

1644 AD – ‘WILLIAM PENN IS BORN: NO CROSS, NO CROWN’

“**Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook it, because there was no grass.**” (Jeremiah 14 v 5)

EVENTS IN 1644 AD¹

In 1644, **William Penn** was born in London, England.

His father was an Admiral in the Navy so he was reared in affluence and the privilege of a private education. He enjoyed travel and access to higher society that was rare.

At age 15, **Penn** met **Thomas Loe**, a **Quaker** missionary, maligned by Catholics and Anglicans. **Loe** was admitted to the **Penn** home in Ireland and discoursed on the ‘*Inner Light*’. Young **Penn** recalled later that "the Lord visited me and gave me divine Impressions of Himself."

Penn found he was not in sympathy with his father's military view of the world or his mother's society-oriented sensibilities: "I had no relations that inclined to so solitary and spiritual way; I was a child alone. A child given to musing: occasionally feeling the divine presence."

While **Penn** was studying at Oxford, the influential theologian **John Owen**² was fired as dean. **Penn** and other students rallied to his side and attended seminars at the dean's house, where intellectual discussions covered the gamut of new ideas in theology.

John Owen was censured again and students were threatened for associating with him. However, **Penn** stood by the dean, gaining a reprimand from the university. The Admiral pulled young **Penn** away for a time, hoping to distract him from heretical influences.

At age 18, Oxford imposed rules for daily chapel attendance and dress. **Penn** rebelled and was expelled. His father, in a rage, forced **Penn** from the home. **Penn** was sent to Paris.

¹ Source: Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Penn

² John Owen was a notable nonconformist Puritan. He saw little to choose between the ‘new presbyter’ and the ‘old priest’: he constantly appealed to his hearers for ‘sincere religion’. He was the personal chaplain of Oliver Cromwell and gave many stirring sermons to Parliament and the New Model Army of Cromwell. He was rewarded by being made a dean and vice-Chancellor at Oxford. Owen, unlike many contemporaries, was more interested in the New Testament than in the Old. Owen lost his vice-chancellorship in 1658 after he took a leading part in a conference of Independents which drew up the Savoy Declaration (the doctrinal standard of Congregationalism; whose principles informed the Westminster Confession of Faith).

At age 22, despite the dangers, **Penn** began to attend **Quaker** meetings near Cork. A chance re-meeting with **Thomas Loe** confirmed **Penn**'s attraction to Quakerism. **Penn** was arrested for attending **Quaker** meetings. Rather than state that he was not a **Quaker** and dodge the charges he declared himself a member and joined the Religious Society of Friends.

In pleading his case, **Penn** stated that since Quakers have no political agenda (unlike the Puritans) they should not be subject to laws that restricted political action by minority religions and other groups. Sprung from jail because of his family's rank rather than his argument, **Penn** was immediately recalled to London by his father.

The Admiral was severely distressed by his son's actions and took departure from the **Anglican Church** as a personal affront. His father's hopes that his son's charisma and intelligence would win him favour at the court were crushed. His father feared that his son seemed bent on a dangerous confrontation with the Crown. He reasoned with his son to reconsider his actions.

In the end, young **Penn** was more determined than ever and the Admiral felt he had no option but to order his son out of the house and to withhold his inheritance.

PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH 14 V 5

“Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook it, because there was no grass.”

(Jeremiah 14 v 5)

The deer or the gazelle are used in Scripture to portray the deepest affection. The entire Book of Songs relies on the metaphor of the hind and the gazelle to portray love.

Here we have a prophecy where the graceful hind abandons her fawn in the field. The one who is most loved becomes the one who is rejected and forsaken.

The gazelle is also a picture in Scripture of the free soul – leaping upon the hills – without a shepherd and unconstrained by any pen. A deer is easily frightened by men. If such a creature comes to you it can only be because of a loving trust.

The deer is an acceptable meat for eating – a clean animal according to the Laws of Moses – because it chews the cud and it has cloven hooves. Therefore, the deer also is a prophetic picture of Gentile believers who love and follow Jesus – acceptable to God – but who most definitely are neither goats (religious Jews) nor sheep (born-again Jews).

'Yea, the hind also calved in the field'

We take 'the field' in this prophecy to be **England** – a Gentile land noted for independent ways, gentle hills, and fertile valleys.

Penn was born in **England** by Gentile parents who believed in Jesus: 'the hind that calved'.

'and forsook it'

Penn was abandoned by his parents like a dead thing: 'forsook it'.

Penn was instrumental in furthering the community of Quakers in **England** and in **America**. He was a martyr for the faith and like the rest of the Quakers suffered intense persecution in the land of their birth for no other cause than that loving God above all things.

Quakers have no clergy – no shepherd – and no church - no pen – they freely meet outside organized religion. Quakerism is the fawn – abandoned in the field by the hind – **England**.

