

# ***Puritanism***

## *Sources*

Perry Miller and Thomas H. Johnson, eds., *The Puritans: A Sourcebook of Their Writings* (1963)

John Brown, *The English Puritans: The Rise, Growth, and Decline of the Puritan Movement* (1910)

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*

Edmund S. Morgan, *The Puritan Dilemma: The Story of John Winthrop* (1958)

———, *Visible Saints: The History of a Puritan Idea* (1963)

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Puritans: Their Origins and Successors* (1987)

J. I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life* (1994)

Leland Ryken, *Worldly Saints: The Puritans as They Really Were* (1986)

## I. Nature of the Puritans

### A. Basic idea: “Purify” C. of E.

1. Clean out Catholic elements
2. Primarily ceremonial

### B. Calvinistic/Reformed

1. *Generally* Calvinistic
2. Not just doctrinal Calvinism but also transformation of culture
3. Stressed regulative principle

### C. Major Concept: Covenant

1. Covenant theology
  - a. God deals w/ man through covenants
  - b. Sees continuity between Israel & church (e.g., political applications)
2. Carries over to church covenants, political covenants
3. Affects view of government & law

### D. Differences in Polity

1. Presbyterian in England
2. Congregational in New England

### E. Broad classes

1. Non-separating
2. Separating: Separatists w/ Puritan-like theology (Pilgrims, Baptists)

## II. Leaders

### A. John Cotton

1. English theologian/minister who went to New England
2. “Father of Congregationalism”
3. A New England founder & America’s first intellectual

### B. John Owen

1. Bible commentator (work on Hebrews)
2. Theologian (work on Holy Spirit)
3. Congregationalist (Savoy Declaration)
4. Calvinist (*Death of Death in the Death of Christ* on limited atonement)

### C. John Winthrop

1. First governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony
2. Goal of the colony in sermon on the *Arbella*: “A City Set upon a Hill”
3. Established “holy commonwealth” in New England

### III. Major Events

- A. Return of Marian Exiles (1560s)
  - 1. Had imbibed Reformed system on the continent
  - 2. Created tension over Elizabeth's "middle way"
- B. Vestiarian Controversy
  - 1. Refusal to wear surplice, etc.
  - 2. Protested Act of Uniformity (1559)
- C. Admonitions Controversy (1570s)
  - 1. Battle over presbyterian church polity
  - 2. Involved two "admonitions" presented to Parliament for presbyterianism
  - 3. Quashed by Elizabeth
- D. Hampton Court Conference (1604)
  - 1. Attempt of Puritans to influence new king, James I
  - 2. Result of Millenary Petition
    - a. Presented to James on his way to London from Scotland
    - b. Asked for reforms in church polity, liturgical reform, practical issues
  - 3. Opposed by James
    - a. "No bishop, no king."
    - b. Expected Puritans to conform to his will
  - 4. KJV (1611) was only concession to Puritans
- E. Clash w/ Archbishop William Laud (1630s)
  - 1. "Arminian" archbishop of Canterbury under Charles I
  - 2. Theology heightened divide
  - 3. Forced conformity w/ rigor
- F. Great Migration (1630s)
  - 1. Some Puritans fled to New England
  - 2. Significance: "Puritan Experiment"
    - a. Attempt to realize Puritan ideals
    - b. Move to congregational polity
    - c. Puritan state church system
    - d. Idea of "visible saints" → regenerate church membership
- G. Rule of Oliver Cromwell (1650s)
  - 1. Not purely Puritan rule
  - 2. Period of large Puritan effect on church & culture
- H. Aftermath
  - 1. England
    - a. Great Ejection (1662): Puritans forced out of C. of E.
    - b. Puritans become "Nonconformists" in England
    - c. Gained tolerance w/ Glorious Revolution (1688)
  - 2. New England
    - a. Continuing Puritan dominance
    - b. Religious, political, intellectual force in American history