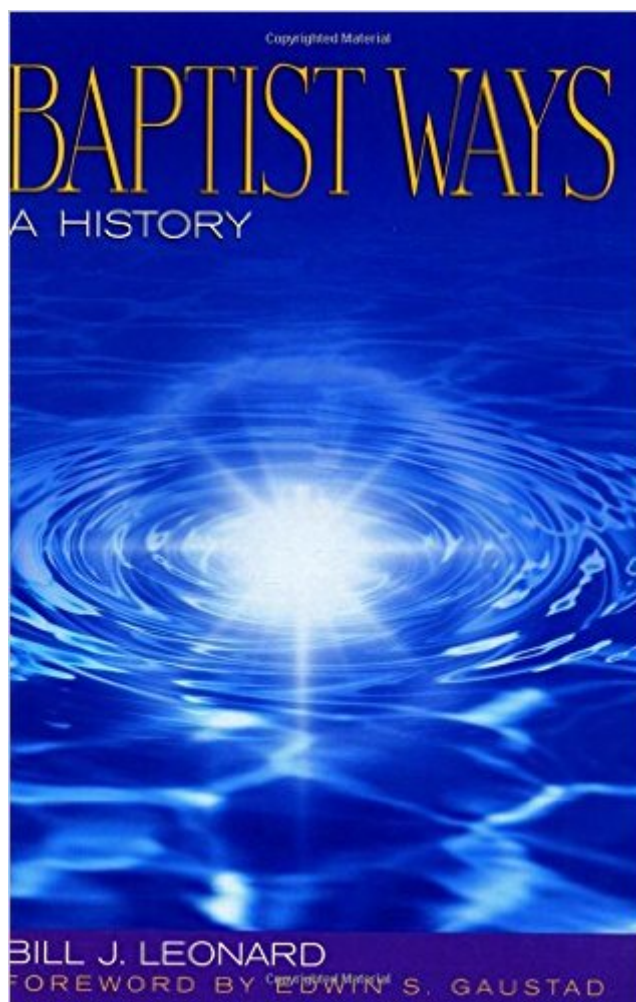


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# Baptist Ways: A History



## Synopsis

This exhaustive resource traces significant aspects of Baptist history from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. It surveys basic beliefs, events, and experiences evident in Baptist communities and provides one of the most comprehensive resources on Baptist history available. Leonard explores the effect of the Baptist identity on not just America, but on the world, and includes the emergence of English, British, Irish, and Caribbean Baptists, to name a few. Also skillfully covered is the influence of the Baptist faith in the United States, including the development of African American Baptists and the numerous denominations that emerged in the twentieth century. Students, teachers, professors, and pastors alike will find in Leonard's resource an exceptional history that provides a foundation for this enduring faith.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #125,162 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Baptist](#) #621 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Christianity](#) #626 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church History](#)

## Customer Reviews

Baptist Ways: a History. Bill J. Leonard, Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2003. Paper, 480 pages. ISBN 0-8170-1231-1 Bill J. Leonard is dean and professor of church history at Wake Forest University Divinity School, Winston-Salem, NC. He is the editor or author of fifteen books. In his introduction, Mr. Leonard discusses the problem of defining a people as diverse as the Baptists. His approach views Baptist history through "eight dialectics", seeing "classic distinctives as dynamics moving in tandem across a wide spectrum of belief and practice." (p. 16) He briefly recites various views of Baptist origins. Since Leonard believes the Baptist denomination is an outgrowth of English Puritanism, he begins in the 17th century and brings Baptists forward chronologically to the present.

The book consists of 16 chapters, for the most part moving back and forth between British and American Baptists, introducing other areas at appropriate times. Leonard's book currently is the most up-to-date single volume Baptist history available. It provides recent information not available in older works. It widens the scope far beyond British and American Baptists to take a closer look at other Baptists around the globe. While Leonard is an American Baptist most familiar with the American Baptist experience, he warms to the task of presenting the international scene. The colossal task of a single volume Baptist history requires a well-written story that engages the reader. Despite the problems inherent in telling a story over several centuries and across several continents, I found the story of Baptist Ways to be skillfully interwoven. Nevertheless, the end of the book has a little feel that perhaps Leonard has run out of time and space, and just had to quit.

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