

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

- *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
 - *Modern Empire-Building*
 - *Post-War Religion*
 - *Conflicts of the "Greatest Generation"*
 - *The New Conservatism (part 4)*



The Modern Age

- How do you *live* as a conservative Christian?
 - 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
 - King was a rising leader in the civil rights movement
 - Born in Atlanta, Georgia, King was indeed named in memory of the historical German Reformer when he was five years old
 - He was originally named *Michael* King, Jr. but when his father, Rev. Michael King, Sr., travelled to Germany in 1934, he was inspired to legally change both of their names to honor the original Luther



The Modern Age

- How do you *live* as a conservative Christian?

1963

▪ Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march

- King was a rising leader in the civil rights movement

- Born in Atlanta, Georgia, King was indeed named in memory of the historical German Reformer when he was five years old

- Regularly beaten by his stern and self-righteous father, King struggled with chronic depression throughout his life

- In fact, when he was 12, he ran off to attend a local parade without his parents' permission—only to learn when he returned home that his grandmother had suffered a fatal heart attack so he attempted suicide by jumping out of a second-story window (clearly, he survived)

- This depression was exacerbated by feeling forced to break off his engagement to a German girl in college, since his friends argued that an interracial marriage would hurt his family as well as his chances of pastoring a church in the South

- So there's a context to why King struggled with bouts of adultery in his later marriage and ministry...



The Modern Age

- How do you *live* as a conservative Christian?
1963
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
 - King was a rising leader in the civil rights movement
 - Born in Atlanta, Georgia, King was indeed named in memory of the historical German Reformer when he was five years old
 - Regularly beaten by his stern and self-righteous father, King struggled with chronic depression throughout his life
 - Nonetheless, like his father, King became both a Baptist pastor and a staunch defender of civil rights for all people



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - That defense catapulted to the public eye in 1955 with a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, after Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white person
 - Colvin was an unwed, uncouth, pregnant, 15-year-old student, so though King's committee investigated the incident, they decided that she would probably not be a good candidate for a test case against segregation



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - That defense catapulted to the public eye in 1955 with a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, after Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white person
 - **But when, nine months later, Rosa Parks was arrested for doing the same thing, the committee took action**
 - Parks was the educated, upstanding secretary of the local NAACP, for whom she'd investigated the 1944 gang rape of Recy Taylor (which had ended with very little police investigation, no arrests, and the court case being thrown out)



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - That defense catapulted to the public eye in 1955 with a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, after Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white person
 - **But when, nine months later, Rosa Parks was arrested for doing the same thing, the committee took action**
 - Parks was the educated, upstanding secretary of the local NAACP, for whom she'd investigated the 1944 gang rape of Recy Taylor and the 1955 murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till—killed for flirting with a white girl (which had ended with acquittals for his murderers)



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - That defense catapulted to the public eye in 1955 with a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, after Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white person
 - **But when, nine months later, Rosa Parks was arrested for doing the same thing, the committee took action**
 - Parks was the educated, upstanding secretary of the local NAACP, for whom she'd investigated the 1944 gang rape of Recy Taylor and the 1955 murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till—killed for flirting with a white girl—and she was sick of the flagrant racism

(NOTE: Parks was sitting in the front row of the “colored” section of the crowded bus, but when more white passengers got on, the bus driver moved the sign back a few rows—which the law allowed drivers to do at their discretion—and demanded that the black passengers stand to provide seats for the new white passengers, since they were now retroactively sitting in the “whites only” section... and Parks refused to move)



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - That defense catapulted to the public eye in 1955 with a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, after Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white person
 - **But when, nine months later, Rosa Parks was arrested for doing the same thing, the committee took action**
 - Parks was the educated, upstanding secretary of the local NAACP, for whom she'd investigated the 1944 gang rape of Recy Taylor and the 1955 murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till—killed for flirting with a white girl—and she was sick of the flagrant racism
 - **Echoing the successful 1953 Baton Rouge bus boycott led by Rev. T.J. Jemison, the Montgomery Improvement Association and King called for a city-wide boycott of public transportation by blacks until the city made the dividing line between the bus sections immovable**
 - The boycott was so successful that
 - A) the whole segregational law was changed
 - B) King and other leaders were indicted for violating a 1921 statute that outlawed boycotts against businesses—and he chose to be imprisoned rather than pay the \$500 fine garnering him national attention



The Modern Age

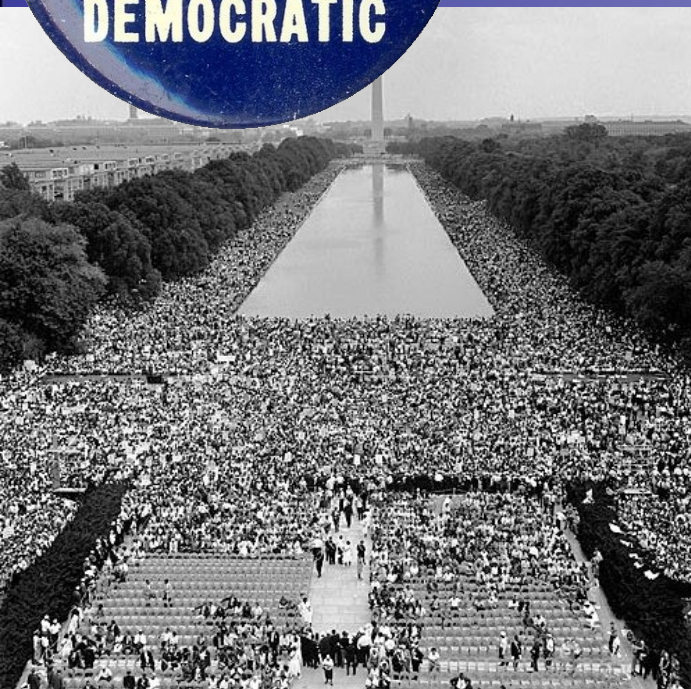
- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**
 - 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
 - King was a rising leader in the civil rights movement
 - In 1963, King led roughly 250,000 people in a nonviolent protest that culminated in a day of music and speeches on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.
 - Standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial (and consciously echoing the Gettysburg Address), King delivered arguably one of the greatest persuasive speeches in the history of the English language, sharing his dream for racial equality and genuine freedom for all people, regardless of skin color—and creating one of my all-time favorite quotes (especially in a socio-political context)
 - Interestingly, his natural genius for public speaking really kicked in near the end, when he began departing from his prepared notes and improvising, letting his inner “Baptist preacher” voice and cadence break out in ever-increasing waves of energy and enthusiasm

