

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- ***The Age of Revolution*** AD **19th century**
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



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- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- ***The Age of Revolution*** AD **19th century**
 - *The American Revolution*
 - *The French Revolution*
 - *The Napoleonic Era*
 - *You're Doing It Wrong*
 - ***Soldiering for Christ (part 2)***



The Age of Revolution

- People really began putting feet to their faith
 - 1855 Moody was converted in Sunday School
 - Born to a poor family in Massachusetts that got even poorer when his father died, Dwight L. Moody was raised as an angry, sullen, uneducated Unitarian
 - When he was 17, he was sent to work at an uncle's shoe store in Boston, because his family couldn't afford to keep him
 - But one of his uncle's stipulations was that the youth had to attend the local Congregationalist Church's Sunday School class
 - Soon after starting in the class, Moody accepted Christ, and he began sharing the Gospel with everyone around him, inviting *them* to Sunday School as well...
(but more on that in a minute...)



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1855 Moody was converted in Sunday School
The “Greaser Act” was passed in California
 - Newly-American California decided that it had a problem with vagrancy, and thus passed the “Act to Punish Vagrant, Vagabonds, and Dangerous and Suspicious Persons”
 - Such persons could be arrested and fined, but the Act itself suggested that these “vagrants” should be sentenced to chain gangs, where they’d be forced to do hard labor in the service of the community



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 - The law became known as the “Greaser Act” because of how it *described* these “vagrants”—
“all persons who are commonly known as ‘Greasers’ or the issue of Spanish and Indian blood... and who go armed and are not peaceable and quiet persons...”
(Thus, to be Mestizo in California was officially a *crime*—unless you were very quiet and servile, like your race supposedly *should* be...)
(NOTE: There was no comparable law against *whites* “going armed”...)



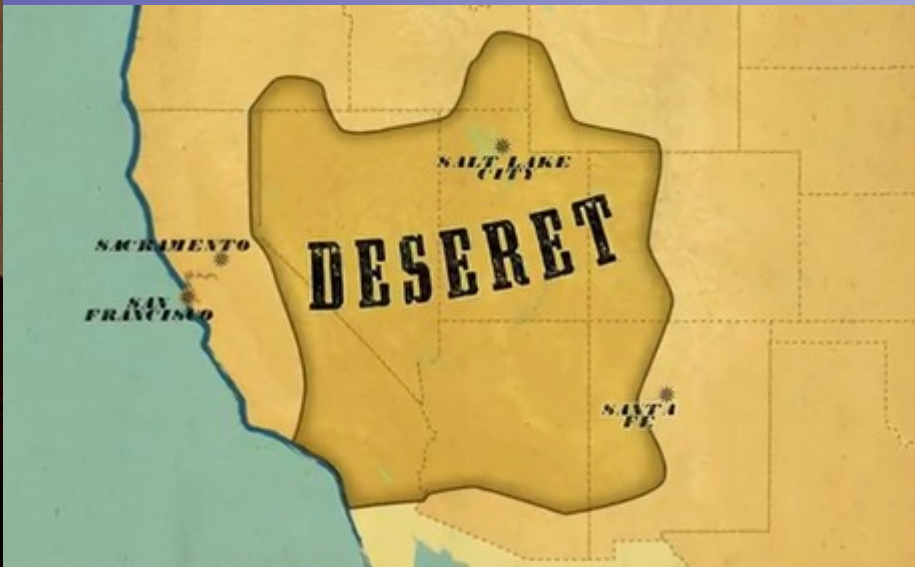
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 - The law became known as the “Greaser Act” because of how it *described* these “vagrants”
 - Later, in 1870, that description was amended—
“Every person (except a California Indian) without visible means of living”
 - But the *point* of the law had already been clearly established by then—blatant racism was becoming legalized, even against those who were theoretically full and equal citizens under the law



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 - 1857 The Utah Mormon War
 - After fleeing New York, Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois, the Mormons thought that they'd finally found a safe haven in Utah
(NOTE: Under Brigham Young, they declared the region to be “Deseret”—from the word for “honeybee” in the ancient Jaredite language... a *Book of Mormon* language that no historian or linguist has ever heard of...)



The Age of Revolution

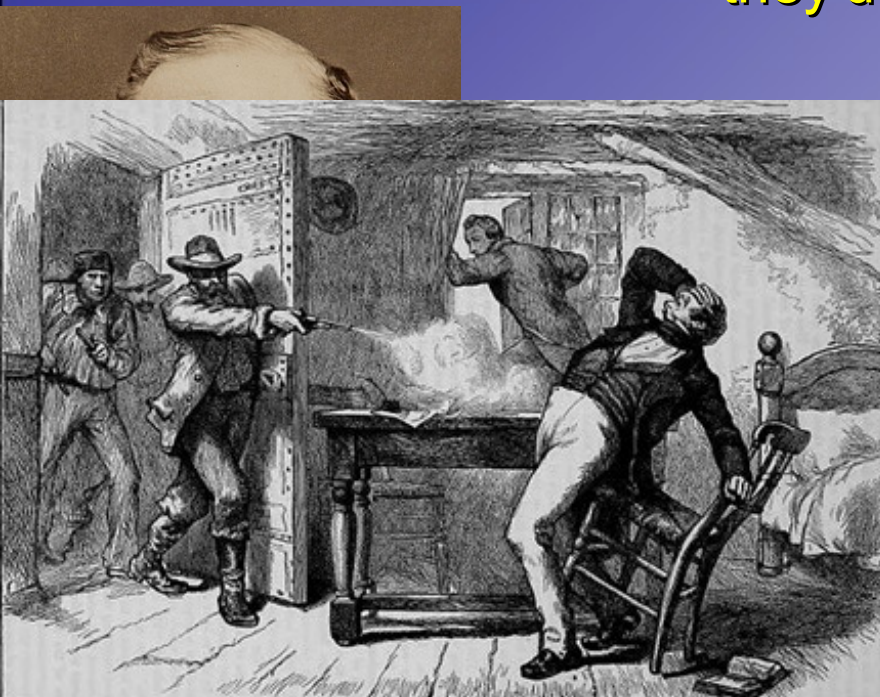
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- But then the U.S. Army sent in an expeditionary force to find out what this "Deseret" was all about, so the Mormons got ready for another war (just like they'd fought in Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois...)

(NOTE: A Mormon website dismissed all of the wars as simple persecution, saying, "There were several Mormon Wars. They all arose at the point where local Christian clergies competing unsuccessfully with Mormonism, sold their congregations and attendant, backslidden community rabble, on the proposition that Mormons were aiming to take over and supersede their God-given, inalienable rights as American Christians [enforcing] their own morality instead of state and federal law and authority.")



