



18

**COVENANTERS:  
NATIONAL  
REVOLUTION  
WITHOUT WARFARE**

**FOR OUR DAY**



LESSON  
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**COVENANTERS:  
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# **NEW NAME & IDENTITY (MOSIAH 5)**

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*James VI and I*



*Charles I*



*Charles II*

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*Signing of the National Covenant, February 28, 1638*

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# ABJURATION ACT AND OATH

- Abjuration Act of 1662 was an official renunciation of the National Covenant (1638) and the Solemn League and Covenant (1643).
- These covenants were declared illegal and against laws of kingdom.
- All public officials were required to take oath.
- The Abjuration Oath was drafted in 1684, especially in response to James Renwick.
- If someone refused to take oath, they could be instantly put to death in presence of officer holding commission and two witnesses.

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## NUMBER OF PERSECUTED

“In Scotland during **these twenty eight years** persecution, according to calculation, **above 18000 people suffered death, or the outmost hardships and extremities**; whereof 1700 were **banished** to the plantations, besides 750 banished to the northern islands, of these 200 were **executed**. Those who suffered by **imprisonment**, confinement and other cruelties of this nature, were computed at or above 3600, including the 800 last mentioned, and 55 who were panned to be **executed** when apprehended. Those **killed** in several skirmishes or on surprise, and those who died of their **wounds** on such occasions were reckoned to be 680. Those who went to **voluntary banishment** to other countries, &c. were calculated at 7000. About 498 were **murdered in cold blood without process of law**, beside 362 who were by form of law **executed**. But the number of those who perished through **cold, hunger** and other distresses, contracted in their **flight** to the mountains, and sometimes even in the article of death **murdered** by the bloody soldiers, cannot be well calculated, but will certainly make up the number above specified.”

*John Howie, The Scots Worthies, p. 527*

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*The Wigtown Martyrs Monument (Valley Cemetery, Stirling, Scotland).*

*Monument depicts Margaret Wilson reading the Bible with her young sister Agnes, watched over by a despairing guardian angel.*

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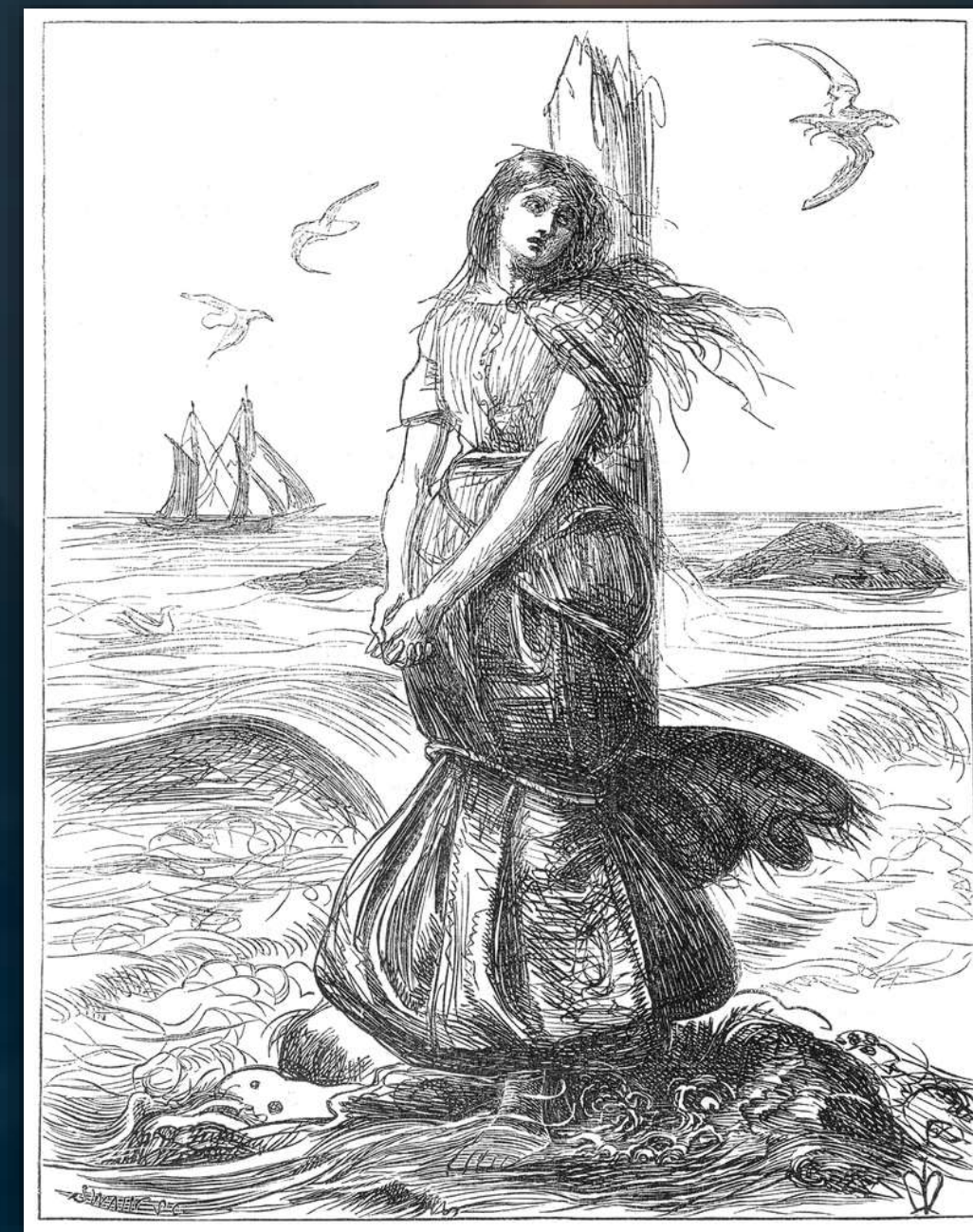


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*Traditional site of Margaret Wilson's execution  
(Attribution: Lairich Rig)*



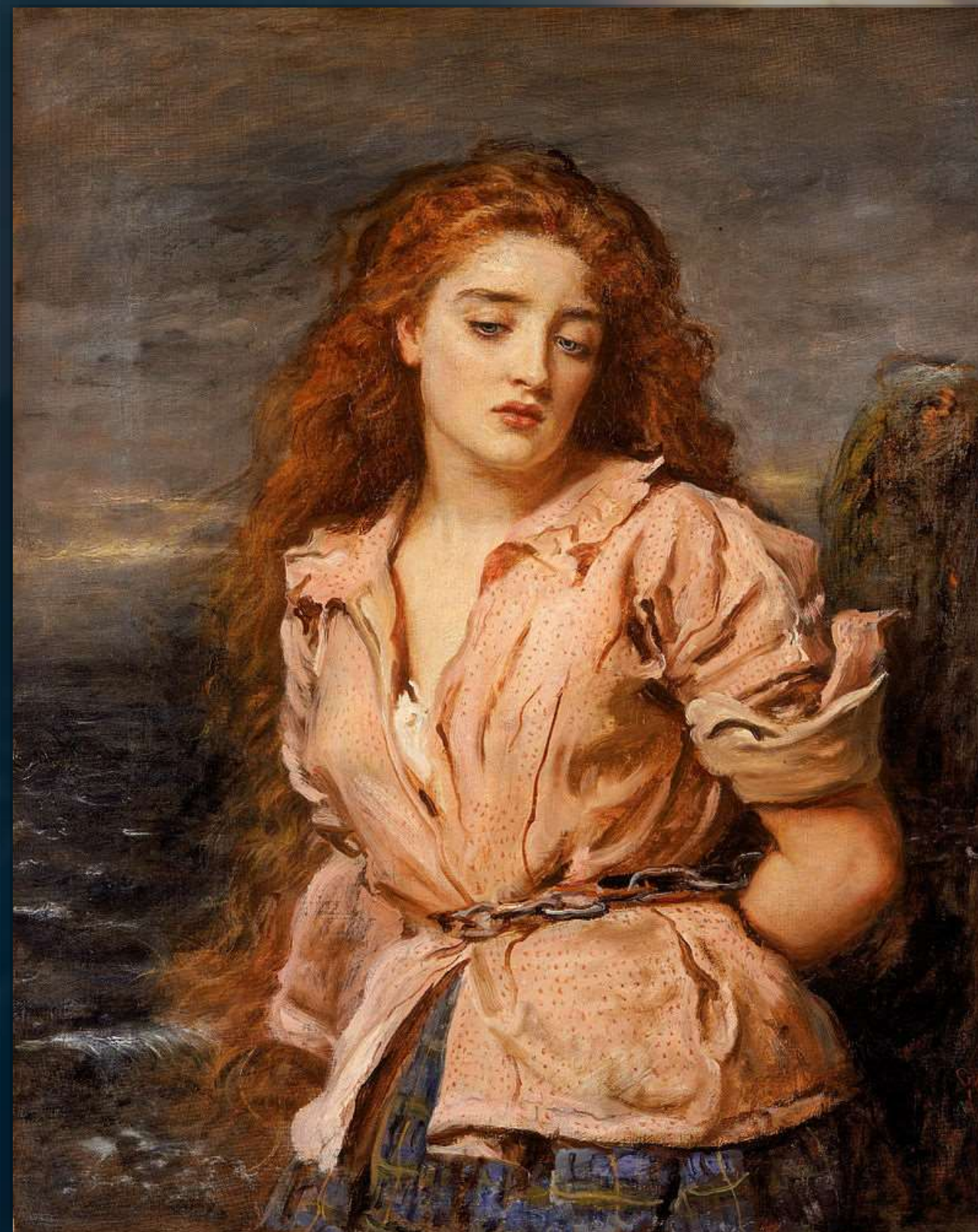
*Millais' illustration of Margaret Wilson's  
martyrdom, published in Once A Week,  
July 1862*

