

PRAYER

QUIZ

1. In the Baptist general assembly in London in 1689, about how many congregations were represented?
2. Did the assembly consider the Baptist congregations in general to be doing well, or in general to be doing poorly?
3. Name at least one of the two cities in America where a version of the confession was re-printed over the next two centuries. Philadelphia and Charleston
4. According to our author, was King William III a good king who was unpopular in his time, or a bad king who was popular in his time?
5. After William of Orange became William III of England, did Scotland accept him as their king, also?

TIMELINE

- 1509 King Henry VIII ascends the throne of England
- 1526 Tyndale's complete New Testament in English is printed
- 1534 The Act of Supremacy officially separates the Church of England from the pope
- 1547 King Edward VI ascends the throne
- 1553 Queen Mary I ascends the throne
- 1558 Queen Elizabeth I ascends the throne
- 1560 Geneva Bible is published
- 1588 Spanish Armada is defeated
- 1603 King James I ascends the throne
- 1604 In the Hampton Court Conference, King James agrees to a new Bible translation
- 1611 Authorized or King James Version is published
- 1625 King Charles I ascends the throne
- 1628 The Petition of Right Is Passed
- 1640 The Long Parliament Convenes
- 1642 The English Civil War begins
- 1643 The Westminster Assembly convenes
- 1644 The First London Baptist Confession is published
- 1653 Oliver Cromwell is appointed Lord Protector
- 1658 Oliver Cromwell dies
- 1660 King Charles II ascends the throne in the Restoration
- 1677 The Second London Baptist Confession is published
- 1685 King James II ascends the throne
- 1689 King William III and Queen Mary II ascend the throne in the Glorious Revolution
- 1689 Baptists hold a general assembly in London
- 1689 The English Bill of Rights is passed**

## READING ASSIGNMENT

English Bill of Rights (1689)

U.S. Declaration of Independence (1776)

U.S. Bill of Rights (1791)

Texas Declaration of Independence (1836)

## BIBLE

1 Timothy 1:13-14

## LESSON - Declaration of Right/Bill of Rights

-crown offered on condition of accepting the Declaration of Right  
-later an act of Parliament---the "Bill of Rights"

Prince William of Orange called for a convention parliament, which met in 1689, and presented the Declaration of Right to William and Mary, as the basis on which they would be welcomed to rule. They received it, and were named monarchs.

The contents of that Declaration of Right were passed as a statute in December 1689, and that statute is what is meant by the Bill of Rights. Full title: An Act Declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject and Settling the Succession of the Crown.

The Bill of Rights is still in effect, and is considered part of the Constitution of all 16 countries of the British Commonwealth.

The Bill of Rights was considered by the American colonists to be part of their constitution.

The Bill of Rights was very influential in the drafting of the U.S. Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Bill of Rights.

## List of Grievances Against King James II

[Only items connected to U.S. documents are excerpted here.]

*Whereas the late King James the Second, by the assistance of divers evil counsellors, judges and ministers employed by him, did endeavour to subvert and extirpate the Protestant religion and the laws and liberties of this kingdom;*

*By committing and prosecuting divers worthy prelates for humbly **petitioning** to be excused from concurring to the said assumed power; [1st Amendment]*

*By raising and keeping a standing army within this kingdom in time of peace without consent of Parliament, and **quartering soldiers contrary to law**; [3rd Amendment]*

*By causing several good subjects being Protestants to be **disarmed** at the same time when papists were both armed and employed contrary to law; [2nd Amendment]*

*By prosecutions in the Court of King's Bench for matters and causes cognizable only in Parliament, and by divers other arbitrary and illegal courses; [1st Amendment]*

*And whereas of late years*

*-partial corrupt and **unqualified persons** have been returned and **served on juries** in trials, and particularly divers jurors in trials for high treason which were not freeholders; [6th Amendment]*

*-And **excessive bail** hath been required of persons committed in criminal cases to elude the benefit of the laws made for the liberty of the subjects; [8th Amendment]*

*-And **excessive fines** have been imposed; [8th Amendment]*

*-And illegal and **cruel punishments** inflicted; [8th Amendment]*

## Statement of Reason for This Change of Government

*in order to such an establishment as that their religion, laws and liberties might not again be in danger of being subverted*

## Claim to the Right of Establishing Government as They Best Judge Will Preserve their Rights

*now assembled in a full and free representative of this nation, taking into their most serious consideration the best means for attaining the ends aforesaid*

## **List of Powers Denied to the Government and Rights Belonging to the People**

*That it is the right of the subjects to petition the king, and all commitments and prosecutions for such petitioning are illegal;*

*That the subjects which are Protestants may have arms for their defence suitable to their conditions and as allowed by law;*

*That the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament;*

*That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted;*

### **Claim to These Rights Being Unalienable**

*And they do claim, demand and insist upon all and singular the premises as their undoubted rights and liberties, and that no declarations, judgments, doings or proceedings to the prejudice of the people in any of the said premises ought in any wise to be drawn hereafter*

### **Statment of Rulers Being Chosen to Preserve the People's Rights**

*Having therefore an entire confidence that his said Highness the prince of Orange will perfect the deliverance so far advanced by him, and will still preserve them from the violation of their rights which they have here asserted, and from all other attempts upon their religion, rights and liberties, the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons assembled at Westminster do resolve that William and Mary, prince and princess of Orange, be and be declared king and queen of England*

### **Praise to God for Good Rulers**

*And the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, seriously considering how it hath pleased Almighty God in his marvellous providence and merciful goodness to this nation to provide and preserve their said Majesties' royal persons most happily to reign over us upon the throne of their ancestors, for which they render unto him from the bottom of their hearts their humblest thanks and praises*

*a certainty in the succession thereof, in and upon which the unity, peace, tranquility and safety of this nation doth under God wholly consist and depend*

## **Insistence on a Protestant Monarch**

*whereas it hath been found by experience that it is inconsistent with the safety and welfare of this Protestant kingdom to be governed by a popish prince, or by any king or queen marrying a papist, the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons do further pray that it may be enacted, that all and every person and persons that is, are or shall be reconciled to or shall hold communion with the see or Church of Rome, or shall profess the popish religion, or shall marry a papist, shall be excluded and be for ever incapable to inherit, possess or enjoy the crown and government of this realm*

NOTE: the disqualification of anyone married to a Roman Catholic was removed in the 16 countries in 2015

## **Desire for This Law to Be Permanent**

*All which their Majesties are contented and pleased shall be declared, enacted and established by authority of this present Parliament, and shall stand, remain and be the law of this realm for ever;*

Which it has, except for the provision dis-allowing a monarch who is married to a Roman Catholic.

It is important to me for you to know that the American colonists in the 1760s and 1770s who declared independence from Great Britain were following very closely the precedent set by Parliament in 1688-89, which was then less than 100 years earlier. Then, when the Texians declared independence from Mexico in 1836, they were repeating the same process.