

7th June

I am the resurrection and the life;

he that believeth in me,

though he were dead,

yet shall he live. John 11:25

These are the words of the Lord Jesus; he is the “I” and “me” here. Younger children can learn the words in **bold**.

A story to read from History¹



In the seventeenth century, Port Royal, situated at the end of a long sandspit off the coast of Jamaica, was a busy, wealthy city, the capital of the country. Today it is a quiet fishing village.

Under the famous Sir Henry Morgan (1635-1688) who was licenced by the English government to attack Spanish treasure ships, it became rich with great warehouses along the waterfront full of gold, silver, jewels, silks, tobacco, sugar and cotton. The licence was called a *letter of marque* and it was issued against nations with whom England was at war. When the English government stopped issuing *letters of marque* to the seafarers of Port Royal many of them became pirates, continuing their old trade without permission. Pirates from all over the world congregated at Port Royal. It became known as one of the world's most wicked cities, the headquarters of buccaneers and pirates.

But in less time than it takes to read this story, the proud city was destroyed and more than two thousand were killed.

On the morning of June 7th, 1692, with the sun high in the sky, a smell of cooking drifted out to sea as the Port Royal housewives and servants prepared the midday meal. It was too hot to work and the men of the town strolled in the shade of the buildings or sat quietly under the trees.

Suddenly a noise like thunder rumbled across the mainland. The ground shook and shuddered as a great earthquake pushed up the streets and toppled the houses. More shocks followed and within minutes two-thirds of the town had slid into the sea.

One survivor wrote:

In the space of three minutes Port Royal the fairest town of all the English plantations, the best emporium and mart of this part of the world, exceeding in its riches, plentiful of all good things, was shaken and shattered to pieces, sunk into and covered, for the greater part by the sea.

Gigantic waves flooded across the heaving waters of the harbour, sinking some ships and carrying others into the stricken town. The streets and buildings that were too far inland to slide into the sea were flooded by great seas. Port Royal's grand buildings had lasted just 37 years.

¹ Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 2 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com> More about earthquakes on 6th February, 11th February, 9th July and September 28th.

A tombstone in Port Royal church yard tells the story of one survivor, a Frenchman, Lewis Galdy:

