

What Does It Mean to be *Puritan*
English Puritanism, Part 3:
English Royals: *Stuarts*

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Church History: *From the Reformation to the Revolution*

Presentations and recordings for the **Compass Community** at [Village Seven Presbyterian Church](#)
for: Winter 2025 – Spring 2026, by [Bill Petro](#)

Updated 03/17/26

 Signifies lesson *audio recording*

- Links to articles for *further reading*

	DATE	TITLE	PDF LINK
	Mar 22	12. What Does it Mean to be Puritan: English Puritans, Part 3  Mar-22_English-Puritan-3 • Puritans and the King James Bible • Guy Fawkes Night	English-Puritans, 3

Articles

Easter, starting Thursday



Henry VIII

Tudors



Edward VI



Mary I



Elizabeth I

Reformed Catholicism 1509

Advanced Protestantism 1547

Militant Catholicism 1553

Henry VIII

Edward VI

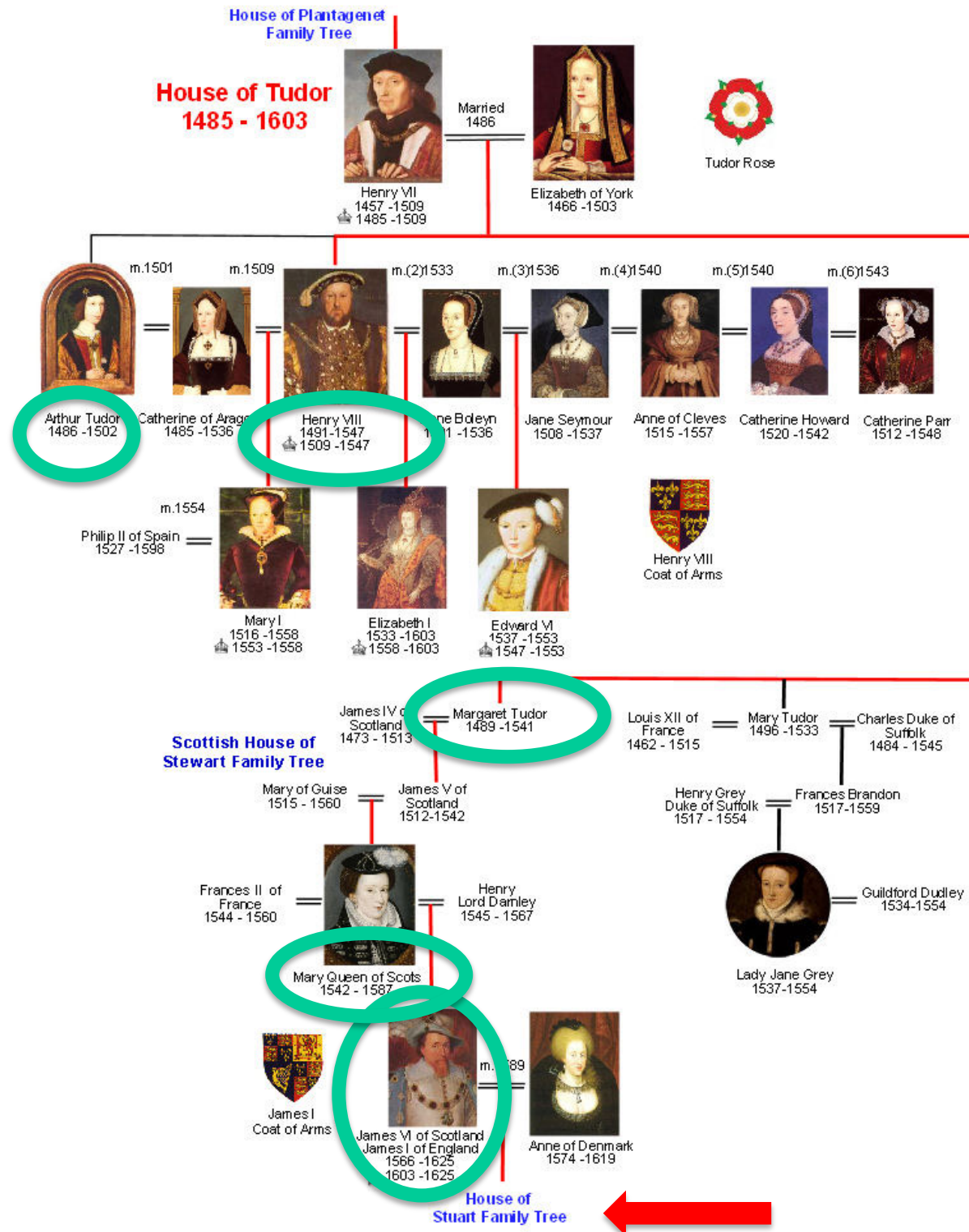
Mary Tudor

Elizabeth I

- Couldn't be Catholic – *illegitimate* in Rome
- Disliked Continental Protestantism
- “*Via Media*”
 - Catholic Rituals
 - Protestant Doctrine
 - “Supreme Governor” of Church
- 44-year rule



