

“Wise Men Still Seek Him — The Gospel in the Stars”

Review: “Wise Men Still Seek Him” Christmas 2023

- ***The Greatest Story Ever Told — The End of That Story***
- ***The Greatest Story Ever Told — The Beginning of That Story***

Introduction:

- ***Last time here in our Bible Fellowship we studied together the story of Christmas (or at least a critical part of it, the incarnation and birth of our Lord Jesus Christ as he took human flesh upon himself, without sin) and saw how it was revealed to mankind in two ways, through the written word of God surely, but also in the heavenly revelation that the Lord God gave from the beginning, written in the skies and communicated through human witnesses. Also, his ongoing conflict with the arch enemy and his ultimate victory over satan is clearly revealed there in that record, whether in human language in the scriptures, or in the heavenly record.***
- ***I want to especially focus on some details of that heavenly message today. We will take opportunity to consider specifically what that starry and heavenly revelation communicated starting with the first heavenly sign, Virgo or the Virgin. The first four, Virgo through Sagittarius, are all about the coming redeemer and his glorious work — the provision and heritage of the Seed of the Woman, the last four, Taurus through Leo, are all about the promised judgment of our common enemy, even satan with his many spiritual slaves. In between the first four and the last four are four that focus specifically on the redeemer himself and his deliverance from Adam’s curse. We will consider only three constellations within the first of the signs, Virgo, saving more for next time.***
- ***Before we begin though let me be clear about one thing as we have focused so entirely here for a while now on “prophecy”, leaving “the mystery” revealed to the apostle Paul for us saints today behind for a time. That would be the distinction between Prophecy and the Mystery — this distinction is so important that the apostle Paul would emphasize it so strongly in multiple places in his letters.***

In the prophecies of the Old Testament we have the divine plan of redemption as it pertains to Israel and the Nations. This begins with the Seed of the Woman coming forth and his arch enemy, who has plagued all believers from the beginning of time finally defeated in the earthly

Millennial Kingdom and then afterwards a New Heaven and a New Earth, where righteousness dwells.

In the mystery revelation in Paul's letters we find out that the Lord God had a special plan for the church, the Body of Christ, a plan kept secret from all until the appointed time, and different from and apart from the promises and covenants given to God elect and chosen people here on this earth. That plan has special promises relating to a unique and called out body of believers joined spiritually with Christ who is our head and bestowed by grace with a promise of an eternal and heavenly hope. Amen and amen.

But both plans depend on the coming of the Son of God into this world of sin and death and becoming for us the perfect sacrifice, sufficient to put away our sin and sins once and forever. Amen. And so in the end the two plans come together in ways we are not yet aware of for that has not been revealed in detail yet. These two are not the same and the ending of Romans chapter 16 states that so clearly:

[READ] Romans 16:24-27

24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

- ***So indeed one message was kept secret since the foundation of the world while the other was revealed from the beginning as we have seen and will see again today, both in the written revelation and the witness in the stars. The scriptures given to Israel reveal the plan of redemption as given to Israel which was an earthly inheritance, while the plan of redemption given for us today under grace is heavenly in its eternal magnitude and glory as we have seen in our studies here always. Praise God for his wisdom and grace and for pouring it out upon us Gentiles as he has abundantly. We were entirely separate from the covenants and promises made to Israel. But as it was for Abraham, the father of faith for us all, apart from their promises we are gifted freely with his free grace and all the blessings of that. Amen and amen.***

Our Outline Today: “Wise Men Still Seek Him — The Gospel in the Stars”

- ***God’s Witness is Declared Even “From the Beginning”***
- ***What Has Been Revealed From Heaven From The Beginning? The Witness of God In the Stars with All Its Splendor and Truth***

Next Times (Lord Willing):

- ***The Word to the Enemy Is Clear — The Seed Has Come and Mystery Babylon Shall Fall!***

