The Star Gospel

By: Richard B. Sorensen, PhD, Psychology
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richardbsorensen@gmail.com
www.richardsorensen.com
www.unholygrail.net

This paper has been made into a video available on YouTube at the following link:

https://youtu.be/xvHFEVzRkdw

The only true superhero: Jesus Christ!
~Willie Aames

Introduction

There are many biblical references in both the Old and New Testaments to stars and the Bible uses the word "star" in multiple ways – it could refer to a literal star in the sky, to an angelic or demonic being (e.g., Job 38:7, Isaiah 14:12-13, Daniel 8:10), or to people (e.g., Numbers 24:17, Judges 5:20, Daniel 12:3, Revelation 1:16,20).

Here are some examples:

- Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.” (Genesis 1:14)

- “I see him, but not now, I behold him, but not near. A star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all the sons of Sheth.” (Numbers 24:17)

- “Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars; the one who leads forth their host by number. He calls them all by name, and because of the greatness of his might and the strength of his power, not one of them is missing.” (Isaiah 40:26)

- Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. (Daniel 12:3)

- “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” (Matthew 2:2)

- “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” (Matthew 24:29)

- “So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.” (2 Peter 1:19)

- “Wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.” (Jude 1:13)

- “The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.” (Revelation 8:11-12)

- “And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.” (Revelation 12:4)

- "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." (Revelation 22:16)

But regardless of how the word is used, it is clear that stars were very significant to ancient peoples. Astronomy was the first science, and the Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Hindus, and others were obsessed with the study of the stars, the constellations, and with their meaning. Many ancient structures, such as Stonehenge, the Sphinx, and the Great Pyramid at Giza, were associated with stars. The Zodiac, discussed below, was present in some form in virtually all ancient civilizations.

What was the origin of this obsession, and why was astronomy the first science? The stars and planets were used to guide the planting and harvesting of crops, as a navigational aid, and as a means to track the passage of time. We have since developed technological substitutes for all of the above, and the importance of stars has therefore been reduced to the level of curiosity. But equally significant for the ancients was the study of stars and star groupings (constellations) in relation to divine signs and their import.

John Herschel, a nineteenth century astronomer, undoubtedly has spoken for the way that most contemporary astronomers view the constellations:

> Of course we do not here speak of those uncouth figures of men and monsters which are usually scribbled over celestial globes and maps… Constellations have a certain convenience, but they are otherwise entirely arbitrary and correspond to no *natural* subdivisions or groupings of stars… Astronomers treat them lightly or altogether disregard them (Herschel, 1859).

Scholars have therefore typically rejected the constellations as meaningless – as figures concocted by the supposedly overactive imagination of the early star gazers. In our world, the stars are largely obscured due to all of the light in the night sky, so we rarely witness the heavens as the ancients did centuries ago. A few of the constellations are obvious and easy to find, such as Orion and the Big Dipper. But most of them are quite hard to pick out, and others require some imagination to understand. For example, the constellation Cassiopea, representing a queen, consists only of a crown in the shape of a "W" or an "M" depending on its orientation, and Canis Minor, the little dog, consists of only the dog's tail. Having myself searched for constellations, I have also been frustrated by their obscurity, and would therefore tend to agree with Herschel's quote above.

However, the important issue here is not how I, Herschel, or contemporary astronomers and scientists view the constellations, but rather how they were viewed by the ancient peoples. These figures in the stars may well be obscure and not have any scientific significance in contemporary astronomy, but they have a theological meaning that the ancient peoples were aware of, but which has been mostly lost to us. Science has no way of either confirming or denying such meanings.

Star Names, Constellations, and their Meaning

There is an amazing unity among ancient societies as diverse as Persia, Egypt, India, China, and Israel as to what the constellations were, the names that were given to the stars of which they were composed, and much more significantly, what the stars and their associated constellations meant. When ancient astronomy and the stories/legends about the figures depicted are considered, it becomes increasingly apparent that there was a pre-existing body of celestial knowledge that was somehow known to all of these societies and then became diversified and corrupted as it was passed on.

Hershel is generally correct – the significance of the constellations for the most part was ***not*** in the form or the picture that they created. Human nature hasn't changed, and the ancient peoples were just as intelligent as we are today. They were not stupid and did not have overactive imaginations, seeing, for example, a complete dog where only a tail existed in the sky. Rather, ***the significance of the constellations was in the names and identity of the stars that made them up. The constellations were merely a way of locating where the important stars were in the night sky***. Many of the names ascribed to them by the ancients are lost to us, but it is the star names, their identities, and in some cases the pictures they suggested that were critical***. The significance of the star names and the pictures of the associated constellations, if any, therefore lay entirely in the story that they told, which is the message of the Star Gospel.***

Some of the stars were only named for the constellations they appeared in, but the brightest ones often had individual names (see the Star Names section below). These included, of course, the stars of the zodiac (also discussed below), but others as well, such as Regulus, (king) from the constellation Leo, Alpha Draconis (dragon) from the constellation Draco, Aquarii (water carrier) from the constellation Aquarius, Sagittarii (bowman) from the constellation Sagittarius, and Crucis (cross) from the constellation Crux.

Among liberal scholars the more-or-less accepted view is that the stories of the Bible – Creation, Noah's Ark, and others are simply myths based upon older pagan tales, such as the Gilgamesh Epic from Chaldea. But with insight from the Star Gospel and other sources, it becomes clear that the pagan myths came later and were distortions and corruptions of a set of original accounts that date from the beginning of humanity. The Bible is thus the only source of true information about the ancient pre-historical world.

After the fall of Adam and Eve, God gave a message of hope to them and their descendants. We have no documentary evidence of this, but it was said that Noah carried records from Adam and Methuselah in the form of written tablets, either on the Ark, or buried them prior to the flood and later dug them up. Josephus claimed that Methuselah was an ancient historian of his day, who recorded the history of the world (as told by Adam) on stone tablets. Another name for Methuselah was Ubara-Tutu – he was recorded in most extant copies of the Sumerian King List as being the final king of

Sumer prior to the flood, and he is briefly mentioned in the Epic of Gilgamesh (Sanders, 1977). His son Noah was named in the Sumerian King List as Shuruppak or Ziusundra as the king following Ubara-Tutu. According to the Epic Ubara-Tutu was the father of Utnapishtim, the Akkadian name for Noah, and Utnapishtim was the man instructed by God to build a boat in order to survive the flood. One of the oldest documents of wisdom literature ever discovered is known as "The Instructions of Shuruppak" (Lambert, 1960) and written in cuneiform. It was possibly written by either by Noah or by his father Methuselah and was set in antiquity ("In those days, in those far remote times, in those nights, in those faraway nights, in those years, in those far remote years.")

If the story of the stone tablets is true, they were carried by Noah onto the ark, and after the ark came to rest, Noah deposited them in Arabia – possibly in Midian and ultimately kept by the ancestors of Jethro, Moses father-in-law. If the tablets existed, they would have preceded by centuries the first evidence of writing which was around 3000 BC. So it is unclear what language or script they would have been written it, but if writing was indeed developed in the pre-flood era (prior to 3500 BC), it perished with the flood and was revived only later. Some of these records or copies of them may have been available to Moses when he wrote the beginning chapters of the Book of Genesis.

Furthermore, the same message was written in the stars in symbolic form (Bullinger, 2022; Ferguson, 1978; Seiss, 2015). The stars were already in place, so it was the meaning and interpretation of the stars, and their names and groupings (constellations) that was presumably supplied. Josephus credited the invention of astronomy to Adam, Seth, and Enoch, but it's not known how this body of knowledge originated, who received it, or how it was passed on. However, the fact that this information was known at the time when the ancient societies came into existence and formed part of the collective understanding of many cultures is evidence for its antiquity and veracity.

> Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years." (Genesis 1:14)
>
> The heavens are telling of the glory of God, and the firmament is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. Yet their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber. It rejoices as a strong man to run his course. Its rising is from one end of the heavens, and its circuit to the other end of them; there is nothing hidden from its heat. (Psalms 19:1-6)
>
> There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations. (Luke 21:25)

The demons were also associated, and seemingly obsessed with stars:

> How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. (Isaiah 14:12-15)

The verses above from Isaiah speak of "Lucifer, son of the morning, and star of the dawn," which was Satan's name before he rebelled. Some of the angels were apparently given authority over certain stars, perhaps even over galaxies or regions of the universe. Lucifer's primary dominion may have been our galaxy, the Milky Way, or perhaps even a larger area. Satan has long been associated with serpents, dragons, and scorpions — the constellations Serpens, the serpent, and Draco, the dragon, represent him (the curse given to Satan in Genesis 3:15 – "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.")

