

HISTORY of CHRISTIANITY

Part VI – Into all the World: The Christian Movement in an Age of Uncertainty

(A.D. 1789 - 1989)

Significant Events and Landmarks of the Era

- 1761: Birth of William Carey in Paulerspury.
1779: William Carey is converted.
1786: Carey becomes pastor of Moulton.
1789: Carey becomes pastor of Leicester.
May 31, 1791: Carey preaches his famous sermon (Is. 54:1-5).
1792: Carey publishes *An Enquiry*....
Oct 1792: Carey founds the Baptist Missionary Society.
Jun 13 1793: Carey and family sail from England headed for India.
1799: Joshua Marshman and William Ward join Carey at Serampore.
1809: Charles Darwin is born.
1810: Carey calls for strategy for world evangelization.
1813: David Livingstone is born in Scotland.
1818: Karl Marx is born.
1820: Friedreich Engels is born.
1829: The practice of *sati* is abolished.
1830: Alexander Duff arrives in India.
1832: Hudson Taylor is born.
1834: Carey dies.
1844: Friedreich Nietzsche is born.
1848: *Communist Manifesto* is published.
1853: Hudson Taylor goes to China.
1856: Sigmund Freud is born.
1858: Livingstone leads expedition to River Zambesi.
1859: Darwin publishes his *The Origin of Species*.
1865: Hudson Taylor founds the China Inland Mission.
1871: Darwin publishes his *The Descent of Man*.
1873: David Livingstone dies.
Nov. 25, 1881: John XXIII is born.
1882: Charles Darwin dies.
1883: Karl Marx dies.
May 10, 1886: Karl Barth is born.
April 20, 1889: Adolf Hitler is born.
1892: Martin Niemoller is born.
1893: Reinhold Niebuhr is born.
1894: H. Richard Niebuhr is born.
1895: Friedreich Engels dies.
1900: Friedreich Nietzsche dies.
1900: Heinrich Himmler is born.
1905: Hudson Taylor dies.
Feb. 4, 1906: Dietrich Bonhoeffer is born.
1907: Hitler travels to Vienna.
1910: The first International Missionary Conference at Edinburgh.
1913: Hitler travels to Munich.
1919: Karl Barth publishes *On the Epistle to the Romans*.
May 18, 1920: Karol Josef Wojtyla (John Paul II) is born.
April 16, 1927: Joseph Ratzinger is born.
March 19, 1928: Hans Kung is born.
October 2, 1928: Wolfhard Pannenberg is born.
1933: Hitler is named chancellor.
1933: Martin Niemöler organizes resistance to the Nazi church takeover.
1933-1945: Hitler rules Germany.
1933-1938: Nazis persecute the Jews in Germany.
1934: Karl Barth drafts the *Barmen Declaration*.
1937: Martin Niemoller is arrested.
1939: Sigmund Freud dies.
1942: The National Association of Evangelicals is formed.
1942-1945: The first concentration camps are built.
April 9, 1945: Dietrich Bonhoeffer is executed.
1945: Hitler commits suicide and Third Reich ends.
1945: Heinrich commits suicide.
1946: Karol Josef Wojtyla is ordained a priest.
1947: Carl Henry's book, *The Uneasy Conscience of Modern Fundamentalism*, is published.
1956: Karol Josef Wojtyla is appointed professor of ethics at University of Lublin.
1958: John XXIII is elected pope.
1958: Karol Josef Wojtyla is consecrated bishop.
1960: John XXIII creates the Secretariat for Christian Unity.
1960: Hans Kung publishes *The Council, Reform, and Reunion*.
August, 1961: Berlin Wall is erected.
1962: H. Richard Niebuhr dies.
1962: Karl Barth retires.
1962: John Paul convenes Second Vatican Council.
June 3, 1963: John XXIII dies.
1964: Karol Josef Wojtyla becomes archbishop of Krakow.
1966: Billy Graham and Carl Henry convene the World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin.
1967: Karol Josef Wojtyla is made a cardinal.
1967: Pannenberg begins teaching at University of Munich.
December 9, 1968: Karl Barth dies.
1971: Reinhold Niebuhr dies.
October 16, 1978: Cardinal Karol Wojtyla is elected pope.
1984: Martin Niemoller dies.
November 9, 1989: Citizens of East and West Berlin converge on the Berlin Wall.

