

Dispensationalism — Gnosticism

Dispensationalism	Gnosticism
	<p>Sophia (Wisdom)</p> <p>1. Which Dispensationalist(s) have taught that this world was the result of a primordial error on the part of Sophia?</p> <p>2. Which Dispensationalist(s) believe in a divine being called Wisdom, or Fullness?</p> <p>3. Which Dispensationalist(s) believe that Sophia emanated from her own being, unaware of his origins, imaging himself to be the ultimate and absolute God?</p> <p>“According to the Gnostics, this world, the material cosmos, is the result of a primordial error on the part of a supra-cosmic, supremely divine being, usually called Sophia (Wisdom) or simply the Logos. This being is described as the final emanation of a divine hierarchy, called the Plérôma or “Fullness,” at the head of which resides the supreme God, the One beyond Being.”</p> <p>Source: https://www.iep.utm.edu/gnostic/</p> <p>“One of the aeonial beings who bears the name Sophia (“Wisdom”) is of great importance to the Gnostic world view. In the course of her journeyings, Sophia came to emanate from her own being a flawed consciousness, a being who became the creator of the material and psychic cosmos, all of which he created in the image of his own flaw. This being, unaware of his origins, imagined himself to be the ultimate and absolute God.”</p> <p>Source: http://gnosis.org/gnintro.htm</p>
	<p>Flawed Creation (Sophia's Error)</p> <p>1. Which Dispensationalist(s) have taught of a sort of anti-cosmic world rejection?</p> <p>2. Which Dispensationalist(s) have taught that the world is flawed because it was created flawed?</p> <p>3. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that Sophia existed, committed an error in reckless desire and brings forth through hypostatization (attributing real identity to a concept) a semi-divine being called a Demiurge?</p> <p>“anti-cosmic world rejection”</p> <p>“The error of Sophia, which is usually identified as a reckless desire to know the transcendent God, leads to the hypostatization of her desire in the form of a semi-divine and essentially ignorant creature known as the Demiurge (Greek: <i>dêmîourgos</i>, “craftsman”), or Ialdabaoth, who is responsible for the formation of the material cosmos.”</p> <p>“While the thwarting necessity of nature is, for the Existentialist, a simple, unquestioned fact; for the Gnostics it is the result of the malignant designs of an inferior god, the Demiurge, carried out through and by this ignorant deity's own law.”</p> <p>Source: https://www.iep.utm.edu/gnostic/</p> <p>“Gnostics have their own -- perhaps quite startling -- view of these matters: they hold that the world is flawed because it was created in a flawed manner.”</p> <p>Source: http://gnosis.org/gnintro.htm</p>
	<p>Demiurge (Hypostatization)</p> <p>1. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that a demiurge came from Sophia's hypostatization?</p> <p>2. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that all beings are brought to life by the demiurge (ruler-archon) named Ialdabaoth?</p> <p>“According to Gnostic mythology (in general) We, humanity, are existing in this realm because a member of the transcendent godhead, Sophia (Wisdom), desired to actualize her innate potential for creativity without the approval of her partner or divine consort. Her hubris, in this regard, stood forth as raw materiality, and her desire, which was for the mysterious ineffable Father, manifested itself as Ialdabaoth, the Demiurge, that renegade principle of generation and corruption which, by its unalterable necessity, brings all beings to life, for a brief moment, and then to death for eternity. However, since even the Pleroma itself is not, according to the Gnostics, exempt from desire or passion, there must come into play a salvific event or savior—that is, Christ, the Logos, the “messenger,” etc.—who descends to the material realm</p>

