

**HT 502**

**Class 11 CHRISTIANITY IN THE MODERN ERA (1880–1960)**

**The Rise of American Liberalism, the New Theology**

**The Response to Denominational Latitudinarianism (1868–Present)**

**The Emergence of Evangelicalism**

**The Emergence of the Bible Conference Movement**

**The Rise of Faith Missions**



# OUTLINE OF AMERICAN CHURCH HISTORY

# Historically

Colonial Era	National Era	Modern Era	Post-Modern Era
	1776	1880	1963
Age of Divine Sovereignty	Age of Biblistic Rationalism, Common Sense	Age of Rationalism, Science	Age of Privatism, Despair, Self
Theocentrism	Biblicistic Rationalism	Autonomous Rationalism	Individualism

# Theologically



# Course Overview

- I. Christianity and the Age of Enlightenment in Europe (1600–1800)
- II. Christianity in the Era of British Colonialism (1600–1776)
  - \*The Rise of Pietism
- III. Christianity in the National Era (1776–1880)
- IV. Christianity in the Modern Era (1880–1963)**
- V. Christianity in the Post-Modern Era (1960–2021)

### III. The Modern Era (1880–1960)

**A. Background: Religious Events and Movements in Europe.**

**B. The Development of American Liberal Theology.**

**C. The Development of Response to Denominational Latitudinarianism.**

D. The Charismatic Movement in America.

E. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Evangelical Reaction and Assimilation.

F. The Modern Civil Rights Movement.

G. The Current State of Mainline Denominationalism.

H. The State of Roman Catholicism in America post-Vatican I.

I. The Modern Ecumenical Movement.

### IV. The Post-Modern Era (1960–present)

# Romanticism

**Romanticism describes a worldview shift that began in Europe in the latter half of the eighteenth century. It was often expressed in artistic, literary, musical mediums. In reaction to what was considered the cold, hard reason of the Enlightenment with its emphasis on logic and cognition as the basis for knowing truth, Romanticism emphasized an affective path to truth. The emotional and intuitive aspects of the human makeup were emphasized more. In religious expression, Transcendentalism, mysticism, and even spiritism balanced in harmony with nature were the keys for meaning and knowledge. This contains an inherent logical contradiction in that intense emotion and feeling became a basis for knowledge. In Francis Schaeffer's term, this was an "escape from reason."**

# **German Idealism**

**German Idealism, closely related to Romanticism, also emerged in the late eighteenth century, primarily following the Kantian shift in epistemology. The properties of things we perceive are not known in themselves. We only know them as ideas of our perceptions. Reality was determined by these subjective ideas. This was closely related to Romanticism and led to very subjective views of religion.**

# **The impact of Critical Views of the Bible a fallible book containing an infallible message**

**Background: Attempted to reduce the Bible to a phenomenological book; but each comes with a different set of presuppositions. HC emphasized the use of literary methods and sources, rejected the traditional authors of the Scriptures. Eichorn defined it as “the careful separation of the original and later parts of a book.” In source criticism there is an attempt to isolate and identify the different written sources of a work of literature. But when the sources are no longer extant, the work is largely speculative.**

**Kantians**

**Schleiermacher**

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The Rise of American  
Liberalism, the “New Theology”

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# Protestantism in Nineteenth-Century England

