

Rudolf Steiner's Research of the Gospels - Contributions to a Renewed and Interreligious Understanding of the Being of Christ (SLAH)

status: future

Research Question and Background

The Four Gospels, the Pauline Epistles and the Revelations of John are fields of research that Rudolf Steiner worked on from 1902 until the end of his life. Contrary to the theology of his time, which described the Gospels as scientifically untenable or Christ as a myth, Steiner regarded the Gospels as accounts of stages of initiation. This implies that they are no longer of mere theological concern, but as initiation texts that pertain to every human being who wants to follow an inner path of development. By integrating the Gospels in the mystery streams of antiquity and understanding them in the context of human history, it is also possible to develop access to the Christ being that transcends all cultures. The future of the earth depends on the central fact of the mystery of Golgotha and thus the deed of the Christ-being taken up and understood by human beings: Christ as the archetype of the 'I'. The earth is therefore the place where future humanity will be formed from the 'I's of the individual human beings.

Relevance and Perspective

A systematic treatment of Rudolf Steiner's research on the Gospels in this context, which reaches into the past and at the same time into the future, represents its central task. Since Christology is an essential part of Rudolf Steiner's whole body of work and was unfolded in many widely ramified aspects and themes within the few writings and the many volumes of lectures, the questions lead to the core of Anthroposophy and form a common thread in Rudolf Steiner's work. It is important to explore this multi-layered complexity, in its entirety, to present it and to bring it into an integrated context.



Sculpture of the *Representative of Humanity*
by Rudolf Steiner and Edith Maryon

Approach, Cooperation and Time Frame

The SLAH has been holding conferences on the Gospel cycles, *Christianity as a Mystical Fact and the Mysteries of Antiquity*, on the *Apocalypse of St. John* and the *Fifth Gospel* for eleven years. This work will be continued annually. The intention is to publish in-depth written presentations from the contributions and in addition, to continue cooperation with researchers, cultural historians and priests of the Christian Community who are active in Anthroposophy.

Literature (selection)

Chr. Haid, J. Sijmons (eds.): *Apokalypse im Ich. Anthroposophische Perspektiven auf die Apokalypse*, Dornach 2021. (In German) [*Apocalypse in the 'I'. Anthroposophical Perspectives on the Apocalypse]; Chr. Haid, W.-U. Klünker, M. Oltmann: *Johannes Lazarus. Die Geisteselbstberührung im Ich*, Dornach 2016. (In German) [*John Lazarus. The Spirit-Self's Stirrings in the 'I']; S. Prokofieff: *The Mystery of the Resurrection in the Light of Anthroposophy*, Temple Lodge Publishing, 2010; S. Prokofieff: *The Appearance of Christ in the Etheric*, Temple Lodge Publishing, 2012; S. Prokofieff: *Und die Erde wird zur Sonne. Zum Mysterium der Auferstehung*, Stuttgart 2012. (In German) [*And the Earth Becomes the Sun. On the Mystery of Resurrection]; F. Linde: *Auferstehung*, Salzburg 2015. (In German) [*Resurrection]; Ernst Michael Kranich-Stiftung: *Wer ist Christus? Beiträge zur Christologie Rudolf Steiners*, Salzburg 2021. (In German) [*Who is Christ? Contributions to Rudolf Steiner's Christology]; L. Ravagli: *Rudolf Steiners Weg zu Christus*, BoD 2018. (In German) [*Rudolf Steiner's Path to Christ]