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - We'll revisit both Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement more in a larger context in a couple of weeks, but I wanted to include at least a reference to the March today for a few reasons
 - First, because you shouldn't get past 1963 without mentioning the profundity of that August day
 - Second, because to many traditionalists—and even a few radicals—this seemed like exactly the wrong thing to happen to America
 - To a lot of conservative, white traditionalists and segregationists, the March got lumped into the same pile with things like the loss of school prayer and Bible readings—a pseudo-communist attack on “our way of life” that will undermine classic, American values
(especially Democratic Senator Olin Johnson and Democratic Representative William Jennings Bryan Dorn—who argued that it was insane for Washington to actually *support* an enemy march into its own city limits)
(back in the day when the Democrats were the loudest segregationists)



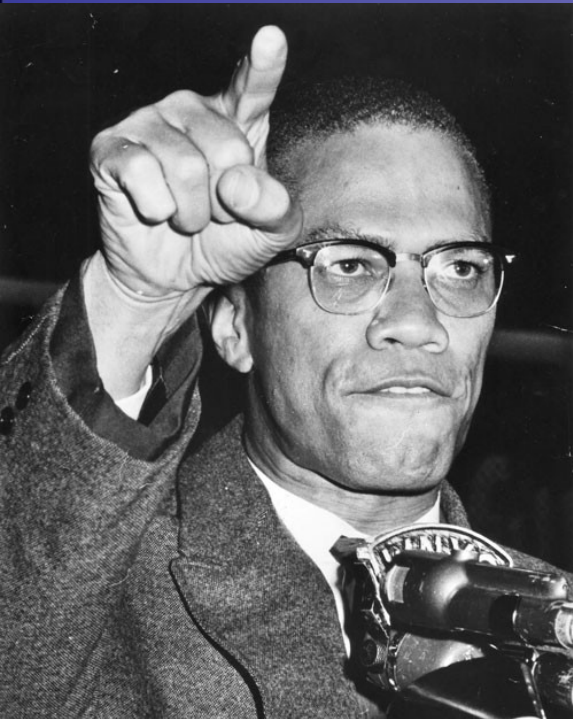


(this was also all just two months after Democratic Alabama Governor George Wallace had pulled an "Orval Faubus" to bar black students' entry into the U of A)



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - We'll revisit both Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement more in a larger context in a couple of weeks, but I wanted to include at least a reference to the March today for a few reasons
 - First, because you shouldn't get past 1963 without mentioning the profundity of that August day
 - Second, because to many traditionalists—and even a few radicals—this seemed like exactly the wrong thing to happen to America
 - To a lot of conservative, white traditionalists and segregationists...
 - Even to other black leaders such as Malcolm X, the event just seemed like a media circus, “an outing, a picnic” of integrated races which was devoid of any real passion or force for change
- “A revolution is bloody. Revolution is hostile. Revolution knows no compromise. Revolution overturns and destroys everything that gets in its way. And you, sitting around here like a knot on the wall, saying, “I’m going to love these folks no matter how much they hate me.” No, you need a revolution. Whoever heard of a revolution where they lock arms... singing “We Shall Overcome”? Just tell me. You don’t do that in a revolution.”



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - We'll revisit both Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement more in a larger context in a couple of weeks, but I wanted to include at least a reference to the March today for a few reasons
 - **And it was a racially integrated protest—between 20-25% of the participants were white**
 - Whether you see that as blunting Malcom X's purpose or supporting Martin Luther King's dream says a lot about what perspective on civil rights you're coming from in the first place
 - Just look at the celebrities who marched to see this in microcosm (like Harry Belafonte, Diahann Carroll, Charlton Heston, James Garner, Paul Newman, Marlon Brando, Sidney Poitier, James Baldwin, Burt Lancaster, Sammy Davis Jr., etc.)



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - We'll revisit both Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement more in a larger context in a couple of weeks, but I wanted to include at least a reference to the March today for a few reasons
 - And it was a racially integrated protest—between 20-25% of the participants were white
 - Whether you see that as blunting Malcom X's purpose or supporting Martin Luther King's dream says a lot about what perspective on civil rights you're coming from in the first place



- Just look at the celebrities who marched to see this in microcosm
- To some, this was the cause *du jour*, the “cool” thing to do
- To others, this was an extension of a *lifetime* of political liberality
- To others, this was an opportunity to express a righteous and understandable indignation
- To others, this was an opportunity to step out to actively, tangibly support the cause of racial equality and reconciliation in a peaceful and loving way

20th
CENTURY

The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - We'll revisit both Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement more in a larger context in a couple of weeks, but I wanted to include at least a reference to the March today for a few reasons
 - And it was a racially integrated protest—between 20-25% of the participants were white
 - Whether you see that as blunting Malcom X's purpose or supporting Martin Luther King's dream says a lot about what perspective on civil rights you're coming from in the first place



- The politically-savvy President John F. Kennedy calculatedly made it a point *not* to attend, nor to meet with leaders beforehand (so as not to give them any “sound bytes” to share in their speeches—nor to appear *too* supportive, in case things went as badly that day as Senator Johnson had warned that they would)

The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - We'll revisit both Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement more in a larger context in a couple of weeks, but I wanted to include at least a reference to the March today for a few reasons
 - And it was a racially integrated protest—between 20-25% of the participants were white
 - Whether you see that as blunting Malcom X's purpose or supporting Martin Luther King's dream says a lot about what perspective on civil rights you're coming from in the first place



- The politically-savvy President John F. Kennedy calculatedly made it a point *not* to attend, nor to meet with leaders beforehand, but then conspicuously met with leaders *afterwards* to give them his (retroactive, but genuine) full support
- It was a fragile time, with fragile alliances coming together from different perspectives to form a fragile vision...

The Modern Age

- How do you live as a conservative Christian?
 - 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
 - The ELSCNA dissolved in schism
 - If you'll remember, back in the 1830s, “Old Lutherans”
 - (who had protested King Friedrich Wilhelm III's mandated “Prussian Union” of Lutheran and Calvinist churches—which only worked if the two sides would just be willing to round off their more chafing, TULIP-y bits of theology so that everyone could worship happily together)



The Modern Age

- How do you live as a conservative Christian?

