

FROM THE LOGOPRAXIS HANDBOOK

APPENDIX 3: TAKING OUT PERSON, PLACE, TIME AND SPACE

The state of the Church down to the time of the Flood is described.

AC 234. And because the Church at that time destroyed itself completely, it is foretold that the Lord will come into the world and save the human race.

If we think in terms of time and space (which is to think naturally) then we cannot avoid taking this as a statement describing historical events, or what has occurred in time and space. We are told that in order to think spiritually all ideas of time and space have to be removed from our thinking. So let's try to do that...

What we know is that by Church is not meant any earthly organization but rather this term describes the quality of the mind in terms of the quality of celestial and spiritual things within it. A mind filled with goods (celestial things) and truths (spiritual things) from the Word is what is meant by the term Church, and that the more these things are found in their proper order within the mind the more a church the mind becomes.

So the phrase, "The state of the Church..." can be understood to mean "The state of the human mind..." in relation to what is good and true. We come then to the next part of the statement being – "down to the time of the flood" Now this has a clear reference to a "time" (that being "the time of the flood"). Again we are to think in terms of state, not time, and so by "the time of the flood" is meant a state when evils and falsities flood the lower levels of the mind. Or if you like, when self-love rises up and swamps what is genuinely good and true.

So we can see that what's described in terms of history starts to become related to my personal inner history of the process. I experience where my sense of self becomes so dominated by self-interest that I lose sight of what is loving and wise and run with what is self serving with all its justifications and rationalizations. With this in mind #234 can be paraphrased as follows to provide a context for personal inner work...

What's described in this reading are the progressive states of mind I pass through as I move from living from the Word to living from my own self-interest. And because the mind (Church) in that state destroys (deliberate use of present tense) itself completely....

We now come to the final part of the statement...

...it is foretold that the Lord will come into the world and save the human race.

If we read this naturally we will think of its meaning in terms of an historical event. If we read it spiritually we will see that what occurs as history is in fact representative of spiritual processes that are continually outworking themselves in the relationship that exists between the Lord as the Word and human beings as receiving agents of goods and truths from it.

Naturally understood as an historical event, this statement will be seen as referring to the person of Jesus Christ being born into the material world at a point in time. But this is not the only way in which this can be understood. What occurs in time and space and becomes fixed

in a historical context on the material plane, has a reality that sits outside of spatial, temporal or material limitations. This can be seen when we see that by the Lord, is meant the Word (John 1:1). “World” in the above statement can also mean the interior world in which our spirit dwells, for this is as much a world as that in which we find ourselves bodily. And while the Lord understood as to his historical person is seen as one in the material world, as the Word “his coming into the world” refers to His appearing in the mental world of those who are awakening to the true nature of the Word, that it is the Divine Truth, and as such is the Lord Himself.

The coming of the Lord into the world is the unveiling of the true nature of the Word as the Divine Truth to human consciousness. It is this realization that opens the way for all sensual reasoning to be put down under the heel. It is only as I look to the Lord (which means to apply truths to life) that I find I have the ability to hold the lying voice of the serpent (believing how things appear rather than what truths teach) at bay so that its poisons can be rendered ineffective.