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 - **But President James Buchanan was only sending troops to ascertain how dangerous the Mormons were and whether “Deseret” was a Mormon attempt to create an independent nation—not to engage the Mormons in open conflict**
 - **But assuming the worst, the Mormons began attacking the troops in a series of guerilla raids—which, arguably, showed the troops *just exactly* how dangerous the Mormons were...**



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- **But the Mormons began attacking *other* people as well, accusing them of being Army spies**
 - In September, the "Nauvoo Legion" killed 120 settlers bound for California—slaughtering whole families (and later blaming the local Indians)
 - In October, they arrested and killed six Californians passing through, stealing their money and their livestock as well
 - Raids such at that kept going on for over a year, and the Army began cracking down on all Mormon settlements as a result



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 - **In the end, the Mormons agreed to turn over the murderers within the “Nauvoo Legion,” and to agree to support a non-Mormon as the territorial governor of “Utah” (not “Deseret” any more) and the United States agreed to drop all charges and to move on and focus on fighting the Sioux**
 - In 1896, Utah finally became a U.S. State... after new Mormon President Wilford Woodruff assured the United States government that Mormons were not—nor had they ever been—polygamists



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Jeremiah Lanphier started a prayer meeting

- A Dutch Reformed businessman in New York, Lanphier felt called to be a missionary
 - But he was a quiet and reserved man, and wasn't very good at preaching or Bible teaching
 - So he simply started a small prayer meeting for New York businessmen on Wednesdays at noon
 - That first week, no one came until 12:30—but six men did finally show up before it was over
 - The next week, *forty* men showed up to pray and they decided to start meeting daily
 - Within six months, that number had grown to *10,000* men meeting every day at noon to pray together...
 - Most businesses closed up over the lunch hour for prayer—and when customers asked why, the shopkeepers would then invite *them* to join them in prayer
 - The economic crash of 1857—though tragic—simply drove even *more* people to join with them in prayer



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 - **Within eight months of the start of the meetings, 50,000 of New York's 800,000 citizens had accepted Christ**
 - **Multiple daily prayer meetings were held in Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., Chicago, and across the country—with nearly 50,000 people coming to Christ nationally every week**



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 - **At a prayer meeting in South Carolina, the local doctor leading it dismissed the group for dinner, but no one left—they stayed until the next morning, locked in prayer**



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 - **At a large meeting in Kalamazoo, a woman requested prayer for her husband's salvation—and across the crowded hall, a man called out, "Pray for me. I'm that man..."**



The Age of Revolution

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1855

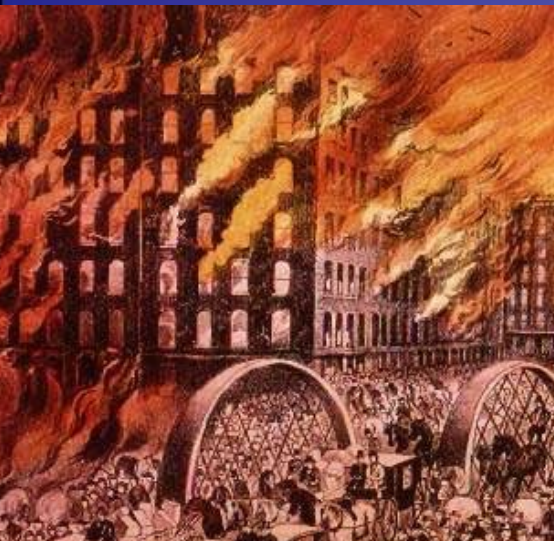
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- D.L. Moody saw his Sunday School attendance soar as a result—hosting 1,500 people each week—and so in 1857, he planted a new church on Illinois Street in Chicago
 - It became so popular so quickly that President-elect Abraham Lincoln spoke at the Sunday School before moving on to Washington, D.C.
 - NOTE: The church building itself burned to the ground during the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, but was quickly rebuilt as Chicago Avenue Church (eventually being rebuilt *again* and re-christened “Moody Church” in D.L.’s honor)



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 - **By the time 1860 rolled around, over 1 million people had accepted Christ, and 1 million more had rededicated their lives to Christ**
 - That's almost 7% of the nation's current population of 30 million at the time, all now on fire for Christ all because one quiet man was willing to do what he could, started to pray...



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Outside of the American Bible Society offices in New York City, there's a statue of Jeremiah Lanphier, just sitting there on a park bench
 - Most New Yorkers have no idea who he was, or why there's a statue there...



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 - **The “Layman's Prayer Revival” was amazingly powerful, and it seemed like nothing could stop its growth...**
 - (NOTE: As a basis for comparison, it would be as if, starting today, 22 million Americans joined the ranks of becoming active Christians by 2019...)
 - (NOTE²: Some statistics suggest that the American church has actually *lost* that many people since 2009...)



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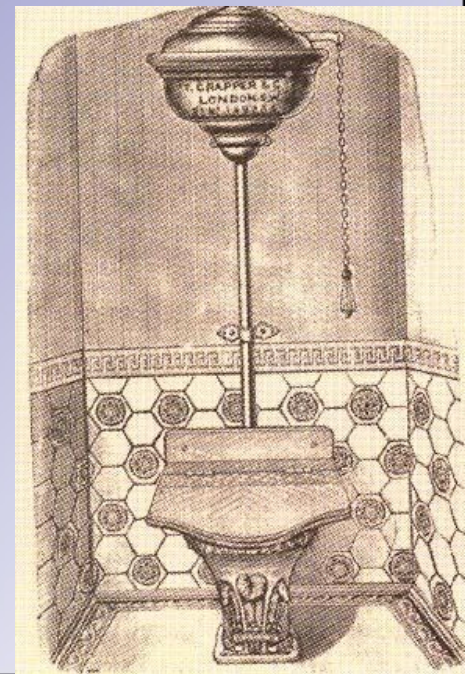
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1858 **The Great Stink**

- **London was a stinky place**

- By the mid-19th century, the wooden sewer pipes had rotted, there were multiple collapsed sewers filling the streets with cesspools, and the Thames had become a breeding ground for horrors

- (NOTE: Part of that was due to the new-found popularity of the flushing toilet, which helped make homes more sanitary, but made the city far worse by flushing all of that filth into inadequate sewage systems)



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- Multiple cholera and typhoid epidemics had killed over 30,000 people in the past decade, and people genuinely considered the Thames to be poisonous—which it *was*, since it was filled with human waste, the corpses of fish, waterfowl, people, animals, etc., and a cocktail of bacteria that had been brewing for centuries... making the Thames the most toxic, polluted spot on the planet

- But thanks to medical science of the day, most people thought that the health problem was with the river's *foul air*, not the *water itself*—so they continued drinking it (and being poisoned by it)



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- London was a stinky place
- By 1858, the city had become so stinky that people were afraid to go outside of their homes and members of Parliament had to abandon the building because they couldn't breathe in its halls
 - Clouds of foul sewer gases hovered over the river while raw sewage and floating corpses covered the water's surface, bubbling and fermenting in the summer heat
 - Filth piled up along the shorelines—popular journalist George Godwin wrote that in some places, "the deposit is more than six feet deep"



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 - **Famous chemist and electrical engineer Michael Faraday petitioned Parliament to act noting that "the whole of the river was an opaque, pale, brown fluid" and that "if we neglect this subject, we cannot expect to do so with impunity"**



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- **Finally, Parliament voted to do something about it**
 - They hired engineer Joseph Bazalgette to build a completely new sewer system for London making use of huge but aesthetically pleasing pumping stations that pumped the sewage through 3-foot iron pipes into ponds well outside of the city limits



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 - **On the plus side, all of this did eventually help prove physician John Snow's assertion that maybe cholera came from the *filthy water*, and not from breathing invisible "*miasma*" and a whole new science of epidemiology was created...**



