

Exploring America

History, Literature, and Faith

Introduction to Unit 21

What many Americans wanted after the Great War was a return to normalcy, but the 1920s brought the country anything but that. America withdrew into isolationism and took little interest in activity beyond its shores. The apparently robust economy of the decade came crashing to a halt with the Great Depression starting in 1929. The Twenties saw many cultural changes but also some serious social issues. The Scopes Evolution Trial in 1925 symbolized the great divide in American thinking and demonstrated the increased influence of modernism and religious skepticism.

Lessons

- Lesson 101 – Return to Normalcy?
- Lesson 102 – Hoover and the Great Depression
- Lesson 103 – The Roaring Twenties
- Lesson 104 – Prohibition, Race, and Skepticism
- Lesson 105 – Bible Study: The Scopes Trial

Memory Verse

Learn Mark 12:30 by the end of Lesson 105.

Books Used

- ◆ **The Bible**
- ◆ **World's Great Speeches**
- ◆ **A Documentary History of the United States**
- ◆ **Christy**
- ◆ **101 Great American Poems**

Writing

Choose one of the following writing assignments.

- ◆ Write a 200-word essay on the role that religion should play in the life of an elected official. Would a person's religious beliefs cause you to vote against him or her?
- ◆ Select one of the innovations of the 1920s (automobiles, movies, radio, consumerism, etc.) and tell how it has affected our lives for good or ill. Think about what you want to say and give specific reasons for your answer.
- ◆ Write an editorial either defending or attacking the Scopes Trial (or elements of it) and setting forth what Christians ought to do to stand up for God's truth.

Literature

Authors From the Period

The 1920s and 1930s were a fertile time for American literature. Francis Scott Key (F. Scott) Fitzgerald portrayed in his books the worldly and empty lifestyles of those caught up in the new morality of the time (which was really old immorality). Sinclair Lewis ridiculed the materialism and hypocrisy of American life. Lewis was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for literature in 1926 but refused to accept it. He did accept the Nobel Prize for literature in 1930 and was the first American to receive the Nobel literature award. Willa Cather wrote about the challenges of life on the Plains.

Two writers who were beginning to be recognized in the 1920s were William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway. Faulkner (1897-1962) lived in Oxford, Mississippi, which became the town of Jefferson in Yoknapatawpha County in many of his novels. Hemingway (1899-1961) was typical of what was called the Lost Generation of writers who were embittered and disillusioned by the Great War. Hemingway was an ambulance driver during the war.

Black writers during the 1920s, such as Claude McKay, James Weldon Johnson, and Langston Hughes, brought about what has been called the Harlem Renaissance, which celebrated African-American life. Black writers had not been given much attention by the general public in the U.S. before this period.

This period also saw the emergence of some of America's best-known poets. Edward Arlington Robinson (1869-1935) was a descendant of Puritan poet Anne Bradstreet who often expressed a hardened, cynical view of the America he saw. Robert Frost (1874-1963) expressed a gentler view of America in his poetry based on life in his native New England. His struggle to decide whether to live in England or America is reflected in "The Road Not Taken." He decided to return to America, at the time the "road less traveled by" in terms of literature. Carl Sandberg (1878-1967) was the son of Swedish immigrants. His free verse celebrated the robust life of the prairie and the city life of Chicago. He also became a renowned scholar on Abraham Lincoln and wrote a multi-volume biography (for which he won a Pulitzer Prize) as well as a single-volume biography of the Civil War President.

Thomas Stearns (T. S.) Eliot (1888-1964), born in St. Louis, is claimed as an American poet although he went to study in Oxford, England in 1913 and decided to live in England. He eventually became a British citizen. Eliot's best-known work describes the moral aimlessness of modern society, but he laments it from the perspective of a believer. "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (1915) presents a superficial man in a superficial world who is afraid to do anything significant and who fritters his life away instead. "The Waste Land" (1922) expands on this theme. *Four Quartets* (1943) is often considered to be his best poetic work. Eliot wrote several plays, including *Murder in the Cathedral* (1935) about the killing of Thomas a Becket by supporters of the King of England in 1170. Eliot received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1948 and was awarded the Medal of Freedom by U.S. President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

Exploring America

History, Literature, and Faith

Return to Normalcy?

Woodrow Wilson's idealism gave way to the harsh realities of postwar America. The country had suffered through the horrors of war, a postwar economic downturn, and concerns about radical revolutionaries at home. Despite the accomplishments of the Progressive movement earlier in the twentieth century, the country still faced serious issues.

The 1920 Election

The Democrats were divided over whether to continue President Wilson's quest for international engagement or to move in a different direction. The party convention used 44 ballots and finally nominated former Ohio governor James Cox. His running mate was Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Navy position was the same job once held by his fifth cousin, Theodore Roosevelt.

Meanwhile, the Republicans were hoping for a change. They already controlled Congress, and they believed that the disillusionment with Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles meant a new chance for winning the White House. The Republican presidential nomination went to Ohio Senator Warren G. Harding. The convention nominated for vice president Calvin Coolidge, the Massachusetts governor who had won national fame for his strong stand against the Boston police strike.

Harding set the tone for his campaign when he said that what America needed was "not heroics, but healing; not nostrums, but normalcy; not revolution, but restoration." His words captured the American mindset that had experienced world war and now wanted to settle back into domestic comfort. Harding defeated Cox with 16.1 million votes to 9.1 million votes and a 404-127 electoral landslide. Imprisoned Socialist Eugene V. Debs polled just over 900,000 votes. Only about half of the eligible voters participated, however. Cox did not carry any state outside of the heavily Democratic South. Republicans increased their majority in both houses of Congress.

The New radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh reported election returns in the nation's first regularly scheduled broadcast. KDKA is still on the air today.

The 1920 election was the first in which women across the nation could vote. A few states had already approved women's suffrage (the word suffrage is from the Latin word for vote), but the Nineteenth Amendment made it a national right. The amendment needed approval by 36 states to become part of the Constitution. Thirty-five states had ratified it when it came before a special session of the Tennessee legislature in August of 1920. Vocal representatives of both sides of the issue gathered in Nashville to influence legislators. Supporters believed that women deserved the right to vote because they were just as much American citizens as men. Opponents said that women belonged in the home and that men should take care of a family's political business. Supporters hoped for change and opponents feared change if women could vote. The Tennessee State Senate passed the amendment easily, but the State House of Representatives was evenly divided. During the deliberations, the youngest member of the House got a telegram from his mother saying, "Don't forget to be a good boy" and urging him to support ratification. He voted for the amendment, and it passed 50 to 49. In the first election in which women could vote, the conservative Republican Warren Harding was elected and voter participation was down some twelve percent from 1916. Harding, by the way, carried Tennessee.

