

Joseph and the Constellation of Orion

In the article on Ephraim and Manasseh it was mentioned that one of the associate constellations of Taurus would be considered in the next issue of the "Stars of Israel Series" which we now proceed to do. The reason for this being that the numbering of the Children of Israel as given in Rev. 7 lists Manasseh but does not give Ephraim, yet Joseph is there mentioned. Some have thought that Joseph was given the place of Ephraim, but this is not so, as really two tribes are not listed there--Ephraim and Dan. Is God then a respecter of persons, or of tribes? No, indeed, for upon closer observation you will find Ephraim and Dan are the two olive branches or the two witnesses of which we cannot go into detail here and now but will touch on it again when we study Dan. Therefore, let us take up the consideration of Joseph and see if he really has a definite place in Israel as a tribe other than through Ephraim and Manasseh.

To establish this point, let us turn back to Jacob's dying blessing upon Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. Joseph presented his two sons to Jacob, and there Jacob adopted them as his own saying, "An now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.....are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine." This did not mean that they took the place of Reuben and Simeon, for Reuben and Simeon continued on as heads of tribes. Nor did it mean that because they had been taken as Jacob's sons that Joseph would cease to be a tribe under his own name and lineage. Listen to the next verse, "And thy issue, which thou begetteth after them, shall be thine, and shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance." Gen. 48:5-6. Thence through the centuries Joseph's other issue or seed have been called after the name of their brethren, Ephraim and Manasseh, but in this most important hour when God begins to call and number the firstfruits, He separates the seed of Joseph from the seed of Ephraim and Manasseh, and lists Joseph by himself in Rev. 7. Therefore, there are those of Joseph's other seed who are not through either Ephraim or Manasseh. Thus there must be a constellation in the heavens that stands for Joseph and a constellation that is closely allied with the Sign of Taurus. It is none other than the Constellation of Orion.

Why do we thus associate Joseph with Orion? It is because it is the associate constellation of Taurus, which is the bull, whereas Orion is the mighty hunter who is constantly facing the bull and holds it in check. It is Joseph who faces his two sons and counterbalances their activities.

As for Orion, the name means LIGHT GIVER as well as STRONG ONE, and how well this fits Joseph. Was he not the one who gave light or understanding to Pharaoh regarding the seven years of plenty, the seven years of famine, and what to do about it? Was he not the one who actually by means of the light or revelation proved to be the preserver of Israel? Did he not likewise enlighten the butler and baker while he was still imprisoned? Yes, this was all true of Joseph, and what was true of him as an individual is also true of him tribally. The "other seed" of Joseph who come not through Ephraim and Manasseh but directly through Joseph are especially endowed with spiritual understanding and vision. Often what they give is even given while their feet are still held in stocks and their hands are chained. What a paradox these Josephs are!----- Bound but liberated, bound but loosing others, bound but enlightened! Yet from their bondages they arise to stand before kings and great men, not in their own wisdom, but in the wisdom of God knowing only too well their own limitations and weaknesses.

Yet, it must be remembered that Joseph is not only a LIGHT GIVER but also a STRONG ONE. There is an inner strength in the Josephs that holds them steady while the winds of adversity and untruthfulness blow. They find their strength in God and can say with Paul, "When I am weak, then am I strong."

Have you ever wondered who Joseph's issue was that he had after his two sons? Perhaps it can be indeed found hidden in the words of Jacob in Gen. 49:22, "Joseph is a fruitful BOUGH by a well; whose BRANCHES run over the wall." The Hebrew Language is unique in its meanings, and so it is with this verse. The word BOUGH literally is BEN meaning SON, thus "Joseph is a fruitful son" which is most understandable. But the interesting part is that BRANCHES in Hebrew is BATH meaning DAUGHTERS, it thus reads, "Whose DAUGHTERS run over the wall." The prophecy of Jacob is completely worthless unless we recognize that Joseph had daughters as well as sons. Usually the daughters are not mentioned in geneologies, but that does not mean they are not there, and so much more so with Joseph's

daughters, for they are not content to abide within a confined or walled place but keep running over the wall--keep reaching out for further spiritual territory and enlightenment. (By the way, a new series is started entitled "The Sun Series" dealing with the women of God, even the daughters of God, which will elaborate on women's position in the purpose of God and will further elucidate on the subject of Joseph's daughters. This is yours upon request.)

