

The Lord Answers Job

Chapter Thirty-Eight

Job 38:1-3

“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.’”

God Answers Job

- “In the story of Job, too, the Lord has apparently been sound asleep until now, peacefully curled up in the stern of the boat while Job has been struggling all alone with the wind and the waves... in the case of Job He let the storm rage for 37 chapters, until finally He calmed not the storm itself, but Job’s heart.”-Mason, Mike
- In the next five chapters the great and awesome God of creation confronts Job and this encounter changes Job to the very core of his person.

- The Lord spoke to Job out of the heart of the storm itself that Elihu had been warning him was coming (Job 36:26-37:24).
- When God answered Job He did not offer an explanation to Job for the reason that He was suffering.
- God did not offer an answer to Job for the problem of evil.
- God did not defend Himself against the charges of injustice placed upon Him by Job.
- Job's three friends did not see God's punishment upon Job that they believed, because of sin, was due him.

- God simply revealed Himself to Job and his friends.
- Job had sought a court room trial with God, as the defendant, answering his questions but when God comes to Job it's the other way around and it is God, Who is the One asking the questions.
- In fact, not only does God not answer Job, but asked Job more than 70 unanswerable questions that demonstrated Job's human ignorance (Wiersbe).

- "The reader is told why Job was suffering in the Prologue, but that is to show that Job was innocent. Job was never told this; had he been told, the book would immediately lose its message to all other sufferers. So the book is teaching us through the divine theophany that there is something more fundamental than an intellectual solution to the mystery of innocent suffering. **Though the message reaches Job through his intellect, it is for his spirit.**"-Smick, Elmer
- One of the reasons that I believe God did not answer Job with an explanation for his suffering is because it would not have given Job comfort nor peace.
- Jesus knew the reasons why He had to be crucified but it did not make it any more comfortable nor any less miserable for Him.

- “And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be **greatly distressed and troubled**. And he said to them, ‘My soul is **very sorrowful**, even to death. Remain here and watch.’ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, ‘Abba, Father, **all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me**. Yet not what I will, but what you will... And being in an **agony** he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ”-**Mark 14:32-36 Luke 22:44**
- Intellectual answers do not bring the strength necessary to face the many trials we face in this world because most answers fall short.

- If the cause of suffering and trials can be dissected into explainable parts it is assumed that answers can be found to solve the problem of suffering.
- Suffering and trials can be endured through the strengthening of our spirit by the might and power of God Himself.
- “who by God’s **power** are being **guarded** through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, **if necessary**, you have been grieved by various trials...“His **divine power** has granted to us **all** things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence”-**1 Peter 1:5-6;2 Peter 1:3**
- Suffering and trials can be a gift from God to shake believers out of any self sufficiency which then enables believers to depend upon Him Who called us to His own glory and excellence.

- The Lord's questions were meant for Job to learn something about God and in doing so he discovered something about himself in the process.
- “The questions are rhetorical only in the sense that none of them has any answer ventured by Job. But this is not because the questions have no answers. Their initial effect of driving home to Job his ignorance is not intended to humiliate him. On the contrary the highest nobility of every person is to be thus enrolled by God Himself in His school of Wisdom. And the schoolroom is the world! For Job the exciting discoveries to which God leads him bring a giant advance in knowledge, knowledge of himself and of God, for the two always go together in the Bible.”-Anderson, Franscis

The Whirlwind

- As we have already noted the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind.
- Whirlwind in Scripture is repeatedly associated with God's presence:
 - Elijah was taken to heaven by a divine whirlwind(2 Kings 2:1-11).
 - The presence of God is in the midst of a whirlwind (Psalms 77:18; Nahum 1:3).
 - The Lord's coming is like the whirlwind (Isaiah 66:15; Jeremiah 4:13).
 - Ezekiel saw the Lord in the whirlwind (Ezekiel 1:4).

Words Without Knowledge

- God opened His questioning by noting that His **counsel** had been darkened with **words with out knowledge**.
- “Why are you using your ignorance to deny my providence?”- Living Bible
- Job had said things about God that were not true because of his ignorance and lack of understanding.
- Knowledge of our own ignorance is the first step towards gaining wisdom.
- “ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ”-**1 Corinthians 3:18**

Dress For Action

- God told Job to **dress for action like a man**.
- “Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.”-NLT
- Job had desired that God provide answers to him. God turned it around and God desired Job to answer as a man before Him.
- “Every believer should be slow to affirm that he knows God's will about the affairs of an individual's life, his own or someone else's. **We still do not know all the facts concerning why God is allowing what takes place**. God then told Job to prepare for a difficult job: to explain His ways in nature. If God had done wrong, Job must have known what was right!”-Constable, Thomas

Job 38:4-7

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

God Of Creation

- The first line of questioning that God addressed to Job dealt with God's power and wisdom of bringing all things into being.
- God asked Job, **Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?**
- God's obvious point was that since Job was not there when He had created the earth, Job lacked some facts that God knew which enabled Him to govern the earth better than Job could.
- The only persons at creation were God and the angels. So the only true evidence concerning creation comes from revelation not speculation.

