

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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- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
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- *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
 - *Modern Empire-Building*
 - *Post-War Religion (part 2)*



The Modern Age

- Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...
 - 1920 Patriarch Germanos V issued an encyclical
 - Germanos wasn't a very popular Patriarch, in part because he was kind of an authoritarian jerk to everyone around him and under his authority, but more because he did almost nothing about the Armenian and Greek genocides, since he didn't want to upset the Turks
 - But in 1920, he issued an encyclical to be taken to all churches everywhere, calling upon all Christians to give up their divisiveness and come together as one, united Body of Christ
 - We should share the same liturgical calendar, allow one another full participation in our rituals, accept and respect the different cultures and practices of other Christian denominations, and place our focus squarely on solving the various social ills in our broken world



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 - But in 1920, he issued an encyclical to be taken to all churches everywhere, calling upon all Christians to give up their divisiveness and come together as one, united Body of Christ
 - Of course, it was actually written and sent out two years *after* Germanos had *resigned* from the Patriarchate, so it was basically an empty gesture that no one took very seriously
(NOTE: He'd actually been *forced* to resign by an increasingly militant clergy who supported the "Megali idea"—a dream of re-establishing an Hellenic Empire spanning Greece and the western shores of Turkey)
(NOTE²: The new, acting Patriarch supported Greek terrorist actions against the Turks, assuming unilateral, political sovereignty over all Ottoman Greeks)



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 - But at least Germanos tried—the first truly non-partisan attempt at a genuine, unqualified ecumenicalism coming from a major religious leader...



The Modern Age

- Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...
 - 1920 Patriarch Germanos V issued an encyclical
 - The Ecclesia was erected
 - A beautiful temple on a mountain in Oceanside, California, the Ecclesia
(whose name comes from the Greek word, “ἐκκλησία”—or “called-out ones”)
(which was the most common New Testament word used for the church)



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(NOTE: If you'll remember, they were formed back in 1614 by people who wanted to mix Christianity with Gnosticism and a nod to the Jewish Kabbalah to create their own version of Christian mysticism —complete with a fake history, falsely linking them to the Knights Templar)

(the later Freemasons just loved these guys, and stole “esoteric mystery” rituals from them right and left)



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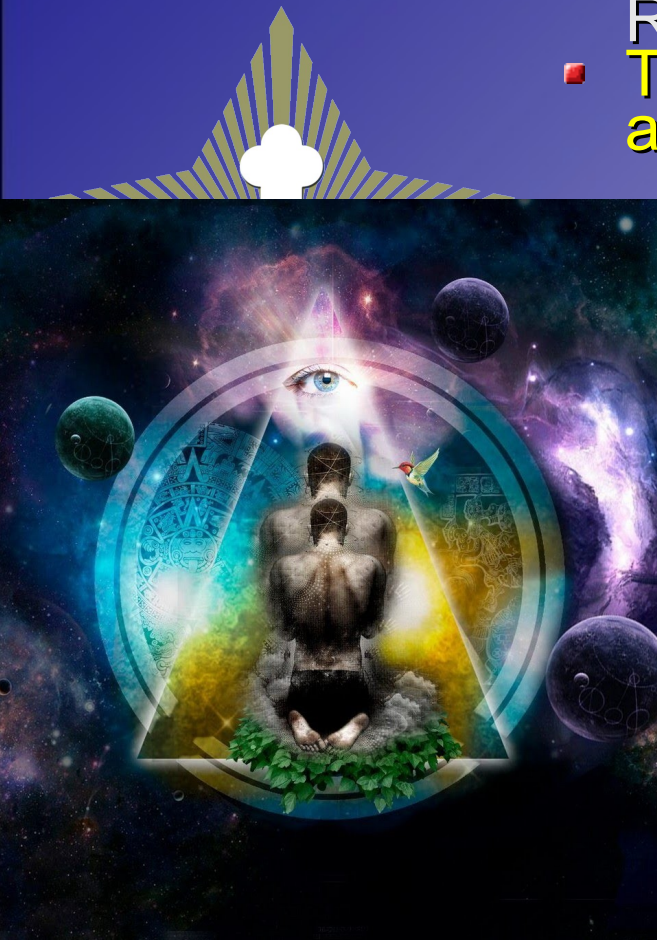
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- A beautiful temple on a mountain in Oceanside, California, the Ecclesia is the center of worship for the esoteric Christian order known as the Rosicrucian Fellowship
- The idea of mystery religions regained popularity after World War I
 - A war-scarred populace increasingly saw religion as impotent and pointless, and wanted to either ignore it or simply become lost in its weirdness and post-war artists and intellectuals were drawn to its teachings that adherents would grasp things that no one else could, and on a *mystical* level instead of a physical or intellectual level
 - “Even though revealed and believed, the Mystery remains nevertheless *obscure* and *veiled* during the mortal life...”
(wrote esotericist Tommaso Palamidessi)
 - Why might that sort of “I don’t get it, but I like believing it” kind of religion seem attractive to people after World War I?



