

No matter our circumstances,  
we can have comfort and peace in Christ  
2 Thessalonians 1

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# 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

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- No matter the circumstances, we can have grace and peace in Christ.
- The “tone” of Paul’s second letter is different than the first.
- He had received word that a new crisis had erupted in Thessalonica.
- Concerned about this false teaching, Paul apostle warned them not to be “quickly shaken” by (2:2).
- The false teaching was not true, because the man of lawlessness had not appeared (2:1–12).

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# 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

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- “Grace and peace” was a fairly common greeting in Paul’s letters and in other Christian letters of the ancient church. “Grace” was a common Greek greeting. “Peace” was the common Jewish greeting.
- “Grace and peace” summarizes the whole of the Gospel in one short phrase.
- Because of God’s grace toward us, we can have peace in our relationship with Him and peace in our lives.
- Paul continually emphasized salvation by grace alone through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8–10).

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

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- Thankful for those who have strong faith and abundant love.
- In the first letter, Paul thanked God for their faith, love and hope.
- Here it is only faith and love.
- This wasn't an accident; he was making a theological statement.
- By listening to these false prophets, they were indicating their lack of hope, believing that the Second Coming had already happened.

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

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- Paul also talks about boasting. He wasn't boasting about his own skills, talents or wisdom.
- He wasn't really even boasting about the Thessalonians, but rather of the work of Christ in them.
- He was not boasting about their great talents or the buildings they had built.
- He was boasting about the faith and perseverance the Holy Spirit had given to them and about the love they had for each other, which only comes from the Holy Spirit.

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7

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- We can have confidence in God's righteous judgment.
- The format of this passage in the Greek is written in poetry, not prose.
- Hebrew poetry uses parallelism in couplets, where the second line is connected to the first, as either a contrast or a repetition.
- Because of its arrangement in couplets, scholars have suggested this is an ancient Christian hymn, creed, or catechism.

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7

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- This passage describes what will happen when Jesus returns in judgment.
- In the first two and a half verses (verses 1:5–7a), the first part is a full paragraph, and then there is a couplet at the end:

“Affliction to those who afflict you  
And to you who are afflicted, relief with us” (verses 6b–7a)
- When Christ returns in righteous judgment, there will be affliction for those who afflict us and relief for us who are afflicted.

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7

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- The Day of Judgment will be a day of punishment for the wicked, but vindication for the righteous.
- In this context, Paul is talking about those who have been mistreated, oppressed and persecuted versus those who mistreated them.
- Those who oppress and afflict others will be judged.
- Suffering persecution for Christ is a clear sign that you are a disciple (Matthew 5:10–12; John 15:18–25).



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# 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

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- Christ is the Lord who comes in judgment.
- In the Old Testament, the Day of Judgment was called “the day of the Lord.”
- In this passage, Paul makes it clear that “the Lord” is also Christ.
- The language and the imagery of the first couplet of this section are reminiscent of the vision Daniel had of the throne of God:

“With His mighty angels

In flaming fire” (vv. 7b–8a).

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

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- Daniel 7:9-10 - “His throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him; and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.”
- Isaiah 66:15–16 - “For behold, the Lord will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire will the Lord enter into judgment.”
- In this passage, it’s the Lord Jesus who comes in flaming fire to judge.

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

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- Jesus bases His final judgment not on our works, but on whether or not we know Him.
- This couplet equates those who “do not know God” with those who “disobey the gospel of Jesus.”
- To “disobey the Gospel” is to reject the reconciliation with God that the Gospel brings, which means that those who don’t know Jesus don’t really know God.

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

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- The third couplet describes the penalty for those who don't know Him:  
    “Away from the presence of the Lord  
    And from the glory of his might” (verse 9)
- They didn't want a relationship with God, so they are sent away from God.
- If being in God's presence is the fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11), what is being out of His presence? If eternal life comes in knowing God, then not knowing Him means exclusion from eternal life – eternal death and destruction (Matthew 25:31–46).

