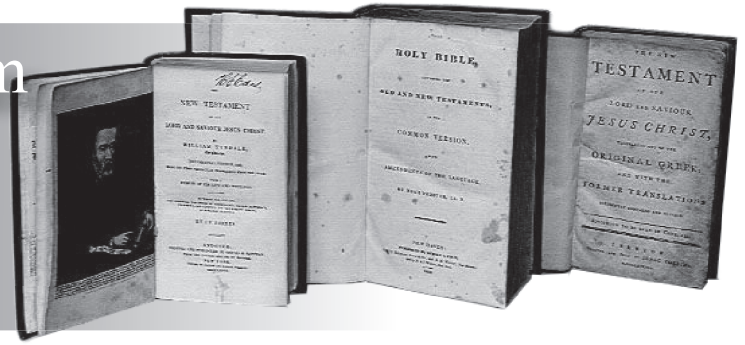


# Dunham Bible Museum News



Houston Baptist University

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THE DUNHAM BIBLE MUSEUM HAS BEEN CLOSED DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. A DEFINITE REOPENING DATE HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED.

WATCH OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES!

## ONE SMALL CANDLE

Four hundred years ago, one hundred and two passengers on the *Mayflower* landed in America and established the settlement of Plymouth. Known today as the Pilgrims, they were seeking a land where they were free to worship God according to the Bible. They laid a foundation for freedom and liberty, and the light of their faith continues to shine four hundred years later. The Dunham Bible Museum's special exhibit, "One Small Candle," was created to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims in America in 1620.

When King James I ascended the throne in 1603, many hoped he would bring a greater reformation to the Church of England, but James was intent on ruling the church through his appointed bishops. He threatened those who wanted to follow the Bible more closely saying, "I will make them conform. Or else harry them out of the land." It was illegal to not be part of the Church of England, and when Christians who wanted to follow the scriptures formed separate congregations and worshipped secretly, they were sought out, imprisoned, and sometimes executed. When persecution intensified against these Separatists, as they were called, many found refuge in the Netherlands.

In Leiden, the group of Separatists from Scrooby, England established new homes and covenanted together to form a church. Though farmers by background, they learned trades and skills to make their way in their new urban homes. Most importantly, they had freedom of worship according to the Scriptures as they desired. After twelve years, however, conditions were changing. A renewed war between Spain and the Netherlands seemed imminent. A religious conflict in Holland between Arminians and Calvinists sometimes erupted in violence, and some of the English Separatists were physically attacked. King James sought the help of the Dutch in arresting some of the Separatists who were printing books critical of the Church of England and smuggling them into England. The Separatists were also concerned that their children were joining in some of the worldly ways of the Dutch youth of the day. With troubles mounting, land in America seemed to beckon as a new home.

William Bradford, who became governor of the colony in America, described the English leaving the Netherlands for America, "So they left that good and pleasant city which had been their resting place near twelve years; but they knew they

were pilgrims, and looked not much on those things, but lift up their eyes to the heavens, their dearest country, and quieted their spirits." Bradford's words reflected the Scripture in Hebrews 11:13-16, which originally spoke of those early pilgrims Abraham and Sarah: *All these died in faith, and received not the promises, but saw them afar off, and believed them, and received them thankfully, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things, declare plainly, that they seek a country. And if they had been mindful of that country, from whence they came out, they had leisure to have returned. But now they desire a better, that is an heavenly; wherefore God is not ashamed of them to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*"

After several false starts from England, the *Mayflower* with its 102 passengers arrived off the coast of America late in the year and far north of the Virginia colony where they had permission to settle. Since they were on land not under any government's control, before disembarking the *Mayflower* the Pilgrims wrote up an agreement for self-government, patterned



Robert Weir's 12' x 18' painting "Embarkation of the Pilgrims" was installed in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol in 1844. The painting shows the pilgrims in prayer on board the ship, ready to leave the Netherlands. William Brewster holds the open Bible; Miles Standish and his wife Rose are in the right foreground. The presence of women and children shows the pilgrim migration was truly a family affair.

after the covenants used in forming their church congregations. Beginning, “We whose names are underwritten,” they declared that they had undertaken the colonization “for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and the honor of our king and country.” They called God as a witness and committed to “covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation.” This was a government of equal laws for the people and established a self-governing colony in America. Winston Churchill called this Mayflower Compact “One of the remarkable documents in history,” and in some ways it was a forerunner of the U.S. Constitution.

