

## ASHER AND THE SIGN OF SAGITTARIUS

### "Stars of Israel Series"---Part 13

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The subject of the stars and the tribes continues with the three tribes located on the north side of the Tabernacle. Dan is the lead tribe of the three, and the other two are Asher, which we not consider, and Naphtali. As the title states, Asher's sign, or ensign, in the heavens is the constellation of Sagittarius, Nov. 23 to Dec. 21. As we continue to probe this study, we shall see how this particular sign fits with the Tribe of Asher.

The name ASHER means HAPPY, but to go further into the Hebrew root meanings, it also means STRAIGHT, LEVEL, RIGHT, HAPPY, TO GO FORWARD, BE HONEST. All of these meanings are involved in the name of ASHER, and this all fits so well with the meaning and picture of Sagittarius--- who is shown as the ARCHER, which the name means, shooting forth a STRAIGHT arrow in RIGHTNESS, going FORWARD in HONESTY, and conquering in GRACE.

The ancient names of Sagittarius are interesting and clarifying. The Hebrew and Syriac name is KESITH meaning the ARCHER, which we have already mentioned. In Arabic the name is AL KAUS meaning THE ARROW, the word of truth and honesty that is in the mouth of the Asherites. The Coptic is PIMACRE meaning the GRACIOUSNESS OR BEAUTY OF THE COMING FORTH. Does this not fit with Asher's name which also includes the meaning of GOING FORTH OR FORWARD? Asherites, as well as Sagittarians, are never looking back and wishing for the good old days but are always pressing forward, moving ahead, hopeful, anticipating. How gloriously and how confirmingly the stars agree with the pages of sacred writ in declaring the truth of Israel and the stars!

For further clarification, let us consider the bright stars of Sagittarius and their meanings. NAIM is the first one, and it means GRACIOUSNESS or the GRACIOUS ONE. Asherites are known for their GRACE of both word and life. Jacob said of Asher, "Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties." Gen. 49:20... The word DAINTIES means PLEASANTNESS, CHEERFULNESS, DELIGHT-SOMENESS. All of this is a manifestation of GRACE or of GRACIOUSNESS in the life.

Another bright star in Sagittarius is called NEHUSTA meaning GOING OR SENDING FORTH. Again this fits

perfectly with the root meaning of Asher which means among other things TO GO FORTH. Listen then to what Moses wrote of Asher, "...let him dip his foot in oil." ~~Deut. 33:24~~ What is the purpose of the foot or feet? Is it not to go forth with? Of course! And Asher's foot being dipped in oil means that as he goes forth he paves the way with "the Oil of Gladness" and graciously spreads this oil whithersoever he goes. So the stars and the characteristics of the Asherites concur.

There are three associate constellations with Sagittarius that are enlightening. They are as follows---- (1) LYRA which means HARP, SONG, MUSIC; (2) ARA which is the ALTAR upside down; and, (3) DRACO which is the DRAGON TRODDEN ON. These three constellations depict further Asher's position in Israel with her ensign of Sagittarius.

LYRA indicates that Asher has a talent for singing or making melody in the heart. It signifies they have an optimistic spirit that will sing even if the night is dark and the circumstances are contrary. To them there is always "a bright light in the clouds", there is always a new tomorrow, there is always a song of grace.

Then, there is the constellation of ARA, the upside down altar. This indicates that Asher, though offering up a true sacrifice of himself, never considers it a difficult sacrifice. What to some would be a sore sacrifice placed atop an altar, to Asher the same sacrifice is hidden beneath it, out of sight, due to it being upside down. Others might bemoan the fact that the Asherites have had such a difficult time with such extreme sacrifices, but the Asherites themselves do not see it thus. To them it is but a reasonable service and not something to be talked about nor gloried in.

