

## Lesson III: Jacobean & Caroline Puritanism

### I. Jacobean Puritanism

- King James VI & I (1566-1625)
  - o Son of the deposed Mary, Queen of Scots
    - Mary was fiercely Catholic & a rival to Queen Elizabeth's throne
    - Mary was executed by the English in 1587
  - o James was crowned King James VI of Scotland upon his mother's abdication in 1567 and he was raised to be a strict Protestant
    - Famed Scottish Reformer John Knox preached at his coronation
    - King James was tutored by one of the greatest minds in Europe (George Buchanan) and grew up to be highly intelligent, theologically astute, and fiercely Protestant
  - o His presumptive heir, Henry Frederick (1594-1612), was staunchly Calvinistic but died of typhoid at the age of 18
  - o Rumored to have been a homosexual (contested historical point)
- The Hampton Court Conference (1604)
  - o Queen Elizabeth's death in 1603 elevated her cousin King James VI of Scotland to the English throne as King James I (r. 1603-1625)
  - o Puritan expectations for church reform were high given James hailed from a country with a solidly established Reformed, Presbyterian Church
    - At the Hampton Court Conference in 1604, James made it clear that he was not open to abolishing England's episcopacy or in granting most Puritan demands...*"No bishop, no king"*!
    - James did agree to a new translation of the Bible (eventual KJV Bible)
- Puritanism in the Reign of James I
  - o Puritanism during the reign of James (or at anytime) was not a unified movement nor was it a specific religious denomination
    - Puritans could be Anglicans, Presbyterians, Independents (Congregationalists), or Baptists
    - George Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1611-1633, was sympathetic to the Puritans and a staunch Calvinist
  - o Despite King James' staunch Calvinism, several Anglican churchmen began slowly introducing high church practices and Arminian theology into the Church of England
- William Ames (1576-1633)
  - o **Education:** B.A. (1598) & M.A. (1601) from Cambridge; D.D. (1622) from Franeker
  - o **Professional:** Fellow at Christ's College, Cambridge (1601-1609); Military Chaplain for Sir Horace Vere in the Netherlands (1611-1619); Professor of Theology at Franeker (1622-1633)
  - o **Other Facts:**
    - Converted under preaching of William Perkins

- Skill as systematic theologian in debate with Arminians earned the nicknames “Augustine of Holland” and “the hammer of the Arminians”
- Non-voting member of Synod of Dort and chief theological advisor to Johannes Bogerman, presiding officer of the Synod
- Family moved to New England four years after his death. His library formed the nucleus of the original library at Harvard
- His *The Marrow of Theology* was a primary textbook at Harvard
- Richard Sibbes (1577-1635)
  - **Education:** B.A. (1599), M.A. (1602), B.D. (1610), D.D. (c. 1626) from Cambridge
  - **Ministry:** Lecturer at Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge (1611-1616); Lecturer at Gray’s Inn (1617-1635); Master of St. Catharine’s College at Cambridge (1626-1635); Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge (1633-1635)
  - **Other Facts:**
    - Nicknamed “the heavenly doctor” because of his preaching and manner of life
    - Directly influenced future Puritan leaders (Cotton, Peters, Goodwin, and Preston)
    - His most famous work, *The Bruised Reed*, was a Puritan bestseller
    - The prolific 19<sup>th</sup> century preacher Charles Spurgeon said, “Sibbes never wastes the student’s time, he scatters pearls and diamonds with both hands.”
    - Beeke & Pederson write, “He was a pioneer in working out the devotional application of the doctrine of God’s covenant of grace.”
  - Sibbes on the Love of Christ
    - *“The whole chain [of God’s love] so holdeth, that all the creatures in heaven and earth cannot break a link of it. Therefore never doubt of continuance, for it holds firm on God’s part, not thine. God embraceth us in the arms of his everlasting love, not that we embraced him first. When the child falleth not, it is from the mother’s holding the child, and not from the child’s holding the mother. So it is God’s holding of us, knowing of us, embracing of us, and justifying of us that maketh the state firm, and not ours; for ours is but a reflection and result of his, which in unvariable.”*

## II. Caroline Puritanism

- Puritanism in the Reign of Charles I
  - King Charles I (r. 1625 - 1649) was deeply influenced by High Church Anglicans and their Arminian theology
    - Married the French Catholic princess Henrietta Maria
    - Forbade the preaching of predestination in 1626
  - Appointed the fiercely anti-Calvinist William Laud to be Bishop of London in 1628 and Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633
    - Laud persecuted his opponents through the Court of Star Chamber
    - Had men like Alexander Leighton mutilated, fined, and imprisoned

- Charles I dissolved Parliament in 1629 and did not call another Parliament for eleven years (called the Personal Rule)
- William Laud (1573-1645): Puritanism's Arch-Enemy
  - **Education:** B.A. (1594), MA (1598), DD (1608) from Oxford
  - **Ministry:** President of St John's College, Oxford (1611-1616); Dean of Gloucester (1616-1621); Bishop of St David's (1621-1627); Bishop of Bath & Wells (1626-1628); Bishop of London (1628-1633); Chancellor of Oxford (1630-1641); Archbishop of Canterbury (1633-1645)
  - **Other Facts:**
    - One of the leaders of the Arminian party in the Church of England and fiercely Anti-Calvinist in his theology
    - Laud persecuted his enemies through various means and implemented or enforced policies seen by many Puritans as a move toward Roman Catholicism
    - King James' jester, Archibald Armstrong, famously quipped, "Great praise be given to God and little Laud to the devil."
    - Executed by Parliament in 1645

