

An aerial photograph of a Swiss Alps valley. In the foreground, there are lush green fields and a winding road. In the middle ground, a small village with several buildings is visible. The background features majestic, snow-capped mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Radical Allegiance

The Swiss Anabaptist Movement

BACKGROUND TO THE SWISS ANABAPTIST MOVEMENT

RELIGIOUS:
Anti-clericalism

POLITICAL:
Canton of Zurich

ECONOMIC:
Peasant revolts

Border between canton of Zug [Catholic] and canton of Zurich [Reformed]

The story begins in Zurich, Switzerland



The Limmat River in Zurich

**the city of
reformer,
Ulrich Zwingli**

**(Note that he is
holding both
Sword and Bible)**



**with a Bible
study group**

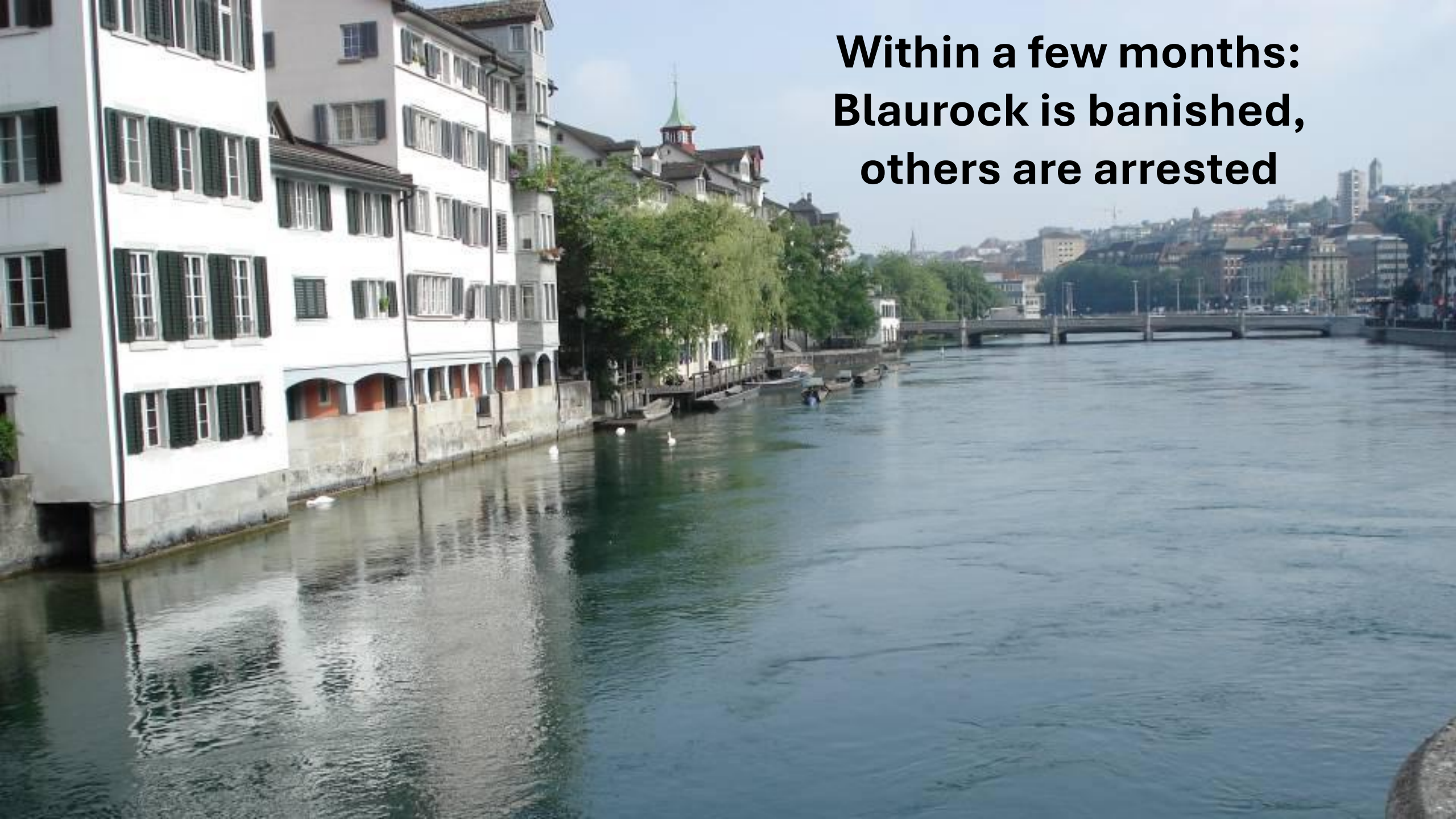
**in the
Gross Münster
(Large Church)**





**It climaxes on
January 21, 1525
when Conrad Grebel
baptizes George Blaurock
in the upper room of this house.**

**Within a few months:
Blaurock is banished,
others are arrested**



Two years later, Felix Manz is given
his "third baptism" by drowning.


HIER WURDEN MITTEN IN DER LIMMAT
VON EINER FISCHERPLATTFORM AUS
FELIX MANZ UND FÜNF WEITERE TÄU
IN DER REFORMATIONSZEIT
ZWISCHEN 1527 UND 1532 ERTRÄNKT.
ALS LETZTER TÄUFER WURDE IN
HANS LANDIS 1614 HINGERICHTET.

Others flee to the hills



Trail leading to Yoder Cave where Anabaptists held secret worship services

Why was this ana-baptism on this date such a momentous occasion?

	Why was infant baptism important in 1525?	Why was believers' baptism a threat in 1525?
SPIRITUALLY	Salvation	Rebellion
POLITICALLY	Citizenship	Treason
ECONOMICALLY	\$tate \$upport	Free Church
BIBLICALLY	Covenant Continued	New Covenant

BELIEVERS BAPTISM + FREE CHURCH = WOMEN INCLUDED



Why?

Sociology of communication

The priesthood of all believers

The common calling of the Spirit

Communal living

CONRAD GREBEL (1498-1526)



- Born in Zurich into a prominent family
- University educated but a drifter
- Student of Ulrich Zwingli
- Became an “Anabaptist” in 1522
- Outspoken Anabaptist leader
