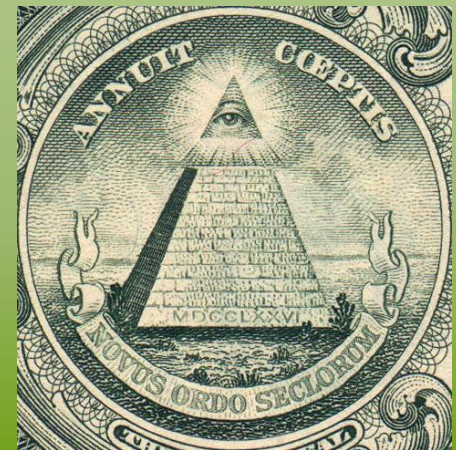




Tracking the Ancient Mysteries from Egypt to the Founding of America

Lecture 6: Early Christian Mysteries

The First 37 Years from the
Mystery of Golgotha



Outline

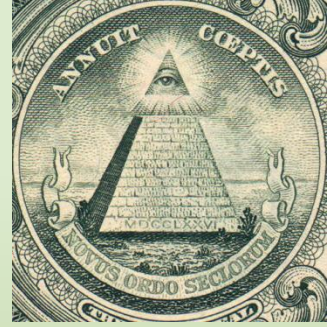


Head Lectures 1 – 5: Conceptual foundations, Egypt, Greece, The Temple Legend, Vanishing of the Mysteries

Heart Lectures 6 – 10: Early Christian Mysteries, Faith versus Knowledge, Charlemagne, Knights Templars, Cathars, Rosicrucians

Limbs Lectures 11 – 15: Renaissance, Leonardo, Founding of America, Freemasonry, Mysteries for the Future

3 Keys To Remember



1. Intellectual life replaces the Mysteries and provides a foundation for Egoism and Equality
2. Three Key Mystery Acts:
 1. Baptism
 2. Lazarus
 3. Mystery of Golgotha as the Turning Point in Time
3. As 11+1 Disciples plus Paul spread Christianity to whole world, Christianity takes on multiple “personalities”, multiple books & “authorities”, & multiple grasping based on local Mystery stream

Great source: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/index.html>

Recap of Lectures 1-5



- All religions had their own mysteries and mystery center
- Initiations occurred by elect being put into a death like state for 3.5 days after which the hierophant called them
 - Death to new life (new name)
- Mythologies as picture-stories for the masses
- Egypt – initiates led back in time to when gods interacted
- Greece – balance of physical & spiritual, 4-foldness
- With end of Taurus (747 BCE), Aries begins, Mysteries fade
- Aristotle inspires Alexander to transition fading Mysteries to knowledge available to all – Hellenism: from India to Europe
- Rise of 'I Know', egoism/power: unselected, unprepared initiated – anyone can rise to emperor, to human-god

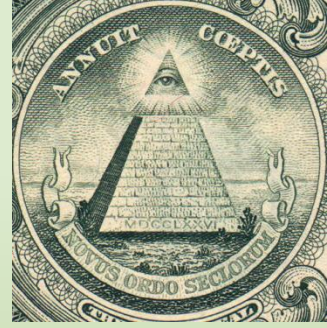
Timeline

BC

- 586 1st Temple destroyed
- 356 Herastratus burns Ephesus
- 333-323 Alexander's empire
- 516 Zerubbabel builds 2nd Temple
- 140 Rise of Jewish sects: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes
- 63 Romans conquer Palestine
- 40-3 Herod Builds 3rd Temple
- 27-AD14 Augustus Emperor

AD

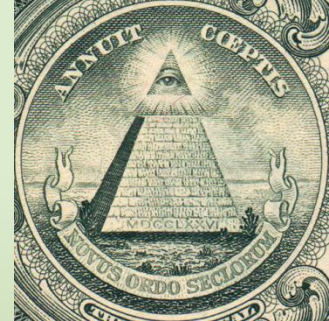
- 4 BCE - 0 Birth of Jesus
- Apostolic Fathers
- 33? Conversion of Paul
- 54-68 Nero
- 64 Great Fire of Rome
- 66-70 Jewish revolt
- 70 3rd (Herod's) temple destroyed
- 100 Ante-Nicene Period



Evolution of the Mysteries

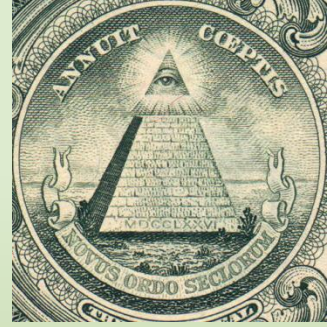
- Earlier, the priests picked you based on aura & bloodline
- By 0 BC, one *sought* enlightenment, initiation
 - Alexander stream of Growing one's Knowledge: Gnosticism
- Bathe before entering Temple – Baptism with water
 - Cleansed life body and physical body
 - Life body was lifted out of physical (what about astral body?)
- Mystery on Golgotha
- New Christian Initiation and Mysteries
 - Baptism with Fire – tongues of Fire, Whitsun – all of humanity
 - Life body could remain with the physical body
 - Saul to Paul – first initiation by Resurrected Christ

Ending the Old Mysteries



- **Enlightenment.** Mark 11:11-14. “And on the morrow when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: and seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.”
- Luke 13:6-7. “ He spake also this parable, a certain man sought fruit thereon and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold these *three years* I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none; **cut it down**; why cumbereth it the ground?”
- Romans 16:25-26 “according to the revelation of the *mystery* which was *kept secret* for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations”

Christianity Fulfills Mysteries

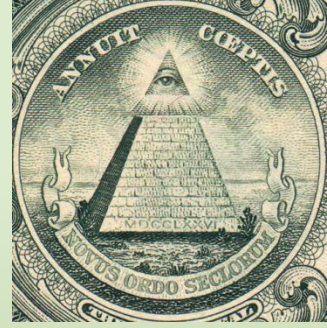


Augustine:

- “What is called the Christian religion today (200CE) existed already among the ancients and was present with the beginnings of the human race.
- But when Christ appeared in the flesh the true religion which was already in existence, received the name of Christian.”

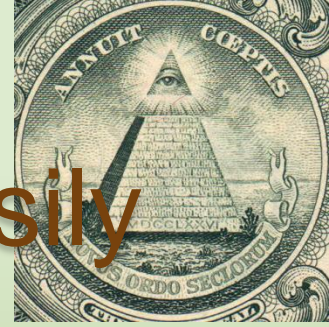
What Did Christianity Offer?

Why Would Someone Convert?



- To be “saved”? Eternal life?
- To be “initiated” – why?
 - Initiate means to keep silent
- What were they taught that convinced converts?
- Your mystical stream flows into Christianity
- Oral “training” from disciples
 - Paul writes letters
 - Later, John writes Gospel
 - 3 2nd-hands write other Gospels – how? Initiates themselves?
 - Others write apocryphal books
- Authenticity, intellectualism, egoism, modifications
- What was required to convert? On-going commitment?

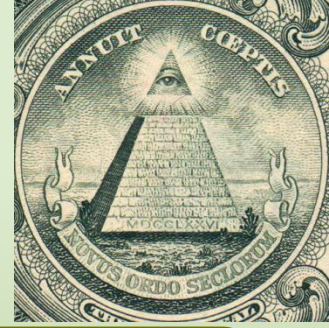
Why Christianity Spread So Easily



- Missionaries came to the fading Mystery Centers
- They explained Christ as the fulfillment of their mystery
- The high priests could see it was true
- Example: Paul in Athens
- Acts 17:22
- So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'To An Unknown God.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.



Christian Mystery Panorama



Baptism
Water

Mystery of Golgotha

Pentacost
Fire

Lazarus

Saul

Transfiguration

Eucharist

Flesh→Logos

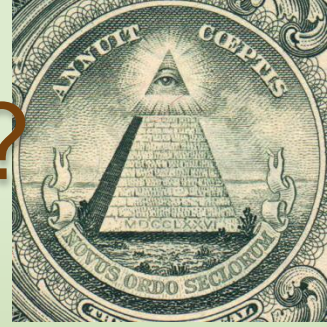
Later look at Birth: Kingly & Priestly

Baptism



- John the Baptist – what was he doing?
 - Cleansing? Why water?
 - Baptism with water – baptism with fire
- What happened during baptism?
- Jesus, the Lamb of God – why “lamb”? came for baptism
- What happened at the baptism of Jesus?
- Did his name change?
- What else changed?
- $3\frac{1}{3}$ years till Golgotha – any significance?
- Later: who can perform sacraments such as baptism?

What Happens at The Baptism?



