

World Religions

The Founding of America

A. A Place of Providence- “Plymouth & the 13 Original Colonies”

1. The peak of the “Colonial Period”- The race to the “New World”- England vs. Spain & Portugal
 - a. Spain & Portugal colonialism supported Christopher Columbus & Amerigo Vespucci
 - b. English Colonialism consisted of Separatists, Puritans, English Protestants
2. Did Christopher Columbus actually discover America?
 - a. The Spanish Throne & Christopher Columbus- 1492
 - The purpose & mission for Columbus’ journey
 - Discover a new route to India
 - b. Christopher Columbus actually made four transatlantic expeditions to the Americas between 1492 and 1504.
 - First Voyage (1492–1493): Landed in the Bahamas, Cuba, and Hispaniola, believing he had reached the East Indies.
 - Second Voyage (1493–1496): Explored more of the Caribbean islands, including Puerto Rico and Jamaica.
 - Third Voyage (1498–1500): Reached the mainland of South America at the Orinoco River.
 - Fourth Voyage (1492–1504): Charted parts of the Central American coast, including Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama
 - c. Major Spanish Explorers/Conquistadors-
 - Hernán Cortés (1547)- A Spanish conquistador who led an expedition that caused the fall of the Aztec Empire and brought large portions of mainland Mexico under the rule of the King of Castile in the early 16th century
 - Francisco Pizarro- Renowned for his 1532 expedition in which he conquered the Incan Empire, executing the Incan Emperor Atahualpa and claiming the vast wealth of Peru for Spain.
 - Juan Ponce de León (1521)- A Spanish explorer and conquistador who led the first official European expedition to Florida in 1513, which he named while searching for legendary riches.
 - Vasco Núñez de Balboa (1519)- A Spanish explorer, governor, and conquistador who became the first European to cross the Isthmus of Panama in 1513, reaching the shores of the Pacific Ocean.
 - Francisco Vázquez de Coronado (1554)- Led a major expedition between 1540 and 1542 through the American Southwest (exploring parts of modern-day Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, and Texas) in search of the fabled golden Cities of Cibola.
 - Hernando de Soto (1541)- Led the first European expedition deep into the territory of the modern-day southeastern United States and became the first European documented to have seen and crossed the Mississippi River in 1541
 - Juan de Onate (1599)- Led a group of colonizers into Northern New Mexico
 - Pedro de Peralta (1610)- Formally founded Santa Fe in 1610

3. English Colonization and the Jamestown Settlement in the Colony of Virginia was the first permanent English settlement in the Americas.

a. Virginia Colony- Established for commercial gain by the Virginia Company of London as "James Fort" on May 4, 1607; Consisted of 214 original settlers of which only 60 survived the winter of 1609

- It was located on the northeast bank of the James River, about 2.5 mi southwest of present-day Williamsburg (you can say hi to Jim & Linda McCormick)

b. The Puritans & Protestants

- The true founding of the United States of America has its roots in the gospel of Jesus Christ and religious freedom sought by the Puritans
- The entire purpose of the migration of the Puritans also known as the pilgrims was completely different from that of the Jamestown settlement and the Spanish conquistadores
- The pilgrims sought religious freedom and more importantly to propagate the gospel
- The original Mayflower group was a local assembly in England
- The passing of the Uniformity Act of uniformity by Elizabeth I required all English citizens to embrace Anglicanism.
- The result was a Puritan separatist movement of independent Bible believing people
- In September of 1620 a group of 102 Puritans set sail from Plymouth England arriving November 11th, 1620 on the northern tip of Cape Cod with 102 people
- They set up their first settlement and named it Plymouth (Plymouth Rock)
- The first Thanksgiving was actually their first harvest in the new world in October of 1621
- William Bradford was the leader of the initial group and was responsible for drafting the Mayflower Compact" as the initial governing document which revealed their Statement of Purpose- "Advance the Christian Faith"
- Between 1629 & 1640, 20,000 pilgrims made their way to America
- Their main doctrines- Salvation by grace alone; believers baptism; and the belief in the authority of the Bible
- Their educational system had two basic tenets- First, learn to read so you can read the Bible and Second, learn a trade so you can do an honest day's work.

b. The 13 Original Colonies- Chronological order- The Puritans & Protestants

- Virginia (1607) - Founded at Jamestown
- Massachusetts (1620) – Settled by the Pilgrims at Plymouth
- New Hampshire (1623)
- New York (1624) - Originally established by the Dutch; captured by the British in 1664.
- Maryland (1634).
- Connecticut (1636).
- Rhode Island (1636).
- Delaware (1638) - First settled by the Swedes; taken over by the Dutch and later the British.
- North Carolina (1663).
- South Carolina (1663) - Established as the Province of Carolina and later split into North and South.
- New Jersey (1664) - Settled by the Dutch; came under British control shortly after.
- Pennsylvania (1681).
- Georgia (1733)

B. A People of Providence- “Founding Fathers & The Missionaries”-

1. **The Founding Fathers-** The Founding Fathers held a diverse mix of religious beliefs, ranging from orthodox Christianity to rationalist Deism. While most came from Protestant backgrounds, many key architects of the Constitution embraced the Enlightenment, believing in a Creator who set natural laws in motion but generally rejecting orthodox doctrines like the Trinity. The philosophical/religious spectrum among the Founders generally falls into three main categories:

a. **Theistic Rationalism & Deism-** Many of the most influential Founders valued human reason over religious dogma. They believed in a supreme being who created the world but did not typically intervene in human affairs

- Thomas Jefferson- Known for the "wall of separation between church and state", he famously created his own version of the Bible (the *Jefferson Bible*) by cutting out references to miracles and divinity, focusing only on the moral teachings of Jesus.

