

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



Church History

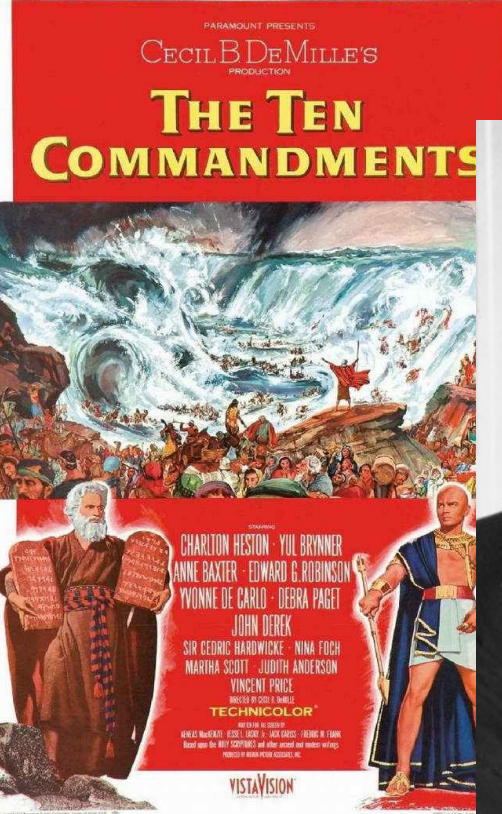
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- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
 - *Modern Empire-Building*
 - *Post-War Religion*
 - *Conflicts of the “Greatest Generation”*
 - *The New Conservatism (part 2)*



The Modern Age

- Christian conservatism inspired backlashes
 - 1956 *The Ten Commandments* came out
 - Made by successful filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille it was actually a remake of his 1923 silent version
 - Interestingly, the movie *almost* didn't get made, since Paramount's board of directors was almost entirely Jewish, and they didn't trust a Gentile to make a decent movie about Moses
 - But studio chairman—and fellow Freemason—Adolf Zukor went to bat for DeMille and his track record of respecting different faiths in his films

THE GREATEST EVENT IN MOTION PICTURE HISTORY!



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 - To fill in the 30 or so “missing years” of Moses' life, DeMille had his writers “turn to ancient historians, Philo Judaeus and Flavius Josephus”
 - And that led to them taking what's euphoniously known as “creative liberties” with the Biblical text
 - The Pharaoh of the Bible is never named
 - Pharaoh's wife is never named—nor is there any mention of her relationship with Moses
 - Nor is there ever any mention of Moses having a fraternal relationship with Pharaoh
 - Nor is there any mention of Moses being successful as a ruler or a military leader prior to finding out that he was actually a Jew
 - Nor is there any suggestion that he didn't know that he was a Jew his whole life
 - For that matter, in the Bible, Moses is said to have been “not eloquent”—a far cry from Charlton Heston's Moses



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- In the movie, Moses is dramatically banished from Egypt, instead of just running away
- In the movie, Moses is only in Midian for a short time before he goes back to Egypt (in the movie, his hair suddenly turned white and poofy because he saw God, not because he was by then 80 years old) (and a still-young Joshua calls him back to Egypt, instead of God Himself)
- In the movie, the parting of the Red Sea is spectacular and instantaneous—but in the Bible, the strong east wind took all night to part the waters



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 - I go through all that not to slam the movie, nor to slam the concept of “creative liberties” with texts but rather to note that for a movie roundly considered to be a traditionally Biblical take on Moses, it plays fast and loose with Scripture
 - Evangelicals slammed the recent *Exodus: Gods and Kings* for its “creative liberties” but still lauded the 1956 movie—why?
 - Because it *felt* more reverent to the Biblical text, even if it was still often inaccurate and so long as something *looks* and *feels* church-y, then we tend to accept it as reverent—especially in 1956

THE GREATEST EVENT IN MOTION PICTURE HISTORY!

Com

BORN TO RULE
AN EMPIRE

DESTINED TO
DEFY IT

EXODUS
GODS AND KINGS

DECEMBER 12

20th
CENTURY

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 - The same phenomenon could be seen in how many people accepted many of precisely the same non-Biblical elements of 1998's *Prince of Egypt* as essentially Biblically canonical because the basic *tone* and *heart* of the film were more or less right

THE GREATEST EVENT IN MOTION PICTURE HISTORY!

PARAMOUNT PRESENTS

COM

THE POWER IS REAL
THE STORY IS FOREVER
THE TIME IS NOW

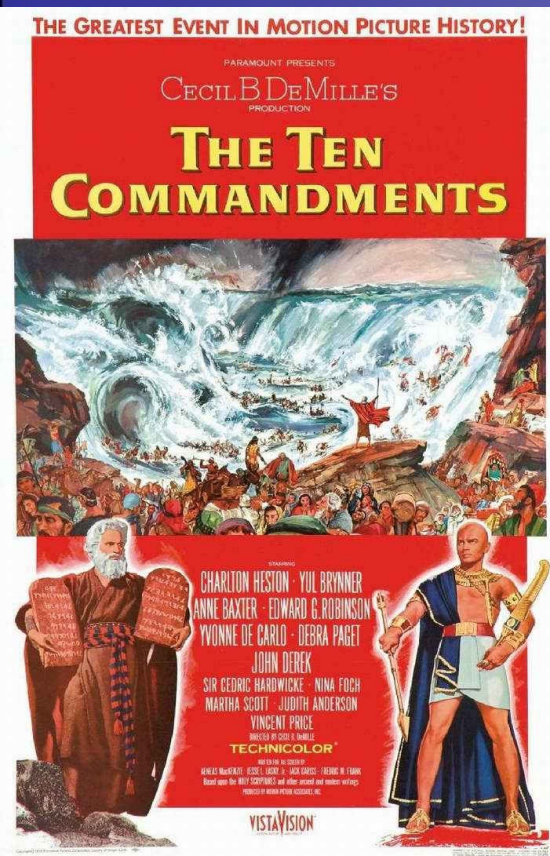
THE
PRINCE
OF
EGYPT

DOLBY DIGITAL PICTURES PRESENTS "THE PRINCE OF EGYPT"
DIRECTED BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZMAN PRODUCED BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZMAN AND JEFFREY KAZENBERG
SCREENPLAY BY PENNY FINKELMAN MUSIC BY ANDREA RAGNO
EDITED BY FRANK CHUPMAN COSTUME DESIGNER ANDREW WELLS

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 - Made by successful filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille it was actually a remake of his 1923 silent version
 - It was the highest-grossing film of 1956 and the second most successful film made in the decade (its box office record was finally beaten by 1959's *Ben Hur*... also starring Charlton Heston...)



