
His-story:
Hope for Europe
Luc Bussière
ECCEN 2026

His-story:
*Hope for Europe*

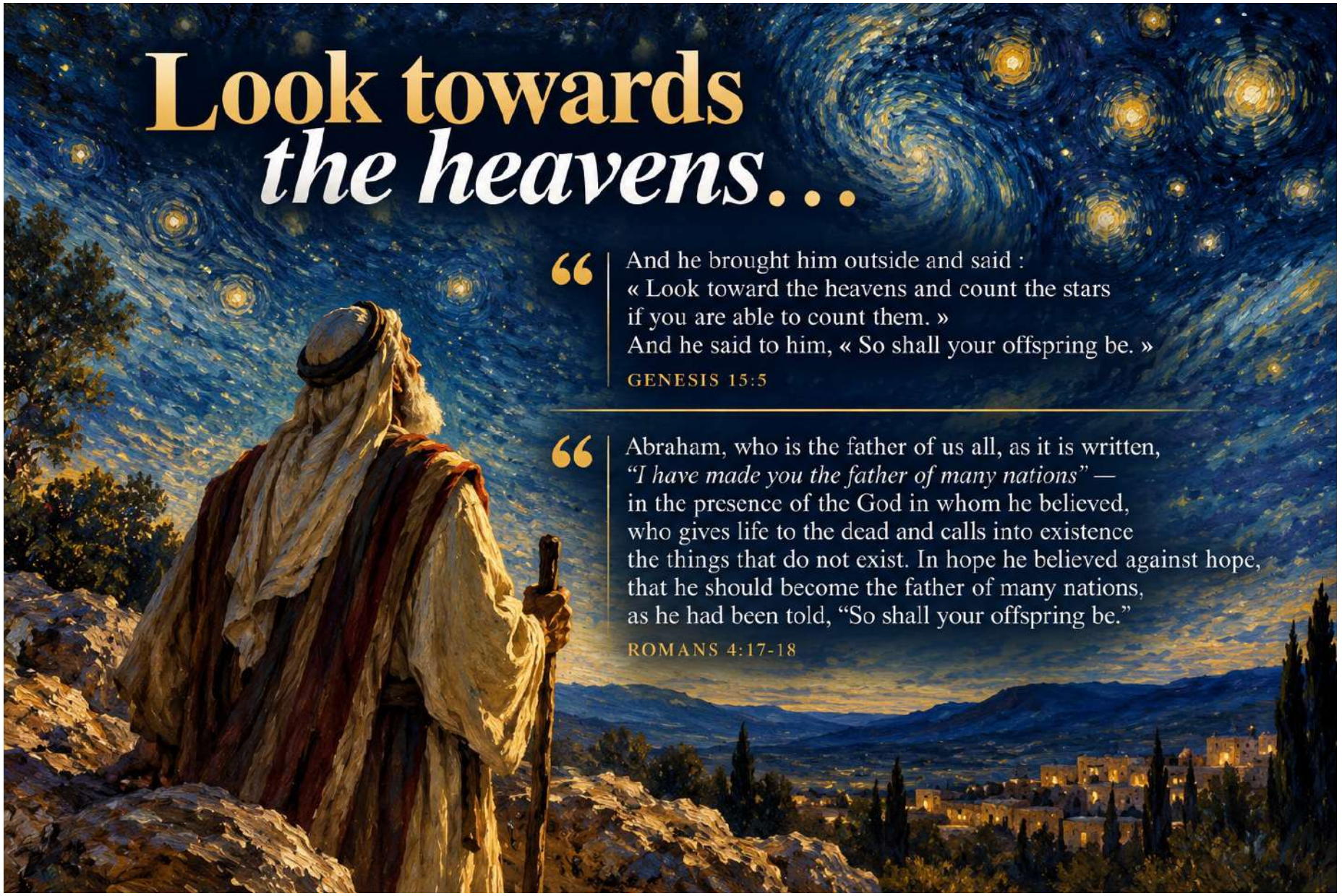
Luc Bussière

ECCEN 2026

# I. Introduction :

# *Is there still Hope for Europe?*




Look towards
the heavens...
“And he brought him outside and said :
« Look toward the heavens and count the stars
if you are able to count them. »
And he said to him, « So shall your offspring be. »
GENESIS 15:5
“Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written,
“I have made you the father of many nations” —
in the presence of the God in whom he believed,
who gives life to the dead and calls into existence
the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope,
that he should become the father of many nations,
as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.”
ROMANS 4:17-18


Why should we take an interest in history?
Thus says the LORD:
"Stand by the roads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way is;
and walk in it, and find rest
for your souls".
JER 6.16


Surrounded by
so great a cloud
of witnesses...
Therefore, since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight,
and sin which clings so closely,
and let us run with endurance
the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the founder
and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand
of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12.1-2


Light comes from the past!
The universe we see is never the universe as it is, but always the universe as it was.
Here is a profound metaphor for human life. If all light comes from the past, the same is true of almost all the insight that enables us to understand our political, moral and educational reality.
If we are to nurture our Hope for Europe, act wisely, work for justice and build peace, and embody the Kingdom of God in our field of education, we must draw upon the light of the lessons accumulated from history, from the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, and from the ancient light of the Scriptures.

His-story:
*Hope for Europe*

Luc Bussière

ECCEN 2026

# II. A Europe that look shape *before the emergence of political Europe*




The Irish monks
who had a vision for Europe!
Saint Columban (540-615) was the first to speak of Europe as an entity: "totus Europa".
They evangelized Europe, making disciples, planting churches and establishing schools, passing on a rich cultural heritage by preserving and copying numerous manuscripts…
Irish monasteries sent learned monks to teach the newly converted peoples of Europe, becoming known as "disciples of kings and teachers of nations."


Abbaye de Murbach Buhl.
France. Irish Influence.

