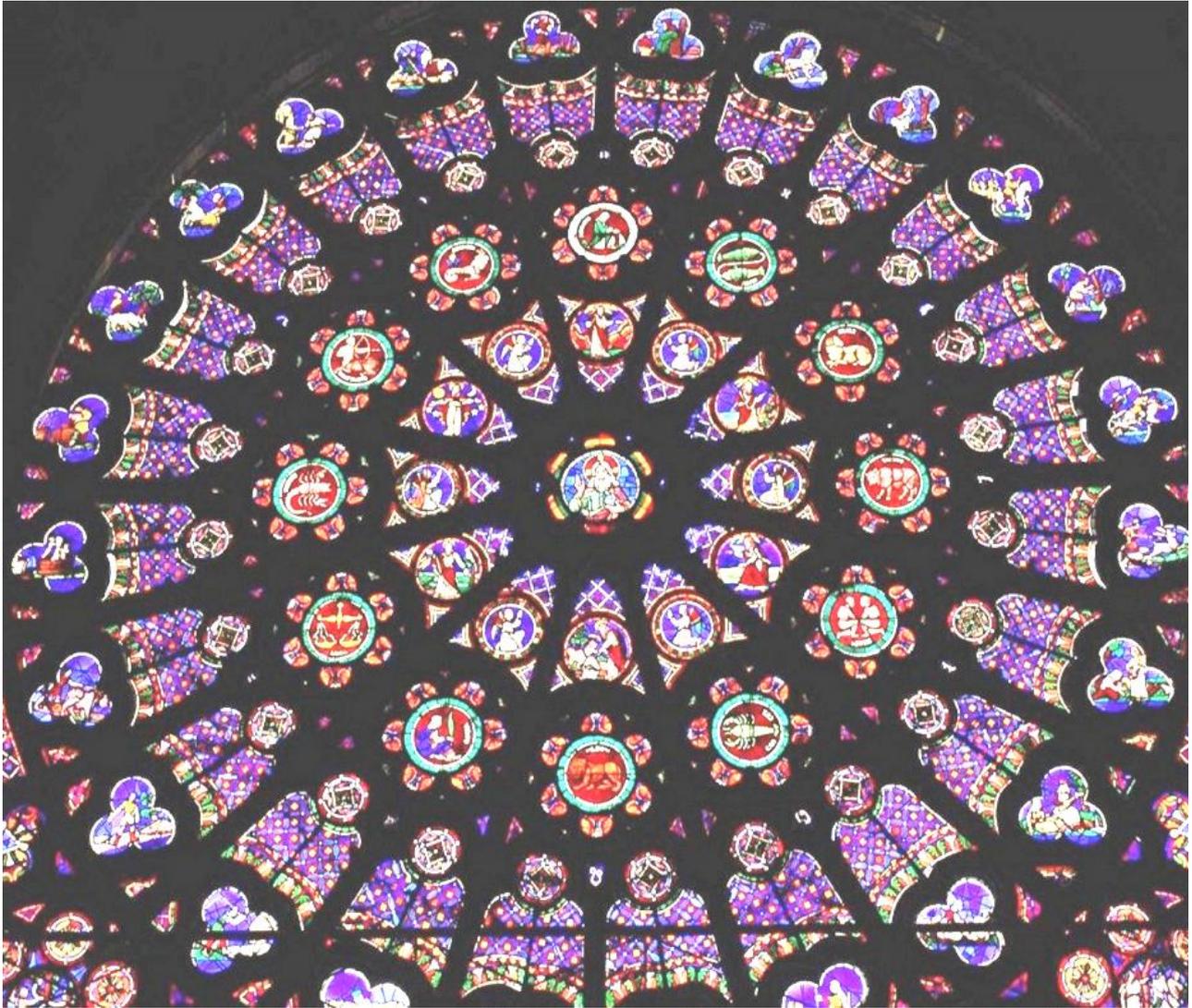


New Links



The North Rose Window of St Denis Cathedral Paris is called, The Creation. God the Creator is in the centre surrounded by The Days of Creation. These are surrounded by each of the 12 signs of the Zodiac, which represent The Order of the Heavens. Next, the Labour of the Months depict the Order of Earth. In each corner outside of this circle of life are images of the Fall of Mankind. Originally constructed c.1145, repaired 1805. Paris, France. It is a masterpiece of masonry & stain glass but why include the Zodiac what does it mean?

