

AAM: No, you wouldn't. But if any secular person is founder of the English church, it is Queen Elizabeth. Those Puritans were really wonderful Christians in Elizabeth's day and they had a lot of persecution. It was during Elizabeth's reign that England changed from a country in which the people were either indifferent or largely Romanists, to a country in which the great bulk were strongly Protestant.

Lady: Where does Bunyan come into that?

AAM: Bunyan. Yes, that's the next generation. Elizabeth was very conscious of her position as queen. England was in a tough situation. The Spanish was the great power; England was comparatively insignificant. For years Elizabeth was able to make Philip of Spain think that she would marry him. She kept him waiting hoping to marry her. He'd been married to Mary her sister, and she kept him thinking he could marry her until finally he saw she was just playing with him. She never married. And he launched the Armada. By that time she had built up the navy so that England could resist.

After Elizabeth, when she died she turned things over to her cousin who was the king of Scotland. He had ruled in Scotland nominally, but the Presbyterian leaders really ruled, and he had been very restive. So when he became king of England--James did--he said that people must do what he said or he would harry them out of the land. It was then the Puritans left England and came over here.

James was a real Protestant. He knew his theology well. He wrote a very scholarly book on the divine right of kings. As a scholar he was a good man; as a king he was an utter failure. The only good thing he did in his life was when the Protestants asked him about 10 things they asked for, he turned down nine of them and the one thing he granted was to have a new translation of the Bible! He said they should revise the Bishop's Bible. That was to be their primary thing--a revision of the Bishop's Bible and they should pay attention to all the translations, but the one that should get the least attention was the Geneva version which he hated because it had footnotes which knocked down the rights of kings! The revisers had sense enough to follow the Geneva Bible much more than any other (translation) and they got out the (translation) called the KJV.

Then James tried to marry his son Charles to a Spanish princess. The Spaniards wouldn't do it. He married her instead to a French princess, and she was raised in strict Roman Catholicism. The result was that the Puritans were in some difficulty. Charles seems to have been a Protestant but his wife was a thorough-going Romanist. Charles followed in the lines of Elizabeth trying to enforce ritual and ceremony and making it more and more in the direction of the Romanists system. He tried to rule autocratically. The situation got so bad they had a revolt. In this revolt Cromwell who had hardly been known before came to the front and proved to be a remarkable strategist. Cromwell's army established complete control over England and Scotland. You ought to read Macaulay on Cromwell. In fact I found Macaulay's Essays fascinating. I got on to them from Canon Doyle who wrote a book called Through the Magic Door and he told how he loved Macaulay's Essays. I enjoyed his Essays tremendously, many of them about people I knew nothing about. He has one on Bunyan. Macaulay tells about Cromwell who had this tremendous army and most of the men