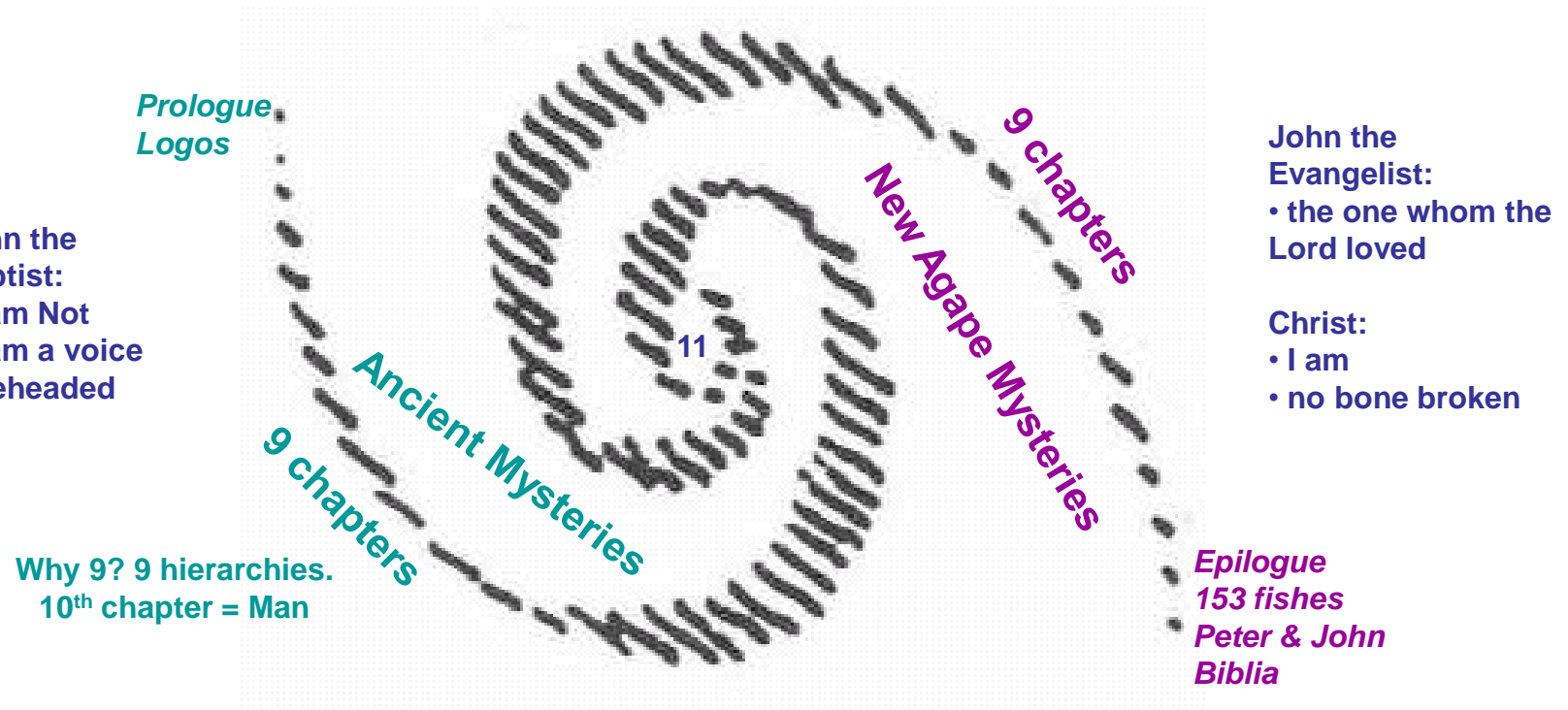




Agape Love and the Resurrection of the Mysteries

Andrew Linnell

Organization of John's Gospel



Signs (7)

- 2:1 Water-wine
- 2:13 Temple
- 4:4 Samaritan woman
- 4:46 Nobleman's son
- 5:1 Bethesda pool
- 6:1 Feeding the 5000
- 9:1 Blind man

I Am (7)

- 6:35 Bread
- 8:12 Light
- (8:58 I Am)
- 10:9 Door
- 10:14 Good Shepherd
- 11:25 Resurrection
- 14:16 Way, truth, life
- 15:1 True Vine

Agape (7)

- 11:5
 - 13:34
 - 14:23
 - 15:9
 - 15:12
 - 17:23
 - 21:15-17
- Father Love:**
- 5: 42
 - 8: 42
 - 10: 17
- If you knew Love:**
- 8: 42

Foundation: John's Epilogue

King James Version

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter,
Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?
He saith unto him, Yea Lord, thou knowest that I love
thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again a second time, Simon, son of Jonas,
lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea Lord, thou
knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my
sheep.

He saith unto him a third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest
thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him
the third time Lovest thou me? And he said unto him,
Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love
thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Foundation: John's Epilogue, *Love Translated*

King James Version

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter,
Simon, son of Jonas, [*agape*] thou me more than these?
He saith unto him, Yea Lord, thou knowest that I [*philos*]
thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again a second time, Simon, son of Jonas,
[*agape*] thou me? He saith unto him, Yea Lord, thou
knowest that I [*philos*] thee. He saith unto him, Feed my
sheep.

He saith unto him a third time, Simon, son of Jonas, [*philos*]
thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him
the third time [*philos*] thou me? And he said unto him,
Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I [*philos*]
thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Initiation of Christ's Church, *John 21:18-23*

- Upon this rock (Peter), I build my church. *Matthew 16:18*
- Truly, truly, I say unto you, when you were young, you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands and someone else will dress you and lead you where you want not. Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"
- Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus answered, "If I will for him to remain [a potential] until I come again, what is that to you?" [I am now giving you your mission] "You, follow me!"
- Thus, the word spread to the brothers that this disciple does not die, but he did not say that he does not die; rather, "if I will that he remain until I come again, what is that to you?"

My Story

- Ancestors
- Boy scouts
 - Questions
 - Science and Religion (and art)
 - Should one fear God?
- College and the 60s
 - Spiritual awakenings, Eastern mysteries
 - Philosophy and Physics
 - Meeting with those incarnating in spiritual world in mid-1940s
 - Compare to Platonists and Aristotelians in 13th Century
- My search for life's meaning
 - Spiritual Science and Rudolf Steiner



The Ancient Mysteries

Persia, Egypt, and Greece

From Zarathustra to Hermes to

Pythagorus to Heraclitus to

Plato to Aristotle

The Mysteries

- The Mysteries embodied a secret wisdom in all societies
 - A secret knowledge that existed side by side with the local religion
 - It shed light upon the highest questions. The sages of these peoples speak of the Mysteries with the greatest reverence
 - What was concealed in them? What did they reveal?
 - This spiritual eye allows us to see what the material eye sees, but in a higher light. Those initiated are in the position of a man who can see and who imparts his visual impressions to one born blind.
- Mysteries seen as something dangerous.
 - The way leading to the secrets of existence went through a world of terrors. And woe to him who tried to reach them unworthily
- There was no greater crime than the “betrayal” of these secrets to the uninitiated. The “traitor” was punished with death and confiscation of property.
 - The poet Aeschylus was accused of having brought something from the Mysteries to the stage. He escapes death only by fleeing to the altar of Dionysus and producing legal evidence that he was not an initiate.

Why the Mysteries?