His-story:
*Hope for Europe*

Luc Bussière

ECCEN 2026

# III. Charlemagne, *Alcuin and the formation of shared culture*




The Carolingian Renaissance
Monasteries, Schools and Intellectual Centres in Alcuin's Network
Monastery
School
Intellectual centre
Network / Influence
Carolingian Empire (at its height, c. 800)
Regions of influence (cultural and educational)
ANGLO-SAXON KINGDOMS
IRELAND
SAXONY
EASTERN EUROPE
CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE
ITALY
York
Canterbury
Bremen
Corbie
Aachen
Imperial Court School (Alcuin)
Tournai
Reims
Fulda
Lorsch
Prague
Paris
Tours
Monastic and scholastic centre
St. Gallen
Salzburg
Poitiers
Bordeaux
Milan
Pavia
Ravenna
Toledo
Cordoba
Rome
N


His-story:
Hope for Europe
Luc Bussière
ECCEN 2026
IV. Universities :
a Europe of
knowledge and Truth.
ECOSSE
MER
DU NORD
DANEMARK
SUÈDE
ANGLETERRE
Oxford
Cambridge
Cologne
Bremen
Liège
Angers
PARIS
Reims
Prague
FRANCE
Orléans
CHRÉTIENTÉ
Bologne
OCEAN
ATLANTIQUE
Bordeaux
CONSTANTINOPLE
Palencia
Toulouse
CASTILLE
ESPAGNE
Naples
ITALIE

# His-story:
## *Hope for Europe*

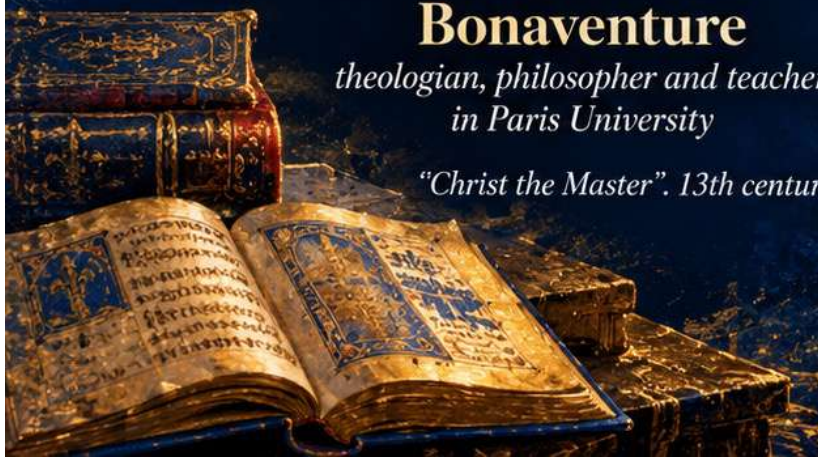
Luc Bussière

ECCEN 2026

*“nothing can make things perfect objects of science, except the presence of Christ, Son of God and teacher.”*

