

Class Session 18 - 2023-02-21 - First London Baptist Confession

PRAYER

QUIZ

1. Did the authors of the First London Baptist Confession write that they were Anabaptists, or that they were falsely called Anabaptists?
2. Was the First London Baptist Confession's primary purpose to show Baptists' differences from other groups, or similarities to other groups?
3. What organization called for the Westminster Assembly?
4. In the Westminster Assembly, which view of church government prevailed--- Erastian, Independent, or Presbyterian?
5. What are the two catechisms called, that were prepared by the Westminster Assembly?

TIMELINE

- 1509 King Henry VIII ascends the throne of England
- 1526 Tyndale's complete New Testament in English is printed
- 1534 The Act of Supremacy officially separates the Church of England from the pope
- 1547 King Edward VI ascends the throne
- 1553 Queen Mary I ascends the throne
- 1558 Queen Elizabeth I ascends the throne
- 1560 Geneva Bible is published
- 1588 Spanish Armada is defeated
- 1603 King James I ascends the throne
- 1604 In the Hampton Court Conference, King James agrees to a new Bible translation
- 1611 Authorized or King James Version is published
- 1625 King Charles I ascends the throne
- 1628 The Petition of Right Is Passed
- 1640 The Long Parliament Convenes
- 1642 The English Civil War begins
- 1643 The Westminster Assembly convenes
- 1644 The First London Baptist Confession is published

READING ASSIGNMENT

Synge: Oliver Cromwell

BIBLE

Acts 24:13-16

LESSON - First London Confession of Faith

1641/42

- King's assault on houses of Parliament, in effect, starts civil war
- Baptist congregations are becoming known
 - possibly forming for the first time
 - possibly coming out of hiding, having formed previously
- Baptist congregations catch the attention of "heresy hunters"
- "A Warning to England, Especially to London"
A Warning for Endland, Especially for London
<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=OTIJAAAAQAAJ&pg=GBS.PA253&hl=en>
 - tale of continental Anabaptists, especially Munster
 - Main figure and "king" in Munster - John of Leyden
 - all manner of misdeeds
 - major conflict involving high government officials, armies, a whole city, death of thousands
 - no mention of countless peaceful Anabaptists, their congregations, the teachings
 - warning that the same could be brewing in London
 - dire threat to Baptists in London

1644

- Westminster Assembly requests statement of faith from "anti-paedo-baptists"
- one month later Baptist confession of faith is published
- critics acknowledge confession is orthodox, but doubt Baptists' sincerity
 - Dr. Daniel Featley: "they cover a little rats-bane in a great quantity of sugar"
- sources
 - Henry Ainsworth - 1596 "True Confession" (minus extreme criticism of Church of England)
 - William Ames - *Marrow of Divinity*

1646

- confession is re-published "corrected and enlarged"
 - influence of formally-educated theologians
 - response to criticism, primarily from Featley

Men who subscribed to 1st and 2nd confessions:

William Kiffen
Hanserd Knollys
Henry Forty

Read aloud first 1 1/2 chapters of "To the Judicial and Impartial Reader" from 1677/89

Read excerpts of First London Confession of Faith (1646)

XXXV on property rights

XXXVI on church government

XXXVII on church rather than government pay for ministers

XXXIX on subjects of baptism

XL on mode of baptism and its symbolism and modesty

XLV on non-ordained preaching

XLVII on Baptist answer to Presbyterian system

XLVIII on civil government, including the then-present civil war

XLIX on Christian conscience, no matter government orders

Conclusion