Mark and John begin their stories about Christ with the baptism

Like a dove, the Holy Spirit descended and remained upon Him

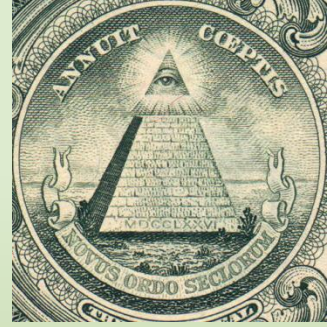
His soul, now in a human body, was then subject to temptations

Source/Change

Body

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| • Ego (I am) | love&freedom | Zarathustra/Logos |
| • Astral – Aisthetikon | wisdom | Zarathustra/Perfect, Manas |
| • Etheric – Threptikon | beauty | Adam/No Karmic Debt |
| • Physical – Gaia | strength | Jew/Universal |

Grasping Baptism based on Mysteries



Spirit

- Atman
- Buddhi Grace
- Manas Truth, Wisdom

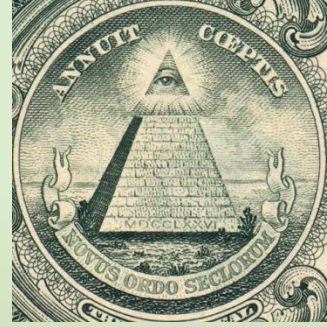
Soul

- *Consciousness* – Dianoetikon
- Intellectual – Kinetikon
- Sentient – Oretikon

Body

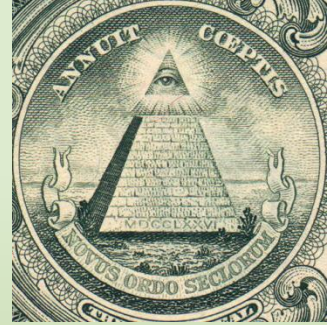
- | | | <u>Element/Ether</u> |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| • Ego (I am) | love&freedom | fire/warmth |
| • Astral – Aisthetikon | wisdom | air/light |
| • Etheric – Threptikon | beauty | water/chem |
| • Physical – Gaia | strength | earth/life |

Mystery of Lazarus



- Occurs in the middle/center of John's Gospel
- Relationship of Lazarus to Nicodemus, to Martha & Mary
- When Martha and Mary come to Jesus – what does he say about this death?
- What do the disciples request?
- How is Lazarus “raised”? By whom?
- What does the high priest have to say about this?
- Who is the “beloved disciple”, “the one whom the lord loved”?
- Author wrote only what he witnessed
- Who wrote John's Gospel? Who is John?

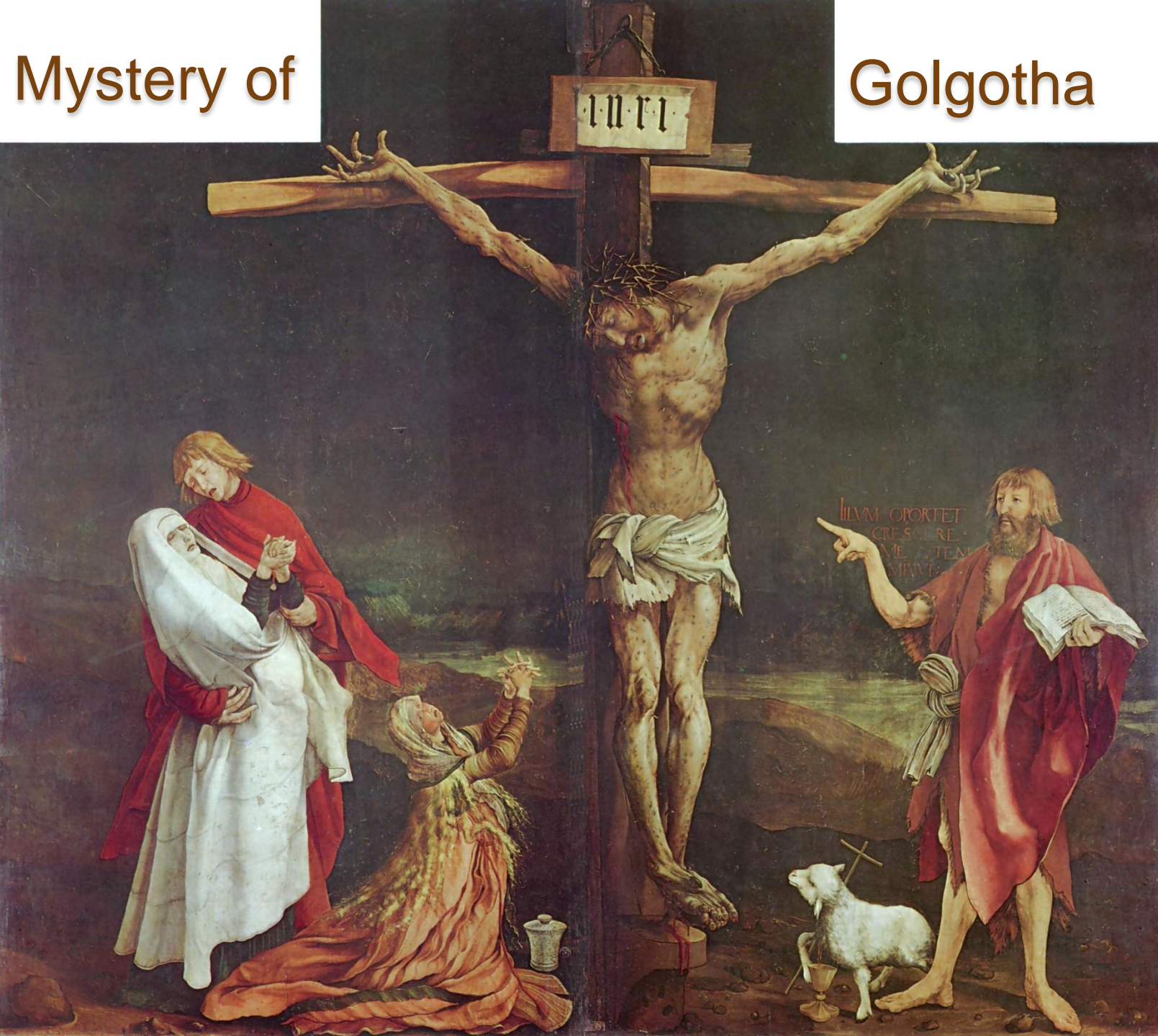
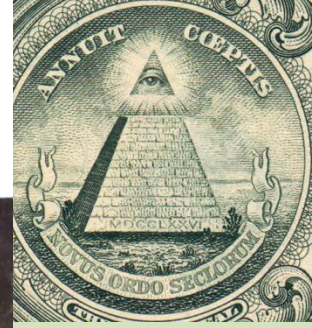
Who Was Lazarus?

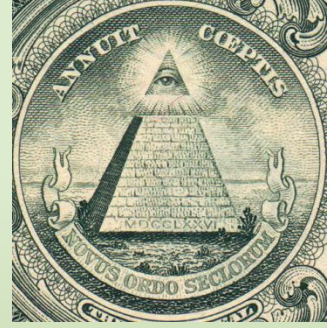


- Brother of Mary and Martha and Secret Mark's Young Man
- Lazarus is publicly initiated by Christ *John 11:43-44*
 - Lies as if dead for 3 days. Thomas asks if they too could experience.
 - "This illness is not unto death" *John 11:4*, "he stayed 2 days longer" *John 11:6*
 - "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him out of sleep" *11:11*
 - "Lazarus is dead ... but let us go to him" *John 11:14-15*
 - "Lazarus, come forth" *John 11:43*
 - Prior, one being initiated found Christ in Sun Sphere (spiritually)
 - Initiate changes name afterwards
 - Lazarus changes his name to John, becomes John the Evangelist
 - Not to be confused with John Zebedee, the other John disciple
 - Higher members developed during initiation and afterwards
 - At the tomb, John is the first to believe. Linen cloths like those that had bound him
 - Easter Sunday Evening: *John 20:19-23* "he breathed on them and said to them 'Receive the Holy Spirit' [the divine I AM]"
 - Becomes the disciple whom the Lord loved (agape)
 - [John 21:21-22] Peter, surprised that Christ has chosen him to lead His church and not John, asks Christ "what about him?" Christ answers "What is it to you that I have him remain until the time I come again?"
 - *When is this time to be that has been foretold? Now!*
 - Further "mainstream" study: <http://lazaruscomeforth.com/>

Mystery of

Golgotha

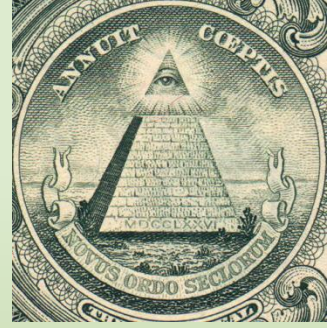




Mystery on Golgotha

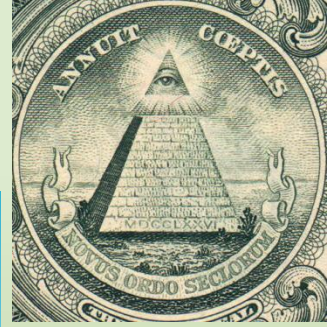
- Golgotha: Place of Skulls. Legend of Adam's skull.
- New Adam – the Turning Point in Time (Evolution)
- New Initiation – Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani
 - Personal ego to universal ego
 - Cosmic significance – aura of earth changed – future has begun
- Blood of Christ flows into the Earth
 - Last Supper: What is his body? What is his blood?
- Who could bear to witness it? One disciple, others scatter
 - Peter, the Rock, denies him 3 times – on which I build my church
- Who was the mother of Jesus Christ?

