

## **John Amos Comenius 1592-1670**

### **I. Comenius' reputation**

Herman Bavink called him  
"the greatest figure of the  
second generation of  
reformers"

Andrew Bonar said he was

"the truest heir of (John) Hus,

the chief inspiration of (Thomas) Chalmers, and the first model for (William) Carey"

J. Hudson Taylor said he was "the single greatest innovator of missions, education, and literature during the Protestant Reformation"

Abraham Kuyper said that he was "the father of modern Christian education"

### **II. Youth and Exile (1592-1627)**

- Youth, education, work, and family

### **III. Pedagogy and Pansophy (1628-1641)**

- The Great Didactic, Orbis Pictus

### **IV. Sweden, Hungary, and Poland (1642-1656)**

- Reformer of education in many nations

### **V. Final Years (1657-1670)**

- Prophecies, and Angel of Peace

### **VI. "School of Infancy"**

- Selections from his writings

# The Great Didactic

Setting forth

The whole Art of Teaching  
all Things to all Men

or

A certain Inducement to found such Schools in all  
the Parishes, Towns, and Villages of every  
Christian Kingdom, that the entire  
Youth of both Sexes, none  
being excepted, shall

*Quickly, Pleasantly, & Thoroughly*

Become learned in the Sciences, pure in Morals,  
trained to Piety, and in this manner  
instructed in all things necessary  
for the present and for  
the future life,

in which, with respect to everything that is suggested,

ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES are set forth from the essential  
nature of the matter,

ITS TRUTH is proved by examples from the several  
mechanical arts,

ITS ORDER is clearly set forth in years, months, days, and  
hours, and, finally,

AN EASY AND SURE METHOD is shown, by which it can  
be pleasantly brought into existence.

*Let the main object of this, our Didactic, be as follows : To seek and to find a method of instruction, by which teachers may teach less, but learners may learn more ; by which schools may be the scene of less noise, aversion, and useless labour, but of more leisure, enjoyment, and solid progress ; and through which the Christian community may have less darkness, perplexity, and dissension, but on the other hand more light, orderliness, peace, and rest.*

God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us ;

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.—Psalm lxvii. 1, 2.