St Mary-in-the-Fields, Culloden

July & August 2018

Has the Gospel Been Written in the Starry Constellations?

by Colin Mansfield

What if everything you were ever taught or believed about astronomy, horoscopes, and the Zodiac were corrupted? What if the original Zodiac had been distorted from Sumerian times, and changed by the Babylonians to such an extent that no one knew its original meaning imprinted in the sky? The daily horoscopes printed in newspapers, magazines, or online are actually aberrations of the original signs that God inscribed in the heavens when He created the world. So, what is the true meaning? Is the Gospel written in the Stars?



Another Zodiac above represented in the top half of the South Rose Window of Christ at the Saint Maurice Cathedral of Angers, France. Designed by Andre Robin, c. 1451.

God created the stars (Gen. 1:16) and positioned them in their exact places in the universe (Ps. 8:3). Stars were, “for signs and for seasons, and for days and for years, in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” (Gen. 1:14, 15). Stars were so important that God named them. “He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.” (Ps. 147:4). They are (to us with colour vision) all different colours and of different intensities. In reality they are all white to grey, but we can discern their colours.

“Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.” (Is.20:26).

Consider the stars’ names and their meaning, which “all declare the Glory of God” (Ps. 19):

- Orion: “Coming as light,” the Prince of Light;
- Rigel: “The foot that crushes” the serpent, and
- Saiph: “bruised” the serpent;
- Betelgeuse: “The coming of the **branch**” representing “the shoot from the stump of Jesse” (Isa. 11:1);
- Bellatrix: “Swiftly destroying,” the Prince who avenges his people; and

- Al Nitak: “The wounded,” who redeems his people.

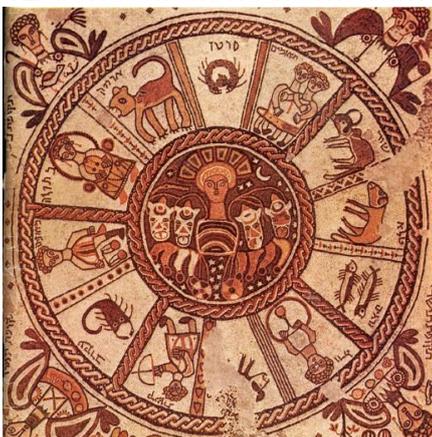
Fact, the 24 brightest stars seen from Earth are in verses from Genesis to Revelation. Scripture is not silent: everything in God’s creation, is ordered with a specific purpose. One of the most beautiful renditions of a huge zodiac is to be found in Rome’s St. Mary of the Angels & Martyrs, where it is embedded into a huge marble floor with multi-coloured signs, part of an astronomical setting to measure the Meridien & keep the Gregorian calendar in check. It was commissioned by Pope Clement XI in 1702, worth having a look: <http://blog.medicinegarden.com/2011/06/zodiac-signs-in-a-catholic-church/>

Chaldean Origins: 2000BC **Abraham, Sarah, & Lot** were not Hebrews, but originated from Ur in the Chaldees where the first large ziggurat was built. The Chaldeans were very advanced in science, agriculture and building and part of the Sumer empire. Abraham’s parents and ancestors worshipped the moon god (Sin). The moon gave them a useful time counter: there’s 30 days + 30 nights = 60 periods in a month hence the use of **base 60** mathematics. We still divide time 60 minutes in an hour, 60 seconds in a minute (roughly a heartbeat). 12 lunar months made a year of 360 days, the last 5 days of yearend were divided up to celebrate 5 minor gods. Unfortunately, the sun had not returned to its starting position by then, it varied by 6hrs, and every now and then a day was added for the sun to catch up. A better way of measuring longer times was to use the Zodiac (Zoe = life, Dia = way through). The early stargazers marked out the major constellation groups on stretched animal hides and drew charcoal lines to “join the dots” perhaps a pictogram appeared, or during a night’s sleep the image appeared as if in a dream? **Perhaps God had a hand in this** as you may recall young Joseph of the “techno-coat” telling his parents & brothers that they, symbolised in his dream as sun moon 11 stars, would bow down to him, Gen 37:8-10.



Abram, Sarai (his step sister & wife) & Lot and their clans & herds leave Haran (N. Assyria) for the Land that the true God had offered him.

