

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

An Interpretation of the Revelation to John

Part 3

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R*ev.* 12-22 describes the struggle (in the evolutionary process) between Jehovah and the Lucifer Spirits. John describes seeing a woman clothed with the Sun, with the Moon under her feet, who brought to birth a child. A dragon sat by to devour the child, but the child was caught up to God and the woman fled to the wilderness. (*Rev.* 12:1-6). The woman symbolizes the forces of physical creativity directed by the lunar god, Jehovah. The child brought to birth is humanity. The dragon represents the Lucifer Spirits. The dragon being prevented from devouring the child by the child being caught up to God indicates that during involution, when man's consciousness was in the higher Worlds, man had little self-consciousness and could not initially be aroused to acts of selfish passion by the Lucifer Spirits, but instead docily followed Jehovah. The wilderness is something which is far removed from man's everyday actions. The woman fleeing to the wilderness indicates that man was not generally aware of the creative act at that time.

Michael and his Angels fought the dragon, and his Angels and the dragon were thrown out of Heaven. Then the dragon was on Earth and able to pursue the woman. The woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she could fly into the wilderness, away from the dragon. The dragon poured water out of his mouth after the woman, but the Earth swallowed up the river. (*Rev.* 12:7-17) The dragon and his Angels being thrown out of heaven refers to the fact that the Lucifer Spirits are stragglers of the angelic life-wave and they needed

a denser environment for their evolution than that needed by the Angels. The dragon pursuing the woman on Earth indicates that the Lucifer Spirits tried to get man to use his creative forces to serve their interests. The Lucifer Spirits needed physical knowledge in order to further their evolution, so they wanted men to stop depending on the guiding wisdom of Jehovah and to act on their own initiative (however unwise these acts might be). Man was given two means of resisting the promptings of the Lucifer Spirits. One is represented by the two wings of the great eagle, which represents the wings of prayer which help man to put his consciousness in touch with the divine and thereby to attain divine guidance. The other is represented by the Earth swallowing the river poured out of the dragon's mouth. The river poured out of the dragon's mouth indicates the selfish desires which the Lucifer Spirits tempt man to entertain. The Earth swallowing this river indicates that physical restrictions can put limitations on selfish desires (one tends to stop desiring that which he knows is physically impossible to obtain).

A beast rose out of the sea. The beast had a mortal wound which healed. Men worshiped the beast. (*Rev.* 13:1-10) The sea is passion. The beast is the lower part of one's nature which is built from passion. That the beast had recovered from a mortal wound indicates that when we think we have eliminated some particular fault in our personality, it yet may rise up again. Men worshiping the beast indicates men giving up the struggle against their lower natures and deciding that it is natural

and hence good to follow its dictates.

A beast also rose out of the Earth. It worked great signs, deceived those who dwell on Earth, and gave power to the image of the beast from the water. The number of this beast was 666 (a human number) and was marked on the right hand or forehead of all. (*Rev.* 13:11-18) The beast who rose out of the Earth is materialism. Materialism can work great wonders, as is evidenced by the achievements of science in the present day. But materialism also can deceive those who dwell on Earth. It can lead people into believing that everything can be done physically and that there are no powers beyond the physical. Materialism also gives power to the image of the beast from the water. This means that it encourages selfishness and passion. Adding the digits in the number of the beast, we get 18 and hence 9, which is symbolical of the number of man. Thus, the beast is man-made.

Rev. 14-18 describes how those who follow the beast bring suffering upon themselves, and how the evil part of their nature thus is cut down and removed. The City of Babylon represents the lack of wisdom and the resulting confusion associated with material existence (the word "Babylon" means "birthplace of confusion"), and it is overcome. Finally, the smoke of the harlot (of Babylon) goes up (*Rev.* 19:3), which means that the creative force is turned upward and selfish passion is overcome.

Rev. 19:6-8 tells how the sound of mighty thunderpeals was heard when the marriage of the Lamb came. The Bride had made herself ready by clothing herself in fine linen, bright and pure, which was the righteous deeds of saints. The Bride is humanity. The fine linen clothing of the Bride is the soul body (which is made by service). The thunderpeals are atmospheric vibrations which will occur at the Second Coming of Christ and which will free the soul body (of those who have one) from the dense body and permit these

people to live in the Etheric Region. The marriage of the Lamb indicates the unification of man's consciousness with the Christ consciousness.

Rev. 19:11-16 gives a symbolical description of an Initiate. His eyes being like flame indicates that he has inner sight. His robe dipped in blood indicates that he got where he is through suffering. The sword in his mouth with which he rules the nations indicates that he governs his own actions and keeps them in line with Cosmic Law. That he rules with a rod of iron indicates that he has mastery over passion.

In *Rev.* 19:17-18, birds are described as feeding on the flesh of kings, captains, men, and horses. The birds symbolize the soul, and their feeding on the flesh indicates that the soul grows as the result of physical experience.

Rev. 21-22 describes the Coming Age. That the dwelling of God will be with men implies that men will have the God-consciousness. That there will be no more pain indicates that when men have the God-consciousness they will no longer create the disharmonies which result in pain. That the thirsty will be fed the water of life indicates that men will have healing power. The Tree of Life in the new Jerusalem also indicates possession of creative power. The city of Jerusalem coming from God indicates that peace of mind is associated with the God-consciousness. That the new Jerusalem will have no temple and no need of Sun or Moon indicates that then the God Within (the Ego) will be able to direct its own bodies and that an external God will not be needed for direction.

The purpose of a book such as *Revelation*, which describes the evolutionary path of man, is to inspire men to work in harmony with the Beings Who guide their evolution. May we all learn to realize that we are poor, blind, and naked, so that we will go and buy the gold refined by fire, the salve to anoint our eyes, and the white garments to clothe our bodies.