

chronology of four centuries of religious ZEAL, 1607—2007

- 1607 Jamestown, Virginia, is founded as the first English settlement in North America.
- 1620 The *Mayflower* leaves Plymouth, England, and the Mayflower Compact is signed.
- 1621 After the first year, Plymouth Plantation shares a feast with Native Americans that will be remembered in a festival of the American civil religion, Thanksgiving.
- 1630 Puritan colonists found Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- 1631 Roger Williams arrives in Massachusetts colony; he will be banished to Rhode Island five years later.
- 1631 The General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony issues the decree that “no man shall be admitted to the body politic but such as are members of some of the churches within the limits” of the Colony.
- 1634 Anne Hutchinson arrives in Massachusetts and is banned four years later.
- 1634 George and Cecil Calvert establish Maryland as a refuge for Roman Catholics.
- 1636 Harvard College (later University) is founded by the Massachusetts Puritans.
- 1637 The Pequot Massacre of men, women, and children follows Old Testament precedents.
- 1644 Roger Williams writes *The Bloody Tenet of Persecution for Cause of Conscience*, which advocates religious freedom.
- 1656 Quakers Mary Fisher and Ann Austin arrive in Boston and subsequently are banned.
- 1662 A synod in Massachusetts Bay Colony recommends the “half-way covenant.”
- 1675–76 King Philip’s War is waged in New England between colonists and Wampanoag Indians led by a chief known to the English as King Philip.
- 1681 William Penn establishes Pennsylvania.
- 1682 Mary Rowlandson’s *The Sovereignty & Goodness of God . . . A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration* is published.

- 1692 The Salem Witch Trials take place in Massachusetts.
- 1730 America's first synagogue, Shearith Israel, is dedicated in New York City.
- 1739 George Whitefield visits the colonies and inaugurates the Great Awakening.
- 1741 Jonathan Edwards preaches "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."
- 1743 Seventy New England clergy sign a manifesto stating that with the Great Awakening the thousand-year kingdom had come.
- 1754–63 The French and Indian War evokes millennial interpretations.
- 1769 The first Methodist preachers arrive in New York and Pennsylvania.
- 1771 Timothy Dwight's millennial poem, "America," is published
- 1773 The first independent Black Church is founded in Silver Bluff, South Carolina.
- 1774 Ann Lee and followers arrive in America to establish Shaker communities.
Isaac Backus appeals to the Massachusetts legislature to protest the tax on Baptist congregations to support Congregational churches.
- 1776 Thirteen North American Colonies declare their independence from Great Britain. The success of the American Revolution is hailed as establishing "the new order of the ages."
- 1786 Thomas Jefferson's Bill establishing freedom of religion passes in the Virginia Assembly.
- 1789 The First Amendment to the American Constitution is passed, prohibiting governmental "establishment" of religion.
- 1793 Richard Allen establishes the first Methodist church for blacks.
- 1801 The Camp Meeting at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, leads to the Second Great Awakening.
- 1825 Unitarians separate from Congregationalists move to form a liberal denomination.
- 1830 Joseph Smith publishes *The Book of Mormon*.
- 1831 Nat Turner leads a slave revolt fueled in part by biblical imagery.
- 1835 C. G. Finney publishes *Lectures on the Revivals of Religion*, a handbook for subsequent revivals.
- 1843 William Miller sets this date for the return of Christ, resulting in the development of Adventist churches.
- 1844–45 Methodist and Baptist Churches divide into southern and northern factions over the issue of slavery.
- 1847–48 The famine in Ireland results in the first large immigration of Catholics to the United States.
- 1856–59 John Brown's holy war against slavery and his execution make him a hero for Northerners.
- 1857–58 The "Laymen's Revival" occurs in American cities.
- 1859 Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* begins to provoke religious controversy.
- 1861 Presbyterians divide into southern and northern factions over the issue of slavery.
- 1861–65 The American Civil War is viewed in millennial terms by both sides
- 1865 "In God We Trust" appears on American coins for the first time.
Abraham Lincoln gives his "Second Inaugural Address"; he is subsequently assassinated.
- 1866 The Ku Klux Klan is established as "the invisible government of the South."
- 1874 The Women's Christian Temperance Union is founded.
- 1875 Mary Baker Eddy publishes *Science and Health with a Key to the Scriptures*.
Dwight L. Moody returns from England and begins his career as an urban evangelist.