The Hebrews: their name for the zodiac is the Mazzaroth: Amazingly, it seems that the 12 constellations from Sumer pass on to make the Hebrew Zodiac which told a fascinating story of God's plan for mankind's redemption. In the book of Job (he lived in Uz, somewhere in western Sumer, probably before Abram’s time):



God challenges Job: 38:31-33 **“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loosen the belt of Orion? Can you bring forth the Mazzaroth in his season or lead out the Bear and her cubs? Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?”**

Left: the wheel of the zodiac, this 6th century mosaic pavement discovered in a synagogue in Beit Alpha Israel. Job measured time in Sumerian months {Job 7:1-3}, such that

if you divide the Patriarchal long 900+ lifespans by 12, you get their age in years. Crafty Laban (Rebecca's brother) counted marriage years in 7s, when he 'arranged' marriages of Leah & Rachel for Jacob, not quite buy one get one free! So, by dividing the "begetting" timespans by 7, you get the years when the Patriarchal marriages occurred, and the next Patriarchal son was born.

Originally, the ancient sign of the Eagle was in the zodiac circle but it was replaced later by the Scorpio sign. Cancer the crab seems to have evolved into a lobster. You can still see the original 4 Fixed zodiac signs embossed on some Church Lectionaries: Man, Bull, Eagle, Lion, the Sunday school teacher may tell you otherwise, but that's another story.

The Early Christians:

The Lord Jesus said that in the time of the end there will be a sign in the sky, "the sign of the Son of man in heaven" (Matthew 24:30), the Greek word translated 'heaven' here being used both for the abode of God and the celestial firmament. We fast-forward now to Apostle John's Revelation 12:1-18 *The Woman and the Dragon: A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne...*

What St. John had seen was a solar total eclipse, at a time when the sun was in Virgo, the Virgo constellation is the woman then appearing to stand on the moon, as the Sun (Son) was in Virgo with its cluster of 12 stars earlier invisible in the daylight, but now the constellation appears above the blocking moon, and above that is the constellation Draco the Dragon which covers 1/3 of the now darkened sky. The rest follows on, John has seen the Gospel story in the Sky and tries to describe it from Ephesus or his cave on Patmos. In Rev Ch13 we get the "beastie" coming out of the sea, that's constellation Hydra the Sea Snake; and the other "beastie" coming out of the ground, that's constellation Serpens the serpent. Remember we are dealing with pictorial symbols here, not real entities.



The Early Egyptians held the key: Where does the zodiac circle begin and end? The Sphinx will answer us. The sphinx is a mysterious hybrid of a woman's head on a lion's body.

The huge one at the Pyramids looks east, it points between the constellations of Virgo & Leo at the Autumn equinox, when darkness begins its ascent. This is the Riddle of the Sphinx and not the one portrayed in the cartoon left. The Egyptians went to town on the Zodiac and attached 3 minor constellations to each sign giving 36 in all

(strangely these also embellish the Gospel zodiac) called the **Decans**, each of 10 days & occupying a 10° segment so making up the circle 360°.

The Dendera zodiac from the Temple of Hathor Egypt. Now chiselled off the roof and exhibited in the Louvre. This caused a great row in France as their astronomers realized it accounted for Precession of the stars, such that the signs were gradually sliding forwards over time and the disk engravings gave the impression that it was 26,000 yrs old.

The Later Christians: below, the nave ceiling of the Anglican church of St Anselm, Hayes London, built in 1929, with its own zodiac signs & the Sun in its centre:



1830: The Papacy got into a flap, having only just got used to the Earth moving round the Sun, now another shibboleth that of the Earth being 6,000 yrs old was going in the bin. Enter Champollion, he now made a 2nd excursion to this remote temple with an armed party down the Nile to read the hieroglyphics around the ceiling planisphere. The Pope promised him a cardinal's hat if he obtained the right answer (just imagine, from Catholic laity to sudden promotion to Cardinal) what an

incentive. Champollion was the world's expert on reading Egyptian glyphs, and calculated a dating between 150BC-51BC, his backers: King Louis XVIII & the Pope were overjoyed.

