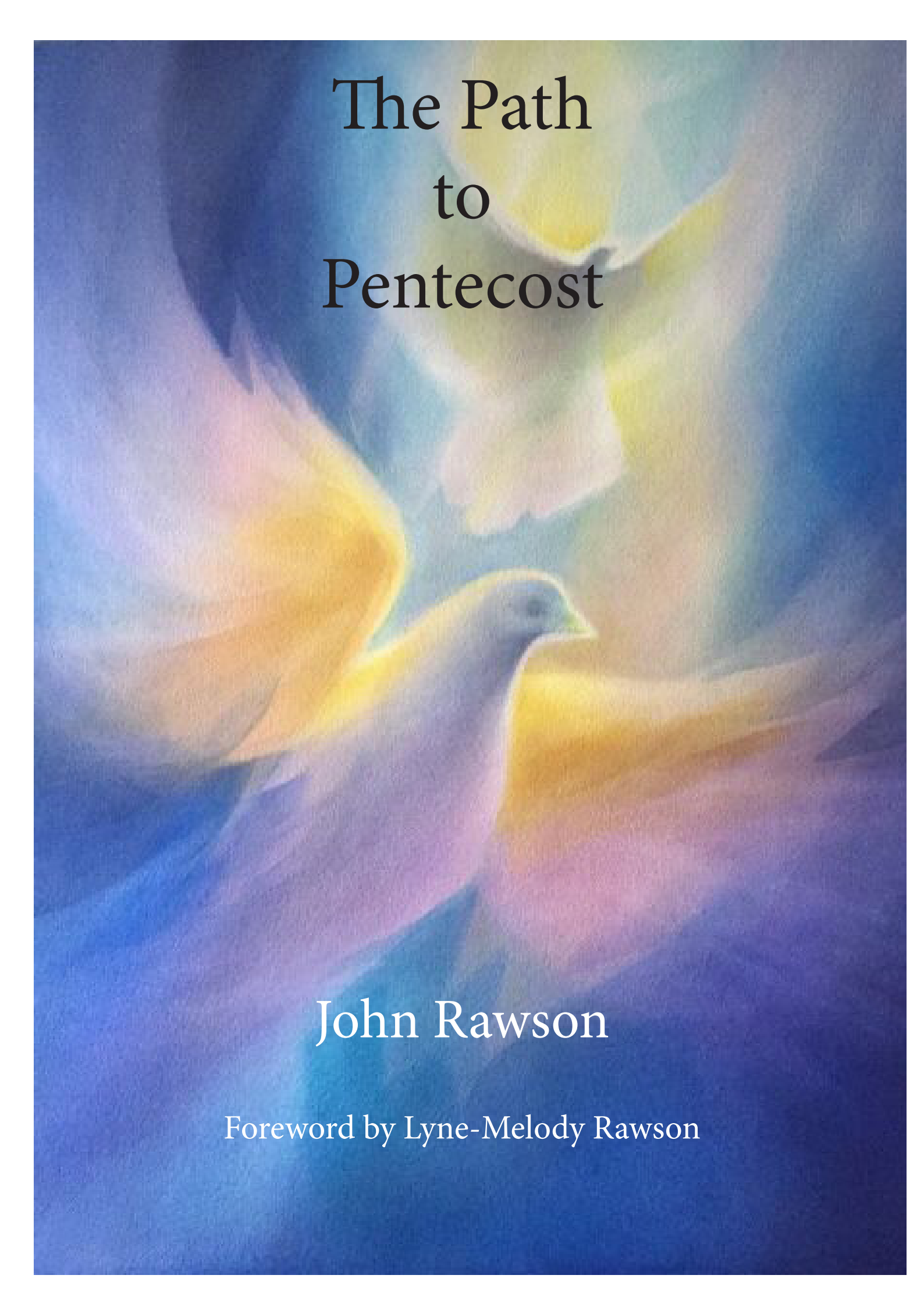


The background of the entire cover is a soft, painterly illustration. It depicts three doves in flight. One dove is in the upper center, wings spread wide, facing right. Below it and to the left is another dove, also in flight. In the foreground, a third dove is shown in profile, facing right. The background is a deep blue, with a faint rainbow arching across the upper right portion. The overall style is ethereal and spiritual.

The Path to Pentecost

John Rawson

Foreword by Lyne-Melody Rawson

The Path to Pentecost

Also by John Rawson

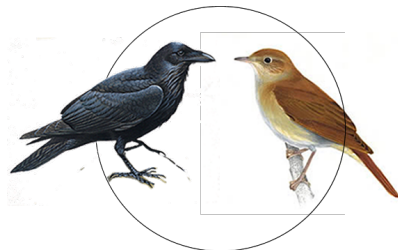
Covid 19: Through a Glass Darkly

The Way of the Wyse Art (Online Courses)

The Path to Pentecost

John Rawson

Foreword by Lyne-Melody Rawson



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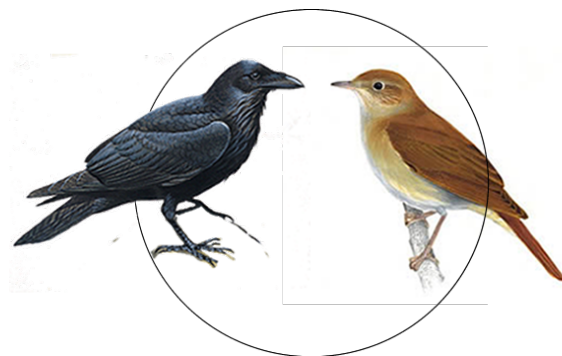


Limited First Edition

Number **15** (of 50 copies)

John Rawson

Melody Rawson



To

*The Eagle,
The Owl,
&
The Nightingale*

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Foreword by Lyne-Melody Rawson

The Mystic has written fifty meditations for the Mystical Interval. From Easter Sunday to Pentacost. Five decades on the rosary. The meditations can be used either with the rosary, or without. They can even be repeated all year long. John Rawson (John) is also an Occultist, that is, one who can see behind the veil to the very core of that which is hidden. Thus his insight into Revelation is profound.

Our teacher Rev Mario Schoenmaker (Mario) had this to say about the nature of an Occultist:

“The voice would be mellow, the eyes would be strong. The Occultist would have charisma and healing power. They would never misuse their power, otherwise it would be taken away. Ah to be an Occultist. Isn’t that what we are all about? To grow into the likeness of Christ.”

Whilst John would never claim to have the depth of vision that Mario had, that would be impossible. The gift which John has worked with for more years than I can count, has been a great blessing to many souls. He says always like his teacher did. “How can I bless more souls?” We both hope you will experience great power in these meditations. We have!



Acknowledgments

It takes a village to write a book!

The members of this particular village contributed in many different ways. In the first place I would like to recognise Rev Mario Schoenmaker and Rev Colin Read, founders of “The Centre”, Australia’s first officially recognised independent denomination. Their constant encouragement and personal inspiration mapped out the path of contemplation on the Bible as a constant, renewing source of inspiration. Rev Mario’s two sets of Meditations, *Meditation on the Season of Lent* and *Meditation on the Season of Advent* remain classics.

Secondly, Melody and I would like to thank Stephen Cugley and Helen Martineau for their generous grant through the Grail Foundation. Their assistance gave us breathing space to work on this project. Likewise, we gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance given to us by Peter McRae and Pauline Schofield. This came as I had to travel back and forth to Melbourne for eye surgery, and made the whole experience much easier to navigate.

I also want to thank Stephen for his astute observation, that any fifty days constitute a Pentecost period. This means that you can work with *The Path to Pentecost* several times during a year.

Then there are the workers in the village. Frank Kraak and John Pattenden made their artistic expertise available to help identify some of the art work in the book, and thank you to Frank who also suggested more resources for Revelation images - leading to a treasure trove of William Blake paintings which proved especially apt for the meditations.

Melody and I though, wish to especially acknowledge the incredible work of Sheila Hartill who cast her Virgo eye over thousands of details and with a grammatical sensibility birthed in her native English language, harried spelling, usage and punctuation into a semblance of perfection. Any errors left in the text are definitely the fault of the author.

Finally, I am grateful to have the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the indispensable assistance and encouragement of my life partner and soul mate, Melody. Without her, the *Meditations* would only exist as an idea in the mind of God...

Together we worked for over two years to polish and refine the initial meditations. We discovered after the first experiences that something was missing: music. Melody chose the songs which begin and end each day, bracketing each session with the power of the voice.

For two years now, we have walked the path to Pentecost through the meditations, and together we have experienced the power which gradually awakens. We have shared the unsealing of the book with seven seals; we have heard the trumpets of the seven angels - and together we have seen the New Jerusalem "coming down out of heaven from God," - and all things were indeed, "made new."



Introduction

The Path to Pentecost is a set of fifty meditations, one for each day of the “mystical interval” which commences on Easter Sunday and finishes on the day of Pentecost.

The meditations are based on the teachings of the Western Esoteric Spiritual Tradition, and particularly in the form given by Reverend Mario Schoenmaker. Rev Mario followed on from earlier teachers such as Rudolf Steiner and Edgar Cayce, but the roots of this tradition originated much earlier, amongst the temples of ancient Egypt and the schools of the early Greek philosophers. Since this is not a didactic work, those who want to pursue a detailed understanding of the teachings are referred to “The Way of the Wyse Art” courses (Appendix IV).

Rev Mario used to say, “Prayer is talking to God; meditation is listening to God.” Both prayer and meditation are essential to a vital spiritual life. In order to bring prayer and meditation into your experience of the Path to Pentecost we have found that the best way to experience the power within this period is as follows.

First, you are not meant to simply read the meditations silently and look at the pictures, the meditations are designed *to be read out loud*. The energy generated by the human voice comes in through the ears and affects the brain in quite a different way than simple silent reading will do. To emphasise this point, each meditation commences with a song, and finishes with a song.

You can envisage the song as a prayer, after all, as an old Latin proverb tells us, *Bis orat qui bene cantat*, “Who sings well, prays twice”!

The songs change - normally every seven days. There are two deviations from this:

On Easter Sunday (Day One), the song is “The Summons”. The next six days we start with “Ask, Knock and Seek”. Week Two the song changes to “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” and so on until the Day of Pentecost when the final song is, “Peace is Flowing Like a River”.

The songs are all simple and easy to learn (the music is in Appendix I).

The second song for each meditation is always the same: “Oh Love that Knoweth of No Fear”.

While you are singing the song in a quiet, contemplative way, observe the image for the day and allow it to percolate into your vision.

After singing the song, read the passage from Revelation out loud. Follow this with reading the reflection - once again read it out loud. The meditations are written to capture a certain rhythm and cadence of the spoke voice so that certain energies may unfold within the psyche of the meditator.

Next, read the section headed, **The image**. This contains a simple exercise to be carried during the day.

Now read the quote from Rev Mario. This will tie together the elements of that day’s meditation.

Finally, sing “O Love That Knoweth of No Fear” twice, and allow yourself to sit quietly and absorb the power of the session.

You may have other devotional practices which you might like to add to this time - for those who use the Rosary practice, suggestions are found in appendix V to integrate this into the meditations.

There is one more insight we would like to add to this discussion of the meditations: Every consecutive fifty days is a “Pentecost period”. So, although you might initially practise the meditations from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, you can then begin at a later time and engage in another fifty-day cycle. Each cycle celebrates the work of Christ working in the spiritual worlds and changing our being, our nature and our consciousness.

In the fifteenth century, Thomas a Kempis asked us to follow in the footsteps of Christ in his life in the physical world. In the third millennium we are asked to move beyond the physical world and to follow the working of Christ in the spiritual worlds. To this end we have created *The Path to Pentecost*.

Easter Sunday

Will You come and Follow Me

(THE SUMMONS)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith
you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Lyrics: John L. Bell, © 1987, The Iona Community. GIA Publications, Inc.,
North American agent. Music: Trad. Scottish Melody



Day 1

20:1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.

John 20:1-8

Jesus lived thirty-three years upon the earth. His was a soul set aside for a very special purpose, and that purpose was to be the vehicle for the being we know as Christ, for the three years it took for Christ to complete his task in the physical world.

The Deed of Christ was to permeate a human being so completely that every aspect, including the physical body could be transformed. The arrival of Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb signifies the victory of Christ over the physical. The physical body is not there, it has been transmuted into the resurrection body.

The work of Christ is not completed, rather the first part is finished and the second is begun. The first part of the purpose of Christ is to transform the physical body. This is the oldest body human beings have. Christ will now work in our subtle bodies which we call the etheric, astral and soul bodies. This work will take fifty days. It will come to perfection at the feast of Pentecost.

For now, Mary Magdalene arrives at the tomb and finds it empty. It is significant that it is a woman and not a man who makes this discovery. Mary Magdalene here represents the soul, the soul healed by Christ. The soul will change greatly on the path to Pentecost, but its journey begins here, and the journey of the soul begins with emptiness.

We come to a point in life where our expectations are dashed. We think to find something in our world, this may be love, position, relationship, spiritual understanding, material wealth, status, but nothing eventuates. What we re-

ceive is emptiness.

This emptiness comes as a great shock. We run and summon the soul faculty of love and the soul faculty of faith. Love always arrives first, but faith has the daring to enter the empty space and confirm our worst fears. There is nothing there.

The soul must abide in this space for a time. The old soul contents must empty out so that the new experiences of revealed spiritual purpose may enter in. We wait in patient expectation.



Giovanni Girolamo Savoldo
Mary Magdalene, c.1535–40, Oil on canvas, 89.1 x 82.4 cm, The National Gallery, London, NG1031, © The National Gallery, London

The image

This beautiful portrait of Mary Magdalene sitting pensively outside the empty tomb reminds us that life is a Mystery. When we experience this Mystery, our minds stop, and our intellect becomes empty.

The theme for this day is waiting. What are we waiting for? We wait for many things, but most of all we wait for understanding and fulfilment. We await the discovery of our purpose. We await the vision which will complete our knowledge of who we are.

For this day, hold the image of Mary waiting beside the tomb. Like Mary, our soul is waiting too. In the silence of our waiting, let the longings of the soul rise gently into our consciousness. There is so much more to come...



In Mary Magdalene we see the feminine Love and emotions well up. Let there be no doubt about it, this woman was in love with Jesus. It would be stupid not to recognize this, a love emotional, full and warm. A Love which she was able to transform into a beautiful caring and sacrificing self. A love that would lay down Life itself, if it could save the life of another.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *Easter Sunday Address, 22nd April, 1984*

Week One

Ask, Knock and Seek

Knock, and it shall be opened
Seek, and you shall find,
For the answer's in the question
In the heart and in the mind.
If you ask it shall be given,
All the questions of your soul,
For the answers all lie with him;
He is Christ, who makes you whole.



Day 2

"11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' 16 Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned and said to him in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'—and that he had said these things to her."

John 19:11-18

The soul has become empty. It has accepted sorrow and loss, and yet if we dare to look into this emptiness, the tomb, we discover that spirit has a message for us. "Why are you weeping?"

Sorrow and grief are natural, and can be powerful aids to releasing us from the past. But we can even attach ourselves to grief. Spirit will tell us not to weep, because greater understanding awaits us.

If we become overwhelmed by the sorrows of the world, we can no longer carry out our purpose. We have to find the middle way, accepting loss and pain, and prepare to walk forward.

We are always surprised by love. It may stand right in front of us, and we may not recognise it. But we recognise the voice of love. Our ears hear truth before our eyes perceive it. That is why when we develop our spiritual senses, hearing should come first. So often people want to develop clairvoyance so they can do readings on other people. We like to observe and judge others, when we should relate these observations and judgments to self. The royal road to opening our clairvoyance, which is a gift of Christ, is to listen to other souls. When we hear the voice of the soul, then we are able to perceive the truth within that soul.

We can learn more from this little passage. Mary Magdalene is the first to see the risen Christ. This is because she loved Christ and devoted herself to his service in humble, simple ways when he was in incarnation. Love first listens. In listening we have to become silent. Then, out of love and silence Christ ap-

pears. Since his first appearance to Mary Magdalene, it has become possible for every human being to perceive the risen Christ. It is the encounter with Christ that opens our spiritual eyes. We have seen the reality of spirit. After that we have moved from intellectual understanding into knowledge. We no longer have to rely on what others tell us, we have seen for ourselves.

The vision of Christ brings with it an imperative. We are shown our life task. For Mary Magdalene, it was a simple directive: communicate to the brothers, that Christ is risen. For all of us the vision of Christ brings the same directive. Our life's purpose will then be to inform the brothers, that is, those who are connected to Christ, that Christ is a living reality, and that he manifests this reality within the world. We don't have to change the world on our own, we need to share our experience with those who also have the Christ consciousness. As our experience of the consciousness of Christ deepens through the years and incarnations, so the world becomes lighter. We no longer have to find the way, because we have become The Way.



David Jones

Noli me tangere, Engraving, 762 x 889 mm, Private Collection, C Estate of David Jones/Bridgeman images; Photo: courtesy of JHW Fine Art

The image

There are many paintings of this scene. Some are done by very famous artists, but I love this simple wood engraving by the twentieth century artist, David Jones. The eye is immediately drawn to the two pairs of hands. The hands of Mary Magdalene longing to touch the beloved, and the hands of the risen Christ forbidding the touch.

Noli me tangere, "touch me not" says Christ.

The Mystery has been revealed, but there are so many more steps on the Way. On this day let us realise how close we are to the divine. Let us focus on allowing this divinity to be different, for this difference is individuality. On this day we can contemplate our own individuality. For we have come into this world with the great task of expressing just who *we* are.



The resurrection story tells me this: that a power was realised two thousand years ago. When the Master died, something happened on the inner planes which neither you nor I shall know by physical means. Then when the Master resurrected another power was released, and this spirit of Jesus has permeated this universe ever since, for two thousand years, even though you and I cannot see it.

There is available to us, therefore, what St Paul calls the resurrection power. If you and I want to share with him in that power then it is there for you to take, for you to accept and to participate thereof.

Either you want that resurrection life and then all your attention is focused upon it, or you can just stay where you are; live your life and forget about spirit. Don't try the both at once, it won't work.

Through the experience of being a minister for so many years and through my own inner experiences as a mystic, I'll say this to you: if you go for the resurrection life, that is the life of a person who has the life of the risen Christ glowing out of them, then you are rich beyond comparison. You are so free that words cannot describe it and you are accepted in the sight of God.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, Address, 1961



Day 3

19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

John 20:19-23

Jesus appears to the disciples. He shows them his hands and side.

The writer of the gospel, John, is making two points here. Firstly, the risen Christ is spirit. He appears to them in a locked room. Over the years I have read a few authors trying to rationalise this event. One of them even claimed that Jesus came in by an open window. 😊 Jesus didn't need to do this because his body has become spirit. But Jesus is not a phantom or a ghost. This is not a manifestation of a non-physical entity. He shows the disciples the wounds in his hands and side because the new body is still the old body. It is the old physical body transformed into spirit. St Paul calls this spiritualised physical body, the "Resurrection Body." Christ has achieved the endpoint of human evolution in one earth incarnation.

Human evolution can only be completed if a divine spirit enters in to each human being to empower this transformation. We call this, the I AM. Christ comes to the disciples with this purpose. He breathes upon them. The ancient languages understood that spirit is in the breath. They are even the same word, *pneuma*, in Greek. When intention combines with breath and with words, then a spirit can be transmitted. Our English translation has "Receive *the* Holy Spirit," but in the original Greek, Jesus actually says, "Receive *a* Holy Spirit." The difference is profound. If we were to receive the one and only Holy Spirit, we would share in a group consciousness. Instead Christ confers the greatest possible gift, he bestows individuality upon us. Every human soul is unique. Every human being is sacred. Every human being contains within them something that is profoundly, individually holy.

The disciples are the first to receive the gift of individuality. Humanity as a whole will receive this at Pentecost. The gift that the disciples are given is the priesthood. This is the power to forgive, and to withhold forgiveness to other souls. The disciples, as apostles, will later transmit this gift themselves. The power to forgive or not to forgive is actually the power of choice. A soul has to

choose to be forgiven. The soul can also choose not to be forgiven. This is the basic, most elementary level of choice. Choice is the expression of individuality.

There is so much more we could say about this magical scene. It represents an ending, but it also represents a beginning. Spirit never ends. It completes a cycle, and then it initiates a new cycle. We place ourselves at the commencement of this new cycle the moment we place our feet on the Path to Pentecost.



Nalini Jayasuriya (Sri Lankan, 1927–2014), *The Great Commission*, 2002. Mixed media on canvas, 28 × 53 in.

<https://artandtheology.org/2016/05/15/pentecost-art-from-asia/>

The image

This dynamic image by the Sri Lankan artist Nalini Jayasuriya shows the breath of Christ flowing out and transforming the disciples. One of the wonderful aspects of this painting is the presence of women amongst the disciples. After all, it was the women who stayed with him to the bitter end, while the men hid.

The picture is called “The Great Commission”. With the outbreath of Christ comes purpose and direction. In Matthew’s gospel, the disciples are commissioned to go out into the world and preach the good news. In St John’s gospel however, the disciples are commissioned as priests. They are to forgive sins.

We can all forgive sins - starting with our own! To forgive sins does not mean that the deed is cancelled or vanished. It means that we are now willing and able to accept the consequences of our own decisions.

On this day, let us spend some time looking at those who have hurt us in the past and releasing them from their actions. We should also look at who we have hurt in our lives. Forgiveness of self here, means that we have taken the next step on the Path to Pentecost



This we could say of a priest of our spiritual order:

They must have the vision of the Christ implanted within self. Such a soul, cannot be disconnected from the Christ, no matter what. To him or her the Christ is everything, and the Christ impulse works already within that soul. This does not make him a better or more holier person, it makes him a Christ conscious person. That is, conscious of the living presence of the Christ within.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, Ordination Address, 1983



Day 4

24 Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:24-29

We are not told why Thomas was not present with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them. Perhaps he was out, occupying himself with practical affairs, matters that had to be attended to. Perhaps he had an important job that needed his attention, or friends and family needed him. Thomas represents the rational, critical aspect of mind, and our rational minds always have very good reasons for not sharing in spiritual work and activity. That is why the rational, sceptical person misses out on the great spiritual experience. Thomas represents the destructive thoughts that say to us, this spiritual activity doesn't work, I'm going to tend to other affairs of my life. Thus, when others have a spiritual experience, the Thomas mind cannot accept that it is real.

Jesus must have loved Thomas very much. It is important that we should not accept everything that others say to us at face value. It is important to be sceptical about outrageous claims. It is important to think. Christ can use our thinking, rational mind. It must be transformed first, but Christ will do this.

Jesus appears to Thomas. He gives him the proof he had required. Thomas can physically touch the wounds of Christ. This is different from the experience of Mary Magdalene, who couldn't touch Christ. Christ too is evolving. The resurrection is not an end, it is a beginning. Much will change within the spiritual worlds, and much will change within the psyche of humanity. These changes are the fifty steps of the Path to Pentecost.



Caravaggio, *The Incredulity of St Thomas*, 1602, oil on canvas, Sanssouci, Potsdam

The image

Once again, there are many famous paintings by renowned artists of this scene. There is something very real, though, about the way Caravaggio has portrayed the incredible physical reality of the confrontation of Thomas with the risen Christ. Thomas needs actual bodily contact to convince him. “The intellect has to be confronted with the exact nature of spiritual reality.”

We have taken another step upon the Path to Pentecost. Now our intellect, our logical reasoning, has to become part of this path. During this day we can imagine the incredible shock of the reasoning mind when it makes contact with the very injuries it had denied. Every so often, repeat the words, “Christ is transforming my thinking...”



Five o'clock in the morning, when the sun had just come up, after not sleeping the whole night, out of their minds with grief, these women came to the grave to pay their last respects. When they came the stone was rolled away and two glorious figures were sitting there staring at them, saying, "Go away, the Lord is risen."

They ran out and said, "Peter, John, Thomas, the Lord is risen!" Thomas said, "No, when I put my fingers in his wounds, touch his side where the spear penetrated, then I will believe."

My intellect must understand the resurrection story, yet we are dealing with the greatest mystery of mankind, and intellect cannot understand the workings of the spirit.

Do you know what the story of St Thomas is telling me? That the intellect will have to be confronted with the exact nature of spiritual reality. "Thomas," says Spirit, "Come here. Put your hands in my side and your finger in my hands." Go beyond thinking. Experience now the beauty of the resurrection power. Think no more. Put your hands out.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, The Intellect Confronted by Spirit, April, 1977



Day 5

21:1 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. 8 The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

9 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

John 21:1-14

This beautiful story is almost childlike in its simplicity. Some of the disciples decide to go back to work. St Matthew's gospel tells us that Andrew, Peter, and the sons of Zebedee, James and John, were all fishermen, so for them, this was a return to normal life. Even though the risen Christ has appeared to them twice, the imperative to keep things as they were, is very strong. But it is not working. Even though they do everything the way it used to be, they embark in the boat, they cast the net - over and over again - they catch nothing.

This may be a sign: once you have had a real spiritual experience, a life-changing experience, you can't go back.

Into this picture of normality, Jesus gently inserts himself. He is standing on the shore, just an anonymous figure asking a question. He addresses them as "children", *paidia*, in Greek, which carries the connotation of small children who are being instructed. We can imagine that the professional fishermen took

his advice to cast the net on the other side of the boat with some scepticism, but when they follow his instructions, lo and behold, they find so many fish that they can hardly haul it in. It is at this point, that “the disciple whom Jesus loved” recognises Jesus. Love calls to love. We connect to Christ, not through the intellect, but through the heart. Once the heart is awake, then faith, Peter, takes over and takes action.

Perhaps the point of this little story is as simple as the narrative. We have a powerful, transforming experience, but it is human nature to push this into the background and try to return to normality. What we didn’t understand is that Christ is not only present in a transcendent event, Christ is now part of our lives forever. Every so often, Christ will remind us that he is with us even in the most ordinary and routine life events. If our heart is open, we will know him by the love which flows spontaneously from us towards others and towards the world. Love is not just an emotion, it is accompanied by an action, and the action of love brings in an enormous harvest.

The presence of Christ creates love as an action, it creates a sense of wonder, and it brings joy, not just in prayer, devotion and meditation, but in every moment of our lives.



Goldsmith John Reilly (1928-2010), *Miraculous Draught of Fishes*, 1978, Oil on canvas

© John Reilly artist

The image

In this modern interpretation of the story, the sun shines at the centrepiece between Jesus and the disciples. The abundance of fish flows out of Christ into the net of the fisherman.

Today, let us express love as an action. Let us be more and more aware of the events of wonder and joy within life.



God wants people with fire in their bones and in their being, with strength within their hearts and grace on their lips. Go therefore in unselfishness and make disciples. Identify them, baptise them into the Christ, and bring the pulsation, the teaching of that being to the world. Yours is the task.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *Enacting the Vision of Christ*, 31st Jan 1977



Day 6

"15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

John 21:15-19

Our experience of Christ in the midst of life continues.

The I AM asks us questions. This is because a question opens us up to new possibilities and new understandings. Our normal consciousness may not understand the question at first. In esoteric tradition, a question is asked three times to a candidate for admission. Christ questions Peter to see if he is ready to be admitted to a new level of consciousness.

The questioning makes little sense in its English translation. This is because the English language has one word, "love", that covers every degree of affection from casual liking, "I really love your dress!" to friendship, erotic relationship and spiritual connection. Greek, however has different words for each of these degrees of relationship.

Christ asks Peter if he "agapes" him. Agape is the deepest form of spiritual love. It is the love God has for his creation. It is the love that our souls have for God. Peter replies, "Yes, Lord, you know that I "philo" you!"

Now philo means "I love you as a friend." Philo is the greatest degree of friendship that one human being can have with another. It means I honour, respect, connect with you as one human being to another. The Australian concept of mateship has this meaning. You may sacrifice your own life for your mate, but you do so, as one human being to another.

Christ has had this relationship with the disciples when, as Jesus, he was their teacher and friend. He has gone beyond this now. He has transformed into spirit. The old relationship must be transformed as well. It can be incredibly difficult for us to see a friend as a spiritual force. Often a spiritual teacher may find that their closest friends and family cannot make this tran-

sition. These people struggle to maintain the old connection. Such a person may have a deep friendship or family relationship with the teacher, but this very relationship stands in the way of discovering the deeper, spiritual relationship. Like Peter, they cannot move from the love of philos, to the love of agape.

Christ gives Peter what Peter wants. Peter is not ready, for agape, so Christ asks him finally for philos. Peter, however, has stepped onto the spiritual path. He has entered the path of Christ. Through the experiences of this path: the service, the sacrifice and the ultimate surrender of the old self, Peter will discover agape. It may take the ultimate sacrifice, but Peter, by walking the same path Christ walked, by becoming, as St Paul puts it, “the image” of Christ, will also be transformed into a power that relates to the world with purpose, transformation and agape.



Raphael (1483-1520), *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes*, 1515-16, Cartoon

The Image

Thanks to my more knowledgeable artist friends, I discovered that this is a detail from a cartoon (an artist's preliminary painting - in this case for a set of tapestries) by the

famous artist Raphael and his studio.

This event is sometimes called, *The Restoration of Peter*. Peter is being forgiven for his denial at the trial of Jesus, more, he is being restored to his position as the Rock upon which the church will be built. We can see the agony on the face of Peter. He has reached the stage of surrender. He is ready to separate from his possessions and his attachments. He arrives at the stage of surrender through admitting his love.

In this day, we can examine what we are attached to. What it is that we love, and how deeply we love. Ask what we need to empty out, so that we can experience the fullness of love.



The question put to St. Peter is the question that is put to all of us. Do you love me more than these? Sometimes I wonder whether we do, whether we love our circumstances better than God, our friends more than God, what we know more than God, our possessions more than God, our wives and husbands more than God. Yet every time when this comes to you, you have to surrender. If you don't then either the Beloved turns away from you and your heart will be empty and you will fill it with emptiness, or the Beloved will take away from you that which separates him from you.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *Going Through the Steps of Mysticism*, 20th Jan 1981



Day 7

3 I gave to you as greatest importance, what I received. That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures 4 and he was buried and that he rose on the third day according to the scriptures. 5 He first appeared to Cephas then to the twelve. 6 After that he appeared at the same time to five hundred brethren, most of whom still remain, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all as to one born out of his time, he also appeared to me.

1 Cor 15: 3-8

We have reached the end of the first week. We can pause and reflect for a moment on the significance of the events of the previous six days.

In this extract from St Paul we step for a moment into the future. St Paul writes of a time past Pentecost. Christ has completed his work on the physical body, and, just as important, he has completed his work with the subtle bodies. Looking back on the Christ event, what does Paul rate as the most important of the teachings about Christ? It is that Christ arises in a transformed body, and that he appears to those who can see this body.

