



SAVED TO SERVE

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THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, CHAPTER 16—THE PILGRIM FATHERS

1. What is the title of chapter 16 of *The Great Controversy*? _____
2. What does the word pilgrim mean? Answer: A wanderer, a traveler, a person who travels to a distant place from his own country.
3. Note: This chapter opens to us the account of God's people, God's pilgrims, fleeing from their own country to another distant land. In previous chapters of this book, God's people had to flee from their own countries in Europe from persecution. The only difference with the previous chapters and this chapter is one of location. The Pilgrim Fathers are seen, in this chapter, fleeing the countries of Europe to America.
4. What happened at the opening of the seventeenth century? What did the Puritans conclude? _____

At the opening of the seventeenth century the monarch who had just ascended the throne of England declared his determination to make the Puritans "conform, or . . . harry them out of the land, or else worse."--Hunted, persecuted, and imprisoned, they could discern in the future no promise of better days, and many yielded to the conviction that for such as would serve God according to the dictates of their conscience, "England was ceasing forever to be a habitable place."--Some at last determined to seek refuge in Holland. Difficulties, losses, and imprisonment were encountered. Their purposes were thwarted, and they were betrayed into the hands of their enemies. But steadfast perseverance finally conquered, and they found shelter on the friendly shores of the Dutch Republic. {GC 290.2}

5. What steps did the Church of England take in order to become a persecuting church of the Protestant Reformers?

The English Reformers, while renouncing the doctrines of Romanism, had retained many of its forms. Thus though the authority and the creed of Rome were rejected, not a few of her customs and ceremonies were incorporated into the worship of the Church of England. {GC 289.1}

But the church, being supported by the civil authority, would permit no dissent from her forms. Attendance upon her service was required by law, and unauthorized assemblies for religious worship were prohibited, under penalty of imprisonment, exile, and death. {GC 290.1}

"Arizona State Senator Proposes A Bill For Mandatory Church Attendance On Sunday... I believe what's happening to our country is that there's a moral erosion of the soul of America," she said. "It's the soul that is corrupt. How we get back to a moral rebirth I don't know. Since we are slowly eroding religion at every opportunity that we have. Probably we should be debating a bill requiring every American to attend a church of their choice on Sunday to see if we can get back to having a moral rebirth..." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGvctqvDsag&sns=fb>

6. Note: The United States of America is shaping up to repeat to a greater extent the persecutions that occurred in England in the 17th century.

7. Why did God permit these trials and persecutions to come upon the Reformed Churches? _____

God had permitted trials to come upon His people to prepare them for the accomplishment of His gracious purpose toward them. The church had been brought low, that she might be exalted. God was about to display His power in her behalf, to give to the world another evidence that He will not forsake those who trust in Him. He had overruled events to cause the wrath of Satan and the plots of evil men to advance His glory and to bring His people to a place of security. **Persecution and exile were opening the way to freedom.** {GC 291.2}

8. In the midst of persecution, where did the Reformed Churches see the hand of God pointing? _____

In the midst of exile and hardship their love and faith waxed strong. They trusted the Lord's promises, and He did not fail them in time of need. His angels were by their side, to encourage and support them. **And when God's hand seemed pointing them across the sea, to a land where they might found for themselves a state, and leave to their children the precious heritage of religious liberty, they went forward, without shrinking, in the path of providence.** {GC 291.1}

9. Note: Likewise, God allowed persecution to befall the Hebrews in Egypt, then came their deliverance. God led the Hebrews across the Red Sea, and then into Canaan, the land of refuge from persecution.

10. The scripture that shows the accounts of this chapter, the Reformed Churches, the Puritans, the Pilgrims, fleeing persecution and finding an asylum in America is Revelation 12:6,14-17.

11. Let us read Revelation 12:14,16.

12. Who does the woman represent? Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2 _____

13. What time period "Time, Times, and 1/2 Time" represents 1260 years of Papal persecution from A.D. 538 to A.D. 1798.

14. See Revelation 11:2 and the following statement.

The periods here mentioned--"forty and two months," and "a thousand two hundred and threescore days"--are the same, alike representing the time in which the church of Christ was to suffer oppression from Rome. The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798. At that time a French army entered Rome and made the pope a prisoner, and he died in exile. Though a new pope was soon afterward elected, the papal hierarchy has never since been able to wield the power which it before possessed. {GC 266.3}

15. Who does the serpent and the dragon represent that cast water, like a flood, after the woman to kill her? Revelation 12:9; Revelation 17:15, 1-5

