

Messiafi
in the
Constellations



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U.O.

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Preface

“The heavens declare the glory of •God; and the expanse shows the work of His hands. Day to day utters speech, and night to night shows knowledge. There is no speech and there are no words, yet their voice is heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their language to the extremity of the world. In them has He set a tent for the sun, and He is as a bridegroom going forth from his chamber; He rejoices as a strong man to run the race. His going forth is from the end of the heavens, and His circuit to the ends of it; and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof” (Psa. 19:1-6. This scripture is quoted in Romans 10:18 as describing the preaching of the Gospel).

Here the sun is described as a type of the Messiah, “the Sun of Righteousness” (Mal. 4:2/3:20), and the vault of heaven as His tabernacle, revealing the glory of God and His wonderful deeds. Let us now follow the course of our heavenly Bridegroom and see where He abides. For His striding (Heb: שֶׁׁאָדָּה *še’ādā* “step, pace, march,” [as in Judg. 5:4; 2 Sam. 5:24; Psa. 68:7/8; Hab. 3:12] from which the Greek Ζωδιακός *Zōdiakós* “Zodiac” comes) is the path of life. Come and see!

DEDICATION

*To You, my beloved Messiah,
and to Israel, the apple of Your eye,
in infinite thankfulness.*

Ulf Oldenburg

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FOREWORD

It is an honor to introduce to English readers this book of my dear brother-in-Christ Ulf Oldenburg. Our friendship spans four decades, going back to the time of his graduate studies at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

Without a previous university or seminary degree Herr Oldenburg was admitted to a course of studies in the ancient West Semitic languages – especially Ugaritic and Hebrew. In remarkably short time he earned the Ph.D. degree. His doctoral dissertation featured the conflict between the gods *El* and Baal in Canaanite mythology. He effectively argued that the Canaanites' concept of their high god *El*, though grossly corrupted, stemmed from the revelation of the true God *El* known to the Hebrew patriarchs as *El-Elyon*, *El-Shaddai*, etc. Also, he demonstrated that Amorites brought the worship of Baal-Hadad to Canaan during the mid-second millennium B.C. This tends to verify the historicity of the Genesis account of the period around 2000 B.C., because Genesis never mentions the god Baal.

Such a fine scholar could have enjoyed an outstanding career teaching Semitics in the academic institutions of his native Denmark, or Germany where he lives. But his utter devotion to the Lord Jesus and his great burden for his persecuted brethren behind the Iron Curtain changed the course of his ministry. Dr. Oldenburg turned his back on the cloistered classroom to seek out believers hungry for food and fellowship in clandestine meetings or isolated cottages. For many years he would leave his faithful wife and son at home, weeks or months at a time, in order to carry Scriptures and supplies to beleaguered saints in Eastern Europe and Siberia. His analytical mind has remained active, however, and he has written a number of detailed studies on matters pertaining to the Word of God.

In this present work Dr. Oldenburg has done a twofold service for English-speaking people. In the great libraries of Europe and America he researched many ancient Semitic texts regarding star names, carefully evaluated them, and has translated them as accurately as possible for the astronomically-minded. But he has also described the Christian message of the zodiac and the hope of the returning Messiah, perhaps more fully than any recent writer, but certainly with more attention to Scripture and deeper devotion to our Lord.

John Rea
Professor Emeritus of Old Testament
Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To my precious friend John R. Neal I herewith express my deepest gratitude for his faithfulness during so many years, for his glowing interest in the subject, and for his immense help with typing and printing the manuscript. He is a scribe of rank; not the minutest detail escapes him.

For the keen interest and very inspiring and helpful suggestions of Dr. John Rea I am deeply indebted. What great blessings in life I have received from such fellow-pilgrims marching toward heavenly Mount Zion. May the Most High bless and reward them for their faithfulness.

“These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp-stands” (Rev. 2:1). “Lo, I have graven you upon the palms of My hands” (Is. 49:16). Praise to You my Lord Yeshua Mashiach, beloved Shepherd of Israel, who hold us in Your nail-pierced hands, and no one can snatch us out of Your hand, and thank you for Sister Barbara Royer who expressed this so beautifully in the front picture.

Also I am deeply indebted to my beloved Brother in Messiah Uwe Mohr for his vivid illustrations of our Redeemer’s race.

Ulf

ABBREVIATIONS

·God	<i>El</i> , the name of God
Akk	Akkadian
Arb	Arabic
Arm	Aramaic
Bab	Babylonian
Grk	Greek
Heb	Hebrew
Lat	Latin
Per	Persian
Sum	Sumerian
★	after an Arabic star name signifies its very high age
<i>cf.</i>	<i>confer</i> compare
<i>e.g.</i>	<i>exempli gratia</i> for example
<i>i.e.</i>	<i>id est</i> that is
ly	light-years distant from the earth
mag	apparent magnitude
☉ sun	times brighter than our sun, absolute magnitude

INTRODUCTION

When Eve, deceived by the crafty serpent, had eaten of the forbidden fruit and gave it to Adam too, in order that they might become *like God*, the happy fellowship with the holy God was broken by one act of rebellion. On that day God spoke to the serpent: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall crush your head, and you shall crush His heel" (Gen. 3:15).

This comforting prophecy about the coming *Seed of the woman*, who should crush the head of the serpent and thus deliver the creation of God from the bondage of Satan, is the theme of the great divine drama, which is unrolled before our eyes in the splendid starry sky, more glorious than the flaming Northern Lights.

Everywhere we turn our eyes, we see the downfall of the serpent foretold, *e.g.* the head of the serpent *Draco* under the right foot of the *Kneeling One* – the head of the *Scorpion* crushed under the right foot of *Ophiuchus* – the Sea-Monster *Cetus* muzzled by the Ram *Aries* – the Water-Serpent *Hydra* under the paws of the *Lion*, with the *Raven* picking its flesh.

How annoying to the ancient serpent is this revelation from God, that His Anointed One will crush its head. Everywhere people in the world could look up and read on the Scroll of Heaven rolled up before the eyes of all about the coming of the Hope of the Nations and the final downfall and judgment of Satan. Therefore, by all means, with all his devilish devices of horoscope and astrology, Satan has tried to erase or distort the handwriting of God on the vault of heaven, and he nearly succeeded. The superstitious priests and star gazers at Babylon began to worship the stars and planets as deities and foretold the future by the movements of planets – and the knowledge of the true God *El* disappeared entirely. The king of Egypt became deified, and he himself was a worshipper of the serpent whose sign he wore on his forehead – and gross darkness enshrouded the Nile valley. The Canaanites turned their back on their righteous Creator *El* and fell down before the rain god Baal-Haddad and fertility goddesses hoping to get rain and fertility. The dwellers in the Arabian desert built altars to the planet Venus and to the ghostly Moon and the Sun. And the Greeks gathered all sorts of myths and invented fables about their chief god Zeus seducing beautiful young ladies on earth and begetting half-gods. The Scroll of Heaven with its beautiful illustrations was soiled and painted over with pictures of their gods and half-gods, and the true meaning of the signs was lost in those lands.

But one thing remained: the old star names are still in use even up to this day. They are relatively easy to discern from names which were invented later on. This is interesting because God's Word tells us, that God not only placed the stars in space, in a particular order, that they might serve as *signs* for man – signs of what? –, but HE Himself originally also gave them names: "HE counts the number of the stars; *HE gives names to them all*" (Psa. 147:4; Gen. 1:14); and these names HE must have revealed to a saint of old. The ancient Greeks did not know the author of the star names nor their message, but referred to one among men in far distant past who "devised to group the

stars in such wise, that standing in succession side by side, they simulate living forms. Easily thus he named heavens's host.”¹

Towards these oldest star names we will turn our telescope in this present study; we will try to translate them exactly in the context of nearby stars; perhaps the original drama will be restored to us. In doing so we need the compass of the Holy Spirit and the map of the other excellent revelation of God in the Holy Bible, which He has committed to His people Israel. Holy God, show us Your Anointed, Messiah!

We put the two revelations together, and what is not in agreement with the Holy Bible we will leave out with all the occult astrology.² Here only such star names are considered which describe the Messiah and His work. ALL the Babylonian, Egyptian, and Greek names and testimonies in this study, as well as most of the Arabic³ names, originate from a time long before Yeshúa Messiah was born in Bethlehem. (We refer the reader to the description of “The Age of the Sources” in the Appendix.)

Let us now follow the path of the sun from one station⁴ on the zodiac to the next, and in between listen to the testimony of the other constellations at the same longitude, north or south of the zodiac. For all the heavenly bodies join in praising their glorious Creator.

We advise the reader to use a star map and an astronomical handbook.

1 Aratos, *Phainomena*, 373-384; as translated by Edward Poste.

2 See the comparison of various traditions in the APPENDIX.

3 Those few Arabic names which are younger are translations of Greek names originating long before Yeshúa Messiah was born. This means, that all the star names in this book were composed before Yeshúa was born, so that no one can speak of Christian influence.

4 Hebrew מַזְרֹחַ/מִזְרָחַת *mazzarôth/mazzalôth* in Job 38:32 and 2 Ki. 23:5 is doubtless the same word as Arabic *manzil* “lodging place, way station, stopping place,” as both Frances Rolleston and Fritz Hommel recognized.

ACT I

Chapter One

Blessed be He that Comes in the Name of the Lord!

Virgo

Coma Berenices

Centaurus

Boötes

Chapter Two

Take Your Son, Your Only One, Whom You Love!

Libra

Crux

Lupus

Corona Borealis (The Northern Crown)

Chapter Three

The Mighty Combat

Scorpius

Serpens and Ophiuchus

Hercules

Chapter Four

The Triumph of the Messiah

Sagittarius

Lyra

Ara

Draco

Chapter One

Blessed be He that Comes in the Name of the Lord!

VIRGO

As we are looking for the Seed of the woman, we find Him in the bright Spica in the large constellation of the *Virgin*, where the sun started its circuit.

This constellation was represented by the old Egyptians as *a standing virgin, who held an ear of grain in her hand*. The Arabs described her as 'adrâ' nazafa "a pure virgin"; also the Hebrews called her בְּתוּלָה *betûla* "virgin", the Aramæns בְּתוּלְתָא *betûlta* "virgin", the Greeks Παρθένος *Parthénos* "virgin" and the Romans *Virgo* "virgin." The Greek Aratos (3rd century B.C.) writes: "Lo the Virgin, who in her hands bears the glittering *Ear of Grain*" (*Phainomena*, 96-97).

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and shall bring forth a son, and call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23).

The angel Gabriel spoke to the virgin Mary: "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and power of the Highest overshadow you, wherefore the holy offspring shall be called *the Son of God*" (Luke 1:35), as also Psalms 2:7 states: "I will declare the decree: YHWH has said to me, 'You are *my Son*; I this day have begotten You.'"

Now, Mary was a descendant of the house of David, and thus this prophecy was fulfilled: "There shall come forth a Shoot out of the stock of Yishai, and a Branch out of his roots shall be fruitful; and the Spirit of YHWH shall rest upon Him..." (Isa. 11:1-2. Read more about the *Branch*, Jer. 23:5-6 and 33:15-26).

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name is called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with judgment and with righteousness, from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of YHWH of Hosts will perform this" (Isa.9:6-7).

He is the Messiah, the only begotten Son of God, born as man by the virgin Mary of the house of David, the King of Israel.

This *Ear of Grain* in the hand of the Virgin is the brilliant flushed white and blue Spica, α Virginis (actually a spectroscopic double star, 275 ly distant; main star: 1.0 mag, shining 2,300 \times sun). The old Babylonians called this star *šubultu* "an ear of grain" and the constellation of Virgo they called (*mul*) *ab-sîn* "seed furrow." Also the Arabs named α Virginis *as-sunbula* \star "the ear of grain," the Greeks Στάχυς *Stáchus* "an ear of corn" and the Romans *Spica* "ear of grain."

This *Grain of Wheat* in the seed furrow is the "Seed of the woman," the promised Messiah (Gen. 3:15; John 12:24). The wise men from the East came a long way to greet "*the Desire of all nations*" (Hag. 2:7). They did not find Him in the royal palace in Jerusalem, but in a stable at Bethlehem, the city of David.

The Arabs also called α Virginis *as-simâk al-a'zal* \star "the unarmed/defenseless highness," for the little child was lying defenseless in a manger, and the wise men knelt down worshipping Him.



COMA BERENICES



Just above Virgo we see a cluster of stars by name *Coma Berenices*. The Arabs called it *al-hulba* “the hair,” for this heap of numerous small stars looks like hair. But behind them many bright galaxies are hiding, some spiral nebulae (M64 which is 15 million light years distant, and others) and elliptic nebulae (e.g. M85 is 8 million light years distant). The Greeks called it Κόμη Κόμη, (Lat: *Coma*) “hair.” “The word *Berenice* is from Βερενίκη *Bereníkê*, the Macedonian form of the purer Greek Φερενίκη *Phereníkê* ‘Victory-bearing’.”⁵

This peculiar star name “hair” expresses in one word the secret of the overcoming life of Yeshúa, how He lived so holy and without any sin. Compare the long hair of the Nazarite, the sign of his dedication to the Most High (Num. 6). The secret of Samson’s invincible power was lying in the seven locks of his hair. And the secret of Yeshúa’s invincible wisdom and power was His dependence on His

Father in heaven, as He Himself said: “Verily, verily, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of Himself save whatever He sees the Father doing: for whatever things He does, these things also the Son does in like manner. – I cannot do anything of myself; as I hear, I judge, and my judgment is righteous, because I do not seek my will, but the will of Him who has sent me” (John 5:19,30).

This same dependence upon and submission to her Head, the King finds with His little bride, and He speaks to her: “The locks of your head are like purple; the King is fettered by [your] tresses!” (Songs 7:5. *cf.* also 1 Cor. 11:1-16). Submitting to His will, also we can triumph – even in martyrdom: “I have strength for all things in Him who gives me power” (Phil. 4:13).

With tears and blood-shed He cried: “*Abba, Father, all things are possible to You: take away this cup from me; but not what I will, but what You [will]*” (Mark 14:36). “Though He were Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered; and having been perfected, became to *all them that obey Him*, Author of eternal salvation; addressed by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek” (Heb. 5:7-10). We also have to trust and obey.

CENTAURUS

Deep under the Virgin, as the lowest of the stars of heaven, is the constellation *Centaurus*, which illustrates the deep humiliation of our Messiah. This star group was visible to the Mediterranean countries two-three thousand years ago. But because of the precession of the equinoxes, they are now below the horizon there.

The Greek name Κένταυρος *Kéntauros* “Kentaur” comes from κεντέω *kentêô* “to pierce” and describes Messiah as the Pierced One, as God Himself says, “They shall look on ME whom they pierced” (Zech. 12:10). The Greeks also named this constellation Χείρων *Cheírôn*, and *Cheírôn* comes from the Semitic root כּוּר/כּוֹר *k’r/kwr*, which occurs in Psalms 22:17: “They have pierced my hands and my feet.” Thus both the name *Kéntauros* and *Cheírôn* have the same meaning “pierced.”



The Greeks have not only kept the original name, but also tell about the wise and merciful *Cheírôn*, who, although being immortal, of his own free will gave his life for the deliverance of the imprisoned and tormented

⁵ R. H. Allen, *Star Names, Their Lore and Meaning*, p. 169.

Προμηθεύς “*Promêtheus*.” Clearly, *Cheirôn* is a type of Messiah, our Substitute, the eternal Son of God, who died in our stead.

The brightest star, the white and yellowish double star α Centauri, at a distance of 4.3 light years, is the fixed star which is closest to our solar system. It is closely followed by the little twinkling red dwarf *Proxima Centauri*, a trifle closer to the earth. The blue β Centauri nearby [but actually 490 ly distant, 0.6 mag] is 10,000 times brighter than our sun. Both α and β Centauri were called by the ancient Arabs *al-ḥimârân* and *al-a’yâr* and *al-mishâlân*, all three names meaning “the two asses” (dual, because two stars carry the name). They also called both stars *al-fârisân* “the two riders.” So, the Arabs saw neither a horse, nor a centaur in this constellation, but an ass and a rider upon it. The rider is the Messiah, who entered Jerusalem riding on an ass, as Zechariah (9:9) describes Him: “Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion; shout, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you: He is just, and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass, even upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

The stars round about are called *aš-šamârîḥ* “the palm branches, date-palms panicles” and describe how the Jews welcomed their Messiah-King with rejoicing as He rode on the foal of an ass, John 12:13. This event God Himself illustrated many centuries, or even millennia, before the birth of Yeshúa.

The very old names of α and β Centauri, or of the beautiful and lowly Canopus, may also describe our beloved Messiah: *suhayl* His “lowliness,” *ḥaḍâr*, that He came on “the habitable earth,” and *al-wazn*, that He bore “the weight, heavy load” of our sins.

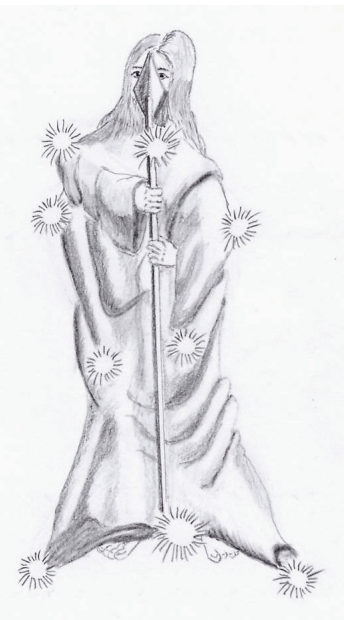
Perhaps the mysterious names *al-muḥlifân* (dual of “causing to swear”) and *al-muḥnitân* (dual of “causing to swear falsely”) refer to the very controversial question, which the high priest asked Yeshúa: “I adjure you by the living God that you tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God” (Matt. 26:63; John 7:26-29,40-43; 8:21-29,49-58; 9:29-30; 10:24-38).

We suppose that originally every bright star had its own name. But during the long oral tradition some names of weaker stars may have slipped to brighter stars, so that in the end the latter have many names at the cost of the former.

Thus α Centauri is also called *aẓ-zalîm*, which means “he who suffers injustice,” and β Centauri is called *al-m’ql* (?) from ‘ql “to pay blood money” (but the reading is uncertain). In any case: thus and for this our Messiah suffered. The whole constellation describes Him as the One who was wounded and pierced for our transgressions. Therefore He came into this world, that He might give His blood as a ransom for many, and without Him there is no salvation for ever. Have you received Him?

BOÖTES

The third star group at the longitude of Virgin stands very high in the sky. Its Greek name Βοώτης *Boôtês* “Boötês” may come from the Hebrew בָּא’ *bâ’* the “Coming One,” as Miss Rolleston has suggested. The Arabs called Boötes *ḥâris as-samâ’* “the guardian of heaven” and *ḥâris aš-šamâl* “the guardian of the north” (cf. the Greek names Ἀρκτοῦρον *Arktúros* “the watcher/guard of the north” and Ἀρκτοφύλαξ *Arktophýlax* “the guardian of the north”). Messiah, who was cast out and crucified by men, is the Lord and Guardian of Heaven, to whom all power in heaven and on earth has been given (Matt. 28:18). He comes again in glory, as He answered the high priest: “You have said. Moreover, I say to you, From henceforth you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power (= *El*), and coming on the clouds of heaven.” For this, Yeshúa was condemned to death as for blasphemy (Matt. 26:64-65).



“Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even

those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Yea. Amen” (Rev. 1:7). The brightest star, the red giant α Boötis (0.0 mag, 36 ly, 90 \odot sun), is called in Arabic *al-uḥaymir* “the small red one,” and reveals our Messiah coming again, arrayed in a garment sprinkled with blood, followed by His saints in snow-white garments (Rev. 19:13).

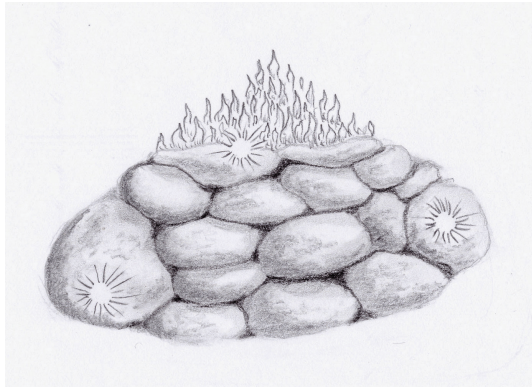
α Boötis is also called in Arabic *as-simâk ar-râmiḥ* ★ “the highness piercing with a lance,” and the stars ϵ η Boötis are called *ar-rumḥ* “the lance.” He who came defenseless here on earth, and who was pierced with a spear for the sake of truth and justice, will come again in glory, and every eye shall see Him; then the hearts of His enemies will be pierced like Saul of Tarsus before Damascus. What a Victor!

The deep yellow and blue star ϵ Boötis (double star, 2.5/4.9 mag, 150 ly, 200 \odot sun), on the lance, is also called *râyat al-fakka* “the banner of redemption,” and speaks about the blood of His cross which He has shed for us in order to redeem us from all chains of sin and Satan, and He has given us His victory over Satan by His blood (Rev. 12:11).

Chapter Two

Take Your Son, Your Only One, Whom You Love

LIBRA



Now the sun leads us into the next constellation, *Libra*, which has only a few stars. The two brightest are α Librae, a yellow-white double star (5.2/2.8 mag, 72 ly, 3/30 \odot sun), and the green β Librae (2.7 mag, 120 ly, 90 \odot sun). The message of these rather faint stars, however, is exceedingly glorious.

The old Egyptians described it as “a pair of scales, a balance,” just as the Latin name *Libra* means “Scales.” Since the sun was standing in Libra in the seventh month (September – October), it has been supposed to express the autumnal equinox. According to the old Egyptian theology, the sun-god Re weighed in his balance the *ma’at* “character” of every person who had died. If his virtues were in

excess, the faults would be canceled out, and the deceased would be permitted to join the gods. “Thy faults will be expelled and your guilt will be wiped out by the weighing of the scales on the day of counting up character, and then it will be permitted that you join with those who are in the barque [of the sun-god].” From this time forward, the deceased were called “justified of voice” or “triumphant,” meaning that they had been adjudged righteous by the court of the dead. *Ma’at* “truth, justice, righteousness” was the condition for earning eternal happiness. Meri-ka-Re was advised by his father to “do *ma’at* whilst thou endurest upon earth,” for “the council which judges the deficient, thou knowest that they are not lenient on that day of judging the miserable... A man remains over after death, and his deeds are placed beside him in heaps. However, existence yonder is for eternity... He who reaches it without wrongdoing shall exist yonder like a god, stepping out freely like the lords of eternity.”⁶ On that day of judgment the dead should boldly proclaim his good deeds and protest his guiltlessness of all possible shortcomings.

Now, that is to be saved by our own righteous deeds, and in sharp contrast to the Word of God which declares: “There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one.... – There is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption in Messiah Yeshúa: whom God set forth as a propitiation in His blood through faith, to show His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed” (Rom. 3:10-18,23-25).

The righteous Judge of all the universe found ONLY ONE who never sinned, ONE PURE and HUMBLE IN HEART; and this is what He did to save us sinners: “Him who knew not sin He has made sin(-offering) for us, that we might become *God’s righteousness in Him*” (2 Cor. 5:21) – and this One is *God’s only Son!!!* “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, thus must the Son of Man be lifted up, that every one who believes in Him may not perish, but have life eternal. For *God so loved the world*, that He gave *His only-begotten Son*, that whosoever believes in Him may not perish, but have life eternal” (John 3:14-16). There is no other salvation, nor eternal life than in our Savior Himself, Yeshúa the Messiah our Life. “He that has the Son has life: he that has not the Son of God has not life” (1 John 5:12; Acts 4:12).

And this is the wonderful fruit of that sacrifice: a transformed life, Messiah in us, Col. 1:27. 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, God’s miracle!

⁶ John A. Wilson, *The Culture of Ancient Egypt* (Chicago: the University of Chicago Press, 1951), 118-20, 297-98. Joachim Spiegel, *Die Idee vom Totengericht in der ägyptischen Religion* (“Leipziger ägyptologische Studien”, II [Glückstadt: J. J. Augustin: 1935]), 68-71.

The idea of Libra as “scales” spread widely. The eminent scholar Robert Brown considers it to have come to Babylonia from Egypt. Today the whole world represents the constellation of Libra as scales.

But there is an older tradition in Babylonia. Robert Brown has given evidence from Babylonia that originally this constellation Libra was represented by a *holy altar*. The old Babylonians named the seventh month (September – October, when the sun stood in Libra) after this constellation *tul-ku* “the holy altar,” on which fire was burning; and the astronomical abbreviation for the sign of this month is *Bir*, the old form of *ud = nûru* “light” (Strassmaier, *Astronomisches aus Babylon*, 171; and Robert Brown, I, 67-71).

“YHWH is God, and He has given us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, – up to the horns of the altar” – *i.e.* “Crucify, crucify Him!” (Psa. 118:27; Luke 23:21).

In the seventh month, when the sun was standing in Libra, all the children of Israel were gathered to the holy feasts of God around the sanctuary. On the great Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) they confessed all their sins before God, and the blood of the sin offering was brought into the Holy of Holies to God and sprinkled on the Mercy Seat. After that they rejoiced in God in booths (succhoth) for seven days (Lev. 16 and 23:23-44).

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. This is the central truth of the Holy Scriptures. That is why so many sacrifices were slain in Israel. They all point forward to the one perfect sacrifice of God on Golgotha in the land of Moriah. For the blood of bulls and goats is incapable of taking away sins: Only the blood of the Messiah, who loves us so, that He suffered in our stead as our sin offering, can cleanse our hearts before God and make us perfect by His holiness.

This truth breaks all the power of Satan, and sets every one free from his chains who accepts Yeshúa as his Messiah. Therefore, Satan does not permit this to be proclaimed. On old representations from Babylonia you see how the great Scorpion (from the next zodiacal constellation) encloses the round holy altar, on which the living fire of God is burning, with its huge claws in order to choke it. And it seemed to succeed, and therefore it became gross darkness in Babylonia. A cylinder shows an Altar-censer guarded by two Scorpion-men, one on either side. On a Euphratean boundary stone we find, among other constellation figures, a Lamp, below which there is a giant Scorpion with large Claws, almost touching it. We further find on a Euphratean seal a circular object (the circular Altar) grasped in the huge Claws of the Scorpion. This seals a contract made on the 8th day of the *seventh* month (690 or 645 B.C.). Finally, they saw only the Claws of the Scorpion in the constellation Libra, and therefore the Greeks called it “the Claws of the Scorpion.”⁷

Robert Brown concludes: “The *Balance* or *Scales* (*Libra*) is the only one of the zodiacal Signs not Euphratean in origin, having been imported from Egypt, and represented originally the balance of the sun at the horizon between Upper and Under-worlds; and secondarily ‘the equality of the days and nights at the equinoxes.’ So Achilles Tatios, around A.D. 475, in a *Fragment* on the *Phainomena*, speaks of ‘the *Claws* [Χηλαί], called by the Egyptians the *Beam of the Balance* [Ζθρόν].” (Brown, I, 71).

