

Chafer Conference Message # 3:

Providential Migrations: Families, Individuals, & the Gospel:
Migrations in Biblical History; Migrants (including Tentmakers) in Motion; etc.

What, in the world, are we doing, here?

Does God use persecution to move people?



Witnessing

- We are called to witness to the end of the world.
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 1 Jerusalem
- Acts 8 Judea
- Acts 8:4 Samaria
- Acts 10 Gentile
- Acts 13 End of the world



How are we *scattered* like seeds? Is our own place *random*?

“And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all **scattered abroad** throughout the regions of Judæa and Samaria, except the apostles. ... **Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the Word.**” (Acts 8:1,4 – notice the Greek verb *diaspeirô*)

When God *scatters* seed, **He sows.**



Those who had been
scattered
preached the word
wherever they went.

Acts 8:4

*A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed,
some ... fell into good soil, and when it grew,
it produced a hundredfold.*

Luke 8.5-8

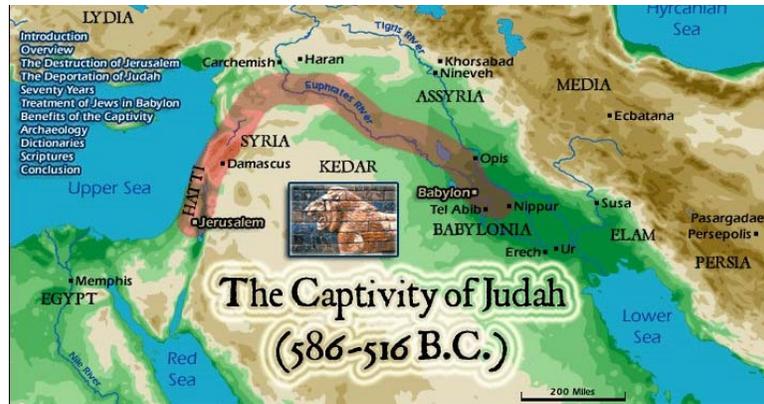


“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end”. Jeremiah 29:11 quotes God, as God gave assurance of His good plans for His people, who needed His assurance, as they began a new life in a strange land.

The “future” that we expect is tied to the legacy that “follows” us (and our deeds).



What is the historical-geographical context of **Jeremiah 29:11** ?



⁴ Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; ⁵ Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; ⁶ Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. ⁷ And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace. (**Jeremiah 29:4-7**)

“Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.” **(1st Samuel 26:20)**. As a fugitive trying to escape King Saul, David compares himself to a partridge being hunted in the mountains. **What can we learn from David’s fugitive plight?** First, there is no good reason to surrender to one’s enemies! When unbelievers persecute and aim harm at believers, as has been the trend ever since Cain murdered Abel (Genesis 4:8-9; Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51), we are told to evade persecutions when possible **(Matthew 7:6 & 10:14 & 10:23; Luke 9:5 & 10:11 & 21:21; Acts 9:25 & 13:51)**. Second, David’s example reminds us that God is sovereign – He will not let us die until it is the proper time for dying. Thus, so long as God has earthly work for us to do, He will sustain us **(James 4:13-15)**.

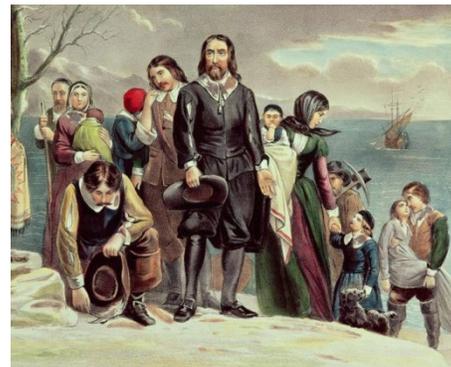


To illustrate, look back 400 years ago
[to the adventures to the Mayflower Pilgrims]



How did Pilgrims serve God?