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# 2 Thessalonians 1:10-12

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- When we persevere through suffering, God is glorified in us.
- The next couplet goes back to what will happen “when he comes on that day” (verse 10a):
  - “To be glorified in his saints  
and to be marveled at among all who have believed” (verse 10b)
- Believers will be glorified with Him. At the Second Coming, we will see Christ coming in all His glory. Christians will receive new glorified, imperishable bodies (1 Corinthians 15).

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## 2 Thessalonians 1:10-12

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- This teaching about God being glorified leads to Paul's opening prayer for them – that the name of Jesus (His reputation in the world) would be glorified in them.
- Not just at the end times, but in their daily lives, by “every resolve for good” and “every work of faith by his power” (verse 11).
- The goodness people see in us is all from the Holy Spirit, not ourselves, whether it's our “good works” (moral behavior) or a “work of power” (supernatural things).

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# 2 Thessalonians 1:10-12

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- When we hear “works of the Spirit,” we tend to think of miracles, healing, etc., but kindness, selflessness, generosity, love and other spiritual fruit are also works of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–25).
- They are also “works of faith by his power” (verse 11).
- Our good works are not our own but the Fruit of the Spirit working in and through us “according to the grace of our God” that we may glorify Him (verse 12).

The background of the slide is a warm, golden-brown color. It features several large, stylized leaf silhouettes in a slightly darker shade of the background color, scattered across the frame. The leaves have prominent veins and are oriented in various directions, creating a sense of movement and autumnal atmosphere.

