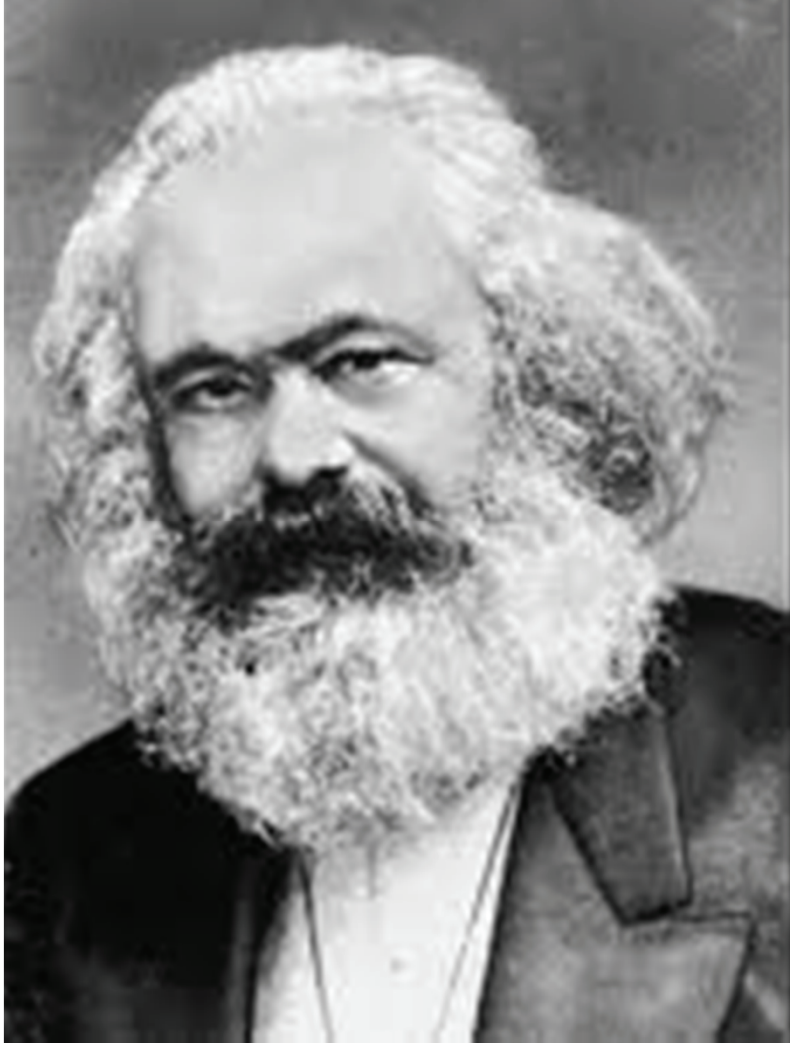
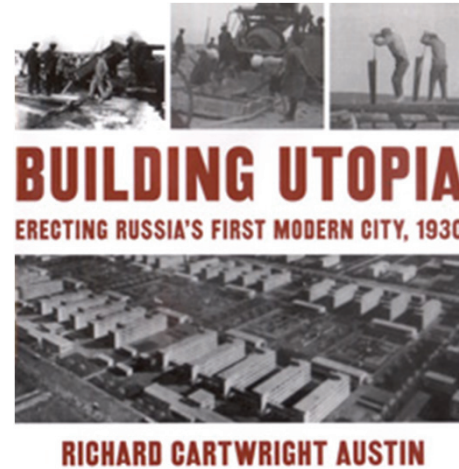


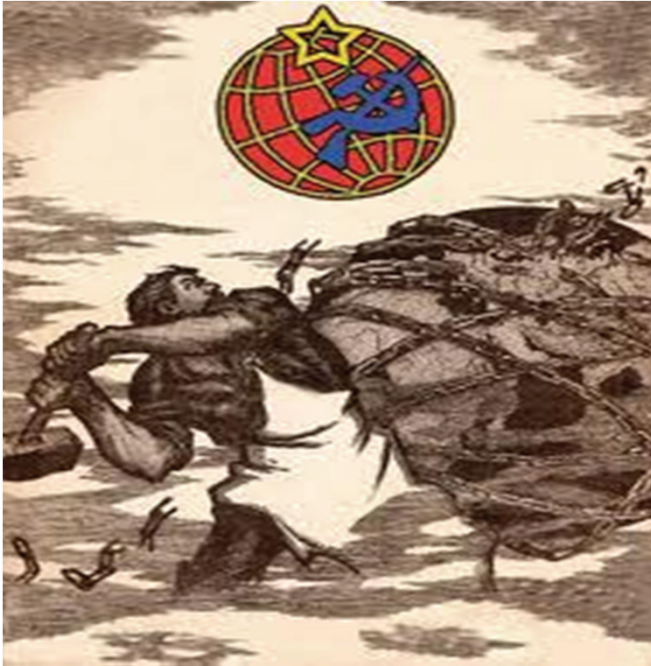
# MARXISM & ESCHATOLOGY



## The Communistic Apocalypse According to Saint Marx



# The Communist Apocalypse/Eschaton



**Marxism posits an  
Apocalyptic Battle against  
Capitalism that will be  
resolved in a Final  
Millennial Eschaton when  
the New Communist Man  
lives freely on the Earth.**



# What is Modern Millenarianism?

**Millenarianism** “envisages an eschaton or an end of history, although unlike the Christian eschatologist this is for him not identical with the end of time and world. He holds, in other words, that the historical future is closed in that there will be a final state when all historical development has ceased but man and world will still endure.”

**Gradual Perfectibility** holds that the future is open, “No final state will be realized. It is only approximated without limit. Humanity comes closer and closer to it but will never reach it.”

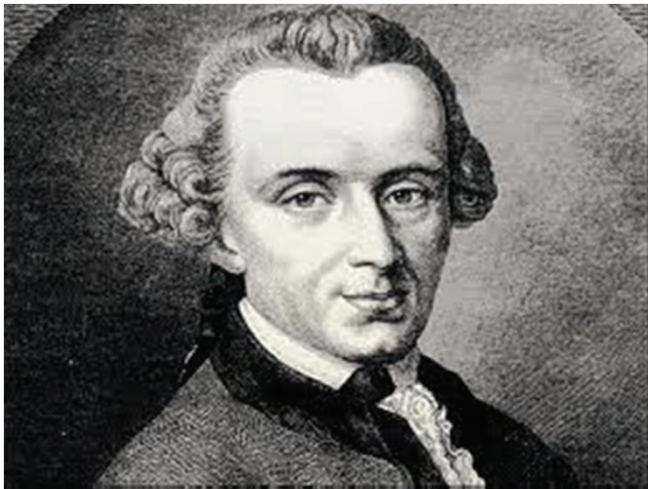
# Karl Marx Timeline (1818-1883)

- 1818- Marx was Born in a Wealthy Prussian Family.
- 1835-1840 - Marx was home schooled but was enrolled in both the University of Berlin & Bonn.
- 1841 - Marx was forced to go to University of Jena to obtain his Doctorate because of his Radical Views.
- 1843 – Marx Marries Jenny von Westphalen & He writes the Jewish Question.
- 1844 – Marx meets Friedrich Engels – his life-long financier.
- 1845 – Marx writes The German Ideology which Defines Historical Materialism & his Famous Theses on Feuerbach. He is also ordered to leave Paris.
- 1847 – Marx writes The Poverty of Philosophy.
- 1848 – Marx writes The Communist Manifesto.
- 1849 – Marx moves to London.
- 1851 – Marx becomes an International Correspondent of the New York Tribune.
- 1859 – Marx writes the Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy.
- 1867 – The first volume of Das Kapital is finally Published.
- 1881 – Jenny Marx dies.
- 1883 – Karl dies in Poverty (a Reflection of his Philosophy?).



# Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

## What is Enlightenment (1784)?



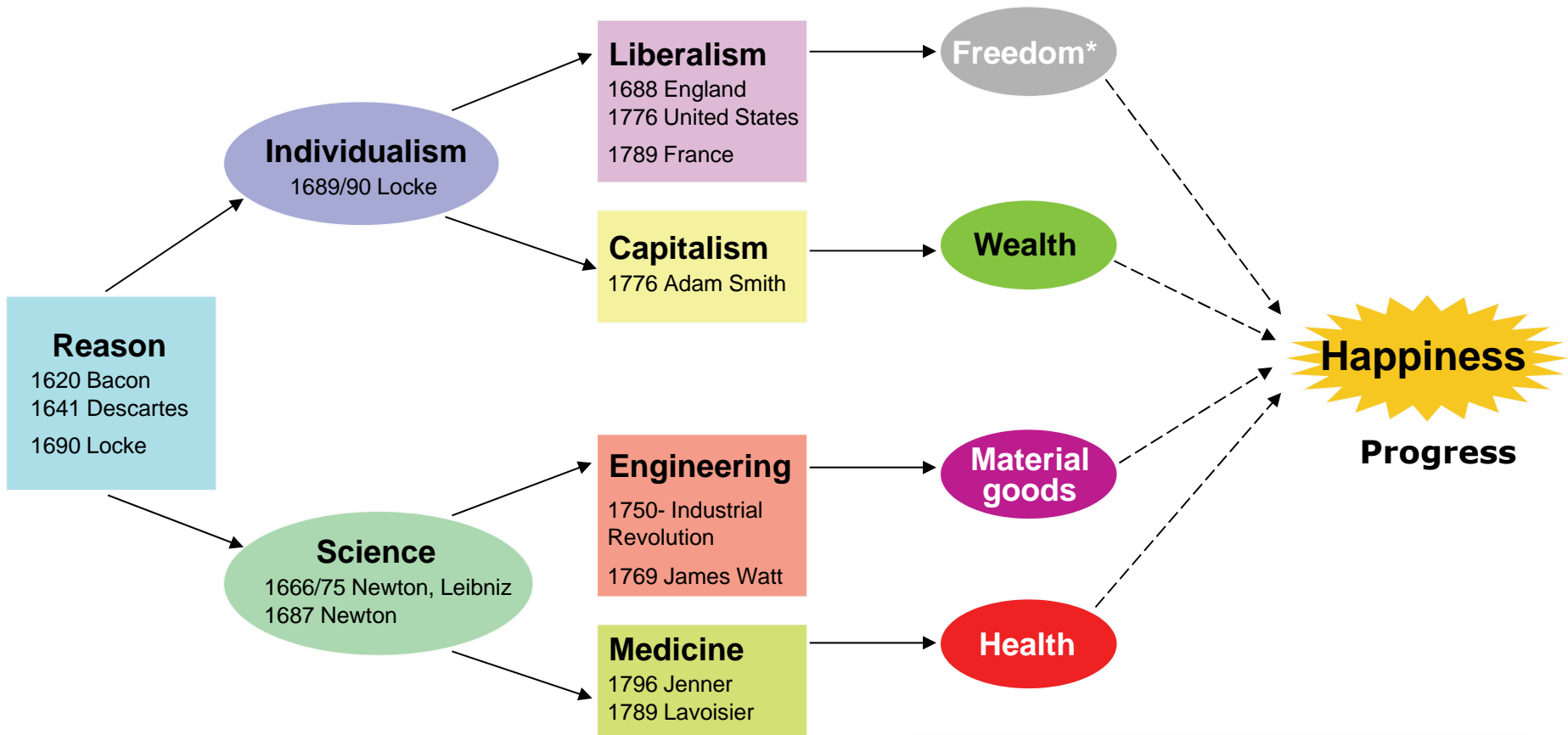
Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-imposed tutelage. Tutelage is the inability to use one's own understanding without another's guidance. This tutelage is self-imposed if its cause lies not in lack of understanding but in indecision and lack of courage to use one's own mind without another's guidance. Dare to know! (Sapere aude.) "Have the courage to use your own understanding," is therefore the motto of the Enlightenment.

**For Kant Traditional Institutions Promote Immaturity through Privileged Authority Figures like Monarchs, Lords, Barons, Pastors, Doctors, etc.**

# Kant's Progressive/Eschatological View of History set the stage for Hegel/Marx

In its most rationalistic form the most consistent 'spiritualization' of the New Testament 'letter' is Kant's *Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone*. Distinguishing the "pure religion of reason" or "moral faith" from "ecclesiastical faith" based on historical revelation, Kant interprets the whole of Christianity as a gradual advance from a religion of revelation to a religion of reason, by which the Kingdom of God becomes realized as an "ethical state on earth." Thus, Kant has no scruples in asserting that in the entire known history of the church the present period, i.e., the Enlightenment, is the best one.

# The Enlightenment Vision



\* 1764 Beccaria, *On Crimes and Punishment*  
1780s: Last witches legally burned in Europe  
1784 American Society for Abolition of Slavery  
1787 British Society for Abolition of Slave Trade  
1788 French Société des Amis des Noirs  
1792 Wollstonecraft, *indication of the Rights of Women*

# Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831)

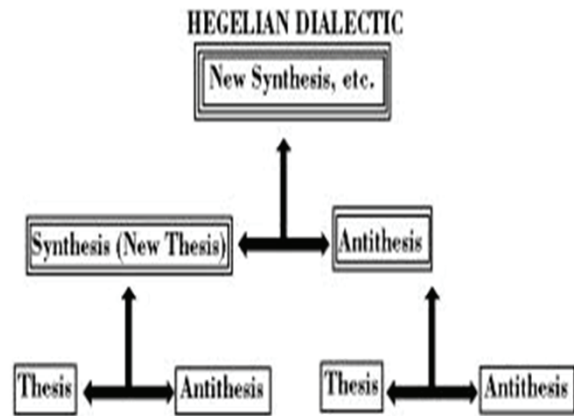


“Universal history goes from East to West, for Europe is truly the end of History, of which Asia is the beginning. For universal history, there is an East which exists in itself, the East for itself being something quite relative; for although the Earth is a sphere, History does not describe a circle around it but instead it has a defined East, and that is Asia. That is where the physical, external sun rises, and it sets in the West. This is why, here, the sun which rises is the internal sun of the consciousness of the self, which shines with a much greater brightness.”

