

Well, we only have time briefly to mention the events of the next three years. But during the next three years, the Pope made one effort after another to quiet Luther, but it was hard to do anything, because the Duke who had charge of the territory in which Luther lived, was a very influential man, and the Pope didn't want to displease him. And he never directly denied the Pope, but he always made some excuse--they called him Frederick the wise boy. And the result was that during the next three years, Luther's thought developed more and more as he studied more and more of these things, and efforts were made to stop Luther, which finally culminated in his being excommunicated. But during that time Luther wrote some very great works which were widely distributed not only in Germany but throughout the rest of the Christian world. And these works had tremendous influence.

Over in England, people began to read Luther's writings. A group of students in Cambridge University---people called them "The Germans" because they met every week to read Luther's German writings and discuss them; and out of that group came the leaders of the English Reformation. People said Henry VIII established the Church of England--- it's absolutely false Henry VIII was a wicked king who for purposes of his own, tried to destroy the Church and then for purposes of his own, changed a little the other way and allowed it to go forward. But it was these men who read Luther's writings who became the leaders of the English Reformation.

And then Frederick said, "Well, you must give him a safe conduct so nothing will happen to him on the way." So Charles gave a safe conduct; Luther could come to Worms clear across Germany, appear before the Diet, and return and would not be touched according to the safe conduct. After he returned, a certain number of days--the total number of weeks was involved in this safe conduct,