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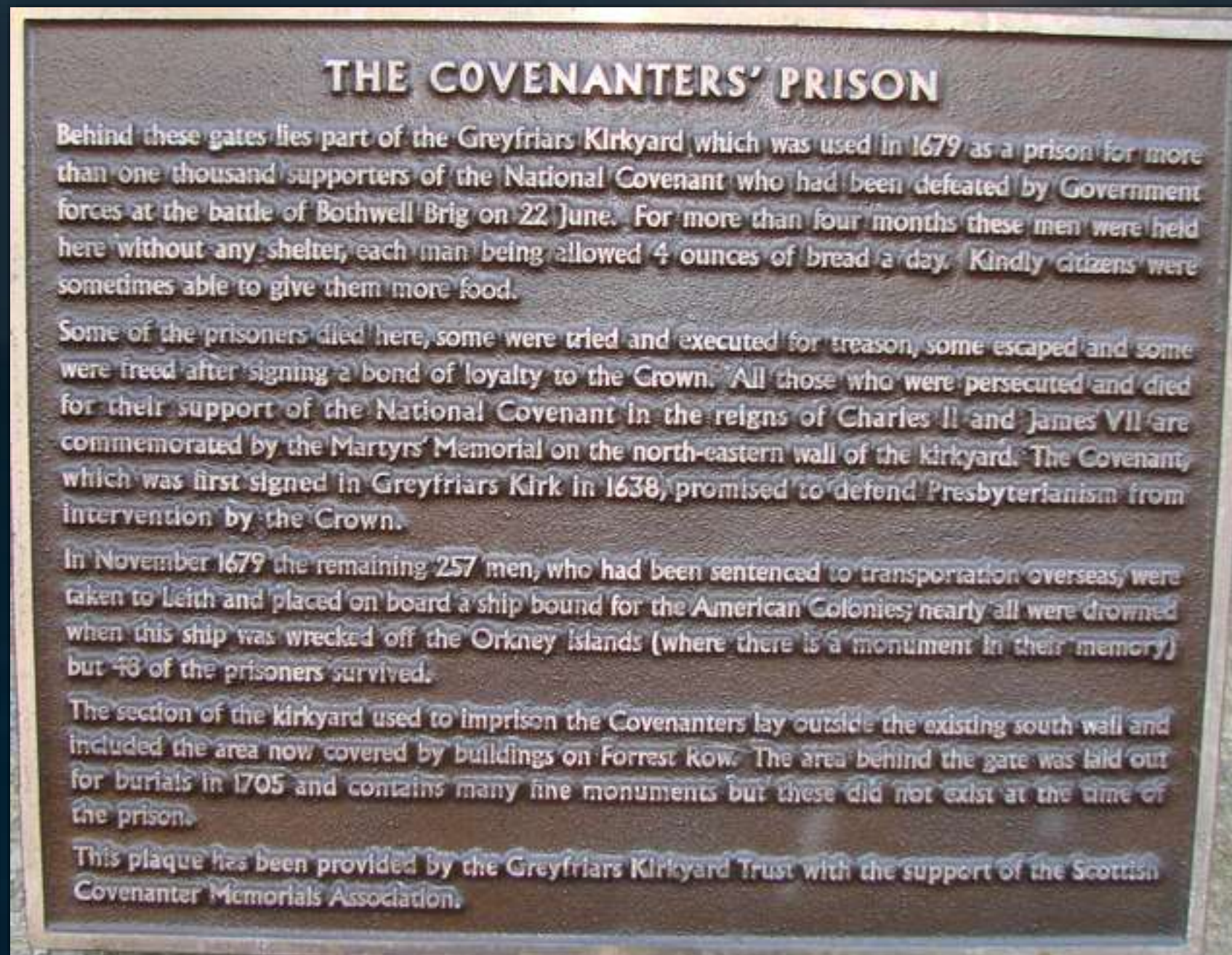
*Martyrs' Memorial Wigtown  
(Attribution: Gordon Hull)*



*The Martyr of Solway (John Everett Millais)*

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*Plaque in Greyfriars Kirkyard honoring the Scottish Covenanter prisoners aboard the Crown of London during its shipwreck off the Orkney Islands. (Attribution: Bill Henderson)*

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*Renwick Monument (Attribution: Scothill)*



*James Renwick, Old Town Cemetery  
(Attribution: Kim Traynor)*

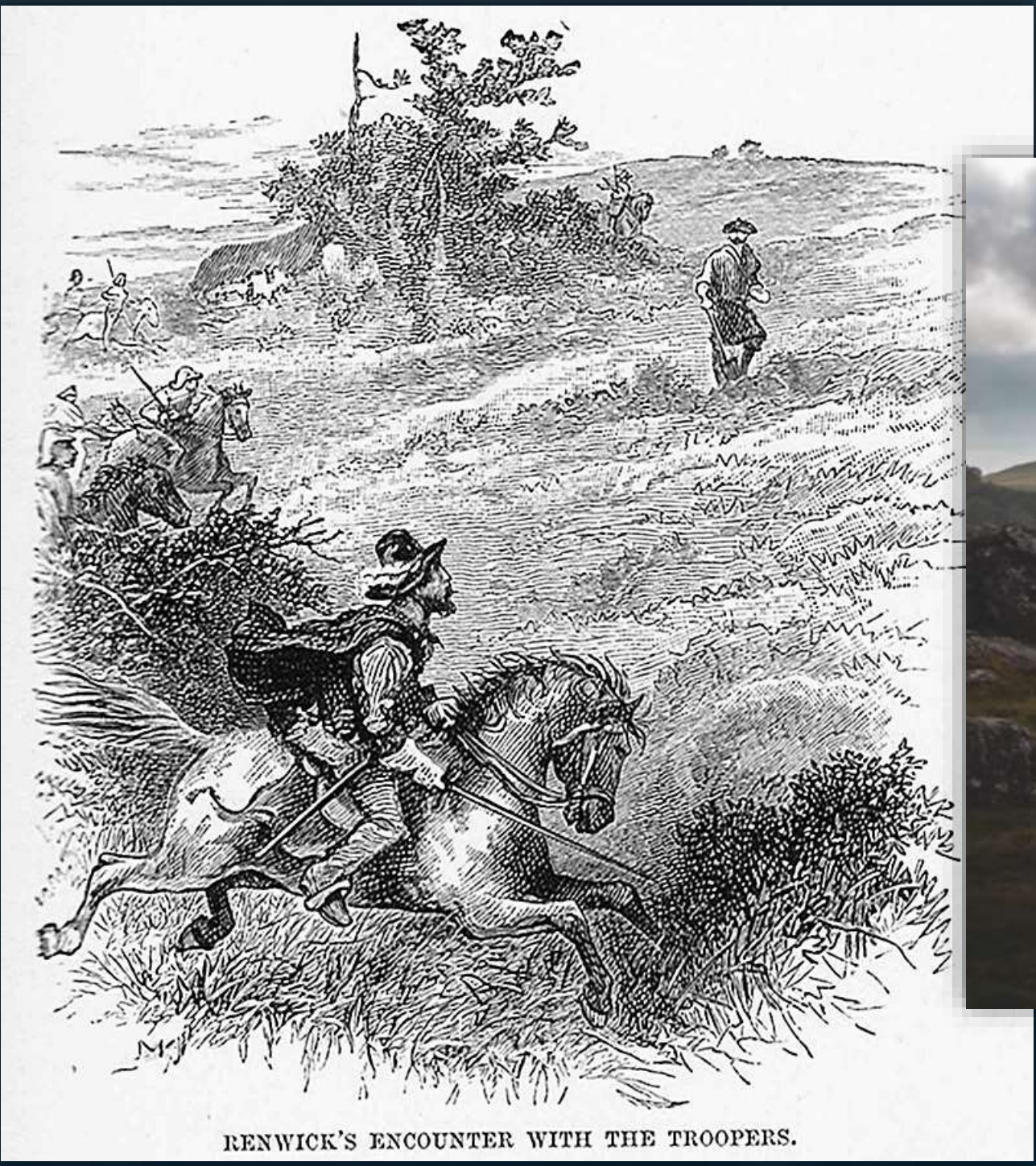
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RENWICK'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE TROOPERS.



