

## The 13 Holy Nights and Zodiacal Correspondences

by Brian Gray, 4 January 2020

There are many ways during the 13 Holy Nights to honor the spiritual beings dwelling in the Zodiac as they contribute to our evolution. Rudolf Steiner suggested in 1911 that during the 13 Holy Nights we recapitulate memories of earlier stages of Human evolution that begin with the Fall of Humanity during the mid-Lemurian period and lead up to the Christ Event at the Turning Point of Time and into our present age. By considering the Zodiacal influences working through the cultural ages from the time of the Fall to our present age, we find a structure of Zodiacal correspondences that helps us address key questions: **Who are we? Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going – do we have a mission?** Pondering, sensing and being mindful as we study our evolution in this sequence during the 13 Holy Nights can quicken our understanding. **See Figure 1.**

This sequence of Zodiacal correspondences to the 13 Holy Nights presented below has three distinctions: **1)** It outlines the content of previous cultural ages and stages of human evolution for deeper contemplation during each Holy Night. **2)** It progresses continually from Aries to Pisces to Aquarius and onward to Aries in 'backwards' Zodiacal order, as the cultural ages 'regress' due to the precession of the equinoxes. **3)** Since each Holy Night precedes the following Holy Day, each Holy Night begins at sunset on one calendar day and continues until sunset on the following calendar day.

II In the middle period of Lemuria - the Age of Gemini, the Twins – Adam and Eve were first tempted by Lucifer to begin incarnating into human bodies, whereas previously they worked from outside the human form and used it to “mirror” their spiritual activity. Incarnating into human bodies changed human destiny, leading us gradually towards a feeling of independent selfhood free from influences of spiritual beings. But Lucifer’s influence through this “Fall of Humanity” made it possible for us to commit errors on Earth that lead to karmic suffering after death, the life-review period called Kamaloka. **Rudolf Steiner** develops these themes more fully in his lecture of **26 December 1911**, titled **“The Birth of the Sun-Spirit as the Spirit of the Earth – The Thirteen Holy Nights”**. **See Figure 2.**

Y Tracing the cultural ages between the period of the Fall of Humanity to the Turning Point of Time, when the Christ entered the body of Jesus at the Baptism (celebrated as Epiphany on January 6), we find 13 cultural ages between **the Age of Aries in Lemuria** (during the period of the Fall of Humanity) and **the Age of Aries in Post-Atlantis**, when the Christ, the Sun-Spirit – as **the Lamb of God** – sacrificially united with Jesus, underwent the Mystery of Golgotha and became the Spirit of the Earth.

As to the structure of each Holy Night and Holy Day, in Genesis 1:5, we read: “... And the evening and the morning were the first day.” This sequence considers **that each Holy Night begins at sunset and continues through to sunset on the following calendar day**, which was an ancient awareness.

This outline attempts to ‘flesh out’ the theme that Rudolf Steiner suggests in the above lecture, tracing each Holy Night in relation to its preceding cultural age, briefly mentioning the person or event to which each Holy Night is dedicated, members of the spiritual hierarchy that were particularly active

in contributing to human evolution during that age, our human experiences in that age, and suggestions for further study. For those observing the 13 Holy Nights as a spiritual practice, suggestions to review and envision the months of the preceding and coming year are included. In this way, one can fulfil the practices prescribed by Rudolf Steiner in **The Foundation Stone Meditation: A) Practice Spirit-Remembering; B) Practice Spirit Pondering/Sensing/Mindfulness; C) Practice Spirit-Beholding.**

### **Preparatory Ages prior to those corresponding to the 13 Holy Nights**

Before the Holy Nights fully begin, we must consider what stages of human evolution preceded the age in Lemuria that corresponds with the first Holy Night. Below we explore events remembered on the Nights of 22 December and 23 December as “preparatory” stages for the 13 Holy Nights that follow. Sources for further study include *Cosmic Memory, An Outline of Esoteric Science, The Apocalypse of St. John, The Gospel of St. John* (Hamburg), and other works by Rudolf Steiner listed at the end.



