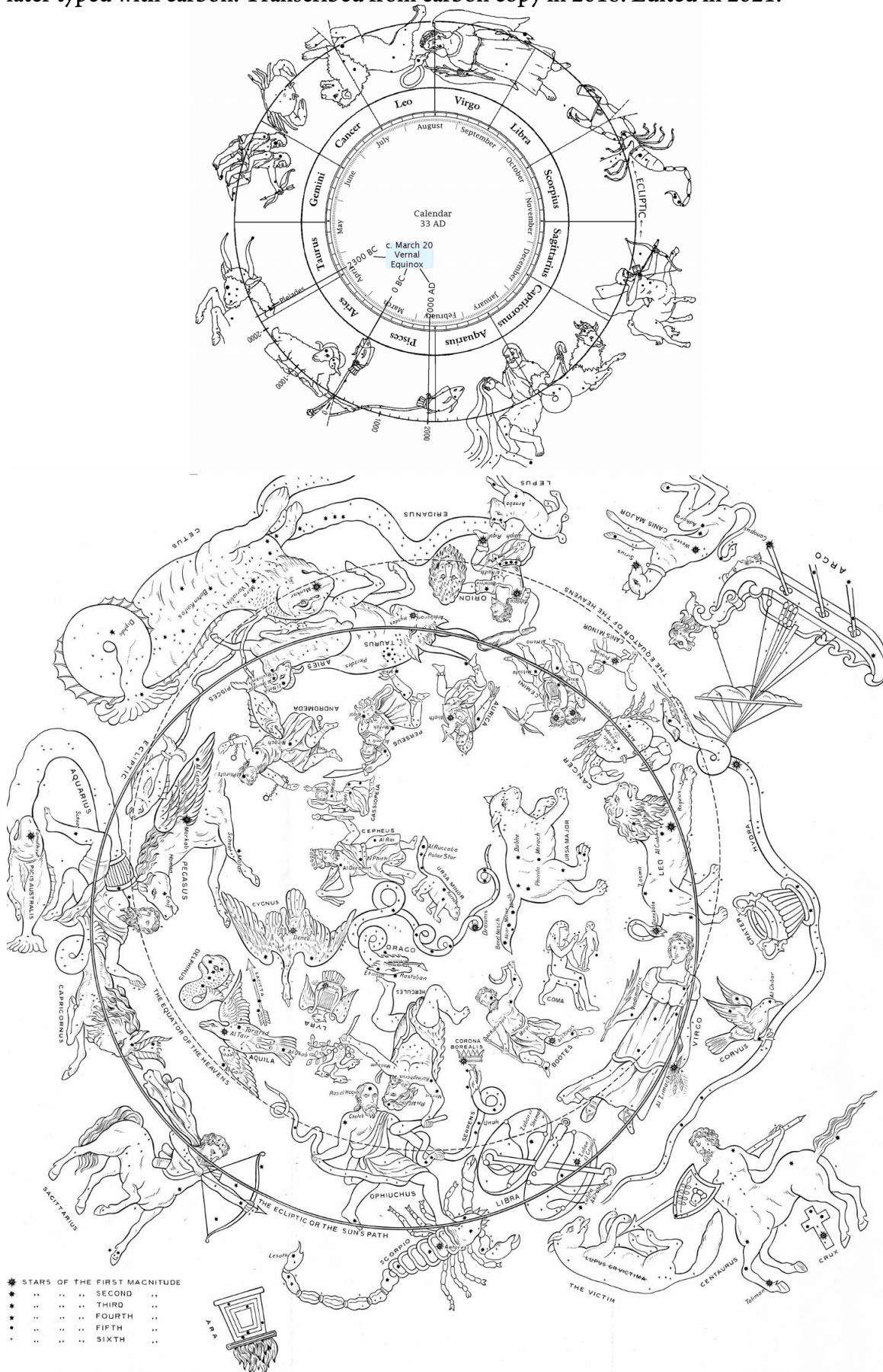


# The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

## Psalm 19:1

Brother H. A. Livermore's notes on Astronomy – copied in longhand by Erma Ranger and later typed with carbon. Transcribed from carbon copy in 2018. Edited in 2021.



The Creator intended the Stars to serve as Signs. Gen. 1:14 “let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven...and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.”

The scriptures repeatedly refer to the Stars and the Almighty recognized the Zodiacal signs. Job 38:32, R.V. margin “Canst thou bring forth the signs of the zodiac in his season?” The Lord asked Job.

The signs of the zodiac that are referred to are twelve constellations on the celestial equator, connected with them are 36 Decans, making 48 constellations in all.<sup>1</sup>

From dim antiquity the ancients grouped the stars in these figures, in a pictorial arrangement. The order of the Constellations has never varied from that time to the present day. The similarity of these figures, far separated from one another on the earth and in history, proves a common origin and also a deep-seated conviction that these celestial symbols have some vital connection with the destinies of the human race.

As we have seen the Almighty intended the stars to be for Signs. The Hebrew word for sign in Gen. 1:14 is “*oth*.” From which we derive our English word “oath,” that is a pledge to the truth of what is stated. God has pledged Himself by the everlasting stars to the truth of His glorious Plan of the Ages. The names given to the celestial luminaries corroborate that Plan in every detail.

Who gave the stars these names? Psa. 147:4. Leeser and the R.V. “He counteth the number of the stars and giveth them all their names.” The distinctive figures and their names and the names of many of the stars, must be of more than human origin.

Even though the ancient nations lapsed into idolatry and used the stars in their mythological worship, that does not weaken but confirms the understanding that the star groupings and naming were of Divine inspiration.

What evidence have we of the antiquity of the pictures and of the names of the stars?

Ancient astronomy has never been known to exist apart from the 48 pictorial emblems. As these are not essential to the pure astronomical science, their inseparable connection with it cannot be explained unless we understand that both the pictures and the science had one common author, who had a definite purpose in linking them together.

