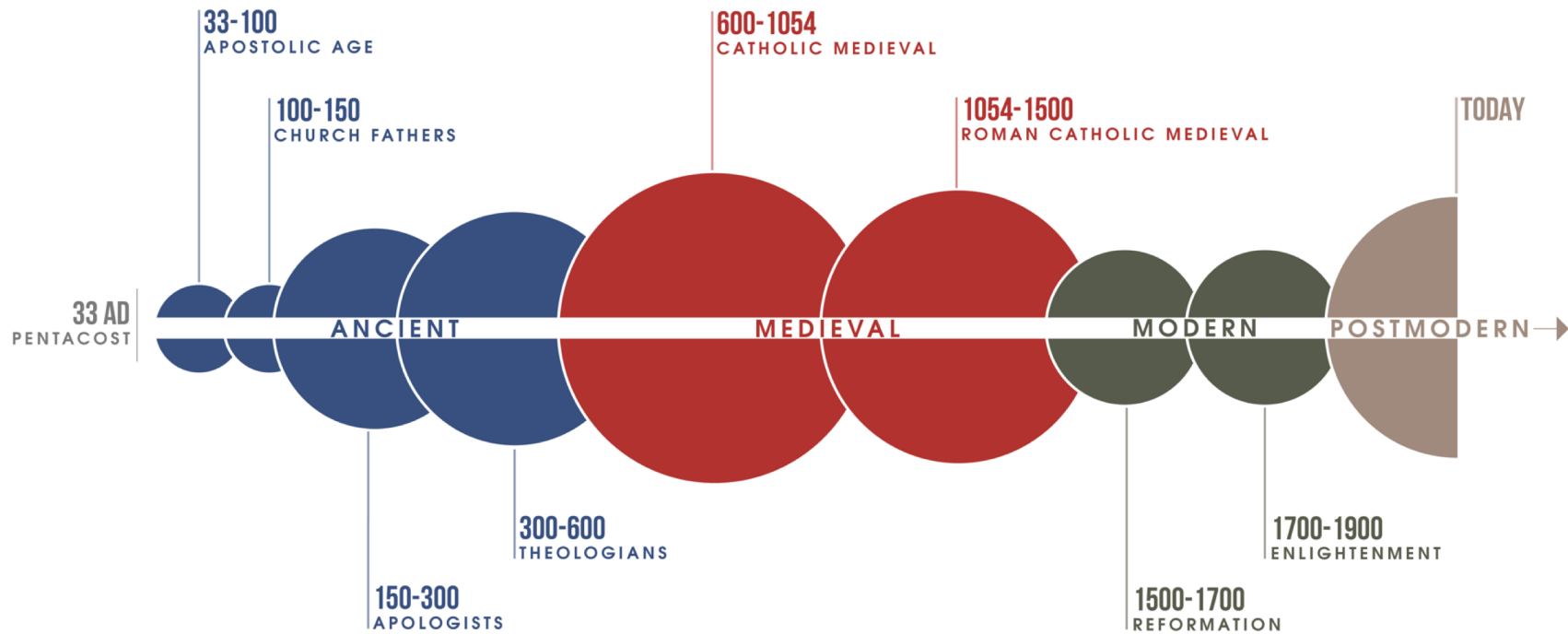


Retro CHURCH



UNDERSTANDING HOW WE GOT HERE



The Reformation (1500-1700)

Closed with...

- **Expansion** of the church outside Europe
- **Exhaustion** of the church in Europe

The Enlightenment (1700-1900)

= Intellectual & philosophical movement in the west that relied on human reason rather than revelation as source of truth & progress

Fueled push for radical new FREEDOMS

...of thought, religion, governance, economic activity

The Enlightenment (1700-1900)

American Revolution (1776)

Founded on concept of freedom of religion

Pioneered ***denominationalism***

But only nominally Christian

French Revolution (1789)

The Church was an enemy

Goddess of Reason erected in Notre Dame



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Pioneered ***secularism***

The Enlightenment (1700-1900)

Some Christians **EMBRACE** the enlightenment

Rejection of historic doctrine; higher criticism of Bible

Liberal Christianity = FEELINGS and BEHAVIOR

Birthered by Friedrich Schleiermacher (b. 1768 in Germany)

Fueled by Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1859)

Won most of High-Church denominations & seminaries

The Enlightenment (1700-1900)

Some Christians RESIST the enlightenment

Pietist Movement (Germany and France)

Methodist Movement (England)



The Enlightenment (1700-1900)