# Lessons from Thanksgiving



# LANDING IN PLYMOUTH

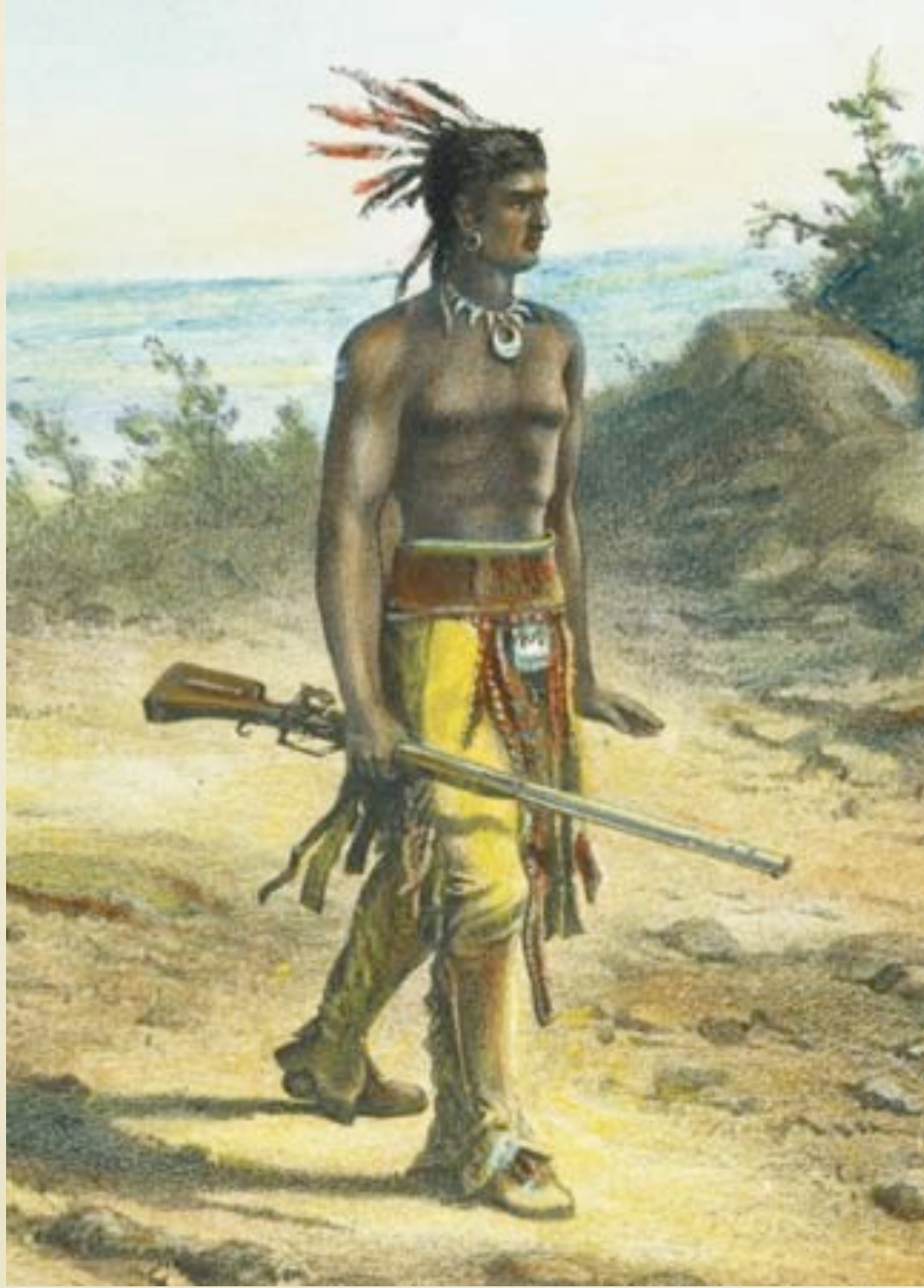


- The Pilgrims were blown off course and landed at Cape Cod.
- They resolved to sail southward but encountered “dangerous shoals and roaring breakers.”
- They began scouting expeditions and discovered Plymouth.

# LANDING IN PLYMOUTH

- Had they arrived just a few years earlier, they would have been attacked and destroyed by one of the fiercest tribes in the region.
