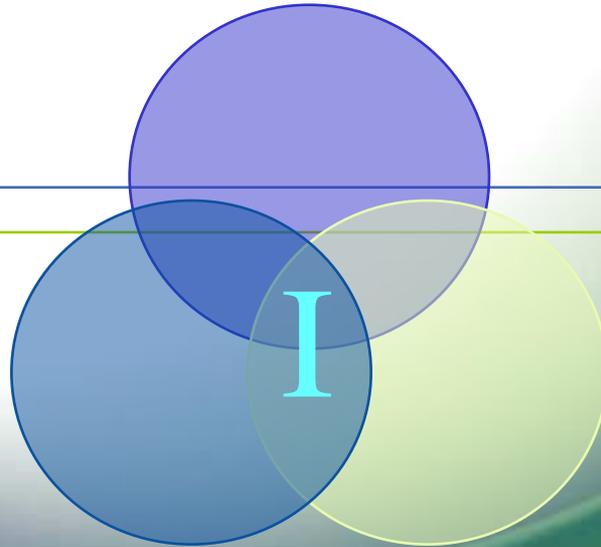
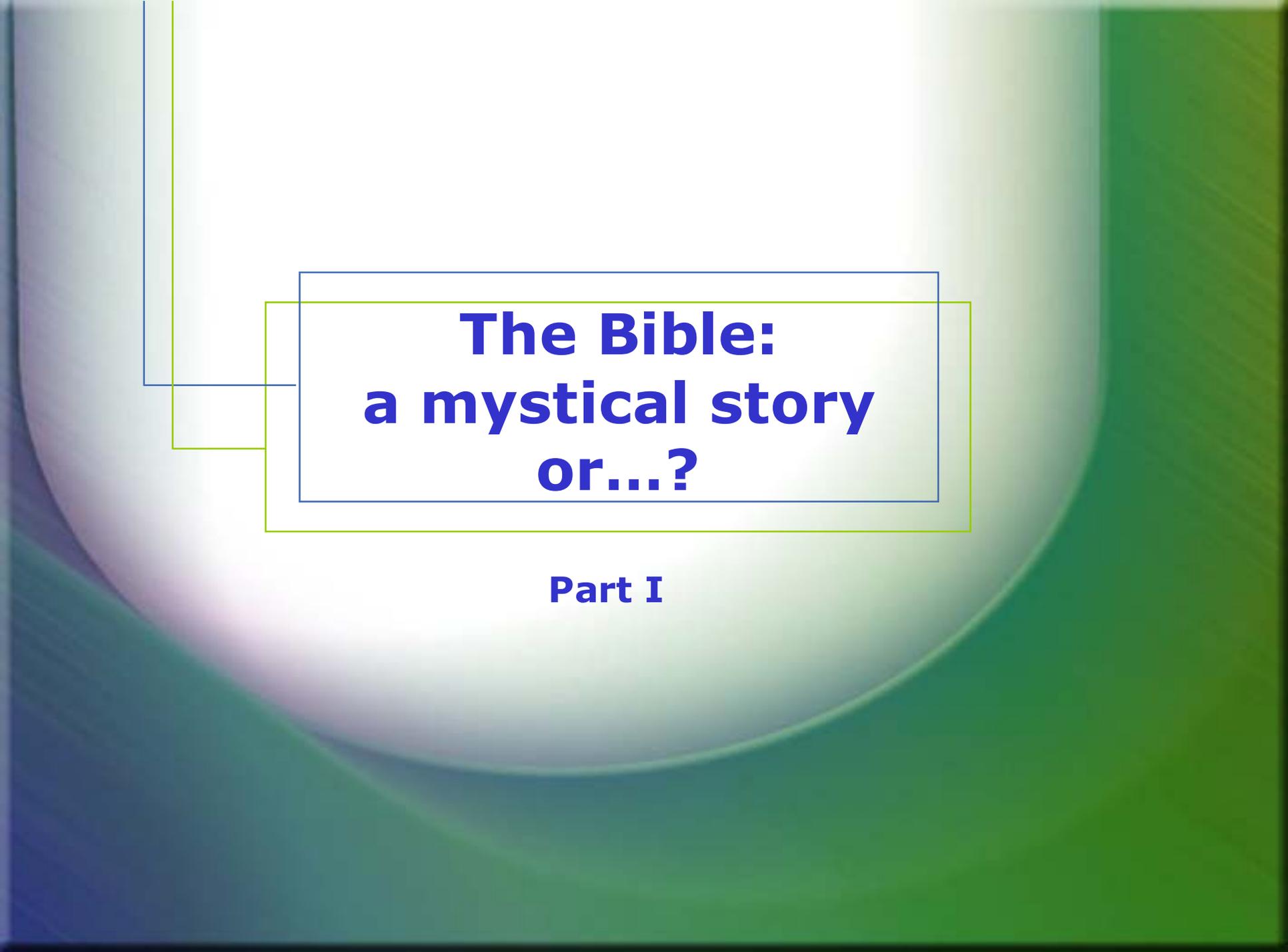


