



FROM REFORMATION TO REVIVAL

John 3:1–3

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ²this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

³Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

I. THE ENGLISH PURITANS

- During the reign of Mary I, known as "Bloody Mary" (from 1553-1558), English Protestants were severely persecuted. Many fled from England to cities like Geneva and Frankfurt.
- Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in 1558 and many returned home.
- English Protestants became known as "Puritans."
- Under Elizabeth (1558-1603), English Protestantism (or Anglicanism) retained elements of Roman Catholic liturgy. This proved frustrating to the Puritans.
- When James VI of Scotland became James I of England (in 1603), the Puritans hoped he would be more friendly to their intended reforms, but he was not and Puritans continued to be frustrated.
- The King James version would be completed in 1611.
- The situation worsened in 1625, when Charles I came to the throne.
- Charles had married a Roman Catholic queen. He also appointed William Laud (1573-1645) as the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Laud opposed the Puritans, persecuting Puritan pastors who deviated from Anglican liturgy prescribed in The Book of Common Prayer and prohibiting them from teaching on God's sovereignty in salvation.

- Conflicts eventually lead to the English Civil War (from 1641-1651), during which the Puritan supporters of Parliament fought against the Royalist supporters of Charles I.
- Parliament won the war. Charles was executed in 1649, and his family was exiled to the Netherlands.
- A Puritan general named Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) came to power during the Protectorate (1653-1659).
- During the war, Puritan theologians met at the Westminster Assembly (from 1643-1653) and drafted the Westminster Confession and Catechisms.
- From 1645-1660, the Westminster Standards were adopted in the English church.
- The Puritans were finally able to implement their desired changes to the Church of England.
- After Cromwell's death, Charles II returned from the Netherlands and was crowned king (in 1660). When the monarchy was restored in England, the Church of England returned to its status prior to the English Civil War.
- As a result, roughly 2,400 Puritan pastors were forced out of the church in 1662 (in what is known as the "Great Ejection"). These Puritans became known as "dissenters" and "nonconformists."
- John Bunyan (1628-1688), the author of Pilgrim's Progress, was imprisoned for twelve years for preaching without a license.
- At the dawn of the eighteenth century, the need for revival was great.

II. PURITANISM IN AMERICA

- During the reigns of James I and Charles I, English Puritans fled from England to New England as a result of religious _____.
- Plymouth was founded in 1620.
- Massachusetts Bay was founded in 1628.
- Harvard University was founded in 1636.
- Roger Williams founded the first Baptist church in America in 1638 in Rhode Island.
- The initial wave of Puritans in New England was very devout. But subsequent generations lacked the conviction of their ancestors.

- By the time of Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758), the churches of New England were largely populated by nominal and spiritually-apatetic attendees.
- The Age of Enlightenment prioritized reason, science, and recreation over religion.
- By the early 18th century, both England and New England were in great need of revival.

III. EVANGELICAL REVIVAL IN ENGLAND

- Due to spiritual decline in both England and the American colonies, the stage was set for an Evangelical Revival in England and a Great Awakening in America.
- God raised up key leaders, including Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), John Wesley (1703-1791), Charles Wesley (1707-1788), and George Whitefield (1714-1770).
- John and Charles Wesley were born into a large family of nineteen children. Their father was an Anglican minister.
- George Whitefield, by contrast, was only two years old when his father died. Whitefield grew up in poverty.
- Charles Wesley founded a group at Oxford University called the "Holy Club." (1729) His brother John and their friend George Whitfield would eventually join.
- Other students at Oxford called the members of the Holy Club "methodists" because of their methodical approach to self-discipline and spirituality.
- George Whitfield is converted after reading “The Life of God in the Soul of Man” by Henry Scougal given to him by Charles Wesley. (1733)
- John and Charles Wesley are converted (on different occasions) (1738).
- Whitefield made his first voyage to the American colonies (1738).
- Whitfield returned to England and is met with resistance by the Wesley’s on the doctrine of God’s sovereignty in salvation. (1740s)
- Whitfield makes 7 trips to America (13 trans-Atlantic voyages) to preach throughout the countryside of the colonies (over 18,000 sermons).
- Whitfield dies after preaching in New Hampshire and is buried beneath the pulpit. (1770)
- Charles Wesley is most well-known for writing more than 6,000 hymns. He died in 1788.

- John Wesley shaped the Methodist movement that would eventually become the largest Protestant denomination in America. He died in 1791.

IV. THE GREAT AWAKENING

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

- His grandfather, _____, was a famous minister in New England.
- Shortly after his conversion, he penned _____ Resolutions, expressing his commitment to live for God's glory.
- Became the pastor of the church in Northampton after his grandfather died.
- Started to see _____ in the church in the 1730s. This reached its peak when George Whitfield came to preach throughout New England.
- Defended the Great Awakening by insisting that true revival is measured in terms of the fruit of repentance.
- Highly influenced by David Brainerd, who died in 1747.
- Left Northampton in 1751 to pastor in Stockbridge.
- Came to be the president of the College of New Jersey (Princeton) in 1758.
- Died shortly after due to smallpox inoculation (March 2nd 1758).

V. IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE REFORMATION

- The Puritans and Protestant evangelists of the 17th and 18th centuries upheld the Reformation principles of _____ (sola Scriptura) and _____ (sola fide).
- Their conviction was that Christ alone is the Head of the church.
- That conviction gave them the courage to resist interference from either popes or kings.
- It also motivated their courageous proclamation of the gospel, both to nominal congregations and to previously unreached people groups.
- This gospel courage paved the way for the Modern Missions Movement in the 19th–20th centuries.