

Eremiados Course Lesson Eighteen



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Apostolic Guardian Church of Grace and Blessing

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Templum de Octo Rosae Mysticus



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The World Ages in the Tides of Time



PART 1 of 4: THE PRECESSION OF THE EQUINOXES

We live on the cusp of the ages. The years 1981 to 1984 were the central peaking period of a historically unique confluence of rare events in the Tides of Time.

1. The beginning of the new World Age of Aquarius. A new world age begins every 2000 to 2200 years.
2. A series of Planetary Congresses in 1982, 1983 and 1984, when the Sun, the Moon and all the Planets clustered into one narrow segment of the heavens. Such clusterings last occurred about 635 years ago, at the time of the Black Death when nearly a third of the human race died.
3. Planetary congresses bring with them periods when there are up to seven retrograde planets at the same time. For example, there were seven retrograde planets for up to three weeks at a time several times between 1982 to 1984. This should be compared with the fact that there only two days on which there were seven retrograde planets during the whole century from 1880 to 1980.
4. The ingress of the planet Pluto into its own sign Scorpio (1983/1984), which can happen only once in every 246 years.

This paper discusses only World Ages. The other topics are discussed elsewhere.

The Tides of Time

Eremiados Temple places considerable emphasis on the importance of astrology and the Tides of Time, which are the astronomical patterns which form and re-form across the years, centuries and millennia, with great consequences for humanity and for all life.

Astrology and Astropsychology

Astrology covers all the crafts that observe and make use of the correlations between astronomical patterns and events of any kind on earth.

Astropsychology is concerned only with the long-established correlations between astronomical patterns and human attitudes and behaviours.

In this paper, we are not concerned with links between astronomical patterns and individual human behaviours or attitudes, the sort of work done by an astropsychologist or astrologer preparing a natal chart. Here, we are concerned with the human race as a whole, and the changes in human attitudes and behaviour that have occurred as the astronomical patterns have changed over centuries of time.

When we look at the history of the whole human race, to the extent that we can from surviving records, we find a curious anomaly. The individuals who lived in ancient Sumeria, China or Egypt, four or five thousand years ago, seem to be very little different psychologically from humans living in our present age, granted that their circumstances and environment were primitive technologically.

Yet, their attitudes as groups or nations, i.e., their social and political attitudes were very different from those of social groups or nations in this century. They differ to a greater extent than can be accounted for solely by differences in technological expertise.

Most of the significant developments in human poetical and social attitudes have

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taken place within two comparatively short periods, one during the second half of the sixth century and the first half of the fifth century b.c.e.¹

Until the modern era, there were no further significant developments in social or political attitudes before the end of the 18th century. From that time on, with accelerating speed, there have been enormous changes, partly in society and partly technological, which cannot remotely be compared with any period of change in previous eras.

Precession of the Equinoxes

We will be principally concerned with those Tides of Time that are formed by the precession of the equinoxes.

Because of the gravitational effects of the Moon and the other bodies of the Solar System, the axis on which the Earth revolves is not steady but wobbles or gyrates very slowly, so that it points successively to different parts of the heavens over a very long period of time.

The result of this is that over a period of nearly 26,000 years, the star patterns seen just above the horizon, immediately before the Sun rises on any given day of the year, will be observed to change gradually over the years. The patterns of the heavens at the spring and autumn equinoxes and at the summer and winter solstices have been important to humans with skills in astrology for thousands of years.

Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid

The Equinoxes and Solstices were important at least as far back as the times of the great stone circles of Northern Europe, such as Stonehenge, built between 2000 and 1500 bce, or the Great Pyramid of Cheops, built in Egypt close to the year 2590 bce. Whatever other uses these vast constructions

might have had, they have all been shown to have been also designed as astronomical observatories.

Ancient astrologers divided the 360 deg. circle of the heavens into eight, later twelve, equal divisions, which were named after certain star groups, called constellations, which could be seen along the path which the Sun and Moon appear to travel around the earth. This path is called the Ecliptic, and the succession of twelve constellations on the ecliptic is called Zodiac Belt.

