



In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, . . . do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, . . . unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

By whose authority did the Pilgrims draw up the Mayflower Compact?

The Pilgrims understood that the power for government came from God. First, they established their compact or agreement *in the name of God* and *in the presence of God*.

They acknowledged God as the source of power for their government. They still considered themselves Englishmen and proclaimed that they were *loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James*.

In the introduction to the Mayflower Compact, the colonists clearly stated that their civil government was established under the authority of God and they promised to obey it.

What is a compact or a covenant?

The Pilgrims, particularly those from the Separatist congregation, had studied the Bible and the covenants which God had made with men, such as Abraham, Noah, and others. They concluded that two or more individuals could covenant, or agree, for a particular purpose. The Mayflower Compact was their agreement to the terms of civil government for their colony.

It was not necessary for the colonists to wait for authority from a king or ruler. In God's presence they could agree to govern themselves as a *civil body politic*. By signing the document, each man agreed to be governed by the Compact.