

STUDY PAK 9

BAPTIST IDEAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT EUROPE

I. ENGLAND.

King James I was succeeded by his son, Charles I, who was a strong advocate of the “Divine Right of Kings”—unlimited rule of a king as the will of God. Charles persecuted all dissenters, independents, and even the Puritans within the established church. Many Baptists fled to Holland, others to the American colonies. Strict laws were passed against all Anabaptists, Congregationalists, Quakers, and other independents. A famous book written against the Baptists during this period was entitled _____.

It was full of _____ and _____ directed against the Baptists. All preachers who were not _____ by the Church of England were _____ during this time. John Milton (a Baptist), famous author of *Paradise Regained*, compared the new Church of England with the Roman Catholic Church. One of his most famous quotes was, “New Presbyters but old Priest writ large.”

A Baptist pastor named _____ was eventually tried for murder because he baptized by immersion! A young lady whom he had baptized had died several weeks after her baptism, and the authorities decided that her _____ had caused death. Oates was put on trial for her “murder.” Several witnesses testified that she was in good health for several weeks after her baptism, and Oates was eventually found not guilty.

The dictatorial manner of Charles I finally pushed the English into _____ against him, and two civil wars were fought. After the second war, Charles was overthrown, arrested, and beheaded. _____, a military and political leader with strong Puritan leanings, became the virtual dictator—officially titled “_____” of England. Many Baptists had supported Cromwell, and some of his generals were Baptists. He stood for _____, and he _____ the attempts of his Puritan associates to _____

the Baptists. As the period referred to as the “_____” continued, Cromwell finally gave in to the pressure to allow harassment of the Baptists, but he never allowed the _____ of the past. He even wrote letters defending individual Baptists. During his government, the Baptists grew and prospered to an incredible degree.

A _____ group known as the _____ arose during this time. Their most prominent leaders were a Baptist general, _____, and an independent preacher, _____. They were “_____,” believing that they could bring about the return of Christ and the Millennium by establishing the _____. Some Baptists supported the Fifth Monarchy, while others openly opposed it. This movement was eventually crushed militarily by Charles II. The involvement of Baptists in this violent group later was used as an excuse for persecuting Baptists.

After the death of Cromwell, his son could not keep his government together. Faced with anarchy, the English restored the son of Charles I, Charles II, to the throne. Before the restoration, Charles had given his word to _____, but he soon _____, persecuting all non-conformists as well as the Puritan element within the established church. Many Baptists were imprisoned and fined, but none were _____ for being Baptists. However, several Baptist preachers were executed for other charges that seemed very suspect. All _____ who taught the sole authority of Scripture were expelled from the Church of England.

_____, a Baptist pastor, wrote a book for _____ explaining _____ to them. He was arrested, his books confiscated and burned. He was placed in stocks, and a local mob was permitted to pelt him with garbage and refuse.

Charles appointed _____ as the head of the Church of England. Laud’s claim to fame was his _____. He is credited with making

the statement, “I could be content to see an Anabaptist go to Hell on a Brownist’s back.” In 1641, Laud was convicted of high treason and removed from office. Persecution of Baptists continued, but it was more _____ and _____ than it had been in the past. During this time, the established English Church turned from its ancient practice of _____ (of infants) and began _____. By 1648, immersion of anyone was _____!

After the death of Charles II, his brother, James II, became the ruling monarch. _____, author of the famous novel, *Robinson Crusoe*, identified with the _____. He also wrote in the _____ of religious freedom and was twice arrested for his writings. Under James II, the same general treatment of Baptists continued, and the Baptists opposed him by a _____, but the revolt was crushed and many, including the two grandsons of William Kiffin, were arrested and scheduled for execution. The aged Kiffin managed to get an audience with the king, and he pleaded for their lives without success.

One of the most famous of all Baptists lived during this period—_____. Bunyan preferred to call himself an _____, but it is clear that he taught all the _____. He was arrested three times for preaching without being _____ by the Church of England and those arrests led to a total of over 12 years in prison. While in prison, he wrote the Christian classic, _____, as well as many other books. *The Pilgrim’s Progress* has been the most highly regarded Christian book ever written (apart from the Bible, of course). Bunyan was finally released from prison and continued several years as a very popular preacher. Both Charles II and James II took note of his popularity. He died only three months before religious freedom came to England.

