

# Πλήρωμα in Gnosticism

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

## Deity

(Αἰών in the Πλήρωμα)

Non-material

-  
-  
-  
-

Material

-  
-  
-  
-

## Man

1. The πλήρωμα (*pleroma*) refers to the totality of divine powers.
2. Αἰών (*aeon*) is the manifestation of deity in the πλήρωμα, which manifestations move downward from non-material to material (“*flesh*”) manifestations. There are multiple *aeons* in various systems of Gnosticism.
3. The material manifestation occurred in the πλήρωμα because of some past limitation, such as a passion, flaw, or sin.
4. Man needs γνώσις (the “*knowledge*” of Gnosticism) to know how to overcome physical or “*flesh*” limitations to enter the πλήρωμα, moving from material (physical) to non-material (spiritual) and eventually to deity.
5. Reincarnation is the mechanism needed for man to move upward in the πλήρωμα to deity.
6. As man receives γνώσις, which enhances his spiritual power or energy (ἐνέργεια), he moves through levels or steps with the help of swamis, shamans, religious leaders and teachers, spirit guides, angels, esoteric writings, etc., and eventually reaches deity status.
7. This false system of Gnosticism has as its foundation the lies of the Garden (cf. Gen. 3:4-5), including deification and deathlessness of man based on knowledge, and played out in terms such as pantheism, reincarnation, humanism, “*flesh is evil,*” karma, celibacy, vegetarianism, magic, energy points and manipulation, piercings and tattoos, poltergeist, UFO encounters, etc.
8. All religions, cults, and philosophical systems re-package the lies of the Garden and promote the Gnostic perversion of Col. 2:8-10,<sup>1</sup> with various terms, means, personages, etc.
9. For example, L. Ron Hubbard’s *Scientology* (or *Dianetics* which means “*through the mind*”) is a classic case. Humans are immortal *Thetans* (deities) who have forgotten their divine past as they have identified with the physical world. They have *Engrams* (mental impediments) which must be cleared in their auditing sessions so that they can proceed upward in their “*assumption*” (i.e., reincarnation) or return to deity. E-meters help them reach pre-clear stages in their progression.

---

<sup>1</sup>The philosophy is Gnosticism, the rudiments (στοιχείον) are demons (cf. Gal. 4:4-9), incarnate Christ is the full πλήρωμα, and Christians are complete in Him with no necessity or possibility to move up the πλήρωμα with alleged help from demonic facilitators.