

AUGUSTINE on JESUS the JEW

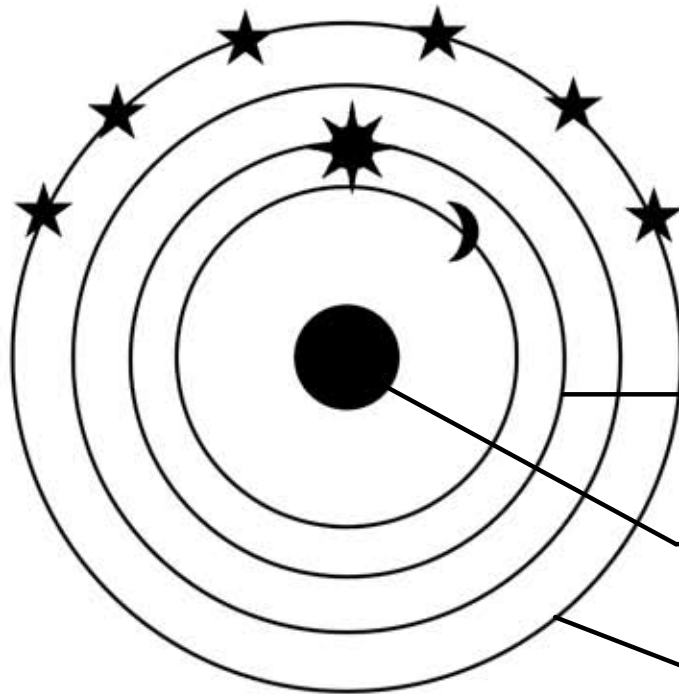
Graeco-Roman Cosmos

G-R Binary Opposites

Spirit/Matter of Flesh
Soul/Body
Intelligible/Sensible
One/Many
Allegory/Narrative

"Christian" Binaries

Gospel/Law
Grace/Works
Baptism/Circumcision
Spiritual/Carnal
Gentile/Jew



5 Planets, Sun, and Moon orbit Earth

Earth, in thick matter of sub-lunar realm

Fixed Stars

θ_1 high god

θ_2 lower, creator god - "Logos" "demi-urge"

AUGUSTINE on JESUS the JEW

Chronology

c. 300 BCE	Alexander the Great's conquests; <i>paideia</i> (Gk cultural education) exported
c. 200 BCE	Jews in Alexandria complete translation of scriptures into Greek (Septuagint, or LXX)
50 CE	Letters of Paul. esp. important for later tradition: Galatians and Romans
70 CE	Roman destruction of Jerusalem, the Temple
80-100?	<u>Some Christians argue that Christ never had flesh</u> (1 Jn 4:2, 5:6; 2 Jn 7): "Docetist"
132-35	Bar Kochba revolt; Jewish Jerusalem disappears beneath Aelia Capitolina
c. 130	Valentinus , a premier Christian theologian. ("Gnostics") Docetist
c. 140	Marcion , another premier theologian. (Invents a "new testament.") Docetist
c. 150	Justin Martyr , <i>Dialogue with Trypho the Jew</i> . LXX is <u>Christian</u> scripture. Incarnation.
c. 208	Tertullian <i>c. Marcionem</i> . Jews teach their poison to heretics. Incarnation.
c. 290	Mani's new revelation of Christianity travels from Persia West. Docetist.
386	Faustus the Manichee writes <i>Capitula</i> : Catholics are "really" Jews. Docetist.
398	Augustine responds with <i>c. Faustum</i>

Points of Agreement

- Judaism is a bad religion, Jews are bad people.
- Truest meaning of text available only through allegory/ spiritual reading.
- Blood sacrifices intrinsically idolatrous, "fleshy," and bound up with bad religion.
- Christ docetic, only "appeared" to have fleshly body (Valentinus, Marcion, Mani, Faustus)
- Christ incarnate, Jews and heretics read in a fleshly way (Justin, Tertullian)

Augustine

- God chose Israel, gave his Law to be enacted in the flesh, Israel received it all good.
- Jewish practice of Judaism - Sabbath, purifications, food laws, and most especially circumcision and blood sacrifices: all good, and according to divine will.
- Jesus scrupulously kept the Law; so did his apostles, both before and after resurrection; Paul too.
- God and the Jews, and thus the church and the Jews, maintain an abiding relationship: BIBLE.
- God protects the Jews as he protected Cain (Gen 4:15): the Jews' "mark of Cain" = Jewish practice, which protects them as a people apart. God will "unloose a seven-fold vengeance" on any ruler, pagan or Christian, who impedes the Jews' practice of Judaism.
- Thus, alone of all the religious minorities of the Christian Roman empire, the Jews alone - not heretics, and not pagans - must preserve and enact their ancestral customs freely