**Conformists/Anglicans/  
Church of England**

**High Church  
(more liberal  
theology)**

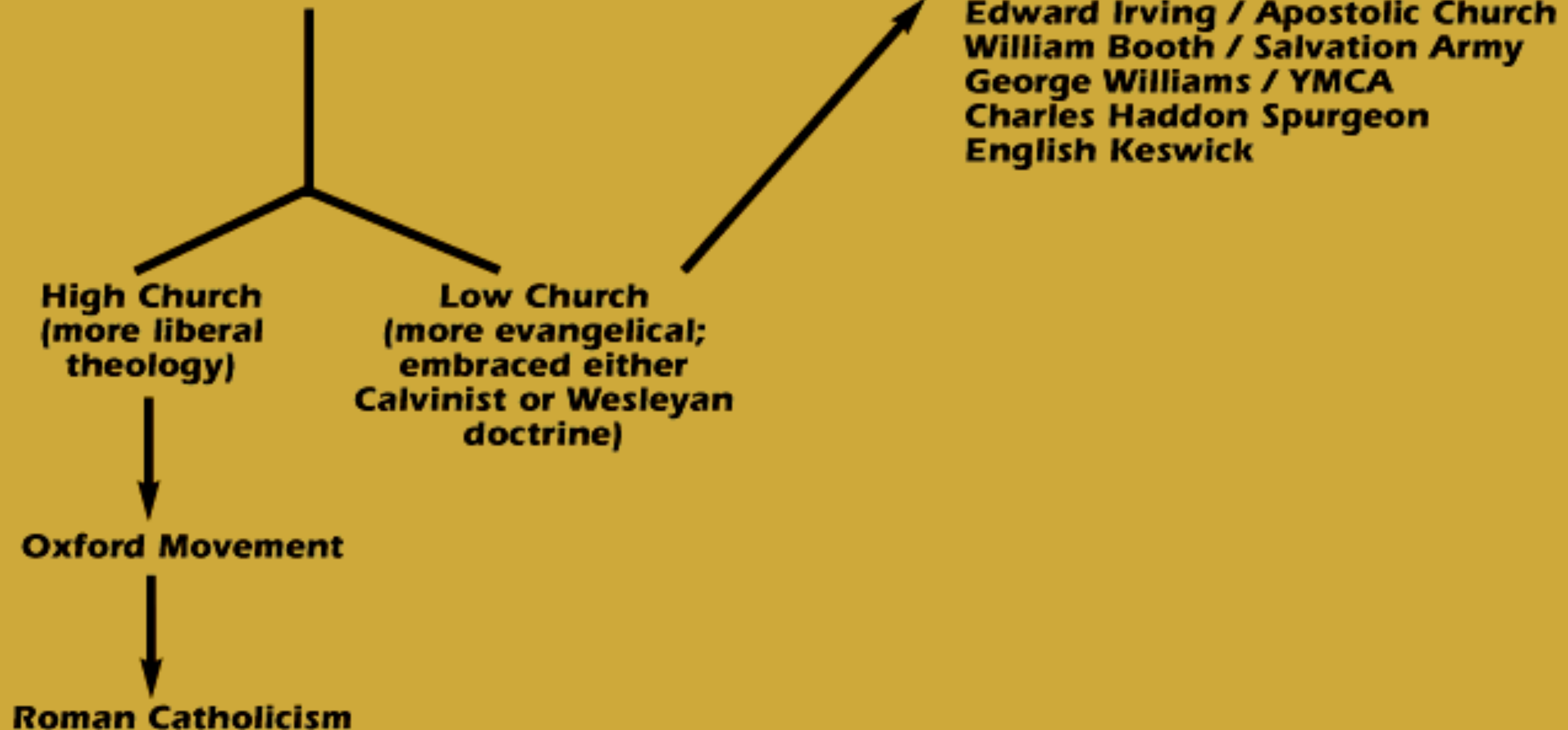
**Oxford Movement**

**Roman Catholicism**

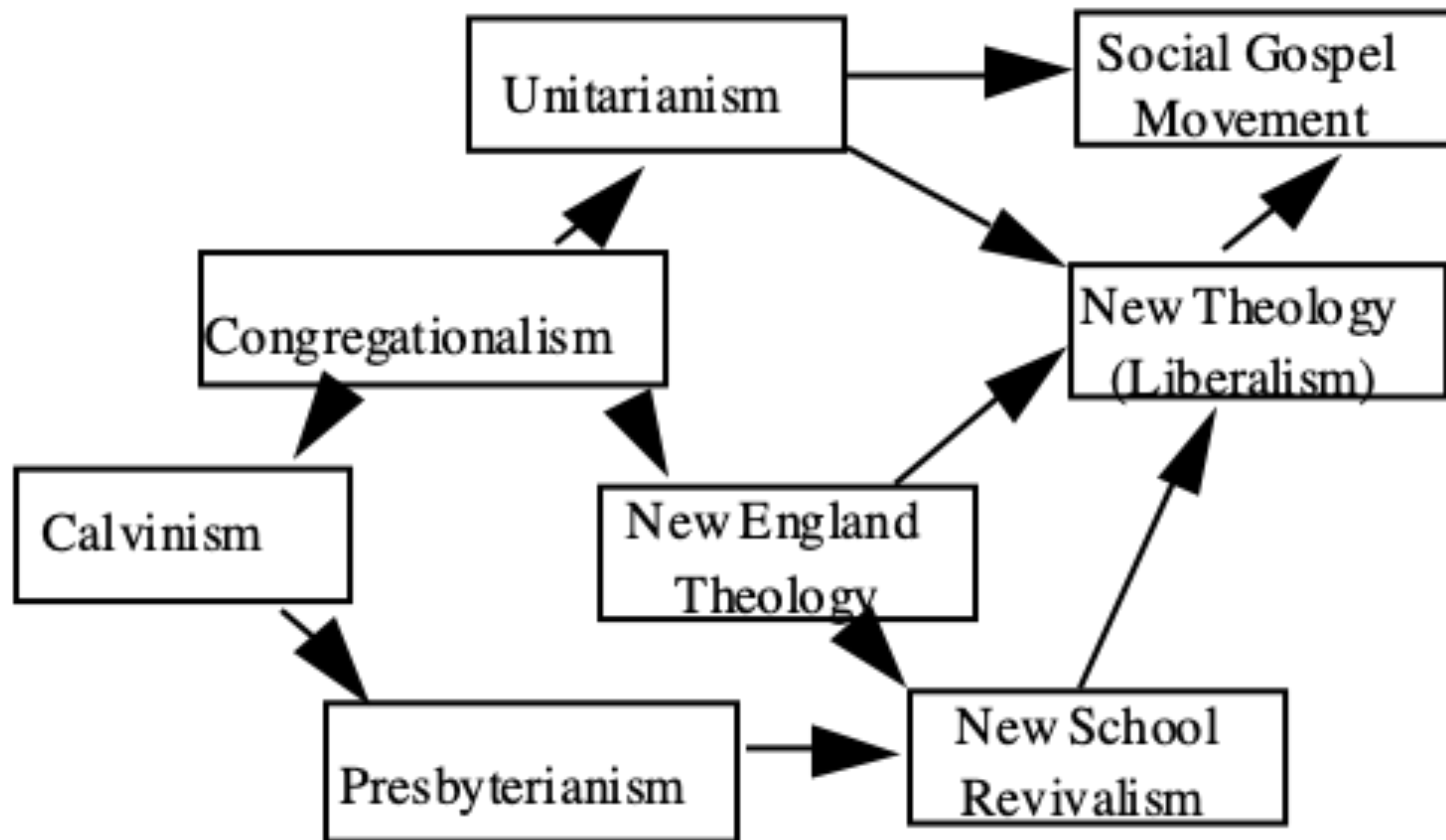
**Low Church  
(more evangelical;  
embraced either  
Calvinist or Wesleyan  
doctrine)**

**Nonconformists**

**John Nelson Darby / Brethren  
Edward Irving / Apostolic Church  
William Booth / Salvation Army  
George Williams / YMCA  
Charles Haddon Spurgeon  
English Keswick**