Brown also states: “The *Altar* was the original seventh zodiacal constellation, afterwards superseded by the *Claws* (of the *Scorpion*), and subsequently by the *Balance*, a Sign of Egyptian origin.” – “The *Altar*, however, dropped out of the representations, and evidently at a somewhat early period. Certainly when the use of the Sign had first reached the shores of the Aigaion [Aegean] the *Claws* alone remained” (Brown, I, 180, 70-71).

Also the Arabs designated the constellation *Libra* as “the two Claws of the Scorpion” *az-zubânâ* ★, even *az-zubân al-janûbî* “the Southern Claw” (= α Librae), and *az-zubân aš-šamâlî* “the Northern Claw” (= β Librae).⁸

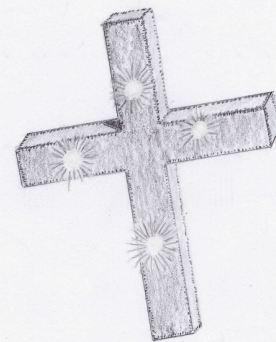
Satan used the concept of the *Scales* to displace the truth of the *holy Altar*. But praise to God, He has given us light on the *holy Altar* with the living fire on it and the holy truth of the redemption by the blood of His Messiah. This original meaning of the sign Libra is affirmed by three adjacent constellations.

7 See the pictures and excellent studies of Robert Brown, II, 232-234; I, 67-71; 217; and Bullinger, Appendix.

8 This Arabic word *az-zubânâ* is the same as Babylonian (*mul*) *zi-ba-an-na* “balance” and gives evidence of the opposite sequence: Balance → Claws of the Scorpion. About conflicting traditions see Comparison of the Sources in the APPENDIX.

CRUX

Why Satan by all means tried to supersede this highest truth of all, we see from the wonderful *Southern Cross*, far south, even below Centaurus. Abraham ibn Ezra (according to Rolleston, II, p. 18), gives us its Hebrew name אֲדוֹם *'adôm* “bloody red.” It has five bright stars exactly according to the piercings of Yeshúa. The star at the head of the Cross, γ Crucis (1.6 mag, 88 ly, 120 \odot sun), is red. The bright double star α Crucis at His feet is splendid blue (0.8 mag, 370 ly) and is shining 3000+1900 times brighter than our sun. His nail-pierced hands are marked by the blue β Crucis (1.3 mag, 500 ly) towards the east, shining 6000 times brighter than the sun; and the white δ Crucis (2.8 mag, 260 ly), 370 times brighter than our sun. His spear-pierced side is pointed out by the orange-red ϵ Crucis (3.6 mag, 60 ly, 9 \odot sun). Truly, the slain Lamb is the light.



Just under these brightest stars is the darkest place in the whole sky, wherefore the astronomers call it “the Coal Sack,” which represents the blackness of our wickedness and godlessness, for which our Lord Yeshúa had to suffer so terribly on the cross. But on this very background His love is revealed most brightly. Above the Coal Sack there is a crowd of numerous colorful stars, which are called “the Jewel Box.” The star in the middle is deep red and is surrounded by other stars of green, blue and other colors, which like a flock of angels join in the praise of God.

Whoever is travelling on the southern seas needs only to orientate himself by the Southern Cross; then he knows immediately the right course and, moreover, the exact hour of the night. He who has seen that can never forget it.

LUPUS



Just in front of the Centaur we see a constellation which is falsely named *Lupus* (Lat) “wolf.” The Greeks called it simply $\Theta\eta\rho\acute{\iota}\omicron\nu$ *Thêrion* (diminutive of $\theta\acute{\eta}\rho$ *thêr* “a wild animal, game”); and Aratos describes the Centaur, how “his right hand ever seems to stretch towards the round Altar; and his clenched fingers with strong compression grip another form, that men of other days have called the *little Animal*” (*Phainomena*, 439-442). Actually, the Altar must be the constellation *Libra*, for Ara is much too far away. Also, two engraved precious stones from Asia Minor show how the Centaur slaughters the animal (Robert

Brown, II, p. 241). Because the good Centaur kills this animal, people have supposed that it must be a dangerous beast of prey, like a lion, panther, or wolf (Lat: *lupus*), and have called it so. But Aratos describes clearly how the Centaur lays it as a sacrifice on the Altar. Beasts of prey, however, were not sacrificed on the altar, but always only such animals which men themselves slaughter and eat. The sacrificial animal which the pious *Cheirôn* “the Pierced One” sacrifices here, is described most clearly in the Bible itself: “He was oppressed and was afflicted, but He opened not his mouth. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and was as a sheep dumb before her shearers, yea, He opened not his mouth” (Isa. 53:7).

The sacrificial animal is nothing else but the Lamb of God Himself. For our High Priest has not brought an animal as sacrifice, but Himself, His own body, as the only well pleasing sacrifice to God, as He says Himself: “On this account the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it again” (namely, by His resurrection) John 10:17-18.

Both the one who sacrifices, “the pierced” *Cheirôn*, and the animal which is slaughtered is the Messiah

Himself. And the Altar on which the Lamb of God is laid is the constellation of Libra. Therefore, you see upon the Egyptian picture of Libra, which originally represented an Altar, *a little child with its finger on the mouth*. The child is called “Horus, the child,” and Horus means “he who is above,” and speaks about the Son of God who came from heaven and gave His life for us, as He let Himself be slain for us as a little silent Lamb upon the altar of God, the cross of Golgotha.

The Eternal One spared the son of Abraham on Mt. Moriah (Gen. 22), but He has not spared Himself, but sacrificed His own beloved Son for all of us upon Calvary. This event is so infinitely great that no one can get around it. Everyone must answer a clear yes or no to the love of God. If he answers yes, he receives everything in God Himself. In this one gift of love from God everything is included, every blessing of God. Give your heart to God and your Messiah. Lay your life into His nail-pierced hands, and let Him bring you to God as an eternal thanks offering for His infinite sin offering. Lay your Isaac upon God’s altar; then you will also become a blessing in Him. He will then take the stony heart out of your breast and give you a new heart and His Holy Spirit, and you will become a completely new creation in Him who is risen (Ezek. 36:25-28).

CORONA BOREALIS (THE NORTHERN CROWN)

Messiah in you is the hope of glory. God never speaks about the cross without also painting the glory before our eyes, so also here. High up in the sky, above the altar *Libra* and the victim *Lupus*, you see the beautiful *Northern Crown* winking. The

Greeks call it Στέφανος Βόρειος *Stéphanos bóreios*, actually “the Northern Wreath.” The Arabs call these stars *al-fakka* “the redemption.” This wreath of stars high up in heaven is in the Greek described as “the Wreath of Ariádnê” (< *ari-hágnê* “the very chaste virgin”). It describes the glorious crown which Yeshúa will give to His beloved bride. And the bride of Yeshúa consists of those redeemed by His blood. The eight bright stars in this crown express the full secret of redemption by His blood:



- θ CrB⁹ The reconciliation with God by the blood of Yeshúa (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:20).
- β CrB Thereby He has fully delivered us from the power of Satan (1 Pet. 1:14-19; John 8:36; Col. 1:13; Zech. 9:11-12; Heb. 2:14-15).
- α CrB The brightest of all is the pure white star called *nayyir al-fakka* ★ (Arb) “The shining one of redemption.” “You, O Lamb of God, are worthy... [to receive us]; for You have been slain, and have purchased [us] to God with Your blood,” – and we are yours forever. That is the new song which we sing in our hearts, “I am Yours and You are mine” (Rev. 5:9-11; Acts 20:28; Songs 6:3; 7:10).
- γ CrB “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him,” speaks our Lord Yeshúa. We are the members of His body. And His blood, His life, His love is in us. He is our holiness, He alone, the Lamb, in us (John 6:53-57; Lev. 17:11,14).
- δ CrB “I am YHWH who healeth you.” By His stripes we are healed, and now we may heal the wounds of others by His love (Exo. 15:26; Isa. 53:5; 1 Pet. 2:24; Psa. 129:3).
- ε CrB Now we must wash our garments (= our mind), daily anew in His blood, that we may be ready for His coming (Rev. 7:14; 1 John 1:7).
- ι CrB We have victory over Satan by His blood, and he flees from us like a rabbit when we have put on the full armor of the Messiah (Rev. 12:11; Eph. 6:10-18).
- π CrB The blood of Yeshúa calls, “Grace, grace!” Thus our High Priest continually intercedes for us (Heb.

⁹ CrB = Coronea Borealis.

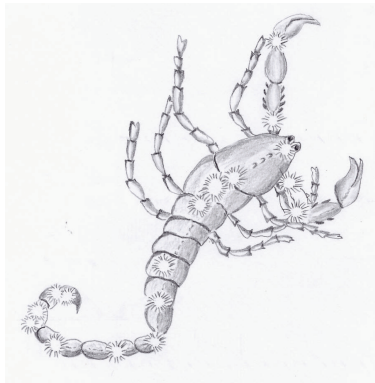
12:24; Luke 23:34). The blood of Yeshúa – in the members of His body – likewise calls for forgiveness, grace for their murderers (Acts 7:60; Rom. 8:35-37). That is the fruit of our reconciliation, the fruit of Yeshúa from our wounds (2 Cor. 4:10-12; 1 Cor. 4:12-13; Matt. 5:44; 1 Pet. 2:19-25; 4:12-16).

This is the fruit of His cross, and such a bride, in His likeness, He must receive from His Father. He will soon come to fetch her home to Himself. Watch, keep your garments pure, that you may enter into the marriage with Him. Furiously, the old serpent darts high up into the air with wide open jaws in order to snatch away the crown from you, just as he succeeded in deceiving Eve. But the bride of Yeshúa listens only to her beloved Messiah, and does not do anything except His will (2 Cor. 11:2-3; Rev. 3:11).

Chapter Three

The Mighty Combat

SCORPIUS



Let us now follow the sun from Libra into the next constellation on the zodiac, the *Scorpion*. This constellation was called (*mul*) *gír-tab* by the old Babylonians, *al-‘aqrab* ★ by the Arabs, and Σκορπίος *Skorpíos* by the Greeks, all having the same meaning “scorpion.” Old Egyptian representations of this sign also show *a great scorpion with lifted tail, ready to strike*. The scorpion is a small animal, but terribly dangerous; in a moment it jumps upon its prey and strikes it with the poisonous sting on its tail, which causes terrific pain, until the prey dies from the poison. But this scorpion is huge, filling more area than any other constellation on the zodiac, as it tries to displace Libra, but it cannot overcome the Sagittarius.

So is Satan who, with his sting of sinful lust, has stung and overcome every human being, except One only, Whom he cannot overcome, although he incessantly attacked Him, even from the infanticide in Bethlehem until the judicial murder on Calvary.

Its fiery red star Ἀντάρης *Antárês* (Ptolemy) (α Scorpii, 520 ly, 9000 ✧ sun), in Babylonian *dar-lugal* “the evil one, the king,” gleams with belligerence just as Satan tempted the Son of Man with all tricks, using enemies and friends. But the Son remained watchful and warded off every assault with the shield of faith, and the sword of the Word of God, until He, in the hour of His death on Calvary, crushed its head, crying: “It is finished!”

When the sun (as well as the moon) enters Scorpion, it first meets a wreath of stars (β δ π Scorpii), which the Arabs call *al-iklíl* ★ “the wreath of victory.” To win this crown is the aim of the whole contest. God has called man to rule over His creation. But Satan had snatched away from him this government by the fall of man. Therefore, Satan could say to Yeshúa at the temptation in the wilderness, when he had led Yeshúa up on the high mountain and shown Him all the kingdoms of the world, “I will give You all this power and their glory, for it is given to me, and to whomsoever I will I give it. If therefore You will do homage before me, all of it shall be Yours” (Luke 4:5-8). But Yeshúa answered: “It is written, You shall do homage to the Lord your God, and Him alone shall you serve.” In perfect faithfulness to God Yeshúa chose the cross, the shame, and to be cast out by His beloved people. He accepted nothing from Satan.

But God has given to His beloved Son the crown of glory, and the kingship over the whole earth, after He had crushed Satan on Calvary. I say this so absolutely, for only by unbelief and denial of the victory of Yeshúa upon the cross, does Satan have any power on earth.

The Lamb has overcome; but also His bride must overcome, in order to share the kingly rule over the earth. Therefore we also must prevail in afflictions and temptations. “Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for having been proved he shall receive the crown of life, which He has promised to them that love Him” (James 1:12). Yeshúa is waiting for His bride and flock of overcomers, in order that He may share with them the crown and His throne. Therefore, the whole creation is still waiting in birth pangs, until the queen has taken her place with Messiah upon the cross and on the throne. And the bride of the Lamb consists of the redeemed who love Him with all their hearts and follow Him faithfully to Calvary. Without the cross there is no crown.

So let us thank God in every affliction and only look up to Yeshúa, for He has overcome Satan, and He is the Victor in us.

SERPENS AND OPHIUCHUS

The next constellation makes this so vivid. There you see the huge *Serpent* (Grk: Ὄφις *Óphis*, Lat: *Serpens* “serpent”) with wide open jaws darting high up in order to snatch away the glorious crown, Corona Borealis, the crown of the bride (cf. *Ariadnê*), from her. It nearly succeeded, for the crown of stars is half in the jaws of the Serpent. Yet it failed, for the strong “Serpent-Holder” (Grk: Οφιοῦχος *Ophiúchos*) grasps the Serpent with his strong hands hurling it to the ground.



Here we see the Serpent-Holder in wrestling combat with the huge Serpent, which is winding around him, but he more than overcomes. This is a living illustration of Yeshúa’ terrible struggle upon the cross, where He overcame the ancient serpent, Satan (Rev. 12:9).

Aratos describes this constellation so beautifully: “Both hands grip the Serpent, who coils round Ophiuchus. He in resolute attitude plants both his feet on a huge monster, the Scorpion, standing on its eye and on its breast erect, and holds the Serpent with both hands, with right the tail, with left the towering breast. Toward the Crown leans the Serpent’s jaw” (*Phainomena*, 82-88; see the *Appendix*, the last two paragraphs).

Aratos, who lived in the third century before Christ, did not know that the constellations in reality are mirror images of the Truth, which is the Messiah. But how could he describe Yeshúa so vividly? Again and again he refers to an age-old tradition, which apparently came from the ancient Orient. Here we have a revelation from God Himself, which He must have given to a godly person (like Enoch, Gen. 5:24) in primeval times, for you find fragments of this wonderful revelation of the Messiah among the old Babylonians and the Egyptians, and among many other peoples, but always, most clearly, in the oldest records. Aratos himself mentions one among men who described and named the constellations (*Phainomena*, 373-382), but even the Greeks did not know their coherence, nor the origin of this glorious revelation of the Messiah.

But we know from the Holy Scriptures. For exactly as God revealed Himself to the prophets of Israel and spoke to them, so He also did to Enoch and Noah, and so far back we have to go in order to reach the origin of this revelation of the Messiah. We know that Enoch walked with God, and received revelations about the glorious coming of the Messiah (Jude 14-15). And he is an example of those who shall not see death, but shall be caught up to heaven at the coming again of the Messiah.

If you look up to the starry sky not knowing the names of the stars, nor what they represent, you may imagine all sorts of fantastic figures. But no one among ten thousands would ever imagine such a world drama as God has unrolled here before our eyes, a drama in three acts:

- I. Messiah coming in flesh, in order to redeem us from the power of Satan.
- II. From His resurrection unto His coming as Bridegroom to catch up to Himself His bridal flock.
- III. His coming in glory as Kings of kings in order to rule over the earth, until the eternal completion in the New Jerusalem.

No man among millions would imagine such a drama by looking at the skies, except the Holy Spirit opens his eyes.

The first promise of the Messiah, God gave to man immediately after the fall. God spoke to the serpent when He cursed it: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall crush your head, and you shall crush His heel” (Gen. 3:15). This is the theme of the whole heavenly drama, which is described on the Scroll of Heaven by the Finger of God, in order that the fallen creatures may

put their hope in His Messiah.

And here you see Him. How? Ophiuchus steps upon the head of the Scorpion with his right foot, at the same time as that beast is striking towards his left heel with its sharp sting. The greatest star of Scorpion (α Scorpii) is called in Arabic *qalb al-'aqrab* ★ “the heart of the scorpion.” Upon that the Serpent-Holder is treading, crushing it. The stars λ (bluish, 1.7 mag, 310 ly, 1700 ✱ sun) and ν Scorpii (bluish, 2.69 mag, 1566 ly, 1696 ✱ sun) are called *šawlat al-'aqrab* ★ and *ibrat al-'aqrab* “the sting of the scorpion,” which is striking towards the left heel of the Serpent-Holder. This the Gentiles have delivered unto us without understanding it themselves.

HERCULES



The next constellation, high up in the mid sky, shows us how He overcame. Originally it was called “he who is on his knees” (Grk: Ἐνγόνασιν *Engónasin* “on [his] knees”), only later they gave it the name *Hercules*. Aratos describes it thus: “Near to the Dragon’s head, in toil-spent posture, revolves a shape, whose name none can tell, nor what he labours at; they call him simply *the Man upon his knees*; his knees seem bent in desperate struggle; while from both his shoulders his hands are high uplifted and outspread as far as he can stretch; his right foot’s sole is planted on the head of the coiled Dragon. And there is that Crown” [Corona Borealis], towards which he has always directed his eyes. Aratos elsewhere describes him “that is ever kneeling, ever stooping low beside the Lyre, whosoever be that unknown skyey shape, whom setting and ascending from the deep we often in a single night behold” (*Phainomena*, 63-73; 612-618).

One might believe that Aratos had read what Luke wrote more than three hundred years later: “And going forth He went according to His custom to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples also followed Him. And when He was at the place He said to them, ‘Pray that you enter not into temptation.’ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and having knelt down He prayed, saying, ‘Father, if You will remove this cup from me: – but then, not my will, but Your’s be done.’ And an angel appeared to Him from heaven strengthening Him. And being in conflict He prayed more intently. And His sweat became as great drops of blood, falling down upon the earth” (Luke 22:39-44. Read also Mark 14:32-39 and Mat 26:36-44!).

And the author of the letter to the Hebrews writes to his brothers: “Who in the days of His flesh, having offered up both supplications and entreaties to Him who was able to save Him out of death, with strong crying and tears; (and having been heard because of His piety;) though He were Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered; and having been perfected, became to all them that obey Him, Author of eternal salvation; addressed by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek” (Hebrews 5:7-10).

The Dragon, who has stormed heaven and drawn a third part of the stars with it, snorted against the exhausted Son of Man in that night. All its legions of demons stormed incessantly against the smoking flax in order to quench it. Spewing fire and brimstone, the Dragon raged against Yeshúa. It was a combat like never before. But Yeshúa took the cup of the wrath of God for our sins and drank it up on Calvary in that hour, as the sun was darkened and the Son cried: “My ·God, my ·God, why have You forsaken me?” When He spoke, “Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit,” and bowed His head and expired, the veil of the Holy of

Chapter 3 – *The Mighty Combat*

Holies in the Temple was rent. The earth quaked and the rocks were rent, – and the old dragon, Satan, was cast like lightning out of heaven, crushed under the feet of the Crucified One.

This victory our Redeemer won in the garden of Gethsemane on His knees before God. As you see Him in the sky, He continually kept looking towards the wreath of victory, *the joy lying before Him* (Heb. 12:2).

Chapter Four

The Triumph of the Messiah

SAGITTARIUS

Now the sun leads us into the constellation of the “Archer” (Lat: *Sagittarius*). Here is the center of the Milky Way, this great system of about two hundred billion stars like our sun; and in this direction points the star (Arb) *naṣl as-sahm* “the arrowhead” (γ Sagittarii, orange-red, 2.99 mag, 117 ly, 73 ✧ sun) on the star map, and about 30,000 light years away from our earth. This Arrow the Archer is shooting directly into the heart of the Scorpion (α Scorpii). The Archer represents the Messiah; and on the head of his Arrow there is blood. This also describes the center of the Gospel, Yeshúa’ victory over Satan.



This sign of the zodiac was called by the Babylonians (*mul*) *pa-bil-sag* “the shooter with arrow,” and the star (*mul*) *mi-ših* ⁴*pa-bil-sag* describes the glorious “splendor of the divine arrow shooter.” Also the Greeks called it “the bow man” (Grk: Τοξότης *Toxótês* “a bowman, archer” and Τοξευτής *Toxeutês* “a bowman, archer”), and Aratos describes him thus: “For near the Scorpion’s sting the Archer bends his mighty bow, and short the interval that parts the Archer’s rise from Scorpio’s” (*Phainomena*, 305-307). The ancient Arabs, who avoided human representations, called this constellation *al-qaws* ✧ “the long-bow.”

The dusky hinder part of Sagittarius describes the darkness of Hades which Yeshúa, the Son of the living God, broke in His glorious resurrection. Indeed, “death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Yeshúa Messiah has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light” for everyone who believes in Him (1 Cor. 15:54-55; 2 Tim. 1:10).

The Archer is one with the horse he is riding on,¹⁰ and so is *the risen Messiah* with the power of His resurrection (for the horse describes the spirit, see Zech. 6:5; Isa. 31:3; Heb. 9:14). “The first man, Adam, became a living soul; the last Adam became a *life-giving spirit*” (1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17). The Apostle Paul desired nothing but to “know Him, and the power of His resurrection” (Phil. 3:10; Heb. 9:14), and he described to the saints “the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of the might of His strength, [in] which He wrought in Messiah [in] raising Him from among the dead, and He set Him down at His right hand in the heavenly places, above every principality and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He has put all things under His feet, and gave Him as Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all” (Eph. 1:19-23).

Again we see the triumphant Archer in the glorious book of the Revelation of Yeshúa Messiah (6:2), at the opening of the first seal: “And I saw: and behold, a white horse, and he that sat upon it having a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and that he might conquer.” You cannot find a better description of the Archer. This is exactly what the stars of the Sagittarius are representing; and this was

¹⁰ Originally the Greeks considered the centaurs to be riders on horses; only later they believed them to be monsters of double shape, half man and half horse (Liddell and Scott’s, *Greek-English Lexicon*: Κένταυρος *Kéntauros*).

the opinion of the Christians in the first centuries.

Scripture must be proven by Scripture, and here we see Him described more fully: “Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O mighty one, in Your majesty and Your splendor; And in Your splendor ride prosperously, because of truth and meekness and righteousness: and Your right hand shall teach You terrible things. Your arrows are sharp – peoples fall under You – in the heart of the King’s enemies” (Psa. 45:3-5).

We have seen the glorious crown which was given Him for His victory, and here we see it identified with His bride: “On Your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir” (Psa. 45:9). Gold in the Bible signifies the Divine nature, and the gold of Ophir means *Messiah in you*. “Who is this King of Glory? YHWH, strong and mighty. YHWH, mighty in battle. Who is He, this King of Glory? YHWH of Host’s, He is the King of Glory” (Psa. 24:8,10).

In Revelation we find Him again: “And I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and one sitting on it, called Faithful and True, and He judges and makes war in righteousness.” His garment is dipped in blood, and His Name is the *Word of God*, which is also His sharp sword (Rev. 19:11-16).

LYRA

High above Sagittarius you find the constellation *Lyra* (Greek and Latin), with its bright star *Vega*. The Egyptians, according to the Dendera zodiac, described it as an eagle, the victorious enemy of the serpent. The Arabs called its beautiful main star (α Lyrae, yellow-white (0.0 mag, 26 ly, 48 \odot sun) + ϵ ζ Lyrae) *an-nasr al-wâqi* ★ “the darting [golden] eagle,” from which the name *Vega* comes. They also called it *an-nasr al-kabîr* “the great [golden] eagle” and *al-kafîr* “the swift [eagle],” and *al-kâsir* “the [eagle] with tightened wings as in a dart.”

In the Holy Scriptures, God compares Himself with a great eagle (Exo. 19:4; Deut. 32:11; Isa. 31:5), and here His Messiah is described as an eagle, which is darting upon its prey with the speed of lightning. As a consequence of His victory on the cross, where He has effaced the handwriting written against us, He has spoiled principalities and authorities and made a show of them publicly, leading them in triumph by the cross (Col. 2:15).

Isaiah prophesies: “Therefore will I assign Him the great as a portion, and He shall divide the strong as spoil: because He hath poured out His soul unto death, and was reckoned with the transgressors; and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isa. 53:12).

Yes, like an eagle He has descended into the lower parts of the earth, and after that He has “ascended up on high leading captivity captive, and given gifts to men. He has ascended up above all the heavens, in order that He may fill all things” (Eph. 4:8,9,10). “For no one has ascended up into heaven, save He who came down out of heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven” (John 3:13). Only He can lead you into it, like His first prey, the thief on the cross.

But the Greeks have described this constellation differently, calling it $\Lambda\upsilon\tau\alpha$ *Lúra*, which is “a lyre; harp.” And that should be our answer to His victory in sacrifice, that we always praise Him out of love. If anything is lacking in His sacrifice and victory on the cross, if any blessing is lacking, then people may complain and sigh, but I have not yet found any mistake nor lack, nor has Paul (Eph. 1:3), nor Peter (2 Pet. 1:3-4). But you receive only as much as you accept.

This is the heavenly answer to the victory of Yeshúa Messiah: And when the Lamb took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who is sitting on the throne, “the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, having each a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sing a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; because You have



been slain, and have redeemed to God, by Your blood, out of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation, and made them to our God kings and priests; and they shall reign over the earth.” And all the angels joined in with singing: “Worthy is the Lamb that has been slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing” (Revelation 5).

It is so wonderful, when you play on the harp and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting with your heart to the Lord, giving thanks for His love in Yeshúa, and praising Him for His victory, then the glory of God is resting upon you, and the angels join in with singing – and Satan is defeated and flees like a shadow (Eph. 5:19-20; Col. 3:16-17).

This secret weapon I have often tested on my missionary journeys behind the Iron Curtain, when the powers of darkness surrounded me and there was no way out. As soon as I played on the harp of my heart and simply praised God, thanking Him for the victory of Yeshúa on Calvary, then the power of Satan was bound and the powers of darkness fled away, and I got a wonderful opportunity to tell the communist policemen about our Savior.