Mystery of the Resurrection



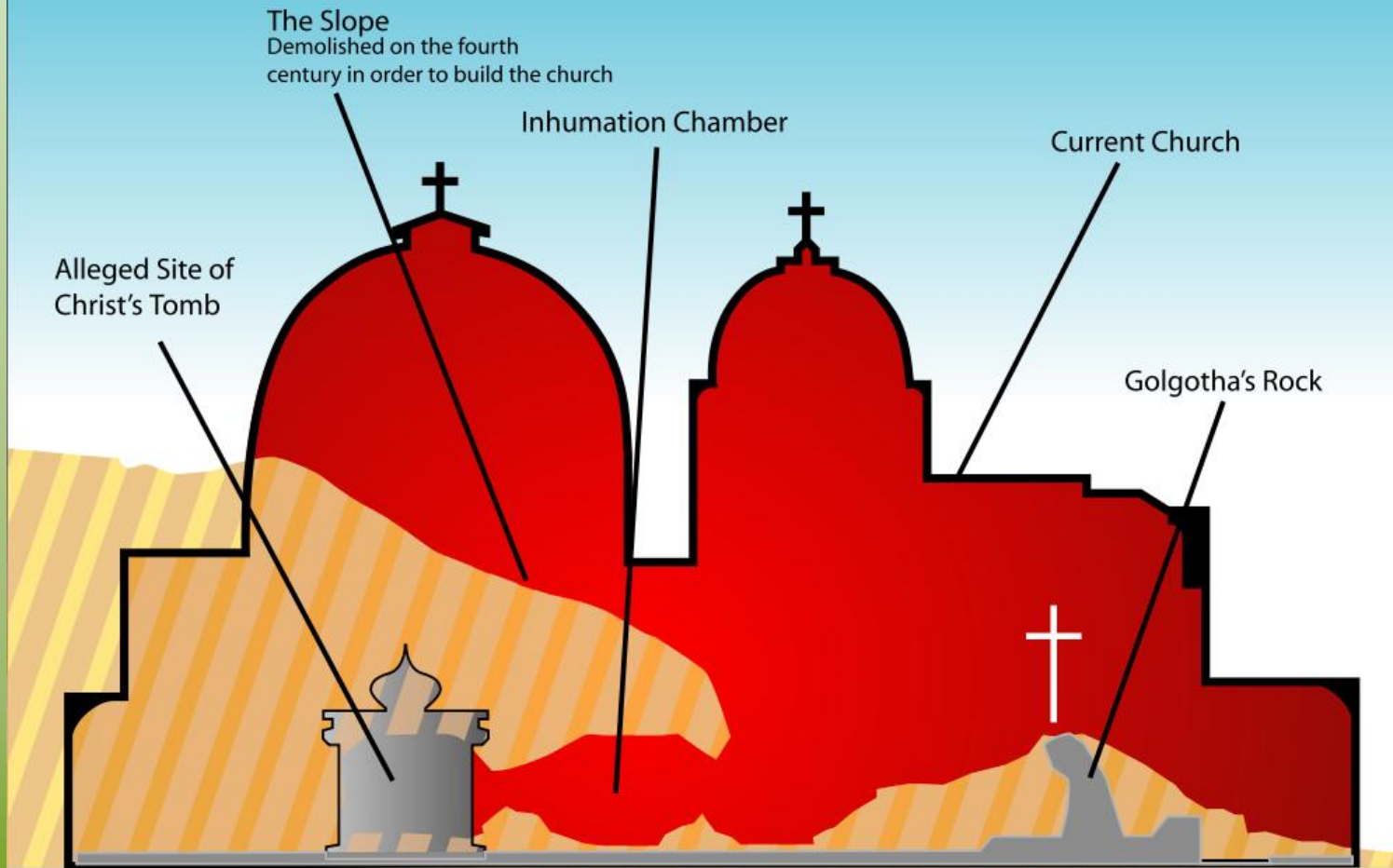
- And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth
- Go ye therefore, to all nations:
 - Baptize them
 - Teach them
- Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world
- Paul calls Jesus-Christ the 2nd Adam and says “had Christ not risen our faith would be in vain”

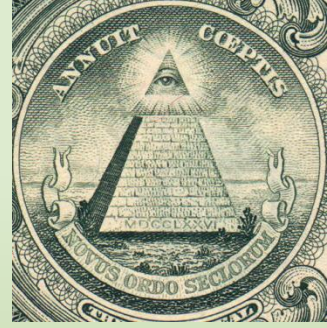
Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Calvary

On the first century A.C.
it was just a rocky
denivellation outside the town

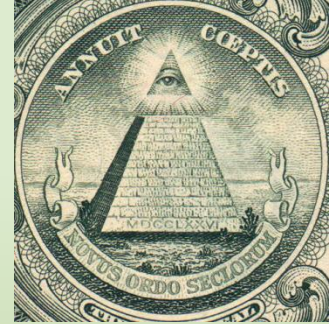




How Did Initiation Change?

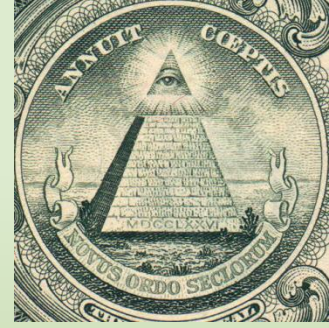
- Initiates led tribes, ethnic groups
 - Intermediary between a people and their folk-spirit (god)
- Before Christ:
 - Hierophant placed the elect into a death-like sleep
 - Life body (etheric body) leaves with Astral and Ego
 - Lasted 3 days in the Holy of the Holies
 - Elect has a guide who shows spirit-land and explains the relationship of spirit to matter, of beings to things, of macrocosm to microcosm (human)
 - Afterwards the elect becomes a perfect; takes on a new name
 - When cardinal becomes pope, he takes on a new name – similar
 - Baptism (immersion) – Life body lifted out of physical briefly
 - Meant as purification for later initiation
- After Christ:
 - Whitsun, Paul (formerly Saul) done in public
 - Gospel writers and early apostles had to be Initiates

New Type of Initiation



Prepared candidate goes through seven stages:

1. Washing of the Feet: dependency on “lower” beings
2. Scourging: awareness of suffering and pain in the world
3. Crown of Thorns: Strength of conviction when jeered
4. Crucifixion: no longer connect one's ego with body
5. Mystical Death: black curtain drawn over physical world
6. Resurrection: Curtain rent, union with whole earth
7. Ascension: complete absorption into spiritual world



How Were They to Grasp It?

- Did it fulfill the prophecies?
 - Jewish and others – magi
 - Did Sun god come to earth?

- New wisdom needed?

- New Initiation
 - Resurrection
 - Crucifixion
 - Eucharist (body and blood)
 - Baptism: Jesus + Christ, begotten son
 - The Father: was Yahweh same as Christ's Father?
 - What has happened to the bloodline?

Composition

Spirit	{	Ego, I-Am, human
Soul		Astral, sentient, animal
Body		Etheric, life, plant
		Physical, matter, mineral

- When is Christ coming again? Ignore reincarnation?

How to Make Sense of it All?

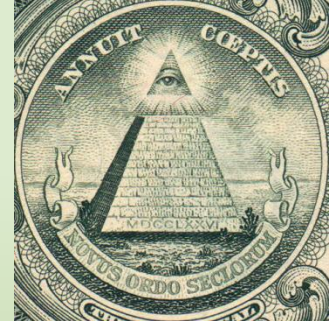
New Ideals& Challenges

- Concept of God
 - How could he give himself up to Death & Earth?
- Equality before God
 - Jew – Gentile
 - Man – Woman (Paul)
- Universality
- New Mysteries
- Freedom & Love
 - Golden Rule

Inflowing

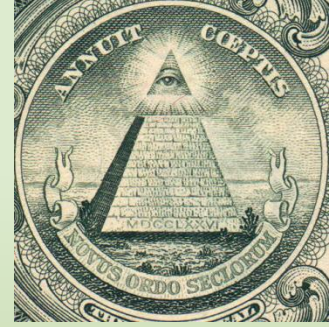
- Old Mysteries
 - Expectation of Sun-God
- Was he the Messiah?
 - Were there two? King & Priest
- The Law (Moses or Karma?)
 - Reincarnation
 - Fulfilled?
- Hellenistic culture
- 2nd Temple Esotericism
 1. Solomon
 2. Zerubbabel
 3. Herod (Maccabees)

Coexistence: Mysteries & Christianity?



- Apostolic period: Mysteries prophesized coming of Christ
 - Gave us the ability to grasp the mysteries performed by Christ
 - New Mysteries – still the few, but now anyone
 - Who is now the hierophant?
- Ante-Nicene Period to 325 AD
 - Persecutions – testing of Faith
 - Constantine – unity of Faith
- Post-Nicene Period to 7th century
 - Heresy hunters
 - Return to Pagan Mysteries: Julian the Apostate
 - Rooting out of the Mysteries: Justinian
 - Destruction of centers, books, practices

Christianity & The Mysteries



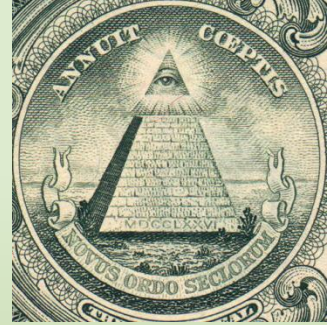
- **Saul:** a highly educated Pharisee becomes Paul
 - Persecuted Christians until his Damascus Initiation, changes name
 - Worked throughout Greece and Balkan area
 - Romans 16:25-26 “according to the revelation of the **mystery** which was **kept secret** for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations”
- **Origen (185–254).** Egyptian taught at Alexandria
 - Name = “Son of Horus”, neo-Pythagorean, Hermetic, Platonist, and a Gnostic
 - Perhaps the most distinguished of the early fathers of the Church
 - God was not Yahweh but The First Principle. Christ, the Logos, was subordinate
- **Clement of Alexandria (died 217 AD)**
 - Pagan background, highly educated
 - “Thus the Lord allowed us to communicate of those **divine mysteries**, and of that holy light, to those who are able to receive them.
 - He did **not disclose to the many** what did not belong to the many; but to the few to whom he knew that they belonged, **who were capable of receiving and being molded** according to them.
 - But **secret things are entrusted to speech**, not to writing, as God confided the unutterable mystery to the Logos, not to the written word.”