I. God’s Witness is Declared Even “From the Beginning”:

- ***The Witness of God In the Stars with All Its Splendor and Truth has been revealed from the beginning. That is what we were discussing last time, the message of Christmas. This is a message of the redemptive plan of God as given to Israel later which was an addition that was specifically for the Jews, God’s chosen out people. But before over a period of about 2500 years a message of redemption had been given to the Gentiles so that they as well they might take God at his word and be given a hope beyond any this earth with its many sin-caused miseries could afford.***

The evidences for this are many fold as we saw in our quick review in our last study:

[READ] Luke 1:67-70

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

[READ] Acts 3:20-21

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

- *The key words here are these: "... since the world began". So we must conclude that there was a revelation given long before the written scriptures were delivered to mankind through Moses, David and the prophets.*
- *But there is yet more evidence elsewhere, as you might expect, like in Hebrews:*

Hebrews 12:22-24

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel*.

- *Take note of the references to Abel here, both in the words of the Lord in Luke and here in the letter to the Hebrews.*
- *So it is clear: there were prophets from the beginning, "since the world began" and "from the foundation of the world". Some of them were in effect "heavenly" as well, as Paul writes in Romans 10 where he quotes from Psalm 19:*

[READ] Rom. 10:17-18

17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

- *The apostle here is drawing an analogy which those in the ancient world knew a lot more about than we do today. For the heavenly witness described in Psalm 19 he quotes here was so much better understood then than it is today. He is relying it seems to me on an understanding that there was a message, a truth, with much meaning as all truth does communicate, regarding the Creator's embedding in the creation itself in the names of the stars and then in the signs that were passed down from generation to generation by those the Lord had singled out for such a great purpose.*

But Romans chapter 1 as we have read earlier today says even more about this heavenly revelation given for all of mankind to know as

God's revealed word before the written word was ever delivered for the chosen out ones of Israel:

[READ] Rom. 1:17-20

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold [down] the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

- ***So here it says that in the gospel is the righteousness of God revealed. Once the perfect sacrifice had been offered up for our sins, and that crucial segment of the great story of redemption was complete, the full revelation of that righteousness had been delivered from Christ risen to Paul. In that he gloried. But as he noted here in this verse 17, the righteousness of God had been revealed before “in part” and so here it is referenced as “from faith to faith”. It was the accountability of all to a righteous and holy God that had been revealed before in the heavenly testimony. And that is what this part of the letter is addressing now as chapters 2 and 3 unfold how God was working in the hearts of Gentiles (verses 19-20). But some took God at his word, believing, they cleaved to the truth and lived by their faith whatever the consequences. Some were even “taken”, such as Enoch (and Methuselah died), before the flood came during Noah's fateful days of divine judgment on the human race save eight souls.***

Now verse 18 mentions “truth”. Truth, of course, requires even more than “words” and “speech”, does. This is also I think a clear reference back to Ps. 19. There we see two parts to the divine revelation to man regarding the greatest promise found in the Bible regarding the Coming Redeemer, the Seed of the Woman of Gen. 3:15. Not only the written word as verses 7 and following enumerate, but also the heavenly witness as verses 1 - 6 indicate.

- ***Now what about the Ps. 19 reference to speech and words and language, indeed a “message in the stars”? Does the Bible support this concept elsewhere? We have seen that it does in several***

scriptures often quickly passed over. But the verses that mention explicitly the Creator's naming of these heavenly witnesses are foundational:

Ps. 147:4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by [their] names.

[READ] Is. 40:26

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these [things], that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that [he is] strong in power; not one faileth. **[In other words, his revelation in the heavens was "clearly revealed"!]**

- **So there is easily sufficient support for our teaching here that the stars and the names of each were given directly by God. That this revelation was also given to God's servants is a warranted conclusion surely as otherwise they could have had no value to believers here on this earth. There are many stars whose original names are still known in their Hebrew or are translations into Arabic. So indeed there was a "meaning" associated with these star names that was given by God himself, as scripture reveals here. Furthermore, if the names associated with those stars have meaning then there is a story told in the heavens as well, at least in outline form, as Paul's letter to the Romans gives witness where he quotes Ps. 19:4 in chapter 10 and verse 18. Those names had to be passed down through those 2500 years by word of mouth by those chosen by God for that purpose probaly starting with Adam himself or Abel and Seth.**
- **Now, that we might not forget what we were beginning to see in our study last time here in God's precious word of truth, the magnificent Psalm 19, where there is so much more than we might have ever thought. Paul in Romans 1 had this in the back of his mind as he wrote, it seems, just as it was in the forefront of his mind when he wrote Romans chapter 10. Let's reread the first verses to set the stage here and then see some of the details emerge:**

[READ] Ps. 19:1-6

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard.

