

# *The Wittenberg Times*

1526-1550



All the news that's fit to print with some editorializing by Martin Luther  
Editor: Hank Bitten

## **1547 January 16 - Ivan IV Crowned in Moscow**

Ivan Vasilievich (IV) was anointed and crowned the tsar of Russia today in the Assumption Cathedral in Moscow in the Kremlin. The ceremony was performed in the presence of clergy and nobles (boyars) by the metropolitan Makarij, instead of the patriarch of Constantinople. Although Ivan is only age 17, he was able to consolidate power with the arrest and death of Prince Andrew Shuisky. With the defeat of the powerful boyars and the support of the clergy, Ivan IV has absolute authority in Russia.

In our interview with Charles V, Holy Roman Empire, he stated that he did not trust the new tsar and feared what a united and powerful Russian state would mean to Europe and the skilled and productive merchants of Germany.



**16 January 1547**

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## **1547 January 28 - Henry VIII Dies, Age 55**



**Portrait of Henry VIII in 1545 by Hans Eworth**

Our reporters have learned of the death of King Henry VIII at 2 o'clock in the night at Whitehall Palace. (The official announcement will not be made until January 31) According to Archbishop Thomas Crammer, he administered the sacrament of Holy Communion to Henry before his death and forgave him of his many sins.

Since it was considered treason to predict the king's death, Henry did not receive the last rights. The Archbishop confirmed for *The Wittenberg Times* that Henry confessed "*that he believed Jesus Christ in all His mercy would pardon me all my sins, yea, though they are greater than can be.*"

Although we can only estimate the people executed by Henry's decrees, the Historic Royal Palace records suggest that 72,000 were executed in his 37 years as king.

The cause of death is reported as a pulmonary embolism. His body was buried with his departed wife, Jane Seymour in St. George's Chapel in Windsor. King Francis 1 ordered a Requiem Mass for the king in Paris and bells tolled for days throughout England. (King Francis will die on March 31)

The king's son, Edward 1, was crowned as the new king. Catherine Parr, the king's wife, listened attentively to the sermon and then retired to Whitehall.

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## **1547 March 31 *Francis I Dies***

Francis I died at the age of 52 today from complications relating to venereal disease. His death comes less than two months after the death of England's King Henry VIII. He died at the Chateau de Rambouillet and is succeeded by his son, Henry II. He was laid to rest next to his first wife, Calude, Duchess of in Saint Denis Basilica.



**King Francis I**

Francis I was a supporter of Martin Luther's ideas and theology for several years. He likely believed in Luther's teachings about salvation and he also saw the value of the Protestant movement's impact on his enemy, Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor. Francis' position toward Protestantism changed after the event of October 17, 1534, when notices were posted in the major cities of France denouncing the Roman Catholic mass. The placards were the work of Pastor Antoine Marcourt and King Francis I interpreted this as a threat to his authority. As a result, he persecuted thousands of Protestants and censored their publications.

Francis I sponsored expeditions to New York Bay and Canada. His royal court included more than 500 people and was protected by more than 700 soldiers. He traveled frequently throughout France and transport included about 18,000 horses. He built several palaces throughout France.

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## **1547 June 21 - Moscow Fire - Special Report!**

A large fire engulfed Moscow today and almost destroyed the Kremlin. Initial reports estimate the loss of 2,500 lives and more than 80,000 people are homeless. The fire began on Arbat Street but the strong winds quickly spread the fire. The fire likely started with a cooking oven in the kitchen of one of the homes. The fire was considered contained about 3:00 a.m. the following morning.

There are also reports of riots throughout Moscow against Tsar Ivan IV, who was crowned tsar at the age of 16 in January. The nobles, especially the influential Belsky and Shuisky families opposed the coronation. There are rumors of witchcraft and superstition throughout Russia. The city-dwellers blame the Glinsky family, who were the guardians of Ivan, for starting the fire. The young tsar fled Moscow for refuge in a neighboring village.

We interviewed, Nikolay Karamzin, who stated, "The fire flowed like a river, and soon the Kremlin, Kitai Gorod and the Trading Quarter burst into flames...The crackling of fire and the cries of people, from time to time, were drowned out by explosions of gunpowder, which was stored in the Kremlin and other parts of the city."

Note: The great fire of London is on September 2, 1666. A second fire will devastate Moscow at the time of Napoleon's invasion from September 14-18, 1812.

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## **1547 Nostradamus Makes Prediction**

Nostradamus is a popular French student of astrology and the occult. His predictions are gaining popularity throughout Europe. He writes his predictions in quatrains of four verses. The one below predicts a fire in London sometime in the future with the burning of a famous church.

*The blood of the just will make complaint to London,  
Burnt by fireballs in twenty-three the sixes;  
The antique dame will fall from the high place,  
Of the same sect many will be destroyed.*

Note: St. Paul's Cathedral caught fire in the great fire of London in 1666 – 119 years later!

Nostradamus was born on December 21, 1503 in Saint Remy de Provence and entered the University of Avignon at the age of 15. He was forced to leave the university after three years because of the plague in Avignon. He practiced apothecary and studied medicine at the University of Montpellier until he was expelled for his slanderous statements against doctors and university professors.

He is currently writing a book, *Les Prophecies*, which will contain 1,000 predictions.

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**1547** *Henricus Glareanus Composes Dodecachordon*

Henricus Glareanus published his *Dodecachordon* today in Basel, Switzerland. The reputable teacher and poet has given the world the gift of harmony in his composition of major and minor modes of music. The *Dodecachordon* expanded the tradition medieval system of eight modes by adding the new Ionian (major keys) and Aeolian (minor) keys. The new sound of Josquin des Prez is based on the compositions of Glareanus. The work of Glareanus is monumental in the theory of musical sounds.

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## **1547 October 8 - *La chambre ardente* Tries Heretics in France**

Francis 1 was determined to keep France united in the Roman Catholic faith. The nature of the Protestant faiths (Lutheran, Reformed, Methodist, Huguenot, etc.) is evangelical. The Lutherans were popular in Lyons and southern France and many of the prestigious universities in France taught the new doctrines of Luther and Zwingli. The rivers in France allowed for the rapid spread of Protestant ideas in the villages.

In October 1546, the Protestant congregation of Meaux was growing, established a church and called a pastor. The government ordered them to dissolve after reports that they celebrated Holy Communion in a non-Catholic manner. There were arrests and 14 persons were tortured and executed. The year before there were riots by the Waldensians (followers of the beliefs of Peter Waldo) and about 3,000 people were killed.

On January 14, 1547, members from Meaux carried a mutilated statue of Mary in a public procession in Paris. As a result, Francis 1 established *La chambre ardente* to investigate heresy. To some extent, these courts existed in southern France under the Roman Catholic Church. The proceedings (Inquisition) took place in a dark room lit only by torches and had the authority to burn prisoners convicted of heresy at the stake.

Two weeks after approving of *La chambre ardente*, Francis 1 became seriously ill and died in March. Henry II will continue with the chamber and force the Huguenots and other Protestants to leave France. Only in the province of Brittany will Protestant beliefs continue.