

Job Replies To Bildad

Chapter Twenty-Job

Job 26:1-4

“Then Job answered and said: “How you have helped him who has no power! How you have saved the arm that has no strength! How you have counseled him who has no wisdom, and plentifully declared sound knowledge! With whose help have you uttered words, and whose breath has come out from you?”

Job Was Cynical

- This begins the final and long speech given by Job that starts with his cynical remarks to Bildad and ends in Job 31 with his final defense.
- “**You**” is uttered five times in these four verses and it is directed towards Bildad and was intended to call him out.
- One can almost feel the frustration of Job with Bildad as he proclaims over and over again how heartless and mindless are the words that Bildad utters without thinking.
- Bildad has struck a most sensitive nerve... Job could not restrain himself. He leveled a sarcastic reply directly at the speaker... He had nothing but contempt for Bildad’s wisdom.” – Smick, Elmer

- Job was powerless and yet Bildad had not **helped** Job nor had he **strengthened** Job.
- Job's friends had accused Job of lacking wisdom but Bildad offered nothing of **wisdom** or **sound knowledge** that would help him.
- Job wanted to know who **helped** Bildad come up with the **words** he was speaking and by **whose breath** or spirit that he had been helped.
- If Bildad had been speaking the words of God to Job then Job might have been encouraged since he had wanted all along to speak with God.
- The truth was Bildad spoke for Bildad and therefore his words did nothing for Job.

Job 26:5-13

“The dead tremble under the waters and their inhabitants. Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering. He stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing. He binds up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not split open under them.”

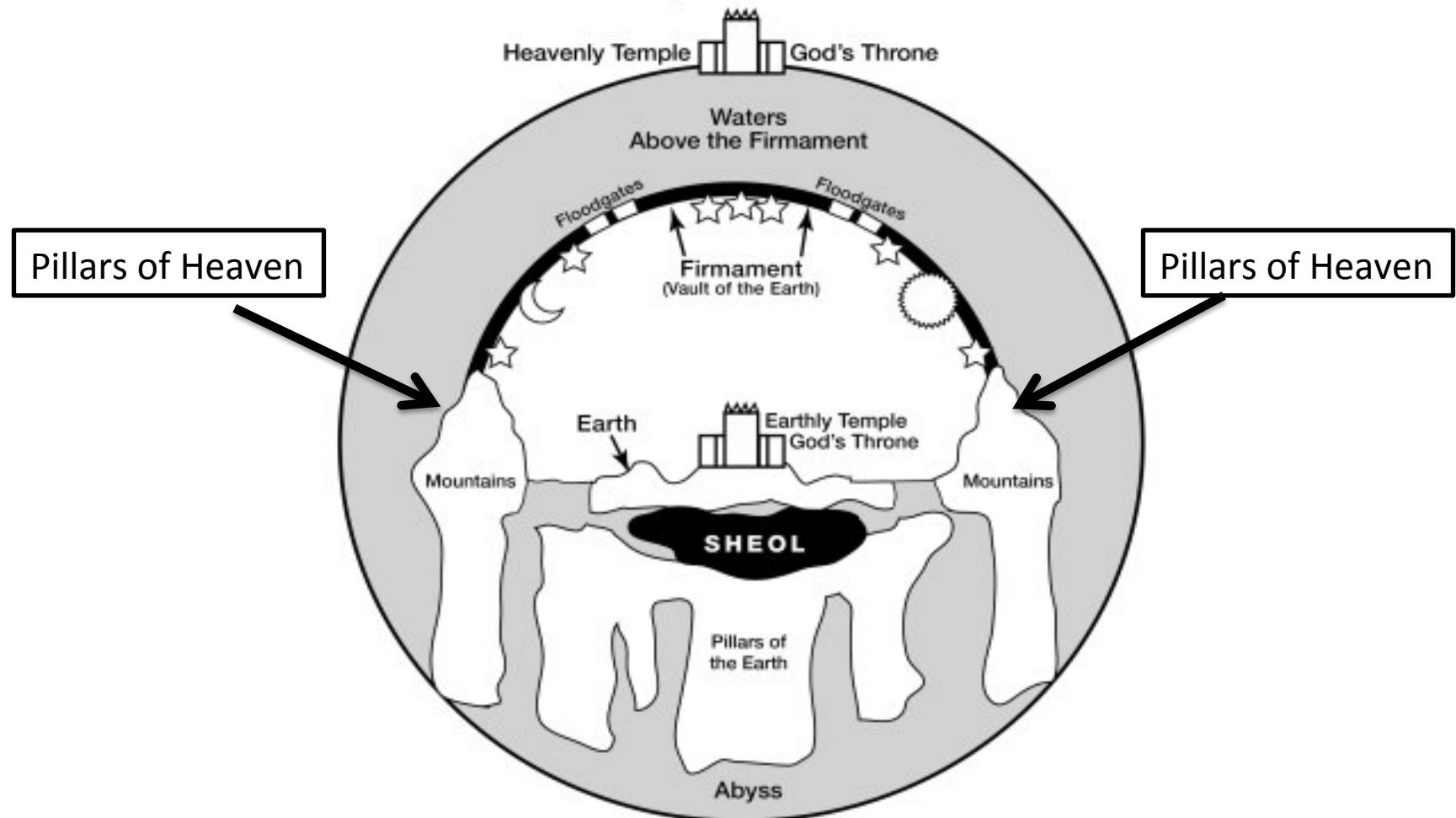
“He covers the face of the full moon and spreads over it his cloud. He has inscribed a circle on the face of the waters at the boundary between light and darkness. The pillars of heaven tremble and are astounded at his rebuke. By his power he stilled the sea; by his understanding he shattered Rahab. By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent. Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?”