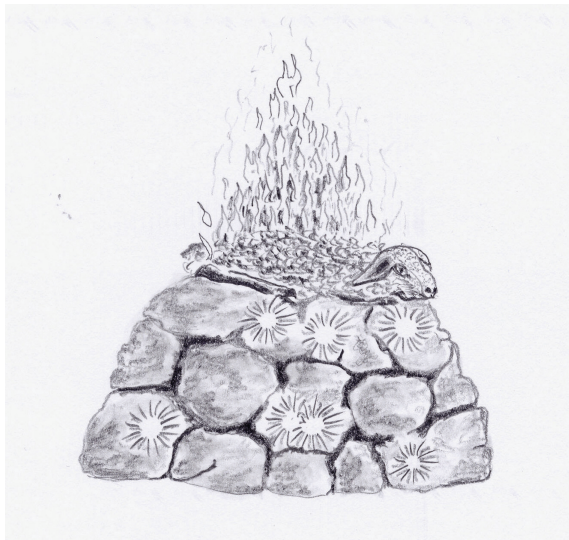
Another Greek name of the Lyra is *Χέλυς Chélus*, and that means “tortoise,” because the Lyra was made out of the shell of a tortoise on which seven strings were strained. For just as the tortoise is safely hidden in its armor, so is every one who loves and thanks God. That is our shield of faith, when we simply praise God for the blood of Yeshúa. Then the fiery arrows of the evil one cannot hit us. Therefore, David always praises God, because He is his Shield. No one could touch him because he always loved and praised God.

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Messiah, and makes manifest the odor of His knowledge through us in every place. For we are a sweet odor of Messiah to God,” when we praise and honor Him. Therefore, sanctify the Lord Yeshúa Messiah in your hearts and be not silent about His glory! (2 Cor. 2:14-15; 1 Pet. 3:15).

“Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand: to execute vengeance against the nations, and punishment among the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written. This honor have all His saints. Hallelujah!” (Psa. 149:6-9; see also Psa. 8:2).

The Lyra is just before the eyes of “the Kneeling One” (see previous chapter), for thereby Yeshúa overcame in the garden of Gethsemane as He *praised God*, trusting Him alone. Therefore, He could put His right foot on the head of the dragon, as you see in the sky. (The right foot of the Kneeling One is resting upon the four stars (γ β ξ Draconis) in the head of the Dragon.) Who has painted that?

ARA



When the elders fall down before the throne of God, praising the Lamb, each one of them has a harp and a golden bowl full of incense, which is the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:8). This *Bowl of Incense* you see in the sign (Lat) *Âra* “altar.” Aratos calls it *Θυτήριον Thutêrion* “an altar of incense” other Greeks *Θυσιαστήριον Thusiastêrion*, “an altar”; whereas Proclus and Ptolemy call it *Θυμιατήριον Thumiatêrion* “a censer” from which the Arabic *mijmara* “bowl of incense” comes. It stands deep down on the sky, rarely seen because it is a hidden ministry. It belongs to the Holy of Holies, as we see in Hebrews 9:4, where the same word *thumiatêrion* “a golden *censer*” is used (*cf.* Lev. 16:12-13).

This Bowl of Incense, or Altar of Incense, is just like the golden Altar of Incense in the Tabernacle. It is a type of the true

Altar of Incense before the throne of God. “And when the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in the heaven about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might give power to the prayers of all saints at the golden altar which is before the throne. And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints, out of the hand of the angel before God. And the angel took the censer, and filled it from the fire of the altar, and cast it on the earth: and there were voices, and thunders and lightnings, and an earthquake” (Rev. 8:1-5).

To this we are called as God’s kingly priesthood, and we should take time to do this most holy ministry. All His wonderful deeds God does now in answer to the prayers of the saints. Messiah is not ruling without His bride, and we shall do like Queen Esther, with boldness approaching the throne of His Holiness, and touch the outstretched scepter made of gold. He speaks: “What is your request, Queen Esther, and what is your desire? It shall be given you, to the half of the kingdom” (Esth. 5:6, the very middle of the book of Esther). But Esther did not pray for anything for herself, but only for the life of her brethren, the Jews, who were doomed to death because of Haman’s murderous plans. And how wonderful was the answer to her prayer: Haman fell to her feet and was hanged on the gallows which he had raised for the faithful Jew Mordecai, and all Israel was saved and had victory. Behold, in this way Messiah is ruling today, answering the prayers of His bride. The wonderful revelation of Messiah, and the salvation of Israel, and God’s glorious kingdom on earth, all are in answer to the prayers of His priests.

Only because of the blood we can approach God, and only because of the blood of Yeshúa God gives grace. Messiah is the only Mediator between God and man, and He calls us to enter into His Holy of Holies, as it is written in Hebrews 10:19-22 and Revelation 3:8,12. That is also the entrance into the kingly house of David, to become His bride. And the only entrance is to be crucified with Yeshúa. For when Yeshúa died upon the cross, the veil was rent, I died with Messiah, and no longer I live, but Messiah is living in me, and we are risen together (Gal. 2:20).

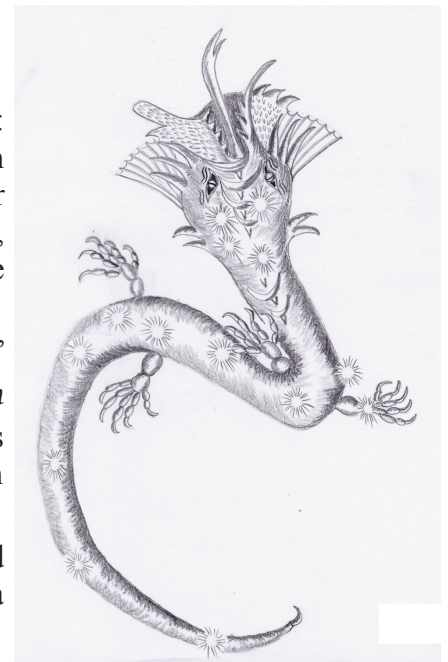
Peter writes (1 Pet. 2:9): “But *you are* a chosen race, a kingly priesthood, a holy nation, a people for a possession of God, *that you might set forth the excellencies of Him* who has called you out of darkness to His wonderful light.” And the priest must not depart from the Sanctuary, but early and late he shall intercede with all his heart before God for his brethren, because their names are written on his heart in love. Look at the breast-shield of the high priest (Exo. 28:31, Lev. 8:8, exactly the middle of the Torah). By the intercession of such priests of God His people were saved again and again, and the enemy cast down.

DRACO

There you see the arch enemy, the old *Dragon* (Grk: Δράκων *Drákôn*, Lat: *Draco*, “dragon”), how it winds around the celestial North Pole and in between the flocks of sheep (Ursa Minor and Major). Once it was the Polar Star and had the world under its power, but the Stronger One, our Messiah, the Chief of the little flock (α Ursae Minoris), has cast it down, and now He is the anointed Head of the universe, appointed by God.

The Arabs call this constellation *at-tinnîn* “the dragon, the great serpent” and *al-hayya* “the serpent.” *At-tinnîn* is identical with Hebrew תַּנִּינַן *tannîn* “sea-monster, dragon, serpent” (Isa. 27:1), which in the Bible is described as a great red dragon, whose tail draws the third part of the stars of heaven with it and casts them down on the earth (Rev. 12:4).

The blood of reconciliation has destroyed the accuser of our brethren, and so we read about the fall of the old serpent in the Revelation of Yeshúa



Messiah (Chapter 12).

But by what was the old serpent cast out of heaven? Who was the victor? Messiah on Calvary, and those who fight for Him, the male child, which is caught up to heaven. "They have overcome him by reason of the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony, and they have not loved their life even unto death, for they gladly gave their lives for the truth and for their brethren. Whenever the evil one comes with his divided tongue, to slander our brethren, they cover the weakness of our brethren with the garment dipped in the Blood. And Satan is crushed under their feet.

ACT II

Chapter Five

He is Risen

Capricornus

Sagitta

Aquila

Delphinus

Chapter Six

Streams of Living Water

Aquarius

Piscis Austrinus (or Piscis Australis)

Pegasus

Cygnus

Chapter Seven

The First Loved

Pisces

The Bands

Andromeda

Cetus

Perseus

Chapter Eight

The Lamb is Ruling

Aries

Cetus (continued)

Triangulum

Cepheus

Cassiopeia

Chapter Five

He is Risen

CAPRICORNUS



Now the curtain rises for the second act of the divine drama, and we see the fruit of the sacrifice of Messiah. The sun now stands at the beginning of the constellation *Capricornus*, where winter solstice took place at the time of Yeshúa, being the darkest time of the year. But now the Son of Righteousness begins to rise ever higher.

This constellation was called by the old Arabs *al-jady* ★, “the he-goat,” the Greeks called it Αἰγόκερως *Aigókerôs* “goat-horned,” and the Romans called it *Capricornus* “with the horns of the he-goat.” The Latin word in this name *caper* means “he-goat,” and may come from the Hebrew כִּפָּר *kippär* (pi.) “to atone” (e.g. כַּפֵּרֶת *kappórät*, “mercy seat;” יוֹם כִּפּוּרִים *Yôm Kippurim*, “Day of Atonement”),

because the sin offering was a black he-goat (Latin *cornu* comes from the Hebrew קָרָן *qārän* “horn”).

So, Messiah is here described as the He-goat for atonement, at this darkest time of the year. Now I ask you to read Leviticus 16:5-22 carefully, about the he-goat for sin offering on the Day of Atonement. This is important for the following study.

Such a sin offering was Yeshúa, our blessed Messiah. There were two he-goats necessary for atonement with God, and they describe two aspects of the one substitute offering of our Lord Yeshúa for us upon the cross of Calvary. The one side is that He was slaughtered for our sins and impurities and has passed through all the heavens with praise and thanks to His Father, and has been accepted by the Father because of His blood as our Reconciler. Just as the blood was put on the horns of the altar, thus the blood of His cross is our power before God.

The other aspect is exceedingly terrible and relates to the spiritual suffering of Yeshúa which was far, far greater than His physical suffering. On the great Day of Atonement Aaron laid his hands on the living he-goat, and confessed all the iniquities and sins of the children of Israel before God, putting them upon the head of the poor he-goat, and it was then driven out into the wilderness in order that the goat may bear all their iniquities into a land apart. Thus, also, all our sins and guilt were laid upon Yeshúa, the Lamb of God. And He suffered the terrible curse under the righteous judgment of our holy God, and was driven into a land apart as a curse of God. That was by far His greatest suffering, and so terrible it was to drink the cup of the wrath of God, that He wrestled in Gethsemane and cried on Calvary when the lightning of the curse of God hit Him because of our sins: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” (Psa. 22:1; Matt. 27:46). No evangelist has so carefully described the sufferings as the Holy Spirit revealed it to David. But even in that very darkest of hours, the Lamb overcame by His trust in God, giving Him the glory, speaking: “But You are holy, who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel” (Psa. 22:3). He praised His God and Father on the cross and worshiped God until He bowed His head and committed His spirit into His Father’s hands. So terribly serious are our sins, so infinitely great is the love of God. For who suffered most? The Son or the Father who saw His beloved Son, His one and all, suffering so?

When Yeshúa died, He descended into the deepest hell because of our sins. But then all our guilt had been paid, and Satan and death had no power over Him. Everywhere Yeshúa went, He always praised His Father, whether on the cross or in hell. But such a song hell had never heard before, nor seen such a light. As Yeshúa

praised His Father, the joints of the kingdom of death broke, and its bolts and chains were torn to pieces, and the repenting souls were set free, as many as accepted Him. And death fled like the fish of Jonah; for when Jonah began to praise God, the fish couldn't stand it any longer, but vomited out Jonah. Thus also death could not keep Yeshúa, but death fled from his throne and Yeshúa took his prisoners, but only those who repented of their sins and accepted Him, and led them with Himself in triumph. In the meantime, also the repenting thief on the cross had died, and him Yeshúa took with Him in His triumph out from the kingdom of death into Paradise, with all those who were waiting for the Messiah. Immediately after His resurrection, Yeshúa ascended up to the Father and there His finished work was accepted by God, and He was sent to announce peace in the midst of His disciples.

The Arabs call the horns of the He-Goat (α v and β Capricorni) *sa'd ad-dâbiḥ* ★ “the bliss of the sacrificer” without knowing its true meaning. With what joy and love our Lord Yeshúa gave Himself for His own, and how happy He was to declare His love to God as a thanks offering upon Golgotha! He spoke to His beloved disciples at the love feast: “‘With great desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.’ And He took the bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you.’ In like manner He also took the cup, thanked and spoke, ‘Drink you all of it, for this is my blood.’” He rejoiced in giving His life for His beloved; and therefore He died on that same day on Calvary.

May this mind also be in us, every time when we partake of the holy sacrificial meal. This is the greatest desire and true happiness of a Christian to be a love and thanks offering to God and to serve his brothers. But Yeshúa alone is the sin offering, forever.

See how the He-Goat bows his head in death; but look at its tail. It has a fish tail – like that of a fish, full of life, swimming in the water. Thus we find it in the oldest representations in Babylon and Egypt. The Babylonians called it “a goat-fish” (*mul*) *suḥur-máš* (-*ku*₆) (*suḥur* “the fish” + *máš* “goat”) because its head and front part is like a he-goat with horns, but its tail is like a fish tail. What does that mean?

The Arabic star names give us the answer, for the two bright stars in the tail (γ and δ Capricorni) are called *sa'd nâšira* ★ “the bliss of revival.” It signifies the resurrection of Messiah; He died alone as the He-Goat for a sin offering, but arose as the Head of His body, which is a completely new creation. “Fish” is called *ιχθύς* *ichthús* in the Greek, and this word contains the initial letters of “Ἰησοῦς Χριστός Θεοῦ Υἱός Σωτήρ *Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is Saviour.*” The first Christian Assembly always designated itself by a fish. The Fishes on the starry sky speak about the assembly of Yeshúa, whereas the He-Goat speaks about the sin offering, the Lion speaks about the King of the Jews, etc., exactly as in the Bible.

Another Arabic name of these two stars (γ and δ Capricorni) in the tail is *al-muḥibbân* “the two lovers.” That is Yeshúa and His assembly, they are in love with one another, and “by this shall all know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

That is a wonderful fruit of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. “...When You shall make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see a seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of YHWH shall prosper in His hand. He shall see of the fruit of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied...” (Isa. 53:10-11).

The assembly of Messiah has been born from above by water and Spirit. It swims like a fish in the ocean of the love of God. Therefore, if we have accepted the substitute death of Yeshúa for us, then we are buried with Him in baptism and arise with Him as a completely new creation. For also in one spirit we have all been baptized into one body (1 Cor 12:13). “So that we henceforth know no one according to flesh; but if even we have known Messiah according to flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. So if any one be in the Messiah, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:16-17).

SAGITTA

In order that we may understand it rightly, these glorious truths are explained in the following constellations. There you see an *Arrow* with feathers flying high up through the air, as Aratos says: “An arrow flies on high launched by no bow” (*Phainomena*, 311-312). It is called Ὀϊστός *Oïstós* in Greek, in Arabic *as-sahm*, and in Persian *al-nâwak* “arrow,” in Latin *Sagitta*. What does that mean? Again we turn to the Word of God, which always gives us the right answer.

“The arrows of the Almighty are within me, their poison drinketh up my spirit” (Job 6:4). And David prays: “YHWH, rebuke me not in Your wrath; neither chasten me in Your hot displeasure. For Your arrows stick fast in me, and Your hand cometh down upon me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation” (Psa. 38:1-3). And Jeremiah weeps with Zion: “He hath bent His bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow. He hath caused the arrows of His quiver to enter into my reins” (Lam. 3:12-13). Woe to him who is hit with this arrow!

AQUILA



But who is up there? There flies an *Eagle*, which the Babylonians called (*mul*) *našru* “eagle,” and the Arabs called *an-nasr at-tâ'ir* ★ “the flying golden eagle” [actually, β α γ Aquilae]. In Greek the sign is called ἄετός *Aetós* (Αἰετός *Aietós*, Αἰητός *Aiêtós*), and in Latin *Aquila* “eagle.” This picture shows the same kingly bird we saw in *Lyra*.

By the Arabs it is also called *al-'qâb*. *'uqâb* means “eagle,” and *'iqâb* means “punishment, torture,” but also the first word *'uqâb* has to do with pain. (See the examples in *Lane's Dictionary* and compare with the Greek legend of *Promêtheus*.)

This Eagle, which describes the Messiah, is hit by the terrible Arrow of the Almighty One, and He, the Pierced One (*Cheírôn*), of His own free will gives His life for us in order that we may escape the judgment of the wrath of God, that we might not have to suffer eternal pain.

DELPHINUS

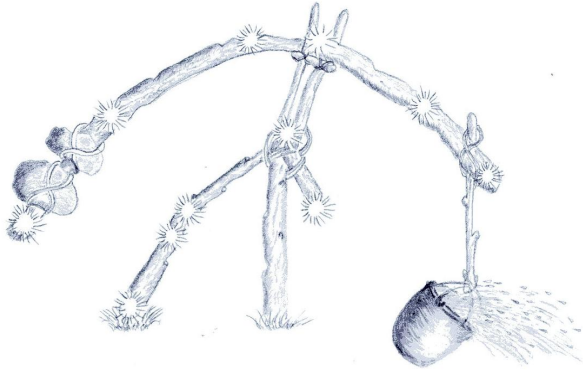
Just at the side of *Aquila* you see the constellation *Delphinus*, which the Greeks describe as a happy *Dolphin* (Δελφίς) jumping out of the water, a beautiful illustration of the happy resurrection life in Messiah. For His body is risen from the dead; He is the Head and we are the members of His body (Eph. 1:22; 5:23, 30; 1 Cor. 12:12).¹¹



¹¹ Therefore, also the tabernacle was covered with dolphin skins (Heb דִּלְפִּינִים = Arb *tuhās* “dolphin,” Exo. 26:14). Underneath there was a covering of rams' skins dyed red, which describes our Passover Lamb slaughtered on Golgotha. Under that there was a covering of goats' hair, black as the night, which illustrates the curse of God for our sins, which He bore on the Cross, as He cried: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” But under that again there was the most beautiful tent-canvas of pure white linen, and this fine linen was embroidered with golden thread, and with blue and purple and with blood-red threads in wonderful patterns. This portrays the real nature of the Son of God – the pure linen = His pure and righteous character; the golden thread = His divine nature; the blue thread = He is our faithful High Priest; the purple = He is the King of

Streams of Living Water

AQUARIUS

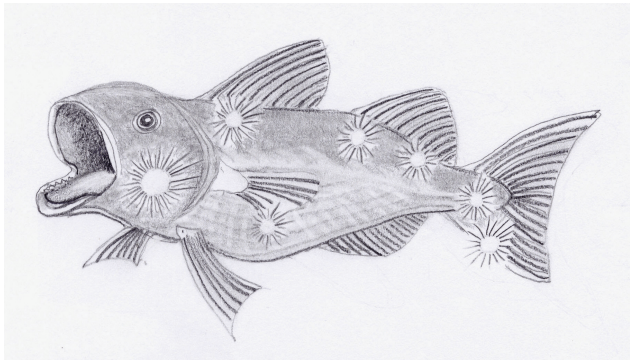


Look at our beloved Messiah as the Spring of the Living Waters. This next constellation on the way of the sun the old Babylonians called (*mul*) *gu-la* “the giant,” for it shows us Messiah as exalted at the right hand of the Father. As Peter describes Him in his Pentecostal sermon: “This Yeshúa has God raised up again, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore, having been exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear” (Acts 2:32-33). For the Holy Spirit reveals Yeshúa as the Messiah and the Head above all to the honour of the Father, and no one can resist His testimony.

The Greeks saw in this constellation a Water-Pourer (Ἵδροχόος *Hydrochóos*), a strong man with a Bucket under his arm, out of which infinite streams of waters (a cascade of stars) are flowing. His strong shoulders are formed by the stars α (yellow, 3 mag, 1100 ly, 5000 \ast sun) and β Aquarii (white, 2.9 mag, 1000 ly, 5000 \ast sun). His other hand (ϵ white, 3.8 mag, 175 ly, 60 \ast sun) is lifted up blessing you. Also, the old Egyptians representations show the “Water-Pourer.” But the Hebrews and the Arabs, who avoided any representation of God and His Messiah, called the constellation דֶּלִי *deli* “a bucket” and *ad-dalw* \ast “the bucket.” For “water shall flow out of his buckets, and his seed shall be by great waters” (Num. 24:7).

PISCIS AUSTRINUS (OR PISCIS AUSTRALIS)

The water out of this Bucket becomes a great stream, and in this stream you see a big *Fish* with wide open mouth, swimming up toward the Water-Pourer, as if swallowing up the whole spring. The bright yellow-white star in its mouth (α Piscis Austrini, 1.2 mag, 23 ly, 14 \ast sun) is called in Arabic *fam al-hût* \ast “the mouth of the fish”; also the Babylonians here saw “a fish” and called it (*mul*) *nûnu* and (*mul*) *ku*₆. This Fish (Grk: Ἰχθύς Νότιος *Ichthús Nótios*; Lat: *Piscis Austrinus*, “Southern Fish”) represents the assembly of Messiah. For out of His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.



Listen how the Messiah calls: “If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture said, ‘from his innermost being shall flow rivers of Living Water.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed on Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Yeshúa had not yet been glorified” (John 7:37-39). But after the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Yeshúa, the Holy Spirit came like a violent rushing wind upon the disciples who were gathered

kings, the King of the Jews; the scarlet-red = the Blood of the Lamb. So is Yeshúa our Messiah the living Son of God. And the dolphins’ skins covering all the glory describes Him as RISEN from the dead. But the priesthood serving God inside this holy tabernacle is the new priesthood of Melchizedek - those crucified and risen with Him (1 Pet. 2:9; Heb. 2:11; Col. 3:11).

together in the name of Yeshúa. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and glorified God in new languages, and Peter stood up in their midst, and spoke: “This is that which was spoken through the prophet Joel, ‘And it shall be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your elders shall dream dreams, yea, even upon my bondmen and upon my bondwomen in those days, will I pour out of my Spirit, and they shall prophesy’” (Acts 2:16-18; see also Joel 2:28-29). And then Peter boldly witnessed before all about the resurrection and glorification of Yeshúa Messiah at the right hand of the Father.

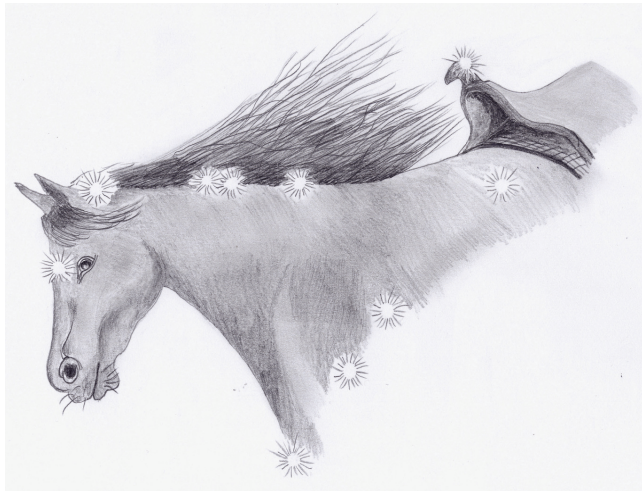


By this catch of fishes three thousand persons gave their hearts to the Lord and were baptized in water receiving His Holy Spirit. And the net did not tear asunder.

The Arabs call the star ϵ Aquarii *al-bula'* \star or *al-bâli'* “the one who swallows up,” and the stars $\text{Fl.7 } \mu \epsilon$ Aquarii *sa'd bula'* \star “the bliss of the one who swallows up,” because His Holy Spirit is sweeter than the most precious wine. “Ho, every one who thirsts, come you to the waters; and you who have no money, come ye, buy, and eat; come, buy wine and milk without money and without price!” (Isa. 55:1).

The Arabs call the stars $\beta \xi$ Aquarii + ϵ Capricorni *sa'd as-su'ûd* \star “the highest bliss,” for that is the highest bliss, to be His own forever and to disappear in Him, like a fish in the great ocean of the love of God, to be for Him only, in order to love and thank and worship Him.

PEGASUS



The next constellation is again the triumphant horse of the Messiah on which we saw Him riding (*cf.* Sagittarii). The bright yellow-white star α Pegasi (2.5 mag, 100 ly, 65 \odot sun) on the back of the horse (probably, only later called by the Arabs *markab* “Saddle”), shows that you shall sit down with Messiah on His battle-horse and ride with Him in triumph (2 Cor. 2:14). According to the Holy Scriptures, the horse describes the Spirit (Zech. 6:5; contrast Isa. 31:3), and Pegasus, the flying horse, illustrates His glorious Resurrection Power, the Holy Spirit. For these horses were the best and strongest ones; they looked neither right nor left, but ran straight ahead, wherever the king guided them.

The Greeks called this horse Πήγασος *Pégasos* “Pegasus” (*cf.* πηγαί *pêgai* “springs”), for wherever it leaps, springs gush forth out of the dry ground, bringing glorious fruitfulness. Thus it is when we glorify Yeshúa our Messiah; in every place where we proclaim Him springs of blessing gush forth, and we should do so moving from place to place like His first witnesses, even to the ends of the world. A bright orange star (ϵ Pegasi, actually a triple star, 2.4/8.4/11 mag, 520 ly, the main star is 4400 times brighter than the sun) at the mouth of the Horse (Arb: *fam/jahfala al-faras* “the mouth of the horse” and “the lip of the horse”) witnesses about how we shall proclaim His glory.

A star on its right foreleg is called *maṭar* “rain,” and the two stars there ($\eta \theta$ Pegasi) are called *sa'd maṭar* \star “the bliss of rain,” for wherever the Messiah is riding on His triumphant horse, there is a rain of blessing, and people turn to God; and there comes a great joy to that city, as when Phil'ippos preached the Messiah in Samaria (Acts 8:5-8).

The stars $\beta \alpha$ Pegasi the Arabs call *al-fargh al-awwal* \star “the first pouring out,” and that speaks about the early rain, which Messiah pours out on the newly sowed field. That happened at Pentecost, and all around the earth

wherever the Gospel is preached He gives a reviving early rain.

The stars $\delta \gamma$ Pegasi the Arabs call *al-fargh at-tânî* ★ “the second pouring out,” also, “the hinder pouring out” which speaks about the latter rain, which is poured out shortly before the harvest in order that the golden corn may receive full ripeness for harvest.

“Ask of YHWH rain in the time of the latter rain; YHWH will make lightnings, and he will give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field” (Zech. 10:1). Do like Achsah, the bride of Othniel, who jumped down from the ass asking her father, “Give me a blessing; for you have given me a southern land; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs” (Jos. 15:19). The lower springs are at the feet of our brethren, in their submission to Messiah.

“And ye, children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in YHWH your God; for He giveth you the early rain in due measure, and He causeth to come down for you the rain, the early rain, and the latter rain at the beginning of the season” (Joel 2:23).