**Bonaventure**

*theologian, philosopher and teacher in Paris University*





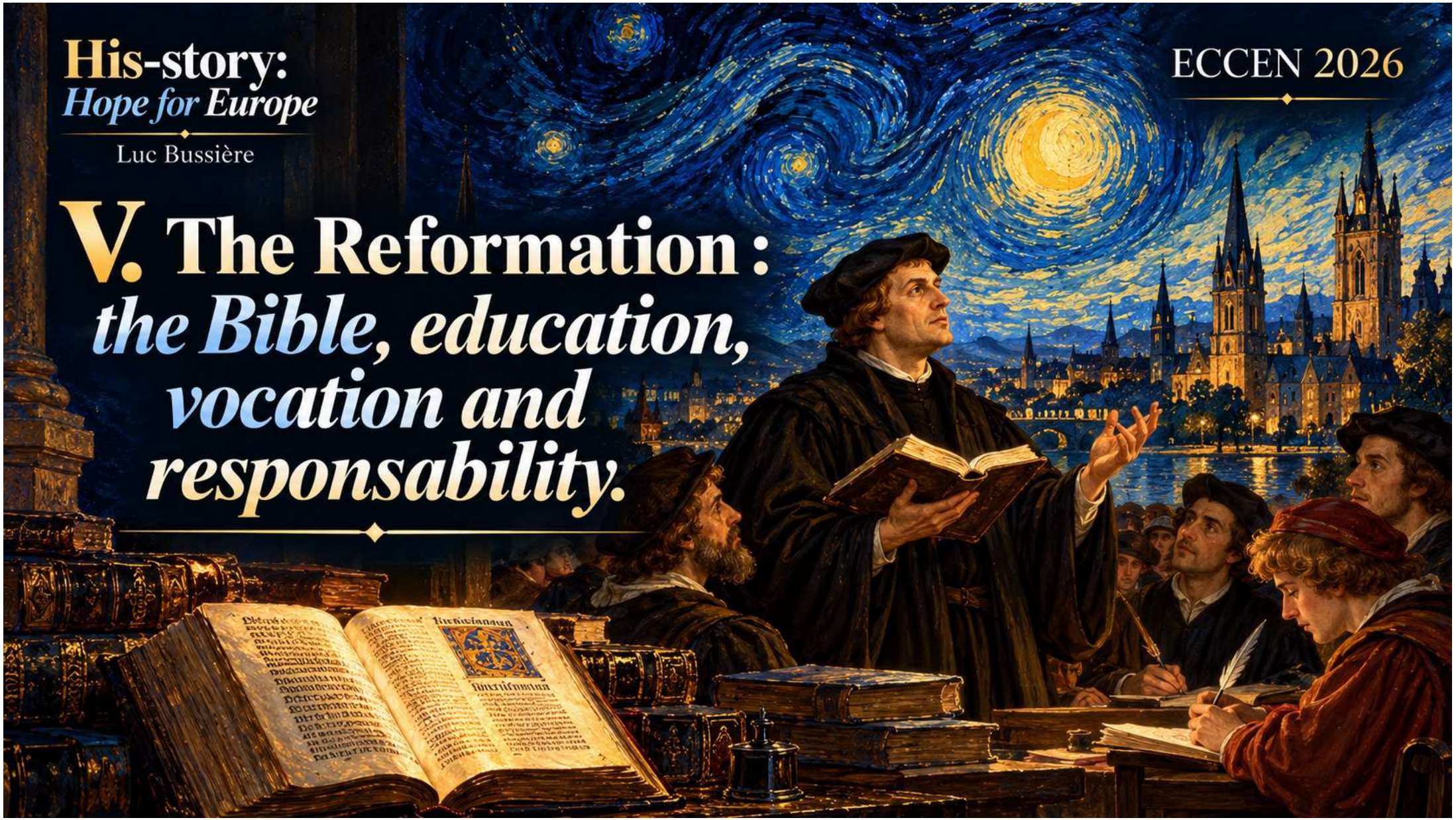
*“Christ the Master”. 13th century.*

His-story:
*Hope for Europe*

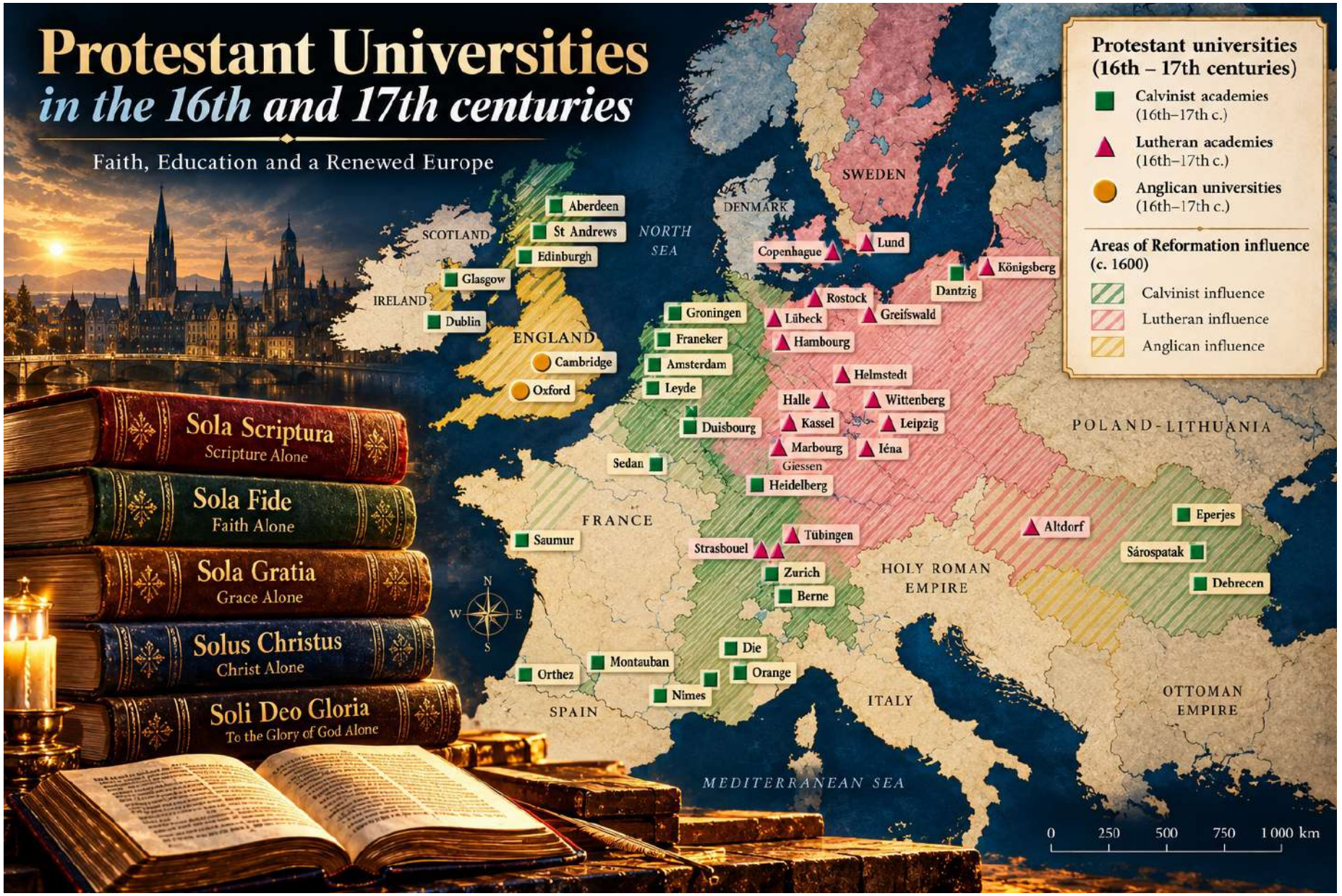
Luc Bussière

ECCEN 2026

# V. The Reformation : *the Bible, education, vocation and responsability.*




His-story:
Hope for Europe
Luc Bussière
ECCEN 2026
An intercession
that changed Europe.
“My eyes are spent with weeping;
my stomach churns; my bile is poured out
to the ground because of the destruction
of the daughter of my people, because
infants and babies faint in the streets of the city.
They cry to their mothers, “Where is bread and wine?”
as they faint like a wounded man in the streets
of the city, as their life is poured out
on their mothers’ bosom.”
LAMENTATIONS 2. 11-12