- Benjamin Franklin- He believed in a Creator and a system of morality, though his views on Christianity were varied

- James Madison- The primary author of the Constitution and the First Amendment, Madison strongly believed in the separation of church and state to protect both civil liberties and religious freedom

b. **Traditional Christians-** Many other signers and statesmen maintained their Christian beliefs

- John Adams: Raised a Congregationalist, he was deeply religious, attended church frequently, and saw faith as a critical component of public morality.

- John Jay: A devout Episcopalian who served as the first Chief Justice, he actively promoted Christian values in both his public and private life.

- Patrick Henry: Known for his strong evangelical leanings, he heavily advocated for religious virtue

c. **Moderates & Influential Figures-** George Washington: Often described as a religious rationalist or deist, he was an Anglican/Episcopalian who frequently spoke of "Providence". His personal religious tenets were "few and simple," avoiding specific denominational doctrines in his public addresses.

2. **The Missionaries-** Godly Men used to propagate the Gospel

a. **George Whitfield (1714-1770)-** George Whitfield conducted seven separate campaigns throughout the New England colonies from 1738 to 1769

- He had 40,000 converts during his revivals which resulted in about 150 churches being started

- Columbia University was founded as a result of his revivals and dedicated to the training of pastors he is best known for being the father of the first great awakening

b. **Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)-** Jonathan Edwards was born on October 5th 1703 and the son of a pastor

- He graduated from Yale in 1720 at age 17 and immediately began preaching the word of God

- He is best known for his famous message titled “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” which resulted in thousands getting saved

- Jonathan Edwards was bold in his assertion that without the new birth a man is not saved

c. **John Wesley (1703-1791)-** Founder of the Methodist Church

- Wesley was born June 17th, 1703 in Keithly, England

- His father was a minister in the Anglican church, and his mother Susanna Wesley kept a prayer journal praying for her son

- He came to know the Lord after being witnessed by some Moravian missionaries on the way to the Georgia colony
- Was famous and known for being a strong prayer warrior

- d. David Brainerd (1718-1747)- Known as one of the great unknown heroes of the faith
- He was born April 20th, 1718 and came from a long line of Bible believing ministers on both sides of his family
 - He was ordained in 1744 and worked among the Native American Indians for only three years until his death at age 29 to tuberculosis
 - David Brainerd kept a prayer journal of his life experiences that became one of the greatest contributions to the work of Jesus Christ
 - There is a building at Yale University dedicated named in his honor called Brainerd hall

NOTE: Book- “50 People Every Christian Should Know”- Learning from the Spiritual Giants of the Faith, by Warren Weirss

C. A Purpose for Providence- “The Seven Great Awakenings”-

1. Missions and reaching the world became the driving force in the lives of the “People of Providence”
2. They begin to establish theological schools to develop & train a generation of leaders to reach the world:
 - a. The “Ivy League” Schools-
 - Brown University (1764)- Providence, Rhode Island
 - Columbia University (1754)- New York City, New York
 - Cornell University (1865)- Ithaca, New York
 - Dartmouth College- (1769)- Hanover, New Hampshire
 - Harvard University (1636)- Cambridge, Massachusetts
 - Princeton University (1746)- Princeton, New Jersey
 - University of Pennsylvania (1755)- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 - Yale University (1701)- New Haven, Connecticut

NOTE: Harvard University’s official motto is *Veritas*, which is Latin for "Truth".

The motto has a long history that reflects the evolution of the institution: **Current & Most Famous: Veritas** (Truth). It is emblazoned in capital letters across three open books on the university's official shield. **Historical: Veritas Christo et Ecclesiae** (Truth for Christ and the Church). This was the university's motto starting in 1692, reflecting its original Puritan roots before it secularized into a modern research institution

3. They begin to establish theological schools to develop & train a generation of leaders to reach the world:
 - First Great Awakening (1720-1740)- George Whitfield & Jonathan Edwards
 - Second Great Awakening (1800- 1830)- James McGready & Peter Cartwright in Cumberland Valley and the creation of the circuit riding preachers
 - Third Great Awakening (1830-1850)- Charles Finney and Daniel Nash reaching New York
 - Fourth Great Awakening (1850-1860)- George Williams (YMCA) and William Booth creates the Salvation Army
 - Fifth Great Awakening (1880-1860)- DL Moody revives Chicago
 - Sixth Great Awakening (1890-1930)- Mordecai Ham and the “Tent Meetings”
 - Seventh Great Awakening (1950-1970)- Billy Graham and the stadium crusades