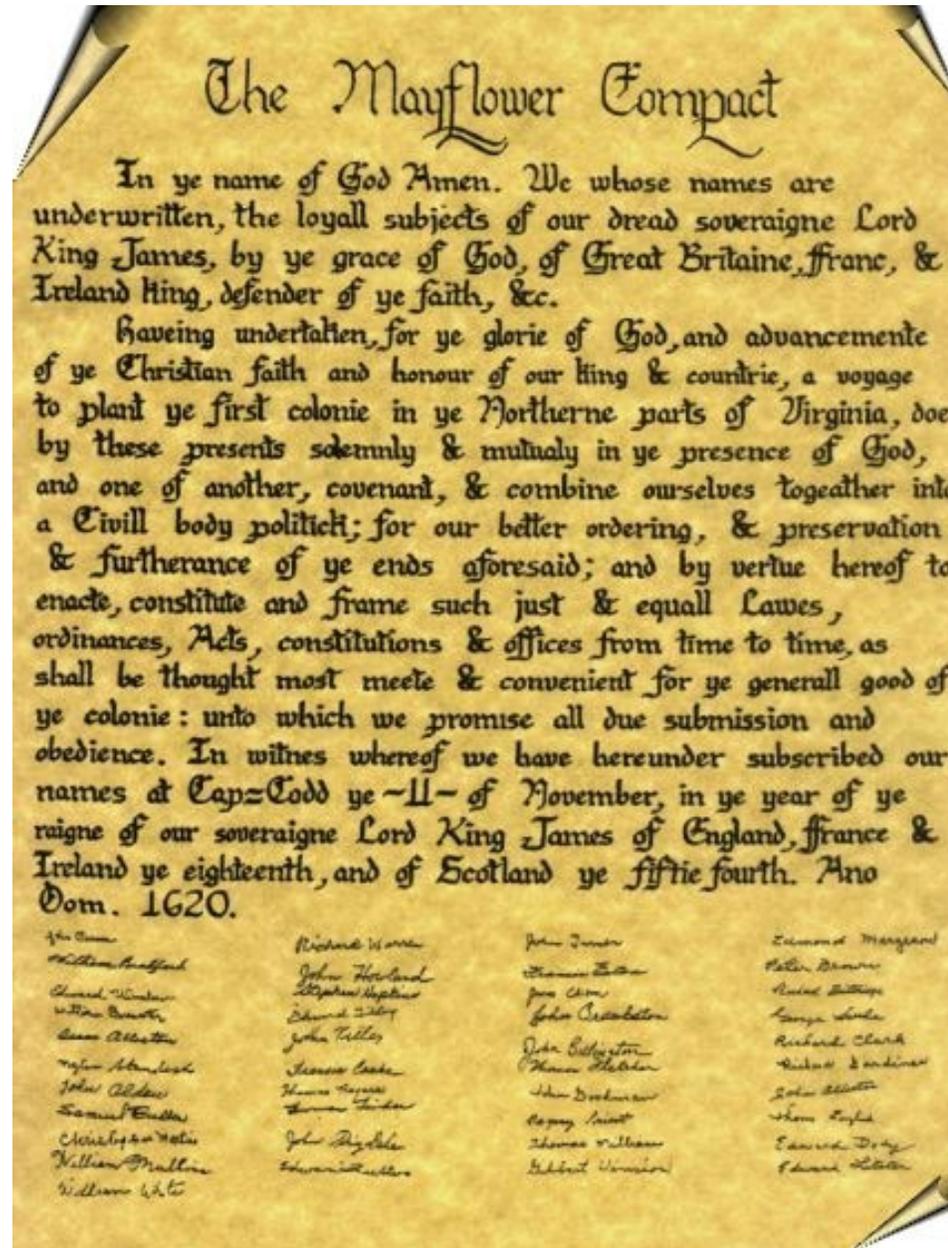
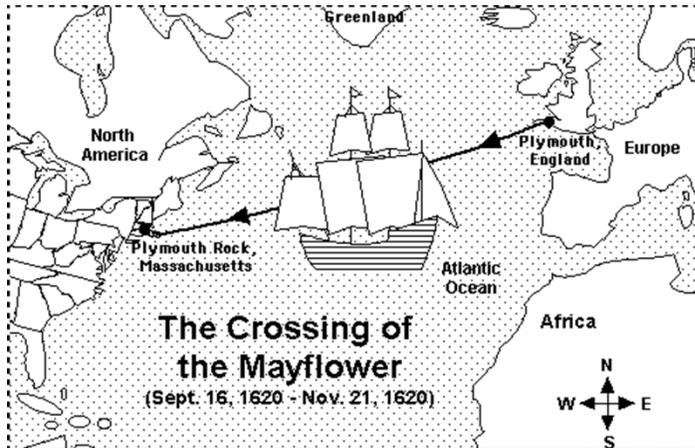
Thanksgiving is more about the **Great Commission** than enjoying a **turkey** feast.



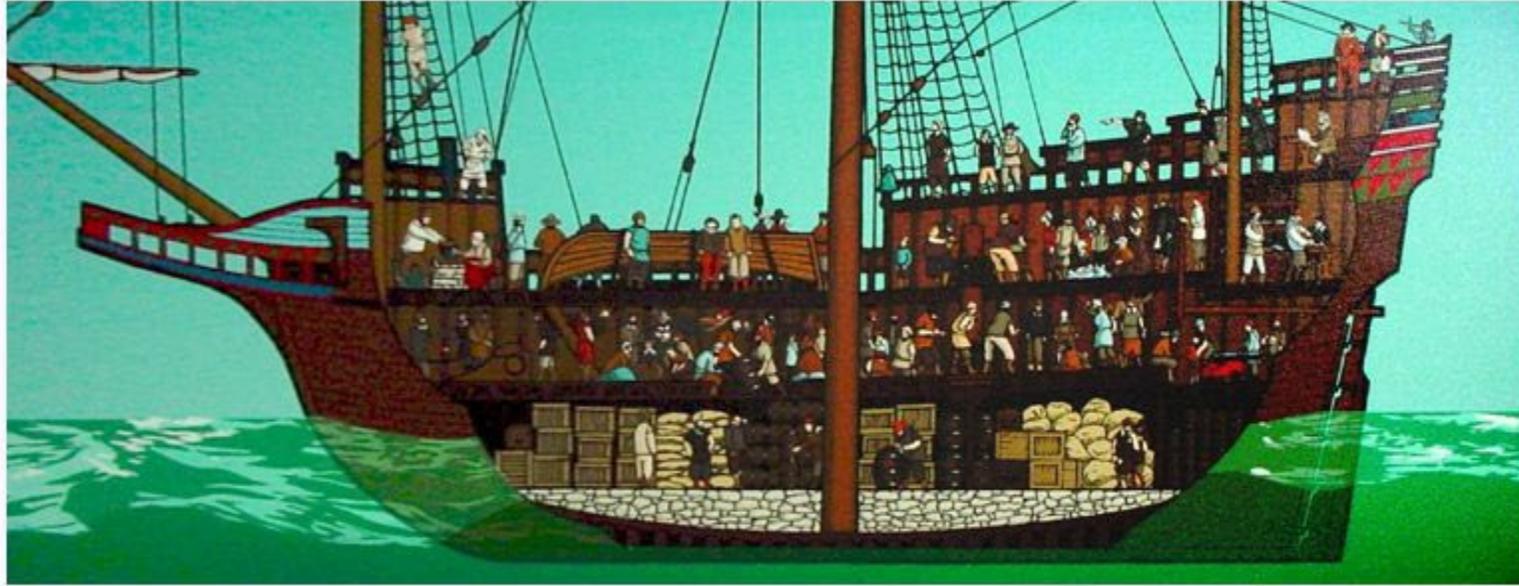
A close-up photograph of a Thanksgiving dinner table. The central focus is a large, golden-brown roasted turkey on a white platter, garnished with cranberries, grapes, and carrots. To the right, a bowl of stuffing is visible. In the background, there are several glasses of cranberry sauce and a lit candle in a glass holder. The overall atmosphere is warm and festive.