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- It was the highest-grossing film of 1956 and the second most successful film made in the decade and ABC has aired it every year at Easter time for nearly 45 years

- Generations of devoted Evangelicals have been far more familiar with *The Ten Commandments* than they have been with the Biblical story of the historical Moses... and usually feel like they're being fairly conservative Christians by being so devoted to the (kinda inaccurate) story
- But, as Cecil B. DeMille himself shared in his introduction to the movie, the film was actually intended to be a socio-political argument within the context of the "Cold War" world of the 1950s—
"The theme of this picture is whether man ought to be ruled by God's law or whether they are to be ruled by the whims of a dictator, like Rameses. Are men the property of the state, or are they free souls under God? This same battle continues throughout the world today."

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PARAMOUNT PRESENTS

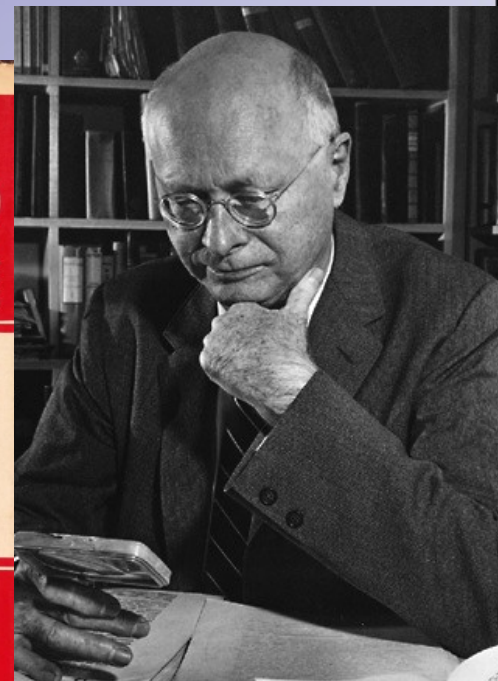
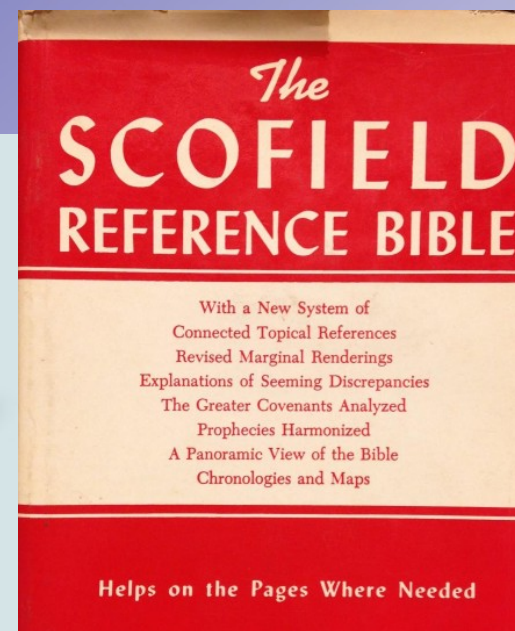
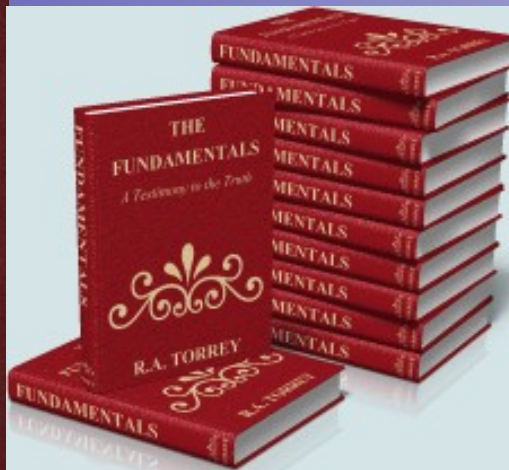
CECIL B. DEMILLE'S
PRODUCTION

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



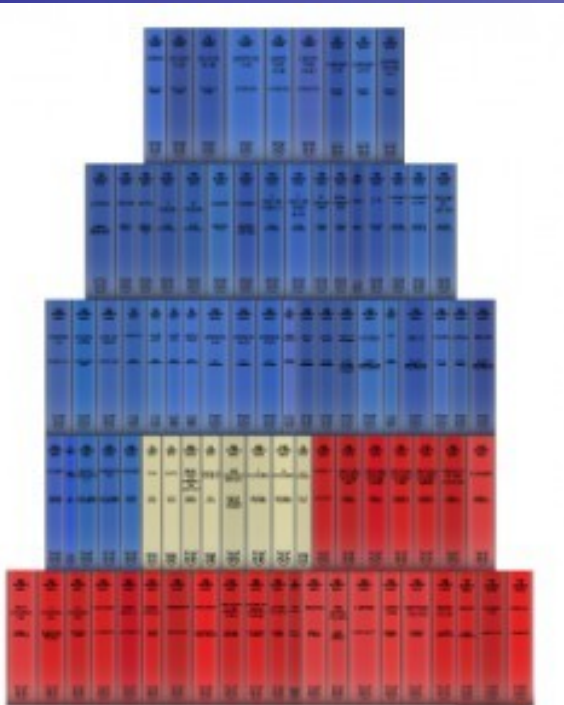
The Modern Age

- Christian conservatism inspired backlashes
 - 1956 *The Ten Commandments* came out
 - The Anchor Bible* series came out
 - In reaction to the growth and popularity of the Evangelical movement, as well as the number of conservative works like 1910's *The Fundamentals* and the *Scofield Reference Bible*, liberal scholars saw the need to provide a popular counterpoint
 - Under the oversight of famous archaeologist and scholar William F. Albright
(who was famous for helping to authenticate the Dead Sea Scrolls back in 1948)



