

# Puritanism Notes

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Please take notes on a blank page OR in your notebook.

# History of the Church of England

- Originally a conflict of authority between church and state
  - Magna Carta (1215) declares that “English church is separate from its government”
- Reformed in early 1500s by Henry VIII
  - Rumor that it was because the Pope would not grant his divorce
  - Spent most of his reign as King challenging Roman authority
- Church given some formal structure in 1562 by Queen Elizabeth I
  - Binding factors include shared beliefs (Holy Bible) and tradition (Book of Common Prayer)

# Developing Separation

- Church of England retained many Roman Catholic values, which Puritans rejected
  - Puritans wished to “purify” the church of these Catholic values
- Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603; her successor was James I
  - Asserted his own “divine right” and supported English Catholics
  - Puritans felt repressed by this and desired to separate from the Church
  - Wished to build “City on a Hill” to show how truly righteous and godly people should live

# Puritanism

**Puritans:** Protestant reformers who wanted to “purify” the Church of England

*Why did they want to reform the Church?*

- Emphasis on the righteousness of God
- God directed all things by His will
- Differed from existing Catholic point of view (priests were holier than the rest of the congregation)
- Partial to the teachings of the Old Testament
- Believed human beings were depraved sinners; **SOME** (not all) could earn salvation

# Puritan Beliefs

- Religion was the most influential cultural force
- Values and beliefs directed all aspects of life
  - Thrift, hard work, responsibility, religion
- Human struggle with sin was a daily mission to overcome
  - The Bible was a tool to use for this; it helped overcome all weaknesses
- Believed in eternal punishment
  - Some could be spared by faithfully following values approved by God
- Tended to be inflexible in religious faith and intolerant of other views

# “Of Plymouth Plantation”

- Written by William Bradford between 1630 and 1651
- Details the Puritans’ journey from England to Massachusetts and their experiences in the New World
- Intended this to be a work to be read repeatedly for many years after its origination

# YOUR TASK:

1. Open Google Classroom on your Chromebook and click on the “Excerpts from...” .
2. Make an Actively Learn account (use school email)
  - a. 2nd period: v08ss
  - b. 5th period: v0ibh
3. Read through “Of Plymouth Plantation” on your own or with a partner.
4. Answer the questions as they appear; click “submit” after each response.