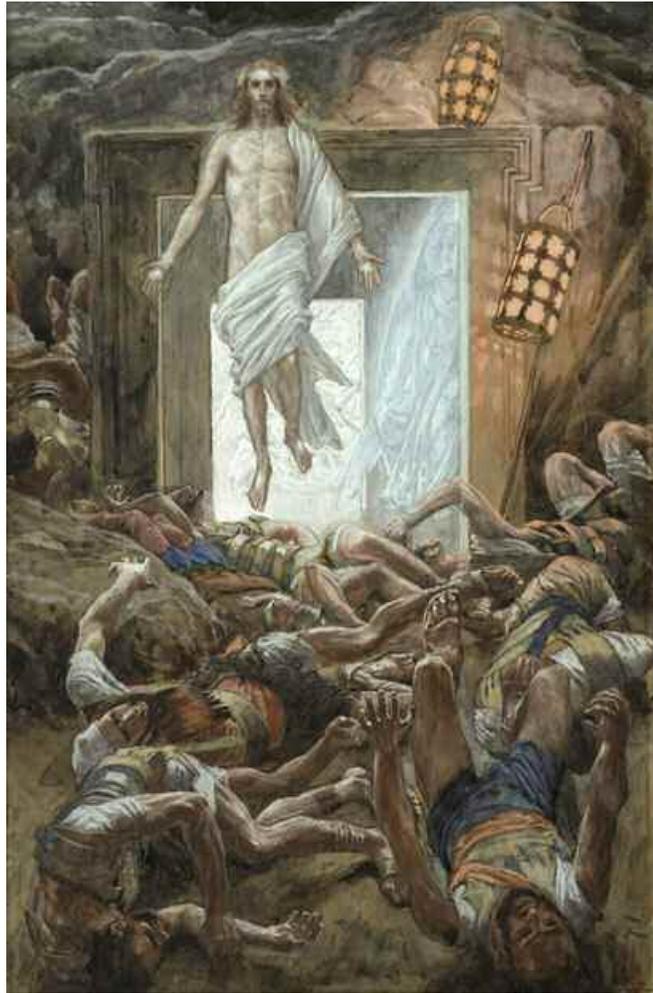


Chronicle of the Living Christ: The 33 1/3-Year Rhythm

AT THE CONCLUSION of his Gospel, Saint John wrote: “There are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (John 21:25). In light of these words, any book about Christ Jesus and the mysteries surrounding him can be only a “drop in the ocean.” This book has been written with the intention of encouraging others to investigate further into the mysteries surrounding the life of Christ Jesus; it is an attempt to somewhat penetrate the circumstances surrounding his conception, birth, and death.¹

The prelude to this holy life was the “star of the Magi” referred to in the Gospel of Saint Matthew, and the accompanying conception and birth of the Solomon Jesus² at the time of the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7/6 B.C. Then came the birth of Jesus of Nazareth (the Nathan Jesus) in 2 B.C., announced by the proclamation to the shepherds, as described in the Gospel of Saint



Watercolor, James J. Tissot (1836-1902)

The Resurrection

The resurrection at dawn Sunday, April 5, 33 A.D. marks the birth of the Risen Christ Jesus and the initiation of a temporal rhythm, established through the 33 1/3-year life of Christ Jesus, which has great significance for Earth evolution.

Luke. The time interval between the birth of Jesus of Nazareth on the night of December 6/7, 2 B.C., and the resurrection at sunrise on Easter Sunday morning, April 5, A.D. 33, was 12,173 1/4 days. Rudolf Steiner spoke of the resurrection as the “birth” of Christ Jesus as the Risen One, and referred to the importance of the 33 1/3-year rhythm of the life of Christ Jesus leading up to this “birth.” The time interval of 12,173 1/4 days is 33.329 years and is therefore almost exactly 33 1/3

1. This is the first of several articles excerpted and reprinted with permission from Robert Powell's Chronicle of the Living Christ, The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ: Foundations of Cosmic Christianity, published by the Anthroposophic Press. The Chronicle provides a calendar-specific outline of the life of Christ Jesus, including 40 maps, and 33 horoscopes of key events in the life of Jesus, Christ Jesus, and other beings. To establish an historically accurate chronology the author consulted the highly detailed visions of Anne Catherine Emmerich, and information advanced by Rudolf Steiner.