<i>Reformed Catholicism</i>	1509	Henry VIII	Rise of Puritanism
<i>Advanced Protestantism</i>	1547	Edward VI	
<i>Militant Catholicism</i>	1553	Mary Tudor	
<i>Anglicanism</i>	1558	Elizabeth	
	1603		



Mary Stuart

- *Mary Queen of Scots*
- Knox preaches against Mary
- **Henry VII's** Great grand-daughter
- Marries **Francis II** of France
- France claims Scotland
- Mary claims England
- Marries **Lord Darnley**
- Marries **Earl of Bothwell**
- With Darnley, son: **James VI**
= King James I of England.



Objectives

By the end of this session, you should be able to

- Illustrate how **Tudor** and **Stuart** English Royalty impacted *Presbyterianism*
- Describe how **English Royalty** affected *Puritanism*
- Describe the **Puritan Commonwealth** of *Cromwell*

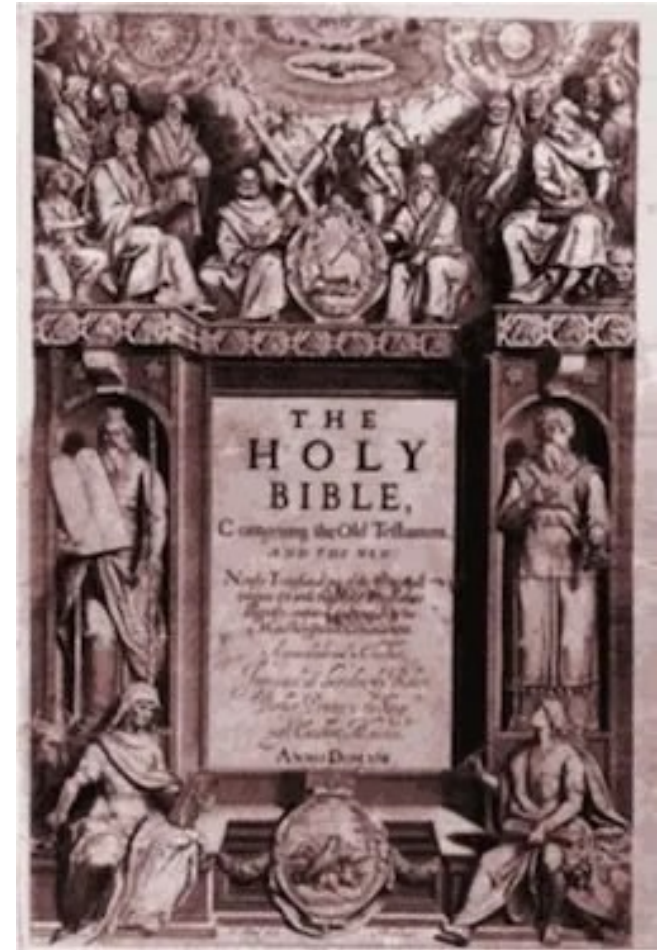
James I of England

- **James VI** of Scotland
- **Puritans** petitioned for change in church government
- Hampton Court Conference:
 - Refused most requests
 - Permitted a new Bible translation:
“*know God’s word w/o intermediaries*”
- Reissued *Book of Sport* –
angered the Puritans, some fled to America.



King James Bible (AV)

- Important book in English culture
- Replaced **Bishops'**, **Great**, **Geneva** Bibles
- OT: *Hebrew, Aramaic*
- NT: *Greek*
- Apocrypha: *Greek, Latin*
- From **Tyndale's**, **Luther's**
- After publication in 1611, never authorized by King.



