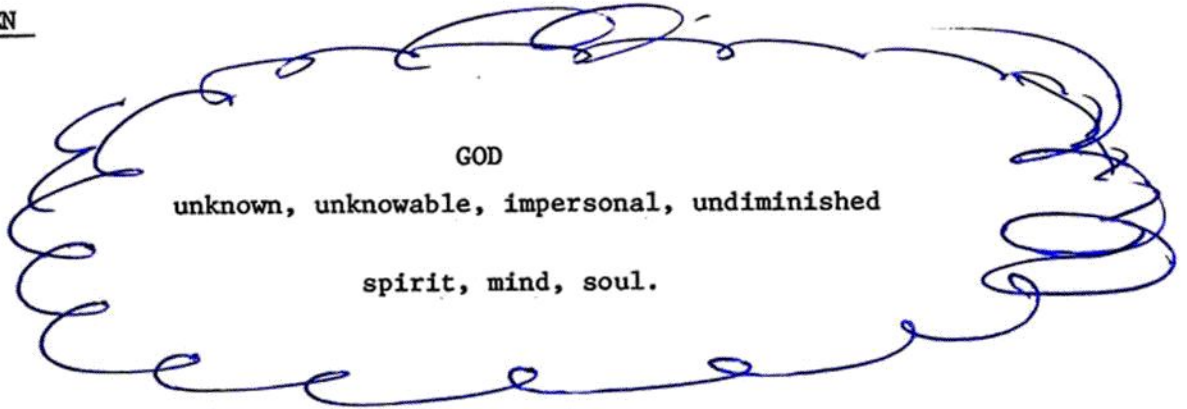
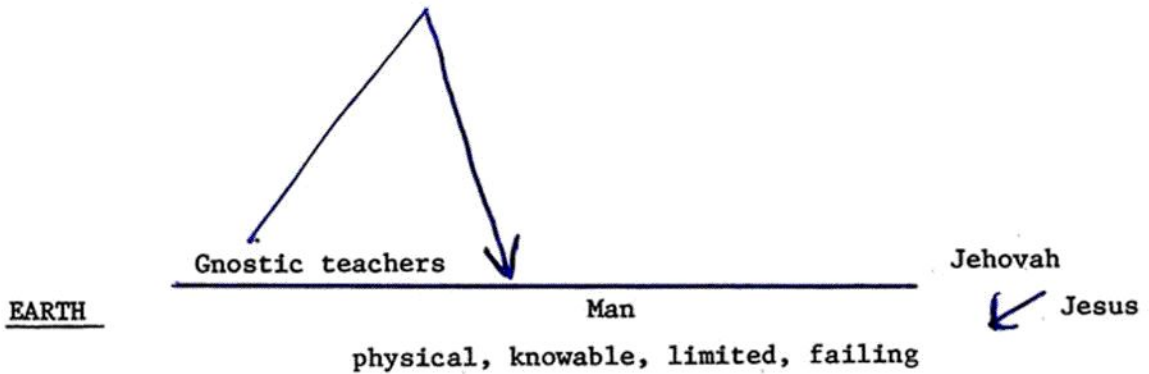


Sketch of the world as seen by Gnostics

HEAVEN



The Pleroma  
Bits of truth emanated from  
God are lodged here



The great church work on Gnosticism is AGAINST HERESIES by Irenaeus. No attempt is made here to summarize the Gnostic hierarchies but they are attainable through the work of the Gnostic teachers and the better you are taught the higher you may rise. It is a system of knowledge and the filling of the soul with the bits of knowledge taken from the pleroma is the means whereby we elevate ourselves. In "Christian gnosticism" the work of Jesus is helpful but not adequate because He accepted the limitations of the body. In Gnosticism the physical/material is bad, the non-material is good. Gnostics sometimes sought to overcome the physical by asceticism and at other times by indulgence.