

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, May 24, 2015*

YEAR B - PENTECOST SUNDAY

Greetings, my brethren, on this most glorious & holy day of Pentecost. Today concludes the Season of Easter & marks the birth not only of the ACP - which was instituted at the Feast of Pentecost six years ago - but of the one, holy, catholic & apostolic church in a broader sense as well. For it was on the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit alit upon Jesus' disciples gathered together & empowered them to proclaim His gospel to all the nations. This is the same "Spirit of Truth which proceeds from the Father" that Jesus promised.

I want to address a few aspects of our reading from Acts, especially the quotes from the prophet Joel. First it is interesting - especially in light of this being the recognized formation of the Church - that we read here that God will pour out His Spirit "upon my male servants & upon my female servants." This seems to be a clear declaration of the equality of the sexes in their ability to receive the Holy Spirit, & therefore to participate fully within all of the sacraments of the Church, including Holy Orders. The arguments against the ordination of women are frail, shallow, & frankly pathetic.

The most common argument against the ordination of women is that the twelve apostles were men. But this seems to be more of an accident of local cultural norms than a pronouncement against women. Should all priests be required to be born Jews, therefore? Or to have similar professions? We could come up with dozens of arbitrary criteria, but the fact remains that Jesus never forbade the ordination of women, & there is every reason to believe that women were active participants in his ministry.

Another excuse I've heard, even among some esotericists, is that since the priest is the physical representation of Christ, and since Christ incarnated in the male form, it is only the male of the species that is capable of properly representing Him. But, as we discussed in our recent paper on the Tetragrammaton in the Three Worlds, Jesus is in fact the Logos & Zoe united. Furthermore, we are told in the scripture that in Christ there is no longer male & female, Greek & Jew, etc. This argument, like the former, is but a flimsy excuse for maintaining a status quo that has no place in the universal Church.

The other points I wanted to mention briefly are the qabalistic & alchemical references toward the end of this apocalyptic vision. Concerning the Qabalistic elements, we see mentioned here "blood & fire, & a vapor of smoke." We will notice immediately a relation to the three Hebrew Mother Letters. The "blood & fire" correspond directly to Mem & Shin, that is water & fire; and the "vapor of smoke" correlates precisely with aleph, or air, which mediates between them, according to the Sepher Yetzirah. Finally, we have the alchemical reference: "The Sun will be transformed into darkness, & the Moon into blood." We may see herein the beginning of the Red Phase, which begins with Putrefaction (the Sun transformed into darkness) leading to the transition from the White Phase to the Red (the Moon turning to blood). We've run out of time, but please contemplate these images during the coming week.