

Ix8 – Some Biblical Star Myths

Dear: In earlier chapters, I hinted that some of the themes (or analogies or sub-plots or sub-tales) in the *Epic of Gilgamesh* were actually “star stories” or “star myths” or “astro-tales”. These included the suggestions that the description of Gilgamesh’s wandering were actually descriptions of the wanderings of the planet Mercury and that his battles were actually the alleged battles of the constellation that the Greeks called Orion the hunter. In this chapter, I want to show you that, similarly, many of the stories (analogies, themes, sub-plots) in the Bible (and therefore in the Book of Mormon), rather than being “the truth” and “God’s holy word”, are nothing but astro-tales or star myths, i.e., silly stories seen in the stars.

In particular and because of the indoctrination you’ve received ever since you were a baby, what I especially want to outline for you is that essentially the entire story about the “immaculate conception”, “virgin birth”, life, death, and “resurrection” of Jesus (a story that Christian and Mormon clerics commonly call “the greatest story ever told”) has nothing to do with anything that ever happened on Earth. They’re star stories or astro-tales, which were told to children (from Egypt to India) hundreds of years (and in some cases, thousands of years!) before the alleged birth of the alleged “Christ”. The silliness is summarized well even in the title of a book (that I hope you’ll read) by Acharya S: *The Christ Conspiracy: The Greatest Story Ever Sold* [Underlining added].¹

But at the outset of this endeavor, I want to caution you, Dear, to constrain yourself – and to alert you to my similar plan to try to constrain myself (and therefore, this chapter). Thus, unless you have discovered a way to be independently wealthy and then seek ways to “while away your time”, I urge you not to waste your time trying to discover and understand all the “star stories” in the Bible. There are a huge number of such astro-tales,² many of them are enormously complex, and many people have spent their entire

¹ Yes, Dear, “Acharya S” is the author’s name – or better, pseudonym. In the Preface of her book (published in 1999 by Adventures Unlimited Press and available at amazon.com), Kenn Thomas points out that “Acharya” means “teacher” or “preceptor” (viz., “head-master” or principal of a school). Thereby, I assume that, the most the author is willing to reveal about her name is “S” – and I certainly don’t blame her. I have similarly camouflaged my and your identities, because I know there are lots of “crazies” out there, not above murdering someone who ridicules their ridiculous religions.

² For example, Dear, see http://www.usbible.com/Astrology/bible_astrology.htm.

professional lives trying to interpret them. And whereas I've spent (wasted?) only a limited amount of my time trying to understand “just” what a few other people have uncovered about such stories, and whereas my goal is simply to alert certain children to such star myths, therefore, I plan to severely restrict the scope of this chapter.

Let me try to say that again. In the previous chapter, when referring you to “astrological myths” that you can find on the internet, I encouraged you (multi-times!) to constrain yourself. If you become interested in investigating the “astrology connections” to the Bible, I encourage you to constrain yourself even more. Thousands of people (if not tens of thousands) have spent their lives trying to understand such “star stories” in the Bible. Of course I think it's great, and certainly I thank the many people (some of whom I'll quote later in this chapter, from Volney to Acharya S) who've been able to show our culture that a huge part of the Bible is nothing but astrological nonsense, but now that so much has already been uncovered, Dear, please don't waste your precious life on such silliness.

At the outset, also, I should acknowledge the many “complications” in recognizing, interpreting, and understanding biblical astro-tales. Prime among these complications is trying to determine which stories started “on the ground” (i.e., as myths, e.g., about Adam and Eve) and then went up to the stars (i.e., such stories were then “seen” by “reading” star-dots!) *versus* which stories started “in the stars” (as astronomical events, e.g., associated with the winter solstice or with the precession of the equinoxes) and then “came down to Earth” as stories (e.g., the “birth” of Jesus in a stable at the winter solstice, his “death” on the cross, and his subsequent “resurrection” just after the spring equinox). In some cases the distinction is relatively clear (such as the cases just mentioned); in other cases, as you'll see (e.g., dealing with Moses), it's difficult to determine which came first – a classic “chicken-versus-egg” problem.

Let me express the problem as a question to you: How long do you think it would take to transpose a myth into a “star story”? Surely the answer to that question is: somewhere between a few minutes and multi-thousands of years! Thus, Dear, if one night a grandchild couldn't get to sleep and an old grandfather “cooked-up” a story about the “hunter in the sky”, then a few minutes later, the story might be well on its way to becoming an astro-tale. But a story about Gilga the hero was probably retold as a myth for centuries before someone decided to add the “sub-plot” of his ripping off a leg from

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Taurus the bull and flinging it (the Big Dipper) at the goddess Ishtar (the planet Venus)! Therefore, Dear, in what follows, I'll make suggestions about possible origins of some of the Bible's astro-tales, but in general, don't take any of my suggestions very seriously.

But, Dear, rather than starting with such complications (and then quite likely getting mired in them!), I'll just acknowledge them, and yet, proceed to show you some of the stories. I justify pushing the complications aside (at least temporarily) not only because it increases the probability of progress but also because what I primarily want you to see is something that I trust you'll agree is totally obvious: many of the biblical stories that you've been told (and essentially all the stories that you've been told about Jesus) were originally and obviously just astro-tales – and yet, for essentially all “believers”, they don't realize that the stories are just star myths, instead taking them to be “gospel truth”.

I should additionally add that, I don't want to try to show you even all of the astro-tales in the Bible that I've found even on the internet. But in what follows, I'll quote quite a few. In some places in these quotations, I've added a few notes [as per usual, in brackets, such as these], which I hope will help you. Yet I'll add that, if you have difficulty understanding what either I or the original author is trying to communicate, I recommend that you just “go with the flow”. That is, if you find yourself getting “hung up” on any of the illustrations of astro-tales in this chapter, I recommend that you just ignore the complication and push on to the next example. I've found that, when I've “chased down” some detail, trying to unravel some complexity, normally it wasn't worth the effort! Stated differently, Dear, what I encourage you to look for is just “the big picture”. And the “big picture” that I expect you'll see is simply: “This is all SO-O-O-O stupid!”

And as a final “introductory comment”, I want to alert you to the many different “types” of star myths in the Bible. I haven't seen anyone classify these different types of myths, but I expect someone has, and therefore, I expect that somewhere you could find more elegant and precise definitions of these different types. But for here and for now, I'll provide and use just the following crude classification of such stories, a classification that isn't restricted just to astro-tales in the Bible.

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DIFFERENT TYPES OF ASTRO-TALES

- 1) Myths that “explain” the origin of the stars.
- 2) Myths that use “snap-shots” of “stationary” stars to illustrate the story:
 - 2a) Earth-generated myths “transported” to the stars,
 - 2b) Stories about relative positions of star “pictures”, and
 - 2c) Stories originating from “pictures” seen in the stars.
- 3) Myths that use star and planet motions and other celestial events (comets, meteor showers, etc.) to “tell” the astro-tale:
 - 3a) Stories related to the annual motion of the stars,
 - 3b) Stories related to apparent motions of the Sun and the Zodiac, and
 - 3c) Stories dealing with more complicated motions (e.g., arising from comets, meteor showers, the Moon, and the precession of the equinoxes).

Throughout the past 10,000 years or so, apparently (and understandably and generally) progressively more complicated star stories were concocted, as people became more aware of the stars. I’ll now begin to illustrate, starting with the simplest case:

1) Myths to “explain” the stars.

In earlier chapters, I already showed you two such stories, both of which I rather liked. One was about the Pygmies’ god, a story that suggested that stars were left-over sunlight, each night the Pygmies’ god kept busy putting these bits of sunlight in a sack, and then each morning, he would fling the contents of his sack back to the Sun, so it would shine another day. The other was the Native American story, “explaining” how the trickster god Coyote became tired of placing the stars neatly in the sky and flung the rest to form the Milky Way. Maybe I like both of those myths because of their morals: even a god needs something to do; even a god gets bored!

Two similar stories, with origins much “closer to home” (namely, one originating from my nearest-age brother and the other from my oldest grandchild) are the following. I think that I already described the first one to you, somewhere else in this book, but now I can’t find it! Anyway, the story (which my mother never seemed to tire of retelling – and you might conclude that I don’t either!) is that, one evening, when my brother was about three-years old and first saw the stars, he said: “Look at all the ‘peep holes’, so the wee godie can look down and spy on us!” (I wonder,

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however, if my brother would have used the Irish word ‘wee’, meaning ‘little’ – although maybe he had heard your great-grandmother use the word so many times, he had then adopted it.)

And the other story is about my oldest grandchild, when she was about three. Your grandmother and I purposely kept you up past your bedtime, to permit you to have your first look at the stars. Earlier the same day, you had said that you had never seen the stars – although I wouldn’t put it past you that you had discovered still another way to stay up past your bedtime!

Anyway, that evening, we took you down by the river (away from the street lights), and you seem fascinated by the stars – especially the one that was moving relatively fast and blinking! When I then explained that, no, it wasn’t a star, it was the “strobe light” on a passing aircraft, and urged you to look at the “other” stars, you seemed to be singularly unimpressed with them, spending most of the remaining allotted time attempting to identify other aircraft!

And maybe the morals of those two stories are that, generally, ideas in the minds of children are strongly influenced by their parents (especially their mothers) and only weakly influenced by the ideas of their grandparents (especially their grandfathers). Or how about this: God’s just a “peeping Tom” whose “mighty works and wonders” aren’t nearly so impressive as Thomas Edison’s!

As for this type of naïve (or childish) astro-tale in the Bible (i.e., stories “explaining” the origin of the stars), there’s an example already on the Bible’s first page – although there is a complication. Thus, in *Genesis 1*, 14, in the King James Version of the Bible, there’s the following:

And God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and *let them be for signs* [italics added], and for seasons, and for days, and years...”

As you probably know, Dear, similar is given (of course!) in “The Pearl of Great Price” (*Moses 2*, 14–15), which is Sidney Rigdon’s proposed “re-write” of the Bible (with the help of the King James Version of the Bible!):

And I, God, said: “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven, to divide the day from the night, and *let them be for signs* [italics added], and for seasons, and for days, and for years...”

Yet the above phrasing is different from the phrasing in The New English Bible, which states:

God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to separate day from night, and let them serve as signs both for festivals and for seasons and years [italics added].”

That’s quite a dramatic modification, totally obliterating the suggestion that “the lights in the firmament of the heaven” were “for signs” (other than signs “both for festivals and for seasons and years”).

Actually, though, I expect that the translation in The New English Bible is closer to the “original” (as written by Ezra et al. ~400 BCE) – but promise myself never to waste my time trying to determine “the truth”! The reason for my expectation is that, elsewhere in the Old Testament, the Israelites are warned NOT to try to read “signs” in the stars. For example at *Deuteronomy 4, 14–19*, it’s alleged that Moses told the assembled Israelites:

And the LORD directed me at that time to teach you the decrees and laws you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the [River] Jordan to possess. You saw no form of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below. And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars – all the heavenly array – do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. [Italics added]

Yet, as I’ll be showing you, most of the “principal characters” in the Old Testament ignored this “prohibition” – or “commandment”!