billpetro.com/history-of-the-king-james-bible

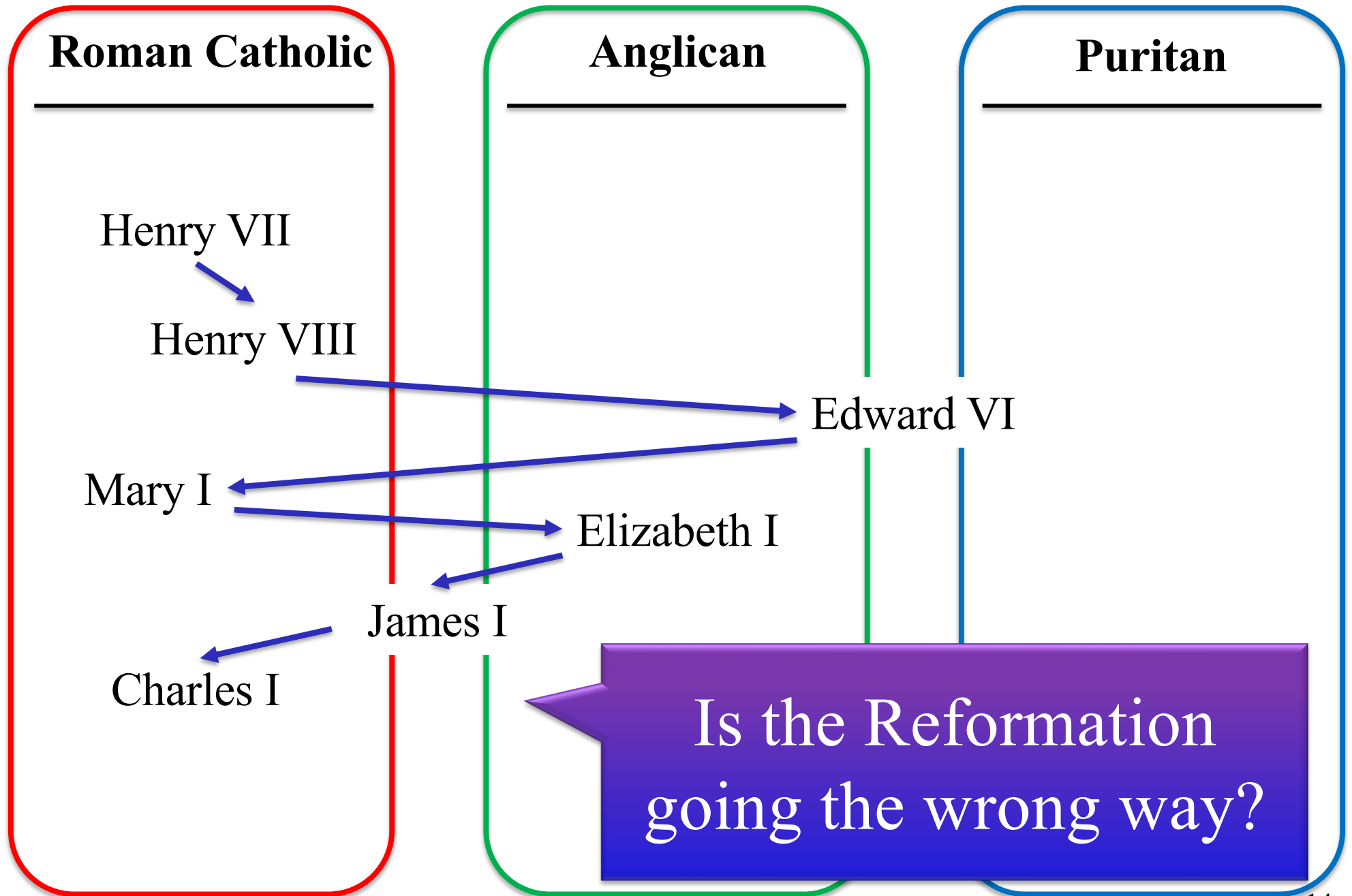
Charles I

- Absolute authority
- Appointed **Wm. Laud**:
A.B. of Canterbury
 - Arminian, pro-Catholic
 - Puritan Calvinists reacted
- Married **Henrietta Maria**
- He Abolished Parliament:
1629-1640
- Civil War: 1642-46
 - *Cavaliers* - Loyalists (Royalists)
 - *Roundheads* - Puritans (Parliamentarians)



<i>Reformed Catholicism</i>	1509	Henry VIII	Tudors
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<i>Enforced</i>	1603	James I	Stuarts
<i>Episcopalianism</i>	1625	Charles I	

Religious Shifts by English Royal



Puritan Grievances

- **Elizabeth:** Marian Exiles returned...
- **James I:** a sympathetic Protestant?
- **Charles I:** married Henrietta *Maria*, Catholic
- Catholic lords given important posts
- Archbishop of Canterbury, **William Laud's**
“Roman practices”: Catholic liturgical ceremonies, clerical vestments, kneeling for Communion, sign of the Cross at baptism.

