

ISSACHAR AND THE SIGN OF CANCER

"Stars of Israel Series"—Part 3

Having understood that Judah is affiliated in and with the Sign of Leo and has his tribal place on the east of the Tabernacle, we shall proceed with another tribe whose position is on the east of the Tabernacle also and counted in the Camp of Judah. "And those that do pitch next unto him (Judah) shall be the tribe of ISSACHAR: and NETHANEEL the son of ZUAR shall be the captain of the children of ISSACHAR." Num. 2:5. Now, the big question is, how do we ascertain the zodiacal sign of Issachar? Let us be cognizant of Jacob's prophecy regarding Issachar, for it is stated, "Issachar is a strong ASS couching down between two burdens." The key word is ASS, and thus in the constellation of CANCER do we find two stars called ASSELLUS NORTH and ASSELLUS SOUTH, or the TWO ASSES. Thus we can begin to pinpoint the constellation that is also the ENSIGN of the tribe of ISSACHAR. This was the sign that was on "the ensign of his father's house."

The Sign of Cancer dates from June 22 to July 23, which is just prior to Leo's sign which is the ensign of Judah, and therefore we would presume that Issachar stood on Judah's left as they faced eastward. The monthly prognosticators would tell us many things about people born under the sign of Cancer, and some of it rings true and some doesn't, but the real truth concerning this sign is found in the Word where truth in its pristinity is known. Now, everyone that is born under the sign of Cancer is not of Issachar, by any means, but those born under that sign will carry some of Issachar's traits along with their own tribal characteristics. Thus the conflict between the two zodiacal influences will, it is for sure; balance the beauty of character, as already referred to in the previous two issues of these studies concerning "The Stars of Israel Series".

Let us see what the old names for Cancer were and what they meant in reference to Issachar. In the Zodiac of Denderah Cancer means CATTLE FOLDS, in the Arabic it means HE WHO BINDS TOGETHER, in the Greek its meaning is ENCIRCLING, and in Accadian it signifies POSSESSOR OF SEED. On the surface these four meanings may seem poles apart, but let us take a closer look. CATTLEFOLDS really are places that BIND TOGETHER and ENCIRCLE for the protection of the flocks or herds to say nothing of those who thus ENCIRCLE being the POSSESSOR OF SEED. Does all of this have any bearing in the

scriptures on Issachar? Indeed it does! Issachar is a "strong ass (beast of burden) couching down between RWO BURDENS" which in the Hebrew literally means TWO SHEEPFOLDS!!! Thus we have another proof that Cancer is the Sign of Issachar.

Furthermore, as we consider the bright stars in Cancer it again becomes plain regarding this same meaning. Here are the names of some of the stars and their significance: (1) TEGMINE which means HOLDING, (2) ACUBENE which is SHELTERING PLACE, (3) MA'ALAPH signifying ASSEMBLED THOUSANDS, and (4) ASSELLUS NORTH and ASSELLUS SOUTH which we have already mentioned. Thus the SHELTERING PLACE and the ASSEMBLED THOUSANDS fits beautifully with the meaning of SHEEPFOLDS, plus the significance of HOLDING also refers to the HOLDING place for sheep. There is therefore another strong confirmation of Issachar's zodiacal sign.

Likewise the associate constellations of Cancer strengthen this meaning. To each zodiacal constellation there are three associated constellations, and the ones for Cancer are: (1) URSA MINOR which anciently was known as the LESSER SHEEPFOLD, (2) URSA MAJOR anciently called the GREATER SHEEPFOLD or the FOLD AND THE FLOCK, and (3) ARGO meaning a SHIP which is also a place of safety but on water instead of land. Thus it is plain to be seen that Issachar is closely allied with the sheep of God's pasture and also is greatly concerned about them. Note will you that Issachar is between two sheepfolds, and this figure TWO is used strongly in both the scriptures and the stars. What could these two sheepfolds be? Israel is always referred to as the sheep of the Lord, but it must be remembered the Kingdom of Israel became divided into two camps--the Kingdom of Judah and the Kingdom of Israel, the former made up mainly of two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) and the latter of the other ten tribes. Thus there came to be two sheepfolds and two flocks, and with Issachar being so strongly aligned to Judah and in the Camp of Judah, it is no wonder that Issachar couches down between the fold of Judah and the fold of Israel. Nor will Issachar ever be satisfied until the two are joined together again like as Ezekiel saw them in vision of the two sticks put together once more.

