

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

YEAR B - CANDLEMAS

Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on February 2, 2015

Greetings my brethren! Today is the feast of Candlemas, which celebrates the purification of Mary and the presentation of our Lord Jesus in the Temple. Now, most of our readings have both a psychic and pneumatic message. And as Gnostics we tend to look toward the pneumatic for spiritual guidance and revelation. Our first reading today, a beautiful prayer from the Book of Allogenes, certainly fulfills our pneumatic yearning. But our other readings are of an almost wholly psychic character. Indeed, the very nature of this feast day celebrates a demiurgic rite of blood sacrifice, that of "a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons." And we are told throughout the Gospel reading about what has been "written in the law"; and "what has been said in the law"; that which is to be done and what has been done "according to the law," and so forth.

Even our epistle today - though we could likely extrapolate a pneumatic message - is mainly concerned with the "atonement of sins." This type of phrasing indicates to us that the passage concerns the sacrificial or demiurgic aspects of Christ's mission. As Gnostics, we tend not to focus much on the psychic nature of Christ or the psychic Church, except to occasionally acknowledge the need for its ultimate spiritualization. But it is important to also acknowledge that there is important work to be done at the psychic level for the benefit of humanity.

It is true that we strive toward the spiritualization of the soul, but that is a gradual process, worked out over the course of one's lifetime, or possibly longer. Until that ultimate liberation, we fall - to a greater or lesser degree - under the influence of the lord of this world: the Demiurge and his archons. Merely ignoring this fact does not change the situation. Now, the more we are able to align our soul with the spirit, the more we may mitigate the archontic forces in our own lives, but that is a personal protection that generally does not extend to humanity at large. Therefore, a new covenant was necessary - that is, a new contract between the Demiurge and humanity. It is this covenant, sealed by the sacrifice of Christ, that allows for a reprieve from the violent and destructive forces of the Demiurge.

This new covenant is maintained through the sacrament of the Eucharist, wherein the psychic Christ is sacrificed anew at each celebration. There is also a pneumatic aspect of the Eucharist, to be sure, but one of the chief purposes of this rite is to renew the covenant for which Christ sacrificed himself.

This sacrifice to the Demiurge will only be necessary until all of humanity is spiritually regenerated. But until then, it is our duty to celebrate the Eucharist faithfully in all of its aspects. For doing so not only has a regenerative effect upon our individual souls, but also maintains the grace under which the psychic Church exists.