

GOD'S WITNESS IN THE STARS

- 1 **God's divine ordinances** (spiritual law code) are seen in the heavens. (Job 38:33)

2. The **heavenly constellations** were **created and designed by God**. (Job 38:32)
 - a. The term "**constellation**" is a translation of the Hebrew word, *mazzaroth* - מַזְרֹתָיִם, which means: **a scattering**, and is found only once in the Bible.

 - b. These constellations are configurations formed by **groupings of stars** which have been designated as **representing prophetic pictures**.

 - c. The **star patterns** do not necessarily form obvious pictures, but the pictures and their meanings have been attached to them by God. (Psalm 147:4; cf. Job 9:9; Job 38:31; Amos 5:8)

 - d. Their names and meanings were apparently revealed to Adam and the pre-flood (antediluvian) peoples as **God's revelation of His plan of salvation** for the human race.

 - e. After the worldwide flood in the time of Noah, 2348 BC, the **postdiluvian peoples** began changing the names of these constellations by virtue of the **confounding of languages** at Babel. (Gen. 11:9)

 - f. The **meanings of these constellations** began to be **distorted by man's unbelief** in God the creator. Men began to believe in multiple gods and goddesses and began practicing pagan worship, which included worshipping the stars and the constellations as gods. **This distortion has continued** down to this day as the pseudo-religion known as **Astrology**, from *aster* (ἀστήρ - meaning: **star**) and *logos* (λόγος - meaning: word, matter, **study**).

3. **God presents His prophetic message** to mankind in the heavens:
 - a. "***The heavens declare the glory of God...***" (Psa. 19:1-4)

 - b. God made the stars "***for signs and for seasons***" (for **prophetic events** and for **appointed or fixed times**) on day four of His creation. (Gen. 1:14-18)

 - c. God "***made the heavens with understanding.***" (Psa. 136:5a)

 - d. God has **fixed** (set up or established) the stars. (Psa. 8:3)

 - e. God "***counts the number of the stars and gives names to all of them.***" (Psa. 147:4)

 - f. God "***calls them all by name.***" (Isa. 40:26)

 - g. God's "***witness in the sky is faithful.***" (Psa. 89:37b)

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4. God presents the **Gospel of Salvation** in the heavens:
 - a. God divided the heavens into **12 segments of 4 pictures each**. The Greeks later called these the signs of the **Zodiac** (ζοδιάκος - *zodiakos* - meaning: **circle** [from the root, ζόαδ - *zoad* - meaning: a way, a path, a going by steps]).
 - b. Each of these 12 signs represents a prophetic event in the unfolding drama of **God's salvation plan** for mankind in the history of the world.
 - c. **Every ancient culture** with a tradition or written records concerning the stars and their constellations recognizes **the same 12 star groups**. Even though many of their **names have been changed** over the centuries; nevertheless, most of these constellations have retained names and meanings similar or even identical to God's original presentation.
 - d. There were **48 original constellations** made up of 12 major signs with their 3 **decans** (*decanus* - Latin word meaning: chief or leader of ten, [later] an assistant or head of a small group, a part of the whole) The **decans** complement the basic meanings of the signs to which they belong.

5. The **prophetic significance** of the **12 signs** and their **decans** present a **3 act drama**:
 - a. **ACT #1** – Jesus is presented as the **suffering savior** who delivers His people from **the penalty of sin** (PHASE #1 – salvation):
 1. **VIRGO** - The **seed of the virgin**.
Jesus Christ, **the incarnate son**.
 2. **LIBRA** - The required **price paid**.
Jesus Christ, **the redeemer**.
 3. **SCORPIO** - The **mortal conflict**.
Jesus Christ, **the sufferer**.
 4. **SAGITTARIUS** - The **final triumph**.
Jesus Christ, **the conqueror**.

 - b. **ACT #2** - Jesus is presented as the **glorified redeemer** who delivers His people from **the power of sin** (PHASE #2 - salvation):
 5. **CAPRICORNUS** - **Life** out of death.
Jesus Christ, **the sacrifice**.
 6. **AQUARIUS** - **Blessing** out of victory.
Jesus Christ, **the living water**.
 7. **PISCES** - **Deliverance** out of bondage.
Jesus Christ, **the deliverer**.
 8. **ARIES** - **Glory** out of humiliation.
Jesus Christ, **the crowned lamb**.

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- c. **ACT #3** - Jesus is presented as the **coming judge** of all the earth and the **reigning redeemer** who delivers His people from **the presence of sin** (PHASE #3 - salvation):
9. **TAURUS** - His **glorious coming**.
Jesus Christ, **the judge**.
 10. **GEMINI** - His **reign on earth**.
Jesus Christ, **the king**.
 11. **CANCER** - His **possessions held** securely.
Jesus Christ, **the protector**.
 12. **LEO** - His **enemies destroyed**.
Jesus Christ, **the victor**.
6. There are **4 specific constellations** mentioned in the scripture:
- a. **ORION** - *Kesil (Chesil)* (Hebrew - כְּסִיל - meaning:
 1. **a fool** (1 Cor. 1:18, 1 Cor. 1:23, 25, 27, 28; 4:10; cf. Isa. 53:3);
 2. **confidence**, hope, strength, boldness;
 3. **the strong one**, the mighty one, the hero. (Job 9:9; 38:31; Amos 5:8) The name **Orion** comes from the Akkadian, *Urana*, meaning **the light of heaven**. This constellation is a **decan of Taurus**.
 - b. **THE BEAR** (the one who bears up) **WITH HIS SONS** - *Ayish* (Heb. - אֵישׁ - meaning: **to bear up**, as a shepherd gathers up his flock and leads them to rest. (Job 9:9; 38:32; cf. Ezek 34:11-16) This constellation is often referred to as the **Ursa Major**, the **Big Dipper**, or the **Plough**. This constellation is a **decan of Cancer**.
 - c. **THE PLEIADES** (part of TAURUS) - *Kimah* (Heb. - כִּמָּה - meaning: a heap or a **cluster**, as the congregation of the judge). This is a cluster of 8 closely grouped stars, possibly a reminder of **the 8 persons** who repopulated the earth after the flood. (Job 9:9; 38:31; Amos 5:8)
 - d. **THE CHAMBERS OF THE SOUTH** (The **Hydra** of the South) - *Chaydere Teymaz* (חַיְדֵרֵי תַיְמָז - meaning: **chambers**, remote regions (or **Hydra**) **of the south** or southern quarter. (Job 9:9) This constellation is a **decan of Leo**.
7. Today we have a **completed Bible**, which presents God's plan for the ages in complete detail. (2 Peter 1:19-21) In verse 19, **Jesus Christ** is referred to as the **"Daystar"** or the **"Morning star,"** but the word in Greek is *phosphoros* (φωσφόρος - from *phos* (φῶς - meaning: light) and *phero* (φέρω - meaning: to bear, to bring, to produce). Jesus Christ is **"the light of the world."** (John 8:12)