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 - Under the oversight of famous archaeologist and scholar William F. Albright, they prepared the *Anchor Bible* series, a multi-volume work that provides new translations, text notes and articles for the canonical Biblical books (as well as the Apocrypha), an exhaustive Bible dictionary, etc.
 - all from a more theologically liberal perspective (for instance, in his 1968 volume, *Yahweh and the Gods of Canaan*, Albright argued that Hebrew monotheism had clearly slowly evolved from earlier Canaanite polytheism, and that the Bible was simply later Hebrew reinterpretations of earlier Canaanite myths, though he admitted that “I cannot find satisfactory parallels” to them —it was just a suspicion that he held, based on his adherence to the classic German liberal “documentary hypothesis”)



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- Over the past 60 years, the **Anchor Bible series** has produced more than 30 individual volumes, with more than three million copies now in print but more than that, the series has created an unprecedentedly comprehensive, popular, scholarly resource, and has also cemented its liberal perspectives in the modern scholarly mind
 - In 2008, the series was acquired by Yale University which intends to extend the series into an even larger resource boasting of its “objective treatment of competing theories”—’cuz Yale’s all about being objective when it comes to religion...



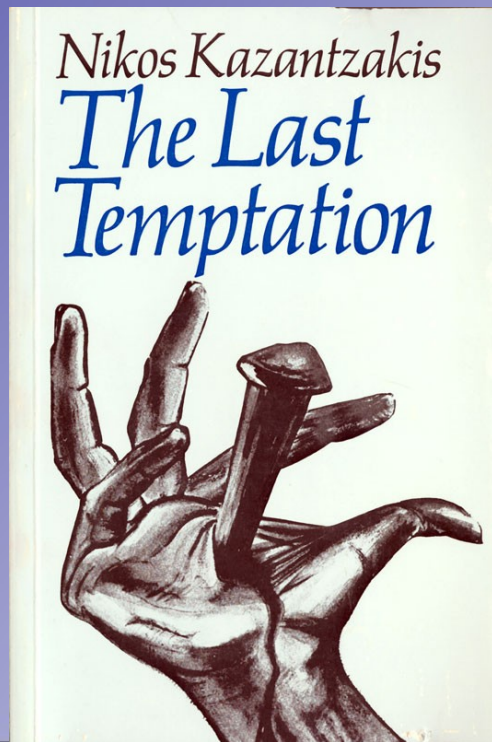
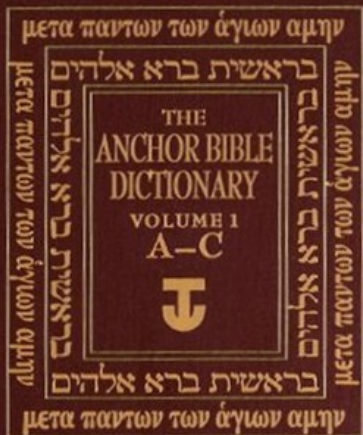
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - At the bottom of Yale's webpage of their press release for acquiring the series, they provided a link to an article entitled “How Well Did Jesus Know His Bible?”
 - As the article states, “The Gospels, written at least several decades after Jesus’ death by people who did not know him, are notoriously poor historical sources” that “frequently depict Jesus citing Scripture to his followers”—which the author sees as ridiculous
 - Instead, “let us imagine instead a scripturally-challenged Jesus. He might have picked up bits and pieces of Scripture, which he may have occasionally preached on—something along the lines of the Sermon on the Mount, which even *if* true shows only low level familiarity with the Ten Commandments. For such a Jesus—like the one depicted in the Gospel of John or in the non-canonical Gospel of Thomas—Scripture was not only almost unknown but also largely irrelevant. Instead of Scripture, what Jesus knew and fought about were traditional Jewish customs and stories...”
(clearly, Jesus “assumed that it was *tradition*—actual communal practice—rather than a *text* that bore religious authority. In creating a Scripture-citing Jesus, though, the Gospels’ authors shifted that focus”)



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 - At the bottom of Yale's webpage of their press release for acquiring the series, they provided a link to an article entitled “How Well Did Jesus Know His Bible?”
 - Do you see why we argued that—even with decades of protests and boycotts by Evangelicals and Catholics, the theology reflected in Kazantzakis' *Last Temptation* has become the foundational theology of our era—both on a popular and on a scholarly level?