Thanksgiving

The Great Commission and North Atlantic Seacoasts: Securing Religious Freedom

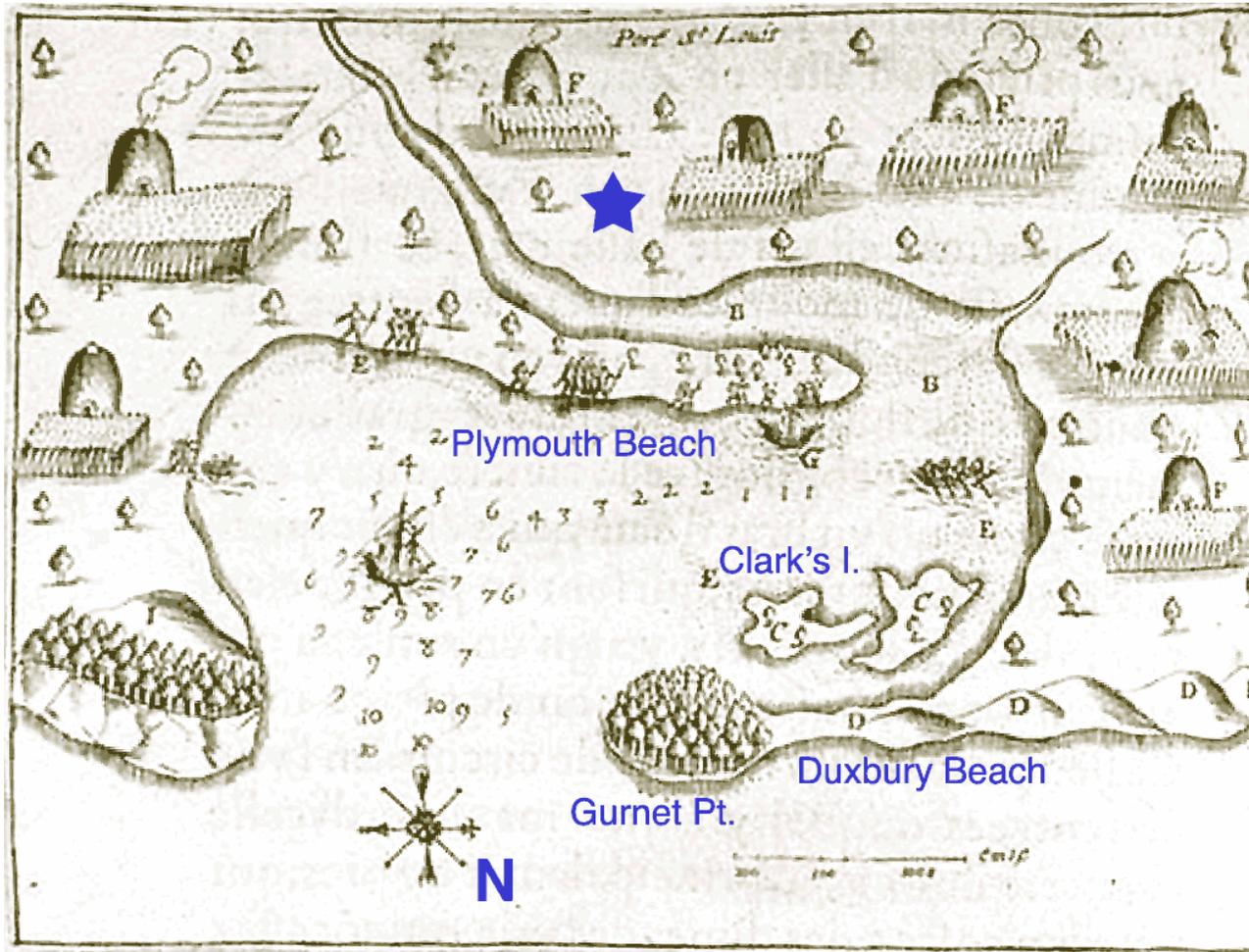


Pilgrims : In search of Freedom

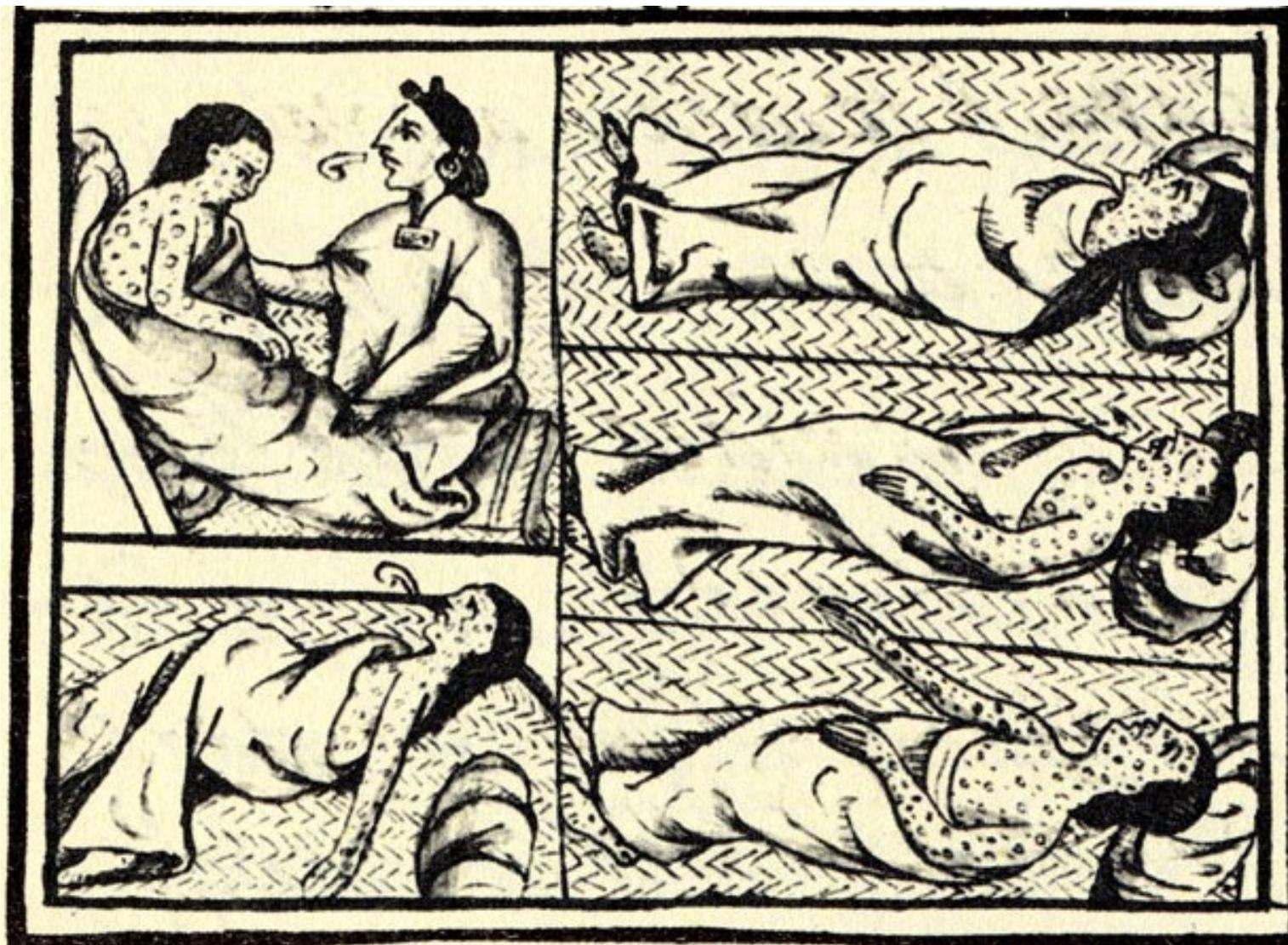


On September 6, 1620, the ship Mayflower left England and sailed into the open Atlantic Ocean. The