

Sandra 14

NAPHTALI AND THE SIGN OF CAPRICORN

"Stars of Israel Series"--Part 14

The rest of the tribes of Israel have been covered in previous studies, and now we come to the Tribe of Naphtali and the Sign of Capricorn (Dec. 22---Jan. 20). Though Naphtali is listed last among the arrangement of the Camp of Israel, that does not mean Naphtali is the least, by any means. Naphtali encamped on the north side of the Tabernacle along with Dan (and in the Camp of Dan) and Asher. As I look at these two tribes of Asher and Naphtali, I realize how God tempers Dan and his Scorpio nature and position with the blessedness of Asher and the wisdom of Naphtali.

NAPHTALI in Hebrew means WRESTLING. This sounds like something strenuous, which it is, and how often Naphtalites are in a state of wrestling with God, with men, with spirits and with circumstances. They can belie their awesome wrestlings and battles by seemingly an outward calm, but never be mistaken that many inward battles go on in the battleground of the soul and spirit. But beyond this, the root meaning of the Hebrew from which Naphtali comes also means to QUIVER, to VIBRATE up and down, to ROCK to and fro, to SHAKE, and even to DRIP as honey from the honeycomb. Be assured, all you Naphtalites, though many shakings and vibratings take place in your lives, it also entails the dripping forth of the sweetness of honey from the honeycomb. Life for you has many ups and downs, but it also encompasses much sweetness which we shall mention later in this article.

Listen to the words of the dying Jacob in Gen. 49:21, "Naphtali is a HIND let loose: he giveth goodly words." With emphasis on the word HIND we are given a clue to Naphtali's heavenly sign in the Zodiac. Our attention is thus drawn to Capricorn, for though a HIND is the female of the deer family, yet there is a strong connection between the deer and the goat. They are both considered ceremonially clean, they both inhabit the same terrain in their natural state, and they both are vegetarians. It is interesting to note that Naphtali is referred to as a HIND which is the female of the species. Therefore a feminine fineness of character and delicateness of nature is inherent in the Tribe of Naphtali. Yet there is a strength inherent also, even the strength and courage of the female as

she wrestles and battles for her young.

In Hebrew the name of the Constellation Capricorn means SACRIFICE OF THE KID. There is no escaping the fact that Naphtalites are constantly called upon to sacrifice that which is tender and dear to them. And, it is too often with tears that this is accomplished. It is through such sacrifice that many wrestlings occur, but the wrestlings invariably climax with sacrifice. Two of the stars in Capricorn are AL GEDI meaning the KID or GOAT, and DENEAL GEDI meaning the SACRIFICE OF THE KID. Thus even the stars are named to bear out what we have already said concerning sacrifice.

There are three associate constellations of Capricorn, and their meanings must be considered. The first one is SAGGITA which means ARROW. This is not the arrow of Sagittarius, for that has not left his bow, but this is one shot forth by an invisible hand. This arrow is the sovereignty of God in dealing with every Naphtalite wherein they cry out, "Thine ARROWS stick fast in me, and Thy hand presseth me sore." ~~Ps. 38:2~~ Here is the acceptance of Naphtali in receiving every barbed assault from God and not blaming anyone for the pressures that press sorely and the wounds that inwardly try. What a place of acceptance when Naphtali sees the hand of God in everything!

The second constellation associated with Capricorn is AQUILA which is the EAGLE pierced, wounded, and falling. Naphtali's hopes, dreams, faith soar heavenward as the eagle and enjoy the glory of the upper atmosphere;-- even the heavenlies, but that is only part of the story. O, then comes the piercing, the wounding, the resultant falling earthward. With the piercing screech of a wounded inhabitant of the heights comes the earthward tumbling of Naphtali and the hopes and dreams. What heights and depths are seen in this Tribe! What awesome ascents and descents accompany Naphtali! What gruesome extremes are experienced! Yet the picture is not complete until Naphtali realizes that out of the ashes of all that had been hoped and dreamed, there arises like the Phoenix bird a completely new life and ascension.

And, the third constellation with Capricorn is DELPHINUS ~~that~~ means a DOLPHIN, but the Hebrew word means POURING FORTH OF WATER. Heretofore we have seen the goat as dying, the eagle wounded and falling earthward, but now is pictured the leaping dolphin pouring water out of its mouth. Out of the depths arises a new beginning and a new life for every cast-down Naphtali, and with this arising i

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the issuance of water which speaks of words of life. This fits so beautifully with what Jacob said of Naphtali, "He giveth goodly words." Also this coincides with the meaning of Naphtali where his name indicates the DROPPING of honey, or sweet words, from the honeycomb. Every earth-shaking descent of Naphtali is followed by an upward surging like a leaping dolphin accompanied by a stream of life giving words, be that praise, or unfolding of truth, or exhortation.

Now to return to the scripture we have used all through these studies in Num. 2 where the encampment of the various tribes is recorded: "Then the tribe of Naphtali; and the captain of the children of Naphtali shall be AHIRA, THE SON OF ENAN." Vs. 29. As we have done before, we now use the name of the captain of this tribe to indicate those of "the first of the firstfruits" of Israel. There are those of each tribe who pierce through the barriers and blaze trail in making way for the rest of their tribe, and so with Naphtali. The captain, AHIRA, means UNLUCKY, UNFORTUNATE. On the surface this would appear to be rather depressing, but let me remind you that the first of the firstfruits of Naphtali are not depending upon luck nor fortune. In fact, in the natural they could be considered unlucky, but this very thing causes them to rely solely upon God in the face of every contradictory evidence. And, how is this attitude birthed? AHIRA was the son of ENAN, and ENAN means SEEING EYES. The sight of the forerunners of Naphtali causes them to see things that are not seen in the natural. The natural declares, "Bad luck, unfortunate," but spiritual sight beholds the unseen, and being "pure in heart" they "see God in everything." Truly the scripture, "For we look not at the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen...." is a reality to the Naphtalites.

Let me again remind you of what we have said in other issues of the "Stars of Israel Series": In Rev. 7 a picture is given of the sealing of 12000 of each tribe, and the sealing is prefaced by "an angel" (literally--a messenger) having the seal of the living God and who seals the 144000. But be further reminded that the angel is a company, for it refers to itself as "WE", that is, it says, "...until WE have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads." Thus we are presented with a picture of the "first of the firstfruits" symbolized by the captains or elders of the various tribes. So it is that Naphtali, too, has its forerunners to be a part of this

"messenger company" who forerun the sealing and take a part in sealing the rest of the 144000 of Israel.

To summarize Naphtali, let us put together a definition of the various meanings we have touched upon---- Naphtali, the wrestler, becomes a sacrifice and sees all his eagle-hopes fall dying to the ground due to being smitten by an arrow of God's choice, but then arises from the depths of despair the leaping up of the dolphin-arising with the issuance of life filled words because of anointed eyes that see only God. O, Naphtali of the heights and depths, possess your possessions in God!

This completes the series of the "Stars of Israel", and may each individual study have proved a blessing to your heart. In writing these I have learned to appreciate the various tribes and their callings and have indeed felt such a kinship with them. May you likewise feel that joining by God's Spirit with the others of Israel, until Israel as a whole stands triumphant under its various banners and ensigns. And, as you look up at the starry heavens and behold the beautiful constellations thereof, may you recognize the truth written therein and behold indeed Israel's ensigns in the sky---a perpetual witness given by the God of Israel, even the Yahweh (Hebrew for I'AM) of His ancient and present time elected people!

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