

## A Chronology of Events Affecting the Church of Christ from the First Century to the Restoration

These notes draw dates and events from timelines of [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com). The interpretation of events and the application of scripture to these events, as they affect the church of Christ, which was built by the Lord (Matt 16:18), remain the responsibility of this writer.

### 8. The 17<sup>th</sup> Century and the Age of Reason

1561-1626 Francis Bacon



Wikipedia the free encyclopedia

Bacon was an English philosopher, statesman, scientist, lawyer, jurist and author. His works established the inductive methodologies for scientific inquiry, called the scientific method.

Bacon was the beginning of a movement to bring reason to the forefront in scientific inquiry. At this same time, many began to emphasize individual reason and inquiry into the understanding of the scriptures, which were newly available in common language versions of the Bible – a clear move to reestablish the New Testament tradition and teaching:

Acts 17:11-12: “11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

2 Tim 2:15-16: “15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

2 Peter 1:20: 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation.” NASU.

The use of reason and inquiry by individuals, studying the evidence in the scriptures, will lead to the restoration of New Testament Christianity. Thus the restoration movement of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries burned from a spark of reason thus ignited by the Age of Reason and the availability of Bibles in common languages.

1564-1642 Galileo Galilei

Galileo was an Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer and philosopher who played a major role in the Scientific Revolution. His achievements include improvements to the telescope and consequent astronomical observations, and support for Copernicanism.

1588-1679 Thomas Hobbes

Thomas Hobbs was an English philosopher. His 1651 book, *Leviathan*, established the foundation for most of Western political philosophy regarding social contract theory. A social contract implies that the people give up their sovereignty to a government or other authority in



Wikipedia the free encyclopedia

1596-1650

René Descartes

Franchoisz Hals 1666

Wikipedia the free encyclopedia

order to receive or maintain social order through the rule of law. Social contract theory contends that legitimate state authority must be derived from the consent of the governed.

If individuals are endowed by God with inalienable natural rights, it stands that they are also endowed by God to read and understand the scriptures without the interference of ecclesiastical orders or political entities. Once again what was happening during the Age of Reason will liberate men to restore New Testament Christianity.

Descartes was a French philosopher, mathematician, physicist, and writer who spent most of his adult life in the Dutch Republic. He has been dubbed the "Father of Modern Philosophy." *Cogito ergo sum* (French: *Je pense donc je suis*; English: *I think, therefore I am.*) is a philosophical statement in Latin used by Descartes, which became a fundamental element of Western philosophy.

1607

Jamestown, Virginia, is settled

The first permanent English colony in North America.

1608

Quebec City founded by Samuel de Champlain in New France (present-day Canada).

This began the Roman Catholic influence in the New World.

1609



Baptist Church founded by John Smyth

Smyth objected to infant baptism and demanded church-state separation.

John Smyth (ca. 1570–ca. August 28, 1612) was an early Baptist minister of England and a defender of the principle of religious liberty. Historians consider John Smyth as a founder of the Baptist denomination.

In 1609, Smyth, along with a group in Holland, came to believe in believer's baptism (as opposed to infant baptism) and they came together to form one of the earliest Baptist churches. Baptists believe that baptism is a sign of obedience to God. Baptists also believe that baptism by immersion is pictorially symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

First, Smyth insisted that true worship was from the heart and that any form of reading from a book in worship was an invention of sinful man. This rejection of liturgy remains strong among many Baptists still today. Prayer, singing and preaching had to be completely spontaneous. Second, Smyth introduced a twofold church leadership, that of pastor and deacon. This was in contrast to the