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 - This all paved the way for the later “New Age” movement, which hit America after the next wave of Asian immigrants came to the United States, when people combined attractive aspects of their Asian religions with our own, American-grown esotericism**



The Modern Age

- Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...
 - 1920 Patriarch Germanos V issued an encyclical
The Ecclesia was erected
 - 1923 The Angelus Temple was built
 - The building was constructed specifically as a 5,300-seat evangelistic theater for the preaching of Aimee Semple McPherson—arguably the most popular evangelist of her time



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—

- Aimee Kennedy had been brought up by a Methodist father and Salvation Army mother, and regularly taught sermons for collections of dolls as a child
- But she still nonetheless struggled to see herself as a true Christian, until she converted to Pentecostalism (thanks in part to charismatic young preacher Robert Semple—whom she subsequently married)
- The couple went off to share the Gospel in the newly Pentecostally-interested China, but both became ill, and Semple himself died from malaria and dysentery, forcing Aimee and their baby daughter to return alone... so she then married Harold McPherson and had a son
- But in 1915, feeling smothered as a housewife, Aimee took the children while her husband was at work, only sending him a note weeks later that she was now an evangelist, and that he could come follow her, if he'd want to—which he apparently did until he finally filed for divorce in 1921, citing abandonment...



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Aimee Kennedy had been brought up by a Methodist father and Salvation Army mother, and regularly taught sermons for collections of dolls as a child
 - By 1917, she had started her own women's magazine and in 1919, her Pentecostal revival in Baltimore had caught the attention of not only hundreds of followers, but also the nation's press
 - A cynic might say that newspapers couldn't pass up sensationalistic stories about healings and dramatic worship services being led by a pretty and outgoing woman

(for instance, she often performed dramatic scenes to introduce her sermons, wearing odd costumes or riding real, fully-functioning police motorcycles onto stage—or even taking a stand against a cardboard cut-out of a giant gorilla)



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 - A cynic might say that newspapers couldn't pass up sensationalistic stories about healings and dramatic worship services being led by a pretty and outgoing woman—but McPherson argued that it was nothing short of the Holy Spirit's promptings, drawing even the secular press into God's work
 - **By 1920, she had moved to California, and was filling the 3,500-seat Los Angeles Philharmonic Auditorium night after night for her prayer and healing services**



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Aimee Kennedy had been brought up by a Methodist father and Salvation Army mother, and regularly taught Sunday school.
 - By 1917 she was a member of the Methodist Church and in 1918 she was caught teaching Sunday school but also a cynic.
 - A cynic who saw the need for a new kind of Christianity.



- So in 1923, she formed a new church and broke ground on the 5,300-seat Angelus Temple.
- Within seven years, the Temple had welcomed over 4 million visitors, and was the largest Christian congregation in the world...



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment²—

- The denomination Semple founded became known as the Four-Square (or “Full”) Gospel Church

- McPherson said that the name was in reference to the first chapter of Ezekiel, where the prophet was given a vision of angels that each had the faces of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle

- Church tradition maintains that the vision pointed to the four Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), but McPherson preached that they stood for Christ's various offices of ministry—

- Christ as man—the Savior
- Christ as lion—the granter of the Holy Spirit
- Christ as ox—our burden-bearer and Healer
- Christ as eagle—the coming King of Kings



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 - Though the Four-Square Gospel Church was arguably the nation's first megachurch, they also threw themselves into ministry to the community
 - They developed commissaries to feed the poor (for instance, when the federal government suspended the free school lunch program during the Great Depression, McPherson's church stepped up and took it over, feeding at least 1.5 million people during the hardest years of the Depression)
(having said that, they were also shut down temporarily both by the health department for multiple and repeated code violations and by the police for setting up stills to make their own brandy...)



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 - They developed commissaries to feed the poor, set up free clinics, distributed free clothing and blankets, and even helped take care of newborns (a sign in the commissary read, “Everybody and anybody is somebody to Jesus”)



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 - After the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake, she even went to the local radio station, grabbed the microphone away from a singer, and requested that people bring food, blankets, clothing, etc., to help the stricken area
 - By the time the Red Cross finally mobilized to help the survivors of the earthquake, the Angelus Temple had already sent in their *second* supplies convoy...