We know from Paul's other writings that he was a difficult case. He had to be knocked off his horse in order to open his spiritual eyes. Not only was he knocked off a physical horse, he was forced off a metaphorical horse - his intellectual knowledge and positions. This tells us that Christ does not appear to us if we have very established mental opinions and structures.

We should note also that Paul when he has this mystical experience, an experience beyond words, does not rush around proclaiming this to the world. He actually retreats into isolation for fourteen years.

This connects with another phrase of vital importance. Christ appears to five hundred at once. Most of those who had the experience abide still. That is, they abide in the consciousness of the vision. There are, however, some who have "fallen asleep". Although modern translators like to tell us that these people have died, Paul doesn't use the perfectly good Greek word for dying, *thanatao*, he uses a word that literally means sleeping. In other words, some who have the Christ experience fall back into their old unconscious state.

It is not enough to have a wonderful spiritual experience. We come back into the old world, and the old world wants to put us back to sleep. There is a second stage. We need to transform our consciousness into spiritual consciousness. Only if we create this new consciousness can we live continually in the consciousness of Christ. We have been born into Christ consciousness. We have been reborn. We remain, we abide in Christ.



William Blake, *Conversion of Saul*
c.1800, Pen and watercolour on
wove paper, 423 x 371 mm, The
Huntington Library, Art Collec-
tions, and Botanical Gardens

© The Huntington Library, Art
Collections & Botanical Gardens
/ Bridgeman Images

The image

The visionary artist, William Blake, shows us Saul, still balancing on his horse—his intellect—gazing upwards into the face of the risen Christ. Saul is stationary, but everything above him is in motion. Christ points the way forward. The vision comes to Saul for a purpose, *his* purpose. From this point in his life Saul becomes Paul. He will always go forward to his goal. He will always press forward.

On this day, we can focus on our own goal. Find one thing that you can do that will take you closer to your goal. Do it.



How do you do it? St Paul tells us. He says three things are necessary. He says "Forget what is behind you. Go forward. Never, under any circumstance, stand still. Always have a goal, a purpose before you. Press onward. And remember that the nearer you get to the goal the more obstacles are put in your way."

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *Paul on the Road to Damascus*, 14th April 1977

Week Two

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in his wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace.



Day 8

1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Rev 1:4-8

We have come to the end of the gospel of John, but this is not the end of our account of the work of Christ. The writer of the gospel and the letters of John is known as John the Evangelist, and also as John the Beloved. John is beloved of Jesus because he loved Jesus. Love is irresistible, it creates love. The first letter of St John even tells us that God is love.

With the opening of the Book of Revelation, we commence immediately with "John". Is this the same John who wrote the gospel and the letters? Scholars tell us not, but the writer of Revelation felt it so important to claim continuity with John the Beloved, that this name is the very first word. In Hebrew scripture the first word was the most important, so the writer of Revelation is telling us that his book is also the work of John. We will call the writer "John of Patmos", but the book of Revelation will make no sense to us unless we understand why it is written by "John".

There are three Johns in the New Testament. The first is John the Baptist. John the Baptist represents the old clairvoyance. His purpose is to recognise Jesus through his clairvoyance, so the baptism and the entry of Christ into the body of Jesus will take place. The second John is the disciple of Jesus, the disciple whom Jesus loved. Now love produces clairvoyance. Rev Mario states this clearly:

"Love is the perhaps unexpected source from which clairvoyance flows."

This is the *new* clairvoyance. This is conscious clairvoyance. It is the clairvoyance of Christ.

The writer of Revelation then, commences his account with the single word John, to proclaim that his book is the product of the new clairvoyance, spiritual vision arising from love.

The writer of the gospel relates the earthly deeds of Christ in the form of Jesus. The writer of Revelation gives an account of the work of Christ in the spiritual worlds. Jesus and Christ are not disconnected here, that will occur later, that is why John calls him "Jesus Christ". In the fifty days between the Resurrection and Pentecost, Christ, or "Jesus Christ", will transform the spiritual body of humanity. His work will be with the subtle bodies, the non-physical bodies such as the astral and the etheric. Just as the physical body was transformed into the Resurrection body, so Christ will transform the astral body and the etheric body. This transformation will enable the entry of the I AM, the inner divinity, the "Alpha and the Omega" into the human soul. Our bodies are the measure of time. As physical beings we are bound by time. The I AM, however, is beyond time. "It is, it was, and is to come." When we unite with our divine self, we will become freed from time. As Revelation will proclaim later, this will be a pivotal moment in our evolution, for there will be "time no more"!



Hans Memling, *St John Altarpiece*, (right-hand panel) c. 1479, oil on oak panel, Memlingmuseum, Sint-Janshospitaal, Bruges

The image

The artist has captured John in his serene, contemplative state. He has entered into spirit and the vision of Revelation unfolds before his inner eye. The events of the first thirteen chapters of Revelation stretch away into the background. In this picture, indeed, time is no more.

On this day, let us focus on the words, "Love is the perhaps unexpected source from which clairvoyance flows." Let us perceive every person in every encounter with love. How much will we learn - about ourselves - at the end of the day!



There is a close relationship between love and perception. The person who loves another is always gazing at that person and trying to perceive the other's needs. Therefore, from love comes greater sensitivity. To love is to become more perceptive, and because love is the cohesive substance which holds the universe together, the loving person is gradually allowed to enter into the secrets of life. Love is the, perhaps unexpected, source from which clairvoyance flows.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The New Clairvoyance*, Gateway Books, 1986



Day 9

9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Rev 1:9-16

John tells us who he is. He is our brother. He is our partner in both the tribulation and the kingdom, that is he shares the trials and the triumphs that we all undergo, that is, we undergo these trials and tribulations if we have chosen the path of Christ. John is "in the spirit on the Lord's day". I remember Rev Mario commenting on this passage, saying that it was always the Lord's day if we had the consciousness of Christ. John informs us at the very beginning of his narrative that he is entering into the spiritual worlds, and recounting a vision.

Since the insights of Freud, Jung and others, we understand that dreams are not literal, they are symbolic. They are symbolic of inner processes taking place within the psyche. They describe and explain our inner processes, so that when we understand the dream, we accept what is changing within us.

The visions of John have echoed down the centuries. The Book of Revelation has provided more inspiration for artists and illustrators than any other biblical scripture. John's visions resonate so strongly within us, because they are more than individual, they belong to humanity. In the words of Carl Jung, they are archetypal.

In the first vision, we are introduced to two of these archetypes: the number seven, and the I AM.

In the previous passage we met the "seven spirits before the throne". These are the seven creative powers of the divinity. Through the seven powers, the divine forces enter into our psyche and into our lives. Now we meet the seven

powers as the seven churches. The seven powers manifest in the human being through the seven spiritual centres. John calls these the seven churches of Asia.

The I AM stands in the midst of seven golden lampstands. These are the spiritual template for our spiritual centres. The I AM needs to work through the spiritual centres, but work will need to be done on each of them first.

One of the oldest rules of clairvoyance is that we first meet self. Before John can come to an understanding of the great mysteries of transformation which Christ brings upon us, we need to look deeply into self and discover there our old wounds and traumas, debilitating memories, and our motives and desires. If we hear the voice of the I AM, we will begin this investigation. Spiritual change never begins with a manifesto, it always begins with questions.



The Son of man with a sword among the seven lampstands, in John's vision. From the Bamberg Apocalypse, 11th century.

The image

We enter the world of illuminated manuscripts. This early picture doesn't try to portray the Son of Man in literal detail. His hair is not white, his feet are not "burnished bronze" and his eyes are not emitting flames. The unknown artist has instead focused on the sword, the sun and the stars. The artist is also making a subtle point: There are likenesses between John, the visionary, and his vision. Both are given

halos, and they share the same colour hair, even the features are similar.

Perhaps the artist knew that the Son of Man *was* John, the perfected John. We each have a version of the perfect Self within us. Like John's perfected self, our inner Son of Man is directing us, teaching us and inspiring us to move forward.

We don't perceive our inner Son of Man, because the intellect builds walls against inner perception. Let us this day, dare to look into the eyes of our inner reality, let the walls between us melt away, let us gaze into the eyes of Christ within us, the hope of glory.



Our intellect has built its walls and we cannot penetrate outside those walls. We cannot get out and the presence of the Lord cannot get in. Unless these walls are flattened we can never know what it is within us that motivates us, which we call our beingness or what I would like to call my true self.

...

Let it be said, and let it be said time and time again, that neither you nor I would like to look straight into the eyes of our true self. For as soon as we look into the eyes of the true self we have to melt.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, Address, 1st May 1976



Day 10

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

Rev 2:1-7

In our previous meditation we encountered the real self. The real self, the I AM stands in the spiritual worlds. It is preparing to enter into human consciousness, but in order to do this, it has to make changes in our psyche. The I AM “walks among the seven golden lampstands.” This is the spiritual archetype of our seven spiritual centres. John is directed by the I AM to write to himself, that aspect of self called the angel of the church in Ephesus. The angels of the seven churches are the governing intelligences of the seven spiritual centres. The church of Ephesus is the heart centre.

In some Eastern traditions, the practitioner begins at the bottom spiritual centre and opens the centres in order up the spine. This is an ancient practice; the new practice, which becomes available to us after the Resurrection, begins at the middle centre, the heart centre, and radiates outwards in a spiral order.

Ephesus then, is the heart centre.

Ancient spiritual traditions knew that the seed of divinity lived in the heart. The Hindu writings, the Upanishads declare

Subtler than the subtle, greater than the great is the Self that is set in the cave of the heart. One beholds Him as being actionless and becomes freed from sorrow, when through the grace of the Creator they see the Lord and His majesty.

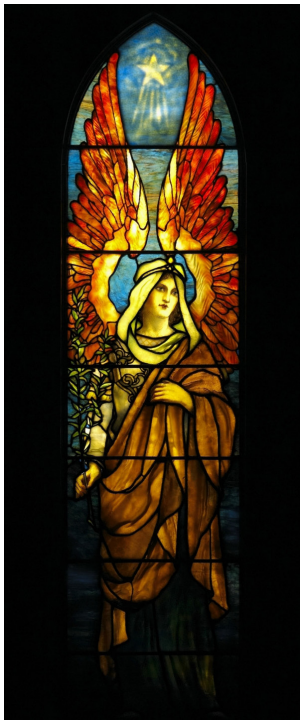
Shvetashvatara Upanishad

This seed of the divine has been waiting for the new entry of the I AM into

human evolution which happens with the Christ event. It has been “enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.”

All the centres have, over the many thousands of years of incarnations, become suffocated and clogged by different energies and entities that have entered into them. These energies have made us forget our heavenly origins. We have come to think of ourselves as physical beings and this physical world as the only reality. We have lost touch with the love that dwells within the heart. The I AM accuses the heart centre of having abandoned its divine love, and directs it to *remember* its spiritual origins and return to its original purpose.

The reward for this return is to “eat of the tree of life which is in the paradise of God.” In other words, we shall again be united with our spiritual home, and we shall be energised with spiritual nourishment. The renewal of the heart centre renews our memory. We are no longer physical beings on a spiritual journey, we know that we are spiritual beings on a physical journey. We come from God, and will return to God.



The Angel of the Church of Ephesus, from The Swedenborgian Angels, Tiffany Studio 1902

The image

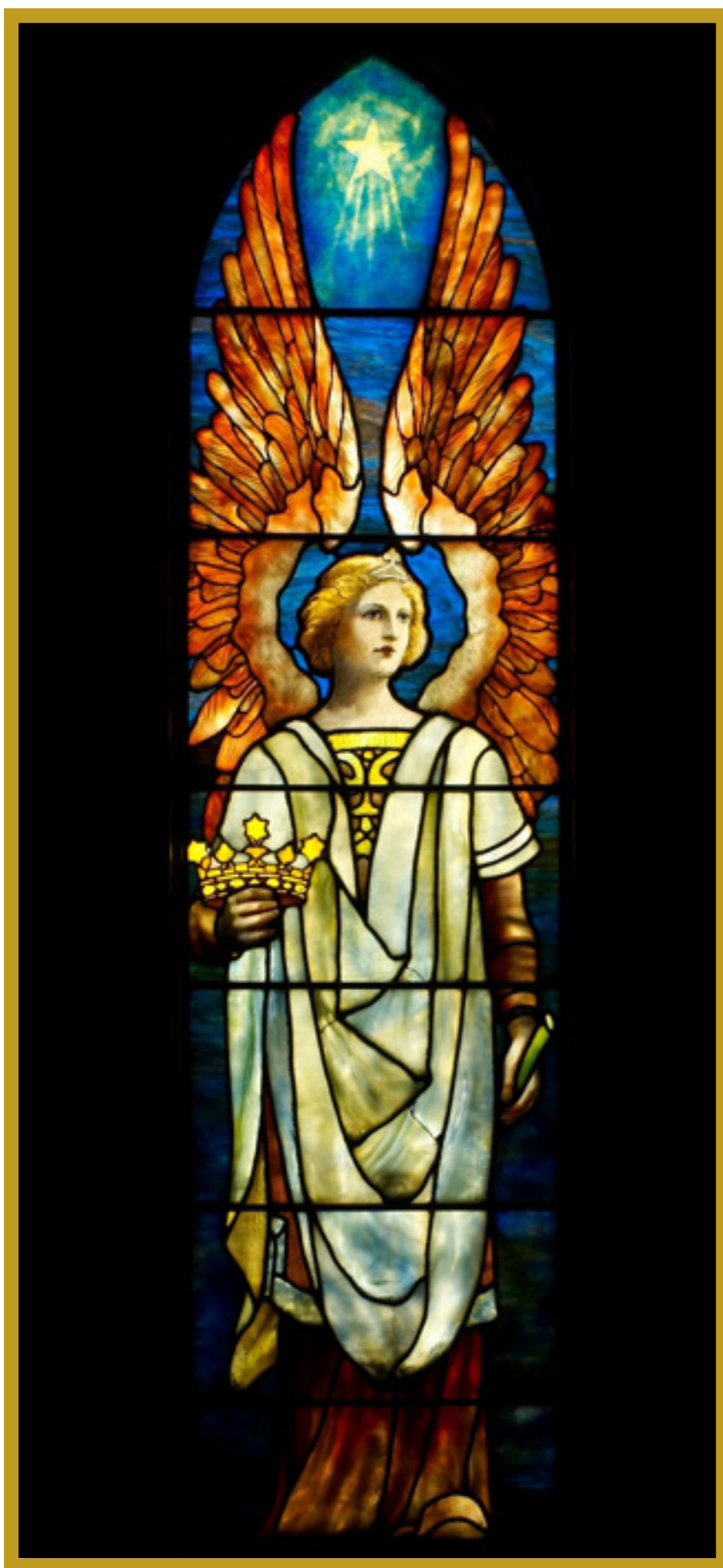
The striking images of the angels of the seven churches were created in the famous Tiffany studios in 1902 as stained glass windows for the Swedenborgian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. The church was eventually demolished, and the windows disappeared from sight. They were re-discovered in the twenty-first century, and in 2003 more than one hundred years after their creation, became a travelling exhibition called, “In the Company of Angels”.

The Angel of Ephesus holds a branch of the Tree of Life in his hand, representing the renewal of the heart centre. In our thoughts and meditations today, let us become more and more aware of the power that dwells within the heart, radiating out, uniting us with itself until we are filled with light. Imagine yourself holding in your hand a branch of the Tree of Life. May this day be filled with the energies of growth and beauty.



What the angel is trying to say in this text is that the person who is integrated in Christ has only one spirit that is guiding and leading him from within. So that the seven psychic centres are being led by one spirit alone, not two, there is no division within you concerning one or the other.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1982 Lecture Series



Day 11

8 *"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.*

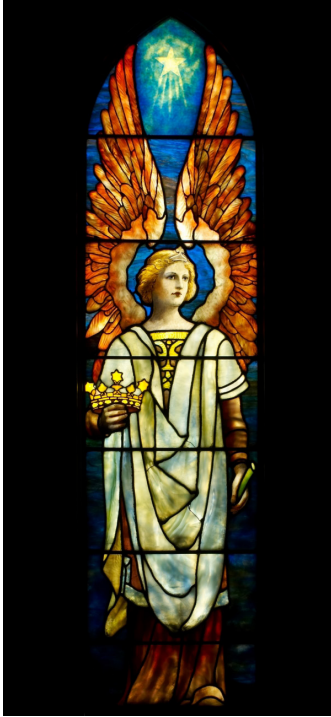
9 *"I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.' 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death."*

Rev 2:8-11

As we begin our spiral, radiating out from the heart centre, we first move into the throat centre. This is the centre of speech and of the will. For most of us, it is not so much the centre of will, as the centre of wilfulness. Wilfulness happens when we abdicate our own will. When our will centre is energised by the I AM, we are able to make decisions from our own individuality. This centre has become poor. It doesn't have the inner resources to decide independently. Instead it has become reliant on other voices. These other voices, pretend to be part of us, they "say that they are Jews but are not". Instead they persuade us to make choices that actually go against our own spiritual identity and evolution.

When the I AM enters the will centre, it cleanses the speech. We are confronted by events, sometimes very difficult, traumatic life events, that show us clearly the results of our life choices. For a time we may be "thrown into prison," that is, deprived of choice or decision-making power, but this is actually a great opportunity to reach deep within, find out who we are at the very deepest level, and make a life choice that will change everything. This life choice may be very unpopular with other people. Friends and family may not understand, they may reject us, they may mock us. But when we stand firm in our own Christ self, we change inwardly. The crown of thorns, given to us by the negative thoughts of others is transformed into the "crown of life".

The crown of life marks us as individual, thinking human beings. Or rather, individual, thinking *spiritual* beings.



The Angel of the Church of Smyrna, from The Swedenborgian Angels, Tiffany Studio 1902

The image

The angel of the Church of Smyrna holds a gold crown in its right hand. This is the reward of the one who is “faithful unto death.” It is the crown of life.

What does it mean to be Christed? It means that we have come to the centre, the core of our being and encountered there the reality of who we truly are.

At this point in time, more and more individuals are becoming Christed. More and more of us are making choices true to our own life path, instead of making choices expected of us by society, friends and family.

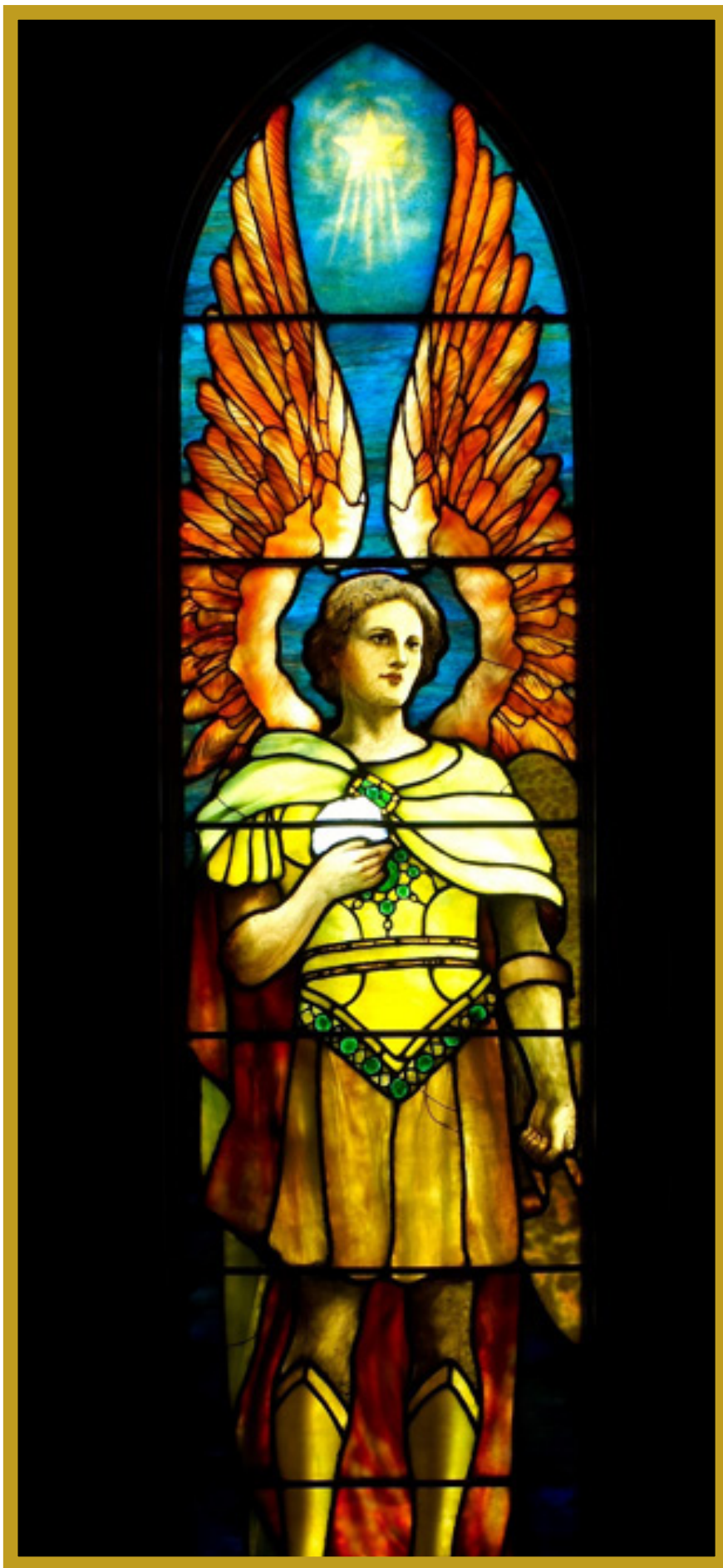
On this day, let us examine every choice, every decision we make. Let us be aware of where we make these choices from. Let us make them from the I AM, the Christ within.



For the Christ force at the present moment is picking out men and women everywhere and making them Christed beings, setting them on their feet so to speak to make them his channels. They will be men and women of wisdom, deep within themselves. Christ will pick the most unlikely candidates, more than likely passing by those who think they are so great.

What are the qualifications by which you think He may choose you? What qualifications are you presenting to Him? ... I am quite sure that He would be interested in whether you live by your feelings or whether you live by a deep inner knowingness that is unshakeable, whether you have within yourself a "calling" that tells you that you are indeed a Christed being. Consequently the light that shines from you is recognisable by another Christed being.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, The Book of Revelation, 1982 Lecture Series



Day 12

12 *“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.*

13 *“I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. 15 So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.’ 17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.”*

Rev 2:12-17

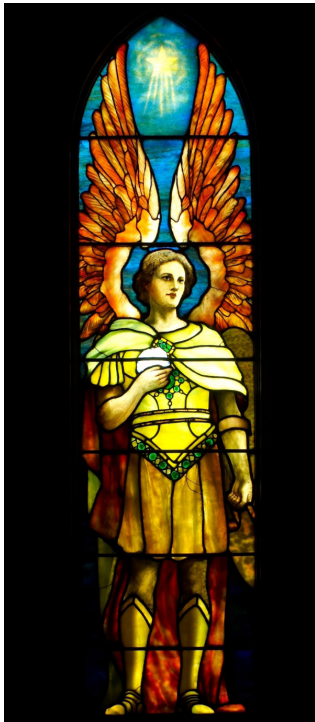
The I AM describes itself as the one “who has the sharp two-edged sword”. The sword represents the will, but it is two-edged because will does not operate on its own, it is influenced by the adrenal centre, the centre of emotion and desire.

When the centres open in a spiral, then they are paired in symmetry around the heart centre. When the will centre opens, so does the adrenal centre, the centre at the solar plexus. John calls this centre, “Satan’s throne”, because this is the centre of the astral forces. The influences of the spiritual being known as Lucifer occupy this centre, and permeate our astral. The Luciferic influences create a sense of self, but it is a sense of self that is focused around *my* needs, *my* sense of importance. Other people become projections of my needs and understanding of who I am. I lose contact with my spiritual origins.

What this new self craves is comfort. It also craves control and rulership. Balak is King of Moab when the Israelites arrive in his territory. He asks a local prophet, Balaam, to curse the Israelites so they will not take and overcome his kingdom. In the Old Testament story, it is the king who uses the prophet to support his agenda, but John has turned the story around. Here it is the spiritual force of the prophet who teaches the king, the ruling thought principle, to tempt the Israelites, the higher, evolutionary spiritual energy, to forget their purposes and to live from “food and sexual immorality.” Balaam is the Luciferic energy that dissuades us from higher purpose and persuades us to live purely for sense gratification.

The I AM has a weapon which can sunder the veil of illusion created by the astral. This is the “sword of the mouth.” The sword represents the power of spiritual thinking. When we learn to think from the real self, then the cobweb world of comfort and self importance and sensual gratification begins to fall apart. We have seen the power of independent thinking within the world, particularly in the last few centuries. Many old spiritual dogmas have been shown to be obsolete and we have cast aside many of the teachings of conventional religion. This is only a beginning. The sword of truth can destroy the old, but it cannot create the new.

John’s Book is about the destruction of the old, but for a purpose. This purpose is that we might enter into a new consciousness, a new understanding of our origin and purpose, an encounter with Christ, because, as John will tell us at the very end of his book, “He makes everything new.”



The Angel of the Church of Pergamum, from The Swedenborgian Angels, Tiffany Studio 1902

The image

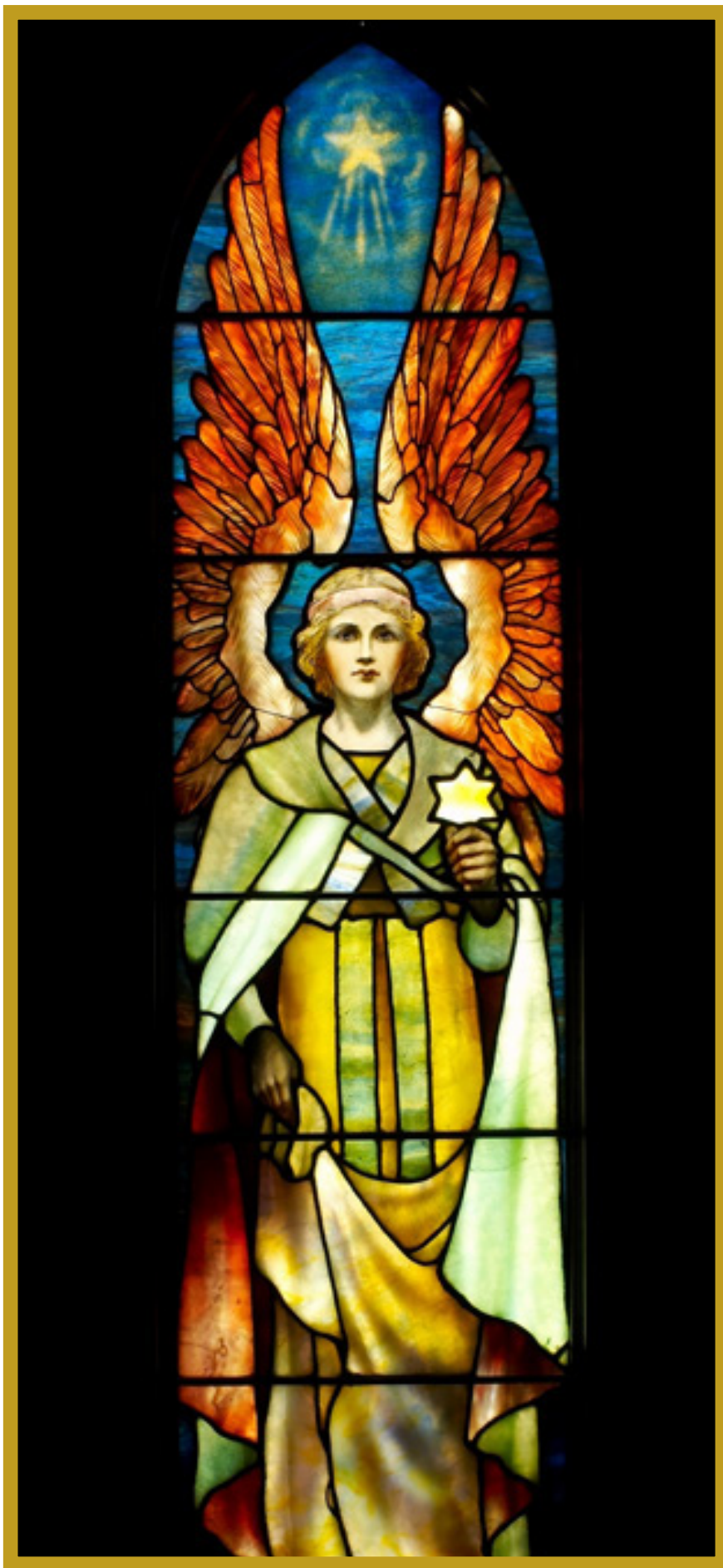
The angel of the Church of Pergamum holds the white stone. The name written on the white stone is our very own name. It is the name of our “I AM”. No one else can ever say “I AM” on our behalf, we are unique as individuals.

Today, let us focus on our uniqueness. Notice how often our uniqueness is called upon. Perhaps we are not used to responding from this very individual level, in that case, we should notice where and when we respond from other levels. Will we see ourselves responding in a role, perhaps in order to please others, or to gain something we want - in other words acting as Balaam instead of as Christ?



The Book of Revelation says, 'Repent'. Turn around and look at your attitudes. Respond to the Christ. When this is all done then you will be given the white stone with your name written on it. Your name is your I AM, your individuality. You will get to know yourself, you will be yourself. Each and everyone will be different. Christ never repeats himself. Christ to each and every person acts differently. The white stone which you have is different than my white stone. The name on yours is different. This has nothing to do with secret names, that name only signifies your I AMness, your individuality. I have noticed how wonderful the power of the name is. I only have to write a cheque and my bank immediately pays it. So a name is powerful. So to have your I AMness, that white stone, indicates that you become a powerful individual within the spiritual realms of the Christ. In that sense you become the co-reigner, co-worker and co-creator with the Christ, as St. Paul says in Ephesians 2.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1982 Lecture Series



Day 13

18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. 19 'I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. 20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works; 23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. 24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay upon you any other burden; 25 only hold fast what you have until I come. 26 He who conquers and who keeps my words until the end, I will give him power over the nations, 27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I have received power from my Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Rev 2:18-29

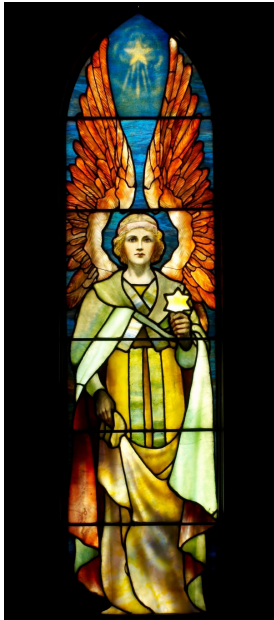
The aspect of the I AM which addresses the church in Thyatira has "eyes like a flame of fire." This is the aspect of the divine which works through the organ of spiritual vision, the brow centre.

