



1538 – The “Great Bible” became the very first “authorized version” of the English Bible for the Church of England.

1560 – The “Geneva Bible” was the English version favored by those not bound to the Church of England. It was the very first to use verse divisions within the chapters.

1568 – The “Bishop’s Bible” became the second “authorized version” for use in the Church of England.

1583 – The “Douay” New Testament was published as a Catholic-oriented English version.

1607 – **VIRGINIA** (starting with Jamestown) was established by the Virginia Company of London. The Church of England governed the colony’s religious affairs.

1609/10 – The “Douay Bible” (now including the Old Testament) was published as THE Catholic English version.

1611 – The “King James Version” became the third “authorized version” for use in the Church of England.

1620 – **MASSACHUSETTS** (starting with Plymouth) was established by Separatists (a.k.a., Congregationalists).

1623 – **NEW HAMPSHIRE** was established by Separatists (Congregationalists).

1634 – **MARYLAND** was established as a haven for Catholics fleeing persecution in England by the Church of England. The Maryland Toleration Act of 1649 protected freedom of worship by all Trinitarian Christians, although it also extended some protections for those who were neither Trinitarian, nor religious. [*Excerpts given below.*]

“That whatsoever person or persons within this Province and the Islands thereunto helonging shall from henceforth blaspheme God, that is Curse him, or deny our Saviour Jesus Christ to bee the sonne of God, or shall deny the holy Trinity the father sonne and holy Ghost, or the Godhead of any of the said Three persons of the Trinity or the Unity of the Godhead, or shall use or utter any reproachfull Speeches, words or language concerning the said Holy Trinity, or any of the said three persons thereof, shalbe punished with death and confiscation or forfeiture of all his or her lands and goods to the Lord Proprietary and his heires.

“And bee it also Enacted by the Authority and with the advise and assent aforesaid, That whatsoever person or persons shall from henceforth use or utter any reproachfull words or Speeches concerning the blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of our Saviour or the holy Apostles or Evangelists or any of them shall in such case for the first offence forfeit to the said Lord Proprietary and his heirs Lords and Proprietaries of this Province the summe of five pound Sterling or the value thereof to be Levyed on the goods and chattells of every such person soe offending, but in case such Offender or Offenders, shall not then have goods and chattells sufficient for the satisfyeing of such forfeiture, or that the same bee not otherwise speedily satisfied that then such Offender or Offenders shalbe publicly whipt and bee imprisoned during the pleasure of the Lord Proprietary or the Lieutenant or cheife Governor of this Province for the time being. And that every such Offender or Offenders for every second offence shall forfeit tenne pound sterling or the value thereof to bee levyed as aforesaid, or in case such offender or Offenders shall not then have goods and chattells within this Province sufficient for that purpose then to bee publicly and severely whipt and imprisoned as before is expressed. And that every person or persons before mentioned offending herein the third time, shall for such third Offence forfeit all his lands and Goods and bee for ever banished and expelled out of this Province...

“And be it also further Enacted by the same authority advise and assent that whatsoever person or persons shall from henceforth upon any occasion of Offence or otherwise in a reproachful manner or Way declare call or denominate any person or persons whatsoever inhabiting, residing, traffiqueing, trading or comerceing within this Province or within any the Ports, Harbors, Creeks or Havens to the same belonging an heritick, Scismatick, Idolator, puritan, Independant, Prespiterian popish prest, Jesuite, Jesuited papist, Lutheran, Calvenist, Anabaptist, Brownist, Antinomian, Barrowist, Roundhead, Separatist, or any other name or terme in a reproachfull manner relating to matter of Religion shall for every such Offence forfeit and loose the somme of tenne shillings sterling or the value thereof to bee levyed on the goods and chattells of every such Offender and Offenders, the one half thereof to be forfeited and paid unto the person and persons of whom such reproachfull words are or shalbe spoken or uttered, and the other half thereof to the Lord Proprietary and his heires Lords and Proprietaries of this Province...