The Harding Scandals

The new president was an easy-going man who liked to play cards, have some illegal liquor, and apparently indulge in frequent extra-marital affairs. He also liked to do favors for his friends, and this is what created scandals for his administration. Some of his appointments were excellent, such as Charles Evans Hughes as Secretary of State, Herbert Hoover as Commerce Secretary, and Andrew Mellon to oversee the Treasury. Others, such as Interior Secretary Albert Fall and Attorney General Harry Daugherty, wound up in deep trouble. Daugherty headed up what was called Harding's "Ohio Gang," a group of political cronies who took advantage of their friend being in the White House to profit handsomely at the public's expense.

It was revealed in 1923 that the head of the new Veterans Bureau was robbing the government of medical supplies. He resigned and fled to Europe. Two men either in or close to the administration committed suicide when questionable dealings started to surface. Attorney General Daugherty barely escaped indictment over mishandling German war reparation payments. The biggest scandal involved government-held oil deposits in a place in Wyoming called Teapot Dome. Interior Secretary Fall allowed private companies to tap into the deposits secretly without making competitive bids for the rights. Fall's personal standard of living dramatically improved while this was going on, and he eventually went to jail for taking bribes even though he always denied that he had done anything wrong. Many of the scandals that took place during Harding's tenure only came to light after the president's death.



President Warren Harding

Return to Prosperity

The Republican Congress cut income tax rates and increased tariffs. At least some of what people saved in taxes was invested in the stock market, causing an upsurge in prices. The new heads of regulatory agencies were more lenient toward big business than the Democrats and Progressives had been. Commerce Secretary Hoover encouraged trade associations, in which businesses shared ideas about cost-cutting, marketing, and other activities. The Supreme Court, led by Harding-nominated William Howard Taft, struck down a federal law regulating child labor and ruled against some of the federal regulatory agencies. However, Mellon did balance the federal budget and decrease the national debt. The overall trend was toward a stronger national economy.



President Calvin Coolidge

Many of the nation's workers shared in the prosperity. Non-farm income rose 20% between 1921 and 1928, while farm income rose only 10%. Mining and textile workers, however, faced increased layoffs due to the use of new labor-saving machinery. Unions also had a hard time sharing in the greater prosperity. The postwar red scare left the impression that union activity could lead to political revolution. Companies began sweetening the pot of benefits for non-union workers. Union membership decreased about thirty percent over the decade.

In July of 1923, Harding went on a trip to the West for speech-making and to visit Alaska. He suffered food poisoning in Seattle and died of apoplexy on August 2 in a hotel in San Francisco. In the early morning hours of August 3, 1923, Justice of the Peace John Coolidge administered the presidential oath of office to his son, Vice President Calvin Coolidge, in Plymouth, Vermont, where Calvin had been visiting his father.

Silent But Determined Cal

Coolidge's style was a marked change from the loose-living Harding. He was known as a man of few words and strong personal beliefs. Coolidge was a friend of business and an enemy of regulation. He encouraged the growth of business as the best way to help the most Americans. "The business of America is business," Coolidge stated in a 1925 speech. Business mergers increased and the nation's economy enjoyed robust growth.

In 1924 the Republicans nominated Coolidge for a full term. The Democrats, still divided between urban and rural elements of the party, took 104 ballots to select Wall Street lawyer John Davis. A coalition of farm and labor interests gave rebirth to the Progressive Party and selected Robert LaFollette as their candidate. LaFollette was also supported by the Socialists and the American Federation of Labor. Coolidge focused most of his comments during the campaign on the dangers he saw with LaFollette's proposals. Davis won the South, LaFollette won Wisconsin, and Coolidge won everything else. A majority of voters decided to follow the president's campaign slogan and "Keep Cool with Coolidge." He carried the popular vote 15.7 million to 8.4 million for Davis and 4.8 million for LaFollette. A slightly smaller percentage of eligible voters than participated in 1920 turned out to vote.

Stories abound regarding Coolidge's use of few words. After attending a church service, Coolidge was asked what the preacher's sermon was about. "Sin," Coolidge replied. What did the preacher say about it? Coolidge answered, "He said he was against it." Supposedly on one occasion a dinner guest sitting next to him told the President that that she had made a bet with someone that she could make him say three words. "You lose," he told her. A saying attributed to him explained, "If you don't say anything, you won't be called on to repeat it." One observer noted that Coolidge appeared to have been weaned on a pickle. The president reportedly got twelve hours of sleep each night and also took an afternoon nap.

Farm Policy

Farmers suffered from low commodity prices through most of the 1920s. They tried to help themselves by investing in modern machinery, organizing into marketing associations that signed contracts with processors, and handling their farms along the lines of business. Western Republicans and southern Democrats in Congress tended to vote as a bloc on farm legislation. They helped enact laws that exempted farm cooperatives from antitrust action and that created credit banks which made loans available to farm associations and cooperatives.

The McNairy-Haugen Bill was introduced in 1924 and finally passed Congress in 1927. It proposed a parity pricing system, in which commodity prices would be set by government decree to give farmers the same purchasing power they had gotten in the better times of 1909 to 1914. Coolidge vetoed the bill as unconstitutional price fixing. The bill passed Congress again in 1928, and again Coolidge vetoed it. The idea of parity, however, had been introduced into the national debate and would be heard again.

Isolationism

After World War I, the attention of the United States turned toward domestic issues and away from involvement in world affairs. This tendency is called isolationism. Most Americans believed that the country had paid a heavy price for participation in the Great War, and they believed that continued international involvement would be an unwelcome burden for the country.

In the decade after the war, the U.S. raised tariff rates against foreign imports. The government set severe restrictions on immigration from other countries. The red scare and calls for "one hundred percent Americanism" came from a widespread suspicion of people with international connections. Wilson wanted the 1920 election to be a solemn referendum on the League and his peace efforts, and the Republican victory was a rebuff to Wilson and internationalism. At the same time, some efforts were made to address world issues. The results of these efforts involved some noble-sounding agreements

which had little practical effect in stopping war. In addition, the United States was an international trading partner and held several colonies around the world. Complete isolation from the world was impossible.

War Debts and Reparations

The international financial entanglements resulting from World War I were a continuing issue that was never resolved satisfactorily. During and after the war, Allied nations had borrowed about \$10 billion from the U.S. Repayment of these debts depended on two factors: (1) Reparation payments by Germany, which was continually behind in making the payments, and (2) the Allies selling their imports to the U.S., which was made difficult by America's high tariffs.

Resentment grew among both the Allies and Germany about paying these debts. Many Allied government leaders believed that the U.S. should simply cancel the debts as part of America's war effort. The Allies had paid a greater price than the U.S. in terms of lives lost and economic hardship, so they thought it was only fair that the U.S. help out by canceling the debts. Germany, on the other hand, suffered under the reparations plan set out in the Treaty of Versailles. Complicating the issue was the way

The United States did not distance itself from the League of Nations completely. The Harding Administration sent official observers to League meetings. By 1924, U.S. representatives were participating in League conferences that addressed specific issues. Nevertheless, the United States never officially joined the League of Nations.

that money flowed through the various countries. The U.S. made loans to Germany, which used much of the money to make its reparation payments to the Allies, who then used that money to repay the United States. The U.S. probably did not profit much overall because of the loan and repayment methods followed.

