

A Life of Gospel Peace

I. Early Influences: Birth Through the Cambridge Years

Jeremiah Burroughs was born in 1599, in East Anglia, England, an area that includes the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and southern Essex. Information regarding his family and his early years is scant, so, as best as can be ascertained his family background is as follows.

Jeremiah was the third of five children born to Francis Burroughs. His older brothers, John and Francis, were approximately six and two years older than Jeremiah, and his younger brother Samuel was about eight years young than Jeremiah. A fifth brother died at birth when Jeremiah was four years old.

Jeremiah was born to a family of some financial means. However, affluence did not seem to dominate the heart of his father. Francis Burroughs was, by all indications, a godly man. He persuaded Jeremiah's younger brother Samuel to immigrate to New England in 1630 on John Winthrop's ship in order to flee religious persecution. Francis was appointed as an elder in his church, St. Nicholas Parish, Colchester, in Essex County, England. Francis Burroughs was also listed as a bailiff in the town of Colchester.

Jeremiah Burroughs was baptized on June 10, 1601, in Saint Nicholas Parish. St. Nicholas was, along with all state-recognized churches of that time, a parish of the Church of England. Throughout Jeremiah Burroughs's life, his relationship with the Church of England proved to be a means of great usefulness for the kingdom of God, as well as the source of some of his most difficult trials...