

***No Armor for the Back:
Baptist Prison Writings, 1600s-1700s***

Persecution by the state and state-churches was a major issue for Baptists of the 1600s-1700s for whom freedom of worship was a key ideal. Baptists could have avoided prison, beatings, and other hardships if they would simply have conformed to the requirements of state and church authorities. Courageous Baptists instead chose to follow their consciences and therefore experienced persecution. Some went to prison and back to freedom, others to jail and then to the grave. Baptists who graced many prisons in England and the American Colonies did not remain silent; they used their prison time to preach and to write letters, poems, and books. *No Armor for the Back: Baptist Prison Writings, 1600s-1700s* describes the prison experiences of early Baptists, discusses their prison writings, and includes samples of such writings.

Keith E. Durso's *No Armor for the Back* represents an extraordinary amount of research and writing on a topic that is critical to Baptist experience, ideals, and contributions. Personal sacrifice, offered in an intensely self-denying fashion through confinement to prison on account of one's faith, is a dynamic component of the early Baptist story, and no one has told that story in great detail—until now. Every Baptist ought to read this book.

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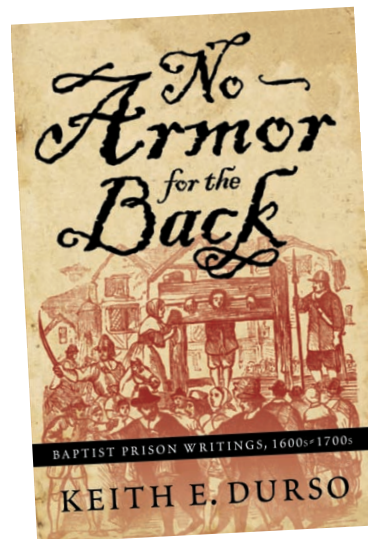
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