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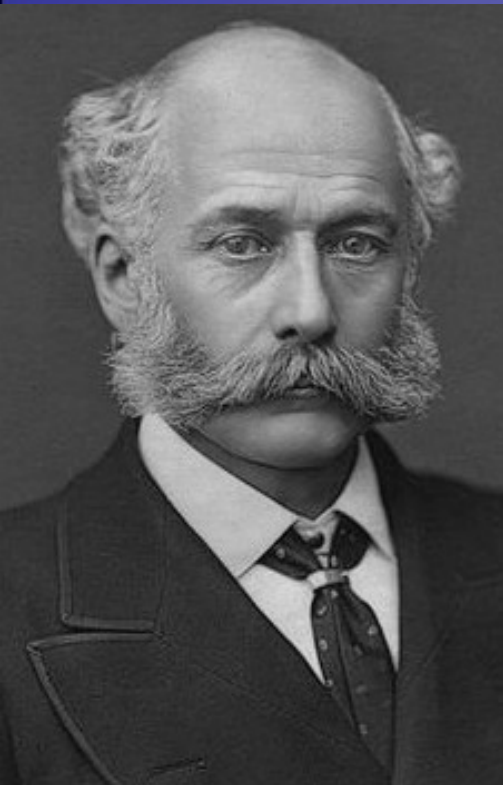
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 - **Interestingly, part of Bazalgette's inspiration came from the city of Chicago...**



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Chicago had already built the nation's first modern sewer and storm drainage system
 - By the mid-19th century, Chicago's downtown streets had become a nightmare of raw, standing sewage
 - In fact, here's a popular Chicago joke of the era, recently printed as a comic in *Chicago Magazine*—



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- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Chicago had already built the nation's first modern sewer and storm drainage system
 - By the mid-19th century, Chicago's downtown streets had become a nightmare of raw, standing sewage
 - A cholera epidemic in 1854 finally forced the city to sit up and take notice and make some genuine changes to their ecosystem
 - During that summer, cholera killed 7% of the city's population
 - (NOTE: According to the 1854 *Chicago Tribune*, "The people died at the rate of sixty per day, and the death cart was seen continually in the streets. On Friday and Saturday—the 8th and 9th of July—the streets seemed full of hearses and coffins, and on Sunday there was a grand exodus, many hundreds of people fleeing from the city.")



DEATH'S DISPENSARY.

OPEN TO THE POOR, GRATIS, BY PERMISSION OF THE PARISH.



The Age

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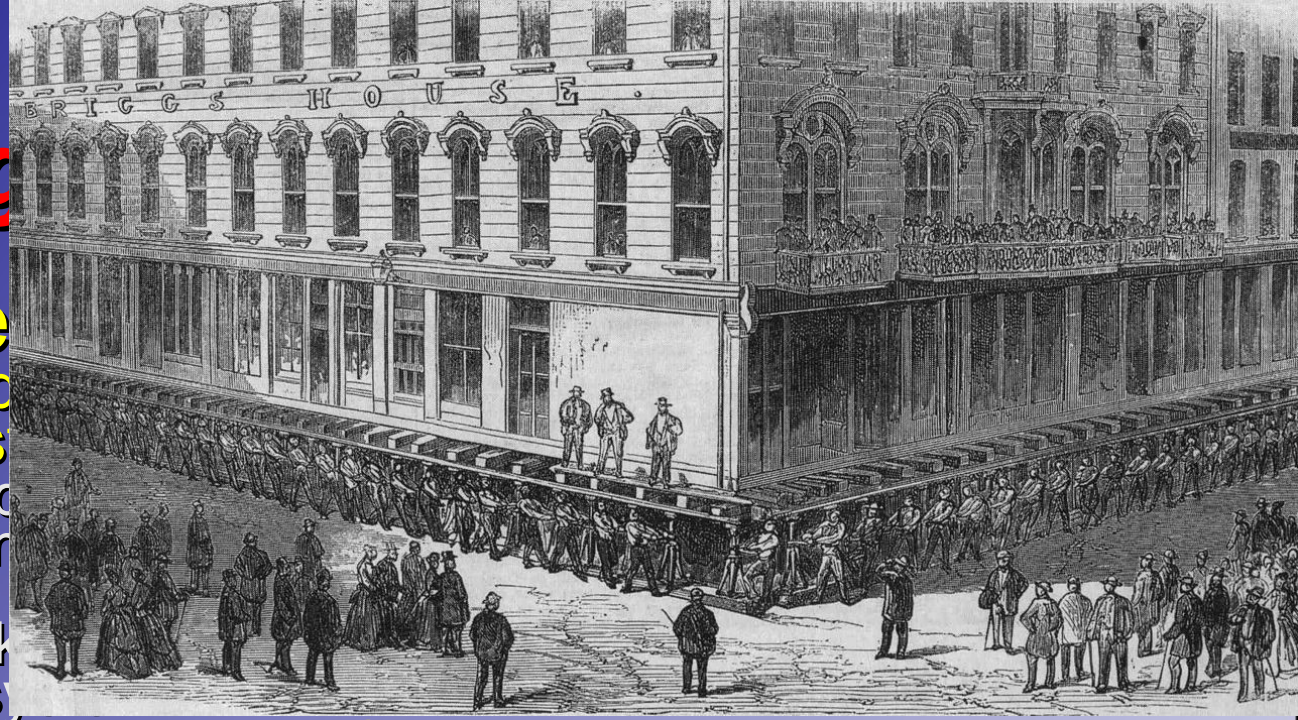
- In 1855, engineer Ellis Chesbrough came up with the

- idea of digging sewer tunnels under the city that also

- allowed rainwater to wash through and clean them,

- pouring everything into the Chicago River

- But that required physically reversing the course of



- the river so that the sewage didn't all dump into Lake Michigan

- And it also required manually lifting the city of Chicago 4 to 14 feet off of the ground, since the city had originally been built *below* the level of Lake Michigan, so you couldn't dig tunnels beneath it...



The Age of Revolution

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Chicago had already built the nation's first modern sewer and storm drainage system
 - Today, Chicago's “Deep Tunnel” system makes use of huge, well-maintained sewer tunnels (some that are 30 feet in diameter) to flush its sewage into gigantic reservoirs outside of the city...