- Plato: "the ultimate design of the Mysteries ... was to lead us back to the principles from which we descended, ... a perfect enjoyment of the spiritually good"
- Cicero: "For among the many excellent and indeed divine institutions which your Athens has brought forth and contributed to human life, none, in my opinion, is better than its Mysteries. For by their means we have been brought out of our barbarous and savage mode of life and educated and refined to a state of civilization; and as the rites are called "initiations," so in very truth we have learned from them the beginnings of life, and have gained the power not only to live happily, but also to die with a better hope." — *Laws II, xiv, 36*

Zarathustra

- Zoroaster (Greek)
- The 3 Kings in Matthew?
- Some say 660?– 583? BCE
- Some say 11th century BCE
- According to the Greeks
 - 5000 years before the Trojan war.
- Name Zarathustra taken on by highest priest
 - Reincarnation was accepted in this time as well
- Taught about the great spirit Ahura Mazda, “he who will come down to earth” and lives in the sun
 - The guiding beings presiding over the great teachers of India taught them about Him
 - Error to think that these teachers knew nothing about Him as they said he was “above their sphere,” that they “could not reach him.”
 - The Gathas contained in the liturgical Avesta describe Zoroaster’s life
 - Pliny the Elder wrote that Hermippus of Smyrna had "interpreted two million verses of Zoroaster" in the 3rd century BCE



Hermes Trismegistus

Cathedral of Siena



Contemporary of Moses
Teacher was Zarathustra

- Communicated to a line of adepts a secret wisdom from Zoroaster to Plato
- Plato's *Timaeus* and *Critias* state that in the temple of Neith at Sais there exist secret halls containing historical records kept for 9,000 years
- Clement of Alexandria claimed Egyptians had 42 sacred writings by Hermes
- Plethon's trunk of Hermetic texts initiates Cosimo de Medici's schools

Hermes Trismegistus

- During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the writings attributed to Hermes Trismegistus known as Hermetica enjoyed great credit and were popular among alchemists. The "hermetic tradition" therefore refers to alchemy, magic, astrology and related subjects.
- The texts are usually distinguished in two categories the "philosophical" and "technical" hermetica. The former deals mainly with issues of philosophy, and the latter with magic, potions and alchemy. Among other things there are spells to magically protect objects; hence the origin of the term "Hermetically sealed".
- Islamic traditions say he “was a "civilizing hero," an Initiator into the mysteries of the divine science and the wisdom that animates the world; he carved the principles of this sacred science in hieroglyphs, was the Initiator of Pythagoras, and was the first teacher of alchemy.

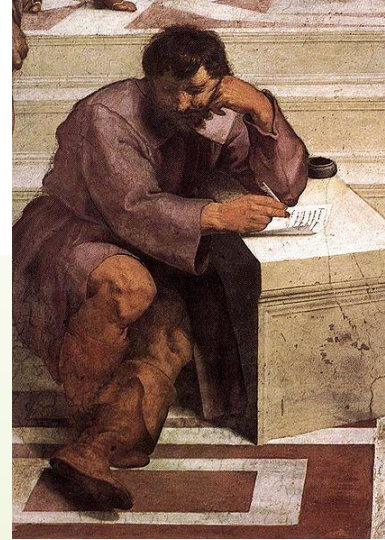
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermes_Trismegistus

Pythagoras of Samos (~580BC – ~500 BC)

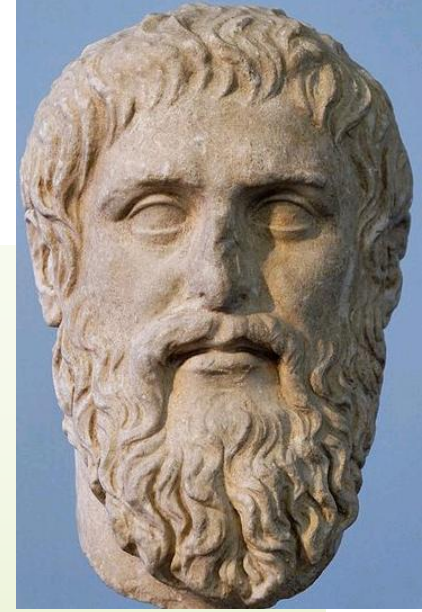
- Called the first lover of Sophia (philosopher)
- Revered as a great mathematician, mystic, and scientist
- Aristotle: Pythagoras was a wonder-worker with a “golden thigh” (a sign of divinity) who could travel through space and time and to communicate with animals and plants
- The Pythia prophesied that his pregnant mother would give birth to a man supremely beautiful, wise, and of benefit to humankind
 - The Pythia was the high priestess of the Oracle of Apollo at Delphi
 - The Delphic oracle was well established by the 8th century BC
 - Its last recorded response was given in 393 AD, when the emperor Theodosius I ordered pagan temples to cease operation
 - During this period the Delphic Oracle was the most prestigious and authoritative oracle in the Greek world
- Legend says his teacher was Hermes Trismegistus of Egypt
 - Zarathustra (Zoroaster) to Hermes to Pythagoras

Heraclitus of Ephesus (535–475 BCE)

- Declares the everlasting Logos is the archetype of all
- “Everything is in a state of flux” *Moralia, Fragments 40, 41*
 - Opposites are necessary for life
 - They are unified in a system of balanced exchanges
 - “Hades is the same as Dionysus,”
 - Dionysus, the god of lust for life, of germination and growth is, for Heraclitus, the same as Hades, the god of annihilation and destruction.
- “For men to get all they wish is not the better thing. It is disease.”
 - Heraclitus intends primarily to point out not the transitory quality of earthly things, but the splendor and majesty of the eternal
- “Immortals take on mortality, mortals immortality; death is the eternal life of mortals, earthly life the death of immortal souls.”
- Describes “a path which is difficult to travel,” that anyone who approaches uninitiated will find only “obscurity and darkness but if an initiate be your guide, the path shines brighter than sunlight. ” (Anth. Pal. Book IX, 540)
 - Heraclitus was called “The Obscure” because only the light of the Mysteries provided the key to his conceptions.



Plato (424–423 BC)



- Teacher of Aristotle; Plato's teacher was Socrates
- Never writes in his own voice
- From *The Republic*, 3 principles of the human soul
 - Thinking, feeling, and willing
 - Rational, Love/Desire, Deed Doer
 - Three Soul principles reflected in the functions of the State
 - Spirit aligned with third Soul principle
- “[soul] immortality is demonstrated by the previous argument, and there are many other proofs; but to see her as she really is, not as we now behold her, marred by communion with the body and other miseries, you must contemplate her with the eye of reason, in her original purity; and then her beauty will be revealed”
- “the soul which cannot be destroyed by an evil, whether inherent or external, must exist for ever, and if existing for ever, must be immortal”
- “the soul, when choosing a new life, must of necessity become different”
- And all coming to birth drink from “the river Lethe [Forgetfulness]”

Mithras: Overcoming the Bull

- Grows out of Persia, Zoroastrianism, 1st century BC (*scholars say AD*)
- Known as the Mysteries of Mithras
 - mystery religion sworn to secrecy. Nothing could be written down
- Mithra serves as mediator
 - Between Ahura Mazda and the Human
 - Sun God Who Was Coming to Earth
- Strong astrological beliefs
- Overcoming the Bull (Taurus)
 - Bull fights in Spain
 - Make way for the Lamb (Aries) 800 BC

7 Stages of Initiation

1. Corax: The Raven (*Mercury*)
2. Nymphus: The Bridegroom (*Venus*)
3. Miles: The Warrior (*Mars*)
4. Leo: The Lion (*Jupiter*)
5. Perses: The Persian (*Moon*) or Israelite
6. Heliodromus: The Messenger (*Sun*)
7. Pater: The Father (*Saturn*)



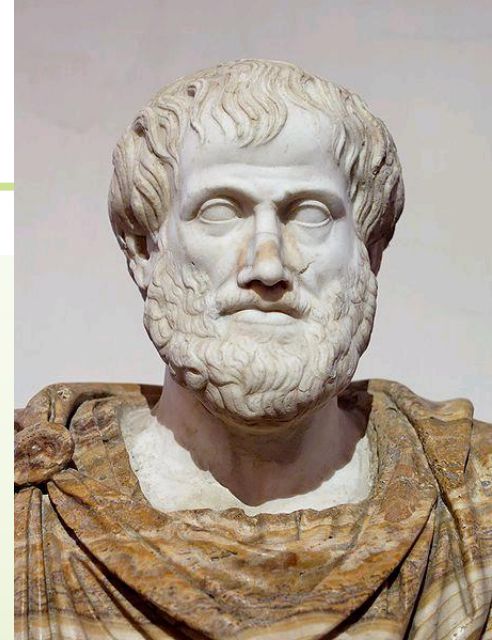
Aristotle and Alexander

Aristotle

- 384 – 322 BCE
- Wrote about almost everything known
- Student of Plato
- Teacher of Alexander the Great
 - And two other future kings: Ptolemy and Cassander
 - Ptolemy later founds the great library at Alexandria, Egypt
- Defines metaphysics as "the knowledge of immaterial being," the "first philosophy", and "theologic science"

Alexander

- 356–323 BCE (32 years old)
- Conquered Syria, Egypt, Persia; mutiny halts at India
- Establishment of Alexandrias, centers of learning, libraries
- Why? Did Alexander's near-divine view of himself lead to his death?



