

PISCES – SLAVE OF RELIGION OR SERVANT OF GOD

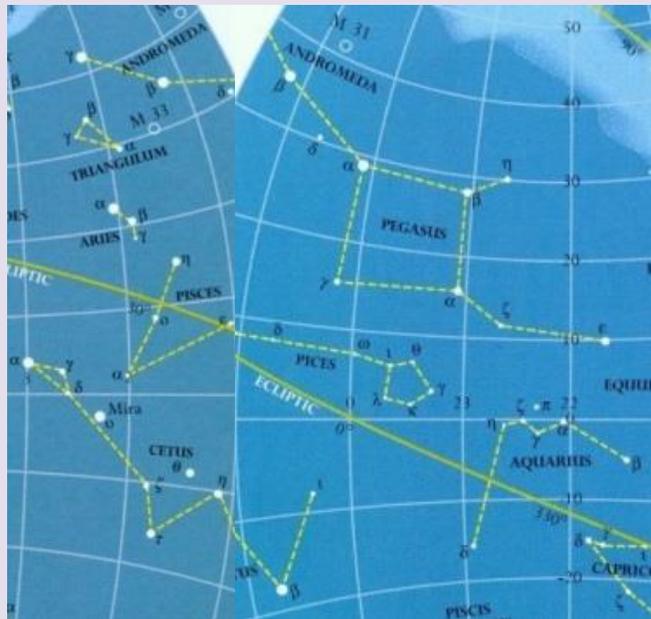
The meaning of Pisces will first be thoroughly presented, then later in the document it will be compared to Spiritual Number Theme 10.¹ Due to the close inter-relationships of the star signs in the sky, we encourage you to read our study of Aries and Aquarius alongside Pisces. Like harmonious notes, these truths make music together.

SUMMARY

Our interpretation of Pisces is the two fish represent Gentile believers in in the Age of Grace who either become entangled in religion or become the meek servants of God.² Those who promote religion fall into bondage and are not fruitful. Those who chose God's service are blessed and are a spiritual force to be reckoned with. They hold back the power of Satan.

POSITION OF PISCES IN THE SKY

Two star maps pieced together give the relationship of Pisces to neighboring constellations:



Source: Jim Kaler star maps

Pegasus is a winged horse coming down from heaven. The head of Pegasus points towards Aquarius [the servant Christ], the tail towards Andromeda [chained woman]. The feet of Pegasus point up towards heaven. The Band connects the two fish of Pisces to the neck of Cetus [sea monster]. The fish on the right is called the West Fish, because it is West of Acquarius [the servant Christ: pouring out the living water]. The other is the North Fish.

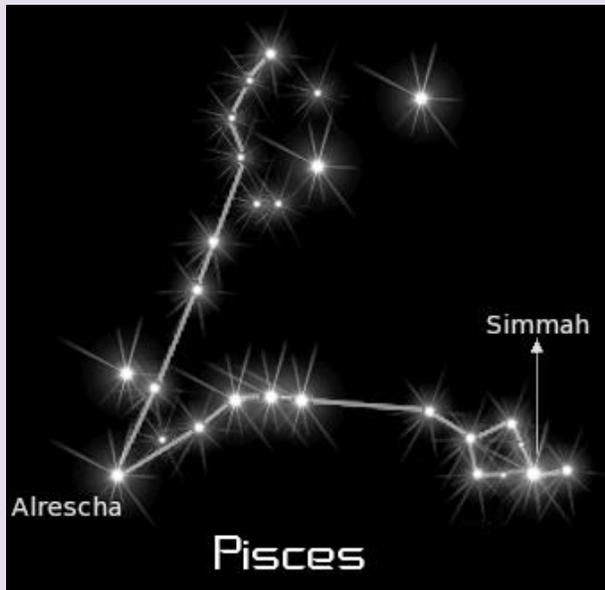
¹ For the spiritual meaning of Bible numbers see www.biblenumbersforlife.com

² The Age of Grace begins at the cross of Christ and continues until the rapture.

The position of the star sign Pisces is unusually complex and unique:

- The sign is divided into two parts completely separated by an expanse of black space³
- Each fish is headed in a different direction: one North and the other along the Ecliptic
- The stars in the North fish are in no discernible shape (scattered? powerless?)
- The stars in the West fish are arranged in a tight loop (united? powerful?)⁴
- The Band touches the ends of each of the two fish⁵ (above Ecliptic)
- The Band's pinch point (Alrescha) touches Cetus, the Sea Monster (below Ecliptic)
- Aries has a foot placed over the Band of the North Fish⁶ (some say the West Fish also)
- The North Fish is headed towards and is located directly under Andromeda
- The West Fish is headed towards Aquarius and is directly under Pegasus (winged horse)
- Both Fish are located above the body of the Sea Serpent Cetus
- The feet of Pegasus point up: the West Fish is in the odd position of the horse's rider⁷
- Both Fish are above the Ecliptic

PISCES & THE BAND



The Hebrew name for the star sign is Dagim, "**The Fishes**". It can also be translated "**The Multitudes**". The stars in Pisces are at the ends of The Band connected to the single star Alrescha "**The Bridle**". The Band connecting the two separate fish in Pisces is a separate star sign. The North Fish has a star with the name: Al Samaca "**the upheld**" and the (lower) West Fish has a star with the name: Okda "**the united**". The stars in the two fish are faint stars. No other star names are known. No bright stars are present. This suggests for purpose of interpretation, the star name meanings are less important than other factors, such as position. Only one Hebrew star name is known, so knowledge from the star names is weak indeed.