1963

Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march

The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

- If you'll remember, back in the 1830s, “Old Lutherans” had come to America in search of religious freedom, settling in the area now known as Wisconsin, while “New Lutherans” (from Saxony, who were much more willing to bend and flex to work within the Prussian Union)



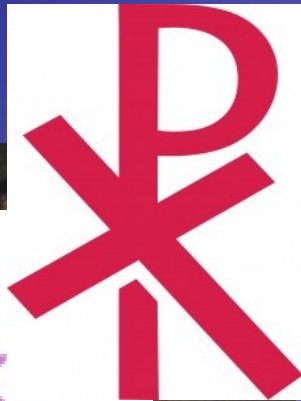
The Modern Age

- How do you live as a conservative Christian?
1963

Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march

The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

- If you'll remember, back in the 1830s, "Old Lutherans" had come to America in search of religious freedom, settling in the area now known as Wisconsin, while "New Lutherans" settled in the area around St. Louis
 - Thus, even today, the *Wisconsin Synod* Lutherans tend to lean more conservative and reactionary while the *Missouri Synod* Lutherans tend to be more open and generally accommodating to other viewpoints
 - There was also an Evangelical Lutheran Synod comprised of Minnesota's Norwegian churches and the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, which was a Slovakian group centered on the East Coast, as well as many smaller synods
- Together, all of the synods formed the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America (ELSCNA)



The Modern Age

- How do you live as a conservative Christian?

1963

Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march

The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

- If you'll remember, back in the 1830s, "Old Lutherans" had come to America in search of religious freedom, settling in the area now known as Wisconsin, while "New Lutherans" settled in the area around St. Louis
- By the 1950s, strains had developed between the various synods over issues such as predestination (i.e.; had sinners been predestined to become Christians because God *foreknew* that they'd eventually make a decision to follow Him, or had they been predestined by God to make that decision in the first place?)



The Modern Age

- How do you live as a conservative Christian?
1963

Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march

The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

- If you'll remember, back in the 1830s, "Old Lutherans" had come to America in search of religious freedom, settling in the area now known as Wisconsin, while "New Lutherans" settled in the area around St. Louis
- By the 1950s, strains had developed between the various synods over issues such as predestination and when the "mostly predestined" Missouri synod began to fellowship with the "totally predestined" Norwegians, the other "mostly predestined" Wisconsin synod charged both groups with heresy and denounced the Missouri group for changing their view on predestination (which they hadn't)
 - In 1955, the Norwegians left the ELSCNA because they realized that no one else agreed with them and the Wisconsin synod left in 1961 due to their absolute certainty that the Missouri synod *really did* agree with the Norwegians



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - So the Wisconsin synod joined with other conservative branches to form the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (which should not be confused with the Church of the Lutheran Confession, which had broken off from the Wisconsin group earlier, arguing that the Wisconsin churches hadn't abandoned the ELSCNA soon enough, and were therefore complicit in their heresy)



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - So the Wisconsin synod joined with other conservative branches to form the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference
 - The Missouri synod churches joined up with the Slovakian Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the newly-formed Lutheran Church in America and the oddly unrelated American Lutheran Church to form the short-lived Lutheran Council in the United States of America



The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - So the Wisconsin synod joined with other conservative branches to form the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference
 - The Missouri synod churches joined up with the Slovakian Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the newly-formed Lutheran Church in America and the oddly unrelated American Lutheran Church to form the short-lived Lutheran Council in the United States of America
(which split in 1987 when conservative ALC and LCMS pastors formed the American Association of Lutheran Churches out of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the liberal ALC, LCA, and LCMS pastors formed the *extremely* liberal Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)



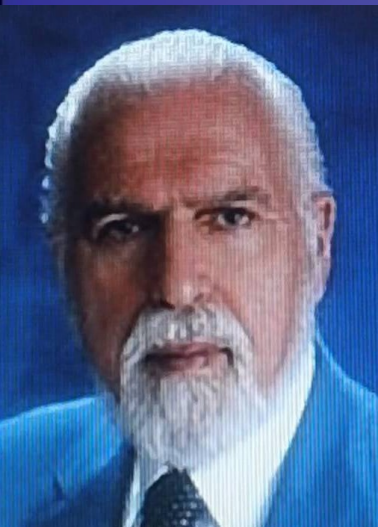
The Modern Age

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - So the Wisconsin synod joined with other conservative branches to form the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference
 - The Missouri synod churches joined up with the Slovakian Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the newly-formed Lutheran Church in America and the oddly unrelated American Lutheran Church to form the short-lived Lutheran Council in the United States of America
(which split in 1987 when conservative ALC and LCMS pastors formed the American Association of Lutheran Churches out of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the liberal ALC, LCA, and LCMS pastors formed the *extremely* liberal Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)
(so the next time that someone tells you that they're "Lutheran," don't mistakenly just assume that you know what in the world that means...)



The Modern Age

- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**
 - 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
The ELSCNA dissolved in schism
 - 1965 **The Chalcedon Foundation was founded**
 - **Founded by Rousas John Rushdoony**
(the son of an Armenian pastor who immigrated to New York in 1915 to flee from Turkey's Armenian Genocide that slaughtered 1.5 million Christians and deported 500,000 more)



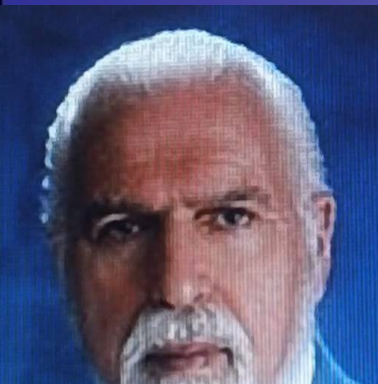
The Modern Age

- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**

1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

1965 The Chalcedon Foundation was founded

- Founded by Rousas John Rushdoony and named for the Council of Chalcedon (the Fourth Ecumenical Council back in 451 AD that had nailed down the “both/and” nature of Christ as simultaneously totally Divine and yet totally human but also made the argument that ideally, the secular state should be under the leadership of the church)



Man Orthodoxy **God**



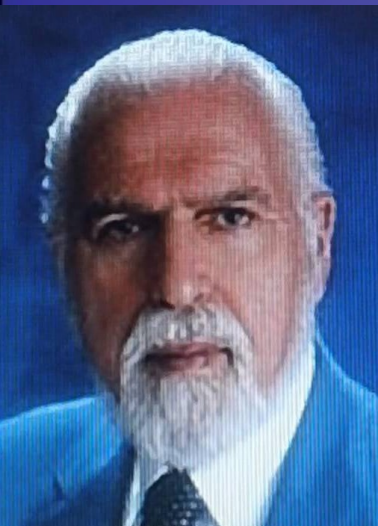
The Modern Age

- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**

1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

1965 The Chalcedon Foundation was founded

- Founded by Rousas John Rushdoony and named for the Council of Chalcedon, the Chalcedon Foundation is a Fundamentalist Calvinist group dedicated to Christian Reconstructionism, helping to bring about a theonomic society in America (i.e.; a society led by the rules and laws of God—including Old Testament laws such as the death penalty for adultery, bestiality, homosexuality, idolatry, witchcraft, disobedient children, etc.)