Philo of Alexandria, Egypt (20 BC - 50 AD)



- Philo used the term Logos
 - To mean the creative principle
 - Logos as divine wisdom
 - Logos as the image of God after which the human mind (nous) was made
 - God's "blueprint for the world"
- Philo followed the Platonic distinction between imperfect matter and perfect idea
 - The logos was necessary, he taught, because God cannot come into contact with matter
- Therapeutae and Essenes
 - Preparation for awakening to higher man within – born again
 - Through reincarnation, achieve higher and higher consciousness



The Christian Mysteries

Gnostics, Heretics,
Cathars, Rosicrucians,
Grail Knights, Knights
Templar, and Freemasons

12 Apostles – at least 12 Gospels?

- Oral traditions from Apostle to immediate circle to bishops to priests
- Which ones to include in the canon (the Bible)?
- Why? What criteria used?
- What do we know of the others?
 - Very little
 - Mostly from the writings of those who condemned them
 - Like using Rush Limbaugh's history of liberals
 - Nag Hammadi Library
 - Dead Sea Scrolls
 - Gospel of Thomas (others felt to be too Gnostic)
- Gnosticism
 - A religion of redemption that comes through knowledge, Gnosis
 - The physical universe was not the creation of the highest God but Demiurge (e.g. Elohim or Exusia) – matter is impure, darkness

Man Amongst the Nine Hierarchies

Three Hierarchies each with three sub-hierarchies = 9 levels

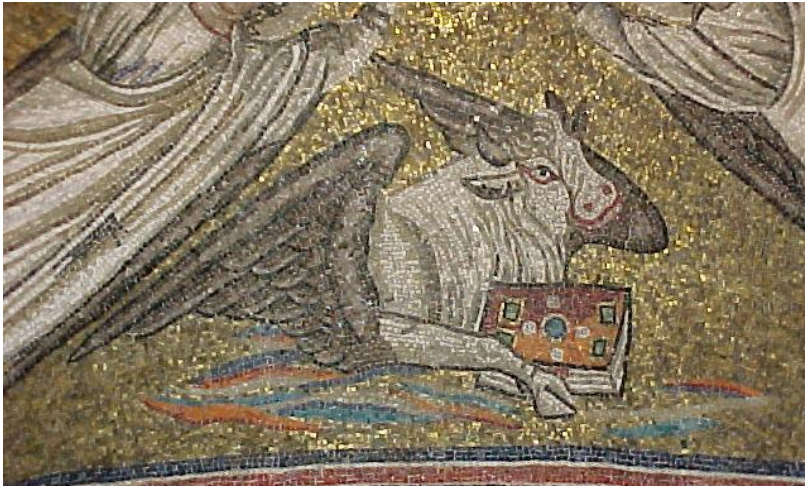


Levels of consciousness

Four Gospels and an Apocrypha (Nag Hammadi, etc)

Translations (e.g. Greek to Coptic or to Latin, fragments, and forgeries)

Luke



John



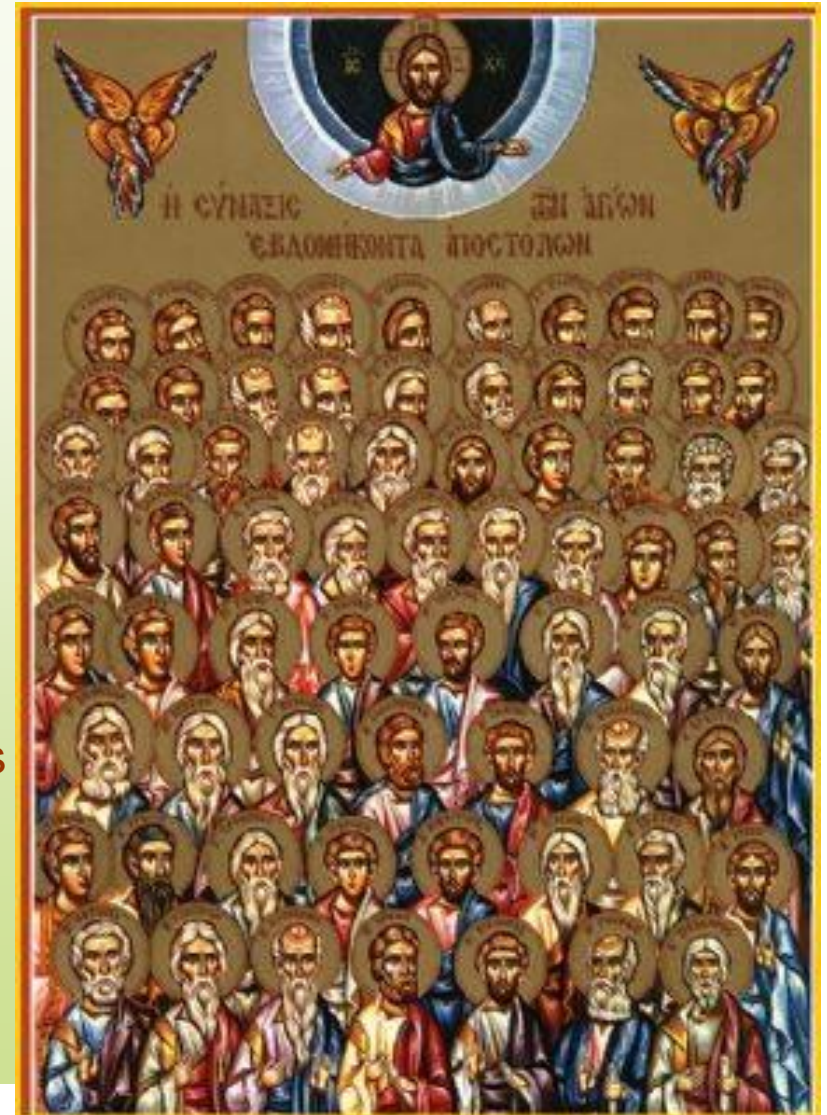
Matthew



Mark

Spreading of Christianity – an Initiation Process

- 72 disciples in pairs venture in different directions (Luke 10:1)
 - Return excited “even the demons submit to us”
 - All were partially initiated
 - Process with levels, not an event
 - Mithraism defined 7 levels
 - “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see and to hear what you hear but did not.” Luke 10:23
- Mystery of Pentecost
- Many centers established
 - Christianity as fulfillment of traditions
- 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”



Mark's Secret Gospel

- “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 Alexandria, where it even yet is most carefully guarded, being read ***only to those who are being initiated into the great mysteries***.”

– Clement of Alexandria

Examples of Christian Mystics

- Origen (185–254). Egyptian taught at Alexandria.
 - Name means “Son of Horus” [Osiris, Isis, and their son Horus]
 - One of the most distinguished of the early fathers of the Christian Church
 - Neo-Pythagorean (Hermes), a Platonic, and a Gnostic
 - God was not Yahweh but The First Principle. Christ, the Logos, was subordinate
- Clement of Alexandria (died 217 A.D.), a Christian writer whose education had been pagan, wrote “Thus the Lord did not hinder us from doing good while keeping the Sabbath, but 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 moulded** 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.”

Why Was It Difficult to Understand Christ?

