

Seven-Headed Luther (1529)

Abstract

This polemical image appeared on the title page of the pamphlet *The Seven Heads of Martin Luther* by Johannes Cochläeus, a theologian and one of Luther's harshest critics. It shows Luther with seven heads, each of which bears a different title: Doctor, Martinus, Luther, Clergyman, Enthusiast, Visitor, and Barrabbas. It is both a caricature of Luther and a defamation of him as the antichrist (the seven-headed beast of the apocalypse). The woodcut inspired a Protestant counter-image, the "Seven-Headed Papacy."

Source



Source: *Sieben Köpffe Martini Luthers. Vom Hochwirdigen Sacrament des Altars*. Durch Doctor Jo. Cocleus. Leipzig, 1529. Title page, woodcut by Hans Brosamer. Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel, <http://diglib.hab.de/drucke/s-188b-4f-helmst-7s/start.htm>

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