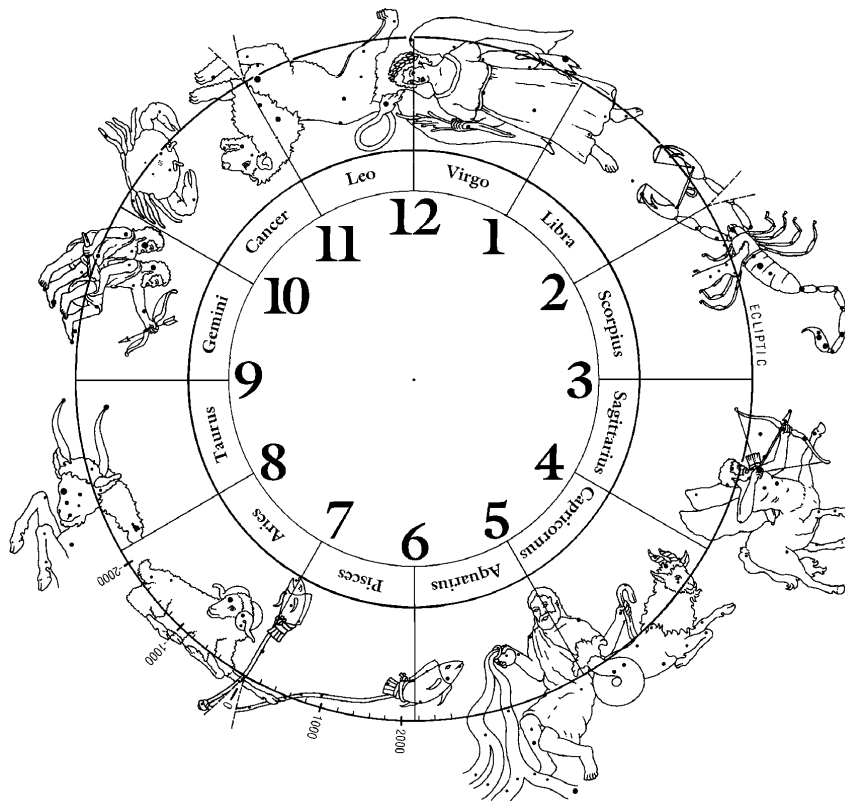


THE GOSPEL IN THE HEAVENS

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Our subject for the evening is the Gospel in the Heavens. This talk is very much in the way of a popular talk, but it does help the saints to have their thoughts drawn upward to the things of the heavens and to the wonderful power of our Heavenly Father. We are not just interested in the scientific facts of the heavens, but in order that we obtain a deeper appreciation of our Heavenly Father, of His glory, of His wisdom, and of His loving care for all His saints at this time we call your minds and your attention to the heavens tonight, to find out the immensity of the machinery that Jehovah God is managing; and thereby to find out how small we are. If anyone here this evening can learn to trust Him more than in the past, then I shall feel that the Lord has blessed what I may say. We can have the peace “that passeth all understanding” to garrison our hearts, for “great peace have they who love His law” and who trust the Heavenly Father and follow His guidance. (1 Cor. 14:33). “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace as in all the churches of the saints.” And this element of peace is to be found in all God’s arrangements out of the church as well as in the church.

So then, what are His arrangements in the heavens? Let us have a glance at the heavens if we would see how mighty and how grand are the works of our God, “Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge.” Our Heavenly Father directed us to the heavens to study the stars if we would find out our proper proportions, if we would find out just what we look like in comparison with all the vastness of the heavens, the handiwork of our God. He tells us in Isaiah 55:7,8, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” So then tonight we are going to measure the heavens so that we may get some idea of how much higher are the heavens than the earth, and then we shall begin to get some idea also of how much higher are God’s ways than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts. Let us remember this one thing, that our thoughts about God have been too small. He is vastly greater than ever we had thought of.

Psalms 8:3,4:, “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained, what is man that thou are mindful of him or the son of man that thou visitest him?” God directs us to visit the heavens in study in order to get the correct comparison between Himself and ourselves.

