Church History



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- Introduction to Church History
- The Ancient Church
- The Rise of Christendom
- The Early Middle Ages
- The Age of Crusades
- The Renaissance
- Conquest and Reformation
- The Age of Enlightenment
- The Age of Revolution
- The Modern Age
- The Postmodern Age

- AD 1st-3rd centuries
- AD 4th-5th centuries
- AD 6th-10th centuries
- AD 11th-13th centuries
- AD 14th-15th centuries
- AD 16th century
- AD 17th-18th centuries
- AD 19th century
- AD 20th century
- AD 21st century

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- The Ancient Church
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- Conquest and Reformation
- The Age of Enlightenment
 - Cromwell
 - Philosophers and Kings

AD 1st-3rd centuries

AD 4th-5th centuries

AD 6th-10th centuries

AD 11th-13th centuries

AD 14th-15th centuries

AD 16th century

AD 17th-18th centuries



The Enlightenment was finally here

1650 James Ussher figured out how old the planet is

The son of a Protestant father and a Catholic
mother, Ussher entered Trinity College at age 13
and was ordained as a priest in the decidedly
Calvinist Church of Ireland at the age of 21

In fact, he ended up helping to write the 104 Irish
Articles of Religion for the church—working to
consciously move the Church of Ireland farther
away from Catholicism

As he wrote in 1626

"The religion of the papists is superstitious
and idolatrous; their faith and doctrine
erroneous and heretical; their church in
respect of both, apostatical; to give them
therefore a toleration, or to consent that they
may freely exercise their religion, and
profess their faith and doctrine, is a grievous
sin."





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Calvinist Church of Ireland at the age of 21
In fact, he ended up helping to write the 104 Irish
Articles of Religion for the church
He also wrote A Discourse on the Religion
Anciently Professed by the Irish, showing how the
early Irish church was very different from the
Roman Catholic Church—even almost Protestant
in its oractical theology in its practical theology





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mother, Ussher entered Trinity College at age 13
and was ordained as a priest in the decidedly
Calvinist Church of Ireland at the age of 21
By the age of 44, Ussher was Archbishop over all

of Ireland

Luckily for him, he was visiting England when the Irish Uprising of 1641 overthrew the Church of Ireland and replaced Protestantism with Roman Catholic theology—killing more than 10,000 Protestants in Ulster alone

While in exile at Oxford, he continued to study and to write—finally publishing his Annals of the Old Testament, Deduced from the First Origins of the World in 1650

ANNALES

PRIMA MUNDI ORIGINE DEDVCTI:

UNA CUM RERUM ASIATICARUM

ÆGYPTIAC AR U M

CHRONICO

TEMPORIS HISTORICI PRINCIPIO

ufque ad Maccabaicorum initia PRODUCTO.

TACOBO HSSERIO ARMACHANO

Ex Officina J. Flesher, & proftant apud J. Crosk & J. Baker, sub Insigni Neva in Commeteno S. Paul 11 NEX.



Funky little teaching moment—
In a nutshell, using Biblical texts, astronomy, and basic logic, Ussher calculated that the Earth was created at 6:00 pm on October 22, 4004 BC
He used the "begats" from the Old Testament to figure out how many years it was from Adam to the first kings, then correlated those with other king lists from Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, etc.

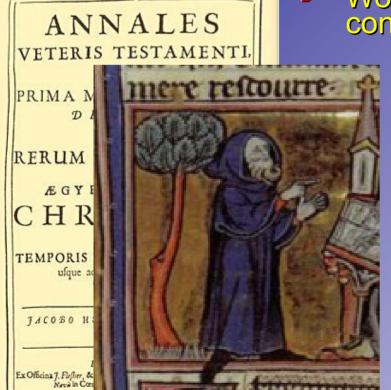
Working backwards from 4 BC, and taking into consideration two major factors—

Working backwards from 4 BC, and taking into consideration two major factors—

1) That Dennis the Dwarf was off by four years in his estimations back in 525

years in his estimations back in 525
2) That, since the Bible clearly states that the world was created in (for) six days, and that to the Lord, "a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" then the world will only exist for a total of six thousand years... with the first half of its existence before Solomon's Temple (erected in 1004 BC) which itself was a perfect millennium before the birth of Christ (in 4 BC)

(clearly—right?)