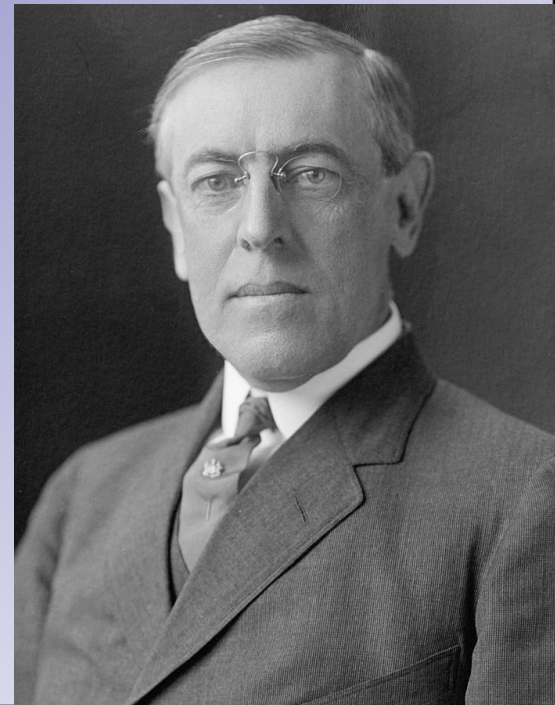


The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - The denomination Semple founded became known as the Four-Square (or “Full”) Gospel Church
 - In 1926, the ever-dramatic McPherson may have faked her own kidnapping (for reasons that we may never understand)
 - She reappeared four weeks later—after everyone had thought she had drowned—claiming to have been held for ransom in Mexico before finally escaping and 30-50,000 cheering people met her incoming train at the station



(a turnout that *dwarfed* the one that President Woodrow Wilson received seven years earlier, when *he'd* come on the train to visit Los Angeles)



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 - **Once questions arose about irregularities in her story, the credibility of her ministry began to suffer**
 - Co-worker Kenneth Ormiston (rumored to be her lover) disappeared at the same time, and *for the same length* of time
 - He even admitted to having a married lover, but refused to give her name
 - Ransom notes later delivered from the kidnappers contradicted in their demands and details
 - The state of California experts claimed that both she and her clothes were in far too good a shape to have been walking for 20 miles across the Mexican desert, etc.



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In the end, a grand jury decided that, though the evidence wasn't strong enough to support her kidnapping claims, the evidence *against* her just wasn't strong enough to officially try her on charges of criminal conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and perjury ... but her ministry was flagged by doubts, scandals, and struggles until her death in 1944

(NOTE: Nonetheless, the church continued to thrive, and in 1943, *Newsweek* named her “The World's Greatest Living Minister”...)

(NOTE²: Today, the Four-Square Gospel Church has over 9 million members)



The Modern Age

- Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...
 - 1920 Patriarch Germanos V issued an encyclical
The Ecclesia was erected
 - 1923 The Angelus Temple was built
 - 1924 KFUO was founded
 - The Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) decided to provide inspirational music, recorded sermons, and other religious programming to St. Louis
 - They set up a makeshift recording studio in the attic of one of the buildings at Concordia Seminary and began broadcasting on October 26, 1924—making KFUO the first religious radio station in the United States...



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD



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- Olympic sprinter Eric Liddell refused to run
(NOTE: Yes, this is the story more or less covered
by the 1981 classic movie, *Chariots of Fire*)



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Born in China, Liddell was the son of missionaries serving there with the London Missionary Society and was sent back to England for an education

- While at Eltham College, Liddell showed himself to be the consummate athlete

- He became the captain of both the college's cricket and rugby teams, and was roundly considered to be the fastest man in Scotland, even as a teenager



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- At the University of Edinburgh, he excelled even more, and his rugby playing earned him a spot on the Scotland national rugby union team

- He was quickly making a name for himself as Scotland's premier athlete



The Modern Age

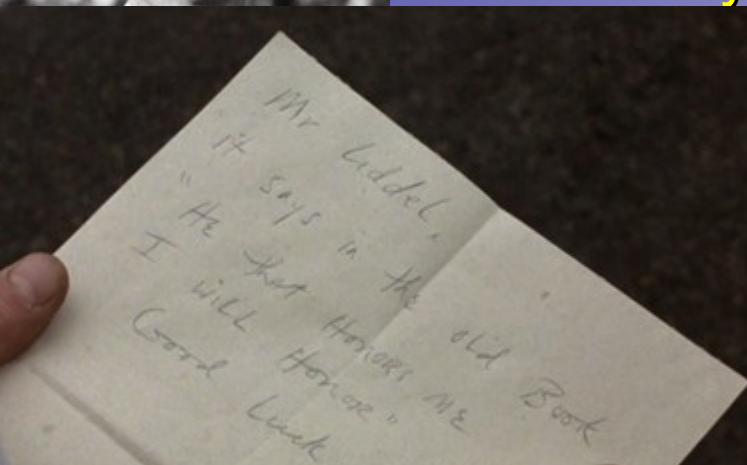
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 - While at Eltham College, Liddell showed himself to be the consummate athlete
 - At the University of Edinburgh, he excelled even more, and his rugby playing earned him a spot on the Scotland national rugby union team
 - He was becoming so famous, in fact, that he was named to the British Olympic team for the Paris Olympics of 1924, intended to run the 100 meter dash (in which he had already set the British record the year before)

