

02 - 2021-09-14

PRAYER

BIBLE - Psalm 107:23-31

QUIZ - LE QUIZ - LA PRUEBA

Q: What Spanish explorer landed at Galveston in 1528?

A: De Vaca

Q: What Spanish explorer crossed the Texas panhandle in the 1540s?

A: Coronado

Q: What Spanish explorer from De Soto's expedition entered Texas in 1542?

A: Moscoso

Q: What country had la Salle sailed from when he landed in Texas in 1685?

A: France

Q: Before landing in Texas, La Salle was planning to found a colony at the mouth of a certain river. What river?

A: The Mississippi

REVIEW

Three Spanish explorers travelled through Texas in the first half of the 16th century.

None was trying to explore Texas or found a colony there.

Their reports did not encourage Spain to explore or settle Texas.

So it was left with no European settlement or further exploration for nearly 150 years.

TIMELINE

1528 De Vaca lands at Galveston Island

1541 Coronado enters Texas panhandle from west

1542 De Soto expedition enters Texas from northeast

1685 LaSalle lands at Matagorda Bay

ASSIGNMENT

-read chapter 4

History of Texas from Its First Settlement in 1685 to Its Annexation to the United States in 1846: Volume 1; January 1, 1856 [Henderson K. Yoakum](#)

-review class notes

-memorize official timeline

LA SALLE

From Yoakum and other sources

Their source is primarily Sparks *Life of La Salle*, 1744

He worked from primary sources, mostly the journal of Joutel (interesting reading!)

Robert Cavalier, le Sieur de la Salle

-French

-excellent scientific education by the Jesuits

1682, April 7, La Salle was the first European we know of to discover mouth of Mississippi river

-travelling south down the river

-claimed for Louis XIV all the territory watered by the Mississippi from its mouth to its source, and by the streams flowing into it on both sides

Returning to France, LaSalle was commissioned to found a colony in Louisiana

-four ships

- *Joli*, a 36-gun frigate

- the *Belle* a small frigate of shallow draft, 6 guns, a present from the king to La Salle, built for this voyage

some guns were taken by the Americans under Guttierrez at Goliad

- *Aimable* a flyboat 300 tons

- *St. Francis*, a small ketch, carrying munitions

-more than 300 persons

-100 soldiers

-four Recollect fathers (part of Augustinian order)

-three priests of St. Sulpitius

1684, July 24, LaSalle squadron sailed; ship damaged; returned for repairs

1684, August 1, sailed again

-*St. Francis* captured by Spanish

-navigation error put squadron west of Mississippi;

-coasted west until coastline turned south;

-realized their error; needed a place to put in to resupply

1685, Feb 18, La Salle landed Bay of St. Bernard, now known as Matagorda Bay

-this is down the coast from Houston; up the coast from Corpus Cristi

-the *Belle* entered the bay

-the *Amiable* ran aground trying to enter the bay; sank; some stores recovered; most lost

-trade with Indians gone bad, some settlers killed by arrows

-*Joli* with crew of *Amiable* sailed for France march 12

-claimed from Mississippi to Rio Grande for Louis XIV

-abundance of fish and game, including herds of deer and bison

-colonists built fortifications against Indians, shelter

-planted grain

-brought cattle, swine, and fowls, which multiplied and prospered

-one ship had been taken by Spanish en route; one ship lost entering bay; flagship returned to France; ship left was *Belle*, 6 guns; -explored area, named river *Les Vaches* because of number of bison; this name, as Lavaca, is one of few French place names still in use

-spot up Lavaca River more suitable for colony, so old site abandoned and new fort built, named *St. Louis*

-explored eastward; found he was not at all near the Mississippi

-after this expedition, early spring 1686, could not locate the *Belle*

-determined to communicate with the closest French colony in Illinois---2,000 miles!

-April 1686, colony commanded by Joutel; 20 men with La Salle

-performed devotions in the chapel before departing

-met Indians on horses, with boots and spurs (showing contact with Spanish)

-rivers to cross were swollen; *priest named Anastase "carried his breviary in his cowl"

-La Salle and others fell so ill they were detained two months; ammunition very low;

went back to colony, arriving Oct 17, 1686, only 8 men out of 21

-during absence, survivors of *Belle* arrived

-*Belle* lost near southern shore of the bay

-Sieur Barbier and a maiden married; first European wedding in Texas!