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Working backwards from 4 BC, and taking into consideration two major factors, he concluded that Adam had to have been created in 4004 BC

(and thus, that the world would have to come to an end in 1996 AD—or thereabouts)



ANNALES



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Working backwards from 4 BC, and taking into consideration two major factors, he concluded that Adam had to have been created in 4004 BC

The tricky bit is which day in 4004 BC?

It had to have been in Autumn, since that's when the Jewish year begins—so it just makes sense that it would've been on the equinox

Ussher placed the autumnal equinox of 4004 BC on Wednesday, October 26 (It was actually Sunday, October 23, but Ussher didn't know that)

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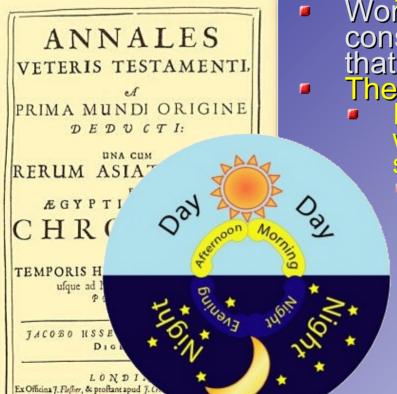
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(i.e.; the day that days and nights were created in the first place)



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Ussher placed the autumnal equinox of 4004 BC on Wednesday, October 26, which worked out perfectly, since that would've been the fourth day of creation, since the world obviously began on a Sunday (i.e.; "the first day"), except that in the Jewish mindset, the day would have begun the evening before, at dusk

Thus, the world began at 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 22, 4004 BC

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Funky little teaching moment—
In a nutshell, using Biblical texts, astronomy, and basic logic, Ussher calculated that the Earth was created at 6:00 pm on October 22, 4004 BC

So if you ever hear anyone saying that the world is only six thousand years old, or that it began in 4004 BC, that all started with this argument...

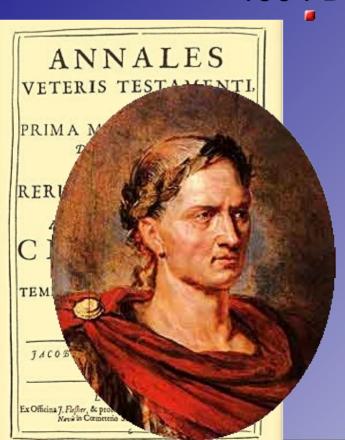
(Note: For the record, Ussher's chronologies based on cross-referenced kings lists was rock solid—he nailed stuff like the reigns of Julius

Caesar and Alexander the Great)

Unfortunately, among other issues (and Ussher's prejudicing assumptions), you can't necessarily trust the "begats" as an unbroken, pristine expression of the lineage of Israel

Some of the "begats" may have indicated

grandchildren, or even great-grandchildren (the Hebrew word זֹבְיִ [or yalad] can simply mean "brought forth from his line"—like Jesus was brought forth from the line of David)



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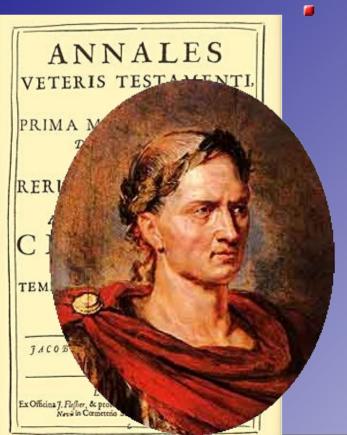
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dates and lengths of lives listed in the Bible