- In 1617, the Patuxet tribe had been wiped out by a plague. The Pilgrims thus landed in one of the few places where they could survive.

# SQUANTO



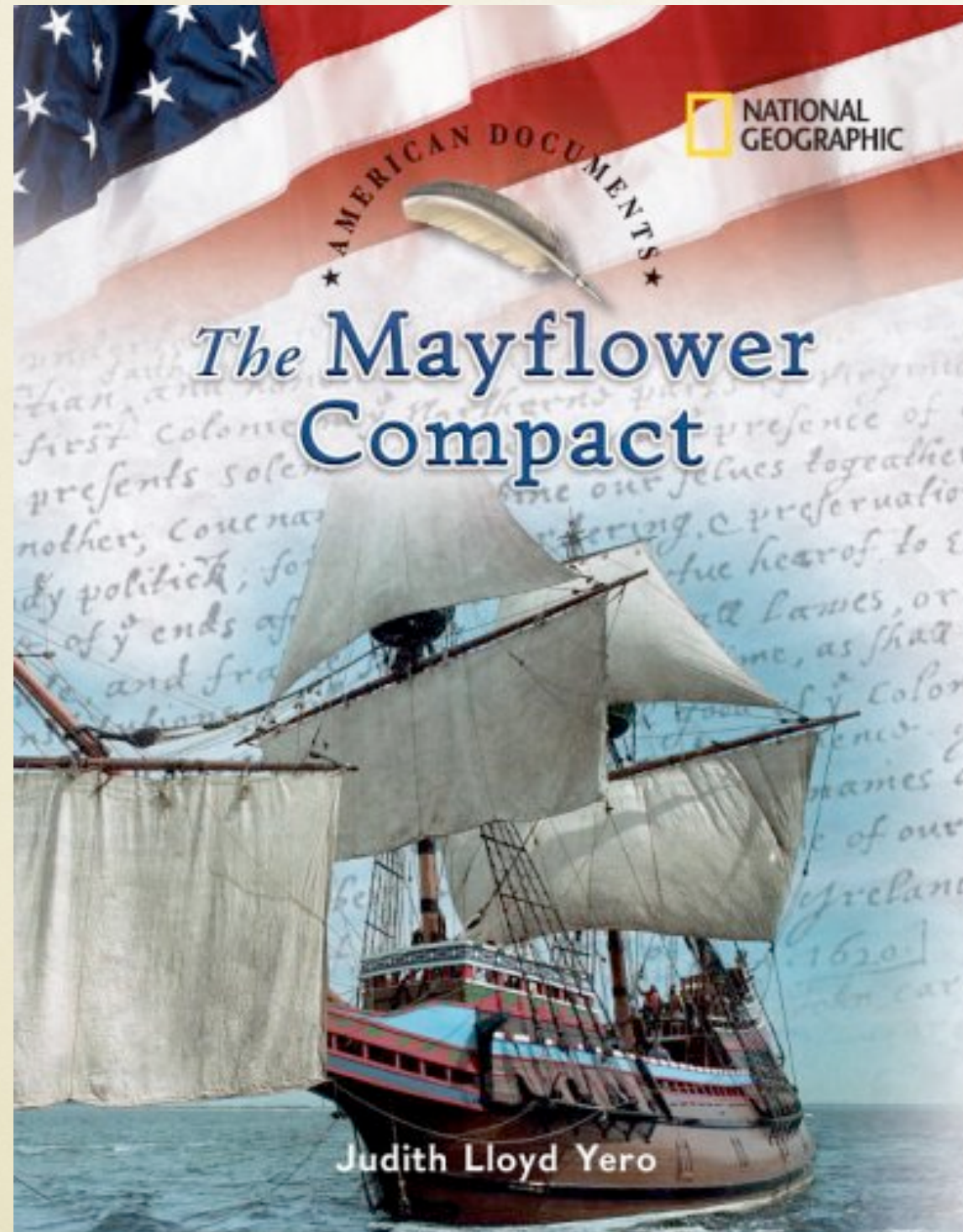
- There was one survivor of the Patuxet tribe: Squanto.
- He was kidnapped in 1605 by Captain Weymouth and taken to England where he learned English and was eventually able to return to New England.

