

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Bruno II
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
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YEAR A - PROPER 15

Last week I spoke about the Demiurge's inherent need to create, which he passed on to man. This week we see the first stages of creation, the psychical creation. I know that this appears overwhelming at first with all of the different names, numbers, and relationships listed. However, the names, numbers, and relationships are the most important part of the text. They indicate creation, though not so much the particular process which involves it. Let us look at some of the specific numbers indicated. In particular: 12, 7, and 5.

Manly P. Hall, in his Secret Teachings of All Ages, writes "This use of the number twelve is especially noted in the Jewish and Christian writings. The twelve prophets, the twelve patriarchs, the twelve tribes, and the twelve Apostles - each group has a certain occult significance, for each refers to the Divine Duodecimo, or Twelfefold Deity, whose emanations are manifested in the tangible created Universe through twelve individualized channels." Does this not sum up perfectly what we see happening in our reading today with the creation of the twelve authorities he produced. This is a process which is further developed when the rulers created each seven powers for themselves, which is indicative of the seven planetary influences. Manly P. Hall identifies the number seven as the number of the Law, because it is the number of the Makers of Cosmic Law. This Law is that which eventually renders man susceptible to the whims of time, which we identify as the seven ages of man, which each correspond beneath the auspice of a particular planetary influence: infancy, the Moon; childhood, Mercury; adolescence, Venus; maturity, the Sun; middle age, Mars; advanced age, Jupiter; decrepitude and dissolution, Saturn. Again, let me quote Manly P. Hall: "Man becomes master of the seven spheres only when he transmutes the impulses received from them." To sum up, he who masters the seven worlds is reunited with the Divine Source of his own nature. We claim this because the mystical nature of man consists of a threefold spiritual body contained in a four-fold material form. Finally, we see the number five referenced as such: "Yaldabaoth stationed seven kings, one for each sphere of heaven, to reign over the seven heavens, and five to reign over the depth of the abyss." The number five, along with the words "depth" and "abyss," all indicate to us that a lower creation is occurring here. The words depth and abyss both tell us that something lower in orientation is occurring, while the word abyss indicates to us that whatever it is was without light, or void of the spiritual principle. The number five is commonly referenced as the "number of man," as man consists of two arms, two legs, and a head, commonly represented by the five-point star. Man is also created after the world has been, represented by the four elements.

Now I hope that some order has begun to appear within the chaos of our First Reading. As usual, the surface of our reading hides a multitude of analogies and symbols which indicate to us a philosophical depth holding many truths. Spend the next week seeking out these truths, keeping in your mind that this map which shows the descent of man, also indicates a path which we must follow to return back to our spiritual fullness.