The Modern Age

- **Christian conservatism inspired backlash**

1956

The Ten Commandments came out

The Anchor Bible series came out

It Is Written first aired

- The program was started by Seventh-Day Adventist minister George Vandeman

(NOTE: It wasn't his first attempt at a TV ministry—he'd tried in the late 40s to get something going, but the idea was, quite literally, "ahead of its time" and the denomination didn't support it)



IT IS WRITTEN



The Modern Age

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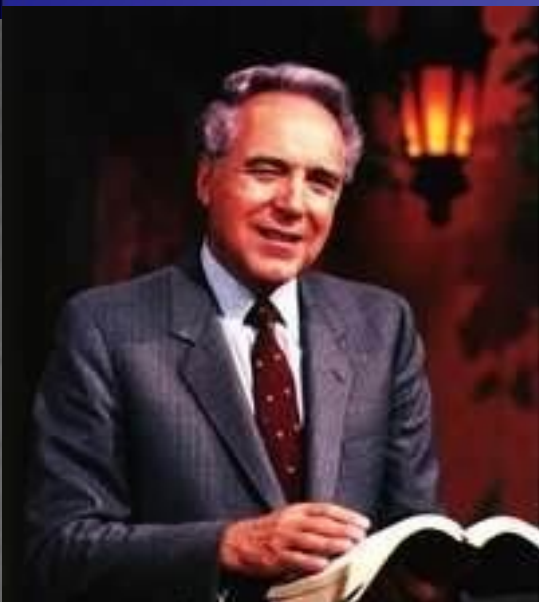
The Anchor Bible series came out

It Is Written first aired

- The program was started by Seventh-Day Adventist minister George Vandeman, who saw television as a great “lead-in” to his upcoming evangelistic crusade in Fresno, California
 - But he quickly realized that the program itself was reaching people for Christ, and he began investing more and more of his efforts into producing it—eventually extending its 13-week programming schedule into a 61-year broadcast run

(NOTE: It's *still* being broadcast around the world on several networks including TBN, The Discovery Channel, ADTV, FirstLight, Hope Channel, LifeStyleTV, SafeTV, and 3ABN, and is the top religious program in many of its markets—especially in the Oceania region of the South Pacific)

(NOTE²: It also made history by being the world's first religious program to be aired in color)



IT IS WRITTEN

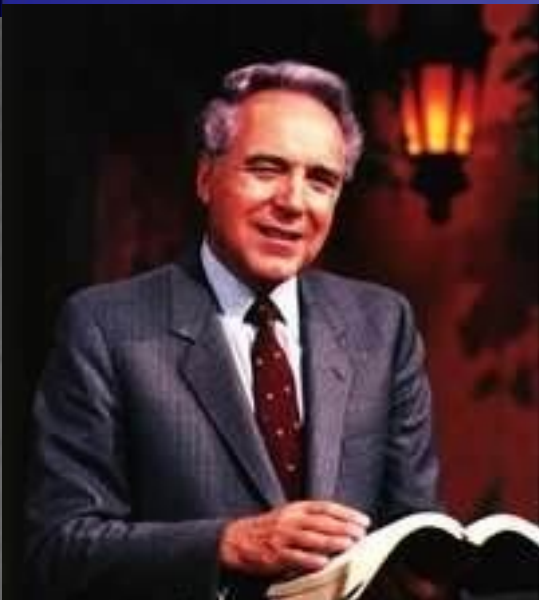


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- The program was started by Seventh-Day Adventist minister George Vandeman, who saw television as a great “lead-in” to his upcoming evangelistic crusade in Fresno, California
- **But the denomination has continued the original purpose of the program by using *It Is Written* and its resources to sponsor ministries and outreach events on six continents**
 - Today, its programming can be viewed by 97 percent of the human population...



IT IS WRITTEN



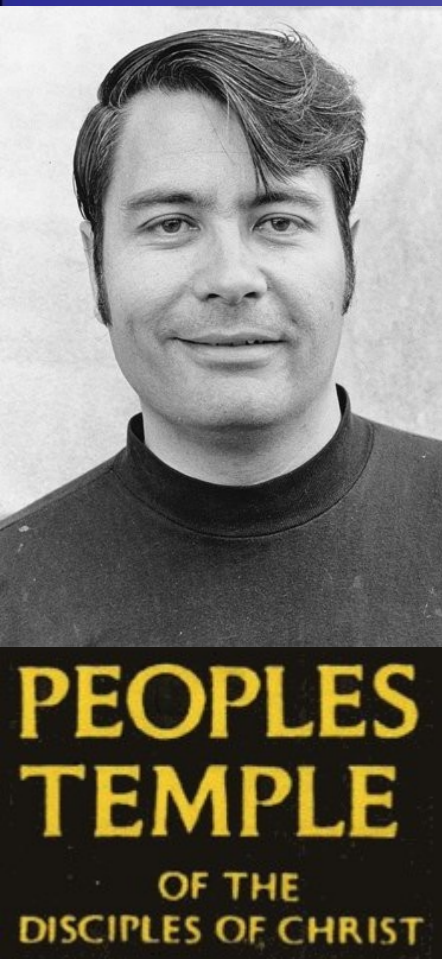
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- The Peoples Temple was founded

- Growing up in Indiana, Jim Jones was the son of an alcoholic, racist, abusive father
 - As he grew older, the alienated young man found himself drawn to Marxism—and increasingly frustrated with America's distaste for it
 - For instance, he openly supported North Korea's invasion of South Korea in 1950, calling it a “war of liberation,” and began attending meetings of the Communist Party in 1951 (famously, he later stated in a recording, “I decided, how can I demonstrate my Marxism? The thought was, infiltrate the church. So I consciously made a decision to look into that prospect... It had always been a sort of dual concept: a doubter, and yet a believer. Certainly I had great questions about anthropomorphic beings and a loving order to the universe, but Jesus Christ, to use a kid’s phrase, greatly turned me on...”)