Who's Who of the Era

WILLIAM CAREY: Born at Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, Carey, an English Baptist, was converted in 1779. He became pastor of Baptist churches Moulton (1786) and then Harvey Land in Leicester (1789). He was deeply influenced by Jonathan Edwards' theology. Carey published *An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen* in 1792. He took Jesus' "Great Commission" very seriously, and in October 1792, he helped found the Baptist Missionary Society, the first foreign missionary organization created by the Evangelical Revival. Carey and his wife, Dorothy, and children sailed to India the following year. In 1799, Joshua Marshman and William Ward joined Carey at Serampore, and for the next quarter-century, the three men worked together to organize a network of mission stations in and beyond Bengal. Carey also translated the New Testament into Bengali and, in his lifetime, accomplished much for the Gospel in India.

ALEXANDER DUFF: Duff arrived in India in 1830 and chose to work in the area of higher education. He felt that the teaching of science, philosophy and Christian doctrine would undermine the foundations of Hinduism. Drawn to him were young Hindu intellectuals who were disillusioned with old corruptions and institutions. But most of their students remained non-Christian and Hinduism did not crumble, as Duff had hoped.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE: Livingstone, famous missionary and explorer, was born in Scotland in 1813. As a medical doctor, he served under the London Missionary Society (starting in South Africa) from 1841 to 1856. During this time (1851 to 1856), Livingstone walked across Africa from west to east. He recorded his travels in *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* (1857). In 1858, he led a British government expedition to explore the River Zambesi, but it was considered a failure. He landed in Zanzibar in 1866 and worked with the East African interior until his death in 1873. During his missionary work, he preached the gospel, fought social ills such as the slave trade, and relieved many peoples' sufferings. After his death, the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland opened Central African missions and continued his work in Africa.

From David Livingstone's personal journal: "I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity."

HUDSON TAYLOR: James Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) went to China in 1853 as a missionary with the Chinese Evangelization Society. After severing ties with the Chinese Evangelization Society, Taylor stayed in China, working as an independent missionary until 1860, when bad health forced him to return home. In 1865, he completed his medical training. In 1865, he founded the China Inland Mission, the first interdenominational foreign mission. Taylor's dream was to bring the gospel to every unevangelized province of China. He relied only on prayer for financial support.

KARL MARX (1818-1883) AND FRIEDREICH ENGELS (1820-1895): Authors of the *Communist Manifesto* (1848), the document of socialism and communism, Marx and Engels claimed that the capitalists, or bourgeois, had enslaved the workingmen, or proletariat. They urged the proletariat to revolt and set up a planned economy in which the government would own all property. Marx and Engels wrote "The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing conditions. Let the ruling

classes tremble at a communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Working men of all countries, unite!" Engels, born in Barmen, Germany, also wrote *The Condition of the Working Class in England* in 1844 and *The Peasants' War in Germany* in 1850. Marx, the German writer and social philosopher wrote *Das Kapital*. The document became the guidebook of the Communist movement.

CHARLES DARWIN: The crisis of the theory of evolution came to a head when naturalist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) published his *The Origin of Species* (in 1859), and its sequel, *The Descent of Man* (in 1871). The idea of evolution wasn't new but had been advocated by ancient Greek philosopher, Anaximander. Charles Lyell had published *The Principles of Geology* in the 1830s, and Robert Chambers' *The Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* was published in 1844. The evolutionists rejected the Bible's creation story in Genesis 1 and said that the world had evolved over millions of years, possibly from a single prototype being. Darwin set out the principle of natural selection or "the survival of the fittest." Needless to say, his theory of evolution was received with mixed reviews.