Before presenting our analysis of Pisces in relation to the many other significant signs in the sky so close to it, we need to discuss the possible symbolic meanings of fish in the Bible.

³ Is there any other star sign that has parts so disconnected from each other by empty space?

⁴ Some star maps show five stars in the loop, other maps like the one above show four.

⁵ Are there any other star signs so interconnected as these two?

⁶ Aries has his left foot on the band to the North Fish (some would say the right foot on the band to the West Fish)

⁷ Pegasus appears to be falling, but not head first, more like at a 45 degree angle, with legs pointed up and away relative to the West Fish. If you look at the sky upside down you can see the West Fish is in the riding position.

FISH IN THE BIBLE

On the fifth day of creation God made everything that lives and moves in the sea and the birds of the air:⁸

“And God said ‘Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.’ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kinds. And God saw it was good. God blessed them and said ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth’. And it was evening and morning the fifth day.” (Gen. 1:20-23)

“Then God said ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish [dagah], of the sea [yam] and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” (Gen. 1:26)

“And God blessed them and said to them ‘Be fruitful and multiply: fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish [dagah], of the sea [yam] and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground” (Gen. 1:28)

On the sixth day of creation God made living creatures, wild animals, livestock and everything that moves along the ground. On the sixth day God also made man in his image and gave man the rule over all creation: the fish, the birds, and the animals.

In both references to fish in these passages, the Bible connects fish to the sea. The sea is a symbol of Gentile people without God who live in darkness, ignorance, and turmoil:

“O God our Savior...who stilled the roaring of the seas [yam], and the turmoil of the peoples⁹ [leom]” (Psalm 65:7)

The word for sea in Hebrew [yam] is also translated ‘west’. Of course, the Mediterranean Sea is to the west of the holy land hence the association of the two meanings. In the encampment of the tribes of Israel in the desert it is interesting to see who was on the west side:

“On the west [yam] will be the divisions of the camp of Ephraim under their standard...the tribe of Manasseh will be next to them...the tribe of Benjamin will be next.” (Numbers 2:18-24)

The tribes on the west are all the descendants of Jacob and Rachel. They had two sons: Joseph and Benjamin. In turn Joseph had two sons: Ephraim and Manasseh, who were counted as full

⁹ Authorized Version translates this ‘nations’

sons of Jacob (Genesis 48:5). This explains how there can be three tribes on the west who are all descendants of Jacob and Rachel. The sons of Joseph had an Egyptian mother and so their blood was half Gentile. Jacob crossed his arms¹⁰ and placed his right hand on Ephraim (the younger) and his left hand on Manasseh (the elder) when he blessed them:

“**May they be called by my name...and let them grow [dagah] into a multitude [rob] in the midst of the earth**” (Gen. 48:16)

The Hebrew word for ‘fish’ is [dagah], the same word used in Genesis 1:26 and Genesis 1:28 (see passages above). Jacob is saying the boys will ‘multiply like fishes’.

Joseph was not pleased that Jacob crossed his arms so Jacob explained further:

“**...he (Manasseh) will become a people [‘am] and he shall be great; but truly his younger brother (Ephraim) shall be greater than he and his seed shall become a multitude [melo] of nations [go’ee].” (Gen. 48:19)**

Jacob’s prophecy is that Ephraim will multiply [like fishes] into a multitude of nations. The word nation [go’ee] is associated with heathen or Gentile nations.

This is where the interpretation of the sign Pisces gets tricky. If the two fish speak a prophetic message somehow related to Ephraim and Manasseh, what does it mean? Before jumping to conclusions we will look at other references to fish.

The story of Jesus miraculously multiplying food to feed hungry people has two small fish:

“**As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said ‘This is a remote place, and it is already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the village and buy some food.’ Jesus replied ‘They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.’ ‘We have here only five loaves of bread and two small fishes’ they answered. ‘Bring them to me’ he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve baskets of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.” (Matt. 14:15-21)**

The connection to the star sign Pisces is interesting for these reasons:

- The miracle was multiplication, and that is the same sense fish were used in Genesis

¹⁰ Although Jacob had lost his eyesight and could not see the two boys before him, he had not lost his prophetic sight and so crossed his arms to ensure the younger son of Joseph received the greater blessing.

