

Baptist History

Lesson 7

The Particular Baptists, King Charles I
and the English Civil Wars

Particular Baptists

- Had Calvinistic ideas on salvation, as opposed to General Baptists, who believed salvation was a free gift available to all who would accept it.
- Not as numerous as the General Baptists, but still influential
- Crosby said there were these two divisions beginning with the Reformation.

Particular Baptists

- In 1650, Daniel King wrote a book called, “A Way to Zion, Sought and Found, for Believers to Walk in.” The three main points of the book were:
 - There has always been a true church since Christ
 - Saints have power to reassume ordinances if they’ve been discontinued due to persecution
 - The ordinances should always continue in the church

Particular Baptists

- Many Particular Baptists broke off from the Independent church, which was led by Henry Jacob.
 - Baptist ministers that came from that church include: John Spilsbury, William Kiffin, Hanserd Knollys and Henry Jessey.

Particular Baptists

- Sprinkling is getting to become the norm as the form of baptism.
- Particular Baptists wrote a Confession of Faith in 1644: ““That the way and manner of dispensing this ordinance is dipping or plunging the body under water; it being a sign, must answer the thing signified, which is, that interest the saints have in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and that as certainly as the body is buried under water, and rises again, so certainly shall the bodies of the saints be risen by the power of Christ in the day of the resurrection, to reign with Christ.”

Particular Baptists

- Thomas Crosby wrote of the confession in Volume I, Page 170, “The Baptists never did anything that more effectually cleared them from the charge of being dangerous heretics, than did this.”
- By 1644, there were seven Particular Baptists Churches in London and 47 in other parts of England.

King Charles I



King Charles I (1600-1649)

- Reigned from 1625-1649
- People didn't like the fact that he and his policies seemed to bring the Church of England closer to Catholicism.
- Believed the king should be above the law
- “He had inherited from his father, political theories, and was much disposed to carry them into practice. He was like his father, a zealous Episcopalian. He was moreover, what his father had never been, a zealous Arminian, and though no papist, liked a Papist much better than a Puritan.” (Macaulay, History of England, I, p. 64)

William Laud



William Laud

- Appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633.
- Accelerated Civil Wars because of his policies.
- Enjoyed ceremonies, holy days and vigils – in other words he had some Catholic tendencies that made people nervous.
- Aimed at making everyone conform to the Church of England
- Sought out even the smallest congregations of dissenters

William Laud

- Macaulay wrote of Laud: “He was rash, irritable, quick to feel his own dignity, slow to sympathize with the suffering of others, and prone to this error, common in superstitious men, of making his own peevish and malignant moods for emotions of pious zeal. Under his direction every corner of the realm was subject to constant minute inspection.”