On the other hand and undoubtedly from the influence of later astrologers (in early days of Christianity they were called Magi, from which our word ‘magician’ is derived), Christians became involved (in a major way!) in reading “signs in the stars” – and there’s no doubt (for reasons that I’ll be showing you later) that the King James Version of the Bible promotes the political (and therefore religious) views of the Christians rather the Jews. But rather than go into any of that now, let me move on from the most naïve star stories to those dealing with:

2) Myths originating from “pictures” seen in the stars.

Already, I’ve also shown you some examples of this type of astro-tale, e.g., the imagined story of the ancient grandfather showing his grandchild “the hunter in the sky” as well as the stories about Gilgamesh flinging the bull’s leg (the Big Dipper) at Ishtar (Venus) and about how Artemis (the Moon) was tricked by Apollo (the Sun), mistakenly killed her lover, Orion, and then placed him in the sky. There is, however, something important (and obvious!) about such stories that I want to emphasize, namely, that there aren’t any “pictures” in the stars: all such pictures are in people’s minds.

Although the above idea is probably obvious to you (and certainly it would be obvious, if you’d go out to look at the stars tonight); yet, I’ll belabor it, because there’s something else that you’ll then probably see more clearly. You are familiar, I know, with seeing “pictures in the clouds” – of cars (e.g., Volkswagen “beetles”), school buses, airplanes (e.g., Boeing 747s), and so on. You can see similar “pictures” in the stars. Totally unsurprisingly, though, our ancient ancestors never saw such pictures: not one of our ancestors (as far as I know) ever saw a Boeing 747 in the stars, a radio telescope, or a rocket blasting off!

Instead, they saw pictures of bears (Ursa Major and Ursa Minor), a hunter (Orion), a bull (Taurus), a ram (Aries), fish (Pisces), a water carrier (Aquarius), and so on. As far as I know, however, pictures of elephants, kangaroos, seals, and similar weren’t seen (or if seen, they weren’t “popularized”, at least in our culture), which then suggest the geographical origin of the people who popularized the “pictures” seen in the stars: they lived where water was carried, where bulls were common, and so on, including where there were (desert) scorpions. The obvious point that I then want to make is how silly all astrology is (as are all the astro-tales in the Bible): since there are no “pictures” in the stars (only in people’s minds), since the unfettered mind sees stars as nothing but a bunch of dots in the sky, the only “predictive ability” of such pictures is the predictive abilities already in people’s minds!

Anyway, once people started seeing “pictures” in the stars and pointing out these pictures to other people (“Can’t you see that man about to kill that bull?”), ancient people concocted a huge number of stories, using the (stationary) pictures to illustrate each story (just as most children’s books illustrate their stories with, of course, “stationary” pictures). If one were so

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inclined, one could then classify the resulting stories using the sub-classification scheme that I suggested above and repeat here:

- 2a) Earth-generated myths “transported” to the stars,*
- 2b) Stories about relative positions of star “pictures”, and*
- 2c) Stories originating from “pictures” seen in the stars.*

I’ll illustrate these different types of astro-tales, below, but admit to a difficulty that I’ve already mentioned and that I won’t take the time to try to resolve: sometimes it’s difficult to discern which came first, the picture or the myth (again, a classic “chicken vs. egg” problem). In some cases, however (for example, with the star myth about Adam and Eve that I’ll show you), there’s little doubt that it originated on the ground and was then “transported” to the stars. In contrast, I wouldn’t be surprised if all myths about the constellation that we call Orion started in the stars. If you care to check on the internet, you’ll find that at least all the ancient middle-eastern people (if not also other people) saw this “hunter” in the sky. Even I don’t have much difficulty pretending that the constellation is a “stick man”.

There was, however, a major complication dealing with Orion the hunter, a complication that I’ll go into in some detail later in this chapter and for now will just mention. Thus, over the centuries (or even “over the millennia”!), the upright Orion fell over (courtesy precession of the equinoxes). Consequently, over the years, some of the older stories about (the upright) Orion must have become “strained” – so then, new stories were concocted to “explain” why he fell over! But that’s jumping ahead to my classification of stories dealing with motions of stars (talk about a slow-moving movie!); so, now I’ll get back to the “stationary” stars.

2a) Earth-generated myths “transported” to the stars

To start, consider the constellation next to Orion called Taurus the Bull. I challenge you, Dear, to see that bull: I still can’t see it – I see just a bunch of dots! And worse, within this constellation is Pleiades (the Seven Sisters): I can see (six!) dots, but I’ll be darned if I understand why anyone decided to call them seven sisters. And of course you can find a huge number of websites that give myths about these seven sisters, but none that I found help identify why our ancient ancestors decided to identify those six (!) stars as the seven (!) sisters.

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You may even find (as did I) a web page describing the astro-myth, claimed to be from the aboriginals of Australia, about these seven sisters around a camp fire and another web page describing the astro-myth, claimed to be from Native Americans of the plains, about these seven sisters singing to the stars. The question, then, is: How old are these Native American myths? Multi-hundreds of years old (picked up from the first European settlers)? Multi-thousands of years (picked up as people wandered toward Australia and America)? Multi-tens-of-thousands of years old (a myth that originally started in Africa)? I sure don't know – and don't plan ever to try to find out!

Meanwhile, there are myths in the Bible whose associated astro-tales are relatively easy to classify according to the proposed scheme. Thus, as an example of a Type 2a astro-tale (i.e., an earth-generated myth “transported” to the stars), there's little doubt that first came the myth about Adam and Eve (quite likely out of Africa, possibly ~10,000 BCE), and then much later (maybe some time between 4000–1000 BCE) the myth “migrated” to the stars. To illustrate, I'll quote more from the essay that I quoted in an earlier chapter (dealing with the origin of the Adam and Eve myth). You can find this essay on the internet; it was written by John G. Jackson in 1933 and entitled “The African Origin of the Myths and Legend of the Garden of Eden: A Rationalistic Review.”

Actually, though, most of what follows is Jackson's quote from a book by Constantin Francois de Volney (1757–1820) entitled *New Researches in Ancient History* (pp. 165–166, Boston, 1874). Jackson adds: “See also, the Plate: Astrological Heaven of the Ancients, in the Appendix to Volney's *Ruins of Empires*, New York, 1926.” The latter book, *The Ruins*, a book that the Catholic Church put on its “prohibited list” (of books that “good Catholics” aren't to read), is now available on the internet, and in later chapters, Dear, I'll be strongly encouraging you to read this astoundingly wonderful book by Volney. I haven't found Volney's *New Researches* on the internet, but maybe you now can.

A word ought to be said concerning the astronomical element in these legends [about Adam and Eve] for it is of greater importance than is generally supposed. Volney... found that the entire drama of the creation and fall of man could be traced among the constellations of the heavens. “In fact,” declares... [Volney], “take a celestial sphere painted after the manner of the ancients, divide it by the circle of the horizon into two halves; the upper one, the heaven of summer, light, heat, abundance, kingdom of [the Egyptian god] Osiris, god of all good; the other half shall be the inferior heaven, INFURNUS, the heaven of winter, the seat of darkness, of privations, of sufferings,

the kingdom of [the Egyptian god] Typhon, god of all evil.” [Jackson then continues with the following direct quotation from Volney.]

To the west and towards the autumnal Equinox the scene offers a constellation (BOOTES), represented by a man holding a sickle, a laborer who, every evening, descends lower and lower in the inferior heaven and seems to be expelled from the heaven of light. After him comes a woman, the constellation VIRGO [the virgin] holding a branch of fruit pleasant to the eyes and good for food. She also descends every evening and seems to push on the man and cause his fall. Under them is the great serpent, OPHIUCUS, a constellation characteristic of the mud of winter, the Python of the Greeks, the Ahriman of the Persians, whose epithet in Hebrew is AROUM. Not far from them is the ship, the constellation ARGO NAVIS, attributed at one time to ISIS, at another, to JASON, to NOAH, etc. And at one side is PERSEUS, a winged genius holding a flaming sword in his hand as if to threaten. [You may recall, Dear, that at *Genesis 3, 23*, the myth about Adam and Eve ends with: “So the Lord God drove him (Adam) out of the garden of Eden... and to the east of the garden of Eden he stationed the cherubim and a sword whirling and flashing to guard the way to the tree of life” – although why God stationed only one cherubim (the Greek god Perseus!), rather than a host of them, and only “to the east”, isn’t adequately explained!] Here are all of the characters in the drama of Adam and Eve common to the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Persians, but which was modified according to times and circumstances.

But the main point that I wanted to make, Dear, is simply that I (at least) have no doubt that first came the myth (generated on Earth) and only much later was it seen as dots in the sky!

2b) Stories about relative positions of star “pictures”

As for my Type 2b astro-tales, many examples could be given – as you might expect, because after a few “pictures” were identified in the stars (e.g., those in what’s called “The Sea”, near Orion), then many stories could easily be generated. As an illustration for the case of such stories in the Bible, I’ll quote the great website (already referenced, from which I obtained the “picture” of the Zodiac shown in the previous chapter), suggesting that the biblical story of Samson (of Samson and Delilah fame; see *Judges 13–16*) may be just a rendering of the way that ancient sailors memorized the locations of many constellations.³

Historian of science, Giorgio de Santillana, has suggested that parts of the biblical narrative of the Story of Samson are in fact mnemonic devices for remembering the relative positions of other constellations using Orion (or Samson the Warrior) as the

³ Quoted from http://visav.phys.uvic.ca/~babul/AstroCourses/P303/Module1_p3b.htm.

anchor. Consider the following elements of the story [here, Dear, from the King James Version of the Bible]:

When he [Samson] came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him. And the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his band loosed from off his hands. And he found a new [or fresh] jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. And Samson said, “With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.” And it came to pass, when he made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi [i.e., Jawbone hill]. And he was sore athirst [i.e., very thirsty!] and called on the Lord, and said, “Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hands of thy servant; and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?” But God clave a hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he [Samson] had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived. (*Judges 15*, 14–19)

According to Giorgio de Santillana, the original hero of the story must have been Orion or Gilgamesh. As for the rest of the “rigmarole about the jawbone”, it is directions for finding Taurus. Samson, once done with the jawbone, he threw it away and called the place where it landed the high place of the jawbone. The constellation of Taurus (above and to the right of Orion) has a shape similar to that of a jawbone. Further, according to the story, the hollow part of the jawbone was filled with water. Taurus has a cluster of stars appearing in this hollow place called the Hyades. The star cluster must have reminded the ancient Greeks of a shimmering pool of water, hence the name. Hyades is Greek for water.

2c) *Stories originating from “pictures” seen in the stars*

Finally in this Type 2 of astro-tales (i.e., those dealing with just stationary “pictures” seen in the sky) are those of my Type 2c (stories originating from the “pictures” seen in the stars). This is essentially all of astrology (having nothing to do with what happened, happens, or ever will happen on Earth!), but certainly it’s unclear (at least to me!) which of the Bible’s astro-tales fit within this category.

