

study had caused him to doubt the propriety of papal authority in Germany and to rethink the investiture controversies of years past. This problem was more critical to Eck than was the indulgence controversy.

In actual debate, Eck was far too much for Carlstadt. Duke George, sensing the power of Eck's grip on matters, permitted Luther to speak for himself. A real discussion of the theses did not materialize so much as a discussion of Luther's views. He maintained firmly on Augustinian grounds the reality of grace and salvation but as Eck prodded him he admitted that popes could err and even Councils could be wrong in their decrees. Most notably he felt the Council of Constance had erred in its condemnation of Hus. In this case Eck proved his point. Luther was contrary to the existing position of the church and in rebellion against Papal authority. Publicly Luther was (we are told) the more earnest debater but Eck had made his point: Luther did stand in defiance of the pope and his doctrines agreed substantially with those of the condemned Hus.

Eck quickly headed for Rome with the evidence in hand to secure a bull of condemnation. Luther's position had been confirmed in his own mind and in the public opinion. The road of separation with Rome was open and he could not escape it without a denial of his principles. The Leipzig debate was, in this case, the most decisive of moments in the affairs of Luther. He had crossed the Rubicon.

Events from the Leipzig debate (July 1519 to
the Council of Worms (Diet of Worms) Apr 1521

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A bull condemning Luther and calling for his suppression came on 15 June 1520. Those opposed to him thought it would end the matter and that the state would suppress him--but the attitude of Frederick prevented this. He made a pretense of dealing with Luther while stalling for time on various pretexts...which we interpret to mean that he thought Luther was right and was prepared to try to protect him. Frederick did not flaunt this position but played with it and as the bull gave Luther 60 days to recant he could fudge a bit on the carrying out of the edict. Luther used this time for more study, writing, and the solidifying of his views.

In regard to the latter Luther produced some key works during this phase of his life...probably