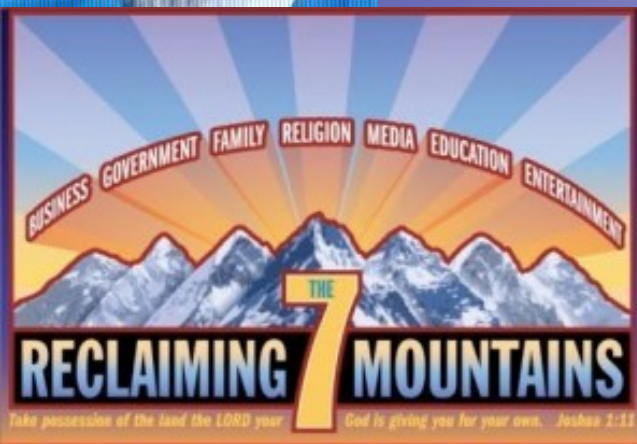
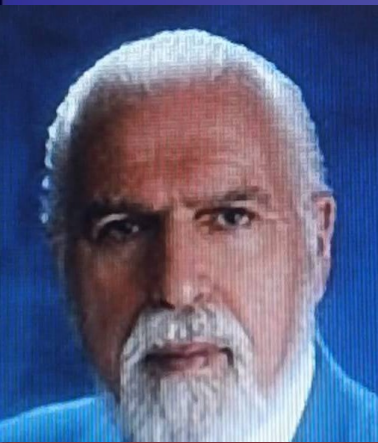
The Modern Age

- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**

1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

1965 **The Chalcedon Foundation was founded**

- Founded by Rousas John Rushdoony and named for the Council of Chalcedon, the Chalcedon Foundation is a Fundamentalist Calvinist group dedicated to Christian Reconstructionism, helping to bring about a theonomic society in America
- **Rushdoony and the Chalcedon Foundation have thus supported “Dominion Theology”**
(i.e.; the belief that “the creation mandate was precisely the requirement that man subdue the earth and exercise dominion over it” in the name of God, led by Christians whose “goal is the developed Kingdom of God, the New Jerusalem, a world order under God's law”)



The Modern Age

- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**

1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march

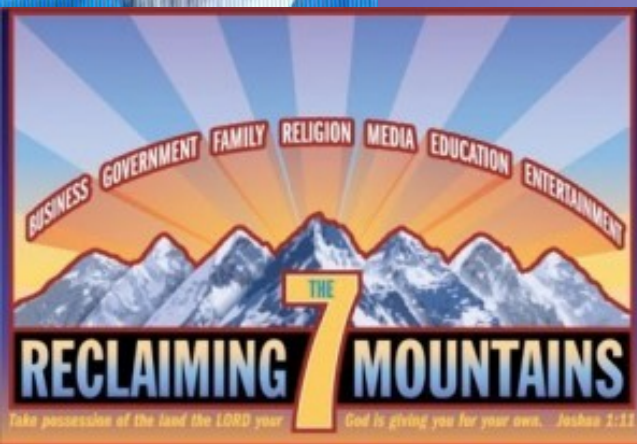
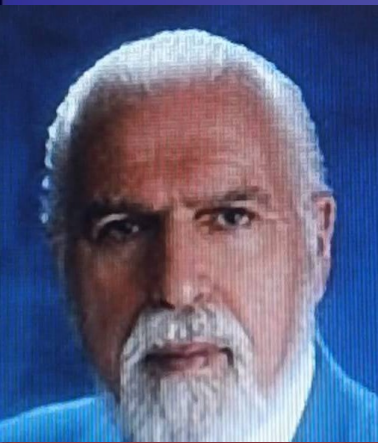
The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

1965 **The Chalcedon Foundation was founded**

- Founded by Rousas John Rushdoony and named for the Council of Chalcedon, the Chalcedon Foundation is a Fundamentalist Calvinist group dedicated to Christian Reconstructionism, helping to bring about a theonomic society in America

- **Rushdoony and the Chalcedon Foundation have thus supported “Dominion Theology” and have argued within that context that**

“The heresy of democracy has... worked havoc in church and state... Christianity and democracy are inevitably enemies... The only true order is founded on Biblical Law. All law is religious in nature, and every non-Biblical law-order represents an anti-Christian religion... The state must become Christian and apply Biblical law to every area of life, and apply the full measure of God’s law”



The Modern Age

- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**

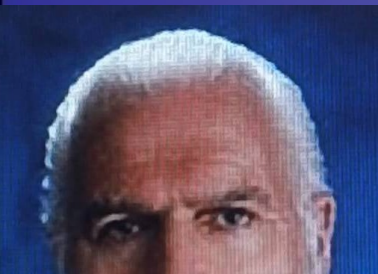
1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

1965 **The Chalcedon Foundation was founded**

- Founded by Rousas John Rushdoony and named for the Council of Chalcedon, the Chalcedon Foundation is a Fundamentalist Calvinist group dedicated to Christian Reconstructionism, helping to bring about a theonomic society in America
- **Rushdoony and the Chalcedon Foundation have thus supported “Dominion Theology” and have argued within that context that**

“The heresy of democracy has... worked havoc in church and state... Christianity and democracy are inevitably enemies... The only true order is founded on Biblical Law...”