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- In 1952, Jones became a student pastor in Sommerset Southside Methodist Church but left in 1954 to form Community Unity Church (because the church leadership resisted his efforts to racially integrate the congregation and/or because he wanted the autonomy to lead his own church however he wished)



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- Jones had attended a Pentecostal healing service, and he recognized the power—and money—that were associated with those sorts of services

- So his own Community Unity Church began holding their own healing services, faking miracles to bring in money and new attenders and by 1956, they were large enough to buy their own building (consciously in a racially mixed neighborhood) and rename the congregation the “Peoples Temple Full Gospel Church”

(NOTE: It's not “People's Temple” or even “Peoples' Temple”—since Jim taught that apostrophes suggest ownership, and God wants everything in our lives to belong to everyone in our lives)



PEOPLES
TEMPLE
OF THE
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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- He also began to involve the church in multiple community action programs—taking over nursing homes, bringing food to the poor, even changing bedpans of African Americans in the hospitals
- He became known in the Indianapolis community as not only a social crusader, but also as a dynamic preacher who drew growing crowds but all the while, he was consciously following the model of Father Divine, the cult leader who had developed the International Peace Mission movement by integrating the races and preaching his own Divinity



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- By 1959, the church gained more respectability by joining the Disciples of Christ—a mainline church that stresses the need for flexibility in doctrine (summarized by the DoC as, “I’ll tell you what I think, but read the Bible for yourself, and then study and pray about it. Decide in what ways God is calling you to be a follower of Jesus...”)



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DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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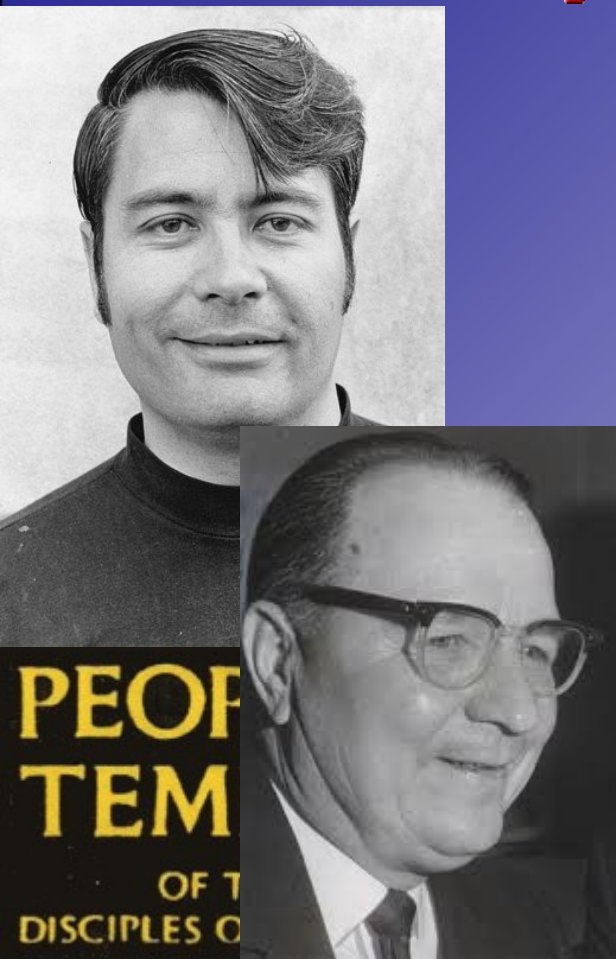
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- In 1960, Indianapolis Mayor Charles Boswell named Jones the Director of the city's new Human Rights Commission... and in 1961, he and his wife were the first white couple in Indiana to adopt a black child—the *model* of racial integration



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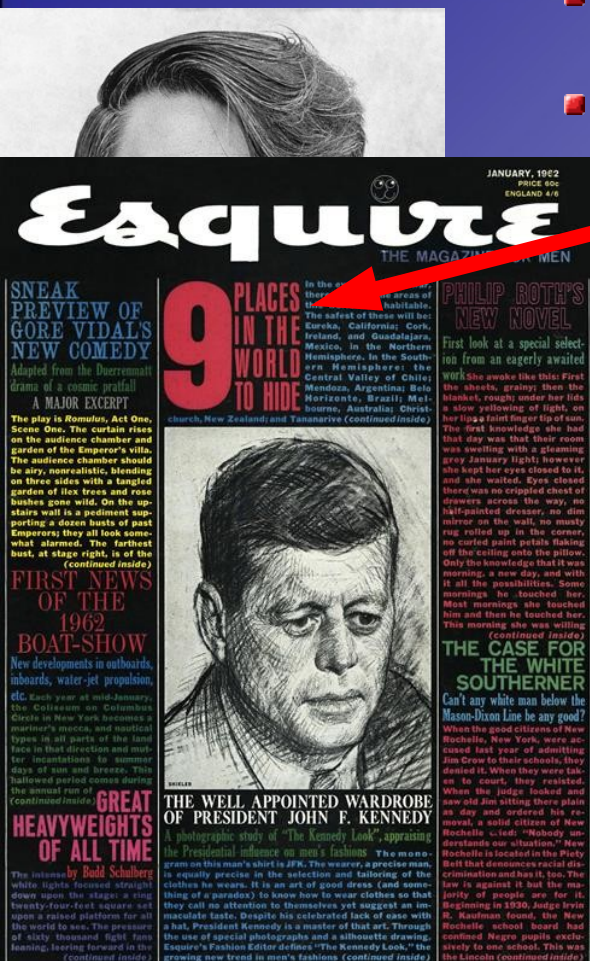
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- In the early 1960s, Jones began to become utterly convinced that nuclear war was inevitable

He read an article in *Esquire* that said that South America was the safest place to survive the war, so he began to make trips there to plan for an eventual move to Brazil or Guyana

But in the meantime, he informed his congregation that the war would be destroyed on July 15, 1967, so they needed to at least move to a remote area of northern California to be safe—which they did

- No, the world didn't burn in 1967—but by then, his followers had begun to revere him beyond just respecting him as a good leader, as he led them to new cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco—they were beginning to think of Jones as Divine himself



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—

- Of course, Jones himself had begun to preach that
 - “What you need to believe in is what you can see... If you see me as your friend, I'll be your friend. As you see me as your father, I'll be your father, for those of you that don't have a father... If you see me as your savior, I'll be your savior. If you see me as your God, I'll be your God...”
 - “I came to show you that the only God you need is within you... There shall be no need for Gods, any other kind of ideology. Religion, the opiate of the people, shall be removed from the consciousness of mankind. There shall no longer be any need for anything religious when freedom comes...”
 - But in that same sermon, he continued by preaching,
“Until I eradicate it from the face of the earth, I will do all the miracles you said your God would do but never did... I see some are not aware what God is. The only thing that brings perfect freedom, justice, and equality perfect love in all its beauty and holiness is socialism. Socialism! I have taken myself a body... I come as God Socialist... and I must say it's a great effort to be God...”