137 years after Christ, Claudius Ptolemy of Alexandria, completed his celebrated list of fixed stars. He used a catalogue made a hundred and fifty years before Christ by the Greek astronomer Hipparchus, who has been called “the Father of Astronomy.” Hipparchus stated that the star pictures and names were “of unquestioned authority, unknown origin and unsearchable antiquity.” So that 150 years before Christ, the star pictures and names were even then from dim antiquity.

In all the ancient star maps, there is blank space in the southern sphere of the heavens. Proctor, the English astronomer, by calculation concluded that the originator of these constellations could not have seen any of the southern stars from a point further north than 38° degrees to 41° degrees north latitude. This passes through the region of Mt. Ararat, where the ark rested after the flood. From this circumstance we conclude that the inspired framer of the figures of the constellations came forth from the ark. That would be 2472 B.C., when the flood subsided.

Scriptural allusions to the stars and constellations confirm the thought that these pictorial signs and star names were intended by God to illustrate His Plan of Salvation. For example, while the constellation of Hydra, the fleeing serpent, far south in the southern sphere, represents Satan in his ultimate vanquished state, there is another constellation, which shows the great Deceiver of the world in his temporary place of self-exaltation. This is Draco, the Dragon, depicted in the ancient charts as twining himself around the north pole of the

heavens. In the Great Pyramid the dying condition of the world of mankind is represented by the steep Descending Passage, leading to the Pit, the symbol of Death, and at the time that the Pyramid was completed and Alpha Draconis, the Dragon star, shone right down that passage. In Hebrew the name of that star was “subtle” Gen. 3:1. “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field.” At that time the Scored Lines of that descending passage, drawn at right angles to the downward way, pointed directly upward to the Pleiades, in the constellation Taurus, the Bull, the symbol of Christ in His power.

## THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD

What constellation shall we select from which to start reading the pictorial story? Unless the correct starting point is selected, the key to the understanding of the meaning of the signs will be missed. The Zodiac is a circle, where shall we break the circle to begin our story?

Modern astronomers, in their scientific survey of the heavens, commence with Aries, the first point of Aries, as they call it. Their pursuit is a totally different one to ours.

We will divide the circle between the Virgin and the Lion. The Sphinx, near the Pyramid, has the head and bust of a woman and the body of a lion.

I. As we gaze at the constellation Virgo, the virgin, we do not see any resemblance to the figure of a woman. But we are to associate with that constellation a virgin, for which these stars have been named.

The sun passes through Virgo at the time of the Jewish New Year; another hint that we are correct in commencing our story at this point. The mother of the promised Seed is the theme of the constellation. The Virgin is represented with a branch in her right hand, and some ears of wheat in the left. In the Hebrew the constellation is called the Virgin, in Arabic it is named “The Branch.” Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23. “The Lord Himself shall give you a sign, (*oth*) Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and thou shalt call his name Immanuel.” Zech. 3:8. “Behold, I will bring forth my Servant, the Branch.”

Spica—“offspring”–

One star in the group is named, “The son who cometh.” Another is named “Who shall have dominion,” which reminds us of the words of the Psalmist in 72:8 written long centuries after the star was named, “He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.” These words were indited by the Psalmist many centuries before Christ came, indeed they are not yet fulfilled.

The ears of wheat in the hand of the Virgin are prophetic of the gathering of the wheat class—the Little Flock.

Connected with the first sign, Virgo, is the Decan constellation “Coma,” a woman with a child in her arms. The meaning of the ancient name is “Desired.” Hag. 2:7. “The desire of all nations shall come.” Some nations called the child “Thesu.” (Compare with this, the Latin symbol, IHS expanded as *Iesus hominum salvator*, which means Jesus the Savior of men; and the same letters in Greek mean IES, short for Jesus), and this many centuries before Jesus came as a babe at Bethlehem. This constellation is taken to mean that the branch in the hand of the Virgin will be the desire of all nations.

This picture is not found in any modern maps of the stars. The pagans corrupted it to represent a woman’s wig, and called it “Berenice’s Hair”, which had hung in the temple of Venus. The perversion has not obscured the truth, for earlier pictures have been preserved which enable us to learn the truth.

The ancients looked for a star to appear in this constellation when the man-child should be born of a virgin. Some traditions indicate the Star of Bethlehem did appear in this constellation.

Centaurus—The Centaur. In Hebrew and Arabic the name means “the despised.” Isa. 53:3. “He was despised and rejected of men.” Another name in Hebrew is “Sin-offering.” Isa. 53:10. “Thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin.” In the constellation of Centaur is the nearest star to our earth. Its light takes about four and a third light years to reach us. The spear in the hand of the Centaur pierces the heart of the constellation called “The Victim.” The name meaning “to be slain.” John 10:17, 18. “I lay down my life that I may take it again. No man taketh it from me, I lay it down myself.”

Under this constellation is the Cross.

Bootes is the final constellation in the sign of the Virgin. It shows a man with a sickle in one hand and a spear in the other. The name of the constellation means “the coming one;” there is a wealth of meaning in its star name. Arcturus, mentioned in Job 9:9 and 38:32, means “He cometh.” In Job 38:32 the question is asked of Job, by the Lord, “Canst thou guide Arcturus?” I have been told that this star is out on a journey of his own, as it were, cutting across the path of other stars, but his is so immensely far away from us that the apparent distance he has traveled since Job sang about him is unappreciable to us. He appears much in the same place as when Job saw him, a few generations after the flood.

The star in the spearhead is named, “treading under foot,” Isa. 63: 3, 4. “I have trodden the winepress alone ... the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.” The whole picture is connected with “the pierced.” Zech. 12:10. “They shall look upon me whom they have pierced.” In that verse the word “me” is the Hebrew spelt “*aleph tav*”, the equivalent of *alpha* and *omega* in the Greek, the name that our Lord takes to himself in Rev. 1:8, (first and last letter of Hebrew and Greek alphabets.) So there is no doubt as to who is referred to here.