We are going to find out how much higher the heavens are than our earth, and in order to do this we will have to visit them; but first we will visit our solar system. We are going to deal with such incomprehensible numbers that we shall find. that our little brains cannot comprehend them. So we will drop the numbers. But in order to get an idea of the space we are going to cover in our journey we will talk about the way in which we are going to travel and not the number of miles we would have to traverse.

In order to get to the other planets and stars we shall have to travel very fast. What is the fastest thing that man has made to travel through the air? The cannon ball, which travels about twenty miles in one minute. Yet that is quite a snail’s pace. We shall have to go much faster than that, faster than anything that man has invented. Suppose we go back to the time of Benjamin Franklin and ask him to fire

off a cannon ball, and we will assume that that cannon ball will keep right on going and never stop. We will catch up with that cannon ball fired off in imagination two hundred years ago. This is the fastest thing that man can make and it is entirely too slow.

We shall have to travel much faster than the cannon ball. We will take as our rate of speed the fastest thing known to science, and that is light. Light travels 186,000 miles a second. That is just eight times around the earth in a second. But we cannot grasp even that. Let us get it down to an illustration. How long will it take us to go a million miles? Are we ready for this journey of a million miles? All right, Go*----- Stop. Now you have been a million miles, to the moon, back to the earth, to the moon again and nearly back to the earth a second time; that is a million miles and in just 5.4 seconds. That is the rate that we are going to travel tonight, and it is the best that we can do although it is very slow at that.¹

We remind ourselves that the solar system of which we are a part is practically flat, so we will arrange the planets in a straight line and go from one to the other. For convenience sake we will start from the sun. The sun is a blazing ball of fire eight hundred sixty-six thousand miles in diameter. It is a flaming mass. Did you ever hear of anyone shoveling coal into the sun, and yet it burns on and on. As we are to start off from the center of the sun the first thing is to estimate the size of the sun as compared with our earth and moon. Where would our moon be if we were to put the earth in the very center of the sun? Our moon would be about half way into the middle of the sun.

We will take our position from the center of the sun and start from thereon our journey. We start off and the first stop we shall make will be on the planet Mercury. Three seconds and we have reached the outer circumference of the sun and we are away on our journey, and in about three minutes we have come thirty-six millions of miles. We pause for a moment on the planet Mercury and find ourselves in a little world only about three thousand miles in diameter. From it the sun looks two and a half times as large as it does from our earth, Mercury's years are very short, being only eighty-eight of our days. We are going to pass over this astronomical data as we are not studying astronomy tonight.

So we speed on our journey and in some six minutes from the sun we have come sixty seven million miles and have reached the planet Venus, nearly the same size as the earth. There are no people on Venus. We are told all sorts of things about there being people on Venus and Mars, and about the canals on the latter and other features which astronomers consider as indication of life there, but we know there are no people on either of these planets. The earth is the only planet that has people on it. Study the Bible and you will find this to be true.

As we start on our journey again we see ahead of us two bright stars, one brighter than the other. In eight minutes we have traveled ninety-two millions of miles (the distance told us in the Pyramid) and reach the brightest of the two stars, our earth, and the smaller, the moon. We will pause-for awhile on the earth for we find here something that we will not find elsewhere in the whole universe. Here we detect the first signs of imperfection. Everything in the universe is working in order and harmony, but here is sin and imperfection. Ask any astronomer if there is any imperfection in the universe aside from our earth and he will tell you No. What is the reason for this imperfection? We know that sin is not going to last forever for if it did it would be bound to kill itself, and in killing itself it would kill the whole human race. But God has purposed a way to rid the world and all mankind of this blight, and

that way is through the Ransom. The world does not know this but the living saints on the earth today know how God is going to eliminate sin. And how did this sin come to the earth? Satan is the one that has caused all the misery and suffering and imperfection that we detect here. Let us read from Isaiah 14:13,14: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground which didst weaken the nations! For thou has said in thine heart I will exalt myself above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High." Pride and ambition entered into the heart of that glorious being and in his attempt to set up his kingdom he brought about the fall of our first parents.