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 - Of course, Jones himself had begun to preach that
 - “If you're holding on to that 'sky god,' I'll nose him out, ten lengths every time! Will you tell me you believe in God out there? So what? What's your sky God ever done? Two out of three nations in the world are hungry. Misery in every one of your homes. The only happiness you've found is when you've come to this earth God! ... You prayed to your sky God and he never heard your prayers. You asked and begged and pleaded in your suffering, and he never gave you any food. He never gave you a bed, and he never provided a home. But I, your *socialist worker God*, have give you all these things!” (after which he physically stomped on a Bible)
 - How far gone would you have to be to *believe* that?
 - Then again, if you were on the outside, *not* hearing any of his sermons, might *you* have thought that he was probably a good pastor?
 - In 1975, San Francisco awarded him with the Martin Luther King, Jr. award for his “tireless service to the community” and his amazing example of racial integration
 - Isn't doctrinal error okay to overlook, so long as *ministry* is being done?
 - How important is Truth?



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- In 1973, Jones was arrested for soliciting an undercover policeman for homosexual sex in a gay theater's public restroom
 - Amazingly, that didn't damage his reputation within the church or the community
 - Instead, as a cover for his sins, he began having his church members reach out to homosexuals and prostitutes in the community, proclaiming that the church should be a safe zone for such people
(NOTE: Jones also began pressuring both males and females in the church to have sex with him, calling it a "blessing" and a "communion" that would bring them close to God)
(NOTE²: He would often then shame them by forcing them to publicly admit it)



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 - The church even actively campaigned for Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California



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- By 1976, he was regularly meeting with leaders such as Governor Jerry Brown, Vice Presidential candidate Walter Mondale, and even speaking alongside Rosalynn Carter herself at the grand opening of the San Francisco Democratic Party Headquarters
- That same year, Jones was named the Chairman of the San Francisco Housing Authority Commission, where he did a tremendous amount of good in helping the city's poor against slumlords and developers



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - But even with all of that political clout, Jones couldn't entirely escape the ripple effects of his own sins
 - Jones had forced longtime church member Tim Stoen to sign an affidavit declaring that he had personally asked Jones to have sex with his wife, Grace Stoen, to keep her from leaving the church—asserting Jones was thus the biological father of their son, John Stoen
 - Grace left the church anyway, various news agencies got wind of the story, and reporters began to dig deeper into what the church was really about
 - By 1977, San Francisco was awash with scandals about the church, and high-level officials from the Governor's office on down tried desperately to cover for Jones and his followers
 - Soon, details emerged about the Temple's illegal strong-arm tactics within the community, Jones' abuses of the Temple's members, their illegal smuggling of guns and ammunition to their compound in Guyana, Jones' own growing drug problems, etc.



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 - Jones had forced longtime church member Tim Stoen to sign an affidavit declaring that he had personally asked Jones to have sex with his wife, Grace Stoen, to keep her from leaving the church—asserting Jones was thus the biological father of their son, John Stoen
 - Grace left the church anyway, various news agencies got wind of the story, and reporters began to dig deeper into what the church was really about
- By 1977, San Francisco was awash with scandals about the church, and high-level officials from the Governor's office on down tried desperately to cover for Jones and his followers
- But the night that the first major story hit the papers, Jones moved with about 1,000 of his followers down to Guyana—including cuckolded Tim Stoen, who quit his job as Assistant District Attorney to follow them, taking little John with him
- Jones forced Stoen to give John to him, then berated him for it



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - But even with all of that political clout, Jones couldn't entirely escape the ripple effects of his own sins
 - **As Jones' hold over his people became increasingly controlling, his personal, long-time drug use became increasingly out of control, and his paranoia grew**
 - He began consistently preaching that nuclear war was again imminent, and that agents of the United States would be coming to torture and kill them all
 - The Temple began holding regular drills known as "White Nights," where the whole community would be asked to drink poison rather than fall into the hands of their enemies—never knowing if the poison would be real this time, but simply called to step out in their faith in Jones



The Modern Age

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- As Jones' hold over his people became increasingly controlling, his personal, long-time drug use became increasingly out of control, and his paranoia grew
- **Eventually, Tim Stoen couldn't take the abuse any more, and returned to America to work with Grace to get custody of John back from Jones—becoming the face of opposition to the Temple**
- When Guyana would not support his attempts to get John back, Tim turned to Washington—and California Congressman Leo Ryan, whose own close friend had been murdered by the Temple two years earlier when he'd tried to leave the group
- In 1978, Ryan ended up leading a delegation of 18 people to Guyana to investigate claims of the conditions there, meeting with Jones and interviewing people
 - As it happened, two families begged Ryan to let them leave with them, fearing for their lives
 - But at the airport, several Temple members murdered Ryan and most of the delegation to prevent them from flying back to America and filing a report

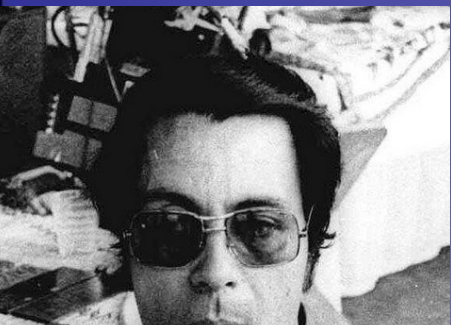


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- Fearing reprisals, Jones called his people together for one last “White Night”—though *this* time, it was for real
- His aides prepared a large metal tub with grape Flavor Aid

