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Question 70 - Who were Martin Luther and Miles Coverdale?

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

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101 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

70. Who were Martin Luther and Miles Coverdale?

- A. **Martin Luther**, former Roman Catholic priest, and history's greatest Protestant Reformer who translated the New Testament from Greek into German in 1522.
- B. **Coverdale, Miles** – (1488-1568), English translator of the Bible, born at Coverham, Yorkshire, England, studied at Cambridge University. In 1514 ordained priest at Norwich, and later entered the Augustine monastery at Cambridge.

Left the monastery and began evangelical preaching about 1528, spending the next seven years on the Continent where his Bible, the first complete translation in English, was published. Under commission of Thomas Cromwell he was in France (1538-1539) superintending the printing of a revised English version for the Anglican Church, to be known as the "Great Bible." In 1540 he edited "Cranmer's Bible" a revised edition of the "Great Bible." When Thomas Cromwell was executed in 1540, Coverdale fled to the Continent where he spent the next eight years, and spent some time at Tubingen. Between 1543 and 1547 was Lutheran pastor and schoolmaster near Strassburg. Returning to England in 1548 he was well received and was made chaplain to King Edward VI and almoner to the queen dowager, Catherine Parr. In 1551 Coverdale was appointed bishop of Exeter, but was deprived of the office and imprisoned for two years when Mary came to the throne. In 1553 he owed his escape to the intercession of the Danish king, and spent some time in Denmark, Switzerland, and Germany. In 1559, two years after Elizabeth had come to the throne, he returned to England, but was not reinstated in his bishopric. From 1564 to 1566 he was rector of St. Magnus, near London Bridge. Due to infirmity and to his Puritanic leanings, he resigned the position. Coverdale "was a pious, conscientious, laborious. Generous, and a thoroughly honest and good man." He did little original literary work, but was a good translator. He won remarkable popularity as a preacher.

(Who Was Who In Church History. Elgin Moyer. Keats Publishing. New Canaan, Conn. 1974. p. 104)