Therefore, those who are of Joseph will carry many of the traits of Taurus, but with this difference: As Joseph means ADDED or HE WILL ADD, so Josephites carry the added characteristics of having special spiritual vision and enlightenment to be a LIGHT GIVER plus great spiritual STRENGTH added to them. And, Joseph's daughters will be much in prominence in this capacity, for they are a part of that "other seed" brought forth after Ephraim and Manasseh and who will not be satisfied with any walled in place of teachings and doctrines but climb over all the barriers to receive further revelation. This does not infer that Joseph's other sons will not be partakers of the same thing, but rather that tribally the women will come forth to take their rightful position in God's unfolding purpose.

Now, let us consider some of the bright and radiant stars of Orion and see what this portends. First, BETELGUEZ is one such star and means COMING BRANCH. This undoubtedly refers to the Lord Himself, as He is called---THE BRANCH. In all the enlightenment of Joseph, who, by the way, has the blessings on the CROWN OF THE HEAD or the seat of intelligence, he maintains an all balancing truth, that of the coming of the Lord. And, as Joseph told the king about the seven years of plenty and seven years of famine, so his enlightenment often deals with the timings, the minute timings of God--even as pertains to the events leading up to His coming so that no one need be in the dark on the matter.

The second bright star is RIGEL meaning THE FOOT THAT CRUSHES, or in this case, the overcoming walk of the Josephites. We are told that Joseph's feet were hurt in irons during his imprisonment, but this did not deter him from overcoming in all circumstances until he came out and forth by the power of God in a place where his foot could crush his enemies. Yet did he not ruthlessly use such power against his brethren, who had proved to be his enemies and whom he could well have punished, rather such power was only used to crush the serpent's head, or the

thinking and teaching of such demoniac forces.

Another bright star of Orion is BELLATRIX which means SWIFTLY DESTROYING. What is to be destroyed? It is said of our Lord and Saviour that He destroyed him who had the power of death, literally, rendered him powerless who had the power of death. What about the tribe of Joseph? What is it they swiftly destroy? Is it not the same thing that their Lord destroys? Of course, for they have no desire to destroy men but rather to render him powerless who has held man in captivity for ages. The very power of truth and revelation given unto Joseph is what brings to nought the power of the enemy. Therefore in the Josephites you will find those who will truly render our adversary useless and powerless and bring into existence the power of an endless life.

And, the fourth star is AL-NITAK meaning THE WOUNDED ONE. Does this not remind us of what is said of Joseph? "The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him." Gen. 49:23. Any overcoming Joseph is going to know what it is to be wounded and grieved and broken with the arrows of lies, false accusations and grievous words. They seem to be a target for such things whether those who do it to them recognize or not what they are doing. It is because of being wounded themselves that the Josephites so readily forgive and deem it proper and right to receive such wounds from the hands of their brethren and friends without holding grudges and resentments.

In the light of the above information from the meaning of the names in Orion, the characteristics of Joseph are seen---spiritual enlightenment leads to the realization that the Lord is truly coming and to the knowledge regarding coming events, but with it all Joseph's foot must learn to crush the serpent's head and teachings, must learn to swiftly destroy him who has the power of death while recognizing that to do such, many woundings are necessary to bring forth a balance of love and forgiveness. Such is the nature of Joseph's sons and daughters---and such is clarified by Joseph's sign of Orion with its bright stars.

"The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren." Gen. 49:26.

"Stars of Israel Series"--No. 10, Box 277, Green River, Ut.