


# 1st Kings

15:11-14 **Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as his father David had done....**

**Although he did not remove the high places, Asa's heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life.**

**1 Kings 1-11 – Solo Solomon**

**1 Kings 12-14 – Rebellious Rehoboam**

 **1 Kings 15-17 – Asa's Ascendancy**

**1 Kings 18 – Elijah's Exhibition**

**1 Kings 19 – Elijah's Escape  
& Exit**





**Alternate Title**  
**Asa's Ascendancy**  
**or**  
**Great Mystery of**  
**Asa's Late-in-Life**  
**Asininities**



*Promptuarii Iconum Insigniorum,*  
1553 book of iconography by  
Guillaume Rouillé (1518–1589)

# 1 Kings 15 Tells the Good News

REST of the Story is in 2 Chronicles 14-16

Late in Life – Asa Forgets God



So ... we have a *short story* in 1 Kings 15 ... Asa brings revival

Asa cleans house ... sweeps idols from land ... for decades

Seems like a great time in Judah ...

in his 36th year reigning ... Asa **STOPS** listening to the Lord

2 Chron 16:12 ... in 39th year gets foot disease, refuses to pray

What turned Asa? – We Do *Not* Know



In Rabbinical Literature ... Asa was 1 of 5  
with some of the physical perfections of Adam  
Abusing perfections affected those parts of their body



1. **Samson's strength "went from him"** Judges 16:9
2. **Saul towered above the rest and "fell upon sword"** 1 Sam. 31:4
3. **Absalom's long hair got "caught in an oak"** 2 Sam. 18:9
4. **Zedekiah's eyes were "put out"** 2 Kings 25:7
5. **Asa was afflicted in his "feet"** 1 Kings 15:23

**JEWISH** reason for this feet affliction was also Asa's enlisting  
**WHOLE** of Judah in war: he "**exempted none**" 1 Kings 15:22

Asa even conscripted Law students & newly married men  
**which the Law exempted in Deut. 20:7**

**What Happened to King Asa of Judah?  
GREAT Mystery as to HOW Asa Turned Asinine**



- ✓ David could not build temple cause of bloodshed
- ✓ We are told that Solomon's wives turned his heart ...

**Authors blamed Solomon's WIVES**

**Rehoboam—we saw how *likely* he followed Father Solomon**

**What turned Asa?**

**We Do *Not* Know**

History is filled with many mysteries

We are rattled today over Ukraine

Supreme Court's Flipping Cases Quickly

A Mid-term Election Looms and Weighs Heavy

We Do NOT Know How the USA will Fair

**Be Thankful for Texas**

**Happy Independence  
Day**



**A Feeling**  
**King Asa LOST**





**History's filled with mysteries**

**C.H. Spurgeon in 1874 on Asa 2 Chron 16**

**After explaining the *GOOD* of Asa ...**

**I brought before you his character, cause  
it was most fitting to start with this ...**

**due to his memory ... due to ourselves;**

**for we must remember that, whatever  
we shall have to say against him,**

**he was assuredly a child of God ...**

**his heart was right;**

**he was a sincere, genuine, gracious believer.**



**Charles H. Spurgeon  
by Alexander Melville (1834-1892)**



# Asa destroying the idols

*Bible Historiale, 1372.*





# King Asa of Judah Destroying Idols

## François de Nomé (1593–1644)

### Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England





**C.H. Spurgeon in 1874 on Asa 2 Chron 16**

**If any object that Asa had grievous faults,  
and therefore could not be a child of God,  
I shalt be obliged to answer that they must  
first of all produce a faultless child of God  
this side heaven**



**before they will have sufficient ground for such an objection.  
I find that the holiest of men in Scripture had their imperfections,  
with the sole exception of our Master,**





**Charles H. Spurgeon – 1875 – Asa 2 Chron 16**

**Observe that Asa went off to Ben-hadad, the king of Syria ... worshipper of a false god with whom he *OUGHT* to have had NO connection or alliance whatever ...**

**what was worse, he induced Ben-hadad to break his league with Baasha.**

**Here was a Child of God teaching the**

**ungodly to be untrue**

**a man of God becoming an instructor for Satan,**

**teaching a heathen to be false to his promise.**



## Charles H. Spurgeon – 1875 – Asa 2 Chron 16

**This was policy. This is the kind of thing which the kings of the earth practice towards one another; they are always ready to break treaties, though bound by the most solemn pledges.**

**They make but light of covenants.**

**The great matter with ambassadors even nowadays is to see which can entangle the other, for, as a statesman once said,**