		<p>Reformational trifold leadership of Pastor-Elder, Lay-Elders, and Deacons.</p> <p>Before his death, Smyth moved away from his Baptist views and began trying to bring his flock into the Mennonite church.</p>
1609-1610	Douay-Rheims Bible	<p>1st Catholic English translation, OT published in two volumes, based on an unofficial Louvain text corrected by Sistine Vulgate, NT is Rheims text of 1582. Wikipedia.</p>
1611-1800	King James Version (Authorised Version)	<p>This version is based primarily on Wycliffe's work and Bishop's Bible of 1572. The translators are accused of being "damnable corrupters of God's word". The original included Apocrypha.</p>
1620	<p>The Puritan Pilgrims arrive aboard the Mayflower at Cape Cod</p>  <p>"Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor," by William Halsall, 1882 at Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA</p> <p>Wikipedia the free encyclopedia</p>	<p>The Puritan movement originated in England as Reformed or Calvinist in an effort to reform the Church of England. Its origins lay in the discontent with the Elizabethan Religious Settlement. They sought a Church of England more like the Protestant churches of Europe, especially Geneva. "The Puritans objected to ornaments and ritual in the churches as idolatrous (vestments, surplices, organs, genuflection), which they castigated as "popish pomp and rags". (See Vestments controversy.)" [Wikipedia] They also objected to the Book of Common Prayer and the imposition of its liturgical order by legal force.</p> <p>The later Puritan movement were often referred to as Dissenters and Nonconformists and eventually led to the formation of various Reformed denominations.</p> <p>The Puritans who emigrated to America were the Puritan separatists from the Anglican Church of England, who fled first to Holland, and then to America, becoming as English colony of New England.</p> <p>These Puritan separatists were "the pilgrims" who fled to America for peace, freedom and opportunity.</p>
November 11, 1620	<p>Mayflower Compact</p> <p><b>The Mayflower Compact, 1620</b></p>  <p>Description: Passengers of the Mayflower signing the</p>	<p>"In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc.</p> <p>Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern Parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws,</p>

"Mayflower Compact" including Carver, Winston, Alden, Myles Standish, Howland, Bradford, Allerton, and Fuller. Postcard published by The Foundation Press, Inc., 1932. The Pageant of a Nation. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620"

The Mayflower Compact is the first example of a social contract in America.

1630

City upon a Hill, a sermon by John Winthrop



John Winthrop preached this sermon to the founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony while still aboard the ship, Arabella in 1630. The image was taken from Matt 5:14: "14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."

The city Christ spoke of had to be the city of God, the New Jerusalem which is described as a heavenly city. Heb 11:16 states: "Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them." This followed by Heb 11:10: "10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." And Heb 12:22-23: "22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. Finally, Heb 13:14 excludes earthly cities: "14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come."

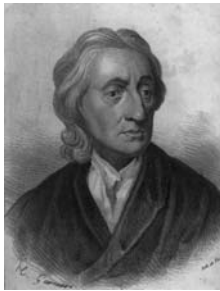
However, Winthrop's use of this image gave rise to the widespread belief in American folklore that the United States of America is God's country because metaphorically it is a Shining City upon a Hill. It will surface in the millennial thinking of Alexander Campbell during the American Restoration movement via the Enlightenment Movement emerging from New England. Also modern political strategists and politicians use the allusion to identify a higher calling for their visions of America, even to the separation of believers and non-believers and Christians and non-Christians.

On 9 January 1961, President-Elect John F. Kennedy used the phrase during an address delivered to the General Court of Massachusetts: "I have been guided by the standard John Winthrop set before his shipmates on the flagship Arbella three hundred and thirty-one years ago, as they, too, faced the task of building a new government on a perilous frontier. "We must always consider", he said,

"that we shall be as a city upon a hill – the eyes of all people are upon us".

President Ronald Reagan used the image as well, in his 1984 acceptance of the Republican Party nomination and in his January 11, 1989 farewell speech to the nation.

1632-1704 John Locke



Locke was an English philosopher and physician regarded as one of the most influential of Enlightenment thinkers. Empiricism and social contract theory merged in his thinking.

His writings influenced Voltaire and Rousseau, many Scottish Enlightenment thinkers, as well as the American revolutionaries. His contributions to classical republicanism and liberal theory are reflected in the American Declaration of Independence.

