

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Revelation of St. John the Divine

THE TEMPLE OF GOD

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.—*Revelation 11:1-4.*

The Bible was given "to the Western World by the Recording Angels, who give to each and all exactly what they need for their development." It deals primarily with the initiatory process (the conscious unfoldment of inner powers) in man, the microcosm in God's great macrocosmic world. The experiences related in the Bible are re-enacted in the consciousness of every human being at one time or another, "the temple of God" referring to man himself. The true man is Spirit, a differentiated spark in the Divine Flame, possessing in potentiality all the powers and attributes of God himself, and evolving through the world of matter from an all-conscious state into a fully self-conscious, individualized being.

Man is a threefold Spirit, possessing a threefold body (dense, vital, and desire) through which by means of the connecting link of mind he transmutes experience into a threefold soul, the food of the Spirit. The outer self, the personality, may be considered "the court which is without the temple," identified as the real man only by those

not yet spiritually awakened. When the individual comes to the realization that the object of his sojourn here upon the earth is to unfold his godlike powers, he begins to live the life of purity and service which builds the soul body. This is the vehicle in which the Invisible Helper functions when out of his lower vehicles, consciously or unconsciously, and the vehicle in which all humanity will function during the coming Sixth Epoch, the New Galilee. This vehicle is truly built according to God's measuring rod: loving, self-forgetting service to others, for it is only thus that we attract the light and reflecting ethers which compose the luminous "golden wedding garment."

The "forty and two months," as well as the "thousand two hundred and three-score days," correspond to three and one-half years, the length of time Christ Jesus, the Mediator between God and man, taught His sublime precepts upon the earth. From the larger viewpoint, we may correlate the three and one-half years to the three and one-half days or Periods of manifestation (the Saturn, Sun, Moon and part of the Earth Period) which transpired before the coming of the Christ as indwelling Planetary Spirit of the earth.

Throughout His universe God manifests in duality: positive and negative—masculine and feminine. Astrologically, we speak of these two poles of Spirit as the Sun (Michael) and the Moon (Gabriel). In man, the differentiated Spirit, this duality also exists, though he is born alternately in the masculine and the feminine body in order to gain the experience necessary for a fully rounded unfoldment. Within each human being there are the two nervous systems: the cerebro-spinal (masculine) and sympathetic (feminine).