**“An ambassador is a person who is sent abroad to lie for the good of his country.”**

**Oh, the tricks, plots, deceptions, equivocations, and intrigues of diplomacy!**



**Charles H. Spurgeon – 1875 – Asa 2 Chron 16**

**No chapter in human history shows up  
our fallen nature in more mournful colors.**

**Asa, I have no doubt, thought that**

**all was FAIR in WAR.**

**He took the common rule,**

**the common standard of mankind, and went upon that;**

**whereas, as a child of God, he ought to have scorned anything**

**that was dishonorable or untrue**





## 1 Kings 15-17 - Kings of Judah & Israel

15 – Rehoboam > son Abijah > son **Asa Good King JUDAH**

15:1-24 Asa ... much more on Asa in 2 Chronicles 14-16

15 – Israel's King Jeroboam > son Nadab ... Basha kills Nadab

> Basha becomes new king of Israel in Tirzah

> Asa reigns 41 years ~ dies ~ son Jehoshaphat Rules Judah

16 – Prophet Jehu gets “word of the Lord” on Basha – bad news

Basha > son Elah king ... Zimri kills Elah > Zimri king of Israel

Out of two factions, Omri king of Israel

Omri > son Ahab king of Israel – reigned 22 years

16:30 Ahab did *worse* ... worshiped Baal ... Married Jezebel

# 1 Kings 15-17 - Kings of Israel & Judah

17 – Elijah announces a great draught

17 – Elijah is fed bread & meat by ravens ...  
drinks from brook

17 – Elijah meetx widow of Zarephath

> Miracle of food for widow, her son, & Elijah

> Widow's son becomes ill, dies, Elijah prays > Son Lives!

**2 Chronicles 14-16 details more of Asa's 41 years over Judah**

Though 1 Kings 15 said Asa did not take down High Places

2 Chon 14 said Asa did take them down ... from all of Judah



Elijah reviving the Son of  
Widow of Zarephath  
by Louis Hersent c. 1777

## **2 Chronicles 14-16 ~ Asa's 41 years over Judah**

**2 Chron 14 said Asa did take them down ... from all of Judah**

**2 Chron 14:8-16 – Zera the Cushite with 1,000s upon 1,000s**

**Valley of Zephathah near Mareshah**

**Asa's 300,000 seem small to him ... asks Lord's help ... WINS**

**2 Chron 15 – rise of Prophet Azariah ...**

**15:2 LORD is with you when you are with him.**

**If you seek him, he will be found by you,**

**but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. :**

**Revival ... All take an oath in Jerusalem**



## **2 Chron 15:12-15 – Asa & Azariah's Jerusalem Covenant**

**<sup>12</sup> They entered into a covenant to seek the Lord,  
the God of their ancestors, with all their heart and soul.**

**<sup>13</sup> All who would NOT seek the Lord, the God of Israel,  
were to be put to death,  
whether small or great, man or woman.**

**<sup>14</sup> They took an oath to the Lord with loud acclamation....**

**<sup>15</sup> All Judah rejoiced about the oath because they had  
sworn it wholeheartedly. They sought God eagerly, and  
he was found by them. So the Lord gave them rest on every**

**Peace for 25 years ... deposed his grandmother Maakah**

## 2 Chron 16 – Asa Allies w King Ben-Hadad of Aram/Syria

### Israel's King Basha is on the *HUNT*

<sup>7</sup> In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign,

Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.

**Beginning of the End of Asa's Reign**



## 2 Chronicles 16

Basha goes to Judah

Basha Fortifies Ramah

*Inside Judah's Territory*

About 4 or 5 miles  
from Jerusalem

35th Year of Asa

Asa asked Ben-Hadad  
King of Aram or Syria  
for help ...





## 2 Chron 16 – Asa Allies w King Ben-Hadad of Aram

### Basha of Israel is on the hunt



**7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa ...**

**8 Were not the Cushites and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen?**

**Yet when you relied on the LORD,  
he delivered them into your hand.**

**9 For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth  
to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.**

**You have done a foolish thing, and  
from now on you will be at war.”**



## 2 Chron 16 – Asa Loses Heart & Favor



### Asa heart turns Asinine

**<sup>10</sup> Asa was angry with the seer because of this;  
he was so enraged that he put him in prison.  
At the same time Asa brutally oppressed some of the people.**

**Then the very, very sad ending ... Asa gets severe foot disease**

**<sup>10</sup> Though his disease was severe, Asa did not seek the Lord,  
but only sought his physicians**

**he did not seek help from God.**

**Asa has lost his heart**

**What Happened to King Asa of Judah?  
GREAT Mystery as to HOW Asa Turned Asinine**



- ✓ David could not build temple cause of bloodshed
- ✓ We are told that Solomon's wives turned his heart ...