PARIS 1924



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Funny thing was, the qualifying heats for the 100 meter dash were to be held on a Sunday—and Liddell refused to race on what he considered to be the Christian Sabbath
 - But Scotland still wanted him on the team, so he trained to run in the 200 and 400 meter races (in which he had always been more or less mediocre)
 - His family supported him, his coach supported him, but many people in Great Britain (including the royal family) were more than just a little bit disappointed that he wouldn't be bringing home a gold in the event that God had so clearly sculpted him to run
 - But on the day of the 400, the team masseuse slipped him a note, written by the rest of the British Olympic team—
 - “In the old book it says: ‘He that honours me I will honour.’ Wishing you the best of success always.”
(quoting 1 Samuel 2:30)



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 - But on the day of the 400, the team's masseur slipped him a note, written by the rest of the British Olympic team
 - Emboldened and inspired by the note, Liddell went on not only to win the 400 meter, but to set the world record in doing so
 - (NOTE: Which is more or less where *Chariots of Fire* leaves off)

What can you apply from all of that in *your* life?



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- But Liddell considered all of that success *nothing* compared to being able to go back to China the next year as a missionary

(NOTE: Actually, that's a bit of a misnomer, because he argued, "We are *all* missionaries. Wherever we go, we either bring people nearer to Christ or we repel them from Christ")



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- He rejoined his family, acting as superintendent for the Sunday School at his father's church, and teaching at an local Anglo-Chinese school for the next 18 years



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- In 1943, he was interned in a Japanese prison camp, along with thousands of native Chinese citizens and foreign nationals
 - There, he ministered to the children and to the elderly, leading Bible studies, encouraging the prisoners to stay active by playing games, and continuing to teach science to the schoolchildren—who lovingly referred to him as “Uncle Eric”



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- In 1945, he died in the camp—suffering from exhaustion and malnutrition, which exacerbated a malignant brain tumor—five months short of the camp's liberation by Allied forces
 - According to Chinese officials, he had been given the opportunity to leave the camp earlier, but had voluntarily given his place to a pregnant woman (though there's no proof of that)



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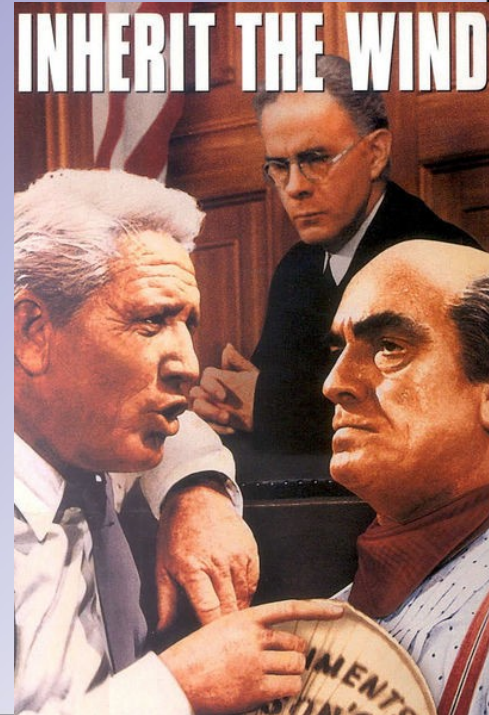
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- In 1945, he died in the camp—suffering from exhaustion and malnutrition, which exacerbated a malignant brain tumor—five months short of the camp's liberation by Allied forces
- To the people who actually *interacted* with him, what would you say that Eric Liddell's most *important* legacy was?



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 - 1925 **The Scopes "Monkey" Trial began**
(NOTE: Yes, this is the courtroom battle between Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan more or less covered by the classic play and movie, *Inherit the Wind*)



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1925 **The Scopes "Monkey" Trial began**

- In 1925, Tennessee Governor Austin Peay signed into law the Butler Act as part of a series of crucial educational reforms in the state

- Concerned that religion was being pushed out of public education, the law explicitly stated that it was unlawful for any teacher at any level of public education in Tennessee "to teach any theory that denies the Story of the Divine Creation of man as taught in the Bible, and to teach instead that man has descended from a lower order of animals"

- The ACLU immediately sought out a test case to show that the Tennessee law was unconstitutional, since it undermined the separation of Church and State by clearly favoring one religion over all others—including atheism



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- Math and science teacher John T. Scopes came forward and was willing to testify that he had, in fact, taught evolution while substituting for the regular biology teacher at a public high school using the state-mandated textbook, which included a chapter on evolution

(NOTE: Tennessee engineer and businessman George Rappleyea—who led the ACLU push against the law—argued that the state of Tennessee thus forced *all* biology teachers to break Tennessee law either by using the textbook or by *not* using it)