- 1877 The era of Reconstruction, which sought to defend civil rights for blacks in the South, ends.
- 1880 The Salvation Army begins in America.
- 1880–1920 These years see the rise of the Social Gospel and Progressivism.
- 1885 Josiah Strong publishes *Expansion under New World Conditions* and *Our Country, Its Possible Future, and Its Present Crisis*.
- 1889 Billy Sunday holds his first evangelistic crusade in Chicago.
Jane Addams establishes “Hull House” in Chicago.
- 1891–92 Modernist biblical professor Charles Augustus Briggs is subjected to a heresy trial.
- 1893 The World’s Parliament of Religion takes place in Chicago.
- 1898–1900 The Spanish American War is fought as a crusade for democracy; the rise of colonialism is seen as a religious issue.
- 1899 Prohibitionist Carry Nation raids her first saloon in Kansas.
- 1900 John R. Mott proclaims the goal “to win the world for Christ in this generation.”
- 1901 Bible college students led by Charles F. Parham begin to speak in tongues, which leads to the Pentecostal movement.
Booker T. Washington publishes *Up From Slavery*.
- 1906 The Azusa Street Revival begins under the leadership of William J. Seymour.
- 1907 Walter Rauschenbusch publishes *Christianity and the Social Crisis*.
- 1908 The Federal Council of Churches is formed.
- 1909 *The Scofield Reference Bible*, which promotes dispensationalism, is published.
- 1910–20 “The Fundamentals” campaign is waged against modernist interpretations of the Bible.
- 1917–18 The United States turns the First World War into a millennial crusade for democracy.
- 1919 Advocated by the WCTU, the 18th Amendment outlaws alcohol.
- 1919–20 The Red Scare provokes campaigns against social gospel advocates, and the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan.
- 1920 Advocated by the WCTU, the 19th Amendment provides women’s suffrage.
The term “Fundamentalist” is used by conservative opponents of biblical modernism for the first time.
- 1925 The Scopes Trial humiliates Fundamentalist politician William Jennings Bryan.
- 1929 A stock market crash triggers the Great Depression.
- 1930s During this “Axial Decade,” the myth of the redemptive violence of superheroes begins to displace traditional religion in American popular culture.
- 1932 Reinhold Niebuhr publishes *Moral Man and Immoral Society*.
- 1941–45 The United States participates in the Second World War.
- 1946 George F. Kennan proposes the Containment Policy. Later he warns against American millennialism.
- 1948–49 Intensification of the Cold War follows the Czech coup and the Berlin Blockade.
- 1949 Billy Graham leads revival meetings in Los Angeles.
- 1949–50 The conflict between President Harry Truman and General Douglas MacArthur about expanding the Korean War encourages the rise of McCarthyism in church and society.
- 1950 Ron L. Hubbard publishes *Dianetics* and thereafter establishes the first Scientology Church.
- 1951 H. Richard Niebuhr publishes *Christ and Culture*.
- 1952 Norman Vincent Peale publishes *The Power of Positive Thinking*.
- 1955 This year sees the peak of the revival of religion imagined as a means for winning the Cold War.

- 1955–56 The phrase “Under God” is added to the Pledge of Allegiance and “In God We Trust” becomes the official national motto.
- 1955 The Bus Boycott led by Martin Luther King Jr. begins in Montgomery, Alabama.
- 1961 The Christian Broadcasting Network is founded by Pat Robertson.
- 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. delivers the “I Have A Dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., which becomes a defining moment in the American Civil Rights Movement.
- 1965–72 The War in Vietnam evokes religious controversy.
- 1965–66 “Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam” is established.
- 1970 Hal Lindsey publishes *The Late Great Planet Earth*.
- 1975 The Willow Creek Community Church is founded in Illinois.
- 1978 The “Moral Majority” is founded by Jerry Falwell.
- 1980 Ronald Reagan is elected with the support of the Moral Majority
- 1981 A date for the Rapture is predicted by Fundamentalists.
- 1988 Pat Robertson founds the Christian Coalition.
- 1989–90 The Cold War ends unexpectedly with the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- 1995–2004 Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins publish the Left Behind novels.
- 1998 The Clinton Prayer Breakfast provokes the “Declaration” project.
- 2000 Another date of the Rapture is predicted by Fundamentalists.
- 2000 George W. Bush is elected president with the support of evangelical voters.
- 2001 Terrorists crash airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon;
Congress quickly passes the American Patriot Act and gives support to President George W. Bush’s “war on terror.”
- 2003 George W. Bush orders the second U.S. invasion of Iraq.
- 2007 More than 1,200 megachurches and several powerful corporations dominate religious broadcasting and the public discussion of religion.