**Night of 22 December/ Day of 23 December: Gemini, The Twins. The Fall of Humanity or beginning of human incarnation during the 4<sup>th</sup> age of Lemuria, the Age of Gemini.** The Moon was extruded out of the side of Earth by Jahve-Elohim as Adam and Eve prematurely began incarnating into bodies not yet completely formed as “human”, but still bearing aspects of the animal form. The bodies were “male-female”, indicating the gradual division of sexes (Gemini, the Twins). The “**Expulsion from Paradise**” resulted from **Eve and Adam falling prey to Lucifer’s temptation.** The forms into which Adam and Eve began incarnating had horizontal spinal columns and would not be able to achieve verticality and upright stature. See Figure 1 and Figure 3.

To compensate, the gift of *uprightness* was bestowed to humanity by the Cosmic Christ working through the part of Adam held back in the spiritual world as the heavenly counterpart of the incarnating Adam and Eve – the ‘Sister Soul of Adam’. Upright human beings would gradually be able to walk freely on solid Earth as the result of the first of Christ’s pre-Earthly deeds. Division of the sexes by Jahve reflects the polarity of The Twins. An Elohim from the Sun united with Eve, who gave birth to Cain. But Jahve-Elohim from the Moon united Adam with Eve, who gave birth to Abel. **Gemini the Twins refers to polarities of heaven/earth, male/female, Adam/Eve, Cain/Abel.** The **Seraphim – the Spirits of Love, active from the realm of Gemini** – provided the possibility for independent upright human beings gradually to come into loving relationships with one another.

The **Seraphim, the Spirits of Love**, serve the Cosmic Christ to help initiate **Earth’s mission: to become the Cosmos of Love.** “What the human being will really give to the Earth is love, a love that will evolve from the most sensuous to the most spiritualized form of love... Human beings exist in order that they may take into themselves the warm love of the Divine, develop it, and return it again to the Divine. But they can do this only by becoming self-conscious ego beings. Only then will they be able to render back this love.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Gospel of St. John*, “The Mission of the Earth”, 20 May 1908.

♈ Night of 23 December/ Day of 24 December: **Taurus, the Bull. Adam and Eve Day.** Remember 5<sup>th</sup> Age of Lemuria, the age of Taurus. The incarnated **Adam and Eve** began their lives on Earth as parents of all humanity. Firstborn **Cain** worked willfully upon the earth with his Sun-creativity to produce an offering to Jahve-Elohim, while Moon-inspired **Abel** merely offered up to Jahve-Elohim the natural creations made by Jahve. Cain's offering was rejected by Jahve as premature human creative activity, but Abel's offering was accepted: the smoke of Cain's sacrifice hovered close to the Earth, while the smoke of Abel's sacrifice rose and was taken up into heaven by Jahve-Elohim. Out of frustration, Cain rose up and unintentionally slayed Abel. **Seth** was born to Adam and Eve as third child, to replace Abel who had been slain by Cain. Through Lucifer's influence, Humanity gradually fell away from higher spiritual guidance – but the possibility of freedom also arose. To offset and balance the negative influences of Lucifer that led to the Fall and karmic suffering in Kamaloka, The **Holy Spirit** and other high spiritual beings worked through that part of Adam held back in the spiritual world which could be used to host the coming of the Christ. This was the **Pure Adam Soul**, the **Sister Soul of Adam**, which Rudolf Steiner designates as the Archetypal Human Being, Adam Kadmon. See Figure 3.