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# ANCIENT ISRAEL PARALLELS WITH COVENANTERS

“More than any other nation of modern times, the people of the British Isles **resemble** in their covenant actings the **people of Israel**; and Scotland is the **likeliest to Judah**. Certainly, Scotland’s **covenants with God** were coronets on Scotland’s brow.”



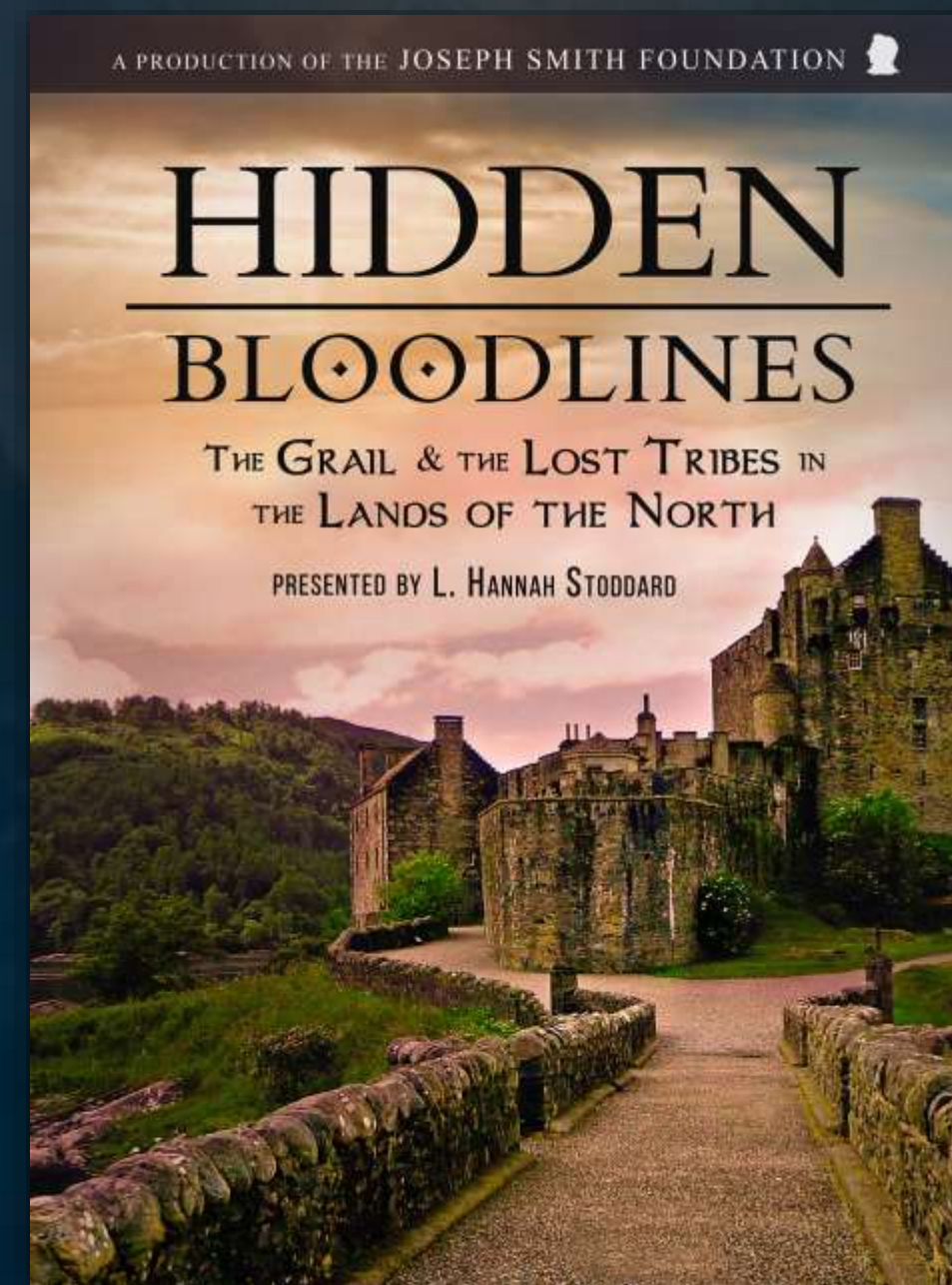
*The Covenants and the Covenanters, James Kerr, p. 11*

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# EVIDENCE OF JUDAH IN SCOTLAND



*Royal Banner of Scotland. The lion is a symbol of the tribe of Judah and Jesus Christ (see Genesis 49, Revelation 5:5). To learn more about the evidence for Judah in Northern Europe, see the documentary Hidden Bloodlines, produced by the Joseph Smith Foundation.*

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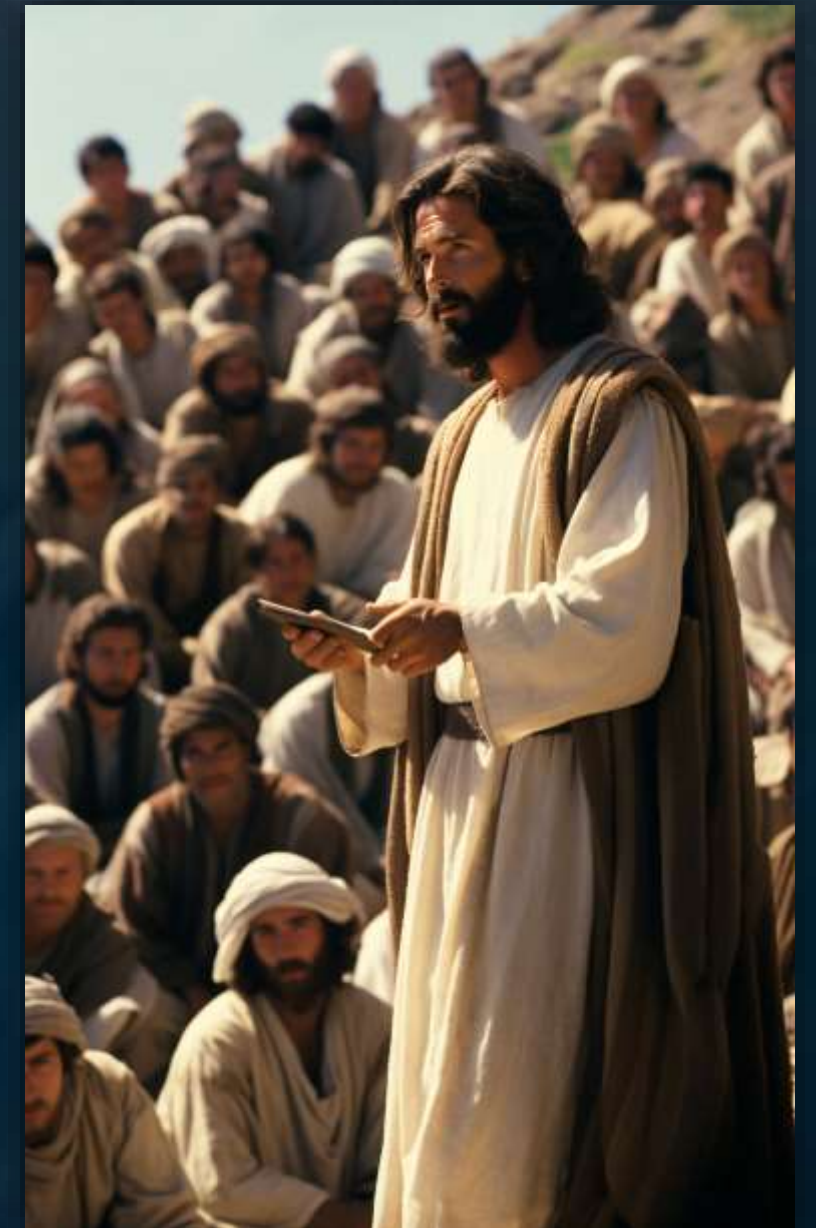
# SCOTTISH COVENANTS

