

Introduction

Historical Background (Student version)

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An Alarm to the Unconverted OR A Sure Guide to Heaven

Why this book?

- 1) Curiosity got me
- 2) Training.
- 3) Spiritual Growth.

The Puritans

The word “Puritan” as a Derogatory

Gospellers, Precisionists, Scripture Men, The Godly, Puritan.

The thought was, “These Puritans were Killjoys, Strict, Dower, ...”

William Perkins (1558-1602) often called the Father of Puritanism, thought “Puritan” was a vile term.

He said it describes those who have perfectionist tendencies.

Puritanism

The meaning of Puritan changed over the years, though.

The Puritans, by and large, held to:

Primacy of Scripture

Faithfulness to Scripture

Expository Preaching

Purity of Worship

Pastoral Care

Personal Holiness

Practical Godliness

The Puritans were Calvinistic in Nature but not universally so.

Puritanism was the English version of Reformation

The National Church was the Church of England (Anglican/Episcopalian)

After the Puritan Period

Happy Feet
Salem Witch Trials
Puritanical...

Major Documents of Protestant Doctrine

Brief Time-Line*

MARY I (Bloody Mary) 1553 – 1558

ELIZABETH I 1558-1603

JAMES I and VI of Scotland 1603 -1625

CHARLES I 1625 - 1649 (after 1642, The English Civil War) executed 1649.

William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, executed 1645.

OLIVER CROMWELL, Lord Protector 1653 – 1658

RICHARD CROMWELL, Lord Protector 1658 - 1659

CHARLES II 1660 – 1685. Persecuted Puritans and Nonconformists, Independents.

JAMES II and VII of Scotland 1685 - 1688

WILLIAM III 1689 - 1702 and MARY II 1689 - 1694

The Clarendon Code

The Clarendon Code gets its name from Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, Charles II's Lord Chancellor.

Corporation Act (1661)

All civil servants were to take Anglican Communion...Done in order to drive influential Presbyterians (and Puritans) from civil government. This restricted public offices to only those in the Church of England.

Act of Uniformity (1662)

Mandated use of the Book of Common Prayer, required oaths supporting the King as Head of State and Church...Done in order to drive Presbyterianism (and Puritanism) from the church. August 27, Saint Bartholomew's Day.

2000 pastor were ejected from their pulpits. Conformists stayed in the COE.

Puritans who left were considered like the Independents and called Nonconformists.

Conventicle Act (1664)

Churches outside the Church of England were made illegal. Conventicles were house churches or field churches of more than 5 people.

Five Mile Act (1665)

This act forbade Nonconformists from coming within 5 miles from any city, corporate town, or Parliamentary town unless he took an oath to obey the previous Acts. Many went into the countryside.

Important Civil Document

Recommended Reading

SERMONS OF THE GREAT EJECTION, by Various Authors,
Puritan Paperbacks, Banner of Truth Trust.

A QUEST FOR GODLINESS *The Puritan Vision Of The Christian Life*, by J.I. Packer,
CrossWay

WHO ARE THE PURITANS? *...and what do they teach?*, by Erroll Hulse, Evangelical
Press

MEET THE PURITANS *With A Guide To Modern Reprints*, by Joel R. Beeke and
Randal J. Pederson, Reformation Heritage Books

PURITAN EVANGELISM *A Biblical Approach*, by Joel R. Beeke, Reformation Heritage
Books

Web Sources

<http://greatejection.blogspot.com/2007/10/farewell-prayers.html>

www.truecovenant.com

www.Historic-uk.com

***Rulers of England**

MARY I (Bloody Mary) 1553 - 1558

Daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. A devout Catholic, she married Philip of Spain. Mary attempted to enforce the wholesale conversion of England to Catholicism. She carried this out with the utmost severity. The Protestant bishops, Latimer, Ridley and Archbishop Cranmer were among those burnt at the stake. The place, in Broad Street Oxford, is marked by a bronze cross. The country was plunged into a bitter blood bath, which is why she is remembered as Bloody Mary. She died in 1558 at Lambeth Palace in London.

ELIZABETH I 1558-1603

The daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth was a remarkable woman, noted for her learning and wisdom. From first to last she was popular with the people and had a genius for the selection of capable advisors. Drake, Raleigh, Hawkins, the Cecils, Essex and many many more made England respected and feared. The Spanish Armada was decisively defeated in 1588 and Raleigh's first Virginian colony was founded. The execution of Mary Queen of Scots marred what was a glorious time in English history. Shakespeare was also at the height of his popularity. Elizabeth never married.

