

103 ASTROLOGY IN REVELATION

Introduction: Scripture reveals that the constellations of the zodiac (mazzaroth) were part of the Hebraic world view. In addition, the zodiac has an unexpected consistency at its core across cultures, indicating these zodiacal figures were likely established before Babel. Some propose that the zodiacal signs reveal the gospel in the stars. This theory posits that God made and named the constellations to tell the story of redemption. In fact, some speculate that the figures of the zodiac, which cannot be discerned unless they are taught, may have been known as early as Seth, the son of Adam. It is an interesting idea and information is available on YouTube and various books (see resources). However, in this study, we will seek to show that Revelation 12 references astrological signs that may disclose the date of Jesus' birth as well as broaden our understanding of God's creation and the way He has revealed Himself.

1. Psalms states that heaven speaks without words showing God's handiwork and knowledge.

"The heavens declare the glory of God. The firmament shows his handiwork. Day after day they pour out speech, and night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their voice has gone out through all the earth, their words to the end of the world." Ps 19:1-4

2. Paul quoted Ps 19:4 interpreting it as meaning the Good News (gospel) had been given to all the world. "But I say, did they not hear? Indeed, 'their voice went out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.'" Rom 10:18

3. Distinction of profane and God-centered astrology.

A. Astronomy: The scientific study of matter and phenomena in the universe.

B. Profane astrology: The study of the positions and motions of celestial bodies in the belief that they have an influence on earthly occurrences. (This ascribes power to entities apart from God and is idolatry.)

C. God-centered astrology: The study of the positions and motions of celestial bodies in the belief that God reveals Himself through celestial signs as stated in Genesis 1:14 and Ps 19:1-4.

Comment: God-centered astrology seems to have guided the Magi to "follow the star" to Judea in order to find and worship the King of the Jews. Mt 2:2

4. Daniel was appointed chief over a variety of Babylonian priests, occultists and wise men.

A. "And King Nebuchadnezzar... appointed him [Daniel] chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and diviners because an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting of dreams, showing of dark sentences, and dissolving of doubts were found in the same Daniel..." Dan 5:11

B. "Then Herod...put to death all the boys in Bethlehem...from two years old and under, according to the time that he learned exactly from the Magi." Mt 2:16

Comment: Daniel may have influenced and/or taught Babylonian astrologers regarding the coming Messiah. The words Chaldeans and Magi indicate astrologers.

5. There are Zodiac/Constellation references in the Bible.

A. "Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion.... Yahweh is his name." Amos 5:8

B. "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loosen the cords of Orion?" Job 38:31

C. "He makes the Bear [Ursa Major], Orion, and the Pleiades, and the rooms of the south [southern constellations]." Job 9:9

D. "Can you lead the constellations [Mazzaroth] out in their season? Or can you guide the Bear [Ursa Major] with her cubs [Ursa Minor]?" Job 38:32

E. "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin [Virgo] will conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa 7:14

F. "By His Spirit the heavens are garnished. His hand has pierced the swift serpent" [reference to one of the several serpent constellations]. Job 26:13

G. Paul's ship was "The Twin Brothers," likely a reference to Gemini. Acts 28:11

6. Heavenly lights were made for signs and appointed times. Revelation 12 names two signs.

A. "God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens...and let them be for signs and for appointed times....'" Gen 1:14

B. "And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." Rev 12:1

C. "Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads." Rev 12:3

7. The "Woman clothed with the Sun" in Revelation 12, appears to be a description of the constellation Virgo.

Reference: We are using the excellent research of Ernest L. Martin in his book, "The Star that Astonished the World."