4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

5 Which [is] as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, [and] rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

6 His going forth [is] from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

- ***This Psalm is wonderful indeed, isn't it? So much is here if we have the eyes and heart to receive it.***
- ***Again, in Bullinger's "The Witness of the Stars", we read: "These ancient star-pictures reveal this Coming One. They set forth 'the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.' Altogether there are forty-eight of them, made up of twelve SIGNS, each sign containing three CONSTELLATIONS.***

These may be divided into three great books, each book containing four chapters (or Signs); and each chapter containing three sections (or Constellations).

Each book (like the four Gospels) sets forth its peculiar aspect of the Coming One; beginning with the promise of His coming, and ending with the destruction of the enemy.

But where are we to begin to read this wondrous Heavenly Scroll? A circle has proverbially neither beginning nor end. In what order then are we to consider these signs? In the heavens they form a never-ending circle. Where is the beginning and where is the end of this circle through which the sun is constantly moving? Where are we to break into this circle? and say, This is the commencement. It is clear that unless we can determine this original starting point we can never read this wondrous book aright.

As I have said, the popular beginning today is with Aries, the Ram. But comparing this Revelation with that which was afterwards written "in the Volume of the Book," Virgo is the only point where we can intelligently begin, and Leo is the only point where we can logically conclude. Is not this what is spoken of as the unknown and insoluble mystery--"The riddle of the Sphinx"? The word "Sphinx" is from to bind closely together. It was therefore designed to show where the two ends of the Zodiac were to be joined together, and where the great circle of the heavens begins and ends.

The Sphinx is a figure with the head of a woman and the body of a lion! What is this but a never-ceasing monitor, telling us to begin with Virgo and to end with Leo! In the Zodiac in the Temple of Esneh, in Egypt, a Sphinx is actually placed between the Signs of Virgo and Leo..."

- ***So if we are reading these words carefully, we see in these words that there is a beginning and there is an end to the heavenly "proclamation" of the coming Redeemer.***
- ***Verses 1-6 are about the heavenly testimony of God's redemptive plan for fallen mankind, but the rest of the verses are about the Written Word of God. When the written word was given, the heavenly testimony was not as much needed. God singled out of the Gentile nations a people for his name and he gave them his written word of truth.***
- ***Of course, as always, satan had corrupted this message and indeed, even "the gospel in the stars", changing the message of redemption as recorded in the heavens into a message of perdition encoded in symbols of animals and corrupt mankind. This they then used as a basis for their "astrological" religious systems worldwide.***

Romans chapter 1 seems to be all about that and its effect on those who would worship the power behind it, satan himself. Only God's people, the Jews, with the written revelation now given, could, as satan's plan of deception developed, preserve that heavenly and eternal message regarding the Seed of the Woman.

This brings us now to that special revelation given to Abraham on this day that was such a turning point in his life:

[READ] Genesis 15:5-6

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be.**

6 And he believed ***[in]*** the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

- ***Strong's: "Tell, number == (3) From to set before, to set forth, to shew. First occurrence, Genesis 3:11, "Who told thee that thou wast naked." Psalm 97:6, "The heavens declare His righteousness"; 111:6, "He hath shewed his people the power of his works.""***

- *Now, as we well know, it is our Lord Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah, their promised King and Redeemer, who is "the glory of God", the supreme one in who God's nature and works are revealed, and so Psalms 19:1 is surely all about that where we read "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork. This is of course also revealed in the New Testament, and to just choose two scriptures:*