Germany's continued failure to make reparation payments led to a series of renegotiations among Germany and the Allies. The original \$33 billion payout demanded in the treaty was cut by 1929 to about \$2 billion. Meanwhile, Allied loan repayments to the United States dwindled. In 1931, President Herbert Hoover declared a one-year moratorium on all war debts. However, Germany never made another reparation payment; and the entire issue was simply never resolved. Creditor nations simply had to write off the amounts owed to them as losses.

Disarmament

Several years before the war, the United States had embarked on a construction plan that made it the second largest naval power in the world. Great Britain and Japan built up their navies after the war, and an alliance between them made their combined force especially strong. Moreover, Japan gave indications that it was willing to move aggressively in several areas of the Pacific. In the context of the recent world conflict, peace advocates believed that the arms race increased the likelihood of another war.

The United States invited several nations to the Washington Armaments Conference in 1921 to discuss relevant issues. Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes opened the conference with a surprise proposal that the participating nations cut back their navies and promise to limit future construction. This was a call for a policy of disarmament. As a result of the Washington Conference, three treaties were signed. The Five-Power Treaty committed the United States, Great Britain, Japan, France, and Italy to limiting their naval power to agreed levels (which meant the destruction of some existing ships), promising to build no new battleships for ten years, and making no improvements in fortifications that each nation had in the Pacific. The Four-Power Treaty said that the U.S., Great Britain, Japan, and France would respect the Pacific territories of each other and would consult with each other on any disputes that arose. The Nine-Power Treaty committed the five powers plus China, Belgium, Portugal, and the Netherlands not to divide China into spheres of influence and to respect the territorial integrity of China. This followed the open door policy set forth by the United States some years earlier.

These agreements were noble-sounding but had little clout. The construction of battleships was banned but not the construction of other fighting naval vessels or other military buildup. The pacts spelled out no consequences for failing to live up to their terms. In addition, the effect of the treaties was to enhance Japan's power in the Pacific.

United States policies toward Latin American countries became more friendly during the 1920s. The American government took fewer opportunities to invoke the Roosevelt Corollary and enter into troubled nations. American presence in several nations was cut back or withdrawn altogether. In the 1930s, President Franklin Roosevelt announced his intention to follow a policy of being a good neighbor to Latin American countries as opposed to being the hemisphere's police power.

Kellogg-Briand

In 1928, French foreign minister Aristide Briand and American Secretary of State Frank Kellogg initiated the Treaty of Paris. The U.S. and France committed themselves to abstaining from war as an acceptable method of foreign relations. They invited other countries to agree to the pact, and eventually 62 nations became signatories. However, the treaty was widely seen as simply an attempt to appease peace advocates. The treaty allowed war in the case of self-defense, which is a common claim even when a country initiates conflict. The United States approved the treaty but with a reservation that the Monroe Doctrine still applied in the Western Hemisphere. In addition, no consequences were given for violating the terms of the treaty. As we will see, the desire for peace and the efforts to lessen the chances for war crumbled with events in the early 1930s.

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
And the horse from Jerusalem;
And the bow of war will be cut off.
And He will speak peace to the nations;
And His dominion will be from sea to sea,
And from the River to the ends of the earth.

Zechariah 9:10

Assignments for Unit 21, Lesson 101

- ◆ Read “The Unknown” by Edgar Lee Masters and “Miniver Cheevy” by Edwin Arlington Robinson in 101GAP, pages 36-37.
- ◆ Continue reading **Christy**. Plan to finish it by the end of this unit.

Hoover and the Great Depression

While President Calvin Coolidge was visiting the Black Hills of South Dakota in August of 1927, he distributed a typically terse written statement to members of the press covering his trip: "I do not choose to run for President in 1928." This opened the Republican nomination to a large field of candidates. By the time of the 1928 Republican convention, Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover was the clear choice of the party.

Hoover had never held elected office. He was a mining engineer by training and profession and had become wealthy by managing mines in China and Australia. He gave years of his life in public service as director of relief for Belgium after the German invasion of 1914, then as head of the U.S. government's Food Administration during the war, and finally as Secretary of Commerce under Harding and Coolidge. In many ways he fit the thinking of the times: a successful businessman guiding the work of government, first in relief and then in prosperity.

The Democrats in 1928 had a hard time finding an issue that resonated with the voters during the Republican-led prosperity. The party nominated New York governor Alfred E. Smith, who said that he stood for price parity for farmers and greater governmental regulation of utilities. A much larger issue developed, however, when Smith revealed that he favored either cutting back or eliminating Prohibition. This touched on a sensitive issue for many Americans and positioned Smith as too liberal for their comfort. Another major question about Smith was the fact that he was a Roman Catholic. No Catholic had ever been nominated for president, and anti-Catholic bias against him arose in many parts of the country. Opponents feared that Smith would have more loyalty to the Pope than to the United States. As a final blow, Smith was associated with the Tammany Hall political machine of New York.

The next Roman Catholic nominated for president by a major party was John F. Kennedy in 1960. He also had to address in the campaign the issue of his being Catholic, but Kennedy won.

Hoover rode the wave of prosperity and anti-Smith bias to victory, receiving a 21.4 million to 15 million popular majority and a 444 to 87 landslide in the electoral college. Smith carried only Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and six states in the Deep South.

Hoover even carried Smith's home state of New York. With no Progressive candidate, Smith did, however, almost double the vote that Democrat John Davis received in 1924. The New York governor's candidacy helped build the urban base of the Democratic Party that it has today.



President Herbert Hoover

Good Times for Business

Hoover encouraged business. He believed that government should help business but not individuals. He stressed "rugged individualism" and feared that government assistance would weaken individual initiative. However, Hoover also favored tax relief for low-income Americans. His mining and relief experience helped him see the value of at least limited government planning. The First Lady welcomed prominent blacks to the White House, a rare event especially for Republicans. In another departure from typical

The expression, “If you believe that, I’ve got some swampland in Florida to sell you,” arose from one of the speculative manias of the 1920s. The population of Miami more than doubled between 1920 and 1925. Real estate prices skyrocketed as the automobile made Florida more accessible and promoters around the country encouraged the dream of quick wealth in the land of sun and sea. People bought land they saw only on maps with as little as ten percent down. They hoped that the value of the land would increase and they could sell it at a profit. Some of the land was in swamps, but many thought such land could be reclaimed or made into an American Venice. Then reality struck. By 1926 and 1927, prices started falling. Local governments were often unable to collect taxes. Speculators began counting their losses as they could not find buyers for land in Florida any longer. The Great Depression came to Florida just as it did the rest of the country.

Republican policy, Hoover sought to help farmers with the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1929. The law created a \$500 million fund to help cooperatives store and market crops in order to provide price stability. Co-ops could buy grain when prices were low to hold it off the market so that prices might rise by increasing demand.

In his inaugural address on March 4, 1929, Hoover said, “I have no fears for the future of our country.” Seven months later, the future of the country looked bleak indeed. The events of the Great Depression were complex enough; understanding its causes is even more difficult.