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1859 Japan allowed first missionaries in centuries

- As the Tokugawa shogunate was losing power, the nobles were gaining power

- In 1858, the nobles installed Ii Naosuke as their Tairō—and Naosuke favored connection with the West as a form of self-protection for Japan

- Thus, in 1859, the ports of Nagasaki, Hakodate and Yokohama opened up to admit foreigners—including, for the first time since the 1620s, Christian missionaries

- NOTE: Public opinion wasn't really in favor of this, and sudden, public assassinations of non-Japanese were fairly commonplace

- Foreigners were regularly hacked to pieces on the streets by frustrated Tokugawa samurai—averaging one per month

- In 1860, Naosuke was *himself* killed and popular poets praised his murder



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - So this was kind of a hard environment to try to be a missionary in—especially since Christianity as a religion was still technically illegal in Japan
 - You could be a Christian foreigner—you could even be a Christian foreign *missionary*—but you couldn't try to establish a church or officially make any converts
 - Thus—as is the case with so many closed countries—missionaries had to find alternative ways to reach people with the Gospel
 - So, for instance, Dutch Reformed missionary Guido Verbeek came to Nagasaki and taught English and German to the retainers of the local *daimyō* (lord)
 - Within a few years, he was teaching hundreds of the lord's Japanese retainers—not only languages, but Western customs, politics, and medical sciences
 - By 1869, he was appointed to teach at what would become Tokyo Imperial University, and became the educational advisor to the Meiji government
 - When the ban on Christianity was finally lifted in 1873, he was primed to be able to prominently and openly share the Gospel



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 - So, for instance, Dutch Reformed missionary Guido Verbeek came to Nagasaki
 - American James Hepburn settled in Yokohama
 - A Presbyterian doctor from Pennsylvania, Hepburn became the honorary physician to the American Consul, Townsend Harris but he also maintained a private clinic, giving free medical aid to local Japanese (NOTE: The clinic ultimately fizzled, since the Tokugawa samurai tended to attack anyone who went to be treated at it)



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 - To aid his own learning of Japanese, Hepburn created his own dictionary, using his own romanization of the language
 - Today, “Hepburn romanization” still remains the most widely-used way of transcribing the Japanese language into the Latin alphabet...



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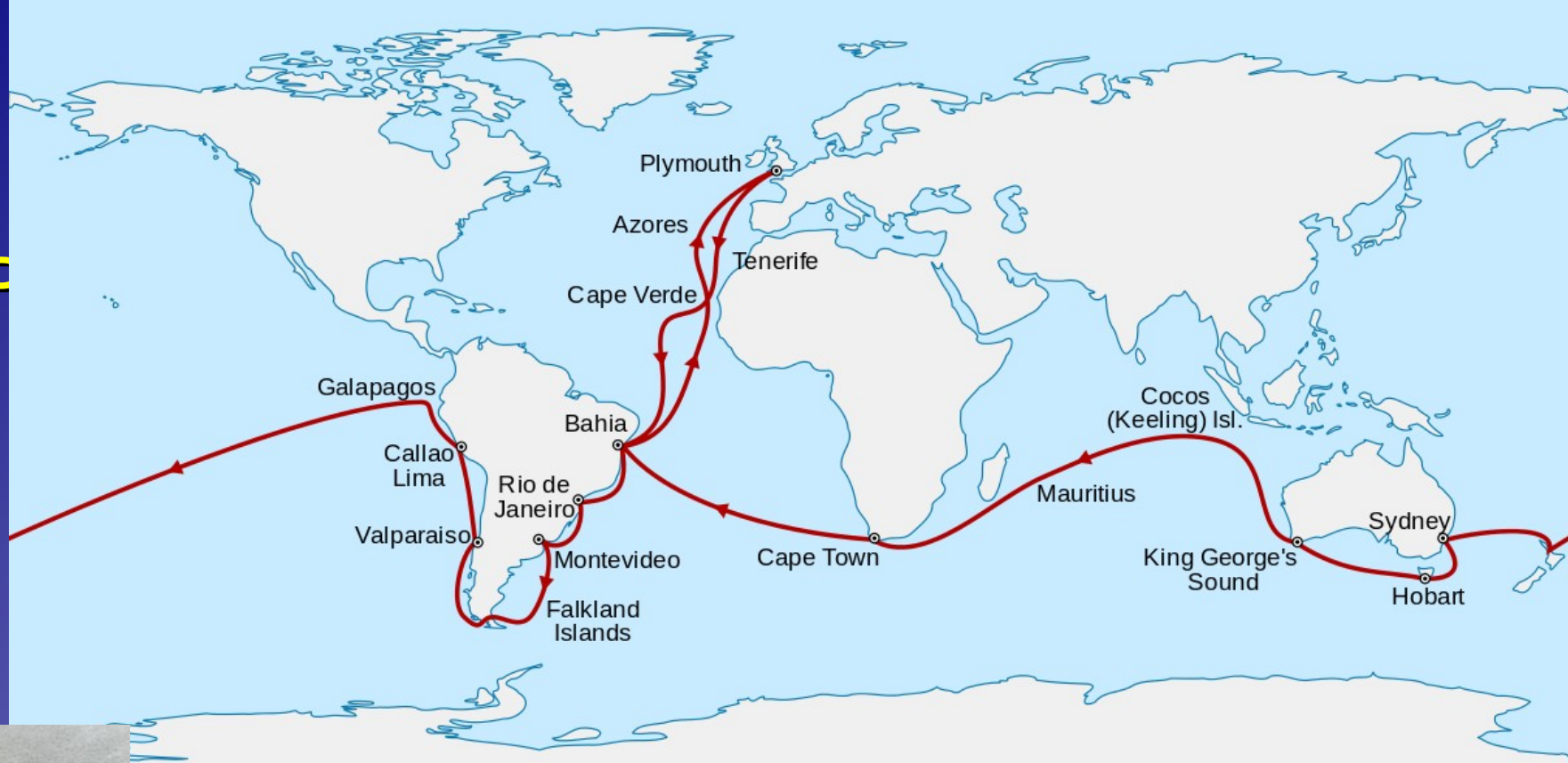
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Darwin published his *Origin of Species*

- **Charles Darwin grew up in a wealthy Unitarian household in England**

- He was vaguely disinterested in most of his studies
(he even trained to be a parish priest in the Anglican Church for a time)



