



Regaining Our Lost Esoteric Christianity

House of Peace
Summer Lyceum
With Andrew Linnell

www.thechristianmysteries.com
jandrewlinnell@yahoo.com



Definitions

- Esoteric: understood or belonging to the select few
 - Greek esterikos: within – inner (depth)
 - Teaching or spiritual practice or path or wisdom tradition that is based on a mystical interpretation of spirituality
- Occult: secret; disclosed or communicated only to the initiated
 - Latin occultus: to hide from view



Ancient Mysteries Become Christianity


Augustine (354 – 430):

- “What is called the Christian religion today (400AD) 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”
- Battle of Faith and Knowledge
 - Are you an initiate?
 - Can you become one in this lifetime?
 - How can Christianity be for all the people? Equal?



New Mystical Path Open To All

- Before Christianity, path of
 - Learning for the elect → monks
 - Path of mythology for the rest → faithful
- After Christ, two similar paths of development
 1. The human soul develops within it the forces leading it to the cognition of its true self and eventually to Christ
 - This becomes a Mystery knowledge path enriched through the Christ event
 - Augustine rejected this way as springing from pride of soul
 2. By developing forces of the soul as far as possible and then proceed to receive the ideas connected with the Christ event from written accounts and oral traditions
 - Augustine thought the second way was the way of true humility
 - Now it was possible for every soul to experience the spiritual



From the east moving westward:

- The power of reason and the senses
- The physical-sense World Christ

From the west moving eastward:

- Hibernian Mysteries
- Last echo of the ancient instinctive earth-wisdom that relied on the ancient treasures of wisdom of humanity
- Illumination from the Spiritual world

Rise and Effect of Materialism

Not to scale

Spiritual world full of beings

Nature: the work of the divine

Intellectual Soul

End of the "Earth" (4th C)

Consciousness Soul

?

Jesus was just a good man

Why?

Who needs religion?

He whom you seek is no longer here!

Materialism →

- What was lost?
- Does it matter?





Historical Overview

- Origen 184 – 253
- Mani 216 – 274
- Arius 250 – 336
- 4th C
- Nestorius 386 – 451
- 869 AD
- Crusades 1096
- Destruction: Cathars 1244 & Knights Templar 1314
- Plague → Renaissance, Rosicrucians
- Fall of Constantinople 1453
- Some names
 - Giovanni Pico della Mirandola 1486, Nicholas of Cusa 1450, Marsilio Ficino 1460, Art & Science & Religion



Fresco at the palace at Knossos, Minoan, island of Crete
between the 27th and the 15th centuries B.C.E.