When Adam and Eve were created he saw what had never been done before in any other part of the universe, what had never existed before. He saw two beings endowed with the power to think, to reason, and with procreative powers and God-like beauty; two beings that it would be great to have in his power. So he started out on his course to control all mankind. This is the only planet in the universe where sin abounds but Jesus Christ has prepared the way for the restitution of all mankind. And so on this planet we see working out that wonderful story of the Ransom for man, Jesus Christ being the Ransom price. Just remember that in order to make himself not only a Ransom Sacrifice for man but also to make the whole universe clean, did Jesus Christ give his perfect life. The whole universe is defiled but we are told in Isaiah 60:13 that Jehovah is going to make "the place of his feet glorious." The heavens are his throne and the earth his footstool, and he would have that footstool glorious without spot and free from imperfection.

And here on our earth we see yet another thing that will be found nowhere else in all God's realm, and that is the company chosen from amongst mankind who have been the witnesses from the early church down to our own time, the Little Flock, the witnesses to men of the majesty and power and love of our God. They have been actors on the stage, acting their part before men and angels. God has a purpose in all this, that the whole universe may see the witness of the saints through Jesus Christ, may see what has been done in gathering in the church and getting them ready for the work of the next age.

But we must be again on our journey, and after twelve minutes from the time we left the sun we arrive at the planet Mars, known to all as the Ruddy Planet, It is interesting to know that about forty years ago astronomers discovered that Mars has two baby moons, five and seven miles in diameter. One could easily walk around either one of them in a day. They are going at such a tremendous rate of speed that they go around Mars, a number of times a day. And if there were any people living on Mars, they would not need to have clocks for they would have these two moons rising and setting a number of times a day.

We will pass right on and we make quite a long journey before our next stop. As we pass we look out for the tiny bodies, the Asteroids. We have all seen shooting stars. At certain times we pass through parts of the heavens where these shooting stars come from, yet only a very occasional one of them ever reaches our earth. Many of these tiny bodies are no more than five or six miles in diameter. But we will not stop to examine these Asteroids or the other visitors we meet on our journey, the Comets. Forty-four minutes from the center of the sun and we arrive at the Big Brother of our solar system, a planet eighty seven thousand miles in diameter, and in size about thirteen hundred times as big as our earth. To get some idea of the proportions of Jupiter let us take the head of a flour barrel as the sun, Jupiter would

be about the size of a small orange and our earth only the size of a pea. With an ordinary telescope we could see Jupiter's moons, three of them larger than our moon and one about half the size of our earth. From the earth the sun looks about the size of a fifty-cent piece, and from Jupiter it is only about the size of a ten-cent piece. So we are getting quite a long way off from the sun. (The sun is very much smaller from Jupiter than from our earth.)

We must take another long journey before our next stop and that will be to the last planet that can be seen with the naked eye, and this planet is Saturn. It requires seven hundred earths to make Saturn and it is seventy-four thousand miles in diameter. We are eighty minutes from the sun. From here the sun is beginning to look alarmingly small. Saturn has nine moons. Here we find something that is not found in the universe except here, and that is the rings around Saturn. No other planet that we know of has these marvelous rings.²

We have reached the last planet visible to the human eye and yet there are still two more in our solar system to visit that are not visible to the naked eye. But how do we know they are there and how were they discovered? William Herschel discovered this fact. He noticed that Saturn did not move exactly on time and that on a certain night he was not in his proper place. For a heavenly body not to move exactly on time is a pretty serious thing. It is not so very serious if one of our trains are not on time, but for a heavenly body to be late and to be pulled back is sure evidence that something on the outside is acting as a drag on it. The astronomers knew it was not one of the visible bodies that was acting as this drag on Saturn, so they pointed their telescopes to the place where they knew that influencing body must be and on looking in the finder they discovered Uranus, another beautiful planet in our solar system. And in the same way was Neptune discovered.