**Authors blame his WIVES**

**Rehoboam—we saw how likely it was he follow Father Solomon  
As the story of Asa unfolds ... all we can to do is guess ...**

**What turned Asa?**

**We Do *Not* Know**



## Richard Baxter 1615-1691

English Puritan church leader, poet,  
hymn writer, theologian—very prolific

Arthur Stanley, Dean of Westminster 1864-1881  
called Baxter

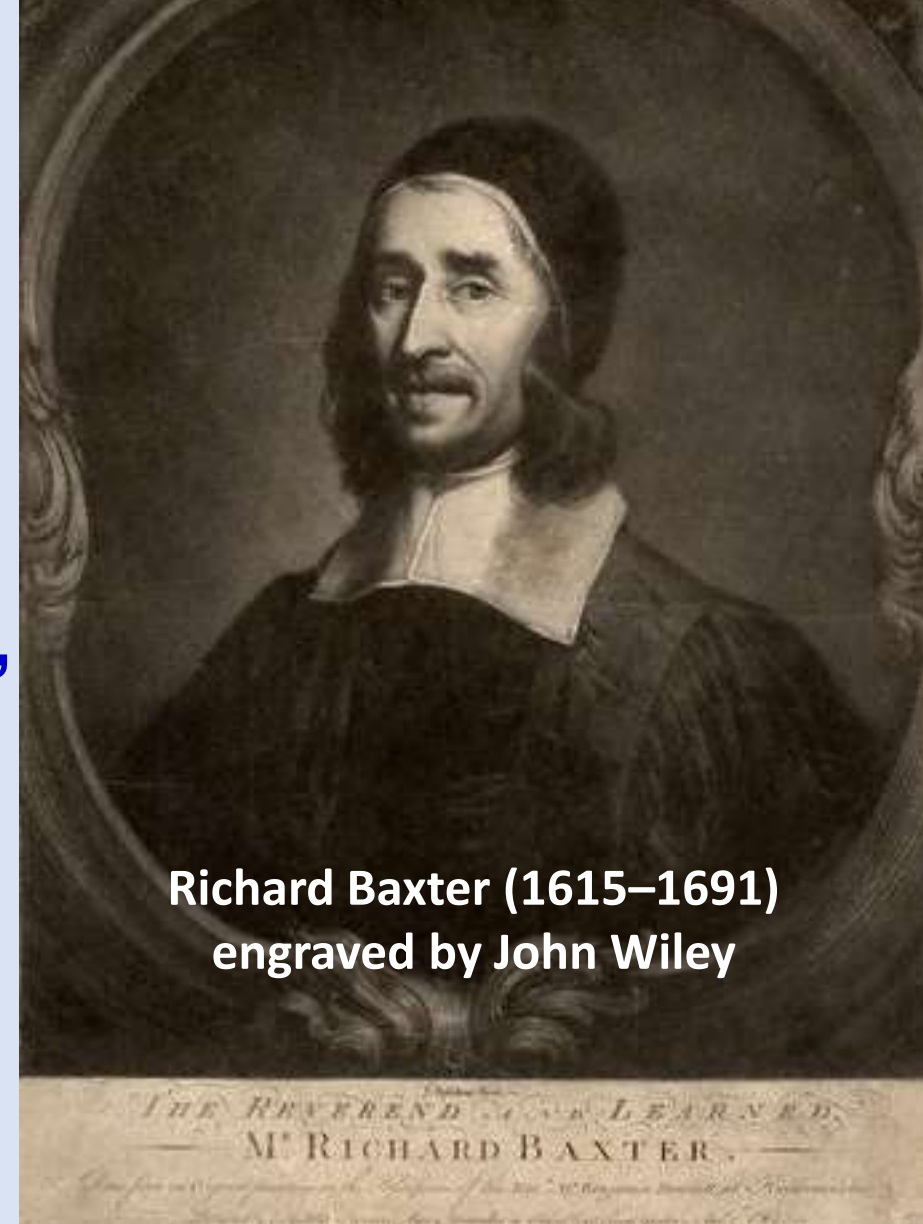
**“chief of English Protestant Schoolmen”**

Baxter made his reputation in ministry  
at Kidderminster in Worcestershire

His most famous work ... by far is

***Saints' Everlasting Rest 1650***

too many reprints to count *since 1650*



Richard Baxter (1615–1691)  
engraved by John Wiley

**Richard Baxter 1615-1691**

**Life Commemorated annually on Dec 8  
by Episcopal Church of USA**

**Life Commemorated annually on June 14  
by Church of England**

**AG Matthews, "Works of Richard Baxter: an Annotated List,"  
*Congregational Historical Society Transactions*, XI (1932)**

