

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Revelation of St. John the Divine

OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven; and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

And immediately I was in the spirit: and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their head crowns of gold.

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth forever and ever,

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

—Revelation 4:1-11.

As a basis for the interpretation of this awe-inspiring picture, let us consider the following passages from the Western Wisdom Teachings:

“In the beginning of a Day of Manifestation it is taught that a certain Great Being (designated in the Western World by the name of God, but by other names in other parts of the earth) limits Himself to a certain portion of space, in which he elects to create a solar system for the evolution of added self-consciousness. He includes in His own Being hosts of glorious Hierarchies of, to us, immeasurable spiritual power and splendor. They are the fruitage of past manifestations of this same Being and also other intelligences, in descending degrees of development down to such as have not reached a stage of consciousness as high as our present humanity. There were twelve great Creative Hierarchies active in the work of evolution at the commencement of the Saturn Period. Each of the Planetary Spirits which proceeds from God and has charge of the evolution of life on one of the seven planets, is also threefold and differentiates within itself Creative Hierarchies which go through a septenary evolution.

“The twelve signs of the zodiac are variously divided according to their effect on humanity into cardinal, fixed, and common signs, also into fiery, earthy, airy, and watery signs. The fixed signs are Taurus, the Bull; Leo, the Lion; Scorpio, the Scorpion (and Eagle); and Aquarius, the Water-bearer. The four initials, I.N.R.I., placed upon the Cross (at the Crucifixion of Christ Jesus) represent the names of the four elements in Hebrew: *Iam*, water; *Nour*, fire; *Ruach*, spirit or vital air; and *Iabeshah*, earth.... Hiram Abiff, the master workman, as his final achievement, succeeded in smelting all the metals of the earth into an alloy as transparent as glass.”

(To be continued)