(NOTE: God's law, according to Rushdoony, also precludes interracial and intercultural marriages—so all of those should be against the law and punishable as well, since God's clear demonstration in nature is that such “hybridization” results in sterility)



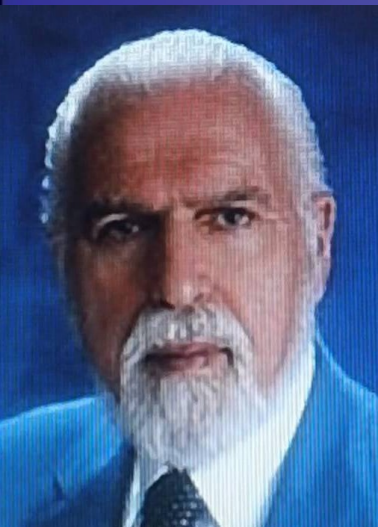
The Modern Age

- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**

1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

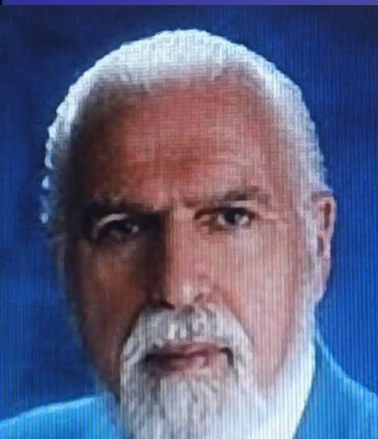
1965 **The Chalcedon Foundation was founded**

- Founded by Rousas John Rushdoony and named for the Council of Chalcedon, the Chalcedon Foundation is a Fundamentalist Calvinist group dedicated to Christian Reconstructionism, helping to bring about a theonomic society in America
- Rushdoony and the Chalcedon Foundation have thus supported “Dominion Theology”
- **Amazingly, most non-Christians don't much like the basic idea of Christian Reconstructionism and even most of the “Christian Right” kinda hold Christian Reconstructionists like Rushdoony at arm's length, because they're political poison (a synopsis which Rushdoony himself would've totally loved, since he saw Christianity and the modern American political system as inherently incompatible)**



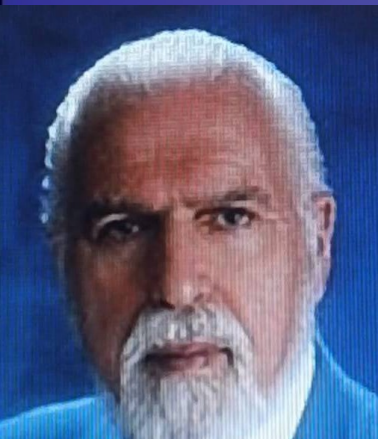
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Part of why I bring all of this up is that, in the 1960s, as part of the Christian Reconstructionist movement, Rushdoony wrote a series of books attacking all secular education as inherently anti-Christian
 - He thus began articulating the need for a Christian-focused homeschooling movement to rise up, so that parents could protect their children from the anti-Biblical mindsets that they'd receive from attending schools not strictly based on Biblical principles
- (NOTE: Even schools like Peoria Christian and Aletheia here in Peoria would probably fall under Rushdoony's condemnation, since they don't strictly apply Biblical disciplinary mandates, what with allowing races into intermingle and having to work within the legal strictures of a fallen, secular system—since Rushdoony noted positively that “when New England passed laws requiring the death penalty for incorrigible delinquents and for children who struck their parents, no executions were necessary: the law kept the children in line”)



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Part of why I bring all of this up is that, in the 1960s, as part of the Christian Reconstructionist movement, Rushdoony wrote a series of books attacking all secular education as inherently anti-Christian
 - He thus began articulating the need for a Christian-focused homeschooling movement to rise up, so that parents could protect their children from the anti-Biblical mindsets that they'd receive from attending schools not strictly based on Biblical principles
 - Thus, thanks to Rushdoony, the Christian Homeschool movement was launched—and for the first time in history, Christian families became institutionally encouraged to teach their children at home as a specific, direct application of their disdain for secular education



(NOTE: Before anyone accosts me after class, I'm not saying that the Christian homeschooling movement is thus the same thing as Rushdoony's theonomy and Christian Reconstructionism ideas—I'm just trying to help everyone realize that its inception originally came out of those roots)



The Modern Age

- How do you live as a conservative Christian?

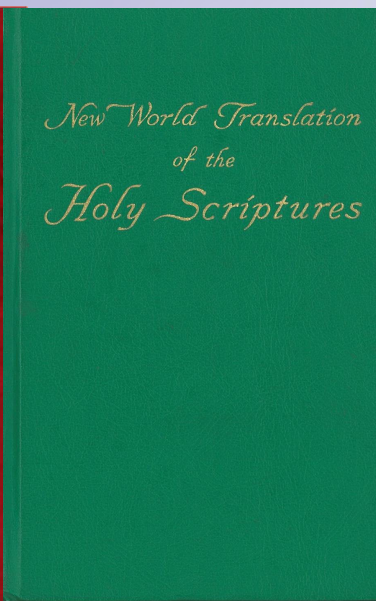
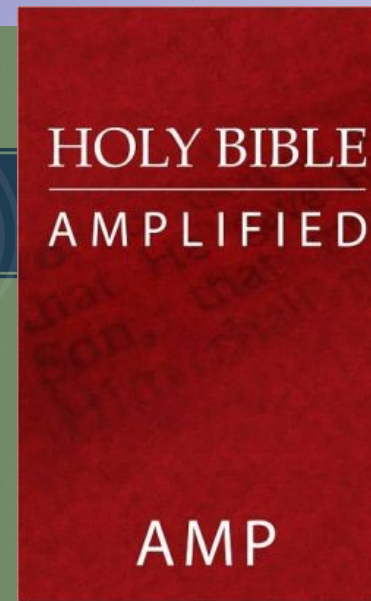
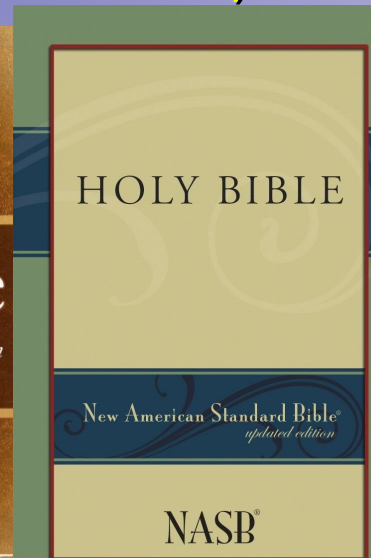
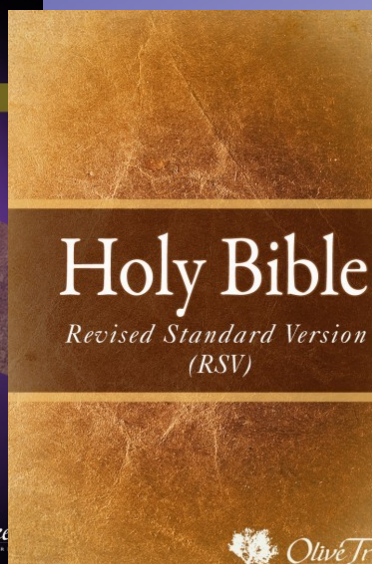
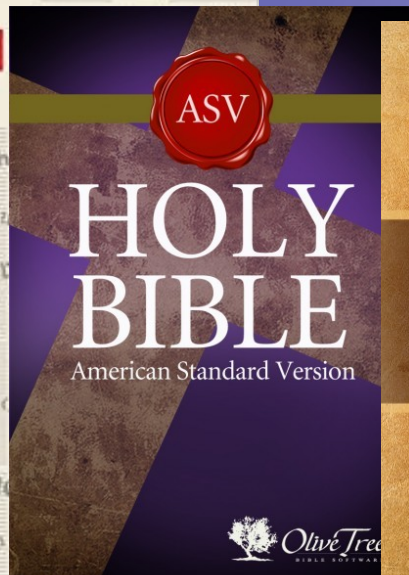
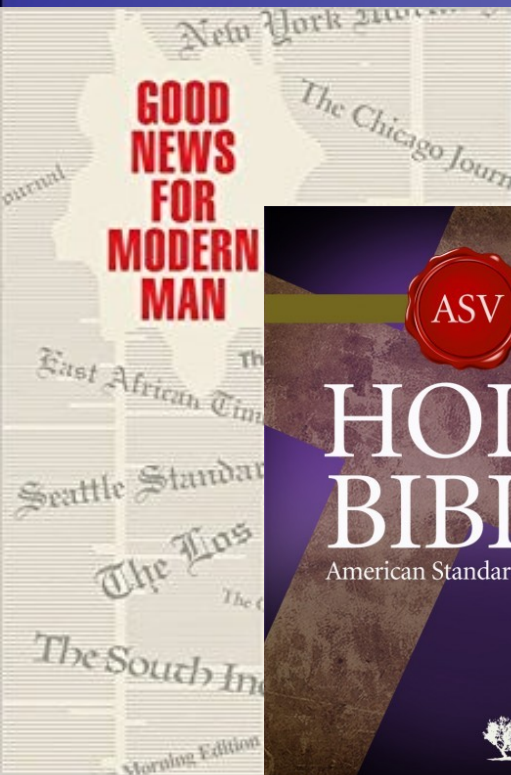
1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march