### Ages that correspond to the 13 Holy Nights

♈ Night of 24 December/ Day of 25 December: **1<sup>st</sup> Holy Night. Aries, The Ram. Birth of Jesus (Luke).** Remember 6<sup>th</sup> age of Lemuria, age of Aries. Only since 354 AD has the **birth of Jesus been celebrated**. Jesus was the first full incarnation of the Pure Adam Soul, as described in Luke, conceived by the Holy Spirit through his Virgin Mother. Through cosmic wisdom that worked instinctively in humanity, this birth began to be celebrated on the day following Adam and Eve Day, December 24, over the night of Christmas Eve into Christmas Day on December 25. Rudolf Steiner points to the link between this pure archetypal soul and Adam and Eve. Luke describes how shepherds watching their sheep nearby were overshadowed by an Angel and given the message through the radiance of Buddha that **the pure Adam Child** - who in his 30<sup>th</sup> year - would bear the **Christ, The Lamb of God** - was born.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Holy Night - Aries. Devotion becomes Power of Sacrifice.** Review events of previous January; envision potential events and deeds to perform during coming January. See Figure 1.

♉ Night of 25 December/ Day of 26 December: **2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Night. Pisces, The Fishes. Feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Saul witnessed the execution of Stephen, and Saul later repented and became Paul.** Remember 7<sup>th</sup> age of end of Lemuria - age of Pisces the Fishes, and the **destruction of the Earth by the fire of human passions** and misguided deeds. Although passions of **Human Beings** brought about the destruction of Lemuria by fire, human beings began to emerge as active members of the Spiritual Hierarchy. We have the possibility to become Spirits of Freedom and Love.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Night - Pisces.** Review previous February; envision events of February to come.

♊ Night of 26 December/ Day of 27 December: **3<sup>rd</sup> Holy Night. Aquarius, The Waterman. St. John the Evangelist, author of the *Apocalypse* and *Gospel of St. John*.** Remember 1<sup>st</sup> age of Atlantis, age of Aquarius – culture of the **Rmoahals**. Because humans could not yet communicate with each other at the beginning of Atlantis, the **Christ poured forth the gift of speech through the Angels**, the Sons of Life. Human beings began to speak, to communicate their feelings and understand one another. Their

words initially had active power over the forces of nature. Human memory of vivid sense-impressions and feelings about them began to exist and were passed on through the bloodline to one's descendants. Language developed, and a strong feeling of connections through memory with one's ancestors. Human beings felt the power of the word as a part of the divine nature flowing through them.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Holy Night - Aquarius.** Review events of previous March; envision March to come.

12

**Night of 27 December/ Day of 28 December: 4<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Capricorn, The Goat. Massacre of the Innocent Children by Herod.** Remember 2<sup>nd</sup> age of Atlantis, age of Capricorn – culture of the **Tlavatli. Archangels, Spirits of Fire**, unite human groups as group-souls. A feeling of community grew, but also the memory of the deeds of one's ancestors gave rise to a kind of personal ambition and hierarchy within the community. If one's ancestors had done something to save the community, that memory and capacity lived on in the descendants. An ancestor cult began to develop, along with leadership.

**4<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Capricorn.** Review events of previous April; envision events of April to come.

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**Night of 28 December/ Day of 29 December: 5<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Sagittarius, The Archer. Nathan the Prophet.** Remember 3<sup>rd</sup> age of Atlantis, age of Sagittarius – culture of the **Primal Toltecs. The Archai, Spirits of Time and Personality**, help shape human destiny and individual human deeds aligned with evolution. Along with living out of the memories inherited from great leaders, leaders began improvising to develop powers that could lead to initiation and enlightenment. Initiated kings and leaders gained enormous power and veneration. This gradually led to personal ambition and selfishness, and the putting of one's broad powers over nature into the service of personal egotism.

**5<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Sagittarius.** Review previous May events; envision events of May to come.