- There were five loaves of bread and there are five stars in the West Fish in Pisces
- There were two small fish, just as there are in Pisces
- The blessing of the multiplication resulted in feeding multitudes of people

Feeding multitudes is a connection to Joseph. Due to his wise stewardship enough grain was saved in abundant years to feed multitudes of people during the lean years (Genesis 41). When he named his sons, Joseph called the first Manasseh, which means ‘forget my trouble’, and the second he called Ephraim, which means ‘twice fruitful’. At Ephraim’s birth Joseph said “**It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering**” (Genesis 41:52). These sons were born at a time in Joseph’s life when he was exalted by Pharaoh and there was abundance of grain in the land “**more than the sand of the sea** [yom]” (Genesis 41:49).

The reference to the ‘sand of the sea’ leads us to more connections: (1) it re-connects the material abundance Joseph experienced in a Gentile land back to the sea; (2) it connects the blessing of Joseph with the blessing of Abraham. God said to Abraham after he took Isaac up Mount Moriah to offer him:

“I swear by myself declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” (Genesis 22:16-18)

Who are these descendants? We have a clue when Jacob claims the blessing of Abraham:

“...you have said ‘I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted’.” (Genesis 32:12)

This reference is helpful in narrowing down the descendants. Where there are Israelites in the Bible they are often counted. The Book of Numbers is full of tribal census counts for the twelve tribes. However whenever the believers in Jesus are mentioned they are always described as: **“a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language.”** (Revelation 7:9) It is clear then the descendants of Abraham and Jacob who were spoken of as being ‘more than the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted’ are the spiritual descendants, not the physical descendants.

Our conclusion is the two fish of Pisces refer to multitudes of Gentile believers who experience spiritual life in Jesus. We will see this is confirmed in other ways also.

According to the Book of Galatians these are the descendants of Abraham:

“Understand then that those who believe are the children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you’” (Galatians 3:8)

What then of Ephraim and Manasseh? There is only one New Testament reference to Ephraim:

“So from that day on they [the Sanhedrin] plotted to take his [Jesus’] life. Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the Jews. Instead, he withdrew to a region near the desert, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.” (John 11:54)

We have a picture here of Jesus taking refuge from the Jews in Ephraim, the one who is ‘twice fruitful’, the half Gentile / half Hebrew. Could the Spirit of God indicate by this choice of residences that he will depart from the Jews and dwell among the Gentiles?

Manasseh is counted among the tribes of the Jews sealed in the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:4-8) but Ephraim is missing. There is a tribe called Joseph instead. In the Millennium both Ephraim and Manasseh have territories (Ezekiel 48:4-5).

Our interpretation: Ephraim is prophetic of the first Jews who followed Jesus and formed the nucleus of believers who spread his faith to the whole world. As a group, these Jews formed the foundation of the church of Jesus Christ: the apostles and the first Jewish converts from the day of Pentecost forward. The apostles, including Paul, went on their missionary trips and helped to bring the kingdom of God to many nations, tribes, and peoples through their preaching, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Jacob that Ephraim will become a multitude of nations. The reason the tribe of Ephraim is not in the Great Tribulation is the first Jewish believers in Jesus will be in heaven at that time. The physical descendants of Ephraim who remain in the Great Tribulation are renamed Joseph and will go through the intensity of that time to come, but the spiritual descendants of Ephraim will be in heaven and will escape it.

To go back to the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand: the two small fish represent the first Jewish believers in Jesus. He will multiply their faith so that many people will be spiritually fed. We note that in the Bible the number 1,000 means “tribe” and 5 means “grace”. So, the five thousand means the “tribes of grace”, or the believers who will be saved by faith in Jesus. The spiritual meaning of the bread in the story is Jesus, the Bread of Life.

We offer a prophetic interpretation of Ephraim to set aside confusion with the star sign Pisces. We do not believe the fish in Pisces are Ephraim and Manasseh however the fish are Gentile believers which fulfills a prophecy spoken of Ephraim. Both fish are the spiritual descendants of Ephraim (the first Jewish believers in Jesus). One of the fish experiences spiritual victory and the other experiences spiritual failure.

STAR KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO PISCES

When we look up at the stars the sky is divided as follows:

- The Milky Way, which is rich in stars and star light, stands for 'Heaven'
- The rest of the sky outside of the Milky Way stands for 'Earth'
- Sky above the Ecliptic outside the Milky Way stands for 'Land' or God's favor
- Sky below the Ecliptic outside the Milky Way stands for 'Sea' or God's judgment of sin

What makes the fish of Pisces so interesting is we find both these fish in the Land portion of the sky! This is a most unusual place to find fish. This hints that something miraculous happened in order for creatures naturally suited to water to live on the land. As we showed earlier, the fish is found in the sea, which is a type in the Bible of the heathen nations. The dry ground in the Bible refers to the solid ground of the faithful. This is captured in Scripture:

“And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon dry ground; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.” (Exodus 14:22)

Based on star knowledge alone we might have guessed that the two fish are symbols of Gentiles who have found faith in God. Nevertheless, the Scripture references are a confirmation of this conclusion. Of all the miracles of Jesus, surely this is the greatest: multitudes of idolatrous heathen are so purified of sin they worship the God of Abraham!

