

### 3rd Religious Reformation - Maturation of Ideology

By 1920 A.D., western ideology had pretty well matured into two branches. The first was the atheistic philosophy of Cain, which acknowledged "Nature" or "Science" as its God. The second was the theistic philosophy of Abel, which upheld the Christian idea of God. Let us first examine the adherents of the Cain philosophy.

#### Maturation of the Cain Philosophy

In 1859, Charles Darwin set forth his theory of evolution, which contradicted the orthodox Christian interpretation of the Genesis Creation story in the Bible and set off a furor in theological, philosophical, and scientific circles which did not die down for half a century and which is even felt in today's society. A number of philosophers like Ludwig Buechner (1824-1899) championed materialism or Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) expounded upon the ideas of Darwin and thus further focused humankind's attention on nature and natural science.

The pantheism (the belief that the universe taken as a whole is God) of Ludwig Feuerbach (1804-1872) and the pessimism of Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860) contributed to the rise of agnosticism and atheism. The glorification by Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) of the man of power, and the "will to power", together with the ideas of racists (one race has evolved to be better than another) created a source for later fascist and totalitarian thought. An extreme form of socialism (revolutionary communism) was advocated by Karl Marx at the end of the 19th century. Influenced by Hegel's dialectic and Feuerbach's atheistic thought, Marx concluded from his study of history that three laws were operative in history:

1. Economic Determinism - the law that economic conditions largely determine all other human institutions.
2. Class Struggle - the law that history is a dialectical process between the economically rich and poor, the propertied bourgeoisie and the property-less proletariat.
3. Inevitability of Communism - the law that the class struggle would end with the proletariat victorious, the capitalists defeated and an eventual classless utopia.

Marx thus combined the views of the 18th century philosophies on natural law with the thesis, antithesis, synthesis dialectic of Hegel to produce his theory of scientific revolutionary socialism.

In 1847, Friedrich Engels, a German Socialist, who had been working with Marx in a small international organization of radical working men, (the communist league) drafted the "Communist Manifesto", which Marx revised later. This manifesto remains the classic statement of Marxian materialism and the Marxist Theory of History. Later, George Plekhanov (1856-1918) interpreted Marx for the Russians. He is regarded as the founder of Russian Philosophic Marxism and influenced Lenin greatly. Thus Marx and Engels' "dialectical materialism", Hegel's theory of "state supremacy" and Plekhanov's reinterpretation of Marxian thought for the Russians laid the foundation for the development of worldwide communism and the Cain Philosophy that Satan would use against the return of Christ and the Abel Philosophy he would bring.

#### Maturation of the Abel Philosophy

To counter the rise in atheistic thought, God worked through the adherents of the Abel Philosophy. Friedrich Schleiermacher (1763-1834) and his disciples had a great influence during the 19th century. Schleiermacher set forth the idea that religion belonged to the realm of feeling and he emphasized the importance of the need for the Messiah as a mediator between finite, temporal, sinful men and the infinite, eternal and sinless God. Later when the approaches of Schleiermacher and Hegel were losing their appeal, Albrecht Ritschl set forth a new "apologetic synthesis" between the Christian faith and the new Knowledge contributed by scientific and historical scholarship. The Ritschlian spirit with its earnest piety and devotion to truth had a great inspiring effect in Germany, England and America in the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Second Great Evangelical Awakening gave new vitality to the church. Evangelists like the American Dwight Moody (1837-1899) and the Englishman William Booth (1829-1912), founder of the Salvation Army, held dynamic revivals and fostered an evangelistic and pietistic interpretation of the Christian faith. God now began to raise up great religious leaders (forerunners) to prepare for the immediate coming of the True Parents and the teachings of the Completed Testament Age. A number of men thus started to proclaim the imminent coming of Christ and the Last Days of Judgment:

William Miller - who taught that the Messiah would come in 1843-1844) began the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Charles Russell - who founded the Jehovah Witnesses in the late 1870's urged the people to prepare quickly for the Lord return.

Joseph Smith - who founded the Mormon Church and claimed to be a Prophet of God started a movement announcing the coming of God's Kingdom.

Therefore, while the philosophy of Cain (expressed later in totalitarianism, fascism and ultimately in Communism) was developing, its opponent, The Philosophy of Abel, likewise was heading into its final stages of preparation for the showdown between good and evil that would occur in the biblical Last Days when Christ would return and the True Parents would be established and the Complete Testament would be shared.