# The Origins of New Theology (Liberalism)





# **The Historical Sources of Nineteenth-Century American Liberalism**

## **Europe**

**The Thought of:**  
**Immanuel Kant**  
**Friedrich Schleiermacher**  
**Albrecht Ritschl**  
**Charles Darwin**

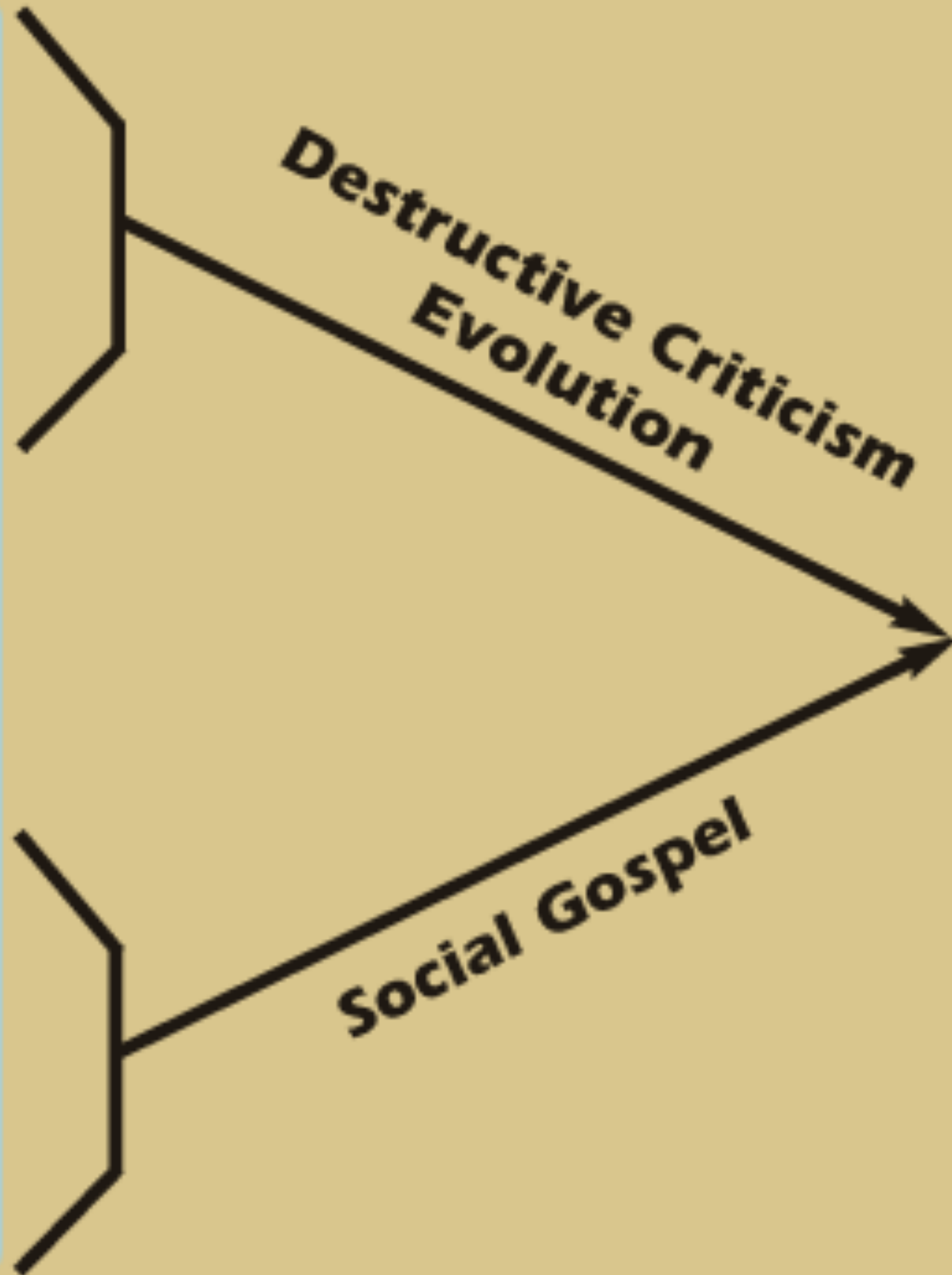
**Destructive Criticism  
Evolution**

## **America**

**The Theology of:**  
**Unitarianism**  
**New England Theology**  
**Horace Bushnell**

**Social Gospel**

**American Religious  
Liberalism**



