

### Evolution of Protestantism

- ⊗ **Martin Luther & the reformation**
  - ⊕ Bible alone is the source of God's word;
  - ⊕ Faith alone determines salvation
- ⊗ **John Calvin further defines**
  - ⊕ God is all-powerful but also all-good;
  - ⊕ Humans weak and wicked, due to **Original Sin**;
  - ⊕ Predestination:
    - God knows beforehand who is saved and who is damned;
    - The **Elect** were those chosen by God for salvation;
    - Even Elect could not know for certain if saved;
    - No way to work one's way into Heaven;
    - Desire to do **Good Works & Conversion Experience** indicated likelihood of salvation, indicated **Visible Saints**.

### Protestantism in England

- ⊗ **Henry VII** breaks with Catholic Church & form **Church of England (Anglican Church)**
- ⊗ **Further English Protests**
  - ⊕ **Puritans** seek to further purge Catholic elements & restrict Church membership to converted only.
  - ⊕ **Separatists/Pilgrims** fully break from Anglican Church
    - Both forced & fled from England
    - Feared corrupting influence in Holland (Dutchification);
    - Secured charter from Virginia Co. & found **Plymouth** in 1617.
    - Outside jurisdiction of Virginia Co, develop **Mayflower Compact** allowing for majority rule & participation of all adult males at **Town Meetings**.
    - **William Bradford**, most powerful leader, sought to encourage settlement by distributing land in 1623.

### Massachusetts Bay Colony

- ⊗ **Great Puritan Migration**
  - ⊕ Charles I dismissed Parliament in 1629 & sanctioned persecution of Puritans;
  - ⊕ More than 50,000 Puritans flee England; and
  - ⊕ Ended with success of **Cromwell** in the English Civil War (1642-49)

- ✿ **Founding of the "Bible Commonwealth"**
  - ⊕ **John Winthrop** defined **Covenant Theology**
    - "We shall be as a city upon a hill."
    - Religious experiment, model to the world, surrounded by threats.
  - ⊕ Complex mix of Church & State
    - **Congregational Church--Established** meaning taxes of believers & non-believers alike supported it;
    - Purpose of government was to enforce God's laws;
    - Town Meetings allowed all free adult males to participate;
    - Later only Visible Saints, full members allowed to vote.

## Declension?--Religious Challenges

- ✿ **Quakers**--Believed in Inner Light, not theology or authority of Puritan clergy.
- ✿ **Anne Hutchinson & Antinomian Crisis**
  - ⊕ Elect did not need to obey the law of man or God because pre-destined;
  - ⊕ Held prayer meetings with other women to discuss sermons of John Cotton, who originally supported her;
  - ⊕ Declared a Heretic when claimed had received direct revelation from God.
- ✿ **Roger Williams & "Liberty of Conscience"**
  - ⊕ Believed colony illegitimate because land was stolen;
  - ⊕ Called for strict **Separation of Church & State**
    - Civil Government Should only have authority over civil crimes;
    - No one should be forced to join church.
  - ⊕ Banished, went on to form **Rhode Island** colony.
- ✿ **Half-Way Covenant**
  - ⊕ Growing population, spread out beyond control of the Church;
  - ⊕ Decrease in Conversions, especially among later generations whose experiences were not formally recognized by Church authorities;
  - ⊕ In 1662, Church recognized partial membership of those baptized at birth but having no conversion experience.
- ✿ **Salem Witch Trials (1692)**
  - ⊕ Response to economic, political, social & cultural upheaval;
  - ⊕ All filtered through Puritan belief in evil & acceptance of its presence;
  - ⊕ **Cotton Mather, Samuel Parris** & other clergy supported, but ended when outside authority intervened.

## **Salem Witch Trials & Political Instability**

- ✿ Political Shifts in England
  - ⊕ Charles I beheaded at end of English Civil Wars (1649)
  - ⊕ Cromwell the Protector (1653-1658)
  - ⊕ Charles II & Restoration of monarchy (1660)
  - ⊕ James II & Catholic England (1685)
  - ⊕ Glorious Revolution places William & Mary on throne (1688)
- ✿ Colonial Political Challenges under James II
  - ⊕ Revoked the Massachusetts Charter (1685)
  - ⊕ Attempted to unite Massachusetts, New Jersey & New York as Dominion of New England (1686)
  - ⊕ Attempted to establish Church of England; dissolve colonial assemblies & town meetings & garrison English military in Boston all further angered Puritans.

## **Religion & the Salem Witch Trials**

- ✿ Rev. Samuel Parris at the center of controversy.
  - ⊕ Parris had a growing following, increasingly challenging established clergy;
  - ⊕ Those making accusations of witchcraft tended to be accusers while prominent followers of mainstream Salem clergy were accused.
- ✿ Cotton Mather originally supported trials, perhaps as sign of increasing religious fervor.
- ✿ Everything filtered through Puritan theology:
  - ⊕ "City upon a hill," surrounded by evil & "burdened" with God's constant gaze;
  - ⊕ Predestination suggested that there were no random occurrences--all part of God's plan;
  - ⊕ Satan & evil were not abstract notions but real entities that could manifest themselves.

## **Salem Witch Trials & King Philip's War**

- ✿ Metacom became leader of Wampanoag in 1662, but war did not break out until 1675;
- ✿ Partially a response to pressures from Puritans for Native American conversion, specifically creation of "praying towns;"
  - ⊕ More directly a response to conflict over land:
  - ⊕ Puritan use of Partible Inheritance divided landholdings generation after generation;
  - ⊕ Frontier was only source of for large tracts of land.
- ✿ Puritan association of wilderness & Indians with evil, demons & the Devil clearly played a role;
- ✿ Though war ended in 1676, devastation of war (20% of military men killed) was still being felt in 1692.