**Hegel’s Eschatology = “Europe is Identical with the West and is the Consummation of History just as Asia in the East is the beginning of History.”**



# Hegel's Tripartite Division of History Based on Increasing Freedom



Persia – Tyranny  
Greece – Democracy  
Rome – Unity/Law  
Christianity – World Religion  
Reformation – Conscience  
Enlightenment – Rational State

**1<sup>st</sup> Division: Oriental Despotism where only one Man is Free.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Division: Greco-Roman World where some Men are Free.**

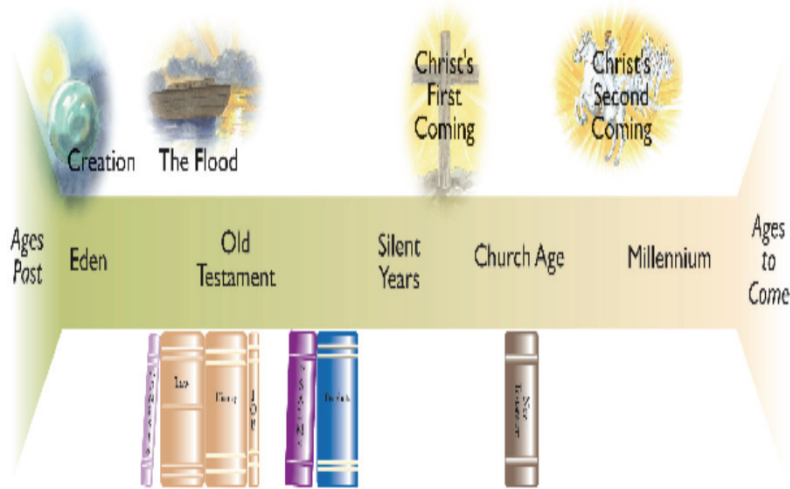
**3<sup>rd</sup> Division: Christian-Germanic World where all Men are Free.**

# **History & Progressive Eschatology in Galatians**

- Even though the Abrahamic Covenant was promised, Israel in the OT was held in custody under the Law (3:15-26).**
- The OT Heir is a Child who is under the guardians & masters of the Law until the date of Maturity (4:1-2).**
- The Law was given as a Tutor to lead them to Christ (3:24).**
- At the Fullness of the Times God granted His Son & the Holy Spirit in place of the Law (3:23-4:7).**
- Life Under the Spirit in the Church Age is Characterized as Sonship & Spiritual Liberty (4:21-5:18).**

# The Biblical Tripartite Division of History

## The Four Pivotal Events of History



**Ancient Church was Pre-millennial (50-400 AD).**

**Catholic Church was A-millennial after Augustine (400-present).**

**Joachim was an Apocalyptic Mystic (1131-1202 AD).**

**Modern Church is Premillennial & Dispensational & Post-Millennial & A-Millennial (1600's- Present).**

**1<sup>st</sup> Division: The Garden of Eden & Adam/Eve in Innocence.**

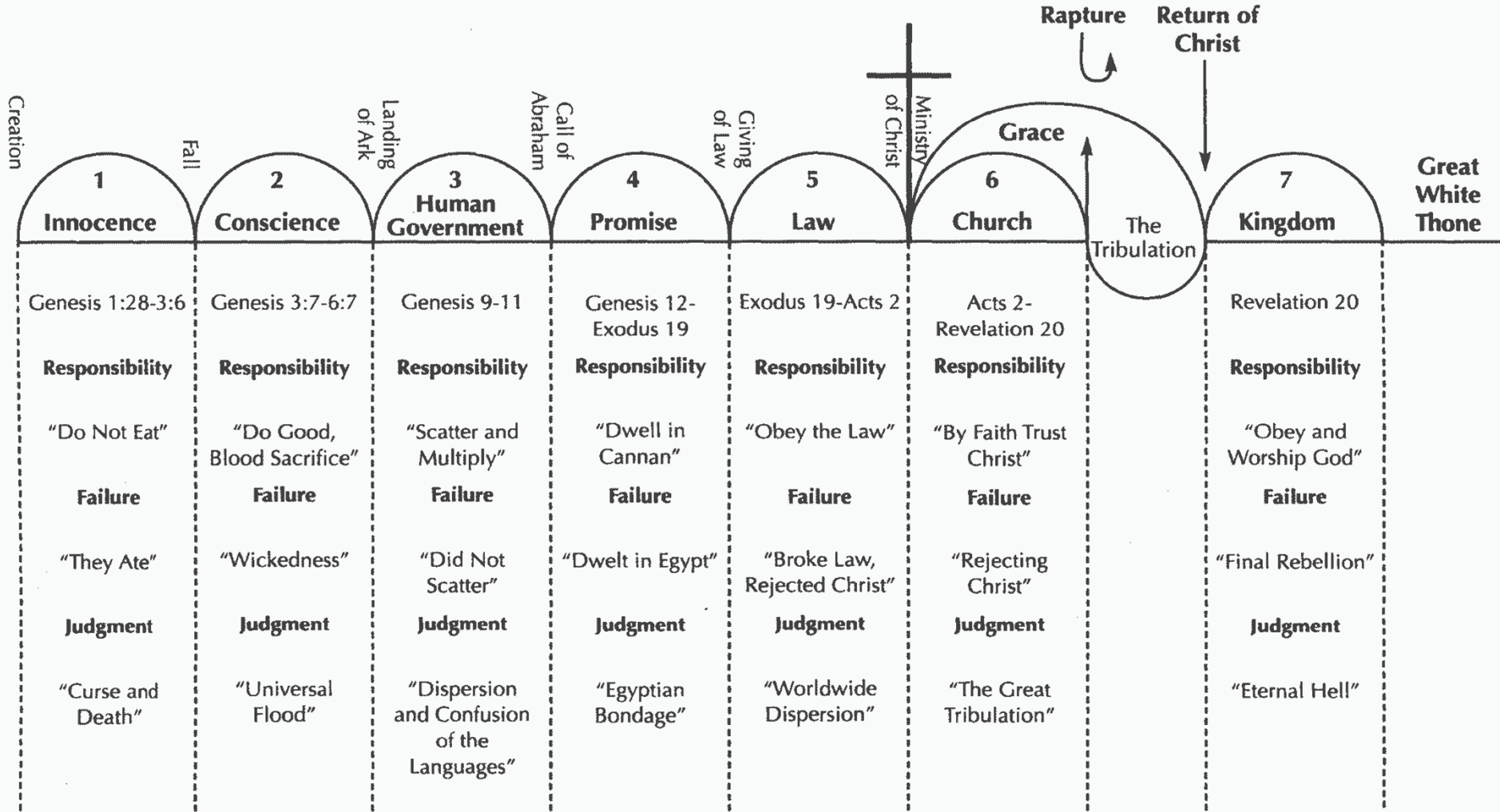
**2<sup>nd</sup> Division: The Fall of Mankind where History is a Probationary Period sorting out the Wheat from the Tares.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Division: Ultimate Salvation & Judgment of Mankind at Second Coming of Christ.**

# The Biblical Epochs in History/Eschatology

(The Dispensations)

"A dispensation is a distinguishable economy in God's master plan whereby God tests mankind."