Everywhere in this constellation, there are blisses. They are unspeakably glorious and speak about the abundant fruit, joy, and victory in the triumph of Messiah.¹²

“And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples as dew from YHWH, as showers upon the grass, that tarries not for man, neither waits for the sons of men. And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, treads down, and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver” (Mic. 5:7-8). Let us be like such young lions leaping out into the battle for our Messiah.

Springs, springs of blessing! – but what have they to do with a horse? Possibly the Greeks heard the Phœnicians tell about the triumphant battle-horse *Pegasus*, from Hebrew פָּגַע *pāgaʿ* “attack”; פָּגַע *pagaʿ* “to attack, fall upon,” (or פָּגַשׁ *pgš* “to come upon, strike against”), and then associated it with their own word *pêgai* “springs.”

Indeed, YHWH the God of Israel, calls the house of Judah “*His majestic horse in the battle,*” on which YHWH is riding and smiting all the riders on horses coming against Israel, the Apple of His Eye (Zech. 10:3-5). What a word for today! Israel, look up to the LORD! *Let your Messiah sit in your saddle!*

Read about Israel’s secret weapon in Psalms 118:1-17.

CYGNUS

The next constellation the Arabs call *al-fawâris* “the riders” ($\delta \gamma \epsilon \zeta$ Cygni), and the star α they call *ar-ridf* and *ar-radif* “the one riding behind on the same horse.” This rider, who is riding with the Messiah, is His beloved bride.

“I went down into the garden of nuts, to see the verdure of the valley, to see whether the vine budded, whether the pomegranates blossomed. Before I was aware, my soul set me upon the chariots of my willing people. Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look upon you. – What would you look upon in the Shulamite? – As it were the dance of two camps” (Songs 6:11-



¹² These blisses we have considered together in a separate pamphlet *Die zehn Glückseligkeiten* (= “The Ten Blisses”) with the Arabic moon stations SCHÖN WIE DER MOND (= “Fair as the Moon”) in German.

13).

That means, as she is going down to those who suffer and are neglected on the shady side of life, in order to tell them about the love of Yeshúa and to share their needs, and to strengthen those who are weak in faith, in order that the fruit of the love of Yeshúa may be awakened in their lives – then suddenly she is caught up to heaven, riding with Messiah on Pegasus. For she is doing the work of the good Samaritan. That brings abundance of fruit, but where is there such a heart?

The Greek astronomer Eratosthenes (c. 280-200 B.C.) speaks about this constellation: “This is the so-called Great Bird [ὄρνις “a bird”], which they compare with a Swan” (chap 25). Therefore, this constellation is called *Cygnus* “Swan” (Grk: Κύκνος *Kúkno*s “swan” Lat: *Cycnus* “swan”). This bird, the queen of the waters, full of grace, is a type of Messiah’s bride. This bright constellation comprises at least five double stars, and one four-fold. The binary star (61 Cygni) is the most wonderful star in the whole sky, and one of the closest to our system of fixed stars. It consists of two united stars which do not only dance around one another, but at the same time dance forward with a speed which is a thousand times quicker than the fastest heavenly body in our system.

This Swan is on its wings in swift flight along the Milky Way, in the same direction as the Water of Life from the Bucket of Immanuel. The most important stars, which mark its wings and body, form a great beautiful Cross. The true bride of Messiah is crucified with Him, and by His cross we are lifted up to heaven on the wings of the Spirit.

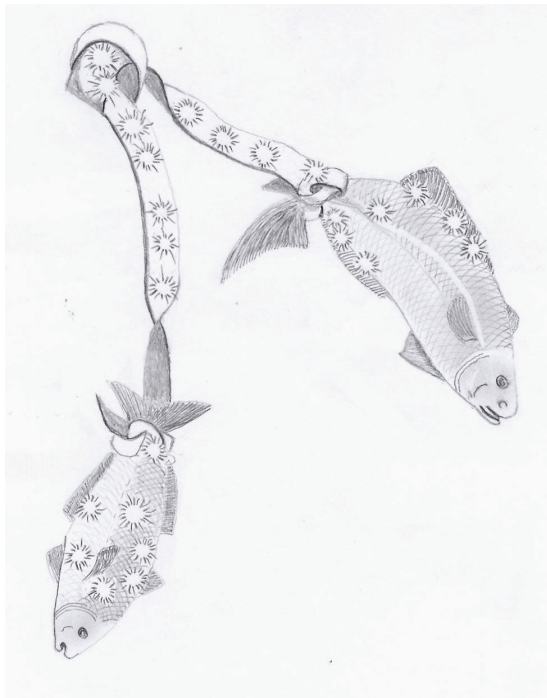
The yellow-white star (α Cygni, 1.2 mag, 1825 ly), on its tail (called *Deneb*, from Arb: *danab*; Heb: זָנַב *zanab* “tail”), is 75,000 times brighter than the sun. The yellow star (γ Cygni, 750 ly), more than 5000 times brighter than our sun, is called by the Arabs *šadr* “breast; heart,” and witnesses about her compassion. “For the wisdom from above first is pure, then peaceful, gentle, yielding, full of mercy and good fruits, unquestioning, unfeigned” (James 3:17).

The star on its beak (β Cygni) is a physical double-star with orange and blue colors. It is called “Albireo,” which may come from the Arabic *al-br* and mean “the overcomer.” So is the Blood-redeemed bride (Rev. 14:1-5). Indeed a worthy fruit of the sacrifice of Messiah.

Chapter Seven

The First Loved

PISCES



Behold the revelation of the love and faithfulness of God in the constellation of the *Fishes*. The Greeks describe it as two Fishes (Ἰχθύες *Ichthúes* “fishes”), one is higher than the other one. “Both are tied by a band round their tails, which point to an angle filled by a single goodly star [α Psc], called the Conjoiner of the Fishes’ tails [the Knot under Heaven]. Below Andromeda’s left shoulder thou may’st spy the upper of the two Fishes sporting in the wave” (Aratos, *Phainomena*, 240-247).

The old Egyptian representations show *two Fishes, which swim parallel to one another in the water, in the same direction*. Mostly they are tied together with a band.

The Babylonians considered the zodiacal sign of the Fishes, composed by (*mul*) *šim-mah* “swallow” and (*mul*) *a-nu-ni-tum* (cf. the goddess *Anunîtu*). Both of them were united with a “band” (*riksu*) of stars which stretches from ω over ζ to ρ Piscium. Since the Fishes sometimes are named *zibbáti* “Tails,” we may conclude that both the “Swallow” as well as (*mul*) *a-nu-ni-tum* had fishtails. A scholiast on Aratos states that the Northern Fish was represented with the head of a swallow and was therefore named by the Chaldeans

Χελιδόνιας Ἰχθύς *Chelidónias Ichthús* “Swallow-Fish” (Schol. Aratos, *Phainomena*, 242).

What do these Fishes mean? The Western Fish, which comes first, describes God’s beloved assembly Israel. The Most High concluded an eternal covenant with Israel in the desert of Sinai, speaking: “And now, if you will hearken to my voice indeed and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession out of all the peoples – for all the earth is mine – and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel” (Exo. 19:5-6). To this, the whole people answered: “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” Then God gave them His holy Ten Commandments, and the covenant was sealed with sacrifice (Exo. 24:3-8).

Never did God forget His engagement with Israel, “Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith YHWH: I remember for you the kindness of your youth, the love of your espousals, when you went after me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Israel was holiness unto YHWH, the first-fruits of His increase: all that devour him are guilty; evil shall come upon them, says YHWH” (Jer. 2:2-3).

Yeshúa and His witnesses continue to emphasize the election of Israel as God’s chosen people, the first beloved. All true Christians love Israel and thank God, because salvation has come to them from the Jews. That is the characteristic of the true Christian everywhere. Test them by this. You cannot love Yeshúa the *King of the Jews* without also loving His people with His love.

THE BAND

This Band, which unites the Fishes, is the characteristic of the living assembly of God. The Arabs call this star band *ar-ribq* “the noose,” for we have become overcome and captivated by His love. The star Band leads

from the tail of each of the Fishes up to the fore feet of the Lamb Aries. In the bright yellow-white star, α Piscium (double, 4.3/5.2 mag, 130 ly, 25 \odot sun), (Arb) *‘aqd al-hayṭayn* “the knot of the two bands”, both Bands meet and become one (Ezek. 37:15-19). What a wonderful illustration of the love of Yeshúa, which unites us with Him and with one another.

Every fish is bound to Him, who gave His life for us, and is under His authority, both the first Fish, Israel, and the second, Northern Fish, the church (*ekklêsia*). Yeshúa said: “I have other sheep which are not of this fold: those also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one flock, one shepherd” (John 10:16).

The second Fish is the body of Messiah, and in His body there is no difference between Jews and gentiles. If Messiah lives in us, and is all in all, then there is a true Jew (Eph. 2:15-3:6; Gal. 3:28; 6:16; Col. 3:11; 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 2:29).

The assembly of Yeshúa, as it came out of Israel, was a pure church, a real Fish in the ocean of the love of God, full of the resurrection life of Yeshúa.

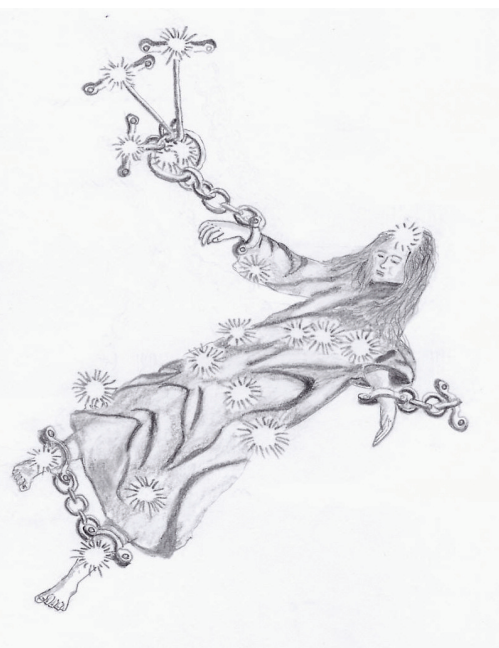
There you see the Fish as it jumps high up to the side of Andromeda. The Arabs call it *al-hût* \star “the great Fish,” and it has become completely one with the constellation Andromeda.

ANDROMEDA

Aratos describes the constellation of Andromeda in this way: “There, a woeful statue-form, is seen Andromeda... So bright her head, so bright her shoulders, feet, and girdle. Yet even there she has her arms racked, and shackled even in heaven: uplifted, outspread eternally are those fair hands” (*Phainomena*, 197-204).

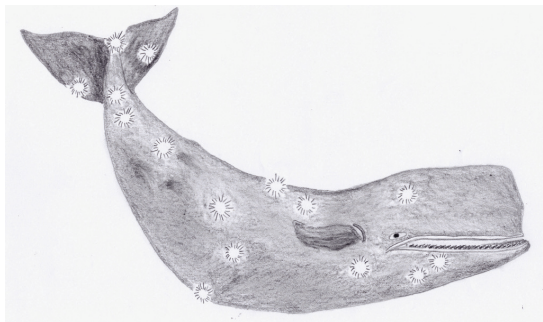
Kazwini says: “This female figure is called *al-mar’a al-musalsala* ‘the chained girl,’ because both of her hands are stretched out, the right towards the North, the left towards the South, and because the position of the stars between her feet look like a concatenation.”

The stars are named after her chained members, according to the Greek description of Ἀνδρομέδη “Andromeda.” The red giant β Andromedae (2.1 mag, 88 ly, 110 \odot sun) “at the side of the chained girl,” is called in Arabic *baṭn al-hût* \star and *qalb al-hût* “the belly/heart of the great [northern] Fish,” for the chained girl represents the assembly of Yeshúa. “The head of the chained girl,” the white α Andromedae¹³ (2.1 mag, 120 ly, 160 \odot sun), is at the same time “the navel of the horse” Pegasus (see above, in chap. 6). In the body of Andromeda you see the 2.25 million light years distant *Andromeda Nebula*, a spiral nebula of 110,000 light years diameter.



¹³ The name *Alpheratz* is a corruption of the abbreviated *mankib al-faras* “the shoulder of the horse,” in the Middle Ages signifying β Pegasi. Later the word occurs only in composite names of individual stars (e.g. *Enif Alpheratz* “the nose of the horse” ϵ Pegasi; *Markab Alpheratz* “the saddle of the horse” α Pegasi; *Scheat* (< *sâq*) *Alpheratz* “the shin-bone of the horse” β Pegasi). Subsequently the name *Alpheratz* was applied to α Andromedae (= δ Pegasi). See Paul Kunitzsch, *Arabische Sternnamen in Europa* (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1959), VIII, no. 44.

CETUS



Deep under her in the south is lurking the terrible “Sea-Monster” (Grk: Κήτος *Kētos*, Lat: *Cetus*) with its divided tail and snorting “nose” *minḥar* (the red α Ceti, 2.5 mag, 130 ly, 120 ☼ sun) – seeking to devour her. Aratos says: “Against Andromeda her grim foe, the Sea-monster, is floated by the gloomy south; while opposite stands Cepheus, in the northwind, lifting high hand of command. Up to its mane the Sea-monster near the maiden lips averted” (*Phainomena*, 629-633).

The orange star (ζ Ceti) (Arabic translated name: *batn qaytus* “belly of the sea monster”) testifies about its huge hunger, and the ill-tempered red star (ο Ceti, 220 ly, 250 ☼ sun) blinks full of hellish malice. It is a variable, whose light wavers in a period of 332 days between visible and invisible. Poor Andromeda!

[The description of Cetus is continued later, after Aries (chapter 8).]

PERSEUS

Suddenly, the hero *Perseus* (Grk: Περσεύς) comes riding with his shining sword formed like a sickle in his right hand, and with the cut off head of Satan, *Medûsa* (from Hebrew קְדוּשָׁה < מְדוּשָׁה *medûša* “trodden down, crushed; threshed”), in his left hand. He delivers her from her chains, falls in love with her, and wins her as his bride.

Aratos describes this constellation thus: “The bridegroom, Perseus, moves in the North, gigantic... as one bent on some high deed, dust-stained he strides,” as he rushes to deliver her (*Phainomena*, 248-253).

The scimitar (Grk: ἄρπη *hárpe* “a sickle, scimitar”) is the misty crowd of stars at χ, the blue-green β Persei in the head of the *Medûsa* (Arb: *ra’s al-ghûl* “the head of the devil”), again this is a variable whom you cannot trust, for its brightness wavers every three days. But praise be to God, Yeshúa has crushed his head. So here again we see the Hero from Calvary, how He delivers His bride, setting her free from her chains.

“He has delivered us from the authority of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Col. 1:13).

But what a terrible battle our Redeemer had with Satan and the hosts of darkness! “In that day YHWH, with His sore and great and strong sword, will visit Leviathan the fleeing serpent, even Leviathan the crooked serpent; and He will slay the monster that is in the sea” (Isa. 27:1).

“To this end the Son of God has been manifested, that He might undo the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8). Standing before the cross, our Savior said: “Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out: and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all to me” (John 12:31-32). Our mighty Hero from Golgotha, “having spoiled principalities and authorities, made a show of them publicly, leading them in triumph by the cross” (Col. 2:15).

On the cross He paid the debt of our sins before God, and now Satan can no more accuse those who have accepted Him as their Ransom. Therefore the Son of God became flesh and blood, that through death He might annul him who has the might of death, that is, the devil; and might set free all those who through fear of death



through the whole of their life were subject to bondage (Heb. 2:14-15). “As for you also, by the blood of your covenant, I will send forth your prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. Turn again to the stronghold, O prisoners of hope” (Zech. 9:11-12). Indeed, He crushed the head of the serpent, descended into hades, upset the throne of death, took his keys, and set his captives free. The whole starry sky unfolds the mighty works, not of Hercules, but of the Messiah of God, Yeshúa, the Lion of Judah.

What are those shackles, with which the poor Andromeda has been chained? She is the daughter of a prince, and her name means “ruler of men,” a type of the bride of Messiah who shall rule with Him over the whole world. How was she so chained?

God speaks to Israel: “Awake, awake; put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, the Holy City: for henceforth there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake yourself from the dust; arise, sit down, Jerusalem: loose yourself from the bands of your neck, captive daughter of Zion. For thus saith YHWH: You have sold yourselves for nought, and you shall be redeemed without money” (Isa. 52:1-3). What are those chains with which the captive daughter of Zion has been tied? This does not speak about the bondage of Egypt, from which the Lord redeemed her, but about the chains of Babylon.

Why was the holy Temple in Jerusalem burnt down and all Judah taken captive to Babylon? Was it not because they did not obey God completely, but introduced and tolerated the cult of Babylonian idols in the Holy City, yea, even in His sanctuary. Then the Fire of YHWH flashed. – Only a purified remnant returned with Ezra, which had learnt to obey the Word of God.

Israel shall be a separated people from all nations, for God alone is their King!

But a thousand times more horrible is the great harlot, which is *sitting today on the Sea-Monster* in the midst of the ocean and committing fornication with the nations. “Come here, I will shew you the sentence of the great harlot who sits upon the many waters; with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication; and they that dwell on the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. And he carried me away in spirit to a desert; and I saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and had ornaments of gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and the unclean things of her fornication; and upon her forehead a name written, Mystery, great Babylon, the mother of the harlots, and of the abominations of the earth. And I saw *the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Yeshúa*. And I wondered, seeing her, with great wonder” (Rev. 17:1-6). “And the woman which you saw is the great city, which has kingship over the kings of the earth,” and “the seven heads are seven mountains, whereon the woman sits”(Rev. 17:18, 9); the “City on the Seven Hills” is the classical name of ROME in Italy. It speaks about the Roman Catholic Church, with which nearly all major Protestant denominations have united in the Ecumenical Movement. This apostasy from the true faith, which is going on today, is so subtle, that I challenge you to read Revelation 17 and 18 very carefully, and I also challenge you to read the probing book by Dave Hunt: *A Woman Rides the Beast*. Thanks to God that He has a few true and bold watchmen today who dare to speak up and warn God’s people.

This great harlot has built up a mighty hierarchy, and on the throne one is sitting who calls himself *Vicarius Filii Dei* “the Vicar of the Son of God” (having the Latin numerical value 666). But Yeshúa Messiah has no other vicar or substitute than the Holy Spirit, and all we who love and follow Him are His witnesses. The Pope also bears the title *Latinus Rex Sacerdos* “Latin Priest-King” (also having the Latin numerical value 666). He is also called *Pontifex maximus* “Chief Bridge-Builder,” which was the title of the high-priest of Babylon. In fact, when Babylon was destroyed, its priests and cult moved to Pergamum, and from there to Rome. But we have only one Priest-King and Mediator between God and men, Yeshúa Messiah, who in this world had nowhere to lay His head, but He bore His cross to Calvary, and so did His true apostles. By their life and fruits you shall know them!

Yeshúa Messiah instructed His followers: “Ye know that the rulers of the nations exercise lordship over them, and the great exercise authority over them. It shall not be thus amongst you, but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your servant; and whosoever will be first among you, let him be your bondman; as indeed the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:25-28).

Our Lord Yeshúa so wisely said, “What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his soul?” (Mark 8:35). By the unbiblical teaching that every child which has not become baptized into the church will be cast into eternal hell fire because of Adam’s sin, – but when it is baptized it is born again by water and Spirit and enters the kingdom of God, becoming a member of the true church, – the Catholic Church has chased whole populations of countries into church membership. The same thing the Orthodox Church of Eastern Europe and the Lutheran Church of Northern Europe teach. But no one will be condemned by God for Adam’s sin, only for his own personal sins. Our Lord Yeshúa blessed the little children and said, “Of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14). Neither He nor His apostles ever baptized infants, but only repenting sinners. The mere act of baptism without personal faith, however, does not save anyone.

Any king who did not submit to the authority and will of the church was put under the ban, so all Catholics rejected him, and he had to crawl on his knees before the Pope, repent of his disloyalty, and seek his grace. Thus the Church of Rome took the kingship over kings and nations; and all world rulers seek the favor of the Pope with costly gifts and adoration. God’s Word says: “By your sorcery have all the nations been deceived” (Rev. 18:23).

The Vatican is the richest treasury of the world, loaded with gold and silver and precious stones, and the dignitaries of the Catholic Church are arrayed in splendid garments of purple, silk and scarlet dye (Rev. 18:12), in contrast with the little flock of Yeshúa where none had two coats, but they shared all that they had with one another and distributed to each one according to his need (Luke 3:11; Acts 4:32-35), all following the example of our Lord Yeshúa.

The Son of God has come to set men free indeed (John 8:32-36), but the great harlot trades with all sorts of riches “...horses and chariots and bodies and *souls of men*” (Rev. 18:13). Yes, that church makes men slaves. If anyone of its millions of adherents dared to testify about the truth of the Word of God against their tradition, he was condemned as a heretic or witch and tortured to death. Thus the “only saving church” has killed millions of true witnesses of Messiah, and “inasmuch as you have done it to **one** of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me” (Matt. 25:40), *i.e.* burnt Yeshúa Messiah a thousand times at the stake! And that church has **never repented** properly before God and men of this mass-murder of true witnesses of Yeshúa; and the Word of God teaches us that God will visit her iniquity upon her. Therefore, God calls His people: “COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, THAT YOU HAVE NOT FELLOWSHIP IN HER SINS, AND THAT YOU DO NOT RECEIVE OF HER PLAGUES: FOR HER SINS HAVE BEEN HEAPED ON ONE ANOTHER UP TO THE HEAVEN, AND GOD HAS REMEMBERED HER INIQUITIES” (Rev. 18:4-5).

Dr. Martin Luther took the sharp sword of the Word of God and cut off the chains of Andromeda, and what a glorious deliverance! But today his church and most of the sons of the Reformation have returned back to Mother Harlot and have publicly repented of that sword cut by Perseus. – Of course, we do *not with one single word* accuse or criticize the individual devout Catholic, but only the corrupt system of the Vatican, “the Hill of Divination,” warning all who partake in the *Ecumenical Movement*. You are boarding the *Titanic*!

Andromeda, Andromeda, let no one chain you again! For then the beast will surely devour you. If you are faithful to Perseus, He will come one day – *very soon!* – and take you up to Himself and lead you as His bride to marriage and set upon your head the crown of life, and all the hosts of heaven will praise its King for His beautiful, chaste and faithful bride. For ever you shall be at His right hand and be glorified with Him. For you are His glory and exceeding great joy, His precious reward from His Father for His sacrifice on the cross, – even the full fruit of His cross!

And America, *the Land of the Free*, where the poor pilgrims, who were madly persecuted in Europe by the

Roman Catholic Church, found refuge and freedom to live according to their faith. And by the influence of such men of faith the Constitution of this great nation was established on the righteous laws of God, so that God has blessed you with peace and prosperity more than any other country on earth, even using you to save other nations. – Now the descendants of these pilgrims make overtures to the Roman Catholic Church expressing their regrets of the erring of their forefathers!!!

You high soaring Eagle, majestic symbol of freedom, let not the fowler entice and trap you and put a chain to your leg. Soon the blood of new martyrs will flow in streams again – even where it has not yet been shed.

Mother Babylon is ascending the beast for a final ride. She is clothed in scarlet, her cup is foaming over. When she has hunted and slain myriads of innocent sheep, the beast on which she is riding will suddenly kick her off, trample upon her and burn her up in fire. Read it yourself in Revelation 17:16-17 and 18:9-10, 18-21.

In the name *Perseus* I recognize the Hebrew name *Perez*¹⁴ (Heb: פֶּרֶץ *Pārās*), which we find in Genesis 38:29, the first-born son of Judah with Tamar, and he is the ancestor of King David and Yeshúa our Messiah (Matt. 1:3). The midwife cried at his birth: “How have you broken forth! On you be the breach.” Perez is the “One Who Breaks Through,” and you find Him described in Mic. 2:12-13, where He delivers Israel. God speaks: “I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; like a flock in the midst of its pasture: they shall make great noise by reason of [the multitude of] men. *One who breaks through* is gone up before them: they have broken forth, and have passed on to the gate, and are gone out by it; and their King passes on before them, even YHWH at the head of them.” The “One Who Breaks Through,” Hebrew פֶּרֶץ *haPoreš*, is our *Perez*, and He is also described as the King of Israel, who passes on before them.

God is truly gathering His beloved people Israel from all the nations to the country He has given them at the time of their birth. That country God has never given to any other nation. Just read Jeremiah 31:2-12; 16:14-15; 23:7-8; 30:3; Ezekiel 20:40-42; 36:6-12; 37:21-28; Zechariah 8:1-8, about the gathering of Israel in the last days; it is God’s own work. But there is hardly place for all the Jews in Israel today, they are like sheep in a sheep-fold tightly packed together, pressed by the nations on every side. There is no way out. God’s Word also foretells that the nations will gather in war against Israel. Please read Zechariah 14:1-9. The land of Israel will be invaded, Jerusalem will be taken, – and Israel will cry to God in despair, “O, that You wouldst rend the heavens, that You wouldst come down!” (Isa. 64:1). And indeed the Shepherd of Israel never sleeps nor slumbers; suddenly *Perez*, the true Son and Lion of Judah, will descend from heaven, step down on the Mount of Olives, which will cleave in the midst, and the remnant of Israel shall be saved in the Rock that was cleft for them. On that day Israel will see that He who was pierced for our transgressions is the true Messiah of God, and like the brothers of Joseph they will weep and fall at His feet (Gen. 45:14; 50:18; Zech. 12:10). They will proclaim Him their Savior and the King of Israel, and He shall sit on the throne of His father David. All the enemies of Israel He will smite with blindness, their flesh will be consumed while they stand on their feet (Zech. 14:12-13).

In that day *Perez*, the King of the Jews, will be King over all the earth, as we read in Zech. 14:9 and 9:9-10, “And He shall speak peace to the nations; and His dominion shall be from sea to sea, even from the river [Euphrates] to the ends of the earth.” And Israel will recognize that He is the same who rode on an ass colt into Jerusalem, so long ago. O, if you had accepted Him there, you would have been spared for all the troubles ever since that day!

Israel, beloved people of God, do not toil in your own strength! Call for *Perez*!

Perez, *Perez*, beloved Messiah of Israel! Come, come quickly and deliver your *Andromeda*!

¹⁴ This is phonetically possible, since the Greeks represented the Hebrew פֶּרֶץ *š* by their Σ *s* – compare Hebrew *Perez*, *šadoq*, *šadduqim* with Greek *Phares*, *Sadôk*, *Saddoukaioi* (Matt. 1:3, 14; 3:7) – and Hebrew פֶּרֶץ *p* with their Π *p*, as in Hebrew *pāsaḥ*, *partiyim*: Greek *pascha*, *Parthoi* (Matt. 26:2; Acts 2:9).

