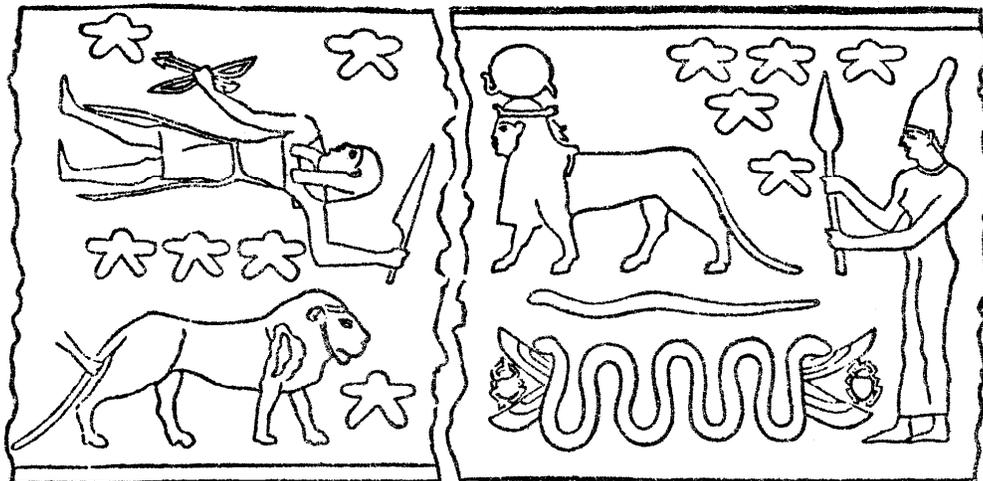


The Heavens Declare CHAPTER SIX: A Right Dividing

For untold centuries men have said that the secret of the universe lay in solving the riddle of the Sphinx. What is the meaning behind this figure that is found in so many different ancient cultures? Please understand that THE Sphinx is not that large carved stone in Egypt, as if there were only one. That carved stone is only one of many representations of an ancient symbol, a two-natured beast consisting of the body of a lion and the head of a woman. Yes, a woman! True, the carved image in Egypt does have the head of a man, but it is important to realize that it is not in agreement with most sphinxes found around the world. For example, nearly all of the sphinxes of Greece were all of a woman's head.

The ancients somehow got the idea that this unusual figure held some incredibly powerful secret that would open up the world to the one who solved its riddle, meaning to the one who came to understand exactly what the sphinx was and why it was given. Eventually, myths began to evolve that attempted to explain this curious symbol. Remember that in Chapter Four we learned that a myth is a genuine attempt to explain a known phenomenon with the resources available to the myth's inventor. The ancients had a star chart. They also had this other thing, this half-woman/half-lion; and they didn't know what to do with it. It is a shame that they didn't think to put the two together!

Actually, there was one culture that did put the sphinx together with the star chart – the Egyptians! The picture below is a copy of a tracing made by Signor Bossi back before the turn of the 20th Century. The tracing, which is now located in the British Museum, came from the Temple of Esneh in Egypt.



TEMPLE OF ESNEH

This portion of the tracing (It was actually a complete star chart.) shows a part of the zodiacal circle where Leo ends and Virgo begins. Imagine! There is actually a place in the star chart where a lion meets a woman! Notice in the tracing that right between the lion and the woman is a sphinx. Could it be that the sphinx is nothing more than a mnemonic device, a clever memory gadget to help the observer remember to always begin at the head (the woman) and end at the body (the lion)? Yes, without a doubt.

So is it true, as the ancients believed that solving the riddle of the sphinx would give the person power and wisdom? That is, perhaps, an embellishment of the truth. It does, indeed, give the understanding person a key to get started at the right place on a journey which will lead him to the One who is Power and Wisdom.

A RIGHT DIVIDING

One of the most interesting of all archeological finds is in Birs Nimroud, which is most certainly the remains of the original Tower of Babel. You may remember from Chapter Three that this was the great tower of King Nimrod, called the first king among men, who desired to build a huge astrological observatory around which the first man-made religion would begin. Of course, we know that God brought down judgment on Nimrod and all the people by confusing their languages.

Therefore the name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. (Genesis 11:9)

Oriental tradition teaches that the tower consisted of seven layers, each ascending in a conical fashion, and each of a different color. These colors were created by dyeing the bricks as they were being made. It's interesting to note that the Bible emphasizes that the tower was made out of brick (instead of stone) and slime (instead of mortar). Many of these bricks are also in the British Museum, and they are, in fact, of seven different colors.