12

**Night of 29 December/ Day of 30 December: 6<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Scorpio, The Eagle/Scorpion. David, the shepherd who became a king. The Exusiai (Elohim), the Spirits of Form**, guide the perfecting of the human form and the means to reproduce that form through human sexual reproduction. They bestow the capacity to birth thoughts (the Eagle) and guided the implanting of the human "I". Six Elohim work from the Sun, but Jahve-Elohim worked from the Moon and was known as the Lord God. Remember 4<sup>th</sup> age of Atlantis, age of Scorpio – culture of the **Primal Turanians**, whose unbridled astrality, selfishness and awakening to consciousness of sexuality unleashed destructive forces that would eventually upset the etheric forces of nature and destroy Atlantis by flood. **David's** courage of heart and patience received the Lord's blessing, and through cunning David slayed the giant Goliath. David's lust for Bathsheba led him to great shame, but David repented and later fathered Solomon.

**6<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Scorpio.** Review events of previous June; envision events of June to come.

10

**Night of 30 December/ Day of 31 December: 7<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Libra, The Balance/Scales. St. Sylvester.** Remember 5<sup>th</sup> age of Atlantis, age of Libra – culture of the **Primal Semites**, who were **spiritually gifted to introduce lawful thinking into human soul through the Archangel Michael, as the third pre-Earthly sacrifice of Christ.** The **Dynamis, Spirits of Motion**, play key roles in stimulating human souls to strive toward greater creative activity. Human beings in this age went beyond merely remembering the past to comparing different experiences and forming judgments. Logical thinking began to provide a balance to regulate one's unbridled will forces, and an "inner voice" began to be heeded. The inner

human being gradually lost control over the life forces but retained mastery over the mineral kingdom. Personality and self-love grew freely, but had less devastating effects on the life forces of nature. Leaders emerged who bore intelligence, who also further innovated away from traditional norms. From the Primal Semites was derived the seeds of the Post-Atlantean human races, whose mission is to fully develop the thinking faculty.

7<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Libra. Review events of previous July and envision events of July to come.

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Night of 31 December/ Day of 1 January: 8<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Virgo, The Virgin. Feast of Mary the Virgin, the Day of Naming and Circumcision of the Child. The Kyriotetes, the Spirits of Wisdom, pour forth through Sophia to guide wisdom and more refined soul activity into human beings. Remember 6<sup>th</sup> age of Atlantis, age of Virgo – culture of the Akkadians. As individual intelligence and free innovation increased, creating more turbulent conditions, the need was felt to bring thinking of the individual into the rule of general community laws. Regulations of justice and law have their origins with this age; colonization and commerce nourished their waxing faculty of thought and judgment.

8<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Virgo. Review events of previous August, envision events of August to come.

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Night of 1 January/ Day of 2 January: 9<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Leo, The Lion. Melchior, the magi/ king/wise man who brought gold to the Matthew Jesus Child. The Thrones, Spirits of Will, work to transform and metamorphose conditions from Atlantis into those of Post Atlantis. Remember 7<sup>th</sup> age of Atlantis and the final submersion of Atlantis into the sea (the Flood). Age of Leo – culture of primal Mongols. While forces of memory and clairvoyance had diminished, belief in the forces of nature as divinity continued as their “god” that somehow possessed and protected them, a belief that often terrified their neighboring peoples. Melchior’s wisdom of gold (the Sun metal, from Leo) represents this capacity.

9<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Leo. Review events of previous September and envision events of September to come.

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Night of 2 January/ Day of 3 January: 10<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Cancer, The Crab. Caspar, the magi/ king/wise man who brought myrrh to the Matthew Jesus Child. Remember 1<sup>st</sup> age of Post-Atlantis, age of Cancer – culture of Ancient India and the 7 Holy Rishis. The first religious culture arose. Yoga became a path to escape what was considered as Maya or illusion of the newly-dawning sense world and to return to spiritual consciousness experienced in Atlantis. The Cherubim, Spirits of the Harmonies, help attune individual and group human souls through harmonizing and coordinating with one another. While a certain harmonizing of the soul was achieved, the Earth was considered a temptation to be avoided.

10<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Cancer. Review event of previous October and envision events of October to come.