So we go on our journey and after a very long journey of one hour and fifty-five minutes from the last stop, we reach Uranus, a world thirty-two thousand miles in diameter and equal to sixty-five of our earths. Uranus has four moons. We also notice a very peculiar rotation of Uranus on his axis.

We are now to make the journey to the last planet in our solar system and that is the planet Neptune. Out at the very extremity of our system astronomers discovered Neptune, in the same way they discovered Uranus. We are traveling along toward Neptune when "Whizz!" and it is gone. We have met something and have left it behind. "What was that?" you ask. Why that was our friend the cannon ball, the fastest thing that man could make, fired off in imagination two hundred years ago, one hundred years before the battle of Waterloo. And yet it has taken all that time for the cannon ball to reach the distance between Uranus and Neptune and we have gone that distance in a very short time. So now we have come to the outside of our system, to the last sentinel before we plunge into the vast unknown ahead of us.³ It has taken us four hours and ten minutes to come from the sun which now seems no bigger than a large star. Neptune is a large world eighty-five times as large as our earth. No one could possibly live on Neptune as there is no sunlight there. Just think of the tremendous time that it takes Neptune to travel around the sun. One year on Neptune is equal to one hundred and sixty-four of our years. Not very many Christmases or birthdays for the children on Neptune.

But now we are only on the doorstep of our house, the solar system, and as we pause for a moment let us consider what is the use of these planets that we cannot see? We can see some use of the ones that are visible to the eye. They have a lot to show us. But what about the blind and dark ones we cannot see? What is

their use? May it not be that Jehovah has placed them there as weights in our system? Both of these planets have a pull, a dragging influence, on Jupiter, thus keeping him in his proper place. And so perhaps they are here as mighty balances in our system.

But now we have only begun our journey. Beyond are the unexplored depths and vastness of the universe of our God. "As the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Have you as yet any conception of the magnitude of the creation of God? We have only gone a billion miles or so, but that is no distance at all. We are not going to step right outside of our house and plunge into the fathomless depths of the universe. And we again remind ourselves of the rate we are traveling. Let us again go a million miles and time ourselves. Are we ready? Go-----Stop. A million miles are between those two small words. Think of going a million miles in that short space of time. It is beyond the capability of the human mind to grasp such facts.

We have been traveling in hours and minutes, but we shall now have to leave all such things as hours and minutes behind; we shall have to travel in years, hundreds of years, even millenniums, in order to get to the stars we shall visit tonight. How long then will it take us to get to our nearest neighbor in the heavens? We are off, and after a journey of about four and one half years we reach the star nearest to our solar system, Alpha Centauri. Who can grasp the fact of traveling four and one half years at the speed of light? It does not mean very much to any of us. We will take an illustration and trust that will give us a little clearer idea of the immensity of the distance. Let us take a nine foot ball and place it three blocks down the street. That big ball will represent the sun in the proper proportions of size and distance to a ball about the size of a silver quarter, representing the earth, stationed on this table. How far away then is our nearest star according to this proportion? In order to find out we will have to ask someone in the room to take a long journey. You take the train here at Portland, go across the American continent, take a steamer to Europe, across Europe, across Asia, across the Pacific and back home again. "Well, here I am." Yes, but you are not at the end of your journey yet. Go again around the earth. So you start off across the United States, across the Atlantic, across Europe and Asia and back across the Pacific to your starting point, and you present yourself a second time. "Is that all?" No that is not all, but we will not have you go any further but will make the rest of the journey in our imagination. We must go on into Montana the third time before we have our proportionate distance complete.

The next nearest to our earth are four stars almost equidistant. One of these stars is the beautiful Sirius, and here again we see the diversified wisdom of God. For not any two of these stars are exactly alike. Paul also tells us something about the stars. "As star differeth from star in glory, so also is the resurrection of the dead." It will take us eight years traveling at the rate of light to reach any one of these stars, and yet we are only beginning our journey.