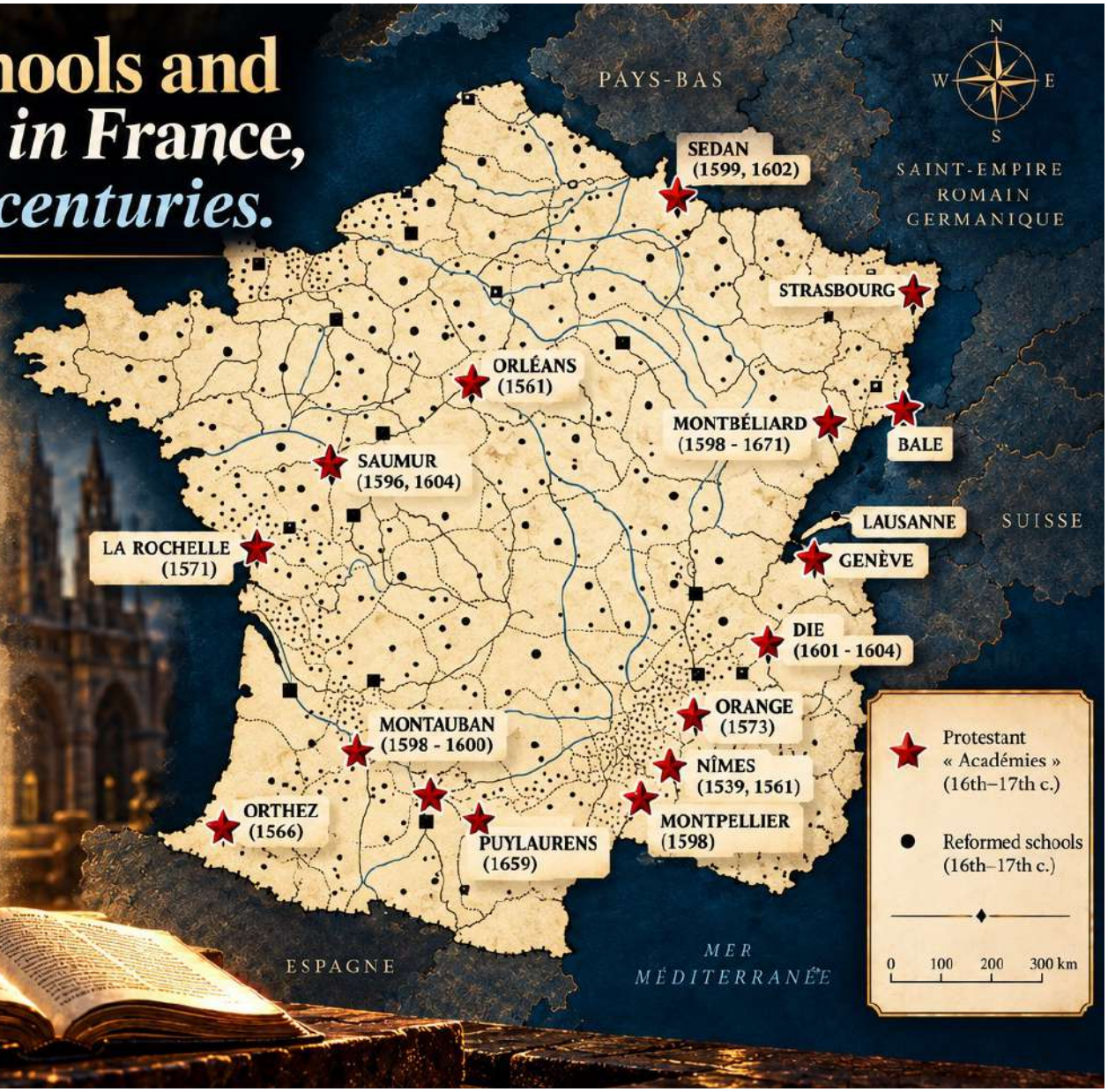

Protestant Universities
in the 16th and 17th centuries
Faith, Education and a Renewed Europe
Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone
Sola Fide
Faith Alone
Sola Gratia
Grace Alone
Solus Christus
Christ Alone
Soli Deo Gloria
To the Glory of God Alone
Protestant universities
(16th – 17th centuries)
Calvinist academies
(16th–17th c.)
Lutheran academies
(16th–17th c.)
Anglican universities
(16th–17th c.)
Areas of Reformation influence
(c. 1600)
Calvinist influence
Lutheran influence
Anglican influence
SCOTLAND
IRELAND
ENGLAND
NORTH SEA
DENMARK
SWEDEN
POLAND-LITHUANIA
FRANCE
SPAIN
HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE
ITALY
OTTOMAN EMPIRE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Aberdeen
St Andrews
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Dublin
Cambridge
Oxford
Groningen
Franeker
Amsterdam
Leyde
Duisbourg
Sedan
Saumur
Orthez
Montauban
Nimes
Die
Orange
Copenhague
Lund
Königsberg
Dantzig
Rostock
Lübeck
Greifswald
Hambourg
Helmstedt
Halle
Wittenberg
Kassel
Leipzig
Marbourg
Iéna
Giessen
Heidelberg
Tübingen
Strasbouel
Zurich
Berne
Altdorf
Eperjes
Sárospatak
Debrecen
0 250 500 750 1 000 km

# Reformed schools and « Académies » *in France, 16th and 17th centuries.*

> *All good instruction must begin by Faith.*
>
> CALVIN.

> *Teaching is giving birth to Jesus Christ.*
>
> PROFESSOR AT THE PROTESTANT ACADEMY OF SAUMUR.

> *There is an urgent need to entrust young people to believing and well-trained teachers, and to offer them an education that is Christian towards God and useful to the world.*
>
> MARTIN BUCER.



# Reformed Academy *of Geneva*

Founded in 1559 by John Calvin and his colleagues, the Academy of Geneva trained pastors, teachers and leaders for the Church and for society. It became a major centre of learning, attracting students from across Europe and contributing to the spread of Reformed education.




> *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*
>
> PROVERBS 9:10

The keystones in the courtyard bear inscriptions in Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew, including this verse from Proverbs 9:10, reminding students that the fear of the Lord is the foundation of all true knowledge.



The Academy of Geneva in the 16th century



Inscriptions in Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew in the courtyard vaults



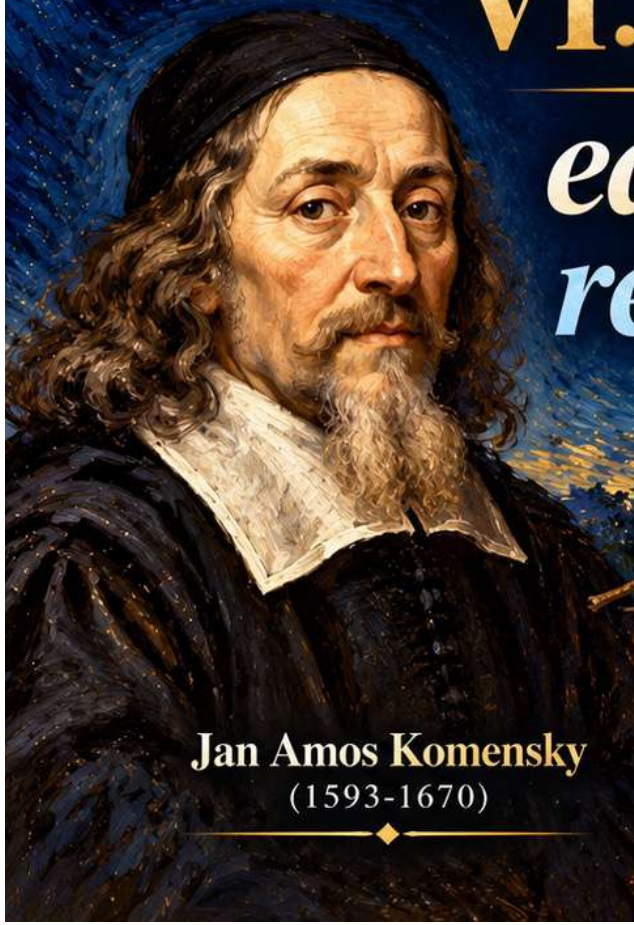
The Academy of Geneva today (now a public high school – Lycée)