-fort improved, including storehouse; colony about 40 people

-January 12, 1687 La Salle set out again for Illinois with 20 men, leaving 20 under Sieur Barbier

-came across a Frenchman, Rutel, who had been separated from La Salle on the Mississippi in 1682! he joined the group

-rivals in the group began murdering one another

-those who had committed murder, then murdered La Salle himself March 20, 1687 by gunshot from ambush

-the rest of the party killed the murderers

-all this violence caused the Indians to view the French as barbarians

-seven remaining men kept travelling; crossed Red River; arrived at Arkansas River; met outer guards of De Tonti from Illinois; through Illinois and Quebec, five men returned to France

-after the death of La Salle, Indians attacked the fort and killed most of the colonists, except for five children, whom they took prisoner; the Spanish expedition of 1689 recaptured them; two of these escaped to France and told their story

-two written account by survivors, one by Douay, one by Joutel, his journal

importance

-obviously no continuous colonization

-reports of the French colony reached Spain; an expedition was sent 1689

-this expedition reported very favorably about the land and the disposition of the Indians, and recommended forts and missions be established all through this country, which they were

From the Bookseller's note on Joutel's journal, as published in English in 1714, paraphrased by JRY

That vast and beautiful country, describ'd in this journal, so much favour'd with worldly blessings, has been for so many ages destitute of the heavenly.

The infinite numbers of people inhabiting the New World are Men, God's Creatures, but do not so much as know, much less serve Him. Those who read the stories of travellers in the New World must return thanks to God's Goodness, for having supplied us with His light and grace, and pray He will impart the same to those poor distress'd Americans, that He will of those stones make Children for Abraham. As brutish as those Savages are, they are still our Brethren, since like us descended from Adam and Noah.

We can never sufficiently express our Gratitude to those who apply themselves to the making of new discoveries. Supposing that Avarice and Ambition are the occasions of such undertakings; yet God makes all those passions subservient to his glory, and the salvation of his elect. The long travels of the travellers prepare the way to the sanctification of so many barbarians, beating a road for the missionaries who go to instruct them.

MORE FROM DEVACA

Melchior Diaz told the interpreter to speak to the Indians in our name and say that he came in the name of God, Who is in heaven, and that we had travelled the world over for many years, telling all the people we met to believe in God and serve Him, for He was the Lord of everything upon earth, Who rewarded the good, whereas to the bad ones He meted out eternal punishment of fire. That when the good ones died He took them up to heaven, where all lived forever and there was neither hunger nor thirst, nor any other wants, only the greatest imaginable glory. But that those who would not believe in Him nor obey His commandments he thrust into a huge fire beneath the earth and into the company of demons, where the fire never went out, but tormented them forever. Moreover, he said that if they became Christians and served God in the manner we directed, the Christians would look upon them as brethren and treat them very well, while we would command that no harm should be done to them; neither should they be taken out of their country, and the Christians would become their great friends. If they refused to do so, then the Christians would ill treat them and carry them away into slavery. To this they replied through the interpreter that they would be very good Christians and serve God.

Upon being asked whom they worshipped and to whom they offered sacrifices, to whom they prayed for health and water for the fields, they said, to a man in Heaven. We asked what was his name, and they said Aguar, and that they believed he had created the world and everything in it. We again asked how they came to know this, and they said their fathers and grandfathers had told them, and they had known it for a very long time; that water and all good things came from him. We explained that this being of whom they spoke was the same we called God, and that thereafter they should give Him that name and worship and serve Him as we commanded, when they would fare very well.

So we bade them come out of the mountains and be at ease, peaceable, and settle the land again, rebuilding their houses. Among these houses they should rear one to God, placing at its entrance a cross like the one we had, and when Christians came, they should go out to receive them with crosses in their hands, in place of bows and other weapons, and take the Christians to their homes, giving them to eat of what they had. If they did so, the Christians would do them no harm, but be their friends. They promised to do as we ordered, and the captain gave them blankets, treating them handsomely, and they went away, taking along the two captives that had acted as our messengers.

This took place in presence of a scribe (notary) and of a great many witnesses.

As soon as the Indians had left for their homes and the people of that province got news of what had taken place with us, they, being friends of the Christians, came to see us, bringing beads and feathers. We ordered them to build churches and put crosses in them, which until then they had not done. We also sent for the children of the chiefs to be baptized, and then the captain pledged himself before God not to make any raid, or allow any to be made, or slaves captured from the people and in the country we had set at peace again. This vow he promised to keep and fulfill so long until His Majesty and the Governor, Nuño de Guzman, or the Viceroy, in his name, would ordain something else better adapted to the service of God and of His Majesty.

After baptizing the children we left for the village of San Miguel, where, on our arrival, Indians came and told how many people were coming down from the mountains, settling on the plain, building churches and erecting crosses; in short, complying with what we had sent them word to do. Day after day we were getting news of how all was being done and completed.

Fifteen days after our arrival Alcaraz came in with the Christians who had been raiding, and they told the captain how the Indians had descended from the mountains and settled on the plains; also that villages formerly deserted were not well populated, and how the Indians had come out to receive them with crosses in their hands, had taken them to their houses, giving them of what they had, and how they slept the night there. Amazed at these changes and at the sayings of the Indians who said they felt secure, he ordered that no harm be done to them, and with this they departed. May God in his infinite mercy grant that in the days of Your Majesty and under your power and sway, these people become willingly and sincerely subjects of the true Lord Who created and redeemed them. We believe they will be, and that your Majesty is destined to bring it about, as it will not be at all difficult.