ship's destination was the northern part of Virginia, near the mouth of the Hudson River. Only two people on board had ever seen the land they were sailing to.

An anonymous Huguenot gets frustrated and prays for God's judgment . . .



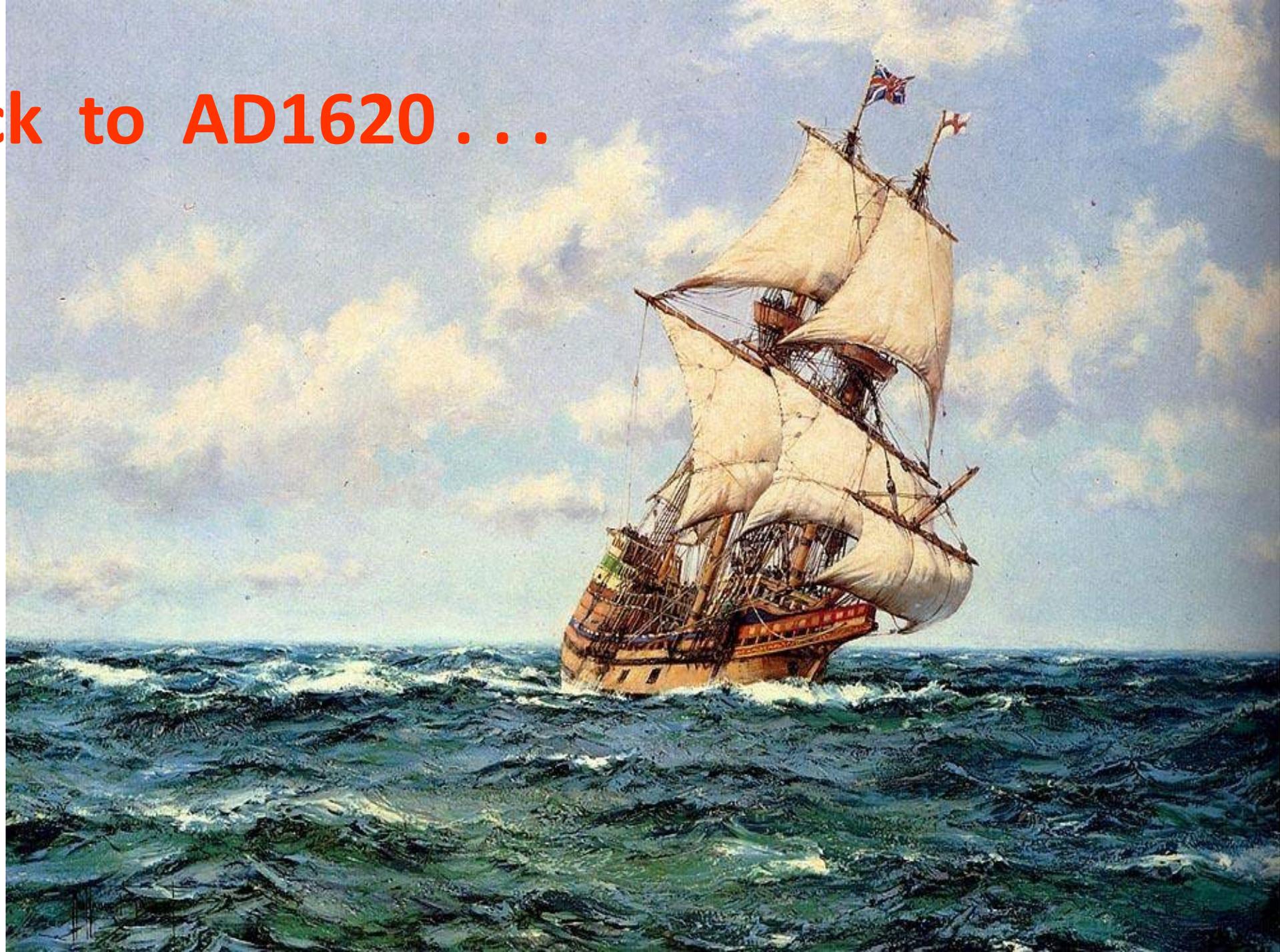
Plague arrived, killing “everyone”.



