

Church History Part 7

The 19th Century

Part 1

Rev. 3:7-13 Philadelphia -The Church of the Open Door

The Age of Treason!

“The agenda of pagan thinking is to make the world safe from God's interference in life.” Charles Clough

Evolutionary Theory

The Advance of Science in the 18th Century, had led to naturalism, a natural explanation for everything. Science was the new dogma. Deism became common as God was seen as giving natural laws, and then leaving it all to man to work things out. At least God was still acknowledged.

However as we move into the 19th Century, Charles Darwin 12 February 1809 – 19 April 1882 would come out with a new theory, we now know as Evolution. Now God is no longer needed even to get things going. All is explained by natural selection, random chance and time, lots of time! The Origin of the Species was published in 1859

German Higher Criticism

Within the Church, and sadly in Luther's Germany, all was not well either. How did we ever get from the Germany of the Reformation to the Germany of Hitler. Well the answer is simple, the Seminaries. Within the Seminaries, a new type of scholarship we now know as Higher Criticism began to develop.

Higher Criticism is when men sit in judgment upon the Word of God, rather than allowing the word of God to Judge them.

Higher Criticism, which originated in Germany but soon spread to Seminaries in the UK & USA included a denial of the Supernatural including in the inspiration of the Scriptures.

Men like [Schleiermacher](#), Wellhausen who came up with the Documentary hypothesis J.E.D. P theory, where he attributed several different authors for the books of Moses, they would proceed to do this with Daniel and Isaiah as well.

Some men stood on Biblical Inerrancy like Keil & Delisch, Hengstenbury etc. who were raised up to question these theories.

Communism / Marxism

As a direct result of the Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Capitalism, Karl Marx came up with his theories, including the often quoted statement that Religion is the Opium of the Masses. 1818-1883 Published his Communist Manifesto in 1848

The Rise of the Cults

1830 Mormonism
1844 Seventh Day Adventists
1879 Christian Science
1881 Jehovah's Witnesses

How would the Church survive these major threats?

Once again Revival and Renewal are God's Answers to the departures of men!

This Century would be known Spiritually for 5 things.

Preaching – Giving Men NEW HEART – Evangelical, Gospel Preaching in the same vein as Wesley.

Men like CH Spurgeon, Robert Murray McCheyne, the Bonar Brothers, Horatio and Andrew, Thomas Chalmers [Gap

Theory], William Burns, DL Moody, Charles G. Finney, JC Ryle, Christmas Evans.

Brownlow North [aristocrat], Richard Weaver [Boxer], Reginald Radcliffe [Lawyer] – All Itinerant and supposed lay preachers!

Prophecy - New Hope– Re-appreciation of Prophecy, long neglected as well as belief in the Restoration of Israel & The Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

Pioneering - New Horizons

The Great Missionary Movement, William Carey, Hudson Taylor, CT Studd & Anthony Norris Groves.

Praise – New Hymns

Following on from Charles Wesley and Isaac Watts in the Previous Century, we now have Fanny Crosby over 1000 hymns, Francis Ridley Havergall, the Bonar Brothers, Thomas Kelly and many others.

Power – New Holiness

The Exchanged Life teaching, Keswick Convention giving people victory over the power of sin in their lives.

The Revivals in 1824 The Second Great Awakening,
1857-59 Revival in the USA, Ireland, Scotland and Wales,
1872-88 Moody Revivals.

Sunday School movement, Robert Raikes 1780

John Wesley preached to 20,000 children in Glasgow,
Scotland

Tracts written and Distributed

Clapham Sect – Abolition of Slavery, Orphanages,
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and many other
charitable works started by Evangelicals.

Jewish Evangelism and desire to see a homeland for the
Jews. R.Murray McCheyne, Andrew Bonar.

Lord Shaftsbury –Anthony Ashley Cooper