

THE FIRST GREAT AWAKENING IN AMERICA

1720 TO 1750

WHAT WAS GOING ON:

1. Materialism.
2. Spiritual deadness.
3. Death of the Puritan Dream.
 - Lost fervor
 - Lost Standing
 - Affected by Deism
 - Became Congregationalism
4. Challenge of Deism.

Definition of Deism: belief in the existence of a God on the evidence of reason and nature only, with rejection of supernatural revelation (distinguished from theism).

Belief in a God who created the world but has since remained indifferent to it.

RESULTS OF GREAT AWAKENING:

1. Churches swelled with 200,000 conversions. It was 10 per cent of the population. Hundreds of churches begun.
2. Colleges were formed to train converts.
3. Missions to Native Americans.
4. Colonial unity.
5. Recognition of the possibility of volunteerism.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM GREAT AWAKENING:

1. God uses all types of people.
2. Revival starts in insignificant and small ways.
3. Calvinism is no deterrent to evangelism.
4. Revival is a sovereign act of God.
5. Prayer is revival.

JONATHAN EDWARDS

1703-1758

- Grandfather was a well know preacher at the time at the church in Northampton, Mass. when Edwards came there as a pastor.
- His father was a pastor also.
- Went to Yale at age 13.
- Taught at Yale around the age of 17 or 18.
- Rooted in Reformed Theology and Puritan heritage.
- Considered one of the greatest if not the greatest theologian in American history.
- Played a critical role in shaping the First Great Awakening.
- Wrote and delivered probably the most famous sermon in American history "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God".
- Died from a small pox vaccination.
- He was the fifth of eleven children.
- Studied 13 hours a day as a pastor.
- Married Sarah Pierpont when she was 17. She became the mother of their 11 children.
- Had concern for the children of the community and influenced the prayer meetings for kids.
- Spent an hour each night in family time and prayed a blessing over each one of his own kids each night.
- Became a missionary to the Indians.
- Was President of the College of New Jersey (later called Princeton).

Jonathan Edwards' legacy includes: 1 U.S. Vice-President, 1 Dean of a law school, 1 dean of a medical school, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 60 doctors, 65 professors, 75 Military officers, 80 public office holders, 100 lawyers, 100 clergymen, and 285 college graduates.

FROM "SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD": "THE BOARDS UNDER YOU ARE ROTTEN AND NOTHING BUT THE SOVEREIGN PLEASURE OF GOD ALLOWS YOU TO TAKE ONE BREATH TO THE NEXT TO CONTINUE YOUR EVIL WAYS" JONATHAN EDWARDS