Candidate astro-tales for this type are many of the stories about Moses and nearby constellations. For example, consider the following story about Moses as given in the Old Testament (*Exodus 2*, 16):

Now the priest of Midean had *seven daughters* [Italics added]. One day as Moses sat by a well, they came to draw water and filled the troughs to water their father’s sheep. Some shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses got up, took the girls’ part, and watered their sheep himself.

Subsequently, so the story goes (*Exodus 2, 21*), Moses married one of the seven sisters (the one whose name was Zipporah), but then the obvious question is: Did Moses really marry one of the seven sisters, or is this just an astro-myth about Orion marrying one of the Seven Sisters (Pleiades)? Similarly, was there really a well and a watering trough where Moses first met these seven sisters, or are these the well and watering trough (which you can find identified on the internet) that people have “seen in the stars” near Pleiades? Or, as a still further complication, are the well and the watering trough “seen” in the stars near Orion and Pleiades because of the story about Moses?!

Similar questions arise associated with other astro-tales related to Moses. For example, maybe the story about Moses leading the Israelites out from Egypt following a “pillar of fire” (*Exodus 13, 21*) is just a story about a comet near Orion. And as for Moses lifting his staff and parting the “Red” Sea, allowing the Israelites to pass (*Exodus 14, 15*), complications abound. My plan, Dear, is to address some of these complications in later chapters (in the “excursions” **Qx** and **Yx**), when I address other major complications with stories about Moses, such as: Who was he? What “gives” with all the alleged magic he performed (such as his parting the “Red” Sea)? And so on.

Here, therefore, I’ll just mention that there’s essentially zero serious doubt that the “biblical scholars” who translated the King James Version of the Bible from Greek versions of the Old Testament (OT) into English (or the Ancient Greek translators who translated Hebrew versions of the OT into Greek) made major errors, one being that “Red Sea” should have been translated as “Reed Sea”. But then, there’s the complication to try to identify the location of the “Reed Sea”: as far as I’ve been able to find on the internet, no old maps show a “Reed Sea” anywhere near the expected migration route of the Ancient Israelites – but some “star charts” do identify a “Sea of Reeds” in the stars near Orion [whose “foot”, in turn, is near the Eridanus, the Great River, which of course Orion never crosses (since constellations don’t move relative to one another!), just as Moses never crossed the Jordon River]. And thus there is (for me) the open question: is the entire story about Moses just an astro-tale about Orion – or are the “pictures” in the stars seen because of the story about Moses?

I sure don’t know the answer to that question, and promise myself never to waste my time trying to answer it – and I hope, Dear, that you similarly

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promise yourself! Nonetheless, let me quote some from a webpage⁴ entitled *The Constellations*, created by (the astrologer!) Anne Wright, in part to show you the general region of the sky where the Sea of Reeds is located and in part to introduce you to some other constellations, which I'll be referring to, soon.

Cetus, the Sea-Monster, or Whale is a large sprawling figure: its bulky body lies south of the Celestial Equator while its head protrudes above the Equator. It occupies a space of 50 degrees in length by 20 degrees in breadth, and so is one of the most extended of the sky figures; yet, it shows no star larger than of the 2nd magnitude, and only one of that luster. Cetus sometimes represented swimming in the River Eridanus [which is near the foot of Orion / Samson / Osiris / Gilgamesh], although usually [Cetus is depicted] as resting on the bank with fore-paws in the water; its head, directly under Aries, marked by an irregular pentagon of stars, and its body stretching from the bend in Eridanus to that in the Stream from the Urn (of the water carrier, Aquarius).

Cetus lives in an area of the sky where all of its neighboring constellations have some connection with water. East of Cetus is Eridanus, the Great River [which, again, may also be related to the myth about Moses (aka Orion) unable to cross over the River Jordan]; north of [Cetus] is Pisces, the Fishes; west of it are Aquarius, the Water Carrier, and Capricornus, the Seagoat; and to the south lies Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish. Ancient people often called this part of the sky 'the Sea' because of the many water-related constellations located here [including, in some "star charts" the Sea of Reeds].

Later in this chapter I'll get to the obvious, namely, that Cetus (the sea monster) is the creature in the biblical myth (the astro-tale) about Jonah being swallowed by a whale. But for now, Dear, after leaving so much dangling and after posing so many unanswered questions about simpler astro-tales (i.e., Type 2 star-stories, dealing with "stationary pictures"), let me move on to more complicated cases (☺), namely,

3) Myths that use star and planet motions and other celestial events (comets, meteor showers, etc.) to "tell" the astro-tale.

Sorry about moving on to Type 3 before finishing Type 2, Dear, but I don't want to spend the rest of my life digging through such junk – and I urge you to constrain yourself even more, not wasting so much of your time as I already have of mine!

⁴ At <http://www.winshop.com.au/anne/cons0.htm>.

As I already suggested, it may be useful to subdivide these Type 3 astrotales (dealing with “moving pictures”) into progressively more complicated motions. I’ll start with,

3a) Stories related to the motion of the Earth.

The most obvious motion of the stars is during a single night (as the Earth spins on its axis) – and even more obvious is the difference between day and night, which then may be reflected in the Cain and Abel myth of the Bible (*Genesis 4*). To show you how this myth might be related to the Earth’s daily rotation, I’ll quote from two web pages. The first is from an article by Thomas Paine (who was perhaps as important as Thomas Jefferson to the foundation of this country’s government). At www.infidels.org/library the following is introduced in this manner: “these occasional pieces [by Paine] were contributed in 1804 to *The Prospect or View of the Moral Word*, a monthly magazine in New York, edited by Elihu Palmer.”

THE story of Cain and Abel is told in *Genesis 4*. Cain was the elder brother, and Abel the younger, and Cain killed Abel. The Egyptian story of Typhon and Osiris, and the Jewish story in *Genesis* of Cain and Abel, have the appearance of being the same story differently told, and that it came originally from Egypt.

In the Egyptian story, Typhon and Osiris are brothers; Typhon is the elder, and Osiris the younger, and Typhon kills Osiris. The story is an allegory on Darkness and Light: Typhon, the elder brother, is Darkness, because Darkness was supposed to be more ancient than Light; Osiris is the Good Light who rules during the summer months, and brings forth the fruits of the earth, and is the favorite, as Abel is said to have been; for which Typhon hates him; and when the winter comes, and cold and Darkness overspread the earth, Typhon is represented as having killed Osiris out of malice, as Cain is said to have killed Abel.

The two stories are alike in their circumstances and their event, and are probably but the same story. What corroborates this opinion is that, the fifth chapter of *Genesis* historically contradicts the reality of the story of Cain and Abel in the fourth chapter; for though the name of Seth, a son of Adam, is mentioned in the fourth chapter, he is spoken of in the fifth chapter as if he was the firstborn of Adam. The chapter begins thus:

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God created he him; Male and female created he them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years and begat a son, in his own likeness and after his image, and called his name Seth.

The rest of the chapter goes on with the genealogy.

* Go to other chapters *via*

Anybody reading this chapter cannot suppose there were any sons born before Seth. The chapter begins with what is called the creation of Adam, and calls itself the book of the generation of Adam, yet no mention is made of such persons as Cain and Abel. One thing however is evident on the face of these two chapters, which is, that the same person is not the writer of both; the most blundering historian could not have committed himself in such a manner.

Though I [Paine] look on every thing in the first ten chapters of Genesis to be fiction, yet fiction historically told should be consistent; whereas these two chapters are not. The Cain and Abel of Genesis appear to be no other than the ancient Egyptian story of Typhon and Osiris, the Darkness and the Light, which answered very well as an allegory without being believed as a fact.

And my second quotation, from ~1900 (approximately 100 years after Paine wrote the above), is from the book entitled *The Historical Jesus and Mythical Christ* written by Gerald Massey:⁵

The Hebrew devil, or Satan, means the opponent or adversary, and the first great natural adversary recognized by primitive man was Darkness – simply darkness, the constant and eternal enemy of the light. That is, the power of darkness was literal before it became metaphorical, moral, or spiritual... [D]arkness itself was the earliest devil or adversary, the obstructor and deluder of man, the eternal enemy of the Sun. We speak of the “jaws of darkness”, and darkness was the vast, huge, swallower of the light, night after night. We know this was identified as the primary power, because the primitive or early man reckoned time by nights, and the years by Eclipses. This mode of reckoning was first and universal. So many darks preceded so many days.

The dark power is primary in all the oldest traditions and cults of the human race. Hence sacrifice was first offered to the powers of darkness. The forewords of universal mythology are “there was darkness”. All was dark at first within the mind; and “the all” was the darkness that created dread without. The influence of night, the eclipse, and the black thunder-cloud being first felt, the primitive man visibly emerges from the shadow of darkness...

The darkness then, in natural phenomena, was the original devil that put out the light by swallowing it incessantly, as the subtle enemy, the obstructor, deluder, and general adversary of man. The first form of the Devil was female, called the Dragon of Darkness, who was Tiamat in Akkad [Mesopotamia] and Typhon in Egypt. Typhon gave birth to Sut [or Seth], who became the Egyptian devil – our Satan – and who was represented by the Black jackal, the voice of Darkness; and Sut, the black one,

⁵ Massey was an amazing fellow! You can find information about him and a copy of the quoted book at http://www.gerald-massey.org.uk/massey/dpr_01_historical_jesus.htm.

gives us the name of Soot, the black thing. Angro-Mainyus, the Persian devil, was the black one of the two powers of Light and Darkness.

Primitive man, however, did not imagine or personify a devil behind visible phenomena that caused the darkness. Darkness, itself, was the devil, and even as late as the Parsee Bundahish (which means the aboriginal creation) external darkness is the devil.

The seven devils or seven heads of the old Dragon, in the Akkadian myths of creation, are born in the mountains of sunset, which shows the same natural genesis in physical phenomena. They had their birthplace where the sun went down. At the same place, in the West, the Egyptians stationed the Great Crocodile that swallowed down the lights, sun, moon, and stars, as they set each night, in its wide-open jaws of darkness. Hence the crocodile was an ideograph of the swallowing darkness – and of earth, or the waters below, called the Abyss; and the tail of the crocodile remained in the Egyptian hieroglyphics as the sign of Kam – that is, of blackness or darkness. The crocodile was the typical Dragon of the waters below, the old Typhon, as the serpent was of the waters, or overwhelming darkness, above. Hor-Apollo tells us the Egyptians represent the mouth by a serpent, because the serpent is all mouth. This was another figure of the swallower, as the Akhekh and the Apap serpent. Akhekh signifies darkness, and Apap means that which rises up vast and gigantic – in short, the monster – the typical Apap being based on the great African rock-snake.

Here, then, is the reason why the mythical dragon and the old serpent are identical or interchangeable in mythology, each being a representative of the devil of darkness and of Satan, that old serpent, who imaged the evil which was first perceived in physical phenomena. Out of the darkness leapt the lightning-bolt, and in the deep waters lurked another subtle foe of life, and thus the jaws, the fang, and the sting of death were assigned to the devil of darkness, who gradually assumed the character of man's mortal enemy that brought death into the world...

