

in which all of England was affected, and America too by the preaching of Wesley and of Whitefield too, and there was a great coming back to belief in Christ on the part of whole sections of the population that had wandered from it. But even during those previous days of moral decline there had been comparatively few who from an intellectual viewpoint would attack the Scripture.

Most people 120 years ago in England or America attended church. At least most people of any standing or any education--most did. Among the ministers in England at that time there were many consecrated Godly ministers who were trying to reach souls for the Lord. There were others who were simply occupying a position which had a salary paid by the state, and in which they performed certain regular functions, and their heart was not particularly in it. Some of the great books of science and of general study of the early part of the last century were written by ministers whose position was only a means of livelihood and who devoted themselves to study along various lines, often very good and culturally advancing but had no great interest in the things of the Scripture.

There was a general attitude of accepting it, a general attitude that this is what is true and what a different attitude we have today in the general mass of the educated classes of people in America and particularly in the universities -- professors in both nations. I do not believe anyone could question that the most important element in the change has been the general acceptance of the theory of evolution, and the results proceeding from it one of which was the great development of the higher criticism of Scripture.