

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Saturday, March 25, 2017*

YEAR A - FEAST OF ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

Greetings everyone on this very special day celebrating the Annunciation of the Lord by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary. It is Luke's Gospel that provides us with this account, so although we are in Year A, dedicated to the study of Matthew, our Gospel reading for the Feast of Gabriel the Archangel is always from Luke.

But first I want to spend a little time on our Epistle reading from Hebrews. A couple of weeks ago we were discussing the concept of the old Law, and how Jesus came to put an end to it. This is a very important concept to the Gnostic theology, which holds that the Mosaic Law comes from the Demiurge and not from the One True Father of Light and Life. This is not to say that the old Law is altogether evil, though some of our ancient Gnostic forebears did indeed see it that way; but that it is at least imperfect, and not directly reflective of the will of God.

And that is precisely the sentiments shared in our reading from Hebrews. It speaks of the sacrifices that were carried out "according to the law." It relates that according to Christ, these sacrifices "according to the law" are not pleasing to God, but that he has come to do the will of God. On this, the letter to the Hebrews relates, "He takes away the first that the second may be established." Thus, what is done "according to the law" cannot be the same or even compatible with doing the will of God.

Now, this is not saying that the practitioners of the old Law were doing evil - though many were - but that their practices were misguided and ultimately insufficient. This leads to why Christ's birth and death are so significant and why they amount to such a perfect atonement. First, his advent into the world, into the cosmos, brought the Light and Life within the grasp of all. It forged new pathways to eternity. And secondly, his sacrifice fulfilled a mandate of the Demiurge, "fulfilling the law" so that humanity could evolve beyond its restrictive yoke.

We have, of course, discussed this principle many times, but it is one that is so central to our Gnostic theology that it merits revisiting often.

I'm afraid that our time constraints force me to conclude our discussion here; but as always, please study all of the readings independently, including our first reading from On the Origin of the World which makes a beautiful analogy of the Trees of Life and Gnosis to the Light of the Sun and Moon. We will meet again tomorrow for our regular Sunday Mass.