The current pole star in the north is Polaris, but due to the precessional cycle, in ancient times the pole star may have been Alpha Draconis in the constellation of Draco. This star is pointed to by structures within the Great Pyramid, and it could have been a part of Satan's ancient dominion, or in an area over which he wanted to rule. The above verses from Isaiah indicate that heaven lies to the north ("I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north."). Some biblical scholars therefore believe that "heaven," the main abode of God, is located in the north, and therefore the region to the north may have been and/or will become the main battleground between the forces of angels and demons. The mountain of the pagan storm god Baal (Jebel Al-Aqra, a mountain in northern Syria on the Turkey border, also called Hazzi by the Hittites and Cassius by the Greeks) was also located in the north. Many lightning storms occur at this mountain, so it was thought to be the home of Baal, and that he resided in a lapis lazuli palace at the summit. The area is also referred to as "Baal-Zaphon" – "Baal of the north." Baal was a symbol, an avatar, and a personification of Satan.

> All the kings of the nations lie in glory, each in his own tomb. But you have been cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch. Like a trampled corpse, you will not be united with them in burial, because you have ruined your country and have slain your people. (Isaiah 14:18-19)

> And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, but they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. *Revelation 12:7-9*

> Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time. *Revelation 12:12*

Angels and demons seem to have the same basic nature, with the main difference being to whom their allegiance is given. The Book of Revelation indicates that a third of the angels joined Satan in his rebellion against God (Revelation 12:4). Like Satan, some of the greater demons may have ruled over large areas of the cosmos, and then were removed from their power base by God after they rebelled against Him, as indicated in the verses above. It is not said when the war in heaven took place or will take place, where heaven is, how heaven is delineated, or exactly what was meant by "Satan being thrown down to earth" (i.e., does "earth" mean the planet Earth, our solar system, our galaxy, or some other area?) But regardless of these unanswered questions, the reality of angelic and demonic beings and the state of intense conflict that exists between them is clear. Like men from whom power has been stripped, the demons desperately crave to regain their territory and their former power and influence, and they fight with every weapon at their disposal. The main battleground in this war is the hearts and minds of people, who are confronted with the same issue – which side will they take? See the paper or the video "Are Angels and Demons Real?" (Sorensen, 2025) for more information.

The Bible also indicates that the fall of Adam and Eve produced profound changes, not only in the psychology and physiology of people, but also in the physical world:

> To the woman he said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth. In pain you will bring forth children. Yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." Then to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; cursed is the ground because of you. In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall grow for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, until you return to the ground, because from it you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:16-19)

> The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air – for I am grieved that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord… So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth." (Genesis 6:5-8, 13)

> Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it has from the beginning of creation." When they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By those same

> waters the world at that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:3-7)
>
> The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. (Romans 8:19-21)

The Romans passage above indicates that all of the world's peoples as well as the planet itself have been "subjected to futility" by God, a futility and a frustration that all of us are intimately familiar with. But one day God with destroy this world and replace it with a "new heaven and a new earth." The Star Gospel was a divine message written in the constellations of the night sky that explain God's overall plan for the ages.

Background on Jesus Christ

Central to God's plan for eternity is Christ, the second person of the divine trinity, and his birth was deeply connected with the stars. The Star Gospel as well as the Old Testament (known to Jews as the Tanakh) had in fact long foretold his birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. There are over 300 prophecies from the Old Testament about Him that were fulfilled during his life, death, and resurrection. Here are a few of them:

1. He would be born in Bethlehem to a virgin.
2. He would come from the Israelite tribe of Judah.
3. He would spend time in Egypt.
4. He would be preceded by a forerunner (John the Baptist).
5. He would be rejected by his own people.
6. He would be called a Nazarene.
7. He would speak in parables.
8. He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey.
9. He would be mocked and ridiculed.
10. He would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.
11. He would be falsely accused.
12. He would be silent before his accusers.
13. He would be crucified with criminals.
14. He would be given vinegar to drink.
15. His hands and feet would be pierced.
16. Soldiers would gamble for his garments.
17. His bones would not be broken.
18. His side would be pierced.
19. He would be buried with the rich.
20. He would be resurrected from the dead.

Following the rise of ancient Babylon to power, the forces of king Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah, the southern kingdom of Israel in 604 BC, and deported most of its people in 586 BC. Among the exiles was an intelligent young man named Daniel, and after successfully revealing and interpreting one of Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, he was given a high position in the Babylonian government and made chief over all of the magicians, soothsayers, and wise men of Babylon. Among other things, these men studied the stars both from the perspective of science, symbolism, and mysticism. Along the way the Star Gospel as originally given had become perverted into astrology which was invented and developed in Babylon. Similar to today, astrologers would cast horoscopes, and many believed that the stars controlled each person's destiny.

Daniel, however, preserved the Tanakh, and doubtlessly developed his own cadre of scholar disciples who were committed to his teaching. Daniel spent his entire adult life in Babylon and later in Persia as

a high government official and survived the overthrow of the regime by the Medes and Persians in 539 BC sixty-six years later. That was the occasion where the then regent king Belshazzar gave a huge banquet during which a hand appeared and wrote on the wall the words, "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Pharsin." Daniel was called on to provide the interpretation which was, "God has numbered your days; you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting; and your kingdom has been given over to the Medes and the Persians." That night the Medo-Persian army took over the city and Belshazzar was assassinated, but Daniel was retained as a government minister. When Cyrus, the emperor of Persia, entered Babylon, Daniel may have given him a copy of Isaiah chapter 45 which was written about Cyrus many years before. This may have been a factor in Persian kings later allowing the Jews to return to their homeland

Daniel had several dreams that are described in chapters 8 – 12 of the Book of Daniel, one of which pertained directly to the coming of Christ:

> Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. (Daniel 9:24-26)

The "seven plus sixty-two" are sixty-nine weeks of years (i.e., 483 years) "from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince." The decree to rebuild Jerusalem was issued by the Persian king Artaxerxes Longimanus on March 14, 445 BC. As indicated by Sir Robert Anderson in his book, *The Coming Prince*, calendars at the time were based on a 360-day year. After adjusting for that factor, the target date following the 483-year period was April 6, 32 AD which was Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem as king as prophesied in the book of Zechariah:

> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you. He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

The above prophesy indicated that the Messiah would be "cut off" and "the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary." This was fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the armies of the Roman general Titus in 70 AD.

The Birth of Christ

At the end of his life Daniel was told, "But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age" (Daniel 12:13), and he died around 530 BC. But in addition to writing the book named after him, Daniel no doubt communicated the Tanakh (the Old Testament) and details of the Star Gospel to his inner group which told of the birth of a King of Israel (Leo the Lion) from Virgo, the virgin. The Bible speaks of the birth of the Messiah and echoes the Star Gospel in many places, such as the following:

> I see him, but not now, I behold him, but not near. A star shall come forth from Jacob and a scepter shall rise from Israel. (Numbers 24:17)

Daniel's associates were known as "Magi," and many years later their descendants and followers were the Magi described in Matthew chapter 2 who came to Jerusalem looking for "He who has been born King of the Jews." They followed celestial signs, and along with information from the Bible, they had calculated the approximate time when the Christ would be born.

Sometime in early 3 BC (the probable date – it could have also been 2 BC) a Jewish wife in Nazareth, a town in northern Israel, became pregnant. Later that year when the wife was expecting, the couple left their home, but the trip was not done for either business or pleasure. They, along with all of their countrymen, were forced by the Romans to register in a census that had been ordered by the Roman

emperor Augustus. In order to comply, they had to return to the city or town of their ancestry at some time during that year. Both husband and wife were from the tribe of Judah, and therefore had to register in Bethlehem, the ancestral town of King David.