History of Secret Mark



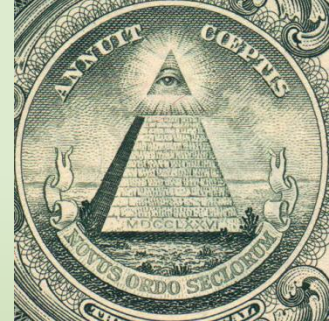
- 1973, professor of ancient history at Columbia University, Morton Smith, (1915 – 1991), found a previously unknown letter of Clement of Alexandria in the monastery of Mar Saba on the West Bank
- The letter was transcribed into the endpapers of a 17th century printed edition of the works of Ignatius of Antioch
- The original manuscript has disappeared (should make for a great Dan Brown novel)
- Research has relied upon B&W photographs made by Smith and color by Father Kallistos in 2000

Clement's Letter: Secret Mark



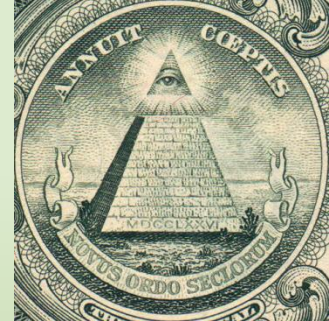
- “As for Mark, then, during Peter's stay in Rome he wrote an account of the Lord's doings, not, however, declaring all of them, nor yet **hinting at the secret ones**, but selecting what he thought most useful for increasing the faith of those who were being instructed. But when Peter died a martyr, Mark came over to Alexandria, bringing both his own notes and those of Peter, from which he transferred to his former book the things suitable to whatever makes for progress toward knowledge.
- Thus he ***composed a more spiritual Gospel*** for the use of those ***who were being perfected***. Nevertheless, he yet did not divulge the things not to be uttered, nor did he write down the ***hierophantic teaching*** of the Lord, but to the stories already written he added yet others and, moreover, brought in certain sayings of which he knew the interpretation would, as a mystagogue, lead the hearers into the innermost sanctuary of that ***truth hidden by seven veils***. Thus, in sum, he prepared matters, neither grudgingly nor incautiously, in my opinion, and, dying, he left his composition to the church in 1, verso Alexandria, where it even yet is most carefully guarded, being read ***only to those who are being initiated into the great mysteries***. “

Clement's Letter: Secret Mark



- "Not all true things are to be said to all men". For this reason the Wisdom of God, through Solomon, advises, "Answer the fool from his folly", teaching that the light of the truth should be hidden from those who are mentally blind. Again it says, "From him who has not shall be taken away", and "Let the fool walk in darkness". But we are "children of Light", having been illuminated by "the dayspring" of the spirit of the Lord "from on high", and "Where the Spirit of the Lord is", it says, "there is liberty", for "All things are pure to the pure".
- <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/secretmark.html>

Clement's Letter: Secret Mark



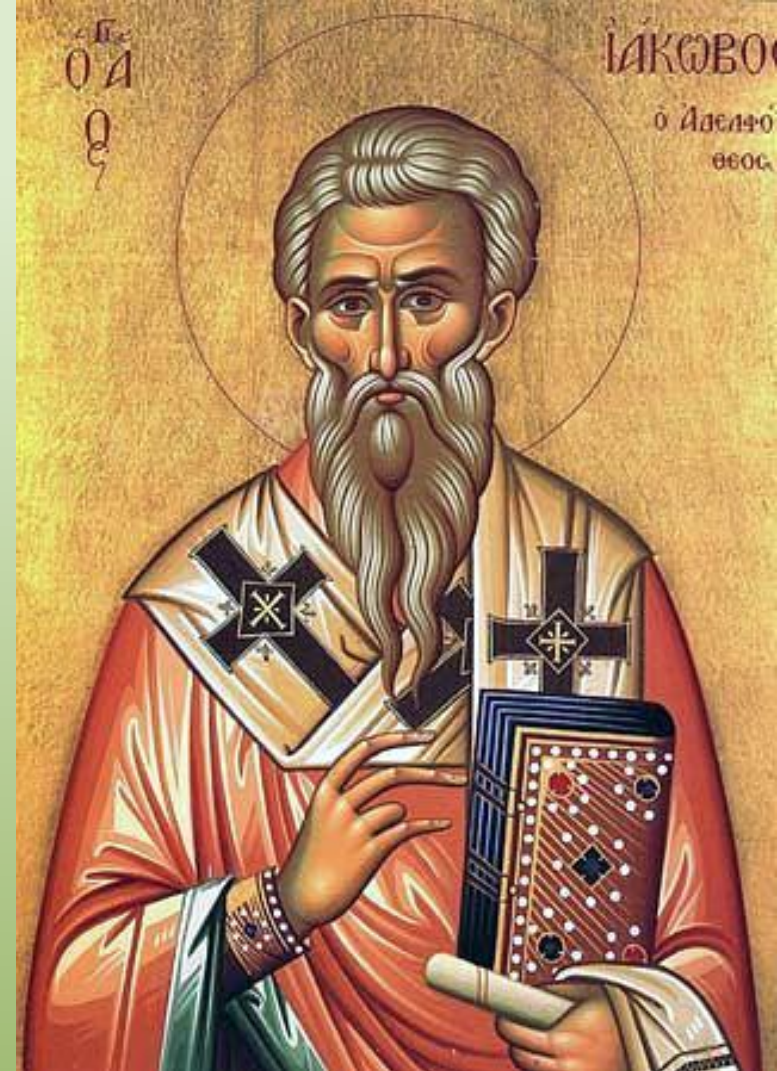
- To you, therefore, I shall not hesitate to answer the questions you have asked, refuting the falsifications by the very words of the Gospel. For example, after "And they were in the road going up to Jerusalem" and what follows, until "After three days he shall arise", the secret Gospel brings the following material word for word:
- "And they come into Bethany. And a certain woman whose brother had died was there. And, coming, she prostrated herself before Jesus and says to him, 'Son of David, have mercy on me.' But the disciples rebuked her. And Jesus, being angered, went off with her into the garden where the tomb was, and straightway a great cry was heard from the tomb. And going near, Jesus rolled away the stone from the door of the tomb. And straightaway, going in where the youth was, he stretched forth his hand and raised him, seizing his hand. But the youth, looking upon him, loved him and began to beseech him that he might be with him. And going out of the tomb, they came into the house of the youth, for he was rich. And after six days Jesus told him what to do, and in the evening the youth comes to him, wearing a linen cloth over his naked body. And he remained with him that night, for Jesus taught him the **mystery of the Kingdom of God**. And thence, arising, he returned to the other side of the Jordan."

Early Christianity and Judaism

- Within 10 years of the death of Jesus, apostles had spread Christianity to Antioch, Ephesus, Rome, Corinth, Cyprus, Crete, and Thessalonica
- Spreading Christianity among the Jews – the Messiah has come
- Jews asked, if so, why is Israel unchanged?
- Should converts (Gentiles) become Jews?
- Bible reports the early followers continued
 - Daily Temple attendance
 - Traditional Jewish home prayer
 - Fasting, reverence for the Torah
 - Observance of Jewish holy days
 - Circumcision (considered repulsive in Hellenistic culture)
- Ebionites
 - <http://ebionite.org/>

First Leaders

- Upon this rock (Peter) I build my church
- Movement was centered in Jerusalem
- Peter leaves Jerusalem after Herod Agrippa I tries to kill him – James the Just becomes the principal authority
- Torah and Jewish law prevailed
- Gentile converts accepted (based on a version of the Noachide laws?)
 - See Acts 15 and Acts 21
- Paul: “James *the brother* of the Lord” (Galatians 1:19),
- "James the Righteous", "James of Jerusalem", “Bishop of bishops, who rules Jerusalem, the Holy Assembly of Hebrews, and all assemblies everywhere."



James the Just,

Early Christian History

- All were Jews
- Enter Paul (also a Jew)
 - Apostle to the Gentiles
 - Saul to Paul
- Council of Jerusalem
 - 50 AD
 - Paul, supported by Peter, argued that circumcision was not a necessary practice
 - The council agreed that converts could forgo circumcision, but other aspects of "Jewish Law" were deemed necessary
- Apostolic Age
 - Judaism was a legal religion protected by Roman law
 - 98 AD, Tax on Jews did not apply to Christians!
 - Did Christians want separation?
 - Persecution for pagan disobedience
- Ante-Nicene Period
 - Kingdom of Armenia became the first state to declare Christianity as its state religion in 301 AD
 - Christianity was not legal in Roman Empire until the 313 Edict of Milan
 - How to maintain unity? Irenaeus: Root out the Heretics.