The earliest mode of representing the eternal alternation of external phenomena called night and day, or darkness and light, the good and bad, is to be found in the universal myth of the Two Brothers, who are born twins – very imperfect versions of which may be found [in the Bible] in the legends of Cain and Abel, and of Esau and Jacob. In this myth, the Dark and Day are born twins of the Great Mother, and these brothers are portrayed as always being at enmity with each other, and in conflict before their birth, as are the darkness and the light when struggling at dawn! They fight one another in the effort of each to get born first. This becomes the well-known struggle of the birthright, which is universal in mythology.

Far more perfect versions of the same mythos are extant among the blacks of Australia, the Red Indians of America, the Bushmen and Hottentots of Africa – more perfect, because simpler, nearer to nature, and less moralized. It is the myth of Sut-Horus in Egypt. Sut-Horus is the dual manifestor of dark and light, who is depicted with the double head of the black vulture of night and the golden hawk of light, upon

one body. The dark one was born first, because darkness was first cognized; but they both continued to struggle for supremacy after birth, as they had done before it, because they dramatized the ceaseless and endless alternation of night and day, of dark and light, seen in the heavens at eve and dawn, in the orb of the moon, and the lengthening of darkness, or of light, in autumn and in spring! Here again the dark power is the devil, the bad dev, and the light is the good power, the bright dev.

Next, Mind becomes an element in the manifestation of phenomena; and in the American myths, the born twins are called the bad mind and the good mind. In this phase the twin-brothers are not only mental, they are also moralized on their way to becoming the dual divinity, or modern God and Devil. In the Avesta, and other Persian Scriptures, for example, the twin-brothers can be traced from the Natural Genesis in phenomena, as light and darkness, to their becoming personified as divinity and devil, in Ahura-Mazda, the God of mental light, and Angro-Mainyus, the devil of mental darkness. Here the older bogey of the night has been found out! Men had dipped into the dark, and suffered from the shadow of eclipse so long, and passed through them so often and so safely, that their essential unreality was discovered at last. Thus Angro-Mainyus, the black mind, is only accredited with the creation of all that is untrue, unreal, and utterly delusive in nature. The light had now become the enduring reality, and darkness was only its deluding shadow. They now recognized that the dark one in the physical, mental, or moral domain, was only negative and negational; the bright one, the god of light, the good mind, was the Supreme Being, the reality; therefore, the author of all that was finally real and eternally true! These are the two causes of the universe, it is said; they were united from the Beginning, and, therefore, are called the Twins, and the Persian 'Revelation' contains the Gnosis [knowledge] and explanation of the doctrine concerning these twin spirits.

Such was the natural origin of that doctrine of duality, which is discussed now-a-days as a metaphysical mystery, and as if it were a reality from the root of it, made known to the world by direct revelation! The origin of Good and Evil in the nature of man considered as a being of flesh and spirit, as the personal embodiment of two opposite principles, assumed to have a spontaneous or automatic tendency towards good on the part of the one, which is supposed to originate in the spirit, and the other to originate in the flesh, as a natural antagonist, is traceable to this most primitive interpretation of the duality called good and evil in external phenomena, which was continued in the mental and moral, and lastly in the psycho-theistic phase of thought. In its latest stage the doctrine is destructive of individual responsibility in man and of personal unity in deity, or the operating Intelligence. There was no revelation, no new point of departure in phenomena, nothing added to nature or human knowledge in these later views of mythology into metaphysic, philosophy, or theology, in which the supposed revelation of newer truth was largely founded on a falsification of the old.

We are not only contemporaries of savage men in many of our current customs and benighting beliefs, we are also the victims of his leavings – various of our superstitions being the primitive fetishism that still survives in the last stage of perversion.

But now for a development of the Devil!

In Egypt the old Devil of darkness, as Sut-Typhon or Sevekh, the Crocodile-headed divinity, acquired a soul in the stars and a place in heaven, as Plutarch says. To him was given the Crocodile or Dragon Constellation in the planisphere, whose casting out of heaven is described in the Book of Revelation, and in the Persian Bahman Yasht, where Sut, or Sevekh the Dragon, that old serpent, is identified as Satan, the eternal adversary of souls, just as it is in the Egyptian Ritual of the Dead. Thus, the devil that first rose up in revolt, as the natural darkness, called the Dragon of the deep, the rebel against the light-god, was gradually transformed into a supposed starry or spiritual being, the vice-dieu of the dark, who, in the Christian scheme, is still considered to be the supreme power of the two, or if their dominions be equally divided, he is supreme below and the light-god above – just as it had been from the beginning. And, finally, our theology has made the primal shadow of physical phenomena substantial in the mental sphere, and from the external darkness of that beginning extracted and internalized the modern devil in the end!

I [Massey] have now given you a sample of what I meant by our being in the shadow of ideas whose original signification we have not understood.

Sorry to quote so much, Dear, but I wanted to give you a fairly large sample of the writing of this amazing fellow Massey – not only to whet your appetite to read more (rest assured, I'll be referencing him again!) but also to prepare you for some of the Egyptian and Persian gods that I'll be mentioning in later chapters. Yet, Dear, maybe you'd like to pause for a moment to consider an obvious question: Do you mean to tell me that, for more than a century, leaders of the Mormon Church treated blacks as "inferiors", cursed with "the mark of Cain", because of primitive fear of the night?! And the obvious answer to that obvious question is "Yes, Dear: primitive fear, indoctrination, ignorance, and stupidity."

3b) Stories related to apparent motions of the Sun and the Zodiac

But anyway, I'll now move on – to more complicated astronomical motions, arising not just from the rotation of the Earth on its axis but from its annual rotation about the Sun and the apparent motions of the Sun and the Zodiac. There's an amazing number of such astro-tales in the Bible. To begin to illustrate, I'll quote from the article entitled "The Bible and the Zodiac" by Donna L. Preble, which in turn is stated to be from *Sunrise Magazine*, December 1974 [and to which I've added a few notes in brackets, such as these].⁶

⁶ Copied from <http://www.theosophy-nw.org/theosnw/world/christ/xt-preb2.htm>.

We know from the text of the Old Testament that it had more than one author and that its parts were written at different times and put together later. We read in [the book] *Isis Unveiled*, II, 470-1:

That, after the first copy of the Book of God has been edited and launched on the world by Hilkiyah, this copy disappears, and Ezra has to make a new Bible, which Judas Maccabeus finishes; that when it was copied from the horned letters into square letters, it was corrupted beyond recognition;... finally, we have a text... abounding with omissions, interpolations, and premeditated perversions.

Whoever Hilkiyah or Ezra were, however, we find that the Book of God is largely composed of stories of the zodiac, the sun, and the laws or principles of nature, as they were known to the hierophants and high priests of Egypt and Chaldea [of southern Mesopotamia and whence came the New Testament's Magi] who were well versed in the wisdom-religion taught to humanity in its first conscious state...

It can be said that there is no actual history in the Old Testament, that the people in its pages are not real personages, but that most are symbolic of some phase of the zodiac... Abraham, for instance, was not a Jew, though portrayed as the Father of the Jewish people. He was borrowed from the Chaldeans, inspired by the mighty prince Zeru-an, who was rich in gold and silver, as written in Chaldean annals, and who bears a resemblance to Saturn...

Although most of the Old Testament has been accepted by fundamentalists as the gospel truth, even they have confessed to doubts about Jonah and the whale. For a man to be swallowed live by a whale and survive to tell the tale was either a Biblical miracle or a bit of fisherman's braggadocio. There have been many attempts to interpret the allegory. However, since most of the main characters in the Bible personify the sun, we can safely assume that Jonah also represents some aspect of the solar orb. Those three uncomfortable days and nights were the winter solstice. Between the twenty-first and twenty-fourth of December the nights are the darkest and longest of the entire year and were known to ancient astrologers as the Whale's Belly. No doubt this has reference to the winter constellation Cetus, the Whale, which is just above the horizon at that time. The "whale" was, therefore, in a position to swallow Jonah when he, as the Sun, plunged into the sea. Thus it was that Jonah, the Sun, spent three days and nights in the Whale's Belly...

The art of presenting and preserving esoteric philosophical principles and ancient truths in figures of speech, and through myths and allegories, was not confined to the Old Testament. The New Testament abounds with them; its most important allegory, basic to its purpose and to the Christian religion itself, is the story of the birth of Jesus. In his book *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, Manly P. Hall writes:

Those who chronicled the life and acts of Jesus found it advisable to metamorphose him into a solar deity. The historical Jesus was forgotten; nearly all the salient incidents recorded in the four Gospels have their correlations in the movements, phases, or functions of the heavenly bodies.

In the third century, when the church fathers were consolidating the Christian church, they had no knowledge of the date of Jesus' birth. They chose the date celebrated by the pagans, the winter solstice, when the darkest days give way to the promise of brighter ones. This was incorporated in terms of the zodiac into the story of the birth of Jesus, or the Sun. In the late hour of the twenty-fourth of December, the zodiacal sign Virgo, or the Virgin, rests on the horizon or ascendant. At the hour of midnight, the Sun enters the sign of Capricorn – the manger and the goat. Thus is the Sun – Jesus – born of a virgin, by an immaculate conception. [Actually, Dear, there's more to the story than this, as I'll soon show you.]

Later, as the story goes, the constellation of Orion rises in the East. The three bright stars in his belt are the three Wise Men who came from the East to offer gifts to the newborn King. These gifts were the new-old ideas incorporated into the teachings of Jesus, such as "love ye one another", "overcome evil with good" [actually, Dear, as I'll be showing you, these ideas are also in the Old Testament], and "your Father and my Father are one" [which can be interpreted as a conjunction of Saturn (Yahweh) and Jupiter (Jesus)], which replaced the old Jewish idea of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth". [And actually, this isn't an "old Jewish idea"; it can be found, for example, in the much earlier Laws of Hammurabi, which I'll be showing you.] In the north are the two stars known to the Arabs as Martha and Mary. So are the starry heavens related to the great story. Later in the life of Jesus – the Sun – the twelve signs of the zodiac become his disciples.

Thus does the zodiac continue in the New Testament, and the four points in the tabernacle of Moses and the four cherubs of Ezekiel's wheels are repeated in the four Gospels or Evangels of the New Testament. In fact, the book of Ezekiel is pure astrology. Ezekiel, in his vision, sees in sublime form the Lords of the signs of the zodiac, the revolving planets, the constellations, and the angels of the four points – the elements; in Aquarius, the man [water carrier]; Taurus, the ox; Leo, the lion; and Scorpio, the eagle...

Actually, Dear, the astro-tales related to the (alleged) conception, birth, life, death, and resurrection of the clerics' Jesus are far more complex than is suggested by the above quotation – as I'll try to show you now, starting with his alleged, supernatural conception in the womb of the "virgin" Mary.