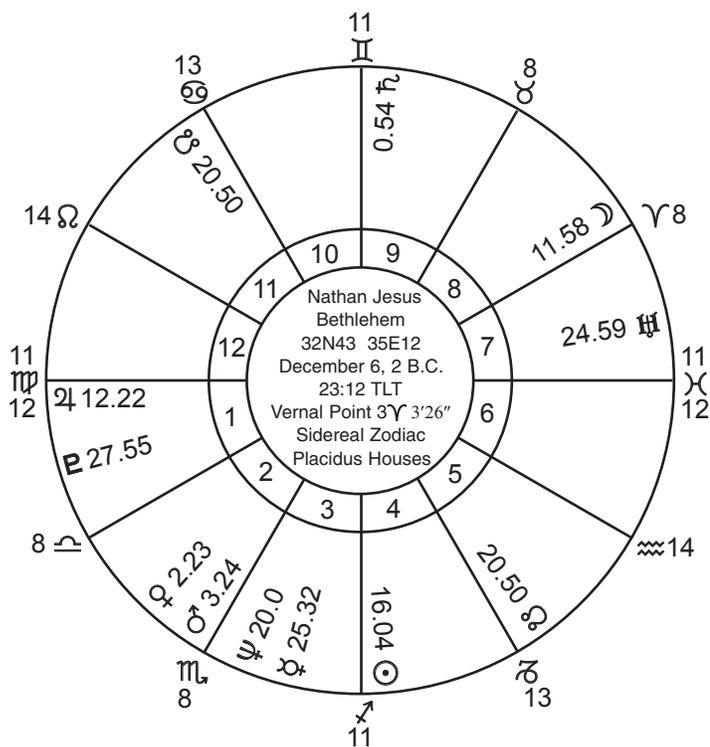
2. For a study of the existence of two Jesus children—the Solomon Jesus of Matthew's Gospel and the Nathan Jesus of Luke's Gospel—see the March/April 1998 Rays, pp 4-9.

years. The exact period of 33 1/3 years equals 33.333 and thus the life of Christ Jesus differed from this by only 0.004 years, which amounts to 1 1/2 days—that is, the exact length of the life of Christ Jesus from birth to the resurrection was 33 1/3 years less 1 1/2 days. Rudolf Steiner pointed out that, in addition to the various cosmic rhythms (the one-year rhythm of the Sun, the 29 1/2-year rhythm of Saturn, and so on), since the beginning of the Christian era a new rhythm—the 33-1/3-year rhythm of the life of Christ Jesus—has become one of the most important rhythms in the unfolding history of humanity and the Earth. How does this rhythm manifest itself in our time?

Since the rhythm of 33 1/3 years occurs almost exactly three times in one hundred years, it is easy to follow it through the course of the centuries. But since the exact rhythm is 1 1/2 days less than 33 1/3 years, a slight adjustment must be made. Starting at midnight on December 6/7, 2 B.C., the first cycle was complete at the resurrection at dawn on April 5, A.D. 33. Adding 12,173 1/4 days, the second cycle—the first following the Mystery of Golgotha—lasted until mid-day on August 3, A.D. 66. Then, adding a further 12,173 1/4 days, the third cycle—the second since the Mystery of Golgotha—ended at sunset on December 1, A.D. 99.

Proceeding in this way through the centuries, the fifty-eighth cycle since the Mystery of Golgotha started on January 8, 1933 and lasted until May 9, 1966, followed by the fifty-ninth cycle—the present one—which will last until September 6, 1999. ...[Steiner identifies] the point in time three hundred years after the Mystery of Golgotha, the year 333 (nine 33 1/3-year cycles)...as the central moment in the unfolding of the seven post-Atlantean cultural epochs, since it is the midpoint between the start of the first post-Atlantean civilization in 7227 B.C. and the end of the seventh post-Atlantean civilization in A.D. 7894. It was a turning point in the whole of humanity's spiritual evolution....