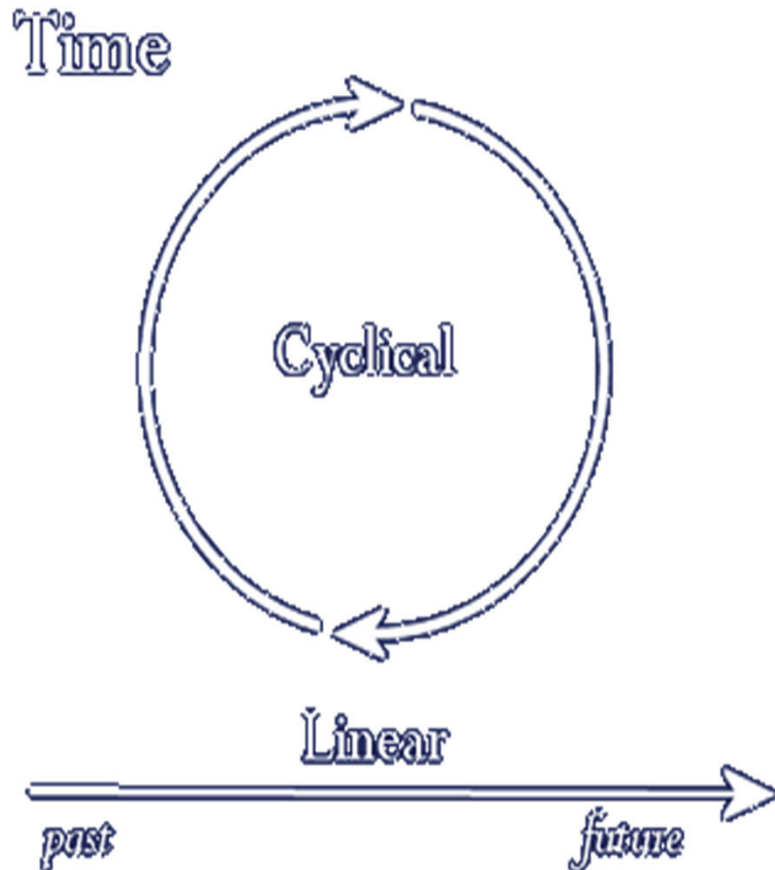




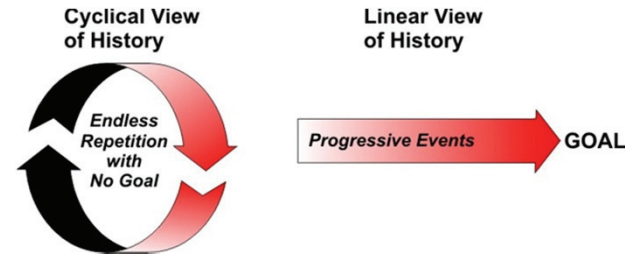
# Modern Historiography's Christian Basis

**“Any history written on Christian principles will be of necessity universal, providential, apocalyptic, periodized ... Having divided the past, it will then naturally tend to subdivide it again: and thus to distinguish other events, not so important as the birth of Christ but important in their own way, which make everything after them different in quality from what went before. Thus history is divided into epochs or periods, each with peculiar characteristics of its own, and each marked off from the one before it by an event which in the technical language of this kind of historiography is called epoch making ... The apocalyptic idea became a commonplace, although historians have placed their apocalyptic movement at all sorts of times: the Renaissance, the invention of printing, the scientific movement of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Enlightenment of the 18<sup>th</sup>, the French Revolution, the Liberal movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, or even, as with Marxist historians, in the future. All these elements, so familiar in modern historical thought are totally absent from Greco-Roman historiography and were consciously and laboriously worked out by the early Christians.” R.G. Collingwood – *The Idea of History*, pp. 50-52.**