There are at least two sources of the alleged "miraculous conception" of the clerics' Jesus: one is another translation error and the other is an Egyptian star myth about their "Sun god" Horus, who seems to be the first of many "Sun gods" or "son gods" (such as the Indian clerics' Krishna, the Grecian

clerics' Hercules, and the Christian clerics' Jesus), all “born of virgins”. As is now accepted by essentially everyone who has looked into the matter, the clerics who translated the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek (some of whom then went on to write at least some of the New Testament) translated the Hebrew word for “young woman” as “virgin”. As a result, the King James Version of the Bible gives the “famous” prophecy at *Isaiah 7, 14*:

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.⁷

As I'll be showing you in later chapters, this “prophecy” is the basis of the claim (made repeatedly in the New Testament) that the clerics' Jesus fulfilled the prophecy and therefore was “the savior”.

But, Dear, even the New English Bible (which I've been quoting so frequently in this book, because it's easier to read) corrects the two major errors in the above quotation:

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: a young woman [not “a virgin”!] is with child [not “shall conceive”!] and she will bear a son, and will call him Immanuel.

And I trust you agree, Dear, that this corrected version (that a pregnant young girl would give birth to a child) is a significantly weaker “prophetic sign” than to predict that a virgin would have a baby!

As to whether this translation error (made by the authors of the New Testament, after ~100 CE) was “honest” or “deliberate”, I doubt that we'll ever know. I expect, however, that it was deliberate, because by the time the clerics got around to concocting their stories about Jesus, it was “all the rage” to have a group's principal god to be “born of a virgin”. To show you this, Dear, I'll again quote Gerald Massey, this time from his lecture entitled *Astrology & the Jesus Myth* (which is available at the same web page as referenced earlier in this chapter).

The only Jesus known to the Jews was Jehoshua Ben-Pandira [whom you'll find referenced on the internet, Dear, also as Jesus ben Pandera] who had learnt the arts of magic in Egypt, and who was put to death by them as a sorcerer. This was likewise the only Jesus known to Celsus, the writer of the *True Logos*, a work which the

⁷ The meaning of the Hebrew word Immanuel is from *im*, meaning ‘with’, + *anu*, meaning ‘us’, + *el*, meaning ‘God’, so Immanuel means “God with us”.

Christians managed to get rid of bodily, with so many other of the anti-Christian evidences... So much for the historic Jesus. And now for the mythical Christ. Here we can tread on firmer ground.

The mythical Messiah was always born of a Virgin Mother – a factor unknown in natural phenomena, and one that cannot be historical, one that can only be explained by means of the Mythos, and those conditions of primitive sociology which are mirrored in mythology and preserved in theology. The virgin mother has been represented in Egypt by the maiden Queen, Mut-em-ua, the future mother of Amenhept III, some 16 centuries BCE, who impersonated the eternal virgin that produced the eternal child.

Four consecutive scenes reproduced in my book are found portrayed upon the innermost walls of the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Luxor, which was built by Amenhept III, a Pharaoh of the 17th dynasty. [Dear: you can see these “four consecutive scenes” on the web page by Acharya S, referenced below.] The first scene on the left hand shows the God Taht, the Lunar Mercury, the Annunciator of the Gods, in the act of hailing the Virgin Queen, and announcing to her that she is to give birth to the coming Son. In the next scene the God Kneph (in conjunction with Hathor) gives the new life. This is the Holy Ghost or Spirit that causes the Immaculate Conception, Kneph being the spirit by name in Egyptian. The natural effects are made apparent in the virgin’s swelling form.

Next the mother is seated on the mid-wife’s stool, and the newborn child is supported in the hands of one of the nurses. The fourth scene is that of the Adoration. Here the child is enthroned, receiving homage from the Gods and gifts from men. Behind the deity Kneph, on the right, three spirits – the Three Magi, or Kings of the Legend, are kneeling and offering presents with their right hand, and life with their left. The child thus announced, incarnated, born, and worshipped, was the Pharaonic representative of the Aten Sun in Egypt, the God Adon of Syria, and Hebrew Adonai; the child-Christ of the Aten Cult; the miraculous conception of the ever-virgin mother, personated by Mut-em-ua, as mother of the “only one”, and representative of the divine mother of the youthful Sun-God. These scenes, which were mythical in Egypt, have been copied or reproduced as historical in the Canonical Gospels [of the Bible], where they stand like four corner-stones to the Historic Structure, and prove that the foundations are mythical.

For two birth days are assigned to Jesus by the Christian Fathers, one at the Winter Solstice, the other at the Vernal Equinox. These, which cannot both be historical, are based on the two birthdays of the double Horus in Egypt. Plutarch tells us that Isis was delivered of Horus, the child, about the time of the winter Solstice, and that the festival of the second or adult Horus followed the Vernal Equinox. Hence, the Solstice and spring Equinox were both assigned to the one birth of Jesus by the Christolators; and again, that which is impossible as human history is the natural fact in relation to the two Horuses, the dual form of the Solar God in Egypt.

Now, Dear, here is where I especially urge you to constrain yourself. If you start digging (e.g., on the internet) to try to understand what Massey described (in the above quotation), you can quickly become totally overwhelmed. I don't think that I'm exaggerating to say that, if you started to dig now, you could continue to dig, 12 hours per day, 7 days per week, for the next 50 years – and still not get through it all! In most of the rest of this chapter, therefore, I want to show you only the briefest outline of “the Jesus star myth”. In later chapters (in later “excursions”) I'll show you more, but then, too, I'll urge you to constrain yourself: constrain your urge to learn more details, try to just “go with the flow”, there are innumerable more important topics on which to expend your precious time.

3c) Stories dealing with more complicated motions (e.g., arising from comets, meteor showers, the Moon, and the precession of the equinoxes)

Before I dig a little further into “the Jesus star myth”, I want to insert a simpler story of the Type 3c variety (i.e., a star myth that's derived in part from the precession of the equinoxes) – for reasons that I trust will become apparent. You're familiar with this story as given in the Old Testament about the boy David slaying the giant Goliath. What you may find especially interesting about this story, though, is that it appears to be very old: approximately twice as old as the Old Testament!⁸

Actually, Dear, this is a case (one of the few cases!) for which I'd suggest that you dig deeper, on your own. Specifically, there's a great article by the astronomer (not astrologer!) F. Graham Millar entitled “The Celestial David and Goliath”, an article that originally appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada*, Vol. 89, No. 4, Aug. 1995, pp.141-154.⁹ Below are some excerpts from his article – not only to illustrate how the astro-tale depends on precession of the equinoxes but also to whet your appetite to read Millar's original article. The abstract for the article is as follows (with a reference omitted).

⁸ Recently, Dear, I came across an amazing analysis of another one of these Type 3c stories; it deals with the “serpentine” motion of the Moon (as observed on Earth, against the background of the “fixed” stars), with “the serpent” occasionally “eating up” (eclipsing) the Sun. It suggests another reason why so many ancient myths include serpents – besides the ability of snakes to shed their skins (apparently suggesting to the ancients that snakes had eternal life) and besides the ability of some snakes to hypnotize their prey (apparently suggesting that the snakes were exceedingly wise and powerful). The analysis, however, is too complicated to include in this chapter; if your interested in examining it, go to <http://richarddawkins.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=67253>.

⁹ The article is available at <http://www.lexiline.com/lexiline/lexi21.htm>.

The Biblical story of David and Goliath is familiar to most people:

And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine (Goliath) in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. (I Samuel 17:49)

This story is echoed in many similar mythic tales around the world. We concentrate here on versions of the story which can be found in Irish folklore: Lugh killing Balor, Cet killing Concubar, or Finn killing the One-Eyed Wizard. Many myths, especially those of the Greeks, have been interpreted as legends of the stars... but not the story of David and Goliath. Although Irish folklorists have recognized the David and Goliath theme in Irish myths, no one up to now has suggested that it has an astronomical source.

As argued here, the characters in the story of David and Goliath can be recognized in the stars as some of the familiar constellations. In particular, David appears likely to be associated with the constellation of Boötes, his sling with nearby Corona Borealis, and Goliath with the constellation of Orion on the other side of the sky.

It is therefore suggested here for the first time in scientific literature that “David and Goliath” was an international myth of the stars, originating among the prehistoric speakers of Sanskrit.

In the text, although Millar proceeds as promised (to emphasize Irish myths similar to the David and Goliath story), yet even with the Irish in me (!), I found his mentioning other myths to be more interesting. Some details from Millar’s article follow (with his reference omitted).

The chart [not reproduced here]... summarizes some of the etymological information pertaining to the names of the gods in the David and Goliath myths, and provides evidence that their roots are to be found in Sanskrit, now a dead language but once the original language of the Indo-European languages. The gods and the stories about them must therefore be of deep antiquity, not inconsistent with the date of 3500 BCE established here for the origin of the myth (see the analysis of Ancient Star Positions subsequently [in the article]).

Renfrew... reviewed the origin and spread of the Indo-Europeans and their languages. As he showed, the Indo-Europeans migrated out of a homeland north and northeast of the Black Sea as mounted warriors in the hypothetical Kurgan Invasion of about 4000 BCE, and reached Greece about 3500 BCE. These dates are again not inconsistent with the present dating of the myth. As these people spread from India to Iceland, their speech evolved into distinct languages. The Celtic language area extended from around the Black Sea, through southwestern Europe, and north into Ireland and Scotland. It should therefore not be surprising to find that the names of the David and Goliath figures have Sanskrit roots.

The investigation of the David and Goliath story as a myth of the stars must begin with noting the effect of precession of the equinoxes. It is the slow conical swing of the axis of the Earth, acting as a huge spinning top. The result is that, in a period of 25,800 years, the pole of the heavens moves as a circle on the celestial sphere on a radius of 23° ... The locus of the pole among the stars is shown in the figure...



Precession caused the ancients to fear that the sky was falling. As may be seen in the figure... Vega was near the celestial pole of 11,000 BCE, and may have been regarded in ancient times as the supreme god, who supported the apex of the universe. Its name is from the Sanskrit, *weg*, meaning “the wakeful”... The Akkadians called it the Life of Heaven, and the Assyrians the Judge of Heaven... By 8000 BCE they must have noticed that it had “fallen” from its place, and it has continued to fall. The fall may be mentioned in the Bible (*Isaiah 14:12*). Today Vega is 51° from the pole.

The Celts were among those who feared the sky was falling... when they were asked by Alexander the Great what they feared most, [they] are reported to have said – with disarming candor – that they feared no one, unless it were that the sky might fall upon them...

The point I particularly wish to make is that the hands of Cernunnos are raised in the weight lifter’s pose. Mythologists have called it the orans position. As I would argue, the god is holding up the sky... Eliade (1964) has described how the Siberian

shamans believed that the high branches of the sacred birch reached to the sphere of the fixed stars, and would erect birch pillars to support the sky. Like the pillars, the antlers of Cernunnos may perhaps be interpreted as supporting the sky... The pole of the heavens was midway between the upraised arms of Hercules at 8000 BCE. Hence, the idea that Cernunnos supported the sky is likely to have originated broadly near that date. As suggested here, when precession continued, the persona of the Horned One moved into the constellation of Boötes. There he was known as Lugh...