(not Kool-Aid, though the two powdered mixes were very similar—it's just that Kool-Aid was unfortunately more familiar to people hearing about the story in America, and the meme “to drink the Kool-Aid” has indelibly stuck)





His aides prepared a large metal tub with grape Flavor Aid, poisoned with cyanide, chloral hydrate, Valium, and several other potent tranquilizers

- 909 members of the Peoples Temple—304 of them children—died of cyanide poisoning, with parents handing their own children cups to drink as Jones reminded everyone to remember that, in the end, “We didn’t commit suicide; we committed an act of *revolutionary* suicide protesting the conditions of an inhumane world...” before finally fatally shooting himself

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 - **What can we learn from all of this horror today?**



The Modern Age

- **Christian conservatism inspired backlashes**
 - 1956 *The Ten Commandments* came out
The Anchor Bible series came out
It Is Written first aired
The Peoples Temple was founded
 - 1957 **The United Church of Christ was founded**



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Okay, I've got to back up
 - The United Church of Christ is actually the result of a merger between the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church
 - The Congregational Christian Churches had actually been the result of an earlier merger between the classic, New England Congregational Churches and the Church of Christ ("Disciples of Christ")
 - For that matter, the Evangelical and Reformed Church itself had been the result of an earlier merger between the German Evangelical Synod and dissatisfied members of the Reformed Churches of America
 - So what theology would satisfy *all* of these?



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Okay, I've got to back up
 - The United Church of Christ is actually the result of a merger between the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church
 - That's actually a trick question, 'cuz the answer is “no theology” would—which itself has a double-meaning
 - The United Church of Christ decided that the way to keep all of those disparate groups together was to actively decide *not* to have a strong theological bent—or, more precisely, to have a strong theological bent toward having *no* theology
(from their website: “Ours is a church of tolerance and understanding. Thus you will not be told what to believe nor how to act... There are many paths to Jesus Christ... We are all on a journey to discover where God is leading us...”)





If we were wedded
to the Bible, we'd have
multiple wives.



le/ The Bible is like GPS.

A brilliant guide. All-knowing.
Occasionally wrong.

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!



"Never place a period
where God has
placed a comma"
- Gracie Allen



- In 2003, the UCC began an outreach campaign using a quote from (Catholic) Gracie Allen
- Their application of her quote is that God is still speaking to people today and changing His truth to meet the needs of an ever-changing world so today, we shouldn't think that our spiritual foundation should begin or end with Scripture (their basic foundational hermeneutic is that if enough people come to feel positively about something, then the church should consider it to be true and moral)

20th
CENTURY



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- Thus, the UCC supports not only civil rights for all races, and equal rights for women (they ordained their first woman pastor the year that they incorporated, way back in 1957)

20th
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- Thus, the UCC supports not only civil rights for all races, and equal rights for women, but also equal rights for alternate sexualities (they ordained their first openly LGBTQ pastor in 1972, and encourage UCCers to actively support LGBTQ legislation)





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- Thus, the UCC supports not only civil rights for all races, and equal rights for women, but also equal rights for alternate sexualities, abortion rights, Palestinian independence against Israel, physician-assisted suicide, the legalization of marijuana, etc.





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- In 2003, the UCC began an outreach campaign using a quote from (Catholic) Gracie Allen
 - Evangelicals often make an argument that the UCC's hermeneutic is unhealthy and unbiblical, but isn't a little doctrinal error okay to overlook, so long as sincere *ministry* is being done?
 - How important is Truth?
 - Besides, their services are so much more traditional-feeling than ours are here at First Covenant, and so long as something *looks* and *feels* church-y, then we tend to accept it as reverent—even today

20th
CENTURY

The Modern Age

- **Christian conservatism inspired backlashes**

1956 *The Ten Commandments* came out

The Anchor Bible series came out

It Is Written first aired

The Peoples Temple was founded

1957 The United Church of Christ was founded

1959 **Family Radio was founded**

- **The brainchild of Christian Reformed Church layman Harold Camping**
(whose degree was actually in civil engineering)



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- The brainchild of Christian Reformed Church layman Harold Camping, Family Radio was created as an avenue for Christian Reformed, Bible Baptist, and Conservative Christian Presbyterian churches to present conservative Bible lessons over the airwaves of San Francisco
 - Originally, the interdenominational effort included programs from across the Evangelical spectrum, including *Focus on the Family*, *Beyond Intelligent Design*, *Walk with the King*, etc.
 - But little by little, those programs and outside church connections were dropped, and Family Radio focused more and more on Camping's personal theological perspectives



Have you heard the awesome news?
The End of the World
is Almost Here!
It begins on

Judgment Day
May 21, 2011

The Bible Guarantees

Judgment Day
May 21, 2011
commandeth all men every where
because He has appointed a day,
in which He will judge the world... Acts 17:30-31

WOLFEY RADIO - AKRON: 1150 AM

CASTAR

"...blow the trumpet...warn the people"

Ezekiel 33:3

Judgment Day

October
~~May~~ **21, 2011**

THE BIBLE GUARANTEES IT!



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The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Do you guys remember Harold Camping?
 - After that, Camping withdrew from the public eye, promising to study the Scriptures more carefully to figure out what he'd counted up incorrectly—and Family Radio began distancing itself from his teachings
 - But the damage wasn't done only to Camping and Family Radio—Christianity itself got a huge black eye in public opinion from the debacle
 - Atheist groups held post-Rapture services, or jokingly raising money “to help survivors of any Armageddon-sized disaster,” or printing up cards to hand out to “survivors” that said, “You should have listened to Jesus!”
 - Larry Hicok, California's director of the American Atheists, summed up the backlash well when he argued, “The issue is the Bible is *mythology*...” and then went on to denigrate the concept of religion itself, saying that “Every ruler needs a religion. Everybody knows that's the way you get power.”