II. LIBRA. The Scales. This conveys the idea of purchase. He came to redeem, to buy back. 1 Cor. 6:19, 20. “Ye are not our own, ye are bought with a price.” This constellation, with its three Decans, and taking into account the meanings of the names of the stars, give a complete picture of redemption.

The Hebrew name means “weighing,” in Arabic the name means “purchase” or “redemption” One of the stars in Libra is named *Zuben al Genubi*, “the price that is deficient.” cf. Psa. 49:7, 8. “No one can by any means redeem his brother ... the redemption of their soul is too costly.” R.V. and Leeser, Jesus made up the deficiency in our ransom price. Another star named *Zuben al Chemali* means “the price which covers,” with that we compare the “corresponding price.” Jesus for Adam. The perfect man that was obedient to death, for the perfect man who fell. Another star name means “heaped up,” signifying the infinite value of the price given for our redemption.

We remind ourselves that these names were given many centuries, perhaps more than 2000 years before the price was paid on Calvary.

There is some evidence that Libra depicted as Scales is a very ancient Egyptian corruption of the early original, which depicted the constellation not as Scales, but as a Holy Altar. This would agree well with the three Decans accompanying Libra.

Our word Library contains a hint that the original name may have pointed not to Scales, but to the Word of God, where the story of the Redemption is recorded. The divine library.

In Libra is foreshadowed the sacrifice of Christ for the purpose of redeeming mankind, further details are given in the Decan, the Cross endured, The Victim slain and the Crown bestowed.

Crux, the Cross. The modern popular name for this Decan is "The Southern Cross." Those of us who have been fortunate enough to see it,<sup>2</sup> have recognized the five wounds of Christ on the cross, as depicted every night in the sky. The Hebrew name is "cutting off," Dan. 9:26. "After threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off." At the time of the first Advent, the Southern Cross was visible in the latitude of Jerusalem. Since the time that the real Sacrifice was offered at Jerusalem, and through the gradual shifting of the polar axis of the earth, due to the precessional cycle, the Cross has become invisible there. In 25,000 years after the time of the Crucifixion, it will again be visible at Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> Let us try to imagine the glorious Thanksgiving that will be held then at the Holy City, at the date of the Crucifixion, when the Southern Cross is again seen.

Long ages before the Christian era the sign of the Cross was in the heavens. It was hidden from the eyes of men until after the flood. 2400 years later it was first understood by the few faithful ones who had stood and watched their Savior die. It is still hidden from the spiritual sight of myriads of the human race. The time is coming when all mankind will understand it. Before the foundation of the world, the story of the Cross was written in the sky.

Another meaning of the name is "It is finished." John 19:30.

THE VICTIM. In the ancient Egyptian Zodiac the figure is represented as a lion with his tongue hanging out, as if thirsty. Could this be the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Psa. 69:21. "In my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink," and John 19:28, "I thirst." The animal is depicted as slain and in the act of falling down dead.

THE CROWN. The Hebrew, "A royal crown." Esth. 2:17. "He set the royal crown upon her head." The Cross is closely followed by the Crown in the heavens. Heb. 2:9. "Jesus for the suffering of death, was crowned with glory and honor."

### III. SCORPIO. "Seizer and Stinger"—Satan. Gen. 49:17 "adder"

In the Hebrew the name is "Scorpion," also "Conflict." A gigantic Scorpion is endeavoring to sting the heel of a mighty one who is struggling with a serpent. The scorpion is crushed by the man who has his foot placed on its heart.

Antares is the Arabic name for the bright star at the heart of the Scorpion and means "the wounding." Antares is an enormous star. Its diameter is more than six times the distance of the earth to the sun. Antares—Equal to Ares-Mars, "death in heaven."

The Scorpion is a deadly enemy, and all the names connected with this constellation set forth the malignant enmity between the serpent and the woman's seed. The Bible records the history of that enmity in the attempts to destroy all males of the seed of Abraham. Exod. 1:15, 16. "The king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, ... if it be a son, then you shall kill him." 2 Kings 11:1 "Athaliah destroyed all the seed royal." margin, "Seed of the Kingdom" Herod. Matt. 2:16 "Herod ... sent forth and slew all the male children ... from two years and under."

The enemy struck and the Seed was wounded to death at the cross but was raised and exalted to the highest, waiting for the time when He shall not only bruise Satan's head, but tread (Rom. 16:20 marg.) him under our feet shortly. The conflict is not confined to the person of Jesus, but extends to his Bride and His people. Because the conflict is associated with victory, the triumphant issue is here presented in the heavens. Rev. 9:3, 5, 10, 11.

THE SERPENT AND THE MAN. The serpent is struggling in the powerful grasp of the Man. Psa. 91:13. "The young lion and the Serpent (R.V.) Thou shalt trample under feet." In the Scorpion we saw the effort to wound the Man in the heel—as in Gen. 3:15, "thou shalt bruise his heel." Here we see the Serpent endeavoring to seize the Crown. As Satan said in

Isa. 14:13, 14. "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ... I will be like the Most High." The Crown, is situated immediately over the Serpent's head and he is endeavoring to reach it. The contest is twofold, (1) To prevent the Man from receiving the Crown, (2) To secure world dominion, as recorded in Isa. 14 quoted above. The struggle not only involves Jesus and the Crown, but all the Seed of Abraham, Gal. 3:29. "If ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed." To them is promised the crown if they are faithful. Rev. 2:10. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life." One of the stars in this constellation is named "the accursed."