Anglican. vs. Puritan

- Liturgy, ceremony, & ritual directs minds to God
- 1500-year episcopal tradition
- Scripture not explicit on church government
- Communal religion, nurture in Church
- Preaching the Word brings individual to encounter Christ
- Episcopal is not biblical (Presby. or Congreg.)
- Bible only, remove Romish traditions
- Personal conversion from God

Oliver Cromwell

- Member of Parliament
- Head Parliamentary Army
- Lord Protector, Head of State
 - England
 - Scotland
 - Ireland



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<i>Episcopalianism</i>	1625	Charles I	
<i>Transcendent</i>	1640	Presbyterian	Long Parliament
<i>Puritanism</i>	1649	Independent	
<i>(Calvinistic)</i>	1660		

Cromwell Statue, before Parliament Building





OLIVER
CROMWELL

1599
1658

Westminster Assembly

- 1643-52
- **Presbyterian Church Gov't**
- **Directory of Public Worship**
- **Westminster Confession**
- **Shorter & Larger Catechisms.**



Westminster Assembly:

Why was it needed?

- English **Civil War** forced church reform
Political stability = ecclesiastical reform
- Update the Church of England's **39 Articles**
- To advise **Parliament** on church issues of:
 - 1. Doctrine
 - 2. Worship
 - 3. Church Government and Discipline.

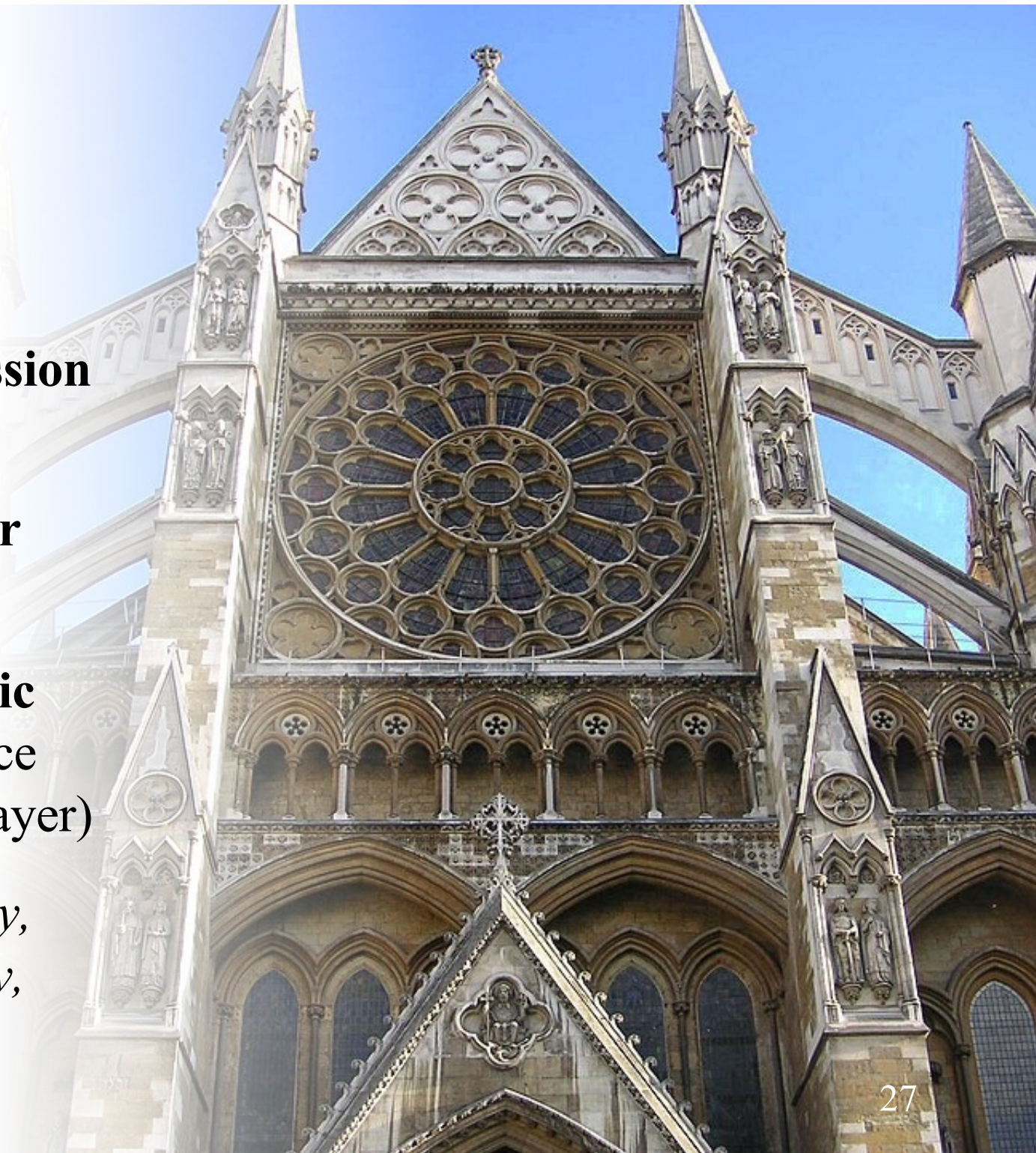
WCF: Who wrote it?

