

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Bruno II
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
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YEAR B - PROPER 10

My brethren, in our tradition we use numbers and divisions to aid us in our understanding of the world within, outside, and around us. This use of numbers and divisions is not new or original to our tradition. It is, however, fundamental to understanding the Gnostic tradition.

The most referenced number and division, on which many Christians are intimately familiar, yet unaware of, is that of "three." The Godhead is separated into three distinct personalities: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The life of Christ into three stages: life, death, & resurrection. Some of you may have even noticed peripherally that the Major Orders of the Church are separated into three: Deacons, Priests, and Bishops. But there is so much more to this.

Let us begin by defining a division of Worlds. The three Worlds consist of the Spiritual World, the Astral/Psychical World, & of course the Physical World. Now, at times we may see a reference to these worlds being divided into further divisions, for an example I refer you to last week's reading from 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 where we are told of a man caught up into the third heaven.

We see Mankind divided into three divisions: Pneumatics, Psychics, & Hylics; but beyond that we see that the individual Man can be divided into three parts: Spirit or Pneuma, soul or psyche, & the physical body. All of these systems are connected & each division of a system is perceived as relating to the corresponding division within the other systems.

Our Gospel reading today gives us an opportunity to understand this concept. In our Gospel reading we see that King Herod, a man who was not a Christian, both feared and respected John the Baptist because of his wisdom and righteousness. It was because of the words John spoke that Herod was so affected and protected him, despite their differences. It was not until John's enemies were offered any gift they desired, up to the price of half of the kingdom, that King Herod, through his pride & ego, was forced to kill John the Baptist. Offered anything they wanted up to half of the kingdom, it is significant that they demanded in payment the head of John the Baptist. Why is this significant? Earlier we separated Man into three parts: Spirit, psyche, & physical body. Man's physical body can be divided into three parts as well: head, chest, & stomach. Remember, these divisions relate to those we designated earlier. The stomach is representative of the physical world, the most basic example in our need for food, the sustenance for our physical body. The chest is related to the astral or psychical world, and is connected to the psyche of Man. It represents the emotional part of man, for it houses the heart. The head therefore represents the Spirit in Man, connecting us to the Spiritual World. We can thus interpret our Gospel reading as telling us that the Spirit of God, that Spirit within John the Baptist, the Spirit which gave him a wealth of wisdom and righteousness, was worth so much more than the riches offered in this world. We come to this conclusion because they ask specifically for the head of John the Baptist. They did not ask for him to be tortured, or just for his death, but specifically requested his head to be delivered to them.