

GOD'S WITNESS IN THE STARS

- 1 **God's divine ordinances** (spiritual law code) are seen in the heavens. (Job 38:33)
2. The **heavenly constellations** were **created and designed by God**. (Job 38:32)
 - a. The term "**constellation**" is a translation of the Hebrew word, *mazzaroth* - מַזְרָוֹת, which means: **a scattering**, and is found only once in the Bible.
 - b. These constellations are configurations formed by **groupings of stars** which have been designated as **representing prophetic pictures**.
 - c. The **star patterns** do not necessarily form obvious pictures, but the pictures and their meanings have been attached to them by God. (Psalm 147:4; cf. Job 9:9; Job 38:31; Amos 5:8)
 - d. Their names and meanings were apparently revealed to Adam and the pre-flood (antediluvian) peoples as **God's revelation of His plan of salvation** for the human race.
 - e. After the worldwide flood in the time of Noah, 2348 BC, the **postdiluvian peoples** began changing the names of these constellations by virtue of the **confounding of languages** at Babel. (Gen. 11:9)
 - f. The **meanings of these constellations** began to be **distorted by man's unbelief** in God the creator. Men began to believe in multiple gods and goddesses and began practicing pagan worship, which included worshipping the stars and the constellations as gods. **This distortion has continued** down to this day as the pseudo-religion known as **Astrology**, from *aster* (ἀστήρ - meaning: **star**) and *logos* (λόγος - meaning: word, matter, **study**).
3. **God presents His prophetic message** to mankind in the heavens:
 - a. "***The heavens declare the glory of God...***" (Psa. 19:1-4; cf. 50:6; Rom. 1:19, 20)
 - b. God made the stars "***for signs and for seasons***" (for **prophetic events** and for **appointed or fixed times**) on day four of His creation. (Gen. 1:14-18)
 - c. God "***made the heavens with understanding.***" (Psa. 136:5a; cf. Psa. 33:6, 9)
 - d. God has **fixed** (set up or established) the stars. (Psa. 8:3)
 - e. God "***counts the number of the stars and gives names to all of them.***" (Psa. 147:4) God "***calls them all by name.***" (Isa. 40:26)
 - f. God's "***witness in the sky is faithful.***" (Psa. 89:37b)

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4. God presents the **Gospel of Salvation** in the heavens:
 - a. God divided the heavens into **12 segments of 4 pictures each**. The Greeks later called these the signs of the **Zodiac** (ζοδιάκος - *zodiakos* - meaning: **circle** [from the root, ζόαδ - *zoad* - meaning: a way, a path, a going by steps]).
 - b. Each of these 12 signs represents a prophetic event in the unfolding drama of **God's salvation plan** for mankind in the history of the world.
 - c. **Every ancient culture** with a tradition or written records concerning the stars and their constellations recognizes **the same 12 star groups**. Even though many of their **names have been changed** over the centuries; nevertheless, most of these constellations have retained names and meanings similar or even identical to God's original presentation.
 - d. There were **48 original constellations** made up of 12 major signs with their 3 **decans** (*decanus* - Latin word meaning: chief or leader of ten, [later] an assistant or head of a small group, a part of the whole) The **decans** complement the basic meanings of the signs to which they belong.

5. The **prophetic significance** of the **12 signs** and their **decans** present a **3 act drama**:
 - a. **ACT #1** – Jesus is presented as the **suffering savior** who delivers His people from **the penalty of sin** (PHASE #1 – salvation):
 1. **VIRGO** - The **seed of the virgin**.
Jesus Christ, **the incarnate son**.
 2. **LIBRA** - The required **price paid**.
Jesus Christ, **the redeemer**.
 3. **SCORPIO** - The **mortal conflict**.
Jesus Christ, **the sufferer**.
 4. **SAGITTARIUS** - The **final triumph**.
Jesus Christ, **the conqueror**.

 - b. **ACT #2** - Jesus is presented as the **glorified redeemer** who delivers His people from **the power of sin** (PHASE #2 - salvation):
 5. **CAPRICORNUS** - **Life** out of death.
Jesus Christ, **the sacrifice**.
 6. **AQUARIUS** - **Blessing** out of victory.
Jesus Christ, **the living water**.
 7. **PISCES** - **Deliverance** out of bondage.
Jesus Christ, **the deliverer**.
 8. **ARIES** - **Glory** out of humiliation.
Jesus Christ, **the crowned lamb**.

c. **ACT #3** - Jesus is presented as the **coming judge** of all the earth and the **reigning redeemer** who delivers His people from **the presence of sin** (PHASE #3 - salvation):

- 9. **TAURUS** - His **glorious coming**.
Jesus Christ, **the judge**.
- 10. **GEMINI** - His **reign on earth**.
Jesus Christ, **the king**.
- 11. **CANCER** - His **possessions held** securely.
Jesus Christ, **the protector**.
- 12. **LEO** - His **enemies destroyed**. - Jesus Christ, **the victor**.

