

CHURCH HISTORY

Lesson 11 – The Enlightenment (1650 to 1800 A.D.)

The Enlightenment, also known as the Age of Reason, was a time post-Renaissance when man continued to use his reason to discover the world, casting off the superstition and fear of the medieval world. This not only accelerated the Reformation against Catholicism, but also started to lay a foundation of rejecting all religion.

A. Background/Major Events

1. What was the (first) Great Awakening and name two notable preachers associated with it?
2. Who was Roger Williams (1603 to 1683) and what position did he and the Providence Plantation he founded in 1636 take regarding Church and State?
3. Describe the religious climate created from the American Revolution (1776 A.D.) (according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_religion_in_the_United_States or equivalent).
4. Describe the religious climate created from the French Revolution (1789 to 1799 A.D.).

B. Authority

1. What is Deism, embraced by many Enlightenment thinkers, including several U.S. Founding Fathers?

C. For each of the following religious groups, summarize their origin, any significant teaching in the doctrinal areas of Lesson 9 question B., any other distinctive doctrines, and their current population worldwide & in the U.S. (if any).

1. George Fox (1624 to 1691) and the Quakers
2. Philipp Spener (1635 to 1705) and Pietism
3. George Whitefield (1714 to 1770 A.D.), John Wesley (1703 to 1791 A.D.), Charles Wesley (1717 to 1788A.D.), and the Methodist Church
4. Theophilus Lindsey (1723 to 1808 A.D.) and Unitarianism, John Murray (1741 to 1815 A.D.) and Universalism.

D. Divisions/Conflicts

1. Salem witch trials (1692 to 1693 A.D.)

E. Special Topics

1. Summarize the origins and status of slavery in colonial America and early United States (according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_the_colonial_United_States, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_the_United_States, or equivalent). What do the scriptures say about slavery?