

which a seeking soul could find salvation if he listened very closely, and the Bible was available. But England as a whole became pretty much of a pagan country with merely a formal religion during these twenty-five years. Then, of course, Charles II, on his death bed, was secretly -given the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church which he had really wanted to belong to all the time, but he was the established head and chief governor of the Church of England these twenty-five years, and he was succeeded by his brother, James II, who was determined ~~to~~ to make England a Roman Catholic nation, and after three years, all parties united in getting rid of James. Then when James was cast out, there was again freedom. There was again freedom to preach, but where were the men to preach? There had been no training. There had been no development. There had been no preaching of the Gospel. So we must say that in the years from 1660 until near the middle of the next century, there was a very small amount of real Gospel preaching in England. Then of course, God raised up George Whitefield and the Wesleys and many great men to present the Gospel, and they had an influence on all the denominations, and then Spurgeon became, as people called him, "the heir of the Puritans" because he went back to so many of the fine writings had made and read them and studied them and they had such a tremendous influence on his ministry. But the direct effect of Reformation ~~work~~ work, the direct immediate effect of the Puritans' movement was pretty well destroyed after 1660. Of course, in ~~England~~ England they did not have to suffer as they did in Scotland from 1660 - 1688 where great numbers of people were tortured and killed for their refusal to give up their determination to stand by the Bible as they understood it. But Gospel preaching was just wiped out in England during that period.

In the providence of God, God worked to keep alive a considerable