- 1556, Dun: entered covenant to “refuse all society with **idolatry**”
- 1557, Edinburgh: vow “we, by His grace, shall, with all diligence, continually apply our whole **power, substance**, and our very **lives** to **maintain**, set forward and **establish** the most blessed **Word** of God.”
- 1559, Perth: “to **put away** all things that dishonour His name, that God may be truly and purely worshipped.”
- 1560, Edinburgh: “to procure by all means possible, that the truth of God’s Word may have **free passage** within this realm.”

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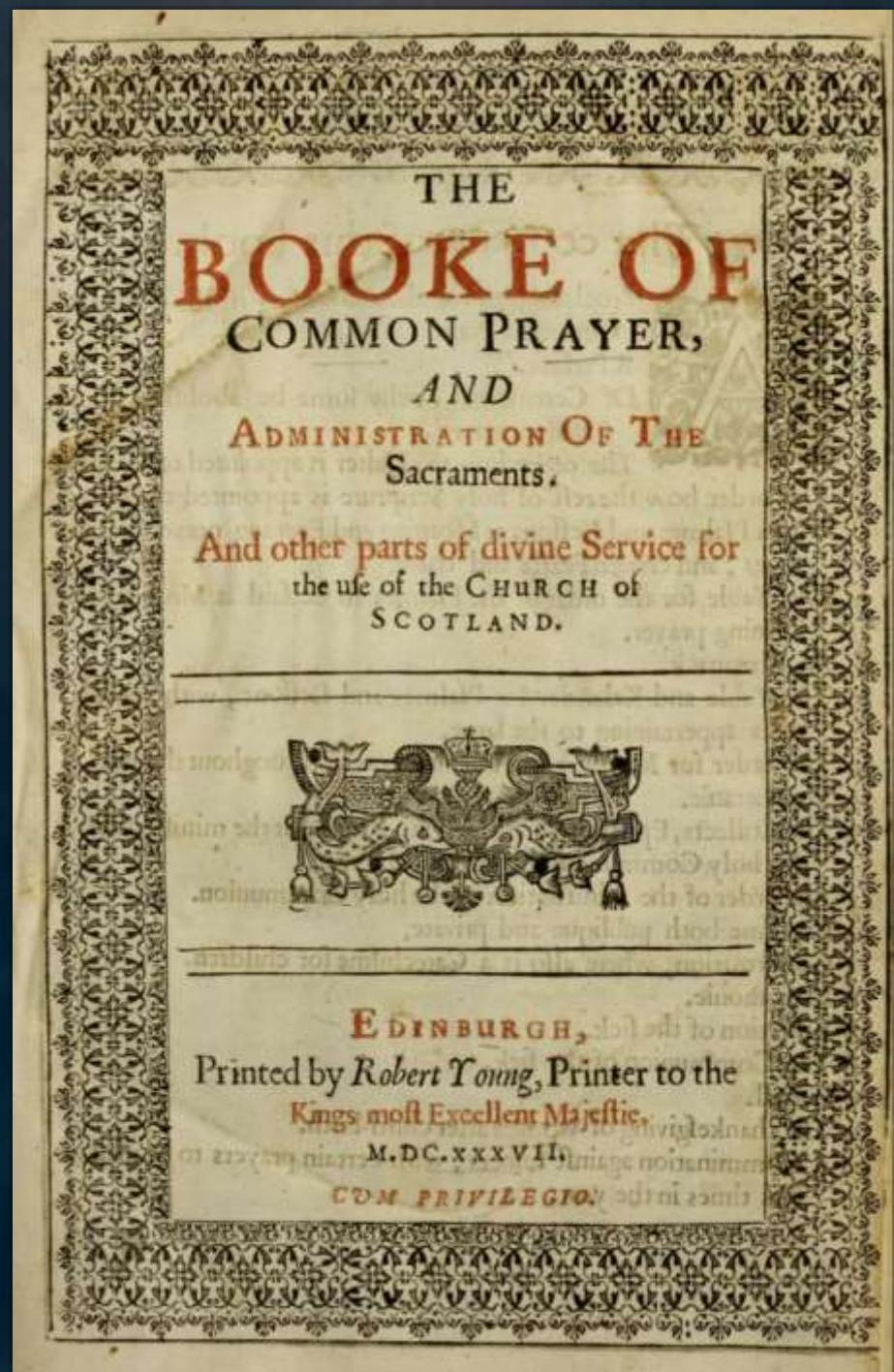
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# KING BENJAMIN LEADS HIS ENTIRE KINGDOM THROUGH REBIRTH & INITIATES NATIONAL COVENANT



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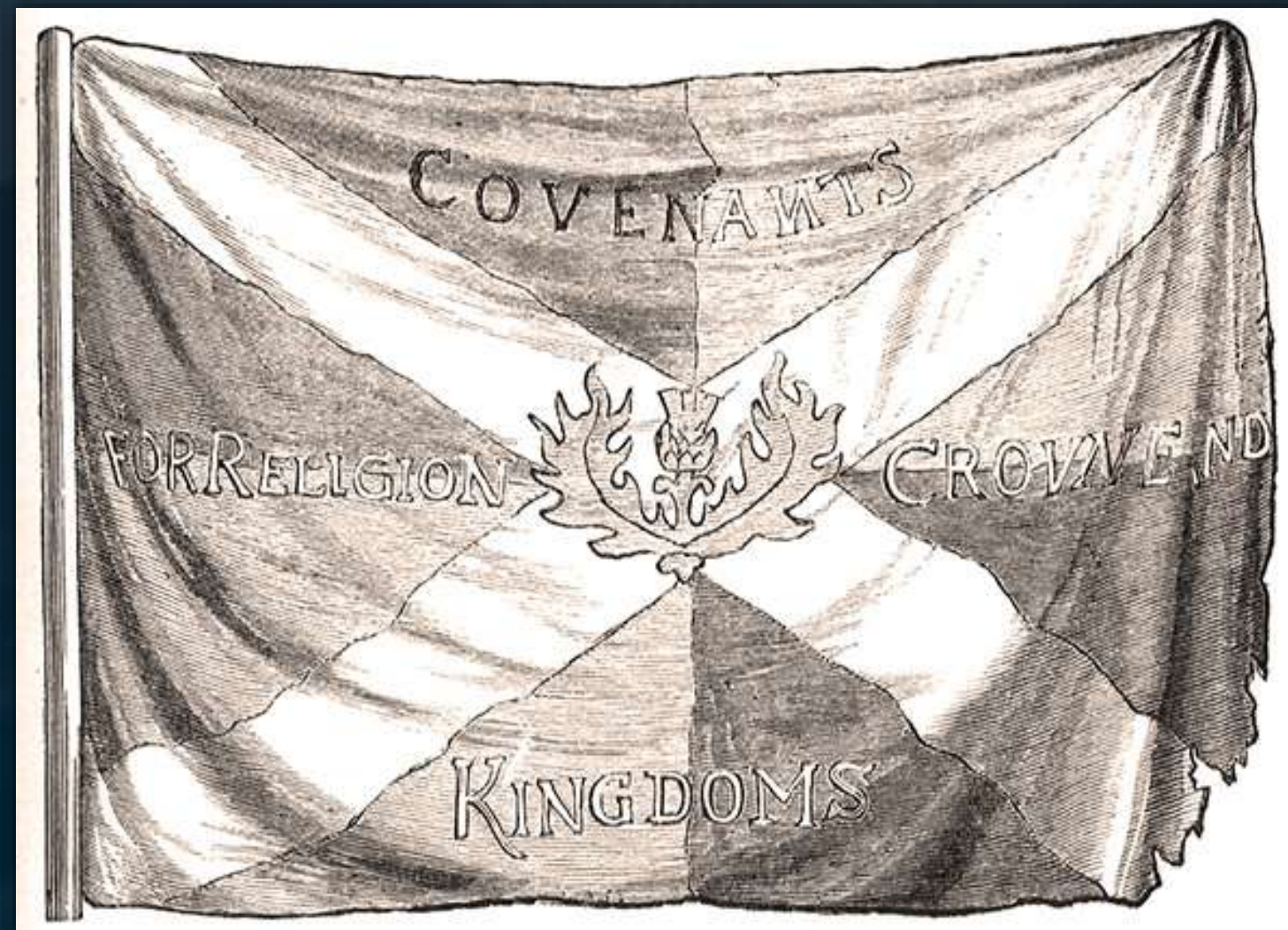
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# “RENEW HER COVENANT WITH GOD”

