

There are two, maybe three reasons I'll say, why the coming of the Pilgrims was important. The first of these is that the coming of the Pilgrims was what made it possible that the great Puritan movement, the great flowering of the Reformation in England, should continue instead of dying out. You will sometimes hear it said that ~~was~~ ~~barred~~ Henry VIII ~~he~~ was the founder of the English Reformation. Nothing could be further from the truth! The founder of the English Reformation was Martin Luther. It was the reading of M. Luther's works in England by students in Oxford that started the English Reformation. In fact their fellow students called them "the Germans" because they were reading these works by this German Martin Luther.

that spread the knowledge of the Gospel, a great movement began in England and ~~XXXXX~~ Henry VIII thought it politically advisable for a time to try to use it after vigorously opposing it at first. The movement spread through and became a very great Christian movement in England. Henry VIII's daughter, Elizabeth, kept the movement from being killed. It so happened that she was the daughter of Anne Bolyn and Henry's divorce had made it possible to marry Anne Bolyn and was the occasion that led ^{Henry} to stop persecution of the Reformation, and start ^{giving} some support. Elizabeth was put in a position where it was politically desirable for her to support the Reformation. How much sincerity ~~she~~ she had in it we don't know But she did make the Bible widely available in England. She gave tremendous support to the great essential features of the Reformation.

But as people studied in Elizabeth's time and wanted to study the Bible for themselves and spread its teachings, that was going too far for Elizabeth! So she gave orders, there must be no religious teaching except those of the official churches which were under her direct supervision through the bishops she appointed. In these churches they must have a great many ceremonies, similar to those they had had during the Middle Ages, and a great many particular forms must be observed as Elizabeth ordered.

The people who were anxious to follow the Bible closely wanted to purify the church from what they considered to be some of these Papish ceremonies and therefore came to be called Puritans. But these Puritans were great students of the Bible. They wrote great commentaries, great works on the Bible. They preached all over England; the movement grew and grew. There was a tremendous Puritan movement in England until, let us say, until ~~1540~~ 1640, rather. And then in 1640 the movement came into sharp attack by King Charles who was determined to destroy it. His father, King James, who had the KJV made, ~~King James~~ said he was going to harry the Puritans out of the land. They must obey him as far as the church was concerned! King Charles tried to carry out that James had threatened, and only carried it out to a small extent. And there was as a result the great Puritan ~~ppzz~~ uprising between 1640 and 1650 which ended in King Charles being beheaded, and in the Puritans having absolute control of England. ~~We say about~~ from 1650 to 1660. Then in 1660 after Cromwell died, there were those among the Protestants who were disturbed about the great variety of preaching, teaching and attitudes and there were a great number of people who had not been reached with the Gospel who were disgusted at what they called the rule of ~~the~~ the saints and they wrote to the licentious son of King Charles, who