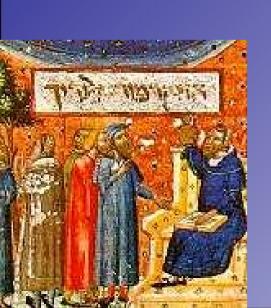


The Enlightenment was finally here
1650 James Ussher figured out how old the planet is
1656 Rabbis banned Baruch Spinoza
Spinoza was a Dutch Spanish Portuguese Jew





Funky little teaching moment—
Remember back in 1492, when King Fernando of Spain kicked out all of the Jews and Muslims?
And then in 1496, when King João of Portugal did the same thing—or forced them to convert?
The Muslims in North Africa offered refuge to a ton of expelled Jews
But some Jews still saw themselves as European, and decided that they'd rather seemingly "convert" than move away and lose everything that they'd worked for





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Spinoza was a Dutch Spanish Portuguese Jew
whose family had been kicked out of Spain in 1492
and moved to Portugal... only to be forced to
"convert" to Christianity in 1496
They ultimately moved to the Netherlands in
1615, where they became practicing Jews again
In Amsterdam, Spinoza trained to become a rabbi
under a liberal thinker, and then later learned
Latin for business under an even more liberal
thinker

Soon, Spinoza was beginning to question the Jewish understanding of God, and even things as basic as the Mosaic authorship of the Torah (But help me out here—where does the Bible ever say that Moses wrote those first five books?)

(Deuteronomy 31:24-26 says that he wrote the words of the Law into a book, but is that clearly referring to the Pentateuch?)



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 - Soon, Spinoza was beginning to question the Jewish understanding of God, and even things as basic as the Mosaic authorship of the Torah Interestingly, this played itself out two ways:

 1) He called for a stricter exegesis and warned against the Jewish and Christian eisegetes of his day

 2) He found himself not believing what he read in the Bible



Funky little teaching moment—
For Spinoza, God was infinite, separate, impersonal, and unreachable, and that means that He's essentially synonymous with the concept of "nature" itself
One could just as easily say "God makes a tree" as one says, "Nature produces a tree," since in both cases, it's a force or system that operates beyond our understanding, and yet follows basic and consistent systems for how to do so
To Spinoza, nothing exists but what extends from

To Spinoza, nothing exists but what extends from the physical, natural environment (which put him in opposition to Descartes, who began with the intellectual world, before accepting a physical one)



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To Spinoza, nothing exists but what extends from the physical, natural environment—and thus, nothing that truly exists can exist without being completely explainable through natural causes





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One could just as easily say "God makes a tree" as one says, "Nature produces a tree," since in both cases, it's a force or system that operates beyond our understanding, and yet follows basic and consistent systems for how to do so
Hearing all of that, a lot of critics called Spinoza a pantheist, or even an atheist
He ignored both labels and just declared that he had a "higher" view of the understanding of God





Funky little teaching moment—
For Spinoza, God was infinite, separate, impersonal, and unreachable, and that means that He's essentially synonymous with the concept of "nature" itself
To Spinoza, knowledge came in three levels—
The first level is a roughly emotional level
The knower is not thinking rationally, but only with their passions—and is thus bounced around by every stray thought

every stray thought

(Note: He still considered emotions to still be a form of cognition—one which mangles things because it's an unreasoned, undisciplined form of cognition that's born purely out of our flesh)

(Thus, again, he found himself in opposition to Descartes, who argued that the base of all knowledge is pure, fleshless intellect)



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The first level is a roughly emotional level
The second level is a combination of reason and

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This is the level where people know what they feel, but also choose intellectually to do otherwise than simply what they feel like doing

So all positive action, selflessness, discipline, etc., come from this second level of thinking





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The highest level is when you abandon emotionalism and simply understand reality on an objective, intellectual level

So—being the highest level—this is the level where people should try to connect with the Divine
All of that emotional, relational, passionate religion is, by definition, crude and base because genuine religion is where we cease trying to connect with God personally, and instead just intellectually cogitate on the way(s) that Nature actually works