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Night of 3 January/ Day of 4 January: 11<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Gemini, The Twins. Balthazar, the magi/king/wise man who brought frankincense to the Matthew Jesus Child. Remember 2<sup>nd</sup> age of Post-Atlantis, age of Gemini – culture of Ancient Persia. Zarathustra led this culture, the great bodhisattva who would become the Matthew Jesus Child. Zarathustra revealed and contrasted the Sunlike spiritual gifts of Ahura Mazdao (the Cosmic Christ) with those of Ahriman, the lord of Darkness and Opposition who cast a spell upon the material world of the senses. The sense world began to be appreciated during this age as a manifestation of spiritual beings and a field for human action. By opening the darkness of Earth - the realm of Ahriman - to the Sun forces of Ahura Mazdao and planting a seed blessed by the

Sun, Sacred Agriculture became a ritual to assist the love streaming from the sunlight of Ahura Mazdao (the Cosmic Christ) to win back the realm of darkness. The **Seraphim**, Spirits of Love, helped to awaken further love, interest and devotion between human beings and love for the world of the senses.

**11<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Gemini. Perseverance becomes Insight.** Review events of previous November and envision events of November to come.



**Night of 4 January/ Day of 5 January: 12<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Taurus, The Bull. Simeon, the first person to recognize the infant Jesus as "The Lord's Christ" (Luke).** Remember 3<sup>rd</sup> age of Post-Atlantis, age of Taurus – ancient Egypt/Babylon/Chaldea/Assyria/Hebrew cultures. Direct spiritual perception continued dwindling as human souls turned more to the sense world in this period - the Age of the Sentient Soul. But the **Holy Spirit** awakened insights through initiates that the sense world was the outer manifestation of spirits dwelling in the starry worlds. The starry worlds became a script of the deeds of spiritual beings whose laws can be read. The human "I" participating through the Mysteries gave birth to the sciences of astronomy, astrology, geometry and nature, while strengthening the sense of one's personality. The Egyptians mummified bodies of the dead to help strengthen the inner ego/personality for future incarnations. Architecture and the arts were cultivated to honor the connections between heavenly gods and Earth. Moses and Isaiah perceived the Christ, and the descendants of Abraham were cultivated as the "chosen people" who would eventually prepare the body of Jesus into which Christ could descend.

Asita was a devoted servant of the newborn child Gautama. He perceived that Gautama would gradually achieve enlightenment as a Buddha, but Asita cried because his own death would prevent him from witnessing that spiritual event. Asita was then reborn as **Simeon**, who perceived the aura of Buddha surrounding the newborn Luke Jesus child. Recognizing this aura, he was able to proclaim the infant Jesus as "The Lord's Christ". Thus his longing was fulfilled.<sup>2</sup> Buddha gave the eightfold path as a means to open the 16-petaled lotus flower known as the throat chakra, connected to Taurus, the Bull.

**12<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Taurus. Balance becomes Progress.** Review events of past December and envision events for December to come.



**Night of 5 January, Day of 6 January: 13<sup>th</sup> Holy Night. Aries, The Ram. Epiphany, originally celebrated as the Birth of Christ at the Baptism by John - the beginning entry of Christ into body of Jesus.** Remember 4<sup>th</sup> age of Post-Atlantis – the age of Aries, the Greco/Roman/medieval period, when the **Lamb of God, The Logos, the Sun-God**, entered human life through Jesus for three years, kindling the "I AM" in each Human Being and becoming Spirit of the Earth.

Prior to 354 AD, January 6 was designated as Epiphany and considered as the Birth of Christ. By the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD the mysteries of Christ were no longer understood, and instead the Birth of Jesus began to be celebrated on December 24/25, following Adam and Eve Day.

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<sup>2</sup> Rudolf Steiner, lecture of 16 September 1909, in *According to Luke*.

