

Sophia and The Wisdom of God

THE SOPHIA, WISDOM

The Sophia (Wisdom) of Jesus Christ

After Christ rose from the dead, his twelve disciples and seven women continued to be his followers, and they went to Galilee onto the mountain called “Divination and Joy”. When they gathered together and were perplexed about the underlying reality of the universe and THE PLAN, and the holy providence, and the power of the authorities, and about everything the Savior is doing with them in the secret of THE HOLY PLAN, the Savior appeared – not in his previous form, but in the invisible spirit. And his likeness resembles a great angel of light. But his resemblance I must not describe. No mortal flesh could endure it, but only pure, perfect flesh, like that which he taught us about on the mountain called “Of the Olives” in Galilee.

And he said: “Peace be to you, My peace I give you!” And they all marveled and were afraid. The Savior laughed and said to them: “What are you thinking about? Are you perplexed? What are you searching for?”

Philip said: “For the underlying purpose of the universe and THE PLAN.”

The Savior said to them: “I want you to know that all men are born on earth from the foundation of the world until now being dust, while they have inquired about God, who he is and what he is like, they have not found him. Now the wisest among them have speculated from the ordering of the world and (its) movement. But their speculation has not reached the truth. For it is said that the ordering is directed in three ways, by all the philosophers, (and) hence they do not agree. For some of them say about the world that it is directed by itself. Others, that it is providence (that directs it). Others, that it is fate. But it is none of these.

Again, of the three voices I have just mentioned, none is close to the truth, and (they are all) from man. But I, who came from Infinite Light, I am here – for I know him (The Light) – so that I can speak to you about the precise nature of THE truth. For whatever is from itself is a polluted life; it is self-made. Providence has no wisdom in it. And (relying on) fate does not discern (or participate in the course). But to you it is given to know; and whoever is worthy of this knowledge will receive (it) from those who have not been begotten by the sowing of unclean rubbing, but by First (Protos) Who Was Sent, for He is an immortal in the midst of mortal men.” (And begets such as Himself).

Matthew said to him: “Lord, no one can find the truth except through you. Therefore teach us the truth.”

The Savior said: “He Who Is (The I Am) is ineffable. No principle knew him, no authority, no subjection, nor any creature from the foundation of the world until now, except he alone, and anyone to whom he wants to make revelation through him who is from First Light. (For this reason) From now on, I am the Great Savior. For he (the great Savior) is immortal and eternal. Now he is eternal, having no birth; for everyone who has birth will perish. He is unbegotten, having no beginning; for everyone who has a beginning has an end. Since no one rules over him,— he has no name; for whoever has a (sir) name is the creation of another.”

(BG 84, 13-17 adds— He is unnameable. He has no human form; for whoever is only human form is the creation of another).

“And he has a semblance of his own – not like what you have seen and received (as a mortal), but a strange semblance that surpasses all things and is better than the universe. It looks to every side and sees itself from itself. Since He is infinite, He is never fully comprehensible. He is imperishable and has no (physical) likeness (to anything that is). He is unchanging good. He is faultless. He is eternal. He is blessed. While He is not known, He ever knows Himself. He is immeasurable. He is untraceable. He is perfect, having no defect. He is imperishability blessed. He is called ‘Father (begetter) of the Universe’”.

Philip said: “Lord, how, then, did He appear to the perfect ones?”

The perfect Savior said to him: “Before anything was visible of those that became visible, the majesty and the authority were in Him, since He embraces the assembly of the totalities (in Christ), while nothing embraces (encapsulates) him. For he is all mind. And He is thought (and design) and considering and reflecting and rationality and power. They all are equal likenesses of His power. They are the sources (distribution centers) of His totalities (of those who are full). And their whole race from first to last was (foreordained) in his foreknowledge (known as the Elect, and from that of) the infinite, unbegotten Father.”

Thomas said to him: “Lord, Savior, why did these come to be, and why were these revealed?”