- "God,...calls those things which do not exist as though they did"--**Rom 4:17**
- Only God can create, that is call into existence, that which had no prior existence.
- **Measurements, stretching a line, and the laying of a cornerstone** are building terms used by God to reinforce Him as the Creator of all things.
- Not only did God create the universe out of nothing but also put in order the universe from the very beginning to the end to accomplish His purposes and through faith we understand that He created and He is at work arranging things according to His will.

Sons Of God

- “Sons of God”-*b’nai ha elohim* ; this term is uniquely used of angels in the Old Testament . (Job 1:6; Job 2:1; Job 38:7)
- The translators of the Septuagint translated every time "sons of god" as “angels” .
- The sons of God witnessed creation and praised and glorified the Creator as they **shouted for joy**.
- “Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!”-**Psalm 148:1-2**

Job 38:8-11

“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?’”

Creation Of The Sea

- This is probably regarding the 3rd day of creation when God divided the land from the waters.
- “You set a **boundary** that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.”-**Psalm 104:9**
- “Do you not fear me? declares the LORD. Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as the **boundary** for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot pass over it.”-**Jeremiah 5:22**
- Job wasn’t around when God did this nor can he explain how God contains the seas.

Job 38:12-15

“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken.

Creation Of The Day

- Since Job had never brought about a new day into existence then how could Job possibly instruct God on how He governed the universe for that matter even the day.
- The bringing of the light to the day thwarts the plans of the wicked who operate during the night.
- “the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed”-**John 3:19-20**

Job 38:16-21

“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!”

The Gates Of Death

- Job was ignorant of the underworld, the **springs of the sea**, the **gates of death**, and the **expanse** of the earth.
- God is asking Job basically if he knows where the end of the rainbow is located.
- No one knows where the gates of Hell, Hades, or Sheol are located.
- God says to Job, **Declare, if you know all this.** Obviously Job can't declare to know the location no human knows.
- **You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!**- Vs. 21
- “Verse 21 presents Yahweh as a master of sarcasm.”-Constable, Thomas

Job 38:22-27

“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, to bring rain on land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass?”

The Weather Systems

- God next asked Job if he controlled the weather systems upon which the earth depends.
- Snow storms and hail storms fall as **times of trouble** stopping armies during war and battle.
- Hail is an instrument used by God to bring judgment upon His enemies. He used it in Egypt (**Exodus 9:24**), He used it against the Canaanites (**Joshua 10:11**), He used it against Ephraim(**Isaiah 28:2**), and He will use it against Gog and Magog (**Ezekiel 38:22**), and He will use it against a rebellious earth during the time of Great Tribulation (**Revelation 16:20-21**).