Causes of the Depression

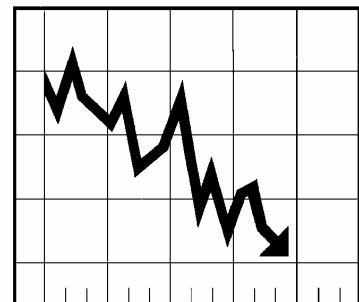
During the 1920s America enjoyed a long period of prosperity. Wages, profits, stock values, and investment dividends all increased. The segment of the economy involving consumer goods and retail sales grew dramatically. Businesses invested a good portion of their profits back into the production of more goods. The economy did have some negatives, however. Some jobs were lost because of improved machinery and because some skills became outdated. Farmers still had a hard time because of low commodity prices. If they increased production, it only made prices go down further.

The corner was turned toward trouble in the latter years of the decade. The zeal to produce more goods finally outpaced consumer demand, and sales dropped off. Wages did not keep pace with increased production, so people did not have the buying power to keep making as many purchases. The creation of capital goods (large investments such as factories and machines) decreased in the last half of the decade as production slowed.

Meanwhile, investment in stocks continued to grow. The wealthiest five percent of Americans had one-third of the nation’s income. This level of income allowed their savings to increase, and a good portion of it was invested in stocks. The more typical American also was encouraged to invest in the market by buying stocks on margin. This meant that they could buy stocks by putting down only about 10-25 percent of the face value. The broker would loan the investor the rest of the money with the expectation that they would both make money as the stock increased in value. About a half million people had bought stocks on margin, and about 1.5 million Americans had accounts with stock brokers. In general, many Americans came to believe that panics and depressions were a thing of the past and that prosperity was a permanent fixture in American life. Even President Hoover spoke of being nearer than ever before to the complete elimination of poverty in America.

The Crash

Some investors began selling stock in the summer of 1929 because they believed stocks were valued higher than their real worth. However, the bull market stumbled on into late October, when a series of sell-offs sent the market plummeting. Tuesday, October 29, 1929, was the worst day in the history of the stock exchange to that point, when the market lost 13 percent of its value in one day. Sellers could not find any buyers interested, and stock values continued to fall. Those who had bought on margin could not recover their investment, let alone pay off their brokerage loans. The market lost 40% of its value by the end of November. Total losses in the market have been estimated at \$30 billion.



Even with such losses, the recession was mild at first. The Federal Reserve Board lowered its discount rate to member banks to help make loans cheaper and more readily available. The government provided some emergency help to farmers. Unemployment was not much above what had been typical rates. Administration officials expressed confidence that the economy was fundamentally sound and the worst would be over soon.

Worsening Conditions

Then in 1930, things got much worse. Congress passed the Hawley-Smoot Tariff, which raised tariffs to their highest level in history. Businesses said that they needed protection from foreign competition. Hoover had reservations about the bill, but he signed it into law. Not only did it limit imports, but it also hurt trade with other countries as they refused to accept goods if they could not send goods to America. In the summer of 1931, banks in Europe began to fail. This was when Hoover proposed suspending debt and reparation payments to help ease the crisis. By this point the depression was becoming worldwide. Unemployment rose from between six and seven million in 1930 to 12 million by 1932. This meant that at least 25% of the nation's work force was out of a job. Many of those who continued working had their wages and hours cut. Between 1929 and 1932, personal income fell just over 50%. More unemployment meant fewer people able to buy goods. This led to a cut in production, which resulted in more unemployment. Some 9,000 banks closed their doors because they were unable to collect on loans. Between 1930 and 1934 about one million farms went into bankruptcy. Stock values in 1932 were about 20% of what they were in 1929 before the crash.

The Republicans lost their majority in the House of Representatives in the 1930 congressional election and only barely maintained a majority in the Senate. The general philosophy of Hoover and the Republicans was that direct relief to individuals was a function of local and state governments, not the federal government. Congress did create the Farm Board, which offered loans to farm cooperatives. Federal public works projects increased, but this may have been offset by declines in projects funded by state and local governments. In 1932, Congress created the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which made loans to banks and large businesses in order to keep them afloat. The Home Loan Bank Board helped banks with short term loans so that they would not have to file as many foreclosures on mortgages.

By 1932 the situation was critical. Thousands of people had lost their homes, farms, and jobs. Lines formed daily outside of soup kitchens sponsored by churches and other relief agencies. People who had lost their homes sometimes gathered in groups of makeshift shelters called Hoovervilles. Some 15,000 unemployed veterans of World War I gathered in Washington in the summer of 1932 to demand immediate payment of a bonus that had been promised to them in the form of life insurance set to mature in 1945. When the bill to make the payments failed to pass Congress, many of those in the Bonus Expeditionary Force went home. Many of the rest moved into temporary shelters in Anacostia Flats in the District of Columbia. Congress then voted to buy tickets for the men to return home, and all but about 700 left. In late July, Hoover ordered the huts torn down. General Douglas MacArthur, assisted by Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton among others, led a force of troops into the settlement that drove out the Bonus Army and their families and burned down the shanties. The image of soldiers using tanks and other military force against fellow Americans only highlighted the nation's plight and made Republican chances for victory in the fall election even more remote.

Do not weary yourself to gain wealth,
cease from your consideration of it.
When you set your eyes on it, it is gone,
for wealth certainly makes itself wings
like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.

Proverbs 23:4-5

Assignments for Unit 21, Lesson 102

- ◆ Read the 1928 speech by Herbert Hoover, “Rugged Individualism,” setting forth his personal and political philosophy, in DHUS, pages 308-316.
- ◆ Read the 1928 speech by Al Smith, “Religious Prejudice and Politics,” concerning the issue of his being a Roman Catholic, WGS, pages 408-410.
- ◆ Read “Sence You Went Away” by James Weldon Johnson and the poems by Paul Lawrence Dunbar in 101GAP, pages 41-43.
- ◆ Continue reading **Christy**.

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The Roaring Twenties

The United States recovered from the Great War and entered into the bustle of an ever-changing world in the 1920s. The country took on more aspects of modernism. Many people enjoyed material prosperity even while aching questions arose about the meaning and purpose of life. The decade ended with the catastrophic Great Depression that exploded the myth of never-ending and always-increasing prosperity.

Population Changes

The 1920 census revealed that the population of the country was about 106 million. For the first time, urban population was greater than rural population. By 1930, the population had grown to 123 million, and the gap between rural and urban population had widened. In addition, the number of people living on farms decreased during the decade. Even the rural population was becoming centered in small towns as opposed to isolated farms.

Cities grew larger and apartment buildings became more common. Women were liberated from some of the drudgery of housework by labor saving devices, processed foods, and ready-made clothing. Many women used their time to become involved in civic causes, political organizations, and church and social groups. Even farming areas were affected by the changes in technology and energy. Electricity, radios, cars, and appliances were found in many farm homes; and farmers invested in new farm equipment for their work.