Concubar has Sanskrit roots defining him as the original Cupid, a bow-hunter. We do not find Balor/Concubar on the Gundestrup Cauldron. For him we may look elsewhere for one or more of the motifs – a single eye, blindness, a weapon piercing the eye in the back of his head, the piercing of the head, or beheading... Orion is reputed to be blind (Allen 1963); no other constellation bears this attribute. The head of Orion is represented by only one star, Meissa (Allen 1963). It is a double in which the brighter star is pale white and of magnitude 3.5. To the naked eye this is a dim star, not visible through hazy cloud, so on occasion Orion is blind or lacks a head. Astrologically, then, Balor/Concubar can be identified with Orion.

Orion is today a sloping figure. A vertical struck through him is tangent to the locus of the pole at about 3000 BC; he was vertical then. This date broadly sets the time of origin of the myth of David and Goliath, perhaps as early as 3500 BCE...

Considering precession, around 3500 BC Boötes culminated in the inferior position on August 4th, Lughnasadh (Lugh's Day). Orion was then low in the southeast. He would remain in the sky until his heliacal setting about November 4th, Samhain (Summer's End).

In the interval between those dates he was exposed to the weapon of Lugh, whose long arm was extended toward him. Succumbing at Samhain, Orion went to the Otherworld. The Finn version is explicit: Finn lured the wizard over the cliff, that is, to the Otherworld...

Around 3000 BC, Orion was visible from August to October. Boötes, low in the north on August 4th, was in position to bombard him until his heliacal setting – but not without opposition from Orion, as implied by a Vedic hymn in praise of Indra for slaying the dragon Vrtra: Vrtra fought back. The same is implied in the story of Culhwch. Vrtra's weapon was perhaps an Orionid meteor...

I [Millar] would conclude, then, that the story of the type, David slaying Goliath, or Lugh killing Balor, was a myth of the stars. The Celts, and most other nations of Europe and eastward to Persia and northern India, speak Indo-European languages derived from Sanskrit, a language spoken by a people who about 4000 BCE burst westward from Central Asia in the Kurgan Invasion.

The great antiquity of the Celtic gods has been shown by the presence of their names in Sanskrit. Certain gods of the Celts, as depicted on the Gundestrup Cauldron, bear a convincing resemblance to constellations of the northern sky.

In particular, some figures – with their upraised forearms – look like the constellation Hercules, while Cernunnos or Lugh – with his folded legs – looks like Boötes. Lugh slew Balor by putting out his eye with a bolt from his sling, Corona Borealis. Balor is identified as Orion partly from his attribute of blindness, and partly from his name, Concubar, deciphered as Cupid, the bow-hunter.

As a result of precession, Orion today is a slanted figure. Around 3500 BCE he stood upright, so may then have been formulated as a constellation and named. At that time Boötes, low in the north on Lughnasadh, could bombard Orion with his bolt, a meteor forged by Hercules the Smith, and flung from the pouch which was Corona Borealis.

In his heliacal setting Orion fell into the Otherworld. The myth of David and Goliath is an international folktale, found in nations from Ireland to India, and its motifs are listed in Thompson's classification of folktales.

Worldwide Examples of Myths similar to the Biblical David and Goliath		
Culture	Myth similar to David and Goliath	Reference
Egyptian	Seth betrayed Horus to his death.	Mercantile (1988)
English	St. George slew the dragon.	Mercantile (1988)
German	Siggurd slew the dragon Fafnir.	Frazer (1911)
Greek	Ulysses blinded one-eyed Polyphemus with a firebrand.	Holme (1979)
Indian	Despite the dragon Vritra fighting back, Indra slew him with a thunderbolt made by Tvastr (Indian Vulcan).	Basham (1968)
Roman	A challenger engaged in mortal combat with the king of the grove where the grew with the golden bough.	Frazer (1911)
Norse	Vali killed the blind Hodur.	Mercantile (1988)
Welsh	Pwyll split Havgan's shield in combat for the kingship. Gwydyon killed Pryderi while their armies stood back. Culhwch caught giant Ysbaddaden's spear and threw it back: aimed at his eyeball, it came out of his neck. Peredur threw his sword at a black horseman, who disappeared.	Gantz (1985)
Latvian	(Added to Millar's list by EXPAK) - <u>Pastaris and the Giant</u> English translation by Andis Kaulins from Latvian Teikas, Riga. Perhaps the oldest and most complete of all these myths. Pastaris slays the Giant with a heavenly egg. Many constellations described.	

In sum, astronomy, archaeology, and mythology combine to underpin my main conclusion that stories of the type, David slaying Goliath or Lugh killing Balor, originated as a myth of the stars.

Now, Dear, I don't expect that you followed all of that (I didn't!) – but I hope you followed enough to feel, as I did (and still do): stunned by the details apparently behind such a “simple” star story! Yet, Dear, such details

behind the David and Goliath star myth are nothing compared with the details (and the craziness) behind the Jesus / “son-of-god” star myth!

One good way to get an overview of the Jesus star myth is from the web page at <http://www.truthbeknown.com/origins.htm> by “Acharya S” entitled *The Origins of Christianity and the Quest for the Historical Jesus Christ*; another way is from the same author’s book, referenced both near the start of this chapter and also on the above web page. The author appears to do a thorough job referencing sources of information (such as Massey, Volney, and other authors I’ve referenced and whose books and lectures are now available on the internet). Here, I’ll quote a substantial amount from Acharya S’s web page [and add a few notes in brackets].

The Jesus story incorporated elements from the tales of other deities... such as many of the following world saviors and “sons of God”, most or all of whom predate the Christian myth, and a number of whom were crucified or executed: Adad of Assyria, Adonis, Apollo, Heracles (“Hercules”) and Zeus of Greece, Alcides of Thebes, Attis of Phrygia, Baal of Phoenicia, Bali of Afghanistan, Beddru of Japan, Buddha of India, Crite of Chaldea, Deva Tat of Siam, Hesus of the Druids, Horus, Osiris, and Serapis of Egypt (whose long-haired, bearded appearance was adopted for the Christ character), Indra of Tibet/India, Jao of Nepal, Krishna of India, Mikado of the Sintoos, Mithras of Persia, Odin of the Scandinavians, Prometheus of Caucasus/Greece, Quetzalcoatl of Mexico, Salivahana of Bermuda, Tammuz of Syria (who was, in a typical mythmaking move, later turned into the disciple Thomas), Thor of the Gauls, Universal Monarch of the Sibyls, Wittoba of the Bilingonese, Xamolxis of Thrace, Zarathustra/ Zoroaster of Persia, Zoar of the Bonzes.

The Major Players

Buddha

Although most people think of Buddha as being one person who lived around 500 BCE, the character commonly portrayed as Buddha can also be demonstrated to be a compilation of godmen, legends, and sayings of various holy men both preceding and succeeding the period attributed to the Buddha.

The Buddha character has the following in common with the Christ figure:

- Buddha was born of the virgin Maya, who was considered the “Queen of Heaven”
- He was of royal descent
- He crushed a serpent’s head
- Sakyamuni Buddha had 12 disciples
- He performed miracles and wonders, healed the sick, fed 500 men from a “small basket of cakes”, and walked on water
- He abolished idolatry, was a “sower of the word”, and preached “the establishment of a kingdom of righteousness”

- He taught chastity, temperance, tolerance, compassion, love, and the equality of all
- He was transfigured on a mount
- Sakya Buddha was crucified in a sin-atonement, suffered for three days in hell, and was resurrected
- He ascended to Nirvana or “heaven”
- Buddha was considered the “Good Shepherd” the “Carpenter”, the “Infinite and Everlasting”
- He was called the “Savior of the World” and the “Light of the World”

Horus of Egypt

The stories of Jesus and Horus are very similar, with Horus even contributing the name of Jesus Christ. Horus and his once-and-future Father, Osiris, are frequently interchangeable in the mythos (“I and my Father are one”). The legends of Horus go back thousands of years, and he shares the following in common with Jesus:

- Horus was born of the virgin Isis-Meri on December 25th in a cave/manger, with his birth being announced by a star in the East and attended by three wise men
- He was a child teacher in the Temple and was baptized when he was 30 years old
- Horus was also baptized by “Anup the Baptizer”, who becomes “John the Baptist”
- He had 12 disciples
- He performed miracles and raised one man, El-Azar-us, from the dead [which became the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead]
- He walked on water
- Horus was transfigured on the Mount
- He was crucified, buried in a tomb and resurrected
- He was also the “Way, the Truth, the Light, the Messiah, God’s Anointed Son, the Son of Man, the Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God, the Word”, etc.
- He was “the fisher”, and was associated with the Lamb, Lion and Fish (“Ichthys”)
- Horus’s personal epithet was “Iusa”, the “ever-becoming son” of “Ptah”, the “Father”
- Horus was called “the KRST”, or “Anointed One”, long before the Christians duplicated the story.

In fact, in the catacombs at Rome are pictures of the baby Horus being held by the virgin mother Isis – the original “Madonna and Child” – and the Vatican itself is built upon the papacy of Mithras, who shares many qualities with Jesus and who existed as a deity long before the Jesus character was formalized. The Christian hierarchy is nearly identical to the Mithrasic version it replaced. Virtually all of the elements of the Catholic ritual, from miter to wafer to water to altar to doxology, are directly taken from earlier pagan mystery religions.

Mithras, Sun God of Persia

The story of Mithras precedes the Christian fable by at least 600 years. According to Wheless [a referenced author, Dear, whose book is available on the Internet], the cult

of Mithras was, shortly before the Christian era, “the most popular and widely spread ‘Pagan’ religion of the times.” Mithras has the following in common with the Christ character:

- Mithras was born on December 25th
- He was considered a great traveling teacher and master
- He had 12 companions or disciples
- He performed miracles
- He was buried in a tomb
- After three days he rose again
- His resurrection was celebrated every year
- Mithras was called “the Good Shepherd”
- He was considered “the Way, the Truth and the Light, the Redeemer, the Savior, the Messiah”
- He was identified with both the Lion and the Lamb
- His sacred day was Sunday, “the Lord’s Day”, hundreds of years before the appearance of Christ
- Mithras had his principal festival on what was later to become Easter, at which time he was resurrected.
- His religion had a Eucharist or “Lord’s Supper”.

Krishna of India

The similarities between the Christian character and the Indian messiah are many. Indeed, Massey finds over 100 similarities between the Hindu and Christian saviors, and Graves, who includes the various noncanonical gospels in his analysis, lists over 300 likenesses. It should be noted that a common earlier English spelling of Krishna was “Christna”, which reveals its relation to “Christ”. It should also be noted that, like the Jewish godman, many people have believed in a historical, carnalized Krishna.

- Krishna was born of the Virgin Devaki (“Divine One”)
- His father was a carpenter
- His birth was attended by angels, wise men and shepherds, and he was presented with gold, frankincense, and myrrh
- He was persecuted by a tyrant who ordered the slaughter of thousands of infants
- He was of royal descent
- He was baptized in the River Ganges
- He worked miracles and wonders
- He raised the dead and healed lepers, the deaf, and the blind
- Krishna used parables to teach the people about charity and love
- “He lived poor and he loved the poor”
- He was transfigured in front of his disciples
- In some traditions he died on a tree or was crucified between two thieves
- He rose from the dead and ascended to heaven
- Krishna is called the “Shepherd God” and “Lord of lords”, and was considered “the Redeemer, Firstborn, Sin Bearer, Liberator, Universal Word”

- ^a He is the second person of the Trinity, and proclaimed himself the “Resurrection” and the “way to the Father”
- He was considered the “Beginning, the Middle and the End” (“Alpha and Omega”), as well as being omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent
- His disciples bestowed upon him the title “Jezeus”, meaning “pure essence”
- Krishna is to return to do battle with the “Prince of Evil”, who will desolate the earth.