Chapter Eight

The Lamb is Ruling

ARIES



Behold the Lamb, that was slain! At exactly that time when our Lord Yeshúa was crucified, at Passover, the sun stood in the constellation of the Lamb, *Aries*. This is the first of all the constellations and starts the holy year (Exodus 12:2).

This constellation is called in Arabic *al-ḥamal* ★ “the lamb.” The Greeks called it Κριός *Kriós* “ram,” and the Romans called it *Aries* “ram,” and the old Egyptians drew a *Ram*.

The two bright stars, α (red giant, 2 mag, 75 ly, 80 ☼ sun) and β (pearly white, 2.7 mag, 46 ly, 13 ☼ sun) Arietis, in its two horns are called in Arabic *aš-šaraṭān* ★ “the two signs,” for the beginning of the zodiac and the new year. This word actually comes from *šaraṭa* which means “to wound,” for “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed... YHWH has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, but He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and was as a sheep dumb before her shearers, yea, He opened not his mouth” (Isa. 53:5-7).

The two stars in the horns are also called (Arb) *an-naḥḥ* ★ “butting (with the Horns)” and *an-nāṭiḥ* “the one butting (with the horns).” What are those horns?

The two horns, with which He has overcome, are “love and forgiveness,” for He, the meek and humble of heart, was pierced in our stead. And now the bleeding Lamb pierces the hardest hearts of His enemies with His *forgiving love*; for He prayed on the cross: “Father, forgive them!” and shed His blood for them. When they see Him whom they have pierced, their hearts will be pierced and weep bitterly (Zech. 12:10). What an Overcomer!

CETUS (continued)

Under the feet of the Lamb, the “Sea-Monster” (Cetus) is lying, as we have already seen. The red star (α Ceti) at the end of the jaw bone, reminds us of the description of the sea-monster in the book of Job (41:1-2), where God asks Job: “Will you draw out the Leviathan [Heb: לֵוִיָּתָן] with the hook, and press down his tongue with a cord? Will you put a rush-rope into his nose, and pierce his jaw with a spike?”

That is exactly what Messiah has done. “Awake, awake, put on strength, O Arm of YHWH; awake, as in the days of old, as in the generations of passed ages. Is it not You that did hew Rahab in pieces, and pierced the monster?” (Isa. 51:9). Yea, Yeshúa has muzzled the monster and pierced its jaw, and bound it with a rope. Therefore, you see the *Band* of stars from Cetus reaching up to the forepaws of the *Ram* (*Aries*), a wonderful description of the victory of Messiah over Satan.

Thus also, the Lamb has all power over all the godless kingdoms of this world, and even the little beast, the antichrist, cannot go one step further than “it is given [= permitted] to him” (Rev. 13:5, 7; 6:4). If he goes beyond his limit, the *Ram* pulls strongly at the rope, so that the hook in its pierced jaw tears a new painful wound. The Lamb has everything under His control.

Messiah has all power in heaven and on earth, everything is under His feet, and no king of the earth can resist His will. But He would rather save than crush, forgive than judge, for when judgment comes, the time of grace has gone forever. He who does not repent today is eternally lost. Grace will not use violence, but only love. Only thus, hearts can be won. Also the Band of the Fishes is under His feet, and thus the Messiah is ruling today, through His pure assembly. She is His ambassador in this world and calls the world to repentance, to be reconciled with God by the blood of Yeshúa in order that they may not fight with the Lamb and fall.

The beast, the antichrist, and those who rule with him “shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings: and they that are with Him called, and chosen, and faithful” (Rev. 17:14), whose blood has been poured out for the sake of the testimony of their beloved Master. Thus, today, the followers of Satan are fighting against the disciples of Yeshúa, but Messiah reveals His victory, wherever we look up to Him. They have overcome Satan, the accuser of our brethren, “by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they have not loved their life even to death” (Rev. 12:11). The Lamb in them is overcoming; no one can resist them, for the Messiah leads them. As long as they are heavenly lights in the world, the antichrist is restrained and cannot reveal himself (2 Thess. 2:6-7).

O, if only the assembly of Yeshúa would gather around her King in perfect faithfulness, He would lead His army from victory to victory, like Israel under Joshua; the whole world would see Yeshúa.

TRIANGULUM

Above the head of the Lamb there is a wonderful “Triangle of Stars” (Grk: Δελωτόν *Deltótón* Lat: *Triangulum* “triangle”). They express the wonderful unity between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. “The head of the triangle,” (Arb) *ra’s al-muṭallaṭ* is, according to Ulugh Beigh, actually the yellow-white star β Trianguli (3.1 mag, 114 ly, 60 ☼ sun), which is also the brightest star. It signifies the Father, YHWH. The yellow star α Trianguli (3.4 mag, 59 ly, 10 ☼ sun), which is deepest down, signifies the Son in His humiliation. These two stars (β and α Trianguli) are together called (Arb) *al-anîsân* “the two friends.”



These two stars, “the two friends,” describe the intimate fellowship of love between the Father and the Son. Yeshúa always relied upon his Father, as He said: “I have set YHWH continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved” (Psa. 16:8). Therefore His heart continually rejoiced, and by this He more than overcame, so that not even death could touch His body. Always, the pleasure of the Father was shining on His beloved Son. The third star of the triangle is the green γ Trianguli (4 mag, 150 ly, 51 ☼ sun), signifying the Spirit of Life. These three stars stand there shining like a crown, like an anointing, above the head of the Lamb, as He came into this world to be slain as our Passover Lamb.

CEPHEUS

The highest of all the signs of heaven is the constellation of *Cepheus*. The stars show him sitting on his throne with the scepter in his right hand, when we consider it as a mirror image, and his right foot is resting on the North Pole. For Messiah is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and God speaks: “I have anointed my king upon Zion, the hill of my holiness” (Psa. 2:6). God Himself set His Messiah “at His right hand in the heavenlies, above every principality, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name named, not only in this age, but also in that to come; and has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be Head over all things to the assembly, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Eph. 1:20-23).

The name *Cepheus* (Grk: Κηφεύς *Kêpheús*, Lat: *Cepheus*) probably comes from the Aramaic *kêf, kêfa* meaning “rock, stone” (cf. Heb and Arm: כִּפָּא *Cephas*, John 1:42 and כָּה “rock” Jer. 4:29; Job 30:8), signifying Yeshúa Messiah as the Living Stone. “The Stone which the builders rejected has become the Head of the Corner: This is of YHWH; it is wonderful in our eyes” (Psa. 118:22-23). “Therefore, thus says the Lord YHWH: Behold, I lay for foundation in Zion a Stone, a tried Stone, a precious Corner Stone, a sure Foundation: he that trusteth shall not make haste” (Isa. 28:16; see also 8:14). This precious Corner Stone of the sanctuary of God was laid upon Calvary, and whoever has dedicated his life to Him is built up with Him to a holy temple of God. The great Head (or Top) Stone will be our Lord Yeshúa at His coming again in order to fetch His bride; for He is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Completion of the Temple of God (Zech. 3:9; 4:7). May we worship Him!



The name *Alderamin* (which does not belong to α Cephei) may come from (Arb) *ad-dîrâ' (al-ya)mîn* “the right arm” as a designation of a man. This is the name of the Messiah in the Holy Scriptures, both (Heb) זְרוּעַ *zerôa'* (Arb: *dîrâ'*) “the Arm of YHWH (יהוה זְרוּעַ יהוה)” (Isa. 53:1; 51:9); and (Heb) יְמִין *yamîn* “the Right Hand of YHWH (יהוה יְמִין) is exalted, the Right Hand of YHWH does valiantly” (Psa. 118:16). “Your Right Hand, YHWH, is become majestic in power: Your Right Hand, YHWH, has dashed in pieces the enemy” (Exo. 15:6). “Let Your hand be upon the Man of Your Right Hand, upon the Son of Man whom you have made strong for Yourself” (Psa. 80:17). And in the glorious Messianic Psalm 110 we read: “YHWH said unto my Lord, Sit at my Right Hand, until I put Your enemies as footstool of Your feet. YHWH shall send the sceptre of Your might out of Zion: rule in the midst of Your enemies. – YHWH has sworn, and will not repent, You are Priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. The Lord at Your Right Hand will smite through kings in the day of His anger.”

This is the true Prince of Peace and Priest King after the order of Melchizedek, not after Aaron’s, for Aaron’s is only a type of the Messiah (Psa. 110:4). For the Messiah does not come from Levi, but from the tribe Judah. God has introduced a completely new priesthood with His Messiah, and the Messiah alone is our true and faithful High Priest who intercedes for us before God. (Read the glorious Letter to the Hebrews.)

- I. The Lamb of God became the perfect sacrifice for atonement with God on Calvary.
- II. The Risen One incessantly intercedes for us before God as our High Priest.
- III. On the day of the Lord He will be revealed as the King of Righteousness and judge the nations and their kings, and rule the world in righteousness.

Another name is the (Arb) *al-multahab* “the Flaming One,” for He has eyes as a flame of fire, which everyone who has seen Him can affirm. “His head and hair were white like white wool, as snow; and His eyes as a flame of fire” (Rev. 1:14; see also Daniel 10:5-6).

He is also called (Arb) *al-abayd* “the white/the pure one” (γ Cephei), “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and can not look on mischief” (Hab. 1:13); and the same star is also called (Arb) *ar-râ'î* “the shepherd” of Israel. The star ξ on his forehead may have to be read (Arb) *al-furja* “comfort; happiness (especially after suffering),” for He will wipe all tears away from their eyes. That is the eternal happiness to behold His face, and His servants “shall see His face; and His name is on their foreheads” (Rev. 22:4).

Both of His hands are stretched out: “Come to me all you who are burdened and heavily laden, and I will give you rest!”

CASSIOPEIA

At His side¹⁵ the wonderfully beautiful queen *Cassiopeia* (Grk: Κασσιόπεια “Cassiopeia”, thus Aratos spells her name) is sitting on her throne. Her name, like the name of one of the beautiful daughters of Job, *Keziah* (Job 42:14), probably comes from the well smelling Arabic spice *Laurus Cassia L.* (Heb: קְצִיָּעָה *Qeṣî’a* “Cassia” Job 42:14). Anyhow, thus her garments smell in the Holy Scripture: “Myrrh [signifying suffering on the cross] and aloes [resurrection power], *cassia* [royal glory], are all Your garments; out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made You glad. Kings’ daughters are among Your noble ladies; at Your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir [which is Messiah in you]” (Psa. 45:8-9). Her name may be composed of *qesî’a* (קְצִיָּעָה) + *yapha* (יָפָה, “beautiful”) meaning “glorious and beautiful.”

Cassiopeia touches her hair with her right hand, and her long hair expresses her submission to Messiah, her Head. Her left hand smooths out her garments, for she is adorning herself for her Bridegroom. She is not yet carrying the crown on her head, for the marriage of the Lamb has not yet come. But she is already sitting on the throne, and therefore she is called (translated into Arabic) *dât al-kursî* “the lady on the throne,” for Messiah has already seated us with Himself in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). For if we have been united with the Messiah on His cross, we have also been made one with Him on His throne (Rev. 3:21). Infinite grace!



“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great crowd, and as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of strong thunders, saying, Hallelujah, for the Lord our God the Almighty has taken to Himself kingly power. Let us rejoice and exult, and give Him glory; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready. And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and pure; for the fine linen are the righteous acts of the saints. And he says to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the supper of the marriage of the Lamb. And he says to me, These are the true words of God” (Rev. 19:6-9). The bride of Yeshúa is adorning herself for the marriage of the Lamb, for she knows He comes quickly.

“All glorious is the king’s daughter within [in the Holy of Holies, at the feet of Yeshúa]; her clothing is of wrought gold” (Psa. 45:13). The bright white star on her knees (δ Cassiopeiae) testifies about the glory of her hidden ministry before God “on her knees” (translated into Arabic: *alâ r-rukbatayn*).

Aratos says that the stars of Cassiopeia describe the Queen, but at the same time they have the form of a great key, “like the key of a double-folding door” (*Phainomena*, 192-193). This key is the key of David, and Messiah Himself has opened this door to the house of David for us. Everyone who goes in (Heb. 10:19), is in His Holy of Holies (Rev. 3:7-8,12).

The Arabs call the stars of Cassiopeia *al-kaff al-ḥadîb* ★ “the (outstretched right) hand [of *Turayyâ*] colored (with henna).” *Turayyâ* ★ is the name of the bride, the Seven Stars (look under the Pleiades, in the next chapter), and henna makes her fingers bloody red. She has blood on her hand, which she stretches out; that means, she prays for grace and the sprinkling of the blood of Yeshúa for her brethren, whom she loves with all her heart (Heb. 12:24). She is to all a witness of His grace from Calvary. Therefore, He says: “Your lips are like a

¹⁵ For the great mystery why Queen Cassiopeia is sitting at the left side of Cepheus, and not at his right hand, see *REMARKS* at the end of the book.

thread of scarlet, and your speech is comely.” She tells all people about His love on the cross, and her “teeth [the words of her mouth] are like a flock of sheep, which go up from the washing, which have all borne twins, and none is barren among them.” Many little sheep of Yeshúa are born by her testimony (Songs 4:1-5; 6:4-7). She is fully occupied with the priestly ministry of reconciliation.

The bright orange star on her breast (α) is called (Arabic transl.) *Schedir* from *şadr* “breast, heart,” because she has such a merciful heart, with compassion and hope for the deepest fallen sinner, to whom she runs with the message of grace. Like Paul and Mary Magdalene, she never forgets how deeply fallen she was herself, unworthy of His grace!

Let us be ready for our Bridegroom’s coming any moment. Blessed are those who wash their garments in the blood of the Lamb, and go to meet Him with lamps burning with *the first love*. They shall enter with Him to the marriage, and the door will be shut. Infinite glory is waiting for the faithful.

ACT III

Chapter Nine

Behold, He Comes With the Clouds, and Every Eye Shall See Him!

The Pleiades

Taurus

Orion

Eridanus

Lepus

Chapter Ten

With Messiah in His Kingdom

Gemini

Auriga

Canis Major

Canis Minor

Chapter Eleven

Safely at Home

Cancer

Ursa Minor

Ursa Major

Argo

Chapter Twelve

The Lion of Judah has Overcome

Leo

Hydra

Crater

Corvus

Chapter Nine

Behold, He Comes With the Clouds, and Every Eye Shall See Him!

Now the curtain rises for the third act: the despised Lamb is the King of Israel! “Your eyes shall see the King in His beauty; they shall behold a far-outstretched land. – Your eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tent that shall not be removed, *there YHWH is unto us Majestic...*” (exactly the centre of Isaiah, Isa. 33:17,20,21).

THE PLEIADES

Now the sun has come from the *Ram* (Aries) into the constellation *Taurus*, and the first which meets the sun is the marvelously beautiful asterism of the *Pleiades*, which is so beautiful that all other constellations are named after it. The reason for this may also be that 4000 years ago the spring equinox was in the Pleiades, and therefore, this constellation was the very first one, for at least that old are the Sumerian star names. It is simply called “the constellation” (Sum) (*mul*) *MUL*, (Arb) *an-najm* ★. It flies to meet the sun like a flight of doves and greets us with peace and salvation.

The Pleiades are called in Arabic *aṭ-ṭurayyâ* ★ “the little abundantly rich one” in His grace. They are united with the chains of His love, with Yeshúa, and with one another, and nothing can separate them, as God says to Job: “Can you fasten the bands of the Pleiades, or loosen the girdle of Orion” (Job 38:31)? These Seven Stars in the hands of our Lord Yeshúa are the rejoicing of His heart; no one can tear them out of His nail-pierced hands (Rev. 1:20). He has purchased them with His own blood to the Father. They are the most precious work of God, the full fruit of His love.

Also the Greek name Πληιάδες *Pléiádes* “the Pleiades” (from πλεῖος *pleíos* “full”) describes His fullness. For out of His fullness we have received grace upon grace. And they give this grace abundantly to others, for whenever it appears, there comes rain and fruitfulness.

The Pleiades describe the bride of the Lamb, and this is the very first event which will happen on the Day of the Lord: the rapture of the bride of Yeshúa. This God has promised, “for the Lord Himself, with an assembling shout, with archangel’s voice and with the trump of God, shall descend from heaven; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first; then we, the living who remain, shall be caught up together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we shall be always with the Lord. So encourage one another with these words.” “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed, in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Thess. 4:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-52).

The whole creation is groaning and suffering the pains of childbirth together until now, anxiously longing for the revelation for the sons of God. Then, also their yoke shall be broken with rejoicing (Rom. 8:19; Mat 5:9). When our Lord Yeshúa fetches His bride, she will ascend up into the air like a flight of doves from all the ends of the earth, and circle around Him with praise and rejoicing. Then the Lamb will lead her with rejoicing before the throne of His Father, and here you see them now “And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing upon Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of his Father written upon their foreheads. And I heard a voice out of the heaven as a voice of many waters, and as a voice of great thunder. And the voice which I heard was as of harp-singers harping with their harps; and they sing a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn that song save the hundred and forty-four thousand who were bought from the

earth. These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins: these are they who follow the Lamb wheresoever He goes. These have been bought from men as first-fruits to God and to the Lamb: and in their mouths was no lie found; for they are blameless” (Rev. 14:1-5).

They are infinitely happy and rich in Him, the Son of David. Will you also be there? Give yourself completely to Him. “Go forth, daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart” (Songs 3:11). “And you shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of YHWH, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God” (Isa. 62:3). The Lamb will praise His Father with infinite rejoicing for His bride, His precious crown.

Then Messiah will sit down on His lion throne (*cf.* 1 Ki. 10:18-20), and He will call every overcomer to Himself, and with His nail-pierced hands, He will place the *crown of life* upon his head, and the *crown of glory* upon the head of every one who has given his life for His sheep. And they will worship Him, and sit down at His side in His lion throne, and all heaven will exult praising the Lamb for His fair bride.

The last two of the bridal flock have just come out from the heat of battle. His two witnesses, who in the meantime suffered martyrdom in Jerusalem, have been caught up to heaven (Rev. 11). The Lord Yeshúa will arise from His throne and kiss them and put the glorious crown of victory upon their heads, and then the Bridegroom will arise and lead His beloved bride to the marriage of the Lamb, which is so infinitely glorious that we are not able to describe it. But all things are already now prepared and waiting for you.

The time has been fulfilled, the Bridegroom is coming, be ready every day, every hour! Israel is returning to their old country from all ends of the world, like carrier pigeons to their dovecote. All seven planets are parading like angels with trumpets in their hands; and then also the bright Morning Star appears and goes on before them. The Bridegroom is coming!

The sun proceeds further in Taurus. Now it meets two stars (between the Pleiades and α Tauri) which are called in Arabic *ad-dayqa* “the restricted circumstances, the tribulation.” They witness about the Great Tribulation which will come upon the earth after the rapture of the bridal flock. For the Lord Yeshúa has said: “then shall there be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall be; and if those days had not been cut short, no flesh had been saved; but on account of the elect those days shall be cut short” (Matt. 24:21-22; Dan. 12:1).

TAURUS



Soon the sun passes them and enters into the face of the *Bull*. The Babylonians call these stars (*mul*) *gu₄-an-na* “the bull of heaven” and *is-li-e* “the cheek of the bull” and (*mul*) *agû* (*dingir*) *anim* “the tiara of the God of heaven.” The Arabs call the constellation *at-tawr* ★, the Hebrews שׁוֹר *šôr*, the Arameans תֹּר *tôr*, and the Greeks Ταύρος *Taúros*; all are the same word having the same meaning of “bull.” Also the Egyptians describe this constellation as a *Bull*.

Aratos describes this Bull with its long horns: “Below the Charioteer may be descried the Bull bright-horned: conspicuous are his stars, and well-defined his head: no other marks thou needest to discover where he stands beside the stars that shine upon his head. Wide-spoken is their name, and not unfamed revolve the Hyades, whitening all the Bull’s broad forehead. Shining in his left horn’s tip and the right foot of neighbouring Charioteer, a single luminary links their race” (this star is the bright blue-white β Tauri,

1.7 mag, 130 ly, 330 ☼ sun) (*Phainomena*, 167-176).

But that bull really has long horns! – not like the usual domesticated bull. This is the *wild bull* which could not be tamed. God speaks about it to Job: “Will the wild ox be willing to serve you, or will he lodge by your crib? Can you bind the wild ox with his cord in the furrow? or will he harrow the valleys after you? Will you put confidence in him, because his strength is great? and will you leave your labour to him” (Job 39:9-11)? The wild ox was unruly, extremely dangerous, and therefore, was exterminated.

In the Babylonian texts the constellation Taurus (*mul*) *gu₄-an-na* “the bull of heaven,” is described as *rîmu issu* “the strong wild bull,” and the *rîmu* is the very same word as the Hebrew רֵ'עַם *re'êm* “aurochs, wild ox.” It is also described in Babylonian as *am-si* “the horned bull,” in agreement with Aratos’ description of the huge horns of Taurus.

With such a wild bull (Heb: רֵ'עַם *re'êm*) God compares Himself: “YHWH his •God is with him, and royal acclamation sounds in his midst. •God brought him out of Egypt; He hath as it were the horns of a wild bull. –He shall consume the nations His enemies, and break their bones, and with His arrows shall smite them in pieces. He stoops, He lies down as a lion, and like a lioness: who dares rouse Him? Blessed is he that blesses you, and cursed is he that curses you” (Num. 23:21-22; 24:8-9).

In the Bible God often compares Himself with a lion, and here with a wild bull. “The eye of the bull” (Arb) *ʿayn at-tawr* (α Tauri; red giant, 0.9 mag, 68 ly, 100 ☼ sun) is red with rage, and with lowered horns the Bull zooms off: Woe unto him who comes in its way.

The very old name of α Tauri (Arb) *ad-dabarân* ★ has been translated “the one who follows the Pleiades.” But the Bull runs ahead instead of following the Pleiades, His beloved bride, even though the sky rotates that way above our eyes. May not the name *ad-dabarân* have the same meaning as the Hebrew (דָּבָר *dabar* “a word”) and Phœnician דבר *dbr* “the Word?” This is the name of the Messiah in the Holy Scriptures, where He is described thus: “And I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and one sitting on it, called Faithful and True, and He judges and makes war in righteousness. And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head many diadems, having a name written which no one knows but Himself; and He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called *the Word of God*. And the armies which are in the heaven followed Him upon white horses, clad in white, pure, fine linen. And out of His mouth goes a sharp two-edged sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He shall shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the wine-press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. And He has upon His garment, and upon His thigh, a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords” (Rev. 19:11-16; see also in the Gospel of John 1:1 where the Messiah is called the *Word*).

This is exactly what the constellation Taurus describes: the coming of Messiah in glory for judgment. Also, Enoch prophesied about it: “Behold, the Lord has come amidst His holy myriads, to execute judgment against all; and to convict all the ungodly of them of all their works of ungodliness, which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him” (Jude 14-15).

Paul describes the revelation of the Lord Yeshúa from heaven, “with the angels of His power, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who know not God, and those who do not obey the Glad Tidings of our Lord Yeshúa Messiah; who shall pay the penalty of everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His might, when He comes to be glorified in His saints, and wondered at in all that have believed” (2 Thess. 1:7-10).

“The voice of YHWH cleaveth out flames of fire” (Psa. 29). Habakkuk first complained: “YHWH, how long shall I cry and You will not hear? I cry out unto You, Violence! and You do not save. Why do You cause me to see iniquity, and look You upon grievance?” A little later he shook over his whole body and his lips trembled when God revealed to him His glorious coming from heaven and the fiery judgment: “The sun and moon stood still in their habitation, at the light of Your arrows which shot forth, – at the shining of

Your glittering spear. You did march through the land in indignation, You did thresh the nations in anger. You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for the salvation of Your anointed; You did smite off the head from the house of the wicked, laying bare the foundation even to the neck” (Hab. 1:2-3; 3:11-13).

In the neck of the Bull, where its great power is lying, you see the most beautiful swarm of the Pleiades. They are His power and the rejoicing of His heart and inspiration. In answer to their prayers He does everything whatever He does. Just as the Pleiades are riding on the shoulders of the mighty Bull, thus the bride of Yeshúa will come with Him in glory. She has nothing to fear from the terrible judgments of God. “For in the day of evil He will hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His tent will He keep me concealed: He will set me high upon a rock” (Psa. 27:5; 91). Nor will He give up the soul of His turtle-dove unto the wild beast (Psa. 74:19); but as Noah took the dove into the ark, He will take her to Himself into His pavilion on Mount Zion before the storm, and after the storm she will fly out again.

Just as the Pleiades do, thus also their sisters, the Hyades (in the cheek of the Bull), bring rain, the rain of blessing, wherever they appear. The name Ὑάδες *Hyades* “the Hyades, the Rainers” comes from the Greek ὑώ *húô* “to wet, to water, to rain,” and the Arabs call the “eye of the Bull” (α Tauri) *al-mijdah* “the one who stirs up rain.” It shows that with the lightnings of the judgments of God, rain in abundance is coming. And thus also His coming is described: “He shall come down like rain on the mown grass, as showers that water the earth. In His days shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon be no more” (Psa. 72:6-7); that means a thousand years long. Then Messiah will pour out His Holy Spirit upon all flesh, then there will be joy and rejoicing, and the whole world will praise its Messiah.

ORION

The next constellation is the sign of “the midst” of heaven (Arb) *al-jawzâ* ★, namely “the mighty Orion,” Greek Ὠρίων *Ôríôn*, old Greek Ὠρίων *Ôariôn*, *ôariôn*, probably from Akkadian *ûru-an-na* “the light of heaven,” or simply from Hebrew אֵרִי + אֶרֶב *’ûrî + ’ôv* “the fiery/very bright one” (cf. Brown I, p. 254).

He is described as a mighty “hero” (Arb) *al-jabbâr*, (Heb) גִּבּוֹר *gibbôr* “hero, mighty one”; just like the sun rejoices as a hero to run the race (Psa. 19:5), thus also Orion has a long race to run. Both the sun and Orion are types of the Messiah.

Everyone knows this beautiful constellation of the hero Orion, which even in the winter nights shines so brightly. The three stars at his girdle (δ ε ζ Orionis) are called in Arabic *nitâq al-jawzâ* “the girdle of Orion” and also *al-mîzân* “the scales; the righteousness,” for “righteousness shall be the girdle of His reins, and faithfulness the girdle of His loins” (Isa. 11:5). All three stars are bluish and describe His faithfulness. The middle one (ε Orionis, 1.7 mag, 1200 ly) is 23,000 times brighter than our sun. But on his loins his sharp Sword is hanging, called in Arabic *sayf al-jabbâr* “the sword of the strong one,” which is the Word of God.