SIGMUND FREUD: "Religion is an attempt to get control over the sensory world in which we are placed, by means of the wish-world, which we have developed inside us as a result of biological and psychological necessities," wrote psychologist Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). An atheist, Freud believed that all knowledge comes through the sciences. He described religion as "the universal obsessional neurosis of humanity."

Freud's ideas have influenced the whole of modern psychology.

FRIEDREICH NIETZSCHE: "The most important of more recent events — that 'God is dead,' that the belief in the Christian God has become unworthy of belief — already begins to cast its first shadows over Europe," wrote Nietzsche (1844-1900). In the 1930s, the Nazis adopted Nietzsche as a prophet of their new order. Nietzsche regarded himself as a "prophet of the death of God" and a spokesman for "liberated humanity." [Note: The most uncompromising writer on the death of God would be American, Thomas J. J. Altizer. Drawing his inspiration from Nietzsche (also Hegel and Blake), he asserts that God died when Christ died on the cross.]

H. RICHARD NIEBUHR AND REINHOLD NIEBUHR: H. Richard Niebuhr (1894-1962) criticized liberal theology. "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgement through the ministration of a Christ without a cross," he wrote. His brother, Reinhold Niebuhr (1893-1971), was the most important theologian in America in the 1930s and 1940s. A pastor in Detroit, he found liberalism and moral idealism inadequate for the pastoral problems he faced. He was particularly concerned with social and political ethics. He was influenced by Kierkegaard and Karl Barth. Niebuhr founded the Fellowship of Socialist Christians. In 1932, he wrote his first major work, *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. He wrote *The Nature and Destiny of Man* in 1941-43. He stressed that the final answer to the human problem lay beyond history in the love of God and the cross of Christ.

KARL BARTH: Karl Barth was born in Basel, Switzerland, on May 10, 1886. He is considered the greatest Protestant theologian of the 20th century and possibly the greatest since the Reformation. He studied at the universities of Bern, Berlin, Tübingen, and Marburg. He was a pastor in Switzerland between 1909 and 1921.

Between 1921 and 1935, Barth taught at Gottingen, Munster, and Bonn. With the rise of Hitler, Barth emerged as a leader of the church opposition to Nazi control. He expressed this opposition in the Barmen Declaration of 1934. From 1935 to 1962 (his retirement), Barth taught at Basel. Barth's commentary on Romans (1919) marked a break with liberalism. The volume dealt with the sovereignty of God, God's grace and revelation, and human finiteness and sinfulness. During World War I, he became convinced that liberal theology was bankrupt. He was influenced greatly by Luther and Calvin and Kierkegaard. "The Gospel falls upon man as God's own mighty Word, questioning him down to the bottom of his being, uprooting him from his securities and satisfactions, and therefore tearing clean asunder all the relations that keep him prisoner within his own ideals in order that he may be genuinely free for God and for his wonderful new work of grace in Jesus Christ," he wrote. Barth died on December 9, 1968.

MATTHIAS GRÜNEWALD: Born Mathis Gothart in Würzburg, Germany, Grünewald was one of the greatest artists of the German Renaissance. Grünewald (1475?-1528?) is known primarily as the painter of the *Isenheim Altarpiece*, one of the world's greatest paintings. The altarpiece is about eight feet high. It is composed of a number of panels which are hinged together so that they swing open and reveal sculptured figures behind them. When the panels are closed, the crucifixion appears on the outside, with other religious scenes on the inside panels.

ADOLF HITLER: Hitler ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945. He established a brutal totalitarian regime under the banner of National Socialism, or Nazism. His rule led to World War II, culminated in Germany's defeat, and reordered world power relationships. Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, in Austria. In hopes of becoming an artist, Hitler travelled to Vienna in 1907 but was met with failure. In 1913, he went to Munich and served in the Bavarian sixteenth Regiment during World War I. His political rise began in 1919. Author of *Mein Kampf*, Hitler emerged as the NSDAP's (National Socialist German Workers' Party) leader in 1925.