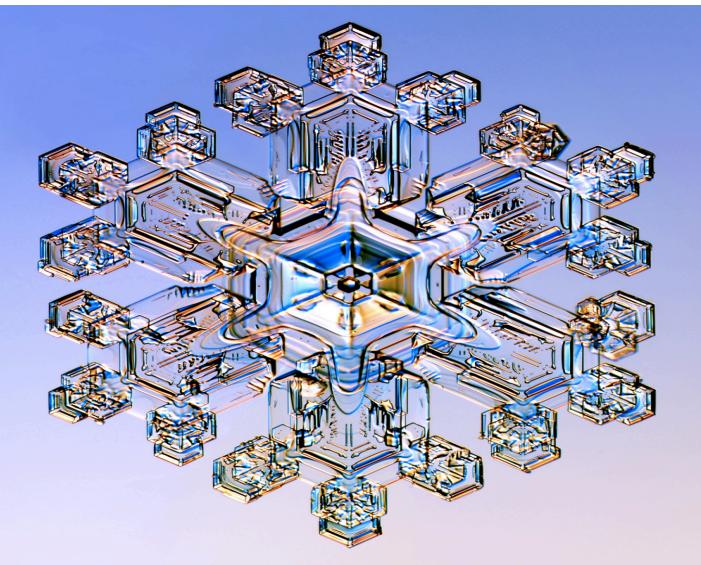
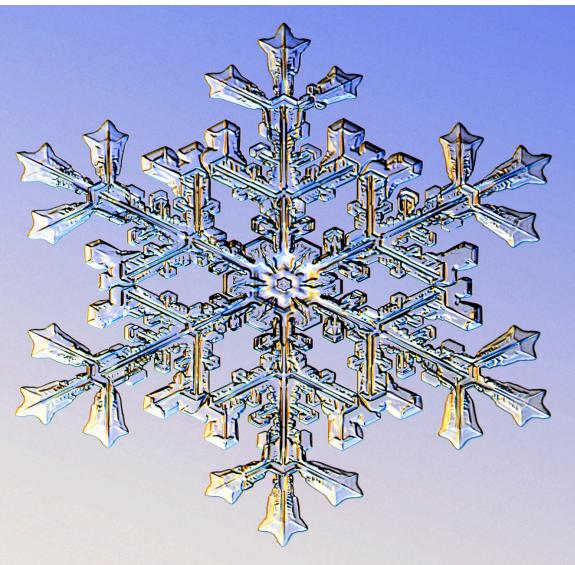
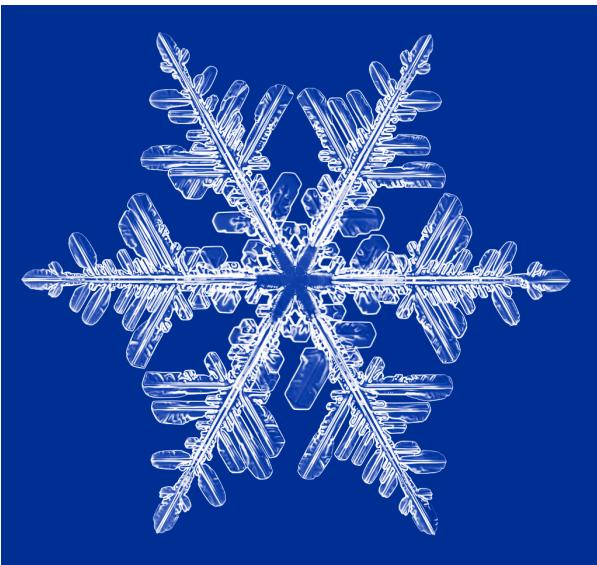
- God uses rain to water desolate regions where **there is no man** to even enjoy it and rain to water places that need it to sprout grass.
- “What is the greatest influence upon the world’s economy?” ‘The weather’ said one economist. After all our efforts to manage money and stock markets in order to control the economy...the weather a factor completely out of human control, will determine bull markets and bear markets, prosperity and depression, deficits and surpluses.”-McKenna, David

Job 38:28-30

“Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven? The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.”

Ice And Frost

- God next asked Job has **the rain a father?**
- The amazing storms of rain, snow, and ice cannot be replicated nor produced by man.
- The rain and ice seem like everyday common occurrences and therefore they do not seem to be that remarkable to us until we consider what power it takes to produce such wonderful works.



- “It is extremely unlikely that two complex snowflakes will look exactly alike. It's so extremely unlikely, in fact, that even if you looked at **every** one ever made you would not find **any** exact duplicates.”-Caltech.edu
- “If both Houses of Parliament were to be called together, and the Queen were to sit upon her throne of state, and they were unanimously to pass an act ordering the rain to fall, he that sitteth in the heavens would laugh, the Lord would have them in derision, for the key of the rain is in no hand but that of Jehovah. It is exactly so with the grace of God. You and I cannot command it. The presence of the most holy men in our midst would not of itself bring it. The most earnest preaching, the most Scriptural doctrine, the most faithful obedience to ordinances, would not make it necessary that we should receive grace. God must give it; he is an absolute Sovereign, and we are entirely dependent upon him.”-Spurgeon, Charles

Job 38:31-33

“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?”



Pleiades is the cluster in the shoulder of the constellation Taurus.