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 21:23

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

- *And so it was. For about 2500 years before Moses (died in 1452, creation in 4004 B.C.) there was a witness by God to man worldwide concerning his plan of redemption. This was all recorded in the heavens through the so-called "Zodiac" BEFORE IT WAS CORRUPTED BY SINFUL MEN AND BY SATANIC PERSUASIONS AND OBJECTIVES. "The word Zodiac means the degrees or steps, which mark the stages of the sun's path through the heavens, corresponding with the twelve months." — Bullinger's Companion Bible, Appendix 12.*
- *This implies that the idolatrous images that were created by sinful and rebellious men may indeed have been representations of what was given in heaven there at the beginning.*

And, the satanic religion was opposed to that message of redemption and therefore created a new religion that perverted it and which used carved images (idols) here on earth as a critical part. The judgment on the Tower of Babel shows so clearly that the Lord God is not pleased with earthly representations of heavenly things unless he makes them himself, as Heb. 9 says regarding the Ark of the Covenant and the temple furniture which had patterns of them saved in the heavenlies.

- *Firstly God had revealed his truth of redemption though the Seed of the Woman via the heavenly testimony, and then,*

secondly, through the written word of God given by angels to Moses.

- ***Once the written word of God was given, the heavenly testimony was not as essential for preserving the message of hope in the Lord as before. Praise to Almighty God for the written word, since the God-given meaning of the stars and constellations was being increasingly confused by God's enemy as proven in his destruction of the tower of Babel and the city of Babylon, so many centuries before. And, as the Lord called out his covenantal people, the twelve tribes of Israel, special revelation was also needed for them.***
- ***Finally, we should not forget what stands written at the very beginning of our written word in chapter 1 of Genesis in regard to the creation of the earth and the heavens:***

Gen. 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons [or, "epochs"], and for days, and years:

- ***Ps. 19 and all of the references we have considered surely need to be taken in the context of the Genesis foundation since it is explaining those words in some detail. The word "sign", by the way, is so important here, for it provides pointers to WHAT (or WHO) is coming! And that is what the heavenly testimony is all about, isn't it? It is about how the Lord God is working or will work in the future. And the Seed of the Woman is at the very center of that revelation:***

Revelation 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

- ***And so we have a wealth of testimony that the Lord God had given much revelation "from the beginning", some through prophets and others he had raised up for that purpose, like Job, but also in the heavens itself. But what was the content of that revelation?***

II. What Has Been Revealed From Heaven From The Beginning? The Witness of God In the Stars with All Its Splendor and Truth:

The Twelve Signs and Thirty-Six Constellations Revealed in the Heavens are now our focus (see Bullinger's Companion Bible, Appendix 12, for this and also his book, "The Witness of the Stars", published in 1921, which has been republished many times in many editions). See those references for many of my comments here, some direct quotations are indicated:

- ***"First Book. The Redeemer. (His first coming) The Sufferings of Christ...***
 - ***VIRGO. The prophecy of the promised seed.***
 - ***LIBRA. The Redeemer's work (grace).***
 - ***SCORPIO. The Redeemer's conflict.***
 - ***SAGITTARIUS. The prophecy fulfilled.***
- ***Second Book. The Redeemed. (His work and its results) His Fruit is the Glorious Redemption of the People of God***
 - ***CAPRICORNUS. The prophecy of deliverance.***
 - ***AQUARIUS. Results of work bestowed.***
 - ***PISCES. Results of work enjoyed.***
 - ***ARIES. The prophesied deliverance fulfilled.***
- ***Third Book. The Redeemer. (His Second Coming) ... The Glory that Shall Follow***
 - ***TAURUS. The prophecy of coming judgment.***
 - ***GEMINI. The Redeemer's reign in glory.***
 - ***CANCER. The Redeemer's position safe.***
 - ***LEO. The prophecy of triumph fulfilled.***
- ***Each of the four chapters in each of these three Books consists of three sections; and each section is represented by a Constellation. There are thus thirty-six (3x12) Constellations, which, with the twelve Signs, make forty-eight (4x12) in all." See again Bullinger's commentary in the Companion Bible, Appendix 12.***

We will now quickly review some of the heavenly revelation focusing only on the first sign with more next time on other signs:

- ***“The First Sign: Virgo (the Virgin) - This is the starting point just as it is in Genesis 3:15. Here we have the star Al Zimach. Heb. Zemach, the branch. All the other stars have cognate meanings.” – Bullinger.***

And, as we should know already, there are several (in fact four) prophetic references in the Old Testament concerning “the branch”, a clear reference therefore to our Lord Jesus, Israel’s Messiah and Redeemer. Those are:

Is. 4:2 In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth [shall be] excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Jer. 23:5-6 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

Zech. 3:8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they [are] men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

Zech. 6:12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name [is] The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

- ***And so we see that the written and verbal revelation given to Israel emphasized the branch image vary much as well. But now what constellations with what stars are in this sign? We will look at just one today, Coma, but there are three:***

- ***The First Constellation in Virgo, COMA - The Desired One:***

Hag. 2:7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Num 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

- ***The Constellation CENTAURUS - The despised (Al Beze)***

Is. 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not

- **The Constellation BOOTES - (Heb. bo', to come) (Heb. Arcturus)**

Ps. 96:13 Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Job 9:9 (He cometh. Egyptian = Smat, one who rules) Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.

- **Now, for the stars themselves with their names, again, from Bullinger. PLEASE READ THE NOTES LATER FOR ALL THE DETAIL ON THIS, FOR THERE IS SO MUCH TO KNOW:**

**"The Sign Virgo
The Promised Seed of the woman**

Here is the commencement of all prophecy in Genesis 3:15, spoken to the serpent: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel."

This is the prophetic announcement which the revelation, both in the heavens and in the Book is designed to unfold and develop. It lies at the root of all the ancient traditions and mythologies, which are simply the perversion and corruption of primitive truth.

VIRGO is represented as a woman with a branch in her right hand, and some ears of corn in her left hand. Thus giving a two-fold testimony of the Coming One.

The name of this sign in the Hebrew is Bethulah, which means a virgin, and in the Arabic a branch. The two words are connected, as in Latin--Virgo, which means a virgin; and virga, which means a branch (Vulg. Isa 11:1). Another name is Sunbul, Arabic, an ear of corn.

In Genesis 3:15 she is presented only as a woman; but in later prophecies her nationality is defined as being of the stock of Israel, the seed of Abraham, the line of David; and, further, she is to be a virgin. There are two prominent prophecies of her and her seed: one is connected with the first coming in incarnation, Isaiah 7:14 (quoted in Matthew 1:23).

**'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
And shall call his name Immanuel.'**

The other is connected with His second coming, leaping over the sufferings and this present interval of His rejection, and looking forward to His coming in glory and judgment, Isaiah 9:6, 7 (quoted in Luke 2:11 and 1 :32, 33).

**'For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given; *
And the government shall be upon His shoulder;
And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty
God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of
His government there shall be no end. Upon the throne of David, and
upon His kingdom, To order it, and to establish it
With judgment and with justice
From henceforth even for ever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.'**

*** Here, the fact of His humiliation, together with this long period of His rejection, is leaped over, and the prophecy passes on at once--over at least a period of 1893 years--to this "glory which should follow."**

It is difficult to separate the Virgin and her Seed in the prophecy; and so, here, we have first the sign VIRGO, where the name points to her as the prominent subject; while in the first of the three constellations of this sign, where the woman appears again, the name COMA points to the child as the great subject.

Virgo contains 110 stars, viz., one of the 1st magnitude, six of the 3rd, ten of the 4th, etc.

ARATUS thus sings of them:
"Beneath Bootes feet the Virgin seek,
Who carries in her hand a glittering spike.
Over her shoulder there revolves a star

In the right wing, superlatively bright;
It rolls beneath the tail, and may compare
With the bright stars that deck the Greater Bear.
Upon her sholder one bright star is borne,
One clasps the circling girdle of her loins,
One at her bending knee; and in her hand
Glitters that bright and golden Ear of Corn.