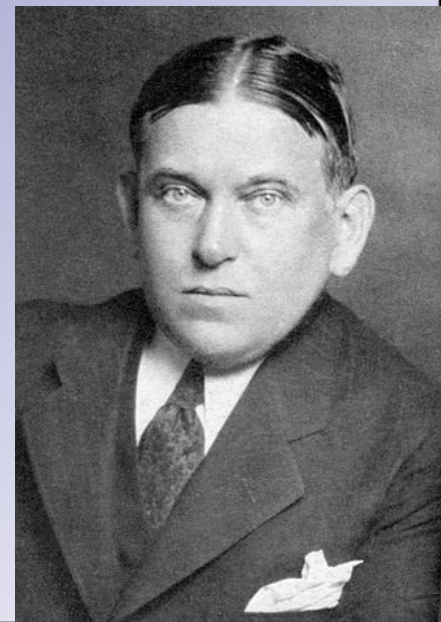
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 - **Scopes helped coach his students on their responses when questioned, and was indicted—just as planned**
 - But the trial itself quickly went off the rails...



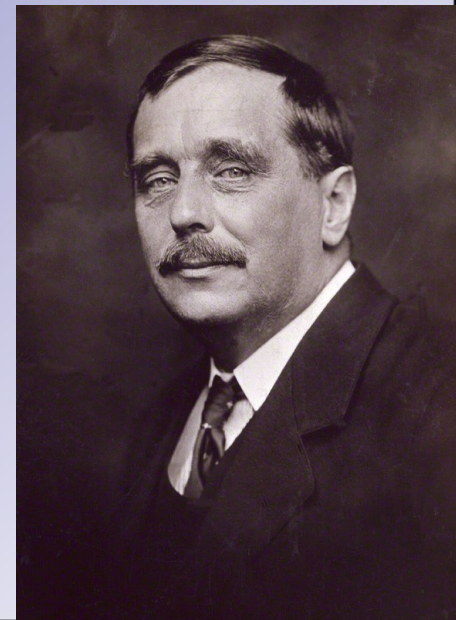
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Rappleyea called in newspapers and radio reporters from all over the country to cover the story (including writer H.L. Mencken of the *Baltimore Sun*, arguably one of the most influential reporters of the era—who, as an avowed atheist and Nietzschean, was more than happy to present an unabashedly biased view in favor of Scopes and against Tennessee)



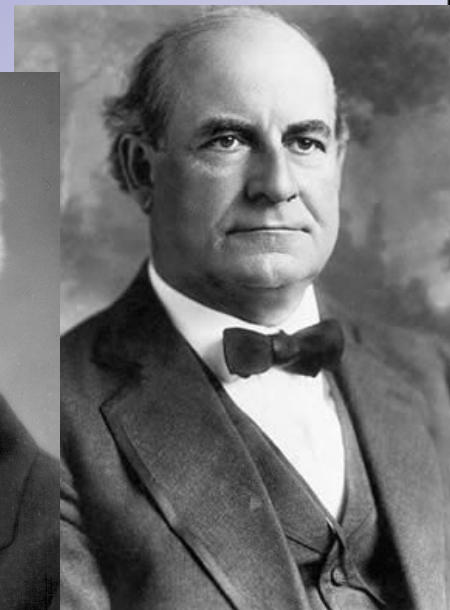
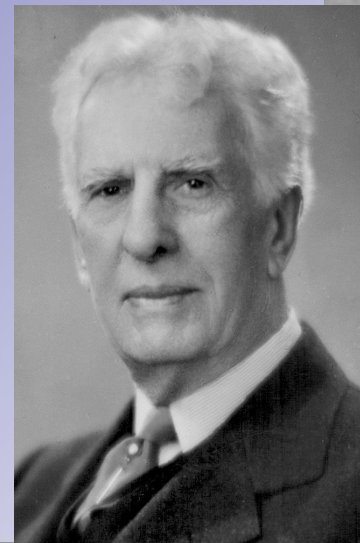
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 - Rappleyea called in newspapers and radio reporters from all over the country to cover the story, believing that their best shot at overturning the law would come from the sheer notoriety of it all
 - He even contact famous science fiction writer, social theorist, and atheist H.G. Wells to join his legal team—who immediately turned him down, since he was completely unqualified to take part in an American legal case such as this



