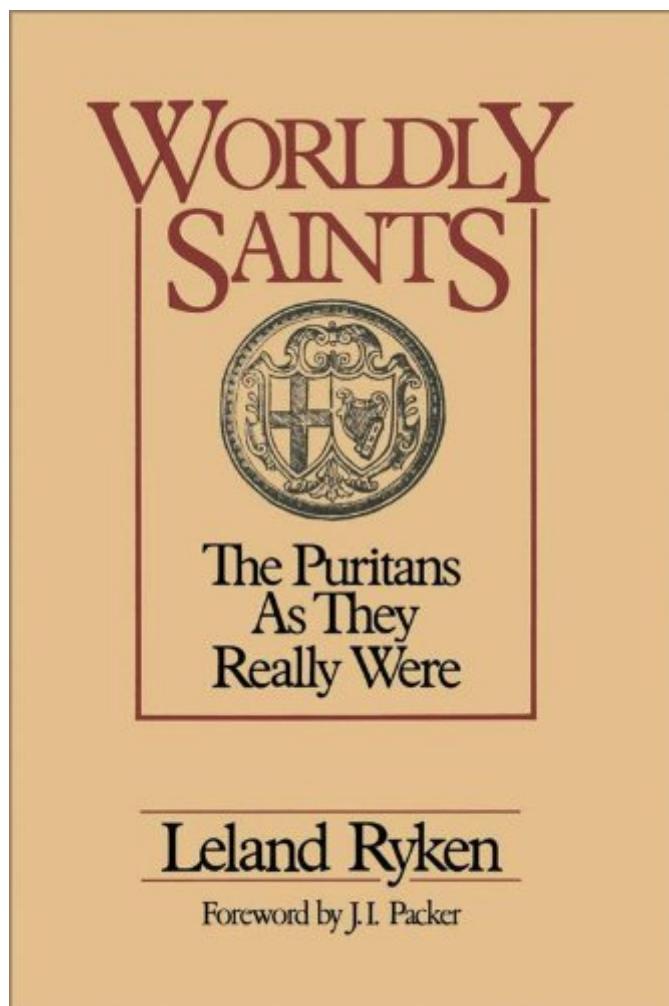


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Worldly Saints: The Puritans As They Really Were



Synopsis

"Ryken's *Worldly Saints* offers a fine introduction to seventeenth-century Puritanism in its English and American contexts. The work is rich in quotations from Puritan worthies and is ideally suited to general readers who have not delved widely into Puritan literature. It will also be a source of information and inspiration to those who seek a clearer understanding of the Puritan roots of American Christianity." -Harry Stout, Yale University "The typical Puritans were not wild men, fierce and freaky, religious fanatics and social extremists, but sober, conscientious, and cultured citizens, persons of principle, determined and disciplined excelling in the domestic virtues, and with no obvious shortcomings save a tendency to run to words when saying anything important, whether to God or to a man. At last the record has been put straight." -J.I. Packer, Regent College "Worldly Saints provides a revealing treasury of primary and secondary evidence for understanding the Puritans, who they were, what they believed, and how they acted. This is a book of value and interest for scholars and students, clergy and laity alike." -Roland Mushat Frye, University of Pennsylvania "A very persuasive...most interesting book...stuffed with quotations from Puritan sources, almost to the point of making it a mini-anthology." -Publishers Weekly "With *Worldly Saints*, Christians of all persuasions have a tool that provides ready access to the vast treasures of Puritan thought." -Christianity Today "Ryken writes with a vigor and enthusiasm that makes delightful reading-never a dull moment." -Fides et Historia "Worldly Saints provides a valuable picture of Puritan life and values. It should be useful for general readers as well as for students of history and literature." -Christianity and Literature

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Customer Reviews

A delightful, insightful and educational read. Clearly written by a Christian academic, this book contains an excellent bibliography at the end of each chapter for further reading on related subjects. I bought it on Kindle, but will likely buy it in paper form, to reread, highlight and to loan. If anything, it shows how much we've forgotten as life became too easy and Christianity was (until recently) non-controversial. With the world becoming increasingly anti-Christian again, perhaps we will appreciate these people and their 'purification' movement more.

I appreciate the even-handed way the author presents both strengths and weaknesses of the Puritans. I knew the modern stereotype wasn't accurate but I had no idea how much so. His use of a wide variety of original sources is also a strength. I found myself referring often to the book in conversation. The counter-cultural qualities of the Puritans are a good challenge for us today. Great book!!

Great overview for anyone wanting to sit under the Puritans. I really benefitted from the good and the not so good about the Puritans. Excellent read!

Interesting and helpful in refreshing my memory about the puritans. Learned quite a lot

Excellent. Well worth reading.

Very satisfied

I have read this title at least seven times and every single time I learn something that I didn't quite "absorb" the last time around. The quotations of famous Puritans are virtually non-stop and Mr. Ryken does a masterful job explaining how so much of what is good about our contemporary culture in America can be traced directly back to their profound influence - an influence that has endured to this day. What I also like about Mr. Ryken is his ability to speak in such a plain prose style about issues that could very easily become incomprehensible, but that is a net he studiously and skillfully avoids. Last, what is most admirable is that he does not pull punches on what the Puritans lacked. In other words, he does not attempt to varnish their 'faults,' if they can be so-called, which are also laid out in honest and delving detail along with their truly great and admirable strengths. A mesmerizing read.

I needed some research materials on the early Puritans in America for a book I am writing. A friend recommended this book and I ordered it, thinking "Well, this won't exactly be a page-turner!" How wrong I was! What an excellent, readable, interesting book! I plan to order it for a friend for Christmas, just because the Puritans as described by this author have so much to teach us. Their influence on American life today is still incredibly strong and the author's ability to bring them to life with excerpts from their own writing amazed me. Far from being sour and straightlaced, the Puritan life had both humor and a hopeful outlook. I'm not usually surprised by something I read, especially when, as in this case, I've already done a good bit of research. But this book was a marvelous surprise and I'm delighted to recommend it. Besides its excellent content, the bibliography is crucial to any scholar of the time period. If you need to know something about the Puritans, this book makes an ideal place to start!

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