His-story:
*Hope for Europe*

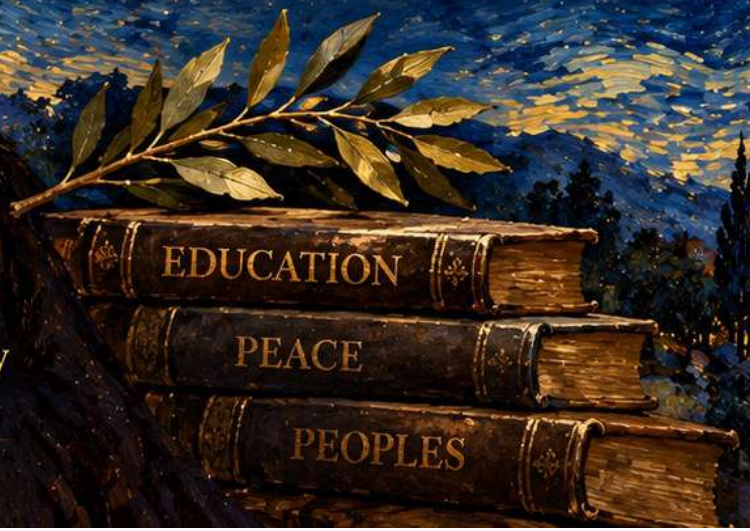
Luc Bussière

ECCEN 2026

# VI. Comenius : *educating to reconcile peoples*



**Jan Amos Komensky**
(1593-1670)







His-story:
Hope for Europe
Luc Bussière
ECCEN 2026
VII.
What Hope
for Europe?


His-story:
Hope for Europe
Luc Bussière
ECCEN 2026
hope or Hope ?
HUMAN HOPE
Starts from the present
and looks to the future.
Projects its desires,
aspirations and dreams.
It's bound to be disappointed.
Is based on self-made dreams.
BIBLICAL HOPE
Starts from the future
and invents the present.
Is based on faith
in the victory of Life,
in God's promises.
Is based on God's dreams,
and the victory of life over death.
Hope affects the present!

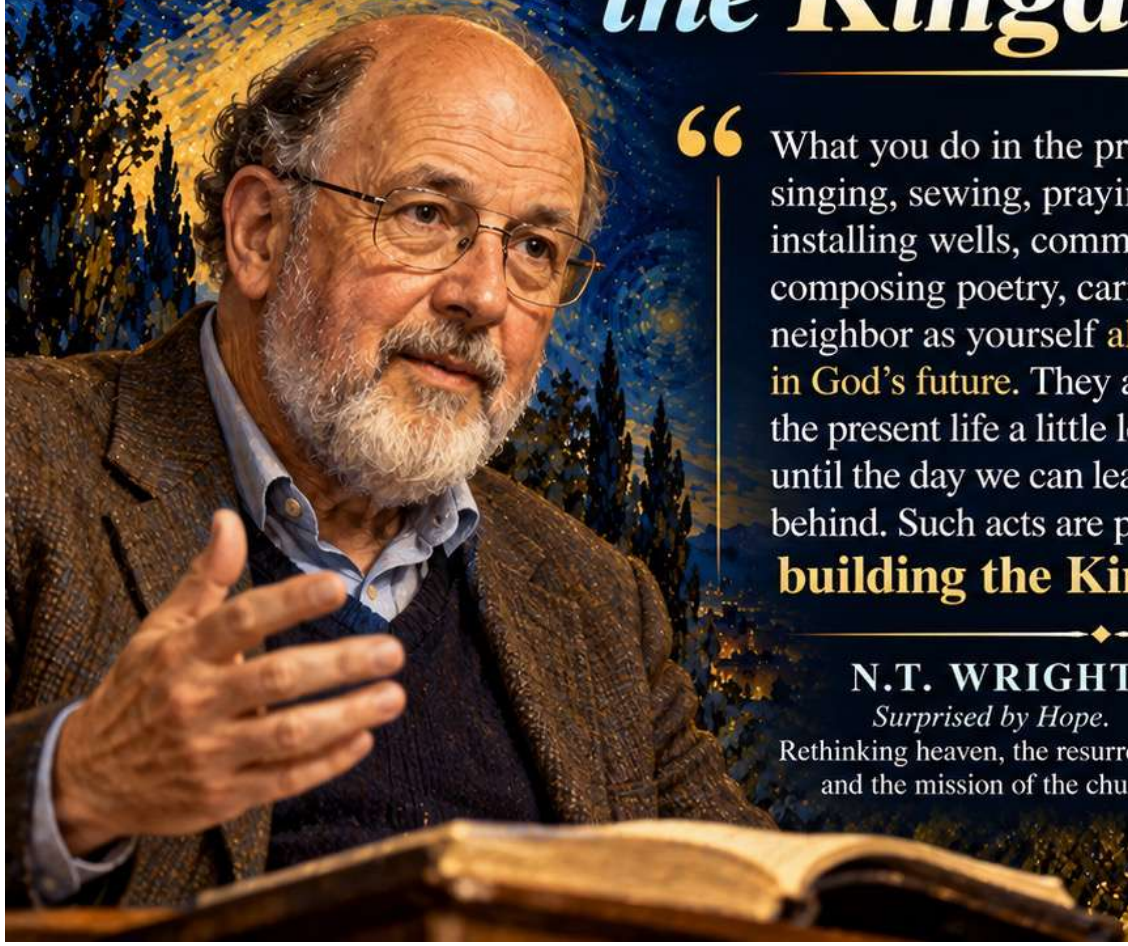

His-story:
Hope for Europe
Luc Bussière
ECCEN 2026
Our actions
motivated by Hope!
The tomb is empty!
Hope is when the stone blocking
my vision of the future is rolled away.
Resurrection doesn't mean
escaping the world, but receiving
a mission for the world based on
Jesus' lordship over all the earth!
The new world sets up
its outposts!