The Dead

- In the original Hebrew it is “rapha” which means “ghosts of the dead, shades , or spirits”.-Blue Letter Bible.com
- “Rapha” is also the name of an individual who was the ancestor to the “Rephaim” who were a race of giants residing in a valley bearing their name in the land of Canaan.
- “They [Rephaim] were the elite, and the Canaanites thought that those of them who had died were the most powerful and worthy of the dead.”-Constable, Thomas

- **Abaddon** is the name of the angel of death and destruction who governs the abyss which harbors some of the most ugly and nasty fallen angels.
- “They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is **Abaddon**, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.”-**Revelation 9:11**
- Water for the ancient desert dwelling Jewish culture was viewed as a symbol for life but it also was a symbol of chaos and darkness.
- Job said that these dead spirits **tremble under the waters** of darkness governed by **Abaddon** and yet **God has authority over it all** for **Sheol is naked before God.**

Ancient Hebrew Conception of the Heavens and Earth



The Earth

- In contrast to ancient mythologies that said that the earth was held up on the backs of elephants or giant turtles, Job's cosmology understood that **God hangs the earth on nothing**.
- Job said that God drew a **circle on the face of the waters**.
- This cosmology demonstrated that Job had either orally heard of creation in Genesis or he had the writings of his pre Flood ancestors.
- “When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep...”-Proverbs 8:27
- “It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers...”.-Isaiah 40:22