# The Judeo-Christian Historical Consciousness vs. the Greco-Roman Worldview

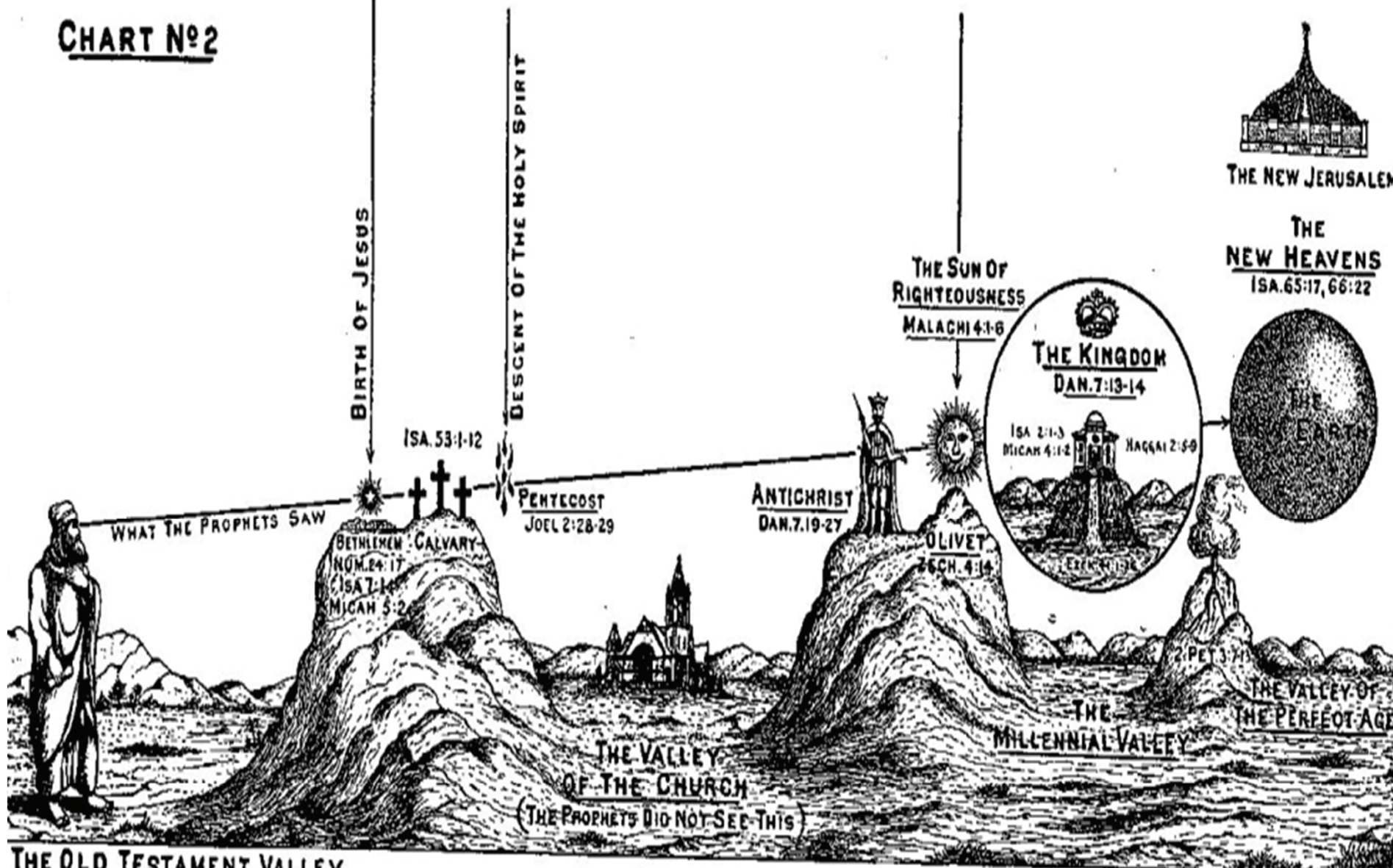


The Greco-Roman mindset was mythical, not historical. History was characterized as Eternal Return.



The Judeo-Christian Historical Consciousness Sharply Broke from the Classical World.

# CHART N<sup>o</sup> 2



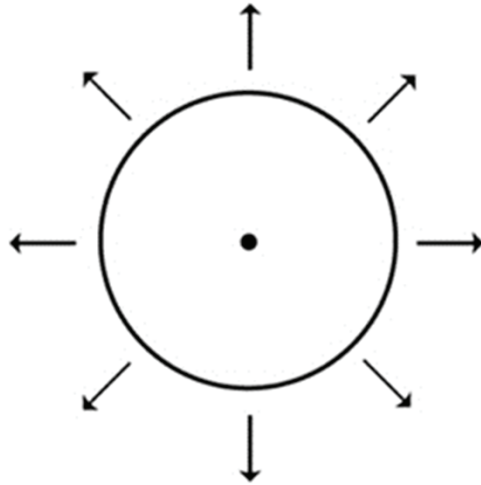
**THE OLD TESTAMENT VALLEY**  
THE VIEW-POINT OF THE PROPHETS

**OUR VIEW-POINT**  
WE SEE THE "MOUNTAIN PEAKS" AND "VALLEYS" FROM THE SIDE  
AND SO CAN SEPARATE THE FIRST AND SECOND COMING PROPHECIES

## THE "MOUNTAIN PEAKS" OF PROPHECY



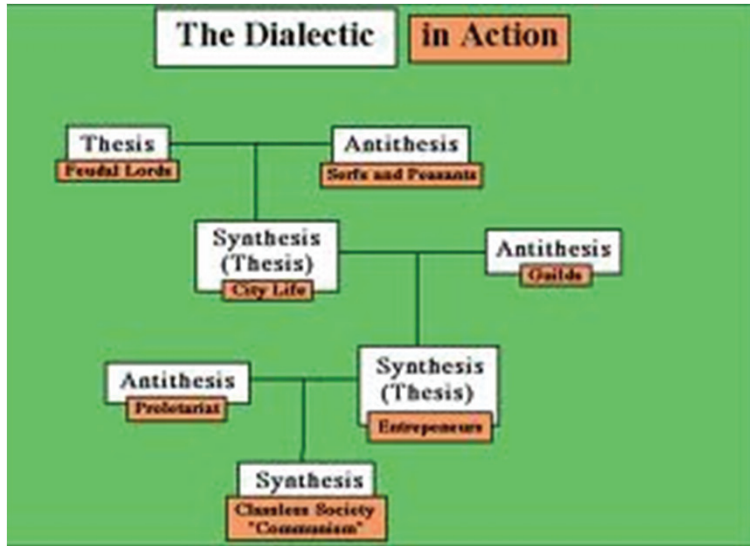
# The A-Historical Nature of Greco-Roman Mythology, Mysticism & Philosophy



**Greco-Roman historians may have understood history itself as linear, but never goal-orientated, eschatological or even meaningful. Meaning would always be found outside of history through various forms of mysticism & philosophy & ancient forms of existentialism – very unlike Judaism & Christianity. The Judeo-Christian Historical Consciousness has a remarkable interior attitude toward history, precisely of its strong emphasis on historical promises, prophecies – and especially because of the Incarnation of the Son of God. Even at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, Jesus Christ will Break into history to consummate it.**



# Marx's Tripartite Division of History Based on Historical Materialism



Source - <http://todayinsocialsciences.blogspot.com/2012/01/something-more-about-marxism.html>

Primitive Communism  
Slave Society  
Feudal Society  
Capitalism Bourgeois  
Communist Eschaton

**1<sup>st</sup> Division:** The Hunting Gathering Society as Primitive Communism.

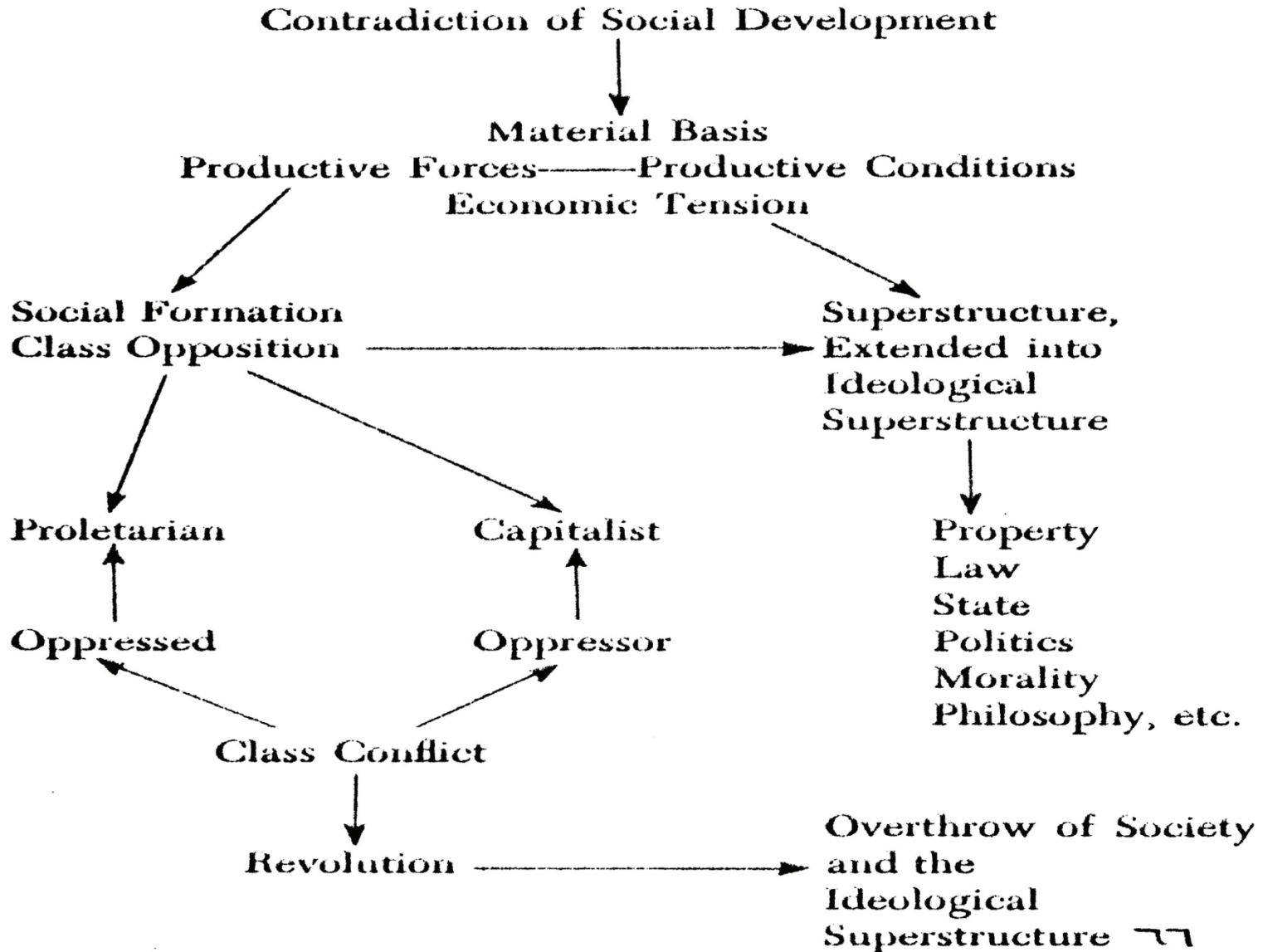
**2<sup>nd</sup> Division:** The Division of Labor Brings about Alienation Between Men.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Division:** Communist State make the Division of Labor Obsolete.