The **Bear**: Ursa Major; Big Dipper and its **children** or
Cubs: Ursa Minor; Little Dipper

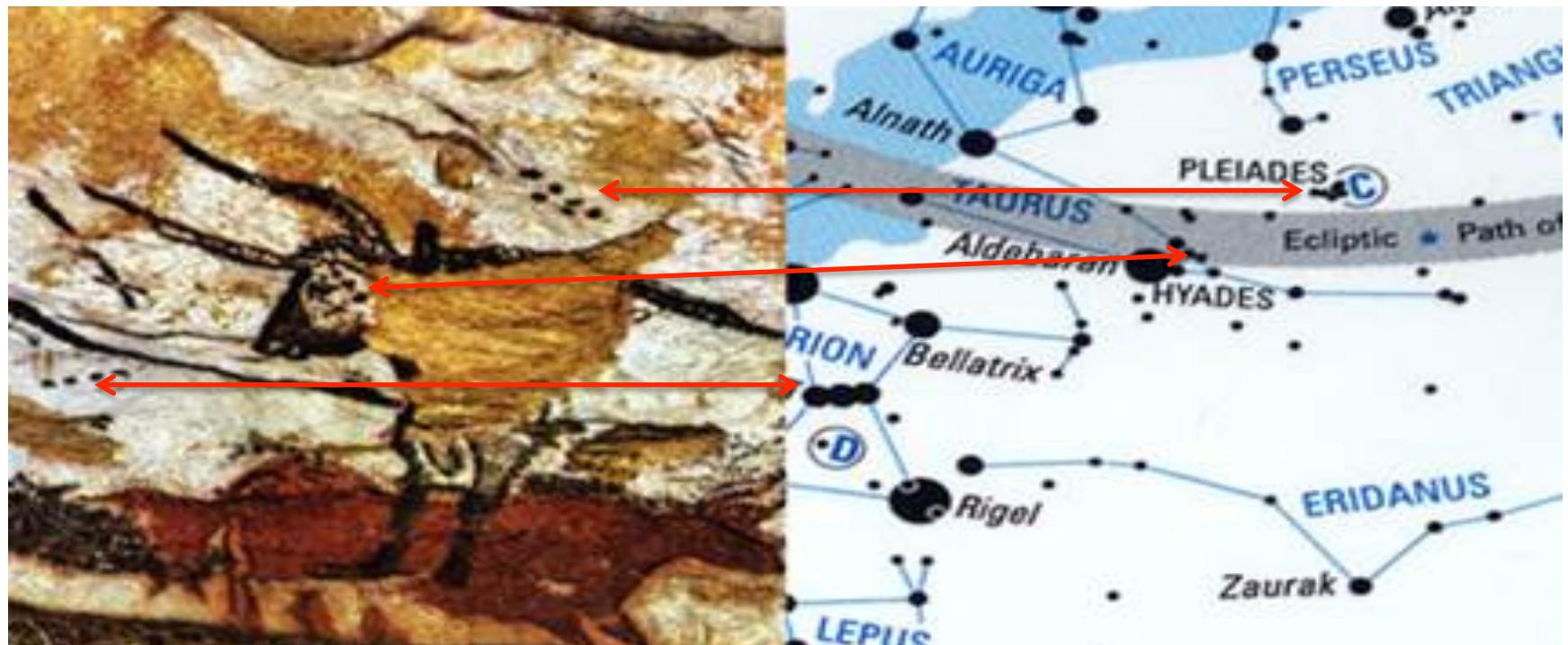
- In Gen 1:14, we are told that the stars are to be for, "signs, seasons, days, and years"
- The seasons, days and years are familiar to us, but what about signs?
- Signs carry a message, to give us information.
- "Thus says the LORD: 'Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them.-Jeremiah 10:2
- Seasons: "moed": "appointed place or appointed time"
- **Therefore the lights (stars) seem to be signs for an appointed time.**

The Constellations

- The **Mazzaroth**: “The twelve signs of the Zodiac and their 36 associated constellations.”- BlueletterBible.com
- Amos tells us that, “He who made the **Pleiades** and **Orion**...”-Amos 5:8
- “Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, **calling them all by name**, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.”- Isaiah 40:26

- “ He **determines** the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.”-**Psalms 147:4**
- The word for “determined” conveys the idea to “weigh out, to appoint, to assign, to list in sequence”. It is similar in meaning counting out numbers in their proper order.
- The Lord created the **Mazzaroth**, the Lord made the **shapes**, the Lord **named** them, and the Lord listed them in their **order**.
- E. W. Bullinger says that, “**the twelve signs are the same, both in meaning of their names and as to the order in all the ancient nations of the world.**”

Ancient Cave Art



This cave art dates back to 3000-2900 B.C. The series of dots above the bull is Pleiades. The dots in the head of the bull is Hyades and the dots in front of the bull is the belt of Orion.