- Who: Westminster Divines (theologians)
- When: July 1, 1643 – 1649 (1652): 1,163 meetings
- Where: Henry VII (Lady) Chapel.



Westminster Standards: What's in it?

- **Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF)**
 - **Larger & Shorter Catechisms**
 - **Directory of Public Worship** (to replace Book of Common Prayer)
 - *Presbyterian Polity, Covenant theology, Calvinism*



WCF: Content Summary

Faith

- 1-6: Holy Scriptures, Trinity, Predestination
 - 7-9: Covenant theology, Christ's mediation, Free will
 - 10-18: Salvation aspects...
-

Duty

- 19-22: Law, Christian liberty, and Worship
- 23-24: Civil government and Marriage
- 25-26: Church
- 27-29: Sacraments
- 30-31: Church government and Discipline
- 32-33: Eschatology.

Westminster Confession: Chapter 1,

Of the Holy Scripture

Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men unexcusable;

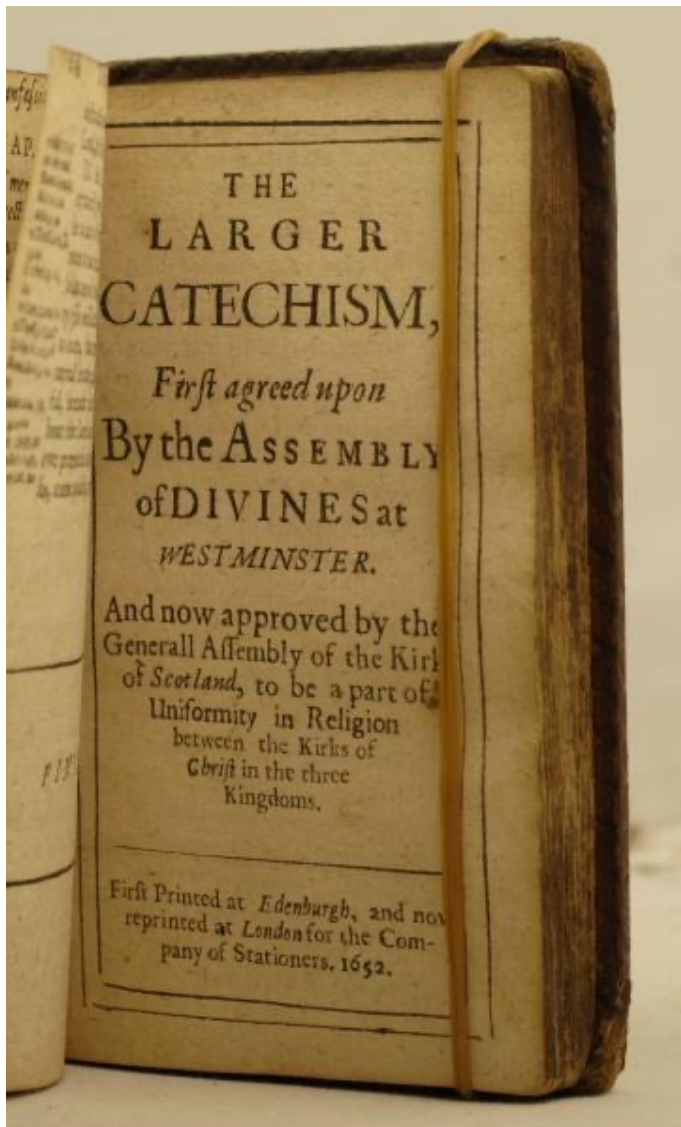
yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and of His will, which is necessary unto salvation.

Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His Church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the Church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing: which maketh the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now ceased.