- Prevailing view of reality during Kali Yuga (Dark Age):
 - Total separation of Divine and physical worlds
 - Spirit and matter : Reality and illusion : Pure and impure
 - Human flesh, from darkness/evil, not worthy of divine spirit
 - Only an initiate could, through raising consciousness, experience & understand the spiritual world
- Christian Creed: God became Man, suffered, and rose
 - Was God born as a man or did God become Man?
 - Is the substance of Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and Man the same?
- Various heretic claims:
 - Christ and Jesus were two distinct entities. Christ unites with Jesus at baptism but leaves him on the cross
 - Because the Divine is above and thus cannot experience death
 - Christ only appeared to be human, but never had a physical body
 - Christ “descends” only as far as the air element.
 - Christ-Jesus had no human spirit; the Logos takes its place
- Christian view that [a] God entered Earth becoming [a] Man
 - If true, then a fundamental change must come to all the Mysteries

Personality of Jesus

- Because it was the vessel for the Logos
 - Then it must have been the most perfected, the highest attainment by a human being
- At Baptism the Logos enters the soul and then the body
 - Process depicted in the going into the desert to be tempted

St. Augustine and the Role of Faith

- “What is now called the Christian religion already existed among the ancients and was not lacking at the very beginning of the human race. When Christ appeared in the flesh, the true religion already in existence received the name of Christian.”
- Go as far along the path of knowledge as one’s soul can, [given Kali Yuga] then entrust faith to carry you up into higher spiritual realms.
 - Through self-knowledge which offers the certainty of the divine
- Church fathers through Thomas Aquinas, felt there was a sphere beyond which the soul could not penetrate
 - Has this changed since Michael’s victory in 1879?
 - Now the ability to experience the spiritual world is again possible

Marcionism

- Marcion of Sinope considered Christ to have brought something totally new for humanity, namely Agape Love
 - Marcion argued that Christianity should be solely based on Christian Love
 - He claimed Christ needed to overthrow Demiurge (Jehovah)
 - Now has come the time of the God of Love
 - Marcion was labeled a Gnostic by Irenaeus because he used the term demiurge
 - Marcion claimed the ten Epistles of Paul supported his position
- Like the Gnostics, he promoted dualism in one's search for knowledge
- Jehovah, the God of the Old Testament, had completed his mission
 - God is above Jehovah whose role was to create the physical world
 - This put him in opposition to the Judaic Christians who clung to Mosaic Law
- In 144, the Church in Rome expelled him and his followers.
 - Set up his own separate ecclesiastical organization called Marcionism
 - Spread rapidly through middle-east
- Marcion wrote a gospel that is very similar to but may have pre-dated Luke
 - John Knox, *Marcion and the New Testament: An Essay in the Early History of the Canon*
- His writings had a profound effect upon the development of Christianity
 - Idea of establishing a canon largely through Marcion
 - Forced the wrestling with and establishment of what was meant by Trinity

Gnostics Role in Understanding Christ

- Michael A. Williams in *Rethinking Gnosticism: An Argument for the Dismantling of a Dubious Category* argues that the conceptual foundations on which the category of Gnosticism rests are the remains of the agenda of the heresy hunters of the early church
 - Too much emphasis has been laid on perceptions of dualism, body- and matter-hatred, and anticosmism without proper testing
- Carried Ancient Mystery wisdom
- Understood the members of the human being
 - 3-fold Entelechy: Body, Soul, and Spirit (soma, psyche, pneuma)
 - 4-fold Body: Earth, Water, Air, and Fire
- Could grasp how the Son God could incorporate with the body of Jesus thereby God became Son of Man
- Could understand how with the flow of blood into the Earth, the Son God unites himself with the Earth Spirit
 - The aura of the Earth changed
 - After Ascension, Christ was to be found in the Etheric realm

Mysteries in the New Testament

- Mar 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the **mystery** of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all [these] things are done in parables:
- Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.
- Rom 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery**, which was kept secret since the world began,
- 1Cr 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory:
- 1Cr 15:51 Behold, I shew you a **mystery**; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

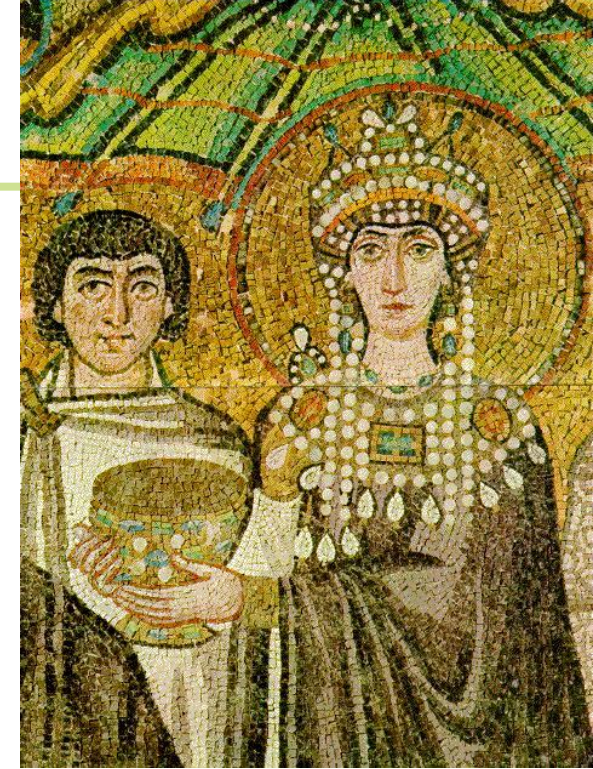
- Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the **mystery** of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- Eph 3:3,4 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the **mystery** of Christ)
- Eph 3:9 And to make all [men] see what [is] the fellowship of the **mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
- Eph 5:32 This is a great **mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
- Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the **mystery** of the gospel,
- Col 1:26 [Even] the **mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Mysteries in the New Testament

- Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this **mystery** among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
- Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the **mystery** of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;
- Col 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the **mystery** of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
- 2Th 2:7 For the **mystery** of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way.
- 1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the **mystery** of piety: Who was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.
- 1Ti 3:9 Holding the **mystery** of the faith with a clean conscience.
- Rev 1:20 The **mystery** of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.
- Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the **mystery** of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.
- Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead [was] a name written, **Mystery**, *Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth*.
- Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the **mystery** of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

Death of the Ancient Mysteries

- Destruction of Ancient Mysteries, 325 AD – 550 AD
 - Constantine: homogenization of Christianity
 - Nicene Creed 325 AD
 - Many more Ecumenical councils follow
 - Excommunications
 - Justinian (483-565 AD): hates the ancient Mysteries
 - Destroys all Mystery Streams and Temples in the empire
 - 529: Closing of the School of Athens
 - No more excommunications, now death (Theodora)
 - Justinian Plague, 541-543, 100M die within empire
- Rise of Islam, Muhammad (570 AD)
 - Charlemagne and Harun al Rashid 800 AD
 - Keys to the Holy Sites in Jerusalem – Pilgrimages
- 8th Ecumenical Council in 869 – End of Spirit in Man

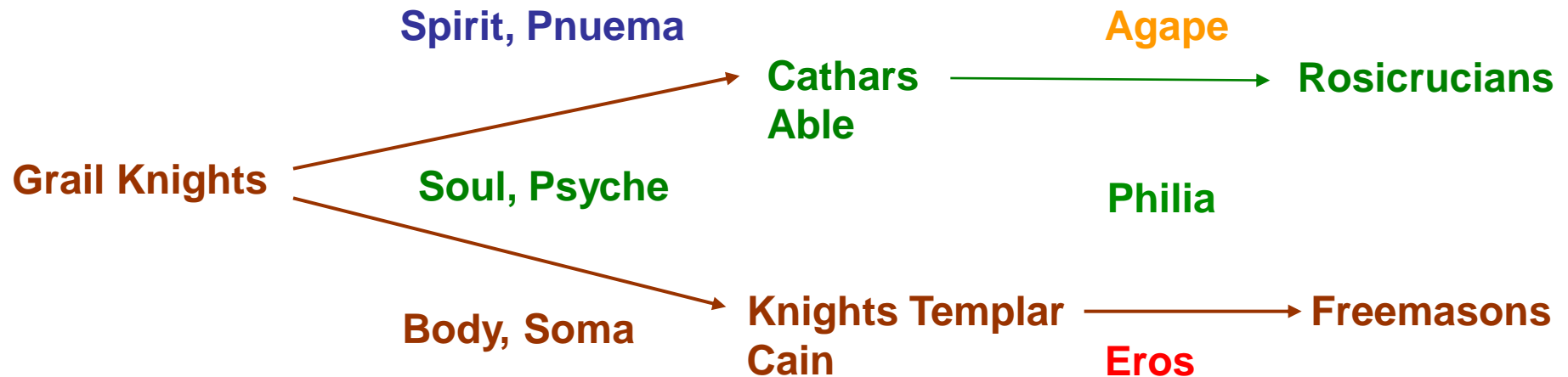


- Islamic concepts flow into Christianity
 - Pilgrimages: the search for “the inner” man
 - Troubadours and Minnesingers
 - Grail Knights → Knights Templar
 - Parzival & Titerel, Northern Spain
- Ego of Man placed into the Intellectual Soul
- I have my own thoughts – Freedom!
 - Before it was felt “it thought in me”

