The Pilgrims Laid The Foundation
4032

Initial Questions
Why is Pilgrim history relevant to us today?
Except for the Pilgrims, has our nation sown the seeds of its own downfall?
What can we learn from the Pilgrims about collective prayer and fasting?
How were the Pilgrims similar to charismatic Christians?
How did the Pilgrims deal with the issue of communal living vs. family?

Outline
I. Introduction—Pilgrims: Examples of Christians principles at work
II. General Foundation Material
   A. Gal. 6:7–8—Seed and reproduction
      1. Seed: *What a man sows, he will reap*
         Fruit is necessary for production of seed
      2. Reproduction: *Like begets like*
         2 Cor. 8 & 9—Principles in finances (esp. 9:6)
      3. Process of sowing applies to nations
   B. Is. 61:11—Righteousness and praise in nations
   C. Ps. 33:10–12—God has a plan for the nations
      Nations shape their own destinies
      1. When they sow *against* God, they are broken
      2. Example of Britain in Palestine
   D. John 4:37–38—Reaping sown seed in Samaria
III. Pilgrim Records: Their Relevance To Us Today
   A. William Bradford: Early emphases in his life:
      1. Word of God
      2. Prayer group meeting in a home
   B. Pilgrim movement
      1. Three key men: Clyfton, Robinson, Brewster
      2. Differences between Puritans and Pilgrims—Reformation vs. restoration
      3. Four Pilgrim goals: Purity, order, liberty and beauty
   C. Bradford’s goals in Pilgrim Church
      1. Pastors
      2. Teachers
      3. Elders
   D. Pilgrims formed a covenant amongst themselves
      1. To have a community, you must have a covenant
      2. God operates on the basis of a covenant
      3. Ps. 50:5—Saints make a covenant with sacrifice
   E. Pilgrims’ main motive for coming to America
      1. Lay foundation for gospel of the Kingdom here
      2. Gospel of power, authority and miracles
   F. Pilgrims’ tool: Collective prayer and fasting
1. Humiliation = fasting
2. Ezra 8:21—They fasted when they embarked

IV. Pilgrims’ Theology
   A. Robinson’s sermon: His four points:
      1. We don’t know it all
      2. More truth to come
      3. Be willing to receive further truth
      4. Receive it only if it agrees with Scriptures
   B. Illustration of building
      1. Each additional story is a further step
      2. Two things reserved for Jesus in building:
         a. Laying the foundation
         b. Putting on the roof
      3. Zech. 4:6—Jesus lays foundation and puts on roof
      4. Problems come when groups try to put on roof

V. Pilgrims’ Life Style
   A. The issue of communal living vs. family
   B. Prayer and fasting part of their lives
      1. 1623 harvest saved by prayer and fasting
      2. Nov. 15, 1636: Law made for prayer and fasting
      3. Is. 58:12—Pilgrims achieve these promises
         Their foundation for us was prayer and fasting

VI. General Summary
   A. Five similarities: Pilgrims and charismatic movement
      1. Seed: Emphasis on God’s Word
      2. Home prayer groups
      3. Community by covenant: Commitment
      4. Collective prayer and fasting
      5. Communal living vs. family: Issue faced
         Family is sacred unit of society in God’s eyes
   B. Reiteration of principles
      1. Job 12:13–25 (and Dan 2:20)—Wisdom and power
         Today’s government in Washington
      2. Psalm 107:31–43—God’s sovereignty
         a. v. 43—Lovingkindness (Heb. chesed) = covenant
         b. God’s covenant-keeping faithfulness
      3. Psalm 50:5—Definition of a saint
      4. Is. 61:11—Pilgrim’s sowing evident today
         Its end: righteousness and praise to God

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