With respect to this temporal rhythm, the reader may wonder why we take the moment of the resurrection and not the crucifixion as reference



The lineage and life of the Nathan Jesus child is given by St. Luke.

point. The whole intricate series of events we have tried to elucidate in this work led up to this moment. The resurrection, at dawn on Sunday, April 5, A.D. 33, was indeed the moment of birth of this being, the Risen Christ Jesus.

We have accounted for the rhythmic interval of 33 1/3 years, but can we understand in more detail the spiritual reality that lies behind it? In the case of a human being, the etheric body, together with the astral body and I (ego), separates from the physical body at the moment of death, leaving the physical body behind on the Earth as a corpse. The human being then lives on, not in his physical body, but in his etheric body, in which are inscribed all his life experiences. Thus, for a short time (approximately three days) immediately following separation from the physical body, the human being beholds in a panorama the events of his life between birth and death....[T]his panorama fades away as the etheric body gradually dissolves and is membered back into the universal ether. In the case of Christ Jesus, the etheric body did not dissolve but retained all his experiences, from the Mystery of Golgotha back to his birth in Bethlehem 33 1/3 years before. All these experiences were

inscribed in this etheric body, which was preserved intact, and this is the basis of the 33 1/3-year rhythm. In fact, this etheric body was the source of the four Gospels. The evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were four human beings able to experience the etheric body of Christ Jesus, in which the panorama of all the events of his life were inscribed. With this 33 1/3-year rhythm are connected profound mysteries. Most important for us is the mystery of the second coming, the so-called “Parousia,” or return of Christ into the etheric world.

We have mentioned the year 333, but we may follow the rhythm further to arrive at other significant dates....Rudolf Steiner mentions in particular the year 666 [in connection with the “beast” spoken of in Revelation 13:18]. Going further, we come to the year 966, which represents a turning

points are described in the Gospels. These appearances were not in the physical body but in the etheric body, which remained intact. With the ascension forty days later, on May 14, A.D. 33, these appearances ceased. Christ Jesus withdrew in his etheric body to cosmic spheres of existence. There then began an expansion of the etheric body outward through the solar system. This expansion lasted until midway between A.D. 33 and 1899, i.e., 966. Then a contraction began, which continued between 966 and 1899. That is, we have twenty-eight 33 1/3-year cycles up to the year 966, to the “cosmic high point,” and then a “descent” through a further twenty-eight 33 1/3-year cycles up to the year 1899. [The expansion of Christ’s etheric body continued up to the outermost limit of the etheric cosmos. This was in 966. Then began the contraction from the outermost boundary,

As Christ’s ministry “crowns” the prototypic 33 1/3-year rhythm, so may Christmas trees be decorated with thirty red roses, representing the thirty years of Jesus’ life up to the baptism, and three white roses crowning the tree, for the three years of Christ Jesus’ ministry—from the baptism to the Mystery of Golgotha.

point in the unfolding of the impulse of this Divine etheric organism. In 966, after twenty-eight cycles of 33 1/3 years, a “cosmic high point” was reached. Proceeding forward a further 28 cycles from the year 966, we come to the year 1899, the end of Kali Yuga. Here, from the year 1899 onwards, we find the beginning of the re-entry into the Earth organism of the etheric body of Christ Jesus.

Thus, the end of Kali Yuga, the Dark Age, was signaled by the return of Christ Jesus in the etheric, heralding the start of the New Age, the Age of Light. Underlying what is nowadays referred to as the New Age, starting in 1899, is a definite cosmic phenomenon, bound up with the 33 1/3-year rhythm of the etheric body of Christ Jesus. Let us try to attain a clearer understanding of this rhythm during the period leading up to 1899, starting A.D. 33.

Following the resurrection on April 5, A.D. 33, several appearances of the Risen One to the disci-

returning toward the earthly plane of existence.]