1641 John Cotton

He advocated of theonomy, helps to establish the social constitution of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Theonomy was a system of Christians ethics based on Biblical teachings. Theo=God and nomy=law.

1643 – 1727 Sir Isaac Newton, an English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist, and theologian.

Newton is considered by many scholars and members of the general public to be one of the most influential people in human history. Most know of his theory of gravity and many scientific contributions; but most important to the church were his studies of 1 John 5:7 and 1 Timothy 3:16 in the dissertation: *An Historical Account of Two Notable Corruptions of Scripture*. First published in 1754, 27 years after his death, the dissertation reviewed all the textual evidence available from ancient sources on two disputed Bible passages: 1 John 5:7 and 1 Timothy 3:16. This present study will deal with Newton contribution to the Enlightenment and the deistic views of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

1648 George Fox founds the Quaker movement.  
Magnus Manske on en.wikipedia



The Religious Society of Friends began in England in the late 1640s. The Quaker founder is generally accepted to have been George Fox who believed that it was possible to have a direct experience of Jesus Christ without the mediation of clergy. In the first few years of the movement, Quakers thought of themselves as part of the restoration of the true Christian church after centuries of apostasy. During this period they often referred to themselves as simply the "saints". The term "Quaker" was originally applied to them by their opponents as a way of making fun of them. Many Quaker churches are incorporated as The Religious Society of Friends. In the Massachusetts Bay colony, Friends were banished on pain of death – some were hanged on Boston Common for returning to preach their beliefs. Today, Quakers are known for their world-wide peace efforts.

- 1650

James Ussher, calculates date of creation as October 23, 4004 BC.

The Ussher chronology is a 17th-century chronology of the history of the world formulated from a literal reading of the Bible. The chronology is often associated with Young Earth Creationism, which holds that the universe was created only a few millennia ago.

Today some biblical scholars, as well as a number of literalist evangelical Christians, believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible calling for a 6000-year-old Earth.
- 1682

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn in 1682, as a safe place for Friends (Quakers) to live in and practice their faith.
- 1684

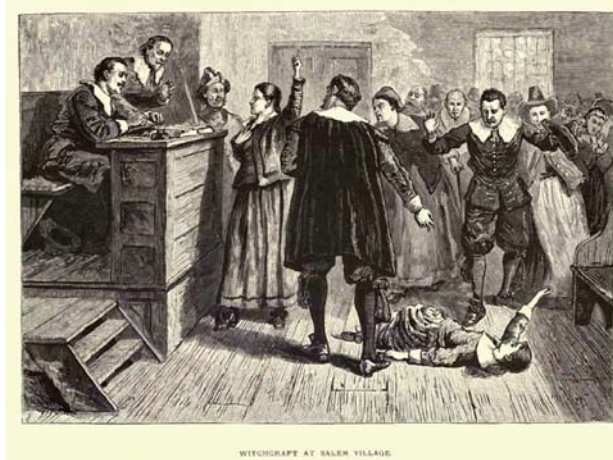
Roger Williams (theologian)

He advocated of Separation of church and state and founded Providence, Rhode Island.
- 1692

Salem witch trials in Colonial America

The Salem witch trials were a series of hearings before local magistrates followed by county court trials to prosecute people accused of witchcraft.

Over 150 people were arrested and imprisoned. Two courts convicted twenty-nine people of the capital felony of witchcraft. Nineteen of the accused, fourteen women and five men, were hanged. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)



Public domain, "Pioneers in the Settlement of America" by William A. Crafts. Vol. I Boston: Samuel Walker & Company, 1876.

- 1693

Jacob Amman founder of Amish

The Amish Mennonite movement descends from the 16th century fellowship known as the Swiss Brethren. The Swiss Brethren were Anabaptists. The history of the Amish church began with a schism within a group of Swiss and Alsatian Anabaptists in 1693 led by Jakob Amman. Those who followed Amman became known as Amish.