16. Note: The flood also represents persecution from ungodly men. See Isaiah 59:19; Psalm 18:4.

17. What is said to help the woman? Revelation 12:16

18. Which nation is likened unto an earth that is seen rising into prominence, during the time when the reign of the Papacy is coming to an end? Revelation 13:1-10,11

19. What words did John Robinson, the pastor of the refugees, leave with the Pilgrims? What solemn covenant did the Puritans take? What is the true spirit of reform, the vital principles of Protestantism? Read Proverbs 4:18

When first constrained to separate from the English Church, the Puritans had joined themselves together by a solemn covenant, as the Lord's free people, **"to walk together in all His ways made known or to be made known to them."** **Here was the true spirit of reform, the vital principle of Protestantism.** It was with this purpose that the Pilgrims departed from Holland to find a home in the New World. John Robinson, their pastor, who was providentially prevented from accompanying them, in his farewell address to the exiles said: {GC 291.3}

"Brethren, we are now erelong to part asunder, and the Lord knoweth whether I shall live ever to see your faces more. But whether the Lord hath appointed it or not, **I charge you before God and His blessed angels to follow me no farther than I have followed Christ. If God should reveal anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as ever you were to receive any truth of my ministry; for I am very confident the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth out of His holy word.**"-- {GC 291.4}

"For my part, **I cannot sufficiently bewail the condition of the reformed churches, who are come to a period in religion, and will go at present no farther than the instruments of their reformation.** The Lutherans cannot be drawn to go beyond what Luther saw; . . . and the Calvinists, you see, stick fast where they were left by that great man of God, who yet saw not all things. This is a misery much to be lamented; for though they were burning and shining lights in their time, yet they penetrated not into the whole counsel of God, but were they now living, would be as willing to embrace further light as that which they first received."-- {GC 292.1}

20. What were the Pilgrims' objective when they arrived in America? However, what did they do instead?

It was the desire for liberty of conscience that inspired the Pilgrims to brave the perils of the long journey across the sea, to endure the hardships and dangers of the wilderness, and with God's blessing to lay, on the shores of America, the foundation of a mighty nation. Yet honest and God-fearing as they were, the Pilgrims did not yet comprehend the great principle of religious liberty. The freedom which they sacrificed so much to secure for themselves, they were not equally ready to grant to others. "Very few, even of the foremost thinkers and moralists of the seventeenth century, had any just conception of that grand principle, the outgrowth of the New Testament, which acknowledges God as the sole judge of human faith."-- **The doctrine that God has committed to the church the right to control the conscience, and to define and punish heresy, is one of the most deeply rooted of papal errors.** While the Reformers rejected the creed of Rome, they were not entirely free from her spirit of intolerance. The dense darkness in which, through the long ages of her rule, popery had enveloped all Christendom, had not even yet been wholly dissipated. Said one of the leading ministers in the colony of Massachusetts Bay: **"It was toleration that made the world antichristian; and the church never took harm by the punishment of heretics."**--**The regulation was adopted by the colonists that only church members should have a voice in the civil government. A kind of state church was formed,** all the people being required to contribute to the support of the clergy, and the magistrates being authorized to suppress heresy. Thus the secular power was in the hands of the church. **It was not long before these measures led to the inevitable result --persecution.** {GC 292.3}

21. Note: "Trump signs executive order to 'vigorously promote religious liberty'" <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/03/politics/trump-religious-liberty-executive-order/>

Pope and Trump focused on life, religious freedom and conscience, Vatican says <https://cruxnow.com/pope-trump/2017/05/24/pope-trump-focused-life-religious-freedom-conscience-vatican-says/>

"The Constitution of the United States guarantees liberty of conscience. Nothing is dearer or more fundamental. Pope Pius IX, in his Encyclical Letter of August 15, 1854, said: 'The absurd and erroneous doctrines or ravings in defense of liberty of conscience are a most pestilential error--a pest, of all others, most to be dreaded in a state.' The same pope, in his Encyclical Letter of December 8, 1864, **anathematized 'those who assert the liberty of conscience and of religious worship,' also 'all such as maintain that the church may not employ force.'** {GC 564.5}

"Pope Francis: freedom of expression has limits" <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/15/pope-francis-limits-to-freedom-of-expression>

"Pope Francis: religion should not be confined to 'personal conscience'" The orderly development of "a civil, pluralistic society requires" that the "authentic spirit of religion" not be "confined" to "personal conscience" but that its significant role in the construction of society is recognized," said Pope Francis in his remarks to the Italian president." http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/04/18/pope_religion_should_not_be_confined_to_personal_conscience/1137800