How Christians may interpret the Zodiac {and not be afraid to render an answer}:

1. **Virgo** – A virgin holding a branch {of Jesse} & an ear of seed; the promised seed of the woman. A smaller decan constellation Coma is close by its sign is a mother & child.
2. **Libra** – The scales; the Saviour will bring justice to the world.
3. **Scorpio** – The scorpion; the attack of the enemy at his heels, the redeemer's conflict.
4. **Sagittarius** – The gracious horse-archer; who's hooves crush the enemy's head.
5. **Capricorn** – The goat; the goat of atonement, to be slain for the redemption.
6. **Aquarius** – The water bearer; the living waters of blessing poured forth onto the redeemed, His followers.
7. **Pisces** – The fishes; the multitudes who will follow; the blessings of the redeemed.
8. **Aries** – The ram or Pascal lamb; wounded and slain, He died for our sins.
9. **Taurus** – The bull, the Great Ox head, 1st letter leading the alphabet, the Word is made flesh, words powerful & unstoppable. Heaven & Earth may pass away but not the Word.
10. **Gemini** – The twins male & female; the marriage of Risen Christ with His Church.
11. **Cancer** – The crab; the congregations assembled together; we put on the armour, the helmet, the shield and wield the sword of Truth, the redeemer's possessions hold fast.
12. **Leo** – The Lion of the tribe of Judah; the consummated triumph of the redeemer King of Kings in the end, or as C. S. Lewis calls Him: **Aslan**.

We are not made to live by Fate in the stars but by our Faith in God by CRM.

Readings, Readers, Intercessions: July

July 1, 2018 [Green]

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

6th Sunday after Pentecost (Rev ChristineM/IF)

Sheila Mansfield

July 8, 2018 [Green]

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalm 48

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

7th Sunday after Pentecost (Rev ChristineM/ET)

Iain Foyers

July 15, 2018 [Green]

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

8th after Pentecost (Rev Michael Hickford/CM)

Elsie Tough

July 22, 2018 [Green]

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

9th after Pentecost (RevCan Arthur Sinclair/IF)

Colin Mansfield

Vestry Meeting after Eucharist.

July 29, 2018 [Green]

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

10th after Pentecost (RevCan Arthur Sinclair/ET)

Christine Hardwick

It was the miracle of Jesus walking on the water that, more than any other, convinced Jesus' disciples early on, that He was indeed the Son of God at that time.



Readings, Readers, Intercessions: August

August 5, 2018 [Green] 11th Sunday after Pentecost (-/ET)

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Iain Foyers

Psalm 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

August 12, 2018 [Green] 12th Sunday after Pentecost (-/IF)

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Rev Richard Martin

Psalm 130

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

August 19, 2018 [Green] 13th Sunday after Pentecost (-/ET)

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Christine Hardwick

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

August 26, 2018 [Green] 14th Sunday after Pentecost (-/MF)

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43

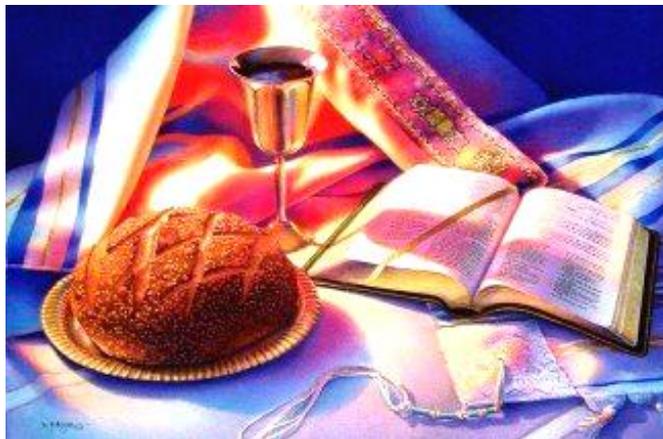
Elsie Tough

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

Jesus Said: Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.



News & Social Outreach Events:

Margaret Gill's Open Garden raised £25 in May ~ well done.

Torris House Garden Party: Saturday 21st July 2pm-ish.

Vestry Meeting Sunday 22nd July after the Eucharist 11am.

St Boniface Day, Fortrose: Thursday 9th August (focus on food to craftwork)

Eastgate Christmas Fair: 23rd November (Black Friday????)

St Mary-in-the-Fields Keppoch Rd, Culloden, IV2 7LL	Pastoral Care Clergy: Provost Rev Sarah Murray
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Lay Rep: Iain Foyers	Treasurer: Iain Foyers
Elsie Tough H&S Officer & 200 Club	Christine Hardwick PVG (Child and Adult Protection)
Sheila Mansfield (Socials & funds)	
Website Designer: Daniel Mansfield	www.stmaryinthefields.co.uk

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Printed by 'For The Right Reasons Charity' 60 Grant St, Inverness, IV3 8BS, 07717 457247.

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