The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

1965 The Chalcedon Foundation was founded

1966 *Good News for Modern Man* was published

- Clearly, we know that there were a lot of English translations of the Bible floating around by 1966 (the *American Standard Version* had given rise to the later *Revised Standard Version* (1946), the *New American Standard Bible* (1963), and even the *Amplified Bible* (1965), while the Jehovah's Witnesses had created their own *New World Translation* in 1950)



The Modern Age

- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**

1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march

The ELSCNA dissolved in schism

1965 The Chalcedon Foundation was founded

1966 *Good News for Modern Man* was published

- Clearly, we know that there were a lot of English translations of the Bible floating around by 1966, but the American Bible Society realized that people for whom English is a second language could really use a translation that was easy for them to understand

- Turning to the theories of linguist Eugene Nida, they published the New Testament for the *Good News for Modern Man* in 1966



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Nida had an interesting theory about how to translate works from one language to another, called “dynamic equivalence”
 - Classic translations tended to fall into two camps:
 - A) Word-for-word, formal translations
 - B) Idiomatic paraphrases(NOTE: Each of those kinds of translations has its pros and cons—since formal translations can be clunky and difficult to understand
(For example, if you translated the Polish “*Śłoń nastąpił ci na ucho?*” directly into English, you’d get, “Did an elephant step on your ear?” which means...?)



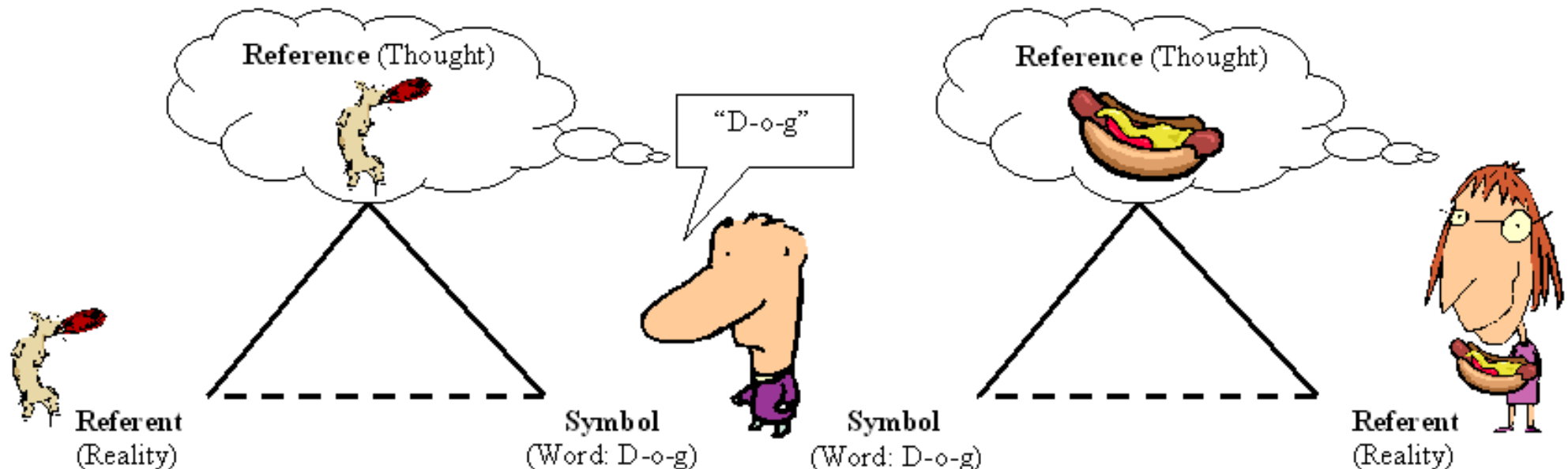
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Nida had an interesting theory about how to translate works from one language to another, called “dynamic equivalence”
 - Classic translations tended to fall into two camps:
 - A) Word-for-word, formal translations
 - B) Idiomatic paraphrases(NOTE: Each of those kinds of translations has its pros and cons—since formal translations can be clunky and difficult to understand, while paraphrases can often miss the poetry and even the *point* of the original)
(For example, if you were to update Lincoln's “Four score and seven years ago” into a more modern “87 years ago,” what might you lose?)