With so many travelers on the roads, the inns and guesthouses were full, so when they reached Bethlehem, they could not find any place to stay. The wife was about to give birth, so her husband persuaded an innkeeper to let them stay in his stable. There, it is thought that on the evening of 11 September 3 (or possibly 2) BC, on Rosh Hashanah, the first day of the Jewish New Year and the "festival of trumpets," their son was born (Lucey, 2024).

This seemingly mundane event in the lives a poor and little-known Jewish family was accompanied by a series of unusual celestial occurrences. A month or so before, on August 12, the planet Jupiter, named after the father of the gods, along with Venus, representing the goddess of fertility, had risen together in the east. Then in September, Jupiter conjoined with Regulus, the "king star" of the constellation Leo the Lion. The lion, being the king of beasts, is the symbol of the tribe of Judah. These unusual conjunctions continued throughout the winter into the following year, culminating with the joining of Jupiter, Venus, Mars, and Mercury in late summer. The planets then separated, and Jupiter continued on its way until December 25, the winter solstice, when it was located in the constellation Virgo, the virgin, and appeared to stand still for a time.

During the same period, an even more unusual celestial event took place. A bright star appeared in the constellation Pisces, the fish, long considered as the symbol of Israel and later of Christianity. This brilliant star or supernova overpowered and dimmed all of the other stars in same region of the sky.

As indicated above, celestial occurrences were carefully studied by many in the ancient world, especially in Persia, where the tradition of court astrologers went back centuries. Even the Romans were aware of biblical prophecies – the emperor Nero was later advised by some of his astrologers to consider moving the seat of government from Rome to Jerusalem.[1] The Persian empire had been conquered by Alexander the Great, and his Greek empire had in turn been conquered by the Romans. However, the Medo-Persians resurfaced as a power in Elam and Mesopotamia; they founded a kingdom known as Partha which resisted Roman rule and defeated the Roman army in 53 BC at the Battle of Carrhae. In 39 BC they overran the Levant and captured Jerusalem (Bileta, 2022) so they were of great concern to the Romans. Like the Babylonians and Persians before them, the Parthian court maintained a school of Magi to advise them.

When the celestial events described above were observed in Persia, there was great excitement, and a group of Magi, probably under the instructions of Daniel five centuries before, made the long journey from the east to Jerusalem. Three individuals have been proposed based on their three gifts (gold, frankincense, and myrrh), but it was more likely a much larger delegation who traveled throughout the

[1] In a letter from Suetonius, the Roman historian, to Nero.

spring and summer of 2 BC, arriving in Jerusalem sometime in the late fall. They immediately went to King Herod the Great, who at this point was a vile old man at the end of his life, plagued by deteriorating health.

Herod had been made king over Judea by the Romans for his military and organizational skills in fighting the Parthians, and now a Parthian delegation was in his capital city asking embarrassing questions. The Magi caused great consternation at Herod's court by asking, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him." Herod immediately brought in the chief priests and asked them about prophesies related to stars and kings, and to his dismay, they showed him the prophecy from the book of Numbers mentioned above:

> A star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall arise from Israel. It shall crush the forehead of Moab, and tear down all of the sons of Sheth, and Edom and Seir shall be a possession. (Numbers 24:17)

Herod immediately was concerned because he was not Jewish. He was an Edomite – an Idumean from the land of Edom, and the prophecy seemed to indicate that he and his line would be crushed. So he asked the priests where this King of the Jews was supposed to be born. They showed him another prophecy from the book of Micah:

> But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from out of you will go forth a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity. (Micah 5:2)

Herod decided that he also had to find this baby so that he could kill it and remove any threat to his throne and the future of his dynasty. As stated above, he had been appointed as king of Judea by the Romans primarily as a defense and buffer against the Parthians. His father had been killed in the lead-up to the Parthian invasion that conquered Jerusalem, and Herod got the support of a Roman army to defeat them and drive them out of the Levant; with the support of Rome he seized power for himself. But his position as a client-king for the Romans was always precarious, and he was paranoid about threats to his power. He had a number of his relatives and even one of his wives assassinated (whom he later wanted back from the dead), and Caesar Augustus was quoted as saying, "I'd rather be Herod's pig than his son." Therefore, Herod told the Magi to return afterwards and let him know where the baby was, so that he could go and "worship him as well." They agreed and went on to Bethlehem, which is only seven miles from Jerusalem. Sometime probably near the end of December of 2 BC, they searched the town and eventually located Joseph, Mary, and their baby son who had been staying in Bethlehem for the past year. The Magi gave the baby the gifts that they had brought – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

However, they were suspicious of Herod's motives in wanting to see the child, so they returned home without stopping in Jerusalem. For the same reason, the parents took their baby and immediately left for Egypt. Herod had neglected to have the Magi followed because they had agreed to come back and

report to him what they found. But after some days had passed with no report, Herod realized that he had been tricked, and in a rage he ordered that all of the babies under two years of age in the Bethlehem area be murdered (the baby Jesus would have been under a year old at that point). This was one of Herod's last acts of cruelty – he died soon afterward.

There has been confusion over the date of Herod's death, which was one of the main indexes used by historians to establish the chronology of Christ. Based on Josephus' *Antiquities* it has traditionally been inferred that Herod died at the end of March, or early April of 4 BC. However, modern scholarship has provided new insights into Josephus' manuscripts (Beyer, 1998) and presents evidence indicating that the date of Herod's death was actually 1 BC. The primary discovery is that a printer who was typesetting the manuscript *Antiquities* made an error in the year 1544. According to scholars, every Josephus manuscript produced prior to 1544 supports the contention that Herod died in 1 BC (Martin, 1996). For a discussion the dates of Herod's rule, see, (Steinmann, 2009).

The Zodiac

The constellations of the Star Gospel were grouped into the twelve signs, known as the Mazzaroth or Zodiac (meaning, "circle of animals" or "steps"). It is the source of our calendar. The word "Zodiac" has come to be associated with astrology and fortune-telling, but originally it was used to denote the twelve months or stages of the sun's path through the sky (note the description of this in the Psalm 19 passage above). The Zodiac is ancient and dates backs to the beginning of Civilization. For example, an ancient Egyptian representation of it appears on the ceiling of the Temple of Hathor at Dendara (Heron, 2007, p. 91).

The Zodiac is a group of three "books," each of which has four "chapters" to provide knowledge of God's plans for the world. It was written in the stars, in a place where the message could be perpetually seen by all, and in a way that only God could employ. Associated with each of the twelve major signs of the Zodiac are three additional minor ones, making a total of forty-eight constellations.

People are well-acquainted with the Zodiac, but most have never heard of the Star Gospel – why is it so little known in today's world? It is because it became corrupted; the very signs from the Zodiac that originally denoted God's being and purpose were trashed and debased by associating them instead with divination and fortune-telling. Furthermore, this corruption occurred at a very early point in history, during the Babylonian empire, and therefore the Star Gospel was no longer used as a primary witness. The Bible has taken its place, but the messages from the Star Gospel and the Bible are essentially the same.

Furthermore, the signs used in the Zodiac were very similar among widely dispersed ancient peoples, including the Babylonians, the Hindus, the Chinese, and the Egyptians. Even more amazing is the unity of thought about what the figures depicted in the constellations meant. Here are examples of constellations and their meanings:

- **Virgo, the Virgin**. The ancient myths had common themes, one of which was that a divine son would be born to a virgin mother. It is striking how diverse cultures emphasized the virginity of the woman. She is *Athene* and *Parthenos*, the pure virgin, to the Greeks; *Bethula*, the maiden, in Hebrew and Syriac, and *Adarah* the maid of virgin pureness in Arabic. Associated with Virgo is the constellation Coma the infant (meaning *the desired, the longed for*), who is her son, and who will be "the Desire of all Nations." Isis, the Egyptian goddess, was repeatedly pictured holding her infant son, who was called *Shes-nu* or *Horus*, the desired son (the Egyptian pharaohs traced their lineage to him). Krishna, the divine incarnation of Hindu mythology, was also supposedly born of a virgin. Furthermore, the son of the virgin would become a prophet, priest, and king; the Zodiac begins with Virgo, and ends with Leo, the lion, who leads and conquers.