# **The Assumptions of “New Theology”**

**Continuity [Uniformity]**

**Autonomy [Rationalism]**

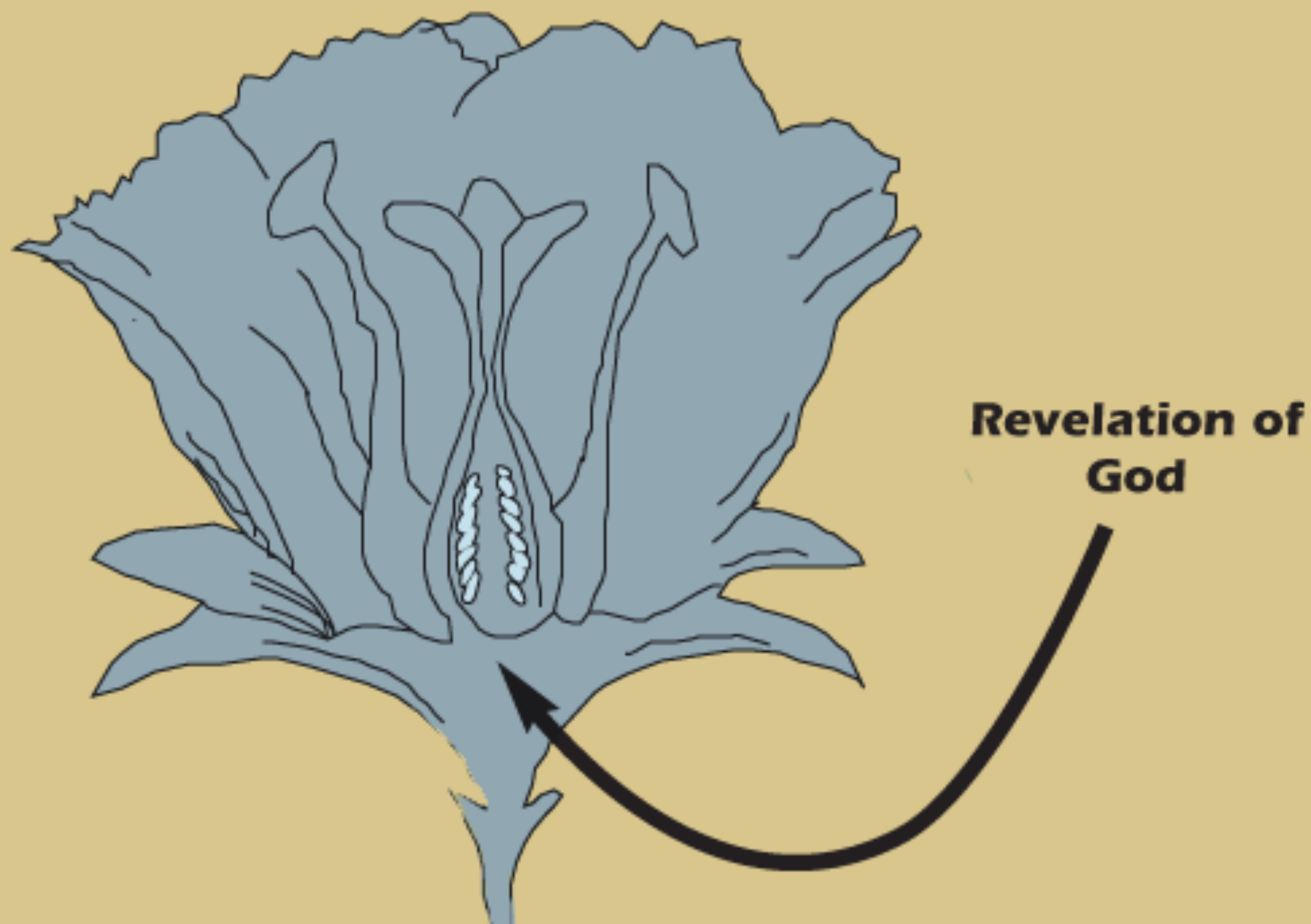
**Dynamism [Relativity]**

**History**

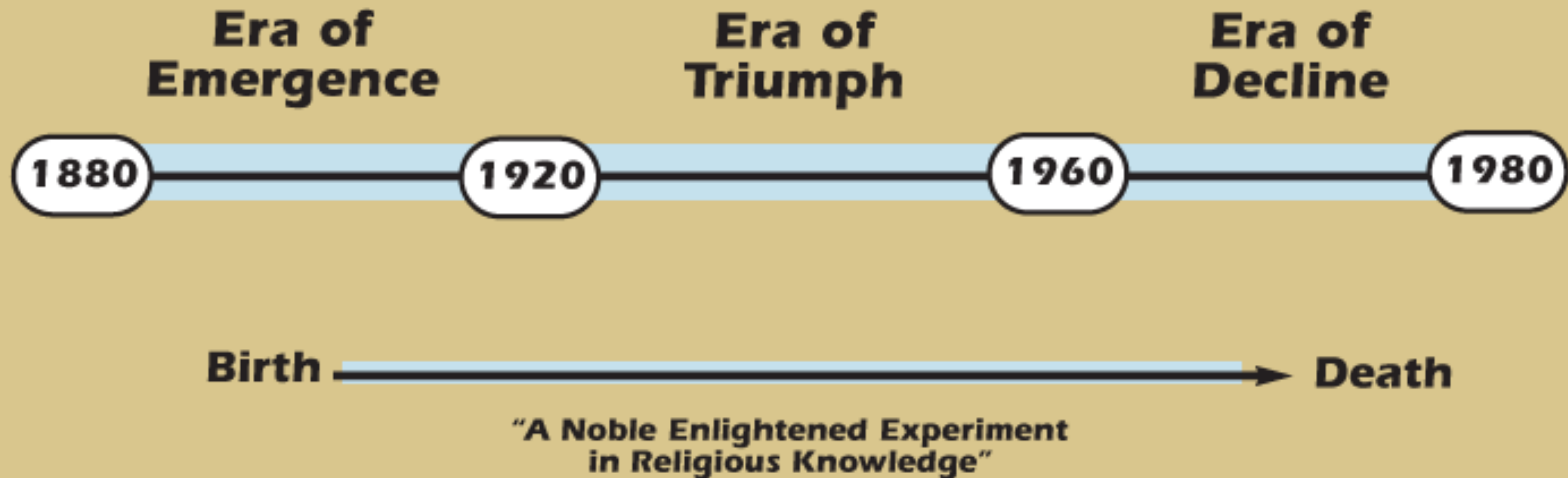
**Science**



# **The “New Theology” and the Bible**



# The History of the American Liberal Tradition





# Liberal Theology and Evangelical Theology: A Comparison

	<b>Liberal Theology</b>	<b>Evangelical Theology</b>
<b>Authority</b>	Individual experience	God's character and Word
<b>God</b>	Immanent only, all love, no wrath	Personal, holy, infinite
<b>Supernatural</b>	No miracles, natural and supernatural same	Supernatural since God transcends nature
<b>Christ</b>	A good man, ethical teacher, an example	Completely God and man, born of a virgin
<b>Man</b>	Innate goodness, divinity within	Totally depraved, in God's image

