

Puritan Movement

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC , Sunday, Nov. 12th

The Scriptures consistently warn that Satan (*and his agents*) would seek to infiltrate the church for their own purposes. *Mt. 7:15-23; 13:24-32; Acts 20:29-30; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:1-4; 2 Peter 2; Jude, Human pride, Aided by demonic deception (1 Tim. 4:1)* seeks to turn God's "House" into a "den of thieves". (*Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46*) "Church" history is filled with the sad evidence of Satan's effectiveness and how he's still contaminating God's truths with Man made (or demonic) traditions which lead to the poor substitute of "Religion". (Mt.7:15-23) While the gospels record only two times when Jesus physically "cleansed" the house of God of such "False Faith", God's word reveals that he's always seeking to cleans the "Hearts" of God's people. (Is. 1:18; Pr. 23:26)

While many individuals and "churches" remained faithful to God and his word, most became contaminated by "religion" and "political correctness". (1 & 2 Tim. 4) Eventually the established "political" churches (and people) began to subjugate the others. In every age God uses "all things" (Ro. 8:28,29) to Purify His People! Titus 2:11-14 "*Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people.*" (Perious'ios: A prized possession!)

As God began to "purify unto himself a peculiar people", these people had two basic choices.

1) Try to "purify" or reform the existing church "structure" from within.

a) *This was usually their initial response and was inevitably met with resistance.*

2) Separate entirely from the existing church structure and start over. (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

This led to the "Protestant" reformation. HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF!

Most of the "Reformed" churches carried the contamination of some man made "traditions."

As they grew in power, they began to use force to "subjugate" other churches and people.

As the spiritual "contamination" grew, God would continue to "purify for himself a people", and the process would be repeated. Let's examine How this happened in England.

1. King Henry VIII creates the "Church of England".

A. This decision was motivated not by spiritual commitment but by:

1) Henry's Personal interests: *Henry himself called this "The Kings Great Matter"*

a) He wanted an annulment from Katherine so he could marry Anne Boleyn.

2) Political interests: *Power struggles in Europe.*

a) Henry wanted Pope Clement to grant an annulment from Catherine of Aragon.

b) Catherine was the aunt of King Charles V!

c) Clement feared offending Charles who had recently sacked Rome and held him prisoner.

2. Anglicanism became an "English" Catholicism.

A. Henry wanted an English Church, independent of Papal influence.

1) Henry remained a devout "doctrinal" catholic.

B. 1534 Supremacy and Treasons Acts effectively made King Henry the English version of the "Pope".

1) Any who refused to submit were executed.

2) Many Catholic leaders simply became Anglican Priests or Bishops.

3) As a result most of the traditions and doctrines remained fundamentally unchanged.

It was still a "state-run" religion, but with a different "state"-head! History Repeats Itself!!!!

This is what happened in Rome when Emperor Constantine became "Pontifex Maximus!"

3. King Henry isolated many Catholics.

A. 1533: Henry rejects Queen Catherine and Marries Anne Boleyn.

- 1) 1536: executes Anne and marries Jane Seymour (who died in childbirth delivering Edward).
- 2) Marries three more times, quickly divorcing Anne of Cleves, killing Catherine Howard and finally settling with Catherine Parr.

B. The Catholic Church owned nearly 1/3 of England at this time!

Cardinal Wolsey was wealthier than the King and built himself a 1,000 room castle.

- 1) 1536–40: Supremacy and Suppression Acts allowed Henry to confiscate all church owned property and wealth.

C. 1537 King Henry allowed the distribution of the “Matthews Bible”

- 1) This produced a “spiritual awakening” bringing many to a personal relationship with God.

4. Henry’s death (1547) divided England

A. Henry dies and his sickly 10 year old son, Edward VI became the King.

- 1) The Anglican Church began to “reform” rejecting the Mass and priestly celibacy.
- 2) In 1553 Edward dies at 16, rejecting his sisters and appointed Jane Grey as Queen!

B. 1553: Mary Tudor takes the throne aided by Catholic armies.

- 1) She beheads “Protestant Queen” Jane Grey.
- 2) She Imprisons her sister Elizabeth I.
- 3) She begins to force Catholicism on England by killing some 284 Protestant leaders
- 4) Thousands fled England to avoid her wrath.
- 5) She died childless after reigning for only 5 years! *History remembers her as “Bloody Mary”.*

C. 1558: Elizabeth I becomes Queen

- 1) She maintains a moderate position trying to bring peace to “religion torn” England.
 - a) Crowned by a Catholic Bishop.
 - b) Faced “puritan” pressure from Parliament. *The 1559 Act of Uniformity made attendance at church and the use of the Book of Common Prayer compulsory.*
 - c) Became the “Supreme Governor” of the Church.

5. The Rise of the Puritans.

Having English Scriptures available had some politically “unintended” consequences.

A. Many began to challenge the church’s unscriptural practices and traditions.

- 1) Many of these were educated noblemen. (Even some members of the House of Lords)
- 2) These were a constant source of irritation to Queen Elizabeth.

B. The “Puritans” used a three fold plan:

- 1) Change via “Legislation”. *Put political pressure for “moral” legislation.*
 - 2) Change via “Education”. *Cambridge graduates brought reformation ideas into their churches.*
 - 3) Change via “Purification”. *People focused on Scripture instead of the book of common prayer.*
- By the early 1600’s, some of these “Puritans” began to doubt that the political and spiritual corruption could ever be completely purged from the “Church.” Many chose to “separate” and form independent local congregational Churches. These were mockingly called “Separatists” or Pilgrims!*

History repeats itself! While Satan works to “conform us to this world” God seeks to “transform us” (Ro. 12:2) through and to the image of His son. (Ro. 8:29; Titus 2:14)