Prometheus of Greece

The Greek god Prometheus has been claimed to have come from Egypt, but his drama took place in the Caucasus mountains. Prometheus shares a number of striking similarities with the Christ character.

- Prometheus descended from heaven as God incarnate as man, to save mankind
- He was crucified, suffered, and rose from the dead
- He was called the Logos or Word.

Five centuries before the Christian era, esteemed Greek poet Aeschylus wrote *Prometheus Bound*, which, according to Taylor, was presented in the theater in Athens. Taylor claims that in the play Prometheus is crucified “on a fatal tree” and the sky goes dark:

The darkness which closed the scene on the suffering Prometheus, was easily exhibited on the stage, by putting out the lamps; but when the tragedy was to become history, and the fiction to be turned into fact, the lamp of day could not be so easily disposed of. Nor can it be denied that the miraculous darkness, which the Evangelists so solemnly declare to have attended the crucifixion of Christ, labors under precisely the same fatality of an absolute and total want of evidence.

Tradition holds that Prometheus was crucified on a rock, yet some sources have opined that legend also held he was crucified on a tree and that Christians muddled the story and/or mutilated the text, as they did with the works of so many ancient authors. In any case, the sun hiding in darkness parallels the Christian fable of the darkness descending when Jesus was crucified. This remarkable occurrence is not recorded in history but is only explainable within the Mythos and as part of a recurring play.

Now, Dear, if you’re wondering “What the devil is going on – why are so many stories so similar to the story about Jesus?”, then be assured that you’re not the first to ask such a question. As you can find on the webpage by Acharya S (quoted from and referenced above), as well as many other web pages, the “Christian father” Justin Martyr (c. 100–165 CE) responded to this question basically by saying, “the devil did it”, i.e.,

It having reached the Devil's ears that the prophets had foretold the coming of Christ, the Son of God, he set the heathen Poets to bring forward a great many who should be called the sons of Jove [the Roman's chief god]. The Devil laying his scheme in this, to get men to imagine that the true history of Christ was of the same characters the prodigious fables related of the sons of Jove.

But rather than saying “the devil did it”, rather more likely is the obvious explanation: all such stories are just “star myths”, derived from the ~10,000-year-old observation of 1) the Sun's behavior at the winter solstice and of 2) that, courtesy the Sun, vegetation is “born again” in the spring!

There is, however, a special feature of what's seen (or, actually, what previously was seen) in the stars at the time of the winter solstice, which belies the Christian's (and Mormon's) “Jesus myth”. In one of his lectures (which you can find on the internet), Massey describes the problem as follows.

The “Cave of Mithras” was the birthplace of the Sun in the Winter Solstice, when this occurred on the 25th of December in the sign of the Sea-Goat, with the Vernal Equinox in the sign of the Ram [i.e., during the Age of Aries]. Now the Akkadian name of the tenth month, that of the Sea-Goat, which answers roughly to our December, the tenth by name, is Abba Uddu, that is, the “Cave of Light”; the cave of re-birth for the Sun in the lowest depth at the Solstice, figured as the Cave of Light. This cave was continued as the birthplace of the Christ. You will find it in all the Gospels of the Infancy, and Justin Martyr says, “Christ was born in the Stable, and afterwards took refuge in the Cave.” He likewise vouches for the fact that Christ was born on the same day that the Sun was re-born in *Stabulo Augiæ*, or, in the Stable of Augias. Now the cleansing of this Stable was the sixth labor of Herakles [the Greek's Hercules], his first being in the sign of the Lion; and Justin was right; the Stable and Cave are both figured in the same Celestial Sign. But mark this! *The Cave was the birthplace of the Solar Messiah from the year 2410 to the year 255 BCE, at which latter date the Solstice passed out of the Sea-Goat into the sign of the Archer* [Italics added], and no Messiah, whether called Mithras, Adon, Tammuz, Horus or Christ, could have been born in the Cave of Abba Uddu or the Stable of Augias on the 25th of December after the year 255 BCE; therefore, Justin had nothing but the Mithrasic tradition of the by-gone birthday to prove the birth of the Historical Christ 255 years later!

That is, Dear, if you wish to pursue more astrology (than I ever want to know!), apparently you can find that the arrangement of the stars at the winter solstice (when Christ was allegedly born in a stable) no longer occurred, after 255 BCE, because of precession of the equinoxes.

You may also be wondering why “the need” for a “new” son of God, i.e., Jesus, when already so many had been identified. The reason seems to be that the astrologer-clerics felt the need for a “new” God-son, because in their view, it was the start of a “new age”, the Age of Pisces. Thus, just as the “birth” of the “son of God” Horus in Egypt and (maybe) the “son of God” Mithras in Mesopotamia appear to have occurred at the start of the Ages of Taurus and Aries, respectively, apparently the astrologer-clerics decided that a new “son of God” would be born at the start of the Age of Pisces.

To see that Horus (or at least the story about Horus!) seems to have been “born” at the start of the Age of Taurus, and even to see that his “birth” would be foretold by three wise men (just as for the clerics’ astrological Jesus), I’ll again quote Massey:

The birthplace of the Egyptian Messiah [Horus] at the Vernal Equinox was figured in Apt, or Apta, the corner; but Apta is also the name of the Crib and the Manger; hence the Child born in Apta, was said to be born in a manger; and this Apta as Crib or Manger is the hieroglyphic sign of the Solar birthplace. Hence the Egyptians exhibited the Babe in the Crib or Manger in the streets of Alexandria. The birthplace was indicated by the colure of the Equinox, as it passed from sign to sign.¹⁰ It was also pointed out by the Star in the East. When the birthplace was in the sign of the Bull [i.e., Taurus], Orion was the Star that rose in the East to tell where the young Sun-God was re-born. Hence it is called the “Star of Horus”. That was then the Star of the ‘Three Kings’ who greeted the Babe; for the “Three Kings” is still a name of the three stars in Orion’s Belt. Here we learn that the legend of the “Three Kings” is at least 6,000 years old.”

Not so much detail has been found about the alleged “birth” of the Mesopotamian “son of God”, Mithras. As you can find on the internet, Dear, it’s not clear when the story about the Mithras was first concocted, but because the most common figure associated with Mithras is his killing of a bull (as you can find on the internet), I expect that the god Mithras was concocted by the astrologers (but I don’t know when!) to signify the end of the Age of Taurus (the bull), in about 2200 BCE. Perhaps the resulting religion (Mithraism, which was Christianity’s main competitor in the Roman empire) was an evolution of the story of Gilgamesh (killing the bull) added to the religious ideas of Zoroaster (which I’ll get to in later chapters).

¹⁰ According to the dictionary accompanying this word processor (Word), ‘colure’ is “either of two great circles on the celestial sphere that intersect at the celestial poles, one of which connects the equinoctial points on the ecliptic while the other connects the solistial points.”

Meanwhile, though, by the time of the alleged birth of Jesus the Christ, the sign of the Zodiac that appeared just before dawn at that spring equinox was no longer Aries the ram (or lamb), but Pisces the fish (because of precession of the equinoxes). Thus, according to the astrological clerics' view of the universe, the "lamb of God" was dying "on the cross" (i.e., on the intersection of the plane of the ecliptic and the plane of the equinoxes), and therefore, in the astrologer-clerics' view, a new "son of God" would be born, to replace Mithras and, consistent with his astrological sign (Pisces), Jesus was to be a "fisher of men".

As for how the clerics chose the exact date of the birth of their new alleged "son of God" (viz., Jesus), you can find a lot of (useless!) comments about this on the internet. If you want to read some of them, then search on the internet using "star of Bethlehem" – but once again, I urge you to constrain yourself! Four possible identifications of the "star of Bethlehem" are the following, details of which you can find on the internet.

- 1) A nova (a visible explosion of a known star) in the constellation Aquila the Eagle recorded by Chinese astronomers in 5 BCE – but I doubt this possibility, because astrologers don't usually deal with events that they can't predict!
- 2) The conjunction of Jupiter and Venus that occurred on 17 June 0002 BCE that occurred in the constellation Leo the lion (possibly "my father's house") near the star Regulus (associated with "royalty"), and which was the nearest approach of Jupiter and Venus that has occurred in the prior 4,000 years – but if this were the "Star of Bethlehem", then the commonly accepted date of the death of King Herod (mentioned in the Bible) must be wrong by several years.
- 3) The night (17 April 0006 BCE) when the moon eclipsed Jupiter when it was in the Zodiac House Aires (which also may be "my father's house", because based on old coins found, Aires seems to have been the zodiac sign adopted by Judea, just as Taurus was the zodiac sign adopted by the Egyptians, thousands of years earlier).
- 4) The three conjunctions (called a "triple conjunction") of Jupiter (Jesus) and Saturn (Yahweh) that occurred on May 20, October 17, and November 16 of the year 0006 BCE.

Recall from the previous chapter the many indications that Jesus was represented as the planet Jupiter (and Yahweh as Saturn). For example (quoting the previous chapter),

* Go to other chapters *via*

... when Jesus was 12 years old (the time for Jupiter = Jesus to complete one revolution about the sun!), and after he had been lost for three days, his parents found him in the temple. Then, he reportedly said (*Luke 2, 49*): “**What made you search?... Did you not know that I was bound to be in my Father’s house?**” Luke further adds: “**But they [the parents of Jesus] did not understand what he meant.**” What the astrological clerics meant, of course, was that Jesus was Jupiter, which obviously would be back in the same house of the Zodiac after its 12-year revolution around the Sun.

In the previous chapter, I also tried to show you a little about “Great Junctions”, i.e., conjunctions of Jupiter (Jesus) and Saturn (Yahweh) and about “apparent retrograde motions” of the planets, as seen on Earth; i.e., because of the different angular speeds of the planets, sometimes the other planets appear (when viewed from Earth) to be moving “backwards” (just as another car may appear to be moving backwards, even when it’s going at, say, 40 mph, if the car you’re riding in passes it at 60 mph). I’ll add, that a single Great Conjunction can similarly (because of apparent retrograde motion) appear from Earth as three separate conjunctions (called a “triple conjunction”).

You can see details of the possibility that the “Star of Bethlehem” was a triple conjunction (of Jupiter and Saturn) in the article by Terry Alden at <http://www.andersoninstitute.com/the-mill-of-time.html>. In the previous chapter, I frequently referred especially to the first part of this article; if you’re interested, now see, particularly, the second part, entitled: “The Mill of Time, Part 2, The Monomyth Retold: Beginning And End Of The Age Of Christ”. As you can find by reading this article, Alden suggests that not only was this “triple conjunction” the Star of Bethlehem, but it also represented the start of the Age of Pisces – although the astrologer-clerics might have decided that it started 60 years later (or maybe even half of 60 years later, when their Jesus allegedly died on the cross), but the next conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn occurred during daylight hours, and therefore wasn’t visible, unless the Sun went out – as the clerics alleged!