- Died of plague in prison at age 28

GREBEL'S LETTER TO MUNTZER (Sept.5, 1524)

ANALYZING THE LETTER:

- How would you describe Grebel's personality/character?
- What was his relationship/opinion of Thomas Muntzer?
- What were Grebel's views on Scripture, The Lord's Supper, The Sword?



16TH CENTURY VIEWS OF SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY

Roman Catholic

SCRIPTURE & CHURCH HIERARCHY
(Dual authority)

Magisterial Reformers

SOLA SCRIPTURA
(Interpreted by pastors & theologians)

Swiss Anabaptists

SCRIPTURE IN COMMUNITY
(Interpreted & obeyed in community)

16th CENTURY VIEWS OF EUCHARISTIC ELEMENTS

TRANSUBSTANTIATION [Roman Catholic]

- The bread and wine become the physical body and blood of Jesus
- The elements are a direct means of grace for the communicant

CONSUBSTANTIATION [Reformers]

- The bread and the wine contain the spiritual presence of Christ
- The elements are signs of grace only if preceded by faith

MEMORIAL [Anabaptists]

- The bread and the wine are simply material signs of Christ
- The presence of Christ is in the gathered body of believers

16th CENTURY VIEWS OF THE USE OF THE SWORD

HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

- The sword is used to convert [conquer], defend and keep order
- Empire and church are one

PRINCIPALITY & CHURCH

- The sword is used to defend the church
- The state wields it on behalf of the church

SEPARATION OF CHURCH

- The church is not established by or defended by the sword
- The church and state are separate

A scenic view of the Limmat River in Zurich, Switzerland. The river flows from the background towards the foreground, reflecting the sky and the surrounding buildings. On the left bank, there are several multi-story white buildings with dark green shutters. In the background, a bridge spans the river, and the city of Zurich is visible on a hillside under a clear blue sky.

**How do we practice our allegiance
to the kingdom of God today?**

Limmat River in Zurich, site of Felix Manz's execution by drowning