Early Christian History

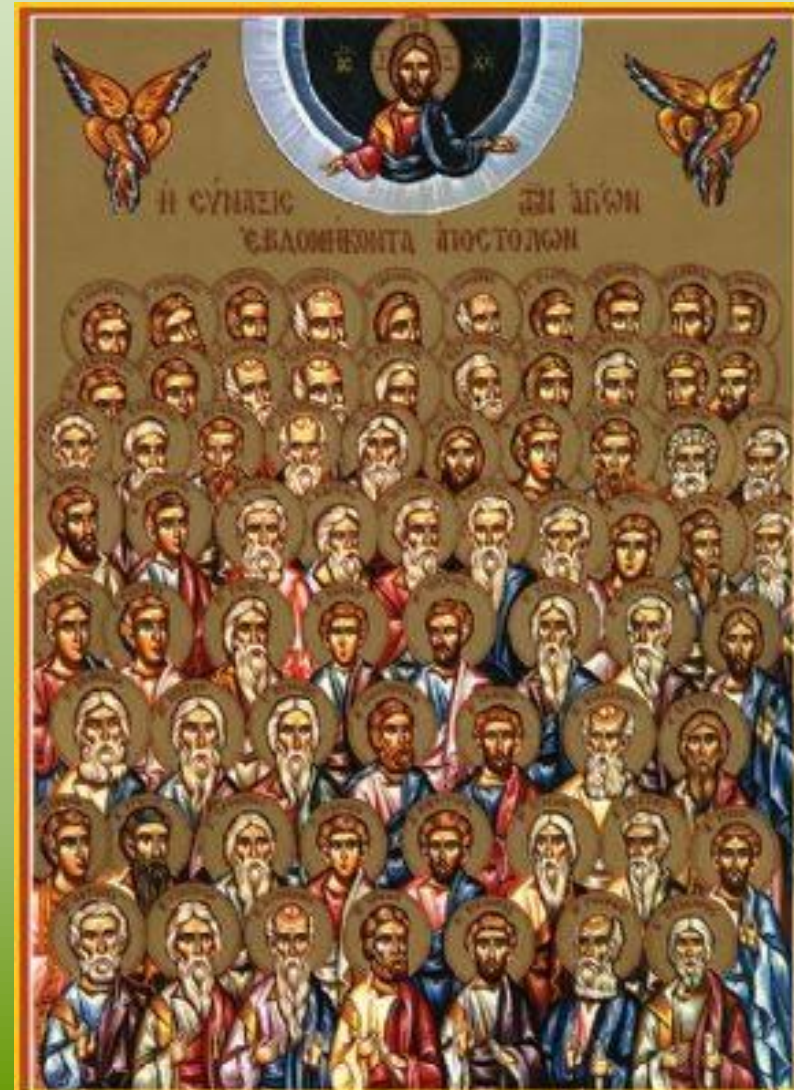
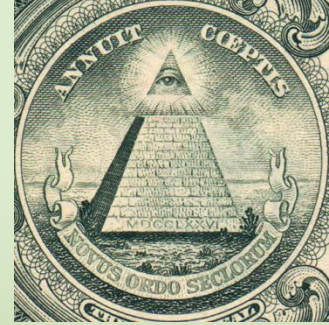
- In the 2nd century, Hadrian rebuilt Jerusalem as a pagan city called Aelia Capitolina, erecting statues of Jupiter and himself on the site of the former Jewish Temple
- Bar Kokhba, as a Messiah, led a revolt, but Christians refused to acknowledge him as such
- When Bar Kokhba was defeated in 135 AD, Hadrian barred Jews from the city, except for the day of Tisha B'Av, thus the subsequent Jerusalem bishops were gentiles for the first time

Montanism, c. 135 AD

- The New Prophecy
- Montanus female colleagues, Prisca (Priscilla) and Maximilla
- Claimed inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- They spoke in ecstatic visions and urged their followers to fast and pray
- Prophetic gift from the prophets Quadratus and Ammia of Philadelphia, figures believed to have been part of a line of prophetic succession stretching all the way back to Agabus
- In time, the New Prophecy spread from Montanus' native Phrygia across the Christian world, to Africa and Gaul
- c. 177 AD, Apollinarius, Bishop of Hierapolis, presided over a synod which condemned the New Prophecy
- In the 6th century, on the orders of the emperor Justinian, John of Ephesus led an expedition to Pepuza to destroy the Montanist shrine and tombs of the three

Spreading Christianity

- 72 disciples in pairs venture in different directions (Luke 10:1)
 - Portray Christ as the culmination of the local religion, e.g. Paul in Athens
 - Many were partially initiated
 - Process with levels, not an event
 - Mithraism defined 7 levels
- St. Augustine says that St. Ambrose initiated him in 385 in Milan and helped him understand the gospels “by lifting the mystic veil by force of the spirit”
 - “What is now called the Christian religion already existed among the ancients and was not lacking at the very beginnings of the human race. When Christ appeared in the flesh, the true religion already in existence received the name Christian.”



Names of the Seventy Two

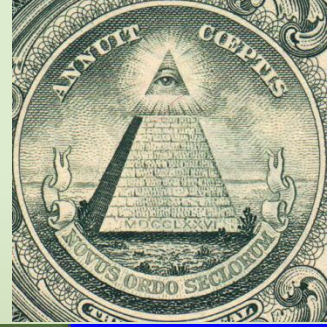
- James "the Lord's brother"
- Mark the Evangelist
- Luke the Evangelist
- Cleopas
- Symeon, son of Cleopas, 2nd Bishop of Jerusalem
- Barnabas, Bishop of Milan
- Justus, Bishop of Eleutheropolis
- Thaddeus of Edessa (not the Apostle called Thaddeus) also known as Saint Addai
- Ananias, Bishop of Damascus
- Stephen, of the Seven Deacons, the first martyr
- Philip the Evangelist, of the Seven, Bishop of Tralia in Asia Minor
- Prochorus, of the Seven, Bishop of Nicomedia in Bithynia
- Nicanor the Deacon, of the Seven
- Timon, of the Seven
- Parmenas the Deacon, of the Seven
- Timothy, Bishop of Ephesus
- Titus, Bishop of Crete
- Philemon, Bishop of Gaza
- Asyncritus, Bishop of Hyrcania
- Phlegon, Bishop of Marathon
- Hermes, Bishop of Philippopolis
- Parrobus, Bishop of Pottole
- Hermas, Bishop of Dalmatia
- Pope Linus, Bishop of Rome
- Gaius, Bishop of Ephesus
- Philologus, Bishop of Sinope
- Lucius of Cyrene, Bishop of Laodicea in Syria
- Jason, Bishop of Tarsis
- Sosipater, Bishop of Iconium
- Olympas
- Tertius, transcriber of the Epistle to the Romans and Bishop of Iconium
- Erastus, Bishop of Paneas
- Quartus, Bishop of Berytus
- Euodias, Bishop of Antioch
- Onesiphorus, Bishop of Cyrene

Names of the Seventy Two

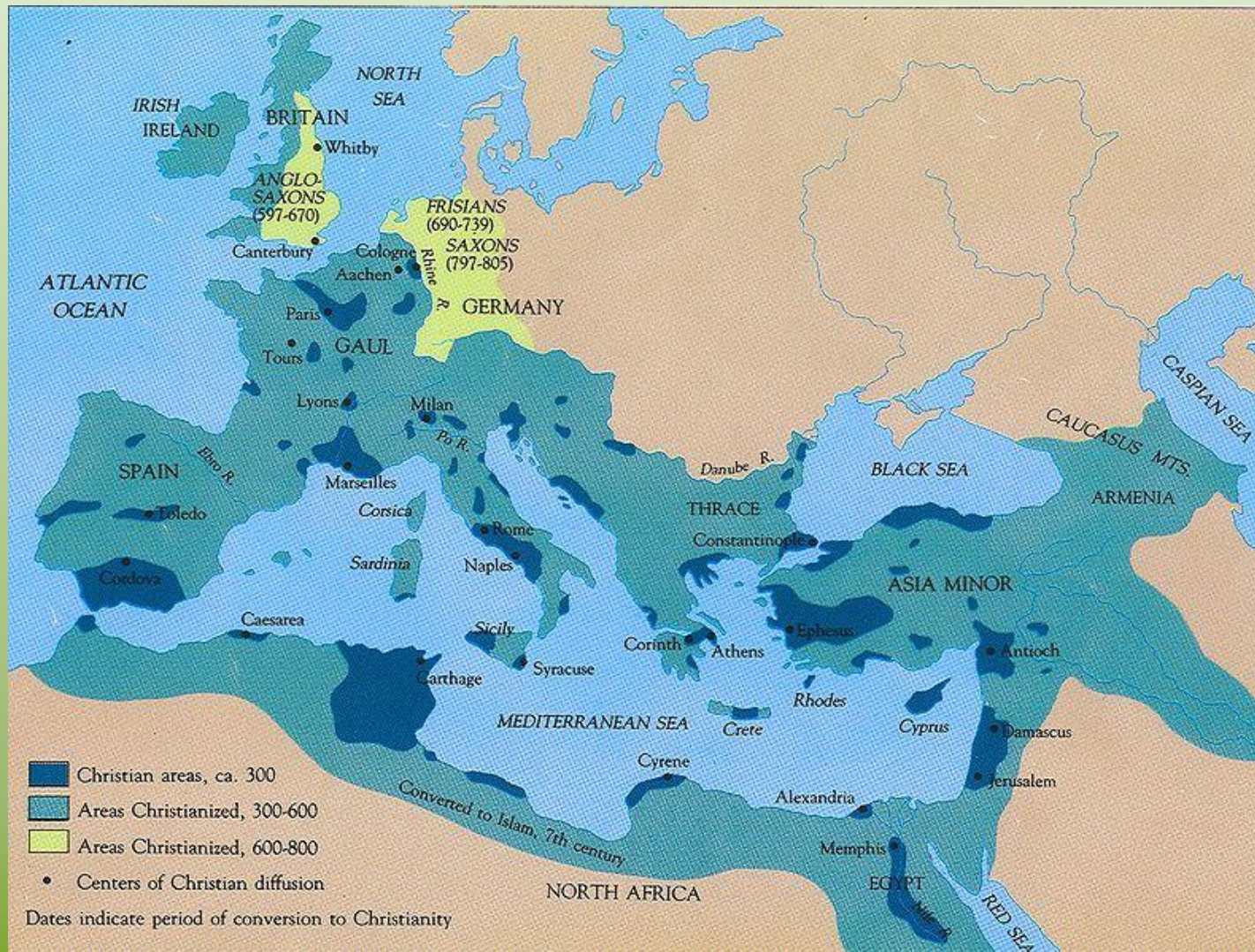
- Onesimus (Not the Onesimus mentioned in the Epistle to Philemon)
- Epaphras, Bishop of Andriaca
- Archippus
- Silas, Bishop of Corinth
- Silvanus
- Crescens
- Crispus, Bishop of Chalcedon in Galilee
- Epenetus, Bishop of Carthage
- Andronicus, Bishop of Pannonia
- Stachys, Bishop of Byzantium
- Amplias, Bishop of Odissa (Odessus)
- Urban, Bishop of Macedonia
- Narcissus, Bishop of Athens
- Apelles, Bishop of Heraklion
- Aristobulus, Bishop of Britain
- Herodion, Bishop of Patras
- Agabus the Prophet
- Rufus, Bishop of Thebes
- Clement, Bishop of Sardice
- Sosthenes, Bishop of Colophon
- Apollos, Bishop of Caesarea
- Tychicus, Bishop of Colophon
- Epaphroditus
- Carpus, Bishop of Beroea in Thrace
- Quadratus
- John Mark (commonly considered identical to Mark the Evangelist), bishop of Byblos[3]
- Zenas the Lawyer, Bishop of Diospolis
- Aristarchus, Bishop of Apamea in Syria
- Pudens
- Trophimus
- Mark, Bishop of Apollonia
- Artemas, Bishop of Lystra
- Aquila
- Fortunatus
- Achaicus
- Biff-Levi bar Alphaeus

