

HOW TO READ THE STARS

INTRODUCTION

This is to help beginners to read God's truth in the stars for themselves. Certain rules of interpretation apply and are invaluable to gaining spiritual insight. The truth in the stars is the most ancient witness of the mind of God. For many thousands of years the stars have spoken God's truth (Psalm 19:1) and for most of recorded history it has been the only reliable witness common people have had to come to a knowledge of God. The Bible was first printed for the masses in the year 1450AD. Even today people have Bibles but they don't read them or understand them. The Mazzaroth, or 48 star pictures, God put in the sky speak a plain truth that is understandable in any language and is accessible to all since it sits above us every evening. He is blessed who studies the truth in the stars (Psalm 8:3).

COMMON ERRORS

The most reliable source of star names, constellation names, and constellation pictures are the Hebrew ones. The next most reliable are the Arab names, then the Egyptian, Persian, and Babylonian names, and last of all the Greek names. Personally, we only pay attention to the Hebrew and Arab names.

Exactly 48 star signs were identified by God. Modern astronomers have created other star signs in the sky. These have no meaning whatsoever. Modern astronomers have also divided some of the ancient star signs, e.g. Argo, into smaller constellations. This is also an error.

PRESUPPOSITIONS

From the Judeo-Christian perspective the following assumptions are basic to understanding the stars:

- God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them (Gen 1:1)
- The stars serve a purpose of spiritual guidance (dividing light and darkness Gen 1:18)¹
- God named the stars (Psalm 147:4)
- God numbered the stars (Isaiah 40:26)²
- The stars declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1) - the knowledge they contain is truth.

KEYS TO INTERPRETATION

Star signs do not sit in the sky alone: they are surrounded by other star signs. The position of the Star Sign is vital to its interpretation. Star signs also have a position relative to the path of the sun and Milky Way that is also important. To interpret a star sign we look at:

- Star Sign Picture (E.g. Virgo is a 'woman')
- Star Sign Name (Virgo's Hebrew name is Bethulah which means 'Virgin')
- Individual star's names in the Sign (E.g. Spica is the brightest star in Virgo, it means 'The Branch')

¹ The guidance is concerning general spiritual knowledge and future prophetic events; it is not personal guidance based on star alignments for individuals (i.e. astrology)

² In the Eastern thinking, number is equivalent to meaning

- Position Relative to the Path of the Sun (E.g. Virgo lies completely on the Sun's Path, the Ecliptic)
- Position Relative to the Milky Way (E.g. Virgo is outside the Milky Way)
- Position Relative to other Star Signs (E.g. Virgo's feet are towards Leo)

DIVISION OF THE SKY

Star Signs fall into twelve 'Houses' or themes of truth:

- The 12 Star Signs on the Path of the Sun (Ecliptic) are the main themes of star revelation; (E.g. Virgo)
- The 36 Star Signs off the Ecliptic are called 'Decans': each one is attached to a 12 Star Sign on the Ecliptic and they support and expand its theme; (E.g. Coma)

The sky is divided twice:

- The Milky Way is rich in visible stars: it stands for 'Heaven'.
- Outside the Milky Way is dark space: it stands for 'Earth';
- Non-Milky Way Sky that is North of Ecliptic is 'Land'; it stands for God's favor
- Non-Milky Way Sky that is South of Ecliptic is 'Sea': it stands for God's judgment

The pole star around which all other stars appear to rotate is located outside the Milky Way in the area of the sky north of the Ecliptic. The pole star signifies elevation by God to "Earthly Rule". Much of the story of God's truth in the stars revolves around the battle between God and Satan for the loyalty of people on earth. Satan is attempting to achieve elevation by craft, deception, and force. God grants elevation based on his own terms: love for his son Jesus and obedience to his word.

INDIVIDUAL STARS

Bright stars take the lead over less bright stars in pointing to the central meaning. Less bright stars expand the meaning of the brightest stars in a Sign: they must not contradict the meaning.

The intensity of the star light is significant. Generally, if a Star Sign has weak stars it points to a period of time or a person or event that is mysterious or hidden. If a Star Sign has bright stars, the meaning of the Star Sign is fairly obvious (to someone familiar with Biblical revelation).

Only stars that are visible to the naked eye can belong to a Star Sign. However, there are many stars in the sky that are visible to the naked eye that belong to no Star Sign. All of the very brightest stars in the sky belong to a Star Sign.

STAR PICTURES

When a Star Sign is a face, or in the case of an animal a nose, the direction it is looking is important. Whatever it is looking at is the object of its devotion.

A large star sign signifies strength and/or a long period of time and/or a great influence on eternal affairs; a small star sign signifies weakness and/or a brief period of time and/or limited influence.

THE SUN

The Sun is symbolic of the Holy Spirit of God. As the Sun passes through the sky it divides 'light' and 'darkness', it teaches us right and wrong, it indicates sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Stars which lie directly on the path of the Sun point to a person who speaks the Words of God or who is full of the Holy Spirit.

PROPHECY IN STAR SIGNS

The Sun passes from the left to the right across the sky. The direction of prophecy in the stars is from right to left. The story of the stars starts with Virgo and continues around the sky through all 12 signs to finish in the sign of Leo. Virgo signifies the virgin birth of Christ, his first coming. Leo signifies the second coming of Christ. All the Star Signs in between are prophetic of events occurring between the advent of Christ and his rule and reign on earth during the Millennium.

PROXIMITY OF STAR SIGNS

Star Signs close in the sky connect and reinforce each other's meanings. For example, Virgo is right beside Libra. Virgo stands for the virgin birth of the promised Messiah, his powerful testimony, and his death on the cross. Libra expands for us the significance of the cross: it illustrates how God's justice demands a sinless sacrifice to pay for our sins.

DOUBLE MEANINGS

Can a Star Sign have different meanings? For example: the Jews might look at Cephus enthroned high up in the heavens beside Cassiopeia and see Father Abraham and Princess Sarah. Christians might look at the same sky and see the Lord Jesus and the Bride, his believers. My opinion is there is one single prophetic fulfillment, e.g. the Lord Jesus and the Bride of Christ, but there may be real people and events in Biblical history which foreshadow that fulfillment and capture some of its essence.

The mind of God is very deep and rich. The Star Signs are likewise rich in symbols and different levels of meanings. There is much yet to learn and explore. Study the stars, and let the Holy Spirit speak to you. There is no final answer or complete understanding. The greatest beauty of this exercise is it puts us in a place where we are struck in awe by the power of God and the mind of God.

UNITY OF TRUTH

All God's truth agrees. No interpretation of Star Signs can contradict Scripture. Both revelations came into being through the power of God, and both revelations speak the truth about God. Those who study God's truth in the stars will discover the patriarchs, the prophets, and even the apostles granted the highest reverence to the truth in the stars and used language infused with allusions to Star Signs. One cannot get the full message from Scripture without being aware of knowledge in the stars. Star knowledge was taken for granted as common knowledge by those who lived in Biblical times and by those who wrote the Scripture.