Later History of the Christian Mysteries

- Crusades and Inquisitions (1000 – 1400).
 - Split of Christian Church: East & West (along split of Roman Empire)
 - School of Chartres, 1000 – 1203 (death of Alanus ab Insulus)
 - Crusades (1099) and the rise of the Knights Templar
 - International banking, building/architecture, commerce, Chartres
 - Aristotelianism to Albertus Magnus to T.Aquinas & Roger Bacon
 - Some of Plato brought back earlier by Charlemagne
 - Architecture occupies an exalted position in Renaissance times
 - Knights Templars were the educators of Europe of Architecture
 - Templars worked social conditions to enable true religion to flourish
 - Cathars worked towards renewing and perfecting the Christian religion
 - Destruction of the Cathars 1020-1244 (Paulicians 850 – 1204)
 - Sack of Constantinople 1204 – led to fall of the Knights Templar
 - Great meeting in spiritual world: excarnating Platonist & incarnating Arist.
 - Rise of Scholasticism, the Dominicans, and The Inquisition, the Crusades
 - King Philip seeks to destroy Templars (1307-1314)
 - Some escape to Scotland & Portugal
 - Great Famine (1315-17) followed by the Black Plague (1340s)

Freemasons and Rosicrucians



Historical Summary the Mysteries

- Before Christ (many initiates)
 - All tribes, ethnic groups led by their Initiates
 - Intermediary between a people and their folk-spirit (god)
 - Mysteries lived side-by-side with the folk religion
 - Hierophant placed elect into a death-like sleep in the Holy of the Holies
 - Life body (etheric body) leaves with Astral and Ego
 - Lasted 3 days
 - 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
 - 7 levels, 7 veils
- During Christ
 - Transition from the old to the new – Lazarus initiated in public!
- After Christ (very few during Rise of Materialism – why?)
 - Gospel writers and others early Christians were Perfects – i.e. Initiates
 - Paul (formerly Saul) on the road to Damascus



Agape Love

The Path for Resurrection
of the Mysteries

Love One Another As I Have Loved You

- It was Christians following this rule that attracted the pagans
 - Tertullian (160 – 220 AD) in his *Apology* 39 remarks "What marks us in the eyes of our enemies is our loving kindness. 'Only look,' they say, 'look how they love one another'"
- A title of the goddess Isis was Agapeh Theon
 - "Beloved of the gods"
 - Not applied to humans during the Golden Age of Greece
- The verb *agapao* is commonly used in the Septuagint (72 elders) as the translation of the common Hebrew term for love
 - Greek translation of Hebrew scriptures from 3rd century BC
 - Used for God's love for humanity, affection for husband & wife, and brotherly love
 - It is uncertain why *agapao* was chosen, but similarity of consonant sounds (*aḥava*) likely played a part
 - The noun *agape* appears to be an innovation of the New Testament

Evolution of Love

- Desire. Greek: **Thelema** (θέλημα thélēma)
 - Affection: **Storge** (στοργή storgē) Rarely used in ancient works, almost exclusively as a descriptor of relationships within the family, can express mere acceptance or putting up with situations
-
- Passionate love: **Eros** (ερως érōs) Love that pleases the ego typically with sensual desire and longing. Plato said *eros* helps the soul recall knowledge of beauty, and contributes to an understanding of spiritual truth. Lovers and philosophers are inspired to seek truth through *eros*.
 - Virtuous love: **Philia** (φιλία philia) is dispassionate expressing full loyalty to a cause, guru, or that which feels greater than yourself. Brotherhood. Concept developed by Aristotle. In some ancient texts, *philos* denoted a general type of love, used for love between friends, spouses and other family members, or lovers.
 - Conscious love: **Agapē** (αγάπη agápē) often translated as charity, it refers to unconditional love engendered through deep knowledge of self and the other. It implies equality, freedom, and brotherhood but goes beyond in seeing and grasping the destinies of both. Neither potential for jealousy nor selfish motives exist with *agape*. Unconditional.

Biblical Descriptions of Agape

- God is love *1 John 4:12-18*
- If we love one another, God dwelleth in us and his love is perfected in us



One who fears has not been perfected in love

- [If I] have not love, I am nothing *1 Corinthians 13:4-7*
- Love suffers long, is kind, is not jealous, is not egotistical
- Love is never rude, never irritated, never resentful
- Love keeps no record of wrongs
- [Love] thinketh no evil, rather rejoices in truth
- [Love] always believes, hopes, endures

Eucharist and The Agape Feast

Plural form
of Agape
referred to
the feast
which may
be similar to
celebration
of the
Eucharist



Catacomb of Saints Marcellinus and Peter, Via Labicana, Rome



Conscious Love and Initiation

Through self knowledge
to self wholeness to
cosmic wholeness
to agape love

Giotto (1267-1337), Raising of Lazarus



- Is Lazarus the one whom the Lord loved?

Initiation: The Conversion of Saul



Michaelangelo, 1545

- Acts 9:1-9
- On the road to Damascus
- Name change
- Saul was going to obtain authorization from the synagogue to arrest Christians
- Paul was struck to the ground, blinded by a sudden light from heaven
- The voice of Christ, heard also by Paul's attendants, said, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

Christ the Hierophant without being physically present

Initiation

Grunewald

Temptation of St. Anthony

- Seeing your own animality
- Your spirit overcomes
- Purification of Astral
- John 10:9
 - “Take it and eat it. It will be bitter to your stomach but sweet in your mouth like honey.”
 - Wisdom should become living, Life





Resurrection of the Mysteries

The Path of the Heart

Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani
My god, my God, how
you have glorified me!

