

## HISTORY of CHRISTIANITY

### Part V – A City Set on a Hill: Christianity in the New World

(A.D. 1492 - 1770)

#### Significant Events and Landmarks of the Era

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| 1533: Elizabeth I is born.   | 1637: Anne Hutchinson is banished from Massachusetts.   |
| 1535: Thomas Cartwright is born.   | 1642: Anne Hutchinson and her five younger children are killed by Indians.                      |
| 1550: Robert Browne is born.   | 1649: John Winthrop dies.   |
| 1558: William Perkins is born.   | 1651: Obadiah Holmes is publicly whipped.   |
| 1558: Queen Elizabeth I begins her reign.  | 1654: Henry Dunster is pressured from office.   |
| 1566: James I is born.   | 1657: William Bradford dies.  |
| 1576: John Robinson is born.   | 1660: Mary Dyer is punished: banished and hanged.   |
| 1583: Robert Brown's <i>A Reformation Without Tarrying For Any</i> is published. | 1683: Roger Williams dies.  |
| 1588: John Winthrop is born.   | 1685: Cotton Mather is ordained.  |
| 1590: William Bradford is born.  | 1703: Jonathan Edwards is born.   |
| 1602: William Perkins dies.  | 1735: The Great Awakening comes to Northampton.   |
| 1603: Thomas Cartwright dies.  | 1737: Edwards experiences "the sense of the glory of the Son of God" while riding in the woods. |
| 1603: Queen Elizabeth I dies.  | 1739-1745: Religious revivals sweep through the American colonies.                              |
| 1603: King James comes to the throne of England.                                 | Sept. 1740: George Whitefield arrives in New England.   |
| 1603?: Roger Williams is born.   | 1740: Whitefield, from the courthouse balcony in Philadelphia, calls for Christian unity.       |
| 1607: First English colony (Jamestown) is established in Virginia.               | 1758: Jonathan Edwards dies.  |
| 1611: King James Version of the Bible is printed.                                | 1770: George Whitefield dies.   |
| 1620: Mayflower sails to Plymouth.   |   |
| 1625: John Robinson dies.  |   |
| 1625: King James I dies.   |   |
| Feb. 5, 1631: Roger Williams arrives in Boston.                                  |   |
| 1633: Robert Browne dies.  |   |
| 1636: Roger Williams is exiled from Massachusetts.                               |   |

## Who's Who of the Era

**JOHN WINTHROP:** The Puritan governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Winthrop (1588-1649) was born in Edwardstone, Suffolk, England. In 1602 he attended Cambridge University. Winthrop settled Boston and helped establish a Congregational church there among the colony members.

**PURITANS AND SEPARATISTS:** Some English Protestants desired a fully Reformed church when Queen Elizabeth I established the Church of England. The people who worked to purify and reform the church were called "Puritans." Working within the Church of England, the Elizabethan Puritans, with leaders Thomas Cartwright (1535-1603) and William Perkins (1558-1602), sought changes. But Elizabeth I and King James I were against the Puritans. "I will make them conform themselves," James threatened, "or I will harry them out of the land, or else do worse." A small Separatist movement grew alongside the main Puritan group, who still survived within the Church of England. Led by Robert Browne (1550-1633) and Robert Harrison (died about 1585), these Separatist Puritans formed an independent congregation at Norwich, withdrawing completely from the Anglican church. Imprisoned and harassed, the Puritans were driven to the Netherlands. Eventually, the Puritans, or "Pilgrim Fathers," led by John Robinson (about 1576-1625), emigrated from Leiden, Holland, to New England via Plymouth. One of the Separatist groups in Amsterdam later formed the nucleus of an early English Baptist congregation.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH I:** Born in London in 1533, Elizabeth was the daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She succeeded her sister Mary, who was Roman Catholic, when Mary died in 1558. Elizabeth reestablished the Church of England, restoring and permanently bringing Protestantism to England during her long reign (1558-1603). She gradually replaced Catholic church leaders with Protestants. The chief apologist for the Anglican church under Elizabeth was Richard Hooker, whose *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* describe the episcopal government and liturgical worship of the Elizabethan Settlement. Elizabeth died in 1603.

**BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER:** This collection of church doctrine, ordinances, prayers, and forms for the sacraments was used by the Church of England. Its principal architect was Thomas Cranmer.

**KING JAMES I:** James I (1566-1625) was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and Lord Darnley. When his mother abdicated in 1567, he became King James VI of Scotland. When his cousin Queen Elizabeth I of England died in 1603, he became king of England. An unwise king, James ruled England harshly. King Henry IV of France called him "the wisest fool in Christendom." He was adamant against the English Puritans and Separatists. When the first permanent English colony was established in Virginia in 1607, it was named Jamestown in his honor. James sponsored a new translation of the Bible upon request of the Puritans. In 1611, the Authorized Version (or King James Version) replaced the Geneva Bible.

**JOHN ROBINSON:** John Robinson (about 1576-1625), the pilgrims' pastor, led the "Pilgrim Fathers" from Leiden to New England. He, himself, did not make the journey. "The Lord has more truth yet to break forth out of his Holy Word," Pastor Robinson told the pilgrims as they set sail for America. Robinson's best-known work was his *Justification of Separation from the Church of England*.

**WILLIAM BRADFORD:** The second governor of Plymouth Colony, Bradford (1590-1657) wrote *Of Plimoth Plantation*. The book tells the story of the Pilgrims from the time of their persecution in England until 1646. Born in Yorkshire, England, Bradford tried to escape with the Separatists to The Netherlands but was put in prison. He reached The Netherlands, however, in 1609 and settled with the others in Leiden. He sailed to America on the Mayflower in 1620, and helped found Plymouth Colony.

**COTTON MATHER:** Mather (1663-1728), born in Boston and educated at Harvard, was a leading pastor and scholar of early American Puritanism. He wrote more than 450 books. The son of Increase Mather, he was ordained in 1685 and became his father's associate in Boston's North Church. When his father died in 1723, Cotton Mather succeeded him as pastor. He helped found Yale College. Cotton Mather's book, *Essays to Do Good*, greatly influenced statesman, writer, and inventor Benjamin Franklin.

**ROGER WILLIAMS:** A clergyman and founder of the colony of Rhode Island, Roger Williams (1603?-1683) advocated religious freedom as a right of the people. Williams was born in London and was educated at Cambridge University. Williams arrived in Boston on February 5, 1631, and in 1633, he became minister of the church at Salem. Williams fled into the wilderness in January, 1636, securing land from the Indians, and founded Providence, later the capital of Rhode Island. From 1654 to 1657, Williams served as president of the Rhode Island Colony.

**QUAKERS:** After years of searching for truth, George Fox began to gather the "Society of Friends" and wrote down his experiences in his Journal. A judge once laughed at Fox and told him, "You folk are the tremblers; you are the quakers." The name "quaker" stuck, although the Quakers previously called themselves "children of light," "publishers of truth," "the people of God in scorn called quakers," or simply "friends." They later took the name "Society of Friends." Fox felt the church had become a public service managed by state appointed officials and that the church had become apostate. Fox began preaching to thousands of people in the open air, and evangelists of the Quaker movement spread all across England. Many Quakers in New England were imprisoned, and three Quakers were hanged on Boston Common (1660-1661). A special relationship of trust existed between the Indians and the Quakers, and many of them became Quakers. Oliver Cromwell once remarked that in the Quakers he had found a people whom he could not influence "either with gifts, honours, offices, or places."