**Listed 142 books!**

**Google Books has most available for FREE**

**Monuments appear in several cities**

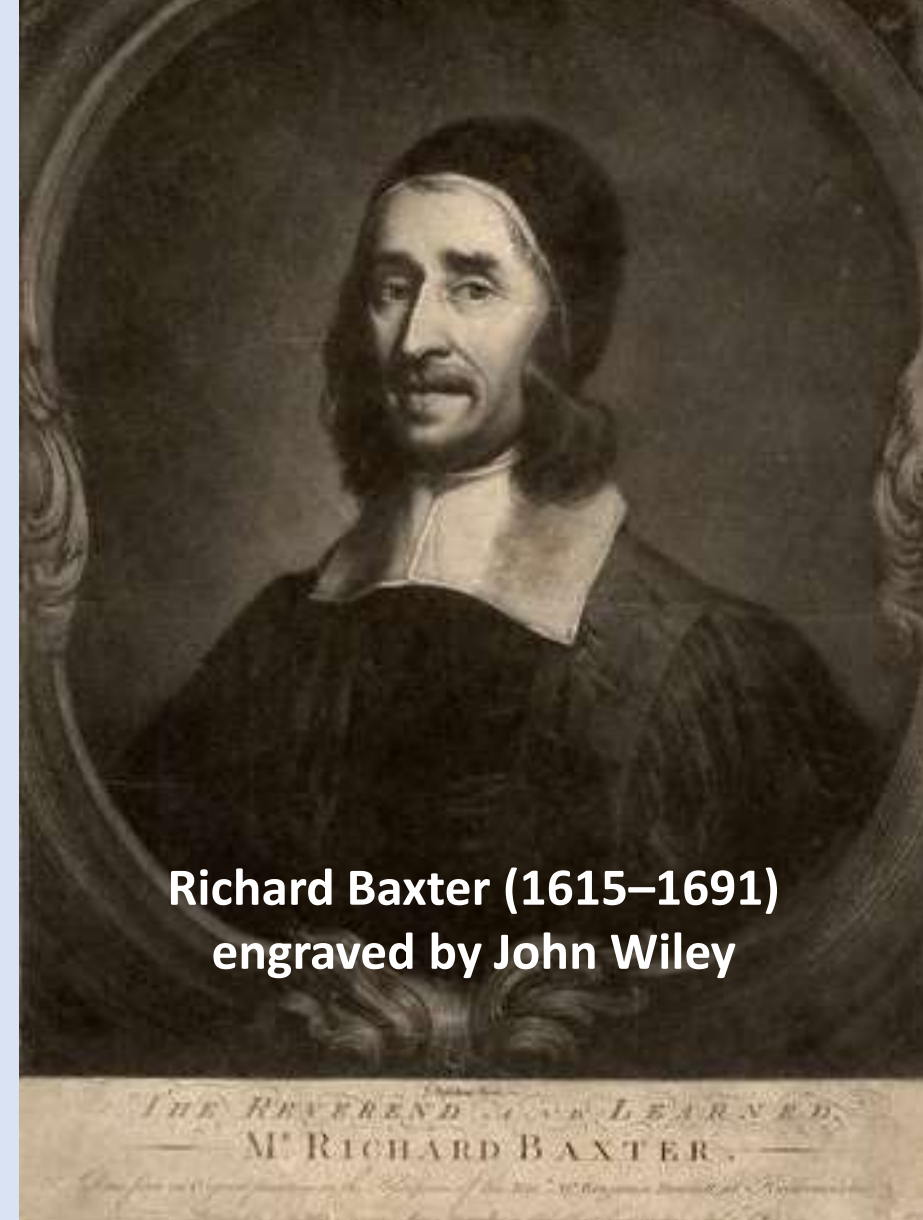
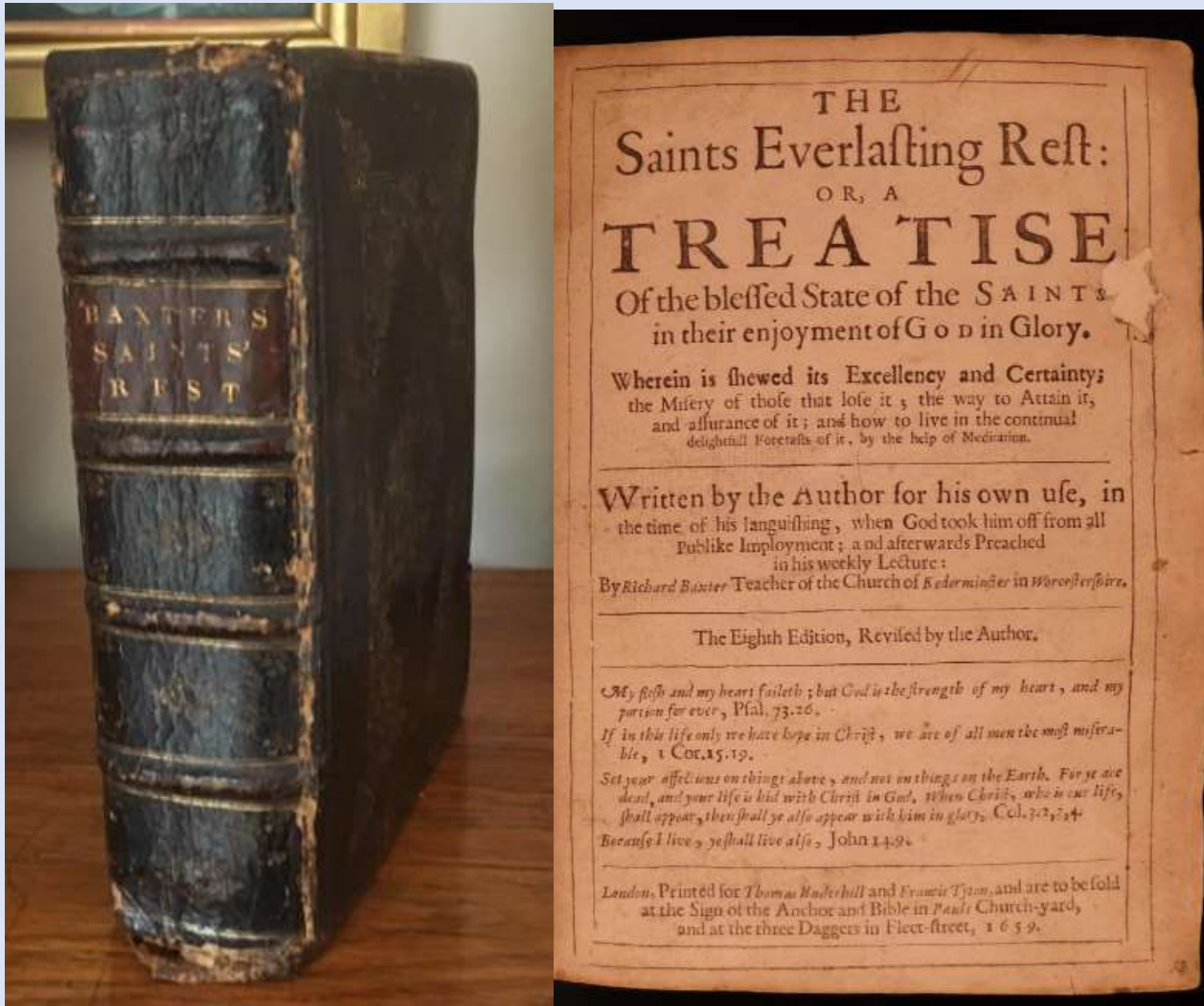
**While very, very sick ... he wrote ...**