# Marxian Eschatological Materialism

Source: Heiss - *Hegel, Kierkegaard, Marx* (1975)



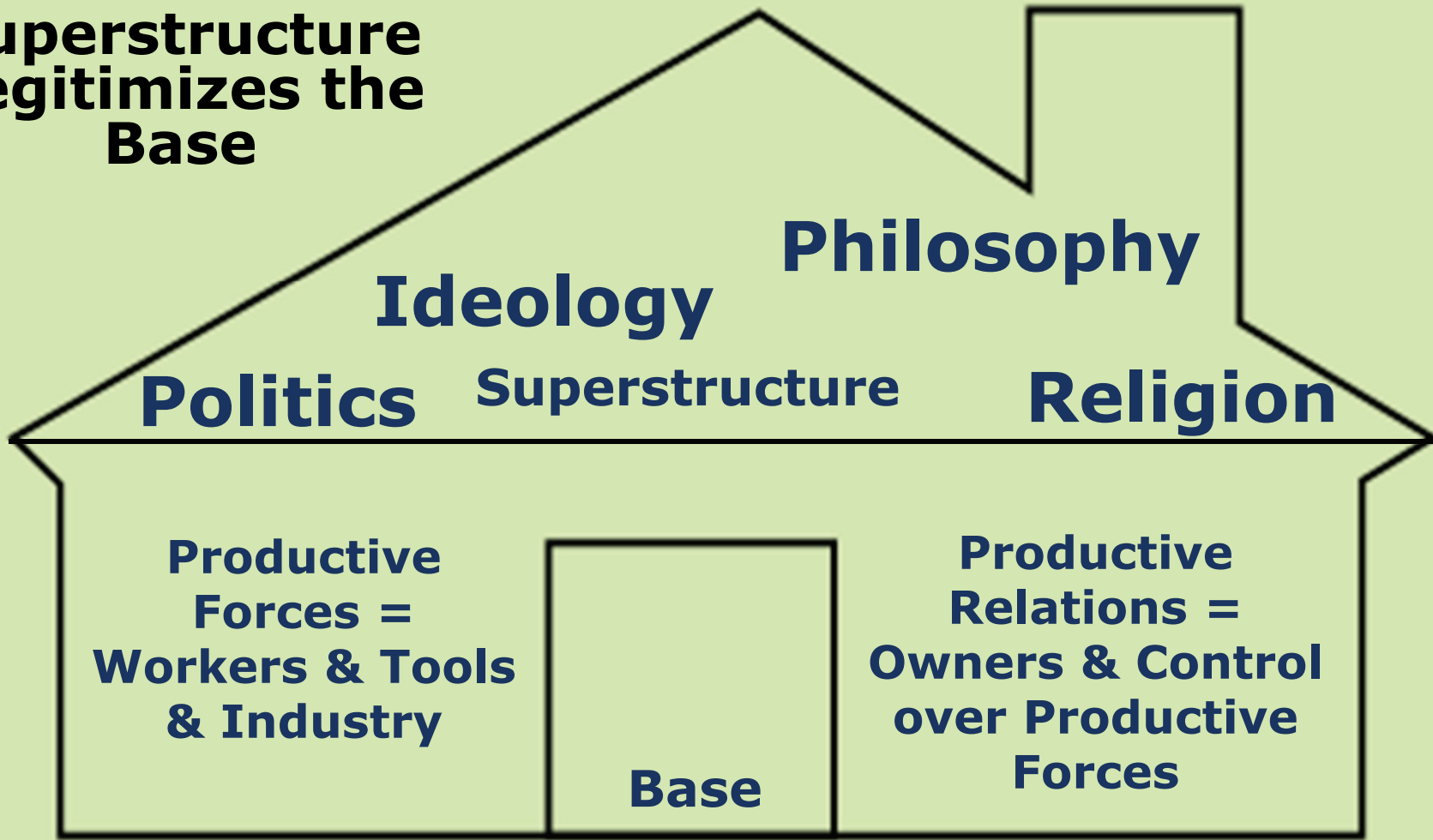
# Materialistic Salvation through the Suffering Proletariat



**“It is not by chance that the last antagonism between the two hostile camps of bourgeoisie and proletariat corresponds to the Jewish-Christian belief in a final fight between Christ and Antichrist in the last epoch of history, that the task of the proletariat corresponds to the world-historical mission of the chosen people, that the redemptive and universal function of the most degraded class is conceived on the religious pattern of Cross and Resurrection, that the ultimate transformation of the realm of necessity into the realm of freedom, ... and that the whole process of history as outlined in the Communist Manifesto corresponds to the general scheme of the Jewish-Christian interpretation of history as a providential advance toward a final goal which is meaningful. Historical materialism is essentially, though secretly, a history of fulfillment and salvation in terms of social economy.”** Karl Lowith, *Meaning in History*, pp. 44-45.