St. John After Pentacost

- Anatolia (now much of eastern Turkey)
- Paul active in this region
- Gospel believed written in Ephesus
- Revelations written on Patmos
- Reported students of St. John
 - Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, Papias of Hierapolis
- In the 2nd century, home to Quartodecimanism, Montanism, Marcion of Sinope, and Melito of Sardis
- 286: Nicomedia becomes capital of Eastern Roman Empire
- 314: The Synod of Ancyra
- 325: 1st Christian ecumenical council in Nicaea
- 330 Byzantium becomes the capital of the reunified Roman empire at an early Christian center just across the Bosphorus from Anatolia, later called Constantinople
- The Byzantine Empire lasts until 1453
- The first 7 Ecumenical Councils were held somewhere in Western Anatolia or in Constantinople

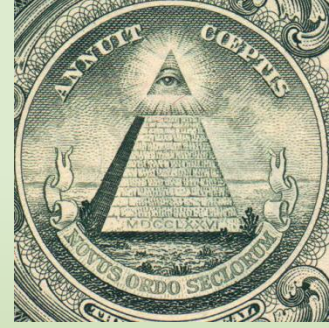


Spread of Christianity



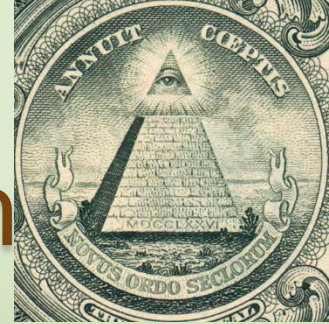
By the end of the first century: Rome, India, Armenia, Greece and Syria, serving as foundations for the expansive spread of Christianity, eventually throughout the world

Canon



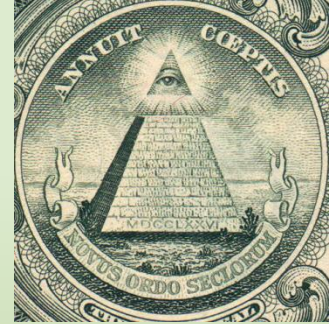
- Who was right? What criteria?
- Whose theology was authentic?
- Why Luke? Why Matthew? Why Mark? Why Paul?
- As there are four winds, so there shall be four gospels
- 27 books selected – why no more have been added?
- Many tampered books:
 - Detection by writing experts
 - Diversity put to the test – alter to prove your mystery stream
 - Most egregious by “Proto-Orthodox” (Walter Bauer)
 - Marcion (literal) – Valentinus/Gnostic (figurative)

Many Christian Concepts Clash



- Son of Man
 - Jn 3:13-15. “No one has ever gone up to heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so shall the Son of Man be exalted, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life”
 - Mk 8:27-31. “Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them concerning the Son of Man”
- Trinity
 - Father – Son – Holy Spirit
 - Substance – subsistence, created, begotten, or pre-existent
 - Atma – Buddhi – Manas
 - Arius was influenced by the writings of Origen
 - *Logos* was of a different substance than the Father, and owed his existence to his Father's will

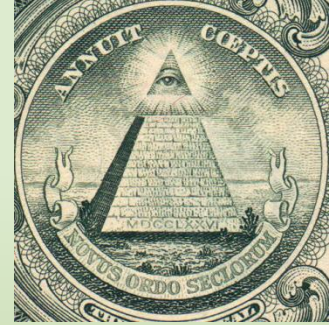
Council of Nicaea, 325 AD



- Consensus within Christendom
 - 1800 bishops invited, 318 came
- One month – result: Creed
- Why? Roman Law, Unity?
- Father – Son Question
 - Arius: John 14:28: "the Father is greater than I", and also Col 1:15: "Firstborn of all creation".
 - Athanasius: Jn 10:30 "I and the Father are one" and "the Logos was [a] God", Jn 1:1
 - Council: declared that the Son had no beginning, but had an "eternal derivation" from the Father, and therefore was co-eternal with him, and equal to God in all aspects.



Real Result of Nicaea



- Roman Emperor could use Roman army to enforce adherence to the creed (*violation of Christian freedom*)
- One of the Holy Sees could condemn a group and call on the Emperor to enforce
- Roman governance infiltrates Christian Church
- Arius
- Eustathius of Antioch, opposing Arianism, threw the baby out with the bathwater
 - Arianism traces to Origen's theology
 - Reproaches Eusebius, an admirer of Origen, for deviating from the Nicene creed
 - Eusebius, loved by Constantine, prevails - Eustathius is deposed at a synod in Antioch
- Athanasius of Alexandria, also rooting out Arianism
 - 334 calls for a synod in Caesarea but Eusebius refuses to attend
 - 335 synod in Tyre: Eusebius of Caesarea to preside
 - Athanasius, foreseeing the result, went to Constantinople to bring his cause before the Emperor
 - Constantine called the bishops to his court, among them Eusebius
 - Athanasius was condemned and exiled
 - Eusebius remained in the Emperor's favor throughout this time and more than once was exonerated with the explicit approval of the Emperor Constantine

Summary Points from Tonight



1. Intellectual life replaces the Mysteries and provides a foundation for Egoism and Equality
2. Three Key Mystery Acts :
 1. Baptism
 2. Lazarus
 3. Mystery of Golgotha as the Turning Point in Time
3. As 11+1 Disciples plus Paul spread Christianity to whole world, Christianity takes on multiple “personalities”, multiple books & “authorities”

Homework

...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Christianity

<http://www.earlychristianhistory.info/index.html>

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/index.html>

Homework for Discussion

Check out what's claimed for

- ☐ Theology and Philosophy
 - ☐ Relationship to the Mysteries
 - ☐ What happened? Tragedy?
-

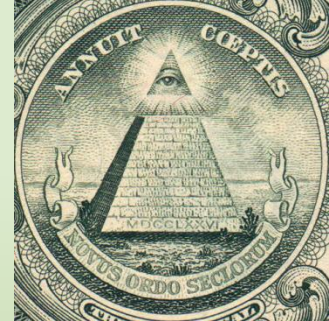
- Ebionites,
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebionites>
- Gnostics, e.g. *Pistis Sophia*,
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnostics>
- Marcion of Sinope (c. 85–160)
- Origen (c.185-c.254)
- Mani (c. 216–274)
- Arius (c. 250–336)
- Nestorius (died c.451)

Research Guide

- ☐ Who/what was Christ?
 - Relationship to Jesus
 - Relationship to the Father
 - ☐ What is the Trinity?
-

- Valentinus (c. 100–160)
- Justin Martyr (c. 100–165)
- Irenaeus of Lyons (c.120-202)
- Tertullian (c.160-225)
- Montanus, last quarter of 2nd century CE
- Hippolytus (c.217-236)
- Clement of Alexandria (c.150-215)
- Athanasius (c.296-c.373)

Additional Study Questions



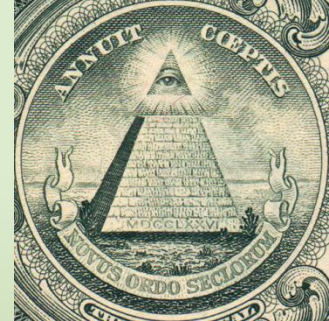
- Is Jehovah/Yahweh the same God as Christ's Father?
 - Same as Jesus's father? What is his genealogy in each gospel?
- Are Christ and the Logos (Word) the same?
 - Lamb of God, Son of Man, Son of God, Anointed One?
- What being, from what hierarchy, was the Christ?
 - Trinity's Son? Exousia/Elohim? Aeon? Arch-angel?
 - If all religions expected Christ, was he the Sun-God?
- Can a God enter matter, enter a physical body?
- Did Christ die on the cross? Or did Jesus?
 - Can a God die especially in shame? Can a God shed blood?
- Who from the cross is said to be the mother of Christ?