July AD1621: discovery of the recent plague

“They [*i.e.*, *Edward Winslow, Stephen Hopkins, and Squanto*] found ... 40 miles from hence, the soil good and the people not many, being dead and abundantly wasted in the late great mortality, which fell in all these parts about 3 years before the coming of the English, wherein thousands of them died. They not being able to bury one another, their skulls and bones were found in many places lying still above the ground where their houses and dwellings had been, a very sad spectacle to behold. But they brought word that the Narragansetts lived but on the other side of that great bay [Plymouth Bay?], and were a strong people and many in number, living compact together, and had not been at all touched with this wasting disease.” *[Quoting William Bradford, OF PLYMOUTH PLANTATION, page 87.]*

Back to AD1620 . . .



Sometimes it was smooth sailing . . .



Journey on the *Mayflower*









Sometimes it was stormy and scary . . .



The Mayflower Almost Sunk During a Storm



During a terrible storm the main support beam in the Mayflower broke, and the ship would have sunk without a smart idea from one of the Pilgrims. They had a printing press with them for the New World. They took a large iron piece from the printing press and jacked the heavy beam back in place. The sailors could then splice the beam back together.

John Howland, indentured servant, overboard...!



"So," the narrative continues, "they (the exiles) committed themselves to ye will of God and resolved to proceede. In sundrie of these storms the winds were so furie and ye seas so high, as they could not beare a knot of saills, but were forced to anchor for diverse days together. And in one of them, as they thus lay at anchor, in a mighty storme, a lustie yonge man (called John Howland), coming upon some occasion above ye grattings, was with a roll of ye ship throwne into the sea, but it pleased God that he caught hould of the topsall halliards, which hunge overboard and ran out of length; yet he held his hould (though he was sundry fathoms under water) till he was held up by the same rope to the brim of the water, and then with a boat hooke and other means got into the ship again and his life saved."



[John Howland](#) [page 59] married *Mayflower* youth [Elizabeth Tilley](#) (then ~16, after 3 years as an orphan), during the Pilgrims' 4th winter; thereafter they begat 10 children, at least 86 grandchildren, etc.

So who was **Elizabeth Tilley Howland** ?

Born ~ AD1607, in England
Unto John & Joan Tilley;
orphaned AD1620/AD1621;
only Tilley to survive the voyage;
taken in by M/M John Carver;
Carvers die the next winter;
@ ~16, Elizabeth marries
her then-guardian, Carvers'
indentured servant, John
Howland (then), during
winter of AD1623/AD1624;
Died @ 80, 12-21-AD1687





So who were Elizabeth Howland's children ?