Thus the brightest star in VIRGO (a) * has an ancient name, handed down to us in all the star-maps, in which the Hebrew word Tsemech is preserved. It is called in Arabic Al Zimach, which means the branch. This star is in the ear of corn which she holds in her left hand. Hence the star has a modern Latin name, which has almost superseded the ancient one, Spica, which means, an ear of corn. But this hides the great truth revealed by its name Al Zimach. It foretold the coming of Him who should bear this name. The same Divine inspiration has, in the written Word, four times connected it with Him. There are twenty Hebrew words translated "Branch," but only one of them (Tsemech) is used exclusively of the Messiah, and this word only four times (Jer 33:15 being only a repetition of Jer 23:5). Each of these further connects Him with one special account of Him, given in the Gospels."

So the leading star in Virgo is Al Zimach or "the Branch", as Bullinger points out. And there are others like "Zavijaveh, which means the gloriously beautiful, as in Isaiah 4:2. The star e, in the arm bearing the branch, is called Al Mureddin, which means who shall come down (as in Psa 72:8), or who shall have dominion. It is also known as Vindematrix, a Chaldee word which means the son, or branch, who cometh.

**Other names of stars in the sign, are--
Subilah, who carries. (Isa 46:4)**

Al Azal, the Branch. (As in Isa 18:5)

Subilon, a spike of corn. (As in Isa 17:5)" — Again, from Bullinger.

Passing to the three constellations anciently assigned to the sign VIRGO, we come to what may be compared to three sections of the chapter, each giving some further detail as to the interpretation of its teaching.

“1. COMA (The Woman and Child)

The desired of all nations

The first constellation in VIRGO explains that this coming "Branch" will be a child, and that He should be the "Desire of all nations."

The ancient name of this constellation is Comah, the desired, or the longed for. We have the word used by the Holy Spirit in this very connection, in Haggai 2:7--"The DESIRE of all nations shall come."

The constellation itself is very remarkable. Others contain one or two stars of the first or second magnitude, and then a greater or less variety of lesser stars; but this is peculiar from having noT one very bright star, but contains so many stars of the 4th and 5th magnitudes. It contains 43 stars altogether, ten being of the 4th magnitude, and the remainder of the 5th, 6th, etc.

It was in all probability the constellation of Coma in which "the Star of Bethlehem" appeared. There was a traditional prophecy, well-known in the East, carefully preserved and handed down, that a new star would appear in this sign when He whom it foretold should be born.

This was, doubtless, referred to in the prophecy of Balaam, which would thus receive a double fulfilment, first of the literal "Star," and also of the person to whom it referred. The Lord said by Balaam (Num 24:17),

**‘There shall come * a star out of Jacob,
And a sceptre shall rise out of Israel.’**

Another (IGNATIUS, Bishop of Antioch, AD 69) says, ‘At the appearance of the Lord a star shone forth brighter than all the other stars.’ IGNATIUS, doubtless, had this from those who had actually seen it! PRUDENTIUS (4th century AD) says that not even the morning star was so fair.

Archbishop TRENCH, who quotes these authorities, says "This star, I conceive, as so many ancients and moderns have done, to have been a new star in the heavens."

WE MUST STOP TODAY AND WILL BEGIN WITH THIS NEXT TIME, THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM!!

One step more places this new star in the constellation of COMA, and with new force makes it indeed 'His star'--the 'Sign' of His 'coming forth from Bethlehem.' will it be 'the sign of the Son of Man in heaven' (Matt 24:30) when He shall 'come unto' this world again to complete the wondrous prophecies written of Him in the heavenly and earthly Revelations?

Thus does the constellation of COMA reveal that the coming 'Seed of the woman' was to be a child born, a son given.

But He was to be more: He was to be God and man--two natures in one person! This is the lesson of the next picture.

2. CENTAURUS (The Centaur)...". *For in this constellation the stars reveal to coming one, the branch, the seed of the woman, to be both God and man in one person. Amen.*

Next Time, Lord Willing: The Word to the Enemy Is Clear — The Seed Has Come and Mystery Babylon Shall Fall!

Conclusion:

Well, have we been convinced? Are the ears of our hearts awake and hearing what the word and the stars have been saying? May the Lord grant that they are, this special period of the yearly calendar, when so many parts of the redemptive plan of God are celebrated by all that call themselves Christian, whether in fact they have believed the gospel of his grace through Christ our Lord or not.