Spiritual vision, clairvoyance should be at the service of our individuality. It is the result firstly, of the emanation of love from the heart centre, and then the laying down of personal will in faith and service to the divine at the will centre.

Just as with the other centres, there is an intruder, an occupying force. John calls this force, Jezebel. John knew that his Jewish readers would know that Jezebel is an Old Testament queen, the wife of King Ahab, who pressured her husband to have the Israelites take up the worship of Baal. Baal was the god of weather and fertility in Canaan, and also associated with Astarte, the goddess of love and sexuality. The brow centre is paired with the etheric centre, which contains our motivational sexual force. This is different from the base centre which contains the biological sexual imperative. If we do not deal with the tangles and webs of connection with souls caused by past sexual engagement, then the brow centre becomes an instrument of our desires. We see what we want to see. We sometimes see people who are very spiritual, even known as

spiritual teachers, who may say one thing, but use their position of authority for sexual gratification. This is Jezebel, the energy which distorts our vision, so we cannot look inwardly at ourselves, but only outwardly through a vision that projects our own desires upon the world.

As the processes depicted in Revelation continue, we will see the cleansing of the brow centre. This cleansing will force us into looking at how we have been using our sexual energies. The children of Jezebel, that is, our rationalisation and justification for our actions will die away. We shall learn to become honest with self, to look clearly at our motives and actions. This “clear vision” will one day achieve the purpose of the brow centre, the return of spiritual vision, the gift of the *new* clairvoyance.



*The Angel of the Church of Thyatira, from
The Swedenborgian Angels, Tiffany Studio
1902*

The image

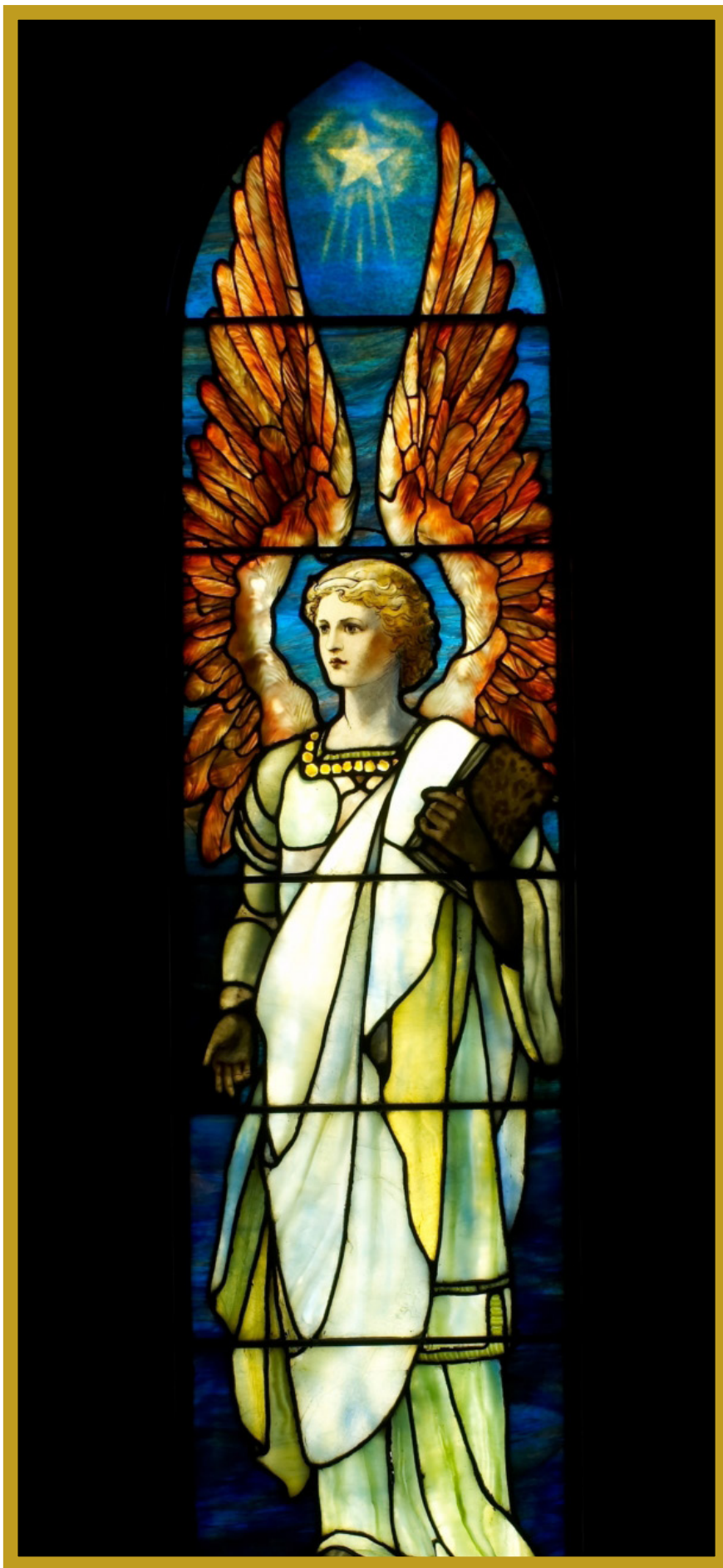
The angel of the church of Thyatira holds a star in his left hand and wears a diadem above the brow centre signifying power over the nations - that is our thoughts and mental constructs.

For today, let us practise ‘looking clearly.’ Every time we observe an opinion or judgment passing through consciousness, let us ask ourselves the question: “How does this relate to *me*?” If we practise this on a regular basis then we will indeed be exercising clairvoyance, for “Clairvoyance always begins with self.”



From a spiritual point of view the sixth centre [Brow] is the centre of communication, through which one can communicate with others and with the spiritual worlds. It is also the seat of the Christ mind, the intellect illumined and spiritualised. It is also the location of the third eye or the spiritual eye which will eventually be opened to Christed man so that he can perceive into the spiritual worlds, and discern the beings who dwell therein.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The New Clairvoyance*, 1986, Gateway Books



Day 14

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

"I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. 4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. 6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Rev 3:1-6

With the church of Sardis our spiral brings us to the abdominal centre. In the Western occult tradition this is also called the Leydig gland.

The function of the abdominal centre is to transform the etheric energies into physical energies. In Chinese philosophy this is the energy centre known as the Dan Tien.

There is a problem with this powerful energy centre: it is no longer producing life.

Jesus famously said, "To him who has, more will be given; to him who has not, what he has will be taken away." The more we work to cleanse the astral and etheric energies that run through us, the more energy is given to us. The etheric also contains our memories. Not just from this life, but from all our previous incarnations. If we have committed negative and destructive actions in the past, if we have lied, or acted against others in hate and violence, then our etheric body, which should be the body of light, becomes darkened.

The etheric should be the source of life. It should be renewed every day by reconnecting with the spiritual worlds. Jesus also said, "Give us this day our daily bread."

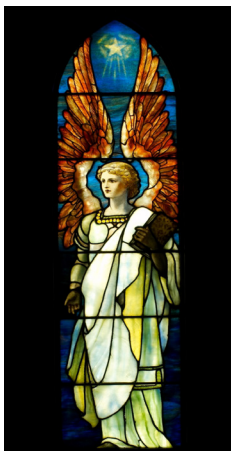
Instead of renewing, we are severing our connection with Spirit. The etheric centre gradually dies because it is not being replenished. Our astral becomes filled with the unbalanced dark energies from past lives because we are not actively purifying and cleansing it through reflection and devotion.

We need to "Wake up!" This means that we need to be aware of the energies we allow to enter in. Are these forces life creating, or are they life destroying?

There are still those who have remembered their connection to Spirit. They “walk with Christ”, that is, they have seen him in the etheric.

When we embrace this connection, then gradually our etheric becomes purified. We deal with our destructive memories so they no longer cause dysfunction. We repay our karma in consciousness.

The purification of the etheric must occur with the cleansing of the astral. Through constant self-observation we stop reacting from the emotional levels. The astral self becomes a servant of the Real Self. The cleansed astral and purified etheric create the “body of light.” We are clothed in “white garments,” and our name is in the “book of life,” because we have chosen to walk the Path of Pentecost, the transforming path of Christ.



*The Angel of the Church of Sardis, from
The Swedenborgian Angels, Tiffany Studio
1902*

The image

The angel of Sardis holds the book of life in one hand, and a white cloth like a long stole descends from his left shoulder.

As Rev Mario puts it, this is the centre of imagination, or of imaging. With it we create the future. But we can only image purely when we have purified the etheric centre.

Today, paint yourself a picture of your future. Not in terms of possessions and property, but in terms of who you would like to become. Carry this picture inside you today, and feel the slow, subtle, transformation of inner energies. The more purely we paint the future, the greater the energy given to us.



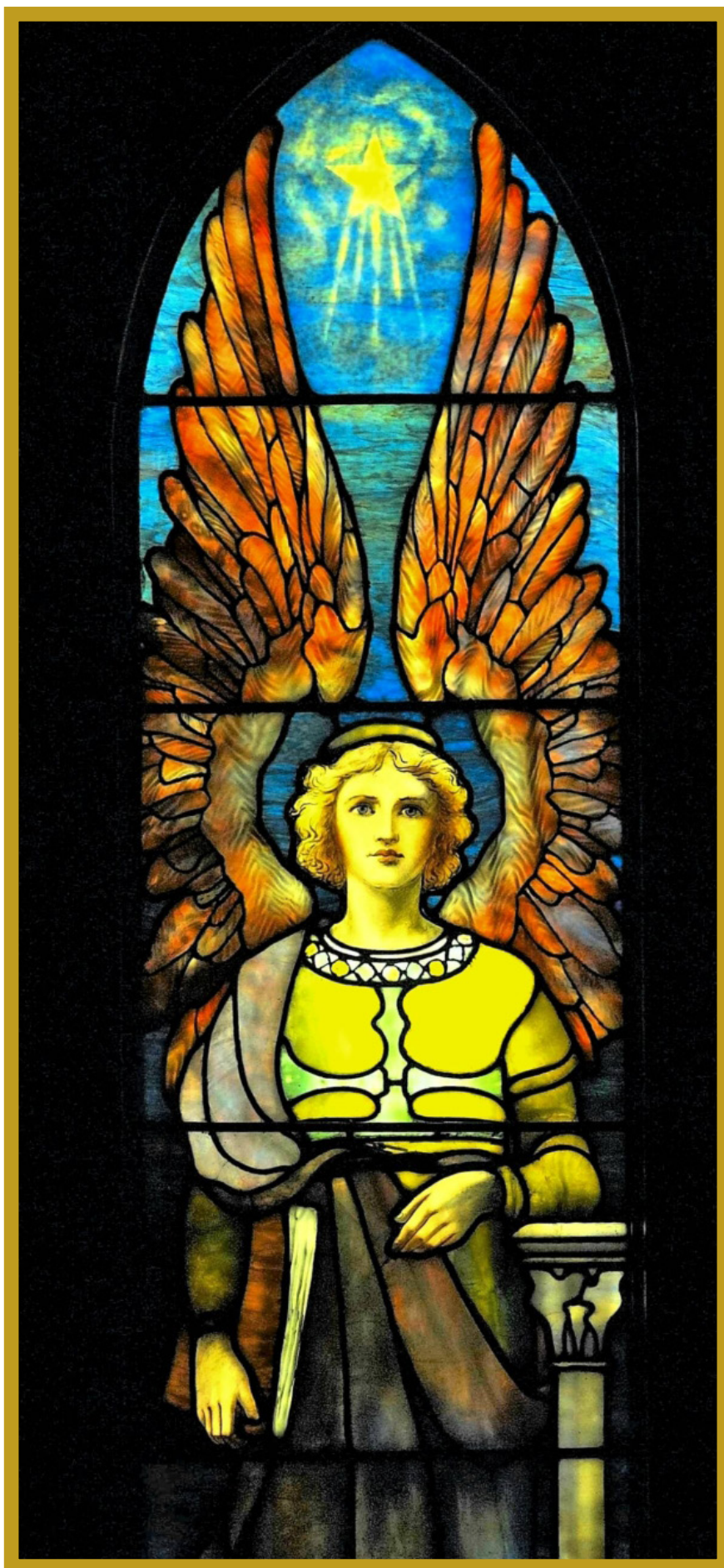
The Leydig gland is the gland of imagination, that is, imagination with purpose and creative intent. By imagination I do not mean merely thinking of self and self-motivation. Perhaps I should call it “imaging” rather than “imagination,” like the artist can see the picture already on the canvas before it is painted, that’s called imaging. So the person whose Leydig is operating is an imaging person. That person also lives in the future, for that person can see the images of the future already painted, as it were, upon the canvas of eternity.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *Personal Teachings*, November, 1983

Week Three

Within My Being, Lord

Within my being, Lord,
As I commune with thee,
Open my eyes to see
Your power in me is free.
My spirit longs to know
More love, more free to flow,
And in your presence know
Your love divine.



Day 15

7 *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.*

8 *“I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. 12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.’ 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

Rev 3:7-13

With the church of Philadelphia, we arrive at the crown centre. The crown centre is actually a manifestation of a spiritual centre deep inside the head. The Western tradition in the twentieth century called this the pineal centre. When this is opened, then the whole crown of the head opens up. It can appear as twenty-four beams of light, spaced evenly around the crown of the head - like a crown of light. The centre of the crown is now open to receive new energies from the spiritual worlds.

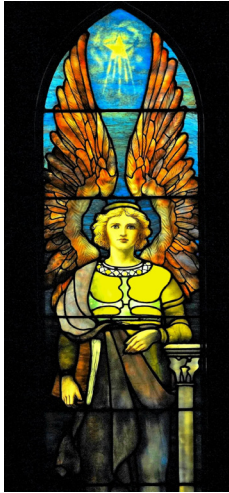
Through the crown centre we come into conscious communion with the spiritual worlds. The crown centre is like a door, and for most of us it is a door that was locked. For some, the locking occurred as part of evolution, but some souls allowed the door to be locked in the Atlantean times. The person was then said to be “sealed”. The sealing of the crown centre forced the mental and thinking energies in on themselves. This created a new sense of identity, the ego. It created new powers of reasoning and observation, because the person could no longer use their old clairvoyant vision.

The crown centre can now be unlocked. The Key of David is the key of Christ. When we use this key to unlock the crown centre we have a direct experience of Christ. Where we once believed, now we see, and because we see, now we know.

The Synagogue of Satan is the forces of organised religions who profess

love and peace but instead create abuse and conflicts in the world.

If we conquer, we become a pillar in the temple. That is we support and uphold the work of Christ in our hearts and minds, and we shall unite with the new Jerusalem, the new Christ consciousness which is entering into the world.



*The Angel of the Church of Philadelphia,
from *The Swedenborgian Angels*, Tiffany
Studio 1902*

The image

The opening of the crown centre allows new spiritual energies to enter into the subtle body. This means that new energies enter into consciousness. Mostly, our consciousness is very limited. It is generated by the false self, to focus on our own perceived needs and desires. When the crown centre opens, then we may have a very different experience, perhaps a mystical experience. In such an experience our old sense of self is for a time, shunted aside. We do not, however, become *unconscious*, we become *more* conscious. When our normal consciousness is sidelined in this way, then the world becomes more defined. Sights are more colourful, sounds are more meaningful. Our relationships take on depth and purpose.

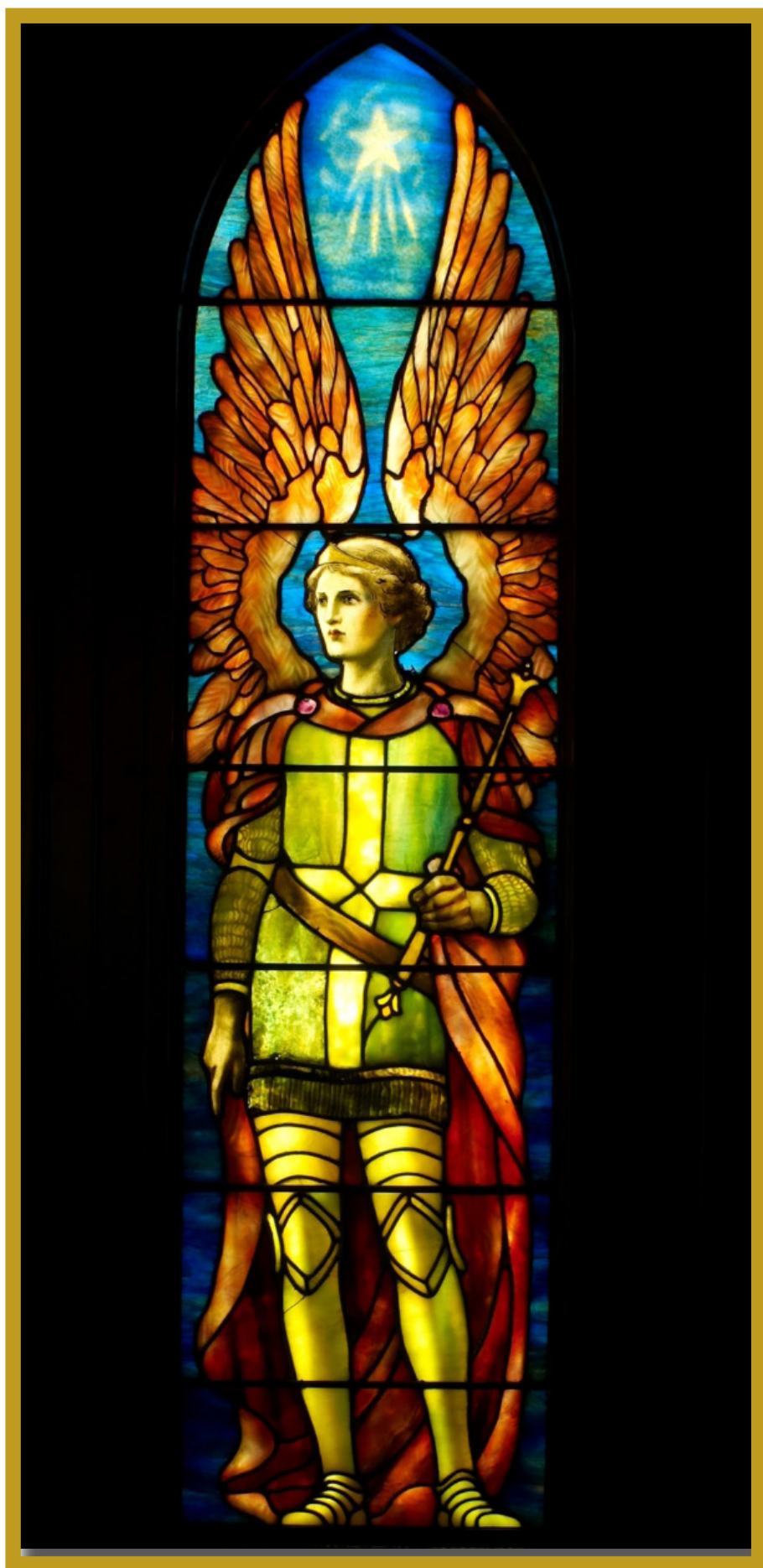
For today, allow that new spiritual consciousness to enter into the crown centre. Feel the crown of your head tingle with the new energy. Everything is being renewed, you most of all. This is the open door set before us. Let us walk through this door today. Let us leave behind the old and enter into the new.



In a mystical experience one feels that his own will doesn't exist at all, and that something bigger and higher than self, one that is more superior and more powerful is taking over. The mystic will always say that he is moved by a greater or higher power than self, yet one has to be careful here, for it is true to say, is it not, that one way of consciousness can be passive, empty and dark, but then there are other layers of consciousness, of which we have no real knowledge, where a powerful activity is going on...

...That inner layer of consciousness, call it spirit, call it grace, call it whatever you like, will from time to time take over and give you that experience.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *Personal Teachings*, October, 1983



Day 16

14 *"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.*

15 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

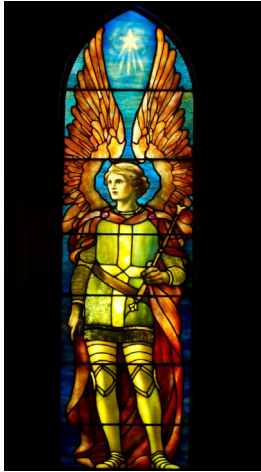
Rev 3:14-22

One of the greatest challenges human beings face is their sexuality. It is the "beginning of God's creation". Without sex, there is no creation.

For millennia our consciousness has had an ambivalent view of sex. We swing between using sex without limits, and repressing it completely. We don't abide in either position. From life to life we swing backwards and forwards, we are neither hot nor cold. There is a third alternative. That is to realise that sex is the first energy that needs to be transformed. To "buy gold refined by fire" means that we can commence this process of refinement. When we are rich in energy, then we can infuse our physical, mental and emotional bodies with energy also. We become creative beings. We wear the white gown because we are purified. The astral is not dominated by sexual urges, either of expression or repression.

The gonads are the beginning point of the transformation of the physical body, and this begins to occur when Christ can enter in through this doorway.

Christ conquered, because he transformed his physical body into the resurrection body. When we can do this then we can sit on the throne with Christ.



*The Angel of the Church of Laodicea, from
The Swedenborgian Angels, Tiffany Studio
1902*

The image

Our final angel holds a sceptre, the symbol of kingship in his hand.

When we look back on the letters to the seven angels, we are repeatedly told “to conquer”. That is, to conquer the negative energies that entered into these centres over many, many incarnations. Esoteric and religious schools have set out many different methods and disciplines to cleanse the spiritual centres, but perhaps the most powerful was that given by Christ when as Jesus, he gave us the Lord’s Prayer.

Every time we say this prayer, we move powerful energies around the channels in the body and purify the centres. For today, say the Lord’s Prayer at different times during the day. Say it with thoughtfulness, with mindfulness, with power.



When you start meditation, commence with the Lord's Prayer, for it sets into motion the energies of the gonads, which can then be lifted and released from their base. Because you use the Lord's Prayer these energies, which are neutral in effect, now carry the divine stamp of approval for the purpose for which you are going to use the energies.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *Personal Teachings*, September, 1983



Day 17

4:1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, 6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

Rev 4:1-6

The "door standing open in heaven" is the opening of the crown centre. The fullness of the I AM has not yet entered into us, it is, in the words of St Paul, "Hidden with Christ in God". The divine self is the being seated on the throne. It is surrounded by "twenty four Elders". These are the cosmic energies that support the I AM in its rulership. One way of understanding these energies is to think of the energies of the signs of the Zodiac. In traditional astrology there are twelve of these signs and they each have an energy associated with them. For example, Aries has the energy of assertiveness, making things happen, aggressiveness and a fighting spirit. Taurus has the energy of holding, retaining, conserving and fixing in place and so on. In spirit however, each sign has a partner energy. A masculine sign like Aries has a feminine partner energy, a feminine sign like Taurus has a masculine partner energy. This means that in evolution, the sign of Aries, and its ruler Mars, will transform from war into peace, and from assertiveness into acceptance. The sign of Taurus will transform from rigidity into strength of purpose, and from resistance to change into manifesting change, beauty and justice in the world.

These cosmic energies also represent the energies running through the twelve pairs of cranial nerves. These nerves emerge from the brain and relay information to and from every part of the body. They especially convey nerve impulses from the senses, so they represent information which the body is continually communicating to the brain. Normally the cranial nerves act on an unconscious level. We feel hungry, so we eat. We hear a noise, so we turn around. They are always talking to us, competing for our attention. To achieve the mystical, visionary experience of the I AM consciousness, we need to ask these voices to mute, to become silent for a while. As we enter into this silence, the twenty four elders, our sense perceptions, focus on the being on the throne. They are in awe, for here is Reality.

The seven spirits before the throne are the archetypes of our spiritual centres. Eventually these divine energies will pour into us through the centres and transform them into living flames.

Today then, we can contemplate the divine template of our being. We are truly spiritual beings on an earthly journey, and in incarnations to come our divine template, the I AM, will manifest through us more and more until we become completely transformed into the spiritual reality of who we are.



Memling, Detail of enthroned God within a rainbow, the Lamb of God breaking the seven seals, the 24 elders seated in a semi-circle, from *St John Altarpiece*, (right-hand panel) c. 1479,

The image

We have focused on the major event illustrated in Hans Memling's vision of the Apocalypse. Memling must have thought this scene from Revelation especially important, but then every true artist has a strong connection to the I AM. Here we see the I AM portrayed as Jesus Christ. That is, the I AM has to be embodied within each of us. It cannot remain an abstraction or theological dogma, it is up to us to make it real.

It is a struggle to seat the I AM on the throne and make it the ruler of our being. We may have to endure mockery, criticism, ridicule, false accusations and judgment - just as Christ endured the worst of the world when he was embodied within Jesus.

For today, let us seat the I AM on the throne within. Let us make "Christ in you" not just a *hope* of glory, but the reality of glory. With every encounter, with every exchange within today, let us allow that inner glory to speak. Of course, this may mean that our normal consciousness becomes very silent, but in that silence we too may hear the voices of the twenty-four elders, our inner powers and energies, lifted in praise and acknowledgment of the divine self within.



To worship with stilled emotions is mysticism at its peak. Not to will, nor to want, not to desire, nor to ask, is mysticism. There is nothing at that moment when you place your twenty-four cranial nerves [elders] before the one sitting on the throne. All your emotions and senses are stilled, there is absolute emptiness, a void within you, a darkness which is brilliant, a silence that is shattering, and this is signified by the sea of glass.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1982 Lecture Series



Day 18

"And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Rev 4:6-11

The four living creatures became symbols of the gospels. The lion is the symbol of Mark, the ox of Luke, the face of a man is Matthew and the eagle in flight is the gospel of John. They can be seen in the Tarot card, The World, and here they represent four primal energies that stand so to speak, at the four corners of creation. In the Western Esoteric Spiritual Tradition, they are known as the four elements, and they also correspond to the four bodies of the human being.

The face of the man corresponds to:

The physical body, the gospel of Matthew, the past, the Earth element ruled by Archangel Raphael and the feminine.

The Lion corresponds to:

The etheric body, the gospel of Mark, the present, the Fire element ruled by Archangel Uriel and the masculine.

The Ox corresponds to:

The astral body, the gospel of Luke, the future, the Water element ruled by Archangel Gabriel and the feminine.

The Eagle corresponds to:

Spirit, the gospel of John, eternity, the Air element, Archangel Michael and the masculine.

The living creatures are covered with eyes, in other words they are filled with consciousness. The six wings indicate that they raise us up in evolution.

Consciousness evolves in these four stages. In the distant past we were spiritual beings who descended to become part of the earth. This part of our evolution was under the guidance of the being of Earth, whom we know in the Western tradition as Archangel Raphael. Raphael is a feminine power. During this time, we saw the earth as our mother. We were nurtured and sustained by her. We were part of her.

In the second part of evolution, we come under the guidance of Archangel Uriel.

This is the time of Fire. It is a masculine energy. We develop the use of fire, which gives amongst other things, the ability to create tools and dominate the earth, and the ability to create weapons and dominate the animal kingdom and one another.

We are now entering the third period. We are coming under the guidance of Archangel Gabriel. It is Gabriel who announces the coming birth of Christ in Mary. Gabriel is now announcing the birth of the I AM within our souls. It has taken 2000 years for Christ to penetrate the earth, and become established in our souls. The future belongs to Gabriel. It belongs to the feminine. For this reason there is a new entry of the feminine into human consciousness at present.

In the distant future we will become free of the body. Our spirits will fly like the eagle. We will become fully spiritual beings once again.



The Four and Twenty Elders Casting their Crowns before the Divine Throne, c. 1803–5. William Blake, Tate. 354 x 293 mm.

The image

If we step back for a moment from this painting, then we discover that the eyes begin to emerge and almost threaten to overwhelm us. There are eyes everywhere, there is consciousness everywhere.

It has been said that no one can understand occult and esoteric teachings without appreciating the four elements. Our world is created by these elements. Not the physical world of atoms and molecules, protons, electrons and neutrons, bosons, hadrons, quarks and super strings - we shall leave this intricate fantasy to the physicists. It is *our* world, that is, our consciousness which is created by the interplay of fire, earth, air and water.

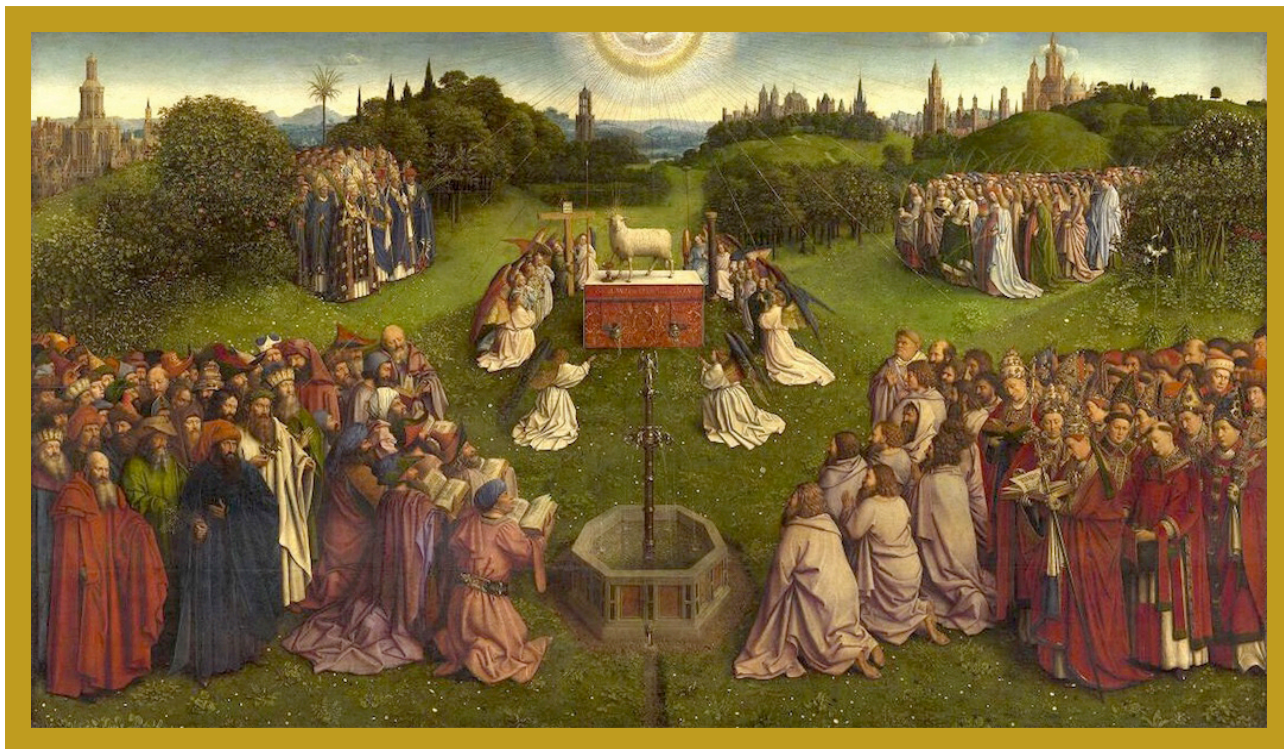
For today, let us notice each of these elements. See the element of earth when we have to think about our physical body or our possessions, our career and finances. Perceive the element of fire when we exert energy or use our imagination. The air element creates our thinking and communication. Water assembles our emotional responses, our hopes and fears and our capacity to empathise and forgive. Each time we consciously discover these elements at work we are adding eyes to our understanding. Eventually our elements of consciousness will become so aware that we too will join in the singing, the praise of the Christ within.