Now let us turn to the Bible and read of some of the stars spoken of there. We find that Job knew considerable about the stars, things that astonish modern astronomers. Job 9:9; 38:31,32. "Which maketh Arcturus, Orion and Pleiades and the chambers of the south. Canst thou bind the sweet influence of Pleiades or loose the bands of Orion? Or canst thou guide Arcturus?" And then the word of beloved Amos in 5:8 exhorting us to seek Him. "Seek Him that maketh the seven stars and Orion – the Lord is His name." Job tells us of the Pleiades and that they are composed of seven stars.

Let us consider Arcturus. Of him Job says, "Canst thou guide Arcturus?" What does he mean? How far away is Arcturus? Is there anyone here in the room forty-four years old? If so, when you were a child in your mother's arms the light that you see tonight left Arcturus, and it has taken all those forty-four years for the light to travel to our planet⁴. Brother Russell was just beginning his work about forty-four years ago and at that time the light that you see tonight left Arcturus.

But that is only a little way, it is no distance at all. But it is considerable for our little minds to grasp. We find that Arcturus is a sun one hundred and thirty-nine times brighter than our sun. If we were to banish our sun and in his place put Arcturus we would find that he would fill a considerable portion of our heavens, and the certainty would be that the whole of us would be burnt to a cinder in a very few seconds. Arcturus is a very magnificent star. "Canst thou guide Arcturus?" What do you mean Job? Let us ask the astronomers about it.

Our sun is traveling twelve miles a second through space. Any stars that are traveling up to twenty-five miles a second are considered under control. The action of other bodies upon them keeps them in control. Arcturus is traveling at a rate of ninety-two miles a second. That is the speed with which he is traveling, a mad runaway in the Heavens. Some astronomers make the statement that Arcturus is traveling at the enormous rate of two hundred miles a second, but we prefer to take the more conservative estimate and say that he is going about ninety-two miles a second.⁵

All the stars of the Heavens are traveling in two regular streams across, one stream going in one direction and the other in the opposite direction. Let us illustrate this point. Suppose a naval commander takes twenty-four battle ships from the harbor. They are all going abreast of each other in a straight line. When they get out a certain distance the command is given to stop. So they stop. Then twelve of the ships, every other one, are told to go on a certain distance, then turn around and come back. The other twelve are told to steam straight ahead. So they meet and pass between each other. That is just as the stars are going, passing each other in the Heavens, without a sound, without a crash or an accident. But Arcturus is going right across the whole lot. He is out of control, he is a runaway. "Canst thou guide Arcturus?" Although we know that we have a runaway in the Universe we need have no worry, however, in regard to the matter. We lie down at night to our rest in peace because we know that Jehovah God is guiding Arcturus and has His mighty hand on him, guiding his mad course through the Heavens.

Did you ever wake up in the morning and see the morning paper with these startling headlines on it, "Tremendous collision in the Heavens?" No! Never yet have we heard of any mistakes in the Heavens that God has created. While He is engaged in managing those stars up there we need have no fear. And yet Jehovah can look down on us and grant us our desires. What a wonderful Father!

And where did Arcturus come from? We do not know. Where is he going? That we do not know either, and neither do the astronomers. Presumably he is going from some other universe outside of ours, we do not know. He is going right across our Heavens out to where we do not know. "Canst thou guide Arcturus?" No, but the Father can and our Father is guiding him.

Are we getting any better conception of our Father's power? We have never met an astronomer that was an atheist, not one that was a bad man. All of them good, clean men. We are just starting. It takes forty-four years traveling at the rate of light to get to Arcturus, but that is nothing in comparison with what is ahead of us.