Further Study Materials



Deepening the Mysteries

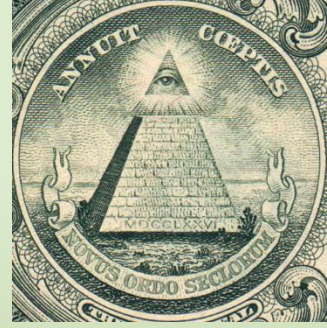
Contemporary Pagan Beliefs



Neo-Platonists:

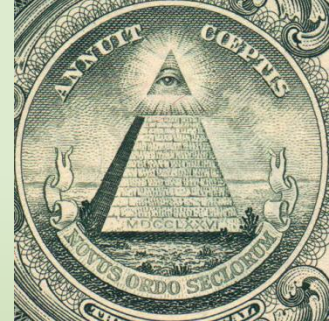
- Philo: Logos
- Plotinus:
- Iamblichus:
 - Monad: the transcendent, incommunicable, absolute "One"
 - Dyad: Nous superexistent "One" stands between Monad and 'the many', logos
 - Triad: Demiurge
 - Thus three: psyche, nous, intelligible/intellective

Resurrection



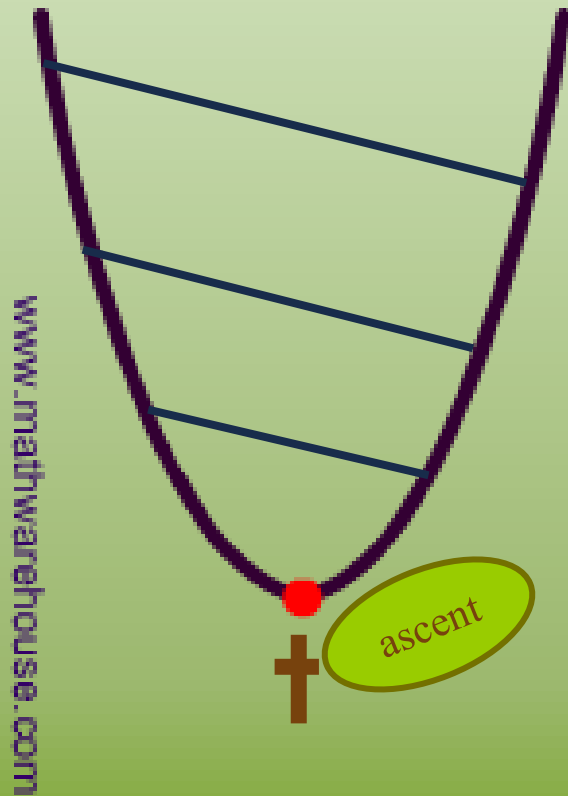
- The Word became Flesh
- Resurrection: And the Flesh became Word
- New or Second Adam
- Purified/perfected Astral: Manas
- Purified/perfected Etheric: Buddhi
 - No comes to the Father except through me
- Purified/perfected Physical: Atma
 - 9-fold human matches 9 hierarchies

Reincarnation – the Journey



- Greek Trochos geneseos, Wheel of Birth compare to Hindu
- Eccles 1:11, 3:11; Job 38:21
- Early Christians: Pre-existence of souls
- Parable of Talents. Mt 25:14-30, Lk 19:12-27
- Prodigal Son Lk 15:11-32
- Mt 13:33
- Elijah→John the Baptist Mt 17:11-13, Mk 9:13, Malachi 4:5

Parabolic History Picture



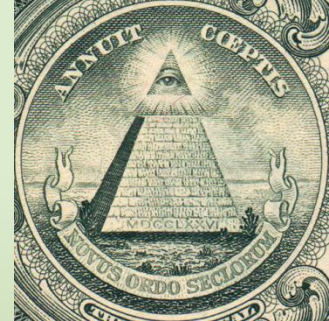
New Covenant

- 1 Cor 11:25
- Lk 22:20
- Mt 26:28
- Mk 14:24

Right Time

- Gal 4:4
- Rom 5:6
- Eph 1:10
- Mk 1:15

Goal (why humanity?)



- David's Question: What is Man?
- Mystical Wedding
 - Christ the Bridegroom, Humanity (soul) the Bride
 - Wedding garments (who can attend): white (purified astral body)
- Eph 1:9-10
- Rom 8:19-23
- Jn 14:6 "No one comes to the Father except through me"
- Heb 11:8-10 and 13:14 New Jerusalem
- Rev 21:1 New Jerusalem

Threeness, Trinity

- Captivity
 - Egyptian
 - Assyrian
 - Babylonian
- Temple
 - Solomon
 - Zerubbabel
 - Herod
- Daniel 3 (3 men)
- 3 Loaves Lk 11:5-8, Mt 13:33
- 60 Biblical examples
- Three Hierarchies
 - Three in each (9 total)
- Body, soul, and spirit
 - Three in each (9 total)
- Soul forces
 - Thinking, Feeling, Willing
- What is the Trinity?
 - How is it one?
 - Father-Son-HolySpirit?
 - Is Jesus part of the Trinity?
 - Is the Logos part?

The Order of Melchizedek

- No mother or father
- No beginning or end
- Christ of same order
- What does this mean?
 - Melchi: King
 - Zedek: Righteousness
- King of Peace
 - Christ: Prince of Peace
- Heb 5:6-10, 6:20, 7:2, 7:11-17
- Being of Hierarchies incorporates into body of human
- The hierarchical being is of this order
- Avatar, Ps 110:4

The Hierarchies and Man



- **First:**

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| ○ Seraphim | Love |
| ○ Cherabim | Harmony |
| ○ Thrones | Will |

Soul activities

1. Thinking
2. Feeling
3. Willing

- **Second:**

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| ○ Kyriotetes | Wisdom/Dominions |
| ○ Dynamis | Movement/Mights |
| ○ Exusiai / Elohim | Form/Powers |

Plethora:

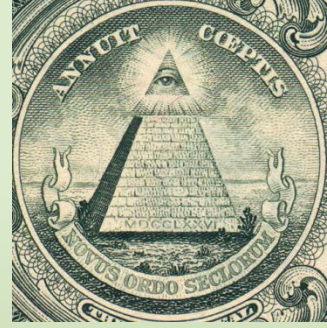
Unity of 7 Elohim
Fullness

- **Third:**

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| ○ Archai | Personality/Age |
| ○ Archangel | Fire/Folk/Groupings |
| ○ Angeloi | Messenger/Twilight – Guardian Angel |

Meaning/Goal:

Mankind Becomes
the 10th Hierarchy



Early Christian Meditation

We have striven to become full of Truth and Grace
Out of our own developed power.

Among us the Logos has become flesh.

We now shine with the fire of Agape
For in us the Son lives.

And we, a divine being, have become
United with the Logos in the end.

- Truth = Manas (Spirit Self)
- Grace = Buddhi (Life Spirit)

Maccabee History of Israel

- When Alexander the Great (356–323 BCE) died, his kingdom was divided amongst his generals with the Ptolemaic Kingdom based in Egypt and the Seleucid empire based in Syria – Hellenization began.
- Around 200 BCE, Judea passed from Ptolemaic rule to the Seleucids
- Some Jews, mainly those of the urban upper class, notably the Tobiad family, wished to dispense with Jewish law and to adopt a Greek lifestyle
- The Hellenizing Jews built a gymnasium in Jerusalem, competed in international Greek games, "removed their marks of circumcision and repudiated the holy covenant"
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes (ca. 215–164 BCE), became ruler of the Seleucid Empire in 175 BCE when the High Priest in Jerusalem was Onias III
- To Antiochus, the High Priest was merely a local governor within his realm, who could be appointed or dismissed at will, while to orthodox Jews he was divinely appointed
- Jason, the brother of Onias, bribed Antiochus to make him High Priest
- Jason abolished the traditional theocracy and constituted Jerusalem as a Greek polis.
- Menelaus then bribed Antiochus and was appointed High Priest in place of Jason.