Revelation chapter 4 speaks of awakening. If you read it very literally, which you should do first before you metaphysicise it, then you will find that you are dealing with a very advanced person. Of this advanced person John says, 'after this I looked and lo, in heaven a door opened'; that, of course, is the Pituitary Gland. Heaven is the Pituitary. The open door indicates that the Pituitary gland is working. So his glandular system has spiritualised and all the other spiritual glands are operating within him under his control. In lots of people the different glands are operating without control. This explains love/hate relationships because if your Heart is not under your control then today you love, tomorrow you hate. If your Thyroid is not in your control then today you will, tomorrow you won't. There is no stability. If your Adrenals are not under your control then your emotions will be like the waves of the sea beating at you constantly.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1982 Lecture Series

The Path to Pentecost



Day 19

5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying,

*"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."*

Rev 5:1-10

One of the oldest teachings of the Western Esoteric Spiritual Tradition is given in the simple phrase:

That which is below is similar to that which is above.

This means that what happens in the physical world, and especially within the human being, is a reflection of forces and energies interacting within the spiritual worlds.

The scroll is our story as spiritual beings. This is written by the being seated on the throne, the I AM. It is our Sacred Contract. We cannot know our own story because it is sealed by seven seals. Until two thousand years ago, only a very rare soul was able to break these seals, and many systems of spiritual

development came into existence to train such souls. In our tradition, these are the Initiates, and they led the human race since the times of Atlantis.

The Initiate tradition focused around breaking the control of the senses upon the mind. In occult tradition there are actually twelve senses, and each of these comes as a pair. These correspond to the twelve pairs of cranial nerves in the brain. The cranial nerves supply the brain with the sensory information which the brain relies on. These are a reflection of the twenty four elders around the throne.

As long as the seals on the spiritual centres remain, our thinking depends on the information we receive from the nervous system. The incarnation of Christ changed this completely. The seven horns of the Lamb are the seven spiritual centres of the human being which have become filled with Ahrimanic and Luciferic forces. These forces stultify the centres so that they become hard and closed. The Lamb though also has seven eyes. The eyes represent the Christ consciousness which during the time of Pentecost, began to enter into the spiritual centres and dissolve the old crystallising energies of Ahriman and Lucifer.

As the seals open, the nervous system begins to be flooded by the new energies. The twenty four elders fall down before the Lamb, which means that the information delivered to the brain by the twenty four cranial nerves becomes increasingly transformed by the Christ energies. The first sense to be transformed is the sense of hearing. So the elders are given harps and incense which are the “prayers of the holy ones”.

As the spiritual centres come under the power of Christ, they open within our lives. Each opening gives an opportunity for observation and understanding of self and with this understanding, the contents of the scroll, our story and purpose are revealed.



Jan & Hubert van Eyck, *The Ghent Altarpiece or Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* (Dutch: *Het Lam Gods* or *The Lamb of God*; completed 1432), St Bavo's Cathedral,

The Image

Blood from the Lamb is flowing into the chalice of the Eucharist, representing the spiritualising force of the Lamb of God. Take time today to pause for a moment and experience the power of Christ streaming through you. Feel the seven centres light up with this transforming power. The seals of the Book are opening, and you will never be the same again.



Another thing that you have to understand in relationship to the forces and the spiritual centres, the spiritual centres spiritualise you. The more they are spiritualised the more they affect you physically. Once they start revolving and moving within you and throwing out their light into the substance of the body, it will affect your body. This light will then imbue your nervous system and your blood, spiritualising them. It will affect your spinal cord until eventually your whole body becomes the spiritual body of the Christ. It is at this precise moment that you can say to yourself, 'I am spiritually rich, I know it all, I have prospered, I have need of nothing'.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1982 Lecture Series



Day 20

6:1 Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" 4 And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!"

"7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

Rev 6:1-8

At the crucifixion Christ transforms the physical body. In the fifty days of the Pentecost period, Christ is now working to transform the subtle bodies.

The astral and the etheric had become permeated with the energies of Ahri-man and Lucifer over the millennia since souls first came into physical incarnation. Ahriman especially took up residence in the seven spiritual centres. The act of Christ opening the seven seals allows the original energies that Revelation calls the seven spirits before the throne, to enter in once again. These energies were known in ancient times as the seven planetary spirits. They were also the beings who overshadowed the seven temples of Atlantis. In Atlantis the temples, with the exception of the Sun Temple, became corrupted. This corruption then resided in the corresponding spiritual centre. The act of opening the seals, releases the primal spiritual forces to cleanse the centres of the corruption by the occupying negative energies.

The seals are released again, in a spiral order beginning with the heart centre. The order however is reversed from the letters to the Churches, because Christ is now reversing the harm caused by the old, occupying energies of Ahriman.

The first four seals release horses with riders. The horse is a symbol of intelligence, so the awakening of the centres through the opening of the seals is done through the action of a particular intelligence. Intelligence is the slayer of the unreal. It is through spiritual thinking that we distinguish between the lie and the truth.

The white horse is the energy of the Sun. It is white, because the Sun Temple was the only Atlantean temple to retain its purity. The crown is given to this rider to show that love must rule our lives. *Amor omnia vincit*, love conquers everything.

The red horse is the primal energy of the spirit of the adrenals. This is the centre of emotion. It is where we are held captive by our desires. When this centre controls our thoughts we are never satisfied. We think that satisfying our need for more and more will bring us peace and contentment. The action of the Spirit of Venus, the ruler of the Adrenal centre, is to slay this contentment with the sword of karma.

The black horse is the spirit which works through the will centre. The will and the adrenals reflect one another. They have worked together to create our karmic debts through combining personal desire with wilfulness. The two centres together must now come into balance (the rider carries scales) so that our incarnations in the future will restore our karmic balance through the new consciousness and expression of the divine will.

The fourth horse is pale. Actually the Greek word literally translates as "green". This is the centre of the etheric forces. It is our connection to the plant world. The corruption of the etheric centre gave us a craving for immortality, but it was a craving for immortality of the physical body. Human beings were not meant to extend their lives in a physical incarnation, but to understand that life is part of a cycle of birth, death and rebirth. So the name of the rider of this horse is Death. It is through the connection with death, with intelligence, understanding and fearlessness that we throw off the inhibiting fear of death which has crippled human consciousness, and we destroy the old energies which want to restrain our return to the freedom of Spirit.

At the time of the incarnation of Christ, the lust for physical life had become so strong that many souls were trapped close to the physical world and could not return to the higher spiritual worlds for renewal. Revelation calls the world where souls were trapped, Hades.

The opening of this seal by Christ now frees us to enter into a consciousness where we perceive life and death not as exclusive alternatives, but as milestones on the road of our journey as immortal spirit. We can now leave physical incarnation and return to the higher spirit realms to be renewed and refreshed in spirit and prepared for our next journey in the physical world.



Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, Saint-Sever Beatus, 11th century.

The Image

There are many dramatic portrayals of this scene from Revelation. The “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse” are loosed upon the world.

This scene from a medieval illustrated manuscript shows something extra. Along with the horsemen releasing destruction upon the world, it also shows the assisting spiritual forces. The four living beings are associated with the four horsemen, as are four depictions of the Lamb. This tells us that Christ is in control. When we invoke the power of Christ in our lives, we may well experience what seems to be devastating change and even loss, but if we continue along the path, then what seems to be loss will turn out to be gain.

For today, reflect on a difficult, painful time in your life. See if you can discover what you gained from it. See if you can discover how it made you a better, more powerful, more understanding being.



I am very simple with my spiritual levels because I think the more you enter into Christ, the more simple you become. The spiritually-minded person is always totally and utterly dependant on the Christ. The truly spiritual person will always realise that from his own selfish, physical point of view there is nothing he can do. It is by the very grace, power and strength of the working of the Christ that you become what you are. I like that ancient hymn that says, “Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling”. These are simple little truths which we mustn’t forget..

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1982 Lecture Series



Day 21

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Rev 6:9-11

The opening of the fifth seal releases the energies that have been sealed within the brow centre. This is the centre of spiritual vision, and the opening of this centre opens the clairvoyance of the individual. The brow centre can only open after the etheric centre opens. Suppressing the natural clairvoyant vision which we had in much earlier eras turned these energies in on themselves and created new mental and reasoning powers. It also created a new sense of self, which we often call the ego. The ego grabs energy from every centre, especially the etheric centre to support its existence. It also uses the mental energies of the brow centre in a selfish way, so that it perceives the world by projecting its self image onto the world. This means that our ego consciousness, the false self, can only see other people as reflections of itself.

Before spiritual perception can be opened, the astral centre and the etheric centre have to be cleansed. In particular the old energies which were supporting the false self from the etheric centre have to die. When this happens we first see "under the altar those who have been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne." The altar is the self of the individual. It is where we communicate with the divine. Those under the altar are the original clairvoyant energies that were sealed away in former times so that we could become rational, thinking beings. When they are released, we begin to see with real spiritual perception, and what we first perceive is ourselves. Rev Mario would say, "When clairvoyance opens, we first perceive self."

This happens in two stages, which is why the clairvoyant powers have to wait for a time before they will be released into full expression. The first stage is opening the base centre. Here we discover our origin and history as earthly beings. In the second stage we will open the crown centre and discover who we are as spiritual beings.

Our journey as spiritual beings is coming to a critical stage. We have descended into earth and become earthly beings. Now we shall turn around, see ourselves as heavenly citizens and begin the long journey back to reclaim our true home in spirit.



El Greco, *The Opening of the Fifth Seal*, 1608–1614, oil on canvas, 224.8 cm × 199.4 cm (88.5 in × 78.5 in), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

The image

El Greco painted this to watch over his own tomb. The upper portion has been destroyed, but we can see the ecstatic figure of St John in the foreground, wrapt in his vision. In the background, naked souls leave behind their old garments and are given the new “white robe”.

Clairvoyance or spiritual perception is an awakening to reality. On the one hand, we are told that “we first perceive self”, and on the other hand we are told the purpose of developing spiritual vision is to see Christ. These two diverging statements are brought together when we realise that when we *truly* see Self, we perceive the Christ, because Christ is the reality of the Self.

On this day, let us be aware that Christ is not a distant figure, enshrined in a heavenly palace, Christ is right beside us, walking with us. Take time today, to detach from your tasks and cares, and know that Christ is next to you, as close as your heart beat.



Have you noticed when you read the Bible that the key words are mentioned at the beginning of the chapter? The first few words of verses 1 and 2 state, "Now I saw" which means John SAW. He saw the Christ in the midst of this world of ours. In this chapter he writes of the unfoldment of the totality of world history. He says that Christ is in the midst of us but we cannot always see Him as the seer did in times gone by. Now everyone can see Him if they wish. As the seven seals unfold and open, as world history changes, Christ is there. We as a world have never been without the Christ. Before He was born in the manger in Bethlehem, Christ was there. At the end when the Sun, the Moon and the Stars will unite again with this earth, Christ will be there. 'I saw' he says. His presence is assured by a man who saw Him, and you can never question the testimony of one who sees.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1983 Lecture Series

Week Four

Let's Be What We're Made to Be

Let's be what we're made to be;
Isn't this our destiny?
Let's get started now today,
Upward on our way.
Let's be what we really are,
Seek and find our inner star,
Let's go forward in the light,
Faces shining bright.

Sons of God, unlimited are we,
Let us prove the truth that sets us free!

Let's live out our unity,
Build a true community.
As the good in all we see,
Let's not wait, let's be.



Day 22

12 When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

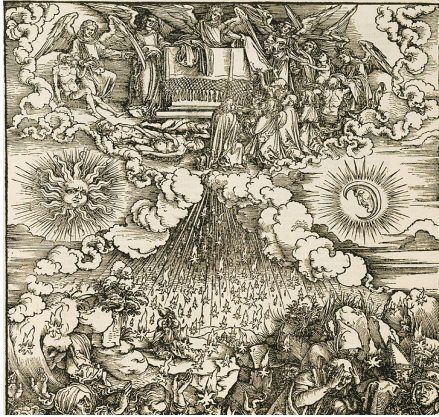
Rev 6:12-17

We have come to the base centre, the gonads centre. This is the centre of raw sexual force. It is the centre that desires to continue physical life. In the Tibetan Book of the Dead, we are told that after the soul dies and spends time in the spiritual worlds, it is attracted to a man and a woman having sex. The attraction is so strong that the soul is drawn into the sexual act and returns to incarnation in the embryo that is created. In our tradition, the Fall into physical existence occurs when Adam and Eve first see themselves as naked. That is, as sexual beings. The strongest energies then are found in this centre. This centre is linked to the crown centre. The energies which entered into the lowest centre also entered into the highest and cut us off from our connection with the spiritual worlds. We lost the memory of our spiritual origin, we thought we came from the biology of the physical earth.

Opening this seal then causes the greatest shift in our consciousness so far. It is a seismic experience. Our whole world changes. The old consciousness was illuminated by the old Sun, our understanding that we are physical beings. The old unconscious, the Moon, connected us with the evolutionary past of the physical body. First to our parents, their parents and all former generations, back further and further to the origins of our species in single-cell organisms.

When this centre is unsealed, we experience an enormous life crisis. Every understanding we have of who we are is destroyed. The old ruling energies, the kings of the earth, the great ones and the generals are no longer in charge. They return to hide in the earth from whence they came.

The only way forward is to embrace the new consciousness of the Lamb. This is a consciousness of sacrifice, of letting go, of dying to the old. It is on the other side of this experience of death, the Dark Night, that the final centre, the crown centre will be unsealed. This final transformation will take time, and it will change everything.



Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528), *The Opening of the Fifth and Sixth Seals*, from *The Apocalypse*, woodcut print on laid paper, height: 39.4 cm (15.5 in); width: 28.4 cm (11.1 in) (plate), Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

The image

This is one of Albrecht Durer's famous woodcuts of the Book of Revelation. The black and white image reminds us that when Durer was creating these famous woodcuts, Western spirituality was indeed black and white.

We see the serenity of the heavenly worlds (the crown centre) and we see the panic and terror of the earthly world, the base centre.

Rev Mario tells us that our consciousness is currently that of the fifth seal. We are experiencing an awakening of consciousness. We are now moving into the future, the consciousness of the sixth seal. John's vision promises us a complete transformation of our current consciousness. Alas, for most of us this will occur through a complete transformation of the earth we live upon. The signs, as Jesus would say, are already visible.

For today, let us reflect upon our behaviour. Are our thoughts and actions connected to the past? Do we make decisions because of our links to family, social group, social status or nation? These decisions are empowered by the base centre. Let us today make at least one decision from consideration of the future. After all, we are creating this future, for our children, our children's children, and, finally, for ourselves.



The fifth period, the fifth seal is the present culture. That's why in this particular period you will find the awakening of consciousness among the people seeking and searching many spiritual dimensions. How many people have I met who say, "What you are saying I have been looking for, for so long". Yet in spite of the injustices, even on religious levels, I think the world is much more religious now than ever before. In spite of the fact that people do not go to church. In spite of it all there lies a deep motivating force within the souls of today. People, like the souls under the altar, are saying, "How long dear Lord?" People are spiritually conscious because they are conscious of their spirituality, where previously they went to church but weren't conscious of their spirituality. So today there is a much greater brewing of spirituality than there has ever been before in history.

In the future the sixth seal brings earthquakes. Here we find the coming together of the elements that have separated, i.e. the sun, the moon, the stars. Already there are signs that this is happening. When this happens then obviously something has to happen to the make-up of man; man will no longer live as he does now. Something must give way. Will we be again what we were in the Lemurian Epoch without bones etc? How will man look in the future? From epoch to epoch man has always changed his expression.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1982 Lecture Series



Day 23

7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.

Rev 7:1:4

After the unsealing of the base centre there is an important interval before the opening of the seventh seal.

The unsealing of the gonads centre releases enormous energies. It unties the chains and links that bound us to the past. Before we can enter into the new consciousness, the consciousness of Christ, we need to be sealed again with a new seal. This is the seal of Christ.

The sealing occurs in two stages. First the four angels, the rulers of the four elements hold back the energies of the elements. For a space we are freed from the control of these forces. We reach a space in life where we don't have to promote ourselves and achieve goals. Our mind and our emotions are at peace. In this environment a new spiritual energy arises with the rising sun, the ascending Christ consciousness. We are free to make a decision: are we going to unite with the consciousness of Christ, or are we going to refuse this connection? Christ leaves us free to choose, even free not to choose him.

If we choose to join with Christ then we become part of the twelve-fold stream of evolution which Revelation calls, the tribes of the sons of Israel. We incarnate through each of these streams each time we return to a physical body. When we are sealed to Christ, we experience the energy of the streams multiplied many times over. Revelation calls this 144 thousand. This means that our progress in evolution is much faster. The transformation of the bodies, the astral, etheric and physical comes much sooner. If we embark on this journey then we shall be "clad in white robes". This is the culmination of the Earth evolution. It means that no longer will karma force us to incarnate, but we will enter incarnation willingly in order to sustain, renew and transform the world.



The Ottheinrich Bible, c 1430, Illuminated manuscript, Bavarian State Library

The image

We return to the world of the illuminated manuscript. In this gorgeous example from the Ottheinrich Bible, the earliest richly illustrated manuscript in the German language, the angels bind the four winds, the elemental energies, so that the 144,000 may be sealed.

Every person who comes into incarnation comes to a decision point in life. Will we “become sealed” to Christ? This doesn’t mean that we enter a convent or retire to a cave and pray and meditate, it means that we have experienced something within our life that opened the heart. The purpose of incarnation is to experience and create love. When we commit to this purpose, then we are “sealed”. We have become part of the Christ power, and we will change and be changed.

On this day, let us contemplate, even briefly, the expression of love. Where are we expressing love in our life? Where does love lift us up beyond our own wants, needs and desires? Let us be sealed to Christ.



The fifth period, the fifth seal is the present culture. That's why this, the purpose of this Earth incarnation is to learn love. We have yet to graduate from that learning. Love is now a spiritual influx that has come to us. It will not bloom and become full until the next incarnation of this earth. Under no circumstance can we ever say that we completely love as Christ loved. That is given to the very few, in fact to the 144,000. So love as we know it at present is but a seed of what it will be in millions of years to come.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1983 Lecture Series



Day 24

8:1 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Rev 8:1-5

The seventh seal is opened. Finally, the crown centre (the pineal centre) is unsealed. The crown centre is where we communicate with the spiritual worlds. Before the crown centre was sealed, in the Atlantean period of human evolution, spiritual energies could descend into us through this centre. While this happened, we became essentially a puppet of the divine. The words we spoke—were the words of the heavenly being. Our actions were the actions of this being.

In the first period of the Atlantean Temples, this allowed the spiritual energies of the seven Temples to enter in to human evolution. Revelation calls these spiritual beings, the “seven angels who stand before God.” They are the “seven spirits before the throne.”

The story of Atlantis is the story of how different spirits were able to also enter in to consciousness through the crown centre. This happened when the temples became corrupted by negative spiritual forces. We have seen the results of this. Our spiritual nature became inhabited by these forces. They especially took up residence within the spiritual centres. For this reason, the higher spiritual forces sealed the centres off so that for thousands of years we were protected from further invasion by the negative forces without our permission.

After the resurrection, Christ as the Lamb, unseals these centres again. In the unsealing process, the old energies are released and expelled into the world. Finally, with the unsealing of the crown centre we come to a pivotal point. This is the decision point.

There is a silence in heaven. The hierarchy waits in expectation for us to make this decision. The seven angels are given trumpets. Whatever decision we make, new energies will be poured forth into us.

Another angel, which represents our real self, stands before the altar, that place where we communicate with the divine. At the decision point the future is briefly opened to us. If we are open to the real self, then we will inhale the

incense and hear the prayers of the saints. That is, we will hear the voices of those who have gone before us and become united with the Christ. We now become able to hear the voices of the future. The changes which will come about in consciousness. We know that everything will change. We will endure the thunder and lightning of the storms of difficult incarnations. We will experience the earthquake which completely transforms our connection with the earth. We will commence a completely new relationship with the spiritual worlds. We will enter into the consciousness of Christ.



The Ottheinrich Bible, c 1430, Illuminated manuscript, Bavarian State Library

The image

The Lamb opens the seventh seal, and there is silence. The silence is prelude to the music of the seven trumpets. This is the music of creation, because the seven angels are the seven spirits before the throne through whom the world comes into existence.

For today, let us meditate on silence, and on music. Listen to a piece of music you love. Listen also for the silences within the music. Silence precedes music, and music surrounds silence. Be aware of the freedom given to us by the deed of Christ, and listen with the inner ear, to the music of the spheres.



In occult circles we speak of the music of the spheres, and people in their meditations who can reach out and embrace this music are the people who have some connection with the gospel.

The beginning of this world, the beginning of this universe, started with music: a voice crying in the wilderness. But then a second thing came into it, another quality, the wilderness. This word doesn't appear in the Greek at all, it has been translated that way. But what is a wilderness?

Wilderness means solitude. And if you want to understand something of the essence of the gospel you must have the solitude, the silence by which your inner ears can pick up the harmony of the atmosphere.

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Rev Mario Schoenmaker, The Essence of the Gospel of St Mark, 1991 Lecture



Day 25

6 Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

9 A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

10 The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

Rev 8:6-11

The seven angels now blow their trumpets. These are the creative forces known as the seven spirits before the throne. They will now sound the new Christ forces of evolution into each spiritual centre in turn.

We begin with the heart Centre. When the first angel blows his trumpet, hail and fire mixed with blood follow. The first century Jewish reader would be immediately reminded of the ten plagues God sent on Egypt at the time of Moses to soften the heart of Pharaoh. There is a plague that turns water into blood, and a plague of hail and fire. The story in Exodus refers back to the ancient Atlantean times when the heart centre was being hardened and closed off. In Exodus the Pharaoh is first softened, and then recants and “hardens his heart” again. The Pharaoh represents the ruling intelligence of the heart centre.

Each centre in turn experiences the energies which will soften it again and experience a loss of its old energies and habits.

A third of the energies of each centre link it to the physical world and these are destroyed by the new energies which come from the heavens.

This began at the cross when Christ’s side is pierced and blood mixed with water comes out and pours into the earth. This initiates the transformation of the earth and the transformation of humanity.

When the second angel blows his trumpet, “something like a great mountain” descends into the adrenal centre. It is burning like fire. The adrenals is the centre of emotions, and Christ will purify the emotions by sending us the vision of higher consciousness, the mountain, which burns in our emotions like fire.

At the sounding of the third trumpet, a great star falls into the thyroid or throat centre. Our wilfulness now becomes bitter in the mouth, because we have been shown the results of our stubborn self-interest.

Sound bypasses the mind. We cannot shut it off. We experience the trumpet as summoning us to rise, take action, and prepare through the painful and bitter experiences of life, to enter into a new consciousness. Truth, as Rev Mario said, is pain. But pain also is Truth.



Jean Bondol and Nicholas Bataille, *The Second Angel Blows His Trumpet* from *The Angers Tapestry*, 1377–1382
Musée de la Tapisserie, Château d'Angers, Angers

The image

The Angers Tapestry is huge. It stretches 140m in length. To walk along it is to take a stroll through the Book of Revelation.

The first three angels blow their trumpets. If you have ever stood near to a trumpet being sounded, then you will know it can be ear-shattering. In that volume of sound, we are unable to think for a time. The Mystery teachings, the esoteric teachings, the occult teachings - all of these beautiful and profound spiritual understandings, they cannot be understood by the intellect alone. In fact the intellect may well put up walls that need to be flattened by the spiritual powers.

For today let us live beyond the intellect. Watch your thoughts. Pray for power. Pray for compassion, and pray for understanding of others.



Don't be taken in by the overabundance of intellectual knowledge. What we have to teach you on the intellectual level can be done in a year. What we have to teach you on the disciplinary, spiritual level, by which your mind is in control, by which you make the thoughts that you want to think, by which you can be detached, by which you can stand aside from whatever appears, that takes a long time. That is what makes a Metaphysician. Pray for power, pray for compassion. I wouldn't dare say pray for love, just pray for compassion, that is enough for the time being. And try to understand the other person, that is good occultism.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1983 Lecture Series



Day 26

12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

Rev 8:12-13

With the sounding of the fourth trumpet we commence the cleansing of the etheric centre. The etheric body was given through the forces of the spiritual Sun. It is then surrounded by the forces of the spiritual Moon, the astral body. The physical body was created by the spiritual forces of the planets, which Revelation calls the stars. Over the millennia, each of these bodies became permeated with the negative energy which Revelation will later call the dragon and the serpent. The cleansing of this very important centre heralds the purification of the higher centres. This is heralded by the eagle flying overhead, the voice of the I AM. This voice warns us that the energies which will enter into the next three centres will separate us from the old energy of the dragon force and reunite us with the Christ energies which are flowing from the spiritual worlds.



The Ottheinrich Bible, c 1430, Illuminated manuscript, Bavarian State Library

The image

With the sounding of the fourth trumpet, we see that the lights, which should illuminate the soul, are dimmed. The soul has lost much of its original light.

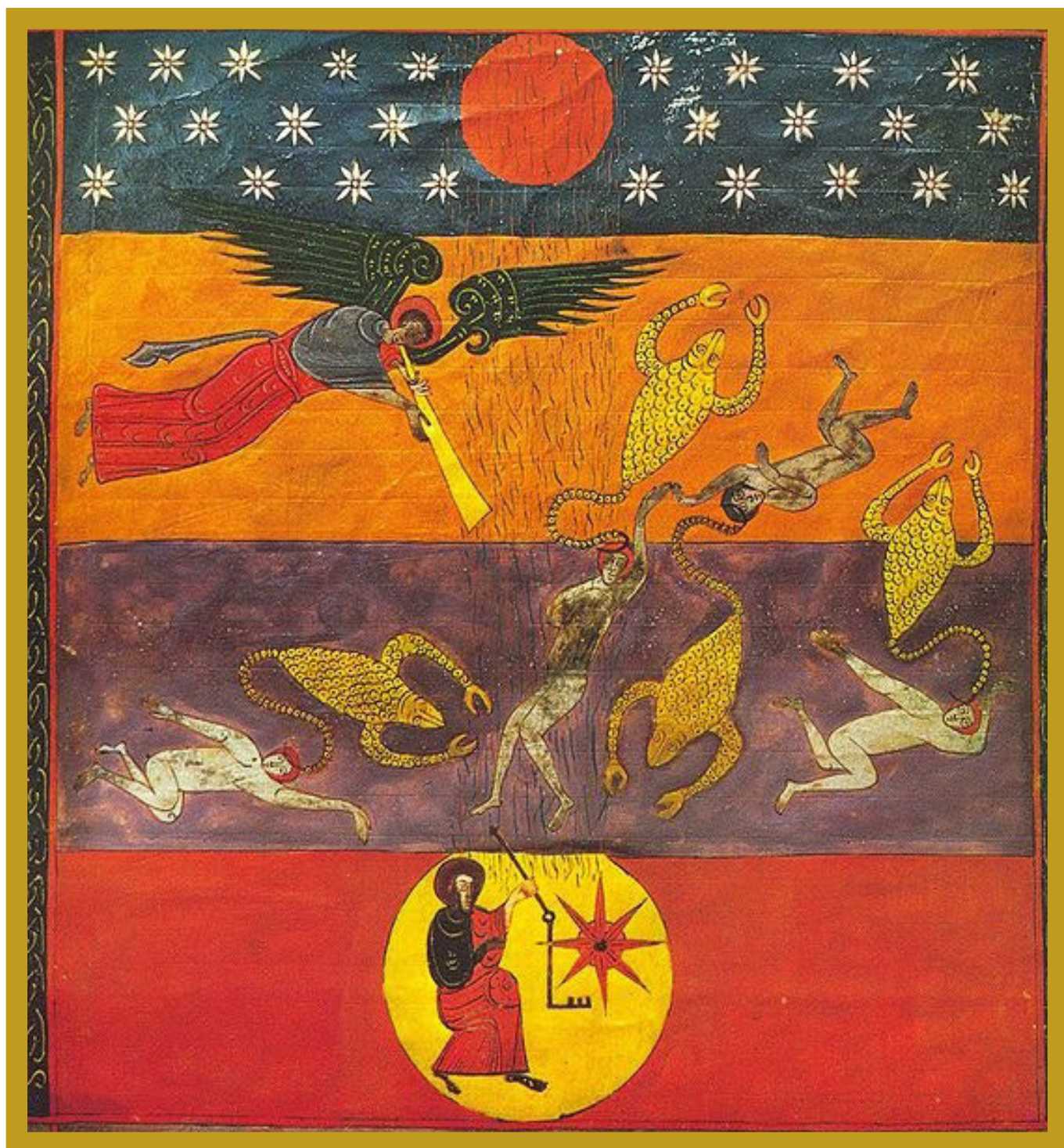
In this day let us purify our past memories. We need to observe from a much higher level, we need to become the soaring eagle.

There is a purpose for everything that has happened to us in this life. There is a purpose for every wound, every trauma, every pain. As long as we focus on the wounds and the pain, we are living in the shadow. For today, pick one difficult memory. Don't connect to it, observe it like the eagle and allow forgiveness and compassion for those involved, to flow from you.