Finally, the English people overthrew James II in what is remembered as the “_____” or “_____.” James had such little support that he had to flee to France for his safety. The English appealed to _____, King of Holland, to become their new king. William was married to a member of the English royal

family—Mary. He was also descended from William the Silent and Maurice. He held their same views of _____ and _____, and he quickly _____ relative religious freedom in England. The days of fines and imprisonment were over.

By the middle of the Nineteenth Century, there were over 2,400 Baptist churches in Britain. There were a number of Regular Baptist publications and at least 11 Baptist colleges. Most Baptist churches had _____ for the purpose of _____, and this organization was called the _____.

The period of revival known as the _____ had a great effect on English Baptists, but the _____ preachers of the Great Awakening were _____, the Arminian founder of the Methodists, and _____, an independent Calvinist. Many of the converts of the Great Awakening joined Baptist churches.

Perhaps, the most famous English Baptist was _____, whose father and grandfather had been independent preachers. Spurgeon had been saved as a youth in a Methodist church, and his own study of the Scriptures _____ of the reality of the _____.

Spurgeon built a huge church in _____, easily the largest church in the _____ during that time. He became a national figure in England, and his sermons and comments were printed in newspapers around the world. He started his own _____ for the purpose of _____. Spurgeon's glory days—when people had to arrive early to get a seat at his church—are usually what are most remembered about Spurgeon; however, there is another very important side to his ministry that reveals his _____ and _____.

By the time Spurgeon became prominent, there were growing _____ among the pastors in the Baptist Union. Some leading English Baptists were denying

the _____, while others taught _____—the idea that eventually _____ would be saved. Spurgeon openly _____ those heresies and identified the false teachers by name. This is often called the “_____.” After the Baptist Union failed to take a clear stand on these issues, Spurgeon _____ from the group, and representatives of the Baptist Union later voted 2,050 to 7 to condemn him as _____. Spurgeon’s own brother, James, presented the motion. While Spurgeon remained the most prominent preacher in England, his popularity suffered, and he was never again very far from controversy.

Spurgeon’s concern about the Baptist Union proved to be _____. Within 50 years of the Downgrade Controversy, _____ had completely taken over the _____. Today, there are very few English Baptists _____ to the fundamentals of the Christian faith and the Baptist distinctives. Modernism accomplished what centuries of state persecution had been unable to do. It virtually _____ the Baptist witness in England.

II. ITALY, HUNGARY, AND AUSTRIA.

Baptists were well represented in many European countries during, and immediately following, the Reformation. There are records of several Baptist churches in Italy during this period. These churches were vigorously persecuted by the Roman Catholic Church and local governments. A former Roman Catholic priest turned Baptist preacher, Julius Klampherer, was drowned in Venice in 1561. The pastor of the Baptist church in Venice, Francinus Van Der Sach, along with one of his deacons, was drowned in 1564.

Many Italian Baptists fled to Moravia, others to Holland. Some stayed, and there is a report of a group of over 60 _____ meeting in northern Italy. One of the best known was Camillo Renati, an outspoken defender of believers’ baptism. Another well-known Anabaptist from Italy was named Tiziano. The Italian Anabaptist movement became _____ by those who _____. While still advocating the separation of church and state and baptism by immersion, the

Italian Anabaptists became _____ in the Biblical sense—they denied the _____.

Many of the followers of Hans Hut moved to Hungary. They were led by a Baptist preacher named _____. They underwent great persecution. Many moved to Russia. Their descendants moved to the United States during the late 1800s.

The _____ was proscribed for Baptists in _____. King Ferdinand committed himself with devilish intensity to destroying the Baptists. Thousands were burned at the stake. Many were bound together by chains and cast into rivers. In Vienna, an entire Baptist congregation was arrested. The women and children were set free, but the able-bodied men were informed that they would be forced to serve as sailors. They attempted a mass escape and all but 15 succeeded. The 15 who were recaptured disappeared never to be heard from again.

III. RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE.

It is known that the Paulicians, Waldenses, Bogomils, Taborites, Bohemian Brethren, Mennonites, and Amish were all represented in Russia. The number of Baptists in Russia seems relatively small until the rise of the _____ in the Nineteenth Century. The Stundists, tracing their heritage to earlier Baptist groups in Russia, experienced great growth during the Nineteenth Century. This was a _____, numbering in the millions. This group was heavily persecuted following the _____ but survives until this day. They have merged with other Baptist groups as part of the _____.

Baptists gained great prominence in Poland. During the Reformation, the concept of religious freedom came to _____ by the Polish monarchy and nobles. Many Italian and Swiss Baptists fled there and spread Baptist ideas to the people of Poland.