“Could an oppressed people bear the tyranny longer? But, will they take up arms and scatter carnage and blood throughout the land? No, their weapons will not be carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. They will go to the **Covenant God** of the kingdom, and they will **stand before** Him saying ‘Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou Son of Jesse.’ Scotland will **renew her covenant with God.**”

*The Covenants and the Covenanters, James Kerr, p. 17  
(Drawing depicting a flag used by the Scottish Covenanters)*

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*Greyfriars Kirk, site of National Covenant signing in 1638 (Attribution: Carlos Delgado)*



*National Covenant on display at the Museum of Edinburgh, believed to be original signed in February 1638 (Attribution: Kim Traynor)*

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# SIGNING THE COVENANT

“When he had finished, all was still as the grave. But the silence was soon broken. An aged man of noble air was seen advancing. He came forward slowly, and deep emotion was visible in his venerable features. He took up the pen with a trembling hand and signed the document. A general movement now took place. All the Presbyterians in the Church pressed forward to the Covenant and subscribed their names. But this was not enough; a whole nation was waiting.”

*The Covenants and the Covenanters, James Kerr, p. 18*



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## “PRINCES OF THE PEOPLE” COVENANT WITH GOD

“This was the day of the **Lord’s power**, in which multitudes offered themselves most **willingly**, like dewdrops of the morning. This was, indeed, the **great day of Israel**, wherein the arm of the Lord was revealed—the day of the Redeemer’s strength, on which the **princes of the people** assembled to **swear** their **allegiance** to the **King of kings**.”



*Alexander Henderson, quoted in The Covenants and the Covenanters, James Kerr, p. 18*

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*"I have no more power in Scotland than a Doge of Venice." (Charles I)*

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*King Charles I*



*Edinburgh, Scotland*

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1er. 30. 3. Come let us  
joyn our selves to the Lord

i 6 a Solemn 4 3  
**LEAGVE AND COVENANT,**  
for Reformation, and defence of  
Religion, the Honour and happinesse  
of the king, and the Peace and safety, of the  
three Kingdoms of  
**ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.**

in a perpetuall Covenant  
that shall not be forgotten.

We Noblemen, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, Citizens, Burgeses, Ministers of the Gospel, and Commoners of all sorts in the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, by the Providence of God living under one King, and being of one reformed Religion, having before our eyes the Glory of God, and the advancement of the Kingdome of our Lord and Saviour Iesus Christ, the Honour and happinesse of the kings Majesty and his posterity, and the true publique Liberty, Safety, and Peace of the Kingdoms, wherein every ones private Condition is included, and calling to minde the treacherous and bloody Plots, Conspiracies, Attempts, and Practices of the Enemies of God, against the true Religion, and professors thereof in all places, especially in these three Kingdoms ever since the Reformation of Religion, and how much their rage, power and presumption, are of late, and at this time increased and exercised; whereof the deplorable state of the Church and Kingdom of Ireland, the distressed estate of the Church and Kingdom of England, and the dangerous estate of the Church and Kingdom of Scotland, are present and publique Testimonies; We have now at last, (after other means of Supplication, Remonstrance, Protestations, and Sufferings) for the preservation of our selves and our Religion, from utter Ruine and Destruction; according to the commendable practice of these Kingdoms in former times, and the Example of Gods people in other Nations; After mature deliberation, resolved and determined to enter into a mutuall and solemn League and Covenant; Wherein we all subscribe, and each one of us for himself, with our hands lifted up to the most high God, do sweare;

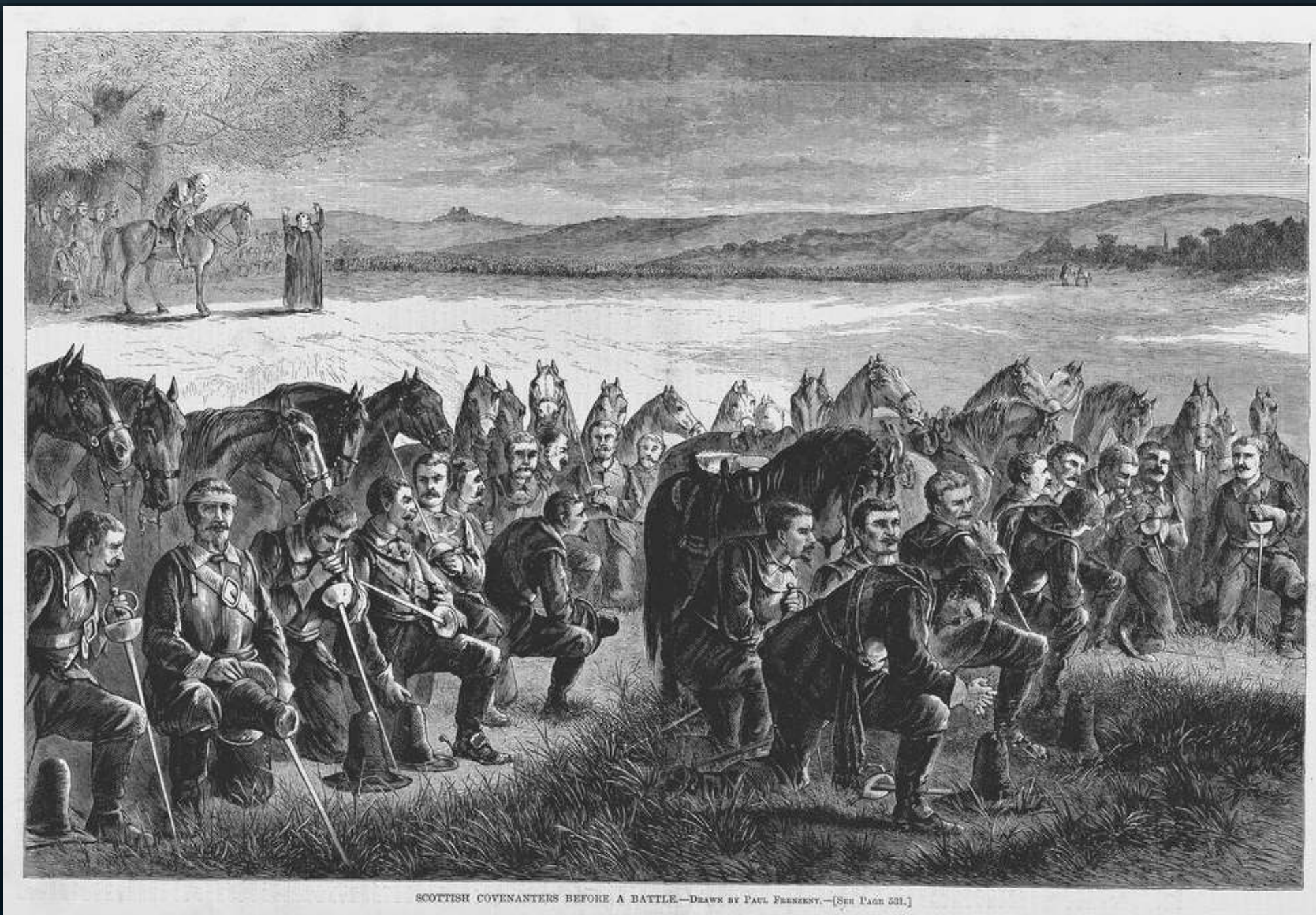


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## “MEN OF POWER”

“Their inward piety made them **men of power**, and enabled them to bear down **every barrier** to the kingdom of their Lord erected by the craft of prince and priest.”