**Richard Baxter Statue  
St Mary's Church  
Kidderminster**



# Baxter's *Saints' Everlasting Rest*

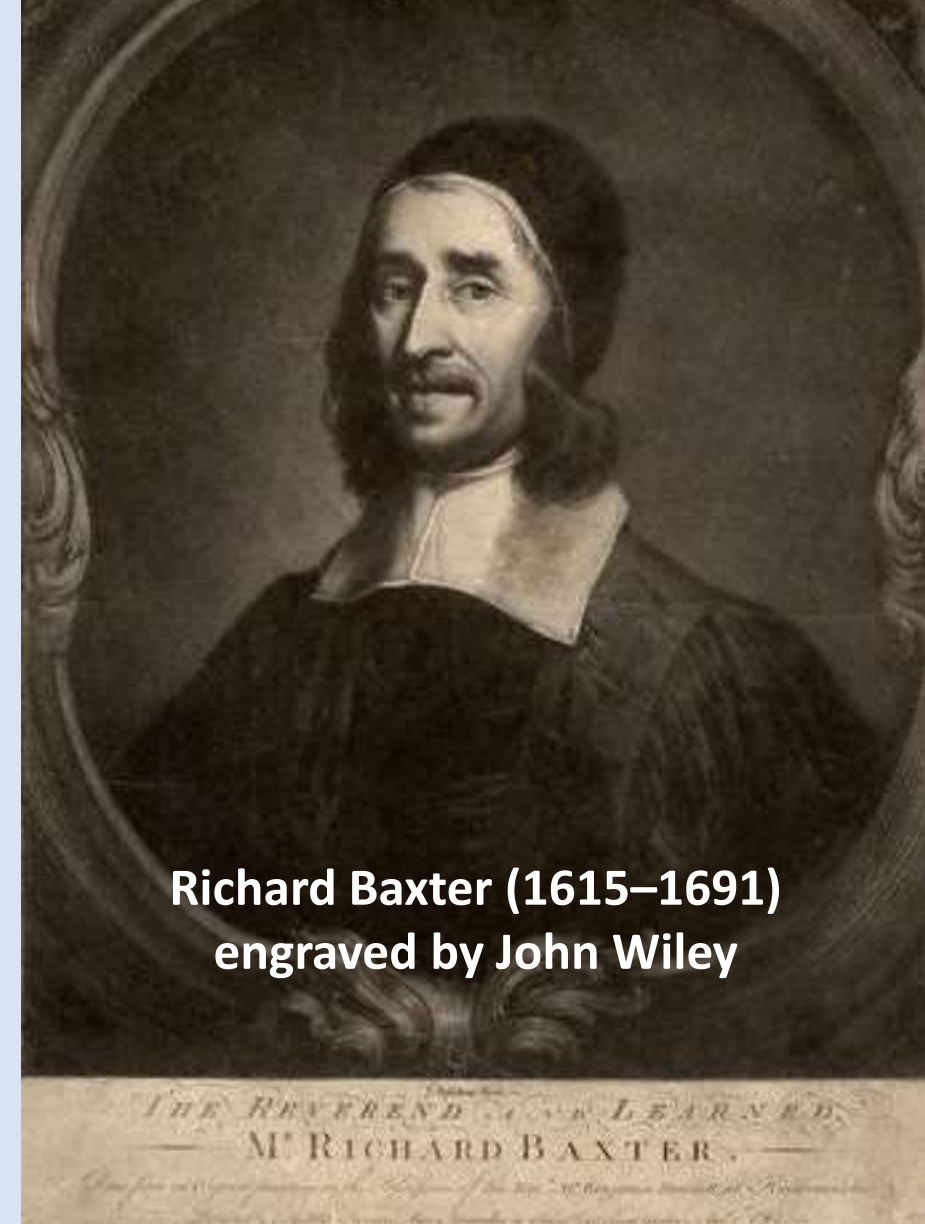
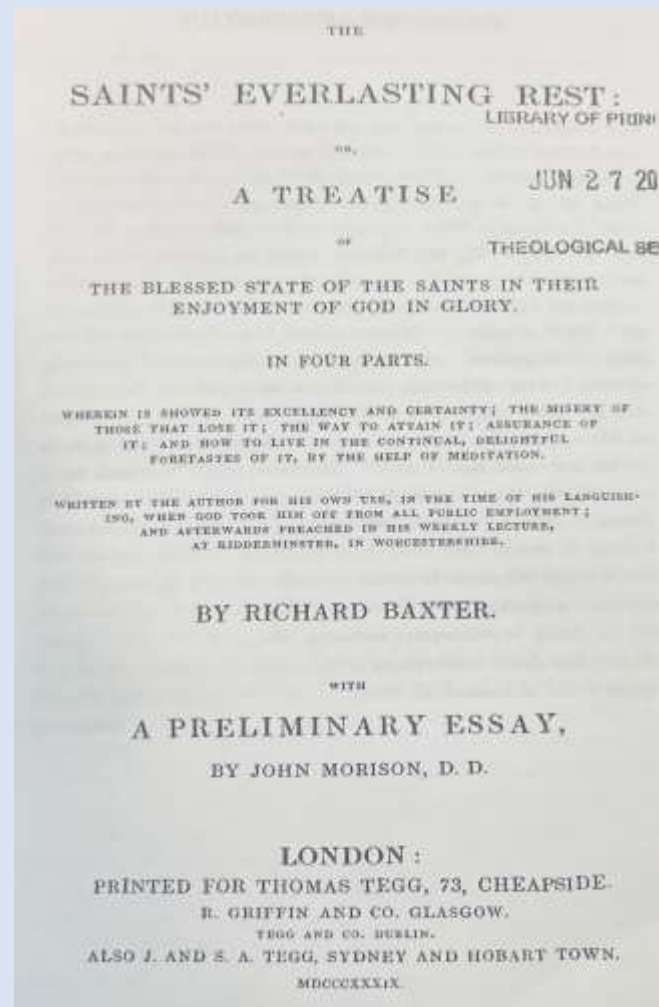
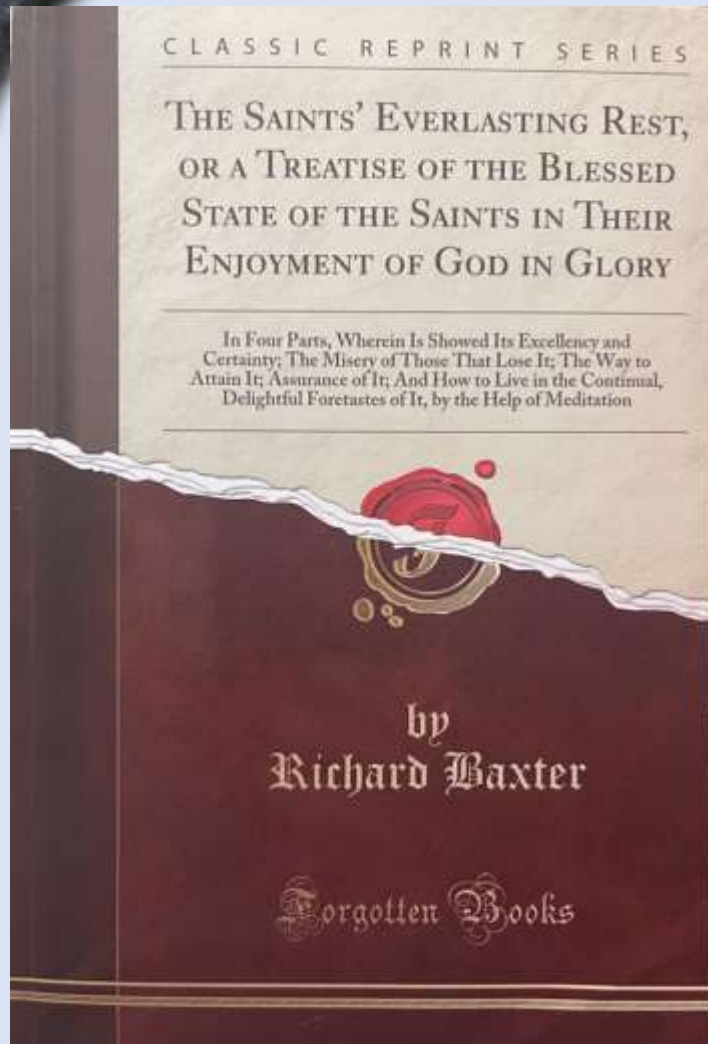