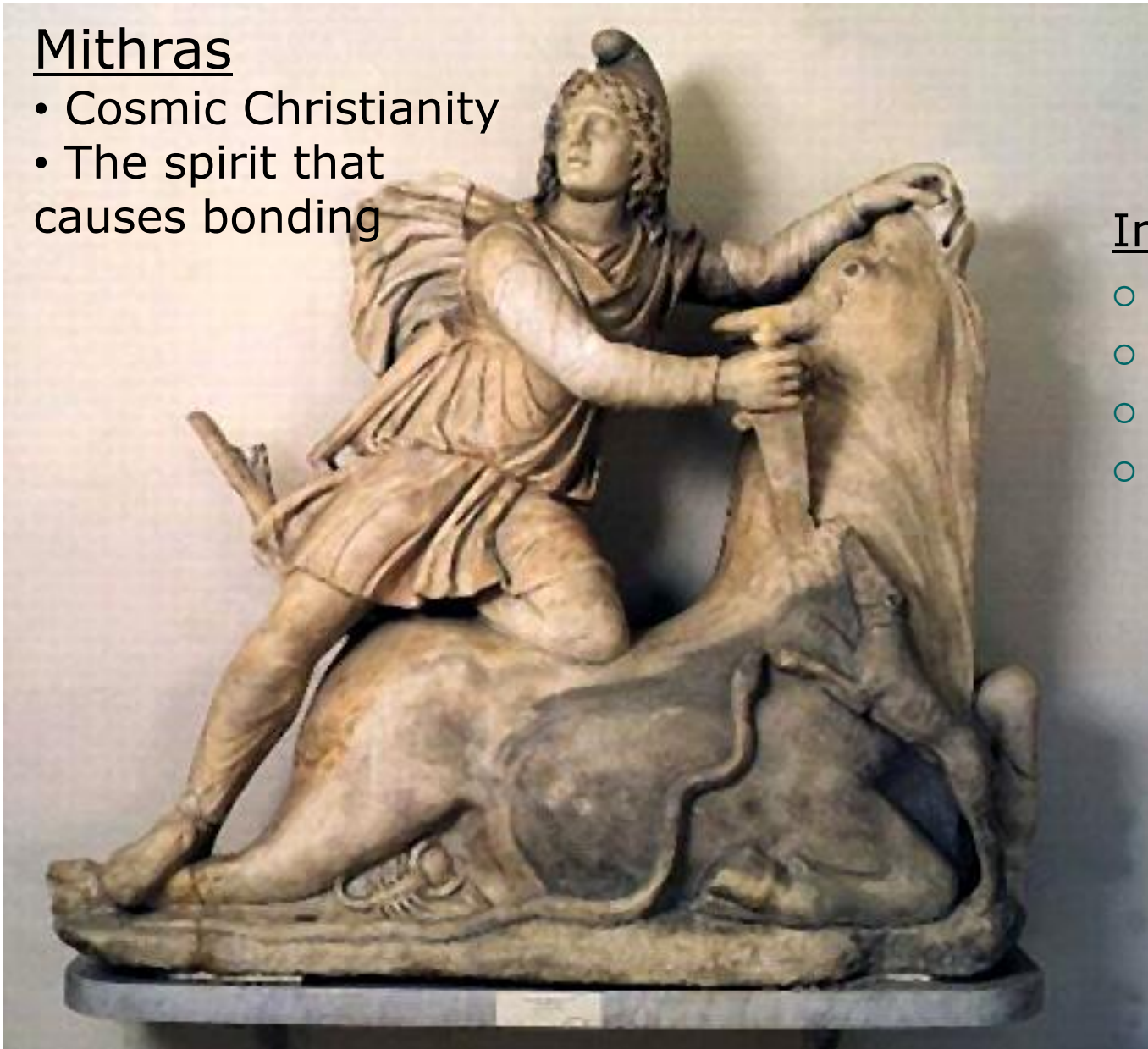
Botticelli, Primavera

Ahura Mazdao



Mithras

- Cosmic Christianity
- The spirit that causes bonding

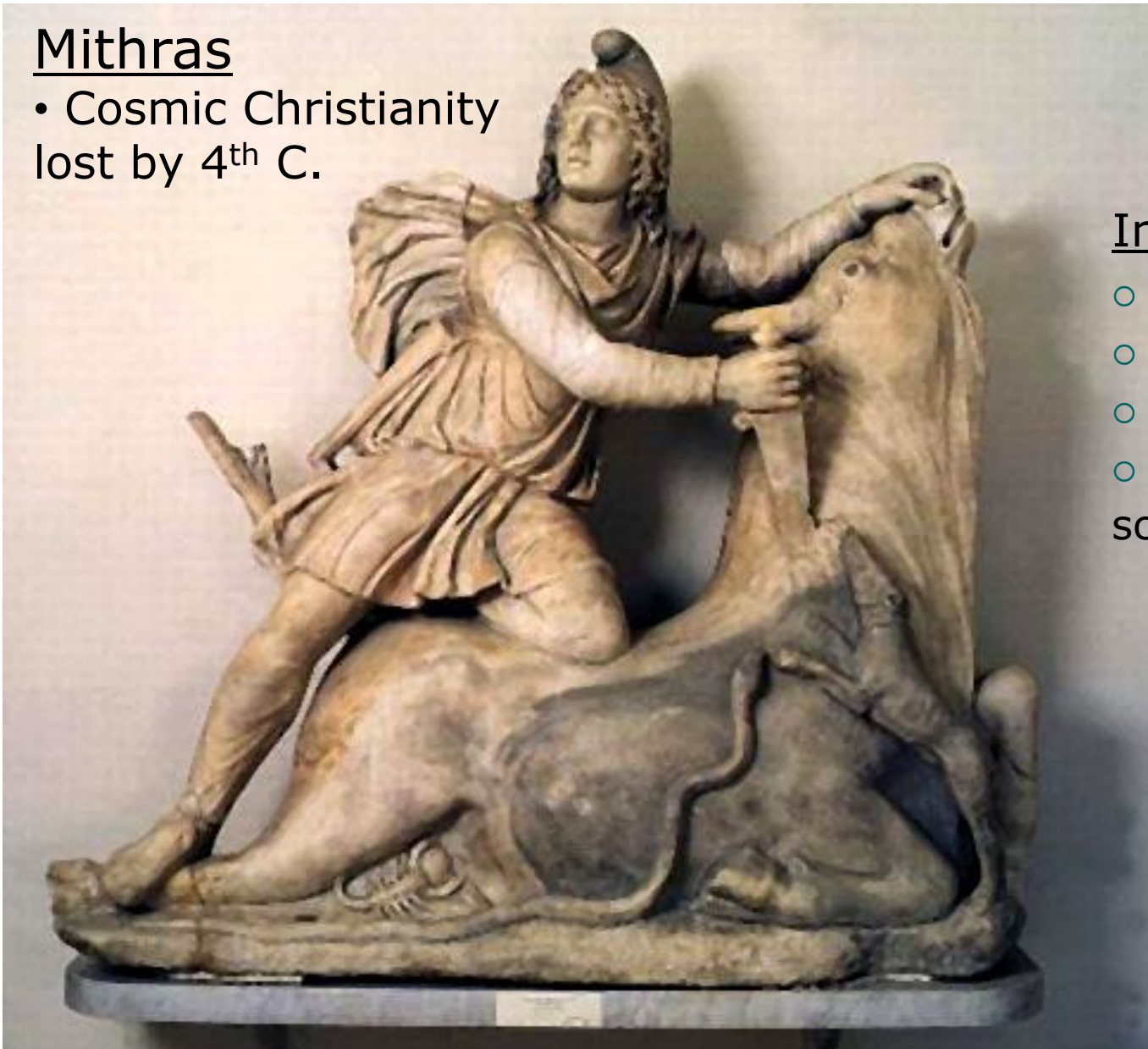


Images

- Bull
- Serpent
- Hound
- Scorpio

Mithras

- Cosmic Christianity lost by 4th C.



Images

- Body
 - Lucifer
 - Ahriman
 - Asuras?
- scorpio → eagle

Cosmic
Christ,
The Sun God
Mosaic, St.
Peters
Basilica,
Rome,
4th C.

What
happened in
the 4th C?

Where do we
find Him
today?





MYSTERIES RETURN

Gemistus Plethon (1355 – 1452)
Renaissance Art

6th Century Byzantine Art – Why Two?