- **Libra, the Scales**. This is a picture of God's justice in which humanity is found wanting, but our lack is supplied through the sacrifice of Christ. According the Jesus' statement in John 5:22 the Father has given all judgement to the Son, so the Jesus is the One sitting on the Great White Throne "from whose presence heaven and earth fled away and no place was found for them." (Revelation 20:11).

- **Scorpio, the Scorpion**. A picture of Satan, who continually attempts to strike and sting the human race. God told Satan in the Garden of Eden, "He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

- **Sagittarius, the Bowman**. Christ as the warrior is his return to fight the final battles of the planet. (Revelation 17:14, 19:11-21)

- **Capricorn, the Goat**. Once a year the priests of Israel were told to take a male goat and send him into the wilderness to die for the sins of the people (the term "scapegoat" came from this practice). The goat is a symbol of Christ in his work of atonement and redemption, but has also become associated with Satan, as the latter is to blame for much of the misery that humans have suffered.

- **Aquarius, the Watercarrier**. Christ is the source of "living water" and divine refreshment. In his words to the Samaritan woman, Jesus said, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

- **Pisces, the Fishes**. These represent the two main bodies of Christ – the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, and the church in the New Testament. The symbol for the church since its earliest days was a fish.

- **Aries, the Ram**. The ram pictures the sacrifice of Christ for his people.

- **Taurus, the Bull**. Like Aries, the bull also pictures Christ's sacrifice. Rams were the sacrifice for the common people and a bullock was the sacrifice for leaders.

- **Gemini, the Twins**. Adam, the first man, and Christ, the last man.

- **Cancer, the Crab**. The crab is a reference to Christ's ability to hold and keep us for life and eternity.

- **Leo, the Lion**. Christ in his role of ruler and king. He is the "lion of the tribe of Judah."

All ancient peoples had a seven-day week (the Sabbath week from Genesis), and all of them named the days of the week after celestial objects, which have come into English as follows:

- Sunday – *Sun*-day
- Monday – *Moon*-day
- Tuesday – *Tuves*-day (Anglo-Saxon name for Mars)
- Wednesday – *Woden*-day (Woden = Mercury)
- Thursday – *Thor*-day (Thor = Jupiter)
- Friday – *Freya*-day (Freya = Venus)
- Saturday – *Saturn*-day

However, the Hebrew (biblical) names for the days of the week come from Genesis and represent the days of creation, as follows:

- Sunday – Yom Rishon – first day (Rishon = one)
- Monday – Yom Sheini – second day (Sheini = two)
- Tuesday – Yom Shlishi – third day (Shlishi = three)
- Wednesday – Yom Riveree – fourth day (Riveree = four)
- Thursday – Yom Chamishi – fifth day (Chamishi = five)
- Friday – Yom Shishi – sixth day (Shishi = six)
- Saturday – Yom Shabbat – the sabbath (Shabbat = resting)

The Star Gospel in Detail

Following are the details of the Star Gospel – the signs of the Zodiac and the thirty-six other related constellations known as "decans" (Heron, 2007, pp. 54-55) along with their meanings and a verse from the Bible illustrating each one:

Book #1: The First Coming of the Messiah

Constellation	Meaning	Sample Biblical Reference
Chapter #1		
Virgo, the virgin	The virgin birth of the Messiah	A virgin shall conceive and bear a son (Isaiah 7:14)
Coma, the infant	The Messiah as a baby	The desired of all nations shall come (Haggai 2:7)
Centaurus – the centaur	The Messiah despised and misunderstood	He is despised and rejected, a man of sorrows. (Isaiah 53:5)
Arcturus/Boötes, the shepherd	The ministry of the Messiah	The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)
Chapter #2		
Libra, the scales	The Messiah satisfying the justice of God	Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? (Genesis 18:25)
Crux, the cross	The instrument of the Messiah's suffering	He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross. (1 Peter 2:4)
Lupus, the victim	The slain Messiah	Christ died for our sins 1 Corinthians 15:3
Corona, the crown	The crown of thorns on the Messiah's head	They put a crown of thorns on his head. (Matthew 27:30)
Chapter #3		
Scorpio, the scorpion	The Messiah's enemy	The Son of God was made manifest that he might destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)
Serpens, the serpent	The one who crawls and bites on the heel	You shall bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)
Ophiuchus, the serpent holder	The man grasping the serpent	I beheld Satan falling from heaven like lightening. (Luke 10:18)
Hercules, the strong man	The mighty man victorious	All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth. (Matthew 28:18)
Chapter #4		
Sagittarius, the bowman	The Messiah's triumph	He has led captivity captive. (Ephesians 4:8)
Lyra, the lyre	Praise for the conquering Messiah	Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever. (1 Peter 4:11)
Ara, the altar	Fire prepared for the enemies	Everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)

Draco, the dragon	The ancient symbol for Satan	The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan. (Revelation 12:8)

Book #2: The Aftermath of the Messiah's First Coming and the Interregnum

Constellation	Meaning	Sample Biblical Reference
Chapter #5		
Capricorn, the goat	the Messiah's atoning work	He gave himself as a ransom for sin. (1 Timothy 2:6)
Sagitta, the arrow	God slays the Messiah	The soul that sins shall die. (Ezekiel 18:20)
Aquila, the eagle	The smitten Messiah falls	He said, 'It is finished!' And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:30)
Delphinus, the dolphin	The dead Messiah rising again	He is risen! (Luke 24:6)
Chapter #6		
Aquarius, the water carrier	The blessings of the Messiah	I came that they might have abundant life. (John 10:10)
Pices Australis, the fish	The blessing bestowed	I am the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6)
Pegasus, the white horse	Spreading the blessing	Preach the gospel. (Mark 16:15)
Cygnus, the swan	Circling the world	The Holy Spirit will reprove the world of sin. (John 16:8)
Chapter #7		
Pisces, the two fish	Israel and the church	So that apart from us they would not be made perfect. (Hebrews 11:40)
The Band, the ribbon	God's people together	Around the throne were twenty-four thrones. (Revelation 4:4)
Andromeda, the woman in chains	The redeemed in bondage	Many are the afflictions of the righteous. (Psalms 34:19)
Cepheus, the ring	The deliverer coming to loosen the bonds	He ever lives to make intercession for us. (Hebrews 7:25)
Chapter #8		
Aries, the ram	The Messiah in the last days	Worthy is the lamb to receive power, glory, and honor. (Revelation 1:11)
Cassiopea, the queen	The captive woman is delivered and becomes both bride and queen	The marriage supper of the lamb has come. (Revelation 10:7-8)
Cetus, the sea monster	The anti-Christ	Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. (Revelation 13:1)

Perseus, the armed man	The deliverer coming to the rescue	He will dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (Jeremiah 19:11)

Book #3: The Second Coming of the Messiah

Constellation	Meaning	Sample Biblical Reference
Chapter #9		
Taurus, the bull	The rule of the Messiah	He will rule them with a rod of iron. (Revelation 19:15)
Orion, the warrior	The Messiah as a warrior	And behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and wages war. (Revelation 19:11)
Eridanus, the river	Wrath breaking forth as a flood	A fiery stream issued from before him. (Daniel 7:9)
Auriga, the shepherd	Safety for the redeemed in the day of wrath	Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection. (Revelation 20:6)
Chapter #10		
Gemini, the twins	The Messiah as the New Adam	The first Adam became a living soul, but the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45)
Lepus, the hare	The enemy trodden underfoot	And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of him who sat on the horse. (Revelation 19:21)
Canis Major, the large dog	The Messiah hunts those opposed to him	With the breath of his mouth he shall slay the wicked. (Isaiah 11:4)
Canis Minor, the small dog	The armies of the Messiah	And the armies of heaven follow him. (Revelation 19:11)
Chapter #11		
Cancer, the crab	The Messiah's tenaciousness in caring for his people	Neither principalities nor powers can separate us from the love of God in Christ. (Romans 8:30)
Ursa Major, the large bear	The greater sheepfold (NT believers)	In my Father's house are many mansions. (John 14:2)
Ursa Minor, the small bear	The lesser sheepfold (OT believers)	Abraham's bosom. (Luke 16:22)
Argo, the ship	The pilgrim's arrival at home	But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at his coming. (1 Corinthians 15:23)
Chapter #12		

Leo, the lion	The Prophesy of the Messiah's triumph	The lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed. (Revelation 5:5)
Hydra, the flying serpent	The serpent destroyed	The devil that had deceived the nations was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:10)
Crater, the cup of wrath	Wrath poured out	This is the second death, the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:14)
Corvus, the raven	the birds of prey devouring the enemy	Whoever's name was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)

Note that the Zodiac begins with the sign Virgo, the virgin who would bear a child (Jesus Christ), and ends with Leo, the lion from the tribe of Judah who will rule (also Jesus Christ). This may be the meaning of the ancient Sphinx in Egypt, which has the head of a woman, and the body of a lion. The Bible as well as the Star Gospel is all about Jesus Christ, as He is the central figure of the cosmos.