The eagle is your higher self, your higher nature which is strong, it is the one who is endowed by spirit for the eagle can fly the highest. Only the eagle can look straight into the sun, no other bird can do that. If that eagle stays on that higher level of consciousness then he can perceive and say: "Listen now, for that is what is going to happen."

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1982 Lecture Series



Day 27

9:1 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. 2 He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. 3 Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. 6 And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

Rev 9:1-6

One of the greatest psychological discoveries of the last century was the discovery of the unconscious. It was Sigmund Freud who showed that the forces sealed in the subconscious could erupt into consciousness and create severe trauma and upheaval in the life.

When the fifth centre, the brow centre is charged with the new energies at the sounding of the fifth trumpet, then two changes take place. The first is that our spiritual sight begins to open, and so we start to become clairvoyant. When clairvoyance opens we first perceive self, but what is this self that we perceive? It is the self that is created from all the internal energies that have accumulated over thousands and thousands of years of physical incarnation. These memories are stored within the etheric centre, which was the previous centre to be charged with spiritual power.

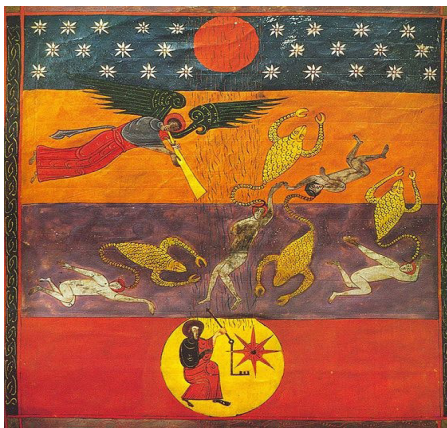
There are actually two centres connected in the head. The brow centre is connected to a centre in the centre of the brain, the pituitary centre. It is the pituitary centre that connects directly to the etheric centre. Revelation calls this connection “the shaft of the bottomless pit”. With this opening, all the pent-up energies and memories rise up into the subconscious, the pituitary centre, and then force their way into consciousness, the brow centre.

We like to think that clairvoyance is truly “clear vision”, the original meaning of the word, but Revelation tells us that this perception is first clouded by a dark smoke. This means that it first becomes more difficult to perceive what is real. Then, “from the smoke came locusts on the earth.” These are the old energies that have lived in us for so many years. Revelation especially tells us that these energies “have the power to hurt people”. This is because our consciousness at this stage, is *projective*. In this stage of the opening of clairvoyance, we

project the old energies out into the world, trying to create an image of what exists within our mind. We see this in relationships between people, where instead of accepting the other person as they are, we try and mould them into what we think they should be. We see this in our relationship with the earth. The energies within us conquer and destroy, so we have conquered and destroyed the earth. Leaders of countries can project their false images and visions onto other countries, to such an extent that war becomes inevitable.

We have a choice here. Our projections have a time limit. Revelation says that we can do this for five months. We have this time to observe the results of our projections on people and on the world.

The pituitary centre is not just connected to sight. It is also connected to hearing. Hearing is a passive sense. We can't project through this sense, we can only receive. If we focus our attention on listening, rather than engaging our mind in opinions, then we attune to the sound of evolution, the sounding of the angels' trumpets, the voice of the Christ Self.



The Ottheinrich Bible, c 1430, Illuminated manuscript, Bavarian State Library

The image

This picture from an illuminated Bible shows the devastation when the contents of our subconscious erupt spontaneously. In the last one hundred years this has happened more and more. Our world wars and other conflicts are often the results of the huge energies that have been repressed for perhaps thousands of years, but which, because of the gradually increasing clairvoyance of human beings, now become potent energies and forces which take control of our thinking.

More than any time in recorded history, we need to become *conscious*. That is, we need to become "self" conscious. We need to engage in self-reflection and self-observation. Only in this way do we disengage from those powerful, destructive forces within the psyche.

Let us practise this today by watching our thoughts, and then praying - which means to connect to the divine within. Let us apply the Christ consciousness and live in a state of forgiveness.



“He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace.”

Don't you think that is our subconscious? There are repressed things held there ... I sometimes think that mental agony is the worst pain there is, much more agonising than physical pain. You and I can have mental pain about things that have been repressed for 20, 30 or 40 years.

...

What agony, what pain, countless incarnations coming to the surface! All these millions of years we have progressed through, all these years that have not been redeemed, forgiven, and to which we have not applied the Christ consciousness. So the sins of all these incarnations still stand because they have not been forgiven by that Christ consciousness.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1983 Lecture Series



Day 28

13 Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. 17 And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the colour of fire and of sapphire and of sulphur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulphur came out of their mouths. 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulphur coming out of their mouths. 19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound. 20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, 21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Rev 9:13-21

When the sixth angel blows his trumpet, a major transformation begins. The story of this transformation will take us through the whole of chapter ten and halfway through chapter eleven. This transformation will cut us off from the old connections to the earth which we forged in the origins of physical incarnation, and create new connections with the spiritual worlds.

The lowest spiritual centre originated in the cord that linked us to the sea bed when our bodies were like plants floating in the shallow oceans. In some spiritual traditions it is known as the "root" centre, because it tethers us to the earth like the roots of a plant. It is also called the "gonads" because of its sexual function. Like the brow centre, the base centre is comprised of a collection of energy points, in this case four. Revelation calls these points, "the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

The four points have four functions. They are connected with

Sexuality

Conception and reproduction

Elimination

Energy flow

When the four angels are released, the energies of these four points pour into our psyche. This means that first our sexuality and sexual drive is called into question. We have to confront the meaning of our own sexuality. Then we have to confront how we are creating within life, both on a literal and metaphorical level. It is no accident that reliable birth control was developed in the twentieth century, giving control over conception to the woman, and taking it away from the man. Of course, these are not physical points, so the energy centres remain even if an operation like a vasectomy or hysterectomy removes the corresponding physical organ of reproduction. In fact, the expression of the energies as creative forces may even increase.

We are then confronted by the way we process negative thoughts and energies and eliminate them from our consciousness. Finally, a new energy, which Revelation calls the “great river Euphrates”, begins to flow up the channel which runs up the spine. The energy is able to move through all the centres which have become charged with the new Christ energies. It will eventually pour into the crown centre which will be the last centre to be opened, and then the old occult saying, “As above, so below” will be fulfilled. We shall be true reflections of our spiritual template, reharmonised with the spiritual worlds, and citizens of the new Christ consciousness which is descending towards us as the heavenly city of Jerusalem.



Jean Duvet (French, ca. 1485–after 1561),
The Angel sounding the Sixth Trumpet, from the Apocalypse,
n.d., Engraving, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The image

This engraving is full of anger, full of pain and suffering. It would be so easy to fall into this pain and suffering. What do we need to do? We need to “apply the Christ consciousness.”

With greater darkness, there is also greater light. The Christ is also in the world in our etheric bodies. If we strengthen the etheric, if we become quieter, more peaceful, more focused, more compassionate and more loving, then we also will be able to perceive the etheric Christ.

Today let us be aware that Christ is not distant, Christ is as close as our own etheric body, as close as each breath we take.



The presence of Christ is in the world now, His etheric body is already observable to the clairvoyant eye. Did you know that an etheric body can be enhanced, it can be made stronger?

If you want to see the Christ, if He is in your midst, then all you have to do is to direct your etheric body towards Him. He takes from the substance of your etheric body and He builds up His own etheric body and then you can see Him like you could see Him at His resurrection. To many a clairvoyant eye the Christ has become visible.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1982 Lecture Series

Week Five

Lose Yourself in Me

*Lose yourself in me
And you will find yourself,
Lose yourself in me
And you will find new life.
Lose yourself in me
And you will find yourself,
And you will live,
Yes, you will live in my love.*

Unless a grain of wheat
Falls into the ground,
It still remains
But a grain of wheat.
But if it falls and dies,
Then it bears much fruit.
So it is with those
Who lose themselves in me.

*Lose yourself in me
And you will find yourself,
Lose yourself in me
And you will find new life.
Lose yourself in me
And you will find yourself,
And you will live,
Yes, you will live in my love.*



Day 29

10:1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, 3 and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. 4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down." 5 And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven 6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, 7 but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." 10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. 11 And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

Rev 10:1-11

In the Greek language, the word "angel" means "messenger". The mighty angel has a rainbow over his head, symbolising the reconciliation between humanity and the divine, and his face shines like the Sun, so he is a messenger of the Christ consciousness.

Angels bring a new impulse into consciousness. They open our understanding. This angel carries with him an open scroll. The scroll is a record of our incarnations since the beginning. It contains the purpose of this life. We could call it, The Book of the Soul.

When the six centres are open, we are given the gift of understanding this life purpose. The scroll has to be swallowed by the narrator, just as we have to absorb this purpose. When we first discover that our life has a purpose it is a sweet discovery. It is a great gift to know that everything that we experience in life has a meaning, that we are indeed spiritual beings on an earthly journey. The euphoria of this discovery is short lived though. For when we totally

absorb the principle of life purpose, then we have to confront the pain and anguish we have created with other souls. This can be a bitter experience.

We have been given another gift. The seven thunders have sounded. The seven thunders are energies given to us so that we might have the knowledge and strength to achieve the purpose and tasks we undertake in this incarnation. John is not allowed to write down the words of the seven thunders. They operate within the unconscious. But if we are open to the messenger of the I AM, then the seven thunders become powers within our spiritual centres. Every aspect of our being becomes energised and filled with power. When the seventh seal is opened, the knowledge of this power will be revealed, but for now we are told that the more we embrace consciousness and self-knowledge, the more consciousness and knowledge is given to us. As the gospels say, to that person who has, more is given. Consciousness creates consciousness.



William Blake, *Angel of the Revelation* (Book of Revelation, chapter 10), circa 1803–5.

The image

In this watercolour by William Blake, the strength and might of the angel is stressed. His face is illuminated by the sun behind, and he clearly shows that one foot is on the land, the other in the sea.

One of the names of this angel is the Guardian of the Threshold. He tests us to see whether we are ready yet for spiritual illumination. Real spiritual knowledge only comes when we have passed beyond a consciousness that is about “me” and experienced a greater consciousness. This happens often through encountering the parts of us that are negative, hurtful and painful, both to self and others.

Spiritual knowledge however, does not solve our problems, nor answer our questions. We strive for balance. We exercise patience. Today, find a time when you exercise patience, practise perseverance or endurance. Experience the strength of this mighty angel.



If the Guardian of the Threshold lets you pass through, you become first and foremost, an unbalanced being. No one can pass through that Initiation without becoming unbalanced for a little while. That has to be because one leg is on land (security) and the other in the sea (emotions). You have to learn to balance the two and that may take a bit of time. You will start looking at that picture ... when you live in a different state of consciousness. In that unbalanced state in which we find ourselves or others, we have to learn to exercise patience. Patience with self.

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Day 30

11:1 Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, 2 but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. 6 They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. 7 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, 8 and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. 9 For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, 10 and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. 11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. 13 And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.

Rev 11:1-14

We have arrived at the halfway point of our journey through the book of Revelation. Revelation as a vision can be interpreted on many levels, but we have chosen to understand it as a description of the occult anatomy of the human being and its transformation by the risen Christ. This transformation first occurs on the spiritual template of the human being. Each time we incarnate we utilise this template to design our physical and subtle bodies for the new incarnation.

Chapter 11 puts a number in front of us. This number is forty-two. In the Ancient Greek culture, the months were measured by the lunar cycle and contained 30 days each. Forty-two months of thirty days contain 1,260 days, which is equivalent to three and a half years.

John is first told to measure the Temple of God. The body is the Temple of God. Paul calls it the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20). We are not talking of just the physical body, but the whole complex of spiritual bodies, known as the subtle body.

The two witnesses now come into play. The two witnesses are two olive trees and also two lampstands. That is, they are connected with the earth and the energies of the earth. They “stand before the Lord of the earth.”

Much of the knowledge of the energies and energy channels of the subtle body was lost in the West. It was however retained in the East. In the Indian tradition these channels are called nadis. In the Chinese tradition they are known as meridians.

Two of the most important channels run in parallel up the spine. These are the two witnesses. These channels are connected to the meridians which run down the front of the legs, through the centre in the sole of the foot, known in Chinese medicine as “the bubbling springs”. These channels connect with the two channels of the “two witnesses”. These channels diverge at the shoulders. Each channel runs down the back of the arms, through the centres on the hands, back up the front of the arms and unites with the central channel which runs up through the spine and into the spiritual centres of the head.

There are two points to consider. First, after 1,260 years, the transformation will reach a critical stage. From this point, the great beast, that is the energies which want to bind us to the earth, will rise. Since the thirteenth century, these energies have entered into our cultural consciousness to such a point that our modern western culture denies the reality of spirit.

Second, Revelation tells us that after three and a half days, “a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet.” Three and a half days is the period of initiation, so our subtle body is being transformed since the thirteenth century. In Revelation, years and days can be interchanged. Three and a half *years* is 1,260 days, which again translates to 1,260 years. This means that the transformation of the subtle body will be completed in the future, in the twenty sixth century (2520).

We are currently in a time of great transformation of human consciousness. Eventually, in about four hundred years, we will be able to incarnate in a body which has become completely transformed by Christ. Those who have committed themselves to Christ consciousness will be able to manifest a spiritual consciousness in their waking lives. They have, as Revelation puts it, gone up to heaven. The difference between these individuals and the rest of humanity

will become so evident that humanity as a whole will be pushed to reconsider their assumptions about life and reality.

Our choice, as we walk the path of Pentecost is to willingly undertake this transformation now. If we do this then we too become the witnesses. Our connection to the earth is first honoured and then transformed. As we perceive the wounding of our planet caused by the development of the modern mind, the need for more and more souls to witness for the earth becomes the greatest source of hope for our future survival.



Angers Tapestry, *The Two Witnesses*

The image

Here, in the Angers Tapestry, that enormous compilation of the Book of Revelation, we find the death of the two witnesses dra-

matically portrayed.

For today, let us realise the enormity of our thinking energies. They have carried us through thousands of years of evolution, but now, it is time to lay them to rest, so that we can move to the next level.

For today, let us give thanks to our thinking and reasoning abilities which have created our present consciousness, then release them. Let us move into the silence of the greater fulfilment, a deeper love and a greater wisdom.



"May we listen with an inner ear to the secrets which are only revealed in the silence. Make us deeply conscious of that which you have entrusted to us. Grant that all of us present here may find in ourselves and in our interaction a greater fulfilment, a deeper wisdom and a greater love. This we pray in the name of the Christ. So shall it be."

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Day 31

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying,

*"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
who is and who was,
for you have taken your great power
and begun to reign.*

*18 The nations raged,
but your wrath came,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,
and those who fear your name,
both small and great,
and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."*

19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

Rev 11:15-19

We have attained the seventh spiritual centre. With the charging of the crown centre, we are once again connected to the spiritual worlds.

The philosopher Plotinus, who lived in the third century after Christ, declared that only a portion of the soul descended into incarnation. The divine part of the soul remained in the spiritual worlds.

Before we come into incarnation the soul is given its template for this life. As we grow spiritually we have an increasing share in creating this template. For about a thousand years there was a disconnect between the soul which comes into incarnation and the part of the soul that is in spirit. The two were separated by clouds which made communication difficult. St Paul calls this, "seeing through a glass darkly." Since the thirteenth century though, the seventh centre is being charged with a new energy. This new energy gives us the power to break through the clouds and reconnect with the divine self. Revelation puts it like this, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ."

The twenty-four elders represent the twelve sets of cranial nerves that convey sensory information to the brain. Since the thirteenth century two options

are presented to us. We can continue to work with this transformation. More and more we can understand the information of the senses and the reasoning as a spiritual process. We become open to the messages of spirit. Our memory banks open and we start to remember previous lives, and we get in touch with our life purpose.

If we reject this process, then we close off to spirit. Our thinking and mental attitudes deny the reality of spirit. Our understanding becomes darker and darker. Currently we are in the midst of a great battle for the soul. One reason for the epidemic of depression in the Western world is that the soul has to make its way through the current materialistic thinking of our culture, without being sustained by the spiritual energies of a spiritual practice or being fed by a spiritual understanding.

Revelation tells us that our divine self has only *begun* to reign. There is a long way to go in human evolution before the outcome of the battle is decided.

God's Temple in heaven, the portion of the soul that remains in the spiritual worlds, has opened. As we develop spiritual vision we will be able to perceive this aspect of self. We will be able to gaze upon the Ark of the Covenant, the divine seed which dwells within the soul as a promise. This is the promise: we are now able to look into the centre of our being and see there, the presence of God. If we choose to follow this path, then we enter more and more into Christ consciousness. We become *individuals* which means that we become *undivided*. We have left the group consciousness and entered the path of spiritual evolution. One day we shall become, as Christ promised, "like gods". Our transformation from human beings to spiritual beings will be complete.



Bamberg Apocalypse, *The Seventh Trumpet*

The image

The Bamberg Apocalypse is another medieval manuscript. Here we see the angel blowing the final trumpet, the 24 elders, and John himself in the bottom left hand corner, reminding us that this is *our* vision.

Let us make today a day of vision. What is our vision for the future? What, or who, do we want to become? What are the possibilities open to us into the future? Today let us live in the vision of the best we might become.



Individualism by its very nature stands in opposition to group consciousness. You will find that there is a difference between those who prefer group consciousness, and to be safe and secure within the realms of society and live by the rules society lays down, and those who perceive precisely what is going on in society. They have therefore achieved a certain individualism within themselves. The premise on which this Centre is built is individualism. If ever you and I want to become that new city, that new Jerusalem, that is, Christ conscious (which is not a group consciousness, it is a Christ consciousness) then we have to keep that in mind.

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Day 32

12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. 5 She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, 6 and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

Rev 12:1:6

The seventh trumpet has sounded. The whole of our subtle body, containing the centres and the channels, has been charged with the new energy of Christ. This enormous transformation is in itself just a preparation for what is to come. And what is to come is the whole possibility of future human evolution.

The woman in the vision is the soul. She is clothed with the Sun, the etheric body. She has the Moon under her feet, the astral body is under the control of the soul. She is crowned with twelve stars, that is, she is gifted with the creative energies of the spiritual worlds.

The soul is pregnant with the I AM, the individuality.

The I AM was given first during the Atlantean period, but the divine self needed the incarnation of Christ to be born.

The birth of the I AM could not happen earlier, because the dragon, the earth forces, want to devour the Self and absorb it into the earth.

Finally, the Christ event gives birth to the I AM. This is the male child who is to rule the nations, our future incarnations. The child is caught up to God, and we have seen that our divine self remains mostly in the spiritual worlds when we come into incarnation.

The soul escapes from the dragon, she will be safe for a time. This time prepares for the greater entry of the I AM into the world. Once again, the number 1,260 is significant. From the thirteenth century the soul was able to bring more of the I AM into incarnation. One result of this is the enormous growth in the ability to think free of the restraints of the past, and the continuing growth of individuality.

In the thirteenth century the rosary was given to the world. This placed the

vision of the woman and her child at the centre of Western imagination in the form of Mary and the Christ child.

In 2022, 762 years have passed since this event. There has been an enormous expression of individuality within the world, but this has been countered by a matching rise of selfishness, a tide of thinking that focuses on the physical world as the only reality. We are living in a time when our old consciousness which is essentially a mindset of domination and control must give way to a new way of thinking. This new way of thinking will have to centre on nourishment and nurture. Without care and nurture, our planet will no longer support life. We need these qualities to break the cycles of attack and war which dominate our headlines. We need the qualities of the woman with the child, we need the qualities of Mary, we need to become soul beings, not physical beings.

There is a long way to go in this journey, but each of us can make one choice: the choice to become free, individual, thinking, caring beings. This choice will not only transform our own incarnation and future lives, it will also transform the destiny of the world.



William Blake, *The Woman clothed with the Sun*

The image

Many depictions of this famous scene show the woman standing above the dragon. Blake however, has shown the woman lying prostrate under the immense power of the dragon.

The soul struggles to combat this cosmic power in order to bring to birth the I AM. Today let us give value to our soul. Let us appreciate the millennia-long struggle to bring our individuality to birth. Each time we make a decision from our desires and wants we deny the soul's struggle, but each time we make a decision from our spiritual thinking, our spiritual consciousness, we give power to the soul. We give her the wings of the eagle.



Looking at chapter 12, the child that is born is your spiritual I AMness. It is to be particularly noted that that child is a male. Masculinity in the Bible indicates thinking powers. That is the thinking of the 'I'. The 'I' has a consciousness of the Cosmos. I am not speaking of your mind. Your mind has no knowledge of the Cosmos. Your real 'I' (that is not sitting here) has a knowledge of the Cosmos. I do not mean cosmic consciousness, that means that the whole of the Cosmos is in me. Consciousness of the Cosmos means that I am in the totality of the Cosmos. That is different isn't it? So our 'I' is a thinking being, a spiritually conscious being.

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Day 33

7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

“13 And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

Rev 12:7-9 and 13-14

The story of Michael fighting against the dragon has been understood as the rebellion of Lucifer. Lucifer was the brightest of the angels, known as the Morning Star. According to legend he refused to bow to Adam at the creation, and with his angels, he was thrown out of heaven. The dragon, however, is not Lucifer.

The dragon represents another spiritual force. In our tradition this force is called Ahriman. Ahriman in the Persian tradition is a power that continually contends with the powers of light for supremacy. The Ahrimanic powers originally inhabited the earth, and when human souls commenced earthly incarnation, they penetrated the bodies that we created. The seven heads of the dragon are the Ahrimanic energies within the spiritual centres.

In the Atlantean period the Ahrimanic beings could rise into the higher spiritual worlds, but the beings which guarded human evolution threw them back into the earth. The dragon now remains in the spiritual sphere of the earth and can no longer be part of human evolution.

The Ahrimanic spirits want to absorb the human soul into the earth. If the dragon were able to devour the child of the soul, then human evolution would end. The soul however, is given the “two wings of the great eagle” so it can rise into the spiritual worlds. The dragon can no longer enter into these realms and follow the soul.

For twelve hundred years the soul was safeguarded from the Ahrimanic forces. This enabled the Christ to purify the spiritual centres of the old negative energies. Since the thirteenth century two spiritual events have taken place. The soul has given birth to the I AM, and the forces of the dragon are

pursuing these energies. Where human beings have developed thinking, reasoning and choice to uplift the human condition, we see the I AM at work. The dragon continually tries to pervert reasoning and the insight of the evolving mind into self-interest, and to direct our gaze down into the physical world.

The forces of Michael, whose name means “the gift of God,” however, continue to protect us against the dragon. At the end of the C19 the Michael forces inaugurated a new epoch in our evolution. More and more our lives reflect the results of our will. Where we use our thinking and our will to enlarge our own life, then we will see the selfish framework shattered by life crises. When we use our thinking and will to uphold others, and to open our awareness to the needs of humanity as a whole, and to embrace the needs of the world, then we will be given ways and means to enlighten and uplift other souls. It is our choice.



William Blake, *The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun* (c 1805), pen and gray ink with watercolor over graphite on paper, 40.8 x 33.7 cm, The National Gallery of Art (Rosenwald Collection), Washington, DC. Courtesy of The National Gallery of Art.

The image

The second Blake watercolour shows the dragon overshadowing the soul, even though the soul has been given the “two wings of the eagle”, she has not yet escaped the dragon. The soul is most vulnerable to the dragon when we are unconscious, and in the modern world, most people die in an unconscious state.

Today let us think for a moment about death. How will we enter into the spiritual worlds? We will only enter the afterlife consciously, if we become conscious now. That means that in this life we have the opportunity to enter into the greater consciousness of Christ. Through our participation in this new consciousness, we also will be given the two wings of the eagle. We will die fearlessly; in full consciousness.

With the gift of the eagle’s wings, each time we return to physical incarnation, we return with an increase in consciousness. Like light, consciousness can always increase.



What is happening to the people who die unprepared?

In the heavenly worlds these serpents are grabbing the souls of men and infiltrating into them the seven heads and ten horns. Every soul that comes to earth now has seven heads and ten horns. The heads are the seeds and the horns are the reality. The problem is that most of us die unprepared; 95% of the population are not prepared to die because this present age does not live with a consciousness of death.

...

We are unconscious beings and if we die 'unconsciously' do you know what is seen in the astral? Rising into the astral is the dragon with ten horns and seven heads. This is what has infiltrated us, we haven't worked our way above it and out of it.

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Day 34

13:1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. 2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. 3 One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marvelled as they followed the beast. 4 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

*10 If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.
Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.*

Rev 13:1-10

We have observed the working of the dragon in the world. The dragon, Ahriman, wants to attack the soul and devour our new-born I AM. Now a second spiritual force enters into evolution.

The beast rises from the sea. The sea is the astral. It represents the reservoir of our emotions, instincts and reactions, so the beast is a spiritual power that works within the astral. We know this beast as Lucifer. The beast has seven heads. Like Ahriman, Lucifer also works within the spiritual centres. The beast has ten horns. Each horn has a diadem. The horns represent the old clairvoyance. There are ten, representing the ten centres on the Tree of Life. Some of these centres are identified with the seven chakras, but others are to do with the way we connect and interact with the world.

Lucifer wants to control our thinking and our spirituality. Unlike Ahriman who wants to absorb the human soul into the earth, Lucifer wants to free us

of our physical body so that we might exist as spiritual beings. Christ wants us to become spiritual beings too. The difference is that if we become spiritual beings through Lucifer, we will come under the domain of Lucifer, we will become slaves to the Luciferic influences. Luciferic spirituality is an emotional spirituality. We experience emotional heights and depths. These are fake. We can easily become enslaved to such experiences. Christ on the other hand will make us free. We will even be free to reject Christ.

Our era is permeated by Luciferic energies. We see everywhere the fruits of Luciferic thinking in our science, our technology, and often in spiritual teachings manifested in the world. These fruits are powerful, almost miraculous. They are the miracle of the healing of the beast. It is, however, a false miracle.

Luciferic science and technology give us the power to devastate and destroy the natural world. If this were carried to its logical conclusion, the world would become uninhabitable. Souls could no longer incarnate and would remain in the lower spiritual regions under the power of Lucifer. This result is described by Revelation as the authority that is given to the beast “over every tribe and people and language and nation”. Spirituality becomes mechanical, dogmatic and rule-based, and especially it becomes sentimental. Our lives become dominated by karma. Revelation puts it like this:

*If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.*

There are still however many souls who can distinguish between the lie of Lucifer and Christ. Christ is truth. Truth brings light into the world, because Christ is the light of the world. At one point in our individual evolution we make a choice between the lie and truth. Our particular period of history is making this choice very obvious. If we choose truth, then we choose life. Our names are, as Revelation puts it, “written in the book of life of the Lamb.”

At this point in evolution we have come to a crossroads. We can choose to worship the beast, that is, we give away our ability to think and understand as individuals, or we can choose life. At this critical point in time, we do not need to stand up and make speeches, the world would not believe us. We do not need to take action, the world would resist us. We need to witness on behalf of Christ, to stand firm in our individuality and to live in the truth.



William Blake, *The Great Red Dragon and the Beast from the Sea* (c 1805), pen and ink with watercolor over graphite on paper, 40.1 x 35.6 cm, The National Gallery of Art (Rosenwald Collection), Washington, DC. Courtesy of The National Gallery of Art.

The image

Blake's portrayal of the beast rising from the sea also features the dragon. Both entities feature the seven heads and ten horns, representing the negative energies that have invaded our own consciousness over many thousands of years. As chapter 12 tells us though, these energies are opposed by the force Revelation names as Archangel Michael.

Since the nineteenth century, Michael has been active within human consciousness. He is creating a *Michael* consciousness. The individual with such a consciousness is one who is developing the ability to think. Not to think influenced by the emotions, or past experiences, but to think purely. Michael also works to reinstate our feeling levels so that we can communicate with one another on the soul level.

For today, let us be aware of our thinking. Let us watch our thoughts and observe when emotion or negative energies from past experiences try to invade us. Let us think like Michael. Let us think spiritually.



Part of the new consciousness now developing through you and I is what I call the Michael consciousness. With this consciousness we will no longer be abstract and indulge in nonsensical talk. We will acknowledge that in reality the body, soul and spirit are operating in unity in this Cosmos. Then you have to be careful that you don't become self righteous, for that is one of the great problems of spiritual life.

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Day 35

11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. 13 It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, 14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. 16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

Rev 13:11-18

The key to understanding the nature of the second beast is the famous number 666. The Greek language used letters to represent numbers. Using a practice known as gematria, this meant that the number 666 could represent any word where the individual letters added to this total. Early interpreters discovered that the Roman emperor, Nero, added to 666, so perhaps he was the beast. During the course of 2000 years other names, including Napoleon, were identified with the number. The number 666, however, does not refer to a person, it refers to human nature as a whole.

The Greek language does not have a word for the English indefinite article “a”. Verse 18 should really be understood to say, “... it is the number of *man*...” meaning humanity as a whole. The number 666 represents a quality that has been imprinted upon the soul. This quality is called in Greek, “*He phren*.”

He phren, which adds up to 666 translates as the mind. But it is a specific form of mind, because it also means heart. In other words, the beast is a spiritual power that has entered into the heart.

Revelation tells us that this energy has two horns, like the Lamb. It masquerades as the divine self. It speaks like the dragon. That is, it lies to us. It makes us worship the first beast, the Luciferic powers. It is, in fact, an agent of these powers.

The Luciferic energies reside in the brain. They form and develop our thinking and this thinking is about living more and more in a mental understanding. The second beast however lives within the heart. It wants to control

us on the feeling level. If it is successful then we would be emotional beings. We would replace love with nice gestures and sentimentality. We would represent ourselves as caring for others when in fact we become capable of only caring for ourselves.

The energy of the second beast manifests in different ways in our world. We see it in the words of leaders who say on the one hand that they care for the people, but actually are only capable of caring for themselves and their own self-interest. We see it in the actions of religious groups and organisations who look after the homeless, the orphaned, the disadvantaged, but commit sexual and other abuse upon those who come under their care. We see it in the policies of nations who systematically rape and pollute the earth. These are the results of the second beast, the heart has become hardened.

Like the first beast and the dragon, the second beast is about control. The more we listen to its voice which murmurs to us about how we should look after our own interests before anything else, the more we become blind to the larger picture and the needs of other souls.

To counteract the beast, we need to stop listening to its words. We first need to become silent. In silence we can allow a different knowledge to flow into us. This spiritual knowledge or gnosis, is the gift of Pentecost. As we walk the path to Pentecost we need to become quiet within self. We need to communicate with the divine - this is the practice of prayer. We need to listen to the divine - this is the practice of meditation.