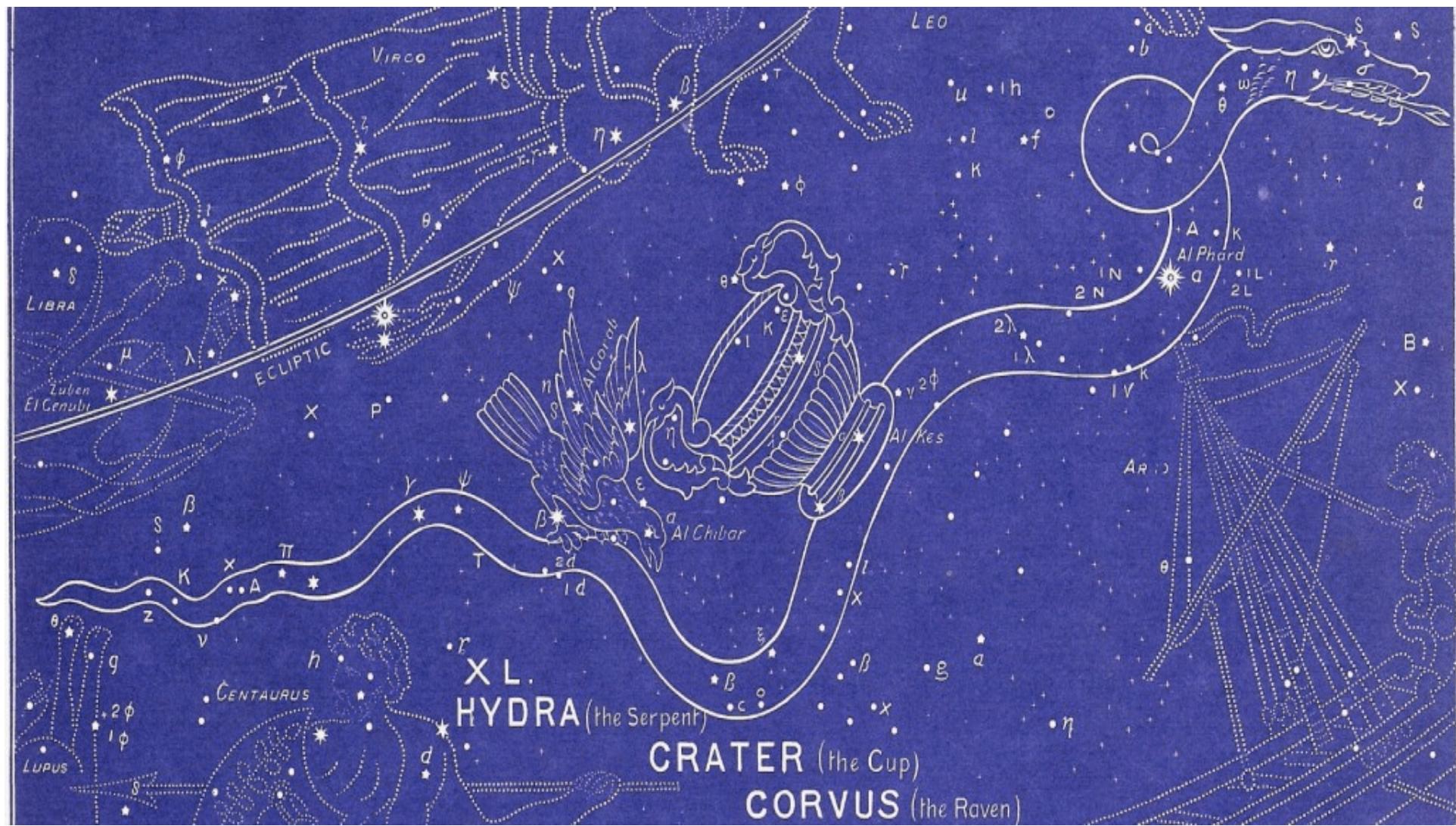
Babylonian Map Of The World



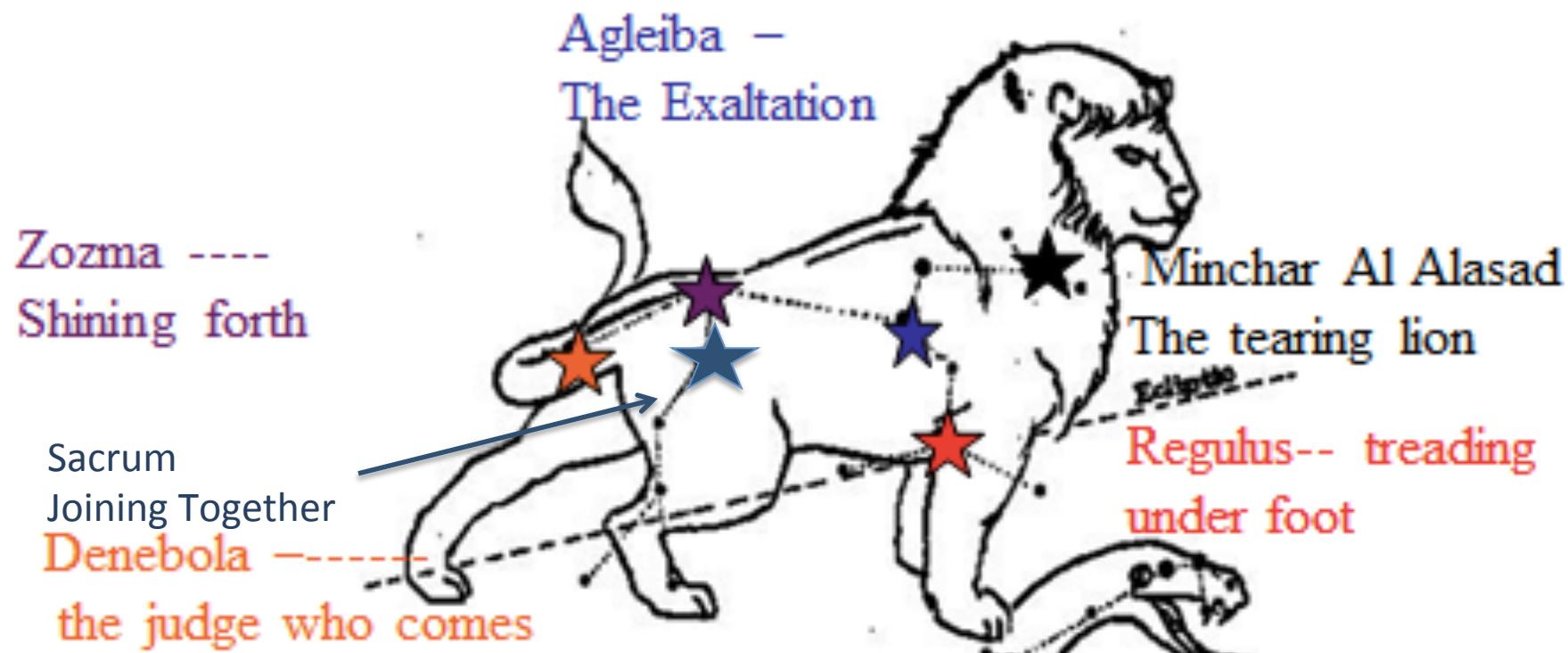
This tablet dates from the 7th-6th century BC and depicts the world as a circle surrounded by water and with Babylon at its center.

God's Immeasurable Power

- The greatness of the power of God is demonstrated by God's ability:
 - God caused the **pillars of heaven to tremble** at His word.
The pillars were the mountains.
 - God caused the **sea** to be still.
 - God tamed **Rahab**. A prideful sea monster
 - God caused the **heavens** to be made by His spirit.
 - God **pierced** literally **formed** the **fleeing serpent** seen in the heavens.



Ariel (Hebrew) Lion



A Glimpse Of God's Power

- Job listed an impressive resume of God's power and yet as impressive as it was it only touched a very small portion of God's incredible power.
- Job had touched merely upon the **outskirts** [edges] of God's ways and power.
- “The greatest forces in nature give nothing but the tiniest hint of God's immeasurable power. Yet He makes all that power available to us through prayer!”-Stanley, Charles