

Class Session One - INTRODUCTION - 2021-09-07

GIVING GLORY TO GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS ON TEXAS

Texas Today: in a condition of great blessings from God by His mercy

- Bibles
- copies of good Christian books, like *Pilgrim's Progress*
- people who can read, to read the Bible if they want to
- school children being taught to read
- mothers and other adults teaching children what the Bible says, and teaching them to read the Bible for themselves
- churches
- disciples of Jesus Christ

Texas 500 years ago, 1521

- for context
 - that is the year Martin Luther appeared at the Diet of Worms
 - John Calvin was 12
 - King Henry VIII was king of England
 - still married to first wife, Katherine of Aragon
 - first daughter, Mary, was 5 years old
- of all those blessings from God, Texas had none, zero, nada

RECOGNIZING THAT GOD MADE TEXAS

All of Texas history ultimately is the work of God. Ephesians 1:11

- so that this class is not Theology, per se, but we are studying God even as we study the history of Texas; this is His work

God made this place as to the land Acts 17:24

God made this place as to the people Acts 17:25-27

- their life
 - their nationality
 - their times
 - their living in Texas
- This should make us seek the Lord and find Him

God made this place as to the government Romans 13:1

- much of the study of history is a study of who governs and how

These are truths that should govern any study of history.

KNOWING TRUE RELIGION AND HOPING FOR ITS SALUTARY EFFECTS ON TEXAS

B. F. Fuller

"It is the sincere hope of the author that this book may be found an efficient agent in disseminating a sound religious faith, and contributing in an humble way to good government and correct morals." JRY: my purpose in this class, too!

UNDERSTANDING OUR RIGHT AS TEXANS AND AMERICANS TO THE POSSESSION OF THE LAND OF TEXAS

J.M. Morphis

The settlement of Anglo-Americans in Texas, and the causes which led to the Texas Revolution, and the establishment of the Republic of Texas, with a narrative of the principal events which occurred during its existence, constitute the main part of this volume, and vindicate the citizens of Texas as well as those of the United States from the unjust charge of Mexicans that by might, not right, Texas was wrested from Mexico, and made one of the United States.

In this volume, the author's intention has been to show plainly and clearly to the world, that Texans were not only right in throwing off the government of Mexicans, but that they deserve the praise of all good people for changing a wilderness into green fields and happy homes, founding prosperous cities in the whilom haunts of the cruel Comanches, and after ten years' warfare against vastly superior numbers, adding a great State to the American Union, which, may the great, wise, and most merciful God, forever shield, protect, and advance in power, wisdom, and happiness.

MAIN TEXT

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](#)

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read Yoakum chapter 1, pages 13-24
- review class notes
- quiz every week on reading and previous class lecture

This week's timeline dates

1528 De Vaca lands at Galveston Island

1541 Coronado enters Texas panhandle from west

1542 De Soto expedition enters Texas from northeast

SPANISH EXPLORERS OF THE 16TH CENTURY

Alvar Nunez Cabeza De Vaca

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/cabeza-de-vaca-discovers-texas>

see de Vaca's account how he mentions God

map: <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/cabeza-cooking/images/krieger-map.jpg>

1528, November De Vaca lands at Galveston

1527 treasurer of an expedition from Spain to conquer North American mainland

1528, March landed at Tampa Bay

1528, late in the year, 80 survivors of 600 escaped on rafts and landed in Texas

-45 days of deprivation

1532 only 4 of 80 remained alive; departed overland to the west

met a party of Spanish slavers, who took them to Mexico City

a Moorish, black-skinned, Arabic-speaking slave named Estabanico was one

of the four, the others Spanish; he served as a go-between with the natives; he

was, in effect, the first black person and first African in Texas

1536 arrived in Mexico City

1537 returned to Spain

1542 published his account

believed in God's providence, and in His great mercy

refers to himself and all the Spanish as Christians

Hernando de Soto and Luis de Moscoso Alvarado (known as Moscoso)

1539 landed west coast of Florida, perhaps Tampa Bay

explored southeastern U.S.

found and crossed Mississippi river; died there 1541 after naming Moscoso commander

1542 Moscoso party entered Texas from OK, AR, or LA

-traveled generally SW until came to area too dry to support party

-backtracked to Mississippi river

1543 coasted along LA and Texas to arrive in Mexico

1540-42 Coronado

map

<http://www.thearmchairexplorer.com/arizona/a-arizona/national-parks/coronado/expedition-map01.jpg>

1541 cross through Texas panhandle area

-met Indian who had seen De Vaca's party

1542 returned to Mexico

-missed linking up with De Soto coming from the east by a few hundred miles

-Coronado not finding portable wealth, and not valuing the wealth present, Spain did not do much in this area and eventually lost it

Cabeza De Vaca's Mention of God

The way we treated the sick was to make over them the sign of the cross while breathing on them, recite a Pater noster and Ave Maria, and pray to God, Our Lord, as best we could to give them good health and inspire them to do us some favors. Thanks to His will and the mercy He had upon us, all those for whom we prayed, as soon as we crossed them, told the others that they were cured and felt well again.

So badly was I treated that I had to flee three times from my masters, and they all went in my pursuit ready to kill me. But God, Our Lord, in His infinite goodness, protected and saved my life.

This caused them great admiration and moved us to thanks to Our Lord and to greater faith in His goodness and the hope that He would save us, guiding us to where we could serve Him. For myself I may say that I always had full faith in His mercy and in that He would liberate me from captivity, and always told my companions so.

We . . . explained as best we could that if they would believe in God, Our Lord, and be Christians like ourselves, they would not have to fear . . .

We came across a great variety and number of languages, and God our Lord favored us with a knowledge of all, because they always could understand us and we understood them, so that when we asked they would answer by signs, as if they spoke our tongue and we theirs; for, although we spoke six languages, not everywhere could we use them, since we found more than a thousand different ones. In that part of the country those who were at war would at once make peace and become friendly to each other, in order to meet us and bring us all they possessed; and thus we left the whole country at peace.

We told them, by signs which they understood, that in Heaven there was a man called God, by us, who had created Heaven and earth, and whom we worshipped as our Lord; that we did as he ordered us to do, all good things coming from his hand, and that if they were to do the same they would become very happy; and so well were they inclined that, had there been a language in which we could have made ourselves perfectly understood, we would have left them all Christians. All this we gave them to understand as clearly as possible, and since then, when the sun rose, with great shouting they would lift their clasped hands to Heaven and then pass them all over their body. The same they did at sunset. They are well conditioned people, apt to follow any line which is well traced for them.

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 now 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.