

The English Reformation

King Henry VIII—Broke with the Roman Catholic Church due to Pope Clement VII's refusal to grant him an annulment for his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, the aunt of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (she had failed to produce a male heir for him). The 1534 Act of Supremacy declared Henry the Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England. Aside from his rejection of papal authority, Henry remained Catholic in most of his beliefs and practices.

Thomas Cranmer—The first Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, the highest office of the Church of England. He compiled the *Book of Common Prayer* and the *Thirty-Nine Articles*, which promoted Protestant teachings in the English language. He was burned at the stake under Bloody Mary.

Queen "Bloody" Mary I—The daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, and a staunch Catholic. In her attempt to re-establish Catholicism in England during her five-year reign, she had over 280 religious dissenters burned at the stake.

The Elizabethan Settlement

Queen Elizabeth I—The Protestant half-sister of Mary I, and daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She restored Protestantism as the established Church of England. Her efforts at forging a compromise position ("via media") between Protestant doctrines and Catholic forms of worship prompted calls for further reform by the Puritans.

John Knox—Scottish reformer who was exiled to Geneva during the reign of Bloody Mary. He was influenced by John Calvin's Reformed theology and Presbyterian polity, which he brought to Scotland upon his return during the reign of Elizabeth. His success in promoting Presbyterianism provoked the ire of both Elizabeth and Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots.

Thomas Cartwright—Considered the father of English Presbyterianism and one of the first Puritans during the Elizabethan era. He promoted the idea of *de jure divino* ("by divine right") Presbyterianism as the most biblical form of church government.

William Perkins—One of the earliest leaders of the Puritan movement in England during the reign of Elizabeth. Although he conformed to many of the policies of the Elizabethan Settlement, he was sympathetic to the non-conformists, and was a staunch defender of Reformation theology.

King James I—The son of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, and great-great-grandson of Henry VII of England. He continued the religious policies of his predecessor Elizabeth, cracking down on Puritan dissenters. During his reign, an authorized English translation of the Bible was produced, the KJV.

The English Civil War

King Charles I—Son and heir of James I. He provoked the anger of the Puritans by marrying the Catholic Henrietta Maria of France, appointing William Laud as archbishop, failing to support Protestants in the Thirty Years' War, and imposing Anglican worship practices on Scotland. This led to his expulsion and eventual execution at the hands of a Puritan Parliament during the English Civil War.

William Laud—Archbishop of Canterbury during the reign of Charles I. He was a staunch opponent of Puritans and Calvinism. He forbade preaching on predestination and emphasized high forms of worship and strict ecclesiastical hierarchy. He was executed in 1645 by the Long Parliament.

Oliver Cromwell—Independent Puritan and leader of the Parliamentarians during the English Civil War. After the execution of Charles I, he was declared Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England. He advocated religious liberty for all non-Catholics in England. He died of natural causes in 1658, and when the Royalists returned to power in 1660, they had his corpse dug up, hung in chains, and beheaded.

King Charles II—Due to the inability of Richard Cromwell (Oliver's son) to earn the support of the Parliamentarians, Charles was placed on the throne during the English Restoration. He imposed several policies hostile to Puritans, including the 1662 Act of Uniformity, which expelled about 2,500 ministers from the Church of England. Those expelled were called "Puritans" in the narrowest sense of the term.

Notable Puritan Works

Richard Baxter—*The Reformed Pastor* is a classic work on pastoral ministry. By "Reformed" Baxter didn't necessarily mean Calvinistic (Baxter's own doctrines of the atonement and justification were in some ways more Arminian), but rather that pastors must be "revived."

Anne Bradstreet—*To My Husband and Other Poems* provides a sampling of several of Bradstreet's poems, which were the first English poems to be published from New England.

John Bunyan—*Pilgrim's Progress* is a classic allegory of the Christian life, generally regarded as one of the most significant works of English religious literature. It was also the first English novel.

Stephen Charnock—*The Existence and Attributes of God* is considered the definitive work on God's character written in the English language. It also provides the basis for much of the material in the recent volume *God Is: A Devotional Guide to the Attributes of God* by PCA pastor Mark Jones.

John Flavel—*The Works of John Flavel* have been among the most influential Puritan works for subsequent generations of Reformed theologians, including Jonathan Edwards and Archibald Alexander.

Thomas Goodwin—*The Works of Thomas Goodwin* represent some of the best Puritan treatments on Christology and the Pauline Epistles, written by one of the most prolific of the Westminster divines.

John Owen—*Overcoming Sin and Temptation*, edited by Kelly Kapic and Justin Taylor, updates the language of Owen's classic treatises on sin, temptation, and repentance.

Samuel Rutherford—*Lex Rex* was one of the most influential works of early modern political theory, dealing with questions of natural rights, the consent of the governed, and resistance to tyranny.

Richard Sibbes—*The Bruised Reed* is a treatise intended to encourage Christians in difficult times. Martyn Lloyd-Jones called this work one of his greatest comforts during his ministry.

Thomas Watson—*Heaven Taken by Storm* is considered an excellent entry point to the works of the Puritans. It speaks of using the means of grace and of resisting sin and temptation.