The perfect Savior said: “I came from the Infinite to tell you all things. Spirit-Who-Is, was the begetter, who had the power of Self replication and a form-giver’s nature, that the great wealth that was hidden in God was to be (given to them to and) revealed (for replication). Because of His mercy and His love, He wished to bring forth fruit by Himself, to enjoy his goodness not alone, but with other spirits of the Unwavering Generation (with the ability) to bring forth a body with the fruit of glory and honor, in an imperishableness (as a reflection of Him) and His infinite grace, and for his treasure to be revealed by Self-begotten God, the father of every imperishableness and those that came to be afterward (of those who had already been in the mind of the father). But they had not yet come to visibility because of a great difference that existed among the imperishables.”

So He called out, saying: “Whoever has ears to hear about the infinities, let them hear!”; and “I have addressed those who are awake.” Still He continued and said: “Everything that came from the

perishable will perish, since it came from the perishable. But whatever came from imperishableness (of those who are able to receive it) do not perish but remains imperishable. So, many men went astray because they had not known this difference (and could not apply it by making the distinction) and they died.

Mary said to him: “Lord, then how will we know that?” (So as not to die)

The perfect Savior said: “Come (you) from invisible things to the end of those that are visible, and the very emanation of Thought will reveal to you how faith in those things that are not visible was found in those that are visible (called the Elect), those that belong to Unbegotten Father. Whoever has ears to hear (of another nature), let them hear!

“The Ruler of the Universe is not called ‘Father’, but ‘Forefather’, being the beginning of those that will appear, (so the title is attached to the task) but He (the Ruler) is the beginningless Forefather. Seeing Himself within Himself as in a mirror, he appeared resembling Himself, but His likeness appeared as Divine Self-Father, and a Confronter over the Confronting ones, First Existent Unbegotten Father. He is indeed of equal age the Light that is before Him, but He is not equal to Him in power. (This was since the Forefather took on a name/title for a certain purpose, the name/,title expires with the completion of the task, however He is ever unchangeable and can appear in a form that pleases Him).

“And so afterward the (true) name (was shared and they were) revealed as a whole multitude of confronting, self-begotten ones, equal in age and power, being in glory (and) without number, whose race is called ‘The Generation over Whom There Is No Kingdom (a joint hyarchy for they are co-equal joint heirs) from the One in whom you yourselves have appeared among these others. And that whole multitude over which there is no kingdom is called ‘Sons (and co-equals) of Unbegotten Father, God, Savior, Son of God,’ whose likeness is with you and in you, as you collectively become that very body. Now He is the unknowable by that name (and unspeakable with human lips), who is full of ever-imperishable glory and ineffable joy. They (who are) of the (one) body (have ceased to struggle and) are all at rest “in Him”, ever rejoicing in ineffable joy in his unchanging glory and (experiencing) measureless jubilation; This was not heard or known among all the aeons and their worlds until now.”

Matthew said to him: “Lord, Savior, how was (the eternal) Man revealed?”

The perfect Savior said: “I want you to know that He who appeared before the universe in infinity, who is the Self-grown, Self-constructed Father, being full of shining light and ineffable. In the beginning, when He decided to have His likeness become a great power, immediately the principle of that Light appeared as Immortal Androgynous Man (male and female made He them in His likeness), that through that Immortal Androgynous Man for them to attain their salvation and awake from forgetfulness through the interpreter (the teacher, comforter, helper) who was sent and is with you until the end of the poverty (imposed on you) of the robbers. (When you’ve recovered your losses and participate in the equality in the First Man and Father)

”And the consort (interpreter/teacher/comforter/helper) is the Great Sophia (Wisdom), who from the beginning was destined to be “in Him” for union (ordained) by Self-begotten Father, from Immortal Man, who appeared as First and divinity and kingdom, for the Father, who is called ‘Man, Self-Father’, revealed this. And he created a great aeon, whose name is Perfection, for his own majesty.

