

English Civil War and Cromwell

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Romans 13:1-7

When should Christians obey the government?

How should Christians change a godless government?

Today's lesson organized: *English Civil Wars Overview, Oliver Cromwell, The Confessions, Religion in England*

English Civil Wars Overview

Prelude to war:

1625—King James I died and his son Charles I became the King of England, Scotland and Ireland

1626—Charles I dismissed Parliament over disagreements about disastrous foreign wars

1628—Charles I recalled the Parliament, but is forced to sign the Right of Petition (limited the King's powers)

1629—Charles I dismissed Parliament and does not recall till the year 1640. Time of Personal Rule

1633—William Laud is appointed by the King to be the Archbishop of Canterbury

1637—Charles I tried to force the Presbyterian Church of Scotland to be Anglican

1639-1640—The Bishop's Wars

1640:

April—Charles I called Parliament back to session to pay for the Bishop's Wars

May—The King dissolved Parliament (known as the Short Parliament)

October—Charles I unhappily signed the Treaty of Ripon after losing to the Scots

November—Charles called Parliament back to session

December—Parliament (known as the Long Parliament) was given the Root and Branch Petition by non-MP leaders that wanted to rid the Church of England of Bishops and other non-local church hierarchy

1642:

January—Charles I tried to arrest five members of Parliament on at the House of Commons

February—The House of Commons voted to exclude bishops from the House of Lords

March—The House of Commons voted to give the right of appointing military leaders to the Parliament

June—The King rejected the Parliament's Nineteen Propositions

July—The King and the Parliament began to prepare for military conflict

October-December—Both sides believed that one battle would end the conflict, but four major battles between Parliament's forces and the King's forces in 1642 with no overall resolution.

1643-1647

Many battles fought between the Royalists (Cavaliers) and the Parliament Forces (Roundheads)

Early on the Royalists were winning, that led to the Scots joining with the Parliament.

The Parliament starting winning battles but failed to take any advantage, so the Parliament set up the New Model Army (the first centrally funded and professional army in England).

At the Battle of Naseby, the Parliament won decisively and the Scots took King Charles I into custody.

October-November – The Putney Debates: The main leaders of the New Model Army called for a constitutional monarchy, but the Levellers wanted an end to the monarchy; one *man*, one vote, and freedom of religion.

November 11—King Charles I escaped and eventually Royalist forces were prepared to fight for him again.

Second English Civil War 1648:

February- August 1648—several battles take place between supporters of the king v. Parliament's New Model Army. This time when King Charles I was taken into custody, the mood had changed among many of the leaders. This time they want to be rid of the King.

December – Pride's Purge, Colonel Thomas Pride removed all of the opponents of sweeping change from the Parliament. The 50+ members that remained were derisively referred to as the "Rump Parliament"

1649:

January—King Charles I was tried for treason, found guilty and beheaded

February—The Rump Parliament voted to end the monarchy, Oliver Cromwell became the main leader

October—John Milton published a document defending the removal and beheading of the Charles I

1650-1651:

Several battles with Scotland and Ireland. Scotland tried to make Charles II their king. Charles II eventually fled to France.

1652-1660:

April 1653—Cromwell disbanded the Parliament. The country is run by Cromwell, this situation is known as the Protectorate.

September 1658—Oliver Cromwell died. His son became the Lord Protector.

May 1659—Richard Cromwell resigned as Lord Protector (eventually he left England for his own safety)

January 1660—Charles II is crowned the King and the monarchy is restored

Oliver Cromwell

I. Early Life

A. Family Heritage

1. Could trace their lineage to Thomas Cromwell
2. Most of the time went by Williams
3. Were upper middle class

B. Good, but not great set to be rich and powerful

1. His father was the second born son
2. Was able to get a good education
3. Father died when he was 20
4. This ended his studies at Cambridge

II. Young Man

A. Getting established

1. Got married
2. Several children born in this marriage
3. Served on the local Common Council

B. A step down

1. His grandfather sold the family properties
2. He insulted the mayor and was forced to apologize
3. He moved to a less prominent area
4. Raised sheep and chickens
5. He rented land and could easily have sold his animals to move to America
6. It did not take a personal crisis for a Puritan to want to leave King Charles's version of Christianity. "It had become normal thing to do... it is estimated that 17,000 Puritans made the hazardous journey across the Atlantic to escape the religious policies of Charles and Laud." (Hobson, p. 19) One of Cromwell's friends helped organize emigration to New England.

C. Trying to follow God's will

1. Often moody and had a bad temper (insulting the mayor)
2. October 1638, he wrote a letter to a relative describing his conversion: He was transformed from the chief of sinners who had hated godliness and had lived in and loved darkness into a man rescued by God.
3. His conversion was the work of the Almighty because he was incapable of changing himself.
4. He believed God had selected him for a special purpose.

