

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Gospels

BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE OF JESUS

(Continued)

THE PATH is the same, though methods of attainment differ according to the development of nations, peoples, and individuals. No two have exactly the same experience in the process of Initiation. That is why the Gospel accounts vary at several points. These differences are usually explained as being due to either interpolations or mistranslations, and Bible opponents have used the apparent contradictions as evidence of the unreliability of the scriptural record. While there have been later and unwarranted additions to the original text, and there are instances of incorrect translations, it is important to stress the fact that a proper understanding of the Gospels in the light of esoteric knowledge will reconcile many apparent contradictions and reveal added truths pertaining to the many-sided phases of initiatory development.

Matthew begins his Gospel with the story of the birth of Jesus and coming of the Wise Men; Mark, with the message of John the Baptist and the baptism of Christ Jesus; Luke with the annunciation of John and of Jesus; and John with the marriage in Cana of Galilee. Matthew and Luke begin with the *Birth*; Matthew with the *Wise Men* and the *Star*; Luke with the *Angels* and the *Shepherds*; Mark with the *Baptism*; and John with the *Marriage* wherein water is turned into wine.

Matthew concludes his Gospel with the arrival of the two Marys at the tomb; they see *one Angel* and are told to meet the Master in Galilee. Mark concludes his Gospel with the coming of the two Marys, and Salome to the tomb; they also contact only one Angel. Luke ends with the coming of the two Marys

and Joanna; they find *two Angels* beside the tomb. John describes the coming of Mary Magdalene *alone* and she also encounters two Angels.

As previously stated, these statements mark, not inaccuracies, but different stages of development. An esoteric study of the Gospel reveals the fact that the events in the life of Christ Jesus, from the Annunciation to the Ascension, are the same steps of progress that lead every aspirant to the higher life. These steps may be enumerated thus: 1. Annunciation; 2. Immaculate Conception; 3. Birth; 4. Flight into Egypt; 5. Teachings in the Temple; 6. Baptism; 7. Temptation; 8. Transfiguration; 9. Gethsemane; 10. Crucifixion; 11. Resurrection; 12. Ascension.

These twelve steps bear an interesting astrological correlation. The first Bible was the zodiac in which was embodied all spiritual truth. The zodiacal wheel of the heavens comprises twelve constellations or signs. The influence of the planets is stronger in some signs than in others. The sign in which a planet attains its greatest influence is the one in which it is said to be exalted. The exaltations are realized in their highest significance only through Initiation.

It is interesting to note that *exaltation* and *resurrection* were used as interchangeable terms by the early Church Fathers who understood the true relationship between man's spiritual development and the stars.

1. Annunciation: The Moon exalted in Taurus.

2. Immaculate Conception: The Feminine Principle (Moon) is exalted in the feminine, formative sign Taurus.

3. Birth: Mars exalted in Capricorn. Transmutation of the desire nature awakens the Christ life within.

4. Flight into Egypt: Saturn ex-

(Continued on page 277)

a severe cultural setback. We have seen young wives taking any menial work they can get in order to put their equally young husbands through school, agreeing cheerfully that they, being merely wives and mothers, did not "need" to be educated!

Gone was the "learned Lady" of even the nineteenth century. Movies glorified, and still glorify, the ignorant sexy girl, who exists for nothing but to breed like an animal. Even the sugary romantics of the early 1900s has disappeared, along with the "comradeship of equals" which characterized the revolutionary '20s.

There was indeed something to be said for the romantic literature which the 1920s succeeded in displacing at long last. It had placed the relationship of the sexes on a chivalrous and poetic basis, and while most couples were unable to continue living on that exalted imaginative plane, still, they were for a moment touched by a kind of glory.

Today, as a result of the fact that Russia is educating its girls and women far beyond anything that is being done in the rest of the world, the girls elsewhere are beginning to demand some sort of recognition, as their grandmothers did in the beginning of this century. That early demand got women the vote; the current wave of protest among young women will surely force open the gates of the professions, which are still virtually closed to them. Surely it is natural that women should be physicians, as well as nurses; the criticisms we read of women doctors in Russia are not of the doctors as women but simply of the entire profession in Russia, which is supposedly inferior to our own. As the medical profession is turned over to women, the space projects in Russia proceed apace in the hands of men; but here, too, an error is obvious in the estimates made of masculine versus feminine abilities.

It is time for a New Feminism in the world!

CHILDREN OF GEMINI

(Continued from page 269)

dent, and intuitive mind. This is the hall-mark of the pioneer in thought and invention, the ideals and ideas being lofty and progressive. Literary and scientific pursuits are favored and many friends are attracted.

BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE OF JESUS

(Continued from page 262)

alted in Libra. Saturn is the tempter or tester; Libra the trial or balance gate.

5. Teaching in the Temple: Mercury exalted in Virgo. The Temple is the body; Virgo is chastity; Mercury the wisdom attained only through purity.

6. Baptism: Jupiter exalted in Cancer. Cancer is the door of heaven and the passwords for entrance are love, unity, and fellowship. Baptism by water is symbolical of baptism by spirit.

7. Temptation: Uranus exalted in Scorpio.

8. Transfiguration: The power of generation misused leads to degeneration; rightly used to regeneration. This is the most powerful of the exaltations in man's present development.

9. Gethsemane: Venus exalted in Pisces. Sorrow through the love life on the personal plane becomes joy through the impersonal life.

10. Crucifixion: Every Ego knows the Garden and Golgotha through the love life. It is through sorrow that passion becomes compassion and the love for one the love for the many.

11. Resurrection: Sun exalted in Aries. Lifting the spinal spirit fire to the head helps to build the celestial body in which man is resurrected from the tomb of the flesh.

12. Ascension: Neptune exalted in Cancer. The divinity of the Christ within man which raises him to the high superphysical realms where the Spirit may enter the many mansions prepared by the Christ.

(To be continued)