“He was given great authority, and He ruled over the creation of poverty. He created gods and angels, archangels and myriads without number for retinue (promulgation), from that Light and the triune Spirit, which is that of Sophia, his consort. For from this, God originated divinity and The Kingdom. Therefore he was called ‘God of gods’ and ‘King of kings’. (Because all gods and kings can only faintly portray the original)

“First Man has his unique mind, within, and thought – just as he is it (thought) – (and) considering, reflecting, rationality, power. All the attributes that exist are perfect and immortal. In respect to imperishableness, they are indeed equal. (But) in respect to power, they are different, like the difference between father and son and thought, and the thought and the remainder. As I said earlier, among the things that were created, the monad (the top of the monarchy) is first.

“And after everything (was created), all that was revealed appeared from his power. And from what was created, all that was fashioned appeared; from what was fashioned appeared what was formed; from

what was formed, what was named. Thus came the difference among the unbegotten ones from beginning to end.” (But the beginning came from nothing, then subsequently nothing became these things)

Then Bartholomew said to him: “How (is it that) was designated in the Gospel ‘Man’ and ‘Son of Man’? To which of them, then, is this Son related?”

The Holy One said to him: “I want you to know that First Man (that Adam was imaged after who) is called ‘Begetter, Self-perfected Mind’. He reflected (as in a mirror) with Great Sophia, his (counterpart and) consort, and revealed his first-begotten, androgynous son. His male name is designated ‘First Begetter, Son of God’, his female name, ‘First Begettress Sophia, Mother of the ALL (of those borne of the spirit)’. Some call her ‘Love’. Now First-begotten is called ‘Christ’. Since he has saving authority from his father, he (borne) a multitude of angels without number for retinue from Spirit and Light.”

His disciples said to him: “Lord, reveal to us about the one called ‘Man’, so that we can know his glory exactly.”

The perfect Savior said: “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear. First Begetter Father is called ‘Adam, Eye of Light,’ because he came from shining Light, and his holy angels, who are ineffable (and) shadowless, ever rejoice with joy in their reflecting, which they received from their Father. The whole Kingdom of Son of Man, who is called ‘Son of God,’ is full of ineffable and shadowless joy, and unchanging jubilation, (they) rejoicing over his imperishable glory, which has never been heard until now, nor has it been revealed in the aeons that came afterward, and their worlds. I came from Self-begotten and First Infinite Light, for the purpose of revealing everything to you.” (As an eye witness and first hand experience for those who have ears to hear)

Again, his disciples said: “Tell us clearly how they (satans impostor luminaries) came down from the invisibilities, from the immortal to the world that dies?”

clarify contrasts here plz

The perfect Savior said: “(The) Son of Man consented with Sophia, his consort, and revealed a great androgynous light. His male name/title is designated ‘Savior, and Begetter of All Things’. His female

(personage who is hidden like Adams rib) name is designated 'All-Begettress Sophia'. Some call her 'Pistis', comforter, teacher, helper and another parent for those who thought they were orphans. (John 16)

“(The) All (meaning the Elect) who come into the world, like drops from the Light, are sent by him to the world by the Almighty, reserved and guarded by him. And the bond of his forgetfulness bound him by the will of Sophia, in order for matter to be through it to the whole world in poverty, concerning his arrogance and blindness and the ignorance that he was named. But I came from the places above by the will of the great Light, (I) who escaped from that bond; I have cut off the work of the robbers; I have awakened that drop that was sent from Sophia, in order for it to bear much fruit through me, and (given for some to) be perfected and not again be defective, but be (perfectly re-joined) through me, the Great Savior, in order for our glory to be revealed (to be shared among them), so that Sophia would also be justified in regard to (Her participation in correcting) that defect, for her sons to never again become defective but for them to attain honor and glory and go up to their Father (having aquired His likeness along the way), and for knowing the words of the masculine Light. And you were sent by the Son, who was sent for you to receive (that) Light, (to guide) you to remove yourselves from the forgetfulness of the (self proclaimed) authorities, and for the Son to not have to come again in the appearance (in the flesh) for your sake, namely, the (wringing of the hands) that is from the (thought of the) fearful fire (called tribulation and persecution) that came from their (fearful) fleshly part. (Now to) Tread under foot their malicious intent.” (Of those who detain deceptively)

Then Thomas said to him: “Lord, Savior, how many are the aeons/Elect of those who surpass (and break through) the heavens?”

