignite a revolution

Grew up to be a rebel and a scholar

A church father

A biblical baller

A theological mauler

A philosophical brawler with a clerical collar

His ideas started smaller, but they went a lot farther

Not by being the "10<sup>th</sup> caller," but by being a lot smarter

Not by praying a lot harder, by thinking a bit broader

Being willin', if need be, a martyr

But in the end livin' life as a revolution starter

Martin Luther's Reformation. We're talking Luther's Reformation

And its 500 years since he's begun, the church's Reformation

At twenty-two he was prepping for the law but quit

Like Calvin left the courtroom for the church pulpit

His father told his son that it's his future he was bustin'

To become a monk committed to the order of Augustine

While all around indulgences were being sold  
Springing souls from purgatory at the sound of gold  
Bishops were getting rich, but the game was getting old  
This brother finally had enough, his plans were growing bold

When the pace of change within the church was stuck and stalling  
He took his pencil to the temple and he starting scrawling  
Writing only God can keep eternal souls from staying fallen  
And this priestly man at last had finally found his calling

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He wrote propositions for the clergy to debate  
But the Bishops said, "You heretic, we'll get you, just you wait"  
Yet Guttenberg's invention allowed his friends to circulate  
Ideas he had written throughout the Germany state

He took the word of God and decided to translate  
So the common folks could understand and read it straight  
Shifting how we humans and our God would now relate  
Towards the Bible's understanding of eternal fate

His ideas revolutionized the human species  
But the church-heads still objected to the worldview that he sees  
They traced spiritual rebellion like a trail of Reese's Pieces  
To the night this man tacked to the door his 95 Theses

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The Bishops told poor Luther he must change his terms  
Or face their wrath and eat a steady Diet of Worms  
They told this monk he must revise his views and doctrine  
Yet he defended faith from all attacks like Johnnie Cochran

After Wittenberg, our Luther had become a new man  
He said, "I can do no other," and "On this I stand"  
His convictions shifted how Christians would act and live  
And his revolution changed the course of Western Civ.

Martin Luther's Reformation. We're talkin' Luther's Reformation  
And there's a million changes that have come. From Luther's Reformation

He argued the Bible is our prime authority  
To understand God's will for us to set priority  
From gospels, letters, prophets on back to the Torah  
Our guidance, practice, wisdom come from sola scriptura

Luther wrote it's not our works or obligation  
That wins our celebration of God's justification  
For righteousness is found in making Christ our own  
Forgivingness, pardon and grace they come from faith alone

From Luther's writings we know we're all grace receivers  
And called to serve in God's priesthood of all believers  
Relationships of church and state, of God and man  
Renewed by the ideas that his man began

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Our churches trace their history to ideas he did bring  
As Protestants act out their faith from New York to Beijing  
A Mighty Fortress was his God, we worship as we sing  
Recalling Luther when we say the name of Dr. King

Now as you dress in your costume on Halloween night  
Recall the time that Luther led the great church fight  
That spread a revolution with ideas he did write  
Forever changing how we view what makes us right

So if you want to change the world towards something that you like

Put your faith in God whether grown or still a tyke  
Get your education and learn to read and write  
And like M.L. pick up a pen and drop the mic

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And it's 500 years since he's begun, the church's Reformation

Me, I learned from him  
Me, I read him  
Me, I studied him  
Me, I'm the damn fool who forgot and ignored him

What's your name, and make it smoother  
It's Martin Luther!

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Notes: Inspired by the tune to the theme song from the musical Hamilton. Reece's Pieces led a trail in the film E.T. In 1521, Luther was famously ordered by the church to appear before the Imperial Diet (council) in the city of Worms, Germany, to defend his views, which he did. Luther, it is believed, tacked his 95 Theses to a church door in Wittenburg, Germany on October 31, 1517, which marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.