	<p>for the purpose of negating all passion, and raising the innocent human “sparks” (which fell from Sophia) back up to the Pleroma (cf. Apocryphon of John [Codex II] 9:25-25:14 ff.).</p> <p>“This act of craftsmanship is actually an imitation of the realm of the Pleroma, but the Demiurge is ignorant of this, and hubristically declares himself the only existing God. At this point, the Gnostic revisionary critique of the Hebrew Scriptures begins, as well as the general rejection of this world as a product of error and ignorance, and the positing of a higher world, to which the human soul will eventually return.”</p> <p>Source: https://www.iep.utm.edu/gnostic/</p>
	<p>Salvation</p> <p>3. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that salvation is not from sin (original or other), but from ignorance?</p> <p>4. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that salvation is acquired by Gnosis?</p> <p>“Gnostics do not look to salvation from sin (original or other), but rather from the ignorance of which sin is a consequence. Ignorance -- whereby is meant ignorance of spiritual realities -- is dispelled only by Gnosis, and the decisive revelation of Gnosis is brought by the Messengers of Light, especially by Christ, the Logos of the True God. It is not by His suffering and death but by His life of teaching and His establishing of mysteries that Christ has performed His work of salvation.”</p> <p>Source: http://gnosis.org/gnintro.htm</p>
	<p>Conduct (Ethics)</p> <p>1. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that the ethical and moral standard of the Gnostics should be provided in the daily life of a follower of Jesus Christ?</p> <p>“If the words “ethics” or “morality” are taken to mean a system of rules, then Gnosticism is opposed to them both. Such systems usually originate with the Demiurge and are covertly designed to serve his purposes. If, on the other hand, morality is said to consist of an inner integrity arising from the illumination of the indwelling spark, then the Gnostic will embrace this spiritually informed existential ethic as ideal.”</p> <p>“Gnosticism embraces numerous general attitudes toward life: it encourages non-attachment and non-conformity to the world, a “being in the world, but not of the world”; a lack of egotism; and a respect for the freedom and dignity of other beings. Nonetheless, it appertains to the intuition and wisdom of every individual “Gnostic” to distill from these principles individual guidelines for their personal application.”</p> <p>Source: http://gnosis.org/gnintro.htm</p>
	<p>Destiny (After Life)</p> <p>1. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that we must attain liberating Gnosis while on earth?</p> <p>2. Which Dispensationalist(s) have taught that there is the potential to be trapped in existence?</p> <p>3. Which Dispensationalist(s) believe in cycles of rebirth?</p> <p>“Death does not automatically bring about liberation from bondage in the realms of the Demiurge. Those who have not attained to a liberating Gnosis while they were in embodiment may become trapped in existence once more. It is quite likely that this might occur by way of the cycle of rebirths. Gnosticism does not emphasize the doctrine of reincarnation prominently, but it is implicitly understood in most Gnostic teachings that those who have not made effective contact with their transcendental origins while they were in embodiment would have to return into the sorrowful condition of earthly life.”</p> <p>“Valentinus, the greatest of Gnostic teachers, taught that Christ and Sophia await the spiritual man -- the pneumatic Gnostic -- at the entrance of the Pleroma, and help him to enter the bridechamber of final reunion.”</p> <p>Source: http://gnosis.org/gnintro.htm</p>

	Mysticism
1. How does Dispensationalism lead one to mysticism?	<p>“the Gnostics go beyond philosophical speculation toward the realm of religious doctrine and mysticism.”</p> <p>Source: https://www.iep.utm.edu/gnostic/</p>
	Old Testament
1. Which Dispensationalist(s) believed that the Hebrew Scriptures were written by the craftsman, an inferior god? 2. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that written revelation was filled with lies, intended to cloud the minds and judgment of spiritual human beings?	<p>“The Gnostics, in their reading of Scripture, acknowledged no such debt; for they believed that the Hebrew Bible was the written revelation of an inferior creator god (dēmiourgos), filled with lies intended to cloud the minds and judgment of the spiritual human beings (pneumatikoi) whom this Demiurge was intent on enslaving in his material cosmos.”</p> <p>Source: https://www.iep.utm.edu/gnostic/</p>
	365 heavens
1. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that there are rulers from a total of 365 heavens? 2. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that each of these heavens had a chief ruler? 3. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that of these 364 they were opposing the god of the Jews? 4. Which Dispensationalist(s) believes that Christ’s death on the cross was only apparent, and didn’t actually occur in the flesh (Docetism)?	<p>“Through the union of Wisdom and Power, a group of angelic rulers came into existence, and from these rulers a total of 365 heavens or aeons were generated (Irenaeus 1.24.3). Each heaven had its own chief ruler (arkhōn), and numerous lesser angels. The final heaven, which Basilides claimed is the realm of matter in which we all dwell, was said by him to be ruled by “the god of the Jews,” who favored the Jewish nation over all others, and so caused all manner of strife for the nations that came into contact with them—as well as for the Jewish people themselves. . . . Since the realm of matter is the sole provenance of this spiteful god, Basilides finds nothing of value in it, and states that “[s]alvation belongs only to the soul; the body is by nature corruptible” (Irenaeus 1.24.5). He even goes so far as to declare, contra Christian orthodoxy, that Christ’s death on the cross was only apparent, and did not actually occur “in the flesh” (Irenaeus 1.24.4)—this doctrine came to be called docetism.”</p> <p>Source: https://www.iep.utm.edu/gnostic/</p>
	Escapism
1. Which Dispensationalist believes that escapism from this world is determined by knowledge?	<p>Escapism definition:</p> <p>“the tendency to seek distraction and relief from unpleasant realities, especially by seeking entertainment or engaging in fantasy.”</p> <p>Source: https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=escapism</p> <p>“habitual diversion of the mind to purely imaginative activity or entertainment as an escape from reality or routine.”</p> <p>Source: https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/escapism</p> <p>“the avoidance of reality by absorption of the mind in entertainment or in an imaginative situation, activity, etc.”</p> <p>Source: https://www.dictionary.com/browse/escapism</p> <p>“Irenaeus wants nothing to do with a Gnostic escapism that regards knowledge as salvation from time and matter”</p>

Source: Hans Boersma, Violence, Hospitality, and the Cross: Reappropriating the Atonement Tradition, 127.

https://books.google.ca/books?id=jmLHiYlqu0wC&pg=PA127&lpg=PA127&dq=gnostic+escapism&source=bl&ots=6fkssZpBy&sig=ACfU3U2TmfAOXi_oV4ylVTC-203T0w776w&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjgoe3DndlPahWLsp4KHSusDrE06AEwAnoECAgQAO#v=onepage&q=gnostic%20escapism&f=false