Now let us go to another of the Bible stars. Job tells us about Orion. How far away is Orion? We are told that the distance is anywhere from six hundred to six thousand light years away. Some of the stars that compose the constellations of Orion are billions of miles farther away than some of the others. One star may be only six hundred light years away and another six thousand. And now the Pleiades. They are a very interesting group. "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades?" What does that mean? The Scriptures seem to indicate that the Pleiades are connected with the seat of Jehovah's Universe, the center around which all the Universe revolves, the Throne of God. The Pyramid points to the Pleiades as being of particular significance. Certain passages pointed directly to the central star of the Pleiades on the night that the Pyramid was finished, 2170 before Christ. Recently too, some astronomers have come to the conclusion that the center of the Universe is somewhere in the direction of the Pleiades;⁶ and if that is so, then that is the place to which our Lord ascended. But others do not agree with them. Let us notice how long it took our Lord to ascend into the Heavens, to the Throne of God, and there present His offering at the Father's feet, and then to send the Holy Spirit down to His waiting disciples at Pentecost, that sending of the Spirit that manifested the acceptance of His gift at the Father's hands? Just ten days. It did not take Him long to ascend to the Father and send the Holy Spirit. How far away then are the Pleiades? That we do not know for certain, and neither do the astronomers. It may take two or three hundred light years for the light that we see tonight to reach us from the Pleiades.⁷ Yes Christ ascended there and the Spirit came in ten days, so there is something that can travel faster than light. Prayer, God tells us, is the fastest thing in all God's Universe. For it is written in Isaiah 65:24, "And it shall come to pass that before they call I will answer them and while they are yet speaking I will hear." Prayer has to ascend to the Father and then the answer come back to the earth, but as Jehovah says, He can and will answer while we are yet speaking. Then surely prayer is the fastest thing in all the Universe.

Job calls our attention to the Chambers of the South, known to all the sailors in that region as the Coal Sacks. They are two huge black patches in the Heavens where there are no stars at all. We do not know what they are, they seem to be unfathomable holes in the Universe.⁸

We are measuring these Heavens of ours tonight. How big are they? They are so big that we have no way of telling. How high are the Heavens above the earth? There is Arcturus traveling ever since Job lived on the earth, traveling at a rate of ninety-two miles a second;⁹ and five miles a second toward our earth. Yet after all these years Arcturus is no brighter than when Job went into death, and when Job comes back he will see Arcturus just as bright as when he went down. How high then are these Heavens of ours? The brilliant flashes of light seen far beyond our Universe probably are from another Universe two hundred thousand light years away, perhaps further.¹⁰ Then the light that we see now was on its way 198,000 light years when our Lord was on the earth. How long ago was Adam created? The Bible tells us a little over six thousand years ago. The light that we see tonight had then come on its journey 194,000 years before Adam was created, and that is traveling at no slow rate of speed.

Now, dear friends, are we beginning to get some sort of an idea about our Heavenly Father? Are we beginning to realize the magnitude of His power as shown to us in the creations of his hands? "As the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." We did not

know that we had such a Father, neither did we know of the immensity of space, and that our God was the Creator of all that through His son as His representative, the Logos. And He came down to earth and was spat upon, was classed with the malefactors and died the death on the cross for such things as us. The wonderful love, wisdom, power and justice of our God is past our comprehension. And then to think that our God is now taking out a Bride for His Son, out of this fallen race, to be made like Himself!

And who is it that is going to measure these Heavens? Surely someone. Isaiah tells us (Isa. 40:12,15,22), "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out Heaven with a span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance." Who has done all that? Jehovah our God has done all that. He has known long centuries ago what we are only now beginning to know. "Behold the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold he taketh up the isles as a very little thing." If the nations of earth in God's sight are as the "fine dust of the balances," what then must the League of Nations look like to Him? Isaiah 40:22, "It is He that sitteth above the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the Heavens as a curtain and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in." Who has done all that? Jehovah our God has, and has measured out the Heavens, In years gone by people believed that the earth was flat and some were even put to death for saying that it was round. Yet it is Isaiah who tells us that it is God that sitteth upon "the circle of the earth." Isaiah knew then that the earth was not flat, but round. The Heavens are two hundred thousand light years away and yet our God created the Heavens and hung them up as a housewife hangs up her curtains at the windows. "As the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

How many stars are there? The astronomer tells us that with the naked eye we can see about five thousand; with the ordinary telescope we can see probably many thousands. And through the powerful glass on Sannich Mountain we can see millions. Millions of stars, and yet Jehovah knows their number and has them all named. Psa. 147:4, "He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names." Isaiah 40:26. Thousands upon thousands of them and yet not one of these hundred of millions of stars but Jehovah has them all named, has them under His control; and yet He has time to stoop down to us and take care of our little wants and grunt our desires.