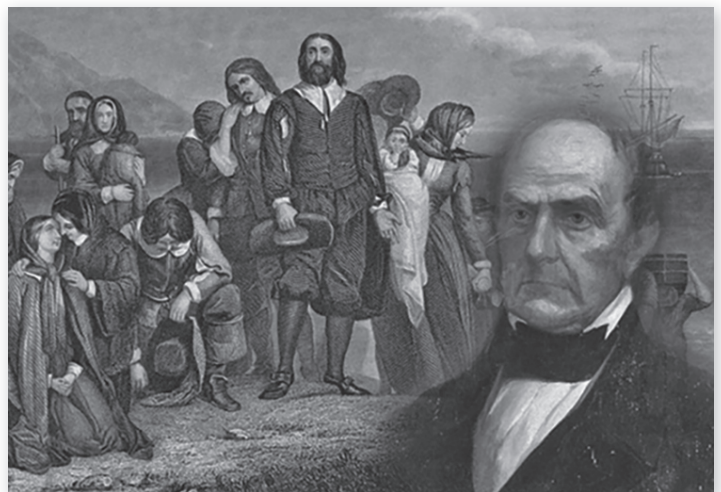
Included in the Bible Museum’s exhibit on the Pilgrims are two Bibles of the same editions as belonged to Pilgrims John Alden and William Bradford. John Alden, a key figure in Longfellow’s *The Courtship of Miles Standish*, brought to America a 1619-1620 quarto of the King James version of *The Holy Bible*. Interestingly, the Bible Museum’s copy is signed by printer Robert Barker on the title page, and the volume once belonged to Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King George III. A 1592 edition of the Geneva Bible is the same edition as the Bible owned by Governor Bradford. The Geneva Bible, first published in 1560, was the first English Study Bible and favored by the English followers of the Reformation. It included “most profitable Annotations upon all the hard places,” as well as two concordances. One concordance contained the interpretation of the Hebrew, Chaldean, Greek, and Latin words and names throughout Scripture. The second was what we now consider the traditional concordance, of English words and places where they can be found in the Old and New Testament. The personal copies of Alden’s and Bradford’s Bibles are in the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

William Brewster, for many years the Pilgrim’s preacher, was a man of immense learning who had over 400 books in his library. Latin Bibles such as in his library as well as a reprint of one of the books he printed in Leiden which angered the king are also on exhibit.

As William Bradford recounted the story of the pilgrim settlement in his work *Of Plimoth Plantation*, he seemed to foresee the example and beacon these Christians would be to later generations when he wrote, “Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing, and gives being to all things that are; and, as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many...”

*“Let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers were brought hither by their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles with the elements of their society, and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, or literary.”*

~Daniel Webster at 200th anniversary of the Pilgrims’ landing, 1820

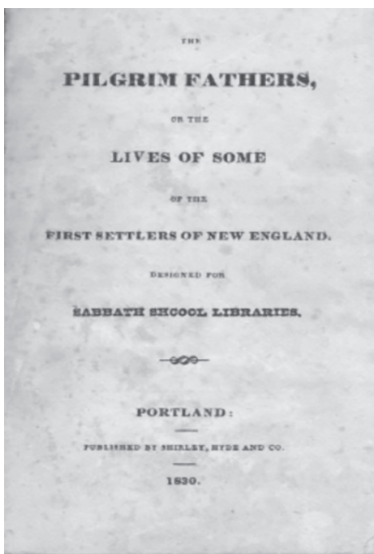


*Daniel Webster delivered a stirring oration at Plymouth, Massachusetts, December 22, 1820, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims in America.*