Desire (b. AD1624), mom of **11**

John (b. AD26/7), dad of **10**

Hope (b. ~AD1629), mom of **12**

Elizabeth (b. ~AD1631), mom of **9**

Lydia (b. ~AD1633), mom of **4**

Hannah (b. ~AD1637), mom of **9**

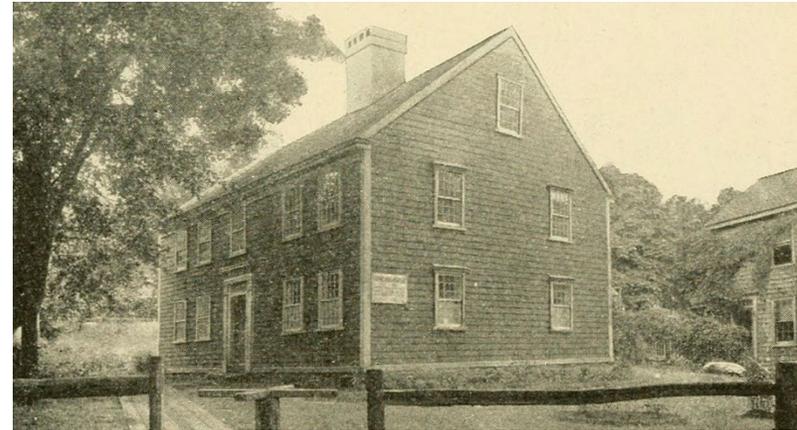
Joseph (b. ~AD1640), dad of **9**

Jabez (b. ~AD1644), dad of **11**

Ruth (b. ~AD1646), mom of **3**

Isaac (b. 11-15-AD1649), dad of **8**

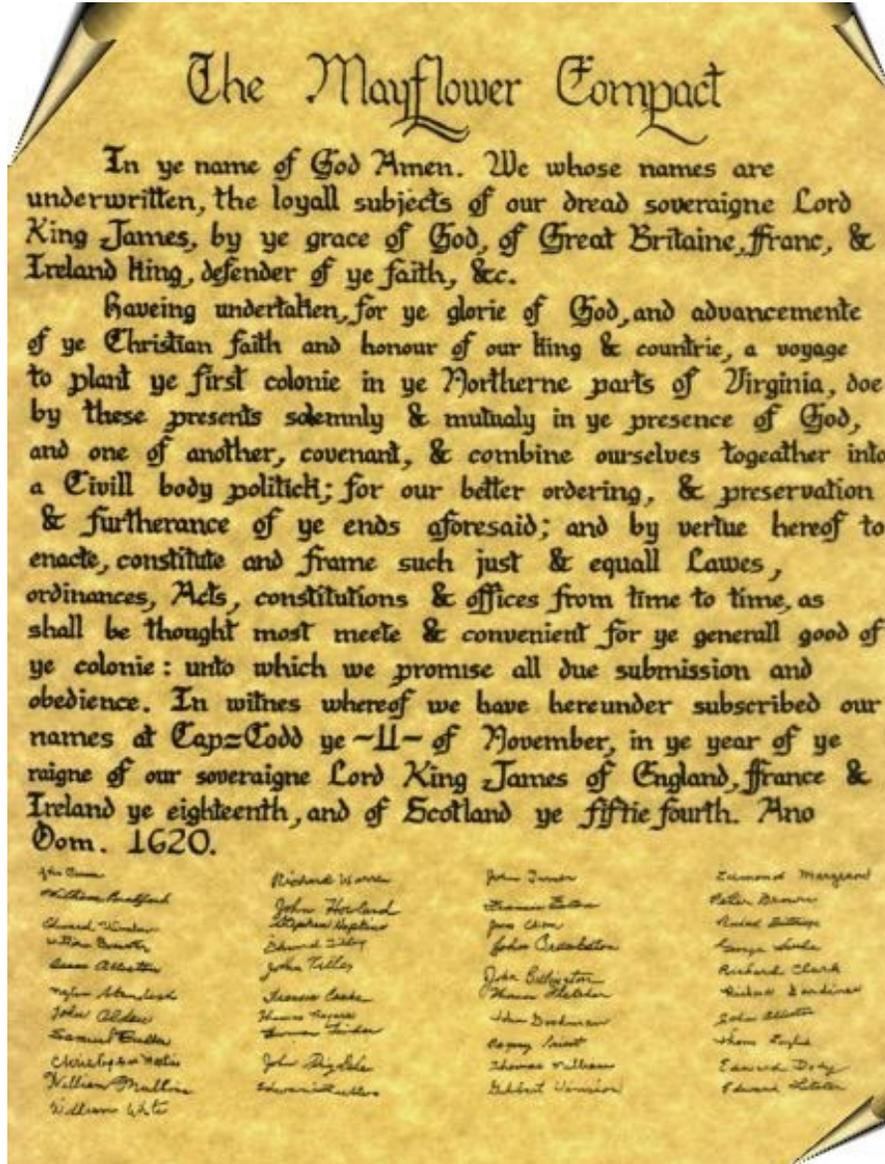
John & Elizabeth moved in with their son Jabez. In AD1680, as a widow, Elizabeth moved in with dottir Lydia.



So who descends from John & Elizabeth Howland ?

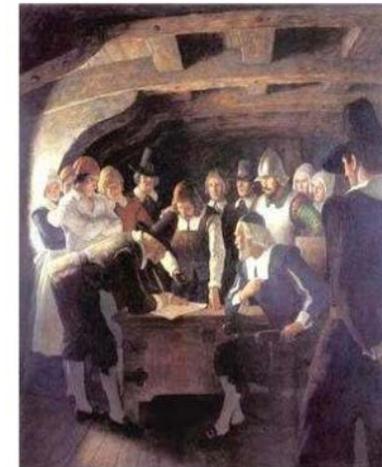


Mayflower Compact



1620- The Mayflower Compact

- Signed by the pilgrims who came over on the Mayflower
- First American example of a plan of self-government
- Pilgrims agreed to choose on leaders and make own laws





YES!!

**MY DAD SIGNED THE MAYFLOW
COMPACT**
memegenerator.net



Mayflower Compact Background

- The Pilgrims left England in a ship called the Mayflower which was headed to Virginia.
- A storm blew the ship off of course and then ended up in Massachusetts.
- They landed in an independent territory and needed a government fast
- The men agree to create a new government and follow its laws.

It never was easy: 12-11-AD1620



The Pilgrims' safe arrival at Cape Cod aboard the Mayflower (William Bradford recalls):

"Being thus arived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees & blessed ye God of heaven, who had brought them over ye vast & furious ocean, and delivered them from all ye periles & miseries therof, againe to set their feete on ye firme and stable earth, their proper elemente. And no marvell if they were thus joyefull, seeing wise Seneca [*a Roman author*] was so affected with sailing a few miles on ye coast of his owne Italy.... But hear I cannot but stay and make a pause, and stand half amased at this poore peoples presente condition; and so I thinke will the reader too, when he well considered ye same. **Being thus passed ye vast ocean, and a sea of troubles before in their preparation (as may be remembred by yt which wente before), they had now no friends to wellcome them, nor inns to entertaine or refresh their weatherbeaten bodys, no houses or much less townes to repaire too, to seeke for succoure.** .. Let it also be considred what weake hopes of supply & succoure they left behinde them, yt might bear up their minds in this sade condition and trialls they were under; and they could not but be very smale. It is true, indeed, ye affections & love of their brethren at Leyden was cordiall & entire towards them, but they had litle power to help them, or them selves; and how ye case stode betweene them & ye marchants at their coming away, hath already been declared. What could not sustaine them but ye spirite of God & his grace? May not & ought not the children of these fathers rightly say : Our fathers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this willdernes; but they cried unto ye Lord, and he heard their voyce, and looked on their adversitie..."

Humble beginnings at Plymouth Rock



The first winter (AD1620-AD1621) was harsh.

Of the Tilley family, only 13-year-old Elizabeth survived the 1st winter.



Massachusetts



Discovering Indian Corn.

“Corn Hill” emergency food (*paid for later*)

“But at length [11-15-AD1620] they found water and refreshed themselves, being the first New England water they drunk of ... also they found where lately a [home] had been, where some planks and a great kettle was remaining, and heaps of sand newly paddled with their hands. Which, they digging up, found in them diverse fair Indian baskets filled with corn, and some in ears, fair and good, of diverse colors, which seemed to them a very goodly sight (having never seen any such before). ...[T]hey returned to the ship lest they should be in fear of their safety; and took with them part of the corn and buried the rest. And so, like the men from Eschol [Numbers 13:23], carried with them of the fruits of the land and showed their brethren; of which, and their return, they were marvelously glad and their hearts encouraged. ...