One of the first Polish Baptist leaders was _____. He began a church, which was to have great success in _____ throughout the rest of Poland. Within 15 years, a meeting was held representing 47 Baptist churches. _____ became a noted Baptist leader in Poland. He pastored a church in _____. Polish Baptists issued a 160-page _____ for the _____. This was produced by the church at Cracow.

Unfortunately, the Baptists of Poland came to be dominated by a _____ later known as the _____. Their teachers believed in what we call the Baptist distinctives, but they _____ one of the most basic fundamentals of the faith—the _____. This doctrine became so widely accepted among Polish Baptists that there is almost no record of Baptists in Poland who were doctrinally sound after 1570. _____ was a teacher who was especially successful and who became identified in the minds of many with this heresy.

In Lithuania, a well-known pastor of a large independent church, John Caper, Sr., became convinced of believer's baptism. He was baptized by immersion and openly identified with Baptists. He was later drowned by a group of local hoodlums in the same pool in which he had been baptized.

IV. FRANCE.

In 1810, in French Flanders, a farmer found a Bible. He and his neighbors read it, studied it, and were in 1819 to form an independent church. They practiced believers' baptism. A young Frenchman who had been converted in Scotland, _____, became their pastor. He clearly taught all of the Baptist distinctives. In 1831, an American Baptist pastor vacationing in France became burdened for the country. Upon his return, he influenced the sending of _____ to France. These missionaries worked with Pyt to _____. For several years, they were harassed by local government, but in 1848 religious freedom came to France. During the Nineteenth Century, these efforts resulted in starting at least 30 churches in France and in sending missionaries to Switzerland and Belgium.

V. GERMANY.

The great hero of the Baptist movement in Germany during the Nineteenth Century was undoubtedly _____ . Oncken was a Lutheran who had the chance to travel throughout Europe from the age of 14 until he was 21. He became acquainted with an independent church in London, England, and he was converted there. He became an _____ to _____ , _____ , where he began a program of _____ , _____ , _____ , and _____ that attracted a large following in Hamburg. He began to study the subject of baptism, and he contacted the British Baptists for more information. He became convinced of believers' baptism, and he was baptized by a Professor Sears, a Bible teacher at an American Baptist college who was traveling in France. Oncken had endured a great amount of persecution as an _____ , and he experienced _____ as a _____ . He was imprisoned, fined, and his church services were disrupted by the military. When his situation attracted a great amount of attention in England and the United States, the local persecution was relaxed. Oncken ministered in Hamburg for a total of 59 years.

This Baptist church in Hamburg became one of the greatest _____ of all time. Within 11 years, they had started 26 churches throughout Germany. In 1848, official religious toleration was granted. Oncken led the German Baptists in forming a _____ and beginning a _____ in Hamburg. The church in Hamburg sent missionaries to Sweden, Denmark, Russia, and virtually every country of Europe. It is estimated that literally hundreds of _____ resulted from these endeavors. The church in Hamburg and most of the churches associated with it were eventually destroyed during World War II. Many of the pastors had previously been executed by Adolf Hitler for defying his government.

VI. SCANDINAVIA.

In 1843, two Swedish seamen became acquainted with Baptists in New York City. One presented himself for believers' baptism and ended up staying in the United States. The

other, _____, returned to Sweden and eventually went to Oncken's church in Hamburg for further study. He eventually presented himself for believers' baptism and became a _____. After three years, Nilson was banished from Sweden, He then pastored for two years in Denmark. Then he led a group of Swedish Baptists to the United States where they could have religious freedom. After seven years, he was allowed to return to Sweden, and he began a Baptist church in Gothenburg. Missionary pastors from Hamburg began a church in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. By 1861, there were 125 reported Baptist churches in Sweden. Government persecutions gradually faded in Sweden, and Baptists became the _____ of the _____ in Sweden.

In 1860, a Baptist church was organized by Frederick L. Rymker in Norway. It was originally composed of seven members. Rymker was a Danish sailor who had been saved and baptized while in the United States. By 1877, there were 14 Baptist churches in Norway. The number of Baptist churches in Norway has never been large, but the number has continued to grow until the present.

In 1839, a Baptist church was organized in Copenhagen, Denmark, from people who had been won to Christ during the mission from Oncken's church in Hamburg. Its pastor was imprisoned, and his place was taken by his brother who was also imprisoned. Persecution continued until 1850 when religious liberty was granted in Denmark. Baptist growth in Denmark remained limited.