# THE PILGRIM FATHERS

To coincide with its special exhibit “One Small Candle” commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim’s arrival in America, the Dunham Bible Museum has reprinted a little book from 1830, *The Pilgrim Fathers*. Originally designed to be used in “Sabbath School Libraries,” *The Pilgrim Fathers* provides brief inspirational biographies of four of the Pilgrims or Puritan settlers – John Robinson, John Carver, Edward Winslow, and John Winthrop. John Robinson was the Pilgrim pastor in Leiden, who died before coming to America. John Carver was the first governor of the Plymouth colony in America. Edward Winslow served as governor, assistant governor, and the colony’s agent in London. John Winthrop was governor of the adjoining Massachusetts Bay Colony. After telling of these Christian leaders, *The Pilgrim Fathers* encourages the readers:

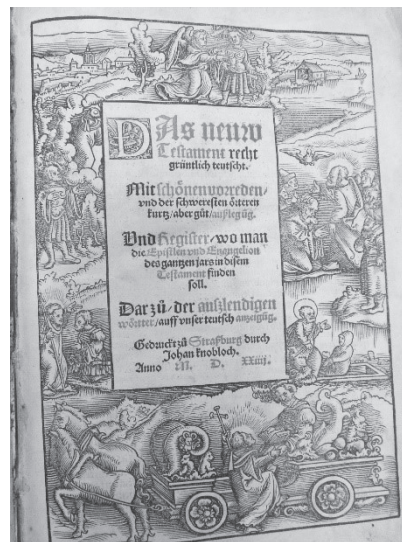
Let the piety of our fathers help us to conceive a more full idea of His benevolence, who came from heaven to earth, to raise us by his death from ignorance, sin, and misery, to know, obey and enjoy God. May the sons and daughters of America look up through the examples of other days, to him, who is the author and finisher of our faith, and with penitent dependence on him, may they follow his steps, and go about to do good, and carry on toward a happy consummation, the work of converting the world to Christ.



*"The Pilgrim Fathers," originally printed in 1830 for "Sabbath School Libraries", has been reprinted by the Dunham Bible Museum for the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims coming to America. It is available in the museum's gift shop for \$10.*

# LUTHER'S GERMAN NEW TESTAMENT

The Dunham Bible Museum recently acquired a German New Testament printed in Strasbourg in 1524. Luther's translation of the New Testament into German, the first German translation from the original Greek, remains the standard German translation today. Luther's New Testament was first printed in 1522, and the beautiful 1524 folio edition was printed while he was still working on the Old Testament translation.



*Title page of the 1524 folio German translation of the New Testament by Luther. The illustrations on the title page are of the apostles preaching the Gospel in various settings*

This printing contains over thirty woodcut illustrations. The volume also includes an amazingly complete “Concordantz.” The amount of time and work needed to assemble the concordance in the days before computers shows much dedication. Luther did not want illustrations from the life of Christ, so in the 1524 Luther New Testament, the only illustrations in the Gospels are the historiated initials and the portraits of the Gospel writers. The first of Paul’s epistles has an illustration of Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus. The first of Peter’s epistles has an illustration of Peter’s vision in Acts. Though Luther did not want illustrations of Jesus, he believed the book of Revelation was too difficult to be understood without them, so most of the illustrations are in that book, many done by Hans Holbein.



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[HBU.edu/BibleMuseum](http://HBU.edu/BibleMuseum)

*"Nevertheless, to keep a good conscience, and walk in such a way as God has prescribed in his word, is a thing which I must prefer before you all, and above life itself."*

~William Bradford,  
Pilgrim Governor of Plymouth

Visit the Dunham Bible Museum's website for virtual tours of the Museum's exhibits, past and present, as well as videos of past lectures and much more.

### *Current Special Exhibit*

"One Small Candle" is a special exhibit on the Pilgrims in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's landing in America in 1620. The Dunham Bible Museum's regular exhibits include:

- Bible Manuscripts
- Early printed Bibles
- English Bibles
- American Bibles
- Foreign Bible translations

...all designed to show the Bible's history, influence and impact.



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CONNECTING YOU,  
THEN AND NOW

The Dunham Bible Museum is OPEN  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday – Saturdays,  
except University holidays.

To make an appointment for group tours, or  
for further information, contact

Dr. Diana Severance at  
281-649-3287 or DSeverance@HBU.edu

On your next Dunham Bible Museum visit, try out our new audio tour using your cell phone!