There was also found 2 of their houses [*i.e., homes*] covered with mats, and sundry of their implements in them, but the people were run away [*sic*] and could not be seen. Also there were found more of their corn and of their beans of various colors; the corn and the beans they brought away, purposing to give them full satisfaction [*according to English common law governing private emergency and quantum valebat*] when they should meet with any of them as, about some 6 months afterward they did, to their good content.” [Quoting William Bradford, pages 65-66; payment on page 88.]

Indian corn agriculture, upgraded with hoes breaking ground



Squanto showing a Pilgrim how to plant corn in a mound of dirt with herring as a fertilizer.



Family life was no short-term camping trip.



It takes a village .. to be a village.





1st **Samoset** (3-16-AD1621), then **Squanto**

(met Squanto 3-22-AD1621; Squanto died 11-30-AD1622)



Terrorist under-chief Corbitant undermines Wampanoag peace treaty agreed to by Gov. Carver & friendly sachem Massasoit. By August AD1621 Carver is dead, Bradford the new governor. Bradford sent Squanto & Hobbamock to check on Corbitant, who captured Squanto. Hobbamock escaped. August 14th AD1621 Captain Miles Standish, now a widower, leads 10 men (**including translator-warrior Hobbamock, who became a Christian, neighbor, & “family” of Miles Standish**) in **a night raid to rescue Squanto**. (Hobbamock, whom Massasoit trusted moreso than Squanto, was the Pilgrims’ best long-term Indian friend, living with the Standishes till his death in AD1642.) Squanto is saved, Corbitant escaped, and 2 wounded Indian enemies, wounded by musket shot, are taken to Plymouth for medical treatment. **News spread!** 9 sachems came 9-13-AD1621, wisely, to join the peace/common defense treaty. (In later crises Standish aptly defended the Pilgrims.)



Squanto ambushed & captured by Corbitant!
Myles Standish & special-ops men to rescue Squanto!

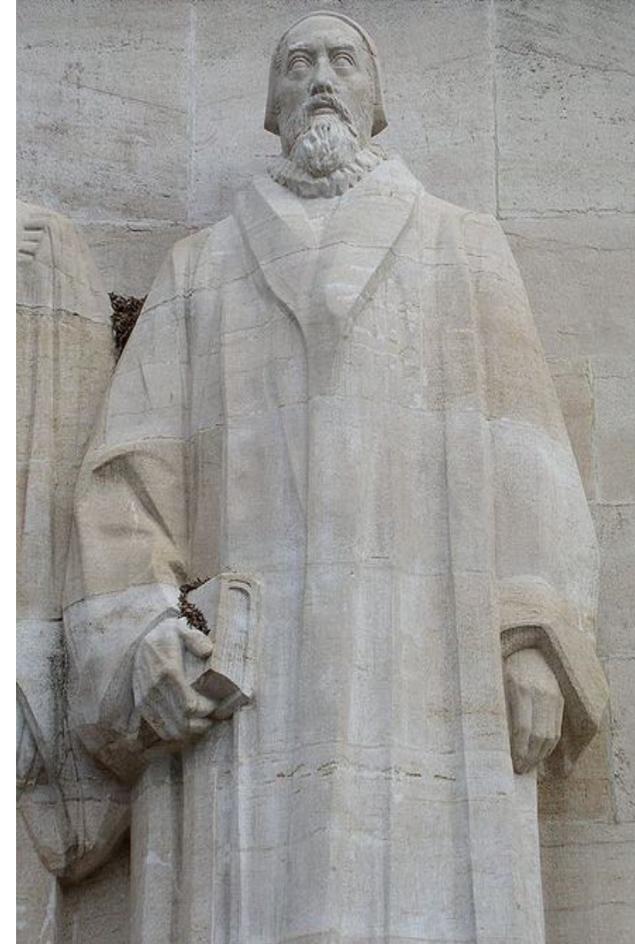
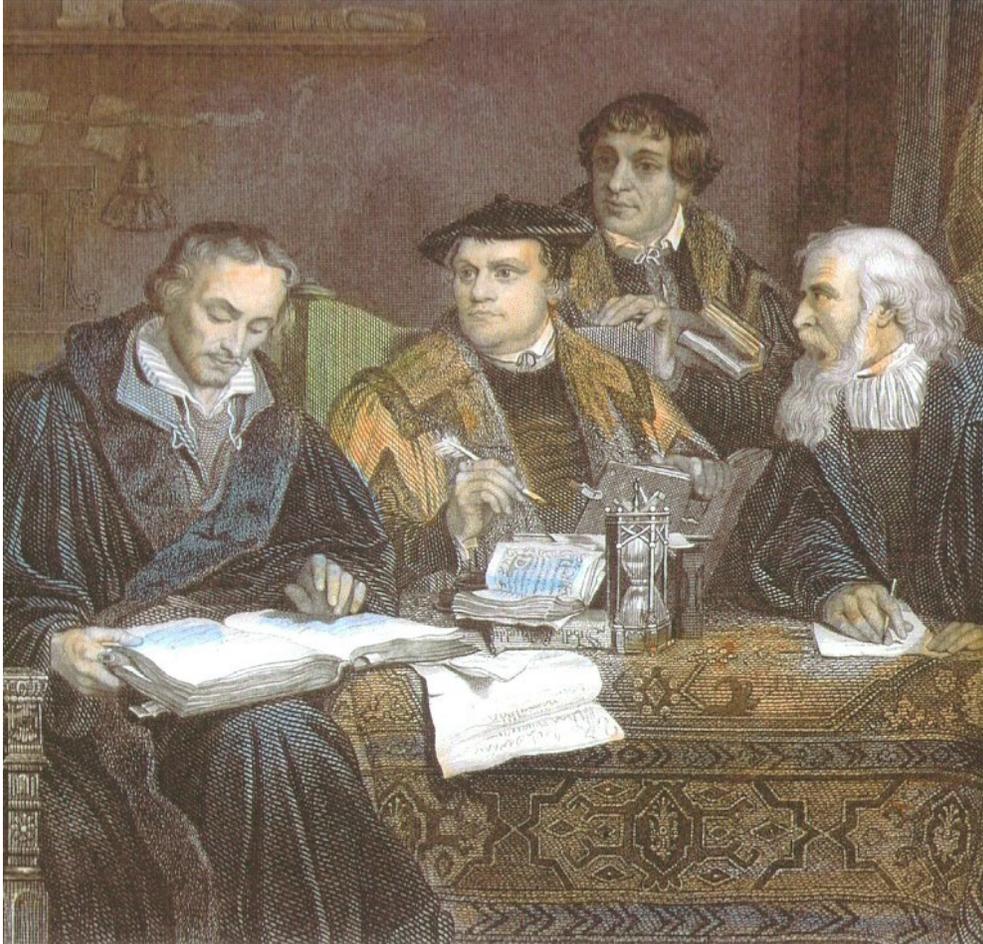