“And be it further likewise Enacted by the Authority and consent aforesaid That every person and persons within this Province that shall at any time hereafter prophane the Sabbath or Lords day called Sunday by frequent swearing, drunkennes or by any uncivill or disorderly recreation, or by working on that day when absolute necessity doth not require it shall for every such first offence forfeit 2s 6d sterling or the value thereof, and for the second offence 5s sterling or the value thereof, and for the third offence and soe for every time he shall offend in like manner afterwards 10s sterling or the value thereof. And in case such offender and offenders shall not have sufficient goods or chattells within this Province to satisfy any of the said Penalties respectively hereby imposed for prophaning the Sabbath or Lords day called Sunday as aforesaid, That in Every such case the partie soe offending shall for the first and second offence in that kinde be imprisoned till hee or shee shall publicly in open Court before the cheife Commander Judge or Magistrate, of that County Towne or precinct where such offence shalbe committed acknowledg the Scandall and offence he hath in that respect given against God and the good and civill Governement of this Province, And for the third offence and for every time after shall also bee publicly whipt.”

1635 – **CONNECTICUT** was established as a refuge for Puritans & Separatists (Congregationalists) under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Hooker, after they ran into problems with the governing authorities of **MASSACHUSETTS**.

1636 – **RHODE ISLAND** was established by Roger Williams (who founded the “First Baptist Church in America”) & by Anne Hutchinson (promoter of in-home Bible studies), both of whom were exiled from **MASSACHUSETTS**.

-----**Harvard University** [“**College of Newe Towne**”] was established at Cambridge [“Newe Towne”] by the **MASSACHUSETTS** Bay Colony, which was governed by Separatists (Congregationalists). A 1643 historical pamphlet tells the story:

“**AFTER GOD HAD** carried us safe to New England, and we had built our houses, provided necessaries for our livelihood, reared convenient places for God's worship, and led the civil government, one of the next things we longed for and looked after was to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity; dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches, when our present ministers shall lie in the dust.

“And as we were thinking and consulting how to effect this great work, it pleased God to stir up the heart of one Mr. Harvard (a godly gentleman and a lover of learning, there living among us) to give the one-half of his estate (it being in all about £700) toward the founding of a college, and all his library. After him, another gave £300; others after them cast in more; and the public hand of the state added the rest.

“The college was, by common consent, appointed to be at Cambridge (a place very pleasant and accommodate) and is called (according to the name of the first founder) Harvard College. The edifice is very fair and comely within and without, having in it a spacious hall where they daily meet at commons, lectures, and exercises; and a large library with some books to it, the gifts of diverse of our friends, their chambers and studies also fitted for and possessed by the students, and all other rooms of office necessary and convenient with all needful offices thereto belonging.

“And by the side of the college, a fair grammar school, for the training up of young scholars and fitting of them for academical learning, that still as they are judged ripe they may be received into the college of this school. Master Corlet is the master who has very well approved himself for his abilities, dexterity, and painfulness in teaching and education of the youths under him.

“Over the college is Master Dunster placed as president, a learned, a conscionable, and industrious man, who has so trained up his pupils in the tongues and arts, and so seasoned them with the principles of divinity and Christianity, that we have to our great comfort (and in truth) beyond our hopes, beheld their progress in learning and godliness also. The former of these has appeared in their public declamations in Latin and Greek, and disputations logic and philosophy which they have been wonted (besides their ordinary exercises in the college hall) in the audience of the magistrates, ministers, and other scholars for the probation of their growth in learning, upon set days, constantly once every month to make and uphold. The latter has been manifested in sundry of them by the savory things of their spirits in their godly versation; insomuch that we are confident, if these early blossoms may be cherished and warmed with the influence of the friends of learning and lovers of this pious work, they will, by the help of God, come to happy maturity in a short time.

“Over the college are twelve overseers chosen by the General Court, six of them are of the magistrates, the other six of the ministers, who are to promote the best good of it and (having a power of influence into all persons in it) are to see that every- one be diligent and proficient in his proper place.”