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Bear in mind, this isn't technically a choice, per se

There is no "free will," as we tend to define it, but rather a will decided by outside factors, which are themselves decided by outside factors, ad infinitum, until the level of complexity makes our decisions appear to be "free"

Thus, this isn't necessarily a level to "strive" for, but simply the highest level of thinking, appreciated by the finest human minds



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Thus, given a purely "natural" understanding of human thought, he re-defined "good" and "evil"

"Good" is anything that accomplishes something useful in the natural world

"Evil" is anything which—particularly because it resides on a purely emotional, brutish level of knowledge—deprives us of (or mangles our appreciation of) things that are useful



Funky little teaching moment
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To Spinoza, knowledge came in three levels
Think about most people wandering around North America today—how "Spinozan" are they?
God—if He can be said to exist at all—is utterly impersonal and separate from everyday life
"Good" and "evil" are only labels that we can slap on things that make life feel better or feel worse
The idea of "morality" being something beyond us, or beyond Nature, or beyond the intellect, is utterly ridiculous
"Morality" is simply that sense that we have as a

"Morality" is simply that sense that we have as a natural community that {x,y,z} actions bring about useful results, and thus are preferable



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"Good" and "evil" are only labels that we can slap on things that make life feel better or feel worse
Everything is explainable by natural science
Anything that doesn" appear to be explainable by natural science simply isn't understood correctly, and is being "believed" at a purely base level
Thus, most "religious" people are obviously emotional anti-intellectuals



The Enlightenment was finally here
1650
1656

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Rabbis banned Baruch Spinoza
Spinoza was a Dutch Spanish Portuguese Jew
whose family had been kicked out of Spain in 1492
and moved to Portugal... only to be forced to
convert to Christianity in 1496
So in 1656, the synagogue leaders in Amsterdam
expelled Spinoza from their congregation, ordering
all Jews to avoid communicating with him, working
with him, housing him, or in any other way
supporting him

supporting him

But he didn't move from the Jewish community and into the Christian one

Instead, he remained an essentially secular Jew (Prof. Yitzhak Melamed of Johns Hopkins has labelled him the world's first secular Jew, and the prototype for all modern, secular Jews)



The Enlightenment was finally here

1650 James Ussher figured out how old the planet is
1656 Rabbis banned Baruch Spinoza
1664 The British seized New Amsterdam
Remember that Anglo-Dutch War from 1652-1654,
that the new new Parliament ended?

So England was totally at peace with the Dutch Republic and everything was great between them and that's when English warships sailed into the New Amsterdam's harbor and demanded that the Dutch surrender both the town and the colony

Bear in mind that this was with King Charles II on the throne of England who had family in charge of the Dutch Republic at the time

But Charles was focused on arrowing the British Empire in size

growing the British Empire in size and his little brother, James—Duke of York and Lord High Admiral of the Navy—encouraged the aggression