### III. The English Civil War

- Prelude
  - The English Civil War was largely the result of (1) Illegal taxation during the personal rule of Charles I; and (2) The rise of the Arminian party in the Church of England
  - Scotland went to war with England in 1639 over Charles' and Laud's attempt to institute CoE Prayer Book worship on the Scottish Church
  - Charles was forced to call a Parliament to pay for the war (Short and Long Parliaments followed in 1640)
  - The Long Parliament demanded that Charles amend political and religious innovations (only some of which Charles agreed to enact)
  - Charles entered the House of Commons in January 1642 to arrest five leading opponents but was forced to flee London without them
  - Charles went to war with his own Parliament on August 22, 1642
- Civil War
  - Charles had several early victories during the initial stages of the war but was unable to capitalize on these victories
  - The Solemn League and Covenant in 1643 allied the Scottish Covenanters with the English Parliament based on English church reform
  - Parliament eventually gained the upper hand against the king thanks to a reorganization of the army under two talented commanders, Sir Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell
  - King Charles surrendered to the Scots in 1646 and was handed over to the English

- Charles convinced the Scottish to invade England in 1648...The New Model Army crushed the Scottish at Preston in August 1648
- King Charles I was tried for treason and executed in January 1649
- Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)
  - Great-great grandnephew of Henry VIII's chief advisor and religious innovator Thomas Cromwell (1485-1540)
  - Member of Parliament for Huntington (1628) and Cambridge (1640)
    - Zealous opponent of the King and bishops in Parliament
    - Deeply religious man following his conversion (~1636)
  - No known military training before the English Civil War started in 1642 but turned out to be a brilliant military commander
    - Crushed Royalist forces at Marston Moor (1644) and Naseby (1645)
    - Slaughtered the Irish Catholic defenders of Drogheda (1649)
    - Crushed the Royalist Scots at Dunbar (1650) and Worcester (1651)
  - Ian Gentles on Oliver Cromwell
    - “[Cromwell] combined genuine humility and self disdain with a holy ruthlessness that came from his conviction that God is indeed active in history, and that he, Oliver, was His instrument. A fundamentally generous, decent person who believed that liberty of conscience - at least for Protestants - was the best way to advance God's truth, he cared little for wealth or the other outward signs of worldly success.”
- The Westminster Assembly of Divines
  - Convened in July 1643 to reform the Church of England and included representatives from London, both universities, and every county in England and Wales
    - Members were predominantly Presbyterian but Independents and Episcopalians were also represented
  - Scottish representatives arrived after the Solemn League and Covenant was signed in September 1643
  - Assembly produced the Westminster Confession of Faith in November 1646
    - Became the official confession of the Scottish Kirk in August 1647 but never officially adopted in England
    - Basis for Savoy Declaration (Congregationalists) and 1689 2<sup>nd</sup> London Baptist Confession of Faith

#### IV. The Interregnum

- The Interregnum
  - The execution of the king plunged England into a decade of political chaos
  - Parliament abolished the monarchy and declared England to be a republic
  - Oliver Cromwell ruled as Lord Protector from 1653-1658
    - Refused the offer of the crown in 1657 stating, “I would not build Jericho again!”

- Favored Congregationalism but believed in religious toleration of fellow Protestants
  - Positive social implications from his decade of rule include the illegitimacy rate in England plunging to 0.5% of births
    - Historical average is 4-5% and today it's 30-40%...(44% of American single mothers in 2013 had never been married)
    - Cromwell's England had the lowest rate of illegitimacy in 500 years of records
  - Interregnum collapsed after Cromwell's death in 1658
- Thomas Goodwin (1600-1680)
  - **Education:** B.A. (1616) & M.A. (1620) from Cambridge; D.D. (1653) from Oxford
  - **Ministry:** Fellow and Lecturer at Catherine's Hall, Cambridge (1620-1628); Lecturer, and later Vicar, at Trinity Church (1628-1634); Separatist preacher in London (1634-1639); Ministered in the Netherlands (1639-1641); Member of Westminster Assembly (1640s); Lecturer at Oxford (1649); President of Magdalen College, Oxford (1650-1660); Independent preacher in London (1660-1680)
  - **Other Facts:**
    - Converted at a funeral on 02 October 1620
    - Leading Independent (Congregational) churchman
    - Gave more addresses than any other divine at Westminster Assembly
    - Attended Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell on his deathbed in 1658
    - Helped draft Savoy Declaration of Faith and Order in 1658
- Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661)
  - **Education:** M.A. (1621) from University of Edinburgh
  - **Ministry:** Professor of Humanity, Edinburgh (1623-1625); Pastor of Anwoth (1627-1636); Exiled to Aberdeen (1636-1638); Successively Professor of Theology, Principal of St. Mary's College, and Rector of the University of St Andrews (1638-1660)
  - **Other Facts:**
    - Humble man that could nevertheless be brutal toward his enemies
    - One of six Scottish commissioners to the Westminster Assembly (1643-1647)
    - Spurgeon considered Rutherford's *Letters* to be the closest thing to inspiration
    - Rutherford knew suffering. He was once exiled for his faith, all of his many children predeceased him, and he was about to be arrested for treason at the time of his death
  - A Contemporary Pastor on Rutherford
    - *“Many times I thought he would have flown out of the pulpit when he came to speak of Jesus Christ. He was never in his right element but when he was commending Him. He would have fallen asleep in bed speaking of Christ.”*