

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Revelation of St. John the Divine

INTRODUCTION

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.

Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all the things that he saw.

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

—*Revelation 1:1-3*

In interpreting the Holy Scriptures, and particularly the Book of Revelation, we should, first of all, realize that it is necessary to probe underneath the "vestment" to find the priceless truths hidden within. As Max Heindel reminded us:

"It must be noted that those who originally wrote the Bible did not intend to give out the truth in such plain form that he who ran might read. Nothing was farther from their thoughts than to write an 'open Book of God.' The great seers who wrote the Zohar are very emphatic upon this point. The secrets of the Torah (the Law) were not to be understood by all, as the following quotation will show.

" 'Woe to the man who sees in the Thorah only simple recitals and ordinary words! Because if in truth it contained only these, we would even today be able to compose a Thorah much more worthy of admiration. But it is not so. Each word of the Thorah contains an elevated meaning and a sublime mystery. . . . The recitals of the Thorah are the vestments of the Thorah. Woe to him who takes the vestment of the Thorah for the Thorah itself! The simple take notice of the garments and recitals of the Thorah alone. They know no other

thing. They see not that which is concealed under the vestment. The more instructed men do not pay attention to the vestment but to the body which it envelops."

Occult philosophy has been given by "the more instructed men" (initiates) and therefore in its teachings concerning the origin, evolution, and future development of man and the universe, we find the key to the innermost secrets of the Bible. St. John himself was among those highest initiates who have so zealously followed Him who declared: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me," that they are able to read the imperishable records in the Memory of Nature (the World of Thought and the World of Life Spirit) and thus acquire information not to be found in any other way. In *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* it is stated that the beloved John symbolizes the Venus initiation.

So it is that St. John's "revelation" or "vision" pictures (in symbols) for those who have the eyes to see a sublime record of the past, present, and future of man, the microcosm, or the God-in-the-making, and the universe, or macrocosm. These conditions entail not only the material changes in the visible bodies of man and the Earth, but also in the less perceptible metamorphosis that takes place within the inmost recesses of the human being as he progresses from clod to God. The coming of the Christ as the indwelling Planetary Spirit of our Earth opened wide the doors of initiation to "whosoever will," and all those who heed the ever-resounding call, "Come unto me," will be among the "redeemed" of whom St. John prophetically speaks,