

A 17TH CENTURY TIMELINE

DATE	RULERS	KEY EVENTS AFFECTING PARTICULAR BAPTISTS
1600	James I 1603-1625 Strong Protestant sympathies.	Puritans (inside CofE) and Separatists (outside CofE) suppressed by Elizabeth I. 1594 Richard Hooker began to publish <i>The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity</i> against Puritans, polity based on Scripture, reason and tradition. Set the pattern for 17C Anglicanism. 1605 Catholic Gunpowder plot fails.
1610		Increasing tensions between King and Parliament. 1611 KJV published, 47 Anglican translators. 1616 Formation of the 'Jacob, Lathrop, Jessey' (JLJ) Independent church in Southwark.
1620		1620 Mayflower pilgrims arrive in Cape Cod seeking religious freedom.
1630	Charles I 1625-1649 m. Catholic queen. High Church/Catholic sympathies, believed in divine right of kings.	1629-1640 Tensions such that Charles rules without Parliament. 1630s PBs emerge out of JLJ congregation. By 1644 there are at least 7 PB churches, William Kiffin prominent. 1633-1645 Archbishop William Laud in power (though deposed and imprisoned 1640). Promoted Arminianism, High Church practices, including apostolic succession, strong opposition to Puritans and Separatists. Attempted to impose Anglican uniformity and persecution of opponents.
1640		1642-1646 First Civil War between Charles I and Parliament. 1643 Westminster Assembly begins to meet, produces Westminster Confession of Faith, Catechisms etc. Basis for Presbyterianism. 1644 First London Confession of Faith adopted by 7 PB churches. Hanserd Knollys becomes pastor of a PB church in 1645. 1648 Second Civil War followed by trial and execution of Charles I.
1650	Commonwealth 1649-1660 Oliver Cromwell 1649- 1658, Richard Cromwell 1658-1659. Decided Protestants.	Under Cromwell compulsory attendance at CofE parish church no longer required. All kinds of religious groups allowed to meet freely. 1658 Savoy Declaration of Faith (similar to Westminster Confession of Faith) produced by the Independents.
1660	Restoration of Stuart monarchy Charles II 1660-1685 Secret Catholic with decided sympathies. Concealed treaty with Louis XIV (Catholic king of France).	1660 Charles II returns as monarch. 1662 Act of Uniformity imposes Book of Common Prayer. Conformity to Anglican worship now required. About 2000 preachers ejected from their livings. 1664 First Conventicle Act, gatherings outside the CofE declared illegal. Five Mile Act and other repressive measures against Dissenters, often called 'the Clarendon Code'. 1668 Benjamin Keach comes to London, becomes PB pastor in Southwark. 1670 Second Conventicle Act, stricter measures imposed against Dissenters meeting together.
1670		1677 What became the Second London Confession of Faith compiled (adopted by the PB National Assembly in 1689), drew heavily on the Westminster Confession and Savoy Declaration in order to show oneness of mind with fellow Dissenters.
1680	James II 1685-1689 Openly professed Catholicism since 1669.	1681-1686 Most intense period of persecution against Dissenters since 1660. 1685 The Monmouth Rebellion fails, severe reprisals at the 'Bloody Assizes', about 300 executed.
1690	William III and Mary II 1689-1702 Decided Protestants.	1689 'The Glorious Revolution', James II flees and the Dutchman William of Orange invades England after an invitation to become king. Mary had married William in 1677. 1689 Act of Toleration, recognises Dissenters, limited freedoms granted them but effectively remain second-class citizens. 1689 First National Assembly of PBs meets in London. 100+ congregations represented.