6. There are **4 specific constellations** mentioned in the scripture:

- a. **ORION** - *Kesil (Chesil)* (Hebrew - כְּסִיל - meaning:
 - 1. **a fool** (1 Cor. 1:18, 1 Cor. 1:23, 25, 27, 28; 4:10; cf. Isa. 53:3);
 - 2. **confidence**, hope, strength, boldness;
 - 3. **the strong one**, the mighty one, the hero. (Job 9:9; 38:31; Amos 5:8) The name **Orion** comes from the Akkadian, *Urana*, meaning **the light of heaven**. **Orion** is a **decan of Taurus**.
- b. **THE BEAR (the one who bears up) WITH HIS SONS** - *Ayish* (Heb. - אֵישׁ - meaning: **to bear up**, as a shepherd gathers up his flock and leads them to rest. (Job 9:9; 38:32; cf. Ezek 34:11-16) This constellation is often referred to as the **Ursa Major**, the **Big Dipper**, or the **Plough**. This constellation is a **decan of Cancer**.
- c. **THE PLEIADES (part of TAURUS)** - *Kimah* (Heb. - כִּמָּה - meaning: a heap or a **cluster**, as the congregation of the judge). This is a cluster of 8 closely grouped stars, possibly a reminder of **the 8 persons** who repopulated the earth after the flood. (Job 9:9; 38:31; Amos 5:8)
- d. **THE CHAMBERS OF THE SOUTH (The Hydra of the South)** - *Chaydere Teymaz* (חַדְרֵי תַיְמָז - meaning: **chambers**, remote regions (or **Hydra**) of the south or southern quarter). (Job 9:9) This constellation is a **decan of Leo**.
- e. **THE FLEEING SERPENT** - *Nachash* (Heb. - נָחָשׁ - meaning: snake, serpent; probably the **Hydra**). (Job 26:13) This constellation is a **decan of Leo**.

7. Today we have a **completed Bible**, which presents God's plan for the ages in complete detail. (2 Peter 1:19-21) In verse 19, **Jesus Christ** is referred to as the **"Daystar"** or the **"Morning star,"** but the word in Greek is *phosphoros* (φωσφόρος - from *phos* (φῶς - meaning: light) and *phero* (φέρω - meaning: to bear, to bring, to produce). Jesus Christ is **"the light of the world."** (John 8:12)