The constellation Hercules depicts a man with a raised club about to strike a three-headed monster. One foot of the man is set on the head of the Dragon constellation, and the other is lifted as if injured in the heel. The Phoenicians believed the man was their savior, the Greeks worshiped him as the greatest of all of their hero-gods, and the Romans honored him and called him the name by which we know him: *Hercules*. According to the mythic accounts, Hercules was a god-man who performed amazing feats of prowess, defeated the powers of evil, and cleansed the filth from a huge series of stables. Some have said that all of the stories were invented by the Greeks, but Hercules dates much father back to ancient Egypt and India. However, all of these myths are corruptions of the original meaning: Christ is the true Hercules, the god-man who performed many miracles and who provided the ultimate cleansing of vast mountains of filth by giving his own blood as atonement from the sin of humanity. He also fought with the devil and destroyed him but was himself fatally wounded in the process (God's message to Adam and Eve was that their seed would "bruise Satan on the head, but also be bruised on the heel." Genesis 3:15) Christ descended into hell, "took captivity captive," and restored access to the Tree of Life. The brightest star in this constellation is Ras al Gethi which means "the Head of him who bruises. Hercules is the most popular figure in mythology, and likewise Christ is the central figure of the universe. Good and evil are still in conflict, but eventually Satan and his demons will be smashed, and Christ will prevail.

In considering the above list it quickly becomes clear that Satan had to corrupt the Zodiac, because it was such a powerful witness to the coming Messiah, who would ultimately defeat and crush him. This corruption was accomplished during the first world civilization in Sumer, Akkad, or Babylon, where the star gospel was replaced by astrology as a means of divination and sorcery (the essay "Nimrod and Semiramis – The King and Queen of Heaven" in (Sorensen, 2007)). The trashing of the Star Gospel was perhaps Satan's first and greatest triumph over God's use of nature to show us His glory and His plan for the future. As astronomy was corrupted into astrology, the stars were tinged with evil and therefore could no longer serve as a reliable spiritual witness. People today still use the stars as a

means of divination and foretelling the future, but the Bible warns us from attempting to use the stars in that manner:

> There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer. (Deuteronomy 18:10)

> For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king. (1 Samuel 15:23)

> Outside [of the city of heaven] are the dogs, the sorcerers, the immoral persons, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. (Revelation 22:15)

Considering the importance of stars in the Scriptures also reveals the implacable hatred that Satan has for Christ. Before his fall, Lucifer had been the "star of the morning" and the protector of earth—the brightest and most powerful of all of the angels.

> Thus says the Lord God, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering. The ruby, the topaz and the diamond. The beryl, the onyx and the jasper. The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald. And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets was in you. On the day that you were created, all of this was prepared."

> "You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you." (Ezekiel 28:12-15)

But being the most powerful angel was not enough for Lucifer. He was jealous of Christ and wanted to be the Son of God, the ruler of the universe, and the true "morning star." Therefore, he attracted a third of all of the angels to his side and started a war in heaven against his own father.

> By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned. Therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade, you profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you. All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you. You have become terrified, and you will cease to be forever. (Ezekiel 28:16-19)

> A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. And she was with child, and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon…his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. (Revelation 12:1-4)

> And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, but they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night." (Revelation 12:7-10)

Lucifer was defeated and thrown down to earth with his minions. So he became Satan, the Devil, the ultimate conspirator, and our relentless enemy. As the above verse in Revelation indicates, Satan hates us so much that he first attempts to make us do wrong, and then accuses us before God day and night for doing so. Christ superseded Lucifer, not only as our protector, but also as our redeemer and friend. Jesus Christ is the "bright morning star." All of the kingdoms of the world will one day belong to Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

The Tribes of Israel and the Zodiac

The twelve tribes of Israel who were founded by the twelve sons of the patriarch Jacob, were later (after the Exodus from Egypt) grouped into four camps that surrounded the tabernacle, as described in Numbers 2. Each grouping of three (in some cases four) tribes was positioned in a direction relative to the center (east, west, south, and north) and had an ensign or symbol for their group (a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle). The founder of each tribe was given a prophesy about him and his descendants in Genesis 49 by their father Jacob (Israel) before his death, and each tribe was also associated with a constellation from the Mazzaroth, as shown below. The four Gospels in the New Testament were also associated with the ensigns and the Mazzaroth, as follows:

Tribe	**Ensign**	**Direction**	**Sign**	**Prophesy of Jacob (Israel)**	**Gospel**
Judah	Lion	East	Leo the Lion	The lion's whelp.	Matthew - Jesus as the Messiah and King (the lion)
Issachar			Taurus the Bull	The beast of burden.	
Zebulon			Pisces the Fish	Dweller at the sea.	
Ephaim	Ox	West	Sagitarius the Bowman	His bow abides in strength (son of Joseph).	Mark - Jesus as the Servant (the ox)
Manassah			Sagitarius the Bowman	His bow abides in strength (son of Joseph).	
Joseph			Sagitarius the Bowman	His bow abides in strength.	
Benjamin			Cancer the Crab	Ravening as a wolf, devouring his prey by morning.	
Reuben	Man	South	Aquarius the Water Carrier	Boiling over and as unstable as water.	Luke – Jesus as the Son of Man (the human)
Simeon			Gemini the Twins	The brethren (paired with Levi).	
Levi			Gemini the Twins	The brethren (paired with Simeon). The descendants of Levi were the priests.	
Gad			Aries the Ram	Troops shall press upon him; but he shall press upon their heel.	

Dan	Eagle eating a snake	North	Scorpio the Scorpion	A serpent in the way.	John - Jesus as the Divine Word (the divinity)
Asher			Libra the Scales	The weigher of bread.	
Naphtali			Capricorn the Goat	A hind.	
Dinah			Virgo the Virgin	A virgin shall conceive and bear a son. Dinah was the daughter of Jacob.	

Star Names

Following is a list of stars and the derivation of their names from ancient Arabic and Hebrew sources, and many may have originated from the Babylonian, Chaldean, Persian, and Parthian astronomers and Magi. As mentioned above, the biblical author Daniel was the head of the guild of Babylonian and Persian scholars who studied the stars, and he was probably the founder of the Magi – the group who eventually came to visit Jerusalem after the birth of Christ.

> Most traditional star names are Arabic in origin and many of them originated over a millennium ago, either on the Arabian Peninsula or in Arabic translations of Claudius Ptolemy's Almagest, an astronomical and mathematical treatise written in Greek in the 2nd century CE. Many of these names were derived from Arabic descriptions found in the Almagest. Most of them refer to the stars' positions in constellations. For instance, Deneb, Deneb Algedi, Denebola and Aldhanab, all derived from the Arabic word for "tail," mark the tails of the celestial Swan (Cygnus), Sea Goat (Capricornus), Lion (Leo), and Crane (Grus, or formerly the Southern Fish, Piscis Austrinus), while Gienah and Aljanah, derived from the Arabic word for "wing," mark the wings of the Raven (Corvus) and the Swan (Cygnus) (StarFacts, 2023).

Star Name	**Constellation**	**Meaning**
Acamar	Eridanus	From the Arabic phrase *ākhir an-nahr*, meaning "the end of the river."
Acrab	Scorpio	From the Arabic *al-'Aqrab*, meaning "the scorpion."
Adhafera	Leo	From the Arabic *aḍ-ḍafīrah*, meaning "the braid" or "the curl."
Adhara	Canis Major	From the Arabic *'aðāra'*, meaning "virgins."
Adhil	Andromeda	From the Arabic að-ðayl, meaning "the train (of a garment)."
Ain	Taurus	Ain is Arabic for "eye."
Ainalrami	Sagittarius	From the Arabic phrase *ain al-rāmī*, which means "the eye of the archer."
Aladfar	Lyra	From the Arabic *al-'uẓfur*, meaning "the talons (of the swooping eagle)."
Albaldah	Sagittarius	From the Arabic *bálda*, which means "the town."
Albali	Aquarius	From the Arabic *albāli'*, meaning "the swallower."
Alchiba	Corvus	From the Arabic *al-xibā*, meaning "the tent."
Alcor	Ursa Major	From the Arabic *al-khawwar*, which means "the faint one."