We are beings in transition. We are beings in transformation. If we allow the power of Christ to manifest through this inner transformation, then every year we will experience the renewal of the gifts given at the first Pentecost. These are the gifts of spirit: the renewal, strengthening and communication with the Christ self within, and the vision of our future, the hope of glory.



William Blake, *The Number of the Beast is 666* (c 1805), pen and ink with watercolor over graphite on paper, 40.1 x 35.6 cm, The National Gallery of Art (Rosenwald Collection), Washington, DC. Courtesy of The National Gallery of Art.

The image

This is the fourth of Blake's images on this section of the Book of Revelation. As a unique visionary he was very aware of the powerful energies operating within his own culture. He was also powerfully gifted with that great gift of the artist and the poet, the ability to proclaim the truth.

If we decide to counteract the beast, then we can become Michael War-Farers. That is, we allow Michael to work within our consciousness.

Today let us focus on the first attribute of the work of Archangel Michael: Truth. Today let us speak truth for ourselves, and listen for the truth in others.



The Michael War-Farer

Truth

The first quality that identifies them is their love for truth. Today we live in a very untruthful world and there are situations in life in which you either have to lie or you will suffer. So we do not dare to speak the truth anymore. I am not speaking of spiritual truth but truth ... period.

Spiritualising Life

The Michael war-farer of today takes life and spiritualises it; he doesn't fight life.

Feeling With the Heart

Apart from a spiritual intellect, the Michael war-farer also needs imagination, spiritual feeling and intuition.

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Week Six

Vision

In silence, so quietly,
In deepest hush of reverie,
A window opening I see,
Op'ning on eternity.
In harmony the colour flows,
A symphony of spirit grows,
My heart leaps up because it knows
The mystic vision of the rose.



Day 36

14:1 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, 5 and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

Rev 14:1-5

Many years ago, a couple of lovely young people from the Jehovah's Witnesses church knocked on my door. They were very eager to convert me and have me join the church. After listening to them for a while I asked them if they believed everything in the Bible was true. "Of course!" they answered. "So you believe only 144,000 souls can be saved?" "Yes." "How many people belong to Jehovah's Witnesses?" "More than 8 million," was the proud response.

I asked, "If only 144,000 people can be saved, and they all are Jehovah's Witnesses, why would you want me to join? Everyone who joins the church reduces your chance of going to heaven?"

They hadn't thought of this. They were very sober and not very happy as they walked away.

The literal interpretation of the Bible is one of the voices that whisper in our thoughts. It whispers that if we join this or that exclusivist sect, then we are the privileged ones. It is a short step to deciding that if we are the elite, then the rest of humanity is condemned. They are not completely human and are depriving us of our recognition and rights. Such supremacist thinking creates violence. It excuses terrible acts in the name of religion or in the service of a nationalist agenda. No wonder the Bible records that Jesus wept...

Revelation records the visions of St John. Visions are symbolic. The events and numbers John records are symbols. The number 144,000 has a number of meanings.

$$144 = 12 \times 12$$

Twelve is the number of perfection. There are twelve tribes of Israel. There

are twelve disciples. There are twelve signs of the Zodiac. In Greek astrology the two most important parts of the birth chart were the twelve signs and the twelve houses. Ancient astrologers thought that a soul needed to incarnate in each of the twelve signs and experience each of the life energies represented by the twelve houses before it could reach perfection. There are 12×12 possible combinations = 144 possibilities.

$$144 = 6 \times 24$$

According to Genesis, God created the world in six days. Each day has twenty-four hours, so there are 6×24 hours of creation. The 144,000 then represents each soul who has completed their cycle of incarnations and created every aspect of their spiritual being. Such a soul has united with the Christ. That is why the souls have the name of the Lamb and his Father written upon their foreheads. They have learned a new song. The song is the story of human evolution which can only be learned by those who have completed human evolution.

There is no numerical limit to the perfection of souls. We can all be part of the next evolutionary wave of humanity. The esoteric name of the first wave of human evolution, before we became part of the earth was the "Virgin Souls". That is, spiritual beings who had never become part of the earth. We lost this status when we commenced our series of incarnations. Christ does more than restore us to our former status though. He teaches us a *new* song. We are given the names of Christ and the Father written on our forehead, the I AM. We are renewed as spiritual beings. We are given a new voice. We are given a new purpose.



Matthias Gerung (1500–1570), *The Ottheinrich Bible, Der Triumph des Lammes, der Fall Babylons*, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

The image

This picture from the Ottheinrich Bible shows the whole of chapter 14 in one image. The 144,000 surround the Lamb; and the angels with the sickles are shown ready to harvest the world.

Today, let us contemplate the 144,000. The state of total commitment and connection to Christ. This connection does not rob us of our individuality nor our ability to make decisions. Instead, we become more aware. Our vision is widened. We are awake. Let us this day, practise being awake to everything going on around us.



This means that the person who is spiritually awake in the present age, and in the ages to come, will be able to hear the rumbling, the thunder, the lightning in our present society. They will be able to read the signs of the times. That person is not deceived by whatever goes on around him. In the text it says, 'Only those who have not defiled themselves are the ones who can follow the Lamb'

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Day 37

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." 16 So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

17 Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." 19 So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

Rev 14:14-20

On Day 36 we reflected on the perfection of souls within human evolution. One of the foundational spiritual laws is the law of karma. This is also known as the law of cause and effect. In physics it is described as "every action has an equal and opposite reaction." The Bible says, we reap what we sow.

In today's reading, John sees "one like a son of man" seated on a white cloud with a golden crown on his head and holding a sharp sickle in his hand. The one like a son of man is Christ. It is Christ in his role as Lord of Karma.

Now karma operates within the astral sphere. In esoteric language this is the sphere of the Moon. The Lord of Karma works from the highest level of the astral, so he appears seated upon a cloud. A sickle has the shape of a new moon. It is sharp, so it represents the very beginning of the lunar cycle.

There is a stage in our evolution as souls where we are able to cooperate with the Lord of Karma. At this stage, "the harvest of the earth is ripe." We are now able to choose which of our karmic debts we will balance in our next incarnation.

If we have not reached this stage in our own personal evolution, then our karma is chosen for us. The agent that chooses is described as an *angel* with a sickle. The grapes on the vine of earth represent that karma which has deceived us with the intoxication of the earthly senses. If we are to become free of this binding, sensual intoxication with the physical world, we will experience the soul pain that comes from this connection. Revelation describes this as crushing the grapes in the wine press of the wrath of God.

When we reach this stage of evolution, then each life crisis has the purpose of severing our attachment to the world of desire and pleasure. Our relationships may break apart. We may lose our financial security. A prominent public position may end in scandal. We may have to choose between success and morality.

What flows from such life traumas is blood. Blood is the vehicle of the etheric, and the flow of the blood from the wine press represents the purification of the etheric levels from the karma of deception, of pain, of betrayal.

The blood flows out for 1,600 stadia. $1600 = 40 \times 40$

Forty is the number of karma. Christ is in the wilderness for forty days and nights for the temptations. This is where he is offered earthly power and glory. The soul then has to first experience the circumstances that created their binding karma, the first forty, and then has the opportunity to break these chains, the second forty.

At present we are experiencing the two groups of souls very clearly. There are the souls who through uniting with the Christ impulse have freed themselves from the guilt of karma and deal with it in consciousness. The second group are the souls who have not yet become conscious of their own actions and deeds. These souls are being offered a second opportunity. If they observe their life events and detach themselves as actors, they become able to accept who they are as individuals. In this independent observation, they can commit to balancing their karmic account in their future lives.

Christ brings greater consciousness. There is no limit to the light of consciousness. It increases forever. Every incarnation provides the opportunity to increase the light within self, but the choice is with each of us. We can choose to be part of the consciousness of the angel with the sickle, in which case our lives remain unconscious and subject to the automatic actions of karma, or we can choose the "one like the son of man." The son of man is the child of human evolution. Christ describes this as being like gods. If we make this choice, we become powerful, creative beings. We are reconnected with the spiritual worlds. We are beings that radiate light.



The Luther Bible c. 1530, *The Harvest of the World*,

The image

This scene has its own name: “The Harvest of the World.”

It reminds us that we reap what we sow. If we really understood this at a deep level, we would become very conscious of every action we take, of every judgment we make and of every word we say.

Today, let us practise consciousness. When we do this, we create soul relationships. Karma is not always negative. We can create positive karma by creating relationships with other souls. Today we shall be conscious of every action we take, of every thought we experience, and especially of the words we say to others.



If there is karma between two people it is usually a soul karma not a physical karma. You do have to differentiate in many ways. The soul has an association with consciousness. If you find a person who is conscious on the thinking, feeling and willing levels then you can have a soul relationship. Then the karma between your souls will come into operation and find its finality, not necessarily in the physical, but where it belongs (and commenced), in the spirit world.

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INCIPIT. EXPL'ATIO. SUP'RA. SCRIPTE. ISTO
J E.,

Post hoc uidi: et apertum ē templū
tabernaculi testimonij in celo.
Iam supra manifestatum est: qui
sunt templum tabernaculi testimo-
nij in celo. Et exierunt septem angeli: qui ha-
bent septem plagas de templo. Illi enim de q-
bus dicit: erituros: non habent discessionēs. Des-
cribitur g- et apertum qui sunt templum celeste.
Et exiit iste iussio ē et p- dicatione euāglij: a ma-
nifestatio iustitiae eccliam: qui sunt boni: et qui
mali. Apertum ē templum: et exierunt angeli

et una iussio ē: et septem angeli ipsum est:
quod templum. Templum exiit de templo.
quoniam manifestum ē quod sit uerum tem-
plum. Exiit iste septem angelorum non per-
spicue est: s- solo nomine intelligendus est. Exi-
tus aut- p- locis intelligimus. Supra enim di-
ximus angelum exisse de templo: et clamasse se-
denti sup- nubem: mize falcon: et uindicta.
Hic dicit: exierunt septem angeli de templo. Hic
totum unum ē: et p- dicatione ecclie ē et impium
dñi iussio illius iste exiit ē. Sicut euāglij
dicit: exiit auctum a cesare augustus: ceteri om-
nem uideam. Aliquando enim exiit naturas

Day 38

15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.

2 And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. 3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb,

...

5 After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, 6 and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. 7 And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, 8 and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

Rev 15:1-3, 5-8

We have been reflecting on the perfection of the soul in human evolution. This is represented by the number of 144,000 which depicts those souls who consciously work with Christ. To consciously work with Christ does not mean that we join a church, or devote ourselves to prayer and meditation continuously. It means that we develop a *reflective* consciousness. This happens slowly at first. We learn to look back on our life and think about what we have done, and to honestly evaluate our actions and emotions. We then take responsibility for these. If we have hurt another soul, then we consciously undertake to heal these wounds. We become aware that we incarnate with a karmic account.

Eventually, we are able to live in this consciousness within the present. As Eckhart Tolle puts it, we enter into the Power of Now.

Revelation describes this state of consciousness as “a sea of glass combined with fire.” The astral has become peaceful and clear. This is the sea of glass. It has united with the etheric energy, so it is infused with fire.

The majority of humanity is not ready to undertake this path at present. Rev Mario put the proportion of human beings on this path at five percent. What happens to the other 95%?

There is still one more phase of purification. This is a final opportunity to souls who have bought into the lies of the dragon and the two beasts.

These energies were able to enter powerfully into the developing human consciousness in the Atlantean period. They penetrated the seven Atlantean

temples and corrupted six of them.

The Atlantean temples were the focus of what the esoteric tradition calls the planetary spirits. Through the actions of the three negative forces, our thinking has become corrupted and become self-centred. Our relationships revolve around self-interest. Our actions are self-serving. Our compassion is so corrupted that we can no longer feel the pain in other souls, and our understanding is controlled by past memories and fear.

The seven angels are the renewed energies of the seven planetary spirits. They will purge the Temples of the old corrupting impulses. Humanity has one more opportunity to perceive truth. It will not be easy, but in this stage of our evolution as souls, Rev Mario's words become the guidelines:

Truth is pain

and

Pain is truth.



*Seven Plague Angels Before the Open Temple of Heaven,
Beatus of Liébana, 1220,
Las Huelgas Apocalypse*

The image

In this 13th century manuscript we see the seven angels, "clad in pure, bright linen with golden sashes..."

The seven plagues of these angels are the final cleansing. Especially we need to cleanse and discipline our astral body, where so much unrestrained negativity can take up occupation. There are so many techniques developed by different spiritual teachers to do this. Rev Mario simply said, "Focus on Christ 100% of your time."

For today let us take up this challenge, Christ is as close as our heartbeat, as near as our breath...



If we look at your ordinary everyday life - what are you occupied with all day? It doesn't take much imagination to tell you that you are occupied with making a living, or if you don't have to do that then you are occupied with all sorts of other things, like your house, children etc. So what do you think of for the fourteen to sixteen hours that you are conscious? What are your thoughts? I know that you are not occupied with Christ and as long as you are not occupied every single waking minute with the Christ you cannot transform your astral.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 39

16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

4 The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish 11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. 13 And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. 14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. 21 And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

Revelation 16:1-4, 8-12 and 17-21

The seven angels are messengers from the seven spirits before the throne. In ancient times these were known as the planetary gods and in the Atlantean period they could manifest within the seven temples. Over thousands of years, the temples have become interiorised as the seven spiritual centres.

The Greeks knew the seven deities by the names of the seven planets. Plato tells us that when the soul enters incarnation it brings with it the energies of the seven gods into the spiritual centres in a particular order. The seven angels are the messengers of the seven spirits. They are sent to purify the Atlantean temples, that is our spiritual centres of the negative, destructive energies that entered in at the Atlantean period.

The full story of this purification is too involved to enter into here, but we can put it briefly as follows.

The first angel brings the energy of Ares, or Mars. The power of Ares dwells within the lowest spiritual centre. Harmful and painful sores affected the skin, and the skin is associated with sexuality. The energy of Mars then will change our sexuality. If we misuse sexual energy to gain power over others and to exploit others for our own selfish pleasure and gain, we shall experience pain and humiliation.

The second angel represents the energies of Aphrodite, or Venus. The Venus energies operate through the etheric centre. The sea is the origin of life. We have to purify our life force from the dead beings of memories of past trauma and transgression.

The Moon energies work within the astral centre. In purifying this part of ourselves we have to unify the astral energies with the etheric.

The Sun Temple was the only Temple in Atlantis which did not become corrupted. Within the heart is a pure force which will be released and pour out upon the old energies which prevent us from loving purely.

We have reached the fifth centre. This contains the power of Hermes or Mercury. When this power is renewed then the tongue will no longer be an instrument which can lie. Communication becomes direct and real.

In the sixth centre the power of Saturn, Kronos in Greek, will cleanse the brow centre. Saturn is the old ruler of the gods. His power represents the old Atlantean clairvoyance, the "great river Euphrates." This old clairvoyance must become dried up, so the new ruler of the gods, Zeus or Jupiter can take charge.

Finally, we reach the crown centre. This is where Zeus, the ruler of the gods lives. Zeus is the god of lightning and thunder and of earthquakes. With the purification of the Temple of Jupiter we are again united with spiritual consciousness. This creates a seismic shift in our evolution. Everything changes. The individual centres are no longer islands, "every island fled away," they are connected and united. The barriers and resistance within each centre dissolve,

“no mountains are found”. The power of our individuality, the I AM, will now rule our evolution entering through the open crown centre. We change, and so the world changes.



Matthias Gerung, *The Giving of the Seven Bowls of Wrath*
Ottheinrich Bible, 1520

The image

Purification can be very painful. The last book of the Old Testament advises us to “buy gold refined by fire.” We don’t become gold, until we are refined.

Not one of us escapes suffering in this life. But we need to question the purpose of this suffering within our own life. Is it punishment? Is it karma, payback for a deed we committed in a previous existence? Or perhaps it is the spiritual worlds refining us so that the gold of our divine inner nature may be revealed...

For today, reflect on a time in your life where you suffered terrible pain. How did it change you? Did you become bitter, angry and hard? Or did this experience reveal to you forgiveness, understanding and love? For this day, let us transform for a moment the “wrath of God” into the “consuming love of God.”



The wrath of God is nothing else but the consuming love of God.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 40

17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. 5 And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." 6 And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

Rev 17:1-6

Today is the fortieth day on the road to Pentecost. This is known as the Day of Ascension, because the Book of Acts records that on this day Jesus, after having been with the disciples for forty days left them and ascended into heaven and was hidden from their sight. The number forty is the number of earthly completion. It has taken Christ forty days to complete his work on cleansing the astral and etheric bodies of the influences that had attached themselves to us since ancient times, and wanted to change our destiny as spiritual beings. Forty is four decades of the rosary. These are the elemental decades of fire, earth, air and water which Revelation calls the four living beings. We now enter the final decade, the decade of light.

Christ is the light of the world. He is the true light that enters into us each time we come into incarnation. Light emanates from the higher spiritual worlds. The hierarchy of spiritual beings which stand above us are beings of light. Christ leaves the disciples to work in the higher spiritual worlds where he prepares the new consciousness for us. From this point on, there are no more "woes", as Revelation puts it. Instead there is an increasing unveiling of the new reality, the heavenly city, the new Christ consciousness.

Our passage today begins with the old consciousness, the consciousness of Babylon. It has taken the soul captive. The force which holds the soul in captivity is described in sexual terms. English has really no single word to translate the Greek word *porneia*. It is the origin of our word, "pornography", and really means the misuse of sexual energies. Sexual energy is a complex matter. It originates as the energy of life in the base or gonads centre. As we have already seen, the base centre is comprised of four energy points. These energy

points represent the urge to reproduce, the desire for pleasure, the connection with tribal consciousness and the identification with the physical body and because of this the power of money.

The sexual energy rises into the etheric centre. Sex creates powerful vortexes within this centre that can remain as traumatic memories passed on from life to life. The sexual energy then rises into the astral. Sex here manifests as uncontrollable desire and passion.

Revelation depicts our sexual energy as the woman seated upon the scarlet beast. The beast as we have already seen represents the ancient energies which have permeated our spiritual centres. The woman is the soul corrupted by these energies.

It is easy to see the corruption of the soul everywhere in the world. As I write these words, a war in Ukraine has erupted, driven by one man's desire for possession and ownership. The basis of this behaviour is distorted sexuality. In the United States yet another massacre of young children and their teachers has occurred. Freud was not wrong when he identified guns, missiles and spears as symbols of masculine sexual energy. It is always young men who pick up a gun and kill. It is always old men who make war. It is women who have to grieve and mourn the loss of innocent lives.

We cannot "solve" these problems, but we can shed light on them. We can shed light on the motives and massacres of dictators. We can shed light on the corrupted thinking and morality of politicians who refuse to pass legislation to control the continuing outbreaks of gun violence. Light not only illuminates, it heals. It brings understanding and compassion. It resolves the ancient inner pain that still exists within our memories.

The woman of Babylon is the soul captured and imprisoned by the masculine energy. Now with the feminine energy entering into the world we can experience a renewal of the innocence and purity of the soul. We have entered into the last decade, the decade of light.



William Blake, *The Whore of Babylon*, 1809, ink and watercolour, British Museum

The image

In Blake's vision of the "great prostitute", we see the woman seated on the beast, holding a chalice. Out of the chalice spiritual forces flow into the souls of humanity.

Blake shows the results of these forces at the bottom of the painting: war, conquest, desire, attachment and conflict.

If we want Christ to flow through us, then we need to focus on Christ and make ourselves invincible to all other spiritual energies. Start your day with the invocation below. Repeat it to yourself at different times of the day.

*Only Christ into me, only Christ out of me.
Christ to the right of me, Christ to the left of me.
Christ below me, Christ above me.
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger.
Christ all round me, Christ within me,
Christ to seek, and Christ to win me,
And I invoke the forces of the Christ,
Knowing his power and his might.*



You have no idea what spiritual forces flow through you. You don't understand it and it is difficult to explain. As I have said before, from day to day you are always different. Today you are not what you were yesterday, and tomorrow you will be different again. What makes you different? What are the spiritual forces that do this? There are so many of them.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 41

18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. 2 And he called out with a mighty voice,

*“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!
She has become a dwelling place for demons,
a haunt for every unclean spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.*

*3 For all nations have drunk
the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,
and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her
luxurious living.”*

Rev 18:1-3

We have entered the decade of light. This is heralded by a new light entering into consciousness. This new light, the angel, brings a wonderful message: the old soul template, corrupted into believing that it belonged to the earth, has fallen.

Evolution never stands still. We can go on, or we can go back. Christ brings choice. We have the power to exercise choice when we enter into incarnation. Between incarnations we have no choice. Our experience between lives is created by the actions we took when we lived on earth. This means that the choices we make are very powerful. Each choice will either move us forward, or send us back.

The old consciousness which the Book of Revelation calls the city of Babylon has fallen. It has no life within it. It has imitations of life. Revelation calls these imitations demons, which are destructive spiritual energies; unclean spirits, which are selfish motives; unclean birds, self-centred thoughts and unclean beasts, destructive emotional drives. The new consciousness has none of these.

The new consciousness is built out of light. Light attracts light. As we purify our thoughts and emotions, our vision becomes clearer. We can, as St John puts it in his first letter, tell the difference between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Light dwells within the human heart. As we embrace the Christ consciousness, the light within the heart is no longer obscured. It can shine forth with great power. More and more we become loving beings. The illuminated human soul attracts beings of light. We are now able to communicate

with the higher spiritual worlds through our thinking and intuition.

There is still a long journey before we enter completely into Christ consciousness, but our journey is always into the light.



The Fall of Babylon, Luther Bible 1530

The image

“The Fall of Babylon” is yet another scene from the book of Revelation which many artists have depicted. In this scene from the Luther Bible, we see the angel with great authority coming down from heaven.

This angel with a “mighty voice”, is the angel, the spiritual energy which sits in our astral. It creates pictures within consciousness. If we become aware of these pictures, then we see the nature of the spiritual forces which dwell within us. When we enter into the spirit of Christ we begin to leave behind these old forces. The old word for this is “repent”, but the Greek word really means to “turn around”.

Today, let us look back and see at what point in our life we “turned around.” Where did we turn our back upon the old and dare to move forward into the new. Even more - are there still memories and old behaviours that are holding us back? Today let us listen to the voice of the angel which talks to us in glory, with a mighty voice and shows us who we were, and who we may become.



I think I have talked to you about the Angel that sits in your astral. This very Angel is continually causing pictures in your mind. The more you can see these pictures, the more you will understand the language of the Angels.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, The Book of Revelation, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 42

*4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,
"Come out of her, my people,
lest you take part in her sins,
lest you share in her plagues;
5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven,
and God has remembered her iniquities.
6 Pay her back as she herself has paid back others,
and repay her double for her deeds;
mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.
7 As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,
so give her a like measure of torment and mourning,
since in her heart she says,

'I sit as a queen,
I am no widow,
and mourning I shall never see.'
8 For this reason her plagues will come in a single day,
death and mourning and famine,
and she will be burned up with fire;
for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her."

9 And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in
luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her
burning."

"11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys
their cargo anymore, 12 cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple
cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory,
all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, 13 cinnamon,
spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and
sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.*

Rev 18:4-8, 9 and 11-13

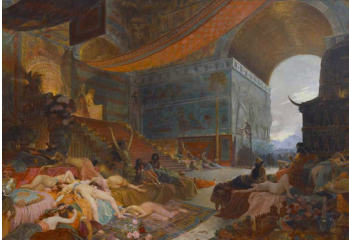
The Book of Revelation devotes two complete chapters on the fall of Babylon. This is a momentous point in the evolution of consciousness. Babylon is earth consciousness. Not the consciousness of the earth, which we need so much right now, but a consciousness which creates the thinking that we are creatures of earth. We arise from atoms, molecules and cells and when our body decays back into cells, molecules and atoms, that is the complete sum of our life.

The sins of Babylon are those thoughts which buy into this consciousness so that we miss our real nature and our real purpose. We are citizens of the spiritual worlds. The angels of Revelation who proclaim the destruction of the old consciousness are messengers from the reality of Spirit who remind us of our real nature and our true origin.

The kings of the earth are ruling thoughts. They are the ideas that should rule our lives. They should guard and care for the soul, and act as channels of the spirit, instead they bought into the lie of Babylon. The predominant thinking of our culture is self first. My own pleasure and gratification is more important to me than the welfare of others. We see this projected into our political world where leaders and rulers become preoccupied with keeping themselves in office, implementing aggressive agendas of power leading to war, and accumulating enormous wealth at the expense of the nation they lead.

The merchants are our transactional thoughts. These govern our relationships with others. When the merchant thoughts originate from Babylon, then we value our relationships according to what they bring us. Do they bring gold, silver and jewels - financial benefit? Do they bring fine linen, purple and scarlet cloth and all the other adornments that create superficial beauty? Do these thoughts engage us through the senses, the sense of taste - wine, oil, cinnamon and spice - the sense of smell, perfumes, and so on. These merchant thoughts connect us to earth consciousness by making us relate only to the elements of our senses.

The fall of Babylon makes us free beings. We are, for a moment aware of ourselves as free beings, suspended between heaven and earth. Babylon traffics in human slavery, which Revelation tells us are human souls. Our souls are now free. We have a choice in front of us. The spiritual worlds are silent while we make this choice. We can choose to return into slavery, or we can make the second choice that Revelation offers. If we take the second road, we can leave the old city, the city of earth consciousness behind, and we can enter into the new city, the city of the consciousness of Christ.



George Rochegrosse (1859-1938), *The Death of Babylon*, 1891

The image

The painting by the French artist George Rochegrosse, invites us into a world of opulence and decadence. Sensuality rules here. When sensuality rules, it really means that our senses rule us. We are trapped within the group spirit Revelation calls Babylon.

Since the Christ event however, we have been given something quite different. We have been given the spirit, the mind of Christ. This gives us the power to reflect on our actions and our thoughts. We have the power to separate from the rulership of the senses.

For today, let us watch when our senses urge us to make decisions. They may be good decisions, but we are not ruled by them. We can approve these decisions or reject them. We have the mind of Christ.



Now, St Paul says, we have the mind of Christ. This means that somehow or another something has broken through the shell, and once the shell is broken, like a crystal vase, you can never put it together again. The ones who have the mind of Christ are no longer subject to the group spirit of their particular race, culture, religion or whatever. Suddenly that man is no longer natural man anymore, he now has something of that Christ in him. There is a flow between that man and that particular spirit.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1984 Lecture Series

Week Seven

The Windows of Heaven Are Open

The windows of heaven are open,
The blessings are falling tonight,
There's joy, joy, joy in my heart,
For Christ made everything right.
I gave him my old tattered garment,
He gave me a robe of pure white.
I'm feasting on manna from heaven,
And that's why I'm happy tonight.



Day 43

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready;

8 it was granted her to clothe herself

with fine linen, bright and pure” —

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited

to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true

words of God.” 10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to

me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers

who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus

is the spirit of prophecy.

Rev 19:6-10

We have arrived at chapter 19. There are twenty-two chapters in the Book of Revelation, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, which also means one chapter for each major trump of the Tarot. The nineteenth tarot card is the Sun. The Sun is a symbol of celebration and joy, and that is the theme of chapter nineteen.

The marriage of the Lamb with the Bride is the marriage of Christ with the soul.

Christ descends into earthly incarnation in order to reverse the soul’s descent into matter. As we have seen, the soul over thousands and thousands of years became caught up with beings and forces which wanted to absorb the soul into the earth, so we would truly become part of the earth, and our spirit would disappear. Christ works to free us from these forces and energies. The more we work with the Christ forces and align ourselves with the purpose of Christ, the stronger our own soul forces become. Eventually the old soul consciousness, the city of Babylon, which tied us into the experience of the phys-

ical senses can be overthrown. The soul becomes free, and becomes cleansed and purified from the past.

It takes an enormous focus and devotion to purpose to achieve this freedom. We have been asleep, now we have to become awake, and stay awake. It is not easy to stay awake. Christ asked his disciples to do two things: "Watch and pray!" But they still fell asleep. The philosopher Colin Wilson wrote a book about the teaching of George Gurdjieff called, "The War Against Sleep". Our two weapons in this war are the two instructions of Christ: we watch constantly, that is, we self-observe our thoughts and actions, and we pray, which means we constantly communicate with the spiritual forces of Christ. Eventually, the soul will again become pure. It returns to the pristine state it had when it first descended from the spiritual realms. It is ready to become the Bride of the Lamb.

In the old church, nuns were often known as Brides of Christ. This was a prefiguring of what our soul would become. There was still a lot of attachment to the world within convents and monasteries, and often they became hotbeds of jealousy, resentment and sexual frustration. It would be an evolutionary blind alley for us to strive for spiritual awakening by escaping from the world. The disciples of Christ did not abandon the world, they embraced it. Our soul becomes more and more what it really is by embracing the world and all our relationships, with love. When we achieve this, then the soul is the "Bride who has made herself ready."

The marriage of the Lamb and the Bride is for most of us, still in our future. When the soul unites with Christ, then we are sealed to him forever. We enter into the greater light, and, as we have seen already, there is no limit to light. Light increases forever and ever.



*The Wedding Feast of the Lamb, Mosaic
St. Mark's Basilica, Venice C12*

The image

When I look at this ancient mosaic, I am struck by the diversity of characters. There are different men and women and of course, the four living beasts. We are united. The Latin engraving says, "Blessed is the one who is called to the wedding supper of the Lamb."