The sun appears to pass through each of these in turn every year. Most folk know in which Sign of the Zodiac the Sun was on the day they were born. The Moon appears to pass through all the constellations of the zodiac every month, spending only 2 1/2 days in each sign.

Precession of the Equinoxes

However it takes nearly 26,000 years for all of the constellations to appear on the horizon at sunrise on the day of the Spring Equinox. This cycle is called the Precession of the Equinoxes, because the succession of Vernal [Spring] Signs of the Zodiac is in reverse order to that through which the Sun and Moon pass on their annual and monthly signs respectively.

By the time of the Greek philosopher Plato (427 to 347 bce), the length of the cycle of the precession of the Equinoxes was known fairly accurately, and was estimated at 25,920 years, or twelve times 2160 years, a figure often used even today, although it is an estimate rather than exact.

The full cycle of the precession of the Equinoxes is divided into twelve great World Ages, each named after that Sign of the Zodiac which is on the horizon at sunrise on March 21st, which is the Spring Equinox in the northern hemisphere and the Autumn Equinox in the Southern Hemisphere.

The time, the cycle takes to return to its original position is not constant but varies

1. b.c.e. means 'before the common era' = B.C. or Before Christ. Similarly c.e. is the 'common era' = A.D. or Anno Domini, 'the year of Our Lord.'

beginning of each world age there is a preparatory period of about 200 years, during which the new ways of thinking typical of the age are conceived, developed and become widespread: while it takes about another 200 years after the new age has begun for the new ways to become the accepted way of thought, in principle if not in practice, for the bulk of the human race.

Most astrological thought published in this century has been written as though the human race does not exist outside of Europe or the United States of America. What we have set down here about the World Ages has been checked as far as is possible against the history of the peoples of Asia, Europe and Northern Africa, who have for much of the period under review comprised the largest proportion, by far, of the human race.

An example of cultural bias

Let me give you an example of cultural bias. Many astrologers state that the Piscean Age must have begun with the birth of the Rabbi Jesus because his teachings have been the predominant world influence through the past 2000 years. This is a very narrow view of human thinking, even within the West.

In the West, far more influential than the teachings of the Rabbi Yeshua have been those of the Greek philosophers of the 4th century bce, such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. The intellectual leaders of the Christians based their theology as much on Greek philosophy as on the ethical and religious teachings of Yeshua and Moses.

About 200 years before the formal starting date of the Piscean Age, the great schools of Greek philosophy were flourishing in Athens. One of the greatest philosophers, Aristotle was selected by the new ruler of Greece, Philip of Macedonia, as the tutor to his son, Alexander.

Alexander began his career of world conquest when he was 16 and by the time he died at the age of 33 in 323 bce, he was the

ruler of the largest empire the world had seen, from Greece to India and from Afghanistan to Egypt.

Far more important than the subjugation of such a vast and populous territory was his establishment of Greek colonies throughout all his empire, which became centres for the diffusion of the Greek language, culture and philosophical attitudes far wider than just the Alexandrian Empire.

In the East, the power vacuum left by the death of Alexander, enabled a stable Indian-ruled empire to be established, under the Mauryan dynasty. Their greatest member was the peace-loving Asoka, who was converted to Buddhism and provided it with an opportunity to develop and expand its influence eastwards, beyond the borders of India into south-east Asia and China.

In China, throughout this same period, "the population was multiplying, commerce and industry flourished as the states built roads and large cities emerged. It was a period of innovation in every field, in technology, science, and government. There was a philosophical ferment, in which the main streams of Chinese thought, Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism all took shape." (Times Atlas of World History).

By the time the Piscean Age was established, Greek culture in the West and Chinese culture in the East were both ready to receive powerful innovative influences, while the political climate in both continents was stable under the Han dynasty in China and the Roman Empire in Europe. At the same time, both Buddhism and Christianity were engaged in vigorous missionary activities which were to establish them as the dominant religious and philosophical influences in the east and west respectively. It should be remembered however that Greek philosophical ideas had influenced both Buddhism and Christianity.

The other parts of this paper will discuss each of the World Ages in detail.