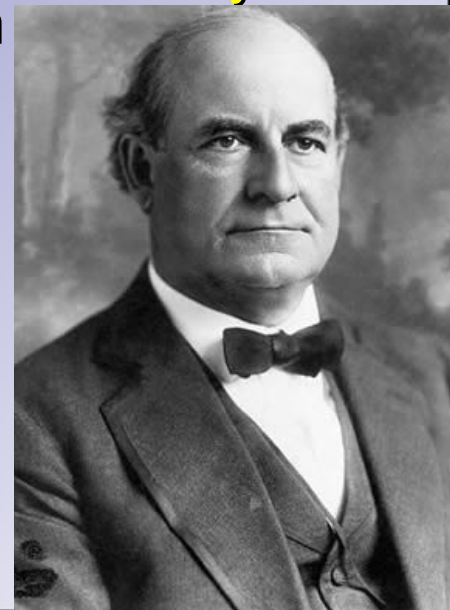
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 - Trying to win notoriety for the *other* side, Pastor William Bell Riley—the president of the World Christian Fundamentals Association—brought in Fundamentalist lawyer and three-time Presidential nominee William Jennings Bryan to argue the prosecution's case



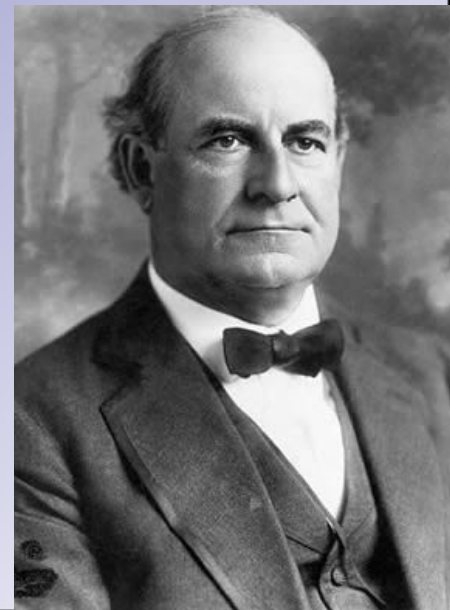
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 - Rappleyea called in newspapers and radio reporters from all over the country to cover the story, believing that their best shot at overturning the law would come from the sheer notoriety of it all
 - He even contact famous science fiction writer, social theorist, and atheist H.G. Wells to join his legal team
 - Trying to win notoriety for the *other* side, Pastor William Bell Riley—the president of the World Christian Fundamentals Association—brought in Fundamentalist lawyer and three-time Presidential nominee William Jennings Bryan to argue the prosecution's case which led Rappleyea to call in famous Agnostic lawyer Clarence Darrow to lead the defense team
- (NOTE: All of that really should remind you of the insanity that had caused the world's nations to “one-up” one another until it inevitably led to the recent Great War)



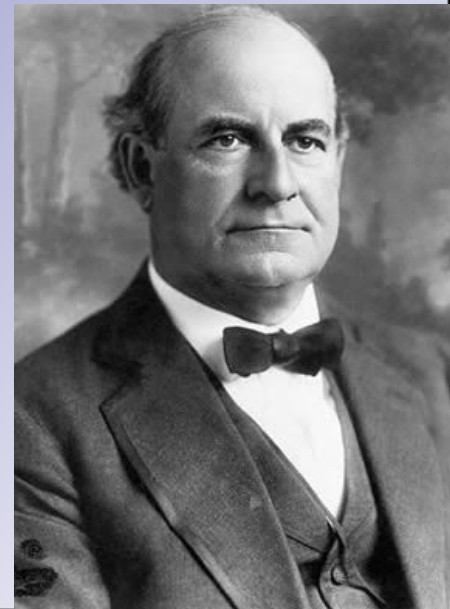
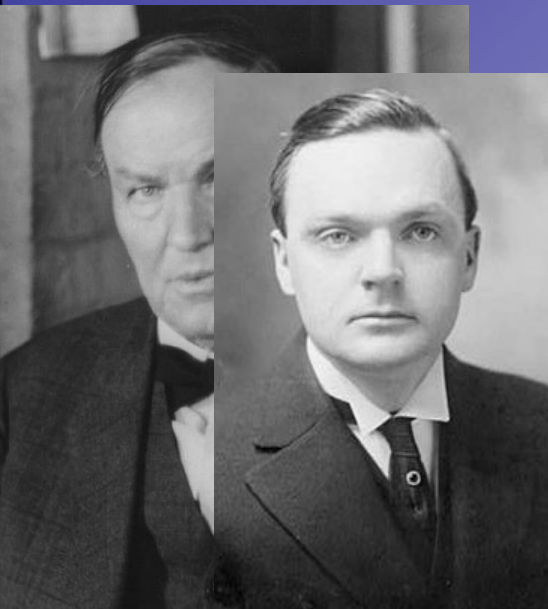
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 - **The trial quickly devolved into a battle of personalities between Darrow and Bryan**
 - Instead of “Defense Plan A”
(which had been to argue that the Butler Act was unconstitutional because it infringed upon the teacher's academic freedom—which wouldn't have worked, though the defense wasn't really trying to win so much as to make a point)