# The Materialistic House of Marx

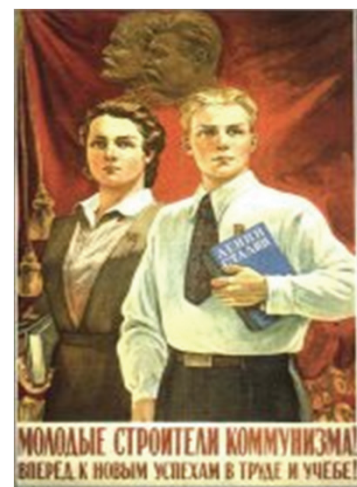
**Superstructure  
Legitimizes the  
Base**



**Base Determines/Shapes the Superstructure**



# Marxism/Communism as Progressive Social Change & Hope

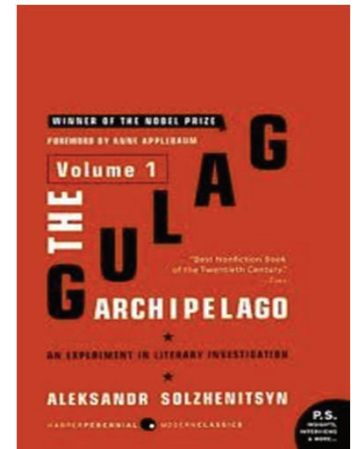




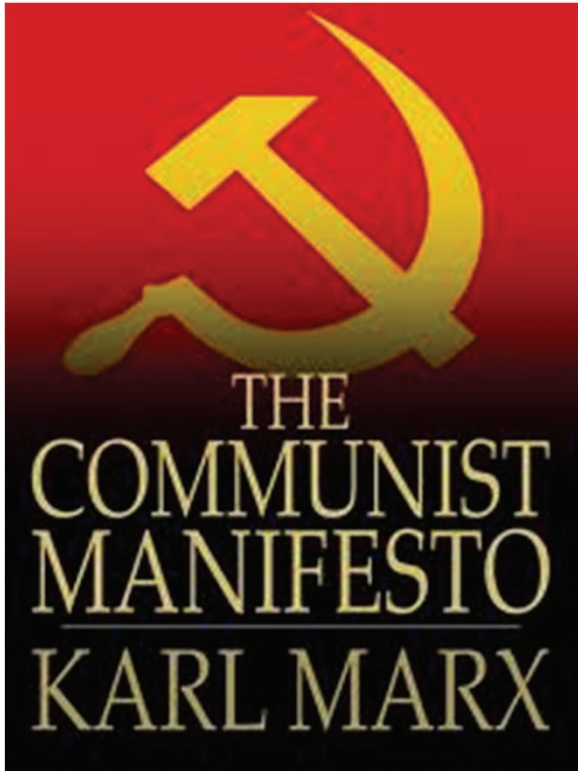
# The Marxist Eschaton turned out to be a Modern Myth



**Marxism Required  
Massive Doses of  
Social Engineering &  
Did not Stop Greed or  
Change Evil Behavior**



# The Messianic Complex of the Communist Manifesto



“Neither the concepts of bourgeoisie and proletariat, nor the general view of history as an ever intensified struggle between two hostile camps, nor, least of all, the anticipation of its dramatic climax, can be verified in a purely empirical way. It is only in Marx’s ideological consciousness that all history is a history of class struggles, while the real driving force behind this conception is a transparent messianism which has its unconscious root in Marx’s own being, even in his race. He was a Jew of the Old Testament stature, though an emancipated Jew of the 19th century who felt strongly antireligious and even anti-Semitic. It is the old Jewish messianism and prophetism – unaltered by 2,000 years of economic history from handicraft to large scale industry – and Jewish insistence on absolute righteousness which explain the idealistic basis of Marx’s materialism. Though perverted into secular prognostication, the Communist Manifesto still retains the basic features of a messianic faith.”

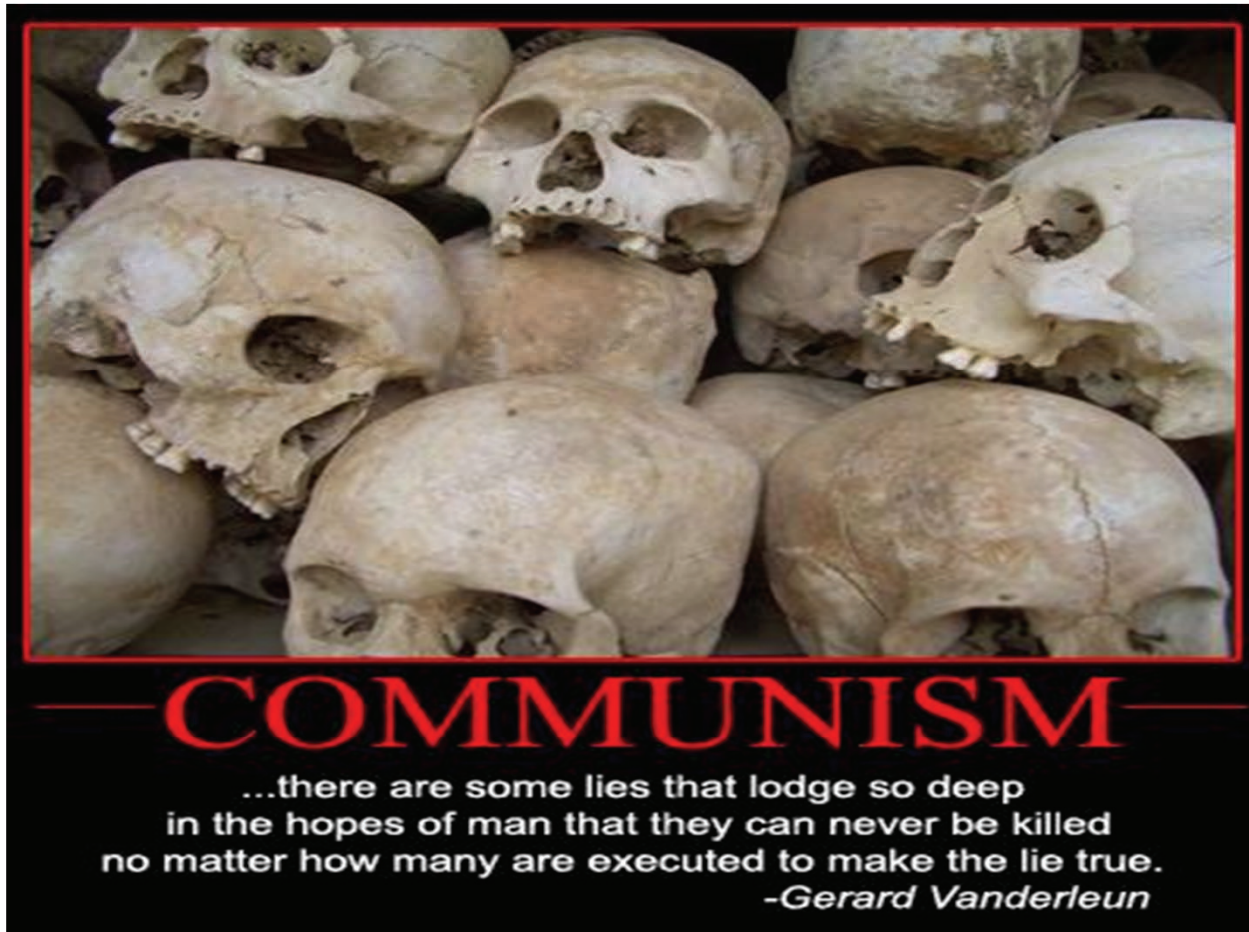
# The Cultish Idolatry of Historical Materialism

**“We are not going anywhere. History has no meaning. There is nothing to be hoped for from history, and no reason to sacrifice anything to that idol. No longer can we give ourselves to a transcendent cause, expecting that it will repay our suffering and reward our sacrifice with interest ... The philosophy of the proletariat is a religion.”**

Andre Gorz, *Farewell to the Working Class*.