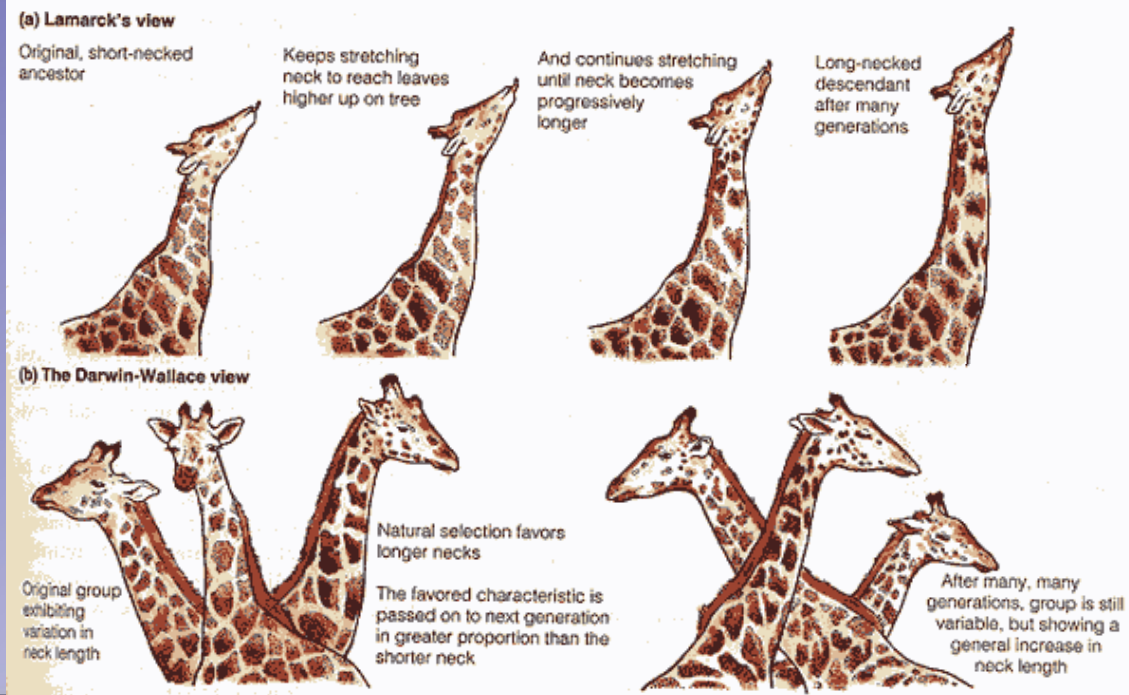


- He was vaguely disinterested in most of his studies but was intrigued by biology and scientific travels
- In 1831, he signed aboard the *HMS Beagle* for a two-year trip around the world, charting coasts
- For instance, while at the Galápagos Islands, he saw such variation in the beaks of finches that he decided that they must have evolved distinctly, albeit from a common ancestor
 - Then again, he also decided that the formation of islands like the Galápagos Islands meant that the Earth's crust must be continually expanding in girth..



The Age of Revolution

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Let's get two things out of the way right now—
 - 1) Darwin didn't invent the theory of evolution
 - 2) modern schools don't propose Darwinian evolution
 - First of all, guys like Jean-Baptiste Lamarck had been proposing evolutionary theories decades earlier
 - The difference was that Lamarck had argued that the structure of creatures had evolved slowly, over generations, to survive within their unique contexts while Darwin argued for a “natural selection” that favored some traits while breeding out others



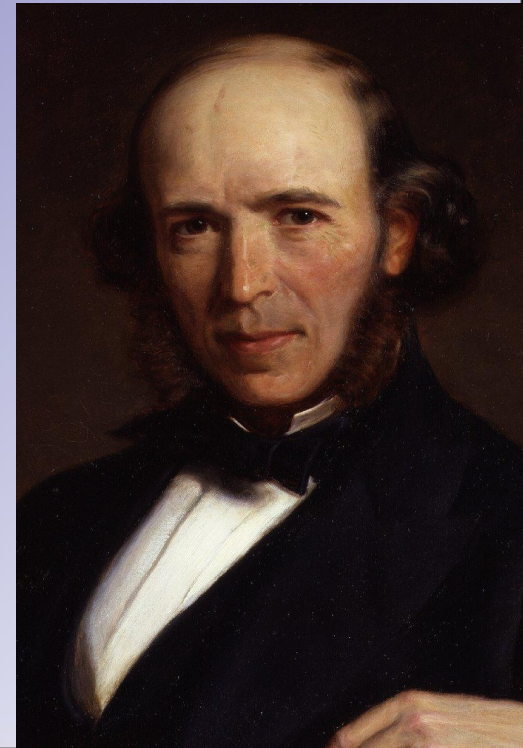
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 - It's just that few people remember Wallace (possibly because he was so militantly anti-religious while Darwin had originally made it clear that “life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one... from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved...” (he even argued in his *Journals* that species *variation* proved evolution, but species *similarities* around the world proved that “one hand has surely worked throughout the universe”)



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 - First of all, guys like Jean-Baptiste Lamarck had been proposing evolutionary theories decades earlier
 - **Second, what modern schools teach is actually very modified from what Darwin believed**
 - Darwin originally argued for pure, natural selection (what economist Herbert Spencer called “survival of the fittest” when he read the book)



The Age of Revolution

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(structural shifts due to population shifts)



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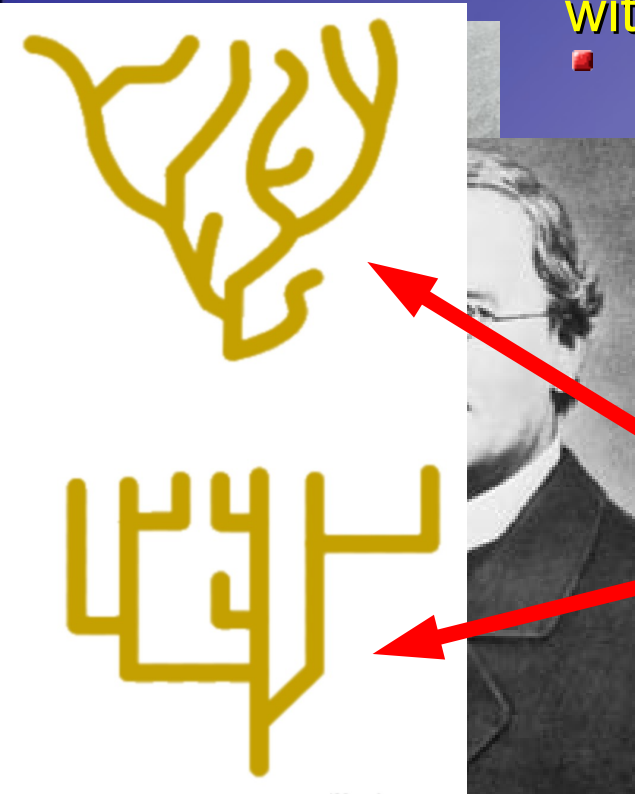
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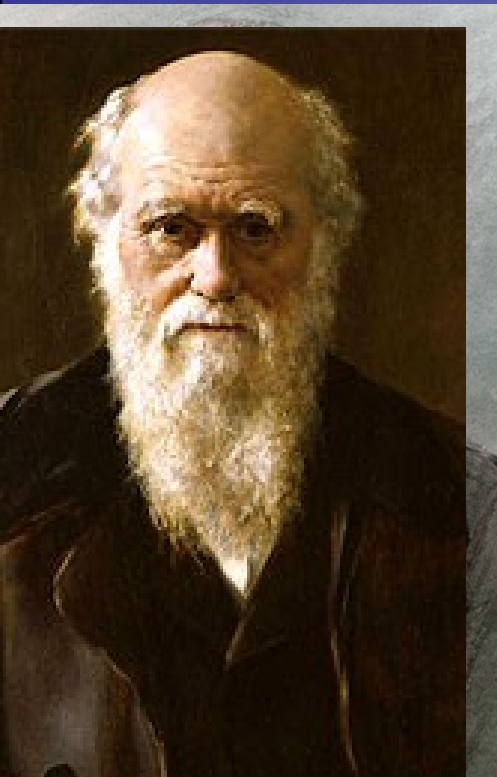
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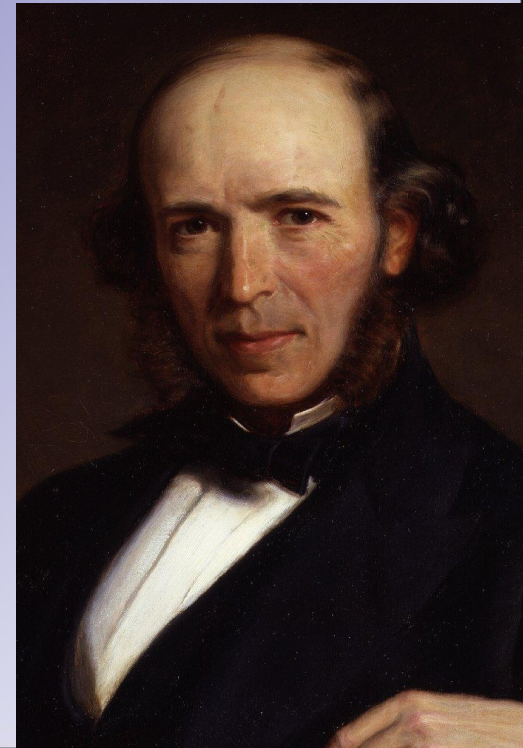
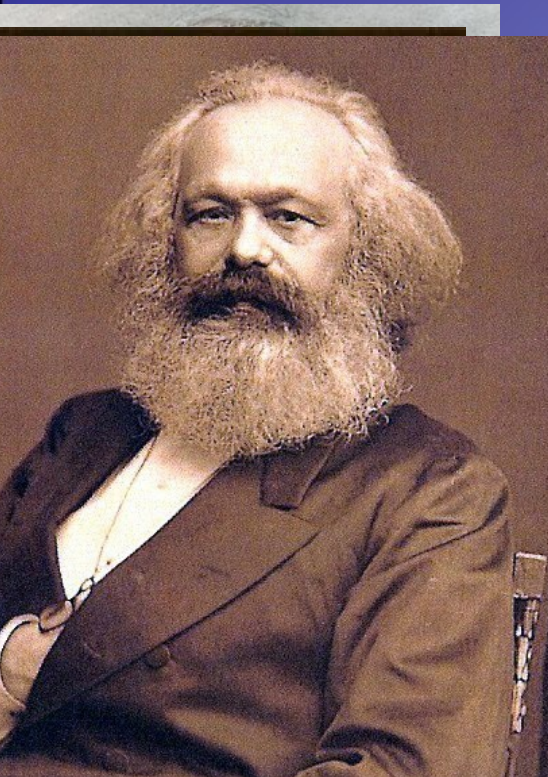
The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Interestingly, an aged Charles Darwin wrote a bit about how his views on evolution brought about his gradual conversion from Christian to Agnostic—
 - “I feel compelled to look to a First Cause having an intelligent mind in some degree analogous to that of man; and I deserve to be called a Theist. This conclusion was strong in my mind about the time, as far as I can remember, when I wrote the *Origin of Species*; and it is since that time that it has very gradually with many fluctuations become weaker. But then arises the doubt—can the mind of man, which has, as I fully believe, been developed from a mind as low as that possessed by the lowest animal, be trusted when it draws such grand conclusions? ... I cannot pretend to throw the least light on such abstruse problems. The mystery of the beginning of all things is insoluble by us; and I for one must be content to remain an Agnostic. A man who has no assured and ever present belief in the existence of a personal God or of a future existence with retribution and reward can have for his rule of life, as far as I can see, only to follow those impulses and instincts which are the strongest or which seem to him the best ones. A dog acts in this manner...”