The Bohdan And Varvara Khanenko Museum Of Art

Virgin of the Rocks





Bernardino Luini

- 1480 - 1532
- *Holy Family*
- Pupil of Ambrogio Bergognone
- Also student of Leonardo
- Note female's hand gestures





The Holy Infants

- Kissing Babes
- Over 30 versions attributed to LdV



Three Children by Bernardino de' Conti

- 1470-1523, Milan
- Bernardino was a student of Leonardo
- He was also a friend and associate of Ambrogio di Predis
- Who are these three?
- Note exact VoR poses
- Note the halo of the Nathan-Jesus
- Why John? Baptism! Note the "transfer"

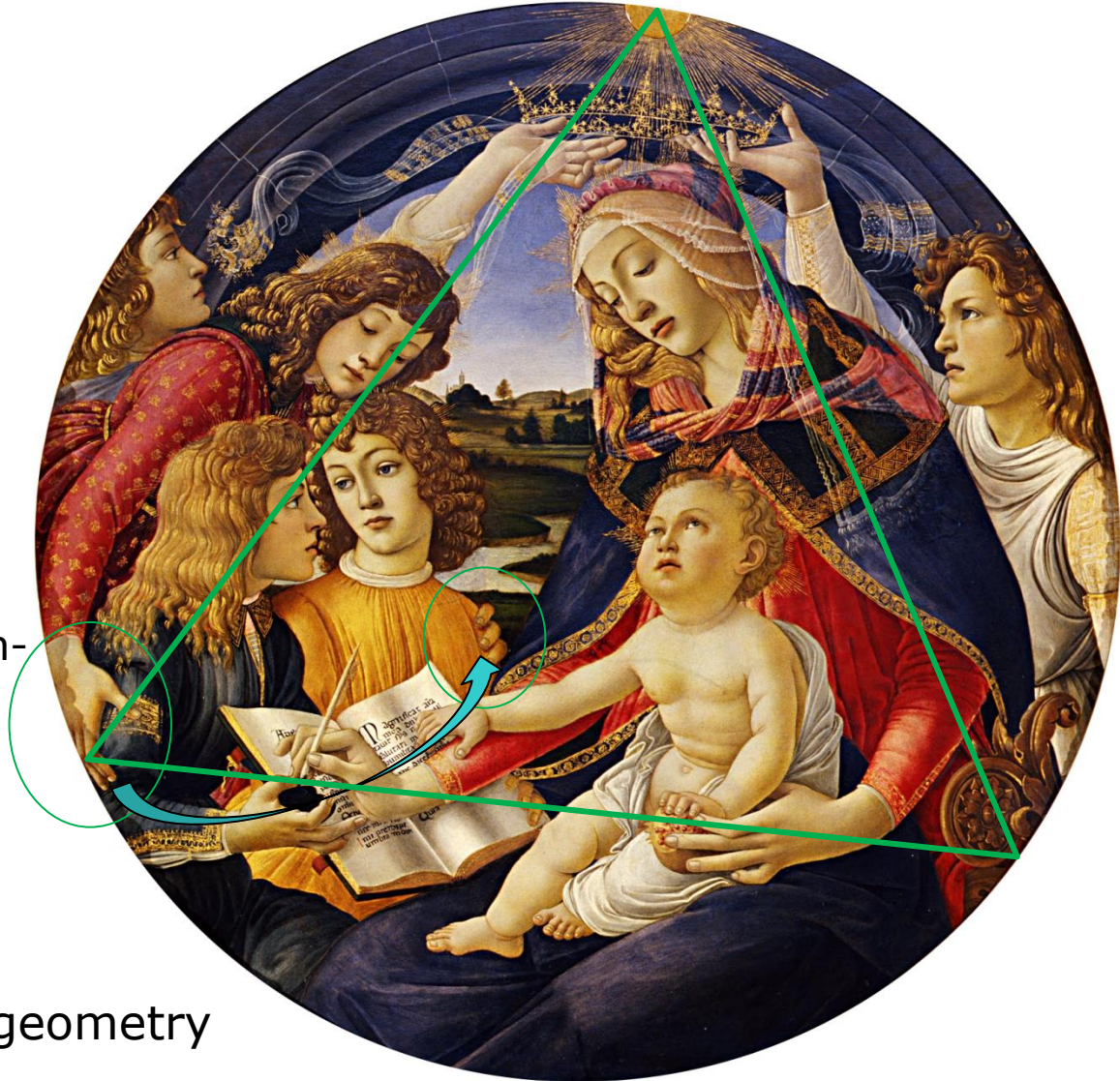


Three Children by Bernardino de' Conti



Botticelli's Madonna of the Magnificat, 1481

- 2 angels crowning
 - In the light of the sun
 - Two streams
- 2 angels embraced by a third
 - Angel of Solomon-Jesus
 - Angel of Nathan-Jesus
 - Gesture shows the two will be made one