8. Jesus Christ is portrayed in 28 constellations:

1. Virgo – Her left hand holds the “Branch;” Her right hand holds an “Ear of Wheat.”
2. Coma – “the virgin with her son (the Lord Jesus Christ),” a decan of **Virgo**.
3. Centaurus – “the one despised and pierced” the God-man, a decan of **Virgo**.
4. Bootes – “the coming shepherd,” who knows and separates His own sheep, a decan of **Virgo**.
5. Crux – “the one cut off,” the Southern Cross, a decan of **Libra**.
6. Lupus – “the slain victim,” a decan of **Libra**.
7. Libra – the scale of God’s justice, “the price that covers (Jesus’ death on the cross)” versus “the price which is deficient (man’s attempt to please God).”
8. Corona Borealis – “the Northern Crown of His glory,” a decan of **Libra**.
9. Ophiuchus – “the serpent held by the mighty man, Jesus Christ, a decan of **Scorpio**.
10. Hercules – “the mighty victor,” humbled but victorious, a decan of **Scorpio**.
11. Sagittarius – “the victorious archer,” the God-man.
12. Lyra – “praise for the victorious redeemer,” a harp/eagle, a decan of **Sagittarius**.
13. Capricornus – “the kid (goat) or the one cut off,” half goat-half fish (from a dying goat comes a living fish).
14. Aquila – “the pierced one falling,” the eagle (Jesus Christ) is pierced by the arrow of God’s judgment for our sins. This constellation is a decan of **Capricornus**.
15. Delphinus – “a dolphin (or fish) springing out of the water,” resurrection from death, a decan of **Capricornus**.
16. Aquarius – “the water pourer,” the one who gives living water.
17. Pegasus – “the soon returning redeemer,” the winged horse, a decan of **Aquarius**.
18. Cygnus – “the sure return of the redeemer,” a white dove or swan, called the Northern Cross, a decan of **Aquarius**.
19. Cepheus – “the crowned king,” the deliverer coming to rule (His foot is on the very polar star, a decan of **Andromeda**.
20. Aries – “the crowned lamb,” the lamb sacrificed but now reigning as King.
21. Perseus – “the warrior (breaker) delivering the redeemed,” the victory at Christ’s return, a decan of **Aries**.
22. Taurus – “the coming judge,” a ferocious bull symbolic of Christ’s power and rule.
23. Orion – “the mighty hero,” the triumph and brightness of His coming, a decan of **Taurus**.
24. Auriga – “the great shepherd who protects His people in the Day of Wrath,” a decan of **Taurus**.
25. Gemini – “the one who labors and suffers and then comes to judge and rule,” the so-called twins represent the God-man Jesus Christ.
26. Canis Minor – “the exalted redeemer and savior,” the so-called lesser dog, a decan of **Gemini**.
27. Canis Major – “the coming prince of glory,” the so-called Great dog, a decan of **Gemini**.
28. Leo – “the triumph of the redeemer,” His enemies are destroyed, “*the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah...has overcome...*” (Rev. 5:5)

9. Satan is portrayed in 8 constellations:

1. Scorpio – “the one who wounds or attacks,” he is depicted as a poisonous stinging Scorpion.
2. Serpens – “the one in conflict for the crown,” the serpent is held back by **Ophiuchus**, a decan of **Scorpio**.
3. Cerberus – the three headed snake in **Hercules** right hand, a decan of **Scorpio**.
4. Draco – “the one trodden upon (under foot),” the dragon which is cast down in defeat by Jesus Christ, a decan of **Sagittarius**.
5. Cetus – “the enemy subdued, bound,” the sea monster (dragon), a decan of **Aries**.
6. Defeated Lion – unnamed lion killed by **Hercules**, a decan of **Taurus**.
7. Lepus – “the enemy trodden under foot,” a snake under the heel of **Orion**, a decan of **Gemini**.
8. Hydra – “the abhorred,” the old serpent finally destroyed, a decan of **Leo**.

10. The congregation of believers is portrayed in 10 constellations:

1. Piscis Austrinus – “the living water received,” the Southern Fish, a decan of **Pegasus**. (John 4:14)
2. Pisces – “the fishes of Him who comes,” the two fishes possibly indicate the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms of Israel or the Hebrew believers and the Gentile believers.
3. Andromeda – “the redeemed in bondage and affliction,” Israel’s bondage during the time of rejection of their Messiah.
4. Cassiopeia – “freed and prepared for her reunion with her Husband, the redeemer,” the restored wife-queen of the Lord making herself ready pictures Israel’s re-gathering and restoration in the Kingdom, a decan of **Aries**.
5. Pleiades – “the congregation of the judge,” these seven stars are thought to be the people saved in the ark with Noah, but it may also refer to the church returning with Jesus Christ at His coming. This is a part of **Taurus** the Bull.
6. The goats in the arms of Auriga – “the kids and the she goat” are protected by the shepherd from the judgment pictured by **Taurus**. These represent the flock of Christ kept safe in the coming Day of Power and Wrath.
7. Cancer – “His possession held secure,” an inn or a traveler’s rest, a place of security for the redeemed in Jesus Christ. The word Cancer (not a crab) comes from a root word meaning to encircle or hold.
8. Argo – “a company of travelers safely home,” the redeemed of Israel whom the Lord will bring back home to their own land in the future. (Isa. 60:4-9) This constellation is a decan of **Cancer**.
9. Ursa Major – “to hasten to assemble together,” the re-gathering of the sheep (Israel) into a sheepfold by the shepherd (Jesus Christ) in the last days, this constellation is miss named as the “Big Dipper, or Plough, or Great Bear.” This constellation is a decan of **Cancer**. (Matt. 24:30, 31)
10. Ursa Minor – “the stronghold of the saved,” the assembly of the redeemed, probably represents the church in the Heavenly New Jerusalem. (Heb. 12:22, 23) This constellation is a decan of **Cancer**.

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