Immigration Changes

Long the haven for the huddled masses of foreign countries, the United States effectively closed its gates to immigrants in the 1920s. This was in response to several trends of public opinion. First, a general fear and distrust of internationals arose after the war and with the eruption of political revolution in Russia. Second, labor unions did not want immigrants to compete for their jobs and to accept lower pay than Americans did. At the same time, employers no longer needed as much cheap labor as they had when railroads were being built and industrial growth was booming. Finally, many resisted newcomers who did not speak English and who did not blend in easily with the American culture.

In 1921 Congress enacted a quota system for European immigrants. The number of newcomers from a specific country in a given year could not exceed three percent of the people from that country who lived in the U.S. in 1910. The law also restricted total annual immigration to about 350,000. Three years later, the quota was cut to two percent and the base year was changed to 1890. This severely limited the number of immigrants who could come from southern and eastern Europe, since immigration from these areas had occurred primarily after 1890. The base year was changed to 1920 in 1929 legislation, but the total number of immigrants allowed was cut to about 150,000. Immigration from countries in the Western Hemisphere was not affected.

The United States effectively closed its gates to immigrants in the 1920s.

The new policy embittered first and second generation Americans and aroused resentment in the foreign countries affected by the restrictions. Foreign nationals who were unemployed or oppressed had once looked to the United States as their chance for a new start, but now for most people that chance was gone.

Business and Labor

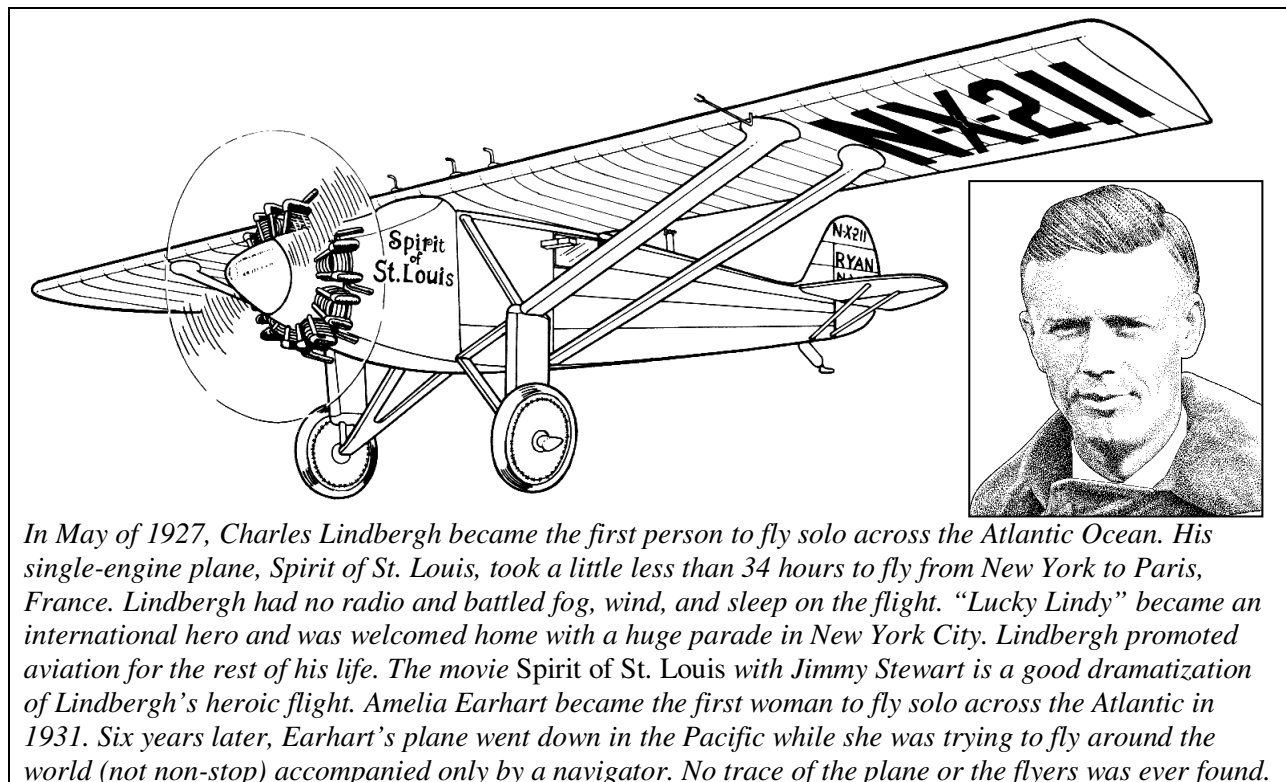
American business grew with the spread of assembly lines and improved machinery. Over one thousand business mergers took place in the decade, consolidating effort and expense. By 1930, half of the nation's corporate wealth was held by two hundred companies. The country tapped new sources of energy to power its factories, homes, machines, and automobiles. Coal consumption fell by about 20% over the decade, while petroleum production doubled and natural gas production increased 150%. By 1930 the U.S. was using more electricity than all the other countries of the world combined.

American workers in general were better off in 1929 than they had been in 1920, but labor unions were not. Employers encouraged workers to stay out of unions, and some organized company unions within plants that were controlled by management. Because of the perception of unions as potential troublemakers as well as the improved standard of living that made the need for collective bargaining seem less pressing, union strength declined during the 1920s from 12 percent of the work force in 1920 to seven percent in 1930.

The Consumer Culture

The Twenties saw an increased emphasis in marketing and advertising, especially in newspapers and magazines and in the new medium of radio. The growth in production of consumer goods, such as automobiles, appliances, and clothes, gave companies a reason to encourage Americans to buy.

Automobile ownership increased from eight million in 1920 to 23 million in 1930. The latter figure meant an average of one car for every six people. Cars replaced horse-drawn vehicles and severely decreased the use of trolleys and railroads. At the same time, the 40,000 city buses around the country replaced streetcars. Industries related to vehicle manufacturing, such as glass, steel, and rubber, grew accordingly, as did the demand for more and better roads. By the end of the decade, automobile manufacturing was the largest industry in the country. The car changed the lifestyle of Americans. Extended families could live in different towns and still stay in touch. Young men and women could spend time together away from the watchful eyes of parents. The automobile also contributed to an increase in highway fatalities, crime, and the transportation of illegal liquor.



In May of 1927, Charles Lindbergh became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. His single-engine plane, Spirit of St. Louis, took a little less than 34 hours to fly from New York to Paris, France. Lindbergh had no radio and battled fog, wind, and sleep on the flight. "Lucky Lindy" became an international hero and was welcomed home with a huge parade in New York City. Lindbergh promoted aviation for the rest of his life. The movie Spirit of St. Louis with Jimmy Stewart is a good dramatization of Lindbergh's heroic flight. Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1931. Six years later, Earhart's plane went down in the Pacific while she was trying to fly around the world (not non-stop) accompanied only by a navigator. No trace of the plane or the flyers was ever found.



