

Righteous Foundations of Religious Living

Since "ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny", if you would grow religiously, you should reflect upon the historical sequence of epochal revelations concerning the righteous foundations of religious living. With the first epochal revelation on every world, it is not safe, and hence forbidden, to reveal the God of love. For those who sit in darkness, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (see TUB 149:6.5-6). The staff of a Planetary Prince comes to teach "law and order", not yet "love and service". On our world, Hap and the college of revealed religion taught "The Father's Way", which commanded that we fear "God", the Father of all, rather than the glorified ghosts of fearful fantasy:

- "1. You shall not fear nor serve any God but the Father of all.
- "2. You shall not disobey the Father's Son, the world's ruler, nor show disrespect to his superhuman associates.
- "3. You shall not speak a lie when called before the judges of the people.
- "4. You shall not kill men, women, or children.
- "5. You shall not steal your neighbor's goods or cattle.
- "6. You shall not touch your friend's wife.
- "7. You shall not show disrespect to your parents or to the elders of the tribe." (TUB 66:7.9-15) [also, see TUB 66:5.13-14 and 66:7.16]

Based upon this moral law, they eventually taught "The Father's Prayer":

"Father of all, whose Son we honor, look down upon us with favor. Deliver us from the fear of all save you. Make us a pleasure to our divine teachers and forever put truth on our lips. Deliver us from violence and anger; give us respect for our elders and that which belongs to our neighbors. Give us this season green pastures and fruitful flocks to gladden our hearts. We pray for the hastening of the coming of the promised uplifter, and we would do your will on this world as others do on worlds beyond." (TUB 66:5.15)

Genuine faith is founded on the concept of the divine law, the fact of God (see TUB 102:7.2); it is not merely some fuzzy form of credulous, so-called "spiritual" belief. To genuinely be "born again" is to grasp "the Melchizedek gospel of trust in God and salvation through faith" (TUB 94:1.6); where, as Melchizedek taught, to have faith is to believe God's promises "and" follow his instructions (see TUB 93:6.4)--in other words, "believe", predicated on the Melchizedek promulgation of the (yet again foundational) seven commandments [per TUB 93:4.7-13]:

- "1. You shall not serve any God but the Most High Creator of heaven and earth.
- "2. You shall not doubt that faith is the only requirement for eternal salvation.
- "3. You shall not bear false witness.
- "4. You shall not kill. ["kill" ==> "murder", see TUB paragraph 74:7.6]
- "5. You shall not steal.
- "6. You shall not commit adultery.
- "7. You shall not show disrespect for your parents and elders."

Note the direct parallels to several items of the Ten Commandments (see my study entitled thus); and, these commandments "very much resembled the seven commands taught in the first and second Edens" (TUB 93:4.6).

As the fourth epochal revelation, Jesus of Nazareth--again--first taught righteousness. And following his synagogue sermon on the first Sabbath after his fifteenth birthday: "This Sabbath afternoon Jesus climbed the Nazareth hill with James and, when they returned home, wrote out the Ten Commandments in Greek on two smooth boards in charcoal. Subsequently Martha colored and decorated these boards, and for long they hung on the wall over James's small workbench." (TUB 126:4.9) Even when he taught love above fear, Jesus commanded: "You have been taught that you should 'fear God and keep his commandments, for that is the whole duty of man.' But I have come to give you a new and higher commandment. I would teach you to 'love God and learn to do his will, for that is the highest privilege of the liberated sons of God.' Your fathers were taught to 'fear God--the Almighty King.' I teach you, 'Love God--the all-merciful Father.'" (TUB 149:6.7) The Master taught "the great commandment" (see TUB 174:4.2) and uplifted it as "the new commandment" (see TUB 180:1.1).

And per the fifth epochal revelation: What did the Master, in essence, say about those who are no longer ignorant of the light of heaven, because they have studied The Urantia Papers; but they do not, or even will not, follow its instructions? Said Jesus: "If we had not taught them the truth, they might do many strange things without falling under condemnation, but now, since they have known the light and presumed to reject it, they have no excuse for their attitude. ... the light which would save you if accepted can only condemn you if it is knowingly rejected." (TUB 180:3.2) Prepare yourselves: "Remember, much has been given to you; therefore will much be required of you." (TUB 165:6.3)

(reflections by Chris Halvorson)