According to an ancient Greek fable, the Man is Aesculapius, who was worshiped as the god of health. The serpent twined around him is to this day the symbol of the medical profession. This is probably another perversion of the primitive truth that the Man, the Coming One, is overcoming the serpent, would become the Great Physician, the great healer of all the sorrow of the world. Luke 9:11, "He healed them that had need of healing." The Serpent is of course the Deceiver. Rev. 12:9. "Satan ... which deceiveth the whole world."

HERCULES. The mighty man. This gentleman standing on his head is evidently a perversion of ancient truth that has been lost to sight. He is steeped in Grecian mythology without a trace of Biblical fact. The twelve labors of Hercules are known to those who read the old classics. Here we have the first and twelfth labors depicted. First, Hercules slew the lion of Nemea, and wore its skin as a military cloak and its head as a helmet. His twelfth labor was descending into Hades, and with the permission of Pluto, he seized the triple headed monster Cerberus, and brought him up to our world, on condition that Cerberus should be returned to Hades. The only meaning that one can attach to this weird story, is, that a Hercules appeared at the end of the age, seized the triple headed monster called the Trinity, showed him up publicly, and then returned him to Hades, where he belongs. But please don't think that we depict Bro. Russell as standing on his head when he performed this feat of strength!!! Hercules also cleaned out the Augean stables in one day. These stables had housed 3000 oxen for 30 years and had never once been cleaned in that time. The Pastor in his day, cleaned up an awful mess in the nominal systems. Hercules turned a river on to the filthy stables to clean them. The Pastor turned the river of Truth on to the buildings that housed filthy errors.

IV. SAGITTARIUS. THE ARCHER. Month name—"very cloudy"—Zeph. 1:15

Rev. 6:2. "Behold a white horse, and he that sat on him had a bow; ... and he went forth conquering and to conquer." The ancient names of the stars of this constellation are interesting. "The gracious one," John 1:14. The Word (*Logos*) was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." Another star is named "The Prince of the earth." Dan. 9:26. "Messiah the Prince."

THE HARP. With the coming forth of the Conqueror, praise must be prepared for Him. The brightest star in this sign is one of the most glorious in our heavens, – Vega – the name means, "He shall be exalted."

THE ALTAR. With its burning fires pointing downwards to Tartarus, which means the abyss, or outer darkness. 2 Peter 2:4. "God spared not the angels which sinned, but cast them down to hell" (Tartarus). The Arabic name is "finishing." Rev. 20:14. "The lake of fire, which is the second death."

THE DRAGON. In this constellation is foreshadowed the final destruction of the Devil and all his works. The Dragon represents Satan as the Destroyer. The Greek name of the constellation means "trodden on." Psalms 91:13 "The dragon shalt thou trample under feet."

The name of the brightest star in the sign means “subtle.” Gen. 3:1 “The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field.” The name of another star means “who is to be destroyed.” Another is “the punished enemy.” Thus the combined testimony of these stars is exactly in accord with the Bible, concerning the Coming Seed of the woman, the bruising of His heel, the crushing of the serpent’s head, and the final triumph.

V. CAPRICORNUS. THE SEA-GOAT. This constellation is opposite to Cancer, the crab. cf. The Tropic of Capricorn – south – and Cancer – north. The Sun is there in December.

The picture is half goat and half fish. The name of the constellation according to the ancients, means the “place of sacrifice.” In the goat we have the type of the atoning sacrifice; in the fish the people for whom the atonement was made. Heb. 10:4-10. “The blood of goats cannot take away sins ... we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

The ancient origin of this constellation reveals a prophetic knowledge of the coming of Him, who in the fulness of time, gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, the man Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 2:6.

THE ARROW. This is not from the bow of “The Archer,” for that has not left his hand. Here the Arrow is pictured in mid-heaven alone as having been shot forth by an invisible hand. The work which the Arrow accomplishes is seen in the falling eagle. Isa. 53:4, 5. “He was wounded.”

The Arrow depicts carrying death to a certain one for a certain purpose. Sky writing that cannot be obliterated or explained away.

THE EAGLE. The eagle in Ezek. 10:14 and Rev. 4:7 in picture language depicts for us the divine attribute of Wisdom. Proverbs Chapter 8 clearly couples Wisdom with Christ. Hence we can conclude that the picture of the wounded, falling eagle conveys to us the thought of Jesus stricken and wounded. The names of the stars in this group confirm that. One star name means “The wounded,” another means “wounded in the heel.” Thou shalt bruise His heel—Gen. 3:15.

THE DOLPHIN. Here we have a fish, full of life, with its head upward in contrast with the eagle which had its head downward. The peculiar characteristic of the dolphin is in rising up and leaping out of the sea. Old sailing ships had a stick like affair pointing down under the bowsprit as part of their rigging. It was called the “dolphin striker,” though one does not suppose that it ever did actually strike any such fish. Jesus was wounded and died, and God the Father raised him again. Gal. 1:1 He is the first-fruits of them that slept as Paul said; if He had not risen we would be yet in our sins. In that case His death would be without result. Thanks be to God, “Now is Christ risen from the dead.” 1 Cor. 15:20. As in the type Jonah was recovered from the belly of a fish, so in Matt. 12:40, Jesus foretold that he would be in the heart of the earth and would rise again. The Resurrection is depicted in the sky.

No blind chance placed these signs in the heavens, The Fish-Goat, dying in its head but living in its body; the falling eagle, pierced and wounded by the arrow of death; the dolphin springing up from the dark waters, all tell the story of the Atonement made; and Death, and the Resurrection of Our Lord.

VI. AQUARIUS – THE WATER CARRIER. The most ancient name is “Him who poured forth.” One of the star names means “The record of the pouring forth.” Another is “the poured out.”

What is poured out? Who poured it out? Where is the record? All are suggested by the names in this constellation. Truth. Jesus, The Bible. The Truth, John 7:38. "Rivers of living water." John 4:14. Jesus said, "The water that I shall give will be a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

In a sense Israel was the water-carrier. The water of Truth came to us through the Jews, Paul and the other Apostles and the Jewish Scripts.

