

The Suffering Church

Context

- Europe had been threatened by the Turks for 150 years.
- Multiple internal European conflicts
- Papacy was a mess.
- The world was coming to an end.
- Thus increased preaching on Revelations and the End Times

The Godly Elect and the Wicked

- If you submitted to God's will you were the elect
- As the elect you were separate from the godless
- The godless would be annihilated by the elect in preparation for the coming of Christ.
- Some reformers felt that the princes, with their military power, should help the elect in destroying the wicked and bringing God's kingdom to earth. If they did not, God would take their kingdom away
- Peasants' revolts as a sign of the end
- In May 15, 1525 at the most famous encounter of the Peasants' war, at Frankenhausen, 6000 peasants were slaughtered.

The Next Step: Silent Suffering Till the End.

- Peasants' war failure required adjustment of philosophy.

Hans Hut

- A book peddler from Wittenberg and Nuremberg
- He escaped the battle at Frankenhausen
- He saw the battle of the Peasants as important for the ushering of the new world but it was miss-timed. – in light of the disaster, perhaps not a good idea to preach resistance.
- New Idea:
 - God would use the Turks to help destroy the godless
 - Until then the Christians must keep the swords sheathed
- Set the date of the return of Christ at Pentecost 1528
- Used the sign of baptism to indicate the 144 000 elect who would survive the upcoming onslaught

Anabaptists Refugees in Moravia (1530's)

- Estate of Nikolsburg, Moravia, owned by the Lords of Liechtenstien
- approx 12 000 Anabaptists were given refuge
- Prince Leonhart accepted baptism

Balthasar Hubmaier

- Hubmaier from Waldshut in Austria; had a doctor's degree.

- Wrote ‘on Christians Baptism of believes” in July 1525 - had the greatest literary legacy of any first generation Anabaptist
- Helped to free city of Waldsut from Zwingli’s control
- Hubmaier was constantly on the run - was either forced to leave, escaped, imprisoned, forced to give public recantations
- Found safe haven in Moravia.

Moravia

- Two groups emerged among the refugees
- One met outside the city and when Hut visited he became their leader
- The group that met inside city was led by Hubmaier
- Hut and Hubmaier did not agree

Disagreement

	Hut	Hubmaier
Instrument of God’s Judgment on Wicked	Turks	Turks and Christians.
Role of Christian in Judgment	Wait until victory then take out sword and clean up	Assist Christian leaders in eliminating the wicked
Followers called:	Stabler – staff bearers	Schwertler – sword bearers.
Rational?	don’t want to get killed	Don’t fight = jeopardizing their safe, protected position.
Survival	Kicked out of Nikolsburg; share all goods become Hutterite	Disbanded and assimilated.

Hubmaier Dies

- When the new Archduke of Austria Ferdinand came to power Hubmaier was arrested for inciting revolt in Waldshut a few years back
- Leonhard either could not or would not defend Hubmaier.
- He was taken to Vienna and after trials, tortures and debates with Catholic Johannes Faber he was condemned for treason, heresy on March 10 1528.

Hut Dies

- He was arrested in Augsburg and while in jail suffered smoke inhalation in his cell and died of infection in his lungs shortly afterwards.