

The Glorious Revolution

The “Glorious Revolution” raises some intriguing questions which you might want to pursue with your class.

- (a) The blessings which came through the Revolution should be stressed, primarily the civil and religious freedom we still enjoy. We are not hindered from coming to worship and in worship following the pattern we believe Scripture sets out. It would be good to remind the class that there are many places in the world in the 21st Century where this freedom is not enjoyed. We should not take it for granted and we should certainly see it as a great privilege and use it faithfully.
- (b) The fact that the Covenanters were “ahead of their time” is an important aspect of the story. “What Richard Cameron said and did at Sanquhar in 1680, the Parliaments of England and Scotland did in 1689 when the former declared the throne vacant and the latter declared that James had forfeited the right to reign.”
- (c) You could deal with the issue of revolution. The Covenanters, while certainly not rebels, always insisted that a nation has the right to decide when its rulers had forfeited the right to rule. When that was so then the nation had a right of revolution.

JG Vos wrote that “years before the nation as a whole, the Covenanters anticipated the inevitable revolution which came in 1688.”

- (d) In 1690 Parliament passed an Act which ratified the Westminster Confession of Faith and Presbyterian Church government. Presbyterianism was stated to be “the government of Christ’s church within the nation, agreeable to the Word of God and most conducive to the advancement of true piety and godliness and the establishment of peace in the realm.” Covenanters were not satisfied because Parliament did not affirm that Presbyterianism is the only form of church government. Were these Covenanters overly strict or was their position justified and has history proved that to be so?