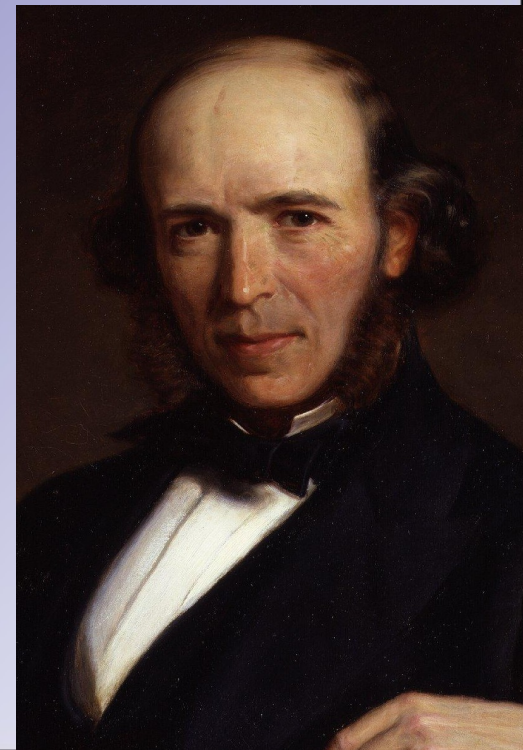
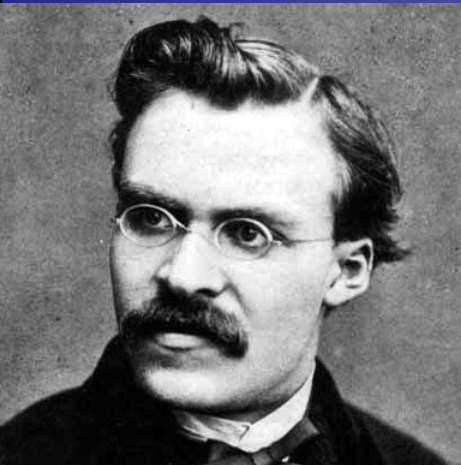
The Age of Revolution

- **Funky little teaching moment²—**
 - Interestingly, an aged Charles Darwin wrote a bit about how his views on evolution brought about his gradual conversion from Christian to Agnostic
 - Thus, without intending it, Darwin ushered in whole new ways of looking at the world around us
 - Spencer's economic "survival of the fittest" led to an understanding of "*Social Darwinism*"—where those who are strong naturally dominate those who are weak (a view that seemed to support the works of both Karl Marx
(who was arguing that human history was all about the economic and political exploitation of one social class by another social class))



The Age of Revolution

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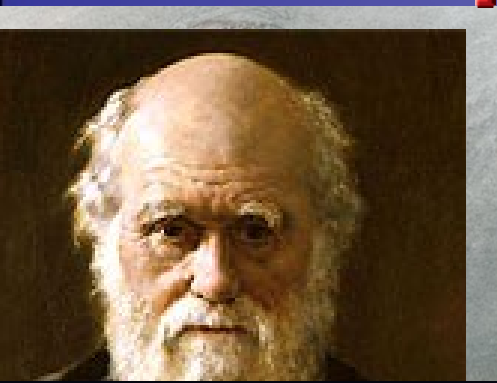
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 - The scholarly, scientific community also divided over whether or not to support Darwin's claims
 - Evolution-ism became the new Deism, in terms of being a litmus test between those who held to an old guard, “defend-the-faith” mindset on Christianity and those who found it exciting and intellectually freeing to embrace the rationalistic, materialistic prospect that there *is* no God out there to define us
 - For instance, how should an intellectually respected and decidedly Christian school like, say, *Princeton* react to this?

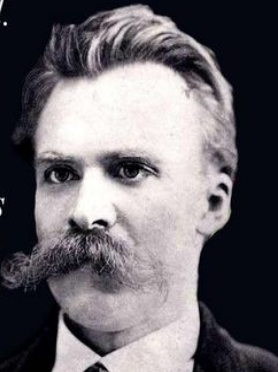


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*"God is dead. God remains dead.
And we have killed him...
There has never been a greater
deed; and whosoever shall be
born after us - for the sake of this
deed he shall be part of a higher
history than all history hitherto."
- Friedrich Nietzsche*



**One can't prove that God
doesn't exist, but science
makes God unnecessary.**

- Stephen Hawking.