III. The Center of Change

A. From near nothingness to national leader

1. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1660.
2. He liked to give speeches in Parliament, but was not a leader
3. He backed the leadership and ideas of John Pym
4. November 1641-The "Grand Remonstrance" (from John Pym) was presented to King Charles I. It had over 200 points. One clause called out the bishops calling them the "corrupt part of the clergy, who cherish formality and superstition"
5. Cromwell stated that he would have sold everything and moved to New England if the House of Commons had not passed the Grand Remonstrance.
6. July 1642, Cromwell obtained permission to raise and organize a militia.
7. Even though Cromwell had no military training or experience, he excelled in organizing, drilling, and leading troops. (including the ability to control and re-organize the troops after they made a charge in battle)
8. He also recognized that the most important aspect of military in this conflict would be a first-class cavalry.
9. He exercised strong discipline. No swearing, no drunkenness, no desertion, no referring to themselves as "Roundheads"
10. He also made sure that they were well fed and had regular payment.
11. Because of his demonstration of leadership and effectiveness, Cromwell rose in rank to second in command of Parliament's reorganized army.

B. Unique position of military leader and a member of Parliament

1. With the capture of the king the civil war was over
2. Cromwell worked to satisfy the army, the Parliament, and the king
3. With the escape of the king, his diplomatic efforts were in vain and a second civil war erupted.

C. Back to military leader

1. He led the army in 3 main battles to win the Second Civil War
2. He was part of the group that decided guilt and punishment of the king
3. He led the army against rebellions from the Irish and the Scots
4. Eventually, he became the leader (Lord Protector) of the three nations (England, Scotland, and Ireland). The new constitution gave him ruling power with the help of a council and Parliament.

D. Lord Protector

1. The state church became a Puritan Church
2. Religious toleration- all Christians were allowed to worship as they pleased as long as they did not promote disorder or unrest.
3. Promotion of education—more schools and better schools
4. Appointment of good judges
5. Reduction of severe punishments for minor crimes

6. Jews admitted into the country
7. Ended the Anglo-Dutch War (he did not think Protestant countries should fight each other)
8. He turned down the offer of Parliament to make him a king.
9. He tried several different ways of ruling, however, when he died from malaria the country was ready to go back to a monarchy.
10. His time of ruling contributed greatly to the development of a constitutional government and religious toleration.

The Confessions

I. Westminster Assembly

- A. During the First Civil War a gathering of the best theologians
 1. They had the freedom to work and act
 2. There were leaders from many groups: Presbyterians, Independents, moderate Episcopalians, and others.
- B. They developed the Westminster Confession, The Larger Catechism, The Shorter Catechism and the handbook of worship.
- C. Chapter One of the Westminster Confession is on the Scriptures:
 1. 1. Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence, do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable;^a yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, which is necessary unto salvation;^a therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his Church;^a and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the Church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing;^a which maketh the holy Scripture to be most necessary;^a those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased.^f
 2. Names the books of the Bible
 3. Statements on the Apocrypha, the authority of the Scriptures, the infallibility of the Scriptures
 3. 6. The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.^a Nevertheless we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word;^a and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.^c
- D. Chapter Nine is on the Free Will of Man
 1. God hath endued the will of man with that natural liberty, that is neither forced nor by any absolute necessity of nature determined to good or evil.^a
 - a. Deut 30:19; Mat 17:12; James 1:14.

2. Man, in his state of innocency, had freedom and power to will and to do that which is good and well-pleasing to God,^a but yet mutably, so that he might fall from it.^b

3. Man, by his fall into a state of sin, hath wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation;^a so as a natural man, being altogether averse from that good,^b and dead in sin,^c is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto.^d

4. When God converts a sinner, and translates him into the state of grace, he freeth him from his natural bondage under sin,^a and by his grace alone enables him freely to will and to do that which is spiritually good;^b yet so as that, by reason of his remaining corruption, he doth not perfectly, nor only, will that which is good, but doth also will that which is evil.^c

5. The will of man is made perfectly and immutably free to good alone, in the state of glory only.^a

II. Other Confessions

A. 1689 Baptist Confession

B. Savoy Confession

Religion in England during the wars and under Cromwell

I. Grim time for Anglicans (Under the Long Parliament)

A. Upwards of 2,000 clergy were removed from their parishes

1. Book of Common Prayer abolished (Replaced with Westminster Directory for Public Worship)

2. Many celebrations were made illegal including Christmas and Easter

II. Good times for other groups

A. Independents

1. Allowed to form churches

2. Could worship in public without fear of persecution

3. Over 100 churches sent representatives to the Savoy assembly in 1658

4. Most were Calvinist including: William Bridge and Thomas Brooks

5. Cromwell associated more strongly with the Independents and many served in leading roles in Cromwell's government.

B. Baptists

1. In 1651, there were as many as 30 Arminian Baptist churches

2. By 1660, there were 115 Arminian Baptist churches

3. Calvinistic Baptist churches were not enthusiastic about forming a denomination

4. By 1660, there were at least 130 Calvinistic churches that met in association groups

5. Calvinistic theologians included Henry Jessey, William Kiffin, and John Bunyan.

C. Other groups

1. Fifth Monarchists- looked to the imminent establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth using the Army as God's instrument

2. Ranters- embraced anarchy

3. Seekers- personal searching – met in silence until someone was inspired to speak

4. Quakers- founded by George Fox- also known as Friends of the Truth

No Bible exposition. Every person has received from the Lord a measure of light which, if one follows, will lead to the Light of Life.