And what are all these myriads of stars for? The Psalmist tells us in the 19th Psalm, "The Heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge." There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Do you desire knowledge? Go look up into the Heavens and they will teach you wisdom. Go study the stars and let them teach you of the glory and greatness and wisdom of our God. These stars are hung on nothing, but not one goes wrong.

But they teach us something else. Over the whole Heavens is written God's Plan for mankind, they depict the Ransom of the whole world. Oh, that is not possible! All right. Let us have a look at them. Scientifically and every other way the Universe is perfect. Only this solar system of ours is defiled. The Ransom price has been paid and Brother Russell has told us how that Ransom Price is applied.

What is the nearest star to us that is clean? That is the star Alpha Centauri, which is the nearest clean thing to our solar system. What is the Hebrew name for

this star? Bezeh. And what does that mean, what does that name signify? Isaiah 53:3, "He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from him; He was despised and we esteemed Him not." Bezeh means "despised." Surely our Lord was "despised and rejected of men." Asmeath is another Hebrew name for Alpha Centauri, and signifies "sin-offering." Isa. 53:10. "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him, He hath put him to grief when thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hands."

In the Southern Heavens are the stars that make up the Astronomical figure, the Centaur. It has the body of a horse and in place of the head and neck of a horse there is the body and head of a man. Underneath the Centaur is a beautiful cross. The whole figure in the Greek means "Pierced." This is over the Southern Cross composed of five stars representing the five wounds of Jesus. His head, His two hands, His feet as one, and the sword wound in His side a perfect cross in the Southern Heavens. Alpha Centauri is situated over this Southern Cross. Any meaning in all this? Our nearest neighbor has Hebrew names which mean "Despised" and "Sin-Offering" in the language of the Old Testament; and whose name in Greek means "Pierced" in the language of the New Testament, and situated over the Southern Cross which represents the five wounds of Jesus. Could our God have selected a more wonderful way to picture the Ransom in the stars? And there it will be for all eternity, for all the people of the earth to gaze upon. The original name of this beautiful star is Toliman. And what does that mean? Rev. 1:8: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is and which was and which is to come the Almighty." That is the meaning of the original name. Any meaning in all this? The nearest star to our sin-cursed earth has three names applying to the One who paid the Ransom Price, and so paid the penalty for Adam's sin. If that is not something like the Gospel in the Heavens I do not know what it is. That cross and that story of the Ransom is going to be in the heavens forever. But only from the earth will it be seen. Go to the next nearest planet in the heavens and the cross will be gone, for we believe the whole aspect of the heavens will be changed. We would not be surprised but that we would see many crowns when we get to the Pleiades. The cross is supposed to be viewed by man only and from it they will learn many things. Each time they look upward to the southern Cross it will call their minds back to the Ransom. Do you not think there is a Wisdom back of all this?¹¹

North of the equator is where the Pleiades are, Jehovah's throne. Let us look at the South side awhile. Everything is there that represents death. There are the two black patches in the heavens. We do not find anything like these in the North. What do they represent? Adamic death and the Second Death. No Death in the North. Death is written all over the Southern heavens, death in the two black patches, and death in the cross. But in the Northern heavens is represented life. The Pleiades are there and they represent life. Jehovah's throne is there.

For awhile now let us consider the stars as appertaining to the covenants. Gen. 15:5, "And he brought him forth abroad and said, "Look now toward the heaven and tell the stars if thou be able to number them; and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be." Look Abraham, look upward to the heavens. How many stars can you see? Count them. So shall thy seed be. Not as the number of the stars, but something so much grander and more glorious than Abraham ever dreamed of, such would be the inheritance of his seed. This seed shall partake of the glory as represented in the

stars, the spiritual nature as in the heavenly phase of the Kingdom. Behind that promise is more than the heart of man has ever dreamed of. Jehovah has in store for mankind more than our minds can grasp. Gen. 22:17-18, "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed, as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is upon the sea shore, and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in they seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice." Has this promise been kept by God? Heb. 11:13, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Heb. 11:39, "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise; God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." Let us remind ourselves that the people in bygone ages could not count as we can, and therefore when they got up into the immense numbers, they stopped counting and said the rest was as the stars of heaven and as the sand upon the seashore; not that they were to be the exact number of the stars, but that they were to be innumerable. This promise was given to Abraham, but Peter tells us that we have a more sure word of prophecy. 2 Pet. 1:19, "We have a more sure word of prophecy whereunto ye do well to take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." Who is that "day star?" Rev. 22:16, "I, Jesus, have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches, I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

