

I. General

- 1) The Westminster Assembly (WA) = an _____
- 2) Purpose:
- 3) Result & Impact:

II. Events Surrounding the Calling of an Assembly of Divines

- 1) 1642, Civil War
- 2) 1643, Breakdown of Church Order
- 3) Parliament vs. Monarch
- 4) Armageddon

III. Establishment of the Westminster Assembly

- 1) Why?
- 2) Parliamentary “Ordination”
- 3) The Assembly’s Mandates
 - Initial:
 - Subsequent:

IV. Composition of the Assembly

- 1) Nominations and Appointments
- 2) 119 Divines

- 2 f. ea English county -2 f. channel islands
- 1 f. ea Welch county -2 f. Oxford & Cambridge U.s
- 4 f. London -3 f. French Reformed churches
- 10 f. House of Lords -20 f. House of Commons

- 3) Majority: Presbyterian & English
- 4) Minorities: Episcopalians, Independents, Erastians
- 5) The Scots
- 6) Sessions

V. Primary Document Excerpts:

From the 1640 “Root and Branch Petition:

That “...the government of archbishops and lord bishops, deans, etc [exact wording from the infamous Et Cetera Oath] ... with all its dependencies, roots and branches, may be abolished, and all laws in their behalf mad void, and the government according to God’s word may be rightly placed amongst us.”

From Parliament’s 1643 Ordinance calling and establishing the Assembly:

That the current church government “... by archbishops, bishops, their chancellors, commissaries, deans and chapters, archdeacons, and other ecclesiastical officers depending upon the hierarchy, is evil, and justly offensive and burdensome to the kingdom, a great

impediment to reformation and growth of religion, and very prejudicial to the state and government of this kingdom... ”

To replace it with a church “... most agreeable to God’s holy word, and most apt to procure and preserve the peace of the Church at home, and nearer agreement with the Church of Scotland, and other Reformed Churches abroad; and, for the better effecting hereof and for the vindicating and clearing of the doctrine of the Church of England from all false calumnies and aspersions.”

VI. Future Background Lessons to include:

- 1) WA Powers
- 2) WA 1st Task
- 3) Scots & The Solemn League & Covenant
- 4) Chronology & Agendas
- 5) Developments During the Assembly & Beyond