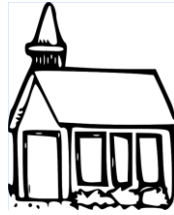


# Faith of Our Fathers: Using United States Church Records

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“Fellows which keepe hogges  
all weeke preach on the  
Sabboth”

## Religion in Europe

- For hundreds of years during the medieval time period, England practiced Catholicism.
  - Protestant beliefs began to enter the country during the early 1500s.
  - Began to point out the excesses of Catholic clergy and monasteries.
  - Demands were made for the Bible to be translated so the people could read it in English.
- **The Break** – when King Henry VIII conflicted with the pope.
  - Wanted to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, who produced no male heir.
  - After several years of bickering, Henry VIII broke away from the **Church of Rome** to form the **Church of England**.
  - Essentially the Catholic Church without the Pope and the monasteries.
    - Conservative with the king at the head.
  - Dissension brought a new group – **Puritans**.
    - Felt the Church of England was too much like Catholicism.
    - Adhered to Calvinism.
      - Preaching, supreme God, believe in scripture, worship without rituals, crosses, ornate churches.
- Catholics and Protestant national persecuted or forbade each other's religions.
  - British colonists followed suit; restrictions against Catholics.
- Great Britain, the Protestant Anglican Church split into bitterness.
  - Traditional Anglicans
  - Reforming Puritans
    - Result was an English civil war - 1600s.

## Religion in Colonial America

- Religious groups attempted to enforce strict religious observants through both colony governments and town rules.
  - Laws mandated that every attend church and pay taxes.
    - Taxes paid the salaries of ministers.
- Eight of the thirteen original colonies had an official religion.
  - If you dissented, you were persecuted.

- Between 1680 and 1760. Anglicanism and Congregationalism (offshoot of Puritans) established themselves as the main denominations.
- In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, new movements began.
  - “Dissenters” began to arise.
    - Baptists, Methodists, Quakers, Unitarians.
  - New congregations were seen as unfaithful and troublemakers.
- Ordinary Anglican American parishes stretched 60-100 miles in sparsely populated areas.
  - Women accounted for ¼ of the population.
  - Shortage of clergymen.
  - Religious life was haphazard.
- Astrology, alchemy, and witchcraft caused people to fear.
  - Think of the Salem Witch Trials.
  - Alchemy = magical transformation.
- Colonies eventually became more settled.
  - Clergy and churches grew.
  - The Sabbath became more important.
- Slavery was also shaped by religion.
  - Violence against slaves, their inequality, contempt for anything not Christian.
    - Baptists attempted to convert slaves, but often instruction came from their owners.
- Established churches were learning to exercise tolerance as immigration increased.
  - French Huguenots, Catholics, Jews, Cutch Calvinists, German Reformed pietists, Scottish Presbyterians, Baptists, Quakers, etc. all making their mark.
    - Rhode Island and Pennsylvania became havens.

## **New England**

- Predominantly Puritans leading strict, religious lives.
- Clergy was highly educated.
  - Protestantism was integrated into the political structure.
  - Divine guidance and civil authority should be used to enforce conformity.
- Every town had a Congregational meetinghouse.
  - Small, wooden buildings in the center of town.
  - Sat on hard wooden benches for most of the day.
  - Eventually grew bigger, steeples erected, bells were added.
    - Some held 1,000 worshippers.
- Newborns were baptized by the church.
- Attendance was about 70% of adult population.
- Operated differently from the Anglican system in England.
  - Massachusetts and Connecticut – no church courts to levy fines.

- Left to civil magistrates.
  - Congregational churches owned no properties (owned by the town).
    - Town meetings and religious services held in the same building.
- Civil governments did deal harshly with dissenters.

### **Mid-Atlantic and Southern Colonies**

- Church on the Sabbath was nearly all day long.
- After 1760, the frontier began to open up more.
- Middle colonies were a mixture of Quakers, Catholics, Lutherans, Jews.
- In the Carolinas, Virginia, and Maryland, Church of England was recognized by law as the state church.
  - Tax revenues went to support the parish and the priest.
- Virginia imposed laws for all to attend Anglican services.
- After 1750, Baptist population grew.
  - Baptist preachers were often arrested.
  - Mobs attacked members, broke up prayer meetings.
- Anglicans never reached a majority in the Carolinas, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware.
  - Struggled to accept Presbyterians, Baptists, Quakers, Dutch Reformed, and German pietists.
- Maryland was founded by Cecelius Calver, 1634 as a safe haven for Catholics.
- Quakers founded Pennsylvania.
  - Tender toward Native Americans.
  - Issued public condemnation of slavery.

### **Great Awakenings**

#### **First Great Awakening (1730s and 1740s)**

- 1730s and 1740s, religious revival swept the colonies and Great Britain.
  - Evangelist George Whitefield toured America.
  - Jonathan Edwards delivered sermons stirring up religious fervor.
- Massive open-air sermons – 15,000 in attendance.
  - Challenged the clerical and colonial practice by focusing on individual sins. “Born again”. Most pastors had read their sermons before this.
- Questioned the right of clerical and civil authority to intervene.
  - Clarified objections to British civil and religious rule.
  - Began to favor separation of church and state.
- The first time African Americans began to embrace Christianity.

#### **Second Great Awakening (late 1700s – mid 1800s)**

- Occurred in all parts of the United States, especially Northeast and Midwest.
- Church attendance had dropped.
  - Some believed God didn't play an important role in everyday life.
  - Felt God was unconcerned with a person's church attendance.
    - God would judge on how you lived your life.
- Particularly affected the less wealthy and less educated.
  - Camp meetings would last for days.
  - Most affected the "Burned-over district" in western New York.
- Many new religions, communal societies, and reform were produced.
  - Free black churches, which ran independently.
  - African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E. Church, or AME) established by African Americans in Philadelphia – 1816.
    - Several black Methodist congregations in the Mid-Atlantic area wanted independence from white Methodists.
- Reform movements – temperance, abolition, women's rights began to emerge.