22. What did Roger Williams, a Pilgrim, establish in America, 11 years after the planting of the first Colony? _____

Eleven years after the planting of the first colony, Roger Williams came to the New World. Like the early Pilgrims he came to enjoy religious freedom; but, unlike them, he saw --what so few in his time had yet seen--that this freedom was the inalienable right of all, whatever might be their creed. He was an earnest seeker for truth, with Robinson holding it impossible that all the light from God's word had yet been received. Williams "was the first person in modern Christendom to establish civil government on the doctrine of the liberty of conscience, the equality of opinions before the law."--He declared it to be the duty of the magistrate to restrain crime, but never to control the conscience. "The public or the magistrates may decide," he said, "what is due from man to man; but when they attempt to prescribe a man's duties to God, they are out of place, and there can be no safety; for it is clear that if the magistrates has the power, he may decree one set of opinions or beliefs today and another tomorrow; as has been done in England by different kings and queens, and by different popes and councils in the Roman Church; so that belief would become a heap of confusion."-- {GC 293.1}

23. What did Roger Williams oppose? _____

Attendance at the services of the established church was required under a penalty of fine or imprisonment. "Williams reprobated the law: the worst statute in the English code was that which did but enforce attendance upon the parish church. To compel men to unite with those of a different creed, he regarded as an open violation of their natural rights; to drag to public worship the irreligious and the unwilling, seemed only like requiring hypocrisy. . . . 'No one should be bound to worship, or,' he added, 'to maintain a worship, against his own consent.' "What!" exclaimed his antagonists, amazed at his tenets, 'is not the laborer worthy of his hire?' 'Yes,' replied he, 'from them that hire him.'"-- {GC 294.1}

24. What did the people and leaders do to Roger Williams? What were the reasons? _____

Roger Williams was respected and beloved as a faithful minister, a man of rare gifts, of unbending integrity and true benevolence; yet his steadfast denial of the right of civil magistrates to authority over the church, and his demand for religious liberty, could not be tolerated. The application of this new doctrine, it was urged, would "subvert the fundamental state and government of the country."-- He was sentenced to banishment from the colonies, and, finally, to avoid arrest, he was forced to flee, amid the cold and storms of winter, into the unbroken forest. {GC 294.2}

25. What State did Roger Williams establish upon the principles of civil and religious liberties that became the asylum for the oppressed? _____

Making his way at last, after months of change and wandering, to the shores of Narragansett Bay, he there laid the foundation of the first state of modern times that in the fullest sense recognized the right of religious freedom. The fundamental principle of Roger Williams's colony was "that every man should have liberty to worship God according to the light of his own conscience."-- His little state, Rhode Island, became the asylum of the oppressed, and it increased and prospered until its foundation principles--civil and religious liberty--became the cornerstones of the American Republic. {GC 295.1}

26a. Rhode Island is the smallest State in the United States of America. It "became the asylum of the oppressed, and it increased and prospered until its foundation principles--civil and religious liberty--became the cornerstones of the American Republic."

The Vatican is the smallest State or country in the World. It's objective is to destroy the civil and religious liberty.

There is a country in the world smaller than New York City's Central Park and one with a population smaller than a typical high-school class. Based on landmass, Vatican City is the smallest country in the world...Situating on the western bank of the Tiber River, Vatican City's 2-mile border is landlocked by Italy. The official seat of the pope of the Catholic Church since 1377, Vatican City was not declared an independent state until the Lateran Treaty of 1929." <http://www.history.com/news/ask-history/what-is-the-smallest-country-in-the-world>

"Its territory is surrounded by the Italian capital city Rome, and priests and nuns of many nationalities make up almost all of the population." <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17994868>

At 8:17, Donald Trump entered the world's smallest state. <http://www.lastampa.it/2017/05/24/vaticaninsider/eng/the-vatican/donald-trump-faces-the-pope-who-wants-to-break-down-all-walls-zlQuXPkzgttGbv4YH6blO/pagina.html>

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26b. Read Daniel 7:8,25,20,21 regarding the Papacy.

26c. Donald Trump faces the Pope who wants to break down all walls <http://www.lastampa.it/2017/05/24/vaticaninsider/eng/the-vatican/donald-trump-faces-the-pope-who-wants-to-break-down-all-walls-zlQuXPkzgttGbv4YH6blO/pagina.html>

"Thomas Jefferson's Wall of Separation" <http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/controversy/politics-and-the-church/thomas-jefferson-s-wall-of-separation.html>

"Thomas Jefferson's Wall of Separation...Two hundred years ago this New Year's Day, Thomas Jefferson penned a letter to a Baptist association in Danbury, Connecticut in which he said the First Amendment built "a wall of separation between church and state." <https://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9806/danbury.html>

26d. Read Daniel 7:20,21 and the following report.