Catechism contents

Larger Catechism: 196

Shorter Catechism: 107



- God as Creator
- Original sin
- Man's fallen nature
- Christ the Redeemer
- Ten Commandments
- Baptism
- Holy Communion
- Lord's Prayer.

WCF: Why do we subscribe to it?

- *High mark* of the Confessions
- Fullest flowering of *Reformation thought*
- No other Reformation or post-Reformation confessional standard rivals that of the Westminster Confession in *depth* or *length*
- Part of the *P.C.A. Constitution* following the Scripture: WCF, Larger & Shorter Catechism, Book of Church Order.

WCF: What *didn't* come from it?

- 1660: **Charles II** was restored to the monarchy with a promise to Puritans...
- Repudiated WCF: episcopal church government was reinstated in England
- Persecuted Puritans
- Secretly promised Louis XIV to convert to Catholicism in future
- Later, dissolved Parliament.



However...

- 1658: Savoy Declaration (Congregationalists)
- 1689: London Confession of Faith (Baptist)

Westminster Standards:

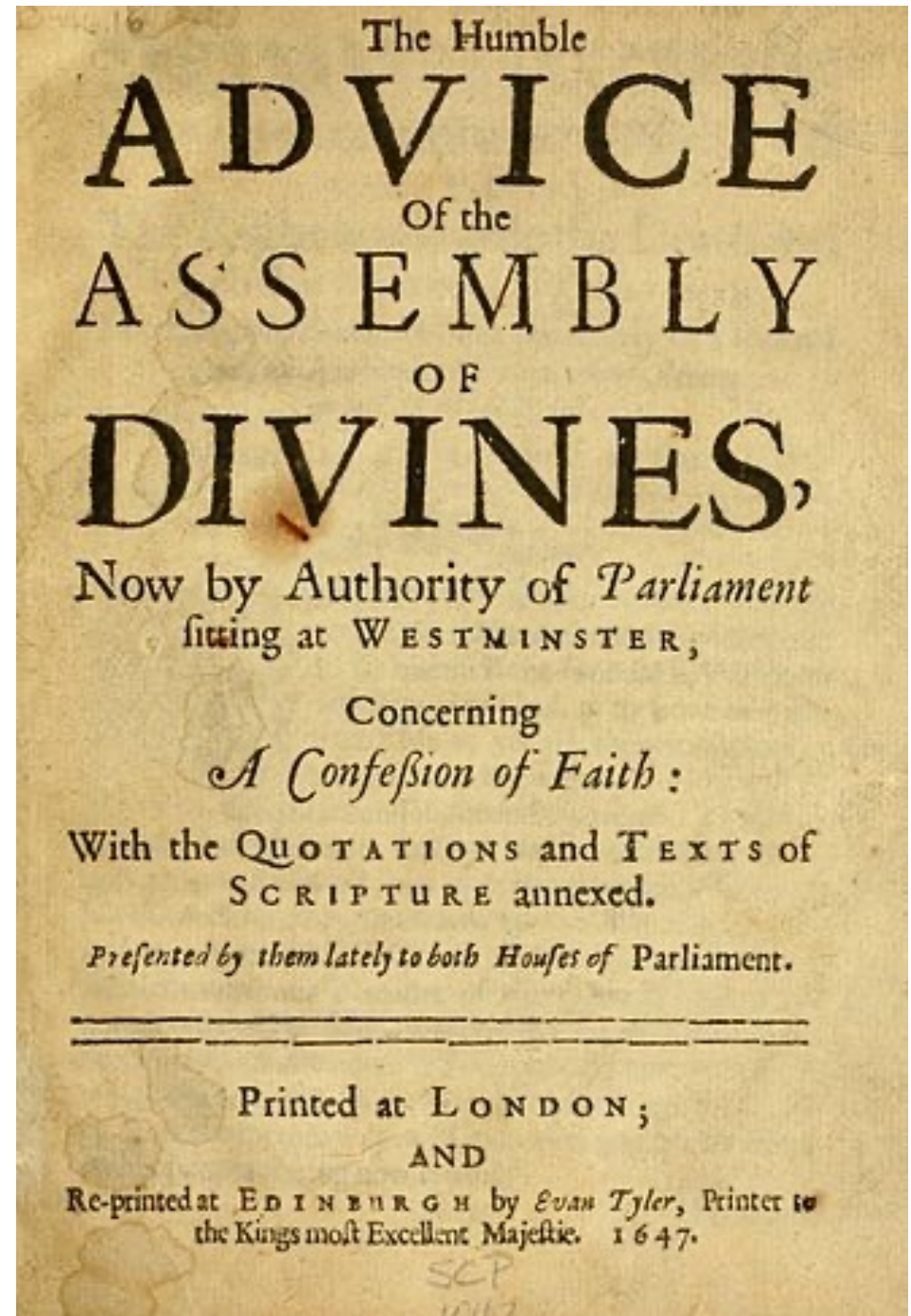
What are the best uses of it?

