**HOW DID PURITANS THINK**

The Puritans are seen as a group of extremely strict Christians who had very strong rules and beliefs, and lived their lives according to the Holy Bible.

They are known to be people who have this 'superior than others' (“*I am better than you*”) attitude when it comes to following religious and spiritual beliefs.

Unlike others, Puritans believed in leading a simple and plain life according to the Bible. They believed that their destiny is already decided by God, as God already knew the souls that will be saved and the ones which will not. They also believed that reading the Bible is the only way by which they can reach heaven.

History of Puritans

In the 1600s, these Christians wanted to “purify” the Church of England because they believed that the church is supposed to be the place of holy worship, but instead, has become corrupt! They objected to a great many of the practices of the church of England and wanted these practiced removed. Some felt the church was not strict enough and let people get away with committing sins. They believed the church should do more to guide (and even control) the lives of the people.

This is why these Christians were called the 'Puritans' as they wanted to reform the church by *purifying* it completely.

They sailed to America from England and settled in Massachusetts in 1630 and wanted to build a colony that people could look up to them and start following their footsteps.

Beliefs and Values of the Puritans

The Puritans were very strict when it came to living the life as the Bible instructed.

They believed that the sole purpose of life is to live glorifying the Lord and obeying the Bible. When someone is referred to as a "puritan", it usually means that the person is very strict regarding religious conduct. It is believed that the Puritans denied themselves entertainment and celebration, they just focused on personal understanding of the scriptures.

Beliefs on Religion

The Puritans made sure that everyone was educated enough to read and understand the Bible as it was the main source of living their lives and the only source of obtaining God's forgiveness to overcome the sin.

Living a simple life, the Puritans believed that their religion was the only religion which was correct and that the rest of the religions were related to Satan.

The Puritan religion also believed in equality.

They strictly followed the Sabbath as well, where they spent the entire day (Sunday) praying and worshiping the Lord. They didn't do anything else, not even the daily household works, but just prayed and took rest.

Beliefs on Marriage

The Puritans were very strict in following the rules of marriage and loyalty!

The Puritans believed that the prime purpose of marriage was companionship and that having children followed after that.

The Puritans believed that marriage which was the will of God, and it was their prime duty to obey His will. Once the couple was united in marriage, the union is supposed to be kept under all circumstances.

Family Beliefs

The man was supposed to be the head of the family and the wife was the one responsible for the taking care of the house and the kids.

If the kids were not well mannered, and were not given proper Godly knowledge and spiritual growth, the parents, especially the wife was to be blamed for it.

Puritans believed that each and every family was united by God's word, and that it is their duty to perform and conduct their family values as per the scripture.

The Puritans hold the Bible to be the most important base of their lives.

HOW DID PURITANS THINK?

1. What was the guiding force that helped Puritans run their lives?
2. According to their beliefs, who determined whether they would go to heaven or hell?
3. How did they fell about other religions?
4. What did they think was wrong with the church of England?
5. What does it mean to “purify?”
6. How did the Puritans feel about celebrations?
7. What activities were Puritans permitted to do on Sundays?
8. According to Puritan beliefs, why did people get married?
9. Who ran the family?
10. What was the role of the husband?
11. What was the role of the wife?