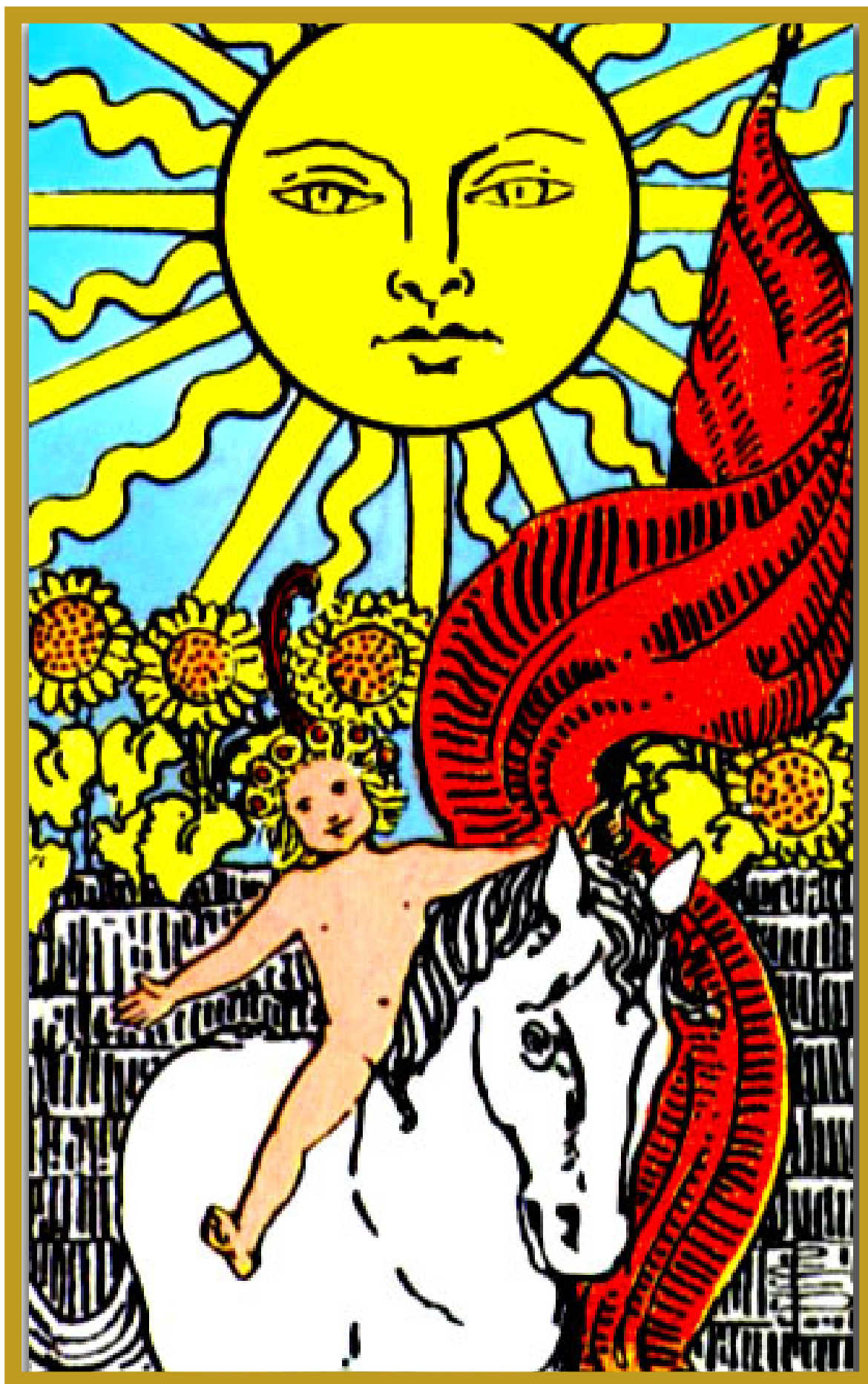
In this consummation of our spiritual path, everything is united. In this unity however, we are still individual beings. We are not annihilated into a super nirvana where individuality vanishes. We are, however, greater. Much greater than our own conscious experience could ever indicate.

For today, let us be conscious of our spiritual greatness. Today, as we respond to the urging of Christ, "Watch and pray," let us occasionally think, "I am greater than this!" Experience what it means to be "a feminine, receptive being." Experience the gift of Christ.



...this is our unification with the Christ spirit. Have you noticed that the Christ Spirit is always indicated as masculine? And you and I as feminine? The interesting part of it is that as far as the heavens are concerned we are seen as feminine, receptive, fruitful beings. We can look at one another and say, 'He is a man; she is a woman,' but from the point of view of the heavens, as a totality we are feminine in nature. With the amalgamation with the Christ Spirit comes, of course, the harmonisation. Only then can it come about, both within self and as far as the Universe is concerned. This is what the marriage is all about.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 44

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Rev 19:11-16

We have already encountered “the one who is to rule the nations with a rod of iron.” This is the male child from chapter 12. The soul gives birth to the child, the I AM, but the spiritual powers had to take the child to safety, to safeguard our new-born individuality from the dragon, the powers of the earth, who would swallow him up. Now the matured I AM returns.

Tarot card nineteen, The Sun, depicts the I AM as a young child riding a white horse.

The white horse is a symbol of the purified intellect. The purified intellect arises once the astral body is cleansed and placed in the service of the I AM.

The description of the I AM in Revelation 19 is not one of a child. The I AM can now take charge of our evolution. United with the thinking forces arising from the enlightened astral, it balances the scales of justice. It is in charge of our karma. No one knows the name of our I AM. The essence of the human being is sealed away in the most sacred part of our being and no other human being can perceive it. Nevertheless, the I AM, which is the inner Christ Self, will now lead the armies of heaven, our spiritual energies and perceptions. The I AM will cut away the delusions of the old perceptions and understandings with the sword of truth. It has eyes of fire - our vision penetrates outer appearances. A sharp sword comes from his mouth: our words and thoughts will become powerful and effective in cutting through the old materialistic consciousness.

We know who this mighty being mounted upon the vehicle of our intellect is; it is Christ in us, the hope of glory.



XIX The Sun, Waite Smith Tarot, Art by Pamela Coleman Smith, 1909

The image

The heavens open again. From here we gaze into the future. The rider on the white horse is the same rider who marked the opening of the first seal in Revelation 6. Now however, he will rule the nations “with a rod of iron.” He is the gift of the I AM.

The Waite Smith Tarot was a great re-envisioning of the traditional Tarot. It combined the talents of the esoteric scholar, A. E. Waite with the visionary artist Pamela Coleman Smith. In “The Sun”, they have presented the Rider on the White Horse as a child. This is because our I AM is only in its infancy in this present time. Symbols of the Sun stand behind the foreground characters. This reminds us that not only is the I AM a gift of Christ, the “Sun Being”, we are now able to open the Sun body (the etheric) and perceive the reality of Christ in the spiritual worlds.

For today, let us find time to let our normal, talkative, chatty consciousness wind down into silence. This permits our “etheric eyes” to open. Through this etheric vision, the I AM can show us an aspect of our reality, an aspect of our purpose. Let us go forward today with a renewed sense of purpose, because each of us is a being which has descended from the spiritual worlds, and for each of us there comes a stage when, just like St John, we see “heaven opened.”



The White Horse appears again... Once our Lord comes in that manner, to lead us on and give us the white horse which is the purity of intelligence, the complete and pure spirituality, with the ability to use our soul as a sword, then we have the ability to rule the nations with a rod of iron... We will then have the power of the stars with us so we can rule this earth.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, The Book of Revelation, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 45

20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also, I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power.

Rev 20:1-6

We have arrived at chapter twenty. This is the chapter of judgment and resurrection. The corresponding Tarot card is also called Judgment.

An angel comes down from heaven who holds the key to the bottomless pit. The Greek word translated as “bottomless pit” is “abyss”. In the Kabbalah, the abyss is the space between the top three sefirot, the heavens or spiritual worlds, and the rest of the Tree of Life. It is an inner space which separates our experience as human beings from our experience as spiritual beings.



It is part of our spiritual evolution to “cross the abyss.” To make the journey from understanding ourselves as human beings, to experiencing that our true home is in the heavens. The devil, the dragon, that power which wants to bar our entrance into divine consciousness, is bound away for a time so that we can make this journey. This is a gift of spirit. It is a time of grace.

If we experience this grace, then we are gifted for a time with spiritual vision. We see thrones, that is, the ruling spiritual principles within. We see all our spiritual thoughts and energies. Revelation calls these the souls beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and the word of God. Even in our darkest hours, the soul sends us understanding of our true nature and purpose, but often our analytical mind “decapitates” the thoughts before they can illuminate our darkness. With the sealing away of the dragon, we have an opportunity to recover our true spiritual thinking.

This stage of our evolution is a gift of grace. We have not conquered the dragon ourselves as yet, that is still to come, but we have a spiritual experience, we live for a time in a spiritual consciousness.

Our task is to take this consciousness back across the abyss and retain it when the arrows of human suffering and pain pierce us again. We can turn our back on the spiritual experience and forget - or we can choose to remember. Remembering spirit as human beings is difficult, but there is one energy that remains. This is the intense feeling of deepest gratitude. If we can live in the power of gratitude then we will remember who we truly are, and be ready for the call of our divine spirit to once again rise into the heavens and claim our heritage as Children of God.



William Blake (1757–1827), *The Angel Michael Binding Satan* ("He Cast him into the Bottomless Pit, and Shut him up") (c 1805), watercolor, black ink, and graphite on off-white wove paper, 35.9 x 32.5 cm, Harvard Art Museums/Fogg Museum

The image

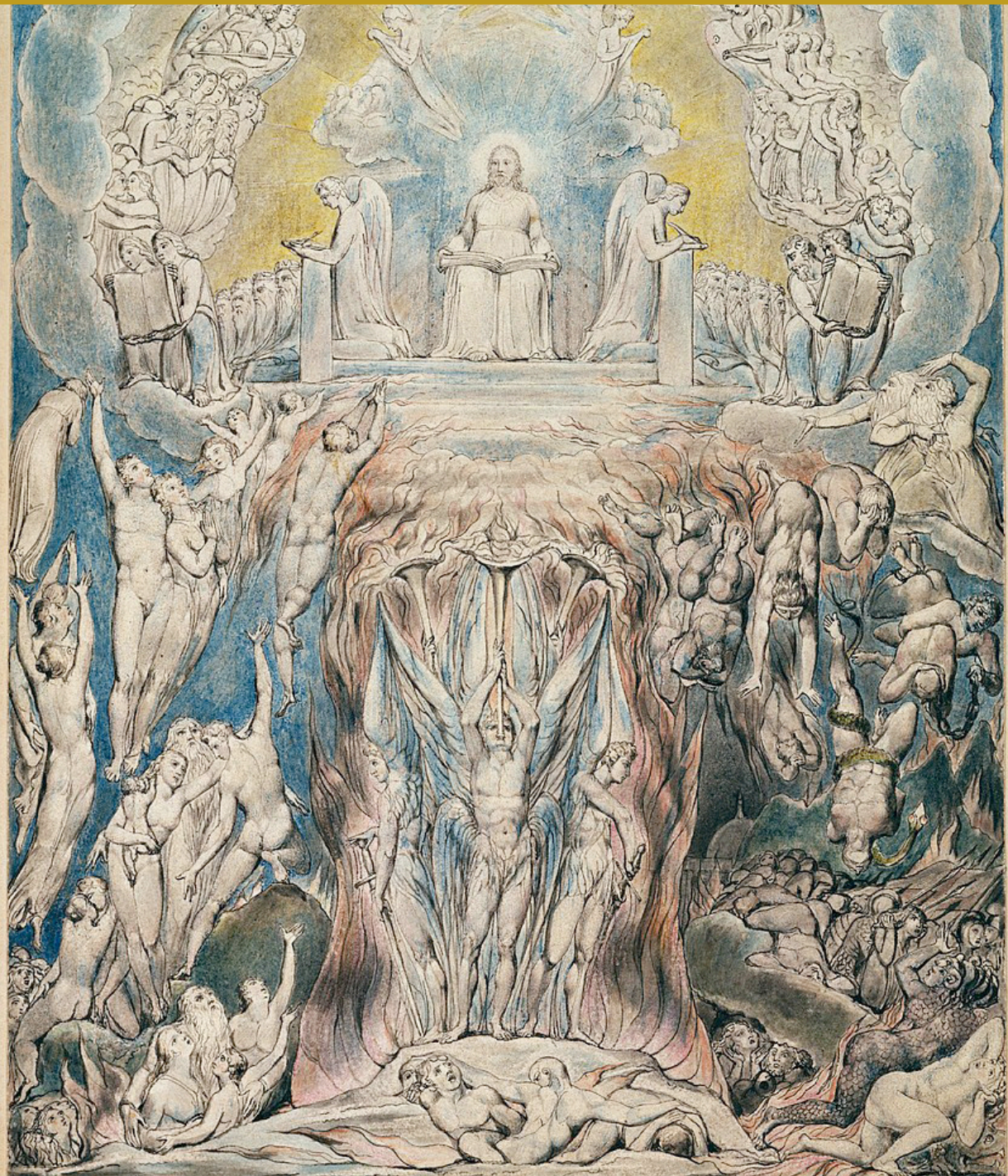
There comes a point in our spiritual evolution, when we recognise that we *have* a spiritual evolution. Such a realisation is not a matter of theory, or intellect, it is a deep gut-wrenching movement to a completely different understanding. In such a metanoia, a 'turn-around', we start to live as spiritual beings, not as earthly beings. We may have to discard our intellectual opinions about our importance and self-importance - we become "beheaded for the testimony of Jesus."

Today, let us take time to discover where we are going in life. Are we willing to be rejected because of our understanding and spiritual expression? If we are able to stand within our individuality, and respond from the deep urgings of the Christ within, then we are on the way to transformation of the soul, the astral and the etheric. Eventually we too, will transform the physical body into the Resurrection Body.



The Resurrection Body: So something has happened to us in which a change, a transformation has taken place. At the end of this age (of the world) there is a division. There will be a spiritual company of people who live on a spiritual plane, who will receive their resurrection body, the same body that Jesus had, or should I say their real body, that which they originally came with when they entered this earth. That body is now restored back to them; the outer, which does not belong to us, has fallen away. They have transformed themselves into that spiritual likeness of which Jesus was the prototype. That change, that transformation is called the first resurrection; the change of the physical into its spiritual equivalent.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, The Book of Revelation, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 46

7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev 20:7-15

We have crossed the abyss the first time through the gift of grace. We have had a spiritual experience. Once we have had this experience then we know that spirit is real. In ancient days this might happen through a formal initiation. The negative energies within the candidate were absorbed for a time by the initiating priests and the soul was able to ascend into the spiritual worlds where it could be taught about its purpose as a spiritual being. The soul had to return and reabsorb the negative energies, which Revelation calls Satan, into the soul vehicles. The task of the initiate once returned, would be to use the spiritual knowledge and power given to them to overcome the energies of the dragon by their own efforts.

In our era the gift of crossing the abyss often comes through a Near Death Experience. The initiation chamber has become the operating theatre. The hierophant and the priests are the surgeon and the assisting doctors and nurses. The individual returns from the experience of spirit with the task of transforming their life through their knowledge.

We return to normal consciousness. Satan is released. Satan is the great deceiver. It is the voice within our consciousness that tells us that our experience was an illusion, it doesn't mean anything. We should fall asleep again. T. S. El-

iot calls this force of sleep, indifference:

*There are three conditions which often look alike
Yet differ completely, flourish in the same hedgerow:
Attachment to self and to things and to persons, detachment
From self and from things and from persons; and, growing between them,
indifference
Which resembles the others as death resembles life...*

T. S. Eliot *Little Gidding*

Normal consciousness is a sleep consciousness. We have lost our memory of our nature as spiritual beings. The spiritual fight is not a physical or emotional combat, it is a war against indifference, the consciousness that says, "I don't care about you", and in the end the consciousness that says "I don't care about me either." These thoughts are the "nations at the corners of the earth." We overcome them through the "fire that comes down from heaven".

At Pentecost the fire comes down from heaven for those souls who gather together in the name of Christ in the upper room. This fire is the gift of the I AM as the Christ Self. Prayer is an action of remembering. When we pray, we are remembering that we are spiritual beings.

The fire enters into our spiritual centres. They become fiery roses. From here the fire spreads throughout the whole of the subtle bodies, the astral and the etheric. These bodies become a "lake of fire". The old thought patterns, the energies that create indifference, that put us to sleep, are burned up. Rev Mario described this as being "on fire for God."

We come to live constantly in communication with the I AM, this is the one who sits upon the throne. We are not living in Christ consciousness yet, that will come, but we can now place our thoughts, emotions, impulses and memories before the throne of the I AM and decide whether they belong to death or to life. The death energies are thrown into the Lake where they are dissolved. The life energies, those whose names are written in the book of life, are available to us, and will assist us in our future evolution.

This stage is described in all its power and beauty by T.S. Eliot:

*And all shall be well and
All manner of things shall be well
When the tongues of flame are in-folded
Into the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.*

T. S. Eliot, *Little Gidding*



William Blake, *The Day of Judgement*, by William Blake. Illustration for Robert Blair's poem, *The Grave* 1805.

The image

"Judgment" may seem to go against our idea that we have free will. If we have free will, why should we be judged?

The spiritual worlds give us our freedom to make choices, but this freedom does not release us from the results of our choices. There is a point in our evolution when we face these results. Revelation makes it clear that our memories of past lives, the "opened books", will need to be addressed. There is another book however, that records not our choices, but our response when we discover the results of these choices. If we accept what we have done with an open heart, and commit to rebalancing the scales – which is what the Greek word for judgment, *krino*, means – then our name is written in the "Book of Life."

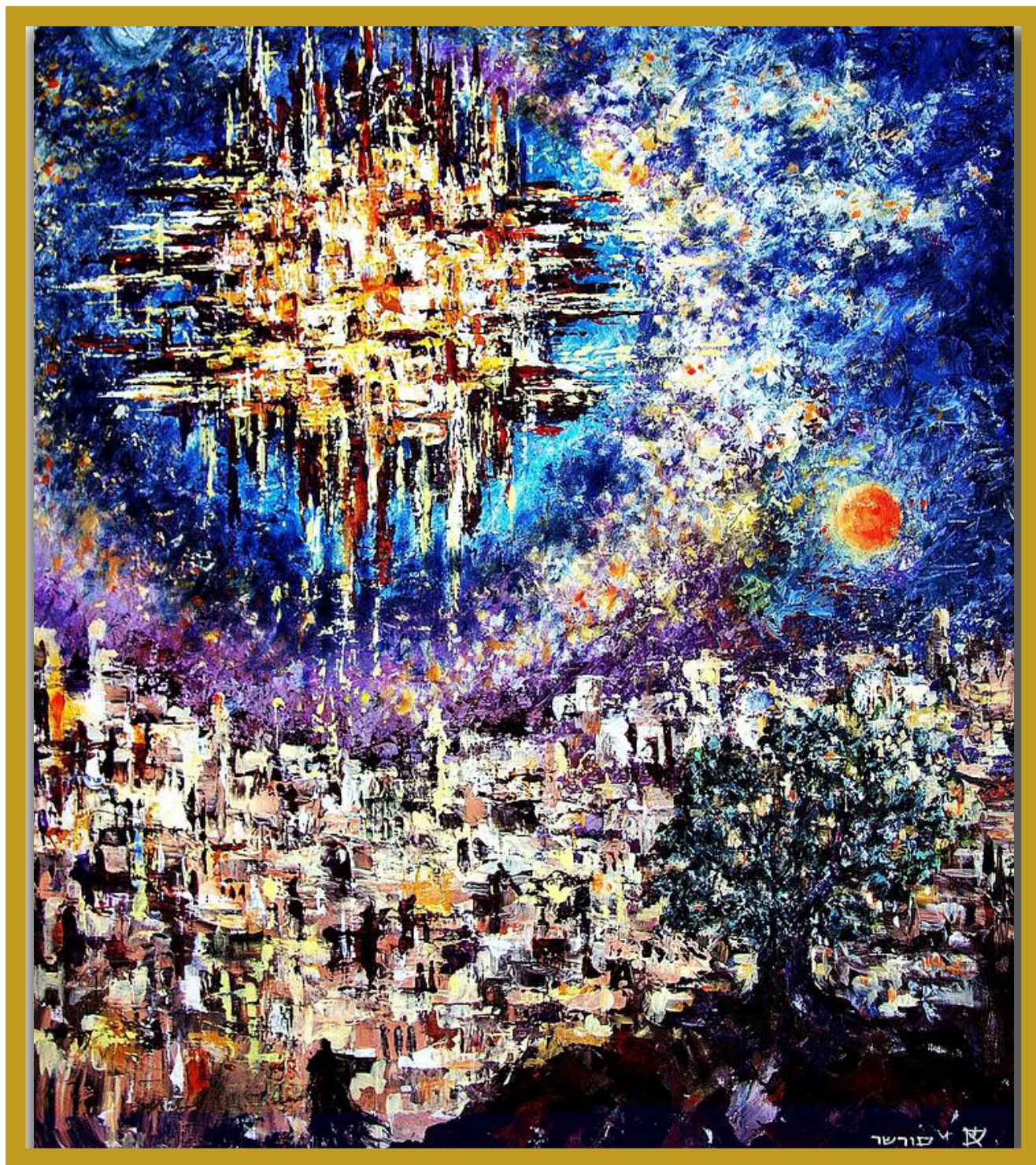
For today, revisit a choice you made, and look at the results. If you are unhappy with the results of your choice, then commit to rebalancing these results in the future. Become part of the Christ Spirit. Move forward.



Opening Prayer:

"O Lord supreme, who governs our being yet leaves us free in our choices, grant that through the operation of what we have learned we may be able through our deliberate choice to enter into that field, through that gate, whereby our Will is unified with Thine. Grant that we may go forward with clearer eye, deeper understanding, greater courage and wondrous hope. This we pray in the name of the Christ. So shall it be."

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 47

21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Rev 21:1-5

The new consciousness, Christ consciousness, descends upon us from the spiritual worlds. Christ consciousness is a complete renewal of the soul. The old soul consciousness is represented by the old city of Babylon. Here the soul energies are directed towards the earth. We see this consciousness all around us. It dominates world news. It tells us that life is about money, comfort, luxury, possessions, pleasure and power. We may as well spend all our life energies pursuing these, because once this life is over, there is nothing more. Only darkness and non-existence. This is the story of Babylon, the story accepted by the majority of souls at present.

The Book of Revelation tells a different story. The narrative of Revelation is that our thinking and understanding have become permeated and entwined with spiritual energies that want to make us part of the earth. Their greatest weapon is forgetfulness. They have made us forget where we came from. Their greatest symptom is indifference. Most people are indifferent to the calling of spirit.

Revelation is a call to action. We see the call of Revelation in our world as well. Everywhere we witness compassion, care for others and the environment, voices that urge us to think of the consequences of our actions, and other calls for renewal of our selfish agendas, we are hearing the angelic voices of the Book of Revelation.

The old consciousness is a group consciousness. It says that I should think the way other people think and I think that everyone thinks exactly like me. The rise of "influencers" on social media is a perfect example of this. If we accept the misinformation and memes that the internet and distorted journalism put out, then we are abandoning our own gift of decision-making. We are living in a group consciousness, the city of Babylon.

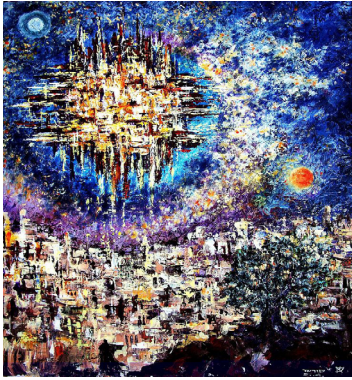
The new consciousness is also a city. It is the city of Jerusalem, that is, the City of Peace. Christ consciousness is also a group consciousness. This may seem to oppose the very idea of “individuality”, for we have come to think of the individual as being separate from others. When the Beast is on the throne of our consciousness, we think that we have to compete and strive against one another. The beast promotes a world view that we are isolated from one another, islands in a vast ocean.

Christ consciousness says, “Yes, we are islands, but islands are connected.” The New Jerusalem is a consciousness of connection. We discover that every person we encounter is linked to us. We discover that we are connected with the earth, we are born out of the earth as the child is born out of the mother. The more the new consciousness descends upon us, the more we discover our unity with the whole of creation. This is the state of peace. Everywhere we look we see God, as the Sufi poem puts it, “Only God I saw”. When the Christ self sits upon the throne of consciousness, suffering ends, because the root of suffering is the delusion that we are separate, isolated beings.

As we enter more deeply into the city of the new Jerusalem we know that this is not the case. We look into the eyes of those we meet and see Christ there. We look out into the world and see Christ at work. We are not islands, we are joined and united through the continent of Christ.

*No man is an island entire of itself; every man
is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;
if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe
is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as
well as any manner of thy friends or of thine
own were; any man's death diminishes me,
because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom
the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.*

John Donne



Alexander Sorsher, *New Jerusalem Revealed*, 2014, Painting - Acrylic On Canvas

The image

The contemporary artist Alexander Sorsher shows us the New Jerusalem slowly descending; poised for a while above the old city.

For us also, the new consciousness is not present within us yet, but it is imminent.

It is so difficult for us to see everything as new. Psychologists think that as newly born babies we are blank slates, waiting for life to write its experiences upon us. Spiritual knowledge however, declares that we do not come into incarnation reborn anew; we bring with us the emotional pain of thousands and thousands of years of incarnation. It will take Christ to renew the soul, and to grant us renewed vision and understanding.

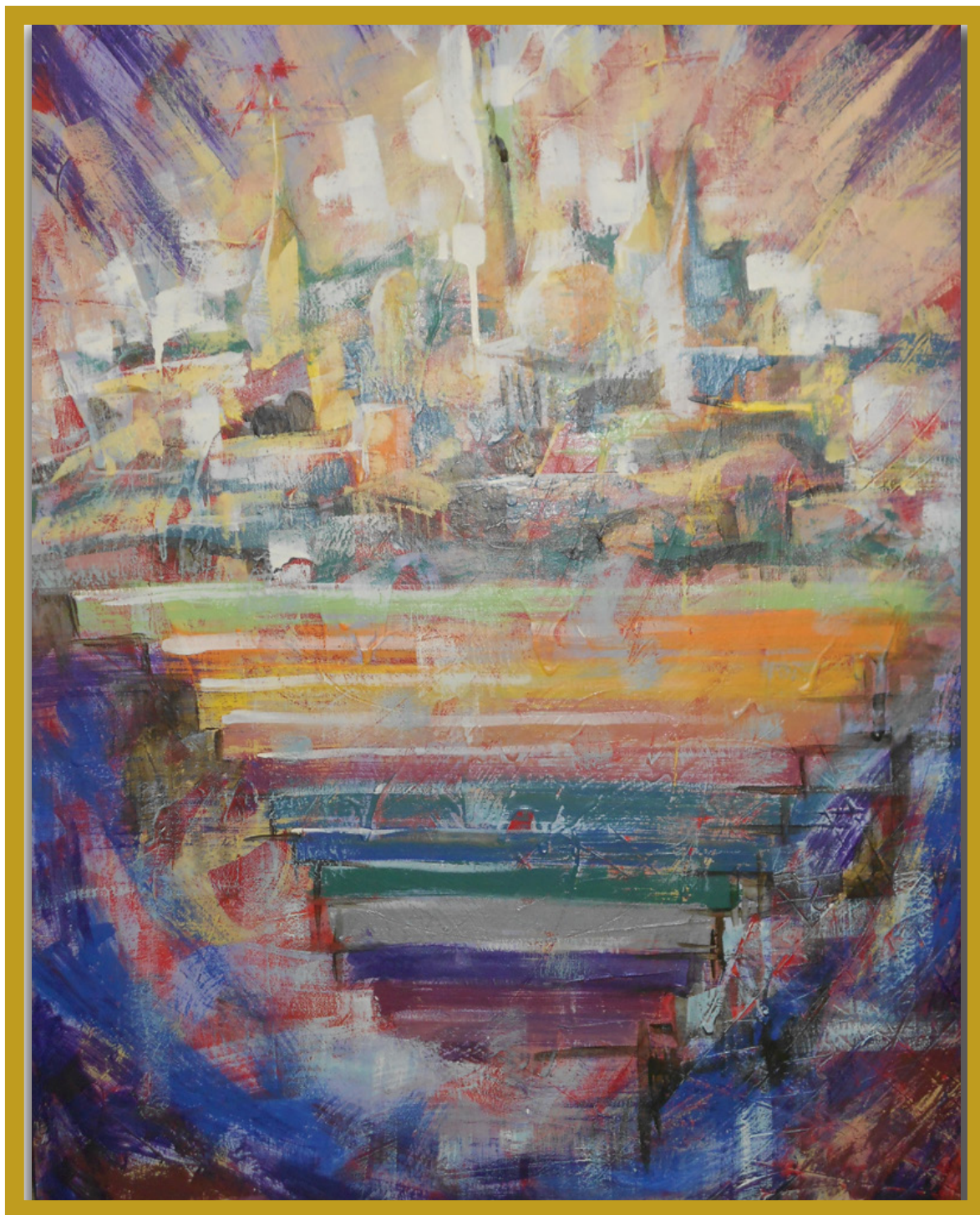
For today, take a moment to look around at the old world and see it as though for the very first time. Allow a sense of wonder and awe to enter in, as we embrace the creation with the love which first drew us from our spiritual home. Experience the truth of those words, "We are spiritual beings upon an earthly journey."



All Things Are New: A totally new experience. When we say to one another that we must turn over a new leaf, have you noticed that it is difficult to do? We always have to build on the past, on that which has gone by. There is no such thing as a new slate. Your past experiences determine how you are going to act today. Every day will give you another experience which will make you wiser for the next time. On this earth there is no such thing as something new. We can say we forgive and forget but reality means that we have to carry on with the past experiences.

[In the new consciousness of spirit] everything is new.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 48

9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed — 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Rev 21:9-14

The visions of the Book of Revelation preference two numbers: the number seven and the number twelve. The number seven is about evolution, the number twelve is about perfection.

We have reached the final stage of spiritual evolution. One of the angels whose task was to guide and direct our evolution shows us what perfection looks like, "the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God."

Both seven and twelve are composites of three and four. Seven is three plus four; twelve is three times four.

In Revelation three divine forces radiate into the world of the soul. These are the "one seated on the throne", the Lamb, and the Spirit. The soul is created by four forces, called the four living creatures. Each creature has three pairs of wings, that is, they are raised up by the three divine powers. The number four represents the earth. Seven represents the divine added to the earth. The seven spiritual centres are where the divine energies should flow into our physical body. Twelve represents the transformation of the physical by the divine.

The culmination of evolution is that the soul should be transformed into the divine feminine. She will become the Bride of Christ. Christ consciousness does not mean that our own consciousness is extinguished; it means that our own consciousness becomes illuminated by the light of Christ. Perfection doesn't mean that we become something different; it means that we become wholly who we are. At our present stage of evolution we are small children. The new Jerusalem shows us who we shall be when we grow into full maturity.

The City contains the glory of God. The glory of the divine will radiate out from the soul which has become clear and transparent. We experience this

through the presence of certain souls. Their actions and words make the world clear to us. They light up what is important and help us to see the road ahead.