British Monarchs

THE STUARTS

JAMES I and VI of Scotland 1603 -1625

James was the son of Mary Queen of Scots and Lord Darnley. He was the first king to rule over Scotland and England. James was more of a scholar than a man of action. In 1605 the Gunpowder Plot was hatched: Guy Fawkes and his Catholic friends tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament, but were captured before they could do so. James's reign saw the publication of the Authorised Version of the Bible, though this caused problems with the Puritans and their attitude towards the established church. In 1620 the Pilgrim Fathers sailed for America in their ship The Mayflower.

CHARLES 1 1625 - 1649 English Civil War

The son of James I and Anne of Denmark, Charles believed that he ruled by Divine Right. He encountered difficulties with Parliament from the beginning, and this led to the outbreak of the English Civil War in 1642. The war lasted four years and following the defeat of Charles's Royalist forces by the New Model Army, led by Oliver Cromwell, Charles was captured and imprisoned. The House of Commons tried Charles for treason against England and when found guilty he was condemned to death. His death warrant states that he was beheaded on Tuesday 30 January 1649. Following this the British monarchy was abolished and a republic called the Commonwealth of England was declared.

THE COMMONWEALTH

declared May 19th 1649

OLIVER CROMWELL, Lord Protector 1653 - 1658

Cromwell was born at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire in 1599, the son of a small landowner. He entered Parliament in 1629 and became active in events leading to the Civil War. A leading Puritan figure, he raised cavalry forces and organised the New Model Army, which he led to victory over the Royalists at the Battle of Naseby in 1645. Failing to gain agreement on constitutional change in government with Charles I, Cromwell was a member of a 'Special Commission' that tried and condemned the king to death in 1649. Cromwell declared Britain a republic 'The Commonwealth' and he went on to become its Lord Protector.

Cromwell went on to crush the Irish clans and the Scots loyal to Charles II between 1649 and 1651. In 1653 he finally expelled the corrupt English parliament and with the agreement of army leaders became Lord Protector (King in all but name)

RICHARD CROMWELL, Lord Protector 1658 - 1659

Richard was the third son of Oliver Cromwell, he was appointed the second ruling Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland, serving for just nine months. Unlike his father, Richard lacked military experience and as such failed to gain respect or support from his New Model Army. Richard was eventually 'persuaded' to resign from his position as Lord Protector and exiled himself to France until 1680, when he returned to England.

THE RESTORATION

CHARLES II 1660 - 1685

Son of Charles I, also known as the Merry Monarch. After the collapse of the Protectorate following the death of Oliver Cromwell and the flight of Richard Cromwell to France, the Army and Parliament asked Charles to take the throne. Although very popular he was a weak king and his foreign policy was inept. He had 13 known mistresses, one of whom was Nell Gwyn. He fathered numerous illegitimate children but no heir to the throne. The Great Plague in 1665 and the Great Fire of London in 1666 took place during his reign. Many new buildings were built at this time. St. Paul's Cathedral was built by Sir Christopher Wren and also many churches still to be seen today.

JAMES II and VII of Scotland 1685 - 1688

The second surviving son of Charles I and younger brother of Charles II. James had been exiled following the Civil War and served in both the French and Spanish Army. Although James converted to Catholicism in 1670, his two daughters were raised as Protestants. James became very unpopular because of his persecution of the Protestant clergy and was generally hated by the people. Following the Monmouth uprising (Monmouth was an illegitimate son of Charles II and a Protestant) and the Bloody Assizes of Judge Jeffries, Parliament asked the Dutch prince, William of Orange to take the throne.

William was married to Mary, James II's Protestant daughter. William landed in England and James fled to France where he died in exile in 1701.

WILLIAM III 1689 - 1702 and MARY II 1689 - 1694

On the 5 November 1688, William of Orange sailed his fleet of over 450 ships, unopposed by the Royal Navy, into Torbay harbour and landed his troops in Devon. Gathering local support, he marched his army, now 20,000 strong, on to London in *The Glorious Revolution*. Many of James II's army had defected to support William, as well as James's other daughter Anne. William and Mary were to reign jointly, and William was to have the Crown for life after Mary died in 1694. James plotted to regain the throne and in 1689 landed in Ireland. William defeated James at the Battle of the Boyne and James fled again to France, as guest of Louis XIV.