

It is April's Fools' Day but our message today is not an April Fool's message. It is quite the opposite. I wonder how many of you belong to the tribe of Issachar? I would like to read two passages--one from the OT, one from the NT. The one from the OT speaks about the men of Issachar. It is 1 Chron. 13:32, "Men of Issachar who understood the times, and knew what Israel should do." Then from the NT, I would like to look at the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in Mat. 16:2-3, "Jesus said, When evening comes you say it will be fair weather for the sky is red. ~~Today~~ And in the morning, Today it will be stormy for the sky is red and overcast. You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. I would like to speak about one of those signs this morning. One which 100 years ago appeared as a little cloud on the horizon about the size of a man's hand and then 30 years later it suddenly grew to cover at least a fourth of the sky.

A few years after that it grew to cover maybe half of the sky. It is hard to say just how much. Now this cloud I want to speak of began about a century--more than a century ago. Chas. Darwin wrote his book, The Origin of Species. Soon after it appeared he received a letter from a German living in England. This German said: "I have published a book called Capital. That book has been sold out and I am getting out a new edition of it. Will you permit me to dedicate it to you?" Chas. Darwin said in his autobiography that when Karl Marx asked him to let him do that he refused because he said it was such an atheistic book that "I knew that my wife and my relatives would be very much hurt if my name appeared in connection with it."

So Darwin originated at that time a movement which has swept over the intellectual world but at the same time Karl Marx was originating a movement which has swept over a different part of the intellectual world.

Just a word about Marx. Marx's theory is fundamentally very simple: the world is made up of two classes the exploited and the exploiters. And the exploiters are constantly becoming less and less as more and more people are pushed back into the class of the exploited. And when the exploited become numerous enough they must get rid of the exploiters and take over control. He taught that everything is materialist; all is a result of forces; there is no God; religion is the opinion of the people; but in this world there are irresistible forces and these forces are moving toward the day when all the exploiters are going to be destroyed; and then there will be a strong state that will get rid of the exploiters and then the state will simply wither away and there will be no need of compulsion because everybody will live in a wonderful utopia.

It was a very theoretical book, a highly philosophical book. But there were many revolutionary movements at that time and many of them took Marx as one who gave a theory to support what they were doing. However, in the development of the movement of which we are speaking this morning, there was another man who was much more important than Marx. Marx's theories are abandoned. They are simply given people to fill their minds with and give them something to be enthusiastic about which they think explains things. But this other man's ideas worked out actual ways of bringing these things into fruition. His name was Vladimir ~~Vladimir~~ ~~Ulianov~~ (?) As a young man of about 17 in Russia he had an older brother named Alexander whom he idolized. Alexander joined a group that planned to assassinate the Emperor of Russia; the plan was found out and the group of men were executed. Young Vladimir decided to devote

*Vladimir Ulianov*