*The Covenants and the Covenanters, James Kerr, p. 21*

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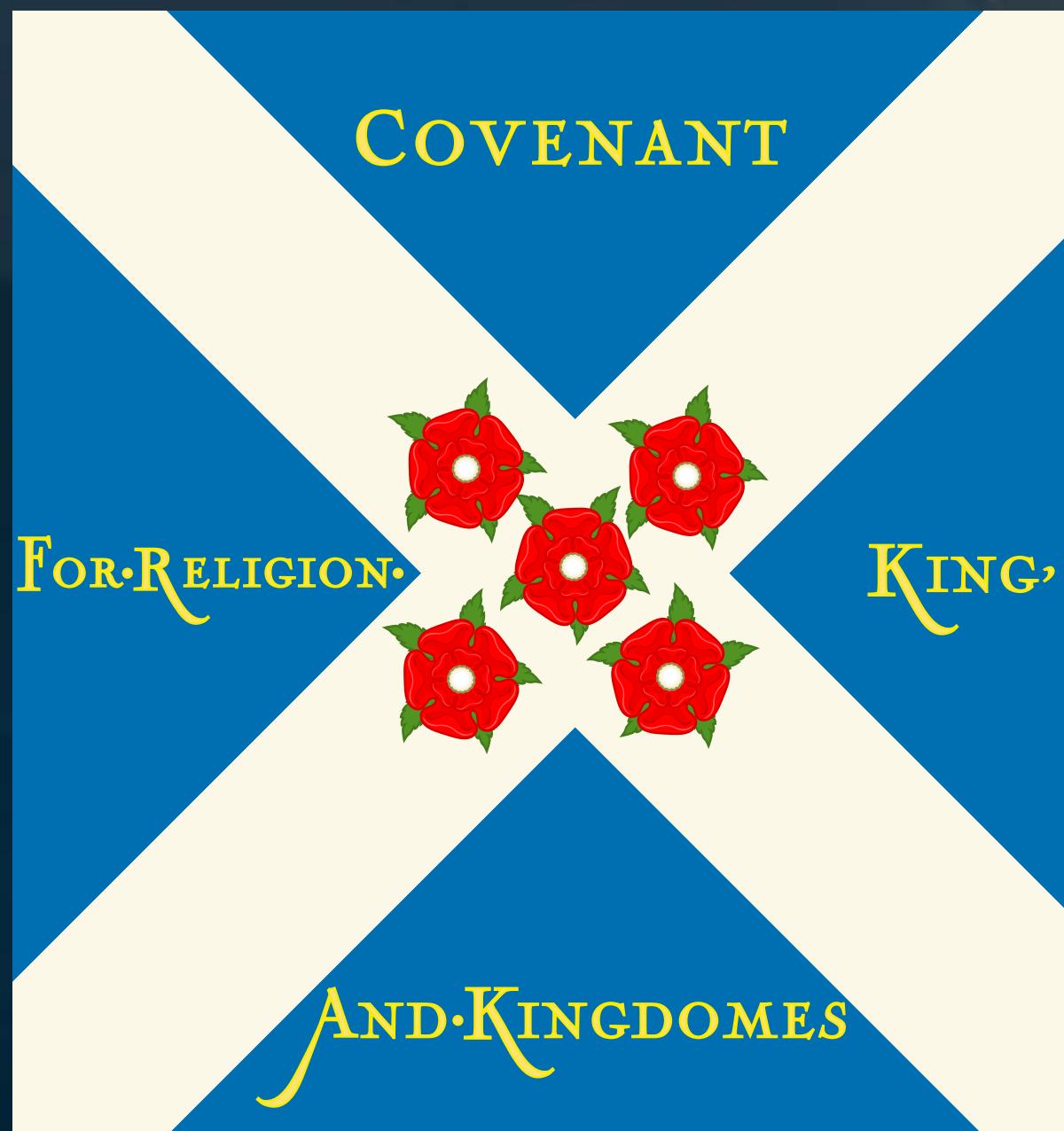
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# POWER AND WIDESPREAD CONVERSION

“I verily believe there were **more** souls converted to Christ in that short time than in **any other** season since the Reformation.’ Their intense piety **prepared** the Covenanters for the **persecutions** to follow and for **crowns** of martyrdom.”



*The Covenants and the Covenanters, James Kerr, p. 21*

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# EVIL CONQUERED BY COVENANTED MEN



“There are two powers ordained of God and **both** must be **reformed**. The comprehensive aims of the Covenanters embraced **both State and Church**. . . . For there, by an **army without sword or spear**, the **absolutism** of Monarchies and the **tyranny** of Hierarchies were **scattered** like chaff before the wind.”

*The Covenants and the Covenanters, James Kerr, p. 23-24*

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**GOD USES PERSECUTION  
TO BRING COVENANTERS TO  
AMERICA & HELP INITIATE  
THE RESTORATION**

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# SCOTTISH INFLUENCE IN AMERICA

- 50,000 Scots emigrated to America between 1763-1776.
- Nearly half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence are believed to have been of Scottish descent.
- More than 30 of the United States Presidents were of Scottish descent.
- Some believe the National Covenant was an inspiration behind the preamble of the United States Constitution.



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# SCOTTISH INFLUENCE ON FOUNDERS

- James Madison (“Father of the Constitution”) was Scotch-Irish and studied under the Scottish Reverends Donald Robertson and Thomas Martin
- John Witherspoon (signer of the Declaration of Independence) was born in Scotland and imprisoned for a time before coming to America. He mentored and influenced many founding fathers, judges, senators, etc.
- “There is no use crying about it. Cousin America has run off with a Presbyterian parson, and that is the end of it.” (comment believed to be from English politician, Horace Walpole)



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*Photograph of American flag carved into wood doors in Edinburgh Castle's "Prisons of War" exhibition.  
Credit and attribution to EdinburghExpert.com, "Scotland Meets the World - Edinburgh's American Connections"*

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# COVENANTS PREPARED THE PEOPLE FOR FREEDOM & LIBERTY



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# WHAT ARE COVENANTS?