Richard Baxter (1615–1691)  
engraved by John Wiley

1st in 1650 ... ^ 1651 - \$750 @ Abe Books



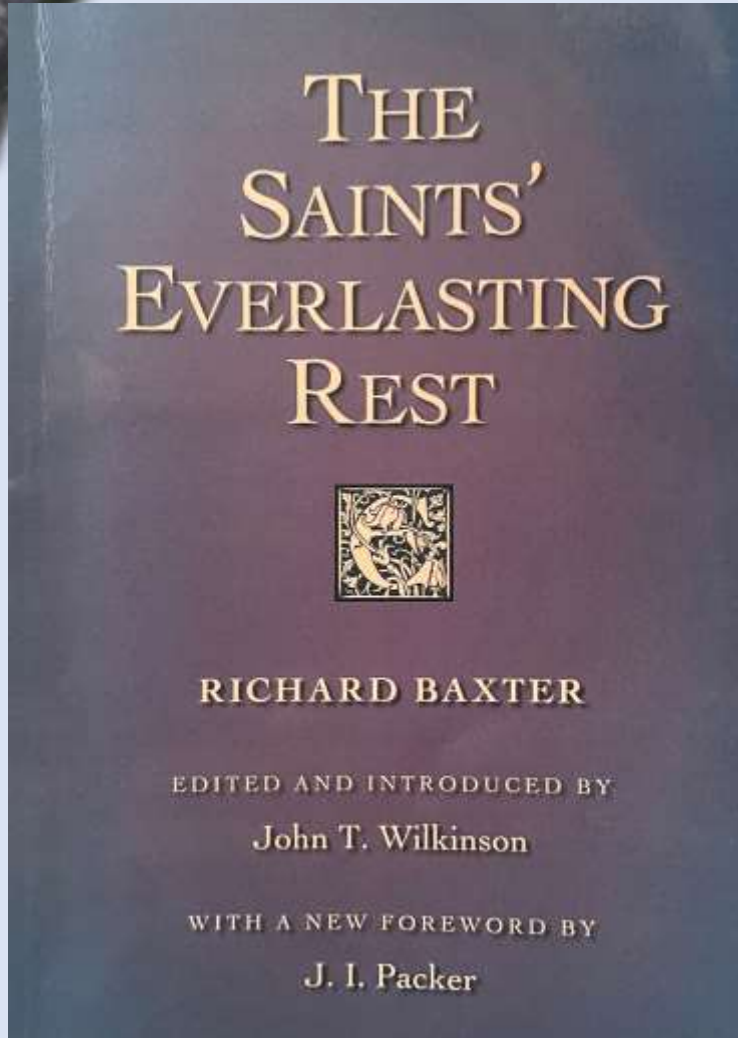
# Baxter's *Saints' Everlasting Rest*



Richard Baxter (1615–1691)  
engraved by John Wiley

1st in 1650 ... ^ 1839, 672 pp. reprint \$25 @ Amazon

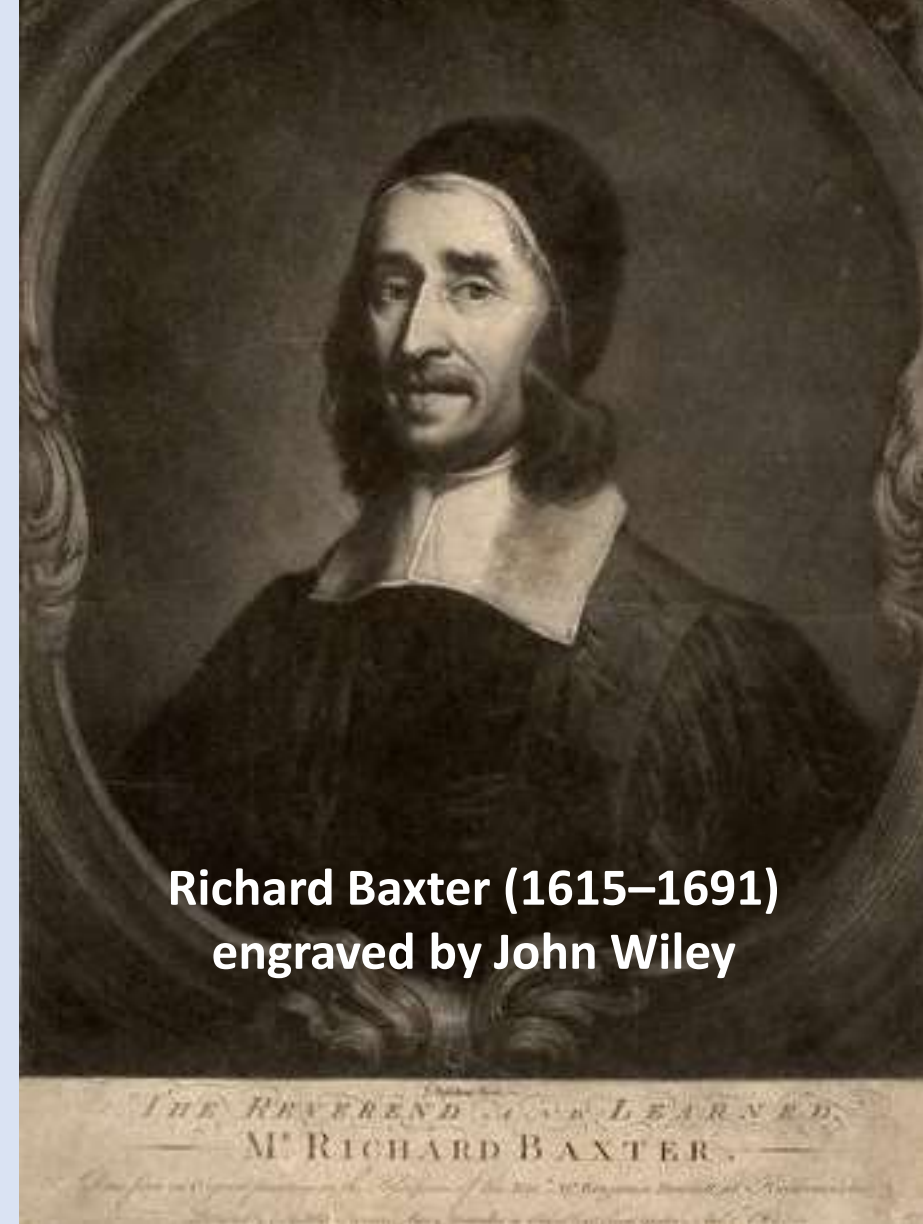
# Baxter's *Saints' Everlasting Rest*



Maybe the  
best abridgement

Includes list of printings  
in the back ...

**Non-stop for 370 years!**



Richard Baxter (1615–1691)  
engraved by John Wiley

**1962 by Methodists, 174 pp., 2004 w New Foreword by J. I. Packer**



**What Happened to Asa?**  
**Asa stopped looking above**

**Whoever thou art, therefore, that readest these lines,  
I require thee, as thou tenderest thine allegiance to  
the God of heaven ...**

**thou presently take thy heart to task;  
chide it for its willful strangeness to God;  
turn thy thoughts from the pursuit of vanity;  
bend thy soul to study eternity;  
busy it about the life to come;  
habituate thyself to such contemplations,**



**Richard Baxter Statue  
St Mary's Church  
Kidderminster**

## **What Happened to Asa? ~ stopped looking above**

**Let not those thoughts be seldom and cursory,  
but settle upon them; dwell here:**

**bathe thy soul in heaven's delights;  
drench thine affections in these rivers of pleasure,  
or rather, in this sea of consolation;**

**and if thy backward soul begin to flag,**

**and thy loose thoughts to fly abroad, call them back,**

**hold them to their work' put them on,**

**bear not with their laziness...**



**Richard Baxter Statue  
St Mary's Church  
Kidderminster**



**What Happened to Asa? ~ stopped looking above**

**when thou hast once in obedience to God  
tried this work, and followed on till thou hast got  