We can date this rhythm very precisely. As has been mentioned, the exact interval is not 33 1/3 years, but 1 1/2 days less, so that, making the necessary adjustment, we find that the end of Kali Yuga (denoting at the same time the start of what is called the “Satya Yuga,” or Age of Light), which Rudolf Steiner dates to the year 1899, actually took place on September 10, 1899. Following this 33 1/3-year rhythm further, we find that the “integration” (incarnation) of this etheric organism into the Earth’s aura was accomplished on January 8, 1933. One could say that the Age of the Second Coming began in an earthly sense on January 8, 1933, the New Age having begun in a cosmic sense on September 10, 1899....[In his lecture cycle *Esoteric Christianity and the Mission of Christian Rosenkreutz*, Steiner stated that] “In our age it is essential that Christ shall be proclaimed in his etheric form....”

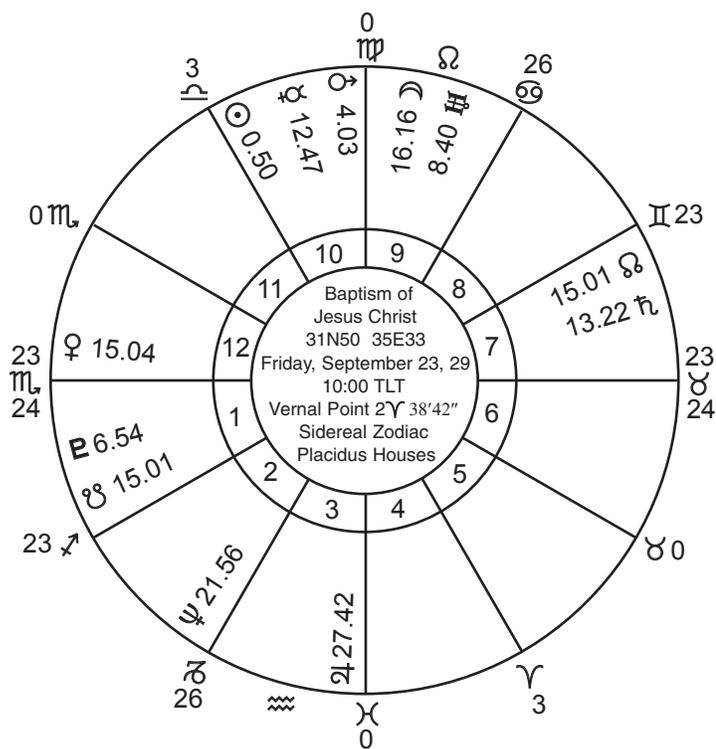
If we now examine the matter more closely, it

becomes obvious that the most important time in the original “prototype” of the 33 1/3-year rhythm is the period from the baptism in the Jordan to the Mystery of Golgotha, its “crowning” so to say. It is interesting to note in this connection that Rudolf Steiner suggested that Christmas trees be decorated with thirty red roses, representing the thirty years of Jesus’ life up to the baptism, and then three white roses crowning the tree, for the three years of the ministry of Christ from the baptism to the Mystery of Golgotha. The reliving of the time of this ministry is the most intense period in each repetition of the 33 1/3-year period—a time when an inner intensification or reawakening of the Christ impulse may take place.

In our own century we have 33 1/3 years after the end of the Kali Yuga on September 10, 1899—the start on the earthly plane of the Age of the Second Coming on January 8, 1933, three days before the day of the Full Moon. According to the research presented earlier in this book, the birth of the Solomon Jesus took place on the night of a Full Moon. At his birth there were no planets visible in the heavens other than the Full Moon, but the Moon was in conjunction with the planet Pluto, with the Moon and Pluto in opposition to the Sun.

At the Full Moon on January 11, 1933, the Moon was again in conjunction with Pluto, with both in opposition to the Sun, “echoing,” as it were, the night of the birth of the Solomon Jesus child. And, just as at that earlier time the birth of the Solomon Jesus child was followed by the evil king Herod the Great’s Massacre of the Innocents, so in 1933 the inception of the Age of the Second Coming was followed by another “massacre of the innocents”—the Holocaust. This was the background for the onset of the second coming of Christ in this century. So the 33-1/3 year rhythm in the life of Christ lies “behind the veil” of the events taking place in our time, and it can help us find the inner spiritual heartbeat pulsing behind these times, if we but know how to look....