Aldebaran	Taurus	From the Arabic *al Dabarān*, which means "the follower," because the star appears to follow the Pleiades across the sky.
Alderamin	Cepheus	Contraction of the Arabic phrase *al-dhirāʿ al-yamīn*, which means "the right arm."
Aldhanab	Picies	From the Arabic *al-dhanab*, meaning "the tail," and refers to the tail of the Southern Fish (Piscis Austrinus).
Aldhibah	Draco	The feminine form of the Arabic *al-dhi'b*, "the wolf."
Aldulfin	Delphini	From the Arabic phrase *ðanab ad-dulfīn*, meaning "the dolphin's tail."
Alfirk	Cepheus	From the Arabic *al-firqah*, which means "the flock."
Algedi	Capricorn	From the Arabic *al-jadii*, "the goat."
Algenib	Pegasus	From the Arabic *al-janb*, meaning "the side."
Algieba	Leo	From the Arabic *al-Jabhah*, meaning "the forehead."
Algol	Persei	From the Arabic phrase *raʾs al-ghūl*, which means "the head of the ogre."
Algorab	Corvus	From the Arabic *al-ghuraab*, meaning "the crow."
Alhena	Gemini	From the Arabic *al-han'ah*, meaning "the brand," and refers to the brand on the camel's neck.
Alioth	Ursa Major	From the Arabic phrase *al-yat al-hamal*, meaning "the sheep's fat tail."
Alkaid	Ursa Major	From the Arabic *qā'id binât naʿsh*, meaning "the leader of the daughters of the bier." The word itself means "leader."
Alkaphrah	Ursa Major	A corruption of the traditional name Alkafzah, derived from the Arabic *al-qafzah*, meaning "the leap."
Alkarab	Pegasus	From the star's traditional Arabic name, *al-karab*, which means "the bucket-rope."
Alkes	Crater	From the Arabic *al-kās*, meaning "the cup."
Almaaz	Auriga	From the Arabic Al Maʿaz, meaning "the billy goat."
Almach	Andromeda	The star's traditional name, derived from the Arabic *al-ʿanāq*, meaning "the caracal."
Alnair	Pisces	The name means "the bright one" in Arabic. It is derived from the phrase *al-nayyir min dhanab al-ḥūt* (*al-janūbiyy*), or "the bright one from the (southern) fish's tail."

Alnasl	Sagittarius	From the Arabic word *al-naşl*, meaning "arrowhead."
Alnilam	Orion	From the Arabic *al-niẓām*, meaning "the string of pearls."
Alnitak	Orion	From the Arabic *an-niṭāq*, meaning "the girdle."
Alniyat	Scorpio	From the Arabic *al-niyāṭ*, meaning "the arteries."
Alphard	Hydra	From the Arabic *al-fard*, meaning "the solitary one."
Alphecca	Coronis	From the Arabic phrase *nayyir al-fakka*, which means "the bright (star) of the broken (ring of stars)."
Alpheratz	Andromeda	From the Arabic phrase *surrat al-faras*, meaning "the navel of the mare."
Alpherg	Pisces	From the Arabic *al fargh*, meaning "the spout" or "the outpouring of water."
Alrakis	Draco	From the Arabic *al-rāqiṣ*, meaning "the trotting (camel)."
Alrescha	Pisces	From the Arabic word for "the cord," *al-rishā'*.
Alruba	Draco	From the Arabic *al-ruba'*, meaning "the foal" (referring to a young camel born in the spring).
Alsafi	Draco	rom an erroneous transcription of the Arabic word *athāfiyy*, designating the tripods of nomads' open-air kitchens.
Alsciaukat	Lynx	From the Arabic word *aš-šawkat*, meaning "the thorn."
Alsephina	Vela	From the Arabic word *al-safīnah*, "the ship." It refers to the ancient Greek constellation Argo Navis, which represented the ship of the Argonauts and has been divided into three smaller constellations – Carina, Puppis and Vela – due to its enormous size.
Alshain	Aquila	From the Perso-Arabic word *aš-šāhīn*, meaning "the (peregrine) falcon."
Alshat	Capricorn	From the Arabic *aš-šā[t]*, meaning "the sheep."
Altair	Aquilae	From the Arabic phrase *an-nasr aṭ-ṭā'ir*, meaning "the flying eagle."
Altais	Draco	From the Arabic *al-tāis*, meaning "the goat."
Alterf	Leo	From the Arabic *aṭ-ṭarf*, meaning "the view" and referring to the view of a lion.
Aludra	Canis Major	From the Arabic word *al-adhraa*, meaning "the virgin."

Alula	Ursa Major	From the Arabic phrase *al-kafzah al Ūla*, meaning "the first spring" and Australis is Latin for "southern." The name refers to an asterism known as Three Leaps of the Gazelle, formed by three pairs of stars in Ursa Major.
Alya	Serpent	The name is derived from the Arabic word *al-yah*, which means "the fat tail (of a sheep)."
Alzirr	Gemini	From the Arabic *al-zirr*, meaning "the button."
Aljanah	Cygnus	The same origin as Gienah. It is derived from the Arabic *al-janāḥ*, meaning "the wing."
Angetenar	Eridanus	From the Arabic phrase Al Ḥināyat an-Nahr, which means "the bend in the river." The river in question is represented by the constellation Eridanus.
Arcturus	Boötes	From the Ancient Greek Ἀρκτοῦρος (Arktouros), which means "the guardian of the bear." The bear in question is represented by the constellation Ursa Major.
Arkab	Sagittarius	From the Arabic word *al 'Urkub*, meaning "Achilles tendon,"
Arneb	Lepus	From the Arabic *arnab*, meaning "hare." Arneb is the brightest star in the constellation Lepus, the Hare.
Asterope	Taurus	One of the Pleiades sisters in Greek mythology.
Athebyne	Draco	From the Arabic *al-dhi'bayn*, which means "the wolves" and refers to two wolves sneaking up on the camel's foal, represented by Alruba.
Atik	Persei	the Arabic word for "the shoulder."
Atlas	Taurus	Named after the Titan Atlas, the father of the seven Pleiades in Greek mythology. It is one of the nine brightest stars in the Pleiades cluster
Azha	Eridanus	From the Arabic phrase *udḥiyy al-naʿām*, meaning "the hatching place of the ostrich." It refers to an old asterism that included the star. The name was miscopied as azḥā in medieval texts.
Baten Kaitos	Cetus	From the Arabic phrase *batn qaytus*, meaning "the belly of the sea monster."
Beid	Eridanus	From the Arabic *bayḍ*, meaning "eggs."
Betelgeuse	Orion	The origin of the name is uncertain, but it likely comes either from the Arabic phrase *Ibṭ al-Jauzā'*, meaning "the armpit of