acquainted with it, and kept a close guard upon  
thy thoughts till they are accustomed to obey, and  
till thou hast got some mastery over them,  
thou wilt then find thyself in the suburbs of heaven,  
and, as it were, in a new world ;  
thou wilt then find ... sweetness in the work....  
Thou wilt meet with what thou hast prayed,  
and panted, and groaned after....**



**Richard Baxter Statue  
St Mary's Church  
Kidderminster**

**What Happened to Asa? ~ stopped looking above**

so little painful would this work be to you,  
and so little should I need to press you to it.

It is no great pains to you to think of a friend,

or any thing else that you dearly love;

and as little would it be to think of glory,

*IF* your love and delight were truly there.

*IF* you do but see some jewel, or treasure, you need

not long exhortations to stir up your desires,

the very sight of it is motive enough.

*IF* you see the fire when you are cold, or



Richard Baxter Statue  
St Mary's Church  
Kidderminster



**What Happened to Asa? ~ stopped looking above**

**see a house in a stormy day,  
or see a safe harbour from the tempestuous sea,  
you need not be told what use to make of it;**

**the sight doth presently direct your thought;  
you think, you look, you long, till you do obtain it.**

**Why should it not be so in the present case?**



**Richard Baxter Statue  
St Mary's Church  
Kidderminster**



**What Happened to Asa? ~ stop desiring above**



**Sirs, one would think,  
to show you this crown & glory of the saints,  
should be motive enough  
to make you desire it**



**Richard Baxter Statue  
St Mary's Church  
Kidderminster**



**What Happened to Asa? ~ stopped looking abo**  
**to show you that harbour**  
**where you may be safe from all dangers,**  
**should soon teach you what use to make of it.**