Thus, June 29, 1929, signified the beginning and January 8, 1933, the end of the first three and one-half year period of the working-in of the Etheric



“A voice came from heaven saying, ‘Thou art my beloved Son, today I have begotten thee.’” At that moment Christ, the Logos, united with Jesus of Nazareth and the ministry of the God-man began.

Christ—June 29, 1929, being the approximate date of the “etheric remembrance” of the baptism and January 8, 1933, that of the resurrection. This was the first crucial three and one-half year period of the Etheric Christ in the twentieth century; that is, since the end of the Kali Yuga. It was a time when fierce opposition to the Christ impulse began to emerge in the shape of National Socialism (see below).

Moving forward from the unfolding of this etheric organism, the Parousia, the presence of Christ, on January 8, 1933, we come, 33 1/3 years later, to May 9, 1966. The particularly significant three and one-half years of the ministry therefore belong to the period going back three and one-half years from this date. Looking at the world situation at that time, we see that this was the time of the birth of a worldwide consciousness of peace and love. Unfortunately, there also arose a “drug culture” which disturbed and destroyed this new Christian impulse of love and peace, as will be discussed in more detail below. And what about the end of the century, when the next of 33 1/3 years

will have been completed? This will occur on September 6, 1999; and so the three and one-half years prior to that, from 1996 through 1999, should be a period of tremendous significance for a new unfolding of the Christ impulse. This time is nearly upon us, and it is imperative that we use all the means at our disposal to prepare ourselves for it. This book [copyright in 1996], indeed, is a modest offering to this end—not to let the opportunity slip by unheeded.

How can we find a real connection with the new impulse of Christ in his etheric body (Etheric Christ) at this time? The chronicle of the life of Christ given in Part II offers a key, if it is transposed to the present time. Using the transposed chronicle, the possibility is opened up of entering into a relationship with the Etheric Christ, meditatively reliving the three and one-half years of Christ's ministry imprinted in his etheric body....In terms of the rhythmically recurring 33 1/3-year rhythm of the etheric body of Christ Jesus, transposing to the present 33 1/3-year cycle, the following correspondences are found:

Baptism in the Jordan: Saturday, February 24,
1996

Resurrection: Monday, September 6, 1999

...Starting on Monday, October 30, 1995, the chronicle can be meditatively relived day by day, following the travels of Jesus leading up to the baptism by John, denoting the historical event of the union of Christ with Jesus. The etheric remembrance of the baptism in the Jordan, signifying the onset of a new three and one-half-year period of intensified activity by the Etheric Christ, occurs on or around Saturday, February 24, 1996.

The principle underlying the reliving in the present of events from the life of Christ is the "etheric return," or rather, the return of Christ in his etheric body. As stated above, this began in a cosmic sense in 1899, ushering in the New Age, and became more a reality within the earthly sphere from 1933 onwards. With the return of Christ in his etheric body, the 33 1/3-year rhythm has become the most important rhythm for the New Age, the Age of the Etheric Christ. And the last

three and one-half years of each 33 1/3-year period represent the culmination, when the Etheric Christ works particularly intensively, bringing a new revelation. The question naturally arises: What is the nature of the new revelation of the Etheric Christ at the end of the twentieth century? And what kind of counter impulse can be expected to oppose the new Christ revelation?

Here it is possible to give only a brief indication in response to these questions. Looking at the three and one-half-year culminating periods within each 33 1/3-year cycle since the start of the New Age in 1899, the following dates emerge:

Period I : June 29, 1929—January 8, 1933

Period 2: October 27, 1962—May 9, 1966

Period 3: February 24, 1996—September 6, 1999

In each case it is a matter of renewed activity of the Etheric Christ, at the same time countered by forces of opposition. (The background underlying the oppositional forces is depicted later.) In Period 1 (1929-1933), Christ was working to inspire an awakening to the Divine Presence within each human being and to usher in a new era based on this awakening. Instead of awakening to the Divine Presence within, a temptation came from without, in the form of the Fuhrer (leader), who promised the German people everything, "If you will fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:9). This was the temptation of the "will to power." When this temptation was presented to Christ Jesus in the wilderness two thousand years ago, he replied: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve" (Matthew 4: 10). These words could perhaps be expressed in modern terms as: "You shall seek the Divine Presence within and act only out of (its) moral intuitions to serve the good of the whole."