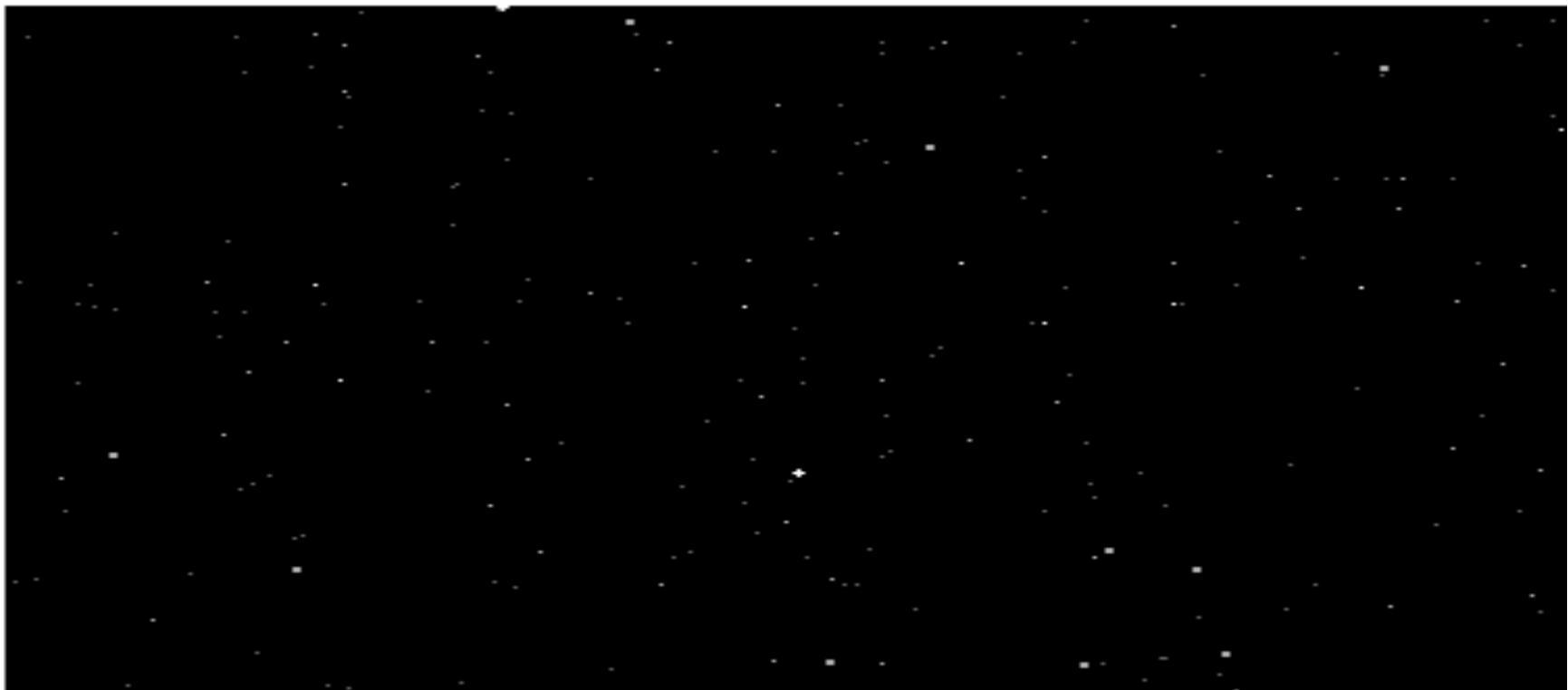


The Sumerian Gudea Cylinder (2300 BC) has many star groups or signs mentioned.

- GU.AN.NA "The Steer of Heaven" ([Taurus](#))
- MAŠ.TAB.BA.GAL.GAL "Great Twins" ([Gemini](#))
- AL.LUL "The Crayfish" ([Cancer](#))
- UR.GU.LA "The Lion" ([Leo](#))
- AB.SIN "The Seed-Furrow" ([Virgo](#))
- ZIB.BA.AN.NA/zi-ba-ni-tum "The Scales" ([Libra](#))
- GIR.TAB "The Scorpion" ([Scorpius](#))
- PA.BIL.SAG ([Sagittarius](#))
- SUHUR.MAŠ.KU "The Goat-Fish" ([Capricorn](#))
- GU.LA "The Great One" ([Aquarius](#))
- KUN.MEŠ "The tails" ([Pisces](#))
- LU.HUN.GA "The Agrarian Worker" ([Aries](#))