“ Trump faces a higher authority: Pope Francis” <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/05/19/trump-vatican-pope-francis-238522>

Melania Trump reveals she is Catholic: The First Lady shares her faith with the world after meeting the Pope as the first Catholic to live in White House since JFK...Melania Trump's spokeswoman confirms that she's a Catholic...The first lady met with Pope Francis on Wednesday at the Vatican, where he blessed a rosary for her

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4539392/Melania-Catholic-White-House-Kennedy.html>

"Now I would ask a strange question," said Latimer. "Who is the most diligent bishop and prelate in all England? . . . I see you listening and hearkening that I should name him. . . . I will tell you: it is the devil. . . . He is never out of his diocese; call for him when you will, he is ever at home; . . . he is ever at his plow. . . . Ye shall never find him idle, I warrant you. . . . Where the devil is resident, . . . there away with books, and up with candles; away with Bibles, and up with beads; away with the light of the gospel, and up with the light of candles, yea, at noondays: . . . down with Christ's cross, up with purgatory pickpurse; . . . away with clothing the naked, the poor, and impotent, up with decking of images and gay garnishing of stocks and stones; up with man's traditions and his laws, down with God's traditions and His most holy word. . . . O that our prelates would be as diligent to sow the corn of good doctrine, as Satan is to sow cockle and darnel!"-- {GC 248.3}

Trump tells Pope Francis: ' . . .After a highly anticipated meeting, **Pope Francis appears to have left his mark** on President Donald Trump. <http://fox6now.com/2017/05/24/president-trump-tells-pope-francis-i-wont-forget-what-you-said/>

27a. It was demonstrated that the principles of the Bible are the surest safeguards of national greatness. The feeble and isolated colonies grew to a confederation of powerful states, **and the world marked with wonder the peace and prosperity of "a church without a pope, and a state without a king."** {GC 296.3}

27b. See Revelation 13:11.

28. What happened as the people from Europe heard about America granting civil and religious freedom? _____

As the tidings spread through the countries of Europe, of a land where every man might enjoy the fruit of his own labor and obey the convictions of his own conscience, thousands flocked to the shores of the New World. Colonies rapidly multiplied. "Massachusetts, by special law, offered free welcome and aid, at the public cost, to Christians of any nationality who might fly beyond the Atlantic 'to escape from wars or famine, or the oppression of their persecutors.' Thus the fugitive and the downtrodden were, by statute, made the guests of the commonwealth."--In twenty years from the first landing at Plymouth, as many thousand Pilgrims were settled in New England. {GC 296.1}

29. What were the results as the Puritans made the Bible the foundation of life in America? _____

The Bible was held as the foundation of faith, the source of wisdom, and the charter of liberty. Its principles were diligently taught in the home, in the school, and in the church, and its fruits were manifest in thrift, intelligence, purity, and temperance. One might be for years a dweller in the Puritan settlement, "and not see a drunkard, or hear an oath, or meet a beggar."--{GC 296.3}

30. What does Revelation 12:17 say? _____

31. Based on the context, where did John see the Dragon going to make war with the Remnant? Where did the woman flee to? What helped the woman? _____

32. Who is the Dragon wroth with, based on the context? _____

The English Reformers, while renouncing the doctrines of Romanism, had retained many of its forms. Thus though the authority and the creed of Rome were rejected, not a few of her customs and ceremonies were incorporated into the worship of the Church of England. It was claimed that these things were not matters of conscience; that though they were not commanded in Scripture, and hence were nonessential, yet not being forbidden, they were not intrinsically evil. **Their observance tended to narrow the gulf which separated the reformed churches from Rome, and it was urged that they would promote the acceptance of the Protestant faith by Romanists.** {GC 289.1}

To the conservative and compromising, these arguments seemed conclusive. **But there was another class that did not so judge. The fact that these customs "tended to bridge over the chasm between Rome and the Reformation" was in their view a conclusive argument against retaining them.**...The very beginning of the great apostasy was in seeking to supplement the authority of God by that of the church. Rome began by enjoining what God had not forbidden, and she ended by forbidding what He had explicitly enjoined. {GC 289.2}

33. Who is the Dragon wroth with? Revelation 12:17 _____

34. Read the following: Revelation 19:10; Exodus 31:18; Psalm 19:7; Psalm 119:99; Psalm 78:56-58; 2 Kings 23:3-5,7; 2 Chronicles 34:31-33

35. Note: America began with Pilgrims fleeing there from persecution they suffered in Europe. In America, God's people will experience persecution again. They will have to flee. This time God's pilgrims will only find refuge in the arms of Jesus, until He returns. See Hebrews 11:13-16.