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The Scottish Covenanter Movement

- 1559 John Knox returns to Scotland to lead the Reformation.
- 1560 The Scottish Parliament establishes Protestantism in Scotland.
John Knox and five colleagues write *The Book of Discipline and Directory of Worship of the Church of Scotland*.
- 1561 Mary Queen of Scots returns to Scotland.
- 1567 Mary Queen of Scots is forced to abdicate and her 13-month old son, James, is crowned at Sterling, becoming James VI.
- 1568 Mary Queen of Scots flees to England where she lives under house arrest for the next 19 years.
- 1602 James VI of Scotland becomes James I, King of England
- 1617 James I holds a parliament in Edinburgh where he tries unsuccessfully to restore the episcopacy and use the Anglican liturgy.
- 1625 Charles I becomes King of England.
- 1635 Laud becomes Archbishop of Canterbury and implements reforms which enrage English Puritans.
- 1637 Charles I tries to force Bishop Laud's *Prayer Book* onto the Scottish Church and encounters strong opposition.
- 1638 Most Scottish nobles sign the "Solemn League and Covenant" to maintain Presbyterianism.
- 1640 A Scottish army, led by Lord Leven, crosses the English border to occupy Newcastle.
- 1643 English Civil War begins pitting the Long Parliament against Charles I.

- 1645 A royalist army led by the Marquis of Montrose is defeated by the Covenanters.
- 1646 The Westminster Assembly produces *Westminster Confession of Faith*. Cromwell's army defeats the forces of Charles I who then surrenders to the Covenanters.
- 1647 Scottish Covenanters turn Charles I over to the English Parliament but Cromwell assumes custody.
The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland adopts the *Westminster Confession of Faith*.
- 1649 Charles I is executed and Cromwell becomes Lord Protector.
- 1650 Charles II comes to Scotland at the invitation of the Covenanters where he signs the Covenant and is crowned King.
- 1651 Charles II and a mixed army of Covenanters and royalists enter England and are defeated by Cromwell.
- 1659 Oliver Cromwell dies and his son Richard becomes Protector.
- 1660 The monarchy is restored by General Monk and Charles II becomes King.
- 1662 Charles II issues the Act of Uniformity, forcing more than 2,000 English Puritan pastors out of their churches.
A similar act of the Privy Council in Scotland resulted in the ejection of approximately 400 Presbyterian ministers.
Charles II outlaws Scottish Presbyteries and gives their powers to Anglican style bishops.
- 1663 Many ministers who had been ejected begin conducting services in homes and at large gatherings in open fields (called conventicles).
- 1665 The Scottish Privy Council takes action to outlaw conventicles, making it a seditious act to participate in them.
- 1666 A Covenanter rebellion is put down by the King's forces at Rullian Green in the Pentland hills.

- 1667 Charles II appoints the Duke of Lauderdale to rule Scotland as a virtual dictator and the “Killing Times” begin.
- 1678 A conventicle is attended by 600 armed worshipers and 7,000 who are unarmed.
- 1679 Scottish Covenanters murder Archbishop Sharpe.
Covenanter forces defeat royal dragoons led by Culverhouse at the Battle of Drumclog, after singing Psalm 76 to the tune of “Martyrs.”
Covenanter fighters are defeated at Bothwell Bridge resulting in 400 deaths and 1200 taken prisoner (of whom 250 were sent to Barbados as slaves.
Persecution of Scottish Covenanters intensifies, leading many to flee Northern Ireland.
- 1685 James II, a Catholic, becomes King.
The Scottish Parliament establishes the death penalty as punishment for attending conventicles.
- 1688 James II places Catholics and Nonconformists on a level with the Church of England.
William of Orange arrives in England to force abdication of James II.
- 1689 Coronation of William III and Mary.
- 1690 William III defeats James II and his Irish and French allies at the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland.
The Scottish Parliament passes an act which restores Presbyterian government to the Church of Scotland.