

I believe that over 20,000 souls were lost. It is certain that no more terrible working divine punishment has been seen since the destruction of Jerusalem. All of our soldiers became rich. God with us.

Source: General Pappenheim's report on the capture of Magdeburg, 1631

All Protestants were terribly saddened and appalled by the wretched downfall of the city of Magdeburg, but the papists rejoiced and were glad ... They marched in procession to the Church of Our Lady with drums and pipes, and gave thanks to her for such a victory, as if the blessed Virgin Mary up in heaven had such a murderous bloodthirsty heart as them the papists who cannot get enough of innocent human blood here on Earth. It is said that some 60,000 souls lost their lives at Magdeburg.

Source: Calvinist pastor Nicolaus Michaelis, 1631

The holy scriptures and secular histories tell us of the zeal and gravity with which God Almighty punishes terrible rebellion against divinely ordained authority. God's punishment is not lacking if one turns away from the ancient Christian Catholic religion and embraces a new one, abandons God and his dear saints, despises and ridicules his old belief, as unfortunately the new Faith does! An example of this is the city of Magdeburg that was captured, destroyed and reduced to ashes on 20 May in the year of Our Lord 1631. Many good-hearted Christians suffered a great misfortune with this city; and it is indeed a loss that such a fine city, in which so many thousands of souls died, plus had to be destroyed and wretchedly burnt. But you, oh God, are the one who ruined Israel. The city had given great cause, because it had so stubbornly resisted its overlord, his Roman Imperial Majesty, and shown disloyalty for so many years.

Source: Catholic monk Zacharias Bandauer, 1631

Maid and castle, mighty city
To God through Roman deed
Did sacrifice her virginity.

Before I recognise the Papist League
And call it master
I'd rather run into the blaze.

Refuse to dance with Charles the Fifth,
I'll stand no more from Tilly too,
And chase the bloodhound through my fire.

It must pain any feeling heart,
That babes still suckling at the breast
By cruel foe into the flames are cast.

Awake, thou German honesty,
And take up arms in my strife,
Thou shalt be praised eternally!

Source: Excerpts from "The Magdeburg Maiden", a song or poem probably written by a Magdeburg survivor, c. 1631