- Training of children and adults: *catechisms*
- Quality of Pastors & Elders: *doctrinal compass*
- Unified Lay people: *devotional study of God's faithfulness to us*
- Individual: *reason to praise God*
- Me: *historical context: faith in God, duty to God.*

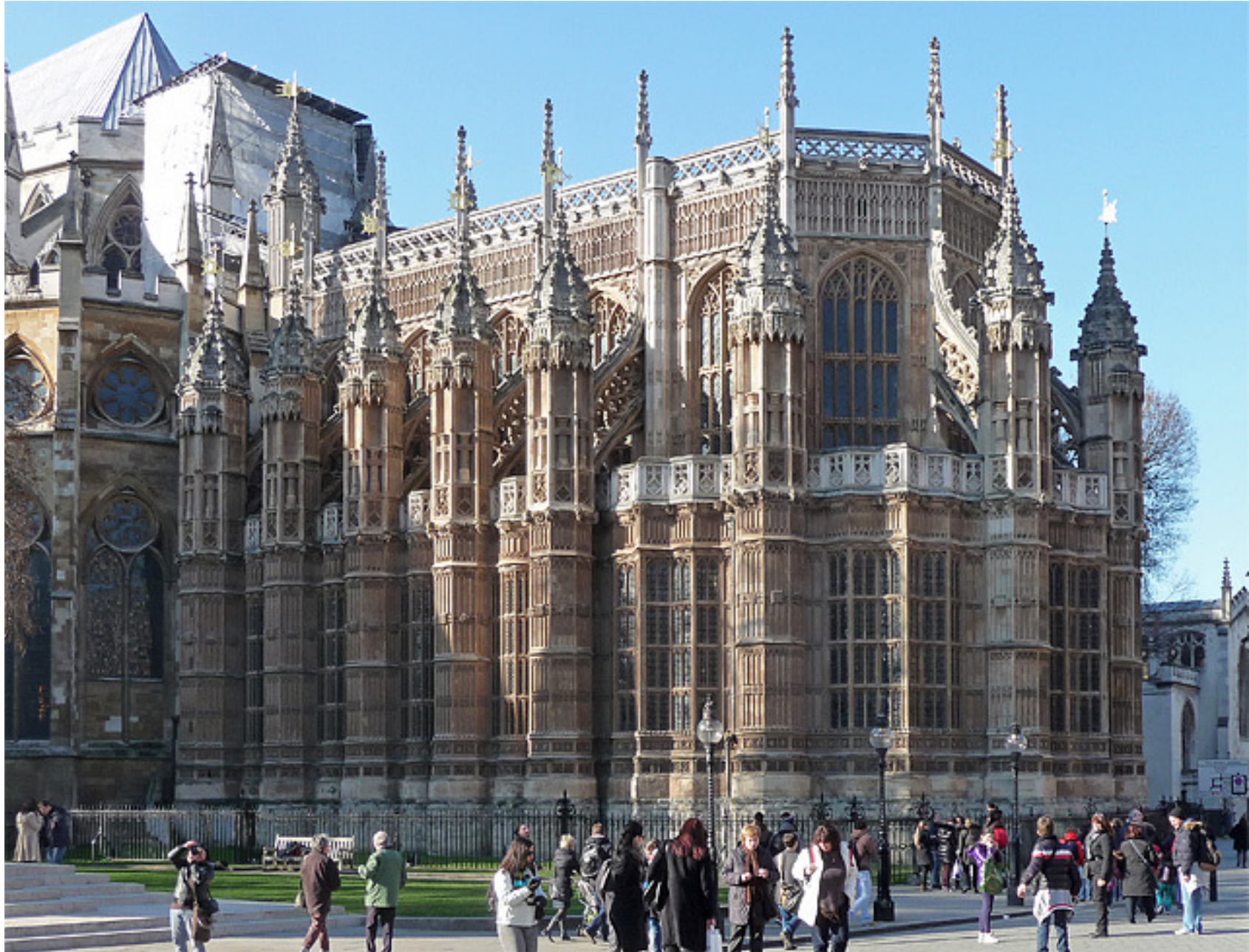
Westminster Confession

1647: First published
edition of *Westminster
Confession of Faith*

“What is the chief end of man?”

