

## Hall of Faith: Zechariah

2 Chronicles 24:17-25 ❖ Hebrews 11:37a

*“Let goods and kindred go,  
This mortal life also.  
The body they may kill;  
God’s truth abideth still:  
His kingdom is forever.”*

(“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” Martin Luther)

### 500 Years Ago

October 31, 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

Through reading the Bible, Luther rediscovered the grace of God and became convinced indulgences were wrong.

“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Word of Luther’s “rediscovery” spread like wildfire and forever changed the face of both Christianity and the world.

### Three Martyrs of the Reformation

- ❖ **Ulrich Zwingli** was a Swiss pastor. In 1519 his preaching led many to leave the Catholic Church and become Protestants. In 1531, he was mortally wounded in a battle against an army of Catholics. His body was quartered and burned.
- ❖ **William Tyndale** was an Englishman who translated the New Testament into English in 1525. At that time, the only language the Catholic Church allowed the Bible to be in was Latin, and even most priests knew very little Latin. The authorities burned every copy they could find and had Tyndale burned at the stake in October 1536.

- ❖ **Patrick Hamilton** was a Scottish abbot who was exposed to Luther’s teachings while studying in France. He returned to Scotland and began preaching the grace of God. Hamilton was convicted of heresy and burned at the stake in 1528. His martyrdom attracted more attention than ever to the Reformation and paved the way for John Knox to convert almost the entire country to Presbyterianism.

### A Martyr for Reformation 2500 Years Ago

“Although the Lord sent prophets to the people (of Judah) to bring them back to Him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen” (2 Chronicles 24:19).

Who was Zechariah?

“Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Zechariah. He stood before the people and said, “This is what God says: Why do you disobey the Lord’s commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the Lord, He has forsaken you” (v. 20).

How was Zechariah’s prophecy fulfilled? (vv. 23-25)

“They plotted against Zechariah, and by order of the King, they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the Lord’s Temple. As he lay dying, he said, “May the Lord see this and call you to account” (vv. 21-22).

### Five Truths We Must Never Compromise

- 1) By Scripture alone
- 2) By Faith alone
- 3) By Grace alone
- 4) Through Christ alone
- 5) To the glory of God alone