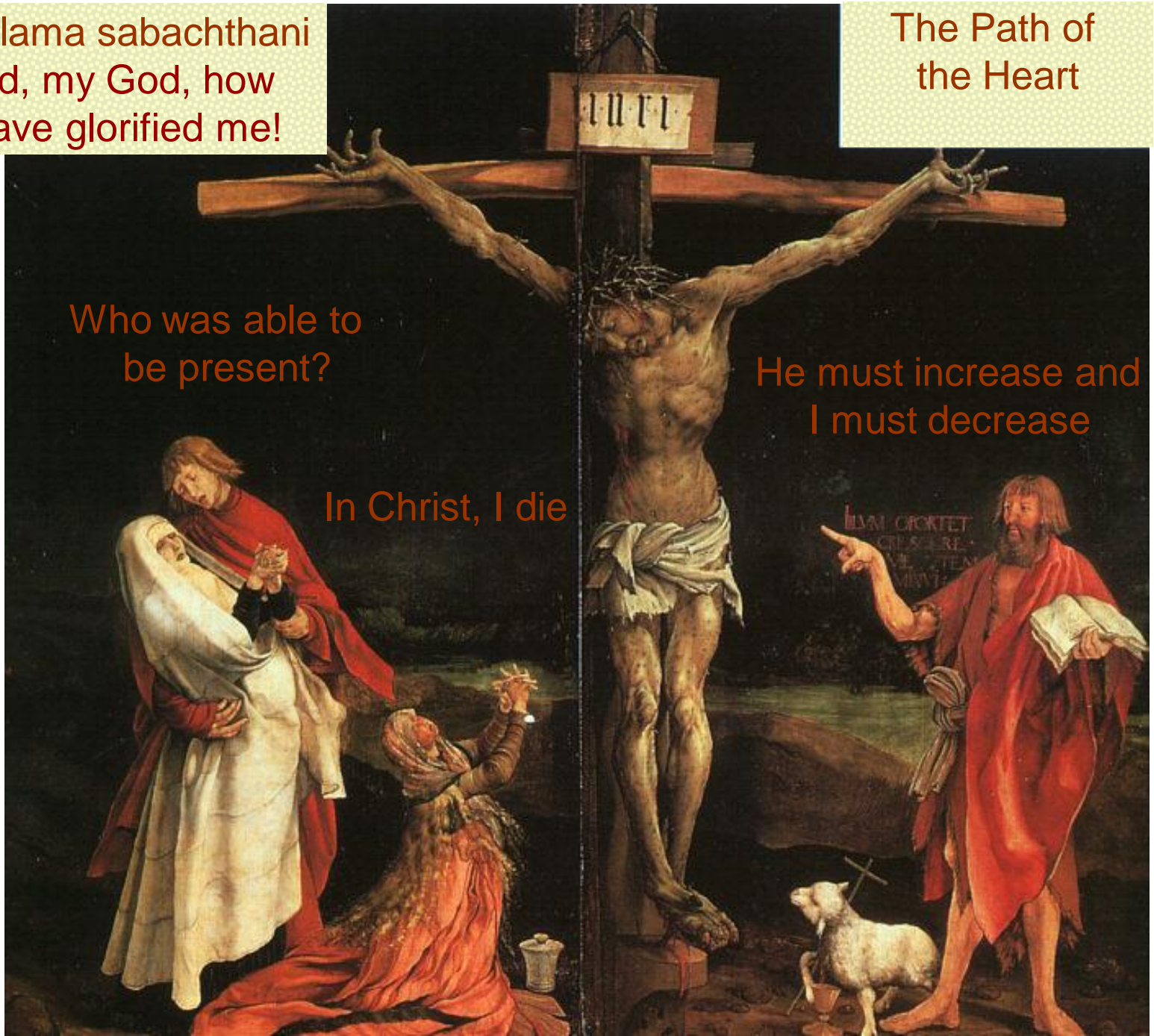
The Path of
the Heart

Who was able to
be present?

He must increase and
I must decrease

In Christ, I die

Future



Past

Had He Not Risen ...

The Future

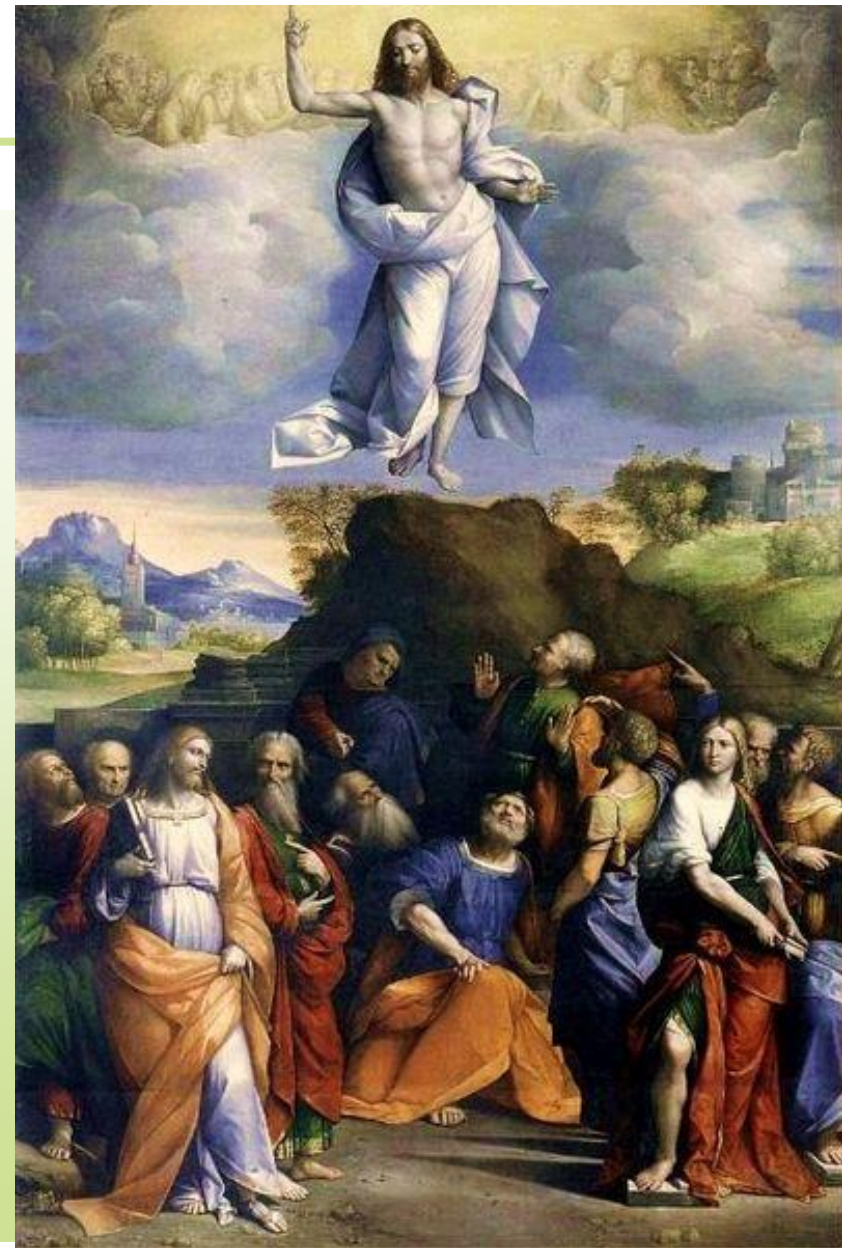
- Birth of the new Mysteries
- Mysteries of the Son of Man
- Jesus-Christ as the 2nd Adam
- Who were the first 3 to see?
 - Mary [thinking]
 - John [feeling]
 - Peter [willing]



Nature of the Second Coming

Acts 1:9-11

- As they looked, he was taken up and a cloud received him from their eyes. As they were gazing to heaven where he went, behold, two men stood by them in white garments. They asked 'Men of Galilee, why stand ye looking to heaven? This Jesus, the one having been taken up from you to heaven, thus he will come in the same way ye have beheld him going [in the clouds].'
- Relate to the Story of Peter and John
 - I have him wait until I come again



Ascension of Christ by Garofalo 1520

Rudolf Steiner's Expectation (from the early 1900s)

- Christ would reappear in the Etheric (not the physical) beginning about 1933
 - To experience this, one must see with the eyes of the soul
 - These are not physical eyes.
 - Sense-bound thinking must quiesce.
 - Preparation – Make straight the way of the Lord
- Michael's term as the archangel-time-spirit began in 1899 and will last about 350 years
 - Spirit of Freedom
 - Has come to find the Cosmic Intelligence in human hearts
 - Hearts will begin to have thoughts
 - Etheric heart, chakra, under going changes in our lifetime
 - A living memory arises that sees past lives

Near Death Experiences

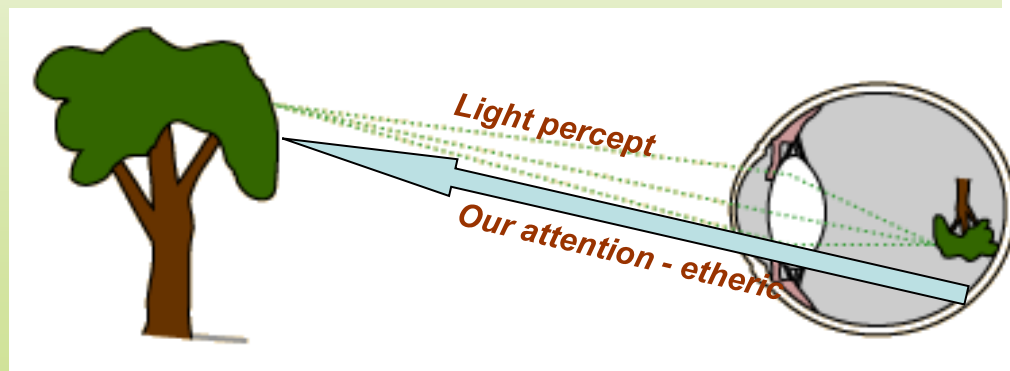
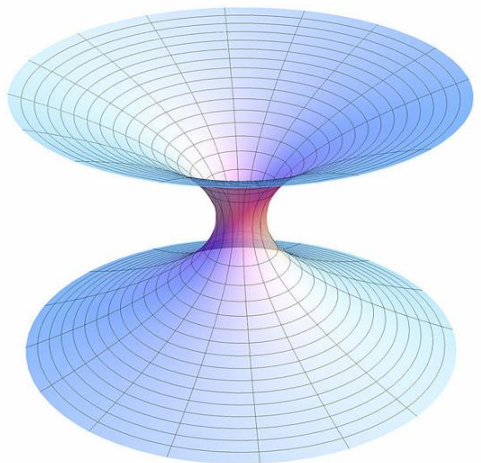
<http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/10/16/cheating.near.death/index.html?iref=mpstoryview> 10/16