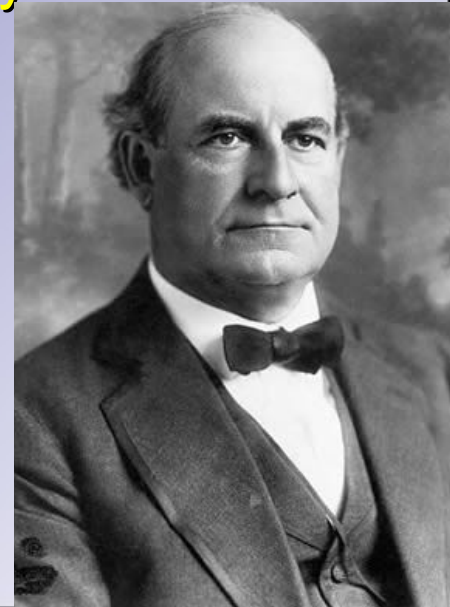
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 - Instead of “Defense Plan A” or “Defense Plan B” (in which defense attorney Dudley Malone tried to argue that there's no true conflict between natural science and revealed religion—that it was perfectly Biblical to believe that God somehow oversaw the process of evolution)



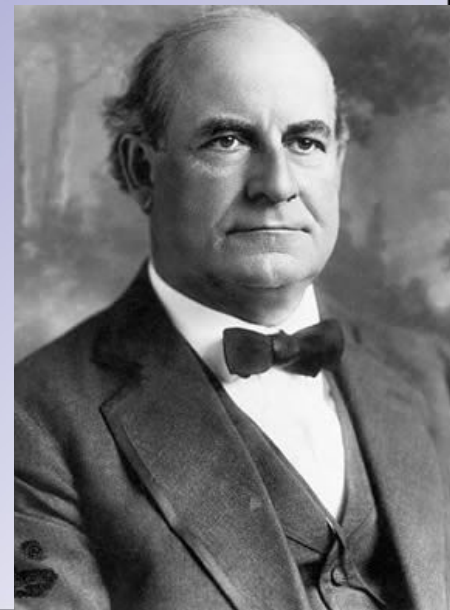
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 - Instead of “Defense Plan A” or “Defense Plan B” Darrow quickly began attacking the Fundamentalist perception of the Bible as a reliable document
 - He even commented one day that Bryan was an “expert on the Bible” specifically so that he could put Bryan himself on the stand the next day (using Biblical and theological questions devised by Unitarian minister Charles Potter)



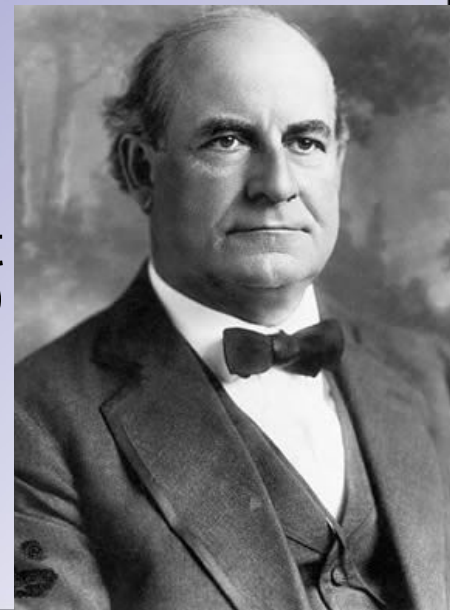
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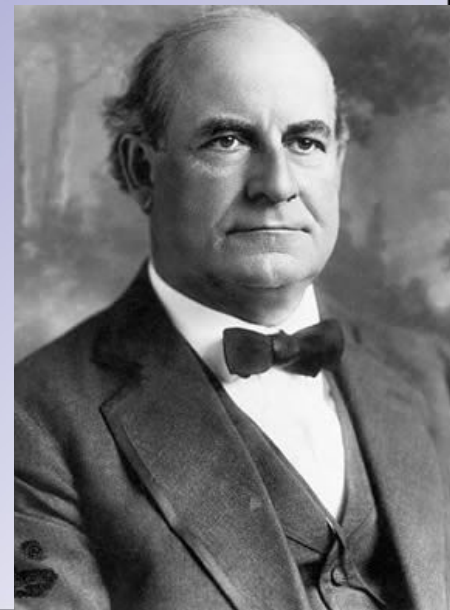
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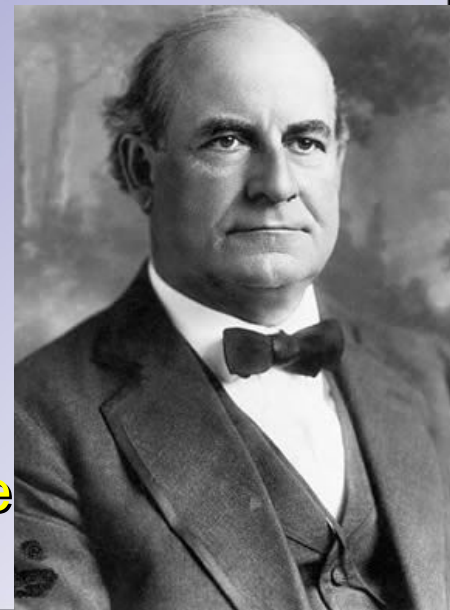
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 - **The judge eventually put an end to the cross-examination, since it wasn't going anywhere productive for either side**
 - **Fundamentalists everywhere considered it a huge victory for Christianity, since Bryan had actually come off rather well, and a very rude Darrow was now on record calling Christianity a “fool religion”—which, as a Christian, even fellow defense attorney Dudley Malone objected to**