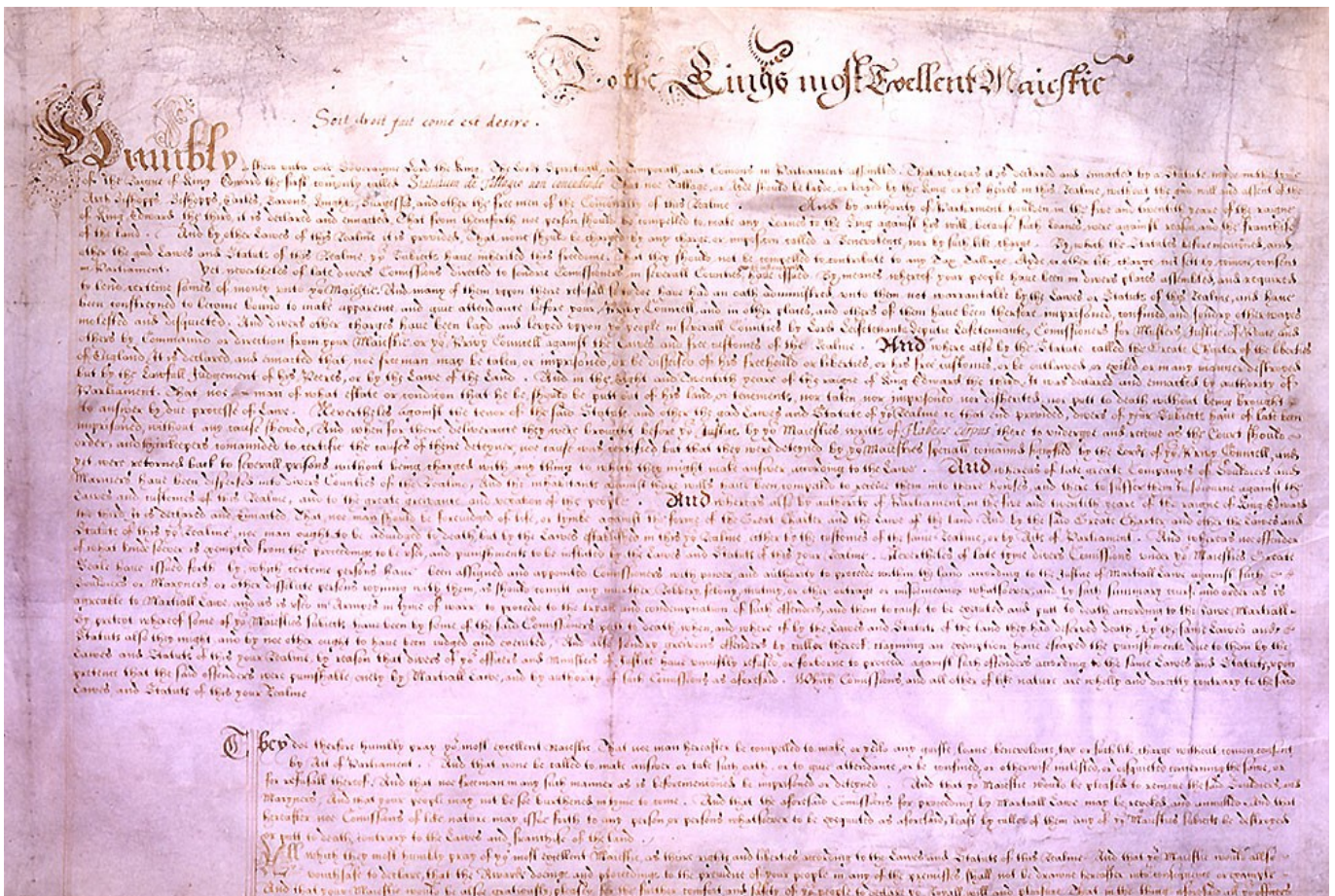
DIEU SUR TOUT

Here lies the body of Lewis Galdy who departed this life at Port Royal the 22nd December 1739 aged 80. He was born at Montpellier in France but left that country for his religion and came to settle in this island where He was swallowed up in the Great Earthquake in the year 1692 but by the Providence of God was by another shock thrown into the Sea and miraculously saved by swimming until a Boat took him up. He lived many years after in great reputation, beloved by all who knew him and much lamented at his death.

Three centuries later, in 1959, an expedition, using a specially constructed vessel, *Sea Diver*, designed by Edwin Link (who invented the flight simulator) was mounted to search the underwater ruins. In 1959, Link and his helpers dived and worked through the silt and sand, and finally came up with a number of interesting relics of the old town of Port Royal, including a brass pocket watch that had stopped at seventeen minutes to twelve.

Something to do

Do some detective work on the transcription of Lewis Galdy's grave stone. Can you translate the heading? Use a French dictionary to help you if you need it. Find **Montpellier** on a map. What do you notice about it's location that might have helped Lewis Galdy to emigrate? What is meant by the words "for his religion"? What can we deduce about Galdy's "religion" from these words? What name is given to the people who left France "for their religion" in large numbers at this period? They play a part in the next story which took place some 64 years earlier. As at the beginning of the story of the earthquake, England and Spain were still at war.



The Petition of Rights 1628

This is one of England's most famous constitutional documents and sometimes considered of equal value to the *Magna Carta* which we will look at later in the month.² It was granted the Royal Assent by Charles I on 7th June. It was not a bill which the king was pleased to sign. Here is how it came about:³

King Charles I and Parliament did not get on well together. When parliament met at the beginning of his reign, the king wanted war with Spain. He was very surprised when Parliament would not vote him the money he needed. His favourite, the hated Lord Buckingham, was to be in charge of the campaign against Spain and Parliament did not trust Buckingham. Parliament would have supported a sea war – English people would have rejoiced to see the navy built up again – but they did not like the idea of a land campaign.

Parliament also expressed its disapproval of Charles's marriage to the French princess, Henrietta Maria. The king had promised the French that he would allow more freedom for Catholics as a condition of his marriage to Henrietta. Parliament would not hear of it and made the king withdraw his promise.

It was the custom for Parliament to grant revenues known as "Tunnage and Poundage" to a new monarch. The revenues were granted for the life of the monarch. Parliament granted Tunnage and Poundage to Charles – but only for one year. Charles was insulted. He continued to levy these taxes without the sanction of Parliament. Parliament would have been prepared to grant more money to Charles if Buckingham was dismissed. No doubt it was felt that the money was less likely to be wasted if Buckingham was out of the way. Charles was very angry when he discovered this and dissolved the Parliament.