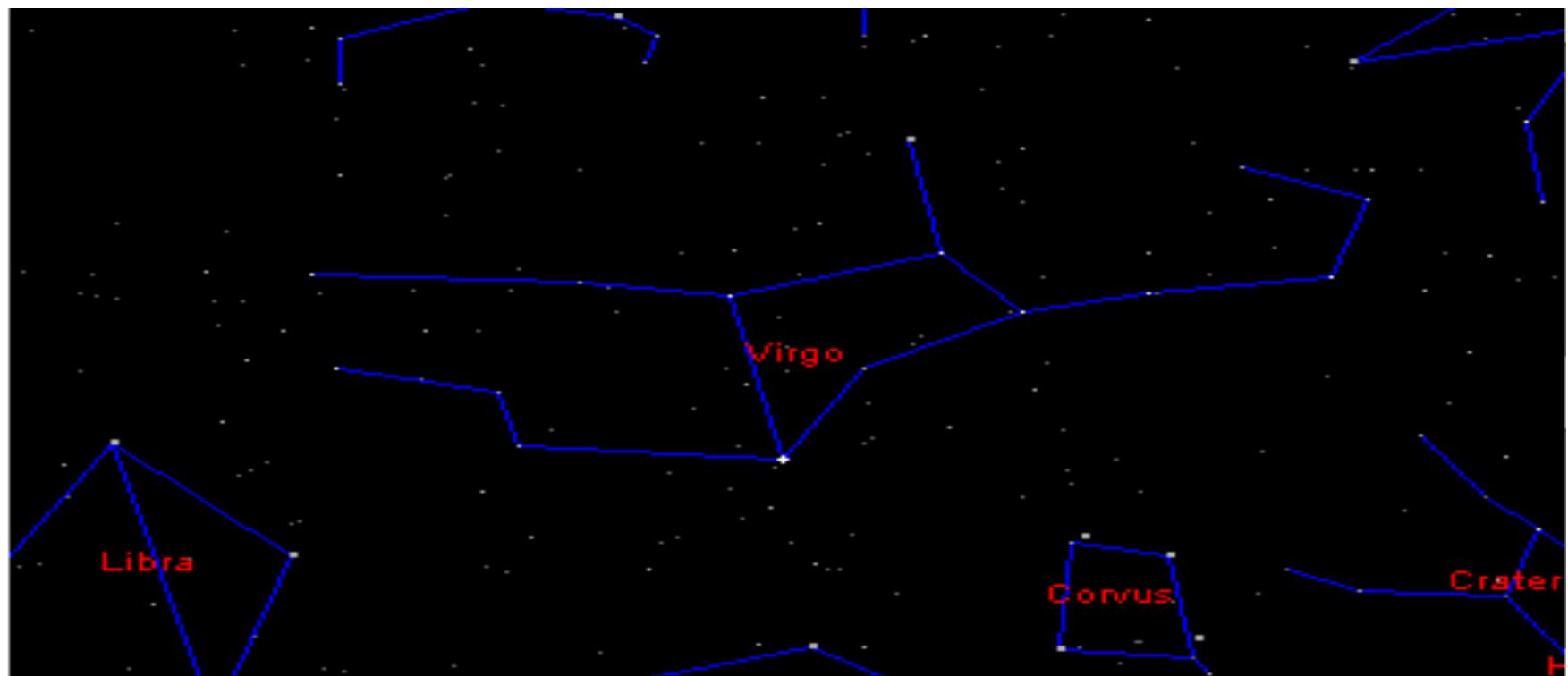
The Sky

Can You Pick Out Any Constellations?

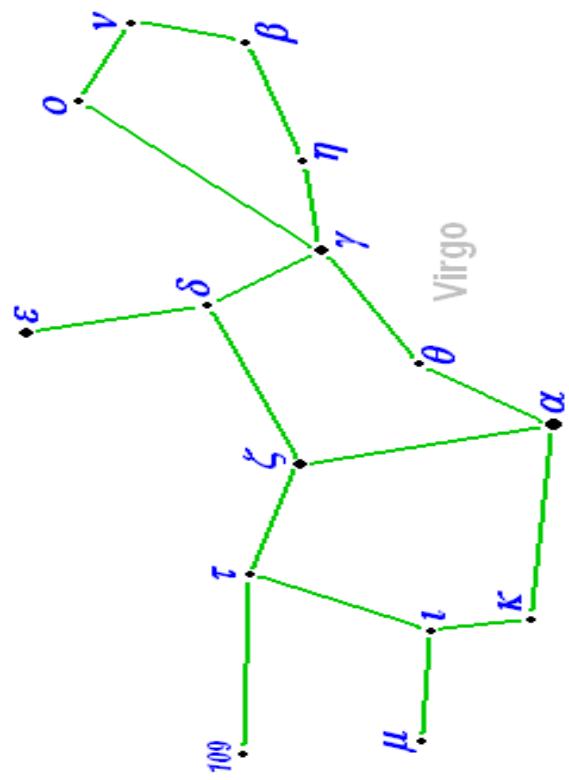


The Sky

Could You Have Possibly Guessed This?

