

POWER OF FAITH

450 years of the Heidelberg Catechism

POWER

EXHIBITION | Kurpfälzisches Museum Heidelberg | Heidelberg Palace | 12 May – 15 September 2013



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Kurpfälzisches Museum
der Stadt Heidelberg



Baden-Württemberg



POWER OF FAITH

450 years of the Heidelberg Catechism

In the Electorate of the Palatinate, religion played a major role in the 16th and 17th centuries. Questions concerning theology and science exercised the minds of the ruling Prince Electors in the palace and also those of the learned scholars at Heidelberg University. What is it that constitutes true, pure doctrine? What consequences were likely to be in store for a country following its ruler's espousal of a new faith? What impacts did this have on his imperial and foreign policy? Were Reformed (Calvinistic) courts "different" from Lutheran or Catholic ones?

The starting point for answering these questions, in which the terms "power" and "faith" repeatedly occur, is a small book, which might seem unremarkable at first sight: the Heidelberg Catechism. It appeared in 1563 as a book of consolation and a prayer book as well as for use in teaching in church and school,

having been commissioned by Elector Friedrich III of the Palatinate. Its influence was enormous. Having been recognised by the Dordrecht Synod in 1619, this, the most important, doctrinal document of the Reformed Church very soon spread throughout the whole world. Today, more than 20 million members of Protestant churches, especially in Europe, America and Asia still use the Heidelberg Catechism daily.

To mark the 450th anniversary of the appearance of the Heidelberg Catechism, the Kurpfälzisches Museum of the city of Heidelberg and Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg, in cooperation with the International Refo500 Foundation, the Johannes A Lasco Library and the Paleis Het Loo in Apeldoorn (Netherlands), are staging an exhibition from 12 May to 15 September 2013 under the title of "Power of Faith – 450 Years of the Heidelberg Catechism".

The contribution to this project from the **Kurpfälzisches Museum Heidelberg** is dedicated to the scientific angle and presents the Heidelberg Catechism in the

context of the times in which it came into being. The small book is associated with an age of radical change, of renewal and of a search for meaning. The radiation of the new, reforming spirit penetrated all levels of society and moulded the outlook on life that people had at the beginning of the modern age.

The principal focus of attention in **Heidelberg Palace** is on the Prince Electors and their policy, representational claims and elements of life at court. In the course of numerous denominational changes, the Palatinate adopted a new position in the matter of imperial and foreign policy. The marriage of Friedrich V of the Palatinate and Elizabeth Stuart of England, of which the 400th anniversary is also in 2013, was a major event with massive publicity and took the Palatinate to the zenith of its political power.

The exhibition is being accompanied by the publication of a collection of essays in several languages, dealing with the history and adoption of the Heidelberg Catechism, and also a catalogue.



Kurpfälzisches Museum Heidelberg

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Opening times

Tue – Sun: 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

www.museum-heidelberg.de



Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten

Baden-Württemberg

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Opening times

Tue – Sun: 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

www.schloss-heidelberg.de/en

Admission charges

Exhibition ticket

(Including admission to the special and permanent exhibition in the Kurpfälzisches Museum in Heidelberg, the special exhibition in the Ottheinrich Building of Heidelberg Palace, the Palace Courtyard, the Heidelberg Tun (Grosses Fass) and the German Pharmacy Museum as well as one return ride on the Heidelberg funicular railway between the city and the palace)

Adults 10 Euro

Concessions 6 Euro

It is also permissible to visit the two exhibition locations on different days within the duration of the exhibition.

www.machtdesglaubens2013.de

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Photo credits: William I and Frederick Henry of Orange with their families (after 1634), KMH
Heidelberg Palace, Ottheinrich Building (1556–1559), SSG

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