The perfect Savior said: “I praise you because you ask about the great aeons, for your roots (and purpose) are in the infinities (as an aeon). Now when those whom I have discussed earlier were (to be) revealed, he provided (them opportunity to prove their new selves)

[pages 109 and 110 are missing in NHC III, replaced here by the corresponding section in the Berlin Gnostic Codex, the beginning of which is somewhat different from the final partial sentence of NHC III 108 (the broken off sentence)]

[BG 107]: “Now when those whom I have discussed earlier were revealed, Self-begetter Father very soon created twelve aeons for retinue for the twelve angels. All these are perfect and good. Thus the defect in the female appeared.”

And said to him: “How many are the aeons of the immortals, born from the infinities?”

The perfect Savior said: “Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear. The first aeon is that of Son of Man, who is called ‘First Begetter’, who is called ‘Savior’, who has appeared. The second aeon (is) that of Man, who is called ‘Adam, Eye of Light’. Those who embrace these truths are the aeons over which there is no kingdom, (they are born of the Eternal Infinite God, the Self-begotten aeon of the aeons that are in it, they are the immortals whom I described earlier, (the aeon) above the Seventh, that appeared from Sophia, which is the first aeon. (These are they who took the Father at His word and owned it)

“Now the Immortal Man revealed aeons and powers and kingdoms, and gave authority (over them) to all who appear like him, for them to exercise their desires until the last things are all above chaos. For these consented with each other and revealed every magnificence, even from spirit, multitudinous lights that are glorious and without number. These were called in the beginning, that is, the first aeon and and . The first called ‘Unity and Rest’. Each one has its (own) name; for the aeon was designated an ‘Assembly’ from the great multitude that appeared: (gathered together,) in one, revealing themselves. Now because the multitudes gather and come to a unity we call them ‘Assembly of the Eighth.’ It appeared as androgynous and was named partly as male and partly as female. The male is called ‘Assembly’, while the female is called ‘Life Giver’, for it to be shown that from a female was born the life for all the aeons. And every name was received, as spoken of from the beginning.

“For from his concurrence with his thought, the powers very soon appeared who were called ‘gods’; and the gods of the gods from their wisdom revealed gods; from their wisdom revealed lords; and the lords of the lords from their thinkings revealed lords; and the lords from their power revealed archangels; the archangels from their words revealed angels; from them, semblances appeared, with structure and form and name for all the aeons and their worlds.

“And the immortals, whom I have just described, all have authority from Immortal Man, who is called ‘Silence’, because by reflecting without speech all her own majesty was perfected. For since the imperishabilities had the authority, each created a great kingdom in the Eighth, (and) also thrones and temples (and) firmaments for their own majesties. For these all came by the will of the Mother of the Universe.”

Then the Holy Apostles said to him: “Savior, tell us about those who are in the aeons, since it is necessary for us to ask about them.”

