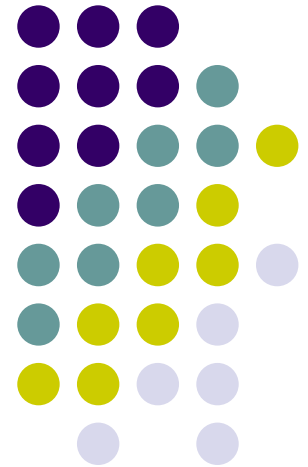
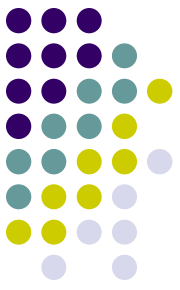


Baptist History

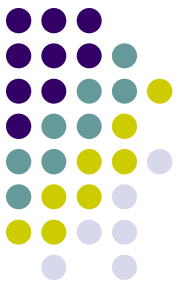
Lesson 6





Queen Elizabeth I

- Appointed John Whitgift as Archbishop of Canterbury. Whitgift was intent on getting everyone to conform to the Church of England.
- Whitgift shared hatred of Puritans with Elizabeth
- “This man was thorough in all he did, especially if souls were to be snared, or persons of real piety to be punished. He seems to take a malicious delight in bending the laws over to the side of persecution; and when no law existed which could thus be used, he either made or sought to procure one.”
(Fletcher’s “History of Independency,” Volume II, Pg. 145.)



Queen Elizabeth I

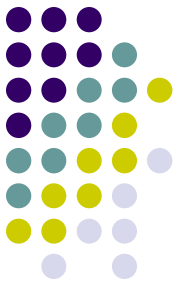
- Baptists started fleeing the country again or some even tried to blend in while waiting for better times.
- Many Baptists fled to Holland.
- Cook's "Story of the Baptists," says in 1575, a congregation of Baptists was formed near Aldersgate, London. Some of these were banished, 27 were imprisoned and two were burned in Smithfield.

Jan Pietersz Wagenmaker and Hendrick Terwoort

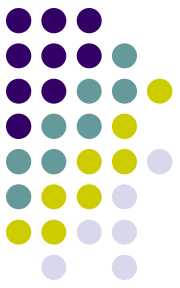


- Imprisoned for having an Anabaptist meeting in Aldersgate.
- Terwoort was 26, while Pietersz was older. His first wife had been martyred.
- “We are sorry that you do not understand our matter. We seek with our whole heart to serve the one God and Christ, in a good conscience, and to edify our neighbor, as far as possible in us lies.”

Jan Pietersz Wagenmaker and Hendrick Terwoort



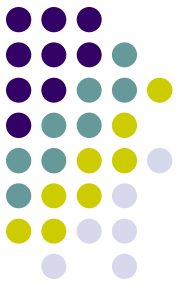
- “Therefore we gladly receive what the Holy Spirit testifies, and wish to be permitted to adhere to the plainness and simplicity of the Word of God.”
- This message was sent, along with a petition for release, but they were not released and were burned at the stake on July 22, 1575.



Congregationalists

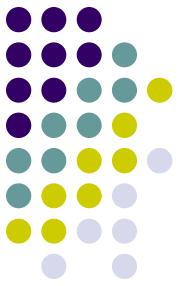
- With the evacuation of dissenters to Holland came the rise of the Congregationalists. This was more of a movement in church polity, or the way churches operated, than a denomination.
- Robert Browne is considered the Father of the Congregationalists.
- Browne went to Norwich, a town that had many Dutch Baptists, in 1580.

Congregationalists



- Many ideas similar to Baptists as far as church polity is concerned because these people believed the church should be a local body.
- Browne fled to Middleburg, Zealand, (Netherlands) in 1582 and his church was broken up. Many went with the Baptists.
- “A while after they were come hither, divers of them fell into the errors of the Anabaptists, which are too common in these countries, and so persisting, were excommunicated by the rest.” (Johnson, “An Inquire and Answer of Thomas White, pg. 68)

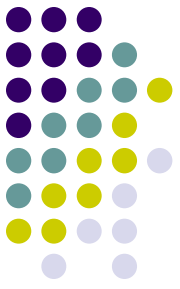
King James I



King James I



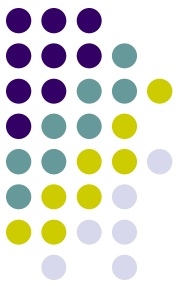
- People started asking questions about the established order of things in this period.
- James had been a Presbyterian in Scotland, but changed to Episcopalian when he came to England.
- Once again, people fled England or just hid.



End of an Era

- April 11, 1612, Edward Wightman was burned at the stake.
- He was the last person in England burned at the stake for heresy.
- Dispute over why he was executed.
- From William Sawtre, the first person martyred in England for heresy to Wightman was a span of 212 years.”

Wightman



Baptists and Religious Freedom



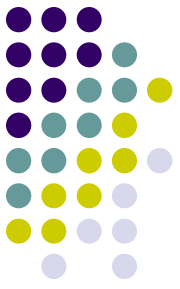
- These people understood the importance respect political leadership held, they just wanted to worship in their own way.
- Displayed “an astonishing progress in the knowledge of religious freedom” – Price in “History of Protestant Nonconformity in England.”

Leonard Busher



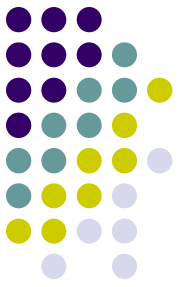
- Lived from 1573-1651
- A follower of Browne and later a Baptist (Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia)
- Good friend of Thomas Helwys
- “How much more ought Christians, when as the Turks do tolerate them? Shall we be less merciful than the Turks? Or shall we learn the Turks to persecute the Christians?”
- “That for the more peace and quietness, and for the satisfying of the weak and simple, among so many persons differing in religion, it be lawful for every person or persons, yea, Jews and papists, to write dispute, confer and reason, print and publish any matter touching religion, either for or against whomsoever, always provided they allege no Fathers for proof of any point of religion, but only the holy Scriptures.” (Busher, Religious Peace, or A Plea for Liberty of Conscience, Page 51)

Thomas Helwys



- Considered a General Baptist
- Fled to Amsterdam, but wife remained in London and was arrested
- Returned to England and wrote King James a letter in 1612. Also sent a copy of his book along.
- Helwys was imprisoned for the content of the letter and book and died in prison in 1616.

Thomas Helwys' Letter to James



For are o King, and dispise not y
counsell of y^e poore, and let their
complaints come before thee.

The King is a mortall man, & not God
therefore hath no power over y^e immortal
soules of his subiects, to make lawes &
ordinances for them, and to set spirituall
Lords over them.

If the King have authority to make
spirituall Lords & lawes, then he is
an immortal God, and not a mortall
man.

A King be not seduced by deceivers
to sin se against God whom thou
oughtest to obey, nor against thy
poore subiects who ought and will
obey thee in all thinges with body
life and goods, or els let their lives
be taken from y^e earth.

God Save y^e Kinge

Spittlefield
neare London.

Tho. Helwys.