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment³—
 - Recently, on the revamped version of the old show, *Cosmos*, the host—Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson—said that evolution is an absolute and undeniable fact and then followed that up with a “spiritual” spin (which, arguably, colors his scientific opinion) (especially given his take on the nature of God)

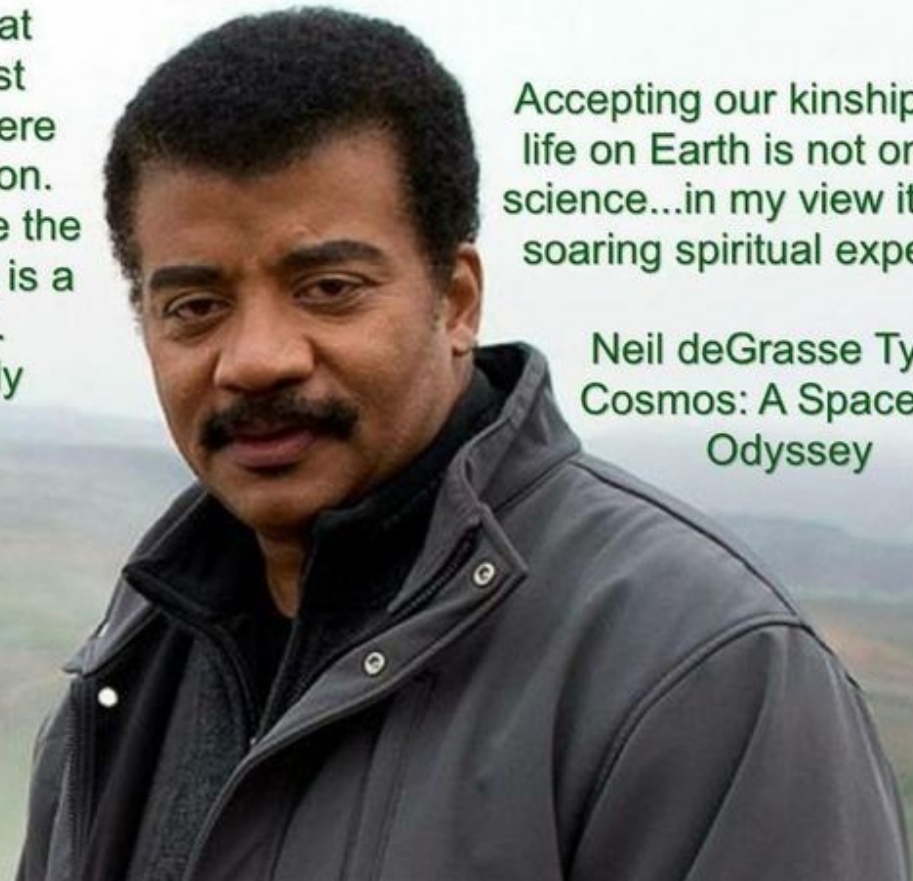
"God is an ever receding pocket of scientific ignorance."

- Neil deGrasse Tyson

Some claim that evolution is just theory, as if it were merely an opinion. But evolution, like the theory of gravity, is a scientific fact. Evolution really happened.

Accepting our kinship with all life on Earth is not only solid science...in my view it's also a soaring spiritual experience.

Neil deGrasse Tyson
Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey

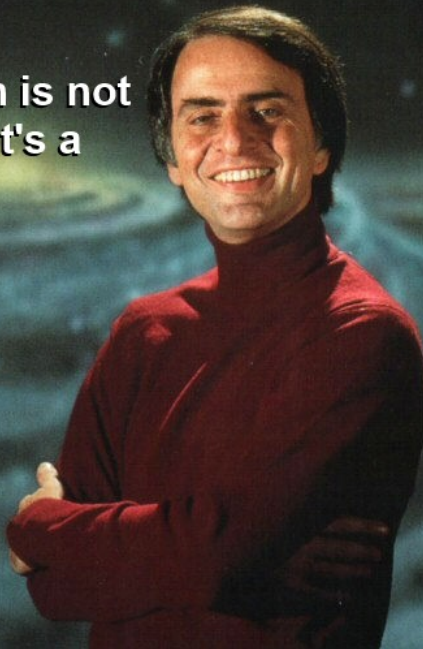


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 - Recently, on the revamped version of the old show, *Cosmos*, the host—Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson—said that evolution is an absolute and undeniable fact and then followed that up with a “spiritual” spin
 - Really, it all kind of depends on your use of terms
 - It's *clearly* a “fact” if what you mean is that it's a factual argument, which should be established by factual data
 - It's *not* a “fact” if what you mean is that it's no longer something that can be reasonably debated or that ever needs to be tested for veracity
(i.e.; as Carl Sagan suggested in the *original* version of the *Cosmos* series)

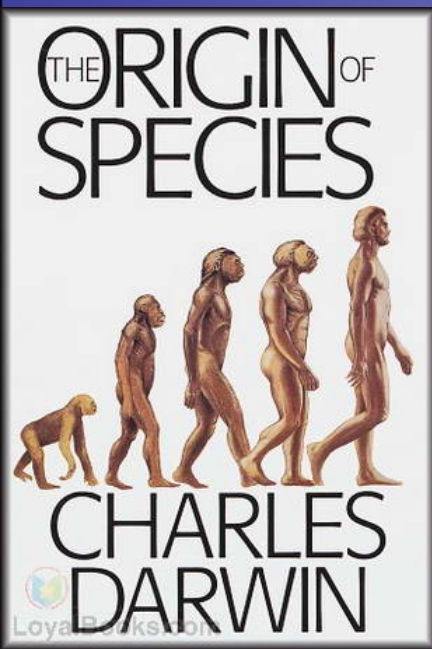
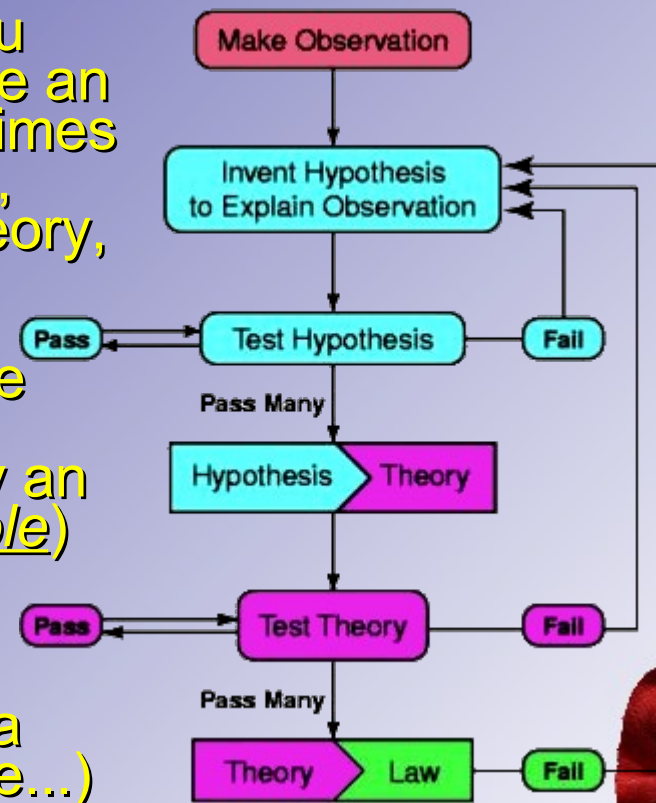
"Evolution is not
a theory--it's a
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- Carl Sagan
Cosmos