A. We are considering the constellation Virgo, the virgin, in 3 BC, the time of the census referenced in Luke 2:2.

- B.** The constellation Virgo occupies about 50 degrees along the 360 degree ecliptic. The ecliptic is the path of the sun.
- C.** "Clothed in the sun" indicates the sun was in the torso area of Virgo which spans 150 to 170 degrees of the ecliptic. The sun was in this region on Aug 27 to Sept 15 in the year 3 BC.
- D.** The moon was at her feet simultaneous to the sun in the torso region at sundown on September 11, 3 BC between 6:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m., as seen from Palestine.
- E.** This timing puts the sun in the lower part of her torso.
- F.** According to astronomical records, September 11, 3 BC was a new moon, so it was Tishri 1, the first days of the Jewish Civil New Year. In Judea, the day began at sunset which means the day runs from evening to evening, not midnight to midnight.
- G.** The first day of Tishri was always the fall Feast of Trumpets (Lev 23:23-26) and began at sundown. A baby born on September 11, 3 B.C. between 6:15 and 7:45, would have been born in the first two hours of the Feast of Trumpets.
- H.** The Feast of Trumpets was the traditional date from which the reign of Judea's kings were reckoned. (If the king took the throne on other days, his official reign would start with Tishri 1.)
- I.** The wandering star, Jupiter, (called "the father of the gods") was conjunct Regulus, the king star which is in the constellation of Leo, three days after September 11.
- Scripture:** The woman clothed with the sun, "brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations..." Rev. 12:5
- Scripture:** Yahweh and/or the coming Messiah is called "the sun of righteousness" in Malachi 4:2.
- Scripture:** In speaking of Jesus, Zechariah said, "The sunrise will visit us from on high." Luke 1:78
- Note:** Planets were known as "wandering stars." "Fixed stars," like Regulus, do not move relative to other stars.
- Note:** The civil year began in the fall. The ecclesiastical year began in the spring.

8. The twelve stars on the woman's crown.

Comment: Using Norton's Star Atlas, the following 12 stars would have been visible from Palestine, around the head of Virgo, according to Ernest Martin.

Six stars in the southern section: Pi, Nu, Beta, Sigma, Chi, Iota

Six stars in the northern section Theta, Star 60, Delta, Star 93, Beta, Omicron

Comment: Because of the overlap of Virgo with Leo, Virgo's crown/head was in Leo, the lion.

Scripture: Jesus was the called "The Lion of the tribe of Judah" Rev 5:5. The lion represents power, royalty and monarchy.

9. The dragon in Revelation 12:3-5: Some believe the dragon is Draco which is at the center of the ecliptic and contains the North Star. We believe the dragon is Hydra which extends over 100 degrees in length, compared to the 50 degrees for Virgo. Hydra is just outside the line of the ecliptic next to the Virgo constellation. According to legend, if one of the Hydra's heads was cut off, two more would grow in its place. (The Hydra constellation does not specifically have seven heads and ten horns. Please see P.P. #101 for our understanding of these symbols.)

10. The Wise Men saw "His star."

Three days after September 11, 3 BC a conjunction of Regulus, ("the king star") and Jupiter ("king of the gods") occurred. Only months later, two more conjunctions of these same royal bodies occurred in 2 BC on February 17 and May 8. In addition, on June 17, 2 BC Jupiter and Venus (the divine feminine), the two brightest bodies in the sky, were conjunct. These series of remarkable events in the heavens would have had overwhelming significance for astrologers as well as the people who were much more attuned to the heavens than we are today. It appears that Jupiter was the star that the wise men referenced as "His star."

Note: Jupiter can appear to "stand still" when in retrograde or prograde motion.

Note: Regulus is the brightest star in the constellation Leo (lion) and one of the brightest stars in the sky.

Closing comments: John's vision of "the woman clothed with the sun" appears to be the constellation Virgo, the virgin, indicating the birth of Jesus. Psalm 19 tells us the heavens speak silent words and Paul adds that the heavens tell the Good News. Some Bible scholars make the case that the constellations, in their original intent, were another way God spoke to mankind to reveal His salvation. Clearly, the Bible indicates the validity of the zodiacal signs. We need to at least acknowledge, there may be something here we do not yet understand or knowledge that has been lost to modern man.

Resources:

Web access to Ernest Martin book and audio: <https://www.askelm.com/star/index.asp>

YouTube: D. James Kennedy, "Gospel in the Stars"

Book: "The Star that Astonished the World" by Ernest L. Martin

Book: "The Witness of the Stars" by E.W. Bullinger

Book: "The Real Meaning of the Zodiac" by D. James Kennedy

Book: "The Gospel in the Stars" by Joseph A. Weiss

Book: "Mazzaroth or the Constellations" by Francis Rolleston