

# Fundamentalism

## Religion in America

### Interest in the Holy Spirit

- Liberal and evangelical Protestants: harness the Holy Spirit
  - “Power for service”
- Faith healing
  - *Mary Baker Eddy and Christian Science, 1879*
- Holiness movement in postwar Northern Methodism
  - *Theory of outpouring of Holy Spirit*
    - Entire sanctification or perfectionism
      - “Second blessing”
  - *Church of God, Church of the Nazarene*
- Pentecostalism
  - *W.J. Seymour, Azusa Street, L.A., 1906*
    - Speaking in tongues, faith healing, prophecy

### Interest in Millennialism

- Liberal Postmillennialism
  - *Walter Rauschenbusch’s Brotherhood of the Kingdom*
- Adventist Charles Taze Russell and Jehovah’s Witnesses
  - *Christ returned 1874, predicted rapture 1878 and Armageddon 1914*
- Dispensational premillennialism
  - *John Nelson Darby & Niagara Conferences, 1880s*
    - Bible predictions are reliable, precise, plain
    - Baconian science & Common Sense
      - *Arranging & classifying “hard facts” of Bible*
- Seven dispensations
- New concept of the “pretribulation rapture”
- Current “parenthetical” age not in prophecy

### Setting the Stage for Division

- Moody dies, 1899
  - *Revivalism fragments*
  - *Billy Sunday*
- World War I, 1914-18; Russian Revolution, 1917
- Mainline churches support Wilson's League of Nations
  - *War to end all wars*
  - *Another step towards the Millennium?*
  - *Defeated in the Senate, 1919*

■ 1920s: Retreat from reform; postmillennialism dealt a blow

## Conservatives define themselves

- *The Fundamentals*, 1910-15
  - *Funded by Lyman Stewart, California Presbyterian oil millionaire*
  - *Quaker Oats' Henry P. Crowell, Presbyterian millionaire, MBI director*
    - Inerrancy of Scripture
    - Authenticity of miracles: Christ's virgin birth
    - Christ's substitutionary atonement
    - Premillennialism
      - *Predicted events prove Bible's truth and reliability*

## The Fundamentalist Controversy

- Harry Emerson Fosdick, *Shall the Fundamentalists Win?*, 1922
  - *"Fundamentals" not fundamental*
  - *Fundamentalism an intolerant holdover from the past*
  - *The Bible a record of the unfolding of God's will*
    - Christianity changes and progresses over time
- Fundamentalists fail at Northern Baptist convention, 1922
- Fundamentalists fail at Northern Presbyterian General Assembly, 1923
- Division of conservatives; fear of schism
  - *Toleration wins; some secede*

## 1925: Aftermath

- Fundamentalists no longer taken seriously

- *Begin to look like popular stereotype*
- *Scopes trial, 1925*
- *Sinclair Lewis, Elmer Gantry, 1928*
- *Hurt by bizarre incidents*
  - Ku Klux Klan
  - J. Frank Norris