But beside this great burden for the sheep which Issachar bears and which is indeed a burden upon his heart whereby he fulfills his mission of being a beast of burden, a strong ass couching down between two sheepfolds, he also bears another great burden. Jacob's prophecy concerning Issachar in Gen. 49:15 states that he "became a ser-

vant unto TRIBUTE" which sounds as if he really became a slave, but let it be stated that the word translated TRIBUTE is translated in two other places as PROPHECY which is underlain with the meaning of the burden of God's truth, a meaning that few have understood. Anyone who is commissioned to give forth the depths of God's truth will always find there is a great burden attached thereto, for it is not an easy thing to administer truth. There are ever the forces of darkness and error that oppose it to say nothing of the burden involved in receiving such a revelation. But to Issacharites is given a particular portion of prophecy or truth, and this is given in I Chron. 12:32, "And of the children of ISSACHAR, which were men that had UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIMES, TO KNOW WHAT ISRAEL OUGHT TO DO....." The burden of God's timings greatly concern Issachar, and how we need the men of Issachar who have the understanding of the times, a knowledge of God's time schedule. I might add here that there are two tribes that are especially endowed of God to understand and give forth the matter of timings, and they are Issachar and Joseph. Joseph, as indicated in his interpretation of the Pharaoh's night visions, deals with timings not only related to Israel but also to other peoples and nations, and in these timings do Josephites give them forth in such a manner as to be called upon for leadership and to positions of power. As for Issachar, the timings he understands are definitely for Israel as related to what Israel ought to do, and they are definitely for the time of the establishment of the Kingdom under the greater David, even our Lord and Saviour. Issachar's understanding of times is a real burden to him, and it is with groanings and labors that he bears the burden of time to Israel, the sheep of God's pasture.

In summation of Issachar's position in Israel and his characteristics we also see some of the characteristics of those born under the sign of Cancer. They are innately burden bearers, concerned with the welfare of others, and determined that others should know the proper times and seasons, and with the advice of what to do in and at such times. If Cancerians do not have a legitimate load to carry, they will create one for themselves, as will the Issacharites without a true burden from the Lord.

Out of the Tribe of Issachar God is choosing a forerunning company or a spearhead group which can be seen in the meaning of the name of the prince of Issachar. The prince or captain was NETHANEEL, the son of ZU-AR, and these names are significant. NETHANEEL means----

GIFT OF GOD----and the scriptures tell us that "the gift of God is eternal life", literally EONIAN LIFE. This does not refer to some far off life in an ethereal sense, but rather it is the LIFE OF THE AGES for which Timothy was so admonished, "Lay hold on ETERNAL or EONIAN LIFE." This life is for the overcomers who shall reign in the next age and the ages following with Christ the Lord while those who have not overcome will still be under training for their perfection. What is not faced now and here must be faced at a later date, and don't forget that. God's salvation will be outworked in all, but it will take the ages to get it accomplished. The firstfruits company out of Issachar are those who shall break through out of dying and into life, and in such a company there cannot help but be an understanding of God's times. These princes of Issachar are born of ZUAR which means SMALL, LITTLE, LOW---- they are born out of HUMILITY. This does not mean a groveling in the dust to show humility but rather a true lowliness of spirit wherein they become great in God's sight. They do not rest in their own abilities, though they may have them, but they rest in the mightiness of God. Such are the firstfruits of Issachar, lowly men imbued with the life of the ages, raised up by God to lead the Tribe of Issachar and to make Israel understand what she ought to do in the light of the true understanding of His timings!

Issachar is on the east with Judah, and he thus faces the light of the dawning day with great anticipation as well as humility and understanding. God bless and raise up the Issachars with a knowledge of His time!!!

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SPECIAL NOTICE---Brother Adler has kindly taken off tape one of our messages on time entitled THE PATTERN OF THE GREAT JUBILEE. You can obtain this by writing to the address here given: W.J. Adler, 641 E. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, Calif. 91501. Thank you, Brother Adler, for your labor of love!