1653 – **NORTH CAROLINA** was established as overflow from Virginia. The Church of England ruled here.

1662 – England's “Act of Uniformity” required that all clergy be ordained via the Church of England & that British office holders had to be members of the Church of England. Ministers & practitioners of “Non-conformist” sects continued to be subject to fines & imprisonment wherever the Church of England ruled.

1663 – **SOUTH CAROLINA** was deeded to eight English aristocrats as rewards for their service to the crown. The Church of England ruled here.

1664 – **NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK** started out as part of **NEW NETHERLAND** (settled under the auspices of the Dutch West India Company, beginning in 1624), which came under English control in 1664. Both colonies had a broad mixture of Protestant churches.

1684 – **PENNSYLVANIA** was started by the Quaker, William Penn, as a refuge for those of his own faith, as well as for other “non-conformists” sects typically persecuted by the Church of England.

1693 - **College of William & Mary** (Williamsburg,) was founded by the **VIRGINIA** colony, via royal charter, and therefore controlled by the Church of England.

“WILLIAM AND MARY, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King and Queen, defenders of the faith, &c.

“To all to whom these our present letters shall come, greeting.

“Forasmuch as our well-beloved and faithful subjects, constituting the General Assembly of our Colony of Virginia, have had it in their minds, and have proposed to themselves, to the end that the Church of Virginia may be furnished with a seminary of ministers of the gospel, and that the youth may be piously educated in good letters and manners, and that the Christian faith may be propagated amongst the Western Indians, to the glory of Almighty God; to make, found and establish a certain place of universal study, or perpetual College of Divinity, Philosophy, Languages, and other good Arts and Sciences, consisting of one President, six Masters or Professors, and an hundred scholars more or less, according to the ability of the said college, and the statutes of the same; to be made, increased, diminished, or changed there, by certain trustees nominated and elected by the General Assembly aforesaid, to wit, our faithful and well-beloved Francis Nicholson, our Lieutenant Governor in our Colonies of Virginia and Maryland; Wm. Cole, Ralph Worm[e]lley, William Byrd and John Lear, Esquires; James Blair, John Farnifold, Stephen Fouace and Samuel Gray, clerks; Thomas Milner, Christopher Robinson, Charles Scarborough, John Smith, Benjamin Harrison, Miles Cary, Henry Hartwell, William Randolph and Matthew Page, gentlemen, or the major part of them, or of the longer livers of them, on the south side of a certain river, commonly called York river, or elsewhere, where the General Assembly itself shall think more convenient, within our Colony of Virginia, to be supported and maintained, in all time coming.”

1701 – **DELAWARE** started out as part of **NEW SWEDEN**, with the Reformed Church governing religious matters (1638). It then became part of the **NEW NETHERLANDS** (1655), which permitted colonization by various Protestant groups. It was taken over by England in 1665, so that the Church of England then became involved. It was part of the British crown’s land grant to William Penn (1684). It was eventually granted independence by Penn in 1701. This history resulted in a mixture of Protestant groups within the colony.

----- **Yale University (New Haven, CONNECTICUT)** established by an “*An act for Liberty to erect a Collegiate School:*

“WHEREAS several well disposed, and Publick spirited Persons of their sincere Regard to & Zeal for upholding & Propagating of the Christian Protestant Religion by a succession of Learned & Orthodox men have expressed by Petition their earnest desires that fully Liberty and Priveledge be granted unto Certain Undertakers for the founding, suitably endowing & ordering a Collegiate School within his Majties Colony of Connecticut wherein Youth may be instructed in the Arts & Sciences who thorough the blessing of Almighty God may be fitted for Publick employment both in Church & Civil State.

“To the intent therefore that all due incouragement by Given to such Pious Resolutions and that so necessary & Religious an undertakeing may be sett forward supported & well managed.”

**NOTE:** The Church of England controlled religious matters in the “southern” colonies. The “northern” were more independent.