The 1920s were the era of radio. The first commercial station, KDKA in Pittsburgh, signed on in November of 1920. By 1929, radio sales totaled \$400 million, 600 stations were on the air, and a third of American homes owned at least one receiver. Radio brought news, entertainment, information, political speeches, and advertising into American living rooms. National broadcast networks brought the country together as people everywhere listened to the same programs. Military and airline use of radio helped improve safety and service. In 1927, the Federal Radio Commission was created by Congress to regulate the broadcast industry. The title and function of the agency was broadened in 1934 to the Federal Communications Commission.

The decade also saw the phenomenal growth of the movie industry. By 1927, America had 20,000 movie theaters, and millions of people went to the movies every week. The first motion pictures did not have sound. *The Jazz Singer*, starring popular actor and singer Al Jolson, was the first “talkie.” It debuted in 1927.

Recreation and spectator sports continued to grow in popularity. Nine to ten million people watched major league baseball each year. Fans followed the exploits of their favorite players and teams. Babe Ruth became the first superstar, astounding the sports world by hitting an amazing sixty home runs in 1927. Boxing was also widely popular, as were college and professional football. In those wild and crazy days, fads such as the Charleston dance, sitting atop flagpoles for long periods, and shocking fashions (with skirts all the way up to the knee) swept the country. The automobile provided the chance to take a drive or take a dream vacation.

Enrollment in high schools and colleges grew. A better educated public with more free time offered a bigger market for magazines. *Reader’s Digest* began in 1922, *Time* magazine was founded the following year, and many other periodicals appeared during the Twenties.

With all of the fun changes, more serious issues confronted America during the decade between the Great War and the Great Depression. We will discuss these in the next lesson.

A generation goes and a generation comes...

Ecclesiastes 1:4a

Assignments for Unit 21, Lesson 103

- ◆ Read the speech given in 1925 by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, “Modern Trade Unionism,” in WGS, pages 405-408.
- ◆ Read the speech “Wealth and Education” by Will Rogers in WGS, pages 729-730.
- ◆ Read the poems by Robert Frost in 101GAP, pages 44-52.
- ◆ Continue reading **Christy**.

What Was Happening In the World?

1920 – Hermann Rorschach, a psychiatrist, begins showing his clients inkblots and asking them what they think they might be.

1922 – Benito Mussolini becomes the Fascist leader of Italy.

1922 – Turkish leader Kemal Ataturk abolishes the Ottoman throne (in existence since 1300) and establishes the Turkish republic the next year.

1922 – A British archaeologist discovers the tomb of Tutankhamen in Egypt.

1923 – Adolph Hitler attempts to take over Germany, but he fails and is sentenced to prison. While there, he writes **Mein Kampf** (My Struggle).

1923 – Yankee Stadium opens in New York. It is called “The House that Ruth Built” because of ticket sales to people wanting to watch new star Babe Ruth. Ruth had been bought from the Boston Red Sox in 1920 for \$125,000. He had been an outstanding pitcher, but he was such a good hitter that he was moved to play right field so that he could play every day.

1924 – Soviet leader V. I. Lenin dies, leaving a power vacuum in the Communist Party. Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin battle for control, with Stalin winning out by 1929.

1924 – Astronomer Edwin Hubble explores the universe with the new 100-inch telescope in an observatory on Mount Wilson in California.

1924 – George Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* combines jazz and orchestral music into one composition.

1924 – At the Olympic Games in Paris, British athletes Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell win the 100 meter and 400 meter races respectively. Liddell went on to be a missionary in China and died there. The accomplishments of Abrahams and Liddell are featured in the movie *Chariots of Fire*.



Lenin

Exploring America

History, Literature, and Faith

Prohibition, Race, and Skepticism

The 1920s were not just a time of new gadgets and new cars. Serious issues confronted the American people, and not all of them were handled well.

Prohibition

What Herbert Hoover called the noble experiment of prohibiting the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages lasted throughout the 1920s. Federal Prohibition culminated decades of efforts by church, women's, and civic-minded groups to eliminate the problems caused by drinking. Unfortunately, the law only drove the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages underground. It was smuggled into the country and distilled by bootleggers all over the nation. Secret bars (often not-so-secret) served liquor regularly. Such taverns were called speakeasies because one had to speak easy (that is, quietly) to the man at the door in order to gain entrance.

“Scarface” Al Capone created a lavish and well-protected lifestyle for himself by his involvement in bootlegging and other aspects of organized crime. An agent for the Treasury Department infiltrated his gang, and Capone was eventually sentenced to eleven years in prison for tax evasion. He died in 1947.

Criminals such as Al Capone in Chicago took over the alcohol business, and it became the basis for gang wars and further illegal activity, including gambling and racketeering. One common racket was for a gang to demand payment from businesses for “protection,” meaning that if a business didn’t go along with the gang, bad things would mysteriously start to happen to the business.

Prohibition laws were widely ignored. Some law enforcement officials received bribes from criminals and bootleggers to look the other way. Politicians began speaking openly about repealing prohibition. Al Smith lost the presidential election in 1928 partly because of just this position, but Franklin Roosevelt stood for repeal in 1932 and won. The 21st Amendment, ratified in 1933, repealed the 18th Amendment that had made prohibition a national policy. Control of the liquor business was returned to the states.

Race and the Klan

The black population in America became significantly less rural and more urban during the twenties. The migration of blacks to northern factory cities, which had begun during the Great War, continued through the decade. Many more blacks came to be employed as clerical workers and in civil service jobs. Tens of thousands owned their own businesses. However, blacks were usually met with discrimination and hatred as they tried to live in their new communities.

Many African-Americans took pride in their ethnic culture and pressed for better treatment in American society in general. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1910. W. E. B. DuBois was one of its early leaders. The group focused its efforts on outlawing lynching and on enforcement of laws guaranteeing equality.

A more extreme response to the conditions of African-Americans was the black nationalism promoted by Marcus Garvey. Garvey wanted blacks to separate from white society, something DuBois and other black leaders condemned. The solution Garvey proposed was for blacks to set up their own country in Africa. His United Negro Improvement Association claimed six million members, but in 1925 Garvey was convicted of mail fraud and sent to prison. His separatist ideas appeared to be little more than

a money-making scheme. President Coolidge pardoned Garvey in 1927 but deported him to his native Jamaica. Garvey died in London in 1940.

One menacing problem for blacks as well as other Americans was the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan. A Georgia man began the Klan anew in 1915, not to raise up the old Confederacy but to defend its own definition of pure Americanism. The Klan targeted not just blacks but Catholics, Jews, foreigners, and anyone else who did not measure up to their definition of what was 100% American. Many Klan chapters were formed in the North and Midwest. Klansmen were known for wearing white robes and hoods and for intimidation and violence against those whom it opposed, such as the burning of crosses in private yards and during their meetings. They put on a 40,000 man march in Washington, D.C. in 1925. Claims about its membership vary from 3 million to 8 million, but even those may be inflated. Legislation restricting immigration caused the Klan's appeal to diminish, as did the fact that people got tired of the Klan's use of fear and violence. Factional differences within the Klan led to its breakup into several competing groups, each claiming to be the true Klan.