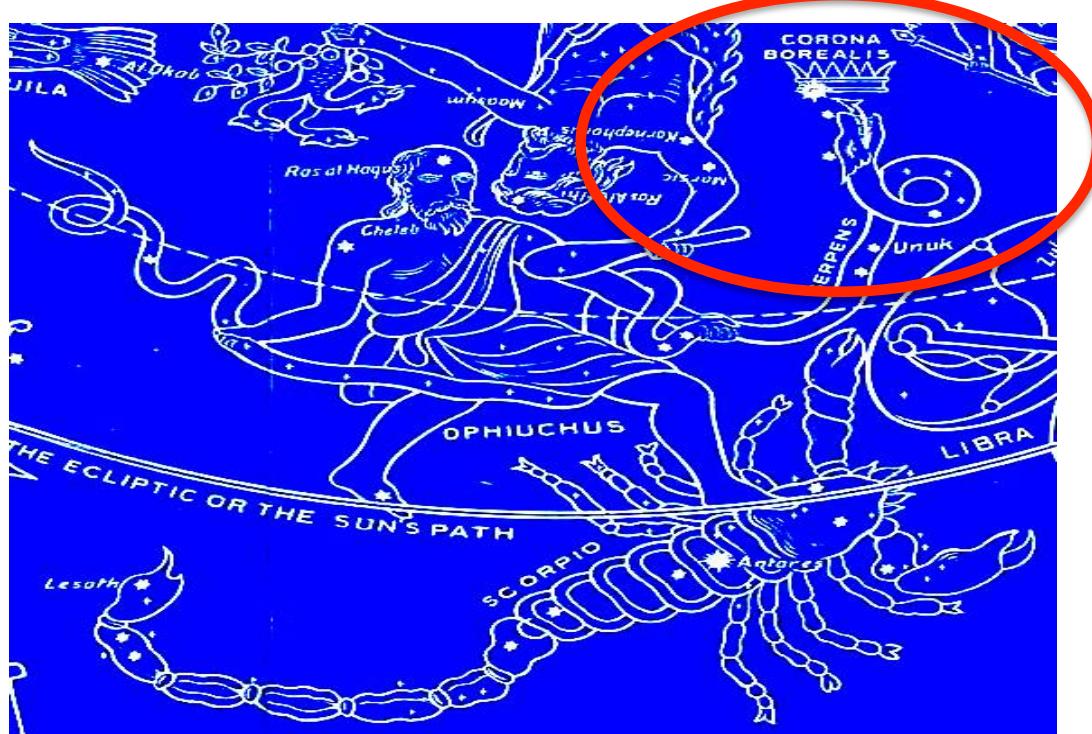


Virgo: The Promised Seed



"Dr. Spencer , On his radio study "Mazzaroth", he stated that on one occasion in the late 1960's he preached in Los Angeles at the Church of the Open Door on Romans 10:18 and concluded that all men had heard the Gospel in one way or another. After the service was over a very old woman introduced herself to him. She had been a missionary in Japan in her youth. She said to Dr. Spencer: "I was sent far up into the hills to teach a class of women who had never seen a Christian of any kind. They had never heard the Gospel. They had never heard the name of Jesus from the lips of anyone. It was before the days of radio and television, and few of them could even read. They were totally without the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ as far as I knew. Yet when I had finished telling them the beautiful story of the Redeemer, whose shed blood had paid the price for their sins, an old woman stood to her feet and said 'Missy! That is the same story that I have been telling my village for years, but this is the first time we have ever heard the Redeemer's name.' Upon careful inquiry, I discovered that she had been repeating the **names of the stars along the path of the Sun from the ancient Japanese charts of the Zodiac**. These, she said, told exactly the same story that I had shared with them concerning the Lord Jesus Christ."