What a task God gave to Job: “Can you fasten the bands of the Pleiades, or loosen the girdle of Orion?” (Job 38:31). No one can separate righteousness from the Messiah, for He is “YHWH our Righteousness” (Jer. 23:6; 33:16).

In Babylonian Orion has a strange name *ši-ta-ad-da-ru-um* “he who was slain with the weapon,” and Aratos tells that “the Scorpion wounded him, mighty though he was, and slew him” (*Phainomena*, 641-644). Do you not recognize the Hero from Calvary? These names the heathen have handed down to us hundreds of years



before the birth of Yeshúa our Messiah.

He who lays down His life for us is our faithful Shepherd, and thus the old Babylonians called this constellation (*mul*) *ši-pa-zi-a-na* “the faithful shepherd of heaven,” just as the Arabs called α Boötis *ḥâris as-samâ* “the guardian of heaven.” He keeps His heavenly flocks, Ursa Minor and Ursa Major, and they follow Him. His sheep are those who follow Him, who walk with Him in the light. The characteristic of our Good Shepherd is that He lays down His life for us, as He has said Himself: “On this account the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it again” (John 10:17-18). The Lord Himself spoke in that night when He was delivered up: “All you shall be offended in me during this night. For it is written: `Awake, O sword, against my Shepherd, even against the Man that is my Fellow, says YHWH of Hosts: smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered, and I will turn my hand upon the little ones” (Matt. 26:31; Zech. 13:7). For we are the sheep for slaughter, for His sake (Rom. 8:36).

As already mentioned, no one could have laid his hand upon Yeshúa, nor killed Him, if He had not already given His own flesh and blood for His beloved disciples. He gave Himself into the hands of His enemies and spoke, “If you seek me, let these go,” in order that the word be fulfilled which He spoke: “Those whom you have given to me I have kept, and not one of them has perished” (John 17:12). Praise be to God for our faithful Shepherd! “All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way, and YHWH has laid upon Him the iniquities of us all” (Isa. 53:6).

Therefore He is called (Heb) *יְשׁוּעַ* *Yešûa*’ Yeshúa, “YHWH is Salvation,” for “He shall save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).

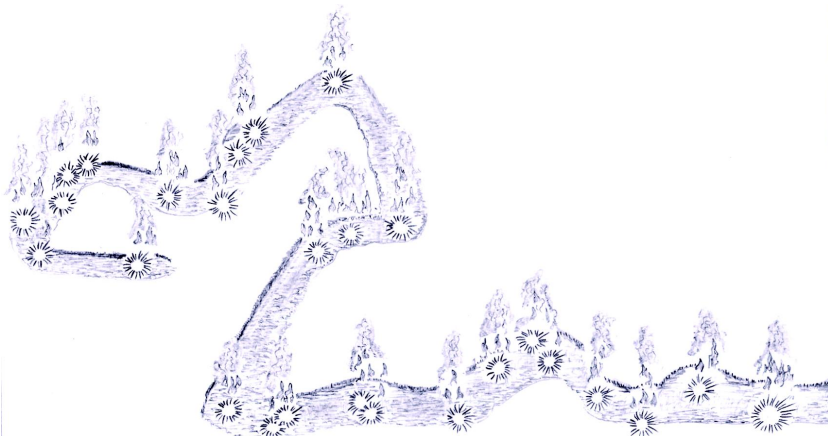
Orion, “the light of heaven,” is also a type of Yeshúa the Messiah (Heb: *מְשִׁיחַ* “Messiah, Anointed”), who speaks: “I AM the Light of the world; he who follows me, shall not walk in darkness, but have the Light of Life” (John 8:12). He is not only the Light of the world, but also the Lamp of the New Jerusalem; the Light of Heaven is *the Lamb that was slain*, – who is “in the midst of the throne” (Rev. 21:23; 5:6).

Three stars in the head of Orion ($\lambda \phi^{1,2}$ Orionis) are called (Arb) *at-taḥîya* ★ “God give you long life!” Yes, YHWH let His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you! His face is shining as the sun, Matt. 17:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; 4:6; John 3:19. Therefore, look only upon Yeshúa and you will be changed into His likeness!

Other bright stars in Orion are the bright α Orionis (a red giant, 310 ly, 13,000 \ast sun) (Arb) *mankib al-jawzâ* “the shoulder of Orion,” and his blue forerunner γ Orionis *al-mirzam* “the forerunner.” The blue-white β Orionis (0.1 mag, 900 ly, 57,000 \ast sun) and the blue κ Orionis are called together (Arb) *rijlâ l-jawzâ* “the feet of Orion,” β Orionis alone is also called (Arb) *râ’i al-jawzâ* “the Shepherd Orion,” again describing Orion as the Good Shepherd.

ERIDANUS

At the feet of the glorious Orion, there springs forth a strong river (Grk) *Ἐριδανός* *Êridanós*, (Heb) *נַהַר* *nahar* “river” (Arb) *an-nahr* “the river,” about which the Greeks recount that it is burning with flames of fire. It flows past the Sea-Monster, far towards the south. The Arabs call this constellation (+ Lepus) *kursî al-jawzâ* “the throne of Orion.” This agrees with the vision of Daniel: “I beheld till thrones were set, and the



Ancient of Days did sit: His raiment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool; His throne was flames of fire, and its wheels burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came forth from before Him; thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld therefore, because of the voice of the great words that the horn spoke; I beheld till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed, and it was given up to be burned with fire” (Dan. 7:9-11).

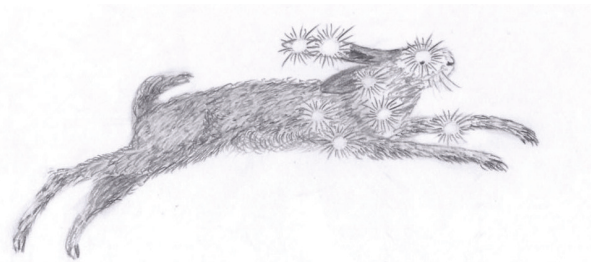
John on Patmos also saw: “the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against Him that sat upon the horse, and against His army. And the beast was taken, and the false prophet that was with him, who wrought the signs before him by which he deceived them that received the mark of the beast, and those that worship his image. Both were cast alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone” (Revelation 19:19-20).

“For behold, the day comes, burning as a furnace; and all the proud and all that work wickedness shall be stubble; and the day that comes shall burn them up, saith YHWH of Hosts, so that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. And unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go forth and leap like fatted calves” (Mal. 4:1-2; see also Matt. 13:40-43).

LEPUS

Then all the proud ones and all boasters and all who have not brought their lives in order with God will have great fear and flee away from the face of the Lord like a hare. This *Hare* (Grk: Λαγώς, Λαγώς *Lagôós*, Lat: *Lepus*, Heb: אֲרִנָּבָת Arb: *arnab*), you see under the feet of Orion, how it runs away, but cannot escape. “And the heaven was removed as a scroll rolled up, and every mountain and island were removed out of their places. And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains; and they say to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us, and have us hidden from the face of Him that sits upon the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; because the great day of His wrath is come, and who is able to stand?” (Rev. 6:14-17; see also Isa. 2:10-22).

This constellation Lepus “the Hare” describes the end of the career of Satan. “And I saw an angel descending from the heaven, having the key of the abyss, and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, that he should not any more deceive the nations” (Rev. 20:1-3). Yeshúa is not going to fight with him, for that battle He has done and finished on Calvary; He sends only an angel who casts him into prison.



As mentioned above, this constellation is called (Arb) *kursî/‘arš al-jaw-zâ’* “the throne of Orion,” for now Messiah, the Sun of Righteousness, shall sit upon His glorious throne of David in Jerusalem, and all nations shall be judged before Him, every individual man, according to what he has done toward His brothers, the Jews, Christians, and the poor in their need. He who has shown mercy and faithfulness for the sake of Yeshúa toward his poor Lazarus, shall inherit the eternal kingdom of the Father and eternal life. But he who, for fear of losing his life, showed no hospitality to the persecuted Jews, he shall, as He says “go away to eternal punishment” (Matt. 25:31-46).

This constellation is, moreover, called by the Arabs *an-nihâl* “those who quench their thirst,” for “then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf be unstopped; then shall the lame man leap

Chapter 9 – *Behold, He Comes With the Clouds, and Every Eye Shall See Him!*

as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and torrents in the desert. And the mirage shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of wild dogs, where they lay down, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. – The wilderness and the dry land shall be gladdened; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and shouting: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of YHWH, the excellency of our God” (Isa. 35:5-7,1-2; read also Isa. 12 and 66:10-14). “Behold, I come quickly, and my reward with me, to render to every one according as his work shall be” (Rev. 22:12).

Chapter Ten

With Messiah in His Kingdom

GEMINI

By the constellation of the *Twins* we receive an insight into the glorious Messianic kingdom of peace on earth. The bright stars α and β Geminorum were called by the Babylonians (*mul*) *maš-tab-ba-gal-gal* “the great Twins,” and the Greeks called the constellation Δίδυμοι *Dídumoi* “twins,” like Latin *Gemini*. The Greeks called the Twins *Poludeúkês* (from which the Latin *Pollux* comes) and *Kástôr*, and these are also the names of the two main stars (α and β Geminorum) in the heads of the Twins. The stars of the one Twin mix in with the stars of the other one, expressing the close attachment of the Twins.

The brightest star is the red giant β Geminorum (1.1 mag, 35 ly, 60 \odot sun). His name Πολυδεύκης *Poludeúkês* means “very sweet” and he is a type of Yeshúa our Messiah. “What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than the Lion [of Judah]?” (Judg. 14:18).

His sister and bride in the Song of Songs describes Him: “Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth; for Your love is better than wine. Your ointments savour sweetly; Your name is an ointment poured forth! – His mouth is most sweet: yea, He is altogether lovely!” (Songs 1:2-3; 5:16). The kisses of His mouth are the Word of the Cross.

In old graphic representations *Poludeúkês* is holding a branch in his hand. For he is the (Heb) שָׁמַח *šāmah* “Branch¹” and נֶצֶר *néšār* “Branch²” which will fulfill these glorious promises (¹Isa. 4:2; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 3:8; 6:12. ²Isa. 11:1). Also he has “the wound” (Arb: *al-han’á* ★) (γ ξ Geminorum) on his feet.

The second brightest star is the greenish-white α Geminorum (1.5 mag, 46 ly, 12 \odot sun). His name Κάστωρ *Kastôr* comes from the Semitic root *qšt*, cf. Hebrew תִּשְׁבֵּת *qāšät*, Akk: *qaštu* “bow,” and on old graphic representations *Kastôr* has a bow and arrows in his right hand, and a harp in his left. The bow is the bow of prayer, and the harp is for the praises of God. For they sing the new song (Rev. 5:9-10; 14:1-3). *Kastôr* is sitting at the right hand of *Poludeúkês* (in the mirror), and they are embracing one another. (See the Song of Songs 2:6-7; 8:3-4.)

According to the Greek legend, *Poludeúkês* was immortal, but *Kastôr* was mortal. When *Kastôr* had to die, *Poludeúkês* chose to die in his stead, in order that both of them might be revived together, forever. “Greater love has no man than this, that he lays down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). “Hereby we have known love, because He has laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16).

The Greeks also call the Twins Ζήθος *Zéthos* and Ἀμφίων *Amphíôn*, and Homer tells how they together founded Thebes, the old capital city of Boeotia, and built towers around it. *Zéthos* was strong, whereas *Amphíôn* was tender. But *Amphíôn* had received a harp from God, and when he played upon it for the glory of God, then the otherwise hard labor was accomplished easily and the greatest rocky stones piled up harmoniously, as by themselves, until the glorious wall of the royal city with its gates was finished. This is a type of how Yeshúa Messiah has founded the New Jerusalem and now, together with His assembly, is building the temple city of the



Living God and its invincible wall of *iaspis*.¹⁶ When we praise the Lord, the work is accomplished quickly and joyfully by His resurrection power. We shall learn to praise God in all things for Yeshúa Messiah. Then He, the strong Overcomer from Calvary, finishes the work of God in us.

On the oldest Egyptian representations of this constellation you see a youth walking hand in hand with a young girl, and both of them are divine. According to the Holy Scriptures, those who follow the Messiah faithfully, both His brothers and His sisters, are called His bride, they are one body with Him. Could God describe this more beautifully than by this constellation? As Adam and Eve together cared for the Garden of Eden, thus also Messiah with His bride will bless the whole creation, when they come very soon in order to rule over the earth. Then Psalm 85:10-11 will be fulfilled: “Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth springs from the earth; and righteousness looks down from heaven.” The whole earth will be filled with His glory (as described in the glorious Messianic prophecy Psalms 72). Glory be to God in the highest, and peace on earth among men of His good pleasure.

The Arabic names *al-han'a* ★, *az-zirr* and *al-maysân* for γ and ξ Geminorum are described under the moon stations [see footnote 9].

AURIGA



This constellation, which is above the Twins, Orion, and the Bull, describes the same fellowship of love between Messiah and His own. Aratos describes Auriga thus: “On his left shoulder lies the sacred She-goat, storied to have suckled Zeus. Arm-borne She-goat is the title given her by priests of Zeus. And near to their bright mother with faint rays glisten the two Kids o’er the giant’s wrist” (as a mirror image, it is really the right shoulder) (*Phainomena*, 161-166). The Greeks call it Ἡνίοχος *Hêníochos* “holding the reins, charioteer,” but what we see is simply a Goat-herder, and also Abraham ibn Ezra calls him a “Herdsman.”

Leaning towards his right shoulder, the Goat-herder holds his dear Goat *Capella*, the bright yellow-orange α Aurigae (0.1 mag, 42 ly, 150 ☉ sun). *Capella* means “little goat” (dim. fem. of Lat. *caper* “he-goat,” which again comes from the Hebrew כִּפָּר *kippār* “to atone,” since the black goats were always used for sin offerings). Two young he-goats press themselves tightly to their dear mother in the bosom of the faithful Goat-herder. Isn’t that a beautiful picture of Yeshúa our Good Shepherd, how He holds His dear goats in His arms?

In Arabic *Capella* is called *al-‘ayyûq* ★, which means “goat,” just as the Babylonian *îqu* means. She is also called ‘ayyûq *at-turayyâ* “the goat *Thurayyâ*” (as *genitivus epexegeticus*), for the goat is the bride, whom the Arabs call *Thurayyâ*. *Thurayyâ* again means “the abundantly rich one” in God.

She is also called (Arb) *al-‘anz* “the goat” (α and also ϵ Aurigae), and as said before, the goats in the Near East were black. She says: “I am black, but comely, daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon. Look not upon me, because I am black; because the sun hath looked upon me” (Songs 1:5-6). *Kedar* means “black,” and the tents made of goats’ hair were black, as also one of the coverings of the Tabernacle, consisting in eleven curtains of goats’ hair, was black, signifying the curse of the Cross.

¹⁶ The Ἴασπις *iaspis* in the Greek New Testament has surely nothing to do with our modern “Jasper,” an opaque massive silica. Revelation 21:11,18 describes the biblical *iaspis* as brilliant and crystal-clear; and it must be very hard, for the wall of the New Jerusalem is made of *iaspis*. Pliny (NH 37:115,117) describes *iaspis* as green and often translucent. He alludes to imitations of *iaspis* made of glass. Dionysius Heriegetes claims that it is “watery” [sec. 782], “green and translucent,” “shining-through green” [sec. 1120]. *Adamas* “diamond” is not mentioned in the New Testament, and some scholars suppose that the *iaspis* of the New Testament may be diamond. In lack of proof we call the stone by its Greek name *iaspis*.

Everyone who has fellowship with the Crucified One becomes black in the eyes of the world, black as coal and unworthy in his own eyes (Isa. 6:5), but beautiful in the eyes of God.

The stars $\delta \xi$ Aurigae + Giraffe are called (Arb) *al-hibâ* “the tent [of goats’ hair].” So they are sitting at one of the tents of Kedar having loving fellowship together. The two stars ζ and η Aurigae, close by Capella, are called *al-jadyân* “the two small he-goats,” pressing towards their mother. The Good Shepherd speaks to her, “Feed your kids beside the shepherds’ booths” (Songs 1:8).

And she rejoices in His love: “I am my Beloved’s, and my Beloved is mine: He feeds [His flock] among the lilies.” Why goats and not sheep? Because the goats have to do with the ministry of reconciliation, as sin offering, and we should admonish every man to be reconciled with God. It is a most holy ministry with the blood of the sin offering, leading into the Holy of Holies. And there she prays for the sprinkling with the blood of Yeshúa for her brethren. This priestly ministry bears such infinite fruit before God, because God is love.

He Himself, the Goat-herder, has a great wound on His foot, for He has been pierced by the horn of the Bull. The blue-white star γ Aurigae (= β Tauri) is called *an-naḥ* “the butting with the horns,” and shows the wound from the sharp horn. But is not the wild Bull a type of God (Num. 23:22; 24:8)? Does God pierce His own beloved Son? Yes. The wrath of God because our sin did not hit us, for we would have been exterminated, all of us, but hit Him who knew no sin; He became a sin offering for us in order that we may become God’s righteousness in Him.

The stars of His wounded foot, hands, and shoulder ($\gamma \theta \beta$ Aurigae) show His wounds from His crucifixion and flagellation. They are called *al-a’lâm* “the signs; the banners,” for the blood of His cross is indeed our victorious banner, under which we go from victory to victory. And where there is victory there is peace in His loving fellowship. All this glory and joy is because of His shed blood.

Look how the Goat-herder loves His Goat. So we shall also love the animals. For Yeshúa is our good Shepherd, but God has appointed us men as shepherds of His creation in order to guard His garden well, with all the animals. Just like the relationship is between God and us, so should our relationship be to the animals and plants. If anyone says that he loves God, and does not care well for his animals, the truth is not in him.

CANIS MAJOR¹⁷

Now we come to the brightest star of heaven, the bluish *Sirius* (-1.5 mag, 8.7 ly, 26 \ast sun), which you find under Orion to the left. The oldest Babylonian writings call him (*mul*) *ka-ak-zi-zi* or *kak-si-sá* “arrow,” and *kakkab kak-ban* “star of the weapon of the bow.” The other stars in Canis Major are called (*mul giš*) *ban* “bow” and *qá-aš-tum e-la-ma-tum* “the Elamite bow.” In old Iranian Sirius is called *tištrya* “arrowhead,” and in Persian *tîr* “arrow,” and in Zend Avesta “*Tištrya*, the bright and glorious star,” is described as “a swift arrow flying through space.”

But who, and where is the archer? and what is the target of the Arrow? The Arabs moved the Bow closer to Orion, the Mighty Hunter, to the stars of $\xi \eta \mu \nu \gamma$ Geminorum. But the Chinese saw Sirius as the target of the Arrow, and describe the Bow as the stars $\kappa \epsilon \sigma \delta \tau \eta$ Canis Majoris and $\xi \rho$ Puppis, and let the Arrow reach from η to σ_2 Canis Majoris.

Thus Sirius was considered in the oldest time to be the Arrowhead, and at the same time the Target or Aim. There is no other aim. According to the Holy Scriptures, Yeshúa Messiah is the “Aim” (Grk) *Τέλος Τέλος*: “For Messiah is the Aim/Fulfillment of the Law for righteousness to everyone



¹⁷ *Canis Maior* (Lat.) “the Greater Dog” and *Canis Minor* (Lat.) “the Lesser Dog” were described as the two dogs of the mighty hunter Orion chasing a Hare according to an old Euphratean myth, which has nothing to do with the revelation of the Messiah in the stars.

who believes” (Romans 10:4). “I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Fulfillment” (Rev. 21:6; 22:13). The precise translation of *télos* is “an aim reached, the fulfillment.”

This is the Aim of God, the mystery of His will: to gather all under One Head the Messiah, those in the heavens and those upon the earth. - Therefore, the Father has raised up His Son from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above every principality and authority and power and dominion, and every name named, not only in this age, but also in that to come; and has put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as Head over all things to the assembly, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all (Eph. 1:10, 20-23).

“For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet” (1 Cor. 15:25).

Sirius describes Yeshúa our Messiah as the King of kings and the Lord of lords who shall reign from Jerusalem as Prince of Peace over the whole earth: “and as surely as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD” (Num. 14:21 and Psalm 72:19). Now please, read the whole Psalm 72 which describes the Shoot out of the stock of Yeshai in His glorious reign over the earth. (Also the following scriptures paint the portrait of Messiah the Lion of Judah in His glorious Sabbath day, the seventh millennium after creation: Isaiah 11:1-10; yea, read the very center of the book of Isaiah 33:17, 20-21-22 and 2 Sam. 23:3-4.)

He will restore Paradise on earth, yea, there will be even more than Adam and Eve in Paradise: Messiah with His beautiful bride, the Shulammite, His crown of glory (Isa. 62:3; Zech. 9:16).

The Arabic name of Sirius is *aš-šī'râ* ★ and may mean “knowledge” (from *ša'ara* “to know, have knowledge”; *šī'r* and *šu'ûr* “knowledge”; the same word as the Hebrew שָׁעַר *śá'ar* “to know,” Deut. 32:17). For this is the aim of the work of God in us: “until we all arrive at the unity of the faith and of the full *knowledge* of the Son of God, at the full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Messiah” (Eph. 4:13). And the apostle prays to God for his beloved brethren for enlightened eyes, “in order that you may be fully able to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height; and to know the love of the Messiah which surpasses all *knowledge*; that you may be filled even to all the fullness of God” (Eph. 1:17-20; 3:18-19). Indeed, in the Messiah all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid (Col. 2:3).

The Arabs call Sirius *aš-šī'râ al-'abûr* ★ “Sirius crossing over, or going beyond,” and Paul describes the love of the Messiah which surpasses all knowledge. He considered all to be a loss compared to this only: “to know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings [O, how sweet!], being conformed to His death, if in any way I may attain to the resurrection from among the dead” (Phil. 3:10-11). To know Him is eternal life and highest joy (John 17:3). “For in Messiah dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and you have come to completion in Him who is the Head of all principality and authority” (Col. 2:9-10).

But the Sirius “*crossing over*” also signifies His death upon the cross. For just as Joshua led the children of Israel through the river Jordan into the Promised Land, so our Lord Yeshúa by His death and resurrection leads us into the kingdom of heaven. “One has died for all, therefore all have died” (2 Cor. 5:14). “For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him” (Rom. 6:5-6). “I have been crucified with Messiah; and no longer I live, but Messiah lives in me” (Gal. 2:20). This is the needle’s eye into the kingdom of God.

The old Iranians called Sirius “the first star” and “the lord and supervisor of all the stars,” who brings abundance of rain and water. Yes, just as Sirius is the brightest of all fixed stars in heaven, thus Yeshúa our Messiah is the Lord and Chief of the heavenly host. Before the conquests in the Promised Land, Joshua, the captain of Israel, received revelation from the Captain of the army of YHWH (Josh. 5:14). As he was waiting for command, this Captain gave him the same instructions that He gave to Moses at the burning thorn-bush: “Loose your sandal from off your foot, for the place whereon you stand is holy.” Then Joshua fell on his

face to the ground at His feet and worshipped, which no angel would ever have tolerated (Rev. 19:10; cf. Dan 8:11, 25).

Enoch saw the Messiah coming in the midst of His holy myriads; and the bride in Song of Songs (5:10) describes her Beloved: “My Beloved is radiant white¹⁸ and red, lifted up as a banner above ten thousands. His head is the finest gold, his locks are clusters of dates, black as the raven.” He is white and red because He gives us His body and blood, and He is black as the raven because of our sin, which He took upon Himself. His head is the finest gold, He is “‘God with us” (Heb) עִמָּנוּאֵל *Immanuel* (Isa. 7:14). John the Baptist says: “He that comes from above is above all, He must increase, I must decrease.” The Father Himself speaks: “I have anointed my King upon Zion, the hill of my holiness.” Then the Son responds: “I will declare the decree, YHWH has said unto me, ‘You are my Son: I this day have begotten You. Ask of me, and I will give You the nations for an inheritance, and for Your possession the ends of the earth: You shall break them with a scepter of iron, as a potter’s vessel You shall dash them to pieces” (Psa. 2:6-9).

He revealed Himself to John on Patmos as Yeshúa Messiah “the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from among the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth” (Rev. 1:5). Before Him all kings must fall down, beseeching for His grace.

In the constellation *Sagittarius* we saw Him as “the Arrowhead,” pointing towards the center of the Milky Way. In *Orion* we saw Him as “the Light of Heaven,” and as “the Middle of Heaven.” In *Aries*, He reveals Himself as “the slain Lamb” which rules everything; and this is the first of all the constellations and seasons. In the *Revelation of Yeshúa Messiah* we see Him as “the little Lamb” in the midst of the throne of God. In the constellation *Cepheus* we see Him as “the Highest of all,” having placed His right foot on the North Pole; He is “the Right Hand of YHWH.” In *Sirius* we see Him as “the Aim of God” and as “the Chief of the Army of YHWH,” “the Head above all.” Let us do like Joshua, falling at His feet and worshipping Him. Thus is your Messiah, O Israel!

Five bright white stars (among others $\alpha^2 \delta$ (1.9 mag, 3000 ly, 120,000 \odot sun) $\epsilon \eta$ Canis Majoris) just underneath Sirius, are called (Arb) *al-‘adârâ* “the virgins” and *al-‘udra* “virginity.” These Virgins, who shall be glorified with the King of kings and rule with Him, are described most clearly in Revelation 14:1-5. We have already considered this flock of overcomers, the Bride of the Lamb, under the *Pleiades* in *Taurus*.

The virginity signifies their spotless purity and faithfulness to Messiah, and not that they never married, although many of them refrained from marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 19:12). Yeshúa was their one and all. Such a virgin for the Messiah Paul was seeking: “I am jealous as to you with a jealousy which is of God, for I have espoused you unto One Man, to present you *a chaste virgin to the Messiah*. But I fear lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craft, so your thoughts should be corrupted from *simplicity as to the Messiah*” (2 Cor. 11:2-3). What an infinitely high calling; may we only please Him, for He Himself chooses His own bride.

The blue star β Canis Majoris (2.0 mag, 720 ly, 7252 \odot sun) before Sirius is called (Arb) *mirzam aš-šîrâ* ★ “the forerunner of Sirius” and describes Elijah, as we see him in Malachi 3:1 and 4:5. This angel has come and will come again before the Messiah (Rev. 11).