Thanks to Jos Verhulst for geometry

In the Temple



Ambrogio da Fossano
Bergognone



Christ Among the Doctors

- Bernardino di Betto (Pinturicchio) c. 1452-1513
- Studied under Bergognone and DaVinci
- Fresco, Bagloioni Chapel, Santa Maria Maggiore, Spello, Italy
- Painted this 1501



Christ Among the Doctors

- Colors, socks, clothes



Martino Spanzotti (1455 – 1528)



Bernardino Luini

- Student of both Leonardo and Bergognone
- *Christ Among the Doctors*, painted 1515
- Leonardo's signature appears 3 times on the back



Baptism



Scapegoat

Two goats
brought to
sacrifice:
1. Sacrificial
2. Scapegoat

“Whom will ye
that I
release unto
you:
Barabbas, or
Jesus who is
called
Christ?”





Pilate
washing his
hands –
karmic
cleansing?

Tertullian
describes
Pilate as
“already a
Christian in
his
conscience”

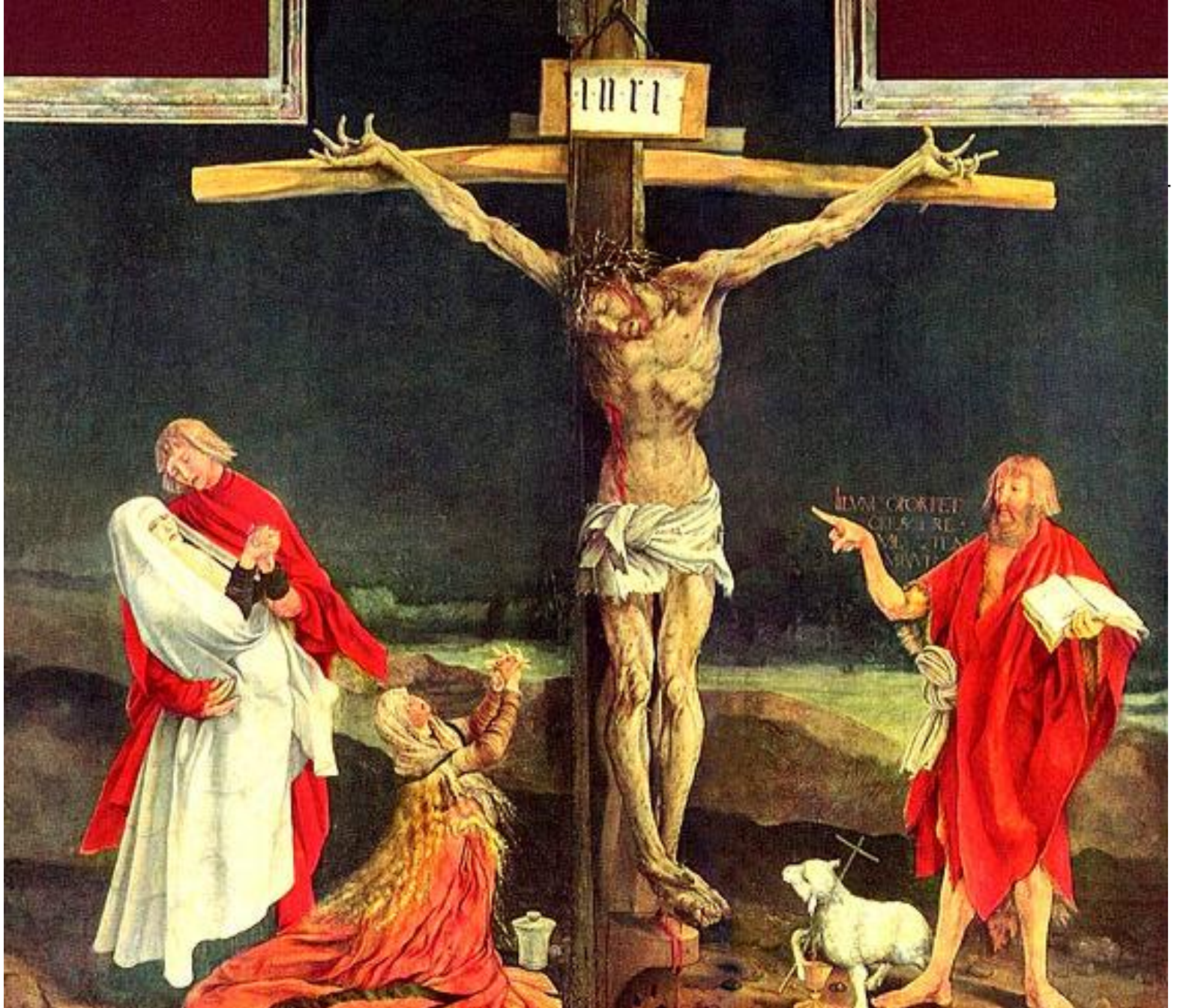


courtesy of www.jacopotintoretto.org

INRI:
Jesus
Nazorite
Rex
Judeaorum

Nazorite:
the one
singled out
An Essene

Greek:
Nazoraios
Alpha &
Omega



P.P. Rubens

Who is at the descent?
Counterclockwise
around Christ,
the Disciple who
Jesus loved (in
red), Nicodemus,
James the
Greater, the
apostle John,
Joseph from
Arimathea, the
mother of Jesus,
Mary of Clopas,
and Mary
Magdalene



The Path of Knowing



- Know thyself, know the world
- Know the world, know thyself

John 20:5-6 – The Stone Removed!

- John arrives first
 - Sees (βλεπειν)
 - lying flat on the ground the pieces of linen
 - saw and believed: eiden (ειδεν) kai episteusen
 - Peter goes in first
 - Beholds (θεωρει)
 - the pieces of linen lying flat on the ground
 - went away to themselves
- Mary stoops into the tomb.
 - Beholds (θεωρει) “two angels in white” – shroud
 - Reverses her gaze (στρεφω) to behold (θεωρει) Jesus
 - Cannot understand her perception until her hierophant calls to awaken her “Mary!” – eiden (ειδεν)