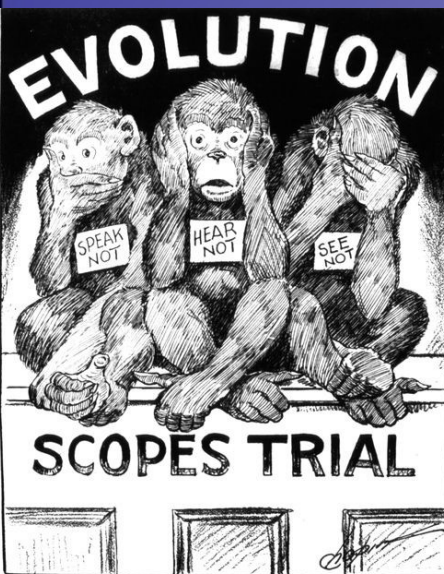
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 - **Evolutionists considered it a huge victory for *their* side, since Darrow had shown that Bryan couldn't just easily answer his easy-sounding Biblical questions—and because then the case was bumped higher up, into appeals**



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 - **Ultimately, the Tennessee Supreme Court still declared the Butler Act to be constitutional**
(since, as the court decided,
“We are not able to see how the prohibition of teaching the theory that man has descended from a lower order of animals gives preference to any religious establishment or mode of worship. So far as we know, there is no religious establishment or organized body that has in its creed or confession of faith any article denying or affirming such a theory.”
—i.e.; the ACLU had picked the wrong legal argument to make)



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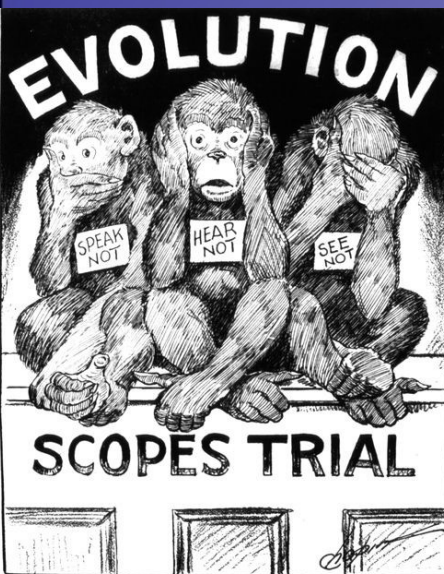
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- Ultimately, the Tennessee Supreme Court still declared the Butler Act to be constitutional, but in the court of public opinion, the tide was beginning to turn
- Suddenly, instead of being seen as the radical new upstart God-haters, Modernists felt that they had found a public voice as the country's rationalists, standing against the irrational, reactionary Fundamentalists
- Within a week of the end of the trial, the growing momentum of the Fundamentalist movement was dealt a horrible blow when Bryan suddenly died while taking a nap after eating a large Sunday lunch
(Mencken happily told Darrow, "We killed the S.O.B.!" and wrote about their victory over the Fundamentalists)



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 - Fundamentalism had reached its popular zenith, and began spiralling downward after that, as public opinion followed the newsmakers...



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- In 1955, in an attempt to use a fictionalized history to take a jab at the McCarthy hearings, Robert Lee and Jerome Lawrence wrote *Inherit the Wind*, arguing for the crucial right of intellectual freedom in America
- Unfortunately, most Americans' impression of the Scopes trial is indelibly colored by their familiarity with the wildly historically inaccurate play—which was never really trying to be about *that* trial in the first place...



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 - **FYI—The Butler Act was finally repealed in 1967**
 - Teacher Gary Scott was fired for violating the law, so he sued that the dismissal in turn violated his own freedom of speech... and that, thus, *the law itself* violated his freedom of speech... and was thus unconstitutional —i.e.; the *right* legal argument to make...



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- **Everyone scrambled to figure out religion...**
 - 1920 Patriarch Germanos V issued an encyclical
The Ecclesia was erected
 - 1923 The Angelus Temple was built
 - 1924 KFUEO was founded
Olympic sprinter Eric Liddell refused to run
 - 1925 The Scopes "Monkey" Trial began
 - 1926 The Cristero War broke out in Mexico**