Hitler was named chancellor on January 30, 1933. In August 1934, Hitler adopted the title of "Führer" (or supreme leader) of the Third Reich. As Führer, Hitler established the "New Order" in occupied Europe, a system based on terror, forced labour, and concentration camps. Under the cover of war, he began the "Final solution of the Jewish Question," which began the Holocaust. The disintegration of the Third Reich and the end of the Fascist era began when on April 30, 1945, a defeated Hitler committed suicide.

HEINRICH HIMMLER: "We shall not rest until we have rooted out Christianity," wrote Heinrich Himmler (1900-1945), one of the most sinister leaders of Nazi Germany. Head of the German police, he ordered the deaths of millions of persons. Born in Munich, he was an early and faithful follower of Adolf Hitler. He committed suicide in 1945 after Allied troops captured him.

MARTIN NIEMÖLLER: Friedrich Gustav Emil Martin Niemöller was born January 1, 1892. Like Karl Barth, Niemöller, a Protestant, opposed the National Socialism of Germany. Educated at Munster, he was a submarine commander during World War I. Niemöller was pastor of the Berlin-Dahlem church in 1931.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, Niemöller preached against the neopagan regime. He also formed the Pastors' Emergency League (1933), which became the German Confessing Church in 1934. It was at the Synod of Barmen in May, 1934, that the German Confessing Church issued a

declaration openly declaring its resistance to Hitler and the Nazis. Niemöller was arrested in 1937 and sent to Sachsenhausen and then to Dachau. He survived his imprisonment and became president of the territorial church of Hesse and Nassau, and president of the World Council of Churches (1961-68). Niemöller died on March 6, 1984.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER: A German Lutheran pastor and theologian, born on February 4, 1906, Bonhoeffer was imprisoned at Buchenwald and executed on April 9, 1945. Bonhoeffer believed that Christian discipleship meant costly involvement in modern secular society. Greatly influenced by Karl Barth, Bonhoeffer studied theology at Berlin. He began his ministry as the Nazi party rose to power in Germany.

Bonhoeffer joined the Confessing Church, which opposed Hitler. He taught in Berlin. On a lecture tour in the United States at the outbreak of World War II, he immediately returned to Germany. He joined a group of conspirators who worked for the downfall of Hitler. His best-known works are *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Letters and Papers from Prison*.

WOLFHART PANNENBERG: Born on October 2, 1928, Pannenberg studied under Karl Jaspers and Karl Barth. He began teaching systematic theology at the University of Munich in 1967, where he still teaches today. His works include *Basic Questions in Theology: Collected Essays, Faith and Reality, The Idea of God and Human Freedom, Jesus — God and Man, Theology and the Kingdom of God, Theology and the Philosophy of Science, What Is Man?*, and *Anthropology in Theological Perspective*.

JOHN XXIII: Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli served as pope from 1958 to 1963. He began his career in the Vatican diplomatic corps in 1925. Pope Pius XI named him apostolic delegate to Turkey and Greece in 1935. After serving as nuncio to France and Vatican observer at UNESCO, he was made a cardinal (named as patriarch of Venice) in 1953. As pope, he steered the Roman Catholic church toward the goal of reunion with other Christians and in 1960 created the Secretariat for Christian Unity. John XXIII was born on November 25, 1881, and died on June 3, 1963.

JOHN PAUL II: Born Karol Josef Wojtyła, on May 18, 1920, he is the first Polish pope and the first non-Italian pope elected since the 16th century (in 456 years). He was born to a Polish army officer in Wadowice, Poland, and attended an underground seminary during the World War II German occupation. He later studied in Rome and at the University of Krakow.