His-story:
*Hope for Europe*

Luc Bussière

ECCEN 2026

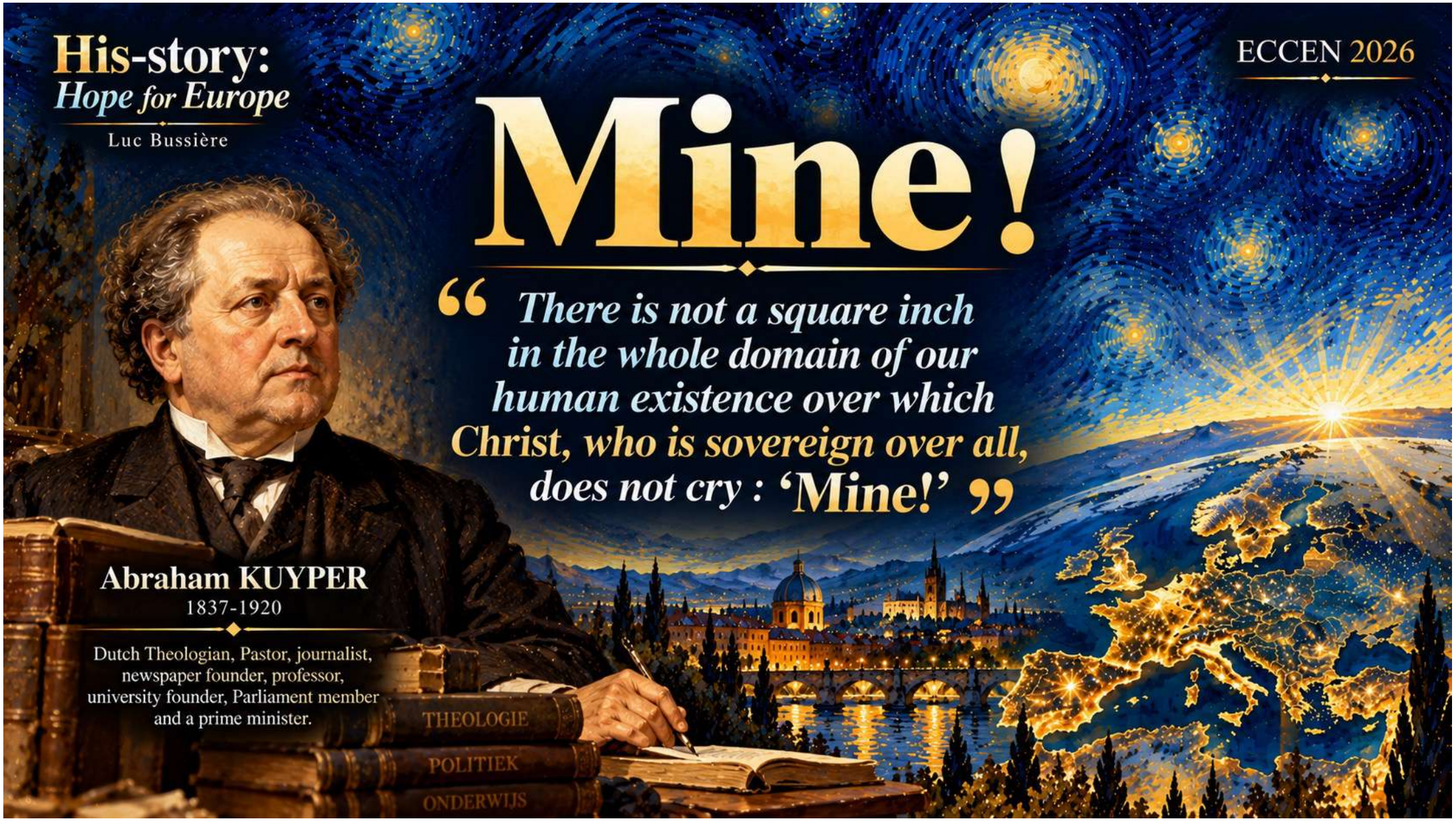
# Embody *the Kingdom of* God!