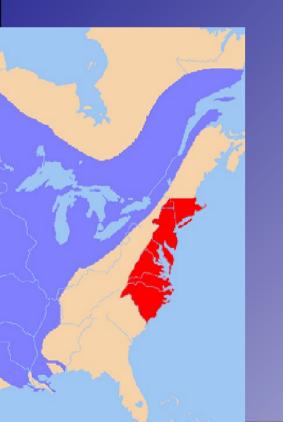


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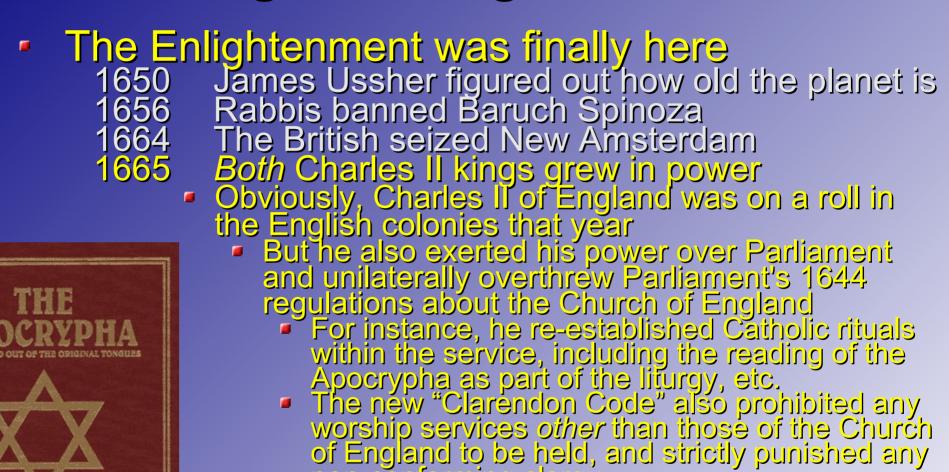
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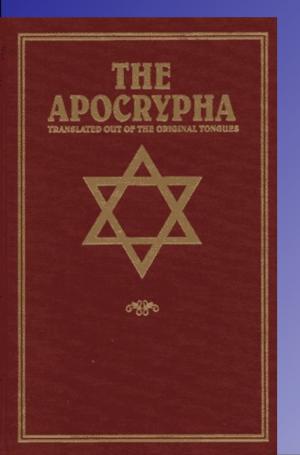
Dutch surrender both the town and the colony
With no strong military support in the hemisphere,
the Dutch were forced to capitulate
So in June of 1665, New Amsterdam was
officially taken over by England and renamed
"New York," after James...
And, as you might imagine, the Second AngloDutch War began...







of England to be held, and strictly punished any non-conforming clergy



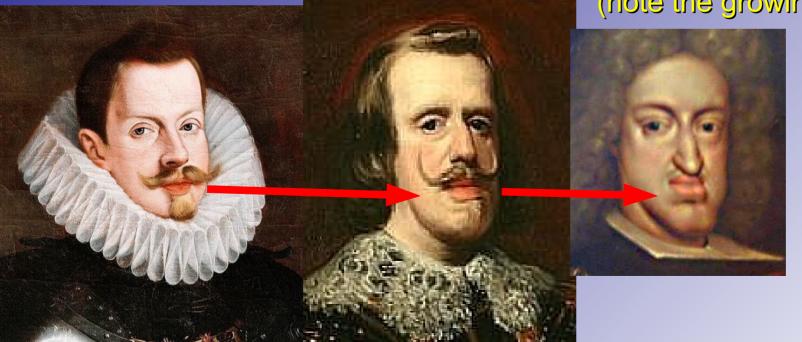


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1665 Both Charles II kings grew in power
Obviously, Charles II of England was on a roll in
the English colonies that year
And on the continent, Carlos II (Charles II) of Spain

was crowned

Carlos was a product of Hapsburg in-breeding (note the growing jaw and lip)





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Carlos was a product of Hapsburg in-breeding who came to the throne at the age of 3

He couldn't speak at all until he was 4—and, due to his deformities, could never really speak well... or chew his food... or walk well...

In fact, he was essentially allowed to grow up as a "feral child" in the royal palaces, following neither social conventions nor good hygiene

Nonetheless, at age 18, he was married to Marie Louise of Orléans

(for whom marriage was a very lonely time, but who apparently remained faithful to Carlos throughout)



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Nonetheless, at age 18, he was married to Marie Louise of Orléans, and he also was given the opportunity to oversee an auto-da-fé with the locuisition the Inquisition



Funky little teaching moment—
An auto-da-fé was the Inquisition's trial / public act of penance, where the accused were publicly charged and sentenced
In this particular auto-da-fé—held for the king's benefit—120 prisoners were charged with heresy and witchcraft, and 21 people were burned at the stake
Young Carlos was delighted at the sport...