Wojtyła was:

- ordained a priest in 1946,
- appointed professor of ethics at the University of Lublin (1956),
- consecrated bishop (1958),
- became archbishop of Krakow (1964),
- made a cardinal (1967),
- elected pope (October 16, 1978).

As pope, he is committed to justice and peace, and has encouraged a social order that encourages human dignity. He has criticized the injustices of both Communism and capitalism. He has also sought to affirm the identity of Roman Catholicism by implementing the directives of the Second Vatican Council. He has condemned homosexuality (1986) as well as new medical technologies that

deal with human reproduction (1987). He has survived two assassination attempts: St. Peter's Square (1981) and Portugal (1982).

JOSEPH RATZINGER: Joseph Alois Ratzinger was born April 16, 1927. A German churchman, he was a professor of theology until he became archbishop of Munich-Freising and a cardinal in 1977. In 1981, he was named by Pope John Paul II to head the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (a body charged with keeping and protecting Catholic orthodoxy). In 1985, he aroused controversy with the publication of *The Ratzinger Report*.

HANS KÜNG: Born March 19, 1928, Küng first gained recognition when he published his doctoral dissertation showing the convergence in thought between Karl Barth and the Council of Trent. A Swiss Roman Catholic theologian and professor at the University of Tübingen, Küng was censured by the Vatican.

Pope John Paul II objected to Küng's questioning of basic Catholic doctrines. Thus, Küng was dismissed from Tübingen's faculty of Catholic theology in 1979 but given the director position of the university's Institute of Ecumenical Research. His popular book *The Council, Reform, and Reunion* (1960) appeared on the eve of the Second Vatican Council. Other works include: *An Inquiry* (1971), *Does God Exist?* (1980), *Theology for the Third Millennium* (1988), and *Reforming the Church Today* (1990).

Historical Document

The Barmen Declaration

A body of German Christians ("The Confessing Church") who opposed Nazi policies drew up this declaration at their first Synod held at Barmen May 29-30, 1934. Karl Barth was the guiding spirit of both the Synod and The Barmen Declaration. He was forced into exile the following year. Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), a fearless and outspoken Lutheran pastor, signed the Declaration in 1934 and was hanged by the Gestapo at Flossenbürg in 1945. Below are selected excerpts of false doctrines that the signers rejected.



Wall at Flossenbürg Prison where Dietrich Bonhoeffer was hanged.

We reject the false doctrine that the Church could and should recognize as a source of its proclamation, beyond and besides this one Word of God, yet other events, powers, historic figures and truths as God's revelation.

We reject the false doctrine that there could be areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ but to other lords, areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

We reject the false doctrine that the Church could have permission to hand over the form of its message and of its order to whatever it itself might wish or to the vicissitudes of the prevailing ideological and political convictions of the day.

We reject the false doctrine that, apart from this ministry, the Church could, and could have permission to, give itself or allow itself to be given special leaders [Führer] vested with ruling authority.

We reject the false doctrine that beyond its special commission the State should and could become the sole and total order of human life and so fulfil the vocation of the Church as well.

We reject the false doctrine that beyond its special commission the Church should and could take on the nature, tasks and dignity which belong to the State and thus become itself an organ of the State.

We reject the false doctrine that with human vainglory the Church could place the Word and work of the Lord in the service of self-chosen desires, purposes and plans.

Reflection and Review Questions

1. What happened on July 14, 1789? On November 9, 1989? How did these two events change history?
2. Who was William Carey? How did he interpret "The Great Commission"? and how did the Christians at that time interpret "The Great Commission"?
3. What were the opinions of Karl Marx, Friedreich Engels, Charles Darwin, Sigmund Freud, and Friedreich Nietzsche, concerning Christianity?
4. Who was Karl Barth? What did he believe? What did he do?
5. Who was Dietrich Bonhoeffer? What did Payne Best say about him? How did Bonhoeffer die and why?
6. Discusses Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism and Evangelicalism in the 21th Century?
7. What are the five key principles Billy Graham point out in regards to the world evangelical movement?