

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

Homily delivered by Tau Phosphoros  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Sunday, November 30th, 2014

YEAR B - ADVENT SUNDAY

My dear brethren, today is the first Sunday of our Advent Season in Year B of the Liturgical Calendar. The Season of Advent is about preparing ourselves for the coming of the Light into the world. The Gospel According to St. Mark is the focus of Year B, and this week's passage is from chapter 13, verses 24-37. These sorts of revelatory, or apocalyptic, passages have provided much fodder for the doomsday fantasies of many a fundamentalist and so-called biblical literalist.

Now, we don't wish to discourse to you on the folly of fundamentalism, which would neither be productive nor in any way necessary. But in our discussion of the text of our Gospel reading today, we should comment briefly about why it is necessary to view passages such as these through a lens of pneumatic, or spiritual discernment.

Jesus says here, "Truly I say to you that this generation will by no means pass away until all these things happen." So, before we discuss what "these things" are, let us consider what is meant by "this generation." If the usual meaning is applied - that is, those who were currently existing in the flesh at that time - then these words attributed to Jesus were either 1) erroneous; 2) a lie; or 3) meaning something other than the usual given meaning.

Since 1 & 2 would invalidate the entire Christian message, and since we hold the message of Christ to be true, genuine, and salvific, then the 3rd postulate must be true. And this is exactly what the Gnostic scriptures reveal to us.

"This generation" refers to those elect in Christ. It is the Allogenes, or "other-born" who, in our first reading from the "Three Steles of Seth," are referred to as belonging to "another race." This "other race" is the generation of Seth - that is, the Gnostics - the Pneumatics, or those who are striving toward the Pneumatic, as opposed to the generation of Cain which seeks to uphold the law of the Demiurge and his archons.

And if we are to interpret the term "generation" in this figurative sense (as we must if we wish to proclaim the authority of Christ), then we must surely view the entire passage in the same light. So, unlike those literalists previously mentioned who crop up year after year insisting that each decade is sure to be the final one, and who seem oblivious to the innumerable who came before them proclaiming the same only to be disappointed and to disappoint others, we do not look for a literal darkening of the Sun & Moon, nor for the falling of the stars from the heavens. But yet there is truth in these words. The Sun, Moon, & stars are all products of the cosmos, that imperfect and temporal creation of Yaldabaoth and his archons.

When one has attained to the Light of Gnosis - that true and eternal Light - the physical light of the Sun & Moon are nothing more than dark shadows of that ineffable Light. And the stars will not so much fall, rather it is the enlightened consciousness which will be raised up to such heights that the things of the Cosmos seem to melt away. Let this apocalyptic vision then be as an image for contemplative prayer and meditation during the remainder of this Advent Season.