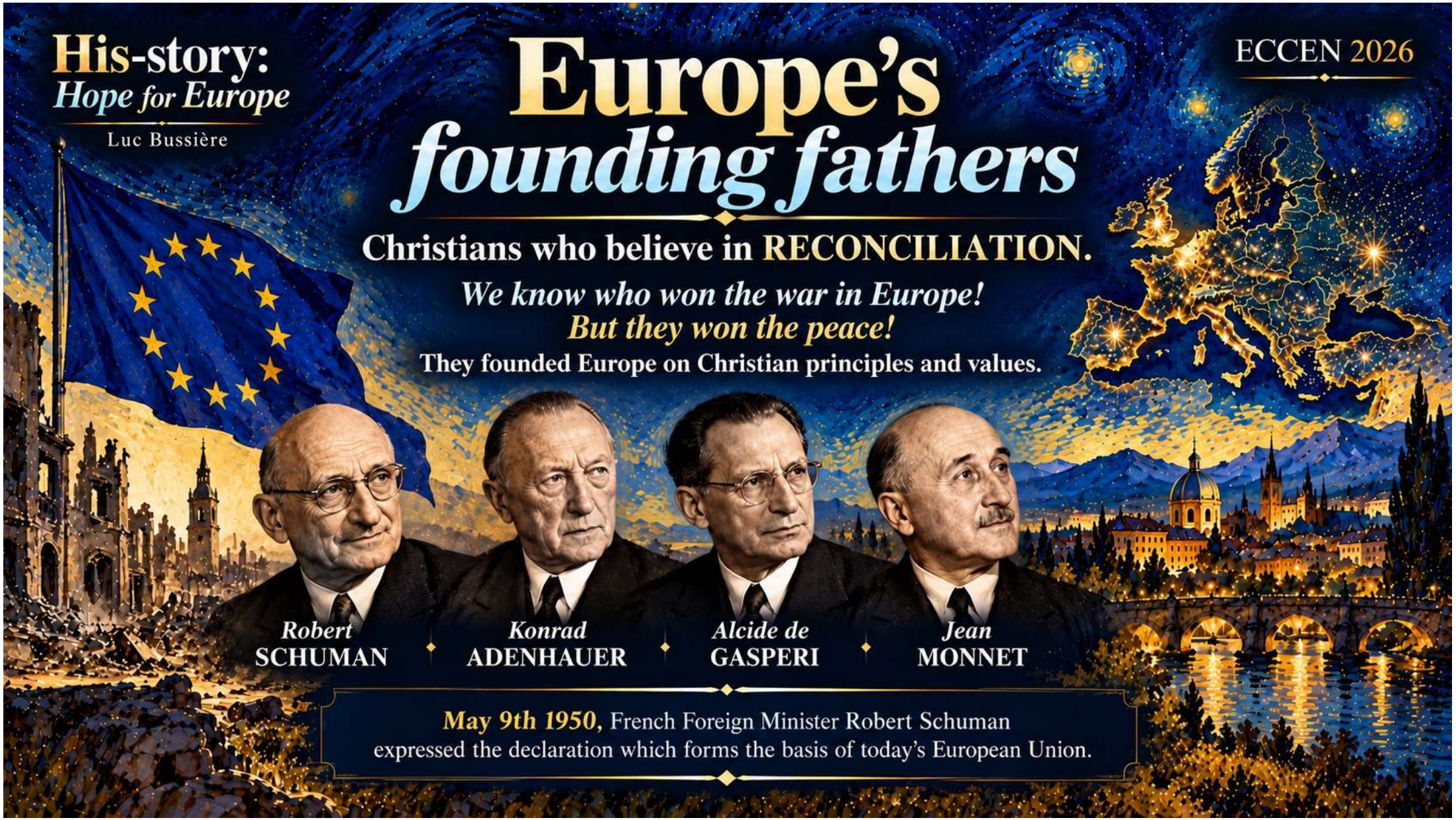


> “What you do in the present by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, installing wells, committing yourself to justice, composing poetry, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself all these things will continue in God’s future. They are not simply ways of making the present life a little less painful, a little more bearable, until the day we can leave this world to leave our sorrows behind. Such acts are part of what we can call **building the Kingdom of God.**”

**N.T. WRIGHT**

*Surprised by Hope.*
Rethinking heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the church.


His-story:
Hope for Europe
Luc Bussière
ECCEN 2026
Mine!
“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry : ‘Mine!’”
Abraham KUYPER
1837-1920
Dutch Theologian, Pastor, journalist, newspaper founder, professor, university founder, Parliament member and a prime minister.
THEOLOGIE
POLITIEK
ONDERWIJS

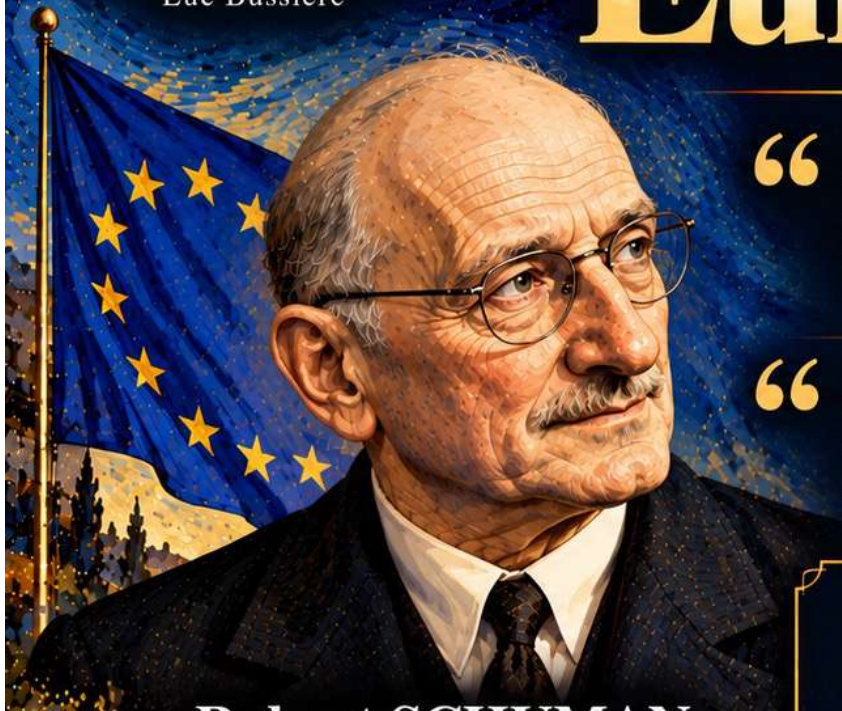

His-story:
Hope for Europe
Luc Bussière
ECCEN 2026
Europe's
founding fathers
Christians who believe in RECONCILIATION.
We know who won the war in Europe!
But they won the peace!
They founded Europe on Christian principles and values.
Robert SCHUMAN
Konrad ADENHAUER
Alcide de GASPERI
Jean MONNET
May 9th 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman
expressed the declaration which forms the basis of today's European Union.

**His-story:**
***Hope for Europe***

Luc Bussière

ECCEN 2026

# Europe's *soul*



**Robert SCHUMAN**
1886-1963

French statesman, lawyer,
resistance member, Parliament member,
and architect of European unity.



> "At what point did European civilization receive its soul?
> **When it received the Gospel!**"

> "**Democracy will either be Christian or it won't be.** An anti-Christian democracy will be a parody that plunges into tyranny…"

**The roots of true democracy all come from the teachings of Christ:**

- The principle of equality
- The practice of brotherly love
- Individual freedom
- Respect for individual rights.



