

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Rebirth



"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some Elias: and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?"

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

—St. Matthew 16:13-17.

The Rosicrucians and all disciples of authentic occult philosophy based upon the revelations of the sixth sense, have always maintained that rebirth, or reincarnation as it is sometimes called, is a fact. They have the proof of this in their ability to watch the death of an individual, follow his life on the invisible planes, and then observe his birth into a new physical body.

The Rosicrucians maintain that in each earth life we are creating the foundations of our life in the next incarnation. The Bible does not go into this matter exhaustively, still there are enough references to it to show that the authors of the Bible were in possession of the knowledge of rebirth. Max Heindel has brought this out in the following article, which we quote from *The Rosicrucian Philosophy in Questions and Answers*:

"There is plenty of authority in the Bible for the theory of rebirth; although it is only taught directly in one place. The Jewish priests believed in the theory of rebirth, or they would not have sent to ask John the Baptist, "Art thou Elijah?" as it is recorded in the first chapter of John in the twenty-first

verse; and in the Gospel of Matthew, we have the words of Christ concerning John the Baptist which are unambiguous and unequivocal. He said, "This is Elijah." Also on the later occasion, at the time when they had been upon the Mount of Transfiguration, the Christ said, "Elijah has come and they have done to him as they listed"; and we are told that the disciples "knew He was speaking of John" who had then been beheaded by Herod.

"In Matthew, the 16th chapter, 13th verse, He is asking His disciples, Who do the people say I am? and the answer which they give Him is, Some say that you are John the Baptist, others say that you are Elijah, and again others say you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets. It is noteworthy that the Christ did not contradict them at all, for He was a teacher, and if they had entertained a wrong idea concerning the doctrine of rebirth, it would have been His undoubted duty to set them right. But He did not do that. He moreover taught it directly, as per the above passage.

"There are also cases mentioned in the Bible, where a person has been chosen for a certain work *before his birth*. An angel foretold the coming of Samson and his mission—to slay the Philistines. The Lord said to the prophet Jeremiah, "Before thou camest out of the womb, I sanctified thee and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." John and Jesus had their missions allotted to them before they were born. A person is chosen for a mission because of a special fitness. Proficiency presupposes practice, and practice prior to birth must have been in a previous life. Thus the doctrine of rebirth is also taught by implication in the cases cited."