The perfect Savior said: “If you ask about anything, I will tell you. They (from the eighth) created hosts of angels, myriads without number, for retinue and their glory. They created virgin spirits, the ineffable and unchangeable lights. For they have no sickness nor weakness, but it is will. *[BG 115,14 adds here: And they came to be in an instant.]*

“Thus the aeons were completed quickly in the heavens and the firmaments in the glory of Immortal Man and Sophia, his consort: the area from which every aeon and the world and those that came afterward took (their) pattern for their creation of likenesses in the heavens of chaos and their worlds. And all natures, starting from the revelation of chaos, are in the Light that shines without shadow, and joy that cannot be described, and unutterable jubilation. They ever delight themselves on account of their unchanging glory and the immeasurable rest, which cannot be described among all the aeons that came to be afterward, and all their powers. Now all that I have just said to you, I said for you to be able to shine in Light more than these.” (Of whom were just described)

Mary said to him: “Holy Lord, where did your disciples come from, and where are they going, and (what) should they do here?”

The Perfect Savior said to them: “I want you to know that Sophia, the Mother of the Universe and the consort, desired by herself to bring these to existence without her male (consort). But by the will of the Father of the Universe, in order for his unimaginable goodness to be revealed, he created that curtain between the immortals and those that came afterward, for the consequence to follow ... *[BG 118:]* ... every aeon and chaos – for the defect of the female to be manifest, and for it to come about that Error (the unholy spirit) would contend with her (Sophia). And these became the curtain of spirit. From aeons above the emanations of Light, as I have said already, a drop from Light and

Spirit came down to the lower regions of Almighty in chaos, for their molded forms to appear from that drop, for it is a judgment on him, Arch-Begetter, who is called 'Yaldabaoth'. That drop revealed their molded forms through the breath, as a living soul. It was withered and it slumbered in the ignorance of the soul. When it became hot from the breath of the Great Light of the Male, and it took thought, (then) names were received by all who are in the world of chaos, and all things that are in it through that Immortal One, when the breath blew into him. But when this came about by the will of Mother Sophia – in order for Immortal Man to piece together the garments there for a judgment on the robbers – then welcomed the blowing of that breath; but since he was soul-like, he was not able to take that power for himself until the number of chaos should be complete, (that is,) when the time determined by the great angel is complete.

“Now I have taught you about Immortal Man and have loosed the bonds of the robbers from him. I have broken the gates of the pitiless ones in their presence. I have humiliated their malicious intent, and they all have been shamed and have risen from their ignorance. Because of this, then, I came here, in order for them to be joined with that Spirit and Breath, *[NHC III continues:]* and for the two to become one, just as from the first, for you to yield much fruit and go up to Him Who Is from the Beginning, in ineffable joy and glory and honor and grace of the Father of the Universe.

“Whoever, then, knows the Father in pure knowledge will depart to the Father and repose in Unbegotten Father (called the rest). But whoever knows him defectively will depart to the defect and the rest of the Eighth. Now whoever knows Immortal Spirit of Light in silence, through reflecting and consent in the truth, let them bring me signs of the Invisible One, and they will become a light in the Spirit of Silence. Whoever knows the Son of Man in knowledge and love, let them bring me a sign of the Son of Man, in order for them to depart to the dwelling-places with those in the Eighth.

“Behold, I have revealed to you the name of the Perfect One, the whole will of the Mother of the Holy Angels, so that the masculine multitude would be completed here, that there would appear in the aeons, the infinities and those that came to be in the untraceable wealth of the Great Invisible Spirit, for them to all take from his goodness, even the inheritance of their Rest that has no kingdom/hiarchy over it. I came from the First Who Was Sent, to reveal to you Him Who Is from the

Beginning, because of the arrogance of Arch-Begetter and his angels, since they say about themselves that they are gods. And I came to remove them from their blindness, to tell everyone about the God who is above the universe. Therefore, tread upon their graves, humiliate their malicious intent, and break their yoke and arouse/awake my own. I have given you authority over all things as Sons of Light, for you to tread upon their power with your feet.” (Genesis 3.)

These are the things the blessed Savior said, and he disappeared/departed from them. Then all the disciples were in great, ineffable joy in the spirit from that day on. And (as a result of this) his disciples began to (for the first time) preach the Gospel of God, the eternal, imperishable Spirit. Amen.

The Sophia of Jesus