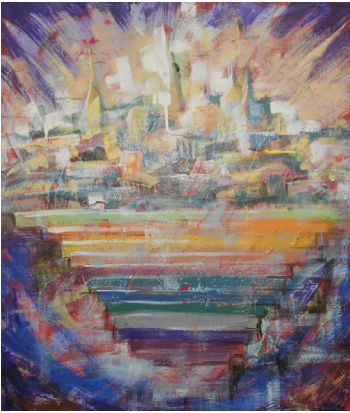
In its perfection the soul is bounded by a wall with twelve gates. These are arranged in four pairs of three. The formative forces of the soul, the four living creatures, have become part of the very fabric of the soul. Only the pure divine energies will now be able to enter into the soul.

At our current point of evolution we have become slaves to the masculine forces. A time of change however, is at hand. It is the feminine that is the template for the soul, and the feminine is entering more and more strongly into human evolution.

There are three aspects of the feminine that must enter into the soul, and into consciousness.

1. The feminine is receptive. We will learn to listen and respond.
2. The feminine nurtures. We will care for the elderly, the weak, the powerless amongst us. We will finally care for the earth.
3. The feminine brings to birth. Out of the feminine, the I AM is born. The I AM in its turn lights up the soul. The greater our inward light, the more clearly we see our path forward.

Perfection may be in our distant future, but the foundations have been laid. The wall of the soul is being raised on the deed of Christ represented by the twelve apostles. As this wall is raised, we are no longer invaded by hostile soul forces; instead the inner light becomes focused. Our understanding becomes clear, our thinking becomes enlightened and filled with compassion and love. We come into incarnation more and more to assist other souls. The glory of God, the radiance of the divine, flows out from us. We also are the light of the world.



Molly Walker Freeman, *The New Jerusalem*, 2013

The image...

The modern artist, Molly Walker Freeman, shows us the New Jerusalem descending into consciousness. Her painting depicts seven steps, seven degrees of consciousness which the City will descend through.

The New Jerusalem is the consciousness of God. This means it is the consciousness of love, for as St John reminds us in his first letter, "God is love."

Let this be a day of love. Love expressed not just towards a family member, or a beloved partner, but love expressed to the whole of our connection with the earth. We should love our physical body, for it is the vehicle which carries us through to Christ. We should love the existence we have been given, for this also is the vehicle which carries us to Christ. And when we have experienced our love flow out to every aspect of life, then allow yourself to feel the love flowing back from the creation into your own soul. For the earth also is being transformed by love.



John is given the blueprint, in fact the whole of Revelation is a blueprint, of how to achieve the Christ consciousness. We may already follow the blueprint and to a certain degree receive a Christ consciousness.

What is the great mark of a Christ consciousness? I would say it is love for matter, love for your material body, love for the existence around you, love for your home, your possessions, not in a 'hanging on' way but in a caring manner.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, *The Book of Revelation*, 1984 Lecture Series



Day 49

22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Rev 22:1-5

In three years Christ experienced the whole of the past of the human condition. Through the crucifixion and resurrection he showed us what we could become, beings of pure spirit. He transformed the physical body into the resurrection body. In the 49 days of the path to Pentecost, Christ transforms what we know as our subtle bodies.

Our etheric body, the body of life and vitality which holds our memories since the commencement of incarnation, is purified of the old energies which have crept in and crippled us as spiritual beings. Christ restores our memory of who we are and where we came from.

Christ purifies the astral body, the body of desire, of emotion and the seat of thinking, from the negative energies which have crept in and made us self-centred, selfish beings.

The etheric and astral bodies are connected with the physical body through the spiritual centres. Much of the Book of Revelation records the opening and transformation of these centres through divine energies.

Finally, the soul body, the expression of the feminine within the human being is freed from the old corrupting energies which over so many life times have created the lie that we are creatures of the earth, and nothing more. When the old soul vehicle has been utterly purified, then the new soul vehicle descends from the spiritual worlds as the city of the new Jerusalem.

The old soul was closed to the renewing power of spirit. In the new soul, this renewing power, the “river of the water of life” flows directly into consciousness. We are constantly in communication with the power that flows from the throne of God.

This power flows into the ‘tree of life’ which is the totality of our subtle energy system. The tree of life bears twelve kinds of fruit, which includes the seven spiritual centres and the five transformed senses. Its branches are the energy system of the subtle bodies, known as nadis in the Indian tradition, and

as meridians in the tradition of China.

At this point, our consciousness is completely filled with the consciousness of Christ. Like him, we have become the light of the world. No longer do we need external lights, for we are light. We will take our place, restored to our rightful position in the spiritual hierarchy. The purpose of the creation will be fulfilled. We shall become angels. The angels will become archangels, the archangels archai - every being evolves, even God...

This immense play of evolution will take its next step tomorrow, when on Pentecost Sunday we commemorate the gift of wind and fire to humanity. This is the gift of individuality. If we accept this gift then we also begin to walk the long path of the 49 days, prepared for us by Christ.

This is the most difficult and challenging path to walk, for on it we meet our greatest adversary, our old self. We also meet our greatest aid and support, our new self. Humanity is caught between the old and the new. We cannot stand still. Every incarnation is one of choice. Our choice decides our destiny. We can choose to descend into the earth and become bound to the earth forever, or we can choose the difficult path of ascent. The path of purification, of self-knowledge through self-reflection, the path which always moves to the light, the path of love, the path of renewal, the path of Christ.



William Blake, *The Water of the River of Life*, Ink and watercolor.

The image...

We have arrived at the end point. Christ's work of transformation is complete. Blake's painting is full of this transformation. The transforming power of the River of Life; the transforming power of the Tree of Life, and the transforming power of the rising sun which is the "...true light coming into the world..."

Today, let us look back on our journey. Each day is a day of transformation. We have transformed the spiritual centres, the astral, the etheric and the soul. These transformations will be witnessed tomorrow, the Day of Pentecost, when the entry of Christ Consciousness is witnessed by the flame and the wind.

Just for this day, let us not strive for anything. Let us have a day of gratitude that we are embraced by the great work of the spiritual worlds. That a great spiritual being sacrificed himself for us, not because we deserved it—but because he loved us. Let us, on this day, remember, that "God so loved the world..."



The pattern for all this is the Christ. He indwelt a physical body which means that the physical body is important to the Hierarchy. He did not live in poverty as many people think. No, no, no! The twelve apostles were all wealthy men; they had their own boats which meant that they were good business men. Judas had the bag of money; an indication that they had money. Look at that Christ. He finally transformed His physical body through the act of death, pain and suffering. That body then became a transformed body, a resurrection body. And St John said, "We shall be like Him". So Jesus Christ is the pattern. He gave us the blueprint in the Gospels and in Revelation.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, The Book of Revelation, 1984 Lecture Series

Pentecost

Peace is Flowing Like a River

Peace is flowing like a river,
Flowing out of you and me,
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

Love is flowing like a river...

Healing's flowing like a river...

Allelujah, allelujah,
Allelujah, allelujah,
Allelujah, allelujah,
Allelujah, allelujah.

Peace is flowing like a river,
Flowing out of you and me,
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.



Day 50

2:1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

We have come to Pentecost Sunday. Six weeks have passed since the resurrection, and now at the seventh Sunday the transformation that commenced with the crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ, has been fulfilled.

The deed of Christ is completed, now we are given the opportunity to become part of his work.

In the Book of Revelation the angels act through two agencies, they have a “mighty voice” and they bear fire. These are the attributes of the son of man in chapter one:

“14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters”

Rev 1:14-15

The son of man is the template of the culmination of our evolution. At Pentecost our future is restored to us.

All four of the elemental energies, the four living creatures of Revelation are empowered by the deed of Christ. The elements of earth and water are transformed by the Eucharist into the body and blood of Christ. Now the elements of air and fire are transformed into the voice and vision of Christ. As Christed beings our voice becomes powerful. We can speak to others and be understood where they are in their own consciousness. Our hearing becomes acute, we can hear the pain of the soul in the voices that speak to us.

Our vision is able to pierce behind the veils of illusion. We see to the heart of matters. We are able, in the words of St John, to distinguish between the spirit of error and the spirit of truth.

Rev Mario taught that Pentecost was a singular event. Like the deed of Christ, it occurred at one moment of human history and will not be repeated. Although certain groups pray for the spirit to descend upon them, we know that the spirit has already descended. At Pentecost we pray that we may be more open to embrace what was given more than two thousand years ago so that we may become, like the "Son of Man", forerunners of human evolution. We pray that our voices will be heard throughout the world, reminding others that we are divine spirits dwelling for a while upon the earth. We pray that the gift of fire may create an inner fire. That we may live in conscious communion with the divine, that our vision may pierce the veil placed upon us by the mists of this world. We pray that as T. S. Eliot put it, the flame given to us at Pentecost may be

*...infolded
Into the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.*

The gift of Pentecost is a gift of return. The power given through the sacrifice of Christ restores us to our origins as spiritual beings. We can never go back. We can return to our origins in spirit, but our journey has changed us, and when we arrive back to where we started, we will see the whole of creation as different, creation will have changed, because we have changed.

*We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.*

T. S. Eliot, *Little Gidding*, Four Quartets, 1942



El Greco 1541 – 1614 *Pentecost*, c 1600, oil on canvas (275 × 127 cm), Museo del Prado, Madrid

The image...

I love this painting of El Greco for its humanity. He has chosen to show us the disciples of Christ, both men and women, focused around Mary, the soul principle.

The gift of the heavens is poured out upon those who loved Christ in his physical form, and now experience his love returned to them, touching and transforming through the new power implanted within the soul. I also love that El Greco has included himself in the painting – he is the bald man in the foreground– for the spirit of Pentecost is not given to a small elect, it is bestowed upon every human soul.

The gift is given, once and forever. Now it is up to us to accept this gift. Spend this day in the experience of the inner fire which glows within you. Experience the power of the soul to give birth to the godhead. Experience the transforming energy of the hierarchy of the spiritual worlds, and the template, the blueprint of Christ. Above all experience that you also are made new.



This book, which we have just finished, is a training manual for the Will. You should keep on reading it now and until your dying day. It has to do with the unification of your Will with the Will of God. It is one of the most difficult and almost impossible Initiations to achieve. If we can attain, following the blueprint, then we will be able to understand that most wonderful text which can only properly be understood in the Seventh period. For some unknown reason it is always read at a funeral service, but it has nothing to do with funerals.

“Truly, truly, I say unto you, he who believes [takes me as a pattern] in me will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father.” (John 14:12)

So those who take Christ as a pattern, follow the manual of the book of Revelation, work on their Will levels (unify their Will with the Will of God) will do the works that Christ did. And that marks you as a Christ conscious person.

Rev Mario Schoenmaker, The Book of Revelation, 1984 Lecture Series

Appendices

Appendix I: Music

Will You Come and Follow Me

(The Summons)

Music: Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987

Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name? ____
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name? ____
3. Will you let the blin - ded see if I but call your name? ____
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? ____
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name. ____

8
— Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same? ____ Will you
— Will you care for the cruel and kind and nev - er be the same? ____ Will you
— Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same? ____ Will you
— Will you quell the fear in - side you and neve - r be the same? ____ Will you
— Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same. ____ In your

17
lete my love be shown; ____ will you let my name be known; ____ will you let my
risk the hos - tile stare ____ should your life at - tract or scare? ____ Will you let me
kiss the lep - er clean ____ and do such as this un - seen, ____ And ad - mit to
use the faith you've found ____ to re - shape the world a - round, ____ Through my sight and
com - pa - ny I'll go ____ where your love and foot - steps show. ____ Thus I'll move and

26
life be grown in you and you in me? ____
an - swer prayer in you and you in me? ____
what I mean in you and you in me? ____
touch and sound in you and you in me? ____
live and grow in you and you in me. ____

Text and Music Acc. © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community

Ask, Knock and Seek

Words & Music John Rawson, 1990

Chords: D $\flat$ G $\flat$

Knock, and it shall be o - pened Seek, and you shall find,

Chords: D $\flat$ G $\flat$ D $\flat$ E $\flat$

4 — For the an-swer's — in the ques-tion — In the heart and in the

Chords: A $\flat$ A $\flat$ 7 D $\flat$ D $\flat$ 7 G $\flat$

8 mind —. If you ask it shall be giv-en, — All the ques-tions of your

Chords: E $\flat$ m A $\flat$ 7 D $\flat$ E $\flat$ m A $\flat$ D $\flat$

12 soul, For the an-swers all lie with him; — He is Christ, who makes you whole.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Helen H Lemmel

Chords: D A Bm D7 G A

Turn your eyes upon Je - sus, — Look full in his won-der-ful face; —

Chords: D Bm D7 G D G D

8 — And the things of earth will grow strange-ly dim In the light of his glo-ry and grace.

Within My Being Lord

Words & Music unknown

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a Bb chord and an F chord. The second staff begins with a C7 chord and ends with a Bb chord. The third staff begins with an F chord, has a C chord in the middle, and ends with an F chord. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines.

With-in my be - ing, Lord, ___ As I com-mune with thee, ___ Op-en my

5 eyes to see ___ Your power in me is free. ___ My spi - rit longs to know

10 ___ More love, more free to flow, ___ And in your pres-ence know ___ Your love di - vine ___

Let's Be What We're Made to Be

I Carmen

Let's be what we're made to be, Is - n't this our des - ti - ny?

Let's get star - ted now to - day, Up - ward on our way.

Let's be what we real - ly are, Seek and find our in - ner star,

Let's go for - ward in the light, Fa - ces shi - ning bright.

Sons of God, un - mi - ted are we,

Let us prove the truth that sets us free!

Let's live out our u - ni - ty, Build a true com - mun - i - ty,

As the good in all we see, Let's not wait, let's be!

Lose Yourself in Me

Text based on John 12:20-33
music: Rev Carey Landry

♩ D A

Lose ____ your-self, in me ____ And you will find your - self,

5 A7 D

Lose ____ your-self in me ____ And you will find new life.

9 A

Loose ____ your-self in me ____ And you will find your - self, ____ And you will

13 A7 D D7 G

live, Yes, you will live in my love. ____ Un-less ____ a grain of

18 D

wheat Falls ____ in - to the ground, It

21 E7 A A7 G

still ____ re-mains ____ But a grain of wheat. But if ____ it falls and dies,

27 D

Then ____ it bears much fruit. So it

29 E7 A D.S. al Fine

is ____ with those ____

The Path to Pentecost

Vision

Wors & Music: John Rawson 1996

C G C G C

In si - lence, so qui - et - ly, In deep - est hush of re - ver - ie, A win - dow op - en -

7 G E G7

ing I see, Op' - ning on e - ter - ni - ty. In

12 C G C G C

har - mo - ny the co - lour flows, A sym - pho - ny of spi - rit grows, My heart leaps up be -

17 G G7 C

cause it knows The my - stic vi - sion of the Rose. _____

The Windows of Heaven Are Open

Traditional

C

The win - dows of hea - ven are o - pen, _____ The bless - ings are

6 G7 G

fall - ing to - night, _____ There's joy, joy, joy in my heart, For

13 C

Christ made e - very - thing right. _____ I gave him my old tat - tered

19 C7 F

gar - ment, _____ He gave me a robe of pure white. _____ I'm feast - ing on

26 C G C

man - na from hea - ven, _____ And that's why I'm hap - py to - night. _____

Peace Is Flowing

Traditional

Peace is flow - ing like a ri - ver, Flow - ing
out of you and me, _____ Flow - ing out in - to the de - sert,
Set - ting all the cap - tives free. _____

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of three staves. The first staff contains the first line of the melody. The second staff begins at measure 6 and continues the melody. The third staff begins at measure 13 and concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures.



O Love That Knoweth of No Fear

Unknown

O love that know - eth of no fear, _____ O love that sheds a joy - ous
tear. _____ O love that makes me whole and free, _____ Such love shall
keep and hal - low me. _____

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three staves. The first staff contains the first line of the melody, with a C major chord above the first measure and a G7 chord above the fifth measure. The second staff begins at measure 7 and continues the melody, with C major, F major, F# major, and C/G chords indicated above the notes. The third staff begins at measure 14 and concludes the piece with a C major chord and a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures.

Appendix II: Rev Mario Schoenmaker

Rev Mario is featured in every meditation. Without him, and his co-worker, Rev Colin Read, *The Path to Pentecost* would never have come into existence. Some of their story is available on www.marioschoenmaker.com

Born in Holland in 1929, the young Mario Schoenmaker discovered a spiritual vocation. Attracted to the Catholic priesthood, he began seminary studies before being repelled by the bigotry and dogmatic attitudes he experienced. Leaving the seminary he explored different Protestant groups, training in oratory and theology and running a mission in the slums of Amsterdam. During this time he developed his healing gifts through a spiritual healing ministry.

Holland would not be home forever. In 1958 he emigrated to Australia. After a few years Rev Mario and a young family arrived in Perth, Western Australia to take charge of a large Congregational church. He settled into the role of an orthodox Protestant minister, then everything changed.

Certain mystical experiences opened up profound clairvoyant gifts. The new perceptions transformed his understanding of the purpose of Christ and the nature of the soul. For the rest of his life he continued to develop his abilities and became a driving force creating a new expression of the Western Spiritual Tradition in the form of Esoteric Christianity in Australia. He is the author of several books, including *The New Clairvoyance* (Gateway Books, 1986). I had the great good fortune to experience him as spiritual teacher and mentor for almost twenty years.

The term “spiritual teacher” has gathered a lot of negative press in recent years. Many teachers, both East and West, have been shown to be controlling, exploitive and abusive towards their students, milking them of money and assets in the name of spirituality.

To start with, let me say that Mario was not a “guru” – he did not ask his students to give over their will (nor their income!) to him. He did not attempt to deprive people of their individual thinking abilities and he was not attempting to brainwash his students and give them a set of trite concepts, which they could parrot back to the rest of the world.

Of those who did set themselves up as spiritual teachers in this way, Mario made the point that such personalities were neither spiritual nor teachers!

Aristotle would say that “Teaching” and “Learning” are actually the same activity. I think that Aristotle might mean that if there is any such thing as “spiritual teaching”, then there has to be some “spiritual learning” going on. What did we learn as “spiritual learners”? There were perhaps three main thrusts.

In the first place, we all learned to *think*! This means we learned to think for ourselves. We became much more independent thinkers. Mario’s teaching

emphasised the need to develop this faculty. He taught that unless thinking is developed, then no spiritual development can take place.

The second aspect of his teaching is that he gave *experiences*. No person can persuade another of the reality of the spiritual worlds. But we are all capable of experiencing them for ourselves. Mario had no place for “belief” in his teaching. In his interpretation of the word, if you had to believe, then you just did not *know*! Belief implies a reliance on the experience of someone else. When you have ‘experienced’, then you can say “*I know* from my own experience.”

The last aspect of Mario’s teaching could be called “transmission”. This would come about in a variety of stages and settings. The culmination of his teaching was given through the transmission he called “Ordination”.

Over thirty years, Rev Mario gave thousands of addresses, lectures, workshops and seminars. During many of these, his profound insight into the Bible shed new light on familiar and obscure passages and provided his listeners with their own personal “Aha!” moments.

We hope this volume of contemplations over the fifty days of the Pentecost journey maintains this tradition, and continues the legacy of a remarkable individual.



Appendix III: Chakras and Spiritual Centres

Over the last one hundred years the chakra concept has become part of the New Age discourse. The chakras are centres within the subtle bodies. They transform spiritual energies into mental, emotional and physical energy.

‘Chakra’ is the Sanskrit word for ‘wheel’, and these centres of force appear to spiritual vision as rotating wheels which throw out sparks and rays of light. The chakra theory originates in texts from as early as 500 BCE, but developed its current complexity in Indian and Buddhist Tantra philosophy of the middle ages. The first translations of tantric texts appeared in the late nineteenth century.

Many cultures and traditions acknowledge the existence of the chakras, including the Buddhism, Taoism and Western Esotericism.

Traditional texts show the chakras as seven centres aligned along a central axis:

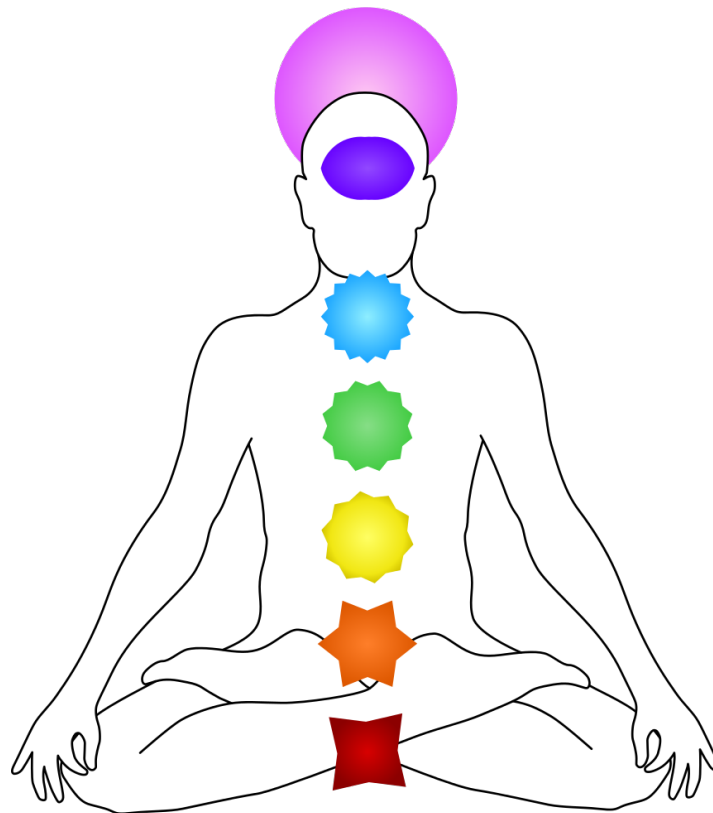


Fig 1: Traditional chakras aka spiritual centres
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Chakras_map.svg

Different Eastern traditions described different numbers of chakras ranging from four to seven. They also associate chakras with images, sounds and colours. In the twentieth century seven chakras became the standard, and the colours were set to the order of the main colours of the spectrum.

Western writers started using the term chakra about 1880. In 1904 Rudolf Steiner wrote:

The organs ... are perceptible to the clairvoyant near the following parts of the physical body: the first between the eyes; the second near the larynx; the third in the region of the heart ... These organs are technically known as wheels, chakrams, or lotus flowers.

Edgar Cayce preferred the term 'psychic centre' over the term 'chakra' and Rev Mario Schoenmaker used the term 'spiritual centre'. There is also a tradition of centres of energy within the subtle body within the West.

In the Western tradition these centres were known as the interior planets.

The first detailed description of spiritual centres in the West is found in Book 10 of the Republic by Plato. Plato describes how the incarnating soul descends through seven planetary spheres. As it descends it takes within itself the influences of each sphere. The planets become seven centres of energy. These 'inner planets' are the spiritual centres.

Western name	Sanskrit name	Physiological system	Gland	Colour	Plato's Planets	Gichtel's Planets
Base	Muladhara	Reproductive	Gonads	Red	Mars	Moon
Sacral	Svadhasthana	Genitourinary	Cells of Lydig	Orange	Venus	Mercury
Solar Plexus	Manipura	Digestive	Adrenals	Yellow	Moon	Venus
Heart	Anahata	Circulatory	Thymus	Green	Sun	Sun
Throat	Visuddha	Respiratory	Thyroid	Light Blue	Mercury	Mars
Brow	Ajna	Autonomic nervous system	Pituitary	Indigo	Saturn	Jupiter
Crown	Sahasrara	Central nervous system; general control	Pineal	Violet	Jupiter	Saturn

Table 1: The Spiritual Centres

The seven energy centres are described in a variety of ways in the Book of Revelation. Seven lamps on seven lamp stands, seven churches, seven seals and seven angels.

The esoteric tradition continued to transmit the concept of inner planets. In the fifteenth century the philosopher Marsilio Ficino made the “inner planets” an important part of his soul psychology. The visionary Jacob Boehme (C17) seems to have taught this system to his close followers. One of them, Johann Gichtel, produced a series of pictures showing the planets in similar positions to the centres.

In the west the centres are associated with the colours in rainbow order (Table 2). Rev Mario observed that

In ideal circumstances a colour is associated with each centre, but we have never observed this in practice because this would only happen in an entity who had reached perfection.

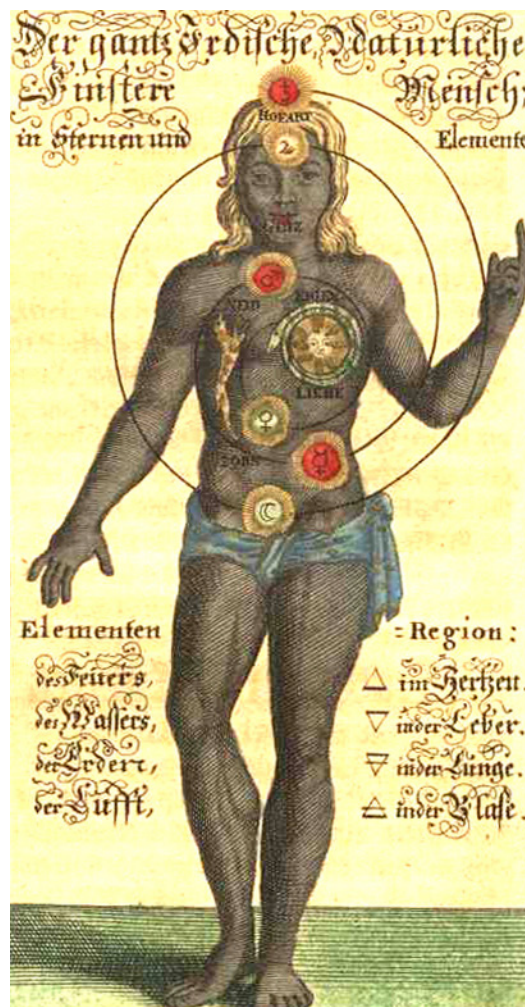


Fig 2: The “Inner Planets” from Johann Gichtel

The spiritual centres should act as transformers for spiritual energy. This energy comes towards us from the spiritual worlds and is converted into physical, sexual, mental and emotional energy within the person. In “ideal circumstances”, to quote Rev Mario, this would mean that we were all perfectly balanced on the physical, mental and emotional levels. Such a balance is rare, and often dysfunction within the individual can be traced to blockages within the energy centres. Such a blockage stops energy entering into the subtle bodies and flowing through the whole personal and trans personal system. Spiritual traditions have developed a variety of techniques to clear blockages so that the individual may be released from mental and emotional dysfunction.

Teachings which derive from Indian and Buddhist practices describe a process where energy is raised up from the base chakra (muladhara) energising each centre in turn until it unites with the crown chakra (sahasrara). This has also been taught in the west by some groups. The process is often called “raising the kundalini”. In these descriptions when the energy rises through a central channel in the spine and unites with the crown centre, then the practitioner has an ecstatic experience.

On the other hand, teachings originating in China have another viewpoint. In the Taoist teachings, energy is indeed lead up the channel in the spine to the top of the head, *but then it is directed back down a channel in the front of the body*. The energy is stored in a centre known as the Dan Tien. Taoist teachings also have a great deal to say about the major and minor channels in the subtle bodies.

A third possibility is described in the *Pentecost Meditation*, and that is the expression of spiritual energy as a spiral. This links the centres in pairs around the heart:

Crown - Base
Brow - Sacral
Throat - Solar Plexus
Heart

If you return to the seventeenth century image of the inner planets, you will see depicted a spiral movement of energy from the heart centre, finishing at the head.

There are two types of spirals: those with a clockwise rotation, and those with a counter-clockwise rotation.



Fig 3: Clockwise and counter-clockwise spirals

The topics of spiritual centres and subtle channels are covered in detail in *The Way of the Wyse Art*, (Appendix IV).



Appendix IV: The Way of the Wyse Art

Reverend Rev Mario Schoenmaker was a teacher of the Christ Mysteries. His teaching was experiential rather than theoretical. He immersed us in an environment which empowered the seed within the soul to grow and transform. He opened our spiritual eyes.

Spiritual perception is latent within every human being. Many people have asked the question, "How can I develop this perception myself?" To this end we have created three courses in spiritual development. They are known collectively as *The Way of the Wyse Art*.

The Wyse Art courses derive from the Western Esoteric Spiritual Tradition. The work begins with self-examination leading to self-transformation and is completed with the chance to dedicate a life to uplifting the consciousness of the world.

If this sounds like something you could enter into, you can find more information at www.realm-2.com and click on the link "Way of the Wyse Art".

There is no text book for the spiritual path. We are unique individuals and each of us not only has to find our own path, we have to create our own path.

Over the years many souls have undertaken the Wyse Art journey. These souls empowered their own "hope of glory". They transformed life into an adventure. They continue to engage in an inspirational relationship with the Real self. They walk the Path to Pentecost every day – they become co-creators with the divinity.



Appendix V: The Rosary and the Path

If you practice the rosary as part of your devotional life, then you would have realised that just as there are five decades of the “Hail Mary” prayer on the rosary, so there are five decades of days on the Pentecost path.

The Western Esoteric Spiritual Tradition connects the decades of the rosary to the five decades of the path to Pentecost through the elements.

Day 1 to Day 10: The Element of Fire

This is the first decade, the decade of the resurrection. From early times, the resurrection has been associated with the fire element. The Orthodox Church today still celebrates the miracle of the Holy Fire which appears on the tomb of Jesus on Orthodox Easter Saturday.

During the decade of Fire, Jesus appears to the disciples who in turn, are set on fire by their love for him. The decade closes with the appearance of the I AM, walking amongst the golden lampstands.

Day 11 to Day 20: The Element of Earth

During this decade we deal with the interaction of spirit with the earth - through the mediation of the spiritual centres. The letters to the seven churches describe how our entry into earthly incarnation has changed our very spiritual dynamic.

Day 21 to Day 30: The Element of Air

The opening of the seven seals represents the new energies of the Christ forces entering into our old spiritual bodies. Christ energy creates thinking, but this is a new kind of thinking. The thoughts of Christ are transformational. They may create pain and chaos within life... but they open us up to love.

Day 31 to Day 40: The Element of Water

We commence the fourth decade with the sounding of the seventh trumpet. The cleansing and renewal of our subtle bodies is completed. In the decade of water, we discover the monsters that occupied our emotions and our instinctual thoughts. The soul gives birth to the I AM; the beasts rise from sea and earth; the bowls of wrath are poured out.

Day 41 to Day 50: The Element of Light

We enter into the decade of light. Christ as the light of the world is enthroned within our consciousness. The old city of Babylon is overthrown and the old consciousness flees away. The new consciousness of Christ, the New Jerusalem descends within us. The outer lights are no longer necessary, for the light of our own divinity continues forever.