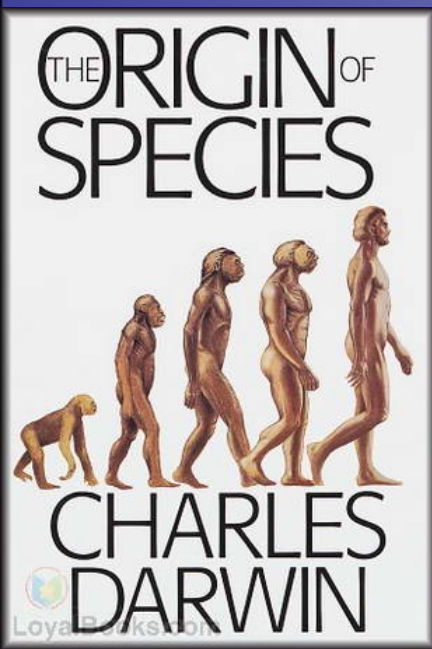
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 - In the Scientific Method, you make an observation, create an hypothesis, test it multiple times under laboratory conditions, establish it as a working theory, test it multiple times, and eventually consider it a law (which should *still* always be tested over time)
 - Evolution is thus technically an untested (possibly untestable) hypothesis (which should not even *remotely* suggest that that means that it's not a valid conclusion to make...)



The Age of Revolution

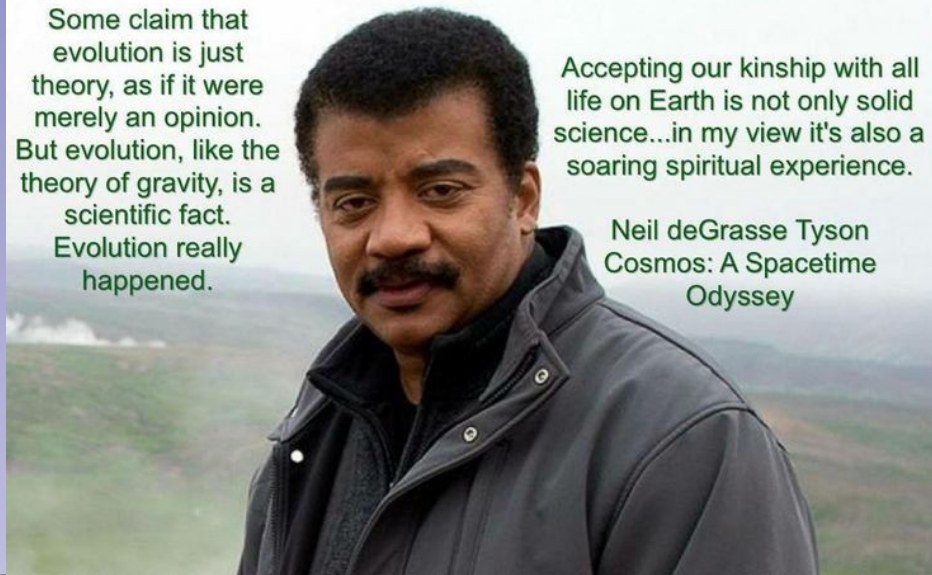
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 - **The problem is when good scientists think more like bad theologians**
 - Whenever we decide that “spiritual” things are so important to us that we can no longer question them without being declared a “heretic” and “pariah,” we’re doing something wrong



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THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES

I believe the simplest explanation is, there is no God. No one created the universe and no one directs our fate. This leads me to a profound realization that there probably is no heaven and no afterlife either. We have this one life to appreciate the grand design of the universe and for that, I am extremely grateful.

— Stephen Hawking —

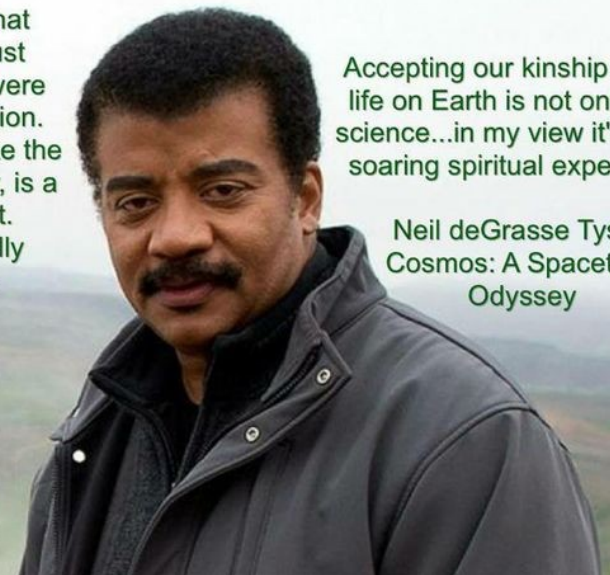
“THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT THE UNIVERSE, THE LESS CONVINCED I AM THAT THERE'S ANY SORT OF BENEVOLENT FORCE THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT, AT ALL.”

- NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

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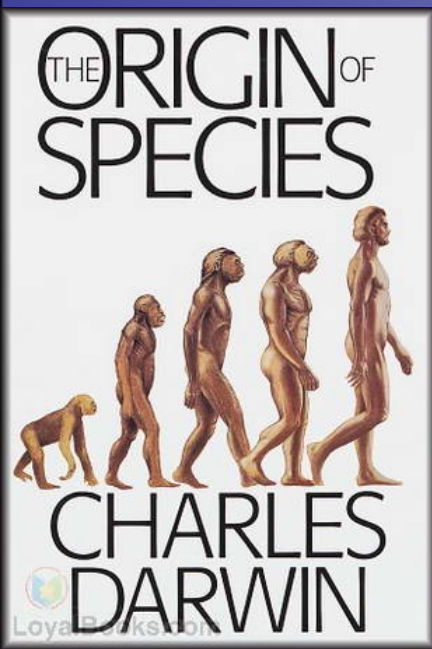
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 - The problem is when good scientists think more like bad theologians—and evolution-ism has become a theology unto itself, with unquestionable dogma about how we should view our relationship with nature and the cosmos around us
 - We inflate and deflate the wrong bits about reality when we say that we’re nothing but specks floating around on a speck in an infinite universe that no God cares about but then turn around and argue that in the absence of a mythical God, humanity’s strongest natural impulses must become the moral center of our own universe—just as Darwin had warned about
 - How would you say that evolution-ism has affected our perception of reality as a species?



The Age of Revolution

- **People really began putting feet to their faith**
 - 1855 Moody was converted in Sunday School
 - The "Greaser Act" was passed in California
 - 1857 The Utah Mormon War
 - Jeremiah Lanphier started a prayer meeting
 - 1858 The Great Stink
 - 1859** Japan allowed first missionaries in centuries
 - Darwin published his *Origin of Species*
 - John Brown led a raid on Harper's Ferry**
 - **And arguably, this knocked over the final domino in the launching of the Civil War...**