And incidentally, Dear, if you want to waste still more of your time on this nonsense (!), you can find many articles on the web that interpret all the junk in the New Testament (especially in the *Gospel according to Luke*) about the date when Jesus was allegedly born that points to a “birth date” in the early autumn, which supports the “triple conjunction” idea advanced by Alden. As well, you can also find on the internet the way that, hundreds of years later, the “dumbed-down” (astrologically less knowledgeable) clerics

* Go to other chapters *via*

decided that Jesus was born on December 25 – totally as a political move, to placate the “pagans” who continued to celebrate the annual rise of the Sun during the festival of Saturnalia!

But rather than go through anymore of this stuff, let me begin to try to summarize. A simple summary is the following (from W.F. Dean, *The Mania of Religion*, 1995, p. 106):

The use of the astrological zodiac in the Bible has been well established, and without much question, the twelve zodiacal gods have come down to us as the twelve apostles. The shepherd’s crook used by the Egyptians’ Osiris was used for the bishops’ and popes’ crozier. They transformed his *ankh*, the phallic sign of life, into the Christian cross, and they copied the high-pointed headdress of Osiris as their prototype for Saint Peter’s papal tiara. There could only be four gospels written. The reason there are only four biblical gospels was because Saint Jerome believed in the four cardinal gods of the zodiac. But who was father of the four “cardinal” gods of the zodiac? Yes, indeed! It was the divine Egyptian son Horus, whose birthday was on the 25th of December long before there was a biblical Jesus.

As for a more insightful summary, I know that I can’t write anything better than what was already written by Massey, ~100 years ago:

Nothing is more certain, according to honest evidence, than that the Christian scheme of redemption is founded on a fable misinterpreted; that the prophecy of fulfillment was solely astronomical, and the Coming One as the Christ who came in the end of an age, or of the world, was but a metaphorical figure, a type of time, from the first, which never could take form in historic personality, any more than Time in Person could come out of a clock-case when the hour strikes; that no Jesus could become a Nazarene by being born at, or taken to, Nazareth; and that the history in our Gospels is from beginning to end the identifiable story of the Sun-God and the Gnostic Christ who never could be made flesh. When we did not know the one, it was possible to believe the other; but when once we truly know, then the false belief is no longer possible...

I [Massey] could keep on all day, and all night, or give a dozen lectures, without exhausting my evidence that the Canonical Gospels [of the New Testament] are only a later literalized réchauffé of the Egyptian writings; the representations in the Mysteries, and the oral teachings of the Gnostics which passed out of Egypt into Greece and Rome – for there is plenty more proof where this comes from. I can but offer a specimen brick of that which is elsewhere a building set four-square and sound against every blast that blows.

The Christian dispensation is believed to have been ushered in by the birth of a child, and the portrait of that child in the Roman Catacombs as the child of Mary is the youthful Sun-God in the Mummy Image of the child-king, the Egyptian Karast, or

Christ. The alleged facts of our Lord's life, as Jesus the Christ, were equally the alleged facts of our Lord's life as the Horus of Egypt, whose very name signifies the Lord. The Christian legends were first related of Horus the Messiah, the Solar Hero, the greatest hero that ever lived in the mind of man – not in the flesh – the only hero to whom the miracles were natural, because he was not human.

From beginning to end the history is not human but divine, and the divine is the mythical. From the descent of the Holy Ghost to overshadow Mary, to the ascension of the risen Christ at the end of forty days, according to the drama of the pre-Christian Mysteries, the subject-matter, the characters, occurrences, events, acts, and sayings bear the impress of the mythical mould instead of the stamp of human history. Right through, the ideas which shape the history were pre-extant, and are identifiably pre-Christian; and so we see the strange sight today in Europe of 100,000,000 of Pagans masquerading as Christians.

Whether you believe it or not does not matter, the fatal fact remains that every trait and feature which go to make up the Christ as Divinity, and every event or circumstance taken to establish the human personality were pre-extant, and pre-applied to the Egyptian and Gnostic Christ, who never could become flesh. The Jesus Christ with female paps, who is the Alpha and Omega of Revelation, was the IU of Egypt, and the Iao of the Chaldeans. Jesus as the Lamb of God, and Ichthys the Fish, was Egyptian. Jesus as the Coming One; Jesus born of the Virgin Mother, who was overshadowed by the Holy Ghost; Jesus born of two mothers, both of whose names are Mary; Jesus born in the manger – at Christmas, and again at Easter; Jesus saluted by the three kings, or Magi; Jesus of the transfiguration on the Mount; Jesus whose symbol in the Catacombs is the eight-rayed Star – the Star of the East; Jesus as the eternal Child; Jesus as God the Father, re-born as his own Son; Jesus as the Child of twelve years; Jesus as the Anointed One of thirty years; Jesus in his Baptism; Jesus walking on the waters, or working his Miracles; Jesus as the Caster-out of demons; Jesus as a Substitute, who suffered in a vicarious atonement for sinful men; Jesus whose followers are the two brethren, the four fishers, the seven fishers, the twelve apostles, the seventy (or seventy-two in some texts) whose names were written in Heaven; Jesus who was administered to by seven women; Jesus in his bloody sweat; Jesus betrayed by Judas; Jesus as conqueror of the grave; Jesus the Resurrection and the Life; Jesus before Herod; in the Hades, and in his re-appearance to the women, and to the seven fishers; Jesus who was crucified both on the 14th and 15th of the month Nisan; Jesus who was also crucified in Egypt (as it is written in Revelation); Jesus as judge of the dead, with the sheep on the right hand, and the goats on the left, is Egyptian from first to last, in every phase, from the beginning to the end...

“Who cares?!” exclaims a certain grandchild.

Well, Dear, I think you should. Ever since you were a baby, you've been taught that Jesus died on the cross to absolve you of your “original sin”. (As I'll show you later, Rigdon copied this same stupidity from Paul's nonsense,

given in the New Testament at *Romans* and *1 Corinthians*, into his Book of Mormon, as *Alma 42*). But, Dear, as near as I can guarantee anything, I guarantee you that “the lamb of god” didn’t die on the cross (for any reason!), at least not down here on Earth. Maybe it’s correct that, because of his teachings that Yahweh/Jehovah was the “bad god” who made mass (e.g., flesh) and not the “good god” who made light (in one’s “soul”), Jesus ben Pandera may have been stoned to death (and then, as was the custom, his body hung up for display for a day or two), but meanwhile, “the lamb of God” who “died on a cross” wasn’t Jesus but the Zodiac sign Aries (the ram or the sheep or the lamb)!

That is, Dear, this silliness never happened on Earth. It’s just another “story written in the stars”, when, ~2,000 years ago, Aries the lamb “died on the cross”, with the cross being two lines either drawn north-south and east-west on the first night of spring or drawn (more like an X) showing the intersection of the solar plane with the Earth’s equatorial plane. As a result, during the first 800 years of Christianity, it was never a man but always a lamb shown “dying” on the cross. After 800 years, though, the Christian priests had so horribly damaged the people’s education (e.g., in astronomy) that most people no longer understood the astronomical (or astrological) meaning of the lamb dying on the cross. As a result, the Bishop of Mende in France wrote (here copied from M.M. Mangasarian’s 1909 book entitled *The Truth About Jesus*):

Because the darkness has disappeared [although, actually, the clerics’ Dark Ages enshrouded the entire continent of Europe!] and because also Christ is a real man [rather than the myth that earlier people recognized him to be!], Pope Adrian commands us to paint him under the form of a man. The lamb of God must not any longer be painted on a cross – but after a human form has been placed on the cross, there is no objection to have a lamb also represented with it, either at the foot of the cross or on the opposite side.

As a result, “modern” young girls wear necklaces with crosses, churches have innumerable representations of Christ’s “crucifixion” (i.e., fixed to the cross), and for thousands of years Christian clerics of all persuasion (including Mormon clerics) have collected enormous sums of money from “true believers” (see what Acharya S meant by the subtitle of her book *The Greatest Story Ever Sold!*) all because the people don’t know that all of this symbolism has nothing to do with a man being crucified and everything to do with the precession of the equinoxes from Aries the lamb to Pisces (or Ichthus) the fish.

Nonetheless, Dear, I'll end this chapter by congratulating the ancient astronomers for their dedication to collecting so much data, for their astoundingly conscientious work interpreting the data, and for their ingenuity in formulating a sweepingly general hypothesis to "explain" their data. Terry Alden summarized their model this way:

In the holistic mode of ancient thought, however, both perspectives are valid simultaneously. The ancient dictum [from Ancient Egypt] "as above, so below", is precisely an expression of this unity. The motions of the stars and planets were thought to express the same energies and natural laws as those which governed society and the internal workings of the human body. The basic ideas of astrology were born of this union of above and below. The night-time sky was like a blackboard on which appeared messages from the Deity written in mysterious moving lights. If man could understand the signals of the gods and even predict some of their features, he might partake of divinity himself and control his own destiny.

That their model for the planets and stars has subsequently found to be totally "screwy" (as screwy as all current astrology), shouldn't distract from such amazing accomplishments! In contrast, that modern humans should still cling to such astrological nonsense (including all "astrological religions" such as Christianity and Mormonism) is disgraceful. And actually, Dear, it's far worse than that – and mired much deeper in the mud and guck of astrology and history. But my plan is to delay showing you more until later chapters and later "excursions". For now, Dear, what I hope you'll conclude is something close to: "It's all SOOOOO stupid!"

Yet, Dear, considerable credit should be given to our ancient ancestors – and you should take care about something related. Credit is due our ancient ancestors, because they sought answers to questions that confounded them: What the devil are all those lights in the sky? What do their movements signify? Why do some of the lights move differently from the others? Since obviously the Sun is so important to us, what if anything might those stars tell us about the Sun? What other information is available in the motion of the stars? Can they be used to predict floods, weather events, wars, people's lives? And Dear, notice that because the stars can be used basically to "tell time", they did "contain" some information valuable for people's survival!

But meanwhile, Dear, take care. The human brain seem to have been "hard-wired" to "detect patterns" – even when no patterns are present! That such hard-wiring had survival value is obvious: it was important to be able to

detect a faint pattern of a leopard in a tree or an alligator in the reed; “false positive” are usually safer than “false negatives”. But, Dear, be careful not to accept all patterns that you think you see; test your hypotheses experimentally! If you do, you’ll find that all astrology is crazy. And yet, people still “buy into it” – either directly, reading their daily horoscope, or indirectly, “believing” all the stuff in their “holy books”, concocted by astrologers! Through indoctrination, through ignorance, through stupidity, through whatever, they bought a bill of goods: “The Greatest Story Ever Sold.” Please, Dear, don’t buy any such merchandise without testing it – and even after testing it, make sure that you’re in good health, which is promoted by your getting more exercise!