Water—Justification.

THE SOUTHERN FISH. The star Fomalhaut, is at the mouth of the Fish. The fish is drinking in the water poured out by the water-carrier. The waters of truth are to go to all people, and will be for their healing. Ezek. 47:9. Everything will be healed where the river of waters shall come.

PEGASUS. The winged horse. The star Markab has the meaning, "Returning from afar." John 14:28. "I go away and come again unto you." He will return. The second advent is foretold. The horse is the doctrine. It will not tarry, it is certain to be as foretold.

CYGNUS. The Swan. In the ancient zodiac, the name signifies, "this from afar." the bird is flying swiftly on its return to earth. Deneb, its brightest star, means "the Judge." Another star name means "flying swiftly," and another, "Who returns as in a circle," and another "Who goes and returns quickly." John 14:3, "I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto myself." Acts 10:42; 1 Peter 4:5, "He was ordained of God to be the Judge of the quick and the dead."

In these signs the Second Advent is clearly foreshown, and the purpose for which the Lord returns, to judge the dead as well as the living, thus assuring a resurrection of the dead.

VII. PISCES, The fishes. Two of them. One is depicted as pointing heavenward; the other is swimming along the ecliptic, eastward. Here we may see a reference to the promise made to Abraham. In Gen. 22:16-18, his seed was to be as the stars, heavenly, and the sand of the seashore, earthly, in multitude. The great numbers are further indicated by the fact that the fishes are very prolific. e.g. another rendering of Gen. 48:16 is said to be, "Let them grow as fishes to increase." Gen. 26:4.

THE BAND. That which unites the Fishes is also attached to the Sea-monster, Cetus. Immediately above is the Chained Woman – Andromeda; All this indicates bondage, captivity, but the Ram has his foot on the Bands, and will break them and set the captives free. Psa. 107:10, 14. "They sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death and brake their bands in sunder."

In the next sign we have the picture of the coming deliverance.

ANDROMEDA – The Chained Woman. Here we have a woman with her arms and feet in chains, in misery and trouble, helplessly bound in the sky. Her name in Hebrew is "the chained." Star names in the constellation man "the broken down," "the weak," "the afflicted." Perhaps she is referred to in Isa. 52:2, 3. "Jerusalem, the captive daughter of Zion ... Ye have sold yourselves for nought, and ye shall be redeemed without money." The times of the Gentiles have now ended, and the nation of Israel is an independent people. Isa. 54:11-15, foretells that though her enemies may gather together against her, they shall fall. The next picture shows the Deliverer who comes to her rescue.

CEPHEUS – The King. Here is the presentation of a glorious King, crowned and enthroned in the highest heaven, with a scepter in his hand, and his foot planted on the Pole Star. Signifying chronologically the time of His Advent. The meaning of his name is, "This

one cometh to rule.” The meaning of star names in the constellation are, “coming quickly,” “the Redeemer,” and “who breaks.” It is impossible to mistake the meaning of this constellation. The one who comes to rule, with the rod of iron in His hand. Rev. 19:15, “he shall rule the nations with a rod of iron, and shall tread the winepress of the fierceness of wrath of Almighty God.” If we mistake not, He is doing that now, which explains present world events.

VIII. ARIES – The Ram. The name in Hebrew means “the Lamb.” In Arabic it means “gentle” or “merciful.” In Syriac, the principal star is the same word as in the Syriac N.T. John 1:29 “The Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” A very ancient star name meant “the sacrifice of righteousness.” One star whose name means “wounded,” at the time of the crucifixion, shone overhead at the time of the noonday darkening of the sun, when the Lamb of God was slain. “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and glory.” Rev. 5:12. Another “Dawn proclaimer.”

CASSIOPEIA – The Enthroned Woman. In Andromeda we saw the woman bound, here we see a woman freed. Natural Israel was bound. Spiritual Israel is free, Gal. 4:25, 26. “Jerusalem is in bondage with her children ... Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.” This is the Bride, “The Lamb’s wife,” the New Jerusalem, of whom the Revelator said, “Let us be glad and rejoice, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife hath made herself ready.” Rev. 19:7. She has a branch of victory in her hand — She is arranging her raiment, adorning her hair, seated close beside the King.

CETUS – The Sea-monster. Here in the heavens is the picture of the great rebel. It is the largest of all the constellations, situated very low, south in the lower regions of the sky. The sea monster is the natural enemy of the fishes, the people. The name means “subdued.” Star names in the constellation mean “the chained enemy,” “thrust down,” and “the Rebel.” The Band which bound the Fishes is used to bind their enemy. Psa 129:4. “The Lord has cut in sunder the cords of the wicked.”

PERSEUS – The Breaker. The Hebrew word used of Christ in Mic. 2:13, “the breaker is come up before them.” He holds in his right hand the sword lifted up to smite and break down the enemy. Isa. 27:1. “The Lord with his great and strong sword shall punish leviathan, that crooked serpent, he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.” He has wings on his feet. Mal. 3:5 “I will be a swift witness against the wicked.” He holds the head of the enemy in his hands. In Hebrew it is called “the head of the adversary.” The meaning of other names in this head are, “the subdued,” “trodden under foot,” and “the evil spirit.”

IX. TAURUS. The Bull. This pictures a bull charging at his enemies. Deut. 33:17. The ancient Egyptians connected the constellation much with their worship. Their names were “Isis,” who delivers, and “Apis,” the chief. The brightest star is in the bull’s eye, “Aldebaran,” which means “the leader,” or “governor.” Matt. 2:8. “Out of Bethlehem shall come a Governor that shall rule my people Israel.” In the neck of the Bull is the cluster of stars called the Pleiades, a name that comes to us through the Greek Septuagint. The name means the “Congregation of the ruler.” The whole constellation of the Bull pictures a prophecy of the coming of the Ruler. The name of the brightest star in the Pleiades means the “center” or foundation. This name has led some astronomers to believe that is the center of the universe. [This was an old misconception about a center of the universe.]<sup>4</sup> The Lord asked Job, “Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades?” Job 38:31. What are the sweet influences of the Pleiades? Leeser translated it, “Canst thou bind together the chains of the Pleiades?”