THE DIRECTION OF THE FISH

But there are two fish and they are headed in different directions: The North Fish is headed towards Andromeda, the West Fish is headed towards Aquarius.

Andromeda is a woman in chains, bondage, and misery. Andromeda is a decan sign of Pisces and will be examined more fully later in this paper. Andromeda stands for the imprisonment of vain religion. Andromeda is higher up in the sky reflecting her desire for worldly prominence and the attention of men. However, her attempts to elevate herself have resulted in sorrow and darkness. Unlike Cassiopeia, who sits as a Queen enthroned beside King Cepheus in heaven, Andromeda has no consort who cares for her, no rescuer coming in her direction, and so she pines away in loneliness and slavery.

Aquarius is the picture of the servant on one knee pouring out a vessel of water held on his shoulder. Aquarius is a picture of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Aquarius signifies the most lowly servant attitude: devoted to ministry to the saints and focused on the needs of others. In Eastern culture the lowest work of slaves was hauling water, and it was usually performed by female slaves. This is how far Jesus humbled himself to show us what the Christian life is all about.

The West Fish facing Aquarius is just above the Ecliptic. This means the sun passes close to the West Fish every day. Here is the daily spiritual refreshing that comes to a servant's heart. The eyes of the West Fish are facing towards Aquarius, and so with each day and each passing of the sun, the Holy Spirit illuminates our hearts and reveals Jesus to us.

In contrast, the North Fish is farther off the Ecliptic and the eyes of the North Fish are facing away from the sun. The life of a lowly servant is beneath the dignity of the North Fish. In fact, his focus is not on Jesus at all. His eyes are on big church buildings, impressive choirs, eloquent public speakers, and plush seats. This worldly vision of paid professional ministers and church buildings costs money and so a burden (yoke) is placed on parishioners to support it. The world of church goers centers on the building and living up to expectations of attendance and financial offerings. By so doing some of them imagine they are pleasing God. But the poor do not have cars to drive to church and unsaved people are already burdened by government taxes. The church building based professional ministry becomes a barrier to unsaved folks believing the gospel and becomes an unfruitful exercise to the saved folks trapped in it.

The early church met in homes (Romans 16:3-5) and ministry was provided by unpaid elders in the local church. This followed the teaching of Christ: **“freely you have received, freely give”** (Matt.10:8). Those who preached and taught the church were content to receive honor (1 Tim 5:17), food to eat and clothes to wear (1 Timothy 6:6-8). In like manner, Jesus sent his apostles on their journey with no bag that they might not be tempted to carry home loot (Luke 9:3). Money in the early church was gathered for the poor (Romans 15:25-26), for widows (1 Timothy 5:9), and to support missionaries sent on journeys to share the gospel with the pagans (3 John 6-7). Elders were unpaid: nothing was collected for them. Early believers in Jesus did not meet in buildings dedicated to Christian work until Constantine's Edict of Milan in 313 AD. The body of Christ has struggled to escape this trap ever since.

THE BAND TIED TO CETUS

A chain of stars forming a star sign called The Band connects the tail of the West Fish to the neck of the sea monster Cetus. The chain of stars continues from there up to the tail of the North Fish.¹¹

The sea monster Cetus is a symbol of evil spiritual powers working in the world by tempting man's flesh (see our study of Aires for a description of Cetus). Cetus is headed in the direction of Canis Major, the 'Big Dog' which is a symbol of the Antichrist and one world government in the last days (see our study of Gemini for a description of Canis Major).

¹¹ This star sign is a decan of Pisces and will be explored more fully later in the paper.

Aries, the slain Lamb seated on the throne, has his left forefoot on the part of The Band which goes up to the North Fish. We take it from this that no matter how entangled believers in Jesus become in worldly religious systems, the Lord will not permit them to be completely bound, i.e. to reach Andromeda. He will provide a way of escape and so they can join the West Fish.

POWER OF THE SERVANTS OF JESUS TO RESTRAIN EVIL

Cetus, the great serpent, is headed towards the Antichrist. This is the “**secret power of lawlessness that is already at work**” (2 Thessalonians 2:7a).

Let’s stop for a minute and reflect on the nature of serpents. Snakes are cold blooded: there is no warmth in them, no empathy, no compassion. Snakes are reptiles, they lay eggs. A snake has no maternal instinct for her own offspring and abandons the eggs after hatching. Snakes are strictly carnivorous, they eat warm blooded animals. Snakes can be venomous and inject poison directly into their prey. Snakes live in darkness: they have no external ears, often weak vision, and rely on internally sensing vibration and tasting chemicals in the air or in the water with their forked tongue. Snakes are easy prey for hawks and so keep themselves out of sight.

