

ISRAEL AND THE STARS OF HEAVEN

"STARS OF ISRAEL SERIES" — Part I

"The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth His handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them (the heavens) hath He set a TABERNACLE FOR THE SUN, which is as a bridegroom, coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his CIRCUIT unto the ends of it." Ps. 19:1-6

In beginning this study concerning Israel and the stars the above scripture is used to establish the position of the sun in the heavens. The Psalmist declares that God has set a TABERNACLE in the heavens in which the sun runs its course, a tabernacle speaking of certain prescribed limits. Furthermore, the Lord states that its geometrical form is a CIRCUIT or circle, and this is further clarified in likening the sun to a strong man running a race which is normally done on a race track of a circle or elongated circle. If God has set a circular tabernacle for the sun, it indicates a certain work is to be accomplished within those prescribed limits. For example, the tabernacle in the wilderness was of a certain size and shape for a specific work, that of the priestly ministry and worship. In that tabernacle God met with man to impart further enlightenment also. Therefore, the tabernacle of the sun is likewise for a particular work and for specific enlightenment which we shall understand more fully as we proceed.

What we need to establish is the circle or section in the heavens in which the sun runs its course to be able to understand what is meant by its being a tabernacle with its specific enlightenment. Job 38:31-33 helps us on this: "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth MAZZAROTH in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ORDINANCES (statutes) of heaven? Canst thou set the DOMINION (authority) thereof IN THE EARTH?" These words were spoken to Job by the Lord Himself, and though they are written in question form, they carry a volume of truth for those who have eyes to see.

Will you note the word MAZZAROTH. It is a strange word, but all concordances agree that it means the

ZODIAC. This too often conjures up in our minds all sorts of strange ideas about astrology, but be reminded of this: where there is a counterfeit there is also a reality. The signs of the Zodiac stretch back into antiquity, but even more ancient is the knowledge of God regarding these signs which He Himself placed in the heavens. Let me dissuade you right now that I believe in astrology as it is taught the world over today, for I do not. Nevertheless, I do see the reality in the scriptures, the reality that has been obscured by the teachings of natural man, the reality that is gloriously pure in its pristinity. The above scripture could be more literally translated, "Canst thou bring forth the Zodiac's monthly signs?" The band of the heavens that circles us around with what is known as the "sun signs" is in reality the Zodiac. This then is the circle or circuit in which the sun runs its course, this is the tabernacle that is set in the heavens for it.

Furthermore, the Lord asked Job concerning the heavenly signs, "Canst thou set the DOMINION (authority) thereof in the earth?" This indicates that the authority or power of these signs is set in the earth. It cannot be denied that the stars bear a great influence on the earth, for even the moon influences the tides of the seas. This is further borne out in Gen. 1:14-17 where we are told of the creation of the sun, moon, and stars and that they are "to give light upon the earth". In other words, not only do they influence the earth but they enlighten it, or give knowledge to it. Besides this, verse 14 states, "And let them be for SIGNS, and for seasons, and for days, and for years. The very first purpose of those heavenly bodies is for SIGNS, and this word is translated elsewhere as ENSIGNS. Bear that in mind for further discussion.

The knowledge of the heavenly signs was indeed known by the ancients, and the influence of these individual signs was also recognized by them, but man in his fallen estate only perverts the real truth which is dangerous in unclean hands. In Gen. 11 is given the account of the whole earth being of one language. As they journeyed from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar (Babylonia) and decided to there build a city and a tower. "They said, God to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top (may reach) unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." We have all been taught that the Tower of Babel was to be built high enough to reach to heaven, but

that is not so. The words MAY REACH are in italics showing they were supplied by the translators. What the people were trying to do was to build a tower with the signs of the heavens upon the top of it, not whose top might indeed reach to heaven. There had been divine revelation to Adam regarding the heavenly signs, the signs of the Zodiac, for they clearly portray the birth, death, resurrection, ascension, and triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ. If they so clearly portray this, they also portray many things concerning God's people. In the positions and interpositions of the constellations and planets there is a wealth of knowledge, but such knowledge in the hands of unregenerate men becomes too powerful a tool. Therefore, the Lord came down and confused the language of the people so they could no longer understand one another. Thus the heavenly knowledge became fragmented, and as people journeyed from one place to another, they took a fragment and out of this bit of knowledge built up the present day astrology. Is there truth in it? Of course, there is, but it is only partial or perverted truth which is worse than no truth at all. So at the confusing of the languages Babel prevailed and yet prevails. One of the key messages lost in the din of Babylon is the truth of the stars and their mission, but this shall be given back in the whole light of true knowledge to those for whom it is prepared and who can use it aright to the glory of God. "Monthly prognostication" is scathingly denounced in the scriptures, and therefore fortune telling by the stars is taboo, but with the coming of more light and understanding we shall truly comprehend the real meaning of the heavenly signs. In this series of studies we want to share with you a little bit of what the Lord has quickened to us regarding the Zodiac as it refers to Israel.

Gen. 37:9-11, "And he (Joseph) dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the ELEVEN STARS made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bown down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying." It is not the whole interpretation of this dream in which we are interested at this time, but for the purpose of this study let it be pointed out that Joseph saw his eleven brothers as eleven stars or constellations. If each of them was a star and eleven stars represented the eleven

brothers, then Joseph as a brother must have been the twelfth star or constellation. This immediately brings us face to face with the twelve signs of the Zodiac, each son of Israel represented by one sign of the Mazzaroth or the Zodiac. Furthermore, the promise to Abraham was that his seed would be as the stars of heaven which certainly corroborates this.

Let me remind you that the stars are for SIGNS according to Gen. 1:14. This same word is used in Num. 2:2, "Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard with the ENSIGN of their father's house." Here it is translated as ENSIGN whereas in Gen. 1:14 it is translated as SIGNS. It simply means a sign of reality or even at times as a sign of things to come. In the wilderness Israel encamped and marched in a certain God ordained order with every individual camped under the ensign of his own particular tribe. An ensign was a pole on the top of which was a sign depicting that particular tribe. So it was and is that for each of the twelve tribes there were and are twelve ensigns--the twelve signs of the Zodiac. There is a Zodiacial sign for each tribe. This does not mean you have to be naturally born under your tribal sign to be of that tribe, neither can you tell your tribal lineage by the natural birthsign. Instead, you are influenced by your tribal sign and also by your birthsign. You may be born under the sign of Asher but be of another tribe, such as, Judah, and thus the influences of the two signs shall bring about a balance in you that might not be possible otherwise. In fact, there are balancings of grace in those with two signs, the tribal sign and a different birthsign, that works mightily in the outworkings of God's character within. Yet it seems quite plausible that in the final outcome each of us shall come to the fulness of spiritual birth under our own individual tribal sign. What a glorious anticipation! (To be continued)

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