And may we be the lights in the darkness that are so critically needed today. Amen.

Next Time:

- ***The Second Sign: LIBRA. The Redeemer's atoning work.***
 - ***The Constellation CRUX. The Cross endured.***
 - ***The Constellation LUPUS. The Victim slain.***
 - ***The Constellation CORONA. The Crown bestowed.***

○ ***The Last Sign: Leo (the Lion) Messiah's consummated triumph.***

■ ***The Constellation HYDRA. The old serpent destroyed.***

HYDRA. The Old Serpent. Hydra = he is abhorred. The brightest star is Cor Hydra = the heart of Hydra. Its ancient name is Al phard = the put away. Another is Al Drian = the abhorred. Another is Minchar al Sugia = the piercing of the deceiver.

■ ***The Constellation CRATER. The cup of wrath poured out.***

CRATER. The Cup [of wrath poured out]. (Psa 75:8; 11:6. Rev 14:10; 16:19.) The constellation has thirteen stars, (cp. Ap. 10).

■ ***The Constellation CORVUS. The birds of prey devouring.***

CORVUS. The Raven. The birds of prey devouring. The name in the Zodiac of Denderah, Her-na = the enemy breaking up. there are nine stars (see Ap. 10). The brightest star is Chiba (Num 23:8) = accursed. Another is Minchar al Gorab = the raven tearing to pieces.

***Gen. 49:8, 9* Judah, thou [art he] whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand [shall be] in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah [is] a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?**

***Num. 24:8, 9* God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce [them] through with his arrows. He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed [is] he that blesseth thee, and cursed [is] he that curseth thee.**

***Amos 3:4, 8* Will a lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey? will a young lion cry out of his den, if he have taken nothing? / The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?**

Is. 42:13 The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.

- ***Note that these are all prophetically about the culmination of God's victory against satan bringing the plan for his people Israel into fulfillment.***
- ***Satan's greatest desire was to thoroughly corrupt the "message in the stars" that God had placed there through prophets (beginning with Abel and then Seth or perhaps Enoch as listed in Heb. 11) so many thousands of years before. The Lord had placed the stars so that the images and redemptive truths associated with them were recognizable to all — if one had the key, the prophetic key, and the names of them all with their distinctive meanings. Together they told in outline form — in the heavens — the story of redemption. And that message was about the Seed of the Woman coming into this world through a Virgin, Virgo, and culminating with Leo, the sign of God's choice representing the final destruction of the enemy of God and of all of us. In between these two were arrayed the Ten others filling in the complete redemptive story.***
- ***So satan created an "alternative" message, and perverted the Original Zodiac replacing the names and the message to match his own strategy for victory over God and his Christ, a message that would effectively cancel the entire plan of redemption. His warfare against the Lord and his saints continues today, for he is not bound yet. And before the end of his opposition, it will all be about the Counterfeit Seed of the Woman: Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots.***
- ***So it is all in outline form in the witness of the stars. And satan has been so active in destroying all the evidence. But he has failed!***

Much evidence remains of the original design of God's heavenly revelation to sinful man. More than a hundred stars still have names that speak truth, no matter the constant efforts of the evil one. Many stars have Hebrew names and even more have names in the Arabic language. It is interesting how the Arabs kept records about so very much of the truth and history of earlier times, isn't it?

This brings us to the end of the story. The Lord God will complete

his program of redemption and the plan for the ages will be final in the Lord's good timing:

III. The Word to the Enemy Is Clear — The Seed Has Come and Mystery Babylon Shall Fall!

Revelation 18:1-8, 23-24

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong *is* the Lord God who judgeth her.

...

23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Revelation 20:1-6

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

- *Many think this is the end of the story. But it is not, even for the saints with an earthly inheritance. For there is much more to come before that end and the establishment of the New Heavens and the New Earth. Much more indeed.*

Conclusions and application:

Haggai 2:6-7

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it *is* a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry *land*;

7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.