A Changing Outlook

The Great War touched off attitudes of despair and disillusionment in many of the younger generation of the 1920s. The world was no longer on what seemed to be a steady march of progress. Instead, mankind had demonstrated the willingness to use horrific weapons such as machine guns and mustard gas on each other. Many apparently decided that the best use of life was to eat, drink, and be merry. They came to be called the Lost Generation.

"The Jazz Age," as F. Scott Fitzgerald called the period, not only had new kinds of music and dance clubs; but it also brought about changes in personal morality. Many women cast off restraints and took up drinking, smoking, and immorality, although the trend probably got more publicity than accurately reflected the numbers engaged in such behavior. The trend declined in the 1930s as Americans discovered that such a lifestyle bore bitter fruit.

As a scientist exploring the fundamental aspects of the universe, Albert Einstein, who was Jewish, believed in God and in the basic order of things. "I shall never believe that God plays dice with the world," he once wrote in response to the idea of uncertainty in the physical world. "The Lord God is subtle, but malicious he is not" is another Einstein statement. He believed that God was behind the universe, and his studies were an effort to understand how God worked. "I want to think God's thoughts," he once said. "The rest is details."

Two trials typified the tense times of the Twenties. Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were arrested in 1920 in a Boston suburb and charged with murder and robbery. The trial raised as many issues about their nationality and political beliefs as it did about the crimes themselves. The judge privately called them anarchists. Sacco and Vanzetti were found guilty; and, despite many appeals for mercy and demonstrations on their behalf around the world, they were electrocuted in 1927.

In 1924, two young men, Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, were tried in Chicago and found guilty of a murder that they committed apparently just to see how it felt to kill someone in what they hoped would be the perfect crime. Their defense attorney was Clarence Darrow, who managed to get them sentenced to life in prison instead of the death penalty. The men's attitude was an extreme example of the aimlessness and disillusion that affected many people in the 1920s.

The world was experiencing dramatic change with new technologies, new means of rapid transportation and communication, and new challenges to accepted standards. Freudian psychoanalysis changed the way people understood human behavior. Authors and artists explored new avenues of expression. Painters such as Picasso, Cezanne, Van Gogh, and Gauguin reflected this new and uncertain perspective of reality in their work. Meanwhile, some reacted to the changes by focusing on (and insisting on) traditional standards and what they understood to be traditional Americanism.

The theory of relativity and the quantum theory of physics challenged the way people understood the physical universe. Scientists suggested that the world was not as neat and orderly as had once been thought. Albert Einstein suggested that as matter approached the speed of light, measurements would become shorter and clocks would slow down. Max Planck's quantum theory showed that atoms were

complex structures. Werner Heisenberg published his uncertainty principle in 1927, which stated that one could not know exactly where electrons were at any given moment. Such theories were difficult for many people to understand, and the way they were presented in the media led people to believe that the natural laws described by Isaac Newton were no longer adequate for explaining the world in which they lived.

What Was Happening In the World?

1925 – John Baird transmits the first television image of a human face.

1925 – Clarence Birdseye develops a means of quick-freezing food to preserve its taste.

1927 – Opposing groups battle in China, with Nationalists led by Chiang Kai-Shek winning control and Communists led by Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-Tung) escaping into the countryside for years of training and repositioning for a new assault.

1928 – "Steamboat Willie," a new cartoon by animator Walt Disney, introduces the character of Mickey Mouse.

1928 – Station WGY in Schenectady, New York begins regular 90-minute television broadcasts three days per week.

1930 – The planet Pluto is discovered.

1931 – Japan invades Manchuria, a province of China, and begins Japanese imperialism in the Pacific.

1931 – The Empire State Building is completed in New York City and becomes the world's tallest building (1,250 feet high). It will remain so until passed in 1954.

1932 – Olympic swimmer Johnny Weismuller begins making movies as Tarzan.

1932 – Edwin Land develops a quick-developing film he calls Polaroid

1932 – The infant son of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh is kidnapped on March 1. The family pays a half-million dollar ransom, but the child is found dead on May 12. Bruno Hauptmann is convicted of the crime and is executed in 1936.

If the dead are not raised,
let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die.

1 Corinthians 15:32b

Assignments for Unit 21, Lesson 104

- ◆ Read Clarence Darrow's closing arguments in the Leopold and Loeb trial, WGS, pages 412-415.
- ◆ Read the poems by Carl Sandberg and Vachel Lindsay in 101GAP, pages 53-56.
- ◆ Continue reading **Christy**.

Exploring America

History, Literature, and Faith

Bible Study: The Scopes Trial

Change. It is a word that can either cause excite or strike fear. Some changes are good, such as a move toward more racial equality. Other changes are bad, such as the increasing acceptance of abortion. The standard for determining what are good changes and what are bad changes has to be the Word of God, correctly interpreted.

Defend. This is another word that can be either positive or negative. It is good and right to defend the truth. It is not good to defend what violates the truth. Again, what we defend and what we accept have to be determined by God's Word.

The period of the 1920s was one of strong challenges to accepted beliefs and strong defense of traditional beliefs. This is the essential context for understanding fully the dramatic battle that was played out in a small-town Tennessee courtroom in 1925.

*The biggest-selling religious book of the decade was Bruce Barton's **The Man Nobody Knows**, published in 1925. Appropriate for the era, Barton portrayed Jesus as the consummate businessman.*

The Twenties were a time of intense religious activity. Revivalists, sometimes flamboyant, drew large crowds during the period. Perhaps the most well-known religious figure of the day was Aimee Semple McPherson, a woman who began the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Her first husband, a missionary, died in Hong Kong in 1910. Mrs. Semple left her second husband, Harold McPherson, to begin her own preaching and faith-healing ministry. She built a 5,000-seat arena in Los Angeles and began a radio station, Bible school, and magazine. Mrs. McPherson disappeared in 1926 only to emerge five weeks later claiming to have been kidnapped. She was accused of perjury in the matter but was found innocent. Aimee died in 1944.

*Sinclair Lewis wrote a scathing novel about a hypocritical evangelist, **Elmer Gantry**, in 1927.*

Changes and Defense

America witnessed great changes in the Twenties, and many people believed that the country as they had known it was disappearing. For instance, in reaction to the rising tide of immigration, the painful foreign involvement in the Great War, and the fear of radical revolutionaries infiltrating the land, the United States government drastically limited immigration and engaged in a crackdown on those whose ideas were different and new. In reaction to the growing numbers and influence of foreign-born, non-Protestant individuals, the Ku Klux Klan arose to defend what it saw as pure Americanism. In an attempt to control the evils of alcohol, the United States enacted prohibition laws.

As a reaction to the attack on the foundations of traditional Christian doctrine, conservative believers mounted an active campaign against evolutionary thought and theological liberalism. Princeton Bible scholar J. Gresham Machen published **Christianity and Liberalism** in 1923, denying that liberal theology could even be considered to be an expression of Christianity. The conservative faculty at Princeton Theological Seminary split from the institution in 1929.

