

400 Years Before the Coming of the True Parents

In viewing this period we find 3 major development:

1. The Church Reformation (1517-1648)
2. Struggle & Confusion in Religion and Ideology (1648-1800)
3. Maturing of Political, Economic and Ideological Systems (1800-1920)

The Church Reformation (1517-1648)

As medieval mankind came to advocate humanism, he resisted the formal religious ceremonies and rules; he went against the feudal system of classes and papal authority which repressed his autonomy and as he pursued the external desire of his original nature he also came to pursue the internal desire of his original nature. This he did by advocating the restoration of the early Christian spirit in which the people centering on the apostles were very earnest in following God's will. The movement to restore the early Christian spirit was called the Great Religious Reformation.

Because of the rapidly changing trends, the Church was left behind in all aspects of the onward sweep of progress. Many protests were made during the pre-Reformation period, but none was effective until Martin Luther in 1517 A.D. nailed his famous 95 Thesis on the door of the Wittenberg Church in Germany. His theses were a detailed attack on the Papacy for selling indulgences. This act ignited a religious revolution which immediately swept across the entire European continent beginning in Germany and then spreading to other countries. God used Luther as an instrument to spark the Protestant revolt. Besides Luther there were many other champions of God (Zwingli, Calvin, Farel, Knox) who rose up to spread this Protestant reform across the Christian world.

The international conflict which burst out around the Protestant movement continued for more than 100 years until the fight between the old and new religious sects was settled by the "Thirty Years War". This war was waged centering on Germany and finally ended in 1648 with the Treaty of Westphalia. The struggle ended with Protestantism the victor in Northern Europe centering on Germany and Roman Catholicism maintaining control of Southern Europe centering on the Latin speaking people. However due to the attack of the Protestants on the Catholic Church, Catholicism revised its practices and experienced an internal reformation. This war did not end up as a simple religious fight, but it also became a political civil war which decided the existence of the German Empire.

The 2nd Religious Reformation (1648-1789) Struggle & Confusion in Religion and Ideology

This period lasted for approximately 140 years, beginning with the Treaty of Westphalia and ended with the French Revolution. These 140 years were ones of bitter religious struggle and confusion as the liberated Christians sought to express themselves in their newly found religious freedom. Because the direction the Christians would follow had not been firmly set, their freedom from traditional dogma plunged them into the worst religious turbulence ever seen in history. Mass persecution and martyrdom scorched the whole of Europe. Numerous divergences of dogma arose which divided the Church into many different sects and denominations.

Yet throughout this chaotic situation God was gradually molding the thought of humankind into two major ideologies (that known as Cain thought and Abel thought) which today has matured into the atheistic philosophy known as Communism and the God-centered ideology of Democracy. After Adam fell God separated the newly established evil within Adam from the good contained nature by giving him two sons (Cain & Abel) who respectively contain relative evil and relative good. Later we find the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Kingdoms were divided into two parts representative of the Cain and Abel positions. This separation of relative good from relative evil has continued to the recent world division of Communism and Democracy.

Cain Philosophy and the Foundation of Communism

The anti-medieval movement of the Renaissance called humanism, born as a reaction to the hypocrisy of Christian leaders, made light of a person's conversion to God or his dedication to religion. It abandoned the medieval view of life under which people regarded nature and the physical body of man as base and sinful. It even took the opposite view of life, exalting the value and dignity of these things. Mankind and nature came to be recognized through rational criticism by reason, experience and through demonstrative analysis.