The snake is a picture of the unseen evil spirit world. All the evil spirits are arranged in hierarchy beneath the Prince of the Power of the Air, the Devil himself. The Devil is the author of evil and the entire wicked underworld follows him in total obedience just as the body of the snake stretches out behind its head. The star sign of Cetus is huge, fourth largest in the sky¹²: the Bible says the whole world is in under the control of evil.

There is one place on earth where the Devil is not in control: in the heart of the believer in Jesus. In that place the Devil has lost authority and must rely on deception to steer the believer astray from the knowledge of God, obedience to his word, and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Band illustrates the tug of war between the schemes and wiles of the Devil and the power of believers to know God and follow his commands. So long as Christians are filled with the Holy Spirit and obeying him (West Fish) they restrain the power of evil in the world (Cetus). This is what is meant by “**but the one who now holds back will continue to do so until he is taken out of the way**” (2 Thessalonians 2:7). Considering the massive size and power of Cetus, in order for Jesus’ tiny flock of followers to restrain that beast, their spiritual power is great!¹³

How does the power of believers work? The Devil’s kingdom relies on total obedience. Like a snake or like a chain¹⁴ all the parts must follow the part in front of it. If even one link in the

¹² 1231 square degrees.

¹³ Incidentally, this is the answer to the question God posed to Job (Job 41:1-2)

¹⁴ The chains are the connection between Andromeda, the Serpent, and all of Satan’s religious systems

chain is broken, the whole chain is divided and becomes useless. Jesus was very clear that the kingdom of God is not a hierarchy:

“But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi’ for you have one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on the earth ‘Father’, for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called ‘Teacher’, for you have one teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matt. 23:8-12)

How does the power of the Devil work? The scheme of the Devil is to get Christians to organize themselves in a hierarchy of obedience, each man submitted to and over-ruled by the man above him. This simplifies the Devil’s task to darkening the eyes of those at the pinnacle of power, which the Devil has proven in the past quite able to do. The Devil’s master deception is called Religion. Even a casual inspection of the history of revivals and movements of the Spirit shows, early Christians included, that what starts as a sprinkling of lively local prayer meetings ends up in monolithic denominations having a central concentration of power in the hands of professional clergy that extends across whole countries, even across the whole world. In every case, these power structures kill the work of God because they replace the guiding of the Holy Spirit in the individual believer’s heart with man’s rules and authority dictated from on high.

The bad news is the whole world in the power of the evil one and his aim is to rule the world through one man, the Antichrist. The good news is believers with a servant heart and obedience to the Holy Spirit are holding him back from his goal.

MEDITATION

In the book of Proverbs there is mention of creatures deemed to have great wisdom:

“Locusts have no King, yet they advance in ranks” (Proverbs 30:27)

Who is your king? Who is your leader? The invisible God or a man on earth? It can’t be both.

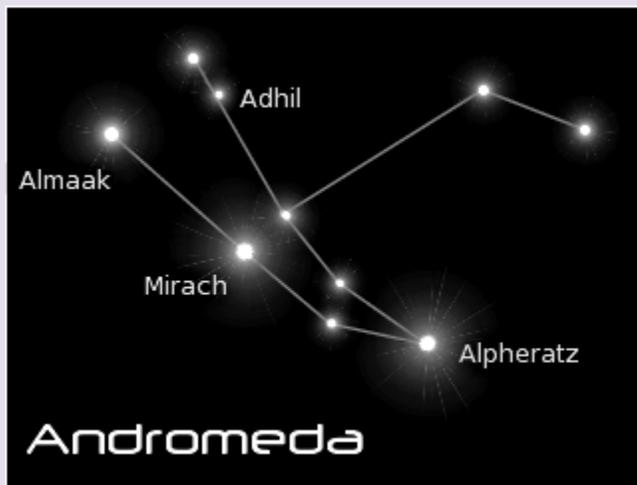
Israel went for hundreds of years without a king. Then one day the elders of Israel came to the prophet Samuel and asked for a king **“such as lead the nations around us”** (1 Samuel 8:5). The Lord said to Samuel **“It is not you they are rejecting as king, it is me”** (1 Samuel 8:7). Whenever men place a king in authority over themselves, they are rejecting God as their king. They are exchanging freedom in Christ for bondage to a man and the entourage that trails behind him.

What will happen if you make Jesus the King of your life? What will happen to your relationships with other believers when you tell them no priest, no pastor, no preacher, no elder has authority over you? That you are free to follow the Holy Spirit as he leads you to worship with other believers in your home or wherever they might be in the city? That you are

not a member of a local church, you are a part of the universal church? That you look to the Lord to show you how to serve him, not to the 'vision' of the church or of the denomination?

Let me tell you what will happen: you will be ridiculed, you will be belittled, and you will be rejected by men in these ecclesiastical systems. You will be alone for a while until you find kindred spirits, and your loyalty to Christ will be tested. The temptation will be to go 'back to Egypt'. You will wander in the desert until you call on the name of the Lord in distress. Then the Lord will reveal himself to you in a remarkable way. You will experience the blessing of God, riches in your spiritual life, and a boldness that comes from a secure knowledge you are a son (or daughter) of God by faith in Jesus Christ. You will be freed from the fear of man but you will also learn the fear of God.