John the Baptist was beheaded, and many prophets and witnesses of the Messiah in every country were killed; but they are going to arise and rule with the Messiah in His glorious kingdom: “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them and judgment was given to them; and the souls of those beheaded on account of the testimony of Yeshúa, and on account of the Word of God; and those who had not done homage to the beast nor to his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and hand; and they became alive and reigned with the Messiah a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not become alive, till the thousand years had been completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection, over these the second death has no power; but they shall be priests of God and

18 Hebrew מְאֹד *sh* “dazzling, radiant white.” Cf. “whiter than milk” (Lam. 4:7); also Isa. 18:4.

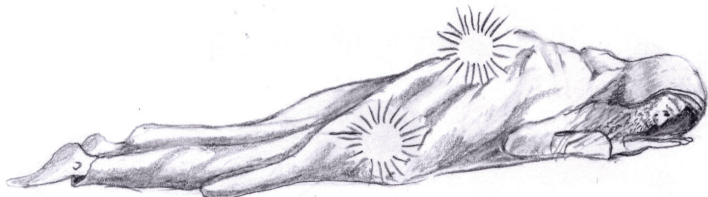
of the Messiah, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:4-6).

Thus Messiah will sit on the throne of David, ruling over all the earth. And all the nations will make pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. And if the family of Egypt does not go up, there will fall no rain in Egypt. This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Israel. When did it ever rain in Egypt? But in the kingdom of the Messiah the desert will become a fruitful garden, and the glory of the Lord and the knowledge of YHWH shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea (Zech. 14:16-19; Isa.35).

CANIS MINOR

Who is this King of Glory, before whom all His enemies will fall down? And who is He that shall reign in peace over the whole world for ever? He is shown to us in the next constellation (Canis Minor, between Sirius and the Twins). The yellow-white star α Canis Minoris (0.4 mag, 11.3 ly, 7 * sun) is called (Arb) *aš-šīrâ al-ghumaysâ* * “the little, despised Sirius” and *al-ghamṣâ* “the despised one.”

“Behold, my Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and lifted up and be very high. As many were astonished at You – His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the children of men, – so shall He astonish many nations; kings shall shut their mouth at Him” (Isa. 52:13-15).



The brightest stars α and β Canis Minoris are called (Arb) *aḍ-ḍirâ* * “the [fore]arm,” and this is exactly the same word as the Hebrew זרוע *Zerôa* “the [fore]arm,” about which we read here: “Who has believed our report? and to

whom has the Arm of YHWH been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender sapling, and as a root out of dry ground” (cf. “A Shoot out of the stump of Yishai, and a Branch out of his roots” Isa. 11:1). “He has no form of lordliness, and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and left alone of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and like one from whom men hide their faces; – despised, and we esteemed Him not” (Isa. 53:1-3; please continue to read this chapter). This is the King of all kings, the Messiah of Israel!

Chapter Eleven

Safely at Home

CANCER

Now the sun leads us into the next constellation *Cancer*, the “Crab,” with its weak stars, which is a mirror image of our Father’s house.

In Babylon Cancer was considered to be “the seat of the god of heaven,” but also as “a great river” and as a “capital city.” So apparently they first saw the residential city of God with a stream of the Waters of Life. “And I saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Her shining was like a most precious stone, as a crystal-like *iaspis*¹⁹ stone; having a great and high wall; having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names inscribed, which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. And the twelve gates, twelve pearls, each one of the gates, respectively, was of one pearl. And the street of the city, pure gold, as transparent glass. And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty is its Temple, and the Lamb. And the city has no need of the sun, nor of the moon that they should shine for it, for the glory of God has enlightened it, and the Lamp thereof is the Lamb. And he showed me a river of Water of Life, bright as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Rev. 21; 22).

The beautiful nebular cluster of stars, *Praesepe*, had a special name with the Babylonians, *kakkab nangari* “star of the craftsman of art” in reality it comprises 500 stars 520 light-years away.

These stars also illustrate the earthly home and birth-place of our great Messiah, the Heir of the universe, the King of Israel. Listen how Aratos describes *Praesepe*: “Watch the Manger: like a little mist far north in Cancer’s territory it floats. Its confines are two faintly glimmering stars – one on the north, the other on the south. These are two Asses that a Manger parts” (*Phainomena*, 892-898).

The “Crib” is called in Grk: Φάτωη *Phátnê*; translated into Arabic: *ma’laf*; Lat: *Praesaepe*. And the “Two Asses” in Grk: ὄνοι *Ónoi*; translated into Arabic: *al-himârân*; Lat: *Asini* or *Aselli* (the white γ, 4.66 mag, 157 ly, 29 ✧ sun; and the orange-red δ Cancri, 3.9 mag, 150 ly, 65 ✧ sun).

The *Two Asses* are eating from the *Crib*. And what was laid in the crib in Bethlehem? There the *Grain of Wheat* was lying, the Bread of Life, Yeshúa Himself. Bethlehem means “bread-house,” for He alone it is who gives life in abundance to the world. He is our “living manna” (John 6:47-51).

When Yeshúa entered Jerusalem as King, He did not choose a stately horse, nor an elephant, but the colt of an ass (that would be similar to the President of the United States riding in a small VW Bug through the streets of Washington, D.C. on the day of his inauguration. Not even the Pope would come up with that idea). But Yeshúa our Messiah is meek and humble of heart, and He has come to our earth in order to set His enslaved creation free. This colt of an ass carried the Lord of Glory, and He carried our sins away. As sign of its election, God painted a great cross on the back and shoulders of the ass. For the Cross is the glory of God.

And to whom was it given to carry the cross of Yeshúa? The Jews would not touch “the wood of curse” and to the Romans the cross was the greatest shame. So they took the poor Simon, from Cyrene in Africa, and put the cross upon his back. And he carried the blessed cross behind Yeshúa. What infinite grace! “For God has chosen the foolish things of the world, to put to shame the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world, that He may put to shame the things which are strong; and the ignoble things of the world, and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, that no flesh should boast before God” (1 Cor. 1:27-29).

Those who carry the cross with Yeshúa belong to the Father’s house, they are despised here on this earth,

19 See the first footnote under Gemini.

they are the sons of God in glory.

“Cancer” (Lat) means a “crab.” The Greek name is *Καρκίνος Karkínos* “crab,” in Arabic *as-saraṭān* ★ “the crab.” All Egyptian representations of this constellation show a *Crab*. In Babylonian the constellation Cancer is called *aḫḫul* “the river crab.” Dr. Werner Papke identifies it with the watchman at the entrance to the Cedar Forest in the North, according to the Gilgamesh Epic, on the river Araxes in Urartu, in the Armenian highland. Here the Garden of Eden was believed to be located; so the watchman “the river crab” at the entrance to the Cedar Forest must be one of the cherubim with the flaming, flashing sword which God placed at the entrance to the Garden of Eden eastwards to guard the way to the Tree of Life (Gen. 3:24).²⁰



No man could pass the cherubim and enter the wonderful Garden of God, until our Redeemer - God’s only Son - had paid the penalty for our sins with His Blood upon the cross. But on that very day, before the sun set, Yeshúa Himself, with the repenting thief from the cross on His right hand, entered in followed by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the saints of the Old Covenant. The cherubim turned their flashing swords aside and fell down to the ground and welcomed and worshipped the Originator of Life. Ever since: *in the Name of Yeshúa* the justified sinner can enter the gate, and the cherubim welcome the faithful pilgrim into the Kingdom of his Father. But without the Name of Yeshúa written in his heart *no one* can enter the Garden of God into eternal life; the cherubim do not let him in. You will see it yourself, very soon.

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life, and may enter by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolators, and every one who loves and practices lying” (Rev. 22:14-15).

URSA MINOR

The two next constellations *Ursa Minor* and *Ursa Major* were represented by the Greeks as *Bears* by a misunderstanding. Have you ever seen bears with such long tails?

Plutarch says that the Phœnicians called those two constellations *Doube* or *Dôbher*. But Flammarion explains it as “the speaking constellation”²¹

This explanation as a “speaking constellation” reveals the Phœnician word *דבר dbr* “to speak.” If we vocalize these three consonants *דבר* “*dbr*” in the way which Plutarch heard it, then we have *דְּבָר* *dôbâr*, and that means “fold.” The Greeks misheard it as *דֹּב* *dôb* which means “a bear.” So these constellations have nothing to do with bears. In reality they describe two folds, enclosures: the “Little Fold” and a “Greater Fold,” as Miss Frances Rolleston recognized. The Little Fold is high up, close to the North Pole, whereas the Greater Fold is not quite as high, even though it is easier to see.

The Small Fold is called by the Arabs *banât na’s aš-ṣuḡhrâ* “the smaller *banât na’s*”, and the seven main stars of the Greater Fold are called *banât na’s al-kubrâ* “the greater *banât na’s*.” This expression *banât na’s* ★ is the same as in Job 9:9 *עַשׂ ‘âš*, and Job 38:32 *עַיִשׁ ‘áyîš* with its sons.” The Hebrew word shows us the stem of the word; the *n* in the Arabic *na’s* does not belong to the word but comes from the article, as Hommel has shown.²²

20 Werner Papke, *Die Sterne von Babylon: Die geheime Botschaft des Gilgamesch - nach 4000 Jahren entschlüsselt* (Bergisch Gladbach, Germany: Gustav Lübbe Verlag, 1989), pp. 117-119. Werner Papke, *Biblischer Botschafter*, August 1999, pp. 10-11.

21 R. H. Allen, *Star Names, Their Lore and Meaning*, p. 450.

22 Fritz Hommel, “Über den Ursprung und das Alter der arabischen Sternnamen und insbesondere der Mondstationen,” *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 45 (1891), 593-595. Concerning the high age of such Arabic star names, see the APPENDIX, THE AGE OF THE

‘aš, however, comes from Arabic ‘âša “to live, being alive;” ‘â’iš means “alive” and ‘aiš “life.” Thus, we must translate *banât naš* “as the sons of life.” That we have **נָשׁ** instead of **שׁ** in the Hebrew is explained thereby, that it was a foreign name, which the Masorettes did not know.

They are also called in Arabic *banû naš* ★ “the sons of life” or “the living ones” and *âl-naš* “the family of life.” Yeshúa our Messiah is the Life, and the Living One (John 14:6; 1 John 1:2; Rev. 1:18), and in Him we have the eternal life and are the sons of God. How infinitely great!

Thus, these two constellations describe the “sons of life.” The red-orange star β Ursae Minoris is called in Akkadian (*mul*) *ibila-é-mah* “the son and heir of the high house.” Notice, that this star is not the Polar Star, which is a type of Yeshúa, but another star in the Little Flock. Yeshúa isn’t the only son and heir of the high house, but everyone in His Little Flock. We are all heirs of God and fellow heirs with Messiah (Rom. 8:17). How infinitely great! What grace God has given us in His Messiah!

So this dear family of God is described as a Little Fold. The first is the yellowish Polar Star (α Ursae Minoris, 360 ly, 1600 ☼ sun), a type of Yeshúa, our Chief and Head. This bright star is called (Arb) *al-judayy* “the little he-goat” and again describes Yeshúa as our Sin Offering, whose blood has been brought into the Holy of Holies, and has been sprinkled on the Mercy Seat. By Him, and with Him alone, we have been brought to God. He is the “pole of the universe of God,” and that as our Sin Offering. Once the Pole was under the power of the Dragon, but Yeshúa has overcome it by being our Sin Offering, whose holy blood was shed on Calvary.

Now we understand what the epistle to the Hebrews declares: “But you have come to Mount Zion; and to the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem; and to myriads of angels, the universal gathering; and to the assembly of the firstborn who are registered in heaven; and to God, Judge of all; and to the spirits of just men made perfect; and to Yeshúa, Mediator of a new covenant; and to the Blood of sprinkling, speaking better than [the blood of] Abel” (namely “grace upon grace!”), Hebrews 12:22-24. That is the highest and most holy of all!

Two other bright stars ($\beta \gamma$ Ursae Minoris) are called (Arb) *al-farqadân* ★ “the two calves.” I have to think of the Cherubim, who had feet like calves, and one of them had the face of a bull (Ezek. 1:7; Rev. 4:7). These were portrayed in the Holy of Holies upon the Ark of the Covenant, as they spread their wings over the Mercy Seat. They cry incessantly “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come.” The word **כְּרוּב** “cherub” means “blesser” (cf. Akk. *karâbu* “to bless,” *kâribu* “blessing”). For to this we have been called, to praise and worship God. And in a special way we exist for Yeshúa, in order to love and to praise Him, as Mary anointed the feet of Yeshúa with the precious spikenard oil. That is the oil of rejoicing, with which our loving Father anoints His beloved Son, by us (Psa. 45:7). That is our highest calling.

Are there also Cherubim in the Little Fold? I don’t believe that they belong to the bride of the Lamb. But God shows us hereby our most excellent ministry. **אַתְּ כְּרוּב מְמַשַׁח הַסּוּכָה** “you were the anointed covering/protecting cherub” Ezek. 28:14. Lucifer, the “anointed covering cherub” (Ezek. 28:14; Isa. 14:12-15), fell by his pride, together with others who were called “sons of God” (Job 1:6; 2:1). Now God assigns a “little flock” of overcomers by the blood Yeshúa – who were the worst of sinners!! – in their stead, to a much higher position, to sit with Messiah in His throne (Rev. 3:21); therefore, Satan is foaming with rage against them. But they overcome by humility, and by the blood of the Lamb. Indeed, the grace which God has given us in Messiah is infinitely greater.

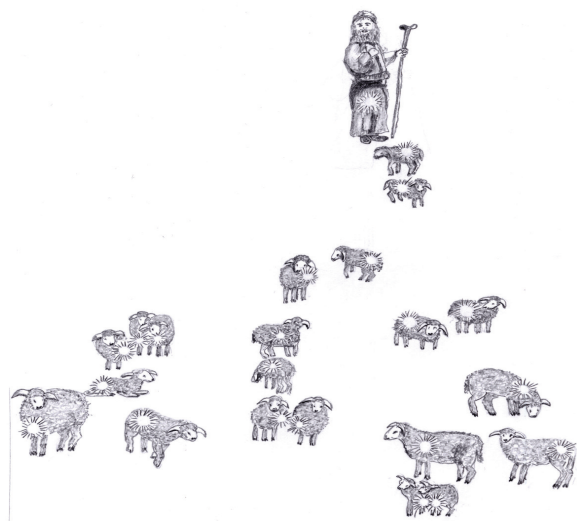


The two stars ($\beta \gamma$ Ursae Minoris) are also called (Arb) *al-hâjizân* “the two who ward off,” for they protect the Little Flock. There was a separating veil between the Holy of Holies and the Holy Place, and on this veil cherubs were portrayed. When Yeshúa died upon the cross, this veil was rent, from top to toe, by the finger of God. Now by the atoning blood of Yeshúa, the new (literally “fresh-slaughtered”) and living way into the Holy of Holies has been opened. And God calls us to enter into His Holy of Holies (Heb. 10:19-22). But how? As we are crucified with Messiah, for the entrance is the Cross. That means, that Yeshúa was crucified in our stead, and therefore, we have died with Him. So let us consider ourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, as risen with Messiah, and serve Him in His purity and love (2 Cor. 5:14-18; Rom. 6). All this has been given us in Yeshúa Messiah; so let us put on this priestly garment and serve God with whole-hearted zeal!

The Cross also separates between the Smaller and Greater Fold. For those in His Smaller Fold have been crucified with Messiah; they have died to sin, therefore, they are also raised up in Messiah and will be caught up to heaven without dying at the coming of the Bridegroom.

They are the overcomers who shall sit with Him in His throne; for they are co-crucified with Him (Rev. 3:21; Gal. 2:20). They are the ones who shall rule with Messiah over the nations with an iron rod, for they have learned to obey (Rev. 2:26-27; Heb. 5:8-9). That is the bride of Yeshúa Messiah, who loves Him with all her heart.

URSA MAJOR



Now we jump to the next constellation, namely the Greater Fold (also called the Big Dipper). Also they are happy “sons of life” and “the family of life” ($\alpha \beta \delta \gamma \epsilon \zeta \eta$ Ursae Majoris). They jump with joy, because of the abundant love of God, like the young ones of the gazelle (Arb) *awlâd az-zibâ’/al-ghizlân*: “the first jump” *al-qafza al-ûlâ* ($\nu \xi$), “the second jump” *al-qafza at-tâniya* ($\lambda \mu$), “the third jump” *al-qafza at-tâlita* ($\iota \kappa$), ever, ever higher, like fatted calves (Mal. 4:2; Acts 3:7-8). They run to the Waters of Life in the “Water-Basin” *al-hawd* (Arb) ($\tau \text{ h } \upsilon \phi \theta \epsilon \text{ f}$).

Some of these stars have wonderful names which express their hidden glory. For example: (δ) *al-hâfi* “the hidden/unseen one,” and (g) *as-suhâ* * “the overlooked one,” because he was considered to be nothing, but this one is also called *aş-şaydaq* “the trustworthy one.” The white star (γ) is called *al-fard* (?) “the lonely one,” because he is completely alone with God. The green-white star ζ is called *al-’anâq* “the little she-goat,” for she rejoices in the safe care of the Good Shepherd, and is also called *aslam* “more safe, secure.” See what a great family the Living One has! All rejoice in His love, every one has a personal testimony of His saving power. He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing (Isa. 40:26).

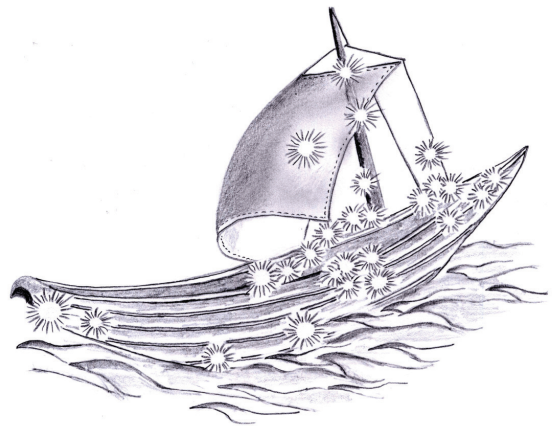
“After these things I saw, and lo, a great crowd, which no one could number, out of every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palm branches in their hands. And they cry with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb. – These are they who come out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in His Temple, and He that sits upon the throne shall spread His Tabernacle over them. They shall not hunger any more, neither shall they thirst any more, nor shall the sun at all fall on them, nor any burning heat; because the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall shepherd them, and shall lead them to fountains of Waters of Life, and God

shall wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7).

ARGO NAVIS

All these God-fearing ones have happily landed in the harbor of salvation, after great storms and dangers. This is shown in the next constellation, *Argo Navis* (Grk: Ἄργώ *Argô*, Lat: *Navis* “ship”). The ship Argo, south and south-east of Sirius, has now been subdivided in the constellations *Carina* (the keel of the ship), *Puppis* (the afterdeck), *Vela* (the sail), and *Pyxis* (the compass). The stars show a ship which the Greeks call Ἄργώ *Argô* “the swift,” but the Arabs translated it *as-safîna* “the ship.”

Aratos describes it thus: Under the great Sirius, the ship “Argo is hauled stern-foremost; no path of onward speeding ship her path. Sternwards she glides, like to a ship whose helm her crew have turned to landward, coming to anchor; all the oars back-water, and lapping surges splash upon the strand. Thus sternward Jason’s Argo makes her way” (*Phainomena*, 342-350). Through untold dangers it has safely landed at home!



So God will keep His little ship in the midst of the raging storms in the world ocean, protecting it from dangerous rocks. At the Keel you see the wonderful yellow-white star (α Carinae, 0.7 mag) which shines 1400 times brighter than our sun. Its Arabic name *suhayl* ★ “the little lowly one,” describes the lowliness and humility of Yeshúa. By this humility of the Lamb, and His firm trust in God, we are lifted safely over all the waves and through all the gorges. Thus, it also happened in the storm on the sea, the disciples had fear of death, but Yeshúa was lying in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. It is exactly there, where the bright Canopus is shining. When His disciples awoke Him, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still,” and the wind died down, and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, “Why are you so timid? How is it that you have no faith?” (Mark 4:36-41).

If only Yeshúa is with us in the boat, and He is the Helmsman, then we have nothing to fear. For the name Canopus is the name of the Helmsman. We must learn to obey every word of our Helmsman, whether we understand it or not. For because the centurion did not obey the word of the apostle, the ship was stranded and wrecked by the waves (Acts 27:10-44). When they came into great distress at sea, they cast one sack of precious wheat after the other overboard. And likewise, many churches today cast one saving truth in the Word of God after the other overboard, and they compromise in order not to be persecuted or ridiculed. And they do not realize that by this very thing their ship will be wrecked; for the precious Grain of Wheat is Messiah! (John 12:24.)

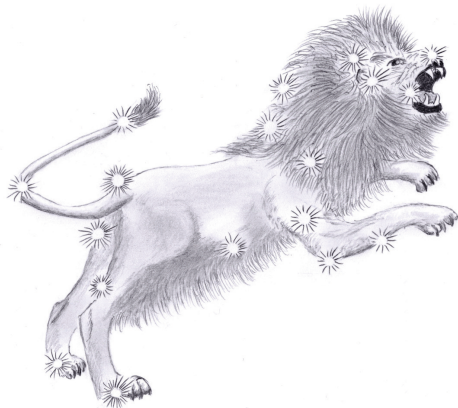
The Word of God will only then keep and save the ship, the assembly of Messiah, and bring it safely to the eternal home, if we obey Him (Heb. 5:9). Whatever He says to you, do!!!! (John 2:5.)

“Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. – And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come to Zion with singing, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away” (Luke 11:28; Isa. 35:10).

Chapter Twelve

The Lion of Judah has Overcome

LEO



Now the sun leads us into the glorious constellation of the *Lion*, with its splendid sharp stars. You see it best in late winter and spring.

This constellation was considered from the oldest time to be a *Lion*. The Babylonians called it (*mul*) *ur-gu-la* “lioness,” and its blue chief star Regulus (α Leonis) had the name (*mul*) *lugal* (= *šarru*) “king.” The Hebrews called the constellation אֲרִיִּם *’aryê*, the Arabs *al-asad* ★, the Greeks Λέων *Léôn*, and the Romans *Leo*, all names meaning “lion.” Also all Egyptian representations of this constellation show a *Lion*, sometimes standing upon a Serpent (*Hydra*).

In the Holy Scriptures Messiah is described as a Lion: “Judah is a young lion, from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lioness; who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between His feet until Shiloh comes, and to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples” (Gen. 49:9,10).

King Solomon, who is a type of the Messiah as the Prince of Peace, “made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold; and the throne had six steps, and the throne had at the back of it²³ a *young ram in gold*. And there were arms on each side at the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the arms; and twelve lions stood on either side of the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom” (2 Chr. 9:17-19; 1 Ki. 10:18-20). Behold, the Lamb upon the throne, and on each step to the throne a pair of lions, which speaks about overcoming. How the Lamb ascended the throne we see in Philippians 2:5-11, “let this mind be in you...” Let us follow the Lamb! To this He calls us by His infinite grace: “He that overcomes, to him will I give to sit with me on my throne; as I also have overcome, and have sat down with my Father on His throne” (Rev. 3:21).

King Solomon spoke: “A king who sits on the throne of justice disperses all evil with his eyes” (Prov. 20:8).

The very first stars in the constellation of the Lion are called in Arabic *aṭ-ṭarf* ★ and *ṭarf al-asad* “the look of the Lion” (κ Cancri + λ Leonis) and *’aynâ l-asad* “the eyes of the Lion,” and they express His uprightness and wisdom. “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and can not look on mischief” (Hab. 1:13). Never did our Lord Yeshúa tolerate injustice, and immediately He intervened and defended him who suffered unjustly. This kingly spirit has characterized the Hebrews from the beginning. Moses left the royal house in order to go to his brethren, the slaves. When he saw one suffering injustice, the fire burned in him and he smote the Egyptian. Moses was very beautiful in the eyes of God, and God took him aside to Himself into the wilderness and revealed Himself to him, and Moses worshipped God at the burning thornbush.

The very same thing we see in the life of Yeshúa. He left heaven in order to go to His enslaved brethren. Because He interceded for those who suffer, He was rejected by the rulers of His own people. But God revealed Himself through Him on Calvary.

23 2 Chronicles 9:18 reads “and a young ram in gold was for the throne as [its] firm hold” אֲרָמֵי מִזְיָמ *m’hzym*. The parallel passage in 1 Ki. 10:19 has: “and the head of a young bull was for the throne at its backside [prbl. as its backrest]” אֲרָמֵי מִזְרָיָם *m’hryw*. Ivory, Heb. אֵשׁ “tooth; ivory” describes the Word, and “overlaid with gold” His deity.

Another star name in the Lion is (Arb) *al-jabha* ★ and *jabhat al-asad* “the forehead [actually, that part of the face which touches the ground when you worship] of the Lion” (ζ γ η α Leonis). Like David, He passed over the torrent Kidron in that night when He was betrayed, as He walked out into the garden of Gethsemane; He drank of the brook, and lifted up His head (2 Sam. 15:23; John 18:1; Psa. 110:7). And going forward a little, He fell upon His face praying, “My Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me, but not as I will, but as You will.” His sweat became as great drops of blood falling upon the ground. Then He arose thanking His Father, and went boldly to meet His persecutors, speaking to them: “Whom do you seek?” and when they said, “Yeshúa, the Nazarene,” He said, “I am He. If you seek me, then let these [His disciples] go.” Peter drew his sword in order to defend Yeshúa. But Yeshúa said to him, “Put the sword into the sheath. The cup which the Father has given me, shall I not drink it?”

The two stars δ and θ Leonis are called in Arabic *az-zubra* ★ and *zubrat al-asad* “the shoulder, or mane of the Lion.” In the shoulder lies his great power, and the adjective of the same root *zabîr* means “strong, sharp in mind.”

Yeshúa spoke: “Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the prince of this world be cast out, and I, if I be lifted up from the earth [on the cross], will draw all to me.” On Calvary He defeated the enemy and crushed his head under His heel.

The same two stars are also called *al-harâtân* “the two piercings.” The Prince of Life was nailed hands and feet to the tree. But He prayed for His murderers, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do!” After long sufferings upon the cross, He cried when His heart burst, “It is finished!” and bowed His head, and committed His spirit into His Father’s hands.

But in order to make sure that He had died, they pierced His side with a spear, and blood and water came out – the definite proof of His death. These are the “two piercings,” while He lived they pierced His hands and feet, and after He died they pierced His side. By this He has defeated and destroyed the evil one, in that He was slain as a Lamb for the sins of all of us.