**Christ**

A good man, ethical teacher, an example

Completely God and man, born of a virgin

**Man**

Innate goodness, divinity within

Totally depraved, in God's image

**Sin**

Evil a remnant of animal instincts

Fallen and guilty

**Salvation**

Conversion an acknowledgment of deity within man

Instantaneous salvation from sin

**Future**

No hell, fulfillment now

Eternal life or death

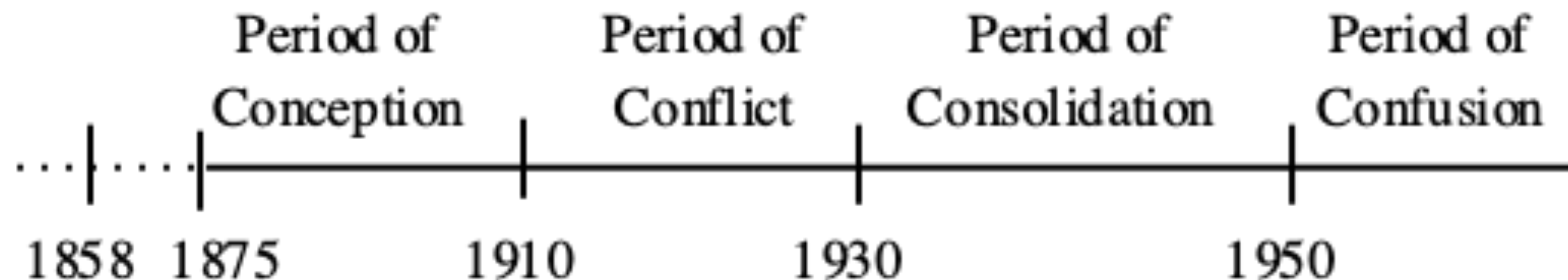
**Church**

Concerned with saving world and society

Concerned with the salvation of souls



# The History of the Rise and Development of the Evangelical Movement



# The History of American Evangelicalism

Denominational Strife:  
The Emergence of  
Evangelicalism

The Triumph of  
Evangelicalism

The Decline of  
Evangelicalism (?):  
The Rise of Neo Liberal  
Evangelicalism

1880

1930

1980



# Origin of the Bible Institutes in America



# The Northern Baptists and the Fundamentalist Movement

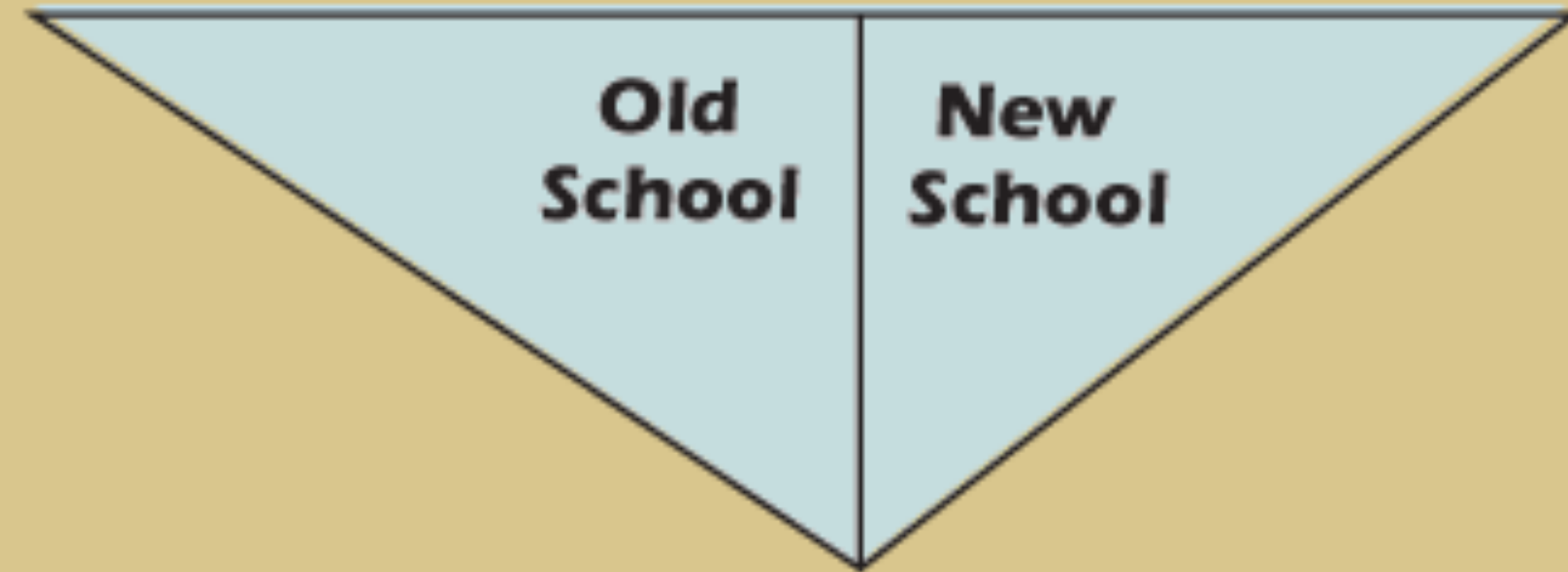




# **The Course of Theological Development within Northern Presbyterianism**

**THEOLOGICAL  
MERGER**

**THEOLOGICAL  
REVISION**



**Merger  
1869**

**Revision Attempted  
1889**

**Westminster Confession Altered  
1903**

**Auburn Affirmation  
1924**

**New Confession  
1967**

# **Northern Presbyterians and the Conflict at Princeton**

**1902      Seminary Administratively Separated from University**

**1909      The Student Revolt**

**1913      A New President**

## **THEOLOGICAL DISCORD**

**1920      Plan of Union of Evangelical Churches**

**1921      Death of B. B. Warfield**

**1922      Harry Emerson Fosdick Case**

**1923      Auburn Affirmation**

**1924      Charles Erdman's Election as Moderator**

**1926      Investigation of Discord**

**1929      Reorganization**



# **The Northern Presbyterians and the Missions Controversy**