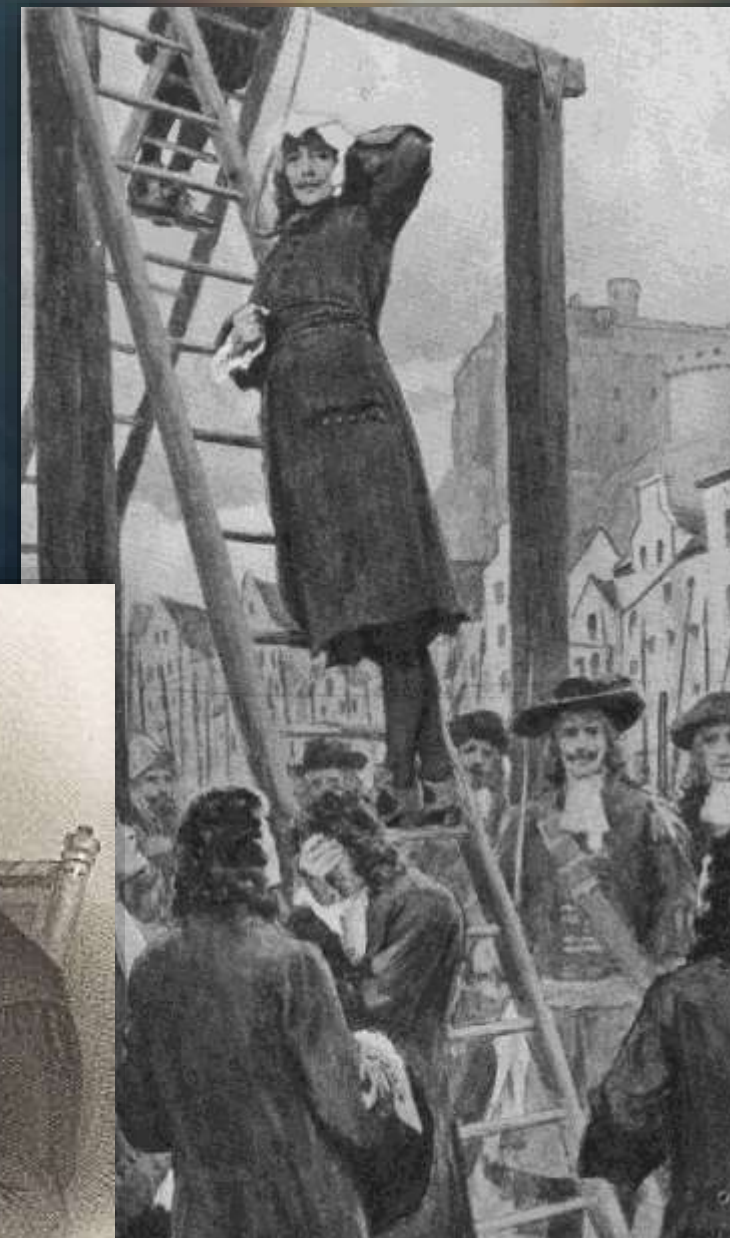
“The gospel covenant is the promise of God to grant to man, through man's obedience and acceptance of the ordinances and principles of the gospel, the **glory** and **exaltation** of **eternal life**. It is the **Father** in Heaven who **stipulates** the **terms** of the covenant. Man has **no say** in the matter or right to alter or annul any provision of the covenant. His duty is to accept on the terms which are presented to him from the Almighty, in full faith and obedience, without complaint or desire because of personal weakness to alter or annul, what the Father offers for man's salvation. Each **ordinance** and **requirement** given to man for the purpose of bringing to pass his **salvation** and **exaltation** is a **covenant**.”

*Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, p. 152*

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# **JAMES GUTHRIE (1612-1661) SCOTTISH COVENANTER MARTYR**

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# SIGNING OF THE NATIONAL COVENANT

*February 28, 1638—Greyfriars  
Kirkyard, Edinburgh, Scotland*



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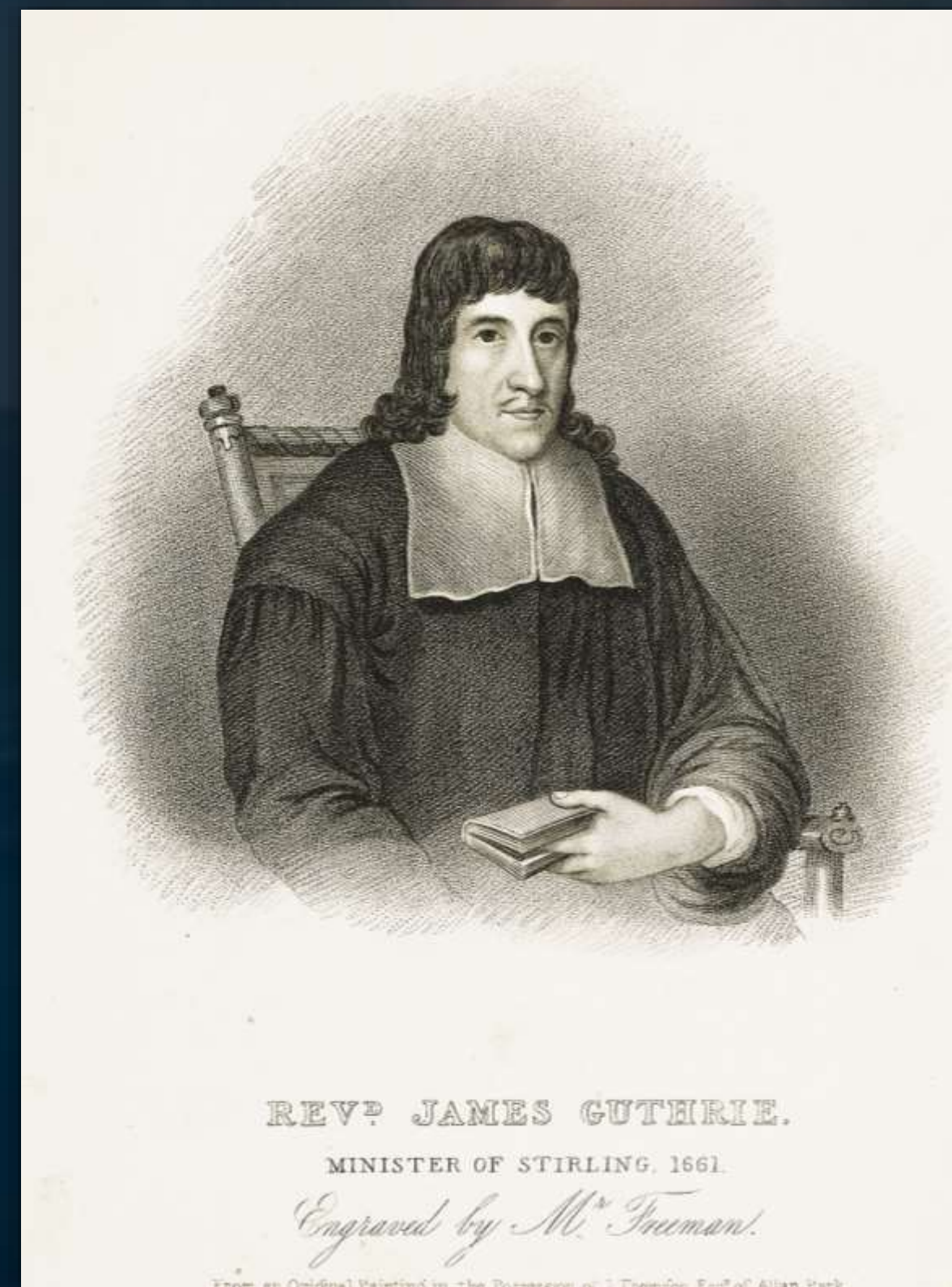
*"I know that I shall die for what I have done this day, but I cannot die in a better cause."*



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*"The short man who could not bow."  
(Oliver Cromwell)*



CAUSES  
Of the  
LORDS  
WRATH against  
SCOTLAND,  
Manifested in his sad late  
dispensations.

Whereunto is added a PAPER, particularly holding forth the Sins of the MINISTRY.

James Guthrie



Printed in the year 1653.



Some General Heads of the Causes why the LORD contends with the Land, agreed upon (after seeking of the LORD) by the Commission of the GENERALL ASSEMBLY 1650. with the advice of diverse Ministers from severall parts of the Kingdom, met at Edinburgh, October 1651. so far as for the present they could attain light therein, which they offer and advise to be made use of by all the LORDS People in the Land, leaving place to adde, as the Lord shall make further discoveries hereafter of the guiltinesse of the Land, and intending more fully and particularly to enlarge this Paper.

1. Article.  
He grosse Atheisme and ignorance of God and of his Word and Works, that is in a great part of the Inhabitants of the Land, which is such, that neither Law nor Gospel, nor the most common and necessary points of truth are understood or known by many thousands.

2. Article. Horrible loosnesse and prophanity of Conversation in all sorts, against the Commandments, both of the first and second table, which hath so abounded and encreased, that scarce hath any of the Nations exceeded us therein.