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Nida had an interesting theory about how to translate works from one language to another, called “dynamic equivalence”
 - Classic translations tended to fall into two camps
 - Nida argued that the best kind of translation makes use of a concept illustrated by the Ogden-Richards triangle
 - Thus, the *best* translation would attempt to convey as much of the reference—structurally as well as intellectually—as possible, which may require shifting some specific elements around a bit



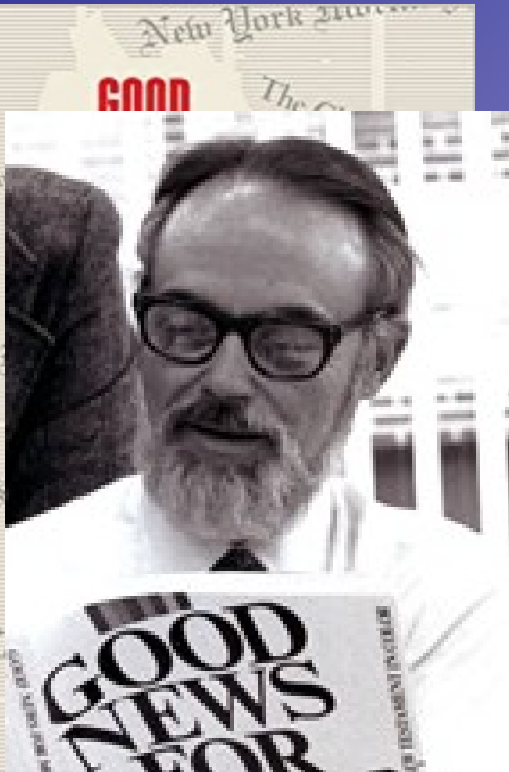
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Nida had an interesting theory about how to translate works from one language to another, called “dynamic equivalence”
 - Classic translations tended to fall into two camps
 - Nida argued that the best kind of translation makes use of a concept illustrated by the Ogden-Richards triangle
 - Thus, the *best* translation would attempt to convey as much of the reference—structurally as well as intellectually—as possible, which may require shifting some specific elements around a bit
 - As an example, if you were translating a Spanish novel, how would you best translate the trite idiom, “*Cuatro ojos ven más que dos*” into English?
 - The literal “four eyes see more than two”?
 - A paraphrased “let’s work together on this”?
 - A dynamic “two heads are better than one”?
- (NOTE: There’s always a trade-off in translation...)



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Nida had an interesting theory about how to translate works from one language to another, called “dynamic equivalence”
 - *Good News for Modern Man* (AKA the *Good News Translation*) thus made use of a dynamic equivalence to translate from the Hebrew and Greek into a simple and idiomatic modern English
 - But that meant that much of the final text was ultimately up to the *personal* understandings of the translators and the chief translator, Dr. Robert Bratcher, had many strong opinions on issues
 - For instance, he argued against inerrancy—
“Often in the past and still too often in the present, to affirm that the Bible is the Word of God implies that the *words* of the Bible are the *words* of God. Such simplistic and absolute terms divest the Bible altogether of its humanity and remove it from the relativism of the historical process. No one *seriously* claims *all* the words of the Bible are the *very words* of God...”

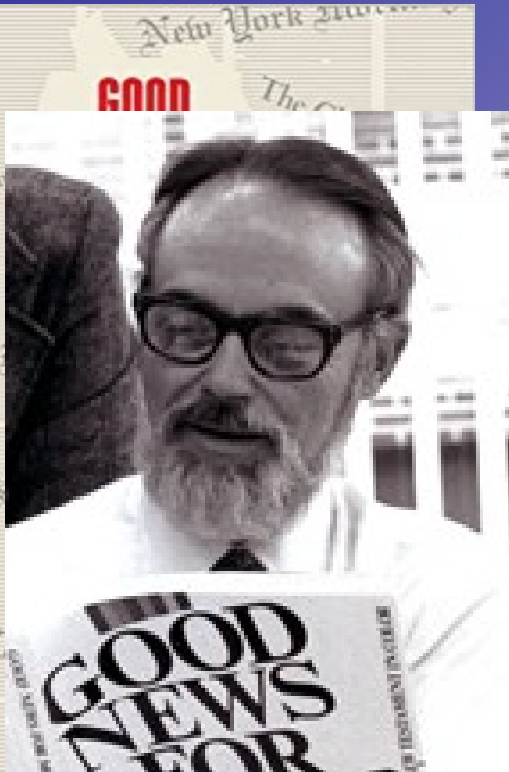


The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Nida had an interesting theory about how to translate works from one language to another, called “dynamic equivalence”
 - *Good News for Modern Man* (AKA the *Good News Translation*) thus made use of a dynamic equivalence to translate from the Hebrew and Greek into a simple and idiomatic modern English
 - But that meant that much of the final text was ultimately up to the *personal* understandings of the translators and the chief translator, Dr. Robert Bratcher, had many strong opinions on issues
 - For instance, he argued against inerrancy
 - And the GNT translates some verses oddly—

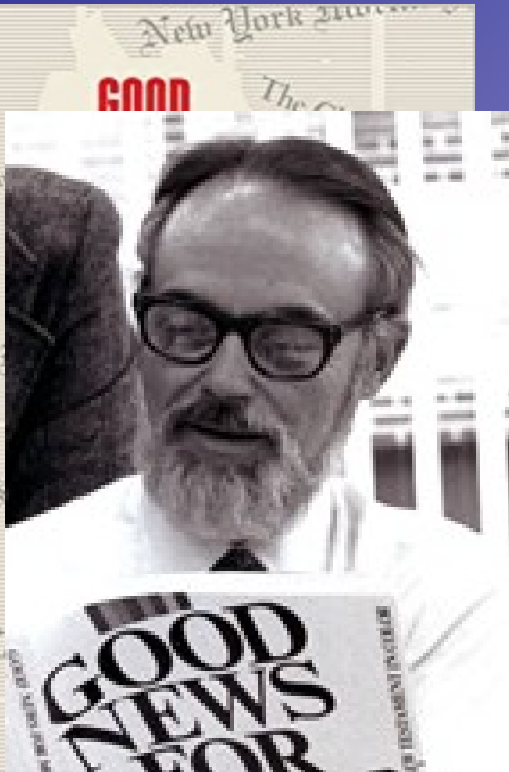
“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood...” [a literal translation of Acts 20:28]