ANDROMEDA



The Hebrew name of the sign is Sirra "**The Chained**" and Persea "**The Stretched Out**".

The picture is of a beautiful woman with chains on her hands and her legs. The stars: Alpheratz "**the broken down**"; Mirach "**the weak**"; Almaach "**struck down**"; Adhil "**Afflicted**"; Mizar "**the weak**"; Al Mara "**the afflicted**";

Andromeda is behind Pegasus, beneath Cassiopeia, below and to the right of Perseus, and directly above the North Fish of Pisces.

Andromeda is on her back with her head at Alpheratz looking up and her left leg up at Almaak and her right leg at Adhil. Anyone can see having one's feet above one's head cannot be a comfortable position. The stars in the top right signify her arms chained up. Her face is looking up at Cassiopeia, who is looking down in her general direction.¹⁵

How poetic the signs in the stars are! Here are the religious believers in Jesus, represented by the North Fish, straining upward to gain Andromeda's position. Andromeda has her back to these believers, signifying her disdain. Anyone who has been a part of a religious group for a length of time can testify there is no true love, no sincere fellowship. We are just members in a system, not real human beings with needs for relationships with other brothers and sisters. The moment we leave the group, we are forgotten forever.

¹⁵ Cassiopeia's eyes are actually on Aries, the Lamb that was slain. Aries is also beneath Cassiopeia.

As we discussed in our interpretation of Aries, Cassiopeia represents the Jerusalem that is above, the free woman. Andromeda represents the slave woman (hence the chains) who stands for the covenant at Mount Sinai (Galatians 4:24-25). Based on the passage quoted in Galatians, Andromeda represents the Jewish people under bondage to the Law of Moses and all the religious trappings that go with it. But in the stars, Andromeda represents not only observant Jews but all people who put their trust in religious observance to be right with God. Paul was a highly trained expert in the legal system of the Jews. Paul wrote (Galatians 3:23-25):

“Before faith came, we were held prisoners by the law [Andromeda], locked up until faith should be revealed. So, the law was put in place to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come we are no longer under the supervision of the law [Cassiopeia].”

Law can't save. Law can't impart life. Law has one purpose: to show us our failings that we might cry out to God to be forgiven. Once we are saved we are employed to leave religion behind us:

“It is for freedom that Christ has made us free. Stand firm then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of bondage [Religion].” (Galatians 5:1)

Having turned away from the elementary principles of religion, we are invited to experience a new life through the power of the Holy Spirit:

“You, my brothers were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love [West Fish]...So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” (Galatians 6:13-26)

But the unsaved religious person is almost incurable. Although Andromeda has obtained some favor with God, not to be confused with salvation, Andromeda does not have her eyes on God. She is not in fact a worshipper at all. Her eyes are on Cassiopeia, who is higher up in the sky. Thus, it is not a relationship with God that Andromeda seeks, but a higher place of prominence in the world. Alas, there she lies in misery and great discomfort. Thinking her chains (her religion) are (is) her salvation, she will never let them go and thus she will be bound forever.

CEPHEUS

The Hebrew name of the sign is Cepheus "**The Branch**".

The stars include: Alderamin (in the left shoulder) "**Coming Quickly**"; Alfirk (in the waist) "**The Redeemer**"; Alrai (in the knee) "**Who Bruises**".

Cepheus is pictured in the stars as a king upon his throne. His foot is over the Pole Star (Polaris). From this position he is facing towards Ursa Minor and his back is to Andromeda down below and behind him. Beside Cepheus on his left hand is Cassiopeia, his bride and his queen, who is also enthroned. In his right hand (the two stars coming off the shoulder at Alderamin in the diagram above) he holds the rod of his authority.

The head of Cepheus is in the Milky Way, but the torso and legs of Cepheus are outside the Milky Way in the Land portion of the sky far above the Ecliptic in the direction of the Pole Star.

The star names give us the identity of Cepheus: The Redeemer / Coming Quickly / Who Bruises. These are the words of Jesus:

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done." (Revelations 22:12)

Cepheus is the picture of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, currently in heaven (Milky Way) but coming back to Earth. In star language the tail or the feet indicate the end of something, the head indicates the beginning of something. The head of Cepheus being in heaven indicates he is there now, but he will come quickly from there and return to earth to rule and reign. For a connection to the last days and the return of Christ we invite you to investigate Ursa Minor, 'The Little Dipper' and discover the meaning of the Pole Star in our interpretation of the constellation Cancer.

Cepheus is also a picture of the church ruling and reigning with Christ on earth during the Millennium. Doesn't the Bible say we are the body of Christ? In this star sign the body (torso

and legs) of Cepheus is outside the Milky Way on the 'Land' in the portion of the sky in close proximity to the Pole Star, which represents 'Worldly Rule'.