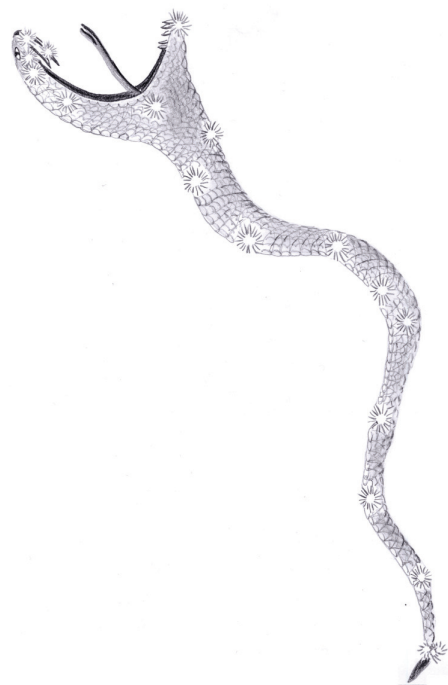
The Lion, which is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome and is worthy to take the title deed of the universe out of the hand of Him who is sitting on the throne, and to break its seals, namely to receive His bride and thereby His eternal kingdom. And when John looked around to see the Lion of Judah, he saw in the midst of the throne a little Lamb standing as slain, having seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent into all the earth (Rev. 5:5-6). The Lion has overcome as a Lamb, as He let Himself be slaughtered.

HYDRA

Now let us go outside Jerusalem to the valley גֵּהֶנְנוֹם *Gê Hinnôm*, Γέεννα *Gehenna*, and see what has happened to the Old Serpent and his cohorts which the Lion of Judah has overcome upon Calvary (Isa. 66:24; Col. 2:14-15).

Under the feet of the Lion you see the “Water-Serpent,” Ὑδρα *Hydra*, stretched out at great length, far down on the horizon, under Cancer, Leo, and Virgo, all the way over to Libra, a long twisted band of stars. This was from the oldest times recognized as a *huge serpent*. The Babylonians called it (*mul*) *muš* (=šîru) “serpent” and *mu-uš-hu-uš-šu-um* “red serpent.”

Aratos describes it thus: “Another constellation from the east comes trailing westward, called the Hydra [the Water-Serpent]; like a living creature roll her long coils: her head reaches the Crab [Cancer], her



middle folds the Lion, and over the huge Centaur hangs her tail. The Cup [Crater] stands on her middle; on her tail the figure of a Raven that seems to peck at the coil” (*Phainomena*, 443-449).

This is the end of the Old Serpent which deceived Eve. In the book of Job it is described before it is cast down (Job 41). God asked Job, “Can you draw out Leviathan [לִיָּתָן] with a fishhook? or press down his tongue with a cord? Can you put a rope in his nose? or pierce his jaw with a hook? Will he make many supplications to you? Or will he speak to you soft words? Behold, your expectation is false; will you not be laid low even at the sight of him? No one is so fierce that he dare to arouse him. Around his teeth there is terror; his strong scales are his pride, shut up as with a tight seal. His sneezes flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. Out of his mouth go burning torches, sparks of fire leap forth. Out of his nostrils smoke goes forth, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes. His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes forth from his mouth. In his neck lodges strength, and dismay leaps before him. His heart is as hard as a stone, even as hard as a lower millstone. When he raises himself up, the mighty are terrified; they are beside themselves with consternation. The sword that reaches him cannot avail, nor the spear, the dart, or the javelin. He regards iron as straw, bronze as rotten wood. The arrow cannot make him flee, slingstones are turned into stubble for him. Clubs are regarded as stubble; he laughs at the rattling of the javelin.”

Thus was the adversary of the Lamb of God. This combat is described here, “In that day the Lord will punish Leviathan, the fleeing serpent, with His fierce and great and mighty sword, even Leviathan, the coiling serpent. Yes, He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea” (Isa. 27:1).

When was that day? or will it yet come? When Yeshúa died on Calvary this prophecy was fulfilled, as He shed His holy blood for us sinners (Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8). He is the Word of God, the Sword in the right hand of God. He has slain the Old Serpent, and crushed its head when He spoke, “It is finished!” “Father, forgive them!” is the weapon by which He has pierced Satan.

Never again do we read about a combat between the Messiah and Satan. Those who trust in the blood of Yeshúa, and testify to His Word, have always victory over Satan. And they shall learn to look up to Yeshúa and to thank Him for His victory. Then Satan is crushed under their feet, without battle. The Messiah has given us authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, because He Himself has crushed their head.

At a certain time, at His glorious coming again, the Messiah will send an angel which chains the Old Serpent and casts it into the abyss, and locks it up. After the glorious millennial reign it will be loosed for only a short time, in order that also the new generation, which will be born during the millennium and has experienced only peace and blessing, may be tested in their faith, whether they trust in Yeshúa their Messiah and remain faithful to Him. When then the faithless again gather against Jerusalem, making an assault against it, the fire of God falls down from heaven and devours them. Then the devil, the Old Serpent, will be cast into the Lake of Fire which burns with brimstone, where already the antichrist and the false prophet are. No one will ever come out of the Lake of Fire, because it is the second death, and after the eternal judgment.

CRATER

The *Mixing Bowl* (Grk: Κρατήρ *Kratēr*²⁴) which is standing upon the Serpent is the Cup of the wrath of God, about which we read in the Holy Scriptures: “If any one do homage to the beast [the coming world dictator, the false messiah] and its image and receive a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, he also shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger. And he shall be tormented with fire



24 The Greek word *kratēr* (κρατήρ, in Aratos “mixing bowl”) “a mixing bowl, in which the wine was mixed with water, and from which the cups were filled” is not found in the New Testament, but in Exo. 24:6 (*LXX*) it is used for the “basins” which caught the sacrificial blood. The word “cup” in Rev. 14:10 is ποτήριον *potērion* “a drinking-cup” also used at the Lord’s Supper.

and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up for ever and ever, and they have no rest day and night, those who do homage to the beast and to its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name. Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Yeshúa” (Rev. 14:9-12).

CORVUS



The black *Raven* (Bab: (mul) uga (= âribu), Heb. עֵרֶב ‘oreb, Grk: Κόραξ *Kórax*, Lat: *Corvus*), which pecks the flesh of the Serpent and eats it, describes the terrible judgment which will come upon all the enemies of Israel. Thus, it will happen to Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal²⁵ (Ezek. 38:2-3; 39:1), and to all who go with them in war against Israel: “And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord YHWH, Speak to every kind of bird, and to every beast of the field, assemble and come, gather from every side to my sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of the mighty men, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. So you will eat fat until you are glutted, and drink blood until you are drunk, from my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. And you will be glutted

at my table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war, declares the Lord YHWH. And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see my judgment which I have executed, and my hand which I have laid on them. And the house of Israel will know that I am the YHWH their God from that day onward” (Ezek. 39:17-22; see also Rev. 19:17-18,21).

Thus Yeshúa, the Lion of Judah, is fighting for His beloved people Israel. For he who touches you touches the apple of His eye (Zech. 2:8).

This is the Gospel which the stars proclaim. The Lamb of God has crushed the head of the serpent, in order that all who believe in Him may be redeemed and receive eternal life. But that Satan does not tolerate; therefore, he has used Babylon to pour leaven into the pure flour and leaven all of it. However, the old star names testify about the original meanings of this glorious revelation of the Lamb.

Let us now return to the Overcomer from Calvary, and consider the bright white star (β Leonis, 2.2 mag, 39 ly, 16 ✨ sun) in the tail of the Lion. It is called (Arb) *aş-şarfa* ✨ “the turn, change,” and expresses the change in the weather when this star rises at dawn (in September) and goes down (in March). In the same way this name describes the mighty change in the whole creation of God, in heaven and on earth. The Lion has overcome, the

25 *Meshech* and *Tubal* are mentioned together in Gen. 10:2; Ezek. 27:13; 32:26. Assyrian inscriptions mention *Muški* and *Tabâl* among the enemies of Assyria, and Herodot tells about *Moschoi* and *Tibarênoi* at the south-eastern shore of the Black Sea. In Ezekiel 38:15 and 39:2 they are described as coming up from their “place out of the uttermost north” in war against Israel. Apparently these tribes moved northward and populated Russia. Their confederates in this coming war are:

Persia = Iran.

Cush lived in the land of Midian, south of Israel and Transjordan. Glaser and Hommel identify their territory with Central Arabia.

Phut is perhaps *Putâyâ*, mentioned in the list of the conquests of Darius I; it is apparently *Cyrenaica* in North Africa, present day Libya.

Gomer is mentioned in Gen. 10:2-3 as the first-born son of Japheth. Gomer is the *Cimmerians* (Accadian *Gimiriraya*, Greek Κιμμεριοί *Kimmerioi*), an Indo-aryan people which settled in South Russia and the Ukraine, till in the 9th and 8th century B.C. they were driven away by the Scythian tribes. Then part of the Cimmerians moved southward across the Caucasus mountains into Asia Minor, where they settled in Cappadocia. After having been defeated by the Assyrians, they moved westward and overthrew the kingdom of Gyges of Lydia. Another part of the Cimmerians migrated westward along the Danube valley toward Macedonia, North Italy, into present Bavaria and the Rhine valley. (*Oldenbourgs Abriss der Weltgeschichte* [Verlag R. Oldenbourg, München]). According to the Babylonian Talmud (Yoma 10A; Yer. Meg. 71B), the Biblical *Gomer* is Germany. In medieval Jewish literature *Ashkenaz*, the name of the first-born son of Gomer (Gen. 10:3), is repeatedly designating Germany, and the Jews in or from Germany are called “Ashkenazian Jews.”

Togarma lived in Cappadocia. But they must have moved far north, for Ezek. 38:6 describes them as coming “from the uttermost north.” (The Tartars call themselves *Togarma*.)

Old Dragon has been cast down and crushed under His feet, the whole creation awakes, the band is broken, the chains are loosed, and everyone who will, steps forth into the glorious freedom of the children of God and dances with joy, rejoicing in his Redeemer.

For all eternity the Lion will be praised as the Lamb because of His sacrifice, for every individual soul which will be saved is the fruit of His sacrifice. Heaven and earth will become new, exclusively because of the blood of the Lamb. His sacrifice is once and for all, but His character is eternally the same. He is forever the slain Lamb, the humble, merciful Son of God. All the glory of God is revealed in the Lamb, and we will be walking in His light with rejoicing in the midst of the New Jerusalem, the bride of the Lamb. The Lamb is the Temple and the Light (Rev. 21:23).

Aş-şarfa also signifies “the turn of the ages.” “And He who sits on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new!’ – And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea exists no more. And I saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:1-5).

As the bright star Regulus (α Leonis) is in the heart of the Lion, even so the King of the Jews is enthroned in the midst of His New Jerusalem, His bride. Indeed, the Babylonians called the constellation Leo (*mul*) *ur-gu-la* “lioness,” and the bride of Yeshúa is a lioness, by Messiah who is reigning in her heart. By Him she more than overcomes. The bright star (α Leonis) they called (*mul*) *lugal* (= *šarru*) “king,” and therefore, the Greeks called it Βασιλίσκος *Basilískos*, the Romans *Regulus*, “the little king,” and the Arabs *malikî* “the kingly one.” But He is no little king, for the old Babylonians considered the α Leonis to be the king of all the stars, of all the heavenly beings, and the head of the four kingly stars, namely the four guardians of heaven (α Scorpii, α Piscis Austrini, α Tauri, and α Leonis).²⁶ Only this star the sun apparently hits on its racecourse as if it were its goal. This king of all the stars of God is actually a triple, consisting of three stars, which are white and blue like the colors of the Sanctuary, for YHWH, Messiah, and the Holy Spirit are one in the slain Lamb.

In the constellation of the Lion numerous galaxies can be seen with sharp telescopes. One galaxy (M65/66) is 30 million light years away from our earth. Another one (M96) is 33 million light years distant. Another one (NGC 3379) is 31 million light years distant; and M95 is 28 million light years away. If we could look further we might discover innumerable other ones, but the telescopes do not reach much further. The speed of light is 299,793 kilometres per second. Can you imagine how far the light passes in 33 million years? There are about 100 million galaxies (until the 21st magnitude), on an average as great as our Milky Way which comprises 200 billion stars, each of them like our sun. Astronomers have traced about 10²⁵ stars in the whole universe. And the stars have planets, and the planets moons. We have a great God, and He has revealed Himself in the Lamb on Golgotha. All the constellations in the endless universe join in testifying about the redemption in the blood of Yeshúa our Messiah. All shall praise Him!

Hallelujah! Praise Him in the heights! Praise ye Him all His angels! Praise ye Him all His hosts! Praise Him

26 These four guardians of heaven correspond to the four cherubim around the throne of God. In Revelation 4:7 we read about these four cherubim, that “the first living creature is like a lion, and the second living creature is like a young bull, and the third living creature having the face as of a man, and the fourth living creature is like a flying eagle.” The same description we find in Ezekiel 1:10 and 10:14. There is only one variance: instead of the Scorpion we here find the Eagle. The Scorpion describes Satan, who was originally a cherub before the throne of the Almighty God, as we read in Ezekiel 28:14-15: “You were the anointed covering cherub, and I had set you so: you were upon the holy mountain of God; you walked up and down in the midst of stones of fire. You were perfect in your ways, from the day that you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.” But he fell because of his presumption, pride and rebellion, as we read in Isaiah 14:12-15: “How you have fallen from heaven, Lucifer, son of the morning! You are cut down to the ground, who prostrated the nations! And you who said in your heart, I will ascend into the heavens, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit upon the mount of assembly, in the recesses of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High: none the less you are brought down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.”

He it was who deceived Eve in the garden of Eden, and who deceives the whole world. But high up in the sky above the Scorpion we see the bright, white Vega, α Lyrae, whose name comes from Arabic *an-nasr al-wâqî* ★ “the darting [golden] Eagle.” With the speed of lightning it darted upon the terrible Scorpion. The Scorpion raised its poisonous sting and struck the Eagle, but the Eagle simultaneously crushed its head. But God revived the Eagle because of its purity of heart and zeal for God, and made it a cherub before His throne instead of the Scorpion. Thus actually, all four cherubim describe the Son of God, our only Deliverer from Satan. Matthew describes the Lion of Judah, Mark the Wild Bull, Luke the Waterpouther, and John the flying Eagle, from the heavenly heights darting into the lowest parts of the earth, and arising with its precious prey to the throne of God (see also Eph. 4:8-10). To Him be praise for ever and ever!

sun and moon! Praise Him all ye stars of light! Praise Him ye heavens of heavens! Praise Him all ye, His beloved children! Praise Him Israel, His first born whom He has chosen! Praise Him all peoples! Praise Him my soul! Praise Him for the atonement in the blood of Yeshúa! And all the animals of the field and birds of heaven shall rejoice with us in the love of God and praise Him our gracious Creator and Savior! Praise Him for His Messiah, the slain Lamb, our Life!

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made;
were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
and ev'ry man a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry,
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretched from sky to sky.
O love of God, how rich and pure!
how measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
the saints' and angels' song.

(F. M. Lehman)

REMARKS

Why is the queen sitting at the left hand of the majesty? Why is the Virgin holding the precious ear of promise in her left hand? And why do the heroes hold the sword in their left hand? Because all these constellations are only *mirror images* of the true glory of God. He who turns to the stars in worship, turns his back on the truth, on God Himself. Israel did completely right when they destroyed all the “cult of the stars,” just like the pious king Hezekiah, who smashed the “serpent of copper,” when it became an object of worship. But we consider these beautiful images which the Finger of God has drawn (Job 9:9; Amos 5:8), exactly like the glorious Cherubim, lions, and palm branches in the holy Temple of God, *only* as a reflection of His glory and for *His praise*.

Many star names have a plain natural (physical, climatic) explanation. But is not the whole of nature a reflection of the glory of its great Creator? And has He not expressed His eternal counsel in the physical nature as in a parable?

Did not our Messiah take His beloved disciples out into nature and open their eyes, so that they saw the deepest truths of redemption in the most ordinary things of life – as in the grain of seed, in the farmland, the birds of heaven and the lilies of the field, in the mustard seed, and the haul of fish? This study is only *a nighttime walk with Yeshúa*.

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By these worthy witnesses of the Messiah, God gave me the key to His heavenly tabernacle. The contents of the present study is entirely new; for now, as I was invited to enter the holy tabernacle of God, I stepped inside in deepest reverence before God. Starting all over again, I scrutinized every pre-Christian Semitic star name closely. As I did so, God opened my eyes for many undiscovered glories, as there are surely infinitely many more.

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Especially important are the *eminent* studies by Paul Kunitzsch, who has collected and examined all Arabic star names:

Kunitzsch, Paul. *Arabische Sternnamen in Europa*. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1959.

Kunitzsch, Paul. *Untersuchungen zur Sternnomenklatur der Araber*. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1961.

The quotations from *The Phaenomena of Aratos* are mostly according to the beautiful poetic English translation by Edward Poste:

Poste, Edward. *The Skies and Weather-Forecasts of Aratus* (London: Macmillan and Co., 1880).

BEST TIME FOR OBSERVATION BEFORE MIDNIGHT

Chapter	Page	Month
I Virgo Coma Berenices, Centaurus, Boötes	1	April – June
II Libra Crux, Lupus, Corona Borealis	5	June – July
III Scorpius Serpens, Ophiuchus, Hercules	10	July – August
IV Sagittarius Lyra, Ara, Draco	13	July – August
V Capricornus Sagitta, Aquila, Delphinus	17	August – October
VI Aquarius Piscis Austrinus, Pegasus, Cygnus	21	September – November
VII Pisces The Band, Andromeda, Cetus, Perseus	25	October – January
VIII Aries Cetus (continued), Triangulum, Cepheus, Cassiopeia	32	October – February
IX Taurus The Pleiades, Orion, Eridanus, Lepus	38	October – March
X Gemini Auriga, Canis Major, Canis Minor	45	December – May
XI Cancer Ursa Minor, Ursa Major, Argo	51	January – May
XII Leo Hydra, Crater, Corvus	56	February – June

We advise the reader to use a star map and an astronomical handbook.

APPENDIX

THE AGE OF THE SOURCES

Concerning the high age of the Babylonian star names, Ernst F. Weidner writes: “The oldest source for knowledge of the Babylonian fixed stars are lists of stars and constellations which were written at about the time of the 3rd Dynasty of Ur [2028-1920 B.C.]. These constellations have Sumerian names. After the end of the new Sumerian kingdom, as a new literature developed in the Akkadian language, they attempted also to use Akkadian star names, mostly as translations of the Sumerian star names, or directly as loan words from the Sumerian. That is proven from a text from Hammurabi’s era [at the beginning of the 18th century B.C.]. Thereafter star names are only mentioned again in cuneiform texts from the 13th and 12th century B.C. From texts from the 7th B.C. there then comes an abundance of material for the reconstruction of the old oriental sky of fixed stars. – Generally, the old names of the fixed stars and the images of the fixed stars were retained.”²⁷

The best and most exhaustive Greek description of the constellations is the beautiful long poem *Phainomena* by Aratos (born about 310 B.C.) in Sicilia. He himself was no astronomer, but only rendered in poetic form the work of an astronomer *Eudoxos* (about 390-337 B.C.) of Knidos. Now, however, the studies by R. Böker prove that the astronomical statements in the poem by Aratos do not fit to his, nor Eudoxos’ time, nor to Greece, but are based upon exact observations from about 1025 B.C., and from the geographical latitude of 33°, as in Babylonia and Phoenicia. Also the names and the descriptions of the constellations clearly go back to Semitic originals. The numerous very old Babylonian and Arabic parallels prove the Semitic origin of the whole description by Aratos, especially Phœnician names and words in it, indicating that Eudoxos received his whole teaching from Phoenicia.²⁸ The Egyptian representation of the zodiac in the temple of Hathor at Denderah were made before 30 B.C., but they agree perfectly with the representation in the temple of Chnum at Esneh, which was made about 200 B.C. Great similarities between these and the Greek and Babylonian descriptions of the zodiac show the Greek and finally Babylonian origin of the concepts.

Concerning a part of the Arabic star names, Fritz Hommel writes: “I desire to demonstrate from some examples how very old the Arabic star names are, and how some of them surely go back to the old Semitic era. Others names, whose etymology is unknown, appear to be of pure Arabic formation and not borrowed from non-Semites; these too suggest the same high age.”²⁹ This Paul Kunitzsch affirms in his study of the genuine original Arabic star names: “The high age of these [Arabic star] names is further emphasized by the fact, that their meaning has been forgotten long past and that they in historical time become the subject of endless etymological speculations. Concerning the Arabic names, it is especially interesting and significant, that their origins in many cases appear to reach back into Babylonia, yea Sumerian (*cf.* Hommel). That also explains why they were not understood later.” According to Hommel and Kunitzsch, this applies to the names of the zodiacal signs and of the moon stations.³⁰ Such very old Arabic star names we have marked with ★.

In the isolation of the Arabic desert the older names appear to have been kept more faithfully than in surrounding fertile areas. This agrees with linguistic evidence: “A general characteristic of this tongue of the desert is its remarkable retention, into a late historical period, of grammatical features obliterated or in process of obliteration in other Semitic tongues at their earliest emergence in literature, so that in the period since the golden age of its literature, Arabic has been undergoing changes in some respects analogous to those which its sister dialects [other Semitic languages] underwent in their preliterate or earliest literary stage.”³¹

27 Ernst F. Weidner, “Fixsterne,” *Reallexicon der Assyriologie*, III (1957-71).

28 R. Böker, “Die Entstehung der Sternsphäre Arats,” *Ber. Sächs. Akad. Wiss.* 99 (Leipzig, 1952). Long before, Robert Brown said the same in “The Celestial Equator of Aratos” *Transactions of the Ninth International Congress of Orientalists* held in London, Sept. 1892 Vol. II (London, 1893).

29 Fritz Hommel, “Über den Ursprung und das Alter der arabischen Sternnamen und insbesondere der Mondstationen,” *ZDMG* 45 (1891), pp. 593, 608.

30 Paul Kunitzsch, *Untersuchungen zur Sternnomenklatur der Araber* (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1961), pp. 20-23.

31 J. O. Boyd, “Arabic Language” *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, General Ed. G. W. Bromiley (Eerdmans, revised, 1979), Vol. I,

COMPARISON OF THE SOURCES

Of all pre-Christian designations of the signs, the names of the constellations on the zodiac have been kept best and most homogeneously. Among the Babylonians, Greeks, Egyptians, and Arabs they were essentially the same, with two important exceptions:

1. The Babylonians call the constellation Aries (*mul lú*) *hun-gá* “hireling,” whereas the others describe it as a Ram (Arb: “Lamb”).
2. The constellation Libra appears to be represented in the very oldest time in Babylonia as an altar on which fire is burning. This was then displaced by the claws of the Scorpion. Thus also Aratos sees it. On the other hand we find the Scales in the Babylonian and Egyptian zodiacs, probably originating from Egypt.

Many Babylonian names of the other constellations agree essentially with the descriptions of Aratos. But the following ones differ:

instead of the Greek “Dog,” the Babylonians saw a “Bow” with Sirius as the Arrow

instead of Greek “Cassiopeia,” Babylonian “Stag”

instead of Greek “Cygnus” + “Cepheus,” Babylonian “Panther”

instead of Greek “Lyra,” Babylonian “Goat”

instead of Greek “Delphinus,” Babylonian “Swine”

Three others are mentioned below.³² Many other Babylonian star names have not yet been translated or identified reliably.

Different names of stars reveal different traditions. We speak alternately about the “Great Wagon” and about the “Great Bear.” The “Great Wagon” is the old Babylonian name (*mul giš*) *mar-gíd-da* “wagon,” which also Aratos knew; whereas the “Great Bear” betrays the tradition through the Greeks from Phoenicia. For as mentioned under Ursa Minor, the Greeks misunderstood the Phœnician word for “fold” and rendered it with “bear.” Everyone can easily see that Ursa Major and Ursa Minor may represent two “Wagons,” as the Babylonians called them. But the Phœnician description of the two, being the “Greater and the Minor Fold,” where the Pole Star (Arb: “the little he-goat”) himself is the chief, is original. The Triangle above the head of the Lamb Aries, of course, looks like a “Plow,” and so the Babylonians called it, but Aratos speaks about the character “drawn with three sides – with beautiful stars beyond many,” which in Phœnician was considered to be holy. The constellation Hercules the Babylonians imagined as a “Dog,” but Aratos’ description of the unknown “Kneeling One” who is wrestling in great agony on his knees with outstretched hands, is nothing less than a revelation.

The description of the stars by Aratos, in the fear of God, wherefore Paul could quote him (Acts 17:28), fits uniquely well to the heavenly interpretation of the Messiah. For only in Him does the great coherence exist. The Greeks themselves saw no logical connection between all the tools and figures on the heavenly scene, even though they tried to unite them by “the twelve heroic deeds of Hercules.” And the idea for that may also have come from the original revelation of the Messiah. It is clear that Eudoxos and Aratos draw from a rich religious tradition, and the many precise statements illustrate Biblical truth in an original way. All other works of the poet Aratos have perished, only his *Phainomena* has been preserved undamaged.

From our study of the old worship of *El*³³ we have discovered that the knowledge of *El* (the Biblical name of God) disappeared very soon from Babylonia, whereas it still stayed long in Canaan. Perhaps also for that reason, God called Abram to leave Ur and to move to the Promised Land. The old Ugaritic and Phœnician texts

p. 226.

32 The star β Ursae Minoris the Babylonians called “the son and heir of the high house.” This name does surely not fit to the rear end of the chest of the “Wagon of Heaven,” and this simply shows us that there also existed another tradition and concept of Ursa Minor in Babylonia. The Babylonian name of α Herculis and $\alpha + \beta$ Ophiuchi (*mul an-gub-ba-meš* “the [three] standing gods,” as well as the name (*mul*) *an-ku-a-meš* “the [nine] sitting gods,” for the stars in Serpens, Hercules, and Ophiuchus, again show us another tradition in Babylonia, which had nothing to do with a “dog.” Apparently there existed in Babylonia various conflicting traditions (Semitic and Sumerian), which did not fit together. For this reason I have not given preference to every old Babylonian name, but have only accepted such evidence, which is in harmony with the Holy Scriptures and for the glory of Yeshúa Mashiach.

33 Ulf Oldenburg, *The Conflict between El and Ba'al in Canaanite Religion* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1969).

give us a far better insight into the original *El* religion than the older cuneiform texts from Babylonia. The very same thing may be the case with the old revelation of the Messiah in the starry sky. Aratos did not understand it, but the tradition of the old Semitic names, which he received from Phoenicia and handed down faithfully, reflects it much clearer than the confusion of the Babylonian star names and images. The idolatry and astrology in Babylon may have been the leaven which spoiled the pure divine revelation.

How infinitely thankful we can be, because God has given us the key to the right understanding of His revelation on the starry sky. For not to Satan, but to Yeshúa our Messiah does the honor belong. Everything, including the stars in space, God has created by and for His beloved Son. Messiah is before everything, and He upholds the universe by His almighty Word. And He is the Head over all, anointed by God. Especially today, as people turn to horoscope and astrology, it is so important to unroll the Scroll of Heaven before their eyes, revealing the victory of the Messiah and the true redemption by His blood. This is the Pole around which everything revolves.

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