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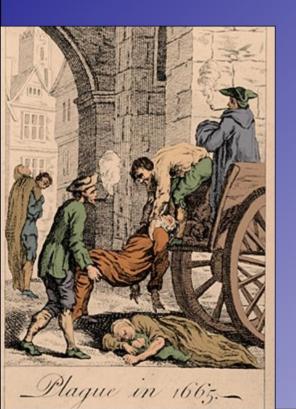
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Back in London, the city was hit by an outbreak of

the Plague

This wasn't the first time that the city had been hit by the Plague—it wasn't even the first time that it had been hit in this century

30,000 people had died from the Plague in 1603; 35,000 in 1625; and 10,000 in 1636

(Note: For those of you adding those up in your head, that's 75,000 people in 33 years)





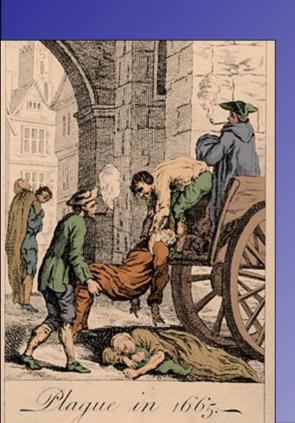
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But this outbreak of the Plague was tremendously important due to at least three factors
First off, this time around, they lost 100,000 people in a little less than a year
That's 25% of the remaining population of London, dead in one year
Or, to put it another way, at least 42% of the population of London died from Plague over the span of one lifetime in that century

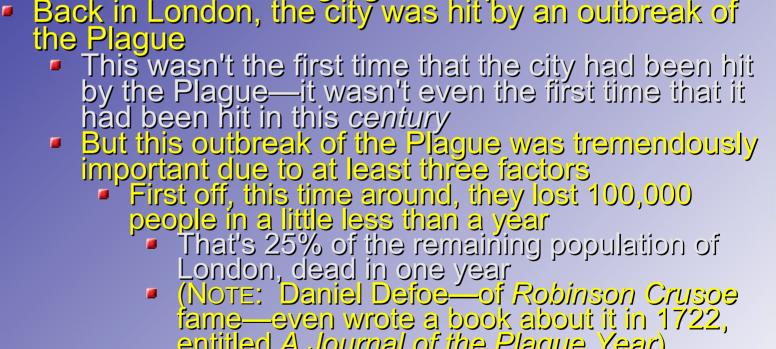
that century

(NOTE: At the Plague's height, 7,000 people died every day in the city of London)

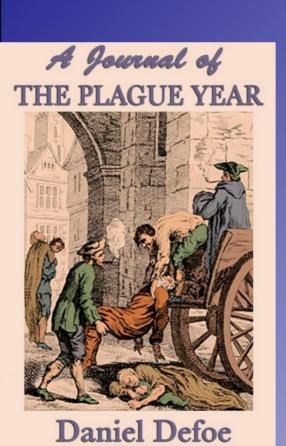


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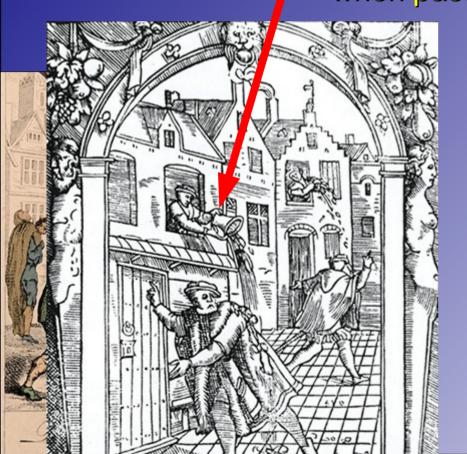
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fame—even wrote a book about it in 1722, entitled A Journal of the Plague Year)
"Tis certain they died by heaps and were buried by heaps; that is to say without account..."