ORION – The Coming Prince. Orion – Layard – “*Nineveh and its Remains*” Vol. 2 P.439-440. “The identity of Nimrod with the constellation Orion is not to be rejected.” Note – Nimrod-Ninus, founder of Nineveh which means “the Habitation of Ninus” – Gen. 10:11.

This constellation is mentioned by Job and Amos. The name means “coming forth as light.” Another name signifies, “hero.” The hilt of the sword in his girdle is in the form of the head and body of a lamb. He holds forth the tokens of victory, the head and skin of a lion. The meaning of the star Betelgeux, is the “coming of the branch.” It is an enormous star something like Antares that we saw in the Scorpion. Other star names in this constellation mean, “coming quickly,” “the foot that crusheth,” the “wounded One,” and “the bruised,” the same word that is used in Gen. 3:15 “it shall bruise thy head.” The foot of Orion is on the enemy. In the constellation of Orion there is a beautiful nebula, which indicates a light that is yet to break forth.

ERIDANUS. – The River of the Judge. In Orion we saw the picture of the Coming One who is to prevail against his enemies, now we see the river of the Judge which will be the final judgment that will overtake the wicked. In vain does the Sea-monster strive to stop its flow. In Dan. 7:9, 10, the prophet saw this judgment scene. “The Ancient of days did sit ... a fiery stream came forth from before him, the judgment was set and the books were opened.” Many other scriptures refer to this scene. The question arises “who will be able to stand when He appeareth?” The answer is given in the next picture.

AURIGA – The Shepherd. John 10:11, “I am the Good Shepherd, who giveth his life for the sheep.” In this group is a star whose name means “wounded” or “slain.” We have had the picture of the onrushing bull and the fiery river of judgment, now we see the Good Shepherd holding in His arms a goat, frightened at the sight of the bull and the river of Judgment. In the other hand He supports two little kids.

X. GEMINI – The Twins. “Two blended together,” That is the evident meaning of the sign, from the meaning of the ancient names of the constellation and its separate stars. The meanings are “united,” and “Ruler” and “afflicted.” The weapons, the club [or palm branch] and the bow are in repose. “The strife is o’er the battle won.” Piecing these ideas together, we see the suffering and the victorious Messiah depicted before us in the same group of stars. Isa. chapters 53, the suffering Messiah, and 65, the conqueror who brings in the Times of Restitution. Wonderful stars that teach so much with their bright twinkling. Psa. 72:7, “In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.”

But these blessings cannot come until the enemy is subdued. So we pass on to the next sign.

LEPUS – The Enemy. To understand the real meaning of this sign, we must refer back to the most ancient zodiacs which show this figure as a serpent. Another shows it as an unclean bird standing on a serpent, under the feet of Orion. The names in the constellation mean “confounded,” and “the enemy of him that cometh.”

CANIS MAJOR – The Big Dog. This constellation has been perverted. The primitive original has been lost, or the meanings of the ancient names have nothing to do with dogs. Sirius, the “dog star,” as it is called, is the brightest in our heavens. The second brightest named star is “the prince.” Other names in this group mean, “the bright,” “glorious,” “who shall come,” “the chief.” These names have nothing in common with dogs but they clearly allude to the one whom the prophet called, “Wonderful, the Mighty God, the Prince of peace.” Isa. 9:6.

CANIS MINOR – The Little Dog. In this constellation we have the same perversion that we saw in the other Dog constellation, but the names of the stars tell us what we are to learn

from this group. The brightest star is Procyon and means "Redeemer," other star names mean "victorious," "Chief of the right hand," Psa. 110:1. "Sit thou on my right hand till I make thine enemies thy footstool." And another means "who completes," or "makes perfect." Can there be any doubt as to who this pictures?

XI. CANCER – The Crab. The North Tropic, the opposite to Capricornus, the South Tropic. Anct. scarab-or-crab.

It is certain that the constellation of the Crab is not the original form, or anything like it. The evidence is that this constellation was originally depicted as an Eagle. The Arabic name, "who holds," supports this; also the star names, one is "holding," another is, "hiding place." Psa 91:4. "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust." Also, Deut. 32:11 would apply. "As an eagle stirreth up its nest, taketh them, beareth them on her wings, so the Lord alone" careth for His people.

URSA MINOR – The little Bear. Here is another perversion of the primitive truth, as shown in the ancient names in this and the next constellation. No bear is found in any Chaldean, Egyptian, Persian or Indian zodiac; and no bear ever had such a tail. The primitive truth that there were a pair of constellations is preserved; one larger than the other. The meaning of the star names gives a clue to the original picture. They are, "a herd of cattle," "a fold," "rest," and "security." The names "rest" and "security" would not describe what would be expected in the company of bears. The star with the name that means "the turned," is today our Pole Star. Psa. 25 Judge of heaven. It was not so when the Pyramid was constructed. The change in the north point is due to the movement called the "Precession of the Equinoxes." The sun crosses the equator at the time of the vernal equinox, a bit west of the point that it crossed the previous year. Hence it takes about 25,000 years to complete the circle. Some super intelligence knew that the star named "the turned" would be our pole star at this crucial period of the earth's history. When was the name given? Many thousands of years ago. Long ages before the star becomes the end of the axis on which the earth turns. Our chronology was mapped out for us in the heavens, as well as in the Divine Plan of the Ages. One star is named Arctos, from which we get our word for Arctic; but that was named "Arctos" ages before it became the center of the Arctic, as we know it today. Other star names mean, "calves," evidently in reference to the sheepfold, another is named "waiting for him that cometh."