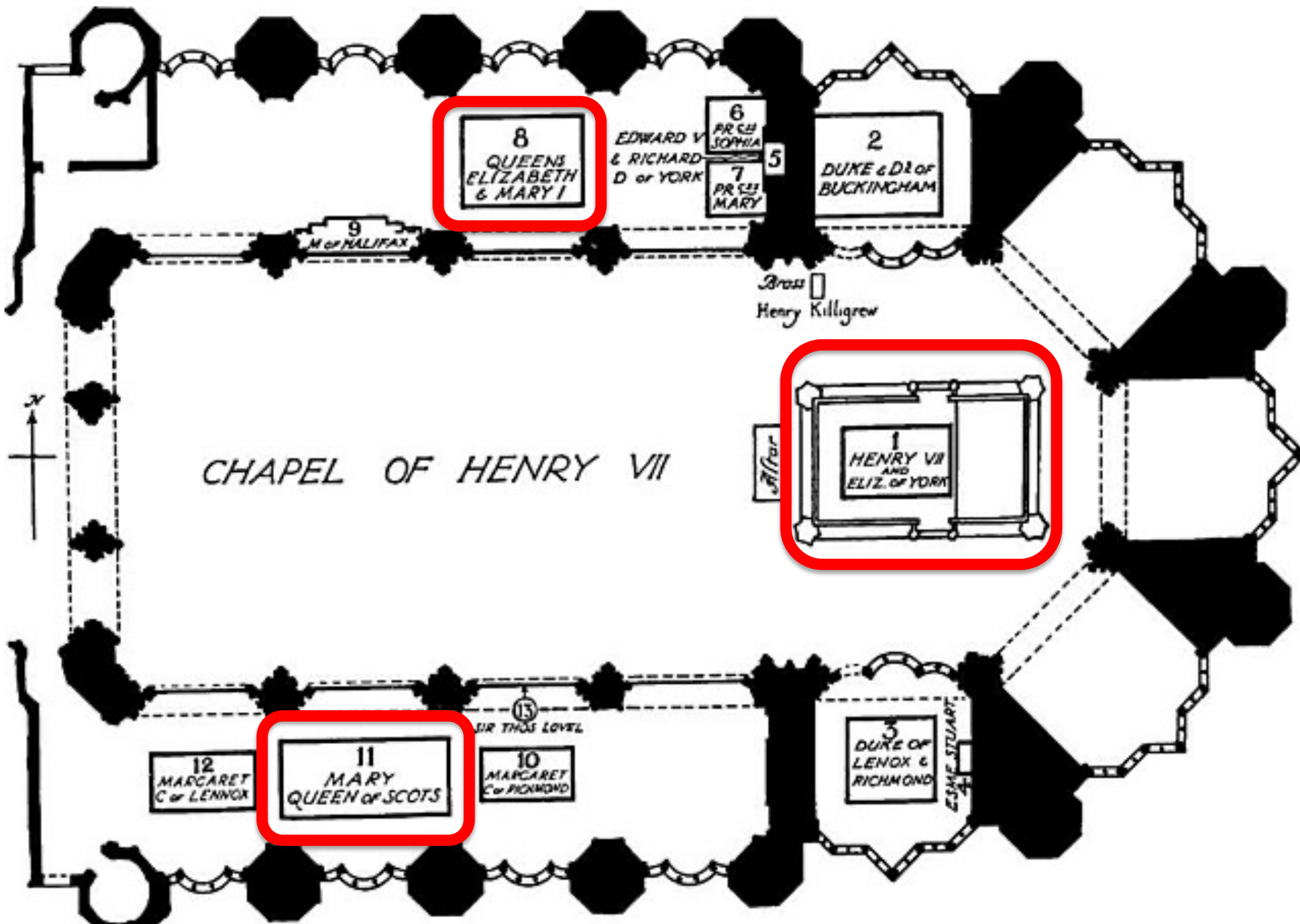


Lady Chapel



aka: Henry VII Chapel





Were all English Puritans *Presbyterian*?

Puritan Calvinists: 1648

Presbyterian

Congregational

1-Word Summary

• Catholic Church	Merit
• Luther	Justification
• Zwingli	Sovereignty
• Calvin	Omnipotence
• Arminius	Ability
• “Calvinism”	T.U.L.I.P.
• Knox	Thundering
• Henry VIII	Married
• Cromwell	Commonwealth.