Hymn: 617 "For All the Saints"
Prayer
Scripture: Revelation 2:12-17

TWO POLES OF HERESY: Ebionism and Docetism
Ebionism: Cerinthus at Ephesus
Docetism: the Nicolaitans

THE JEWISH PROBLEM: JEWISH CHRISTIANITY AND HERESY
Jews who became Christians soon lost their Jewish identity
in a church that was increasingly made up of Gentiles.
The problem Christians had of explaining to pagans why
Christianity was rejected by the Jews.

Justin Martyr and Jewish Christianity:
Christians who wanted to bind Jewish customs on all.
Christians who felt Jewish Christians should keep Jewish
customs but not Gentile Christians.
Christians who kept Jewish customs themselves but did not
bind them on others.
Christians who would not fellowship anyone who continued
any Jewish customs.

The role of the Jews in the persecution of the Christians.

THE EASTER CONTROVERSY: c. 155 A.D. (Paschal or Quartodeciman)
Anicetus of Rome and Polycarp of Smyrna

THE JEWISH CHRISTIAN GROUPS:
Nazarenes: Accepted the Virgin Birth, kept the Jewish
law but did not bind it on others, did not reject Paul.
Essenes: Accepted the Virgin Birth but rejected Paul;
great emphasis on asceticism and keeping of Law.
Ebionites: Rejected the Virgin Birth; rejected Paul as
an Apostate; used only the Gospel of the Hebrews;
emphasis on poverty. Emphasized Sabbath and
circumcision.

Elkasites: A Jewish Gnosticism. Elkesai in time of
Emperor Trajan (A.D. 98-117) claimed to have seen
a vision of Christ as an angel of great height
accompanied by a female angel (the Holy Spirit).
Angel gave Elkesai new revelations:
Baptism: frequent baptisms for forgiveness of
all sins—-even adultery. Would cure illness
including bite of mad dogs.
Baptized in clothes.
Christ born as other men—-not virgin born.
Paul to be rejected
Blood sacrifices to be rejected
Must keep Law—especially circumcision.
Astrology and magic to be accepted.

Alcibiades of Apamea in Syria brought the doctrine
of Elkesai to Rome c. A.D. 220. Used method
of town crier.

GNOSTICISM: "Gnosis"—"knowledge"—Jesus left secret teachings.

SIMON OF SAMARIA: Regarded as founder
The Supreme Power manifest himself to the Jews as the Son,
to the Samaritans as the Father in the person of
Simon; to other nations as the Holy Spirit.
Helen the incarnation of his divine thoughts.
Heresies, Schisms, and Problems

Angels proceeded from Helen but rebelled. Because of maladministration of angels God intervened. Angels inspired Law and prophets—hence these can be ignored.

Simon offered secret doctrine and magic that would free men from angels—especially Jehovah of the Jews. Simon and Helen worshipped and images were erected to them.

SATURNINUS OF ANTIOCH:: time of Trajan (c. A.D. 98–117).

The Father the unknowable and unspeakable God who created the angels.

Visible world created by angels.

Angels created man after a fleeting vision of Father.

Father took pity on man and put a spark of Himself in man.

Savior came to free man from the angels.

Marriage and procreation work of Satan, an angel.

Asceticism: abstinence from animal food.

BARBELOGNOSTICS: Apocryphon of John

Barbelo the great celestial Mother or Primordial Spirit.

Barbelo produced 7 archons one of whom is Ialdabaoth (Sabaoth or Jehovah) who created world.

Archons rebel.

Barbelo is also Prunikos, the Lascivious. Seduces the archons to break their power.

CAINITES: God of Old Testament responsible for evil world.

Exalt Cain, Esau, Korah, Sodomites, and Judas Iscariot.

SETHIANS:

Three principles: Light, Darkness, and Spirit (Breath).

Light and Spirit attracted by Darkness; the encounter results in water; from water comes heaven and earth.

Strong wind from water produces vegetation. Wind is hissing of Serpent (the phallic symbol) which begins generation.

Movement of waters comparable to birth pangs of womb.

Perfect Word comes down in form of Serpent and enter womb of Darkness to relieve anguish of darkness.

Moment of illumination in initiation: gazing on navel of pregnant woman and then drinking cup of living water to free from all the servile and put on the heavenly.

OPHITES (Naassenes)

The Serpent is the Liberator and Illuminator of Mankind.

Jehovah had imprisoned Adam and Eve.

The High God took form of Serpent to give them the secret of the Tree of Knowledge that they might be freed.

Moses made the bronze serpent; Hezekiah destroyed it.

Consecration of bread and wine with serpents.


13 manuscripts containing 49-52 documents.