

In three weeks it was for sale all over Germany. In six weeks it was being sold in Jeruslaem. It spread like wild-fire-- this question about this criticism of it.

Pope Leo X came in one day after a hunting expedition. He came into the Vatican, and as he came in someone came running up to him all excited. Now Pope Leo X was not like the second pope before him--Alexander Borgius--who had had his mistresses living with him in the Vatican. He with his son Caesar Borgius was suspected of having poisoned many people and certainly through the == it was certainly true that Caesar Borgia had stabbed many of them. The name Borgia has come to represent poison, deceit, etc. This name of the son of Pope Alexander.

But Leo was not like that. Leo never did anything like that. Either way as far as we know. He was not like the pope immediately before him, Julius II--the pope who had led his armies in order to conquer many cities in Italy and in order to establish== extend the papal domain. Leo X was a very cultured gentleman. He loved poetry, literature. He loved banquets. He loved the country. All these things. He was a fine gentleman. People had said he would have been a perfect pope if he had had any interest in religion!

As Leo came in someone rushed up to him. Look here he said. Look at this paper! Leo said, What's that? He said, It's being distributed all over. A monk in Germany ~~xxxxxxx~~ wrote it. Leo looked at it and said, He said, You mean a German monk could write as good Latin as that. That's amazing! He was not particularly excited about it. But some of his associates were excited about it. They said, What will this do the amount of money coming in from the sale of indulgences? In a few weeks the money coming in from Germany for indulgences decreased and decreased and decreased until nothing was g coming in. And Leo had to do something about it.

Right here the providence of God enters in. God protected Luther. ~~John~~ John Hus, about 50 years before had preached substantially the same doctrines as Luther was preaching. He had been summoned to the Council of Constance and the Emperor Sigmund had given him a safe conduct to come and go back. But when he go to this council where there were church leaders from all over Europe, when he got there they summoned him before this group and they merely said, Did you say this? Is this in your writings? Answer, Yes or No. He had no chance to defend himself. They took him out, tied him to the stake and burned him to death. They said that as he died he looked at Sigmund and the Emperor was very embarrassed. But he was not in position to withstand the pressure of the leaders of the church in so many parts of Europe.

This was only 50 years before. What was going to happen to Luther now? Well, he would probably have been put out of the way very quickly. Except for the political situation. The political situation was such that Frederick the Duke was anxious to protect his favorite professor in the university he had founded. It was a situation where a new Emperor was just being elected.