### **Third Great Awakening (1850s – 1900s)**

- New denominations, missionary work, YMCA, Chatauquas, etc. emerged to help with social issues.
  - Dwight Moody, religious work carried on during the Civil War.
  - Freedmen's Societies were begun.

### **Fourth Great Awakening (late 1960s – early 1970s)**

- Protestant denominations weaken in membership and influence.
- Conservative denominations (Southern Baptists and Lutherans) grew.

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### **Religious History Timeline**

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| <p><b>1380-1832</b> – John Wycliffe’s Bible translation complete. Preaches against abuses, expresses anti-Catholic views of sacraments, use of relics, celibacy.</p> <p><b>1455</b> – Guttenberg Bible, first printed Bible.</p> <p><b>1483</b> – Martin Luther born</p> <p><b>1517</b> – The 95 Theses of Martin Luther begins the Reformation and Lutheranism</p> <p><b>1519</b> – Huldrych Zwingli begins the Reformed tradition in Switzerland.</p> <p><b>1521</b> – Luther refuses to recant his works at the Diet of Worms. Luther is later excommunicated.</p> <p><b>1522</b> – Luther Bible, German New Testament translation available.</p> <p><b>1525</b> – Anabaptist movement begins.</p> <p><b>1526</b> – Tyndale’s English New Testament (from 1516) banned in 1546 by King Henry VIII.</p> <p><b>1534</b> – King Henry VIII establishes new entity – Church of England.</p> <p><b>1535-1537</b> – Myles Coverdale’s Bible; uses Tyndale’s New Testament along with Latin and German versions. Banned in 1546 by King Henry VIII.</p> <p><b>1535</b> – Thomas More refuses to accept King Henry VIII’s claim to supreme head of Church of England, and is executed.</p> <p><b>1536</b> – Tyndale put to death, authorities order his Bible burned (thought to be part of Lutheran reform)</p> <p><b>1537-1551</b> – Matthew Bible, based on Tyndale and Coverdale.</p> <p><b>1539-1569</b> – Great Bible, by Thomas Cromwell. 1<sup>st</sup> English Bible authorized for public use.</p> <p><b>1549</b> – Book of Common Prayer written.</p> | <p><b>1607</b> – Jamestown, Virginia founded.</p> <p><b>1609</b> – Baptist Church founded by John Smyth (objected to infant baptisms and demands for church-state separation).</p> <p><b>1611</b> – King James Version of Bible is published. Based on Tyndale’s work and Bishop’s Bible of 1572.</p> <p><b>1618</b> – Thirty Years War</p> <p><b>1620</b> – Plymouth Colony founded by Puritans.</p> <p><b>1635</b> – Roger Williams banished from Massachusetts for advocating separation of church and state.</p> <p><b>1636</b> – Founding of Harvard as training school for ministers.</p> <p><b>1638</b> - Anne Hutchinson banished as a heretic.</p> <p><b>1644</b> – Rhode Island founded by Roger Williams; first colony to establish complete religious liberty.</p> <p><b>1648</b> – George Fox founds Quaker movement.</p> <p><b>1685</b> – King James II baptizes his son as a Catholic.</p> <p><b>1688</b> – “Glorious Revolution” overthrows James II over fears of Catholic restoration.</p> <p><b>1692</b> – Salem witch trials held.</p> <p><b>1693</b> – Jacob Amman founds Amish sect.</p> <p>1701 – Old Catholic Church of the Netherlands splits with Roman Catholicism.</p> <p><b>1730-1749</b> – First Great Awakening in US.</p> <p><b>1735</b> – Welsh Methodist revival.</p> <p><b>1738</b> – Methodist movement, led by John Wesley and brother Charles.</p> <p><b>1741</b> – ‘Messiah’ performed for the first time.</p> <p><b>1769</b> – first California mission established.</p> |
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**1553-1558** – Queen Mary I persecutes reformers. Many burned at the stake. She dies 1558, Church of England permanently restored.

**1560** – Geneva Bible, revision of Matthew's version of Tyndale's.

**1560** – Scottish Reformation, Church of Scotland established.

**1561** – Menno Simons born.

**1571** – Dutch Reformed Church established.

**1572** – John Knox founds Scottish Presbyterian Church, disagrees with Lutherans over sacraments and church government.

**1598** – Edict of Nantes grants toleration to French Protestants (Huguenots)

**1771** – Emanuel Swedenborg publishes his work "Universal Theology of the True Christian Religion". Led to Swedenborgianism.

**1774** – Anne Lee, leader of Shaker religions, emigrates to New York from England.

**1779** – Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom written. (Jesus never coerced anyone.)

**1784** – American Methodists from Methodist Episcopal held conference, led by bishops Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury.

**1789-1815** – John Carroll, Archdiocese of Baltimore, first Roman Catholic US Bishop.

**1791** – First Amendment to US Constitution (Congress shall make no law respecting establishment of religion...)

**1801** – Cane Ridge Revival in Kentucky begins Restoration Movement.

**1816** – Bishop Richard Allen, former slave, founds African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**1830** – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints founded.

**1863** – Seventh-day Adventist formed.

**1865** – Salvation Army founded by Methodist preacher William Booth.

**1879** – Church of Christ, Scientist founded by Mary Baker Eddy.