And, lastly, there is the constellation of DRACO which means the DRAGON TRODDEN UNDERFOOT. How is this done? With a "foot dipped in oil"!!! Asher does not go out with vindictiveness to tread down the adversary, nor does he with blatant accusations rail upon the adversary, but rather Asher treads down the evil forces with an anointed foot, a walk with God that is graciousness personified. Asher does not blaze abroad the fact that he has conquered any foe, nor does he declare that the victory is great. Instead he graciously proceeds from strength to strength and from victory to victory in God as a matter of course and a matter of grace.

Asher and Sagittarius can be all summed up in one word---GRACE!!! There is a gentleness and softness about Asherites that is unequalled, and yet **there's no exalt-**

ation of their position, only a living reality that they indeed know the God of all grace. Everything about Asher and Sagittarius speaks of the strength of the ARCHER, and with this strength is GRACIOUSNESS. Such graciousness is not reached in a single bound, but it is developed over the days and years by experience as each individual follows after the Lord and desires only Him and His grace.

Now to return to the scripture that has been used all through these studies wherein we are told that each tribe encamps under its own ensign. "And those that encamp by him shall be the tribe of ASHER; and the captain of the children of Asher shall be PAGIEL the son of OCRAN." Num. 2:27. As we have studied the individual tribes, we have considered the captains of each tribe as representing the "first of the firstfruits" of each tribe, those who firstly are fully matured and who are used of God for the purpose of spearheading His plan in and with Israel.

The first of the firstfruits are seen in the Book of Revelation in the figure of the angel (literally, a messenger) who tells the other four messengers to hold the four winds TILL WE HAVE SEALED THE SERVANTS OF GOD IN THEIR FOREHEADS. That little pronoun WE shows that this is not an individual but a company of people. In the O.T. it was the PRINCES of the people who REGISTERED them, so the anti-type is seen here in this messenger company. So the princes or the captains or the messengers are one and the same----- the first of the firstfruits unto God who spearhead the way and who having the seal of God themselves are able to seal others. This is no mean position, but rather it takes most rigorous training and perfecting by the fire of God until He is all in all in such lives.

The captain of the tribe of Asher is PAGIEL which means INTERVENTION and who was the son or offspring of OCRAN which means TROUBLE. Again we see the depth of meaning in the spearhead company of Asher. They are those who are acquainted with dire circumstances, troubles and complexities. Problems and impossibilities constantly plague them. Difficulties and irritations are their constant companions. Yes, OCRAN which means all of the above engenders a precious offspring, even PAGIEL meaning intervention. It is because of such insurmountable problems that divine intervention is born. Every sore trial is but an opportunity for God to reveal how He can intervene and turn the tide to a great victory.

(Let me encourage you who are pressed out of measure and above strength to look beyond the present distress and see it is but a golden chance for God to manifest

Himself in divine intervention in behalf of His chosen and His elect. Everyone who is pressed into becoming a part of the first of the firstfruits is going to know by personal experience the ~~abysmal depths of trouble that~~ they might also know the glory of His intervention.

I would like to sum up the matter of Asher in the following words:

Asher dips his foot in oil,  
Asher's grace shall take the spoil;  
Thrusting forward he shall be  
Intervention's sure decree.  
Grace on grace is manifest  
Through each fiery trial and test,  
Till at last shall Asher stand  
As a bulwark in the land.  
Asher, raise your ensign high!  
Lift it to the starry sky!  
Asher takes the sovereign place--  
God's epitome of grace.

N.C.N.

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#### REDEMPTION WRITINGS

P.O. Box 277

Green River, Utah 84525

EXTRA LITERATURE---Just a reminder that we have plenty of extra copies of the issues of the "Stars of Israel Series", "Times and Season Series", and "The Sun Series". Besides this, there are plenty of extra copies of

The Seven Spirits of God  
The Fullness of God  
Seraphims  
When I See the Blood  
Holy Convocations  
O, God! (poems)  
Changing Breath  
The Reins

If you want any of these, feel free to write and request-- any or all of these.