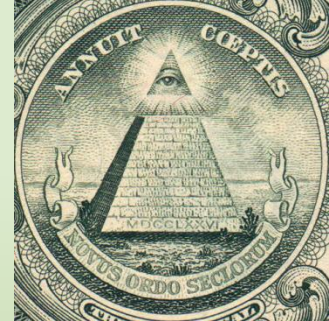
Maccabee History of Israel

- Menelaus assassinated Onias
- Menelaus' brother Lysimachus stole holy vessels from the Temple, causing riots leading to his death
- Menelaus was arrested for Onias' murder, and was arraigned before Antiochus, but he bribed his way out of trouble
- Jason subsequently drove out Menelaus and became High Priest
- Antiochus then pillaged the Temple, attacked Jerusalem and "led captive the women and children"
- Further, Antiochus pushed Hellenizing making possession of the Torah a capital offense and burning all copies
- 1 Maccabees: Antiochus banned many traditional Jewish religious practices:
 - Sacrifices, sabbaths and feasts
 - Mothers who circumcised their babies were killed along with their families
- Altars to Greek gods were set up and animals prohibited to Jews were sacrificed on them.
- Zeus was placed on the Temple altar

Maccabee History of Israel

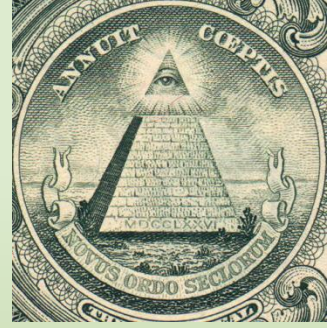
- Using guerrilla warfare, the Maccabees win c. 166 BCE.
- They enter Jerusalem and cleanse the Temple
- Hanukah celebrates the re-dedication of the Temple – especially the miracle about the oil for the menorah
- Jonathan Maccabee becomes high priest and later also army general
- Hasmonean rule lasted until 63 BCE, when the Roman general Pompey captured Jerusalem and subjected Israel to Roman rule, while the Hasmonean dynasty itself ended in 37 BCE when the Idumean Herod the Great became king of Israel, designated "King of the Jews" by the Roman Senate

In Christo Morimor



- In Christ I die
- “Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Romans 6:3-4

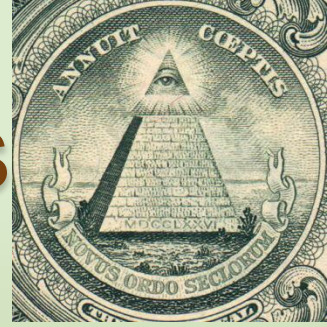
Legend of the Battle of Dark & Light



- The Spirits of Darkness wished to storm the Kingdom of Light. They came to its borders for the attack. They were, however, able to achieve nothing. Now they were to be punished by the Kingdom of Light. But in the Kingdom of Light there is only good. Thus the Demons of Darkness could only have been punished through good. Therefore the Spirits of the Kingdom of Light took a portion of their own kingdom and mingled it into the Kingdom of Darkness.
- Thereby a **leaven**, so to speak, came into the Kingdom of Darkness and a kind of vortex arose. Death became pulled into the vortex, whereby it consumed itself. It now carried within itself the seed of its own destruction. There then arose from the Kingdom of Light the Archetypal Man of the human race ***who must mingle with the Kingdom of Darkness and overcome it.***

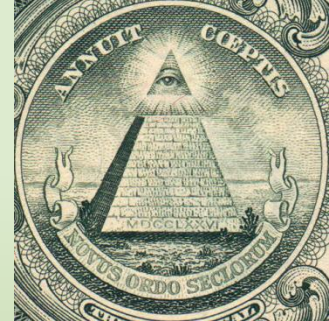
Manichaeism: Uniting Religions

<http://www.cs.utk.edu/~mclennan/Classes/US310/Manichaeism.html>



- Founded in about 240 AD by Manes, aka Mani (216-277)
 - Born as Corbicius in Babylon to Iranian parents; **son of a widow**
 - Grows up with a Jewish mystic group, the Elkasites, a branch of Essenes
- Mani presented himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ
 - In the 4th century, Manichaean Coptic papyri identify Mani as the promised Paraclete (The Holy Ghost)
 - According to St. Cyril of Jerusalem (315–386, Doctor of Church):
 - Mani's teacher was **Terebinthus**, Matraiya Bodhisattva, whose teacher was
 - **Scythianus** of Alexandria who writes **Doctrine of Dualities** in India in 50 AD
- Mani's teaching **unites** Christianity, Gnosticism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Taoism (and more)
 - Spreads rapidly west to Spain and east to China.
- Dualities: dry-wet, warm-cold, light-dark, life-death, acid-alkaline
 - Christ path is the middle path
- Manichaeists were brutally exterminated, all books destroyed

From Kama to Buddhi



With the founding of Christianity:

- The earlier piety, which had been bestowed from above on mankind, became passionless and detached
 - It merged with the element which came to the earth through Christ — Christ, who is not only the incarnation of wisdom, but who is also love itself, a supreme being who has so purified his astral body or Kama that it has been changed into Buddhi.
 - A pure flowing Kama which seeks nothing for itself, but turns every passion into unending devotion towards the things outside itself, is inverted Kama.
- Buddhi is Kama that has been changed into its opposite

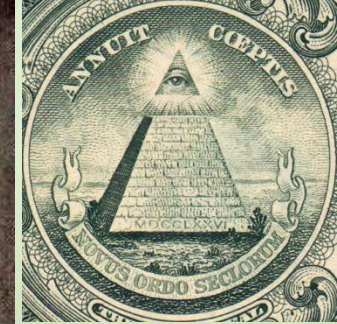
Paul and Paulicians



- Paul: a highly educated, Pharisee, named Saul
 - Persecuted Christians until his Damascus Initiation
 - Worked throughout Greece and Balkan area
 - Luke, a doctor and gospel writer, often travels with Paul
 - Romans 16:25-26 “according to the revelation of the *mystery* which was *kept secret* for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations”
- Paulicians (beginning around 630 AD) believed they followed Paul’s mystical teachings
 - The founder of the sect was Constantine of Mananalis, in SE Turkey.
 - He studied the Gospels, the Epistles, and Mani. He vigorously opposed the increasing dogma of the church.
 - Regarded himself as called to restore the pure Christianity of Paul
 - 687 stoned to death by order of the emperor but group spread to Balkans
 - From 845-852, Empress Theodora had 100,000 Paulicians executed
 - Religious views were dualistic like Manichaeism. Some points:
 - Christ came down from heaven to emancipate men from matter, i.e. the physical body, and to transform the world
 - Reverence for the Cross considered heathenish; no reverence for Mary
 - Likely source or influence of the Cathars who are later brutally destroyed



Authenticity



- Nag Hammadi
 - 13 ancient codices with over 50 texts
 - Discovered in upper Egypt in 1945
 - Gnostic, Hermes Trismegistus, Plato
- Dead Sea Scrolls
 - 972 texts discovered 1946 - 1956
 - Khirbet Qumran
 - 11 caves near Dead Sea
 - Content of the scrolls was published in between 1955 and 2009 in a 40 volume series by Oxford University Press
Discoveries in the Judean Desert
- Josephus Flavius, historian



Nag Hammadi Texts

1. Writings of creative and redemptive mythology, including Gnostic alternative versions of creation and salvation:

- The Apocryphon of John
- The Hypostasis of the Archons
- On the Origin of the World
- The Apocalypse of Adam
- The Paraphrase of Shem

2. Observations and commentaries on Gnostic themes, such as the nature of reality, the nature of the soul, the relationship of the soul to the world:

- The Gospel of Truth
- The Treatise on the Resurrection
- The Tripartite Tractate
- Eugnostos the Blessed
- The Second Treatise of the Great Seth
- The Teachings of Silvanus
- The Testimony of Truth

3. Liturgical & initiatory texts:

- The Discourse on the Eighth and Ninth
- The Prayer of Thanksgiving
- A Valentinian Exposition
- The Three Steles of Seth
- The Prayer of the Apostle Paul
- The Gospel of Philip (also listed in 6th category)

Nag Hammadi Texts

4. Writings dealing primarily with the feminine deific and spiritual principle, particularly with the Divine Sophia:

- The Thunder
- Perfect Mind
- The Thought of Norea
- The Sophia of Jesus Christ
- The Exegesis on the Soul

5. Writings pertaining to the lives and experiences of some of the apostles:

- The Apocalypse of Peter
- The Letter of Peter to Philip

- The Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles
- The (First) Apocalypse of James
- The (Second) Apocalypse of James
- The Apocalypse of Paul

6. Scriptures which contain sayings of Jesus as well as descriptions of incidents in His life:

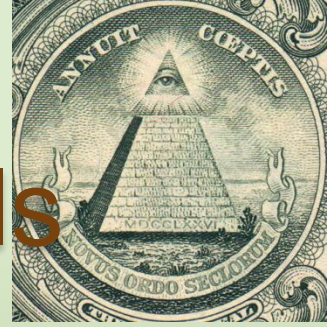
- The Dialogue of the Saviour
- The Book of Thomas the Contender
- The Apocryphon of James
- The Gospel of Philip
- The Gospel of Thomas

Dead Sea Scrolls

- Likely Essene origin
- Hidden when Roman soldiers destroyed Jewish Revolt, 70AD
- Copies of every book in the Hebrew Bible (except the book of Esther)
- 12 copies from before 586 BC
 - Destruction of Solomon's Temple and exile to Babylonia



Essenes & the Dead Sea Scrolls



- Josephus places them with Sadducees and Pharisees
 - Essene quarter and gate in Jerusalem
 - High emphasis on learning as step towards initiation
 - Understanding of scriptures through “illumination” from initiation
 - Sons of Light were those initiated to join battle against Darkness
 - Zoroastrian influence?
 - Used a Sun-based calendar rather than Moon-based Jewish
- Dead Sea scrolls (discovered 1947)
 - *Testament of the 12 Patriarchs*: Two Messiahs expected
 - King lineage and priest lineage (Compare to Temple Legend)
 - *Damascus Document*: Two become a compound being
- Nag Hammadi: earthenware pot found 1945 with 12 codices contain excerpts from Plato and Hermes
 - *Discourse on the 8th and 9th Level of Consciousness*: about initiation
 - *The Apocalypse of Adam, Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Philip*