# From Bethlehem to Calvary

The Mystery of Initiation





**The Bible:  
a mystical story  
or...?**

**Part I**

# The Bible: a mystical story or ... ?

- Does the Gospel story make sense? Is it a mystical tale of great beauty and of any use with regard to its teaching, but of no real significance for today's intelligent men and women?
- Every major period of time and each world cycle will have its religion, which summarises all the revelations of the past and gives hope for the future.
- It is important to note that other teachings besides Christianity, laid the emphasis on the five major crises, which take place in the lives of those human beings who rely on their essential divinity.

# Buddhism and Christianity

- The Buddhism and Christianity have their origins in two inspired moments in history.
- The Buddha gave his teachings in order to enlighten the world and Christ gave them to learn to differentiate. Also Lao Tze's lessons served the same purpose.
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- The Buddha and the Christ embodied in Themselves certain cosmic principles, and as a result of their work and sacrifice, certain divine powers flowed through and poured into humanity.

# East and West

- The **Buddha** stimulated **intelligence into wisdom**, which led to intelligent understanding of the causes of world distress. The Buddha as such was a teacher for the **East**.
- Through **Christ** came love to the world and through His Work He changed **emotion into Love**. The Christ was the saviour for the **West**.
- Their two systems are interdependent. The Buddha prepared the world for the **message** and the mission of the Christ.

# Wise Men in the ancient world

- In every country in the ancient world, that claimed to be civilised, there was, we are told, an esoteric doctrine, a system called WISDOM, and those who were devoted to its implementation were originally called the WISE or the WISE MEN.
- Pythagoras called this system the **Gnosis** or knowledge of the existing things; every time again represented by the ancient teachers, the sages of India, the magicians of Persia and Babylon, the seers and prophets of Israel, etc.

# What is a Myth?

➤ **Scholars** spend their lives to **prove** that the whole story is a **myth**, but a myth is a valuable and proven truth, that step after step, bridges the gaps between the knowledge of the past, the present formulated truth and the infinite and divine possibilities of the future.

➤ The truth of one century is the myth of the next, but its significance and its reality remain untouched, and require only a **re-interpretation** in the present

# The key to the whole Gospel story

- **Individuality, Initiation, Identification** can be summed up in the message of the Christ.
- He expressed it, when He was on earth, as follows:  
*I and My Father are One (John 10: 30).*
- Christ's great Individuality gave us through the process of the five major initiations an overview of the stages and the method through which identification with God can be established.

# Christianity transition period

- Christianity is the religion of the **transition period**, connecting the era of self-conscious individualistic existence with the future group-conscious, unified world. It is pre-eminently a **religion of cleavage**, showing man his duality, which is a very necessary stage in the development of the human being and revealing this was the **purpose** of Christianity:
- To highlight the struggle between the lower (personality) and the higher (soul); between the material and the spiritual man, united in one person, and to emphasize the need for the **personality** to be **saved** by our own **soul**.

# The New Human

➤ Paul articulated this as:

*... that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (Eph.2: 15-16).*

➤ Christ gave us the idea of truth which could bridge the gap between Eastern belief and philosophy, and our Western materialism and science, both divine expressions of reality.

➤ Each of us needs to create a **new human being** out of the two, and thus achieve peace, because peace equals unity and **synthesis**.

# Astronomical facts

- In the period when the sun was in the sign of **Aries**, the ram or **scapegoat** appeared in the Old Testament and the celebrating of the Jewish Passover or Pesach.
- **During** the Christian Era was the sun in the sign of **Pisces**; herein the symbolism of the **fish** is used.
- The sun in the sign of **Aquarius**, symbolised as a man carrying a jar of **water**. This carries the message of unity and our relationship as brothers.  
  
*"... As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters..." (Luke 22: 10).*
- The house of the zodiac, called Aquarius, where we will all sit at the same table and eat the **supper** together.

# The Last Supper in the Upper Room

- The **Last Supper** in the Upper Room is a symbol of that high point of **Reaching**, which we, as a race, are quickly moving to.
- It is a new expansion of consciousness and man will express the practical realisation of brotherhood.
- Currently, the world has to adjust to the new influences and in this period of re-adjustment a **temporary chaos** is inevitable.
- Through the lens of the **illuminated mind**, man will soon observe the hitherto, unknown divinity-aspects.

# The Last Supper in the Upper Room (2)

- Each of us must sooner or later prove this to himself, because religious experience is the only legal way to understanding dogmas (Pavel Florensky, quoted in *The Recovery of Truth*, p. 80, by Herman Leyslering)
- The history of mankind is the history of this **individual research** on divine expression and light to the final attainment of the **new birth**.