- She went into full cardiac arrest. "Her eyes were wide, and all of a sudden she stopped talking to us," Coppola said. "I grabbed the two pads [of the defibrillator], stuck them on her, started it up, and I'd say within 20 seconds, she had her first shock." At that point, Geraghty says, her body died. She remembers watching the scene unfold -- as if from above. "I floated right out of my body. My body was here, and I just floated away. I looked back at it once, and it was there."
 - Geraghty says she saw deceased loved ones, her mother and her ex-husband. "It was very peaceful and light and beautiful. And I remember like, when you see someone you haven't seen in a while, you want to hug them, and I remember trying to reach out to my ex-husband, and he would not take my hand. Then they floated away."
- Geraghty was down for 57 minutes. No blood pressure, no pulse, no oxygen, no blood flow. She was shocked 21 times before she finally came back with tales of the afterlife
- Next, she says, she was overwhelmed by "massive very powerful energy."
 - When that was happening, there were pictures of my son and my daughter and my granddaughter, and every second, their pictures flashed in my mind, and then I came back."
- Near-death experiences are fairly common with sudden cardiac arrest
 - According to the Near Death Experience Research Foundation, nearly 800 near-death experiences happen every day in the United States
 - Dr. Kevin Nelson, a neurologist in Kentucky, says the phenomenon lies in the brain itself
 - Dr. Rick Strassman of the University of New Mexico theorizes that a massive release from the pineal gland of the psychedelic drug Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) is the cause of the phenomenon



Consciously Crossing a Threshold

- Passing through the eye of a needle
 - What do you rely on for consciousness? Rich man analogy.
 - Develop sense-free thinking
- Spiritual perception similar to an eye or camera
- Physical to Etheric
 - Things mirror-image, like a glove inside-out



Through the Looking Glass

Self Development Steps to Agape

- Every-day thinking separates, isolates = death, fission
- Our heart thinking will have life – fusion
- Hoarding treasure, knowledge or wisdom from above, expresses the dragon in us, that, like Michael, we overcome
 - Wisdom without love, i.e. agape love, leads to egoism
 - Paul's assertion is that each one of us is a part of the body of Christ, the Logos – wholeness through agape
- Ancient yoga united outer and inner through the breathe
 - Air was ensouled but no longer. Rhythmic system (lungs & heart)
 - New yoga unites inner and outer through breathing of the senses
 - Wisdom opens door to Agape: No longer I but Christ in me
- In the beginning was the Logos ...And the Logos became flesh. Now, through the New Mysteries the flesh will become Logos

Conclusion

- The Mysteries had to die away to ensure Freedom was attained by the end of Kali Yuga
- Cathars and Knights Templars were forerunners
 - Showed models of how [Christian] community life could be
 - Spirit — Cathars
 - Soul — Knights Templar
 - Body
- From Intellectual Soul to Consciousness Soul
 - Going beyond our 5 physical senses
 - Science into sub-Nature, Spiritual Science into super-Nature
- Conditions are now ripe for development of Agape
 - Now is the time for The One Whom the Lord Loved
 - But is he still alive? Or like Elijah, can he come again?

Final Thoughts

- 153 Fish?
- Power of Heaven and Earth
 - Isosceles triangle with number inside was symbol of that's number power
 - Pythagoreans
 - Power of $(7 + 10) = (17) * (18) / 2 = 153$
 - Unto the I-Am is given all Authority in Heaven and Earth
- Our role in the future – Jupiter
 - As co-creators, to make a world where its humans will find in its nature love as today we find wisdom
- The path to Agape is through Wisdom
 - From Holy Spirit to the Son to the Father
 - No one comes to the Father except through me

Evolution of Life

- In Him was Life; And the Life was the Light of Men
- In Him was Living Thinking, and the Living Thinking was the Light of Men
- In Him was Living Memory, and the Living Memory was the Light of Men



End



Additional Supporting Material

Fish Stories

Luke 5:1-11

- First months after baptism
- Lake Gennesaret (Galilee)
- No catch night before
- Christ commands: to farthest from shore
- Peter doubts the command
- Depart from me
- Nets break
- “become fisher of men”

John 21:1-14

- First months after resurrection
- Same
- Same
- Christ advises: only 200 cubits from shore (100 yards)
- Peter has faith
- Leaps from boat
- Nets hold (153 fish)
- Fulfillment

Fra Angelico



- Monk
- Cosimo de'Medici, who had a cell for retreats at San Marco, discovers him – convinces him to paint the cells
- Each cell a meditation
 - Monks assigned cell for a month
- “touch me not” scene
 - Mary is the first one to experience the Risen Christ

Knights

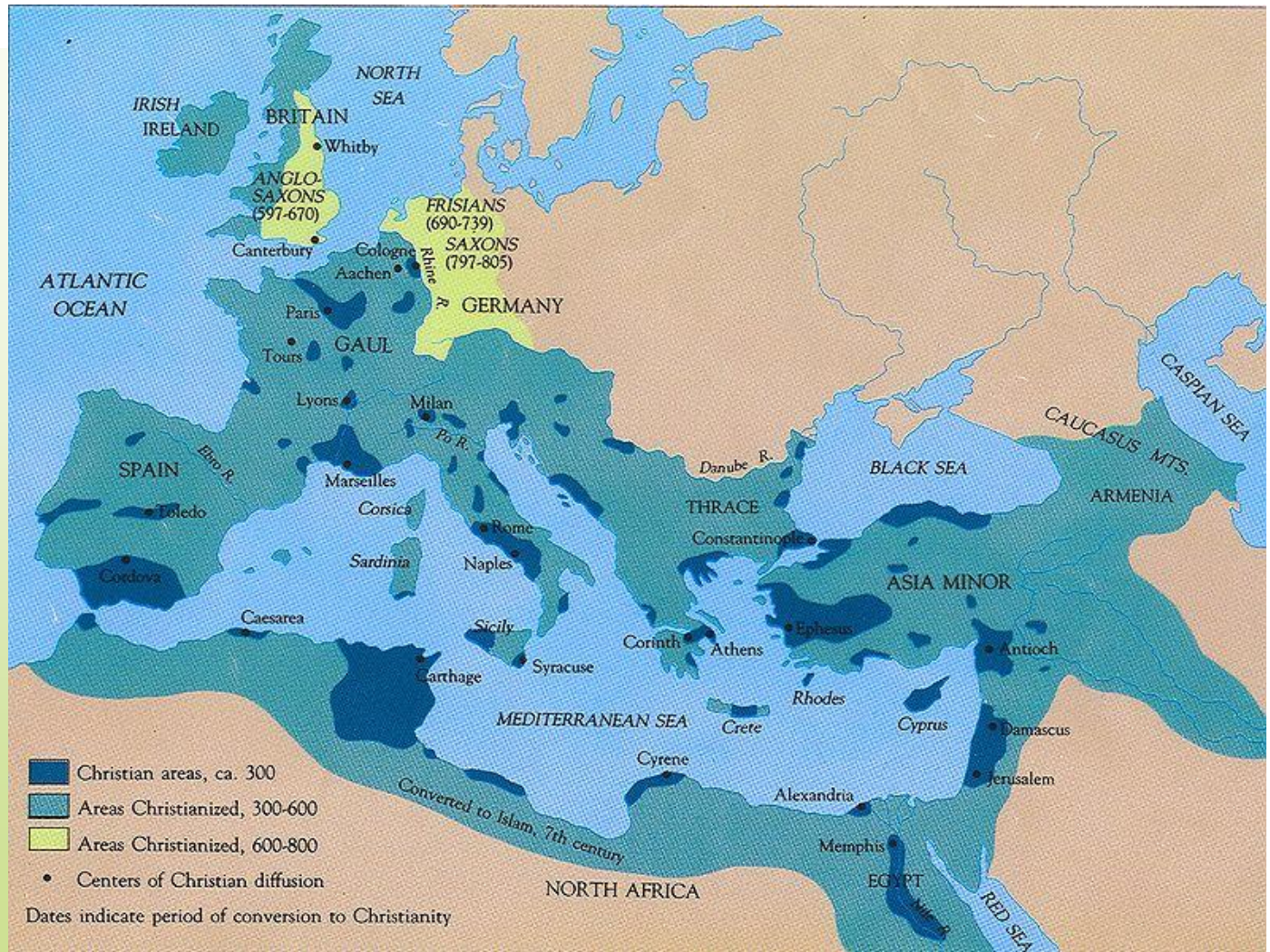
- Arthurian Knights
 - Bringing civilization to Northern Europe
 - Nature as revelation, Intelligence from above
- Grail Knights
 - Intelligence now within the Intellectual Soul
- Chartres
 - 1203, death of Alanus ab Insulus
- Knights Templar
 - Origins in Grail Knights
 - 1204, Sack of Constantinople, end of military victories
 - 1307-1312. Disbanding. Migration to Scotland and Portugal
 - Return as Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Historical Summary of the Mysteries