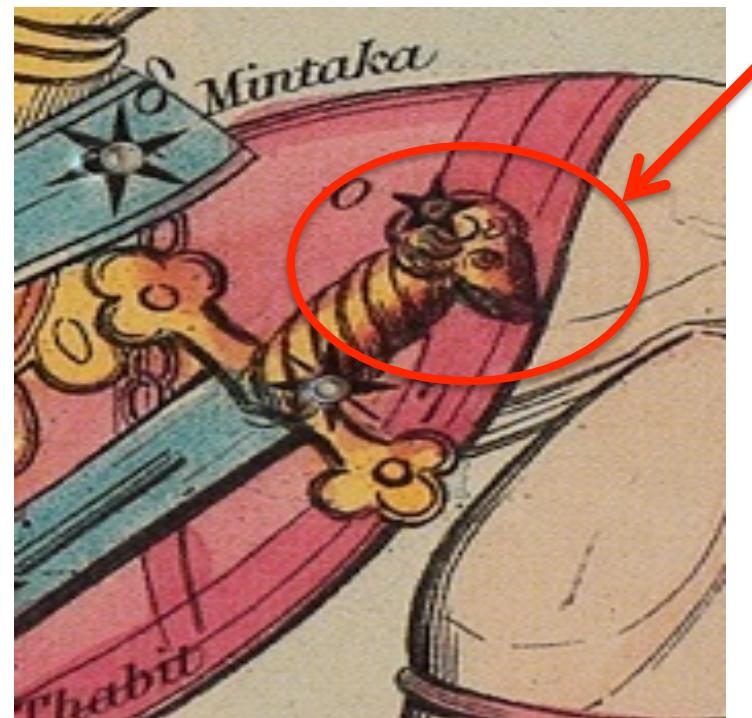
Satan Seeks To Exalt Himself





**Orion's foot is on the head of the enemy.
The star in his left foot: “rigol” means, “the
foot that crushes”**

The Hilt Of Orion's Sword Is A Lamb



- God asked Job if he could govern the arrangement or **ordinances of the heavens?**
- Like many in the ancient world, Job probably understood the arrangement and patterns in the heavens yet he was powerless to govern them or rearrange them.
- **Can you establish their rule on the earth?** Is it the message of the stars which seem to proclaim the rule of Jesus upon the earth or is it the rule of the seasons that God was asking Job?
- Either way, “...they [the stars] are bound and fettered by God, who leads them around the sky as He pleases, a thing no man can do.” (Andersen)

Job 38:34-38

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind? Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods stick fast together?”

The Human Mind

- Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind? Who can number the clouds by wisdom?
- Where does wisdom and understanding come from? Wisdom and understanding come from an Intelligent and Wise Creator.
- Man who is made in the image of God has the ability to search out and discover and understand with the intelligence that God has given.
- Science in the Middle Ages was used to discover the natural world in relationship to God. The Age of Enlightenment claimed that the human mind can find solutions to everything. It elevated the human mind above God.

- Give ear, and hear my voice; give attention, and hear my speech. Does he who plows for sowing plow continually? Does he continually open and harrow his ground? When he has leveled its surface, does he not scatter dill, sow cumin, and put in wheat in rows and barley in its proper place, and emmer as the border? **For he is rightly instructed; his God teaches him.** Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin, but dill is beaten out with a stick, and cumin with a rod. Does one crush grain for bread? No, he does not thresh it forever; when he drives his cart wheel over it with his horses, he does not crush it. This also comes from the LORD of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom."-
Isaiah 28:23-29
- "Great are the works of the LORD, **studied** by all who delight in them."-**Psalms 111:2**

- “We might say that God’s approach to Job in this section undercuts much of modern thinking. Enlightenment thinking (emanating from the 18th century) freed man from much superstition, but it also exalted man’s reason (wisdom) as the measure of truth. It can be observed that God eloquently destroyed this overconfidence in human wisdom in this presentation to Job. It makes us ask the question, ‘What does man, with all his reason and wisdom, really know about his world?’ Man does not know very much, and therefore must pursue knowledge with a humble trust in the God, who does know all.”- Guzick, David

Job 38:39-41

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their thicket? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?”

The Animal Kingdom

- God is the provider for all of the animal kingdom (Matthew 6:26).
- Job probably hunted during his day either for protection or for food but he did not worry about providing for the lion or its cubs.
- Man can only provide food to satisfy the appetites of his small world God provides food for the whole world.
- In fact, when man does try to feed the wild animals, it usually ends in chaos spreading disease or causing injury.

- “The animal world exists for partially unknown reasons, not merely to meet the needs of humankind. People cannot explain why animals live as they do. This is another mystery that only God understands fully.”-Constable, Thomas
- “Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps...Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!”-**Psalm 148:7,10**
- God cares and provides for all of His creation because all things are under His dominion for His glory.