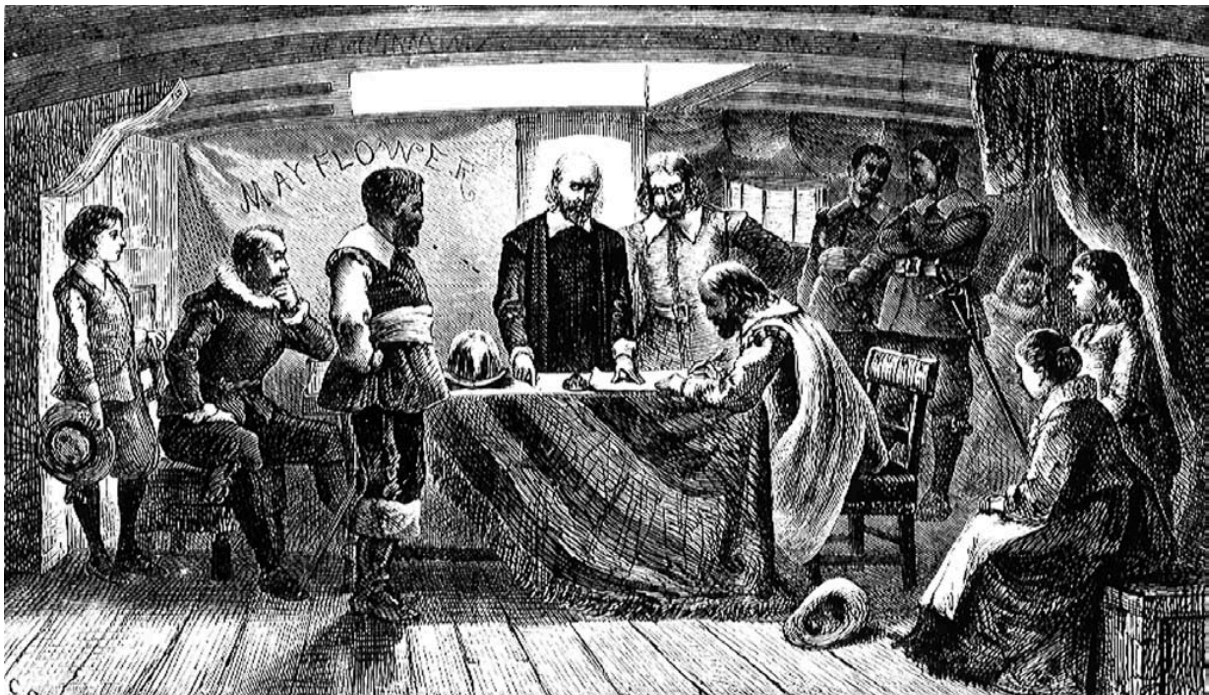
**JONATHAN EDWARDS:** Under Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), a great American philosopher, the Awakening broke out in Northampton, Massachusetts. Born in Connecticut a pastor's son, he studied at Yale, where he became a senior tutor in 1724. His *Personal Narrative* (1739) describes a deep religious experience which "gave him a new awareness of God's absolute sovereignty, and of his own dependence on God." In 1727, he became the associate pastor of the Northampton Congregational Church in Massachusetts. (Edwards followed his grandfather, Solomon Stoddard, as pastor of the church. Stoddard has been called the "first great revivalist in New England.") Under Edwards' preaching, in 1735, came the Awakening. After a conflict concerning church ordinances, his church dismissed him. He then became a missionary to the Indians and white settlers of Stockbridge. At Stockbridge, the Calvinistic Edwards wrote his most important work: *Freedom of the Will* (1754). In January, 1758, Edwards became President of the College of New Jersey at Princeton but died of smallpox in March.

**REVIVALISM:** In the 1730s and 40s, “deadening formality was replaced by a fresh wind of the Spirit.” Its roots lay in the Pietist movement in Europe as well as in Puritanism. In North America, the “Great Awakening” began in Northampton, Massachusetts, under Jonathan Edwards. However, the major influence of revivalism came from George Whitefield. He arrived in New England in September, 1740, and preached for six weeks to enormous crowds. More than 150 churches were affected by the Awakening, not only in New England, but also in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Churches, during this revival, began to show uncusomary concern for evangelism. David Brainerd, a product of the revival, became the apostle to the Red Indians. Denominational barriers were broken down and a new spirit of cooperation prevailed.

### Historical Document

#### *The Mayflower Compact - Prepared by the Puritans, the Pilgrims at their coming to the New World in Nov 1620*

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, defender of the faith, etc., having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our King and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof, we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord, King James of England, France, and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty fourth. Anno Domino. 1620.



### Reflection and Review Questions

1. Who are the Puritans? To what did the Puritans object in old England? Why?
2. What was King James' opinion of the Puritans? Of the Separatists? What did he want to do with them?
3. Describe the Puritan way of life. What did they believe?
4. Who was the theologian of the Great Awakening? And what did he contribute in the effort.
5. Who was George Whitefield, and why is it said that "he carried the 'flame of revival' from England to the New World"?
6. Do you think we are in a period of revival or awakening now?