

# I. English Reformation II

## ***A. REVIEW ENGLISH REFORMATION I***

1509 Henry VIII begins reign

1517 Reformation began

1534 Henry VIII broke with Rome

1536 Tyndale Martyred

1547 Edward VI the Boy King

1553 (Bloody) Mary I, Reigns (Marian Exile).

1558-1603 Elizabeth I reigns. "Halfway Settlement"

1564 "Puritanism" Reacts to the Elizabethan Settlement

1570s Thomas Cartwright Suggests Presbyterianism.

1570s Francis Drake, Privateer, preys on Spanish Shipping. He circumnavigated the globe.

1588 Defeat of the Spanish Armada

1593 Greenwood & Barrowe hung.

## ***B. ENGLISH IN 1600***

Total population about 3 million+.

London was the largest city in Europe

Shakespeare was at the peak of his influence.

Oxford was the center of Anglican/Catholic England

Cambridge was the center of Puritan/Reformed England.

Oliver Cromwell was born in 1599 and Charles I in 1600.

**1588** England defeated the Spanish Armada.

**1593** John Greenwood & Henry Barrowe were hung for trying to lead a congregation separate from the Church of England.

### **C. JAMES I 1603-25**

He was king of Scotland when offered the English throne.

He was therefore, simultaneously king of England, Ireland, and Scotland.

He wrote *Basilikon Doron*, (Royal Gift) arguing for the divine right of kings to have absolute authority.

James resented Parliament whom he saw as a competing authority.

The Puritan, Samuel Rutherford, later responded (1644) with *Lex Rex* arguing for constitutional government, the rule of law, and limited government.

Puritanism, fortified by great preaching, increasingly penetrated the English state, the English church, and English culture. It was the high-tide of the Reformation.

(Preaching was so important that Puritan parishes paid lecturers to preach to them throughout the week).

With the puritan biblical emphasis came the principles that would be the seedbed of modernity.

- Each individual, because he/she is made in God's image, is sacred.
- Subsidiarity—emphasis on family
- Freedom of Conscience
- Rights given to each individual by God. ("Freeborn John" (Lillburne))
- Limited Government
- Submission of everyone, including the king, to the rule of law.

Increasingly, Parliament was controlled by successful, wealthy Puritan farmers and small businessmen.

Thomas Cartwright died in 1603 not knowing the effect of his life's work, but his presbyterian ideas grew amongst the Puritan leaders.

Although Presbyterianism was never adopted as the official Anglican Church polity, it was the preferred form of church government for most Puritans. It eventually took firm root in Scotland and later in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

(In fact, the English crown called the American Revolution (1776-84) “The Presbyterian War”).

Influenced by Cartwright and John Knox, the Puritans increasingly petitioned James I (1566-1625) and his son, Charles I (1600-49)—for liberty of conscience and greater local church autonomy.

### ***1. 1607 Jamestown founded.***

First English Settlement in the continental U.S. Mostly single men looking for quick, easy wealth.

### ***2. 1618 The Synod of Dort Convened***

### ***3. 1620 The Mayflower Pilgrims***

The boat contained 120 Saints/Strangers. Mostly families motivated by religious freedom of conscience.

### ***D. CHARLES I, 1625-49***

Charles was his father’s son.

Unwisely, during Charles reign, the crown responded by tightening the screws of control. Ultimately, the English Civil Wars (1642-52) resulted.

### ***1. 1629-1640 Charles rules without Parliament***

Frustrated by his inability to control a Puritan dominated Parliament, Charles just refused to call one.

### ***2. 1630-40 The "Great Migration" to New England***

New England was called “Immanuel’s Land.”

In 1630 the first eleven ships led by John Winthrop leave.

---

<sup>1</sup> John Knox, not Cartwright brought Presbyterianism to Scotland by. Both Knox and Cartwright borrowed their church government model from the church in Geneva under John Calvin.

Mostly from S. E. England.

### ***3. 1633 William Laud Appointed Archbishop of Canterbury***

Charles I appointed him to reign in the Puritans.

His weapon was the Star Chamber

He despised the Puritans.

He was Arminian, and hated Calvinism.

He was all about high church smells and bells.

He was pro-bishop.

He supported national uniformity and opposed liberty of conscience.

He used the star chamber to persecute the Puritans John Pym and John Lillburne, etc.

### ***4. 1639-40 The Bishop's War***

Charles determined to impose bishops on the Scottish Presbyterian Church.

A group of Scotsman signed the (1638) National Covenant agreeing to oppose Episcopacy.

Episcopalians were governed by bishops appointed by the King.

Presbyterians were governed by Presbyters (elders) appointed by the congregation.

When the king attempted to impose a new prayer book on the Scottish, Jenny Geddes, in a rage, threw her stool at the bishop. This took place in St. Giles Cathedral Edinburgh, setting off a riot.

Charles invaded Scotland with 20K men.

This raised a huge issue for Charles. To finance his war he had to call a Parliament.

Parliament was Puritan, and therefore, sympathetic to Presbyterianism and Scotland.

Parliament was also angered because Charles had governed without them for ten years. He had also persecuted the Puritans, and Parliament was now Puritan.

After three weeks, without getting permission to raise taxes, Charles dissolved Parliament.

Meanwhile the Scots invaded England.

Charles sent a force N., and the Scottish Army overwhelmed them.

### ***5. 1640-60 The Long Puritan Parliament***

Desperate for funds, Charles had to now recall Parliament a second time.

Parliament sat, but they were mad. It was known as the "Long Parliament."

Meanwhile, in 1641 the Irish rebelled. Neither Parliament nor the King trusted the other with the Army. This led to the First English Civil War.

The contestants were Puritan Parliament (Roundheads) vs The Royalist forces under the King (Royalists or Cavaliers).

The issue was the rule of law, the size of government, and liberty of conscience.

### ***6. 1642 English Civil War***

### ***7. 1643-53 Westminster Assembly***

Parliament convened the Westminster Assembly to, amongst other things, complete the work that Cartwright had started in the 1570s. Parliament asked the Westminster Divines to produce a new confession of faith (The Westminster Confession) and a new Presbyterian model of church government to replace the Episcopal system.

However, before the Presbyterianism could be installed, Oliver Cromwell died and Charles II became monarch. He reinstated the Episcopal system, and it has been the norm in England to this day.

The English Civil War was a battle for liberty of conscience, decentralized church government, and decentralized civil government.<sup>2</sup>

Presbyterian churches of Great Britain and America still stand by Cartwright's principles.

***E. FURTHER READING***

*The Puritans*, Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

*A Quest For Godliness*, J. I. Packer

*The King and the Gentleman*, Derek Wilson

*The Life and Letters of Oliver Cromwell*, D'Aubigne

*Cromwell, Lord Protector*, Antonia Fraser

*Worldly Saints*, Leroy Ryken

---

<sup>2</sup> See previous Columns on Cromwell and Bunyan