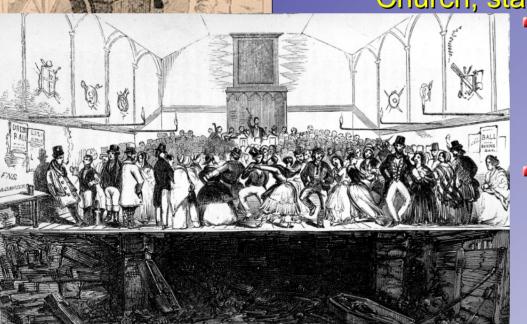


Funky little teaching moment—
You have to remember that London was not a very nice place to live back then
People threw their garbage and raw sewage out of their windows and into the cobblestone streets
(which meant that you always had to be careful when passing under an open window...)





Funky little teaching moment—
You have to remember that London was not a very nice place to live back then
People threw their garbage and raw sewage out of their windows and into the cobblestone streets
They also buried their dead wherever they could
Thousands of bodies were just thrown into mass graves in the city during the Plague—and after
For instance, Pastor Howse thought that it was no problem to bury more than 12,000 corpses under the floorboards of the Enon Baptist Church, starting in 1822...
Church members couldn't



Church members couldn't understand why it always smelled so bad in the building, or why so many of them were sick so much of the time, or why food spoiled almost immediately when set out The next owners of the building just put in another layer of flooring and turned it into a dance hall...

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Even today, Londoners occasionally fall into sinkholes in the city, caused by mass graves opening up—like when the grass gave way during that tennis game and the girls all fell into a hole filled with corpses





Fun





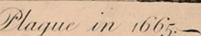
as not a

vage out of streets vn into mass —and after ht that it was 100 corpses Baptist

FATHER THAMES INTRODUCING HIS OFFSPRING TO THE FAIR CITY OF LONDON.

They also threw so many bodies into the Thames that the river was basically thought of as its own cemetery







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Thousands of bodies were just thrown into mass graves in the city during the Plague—and after
Between the sewage and garbage in the streets, the dead bodies everywhere, and the piles of refuse heaped against the city walls, London had become a breeding ground for rats...
And with rats came fleas...
And with fleas came the Bubonic Plague...

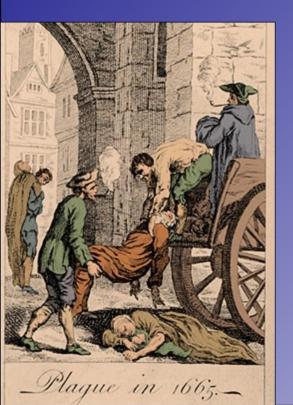




The Enlightenment was finally here

1650 James Ussher figured out how old the planet is
1656 Rabbis banned Baruch Spinoza
1664 The British seized New Amsterdam
1665 Both Charles II kings grew in power
Back in London, the city was hit by an outbreak of

the Plague
This wasn't the first time that the city had been hit by the Plague—it wasn't even the first time that it had been hit in this century
But this outbreak of the Plague was tremendously important due to at least three factors
First off, this time around, they lost 100,000 people in a little less than a year
Secondly, this was the last major outbreak of the Plague in Europe, so it was particularly memorable for everyone





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And then, to cap things off, the next year, the city was nearly destroyed by the Great Fire of London Now, only a handful of people died in the fire But 80,000 people lost their homes including all of the people who lived crammed in wooden tenements all

along London Bridge

When those buildings caught fire, there was no way to put it out

But the hero of the day was James, the Duke of York, who took charge, organized press gangs of firemen, ordered the demolition of houses for fire-breaks, and probably saved the city

(Everybody kinda loved James after that...)



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But 80,000 people lost their homes including all of the people who lived crammed in wooden tenements all

along London Bridge
Ironically, the Great Fire of London possibly saved thousands of lives by burning up the worst bits of the garbage, the oldest, most foul houses, and millions of rats and fleas

Whatever the case, after the Fire

there was no more Plague...



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1675 Spener launched the Pietist movement...



