

# Luther's View of Church History

By JOHN M. HEADLEY

The reformation of the Church in the sixteenth century caused a significant displacement within the traditional medieval, Augustinian view of history. Both the new concept of the Church as a community of believers and the sense of being in the immediate presence and under the direct control of God contributed to the need for revised understanding of the Christian past. Although Martin Luther was not a historian, he was constantly concerned with the past of the Church, and throughout his life he continued to make judgments about aspects of its history and to use his historical knowledge as one of his weapons against the Papacy. His writings are a rich matrix of information on the nature and major themes of the Church's past. \$6.75

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