

## Hebron Baptist Church

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### Conservative Resurgence

In 1979, Adrian Rogers became president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Pastor of Bellevue Baptist outside of Memphis, TN, Rogers was the most visible *fundamentalist* pastor in the SBC. His “election set in motion a political and theological battle for control of America’s largest Protestant denomination. It would become one of the most significant religious events of the twentieth century.” [Kidd & Hankins]

Conservatives believed that moderates had allowed the denomination to drift too far leftward, and they wanted to take the SBC back to its conservative, biblical roots.

In the years leading up to the resurgence, conservatives had charged that seminary professors were espousing unorthodox and even heretical beliefs in their lectures and writings.

In the early 1960s, Broadman Press published a book by Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Ralph Elliott in which he denied the historicity of Adam and Eve, said that the Genesis flood was not worldwide, and asserted that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by natural occurrences. Elliot was told not to republish the book and was fired.

While conservatives hoped that Elliott was an aberration, others knew differently. “Professors in all our seminaries know that Elliott is in the same stream of thinking with most of them, and is more in the center than some of them,” said C.R. Daley, former editor of the Western Recorder.

In 1971 – two years before *Roe v. Wade* – SBC convention members passed a pro-choice resolution supporting legalized abortion in cases of “severe fetal deformity” and in cases where the pregnancy could damage the “emotional, mental, and physical health of the mother.” Their position was reaffirmed at the 1974 convention.

The battle over the direction of the seminaries was a focal point of conservatives’ concerns. In writings and lectures, some seminary professors had denied the inerrancy of Scripture, rejected the miracles as being true, denied the deity of Christ and embraced universalism.

Sources: Thomas S. Kidd & Barry Hankins, *Baptists in America, A History*, 2015; Baptist Press, *25 years ago, conservative resurgence got its start*, June 15, 2004 [To be continued next month]

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Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD...when you have gathered in the fruit of the land...And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook...You shall dwell in booths for seven days...’” (Lev. 23:33-43).



Sukkot celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection God provided for the children of Israel when they left Egypt.

**Sept 29 – Oct 6, 2023**

## *“Fascist” “Nazi”*



“Tossing around ‘Nazi’ and ‘fascist’ as insults is reckless and historically illiterate.” [Daniels]

We hear these insults spewed from the mouths of politicians, news media, protestors (e.g., Antifa, BLM, Earth First!), radicalized educators and students, etc.; but, most of them lack understanding of what Nazism and Fascism really are, historically.

Nazism is a religious worldview; not merely political and/or economic movements. Contrary to some German Christians, who insisted that the Nazi state is “a state that once again rules in God’s name,” Nazism was never a Christian worldview.

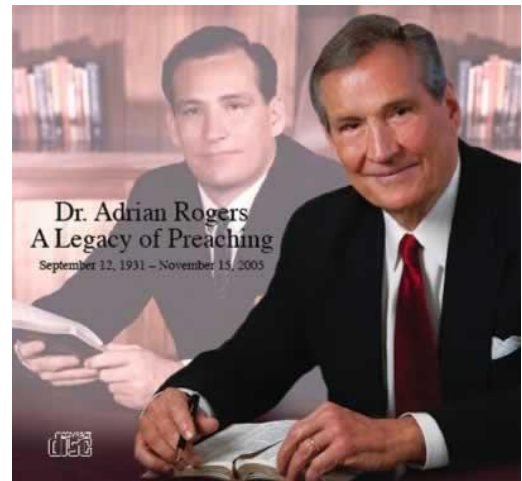
Deitrich Echart, a founding member of the Nazi Party was “a dedicated satanist, a man immersed in black magic and the Thule group of occultists.”

While Adolph Hitler historically represents the Nazi worldview, it was the thinkers, philosophers, and theologians that stood behind him: Darwin, Marx, Nietzsche, Wagner, Heidegger, et al.

Fascism is a religious worldview in the same vein as Nazism. It was a pagan religion with worship of the state and its Duce (Benito Mussolini).

Evolution was as important to Mussolini as it was to Hitler. “Both Hitler and Mussolini glorified struggle and war on the basis that the fittest would survive and the race would be thus clean”

Sources: Mitch Daniels, former governor of Indiana; Summit Ministries, *The Worldviews of Destruction in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, Sept. 11, 2009



“Dr. Adrian Rogers was a lion in our midst – the man God used to serve as leader and voice for a great resurgence of biblical Christianity... He dominated the pulpit as few men ever have, preaching the Word and calling sinners to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Adrian Rogers was a man of courage and conviction. He defended truth with verve and vigor. His personal defense of biblical inerrancy and the great truths of the Gospel awakened a generation of Southern Baptists to a crisis in our midst – and he put his own ministry and reputation on the line for the sake of a denominational recovery and reformation. He matched his defense of the truth with a deep personal respect for the Word of God...”  
[Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr; November 15, 2005]

Born in West Palm Beach, FL, Adrian Rogers surrendered his life to the Lord as a high school football player. He was ordained to the ministry at age 19.

His longest senior pastorate was at Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, TN (1972-2004). He was elected three times as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. His radio ministry, Love Worth Finding Ministries, extended his biblical teaching internationally.