153 Fish





Christian Paths

- Peter

- Denials
- Rock, church
- Congregational love

- John

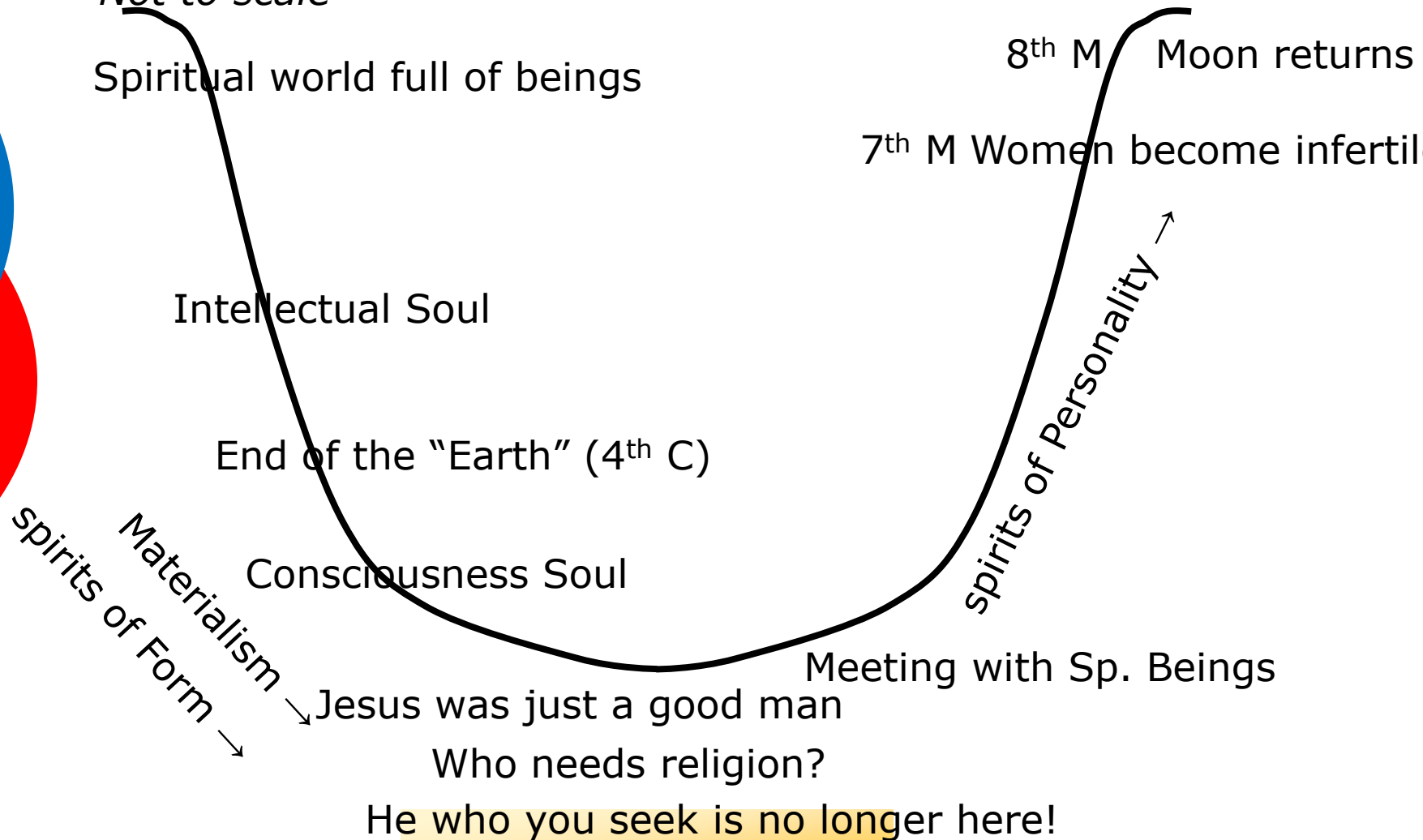
- What is it to you if I have him wait
- Agape



Whitsun

The Future is Now

Not to scale





What Do I Do?

- Eternal truths in contemporary reflection
 - Our times: take up in full clear waking consciousness, the cosmic truths
 - Not in theory, not as abstractions, but as soul-moving, living thoughts
 - Warm them, illuminate them, permeate them
 - Nourishment for the soul
 - Three noticeable effects:
 1. Eradicates self-seeking
 2. Sense for the truth
 3. Overcomes illness (strength)
- You must make the effort – you are awaited
 - When joined in his name, the Universal Christ Impulse becomes *individual* in each human being
 - *Becoming a companion of the Logos*



Q & A

Out of the health of the human soul and out of desperate circumstances, the new Christ experience will evolve.

Trying outer circumstances will become inner soul trials, out of these soul trials vision will be born.

And let us seek the awakening from within ourselves, every morning, and every evening.

Rudolf Steiner 'Pure Trust in the Spirit' (Rudolf Steiner, Stuttgart 1920)