3. Article. The despising and slighting of JESUS CHRIST offered in the Gospel (which we look on as the chief and mother sin of this Nation) and the not valuing and improving the Gospel and precious Ordinances of CHRIST, unto the establishing and building up of our selves in the lively faith of CHRIST and power  
A 2 of

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*“Willie, the day will come when they will cast up to you that your father was hanged. But be not thou ashamed, lad. It is in a good cause.”*

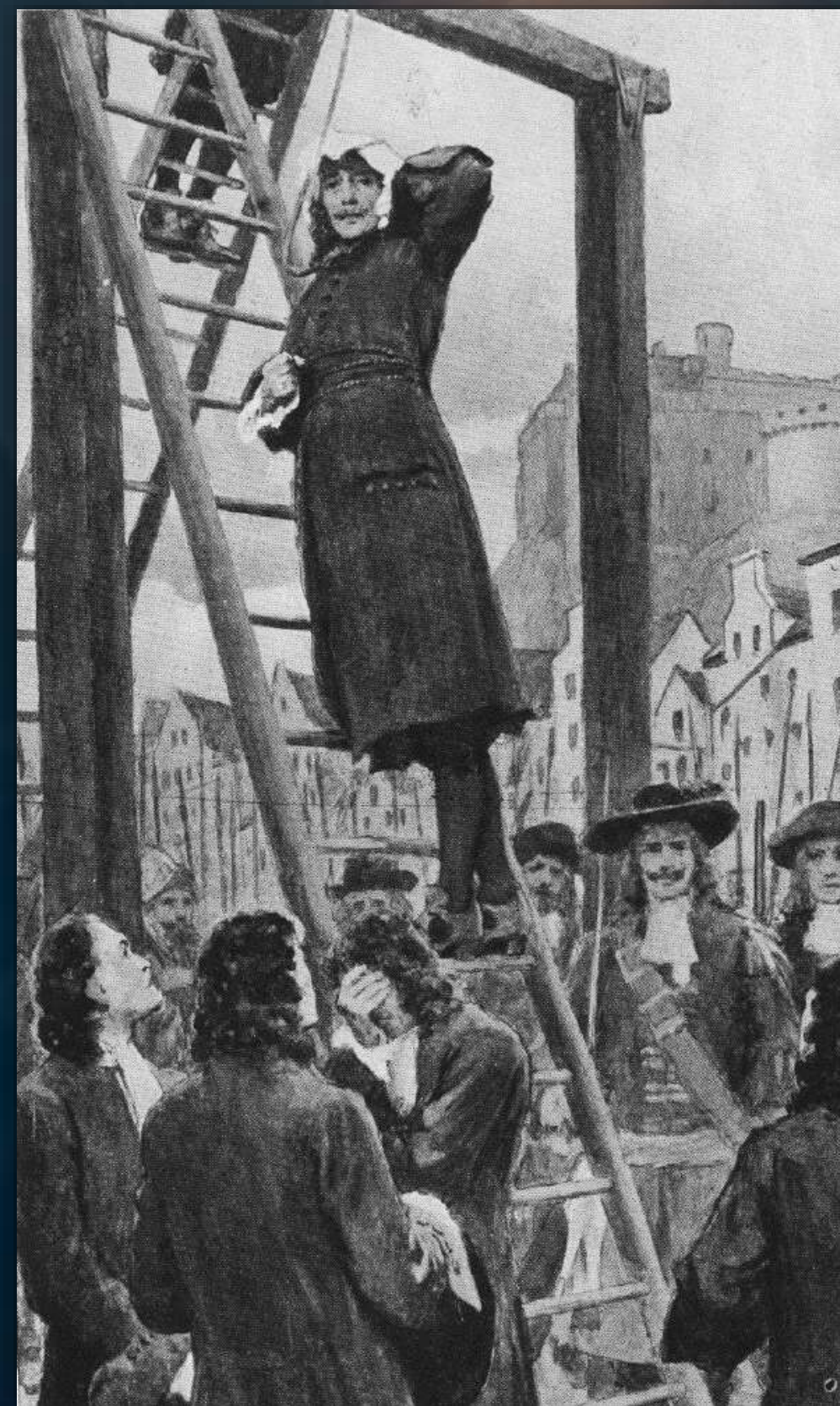


*James Guthrie's place of execution  
(Mercat Cross on Edinburgh's Royal Mile)*

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*“The **Covenantants**, the  
Covenantants shall yet be  
Scotland's **reviving!**”*

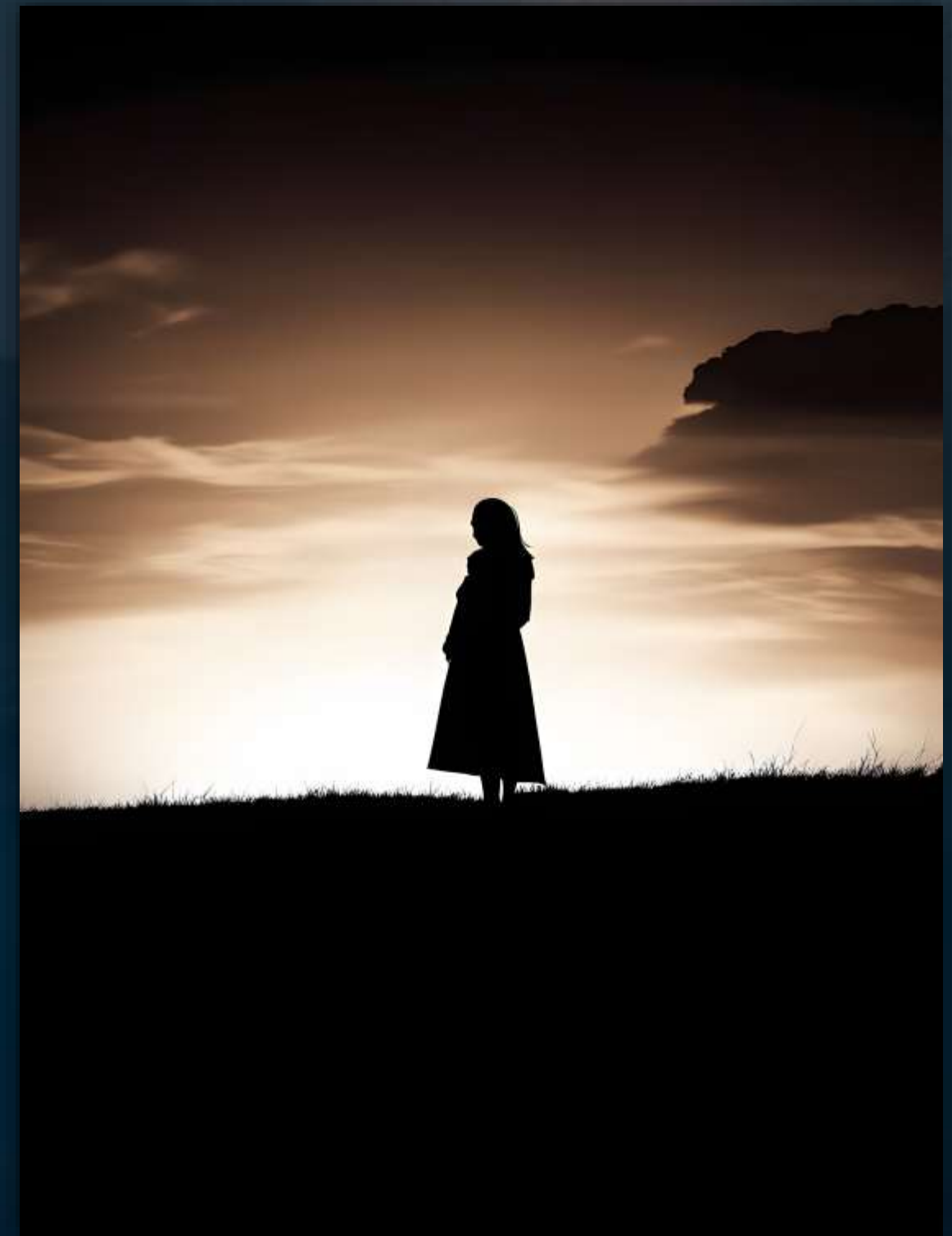


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**“I STAND FIRMLY IN THE FOREFRONT FOR TRUTH”**

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