		the central one" or from *Yad al-Jauzā'*, meaning "the hand of the central one."
Biham	Pegasus	From the Arabic phrase *Sa'd al Bahaim*, which means "good luck of the two beasts."
Caph	Cassiopeia	From the Arabic *kaf*, meaning "palm."
Castor	Gemini	The star was named after Castor, one of the Dioscuri (Twins) in Greek and Roman mythology. The other twin is represented by the star Pollux.
Cebalrai	Ophiuchus	From the Arabic phrase *kalb al-rā'ī*, meaning "the shepherd's dog."
Celaeno	Taurus	Named after one of the Pleiades sisters in Greek mythology.
Chertan	Leo	From the Arabic phrase *al-kharātān*, meaning "two small ribs."
Cursa	Eridanus	From the Arabic phrase *al Kursiyy al Jauzah*, meaning "the footstool of the Central One," referring to the constellation Orion.
Dabih	Capricorn	From the Arabic *al-dhābiḥ*, meaning "the butcher."
Dalim	Fornacis	From the Arabic *al-ẓalīm*, meaning "ostrich."
Deneb	Cygnus	From the phrase *Dhanab al-Dajājah*, meaning "the tail of the hen." The star marks the tail of the Swan (Cygnus).
Deneb Algedi	Capricorn	From the Arabic phrase *ðanab al-jady*, meaning "the tail of the goat."
Diphda	Cetus	From the phrase *aḍ-ḍifdaʿ aṯ-ṯānī*, meaning "the second frog."
Dschubba	Scorpio	probably derived from the Arabic *Al Jabhah*, meaning "the forehead" or "the front."
Dubhe	Ursa Major	From the phrase *żahr ad-dubb al-akbar*, which means "the back of the Greater Bear." The name refers to the star's position in Ursa Major.
Dziban	Draco	From the Arabic *Adh-Dhi'ban*, meaning "the two wolves" or "the two jackals."
Edasich	Draco	From the Arabic *Al Ḍhiba'* or *Al dhīlī,* meaning "male hyena."
Electra	Taurus	One of the Pleiades sisters in Greek mythology.
Elgafar	Virginis	From the Arabic *al-ghafr*, an Arabic lunar mansion consisting of Phi, Iota and Kappa Virginis.

Elkurud	Columba	From the Arabic word *al-furūd*, meaning "the solitary ones," used by early Arab poets to describe a number of anonymous stars.
Elnath	Taurus	From the Arabic *an-naṯħ*, referring to the bull's horns. Elnath marks the tip of the Bull's northern horn.
Eltanin	Draco	From the Arabic *At-Tinnin*, meaning "the great serpent."
Enif	Pegasus	From the Arabic word for "nose." The star marks the muzzle of Pegasus.
Fawaris	Cygnus	From the Arabic name *al-Fawāris*, meaning "the riders," which applied to an asterism the star formed with three other Northern Cross stars: Zeta, Epsilon, and Gamma Cygni.
Fomalhaut	Pisces	From the Arabic phrase *fam al-ḥūt* (*al-janūbī*), which means "the mouth of the (Southern) Fish."
Fumalsamakah	Pisces	From the Arabic phrase *fum al-samakah*, meaning "the mouth of the fish."
Furud	Canis Major	From the Arabic *al-furūd*, meaning "the solitary ones." It was used by early Arab poets for a number of anonymous stars.
Giausar	Draco	From the Persian *Ghāuzar*, meaning "the tail of the dragon." It refers to the "node" of the lunar orbit, where the Moon crosses the ecliptic to the south. In western astrology, the tail of the dragon is known as the south node.
Gienah	Corvus	From the Arabic word for "the wing" (*al-janāħ*) and comes from the phrase *al-janāħ al-ghirāb al-yaman*, which means "the right wing of the crow." The name is a reference to the star's position in the constellation Corvus, the Raven, even though in modern depictions of the constellation, Gienah marks the Raven's left wing.
Hadar	Centaur	The name means "the settled area" or "the settled land" in Arabic.
Hamal	Arietis	From the Arabic *rās al-ħamal*, meaning "the head of the ram."
Homam	Pegasus	The star's traditional name meaning "man of high spirit" or "lucky star of high minded."
Iklil	Scorpio	The name probably comes from the Arabic lunar mansion *Iklil l* (*al-'iklīl*) and means "the crown (of the forehead)." The star was likely a part of the Iklil lunar mansion, along with Acrab, Dschubba, Fang, and possibly Jabbah.

Izar	Boötes	The name comes from the Arabic *izār*, meaning "veil."
Jabbah	Scorpio	From the Arabic *Iklīl al Jabhah*, meaning "the crown of the forehead."
Kaffaljidhma	Cetus	From the Arabic *al-kaf al-jaðmā'*, meaning "the cut-short hand." It originally applied to five stars: Gamma, Xi1, Xi2, Delta and Mu Ceti.
Kaus	Sagittarius	From the Arabic *qaws*, meaning "bow." The star marks the southern tip of the Archer's bow.
Keid	Eridanus	From the Arabic *qayḍ*, meaning "(egg)shells."
Kochab	Ursa Minor	It may be derived from the Arabic *al-kawkab* or Hebrew *kōkhāv*, both meaning "star," or from Alrucaba (Reicchabba in the Alfonsine Tables), a name that was also used for Polaris and either comes from the Arabic *Al Rakabah*, "the riders," or from the Chaldee *Rukub*, meaning "vehicle."
Kornephoros	Hercules	The Greek word for "club bearer."
Kurhah	Cepheus	From the Arabic *al-qurhah*, translated as a white spot, or blaze, in the face of a horse.
Lesath	Scorpio	From the Arabic *las'a,* meaning "pass (or bite) of a poisonous animal."
Maasym	Hercules	From the Arabic *mi'ṣam*, meaning "the wrist."
Mahasim	Auriga	From the Arabic *al-mi'şam* "the wrist." It refers to the wrist of Auriga, the Charioteer.
Maia	Taurus	The star was named after one of the Pleiades sisters in Greek mythology.
Marfik	Ophiuchus	From the Arabic marfiq, meaning "the elbow." The star marks the elbow of Ophiuchus, the Serpent Bearer.
Markab	Pegasus	From the Arabic *markab*, meaning "the saddle of the horse," or is a mistranscription of Mankib, which comes from the phrase *Mankib al-Faras*, meaning "(the star of) the shoulder of the horse," referring to the constellation Pegasus.
Marsic	Hercules	One of the star's traditional names, derived from the Arabic *Al-Mirfaq*, meaning "the elbow." It shares a derivative of the name with Marfik
Matar	Pegasus	From the Arabic phrase *Al Sa'd al Maṭar*, meaning "the lucky star of rain."

Mebsuta	Gemini	From the Arabic phrase *adh-Dhirāʿu l-Mabsūṭah*, meaning "the outstretched paw."
Megrez	Ursa Major	From the Arabic *al-maghriz*, meaning "the base." It refers to the star's position at the base of the Great Bear's tail.
Meissa	Orion	From the Arabic Al-Maisan, "the shining one."
Mekbuda	Gemini	From the Arabic phrase *adh-Dhirāʿu l-Maqbūḍah*, meaning "the (lion's) folded paw."
Meleph	Cancer	From the Arabic *Al Ma'laf*, "the stall."
Menkalinan	Auriga	From the Arabic phrase *mankib ðī-l-ʿinān*, which means "the shoulder of the rein-holder." It refers to the star's position in the constellation Auriga, the Charioteer.
Menkar	Cetus	From the Arabic word *manħar*, meaning "nostril." It refers to the nostril of Cetus.
Menkent	Centaur	From the Arabic word for "shoulder." It refers to the shoulder of the Centaur.
Menkib	Persei	From the Arabic phrase *Mankib al Thurayya*, meaning "the shoulder (of the Pleiades)."
Merak	Ursa Major	From the Arabic *al-maraqq*, meaning "the loins." It refers to the star's position at the loins of the Great Bear.
Merga	Boötes	From the Arabic phrase *al-mar'ah al-musalsalah*, meaning "the chained woman."
Meridiana	Corona	From the star's traditional name, Alphekka Meridiana, or the "southern Alphekka" (referring to Alphecca, the brightest star in the northern constellation Corona Borealis). Alphekka is derived From the phrase *nayyir al-fakka* "the bright one of the broken (ring of stars)."
Merope	Taurus	From Greek mythology. Merope was one of the seven Pleiades sisters, daughters of Pleione and Atlas.
Mesarthim	Arietis	The name has been associated with the Hebrew *mᵉshārᵉthīm*, meaning "servants" and the Arabic *al-Muthartim*, meaning "the very fat ram." However, it is believed to be a corruption of the name Sheratan, which the star once shared with the nearby Beta Arietis. Sheratan is derived from the Arabic *aš-šaraṭān*, meaning "the two signs." It refers to the two stars marking the northern spring equinox, which they did in ancient times. The name Sheratan was corrupted into Sartai in the Middle Ages and the German astronomer Johann Bayer mistook Sartai for