There are some clues in the stars that not all believers in the Lord Jesus will rule and reign with him in the Millennium. The first clue is Cepheus has his back to Andromeda. Did you know God hates religion? Listen to what the Bible says:

"I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies...Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:21-23)

"You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches...You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph." (Amos 6:4-6)

Religion not only does not impress God it is abhorrent to God. Do you think the North Fish, the believers in Jesus who are striving to turn saving faith into a religion will receive great rewards from the Lord? (Note: We are not saying here that believers will not receive eternal life)

Based on star knowledge alone, here is the answer. The West Fish is headed towards Aquarius. All of us, no matter how devout or spirit filled fall short of the glory of God, and so the West Fish cannot reach Aquarius, or achieve the supreme service and obedience to the Father as demonstrated by Christ. Nevertheless those who have put religion behind them and have offered their bodies as living sacrifices to please God as his servants are on the path to blessing and honor. The West Fish is in the position of the rider of Pegasus (We apologize, this takes some visual gymnastics to appreciate) who is coming down out of heaven. If you refer to our interpretation of Aquarius, Pegasus represents the army of the saints arrayed in white robes astride horses who follow Christ on his return to the earth to do battle with and destroy the Antichrist, the false prophet, and all the rebels to God at Armageddon (Revelations 19:11-14). In astronomy Pegasus is called 'The Great Square' because four of its stars form a large square in the sky. This tells us Pegasus is coming back to the 'four corners' of the earth. In ancient thinking there were always four generals in command of an army. The foremost general was called the 'Chief Corner' and the other generals in supreme command were called the 'Corners'. Thus the shape of a square is also a symbol of military rule¹⁶. So, the believers in Christ who are returning to earth are coming to rule and reign. But! These are not all the believers in Christ,

¹⁶ Note that Ursa Minor and Ursa Major (the big and the little dippers) also have square star formations. These stars represent Jewish saints in the Millennium. But the square star formation of Pegasus is the largest of all in the sky, and so we understand the rule of believers from the Age of Grace will be over all others during the Millennium.

these are the believers who submitted their lives to his service, in other words, those who comprised the West Fish in their worldly life. It will be just as the Lord said:

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5)

Did you notice this promise of the Lord Jesus is the fifth verse of the fifth chapter of Matthew? There are five stars in the West Fish. Five is the number of weakness. Anyone who has served the Lord has felt the weakness, inadequacy, and worldly rejection that comes with it. Yet the place of weakness is right where God wants us to be. Those who assume that role will be richly blessed in this life and in the life to come.

Isn't the poetry of the stars irresistibly sublime? The West Fish is attached by a band or “a Bridle” to Aries’ right leg. This is a picture of the control the Lord has over our lives through the power of his Spirit living in us. As the Lord wills, we move this way or that. Having loved and obeyed our Lord Jesus in this life, what will be our reward? He will give us a bridle! In star language we are given a horse to ride, in other words we are given authority in his kingdom to come. By the way, the Greek word ‘meek’ means “sensitive to the reigns”.

But the North Fish is attached to Aries’ left leg. In ancient thinking the right hand was the hand of favor and blessing, the left hand was the position of lessor favor and lessor blessing. This is why Joseph was annoyed that his father Jacob placed the left hand on his first son Manasseh. In any event, the North Fish is on the left signifying that it is favored but less so than the West Fish positioned on Aries’ right. Rather than a bridle as a reward, the disobedience and self-will of the North Fish will cause it to receive little or no honor at all.

MEDITATION

Let’s suppose that you, dear reader, are convinced by this ‘stellar’ argument and you wish to make Jesus the king of your life. You may ask “How do I live this life of service and obedience?”

Elijah was a servant of God. He had little fear of man. Here are his words to the King of Israel:

“As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there will be neither rain nor dew in the next few years except by my word.” (1 Kings 17:1)

A servant of God has surrendered everything. We live to do God’s bidding. We are like the knights of the king who stand at attention ready at any moment to take orders. If you spend time on amusements, worldly distractions, and religious diversions you are not available. If you have sin in your life you are not available. If you are entangled in commitments and obligations you are not available. Free yourself from these things and make yourself available. In this busy modern world 90% of the problem is availability. Once you are available, the Lord will guide you and show you each step on the rest of the way.

Your first order as a servant of God is to stand in his presence. Your second order is to abide in his presence. Spend time with him in prayer, reading the Bible, washing the dishes, on your bed, and on the road. Practice his presence constantly. If you stay in his presence you will be fruitful for the Lord. Christ is already in you. The power of the Holy Spirit entered into you the moment you believed. Be in a constant state of worship and he will do marvelous things through you.

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Do you want to be really fruitful for the Lord? Then you need to spend more quality time with him. Paul was used mightily by God. What did Paul do after he was saved to prepare himself to be a servant of God? He totally isolated himself so as to better know the Lord who called him:

"But when God...who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his son in me so that I might preach him to the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem..." (Galatians 1:15-19)

Your third order as a servant of God: what you see Jesus doing, you do; what you hear him say, you say; whoever you feel in your heart the Lord loves, you love. And you will never go wrong.