In Period 2 (1962-1966), the Etheric Christ was active in awakening love and community between people. This was the time in the 1960s when "flower power" was born. At the same time a new and powerful temptation arose in the shape of the drug culture. This temptation can be characterized as that of "casting oneself down from the pinnacle of the temple" (Matthew 4:5). It is the temptation of a hedonistic self-surrender to instinctual urges,

often with the help and powerful inducement of intoxicating substances, to obliterate the clear light of conscience and reason (“pinnacle of the temple”) and to cast oneself down by abandoning ego consciousness in favor of subconscious drives and impulses.

From this brief outline of the first and second periods—about which much more could be said—is it possible to anticipate something of the nature of the third period? In the sequence of three temptations, the archetype of which is to be found during the forty days of temptation in the wilderness, it is the temptation “to turn stones into bread” (Matthew 4:3) that is the keynote of the counter impulse during Period 3, extending from February, 1996, to September, 1999. This is the temptation to substitute lifeless matter, or stones, in the place of

living substance, or bread. This applies not just on the physical level but also on other levels. The whole phenomenon of virtual reality, for instance, is a clear example of this: lifeless, computer-generated images are substituted for living reality.

All in all, at the close of the twentieth century an exceedingly powerful temptation is being presented to humanity by the powerful means of technological science. In part, this temptation opposes—directly and also indirectly—the central thrust of the new Christ revelation, which is concerned with unveiling the living being of Nature, referred to in various traditions as the Divine Mother. Taking place worldwide is a growing awareness of the plight of Mother Nature, as well as a widespread awakening to the Divine Feminine in general. Underlying this is the renewed activity of the Etheric Christ, the culmination of which will be the new Christ revelation during the last three and one-half years of this century. It will be especially the unveiling of the Eternal Feminine in her vari-

ous aspects—Mother Nature and Sophia, Divine Wisdom—which will be the central impulse of the Etheric Christ during Period 3.

Of course, the 33 1/3-year rhythm will continue on into the future, and there will be a new impulse of the Etheric Christ in the next period (Period 4), signifying the etheric remembrance of the three and one-half-year period of the ministry at the culmination of the next 33 1/3-year period. Periods 4, 5, and 6 below indicate the times of major activity of the Etheric Christ in the course of the twenty-first century:

The renewed activity of the Etheric Christ during the last three and one-half years of the twentieth century was seen in the increased global awareness of the plight of Mother Nature, as well as in a widespread awakening to the Divine Feminine in general.

Period 4: June 23, 2029-January 3, 2033

Period 5: October 22, 2062-May 4, 2066

Period 6: February 19, 2096-September 1, 2099

The 33 1/3-year rhythm of the Etheric Christ is one of the most important rhythms for the future.

As the primary rhythm of the New Age, the Age of the Etheric Christ, it will be of major significance until the year 4399, which is 2,500 years after the start of the New Age in 1899. The date 4399 falls close to the end of the Age of Aquarius. The next age, the Age of Capricorn, starts shortly after, in 4535, exactly 2,160 years after the start of the Age of Aquarius in 2375.

Note that the length of the New Age, 2,500 years, is half that of the former Dark Age of Kali Yuga, which was 5,000 years long, from 3102 B.C. to A.D. 1899. In Hindu chronology, each successive Age is progressively shorter, indicating a qualitative speeding up in an evolutionary sense. The duration of the New Age (2,500 years) amounts to 75 cycles of the 33 1/3-year rhythm. At the end of these 75 cycles Christ will begin to work from a still higher plane of existence than the etheric, and a new impulse will enter around the time of transition from the Age of Aquarius to the Age of Capricorn. □