The Legal Background

In the context of these changes and perceived threats to traditional Christianity, and in an attempt to limit the influence of the theory of evolution, state legislatures considered laws that would ban the teaching of evolution in schools. Oklahoma passed such a law in 1923, and a few other states enacted similar laws during the decade.

Tennessee was one of the liberal-conservative battleground states. In 1924, William Jennings Bryan gave a speech in Nashville entitled, "Is the Bible True?" Bryan affirmed his belief that it is. Copies of the speech were given to every Tennessee state legislator during its 1925 legislative session held in the spring. During that session, the Tennessee General Assembly passed the Butler Act (named for its sponsor), which made it illegal for anyone in a public school to teach any theory that denied God's work in Creation as it was taught in the Bible.

The Challenge

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a national liberal group, advertised in Tennessee that it would defend in court anyone who was charged with violating the Butler Act. In other words, they were willing to make a test case to determine if the law were constitutional.

A group of businessmen in Dayton, Tennessee, a small town about an hour north of Chattanooga, saw the ACLU advertisement and decided that having a trial on evolution and creation in Dayton might bring the community and the area national publicity. They believed that people from all over the country would come to Dayton, see the beauty there, and want to move there; and the local economy would benefit.

The trial is sometimes called the Monkey Trial because the theory of evolution says that man evolved from monkeys.

The high school coach, John Thomas Scopes, agreed to be arrested for the test case. He had substituted for the science teacher for a couple of weeks; and although he couldn't say for sure that he had taught evolution, he thought that he might have. The people who organized the trial wanted to bring two high-profile lawyers to Dayton to argue the case. The prosecution invited William Jennings Bryan, a three-time presidential candidate, former Secretary of State, and well-known and widely respected defender of traditional Christian teaching. Clarence Darrow agreed to donate his time for Scopes' defense. Darrow was perhaps the best-known defense attorney in the country and widely known to be a religious skeptic. Each side had several other attorneys who worked on the case with Bryan and Darrow.

The Trial

Scopes was well-liked in the community and never went to jail. When people from out of town began arriving for the trial, Scopes was among those welcoming them. Local businessmen created a festival atmosphere for the event, although calling it a carnival or circus is somewhat extreme. The trial was held from July 10 to July 21, 1925, in the Rhea County Courthouse. Dozens of reporters came to cover it. Radio station WGN of Chicago broadcast the trial live.

The case was presented as a battle between those who held traditional Christian beliefs and those who held modern, evolution-based ideas about man and the world. Twelve scientists and theologians submitted statements that were included in the record of the case, but none were cross-examined. The prosecution tried to show that Scopes had indeed violated the Butler Act. Scopes himself did not testify.

The highlight of the trial came when Clarence Darrow questioned William Jennings Bryan, who took the witness stand as an expert on the Bible. Bryan did a good job of standing up for the Bible, even though Darrow tried to make Bryan's beliefs look silly. Darrow's questioning of Bryan concluded the testimony in the trial. Darrow surprised the courtroom



by urging the jury to find Scopes guilty. He said that he planned to appeal the case. Bryan had prepared to give a long closing speech, but Darrow's request that Scopes be found guilty made that impossible.

The jury found Scopes guilty, and the judge set his fine at \$100, the minimum allowed by the law. Two years later, when Scopes was in graduate school at the University of Chicago, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that the Butler Act was constitutional, but it reversed Scopes' conviction on a technicality. The state constitution said that any fine greater than fifty dollars was to be set by the jury, not the judge.

Aftermath

After the trial, Bryan made some speeches in the Dayton area and worked on a printed form of the closing speech he had planned to give in the trial. He talked with supporters in Dayton about starting a college there that would teach fundamental Christian beliefs, and he offered money to help get it started. Bryan died in his sleep five days after the trial ended. William Jennings Bryan University, now called Bryan College, opened in Dayton in 1930.

Dayton and Tennessee did receive extensive publicity during and after the trial, but much of it was unkind. Many newspaper and magazine articles at the time, as well as books written later, made the people of the Tennessee appear to be opposed to progress and education. Many of the wrong ideas about the trial that are current today came from the 1956 play *Inherit the Wind* and the movie version that appeared a few years later. Much of what was said in the production about the town, the people, and the trial was not accurate. It presents those who believe the Bible as hateful, ignorant, and prejudiced. The

A museum dedicated to the trial has been established in Dayton, and a Scopes Trial Play and Festival is held there each July. The trial is re-created from the transcript of the proceedings, and the town square is host to various vendors for several days.

play was written to criticize the atmosphere of intolerance that the authors saw around them in the 1950s, not to present a fair account of the Scopes Trial.

The trial was not a bitter event that divided the community of Dayton. Scopes left Dayton only because he wanted to attend graduate school. Bryan was a kind and intelligent man. He had earlier supported such reforms as women's suffrage and the creation of a cabinet-level Department of Labor. He had resigned as Secretary of State under Wilson because he feared that one of Wilson's letters to Germany during the submarine crisis was too strongly worded and might bring about war. Bryan even offered to pay the fine for Scopes.

Because of the Scopes Trial, school systems were afraid to teach evolution because they did not want to go through a trial like the one that had occurred in Dayton. Textbook publishers removed any discussion of evolution in many school books. The Butler Act stayed on the books until the Tennessee legislature repealed it in 1967.

The creation-evolution debate, as well as the debate over the inspiration and authority of the Bible, continue today. The Scopes Trial was a dramatic event in American history that propelled each side to believe in its position more strongly. Christian people need to be fair in considering the evidence of creation and kind toward those who disagree. We must not lower ourselves to the tactics of those who ridicule belief in the Creator and in the Biblical account of Creation. We would love to change the mindset of the majority of Americans who believe in evolution. The best way to do that is by presenting the proof and the logic of Creation in a kind, consistent, respectful, and convincing manner. (Some of the information on the Scopes Trial was taken from "The Myth of the Scopes Trial" by John Clayton in *Does God Exist?* January-February 2000, pp. 4-10.)

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed,
because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 Peter 4:14

Bible Study for Unit 21

- ◆ What faith issues do you think were raised in the Scopes Trial?
- ◆ Read Mark 12:28-31. How can a Christian love God with his mind, respecting both the existence and power of God as well as the study of science?
- ◆ Read Matthew 5:43-44. What should the reaction of a Christian be if he or she is ridiculed for believing in the Genesis account?
- ◆ Read 1 Peter 3:14-16. How well can you explain what you believe about creation versus evolution? How much do you need to understand in order to discuss the creation-evolution debate intelligently?
- ◆ How much should a Christian office-holder seek to impose his beliefs on society through laws that reflect his personal beliefs?

Assignments for Unit 21, Lesson 105

- ◆ Read “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” by T. S. Eliot in 101GAP, pages 66-70.
- ◆ Finish reading **Christy**.