# Can the Social Injustices of the Past be Ameliorated through a Future Secular Utopia?



# Marx's Belief in the Goodness of Man is an Eschatological Pyramid Scheme



Economics: Communism  
(Group vs Individual Property Rights)

Politics: One-World Collectivism  
(Group trumps individual)

Psychology: Secularism  
(Man is Good)

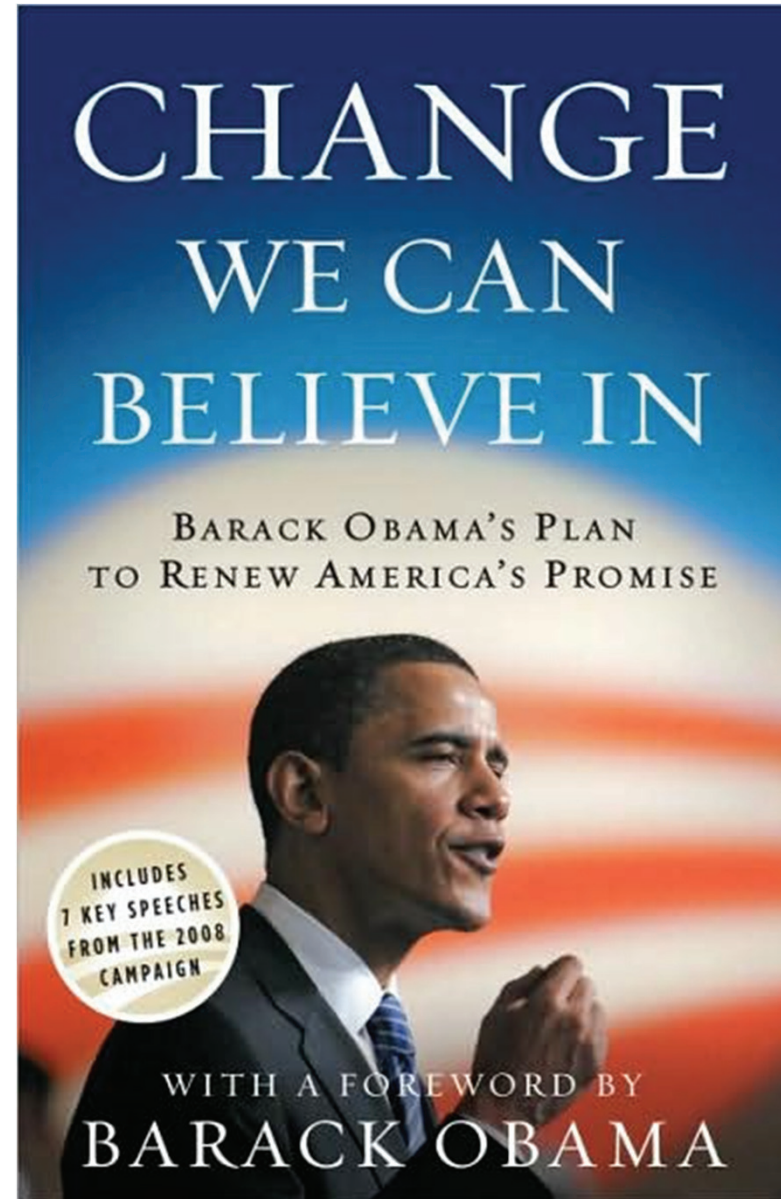
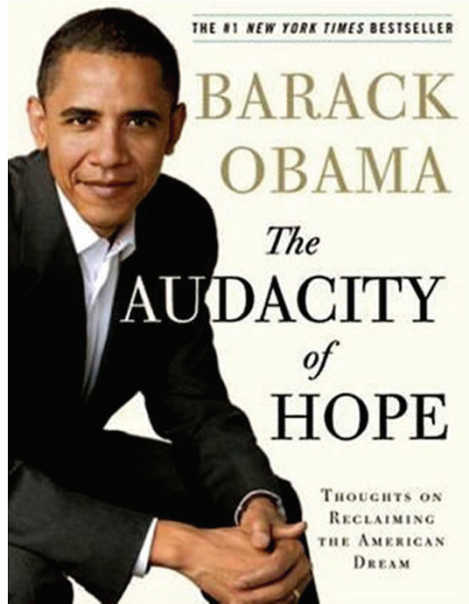
Religion: Humanism (Man is God)



# Marxism is a Secular Fundamentalism Based on Profane Prophecies

- Through Secularization Marx took apocalyptic notions from the Bible & transposed them into worldly political affairs by gutting the religious element. Through Profanization, Marx took sacred eschatological prophecies & reduced them to the merely secular or mundane by shucking the religious reverence associated with them.
- Marxism's Materialism is an Extreme Form of Fundamentalist Literalism.

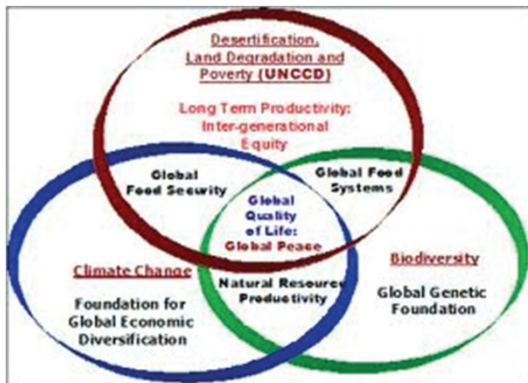
# Modern Millenarianism is Alive & Well Today



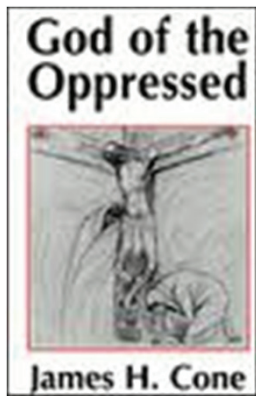
# Millenarianism at the UN



- End Poverty & Hunger
- Universal Education
- Gender Equality
- Reduce Child Mortality
- Improve Maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS
- Environmental Sustainability
- Global Economic Partnership



# Liberation Theology as Millenarianism



- **Liberation Theology is Christian Marxism.**
- **The Gospel is Political but Non-Violent as it opposes Oppressive Social Structures.**
- **Liberation Theology is Post-Millennial.**
- **Palestinian Liberation Theologians are Against Zionism.**
- **Black Liberation Theology is Anti-Semitic.**