

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## The Gospels

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### (Part IV)

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth.

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The mothers of many of the world teachers have borne names beginning with the letter M, which is the great feminine letter of the Hebrew alphabet; it symbolizes "water," and is representative of the feminine principle in man. It is by means of this principle that the Christ or Saviour is born within man. Jerome interprets Mary as "Myrrha" or "Maris" (bitterness).

The process of purification is always difficult. "If ye would be my disciples, ye must take up your cross and follow me," said the one perfect Exponent of the Way. Mary, or Mare, is interpreted by the Spanish as "Star of the Sea." Esoterically, the sea is the desire nature, and the star is the Spirit which rises above the lower nature, even as Grecian mythology portrays Venus, the goddess of love, rising star-crowned from the sea, symbolical of the separation of love from passion, the great work of the neophyte in all Mystery Schools. Since a virgin is a symbol of purity and chastity her adoration is common to every world religion. Isis in Egypt and Ceres in Greece are familiar examples. Around the virgin who becomes a divine mother centers the important work of the spiritual Mysteries of each country. Isis says: "The fruit that I bear is the Sun." The pre-Christian Madonna is represented as bearing in her arms the Sun Child, born at the Winter Solstice, to bring new life to the Earth and all mankind.

The early pictures and statues of the

Virgin sometimes bear a flower or sheaf of wheat, symbolical of the Highest spiritual attainment. Among the early Christians it was not the person of the Holy Mary that was worshipped, great and glorious though she was, but the Feminine or Wisdom Attribute that she typified. It is that universal emanation of the Cosmic Christ, that word or formative power which became flesh and dwelt among men, which makes every human being potentially divine. Hence Mary was represented among the early esoteric Christian groups as being the complement, or the bride, of the Holy Spirit. This feminine principle is formative in its nature, consequently the Virgin becomes through an Immaculate Conception the mother of a new and higher ideal called the Christ in the Christian world, and known by various names in other religions.

Christians of the Piscean Dispensation (the present age) have worshipped the personalities of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the principal characters of the Christian era. The Christians of the Aquarian or New Age Dispensation, while reverencing them as the highest of Earth's Initiates and perfect patterns for man's emulation, also recognize that they represent the awakened feminine principle in man, through which the new or spiritual Christ-man is born.

Mary, as previously stated, was the greatest Initiate ever to be born upon the Earth in a feminine body. Like Jesus, she was born of an angelic annunciation and an immaculate conception, according to the exquisitely beautiful story given in the apocryphal Protevangelium, or Gospel of James the Less. Not now included in the orthodox canon itself, this apocryphal book of the New Testament contributes substantially

to an understanding of the deeper truths concealed within the canonical Gospels. Indeed it was included by Jerome in his Latin Vulgate, and it was considered as part of the English Bible also until the time of Luther.

The name Anna, or Hanna, who was the mother of Mary, means "virgin of light." Great souls can be born upon the Earth only through pure and holy parents. To be born of a virgin is not an occurrence limited to the Master Jesus but applies equally to all highly illumined souls who come to give their lives in service for the benefit of humanity. This is illustrated in the life



of John the Baptist, and also that of Abraham and Samuel, who stand out as notable examples among the teachers of the Old Dispensation.

The Old Testament period was largely concerned with the replenishment of the Earth after the Flood. Man concentrated on material endeavors. The free expression of the personal nature bound him more closely to the material world. Polygamy flourished among the masses. The primary consideration was the rapid re-admission through rebirth of the largest possible number of Egos upon the Earth plane, and the immediate evolutionary purpose was number rather than quality.

The New Testament portrays a much higher attainment. With the preparation for the coming of the Christ to the Earth a new ideal was given. To the most advanced of the Arian Age it had been taught that the act of generation might be performed without passion, as a holy sacrifice. Only by parents whose souls are wedded in a high and holy love is the act of generation consistent with that ideal and blessed by the attending Angels.

Every Ego thus born is immaculately

conceived. All parents who thus prepare themselves for this sacrament, through prayer and holy living, will know the inspiration of an angelic annunciation. And only in this way can the new race of supermen be born on Earth. This has been the inner teachings of Christianity during the Piscean Age, as revealed under Pisces (zodiacal opposite, Virgo, the sign of the Immaculate Conception and of service through chastity). This ideal, which it was the mission of those sublime Initiates Mary, Joseph, Zachariah, and Elizabeth to demonstrate in preparation for the coming of the Christ Spirit to the Earth, will become generally understood and to some degree manifest in the coming Aquarian Age, while the still higher teaching of the power of the manifestation of Cosmic Love will be disseminated under its zodiacal opposite, Leo, the ruler of the heart.

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## CORRELATIONS

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physical world, the interpretations of the five senses impinging through the cerebro-spinal system upon the mental faculties through the medulla oblongata, the singing plane containing the composite key note.

It is the attainment of cognition that marks the nadir of materialization of a state of being; subsequent evolutionary periods perfect the dynamic appropriation of sentiment, comprehension, wisdom, and will as efficiently as is that of cognition now.

Within the domain of the Creator the quintessence of cognition, sentiment, comprehension, wisdom, and will are always dynamic, permeating all strata of all planes in the five worlds with His life in all-conscious and self-conscious dictation.

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