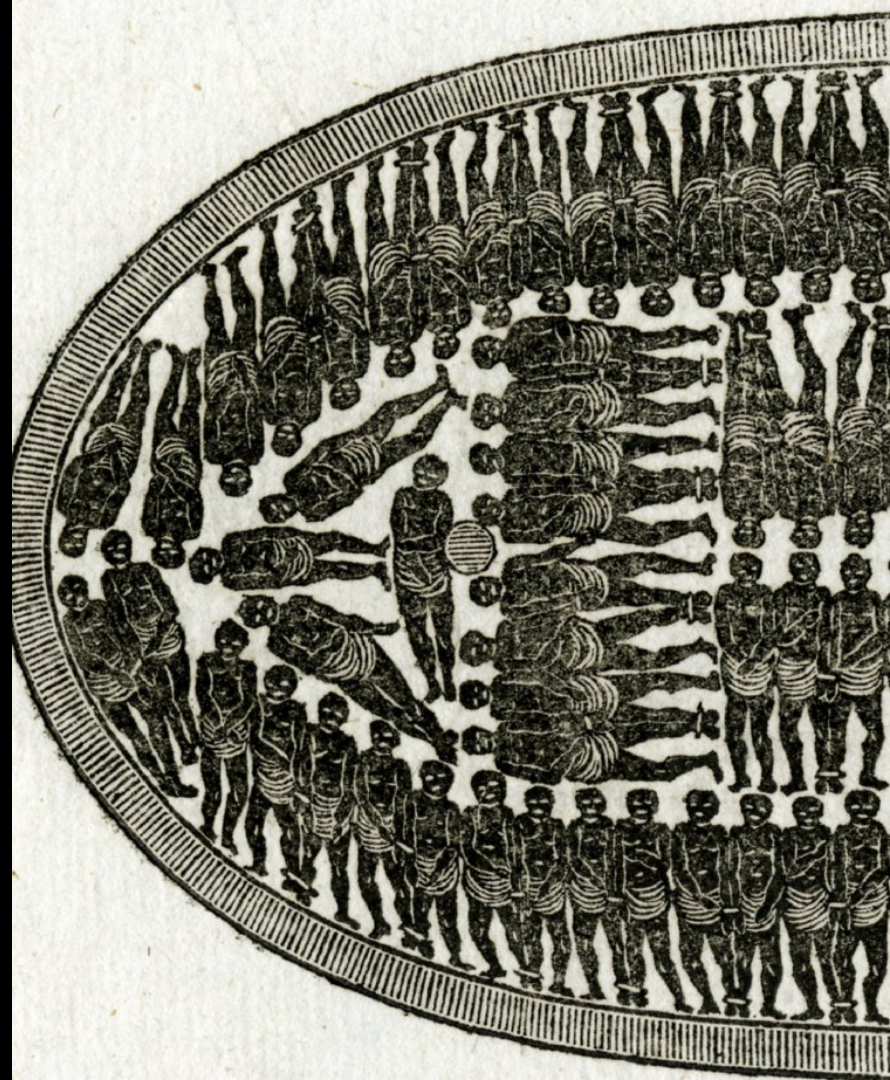
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Methodist Movement (England)

First Great Awakening (colonial America)

Protestant Missions and Social Action (England)