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Mystery Wisdom of the newly incarnated **Christ** enters more deeply into human hearts and minds during the Age of the Heart-Mind Soul, kindling a deeper sense of "I AM" and awakening new capacities for heart-thinking and logic. The human form begins to be recognized as the Divine ideal and appears as a central theme in Greek drama, sculpture, architecture, and all the arts. Plato and Aristotle developed transformed ancient mystery wisdom into philosophy and quickened human creativity. Roman culture deepened the strength of one's self as an individual "citizen" whose will and testament could continue to be active even after death. Roman law and jurisprudence contributed further to the rights of the individual "ego". Early Christianity gradually was institutionalized into hardened forms of dogma and intolerance, and the Christ Impulse of Love and Compassion was forgotten. Yet individuals continued to seek and find the true Christ in esoteric Christianity, through Rosicrucian mystery wisdom and the mysteries of the Holy Grail. The Christ became the Spirit of the Earth and saved the Earth and its inhabitants from dying, kindling the potential for all Human Beings to become Spirits of Freedom and Love. Yet humanity needed time to experience the "I Am" through several incarnations and use it to begin transforming its lower members into spirit.

**13<sup>th</sup> Holy Night - Aries.** Review events of previous year and envision potential events for year to come.

✠ **Night of 6 January: Pisces, The Fishes.** A night to celebrate the conclusion of the 13 Holy Nights and to cultivate awareness of the possibilities for the evolution of **Human Beings** in this 5<sup>th</sup> age of Post-Atlantis, **the age of Pisces – our Present Age, the age of the Consciousness Soul.** We have inherited tremendous spiritual wealth and are given unlimited opportunity to pursue our ideals through creative activity on Earth from the Godhead and hierarchies. Yet we Human Beings are more deeply egotistic, self-centered, ungrateful and materialistic than in any preceding age.

**In the previous age of Pisces, we destroyed Lemuria through the fire of our unbridled passions. Will we repeat that mistake again in our present age of Pisces?** We each face doubt, fear and hatred, yet we must rise up to our true spiritual potential and take responsibility for the Earth. Through Spiritual Science – Anthroposophy – to gain understanding and wisdom of our karmic responsibilities and potential to become free and loving human beings. Rudolf Steiner tells us that Christ is now reappearing to humanity in an etheric form. By entering more fully with our "I Am" into our Consciousness Soul, as self-conscious human beings we can achieve catharsis and enlightenment and begin to birth our Spirit Self.

~ ~ ~ **Begin to envision future ages to come, such as the age of Aquarius, when to some degree the culture of Manas/ Spirit Self will begin to emerge to help individuals unite in agreement concerning cosmic wisdom. Human beings will gradually become known as Spirits of Freedom and Love.**

We here conclude this outline of historic/cultural events preceding the Entry of Christ as the Spirit of the Earth in relation to the 13 Holy Nights and Zodiacal correspondences for each Holy Night. For further details and inspiration, please see Rudolf Steiner's lecture of **26 December 1911, "The Birth of the Sun-Spirit as the Spirit of the Earth – The Thirteen Holy Nights"**. We owe a tremendous debt to **Rudolf Steiner, who tirelessly strives to help us awaken to the Christ's presence in our being.** Other references from Rudolf Steiner's work are listed below. Thank you for considering these possibilities.

