

STUDY PAK 16

ENGLISH CHRISTIANITY AT THE TIME OF AMERICAN COLONIZATION

“They cherished a great hope and inward zeal of laying good foundations, or at least making some ways towards it, for the propagation and advance of the Gospel of Christ in the remote parts of the world, even though they should be but stepping stones to others in performance of so great a work.”

~~Governor William Bradford, in reference to the Pilgrims' Mission in the New World~~

I. AMBITIOUS MONARCHS

- A. The Tudor family led England to new heights of power and independence from mainland Europe.

Henry VII – 1485-1509

Henry VIII – 1509-1547

Elizabeth I – 1558-1603

- B. These monarchs saw the church in terms of _____.

II. THE ENGLISH CHURCH

- A. The Church of England broke free from Roman Catholicism during the reign of Henry VIII. There were two primary motives.

1. Henry VIII wanted freedom from Catholic political power.
2. An increasing number of evangelicals in the Church of England rejected Catholic doctrine.

- B. Several factions developed in the new Church of England.

1. The Romanists – this group wanted reunification with _____
2. The Anglo-Catholic party (also known as the High Church) – this group _____ wanted to maintain basic Catholic doctrine _____.
3. The Evangelical Party (also known as _____) – this group taught salvation by faith and wanted to spread their doctrine throughout the Church of England. They were loyal to the idea of a state-church.

4 The Puritans – this group was composed of evangelicals who believed that the entire state church should be evangelical. They were willing to leave the Church of England to form _____ if necessary. They disagreed among themselves when to give up on the Church of England.

5. Separatists

These groups did not belong to the Church of England but were large enough to exercise an influence on England. The four most numerous were:

Brownists (Congregationalists)
Quakers
Baptists
Methodists

The first three believed in independent church congregations. Methodist churches formed a new denomination.

III. BLOODY MARY

Under Queen Mary (who ascended to the throne in 1553) there was an attempt to return England to Roman Catholicism by force. She executed 288 Protestant leaders but much of England still defied her. She died after five years and her death was greeted with rejoicing all over England. If she had been successful in returning England to Catholicism the entire history of the western world would be different.

IV. THE SPANISH ARMADA

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Spain developed the largest navy the world had ever seen. The goal of this navy was to _____. An incredible storm destroyed much of the Spanish navy. The English navy defeated the rest. One historian wrote, “The winds favored Elizabeth.” Christians pointed to _____. If the Armada had been successful in conquering England the entire history of the western world would be different.

V. ASSASSINATIONS

There were many attempts by Roman Catholic agents to assassinate Protestant leaders. Such attempts were successful in France and Holland. There were attempts to assassinate Queen Elizabeth and four to kill King James. All of these attempts were designed _____
_____. The entire history of the western world would be different if the Catholics had been successful.

VI. THE PURITANS

The Puritans held to several doctrines that deeply influenced society.

- A. They believed in dependence upon God alone for salvation.
- B. They believed in the final authority of the Bible.
- C. They recognized the Textus Receptus as the pure text of Scripture.
- D. They saw society as a unified whole.
- E. They believed in government by covenants.

VII. THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS

- A. King James I taught that the will of the king was _____. Many Englishmen disagreed strongly (including the Puritans). However, James did not abuse this position and was very popular with the people.
- B. Charles I (James' son) also strongly advocated the divine right of kings. He tried to exercise more aggressive control of the church and married a Catholic queen. The Puritans led a revolt which overthrew Charles and beheaded him.
Psalm 149:6-8
- C. After the Restoration Charles II and James II both advocated the divine right of kings and made pro-Catholic gestures. The people overthrew James II in the Bloodless Revolution (also called the Glorious Revolution).

VIII. THE KING JAMES BIBLE

One of the great accomplishments of the Puritans was to unite all of the English people around one English Bible – the King James Bible. It was the Bible of all factions of the Church of England and all of the major separatist groups.

IX. DEVELOPMENTS IN COLONIAL CHURCHES

A. _____
Either by doctrine or because of isolation, churches _____.
Churches formed mutual covenants.
Women played an expanded role in colonial churches.

B. _____
Books were rare! Almost all theological ideas were communicated by _____
_____. It was the most important form of communication of
any kind in the colonies.

1. _____ – preached every Sunday.
2. _____ – preached on special occasions.

Fasts
Thanksgiving
Opening of the Legislature
To militia or legislature

3. Very little difference between sermons of 1600 and 1780.
4. During a normal life a Puritan would hear 7,000 sermons (usually two hours each).

C. _____
Congregational singing became common at every church service. This had been made popular by Luther. The Catholic Church used special designated singers. These churches produced the first “song books.”

X. THE HALFWAY COVENANT

Unsaved children of the converted were allowed partial church membership. This quickly destroyed evangelical churches as unsaved church members _____
_____.