		the Hebrew word for "servants." The name Mesarthim was adopted for Gamma Arietis by later scholars, while Beta Arietis kept the name Sheratan.
Minchir	Hydra	From the Arabic phrase *minkhar ash-shujā'*, which means "the nostril of Hydra" or "the nostril of the snake."
Minelauva	Virgo	The star's traditional name comes from the Arabic *min al-'awwā'*, meaning "in the lunar mansion of ʿawwaʾ (the barker)."
Mintaka	Orion	From the Arabic *manṭaqa*, meaning "belt." Delta Orionis is the westernmost star of the Belt of Orion.
Mirzam	Canis Major	From the Arabic *Al-Murzim*, "the herald." It refers to the star heralding (i.e. rising before) Sirius.
Misam	Perseus	From the Arabic *mi'ṣam*, meaning "wrist."
Mizar	Ursa Major	From the Arabic *mi'zar*, meaning "covering."
Muliphein	Canis Major	From the Arabic *'al-Muḥlifayn*, which refers to "two things" and the "swearing of an oath."
Muphrid	Boötes	From the Arabic phrase *mufrid ar-rāmiħ*, meaning "the (single) one of the lancer."
Nashira	Capricorn	From the Arabic *sa'd nashirah*, meaning "the lucky one" or "the bearer of good news."
Nekkar	Boötes	From *Al Baḳḳār*, "the Herdsman." It was the Arabic name for the constellation Boötes.
Nunki	Sagittarius	The star's proper name has an Assyrian or Babylonian origin, but its meaning is unknown. The name was recovered by archaeologists and made public by Richard Hinckley Allen in Star Names: Their Lore and Meaning (1899).
Nusakan	Corona	From the Arabic *al-nasaqān*, meaning "the two lines (of stars)." It refers to two asterisms, one formed mostly by Hercules stars and the other by stars in the constellations Serpens and Ophiuchus.
Okab	Aquila	rom the star's traditional name, Deneb el Okab, derived from the Arabic *Dhanab al-'uqāb*, meaning "the tail of the eagle." The name refers to the star's position in the constellation Aquila, the Eagle.
Phact	Columba	From the Arabic *fākhitah*, meaning "ring dove." The star is the luminary of the constellation Columba, the Dove.

Phecda	Ursa Major	From the Arabic *fakhth al-dubb*, meaning "the thigh of the bear." It refers to the star's position in Ursa Major.
Pherkad	Ursa Major	From the Arabic *farqad*, meaning "calf," from the phrase *aḫfa al farkadayn*, which means "the dim one of the two calves" and refers to Pherkad and the brighter Kochab.
Pleione	Taurus	Pleione is the mother of the Pleiades, the Seven Sisters.
Pollux	Gemini	The star was named after Pollux (Polydeuces), one of the Dioscuri (Twins) in Greek and Roman mythology. The other twin is represented by the star Castor.
Porrima	Virgo	Porrima (or Antevorta) was a goddess of the future and prophecy.
Rasalgethi	Hercules	The traditional name Rasalgethi or Ras Algethi comes from the Arabic phrase *raʿis al-jāthī*, meaning "Head of the Kneeler."
Rasalhague	Ophiuchus	The name is derived from the Arabic phrase ra's al-ḥawwā', meaning "the head of the serpent collector." It is a reference to the constellation Ophiuchus, the Serpent Bearer.
Rastaban	Draco	From the Arabic phrase *ra's ath-thu'ban*, meaning "head of the serpent" or "head of the dragon."
Regulus	Leo	The name is Latin for "little king" or "prince."
Rigel	Orion	From the Arabic word for "leg" or "foot." It refers to the star's position in Orion, marking the Hunter's foot.
Ruchbah	Cassiopeia	The star's traditional name comes from the Arabic *rukbah*, meaning "knee."
Rukbat	Sagittarius	From the Arabic *rukbah*, meaning "knee."
Sabik	Ophiuchus	From the Arabic *al-sābiq*, meaning "the preceding one."
Sadachbia	Aquarius	From the Arabic *saʿd al-'axbiyah*, meaning "luck of the homes" or "luck of the tents."
Sadalbari	Pegasus	From the Arabic phrase for "luck star of the splendid one."
Sadalmelik	Aquarius	From the Arabic *saʿd al-malik*, meaning "luck of the king."
Sadalsuud	Aquarius	From the Arabic *saʿd al-suʿūd*, meaning "the luck of lucks."
Sadr	Cygnus	From the Arabic *ṣadr*, meaning "chest." It refers to the star's position in the constellation Cygnus, the Swan.

Saiph	Orion	From the Arabic phrase *saif al jabbar*, meaning "the sword of the giant."
Sargas	Scorpio	The name may come from the Sumerian *ŠAR.GAZ*, denoting a weapon of the god Marduk.
Scheat	Pegasus	From the Arabic *al sā'id*, meaning "the upper arm."
Schedar	Cassiopeia	From the Arabic *ṣadr*, meaning "breast."
Seginus	Boötes	The origin of the name is uncertain, but it has been suggested that it comes from the Latinization of an Arabic form of Theguius, the Greek name for the constellation Boötes.
Shaula	Scorpio	The star's traditional name comes from the Arabic *al-šawlā´*, meaning "the raised (tail)." It refers to the tail of Scorpius.
Sheliak	Lyra	The name comes from the Arabic *šiliyāq*, one of the names of the constellation Lyra.
Sheratan	Arietis	From the Arabic phrase *aš-šaraṭān*, meaning "the two signs." It is a reference to Sheratan and Mesarthim having marked the northern vernal equinox several thousand years ago.
Sirius	Canis Major	From the Greek *Σείριος* (Seirios), meaning "scorching" or "glowing."
Skat	Aquarius	From the Arabic *al-sāq*, meaning "shin."
Spica	Virgo	From the Latin *spīca virginis*, meaning "the virgin's ear of grain"
Subra	Leo	From the Arabic *zubra*, referring to the upper part of the back.
Sulafat	Lyra	The name is derived from the Arabic *al-sulḥafāt*, meaning "turtle."
Syrma	Virgo	From the Arabic *sirmā*, meaning "train (of a garment)."
Tabit	Orion	From the Arabic *al-thābit*, meaning "the endurer" or "the fixed/constant one."
Tania	Ursa Major	From the Arabic *Al Fiḳrah al Thānia*, meaning "the second leap (of the gazelle)" and Borealis is Latin for "northern." The star is part of an asterism known as Three Leaps of the Gazelle, formed by three pairs of stars in Ursa Major.
Tarazed	Aquila	The name may come from the Persian *šāhin tarāzu*, meaning "the beam of the scale." The Scale was an asterism formed by Altair, Tarazed and Alshain.

Tarf	Cancer	From the Arabic *al-tarf*, meaning "end" or "edge."
Taygeta	Taurus	One of the Pleiades, the Seven Sisters in Greek mythology.
Tegmine	Cancer	The star's traditional name means "shell" and refers to the shell of the crab.
Tejat	Gemini	From the Arabic word *tiḥyāt*, of uncertain meaning.
Thuban	Draco	From the Arabic word *thuʿbān*, meaning "a large snake."
Toliman	Centaur	From the Arabic *aẓ-Ẓalīmān*, meaning "the two (male) ostriches." It is one of the traditional names of the Alpha Centauri system.
Ukdah	Hydra	From the Arabic *ʻuqdah*, meaning "knot."
Vega	Lyra	The name is a loose transliteration of the Arabic *wāqi*ʻ ("falling" or "landing"), from the phrase *an-nasr al-wāqiʻ*, meaning "the falling eagle."
Wasat	Gemini	From the Arabic word for "middle."
Wazn	Columba	From the Arabic word for "weight."
Wezen	Canis Major	From the Arabic *al-wazn*, meaning "weight."
Zaniah	Virgo	From the Arabic *zāwiyah*, meaning "corner."
Zaurak	Eridanus	The name is Arabic for "boat."
Zavijava	Virgo	From the Arabic phrase *zāwiyat al-cawwa'*, which means "the corner of the barking (dog)."
Zibal	Eridanus	From a misreading of the Arabic *ri'al*, meaning "ostrich chicks."
Zubenelgenubi	Libra	From the Arabic phrase *al-zubānā al-janūbiyy*, meaning "the southern claw." It refers to the claw of the scorpion. In ancient times, Libra stars were seen as the Claws of the Scorpion.

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