## Some Helpful References from the Work of Rudolf Steiner:

*The Festivals and Their Meaning*

*Cosmic Memory*

*The Spiritual Hierarchies and the Physical World*

*The Pre-Earthly Deeds of Christ*

*The Four Sacrifices of Christ*

*The Gospel of St. Luke (According to Luke)*

*The Gospel of St. John (Hamburg)*

*The Gospel of St. John in Relation to the Other Gospels (Cassel)*

*The Apocalypse of St. John*

*An Outline of Esoteric Science*

*The Temple Legend*

*The Christian Mystery*

*The Influence of Spiritual Beings upon Man*

*Love and Its Meaning in the World*



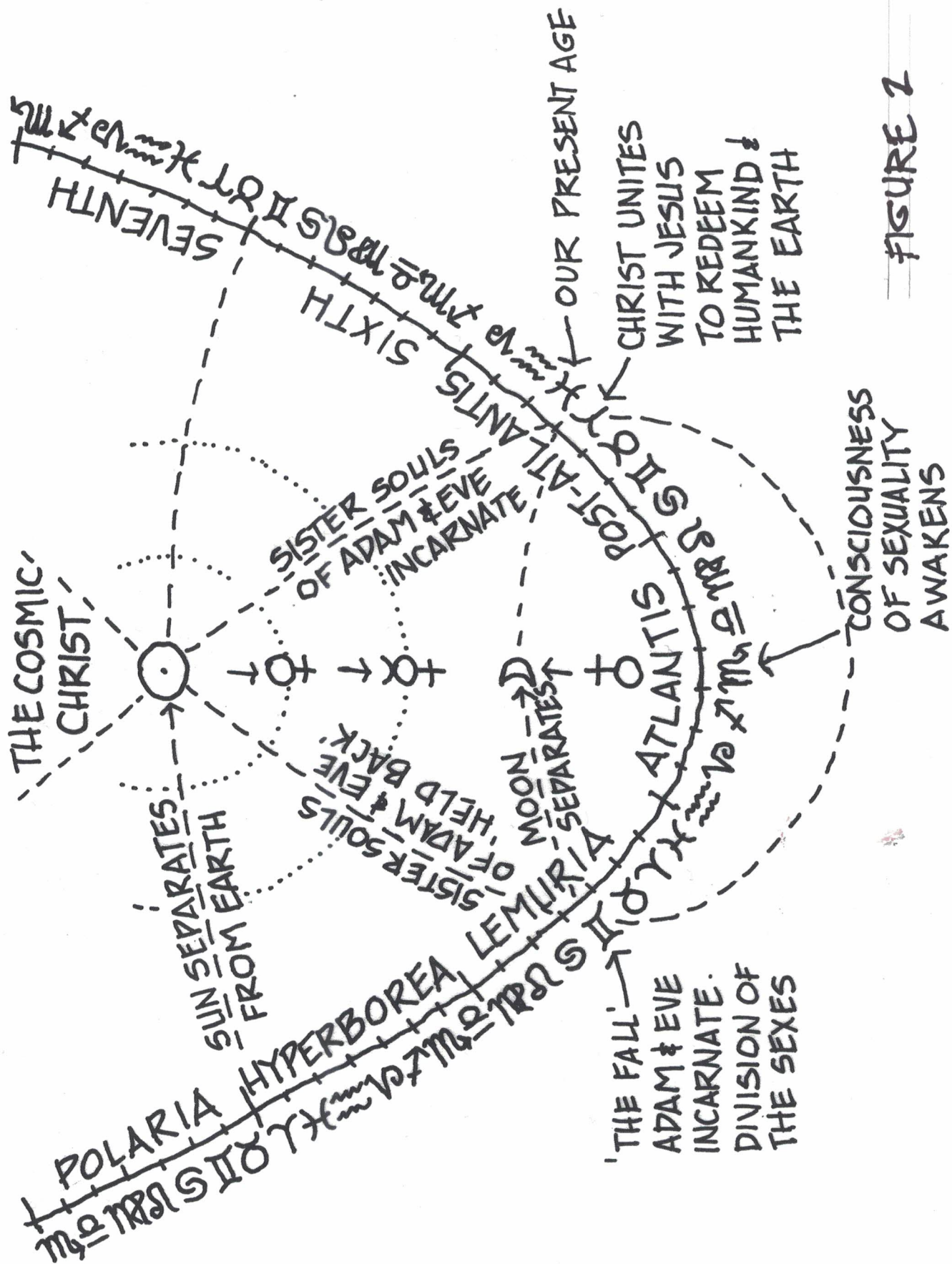


FIGURE 2

# THE COSMIC CHRIST

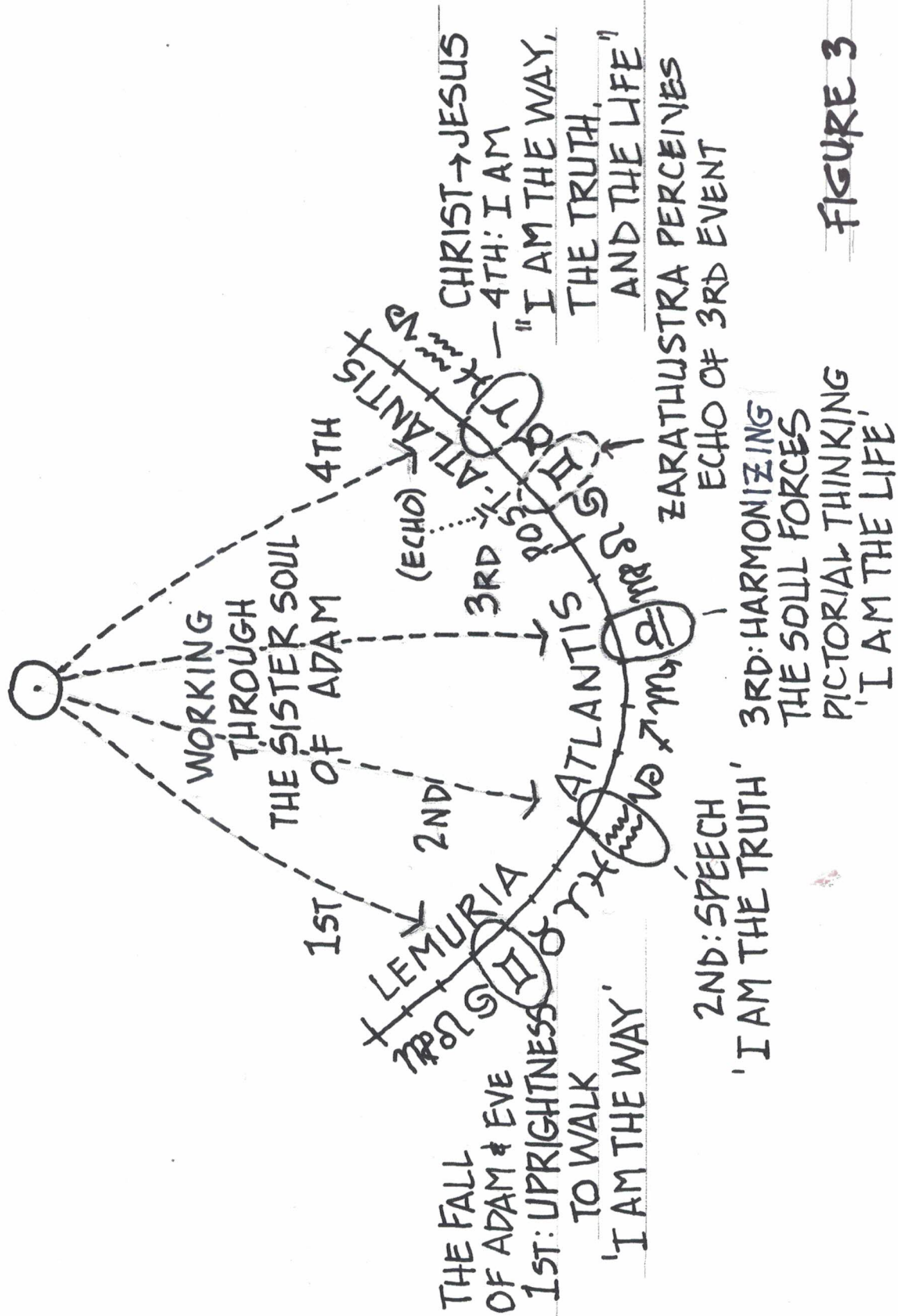


FIGURE 3