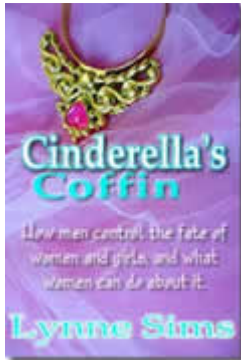


A Convenient God

Excerpts from Chapter 14 of *Cinderella's Coffin*.



Virtually every religion has utilized the name of God to justify unholy actions against creation's children, especially its women and girls. Perhaps Cinderella, like the phoenix, can rise from her enshrined ashes, dab some on her forehead, take a deep breath, and refocus on preserving what's left of our species.

Here's a 2,500 year glimpse at the history, allegiances, events, and controversies surrounding our illustrious religions and cultures:

[definition: BCE=before the current era; CE=current era]

- 600–500 BCE Sixth century BCE produces a golden age of gurus espousing human wisdom and achievement including: Confucius, Buddha, Zoroaster, Lao-tse, Jewish prophets, Greek poets, artists, philosophers, and scientists.
- 500–100 BCE Tradition of allegorical interpretation of wisdom flourishes.
- 0–30 CE Political unrest as Rome conquers and rules Judea and most of the Middle East, Europe and Africa. Jesus of Nazareth proclaims to be The Messiah. Philo Judaeus of Alexandria, a contemporary of Jesus, studied and often quoted philosophers such as Clement, Origen, and Augustine of Hippo.
- 30–100 Paul (Saul of Tarsus), a Jew, promotes the teachings of Jesus through mystery schools (I Cor. 2:7), Gnosticism, Greek Philosophies (Acts 17:27), and Judaism. St. Linus becomes second Pope, and Christians begin to be persecuted for their beliefs.
- 100–484 During the next 400 years, the early church focuses on attaining new converts, creating structure, and attempts at world supremacy.
- 484–519 A thirty-five year schism erupts between Western and Eastern churches as each vie for power.
- 615 Earliest teachings of Mohammed, founder of Islam.
- 627 Approximately 700 Jews are killed at Medina by Mohammed's enemies.

- 680 The Sixth Council of Constantinople condemns monotheism (the belief in only God as opposed to the belief in The Trinity).
- 748 Peking, China boasts first printed newspaper.
- 794 Image worship brings condemnation from Charlemagne (first Emperor of Western Holy Roman churches).
- 840 The theory of transubstantiation (to change into another substance) is utilized by the early church to instigate the communion ritual (Eucharist).
- 904-911 Era of pornocracy—said to be the darkest period in the history of the papacy.
- 912-999 Almost 100 years of Church growth at all costs.
- 1000 Leif Ericson discovers Nova Scotia—the new world opens. Chinese invention of gunpowder undoubtedly helps create rampant fear at the turn of the millennium, leading to the supposition that the end of the world is near and the last judgment is nigh. Advancements in the arts, sciences, education, and technology are practically halted.
- 1012 First persecution of non-believers gets underway in Germany.
- 1252 As theological colleges and universities are founded, the Inquisition begins wide-spread use of torture.
- 1313 Gunpowder is improved and spawns more advanced weaponry.
- 1349 Persecution of Jews begins in Germany.
- 1396 Gutenberg printing press leads to first printing of the Bible in 1453 and opens the way for mass communication.
- 1483-1517 Martin Luther protests the church's sale of indulgences, is excommunicated, prints 100,000 German translations of the Bible, thus beginning the Lutheran Reformation.
- 1492 Columbus discovers the Americas and proves his theory that the world is round, necessitating a total change in how the universe was previously perceived.
- 1512 Copernicus proclaims that the earth and planets revolve around the sun, which invalidates the Biblical account of creation.
- 1515 Roman Catholic Church forbids the printing of books without

- permission.
- 1543 Spanish inquisition against heretics begins.
- 1547 First predictions of Nostradamus.
- 1564 Great scientist Galileo is born and is destined to open the heavens (cosmos) for future scrutiny.
- 1564 Papal approval of index *librorum prohibitorium* is censorship supreme.
- 1601 John Wheeler writes *Treatise of Commerce*.
- 1602 First modern public company: Dutch East India Company.
- 1611 Authorized version of the Bible (King James Version) is published.
- 1637 Extermination of Christianity in Japan.
- 1693 Knights of the Apocalypse is organized in Italy. (A secret society to defend the Church against the anti-Christ.)
- 1716 Christian teaching prohibited in China.
- 1768 Swedenborg begins the Spiritualist Movement.
- 1808 Napoleon abolishes The Inquisition in Spain and Italy.
- 1814 Pope Pius VII returns to Rome and restores the Inquisition.
- 1824 Prevost and Dumas prove that the sperm is essential to fertilization.
- 1830 Society of Mormons is organized.
- 1844 Samuel Morse invents the telegraph and transcontinental communications.
- 1848 Spiritualism becomes popular in America.
- 1870 Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.
- 1875 Helena Blavatsky founds Theosophical Society.
- 1879 Mary Baker Eddy founds Church of Christ, Scientist.
- 1880-1914 Rise of Marxism leads to WW I.

- 1891 Charles and Myrtle Fillmore establish Unity Society of Practical Christianity.
- 1914-1918 World War I.
- 1915 Einstein's *General Theory of Relativity* leads humanity to the brink.
- 1918 Attempts to manipulate nature are furthered by the establishment of Daylight Savings Time. (DLST)
- 1927 First trans-Atlantic flight is successfully accomplished by Charles A. Lindbergh.
- 1939 World War II begins when Germany invades Poland.
- 1945 Einstein's famous formula $E=MC^2$ launches first nuclear bomb testing in New Mexico. In August, U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, ending WWII, the war that killed 70 million people, mostly civilians.

Like the miniature pieces used in one of the most popular board games of all time, Monopoly, our limited knowledge has kept us passing 'Go.' The true effects of killing upon our psyches have never been researched fully, although leaks of regret occasionally surface from men. But what about those they killed? Who speaks for them? What about their wives and children? Will it ever be possible to train boys and men to expand their realities for caring? I would hope so, but it seems males are perpetually entertained by torture and endlessly new ways of killing.

Perhaps only the innocent women and children victims of war should be honored, for the men are contracted to kill each other by mutual consent and usually getting paid for their deeds. They seldom claim fault for killing those who die simply because they're in the wrong place at the wrong time when the bullets zing and the bombs burst. Let us let our children see what really happens to other mothers at the effect of man-made wars. Let them see what's really happening to their global sisters and brothers at the hands of their own fathers, brothers, uncles, and men in general.