

SUMMARY PAGE

WESTMINSTER STANDARDS

Four reasons for creeds (A. A. Hodge)

1. To mark, disseminate, and preserve, the attainments made in the knowledge of Christian truth by any branch of the church in any crisis of its development.
2. To discriminate the truth from the glosses of false teachers, and to present it in its integrity and due proportions.
3. To act as the basis of ecclesiastical fellowship among those so nearly agreed as to be able to labor together in harmony.
4. To be used as instruments in the great work of popular instruction.

The Westminster Assembly

1. Act of Long Parliament, June 12, 1643
2. Session from July 1, 1643 to February 22, 1649; met in the Jerusalem Room of Westminster Abbey
3. About 160 delegates (including 5 non-voting but influential commissioners from Scotland); often referred to as “the Westminster divines”
4. Produced the *Larger Catechism*, the *Confession of Faith*, and the *Shorter Catechism*, and other documents: *The Directory for the Public Worship of God*, *The Form of Presbyterial Church Government*, *The Directory for Family Worship*
5. Standards of Presbyterian and Reformed churches

Revisions

1. Presbyterians in America modified the sections dealing with church and state (“Duties of the Civil Magistrate”) and with the identity of the pope as Antichrist (“Of the Church”).
2. The Bible Presbyterian Church in its first Synod in 1938 modified parts of the *Confession* and *Larger Catechism* to teach that the second coming of Christ will be premillennial.