

#593 City on a Hill vs. Habitation of Devils – The 1630’s Puritans and Boston, England



John Cotton (1585–1652)

From Boston. Boston, Lincolnshire, England, was a hotbed of religious dissent against the Church of England. In 1612, John Cotton became a long-serving vicar (an Anglican, or Church of England, minister) of St. Botolph’s Church in Boston, but came under the unfavorable eye of the Church of England for his non-conformist preaching. He

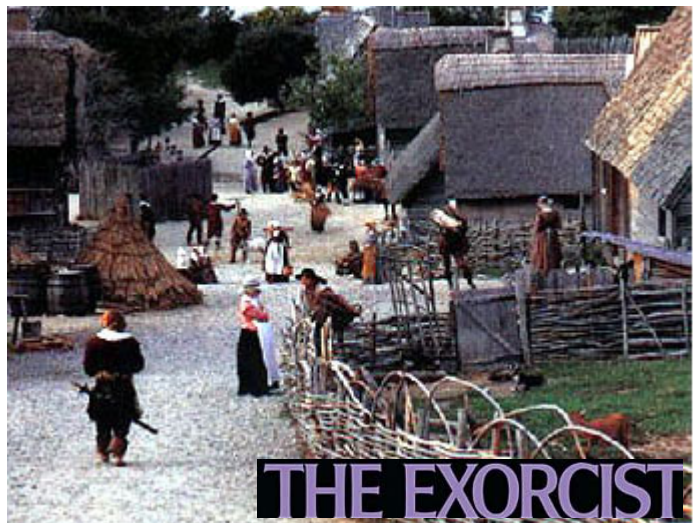
encouraged those who disliked the lack of religious freedom in England to join the Massachusetts Bay Company, which in 1630 would found the city of Boston, Massachusetts – named for Boston, Lincolnshire, due to the significant number of Puritan immigrants from there. John Cotton himself eventually immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1633.



St. Botolph’s Church
on the River Witham, Boston, England

To Boston. The Winthrop Fleet of 1630, led by Massachusetts Bay Company Governor John Winthrop, was the largest fleet ever assembled to carry Englishmen overseas to a new homeland. It was well planned and financed, carrying 700 immigrants from England to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The fleet landed at Salem, but many moved on to establish Boston.

Boston Town in the Massachusetts Bay Colony



Key Understanding: *The 1630’s Puritans and Boston, England.* John Winthrop gave the *City Upon a Hill* speech (aboard the flagship *Arbella*, some say) in association with the 1630 Great Migration to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which would establish the new Boston, named after John Cotton’s Boston, Lincolnshire, England, which in turn was named after St. Botolph, *The Exorcist* of the “habitation of devils.”

The themes of (i) *The City Upon a Hill* and (ii) *The Exorcist* of the “habitation of devils” are seen together through the history of St. Botolph’s Boston, Lincolnshire, England, and its namesake, Boston, Massachusetts.

The key verse for (i) *The City Upon a Hill* is Matthew 5:14.

Matthew 5:14 (KJV) YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY THAT IS SET ON AN HILL cannot be hid.

The key verse for (ii) *The Exorcist* of the “habitation of devils” is Revelation 18:2.

Revelation 18:2 (KJV) And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, BABYLON THE GREAT IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN, AND IS BECOME THE HABITATION OF DEVILS, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

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