1st Thanksgiving (Dec. 13th A.D. 1621)



Great Commission “going”, blended with Genesis Mandate “filling”





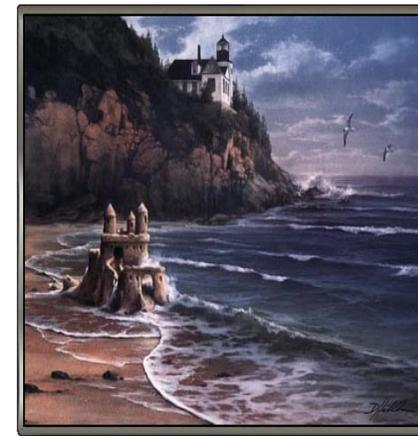
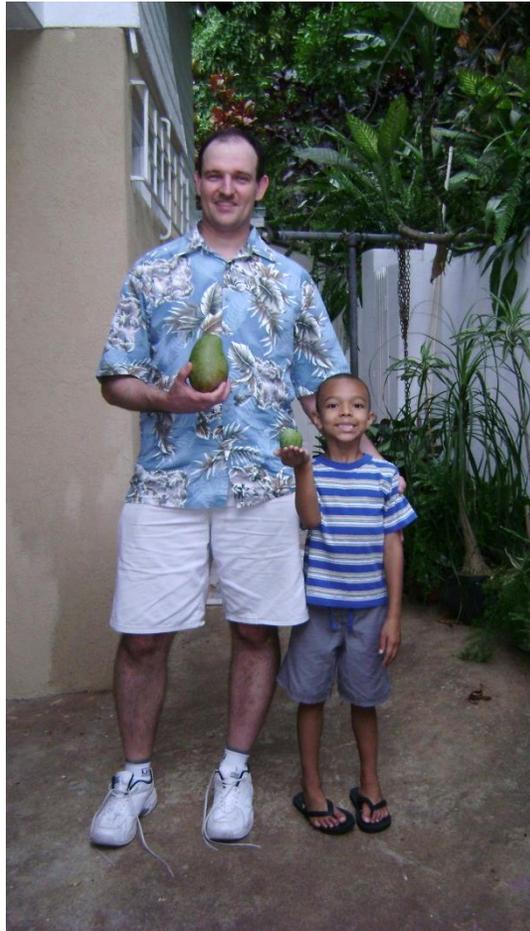
Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

1st Thessalonians 5:21

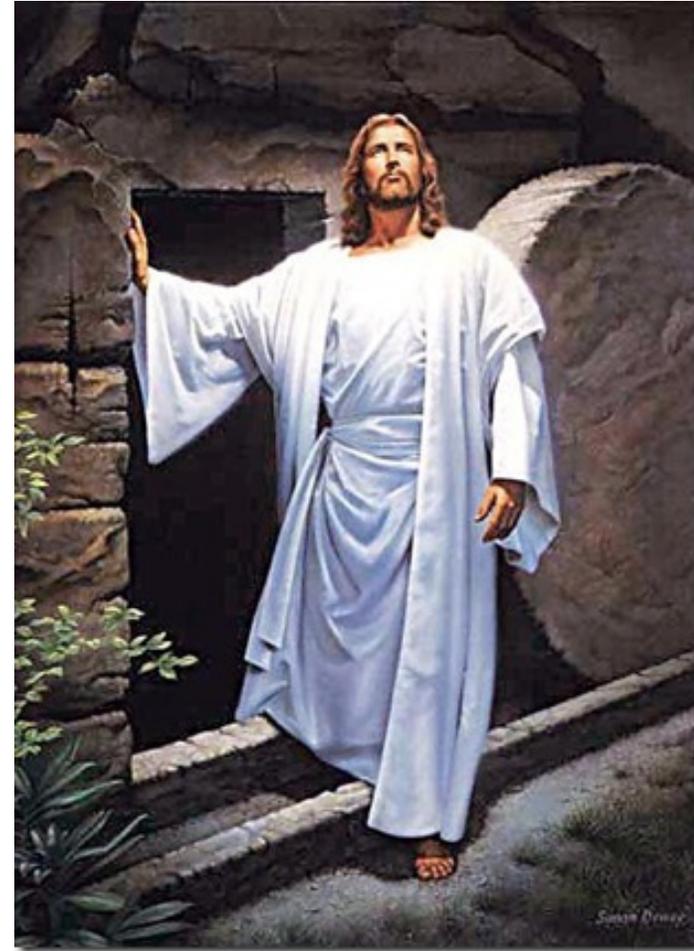
Go [*πορευθεντες*, = participle of go/journey/travel] ye, therefore, and **teach** [*μαθητευσατε*] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** [*διδασκοντες*] them to observe [*τηρειν*] all things whatsoever I have commanded [*ενετειλαμην*] you. (Matthew 28:19-20a)



Family history & the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20 & Mark 16:15)



Thank God for *all* He did, to make you
who **you** are, with **your family** !



Thanks for listening!