URSA MAJOR – The Great Bear. In Arabic the name is "assembled together," like sheep in a fold. The name of the brightest star means "a flock," other star names are "guarded," as a flock of sheep, "the Lamb," and "the sheepfold." Ezek. 34:12. "As a shepherd seeketh out his flock, in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them."

ARGO – The Ship. Some think that Noah's Ark and its mysterious journey is the origin of this picture. Everywhere in the other constellations the future is depicted in prophecy. Why then single out this one to review the past. We think it more appropriate to connect the Ship with the future, or what was the future when the stars were named. That is the procedure in connection with the rest of the heavens. Why then should we depart from it in this one instance? Jesus demonstrated His power over the elements in a ship on the Sea of Galilee. Early Christian art depicts the Church as a ship. Ships have owners. The largest star in the Ship constellation is Canopus, its name means "the possession of him who cometh." That looks to the future, not to Noah's Ark in the past. The true church is the Bride of Christ.

XII. LEO – The Lion. Here is the end of the circle. We began with the Virgin and we end with the Lion. The Riddle of the Sphinx is solved. The head and bust of a woman, the body and tail of a lion, the zodiacal circle. There is no confusion or perversion about this sign. It appears in all of the ancient zodiacs. There can be no question as to whom the sign refers. It is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the promised seed of the Woman, who is to bruise the serpent's head. The meanings of the name in the constellation of the Lion magnify and exalt Him who is the Coming Conqueror. The star names are, "treading under foot," "who cometh," referring to the *Parousia*; "shining forth," the *Epiphania*; "the exaltation," the *Apokalupsis*; and the "enemy put down." The final victory over all evil. The lion has his foot on the serpent Hydra, which is the next constellation.

"Regulus – a little king."

HYDRA – The Serpent. The serpent is coiled beneath the feet of the Lion. It is the author of all evil. The ancient names mean, "The abhorred" and "put away," indicating its fate at the hands (so to speak) of the Lion.

CRATER – The Cup. The cup of divine wrath is poured out upon the serpent and all his works. It is also called the cup of His indignation. Rev. 14:10. "The wine of the wrath of God is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation." Rev. 16:19. "Great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the Cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath." Isa. 51:22, 23. "I will put the cup of my fury into the hand of them that afflict thee." "All the kings of the north, ... and all the kingdoms of the world, ... shall drink; and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them." Jer. 25:26.

CORVUS – The Raven. The bird of prey is picking at the dead carcass of the enemy of God and man. There are nine stars in the constellation; nine is the number connected with judgment. The end of all warfare is depicted in Scripture and in the heavens, with the fowls of the air clearing away the carnage. Rev. 19:11-21; Isa. 46:9-11; A-66. Par. 1. 7 lines.

CONCLUSION. Gen.1:14. The heavenly bodies were to be for signs. They were set there ages upon ages before Man appeared on the earth. We have seen that they witness to the whole Plan of Salvation. The coming of Jesus; His sacrifice, His second advent; His final triumph and destruction of all the enemies of God and Man. In the great vault of heaven there is a grand and graphic picture of all that we learn from the written Word of God about the Divine Plan of the Ages.

Satan is sure to counterfeit God's truth. Where God planted the true Church, Satan brought in his counterfeit, the false church. Where God wrote the Plan of salvation in the heavens, Satan brought in his counterfeit—Astrology. He has misled myriads in all ages with his lies. How often we hear people say that So-and-so was born under a lucky star, or they "thank their stars" for this that and the other thing. Our discussion of the heavens has no connection whatever with any systems of astrology. It is from the fountain of divine truth, which alone is eternal. All other systems will pass away.

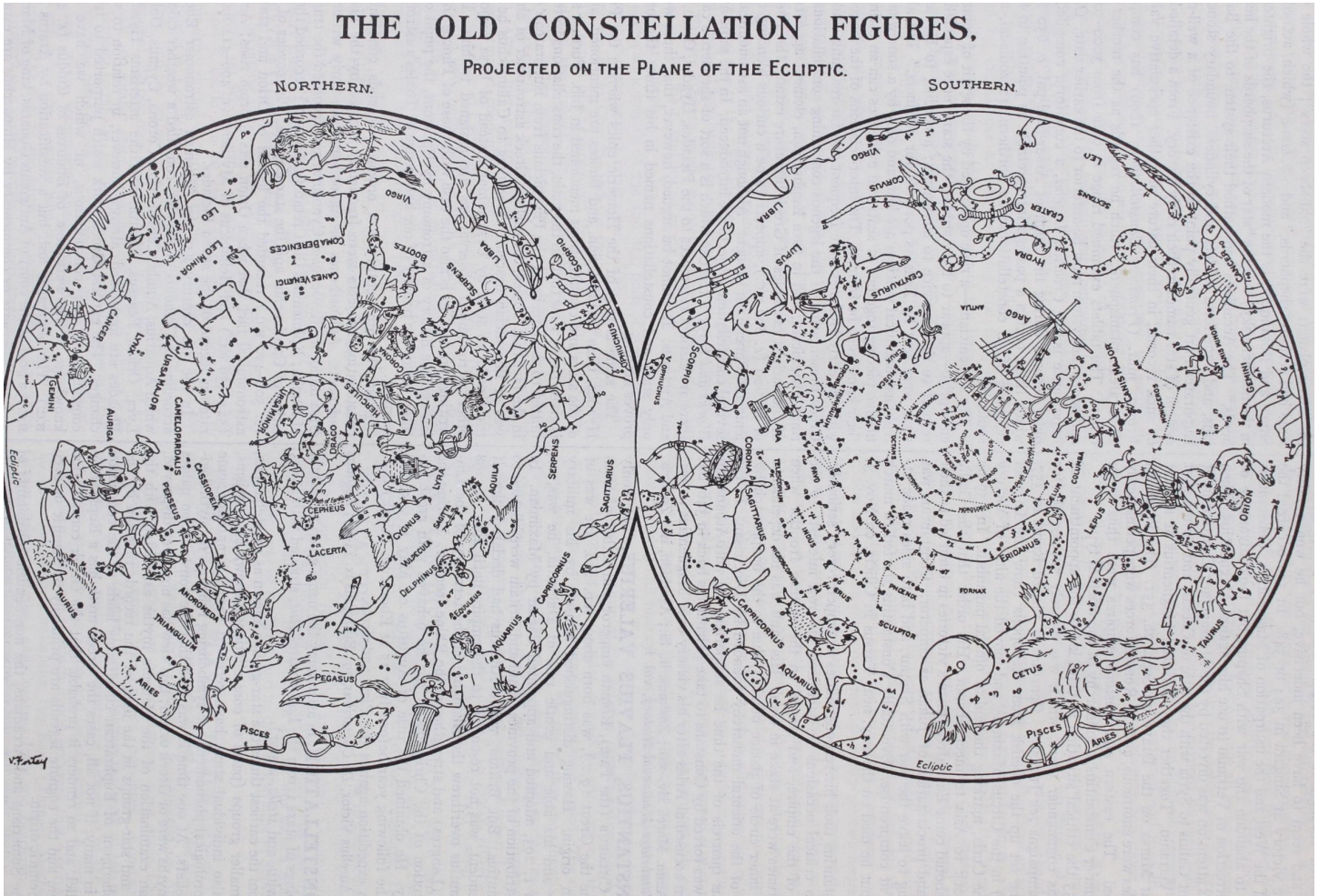
Glory be to God on high.