# SQUANTO

- When Squanto learned that the Pilgrims were at Plymouth, he came to them and showed them how to plant corn and fertilize with fish.
- William Bradford said that Squanto “was a special instrument sent of God for their good beyond their expectation.”

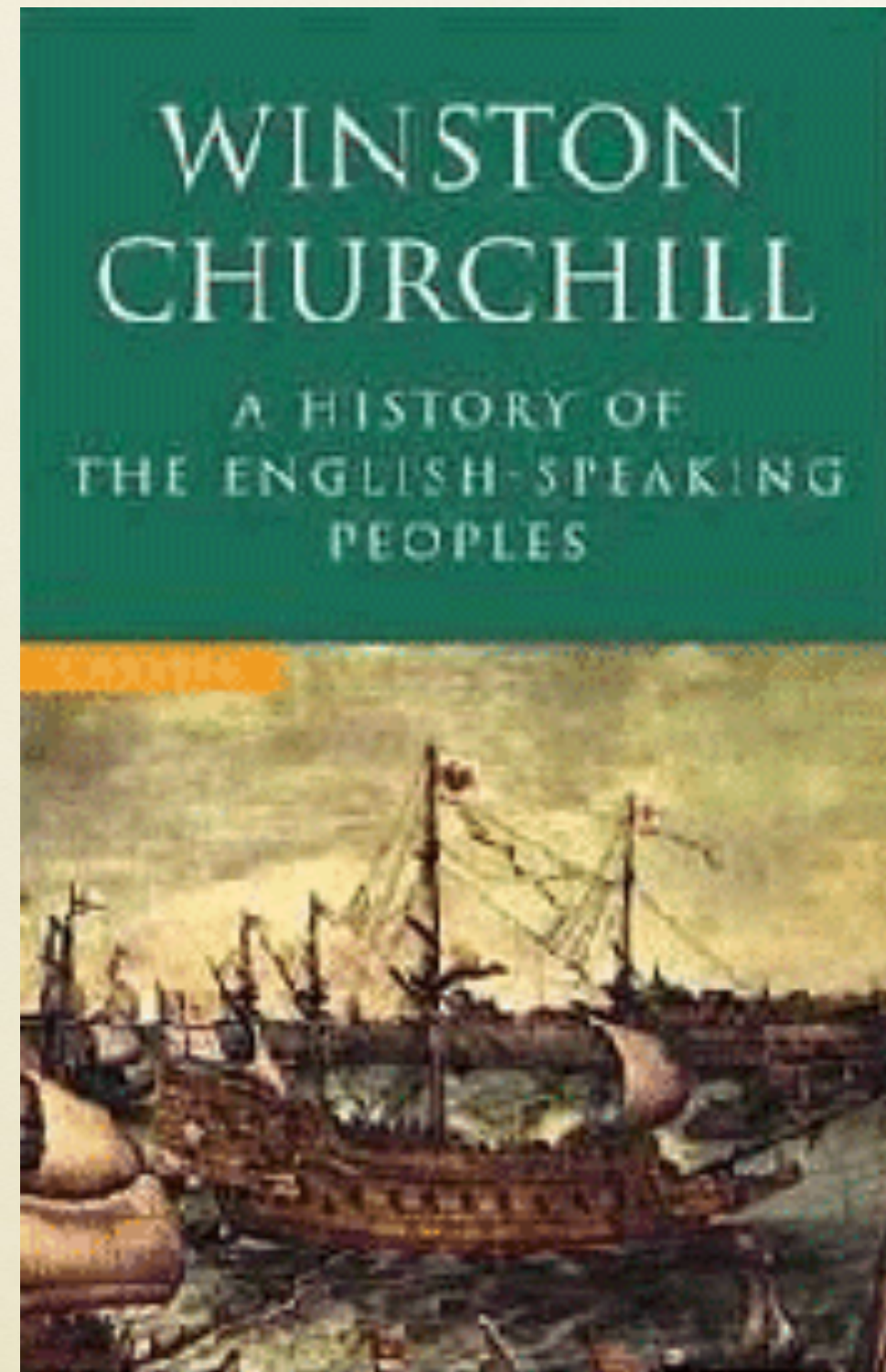
# **Political Lessons**

# MAYFLOWER COMPACT



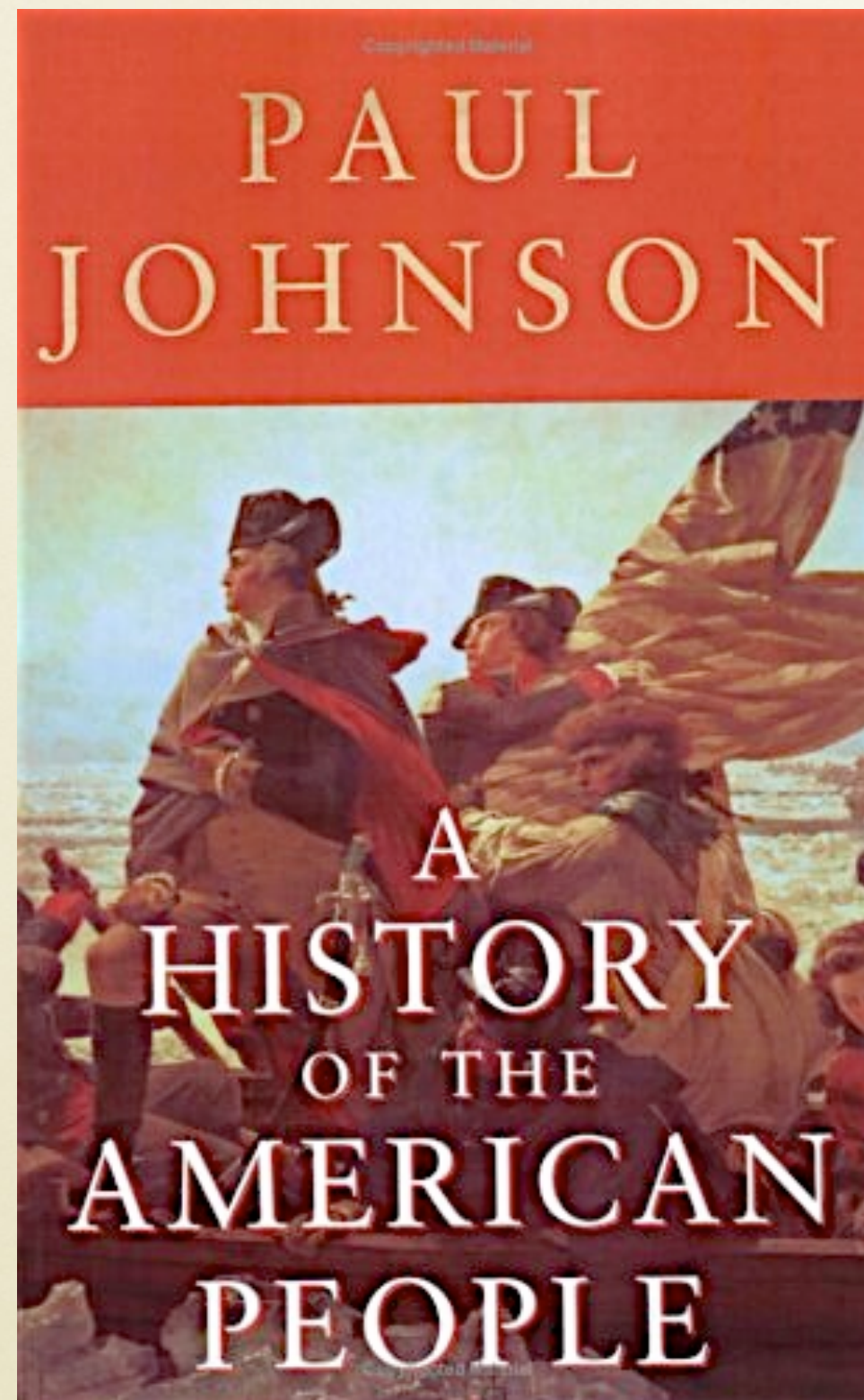
- The Mayflower Compact was the first great constitutional document and is often called “The American Covenant.”
- It set forth principles of self-government for the first time more than 150 years before our U.S. Constitution.

# WINSTON CHURCHILL



Winston Churchill said the Pilgrims “drew up a solemn compact that is one of the most remarkable documents in history, a spontaneous covenant for political organization.”