(which, to be fair, was pretty much what sci-fi writer L. Ron Hubbard had told a friend of his in 1948, leading him to start up his Scientology cult)



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 - Then again, nearby Calvary Bible Church held services to comfort those who had been “taken in” by Camping's preaching
 - As church deacon James Bynum said, “We are here because we care about these people. It's easy to mock them. But you can go kick puppies, too. But why?”
 - Whether or not you think that Calvary Bible had a caring heart or not by picketing the Family Radio studios with these signs is very much a matter of personal interpretation...



The Modern Age

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 - With all of the stress surrounding his failed “end times” prediction(s), Camping experienced a series of strokes, starting in June of 2011
 - But in 2012, Camping issued a statement on behalf of Family Radio, admitting that they sinned against God by disregarding Christ's statement in Matthew 24:36 that “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father,” saying that “humbly ask Him for forgiveness”



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 - But in 2012, Camping issued a statement on behalf of Family Radio
 - But he also added, “Yet though we were wrong, God is still using the May 21 warning in a very mighty way. In the months following May 21 the Bible has, in some ways, come out from under the shadows and is now being discussed by all kinds of people who never before paid any attention to the Bible... Reading about and even discussing about the Bible can never be a bad thing, even if the Bible’s authenticity is questioned or ridiculed... Even as God used sinful Balaam to accomplish His purposes, so He used our sin to accomplish His purpose of making the whole world acquainted with the Bible.”



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 - With all of the stress surrounding his failed “end times” prediction(s), Camping experienced a series of strokes, starting in June of 2011
 - So isn't a little doctrinal error okay to overlook, so long as sincere *ministry* is being done?
 - How important is Truth?



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The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Anyone wanna hazard a guess as to why I include this in a Church History class?
 - While campaigning for the Presidency, Kennedy's Catholicism was repeatedly called into question (history's only other Catholic candidate for the office had been 1928's Al Smith, whose loss to Herbert Hoover has been credited by many political scholars as in large part due to most Americans' anti-Catholic sentiments)



The Modern Age


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 - While campaigning for the Presidency, Kennedy's Catholicism was repeatedly called into question, and people were genuinely concerned that Kennedy would essentially be a puppet leader under the Pope (which is clearly ridiculous, and indicated just how frightened many WASPs were of anyone else) (and yet, to be fair to context, we need to remind ourselves that it had only been a decade since a Pope reminded the world that he was infallible and unquestionable when he spoke for God and history is replete with leaders who saw themselves as forced to placate the political dictates of Rome, or else face excommunication and since America had never *had* a Catholic President, no one was quite sure how all of that would work here...)



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 - Kennedy addressed this concern head-on—

“The question is whether I think that, if I were elected President, I would be divided between two loyalties: my church and my state. Let me just say that I would not. I have sworn to uphold the Constitution, in the fourteen years I’ve been in Congress, in the years I was in the service. The Constitution provides in the First Amendment that Congress shall make no laws abridging the freedom of religion. I must say I believe in it; I think it’s the only way that this country can go ahead... Secondly, Article 6 of the Constitution says there shall be no religious test for office. That’s what was written in the Constitution: Jefferson, Washington, and all the rest. They said every American will have an opportunity.”



I am not the Catholic candidate for President. I am the Democratic Party's candidate for President, who happens also to be a Catholic.

John F. Kennedy
35th U.S. President
(1917-1963)

The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Anyone wanna hazard a guess as to why I include this in a Church History class?
 - Now, let's test how far we've come as a nation
 - Do you think that it's a good idea that today, "there shall be no religious test for office" still for U.S. Presidents?
 - And yet, Evangelicals and atheists alike pounded on Mitt Romney for being a devout Mormon who was actively involved in his faith
 - And many people attack (even now) Barack Obama for being a Muslim—which, by all accounts, he *isn't*—as if being a Muslim were somehow equivalent to being anti-American, and thus clearly inappropriate for a President



A Mormon in the White House?

10 THINGS EV
SHOULD KNOW AB

HUGH

Can Mitt Romney Serve Two Masters?

The Mormon Church
Versus The Office Of The Presidency
of the United States of America



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 - Do you think that it's a good idea that today, “there shall be no religious test for office” still for U.S. Presidents?
 - FYI—in regard to his religious upbringing, Obama wrote: “In our household the Bible, the Koran, and the Bhagavad Gita sat on the shelf alongside books of Greek and Norse and African mythology. On Easter or Christmas Day my mother might drag me to church, just as she dragged me to the Buddhist temple, the Chinese New Year celebration, the Shinto shrine, and ancient Hawaiian burial sites. But I was made to understand that such religious samplings required no sustained commitment on my part. Religion was an expression of human culture, she would explain, not its wellspring, just one of the many ways—and not necessarily the best way—that man attempted to control the unknowable and understand the deeper truths about our lives.”
(let's be honest—that's not much different than what *most* of our recent Presidents other than Carter and Bush have held about the nature of faith and religion in general)



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 - **Similarly, note that when Cal Thomas asked Donald Trump who he thought Jesus is, he responded:**
"Jesus to me is somebody I can think about for security and confidence. Somebody I can revere in terms of bravery and in terms of courage and, because I consider the Christian religion so important, somebody I can totally rely on in my own mind."
(at another time, when questioned about if he had ever asked God for forgiveness, he replied:
"I am not sure I have. I just go on and try to do a better job from there. I don't think so. I think if I do something wrong, I think, I just try and make it right. I don't bring God into that picture. I don't.")



The Modern Age

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 - Anyone wanna hazard a guess as to why I include this in a Church History class?
 - Now, let's test how far we've come as a nation
 - **So what can we learn from all of that today—**specifically about how we perceive the interrelationship between U.S. Presidential candidates and their faiths?
 - How should we as American Evangelicals respond?



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CBN

