

Logos, and the fall of the soul into the world and its path of redemption through the process of successive cycles of death and rebirth.

Simon was also said to have had a relationship with a former prostitute of Tyre named Helen. Simon viewed Helen as the reincarnation of the primordial Ennoia or Indwelling mind, the first conception of the Spirit of God. Simon thought that Helen had reincarnated many times in female form and was the same Helen of the Trojan War. She continued to degrade over time, until she finally became a prostitute. It was claimed that she was the lost sheep spoken of in Luke 15:16. It should also be noted that there were similar accounts in Gnostic writings concerning Jesus and his consort Mary Magdalene.

Menander. The heresiologist Irenaeus tells us that the direct successor of Simon was Menander. Menander was also a native of Samaria, however he transported his school of Gnosticism to Antioch. Irenaeus further hints at a possible link of Menander to both Paul and John, and this could very well be the case as the theological school of Menander seems to contain elements of the Pauline letters and of the Gospel of John. Menander like Simon was accused of being a magician who taught a system of magic designed to overcome the power of the angels who had created this world. Menander taught the existence of a first cause, who was an unknowable and absolutely transcendent God, who co-existed with Ennoia and from the union of these two came forth the creator angels.

As Simon identified himself with the Great Power, Menander merely equated himself with the Savior who was sent by the invisible ones to bring about the redemption of man. He taught his disciples that they could obtain resurrection and thus immortality in this life by way of baptism in the name of their founder. This is one of the first cases of the idea that resurrection and redemption could be attained while still in the body and this doctrine would predominate many later schools of the Gnosis. This also gave an indication of the importance of certain ritual practices of the early Gnostics.

Saturninus. Saturninus who was an Antiochene from Daphne succeeded Menander. Like his predecessors he taught the existence of an unknowable God who in turn was the creator of the archangels, angels, powers and dominions. His version of the creation of the world by seven angels has been recorded for us by Irenaeus.