“So keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock which the Holy Spirit has placed in your care. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he made his own through the blood of his Son...” [GNT]



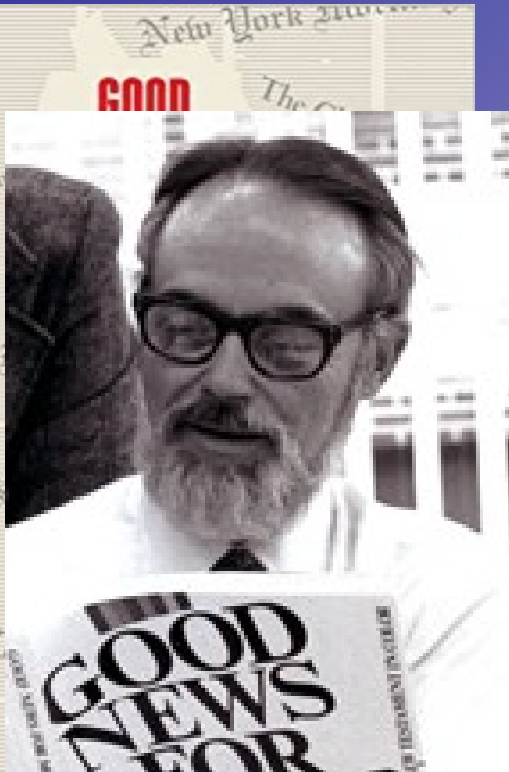
The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Nida had an interesting theory about how to translate works from one language to another, called “dynamic equivalence”
 - *Good News for Modern Man* (AKA the *Good News Translation*) thus made use of a dynamic equivalence to translate from the Hebrew and Greek into a simple and idiomatic modern English
 - But that meant that much of the final text was ultimately up to the *personal* understandings of the translators and the chief translator, Dr. Robert Bratcher, had many strong opinions on issues
 - For instance, he argued against inerrancy
 - And the GNT translates some verses oddly—
 - “For in Him all the fullness of divinity dwells in bodily form...” [a literal translation of Colossians 2:9]
 - “For the full content of divine nature lives in Christ, *in his humanity*...” [GNT]



The Modern Age

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Nida had an interesting theory about how to translate works from one language to another, called “dynamic equivalence”
 - *Good News for Modern Man* (AKA the *Good News Translation*) thus made use of a dynamic equivalence to translate from the Hebrew and Greek into a simple and idiomatic modern English
 - But that meant that much of the final text was ultimately up to the *personal* understandings of the translators and the chief translator, Dr. Robert Bratcher, had many strong opinions on issues
 - For instance, he argued against inerrancy
 - And the GNT translates some verses oddly—
The angel appeared “to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary...” [a literal translation of Luke 1:27]
“He had a message for a *young woman* promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary...” [GNT]



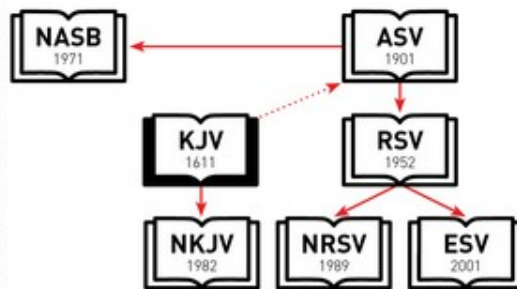
The Modern Age

Arguably, the GNT is more a “functional equivalence” while the NIV is a fairly literal “dynamic equivalence”

COMPARISON OF ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

FORMAL EQUIVALENCE WORD FOR WORD

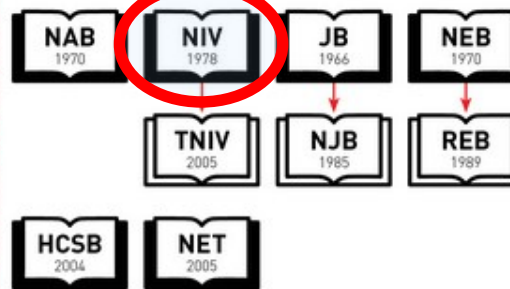
- **theory:** 'literal' or *word-for-word*
- **aim:** to retain the *form*, i.e. the words and structure, of the original text as much as possible
- **result:** an English translation that is primarily accurate, yet also comprehensible



ASV	= American Standard Version
ESV	= English Standard Version
KJV	= King James Version
NASB	= New American Standard Bible
NKJV	= New King James Version
NRSV	= New Revised Standard Version
RSV	= Revised Standard Version

DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE MEANING FOR MEANING

- **theory:** mediating between 'literal' and 'idiomatic'
- **aim:** to retain the *form* of the original text where possible, without compromising its *function*, i.e. to convey meaning
- **result:** an English translation that is both accurate and clear.

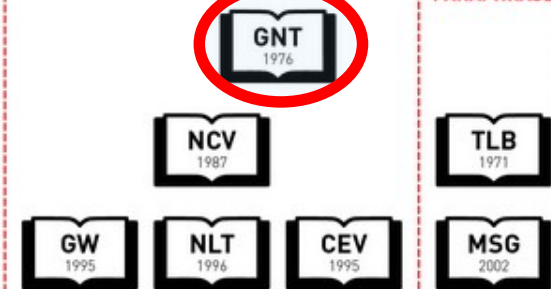


HCSB	= Holman Christian Standard Bible
JB	= Jerusalem Bible (Roman Catholic)
NAB	= New American Bible (Roman Catholic)
NEB	= New English Bible
NET	= New English Translation (online translation)
NIV	= New International Version
NJB	= New Jerusalem Bible (Roman Catholic)
TNIV	= Today's New International Version
REB	= Revised English Bible

FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE RE-WORDING FOR MEANING

- **theory:** 'idiomatic' or *meaning-for-meaning*
- **aim:** to retain the *function* of the original text, i.e. to convey meaning, as much as possible
- **result:** to produce an English translation that is primarily natural and easy to understand

Paraphrase = re-wording a text in the *same* language, rather than translating it from one language to *another*.



CEV	= Contemporary English Version
GNT	= Good News Translation (Good News Bible)
GW	= God's Word
MSG	= The Message
NCV	= New Century Version
NLT	= New Living Translation
TLB	= The Living Bible

The Modern Age

- **How do you live as a conservative Christian?**
 - 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march
The ELSCNA dissolved in schism
 - 1965 The Chalcedon Foundation was founded
 - 1966** *Good News for Modern Man* was published
The Hare Krishna cult was founded