The startling archeological find which I referred to before was located at the fifth level. It is a tablet containing a record of a popular myth that attempted to explain the creation of the world and the sun, moon, and stars. It is known as the "Creation Tablet" The story is in the form of a poem, praising Anu, the creator. The following is a translation of that poem into English:

Anu [*the Creator*] made excellent the mansion [*i.e. the celestial houses*] of the great gods [*twelve*] in number [*i.e. the twelve signs or mansions of the sun*].
The stars he placed in them. The lumasi [*i.e. groups of stars or figures*] he fixed.
He arranged the year according to the bounds [*i.e. the twelve signs*] which he defined.
For each of the twelve months three rows of stars [*i.e. constellations*] he fixed.
From the day when the year issues forth unto the close, he marked the mansions [*i.e. the Zodiacal signs*] of the wandering stars [*i.e. planets*] to know their courses that they might not err or deflect at all.

Study the first line carefully. It establishes the universal idea that there were twelve “mansions” (Psalm 19 calls them “tabernacles”) for the sun. These would be the twelve zodiacal signs through which the sun traveled (or appeared to travel) throughout the course of a year. Notice, also, the next line. “The lumasi he fixed...” Here is the idea of the creator specifically ordering the placement and even naming the stars. Finally, look at the fourth line. “For each of the twelve months three rows of stars he fixed.” In other words, the twelve signs of the zodiac would have three additional constellations associated with it. This “Creation Tablet” suggested that ancient civilizations were familiar with a specific formula for reading the star chart. Twelve signs, each with three constellations. The total number involved equaled forty-eight. This will become very important as we examine how this God-given star revelation must be rightly divided, as all God-given revelations should be if they are to be understood completely.

There are a number of different dispensational (divisional) views of the Bible. They range from only one dispensation in which we and all men of all time have lived to as many as a dozen or so just within the book of Acts. Without delving too deeply into that discussion, we can say with certainty that all Bible scholars (I know of no exception) agree upon one particular form of “division” found in God’s Word – that God, in all His revelations of His plan for man’s redemption, presented Himself as fulfilling the duties of three offices – prophet, priest, and king. The entire Old Testament encompasses the view of looking forward to the coming prophet who would declare the great good news of God’s love for mankind and who would ultimately offer himself a ransom for sin. The first four books of the New Testament, the “Gospels,” give the record of the historical fulfillment of the coming of the prophet, the Lord Jesus Christ. The rest of the New Testament, with the exception of Revelation, presents the Lord Jesus in his present ministry as our high priest, interceding continuously on our behalf before the throne of God. Finally, the last book of the Bible presents the Lord Jesus as the returning king, coming to establish his earthly kingdom where righteousness and peace will reign. Of course, many portions of the Bible deal with all three of these offices, so we are not surprised to find “king” passages in both the Old Testament and portions of the New Testament other than Revelation.

Interestingly enough, the star revelation also uses this prophet, priest, and king dividing pattern. Imagine the star chart as a pie divided into three equal parts (prophet, priest, and king) called books with each book containing eighteen signs. Be assured that the star chart has not just been arbitrarily divided this way. As we continue further into this study, it will become very clear that both the figures and the star names corroborate this division in every instance. Study the box below. It explains the divisional pattern for this star revelation.

BOOK ONE: The Redeemer's First Coming (Past – Prophet)
BOOK TWO: The Redeemed in the Redeemer's Absence (Present – Priest)
BOOK THREE: The Redeemer's Second Coming (Future – King)

Each book contains four chapters

CHAPTER ONE in each book will show the PROMISE of God.

CHAPTER TWO in each book will show the gracious PROVISION of God

CHAPTER THREE in each book will show the CONFLICT WITH SATAN

CHAPTER FOUR in each book will show the FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S POWER

One final interesting note on the numerology involved in this right dividing of God's starry revelation. There are twelve signs. Twelve is the number of governmental rule, a fact that lends interest to Genesis 1:18 which declares that the lights of the night sky were placed in the firmament to rule over the day and the night. There are also three constellations for each sign. Three is the number of union, approval, coordination, and completion. This brings the total to forty-eight. However, the Pleiades, which represents the church, a "mystery hidden from the ages" and not revealed until Paul's ministry, brings the total number to forty-nine, the number of divine fullness and perfection. Finally, the Hyades, which represents all non-church age saints completes the course of God's saving plan bringing the total to fifty, the number of the Jubilee – final liberty, deliverance, and full emancipation. Of course, this is just an interesting side-note to our study and should be viewed as just that. We will make no doctrinal judgments based solely on this information.

You are now ready to do an in-depth study of the actual signs. If you have already checked out the zodiactruth.com website, I recommend that you go back and look at each sign in the order of the ancient star revelation. That means you will need to begin with Virgo. I hope you enjoy this study and that you will find answers to any question you may have. Please feel free to contact us through the website page.

Copyright 2007 Thomas L. Marshall, Ph.D. No part of this work may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from the author except in the case of brief quotations in critical articles and reviews.