'because there was no grass'

Grass is the gift of God – it should be free for everyone to eat who is hungry – especially in Gentile lands. But in England all the fields were divided and partitioned into parishes – with clergy set in dominion and lordship over all. There were laws preventing free preachers from dispensing the Word of God to hungry souls free of charge (see our paper [1647 AD](#)).

Here is a perfect lesson of freedom in Christ. Whenever governments/religious rulers impose laws on free believers – the Spirit of God is grieved and departs – like the hind who leaves the fawn. Love and Law are mutually exclusive. And God is Love.

The Admiral used every persuasion to convince **Penn**. If only he would keep the Law he would receive the favor of men, position in society, riches of inheritance, and an impressive name!

But **Penn** could not submit to the Law, because of his love for God. In the free Quaker meetings **Penn** experienced the '*Inner Light*' – he listened for and heard the voice of the **Holy Spirit** calling him to worship **Christ**. This was worth more than all the world could offer.

Penn wrote: 'Friendship loves a free Air, and will not be penned up in straight and narrow Enclosures' and 'No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.'

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter **14** of Jeremiah is the **83nd** chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number **83** means 'Nations That Hate God'

Here is hatred for God demonstrated: laws constricting the worship of free believers!

PART TWO

Jeremiah **14 v 5** is the **19,299th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **19,299 = 21 x 919** [**157th** prime]

The spiritual meaning of **21** is 'Appointed Time'

The spiritual meaning of **157** is 'Chosen People'

The spiritual meaning of **919** is 'I Am Jealous For Zion'

The **919th** chapter in the Bible is Zechariah 8. It describes in detail the passion of the LORD for Zion, the Kingdom of God, and all the heart-felt beliefs of **William Penn** and the Quakers:

Thus says the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was burning with jealousy for her.

This is the passion **Penn** not to compromise and settle for a second-rate religion, but to insist on a Christian community being voluntary and sincere and under the authority of God only;

Thus says the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

The early **Quaker** communities in the 17th century would be the first time since the primitive church of the New Testament that God was in the midst of his people: unoffended by the presence of any idol (*clergyman*) or lies (*fractious disputing of doctrines and opinions*)

And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

Jesus is in Heaven, how could he be in the midst of his people? Because God brings these reverent worshipers by the Spirit into his presence in Heaven;

For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

The remnant of the Quakers will be granted a deed to a huge tract of wilderness in America. It will be called 'Penn-Sylvania' or 'Penn's Forest Land'. There will be no more fear, no more persecution, and God will bless the land abundantly;

And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

As vehemently as they were hated, the Quakers will be highly esteemed in the land God would give them.

These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

Quaker principles of sincere religion: tell the honest truth of God; fellowship together in love; abhor violence; pursue peace even if it means going to jail;

And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, says the LORD.

More Quaker principles of sincere religion: love your enemies, do not take oaths;

Thus says the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities:

Streams of migrants will come from many nations to Pennsylvania: the English, the Germans, the Dutch, and many others. The open arms of America to the world began in Pennsylvania before the original states were united into one country;

And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.

People from many 'cities' – Amish, Huguenots, Anabaptists - would go for religious freedom;

Thus says the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

God will even draw Jews to Pennsylvania for the sake of safety and religious freedom. The presence of the Jews will draw even more people (through expanded commerce). The migration of Jews to Pennsylvania founded the earliest Jewish communities in America:

1655 Jews win the right to settle in New Amsterdam (later called New York)

1655-64 New Amsterdam has an organized Jewish community.

1664 The English conquer New Amsterdam and rename it New York

1678 Jews buy a cemetery in Newport

1681 **William Penn** received his land grant from **Charles II**

1703 First Jew recorded living in Philadelphia: Issac Miranda

1730 Jews build their first synagogue in New York

1732 Cemetery for Jews established in Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania

1747 Several Jewish families purchase a cemetery in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

1750 A Jew is one of the founders of Easton, Pennsylvania

1779 Aaron Levy purchased land for the founding of Aaronsburg, Pennsylvania.

Jews enjoyed all the rights of other settlers except none could become a member of the General Assembly. This was a degree of freedom they did not enjoy in many other places.

The first Jewish settlers in Pennsylvania came from Germany and Holland. After 1825 there was a fresh exodus from Germany and many Jews settled in Philadelphia.

PART THREE

Jeremiah **14 v 5** is the **1644th** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The number **1644 = 4 x 411**

The spiritual meaning of **4** is 'Message'

The spiritual meaning of **411** is 'Fasting and Prayer'

Penn was a wealthy man, but he despised the indolent luxurious life.

Penn was not famous for abstaining from the eating of food. However, he observed the fasting which God desires:

Is it such a fast that I have chosen? A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loosen the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Isaiah 58:5-6