

Germany at that time was divided into sections with Dukes over different sections. Certain men called Electors would elect an Emperor and the Emperor had power over these people which was limited in many ways. A man of great influence and personality could exert tremendous influence but a man who was not a particularly strong man would not exert much influence. The old Emperor whom they all loved had just died was a man from Austria, a German of the 12th century. But his son had married a Spanish woman. The son had died. Her son had been as a Spaniard. He was only 20 years old. There were many other leaders in Europe who wanted to be elected ~~Emperor~~ Emperor. And there were those who wanted to elect the grandson, of the good old Emperor they had loved so much.'

So there were all sorts of negotiations back and forth and they were particularly anxious to ~~xxx~~ have the support of Frederick. Frederick, the Duke of the area where Luther was, is called Frederick the Wise. I think Frederick the clever, or Frederick the tricky would be better! But he was always making excuses. He would never defend but Luther was busy with his teaching and he could not interrupt it at the end of the semester. Then Luther was not in very good health and he could not stand the trip to Rome very well. He gave one excuse after another. Meantime Luther's writings were going out and people believing what he had written.

Then Charles was elected. When Charles was elected the Emperor-- the grandson of the previous Emperor--Charles wanted to do would please the church, but he also wanted to do what would insure unity within his dominion. So Charles said, Let's bring Luther to a meeting of the leaders of Germany. So he invited Luther to come clear across Germany to the city of Wormes. He was to go there and appear before the Emperor and the Dukes and the leaders of Germany and to there present his views, and have them decide whether he should be allowed to continue ornot.

So they gave him a safe conduct. Luther did not know how much good that would do. He knew how much good Sigmund's safe conduct had done (for Hus) 50 years before. Aman came with horse and wagon. He got Luther there in Wittenburg and made the long trip across Germany to Wormes. Every time they would come into a town of any size the people would want to see him, this heretic to see what he looked like. Some would say, Let's hear whathe has to say. So he would go into the church and present salvation by faith. One time Luther was presenting a sermon in one of these churches on the way and the side of the church fell out! The people rushed out andd said, This man must be an awful heretic! An awful sinner that the very church would when he preaches in it! Luther called out after them, Come back here! The devil is trying to keep you from hearing the Gospel! So the people came back and he went on!

The nearer he got to Wormes the more the people who liked and loved him and his teaching told him how they hated to have him go on. They said, Don't go on! Remember what Sigmund did to John Hus!