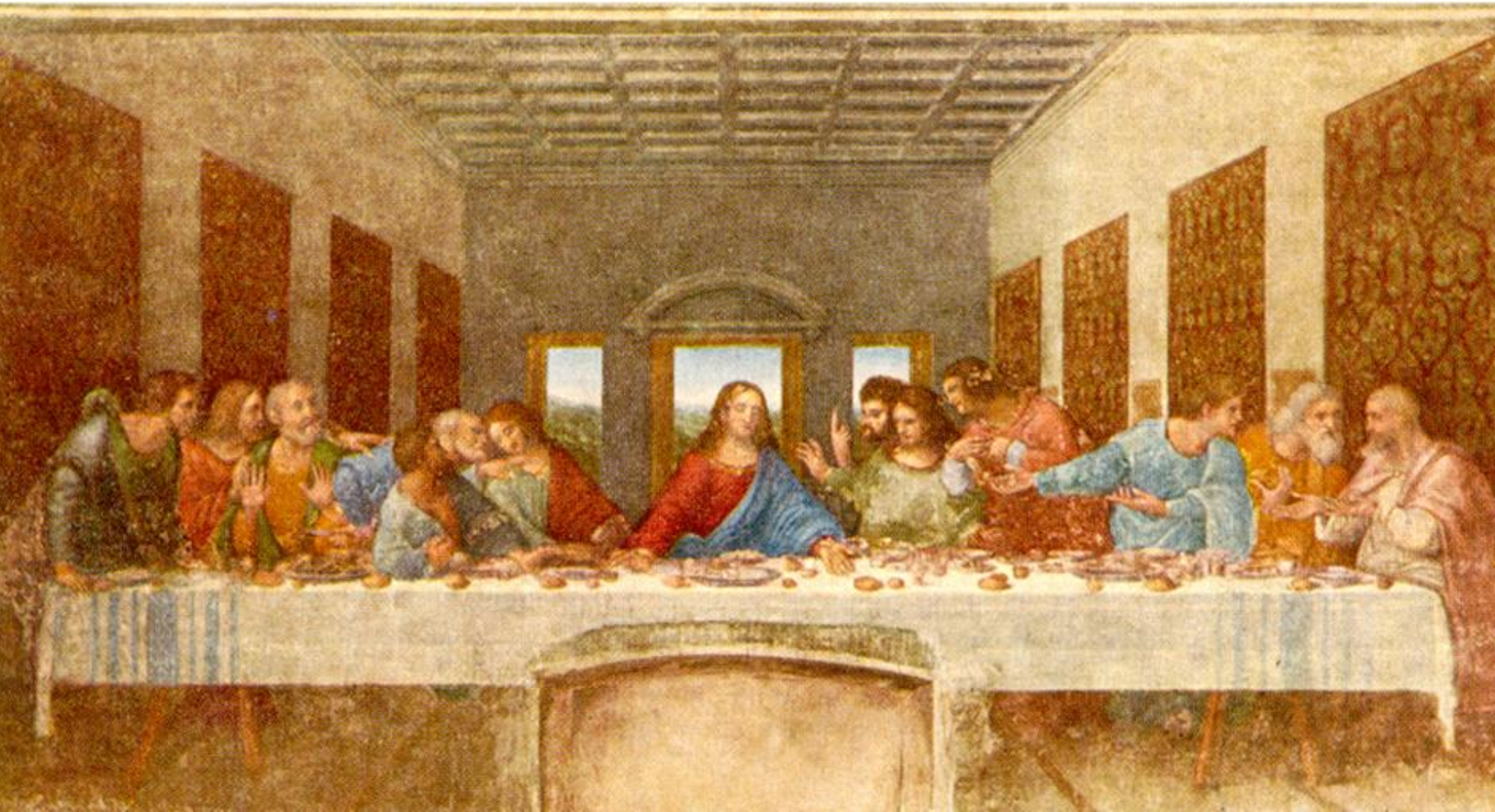
- 1000 BC – 350 BC
 - Twilight of the Gods, closing of the Temples (from 800 BC on)
 - Jerusalem Temple (Ark of the Covenant, Temple Legend)
 - Sun moves from Taurus to Aries (747 BC)
 - Mithraism – Overcoming the Bull
 - Jason and the Argonauts – go East for the Golden [Lamb's] Fleece
 - Buddha (570 BC)
- 350 BC – 325 AD
 - Plato, Aristotle, Burning of Ephesus Mystery Center, Alexander (350 BC)
 - No longer being led by cosmic wisdom – must now grasp wisdom
 - Alexander sets up schools – rise of personal learning
 - Alexandria in Egypt
 - Other Kings set up schools (e.g. King Shapur)
 - Apostolic Age and Ante-Nicene Period (33 AD to 325 AD)
 - Peter, Paul, and John and the rapid spread of Christianity
 - Heretical and Christian Mystery streams
 - Manichaeism – dualism/Christianity as the middle, narrow path
 - Gnosticism; Nestorius, Arius, Marcion, Apollonaris, Paulicians, many others
 - » Brutally destroyed – books burned with help of Roman army
 - » Attempted to understand Christianity from the old mysteries versus new mysteries
 - » Importance to society of the Mysteries and the Initiates
 - Constantine: moving Christian center from west to east
 - Extermination of the Heresies; exiling of Aristotelians and Greek scholars

Known Spread of Christianity

- Thomas to India
- Nestorian to Persia and along silk route to China
- America?



Last Supper “Touched Up”



Plutarch (46 - 120 AD)



- Initiated into the Apollo Mysteries
 - Served as high priest of the temple of Apollo
 - Site of the Oracle at Delphi
- His writings and lectures led him to become a celebrity in the Roman empire
 - Guests came from all over the empire; congregated for serious conversation
 - Many of these dialogues were recorded and published (Moralia)
 - Influenced Renaissance writers, Shakespeare, and Emerson
- “We have a ridiculous fear of death, we who have already died so many deaths, and still are dying! For not only is it true, as Heraclitus used to say, that the death of fire is birth for air, and the death of air is birth for water, but the case is even more clearly to be seen in our own selves: the man in his prime passes away when the old man comes into existence, the young man passes away into the man in his prime, the child into the young man, and the babe into the child. Dead is the man of yesterday, for he is passed into the man of to-day; and the man of to-day is dying as he passes into the man of tomorrow. ... Our senses, through ignorance of reality, falsely tell us that what appears to be is.”
 - Plutarch, *Moralia*, *De E apud Delphos*, 392 A–E. (The E at Delphi, 17 and 18.)

In Homage to Michaelmas

- Michael = Who is like God?
 - Sun archangel whose season is autumn
 - Once administered Cosmic Intelligence
- Questions and riddles
 - Socratic method
- What is soul? What is spirit?
- Questions from Early Christianity
 - Were Jesus and Christ the same?
 - Is the Son God subservient to the Father God?
 - Are the natures and substances of the Trinity the same?
- Is the Christianity of today the same as that in its start which spread throughout the world?