We learn all these things from the stars. We remember the immense distances that we have traversed in imagination tonight, and as the heavens are higher, infinitely higher than the earth, so are God's ways and thoughts than ours. We notice in the covenants with Abraham that the sand seed were mentioned as well as the star seed. Stars like Arcturus, what do they represent? The spiritual phase of the Kingdom, the Little Flock, glorious, powerful beings. And then God compares Abraham's seed to the sand of the seashore. I once had some sand from the West Indies, sand so fine that the naked eye could not detect one grain from the other. I had this sand mounted between two pieces of glass and when placed under a powerful magnifying glass the grains were clearly visible. You could not imagine the magnificence of the picture these grains made. Each tiny grain of sand was marvelously carved, and together they made a lacework so beautiful, such as the mind of man could not picture or imagine. Each grain perfectly, carved and yet so tiny that the unaided eye could not tell one grain from the other. Just sand of the seashore, picturing the glory of the restored world, the earthly phase of the Kingdom. The stars picture those powerful beings, the Little Flock; and also there is the perfected humanity like that sand from the West Indies. That is what the human race is going to appear like, absolutely perfect, beautiful beings, but we must get a powerful microscope to show us that beauty. That is what man looks like from the Father's viewpoint.

We might go on and learn many more valuable lessons from the stars, but we shall have to stop here. Matt. 10:28-31, "And fear them not which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both the soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing, and one of them shall not fall without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not, therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

Let us apply what we have learned to ourselves and to the particular time we are living in, and to the times ahead of us. If we are to suffer physical pain then remember that He who is looking after Arcturus and guiding his course through the heavens, will care also for us. So fear not them which may kill the body, but rather fear and reverence Jehovah God who is able to kill the soul in the Second Death. Not a sparrow falls to the ground but the Father knows. Two of them are sold for a farthing, and how small a thing a farthing is, yet ye are of more value than many sparrows. The hairs of our head are all numbered.

Look at the stars. How wonderful! And the God that is working that marvelous machinery in the heavens stoops to care for us. Wonderful Heavenly Father! We are resting under the shadow of His wing, and nothing shall hurt nor make us afraid. May we be ready to suffer when the Lord may require it of us. Yea, glad to suffer to the bitter end, that we may have the glory that comes after.

End Notes:

1. Let us remember that in speaking of the hundreds, thousands or millions of light years, these years are highly speculative, and represent only a guess. Actually 49+ light years are all that can be measured by triangulation, the only way to accurately measure distance in space.
2. Rings have now been found around some other planets.
3. Pluto was not discovered until 1930 by American astronomer C.W. Thombaugh. Now due to erratic movements, it is believed to have once been a satellite of Neptune, one of its moons.
4. Current figures indicate 37 light years.
5. It is now almost at its closest point to the Sun, and is moving (122 km/s - about 75.8 miles per second) relative to the solar system.
6. Prior to about 1926, astronomers thought the Milky Way Galaxy was the entire universe. The center of our galaxy was inferred from star motions, and evidence in those earlier times pointed to the Pleiades as the center, but there was some controversy. Current cosmology is not able to determine a center for the expanding universe.
7. Current figures indicate 425 - 440 light years.
8. Current astrophysics indicate a dark interstellar dust cloud obscuring the stars behind it.
9. Current figures indicate 75.8 miles/second.
10. Now thought to be exploding stars or quasars in other galaxies or from the far reaches of our own.
11. See also:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Crux_constellation_map.png