His-story:
*Hope for Europe*

Luc Bussière

# To love one's neighbor *as oneself.*

ECCEN 2026

"To love one's neighbor as oneself was a democratic principle, which when applied to nations, meant **being prepared to serve and love neighboring peoples.** How could it be applied in international politics? For the French and Germans, habitual enemies? If Christianity taught that children of the same God, despite race, color, social status or profession, **states should be treated as equals.**

World War I ended with the Treaty of Versailles, which applied the principle of revenge. But the universal law of love and charity makes every man our neighbor, and social relations in the Christian world have been based on this ever since… Applied to the community of peoples, "**forgiveness and reconciliation**" even between present-day enemies, **are Christian imperatives.**

European history is deeply rooted in Christian history. **Cut off from its roots, Europe would lose its foundations for equality, human dignity, tolerance and compassion.**"

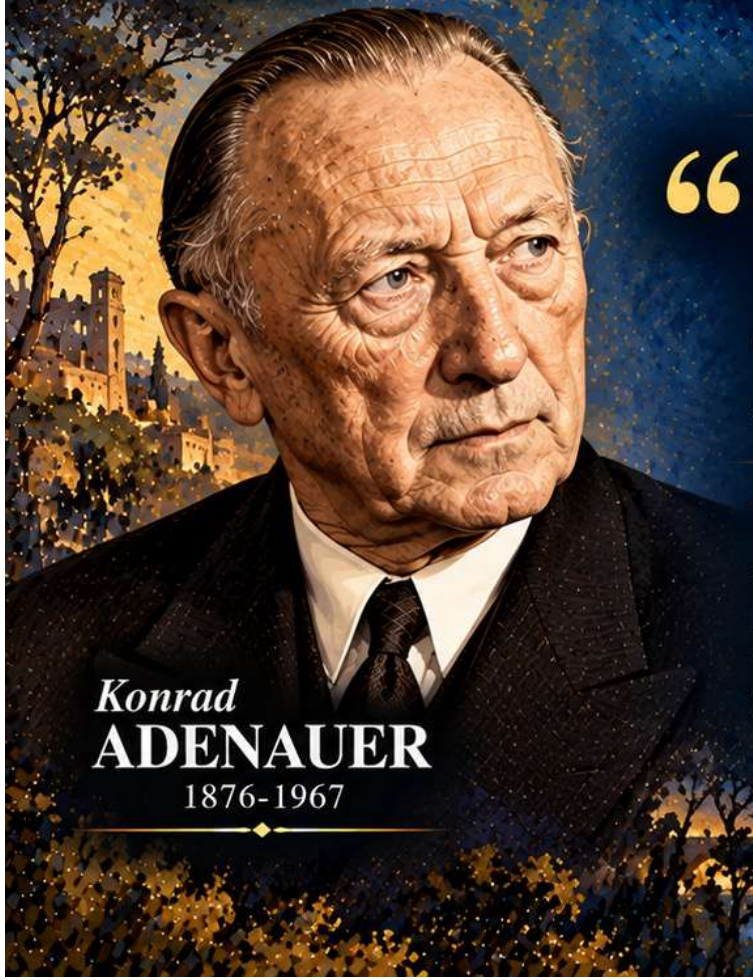
Robert SCHUMAN
*(For Europe)*

**His-story:**
***Hope for Europe***

Luc Bussière

ECCEN 2026

# Build the house *of Europe!*



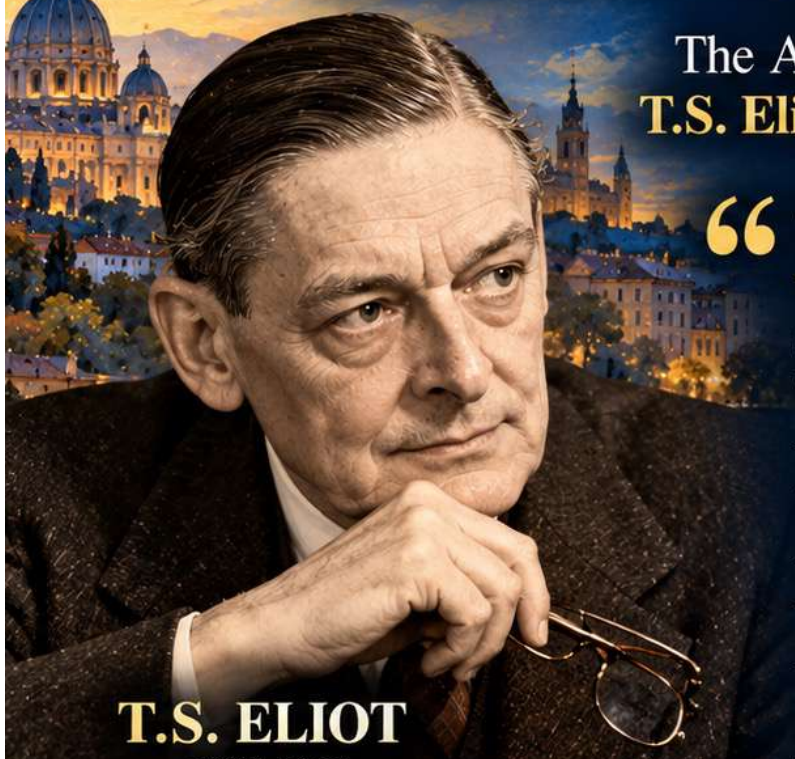
*Konrad*
**ADENAUER**
1876-1967

“ **ADENAUER:** “Men like you… and myself, filled with the desire to build a new edifice of Europe **on Christian foundations**”.
*August 23, 1951.*

The house of modern Europe has been built with the **stones of these values**, largely inherited from **Christianity** but also from the **Greco-Roman world**.

# Christian Faith and Europe.

The Anglo-American winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, **T.S. Eliot,** believed that **if we lost Christianity, we would lose Europe.**



**T.S. ELIOT**
1888-1965

Poet, essayist, playwright,
literary critic
Nobel Prize for Literature 1948

> "I do not believe that **the culture of Europe could survive the complete disappearance of the Christian faith**", he argued in 1948. **If Christianity goes, our whole culture goes.** Then you'll have to start all over again, painfully, and you won't be able to make a new, ready-made culture work. You'll have to wait for the grass to grow to feed the sheep, to give the wool with which your new coat will be made. You'll have to go through many centuries of barbarism. We couldn't live to see the new culture, not even our grand-grand-grand-grandchildren: 'and if we could, **not one of us would be happy there'.**"

*Notes towards the definition of culture, 1948*

# Our answer: *Hope!*

**Build on the right foundation** *(1Co 3)*
with gold, silver, precious stones.

**Hope against hope**
Believe, faith.

**LOVE. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.**

**Educate** *(Teach the nations!)*

**Ephesians 1. 18-19**

"having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is **the hope** to which he has called you, what are the **riches** of **his glorious inheritance** in the saints, and what is **the immeasurable greatness of his power** toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might."

**Genesis 26. 18**

« And Isaac **dug again the wells of water** that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. »