

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