# PAUL JOHNSON



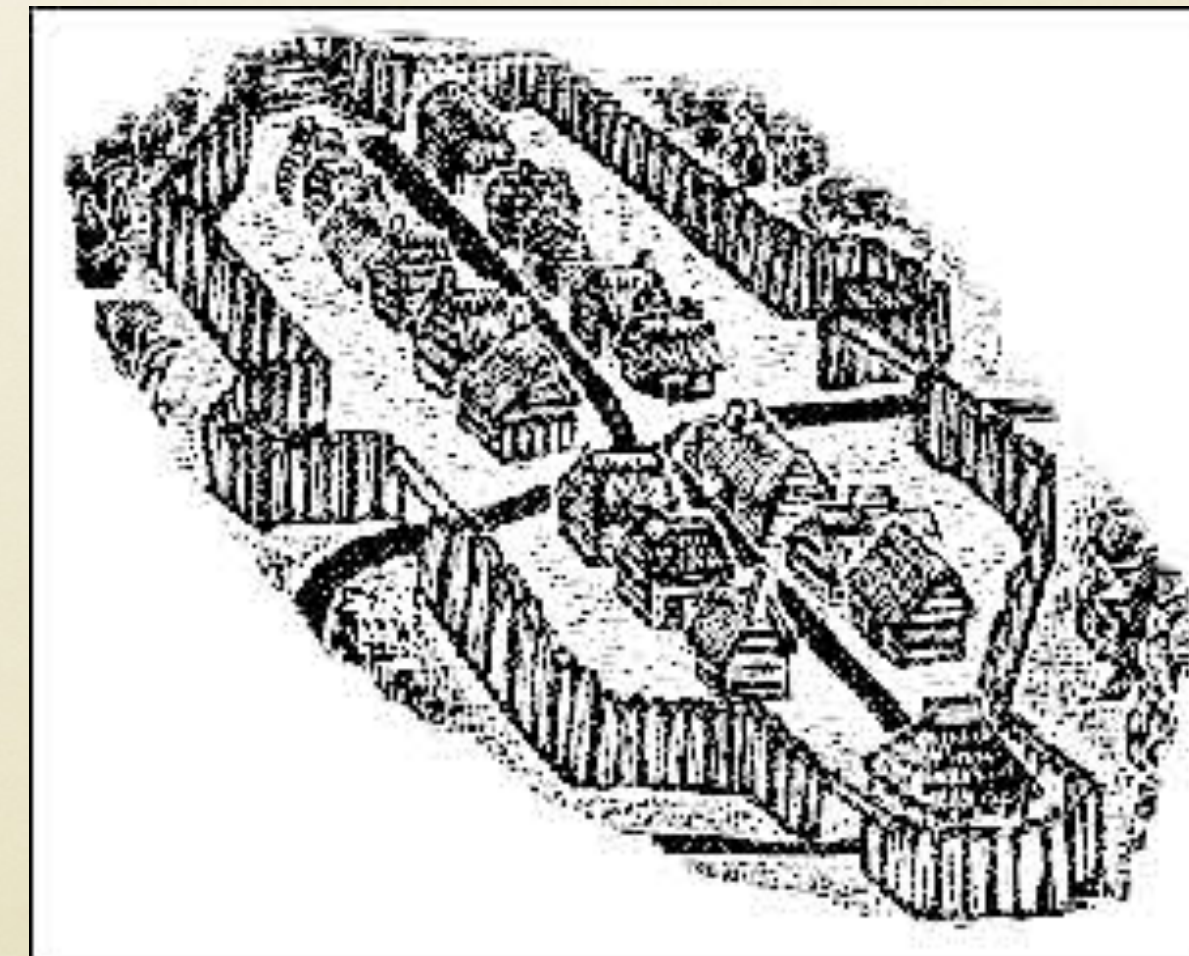
“What was remarkable about this particular contract was that it was not between a servant and a master, or a people and a king, but between a group of like-minded individuals and each other, with God as a witness and symbolic co-signatory.”



# **Economic Lessons**

# COLLECTIVE SYSTEM

- After the first year, the colony foundered because of the collective economic system. Settlers worked only for the joint partnership and were fed out of the common stores.
- Land and houses were the joint property of the merchants and colonists.



# FREE MARKET SYSTEM

- William Bradford, seeing the failure of communal farming, instituted what today would be called free enterprise innovations.
- Bradford assigned plots of land to each family to work, and the colony began to flourish.
- Colonists were challenged to better themselves and their land, working to their fullest capacity.

**Abraham Lincoln  
and Thanksgiving**

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

- Sarah Josepha Hale convinced Abraham Lincoln to declare a national day of thanksgiving.
- Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation came at a pivotal point in Lincoln's spiritual life. The battle of Gettysburg occurred 3 months earlier.
- Lincoln committed his life to Christ while walking among the graves at Gettysburg.

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

“When I left Springfield, I asked the people to pray for me. I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg and saw the graves of thousands of our soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ.”

Reply to Illinois clergyman

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

“of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”



# CONCLUSION

- During this Thanksgiving season, let's return to the wisdom of the Pilgrims.
- They valued their religious freedom and were willing to endure hardship in order to come to this country and freely worship.
- They also valued their political freedom and drafted the Mayflower Compact in recognition of God's sovereign hand in their lives.