Charles and Buckingham tried to attack Spain without the help of Parliament. An attempt was made to attack the port of Cadiz but the attempt was a miserable failure. The navy was suffering from neglect and the army was short of supplies of food. Charles was so short of money that he had to call Parliament again. Parliament, led by Sir John Eliot, launched a bitter complaint against the king for levying Tunnage and Poundage when it had not been granted. Eliot drew up articles of impeachment³ against the hated Buckingham. In order to stop these proceedings, Charles dissolved Parliament again. It had not granted him any money at all.

Now Charles had offended the French. He had not carried out the promises regarding Catholics in England, made when he married Henrietta Maria. The French government had asked for his help against the Huguenots.⁴ Charles could not send such help. No English navy crew would willingly fight against the Huguenots on the side of the Catholic government of France, and Charles knew this. As a result, Charles found himself at war with France. Charles was desperate for money. He continued the illegal levy of Tunnage and Poundage. Now he decided to use forced loans.⁵ Soon there were about eighty people in prison for refusing to pay. To save the government expense, soldiers were billeted⁶ on private householders and the householders were not paid. The billeted soldiers were often very badly behaved and of course they were armed.

2 See Lesson for 15th June.

3 Adapted from *The Story of God's Dealings with our Nation* Volume 2 which is available here: <https://www.creationresearchstore.com/s/search?q=The%20Story%20of%20Gods%20Dealings%20with%20our%20Nation> A version of this chapter also appears on *The Mothers' Companion Flashdrive* available here: <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>.

4 Huguenots were the French Protestants. They were cruelly persecuted in France.

5 A wealthy person would be told to lend money to the king and put in prison if he refused. Of course it was very unlikely that the loan would ever be repaid.

Among those who were in prison for refusing to pay the forced loans were five knights who decided to put the whole matter to legal test. It was the law⁷ that no one should be imprisoned unless he was brought to court and the reasons for his imprisonment stated and found to be legal. The five knights obtained writs of Habeas Corpus, ordering the gaoler to produce the prisoners in court and state why they had been imprisoned. The judges in the court decided that the king's special command was a valid reason for imprisoning them. They did not therefore have to decide whether the forced loans were legal or not.

The Huguenots in France had a garrison on the island of La Rochelle. The island was being besieged by the French government troops led by the ruthless Cardinal Richelieu, who governed the country while the king (King Louis XIII) was a boy. The Huguenots were in desperate straits. Charles and Buckingham decided to win the support of their critics by sending an expedition to help the Huguenots. The expedition was a dismal failure. Buckingham lost half his troops and had to return home without relieving the Huguenots. This disaster forced Charles to call Parliament again. This was the third parliament of his reign and it was the one that drew up the The Petition Of Right.

The Parliament that assembled included some members who were to play a very important role in the future. One was the great orator **Eliot**, another was **Coke**, who was a fine lawyer; **Pym** and **Hampden**, who were also to play a part in the run up to the civil war later, were there too. One new member was a squire from Huntingdon named **Oliver Cromwell**. Parliament naturally insisted on redress before supply⁸ and drew up a Petition of Right aimed at preventing the evils that had been a feature of Charles's rule.

There were to be no more forced loans. No one was to be imprisoned by the king's special command.⁹ Soldiers and sailors were not to be billeted in private houses. No civilians were to be subject to martial law.¹⁰ You can imagine how Charles felt about this petition. He had no choice however, if he wanted the money he needed. The petition became law. There was a great outburst of national rejoicing that these abuses were now to be stopped with ringing of church bells and lighting of bonfires. Parliament decided to take things a stage further. The matter of Tunnage and Poundage was raised again and Parliament also asked the king to dismiss Buckingham. This was more than Charles could stand and he prorogued or adjourned¹¹ Parliament.



Find out what happened next by looking at your own history books or encyclopaedias or consult *The Story of God's Dealings with our Nation* Volume 2. What happened to Buckingham? This picture shows John Pym. I have highlighted the names of some of the MP's in **pink**. Use your own books to find out more about them and what part they played in the drama that followed.

6 When soldiers were "billeted" on a householder, the householder was forced to find food and lodging for the soldiers in his home.

7 This law, known as "Habeas Corpus", dated back to Magna Carta.

8 This principal underlay the relationship between the king and parliament. "Supply" was parliament granting the king the right to levy taxes. "Redress" was the putting right of wrongs pointed out by parliament. In other words Parliament would not grant the king taxes unless he first carried out their requests.

9 As the five knights had been.

10 People who had objected to the billeting of soldiers in their homes had been tried, not by the civil courts, but by the military, or martial courts. The function of military courts was really to try soldiers, not civilians of any kind.

11 Parliament was not dissolved, it was suspended until the king should call it again.