God bless you.

SPIRITUAL NUMBERS AND STAR SIGNS

As an appendix to this document we are providing Number Theme 10 from our interpretation of Bible numbers on the website www.biblenumbersforlife.com

We have discovered that all the constellations in the path of the sun (Mazarroth) correspond to a Number Theme or group of spiritual numbers from the Bible that are joined together by a common message. We have also discovered that the order of the constellations in the heavens is the same as the order of the Number Themes from the Bible!

God authored the Bible and therefore put his meanings on the numbers in it. God also gave the stars their names and put those meanings into the heavens. If the Creator of the Universe is the same as the Author of Scripture, there should be a meeting and matching of meanings. In fact that is precisely what we have discovered. To God be the glory!

See Number Theme 10 below.

THEME 10 - FIRST JEWISH BELIEVERS MULTIPLY FAITH IN JESUS

The first believers in Christ were Jews and all the apostles were Jews. They formed the foundation of the Church. Through their preaching the gospel was spread. Gentiles from every nation, tribe, and tongue came to believe.

23rd: Death to Unbelievers			24th: New High Priest - Jesus			25th: Life to The Forgiven		
Call On His Name	Repent and Believe	Jesus is the Word of God	Truthful Speech	He Watches Over You	The House of the LORD	Death Cheated	Safety Assured	Joyful Release

<p>"The <u>cords of death</u> entangle me the anguish of the grave came upon me...Then I called on the name of the Lord; '<u>O LORD, save me!</u>'" (Psalm 116)</p> <p>"<u>The stone the builders rejected: has become the capstone</u>" (Psalm 118:22)</p> <p>"<u>I will not die but live</u>, and will proclaim what the Lord has done" (Psalm 118:17)</p> <p>"Oh, how I love your law! (Ps 119:97)</p>	<p>"<u>he who watches over you</u> will not slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121)</p> <p>"<u>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem</u>" (Psalm 122)</p> <p>"<u>I am a man of peace</u>, but when I speak they are for war" (Psa 120)</p>	<p>"<u>We have escaped</u> like a bird out of the fowler's snare" (Ps 124:7)</p> <p>"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so <u>the LORD surrounds his people</u>" (Ps 125:2)</p> <p>"When the Lord brought back captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths <u>were filled with laughter...</u>" (Ps 126:1-2)</p>									
<p>116</p> <p>Prayer of Confession</p>	<p>117</p> <p>Deathly Silence</p>	<p>118</p> <p>(Ephraim) First Jews to Follow Jesus:</p>	<p>119</p> <p>Love The Word of God</p>	<p>120</p> <p>Man of Peace</p>	<p>121</p> <p>Watchful Protector</p>	<p>122</p> <p>City of Peace</p>	<p>123</p> <p>Religious But Not Redeemed</p>	<p>124</p> <p>Escaped Trap</p>	<p>125</p> <p>Protector Surrounds</p>	<p>126</p> <p>Saved From Wrath</p>	
<p>The Jewish People rejected the Messiah God sent. Yet, God used Jewish followers to write the New Testament and found the church.</p>			<p>The Jewish People rejected the Messiah God sent. Yet, God used Jewish followers to write the New Testament and found the church.</p>			<p>Jews who steadfastly remained loyal to their religion and refused to follow Jesus were not saved from God's wrath</p>			<p>Jews who believed in Jesus became citizens of the Jerusalem that is above. No longer in bondage to a religion on earth, they were freed to serve the Lord among his people: of all ethnic origins.</p>		
<p>Flee religion: It can't save you!</p>			<p>History records that in 70AD the Romans laid siege to Jerusalem and raised it to the ground. On the hills surrounding Jerusalem the Romans crucified thousands of citizens at a time.</p>			<p>God did two miracles: He put the love of Gentiles in the heart of Jews; and He put the love of God in the hearts of the heathen.</p>					

COMMENTARY ON THE SPIRITUAL NUMBERS

It is so easy to read the New Testament accounts of the rapid growth and expansion of the early church among the first Jewish believers. In reality, those people made the extremely hard decision to renounce their Jewish faith and religious practice. They gave up over a thousand years of Jewish heritage to follow a dusty preacher with a provincial accent.

After the church had settled down there was a movement among some of the leaders of the church to move back towards Mosaic laws and practices. There was a heated debate over this but it was finally decided neither to impose Mosaic laws nor the patriarchal rite of circumcision on the Gentiles.

The agonizing decision to renounce religion and then the return of the tug of religion on the hearts of those early Jewish believers is a spiritual battle that must be fought and re-fought in every generation. After almost 2,000 years of church history we can now definitively say, the battle has been mostly lost and a religious spirit has overcome most of the groups of Christian believers anywhere you look on earth.

However, you can make Jesus the king of your life and walk in his footsteps.

Even if you are the only one left to do so, we pray you do.