The heavenly bodies are discussed in ten chapters in the book of Enoch. Jude 14 quotes the second chapter of Enoch—"Enoch—prophesied saying, 'Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.'"

The astronomical notes ascribed to Enoch must have been written down after Enoch's lifetime, because the heavenly bodies concerned could not have been seen before the Flood—and we know that Enoch's lifetime was antediluvian.

## End Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> As compared to the 88 constellations we know today.
- <sup>2</sup> In modern epoch the Southern Cross is visible from Hawaii and latitudes south of Hawaii.
- <sup>3</sup> Precession is gradual, so the Southern Cross will gradually be seen again in Jerusalem.
- <sup>4</sup> Before about 1930 the entire Universe was considered the Milky Way and now we know that we are just one of more than 100 billion galaxies in the observable Universe! Given the expansion of the Universe, there is NO center. See: <https://math.ucr.edu/home/baez/physics/Relativity/GR/centre.html>



## Resources:

## Revelation in Astronomy

Simon Newcomb

## The Friendly Stars

M. E. Martin

## Astronomical Myths

John F. Blake

## Stars and Telescopes

David P. Todd

## Witness of the Stars

E. W. Bullinger



# The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

## Star Names:–

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| The Branch–coming of the Branch               | The Lamb 1                     |
| The son who cometh                            | Gentle                         |
| Who shall have dominion                       | The sacrifice of righteousness |
| Desired                                       | Subdued 1                      |
| The despised                                  | The Chained enemy              |
| Sin-offering                                  | Thrust down                    |
| To be slain                                   | The Rebel                      |
| The coming one 11                             | The Breaker                    |
| Treading under foot-Trodden on 111            | The head of the adversary      |
| The pierced                                   | The evil spirit                |
| Weighing                                      | The Governor                   |
| Purchase                                      | Congregation of the Ruler      |
| Redemption                                    | The center                     |
| The price that is deficient                   | Coming forth as the light      |
| The price which covers                        | Hero                           |
| Heaped up                                     | The bruised                    |
| Cutting off                                   | United                         |
| It is finished, finishing                     | Ruler                          |
| Royal crown                                   | Confounded                     |
| Conflict                                      | The energy of him that cometh  |
| The wounding–the wounded 111                  | Chief 1, of right hand         |
| The gracious one                              | Bright                         |
| The Prince of the earth 1                     | Glorious                       |
| He shall be exalted                           | Victorious                     |
| Subtle  | Who makes perfect              |
| Who is to be destroyed                        | Who holds                      |
| The punished enemy                            | Hiding place                   |
| The place of sacrifice                        | Herd of cattle                 |
| Wounded in the heel                           | A fold–flock 1                 |
| Him who poured forth                          | Rest                           |
| Record of the pouring forth                   | Security                       |
| The poured out                                | Turning (Pole Star)            |
| Coming from afar–this from afar               | Arctic (arctos)                |
| The Judge                                     | Calves                         |
| Flying swiftly                                | Assembled together             |
| Who returns as in a circle                    | Possession of Him who cometh   |
| Who goes and returns quickly–Coming quickly 1 | Shining forth                  |
| The chained                                   | The exaltation                 |
| The broken down                               | The enemy put down 1           |
| The weak                                      | The abhorred                   |
| The afflicted 1                               |                                |
| The Redeemer 1                                |                                |
| Who breaks                                    |                                |

# The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

## Significance of ancient names:–

c. q. Nimrod–“nimr”–leopard

“Rod”–to subdue

Name Nimrod means “subduer of the leopard”

Gen. 10:8-11

Nimrod became the Osiris of Egypt–Note

Egyptian priests in the ritual wore a leopard skin–

Epiphanius (Adv. Haeres. lib. 1, tom. 1, vol. 1, p.7c.)

States Nimrod established science of astronomy.

In 2 Kings 23:5–margin

It is stated that in the time of Josiah the good king of Judah, idolatrous priests “burned incense to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the twelve signs or constellations. (i.e. the Zodiac) and to all the host of heaven.”

Morton Edgar is of the opinion that the Chaldeans originated the Zodiac.

–Mythology and the Bible, p.44