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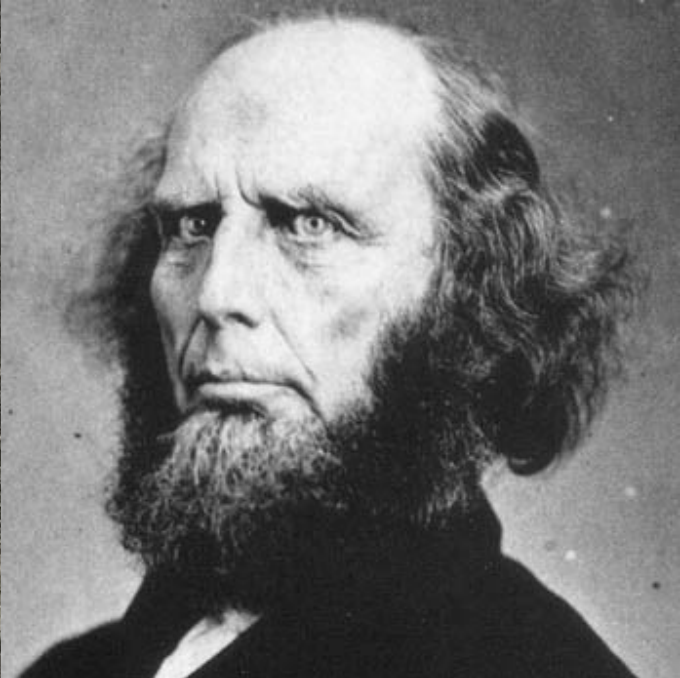
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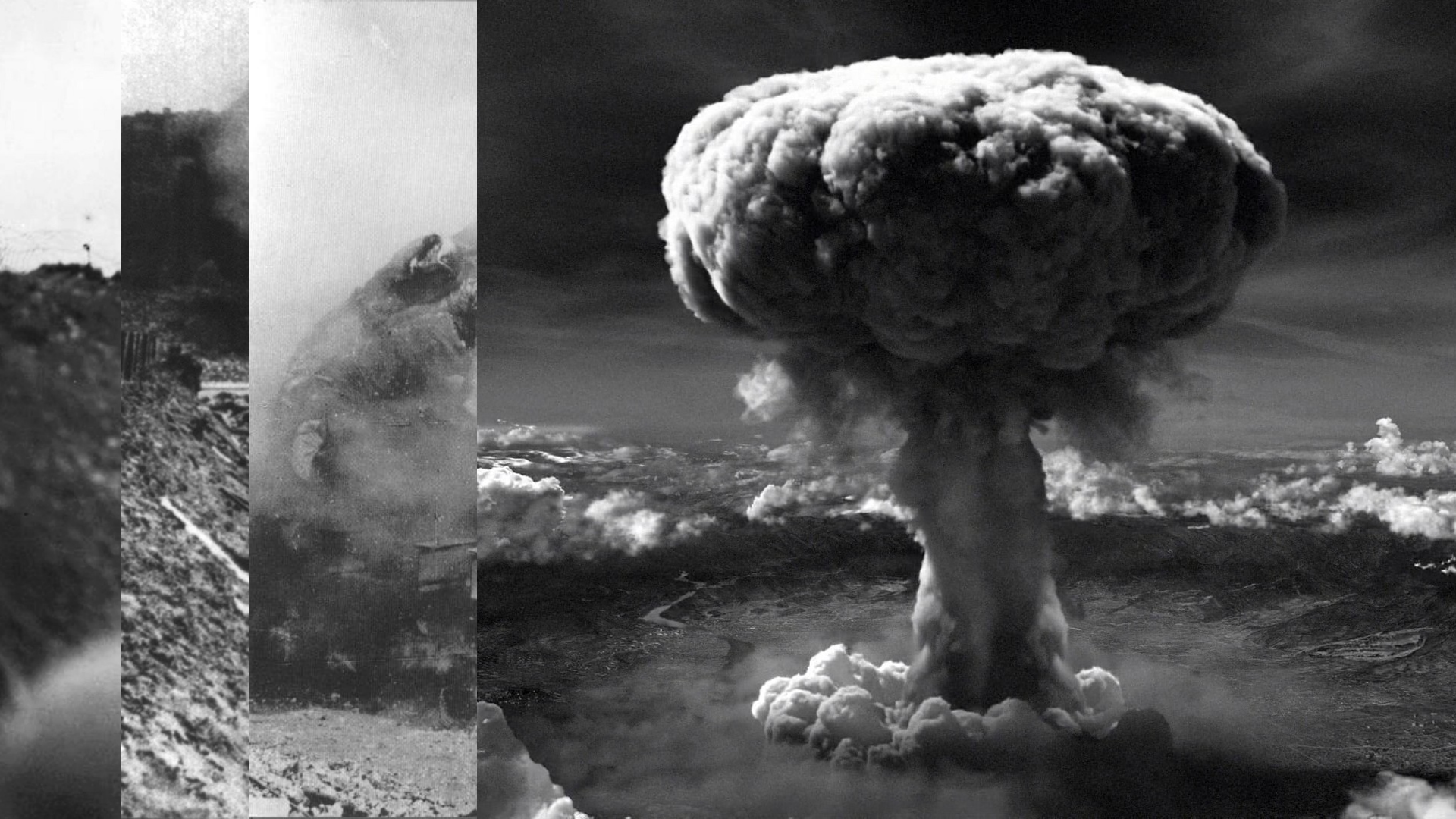
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Roman Catholic Opposition



Postmodernism

Reject anything that claims absolute authority

Truth discovered through EXPERIENCE

All truths equally valid if they don't infringe on others

The Postmodern Church (1900...)

Theological Renewal & numerical decline in Europe

Rise of evangelicalism in the United States

Seeds: Bible conferences, charismatic movement, fundamentalism

New seminaries (e.g. DTS) and denominations (e.g. Bible Church)

Numerical growth through Billy Graham Crusades

Political growth through Religious Right

Rise of the independent megachurch... like GBC!

Movement of the church to the 3rd World

The African American Church

The History and continuity of the African American church

1619-1730's Era of Gospel Denial (1619 – 1730's)

1619 arrival of the first African slave to America

1624 first slave baptism

1730's-1858 Era of Revival and Proselytizing Slaves

Beginning of the African American church

1865-1965 Reconstruction Jim Crow era

1965-2019 Modern African American Church era



The African American Church

Key contributions:

- Realization of the goodness of God**
- Creative church experience**
- Very practical theology**