

The Heavens Declare CHAPTER FIVE

Of extreme importance to an adequate understanding of this great body of truth known as the star-revelation, is a study of the “seed prophecy.” This prophecy was given by God Himself and is, in fact, the very first prophecy concerning the coming of the promised Messiah. It is found in Genesis 3:15:

*And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.*

This is the account of the confrontation between God and Satan manifesting himself in the form of a serpent in the Garden of Eden. It is immediately after Adam and Eve’s fall into sin. God had just pronounced judgments upon both Adam and Eve, and thus upon mankind and womankind respectively. Man would work by the sweat of his brow to harvest food from an earth which had also been cursed to bring forth weeds. Woman would bear pain in childbirth. Of course, the greatest of all judgments on their sin was physical and spiritual death.

In this verse, God comes to the serpent (Satan) and curses it first as an animal. It would now crawl upon its belly. Then, speaking to Satan within the serpent, he declares enmity between him and the woman, and between his “seed” and the woman’s “Seed.” Bible scholars unanimously agree that the “seed of the woman” is the first mention of the promised Messiah.

Notice the curse. Speaking of the seed of the woman, “He (*Messiah*) shall bruise your (*Satan’s*) head, and you (*Satan*) shall bruise His (*Messiah’s*) heel.” This prophecy was fulfilled when Christ died on the cross. It appeared to be a major wounding of the Messiah; however, with His resurrection three days later, it was revealed to be a minor wound in comparison. Meanwhile, the bruise suffered by Satan will be the ultimate and final annihilation of his empire of evil.

Look also at another Scriptures that refers back to this first instance of the same prophecy being spoken by man. In Jude, verses 14 and 15 we read,

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Enoch was the “Shepherd King” to whom this star revelation was given in its final form. Looking upon the stars, he understood the promise of the coming of the Lord and exclaimed, “Behold the Lord comes with ten thousand of His saints.”

This original seed-prophecy is important to our understanding of God's plan for our redemption. It is the theme that will be seen time and time again as we go through this study.

STARS FOR SIGNS

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:14-18

In these verses, we read that God gave three lights in the sky. One, "the greater light," is the sun which was given to rule the day. The other, "the lesser light," is the moon which was given to rule the night. God made the stars also. It is stated quite plainly that all of these lights were given for specific purposes (vs. 14). But which of the three lights were given for which of the three purposes?

Probably, the most obvious of the matches would be the sun. Its purpose would quite clearly be for "days and years." The sun is that great body that governs both, for as the earth rotates on its own axis once every 24 hours, a day is measured. And as the earth revolves around the sun every 365 days, a year is measured. Obviously, the sun was given for "days and years."

Which of the two remaining lights was given for the purpose of "seasons" and which for "signs"? Take a look at Psalm 104:19:

"He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knows its going down."

Clearly, the moon is for seasons. Therefore the stars must be for "signs."

It is important to have confidence that these stars were given by God for a specific purpose which is, in fact, for the presentation of the good news of God's love and grace for lost mankind.

STAR NAMES

The figures in the star chart are drawn in what appears to be an almost random fashion, yet they are universally accepted as being the same kind of picture encompassing the very same stars. It is interesting to note here that if we believe God drew these figures, we can clearly connect that principle back to Romans 1:20.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

God drew the figures to illustrate the “invisible attributes” of Himself by using the “things that are made.”

The real significance to these figures is found in the interpretation of the names given to both the signs and the stars within them. Names were very important in ancient times because they carried meanings that were associated with the objects that they named. It is, therefore, important that we have the correct name, meaning the original name given by God. To do this, it is necessary to look at the names in various different ancient languages. The names given in this study are the oldest ones known, along with some of the more recent ones. (It is interesting to note that the older the name, the more sense it seems to bear upon the theme of this star-revelation.)

We learn the meanings of these star figures by interpreting the descriptive names of the stars and figures rather than their proper names. Names have two functions. First, to identify a particular person, place, thing, or idea (called a proper noun). The other, to describe something about the thing it is identifying. Take, for example, Tom Sawyer. As a proper noun, we immediately recognize this name as a character in a Mark Twain novel. But as a descriptive noun, it means “one who saws wood.” Another example could be Cole Porter. As a proper noun, we recognize him as an American composer. But as a descriptive noun, it means “one who peddles religious books.”

It is extremely important that we recognize that the star chart uses the descriptive names when they are the “messengers of God.” Modern celestial atlases use these same names, but always in a proper noun capacity. A student of the gospel in the stars must be careful to make sure that he is dealing with the correct interpretation of the descriptive nature of the names given to these signs and stars. Let’s look at a few examples of names given in the star chart.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROPER NOUN</u>	<u>DESCRIPTIVE NOUN</u>
Betelgeuse (G, H)	The giant’s shoulder	The branch (seed; posterity) who shall come
Vindematrix (C)	The vintager; grape gatherer	The son (or branch) who shall come
Al Pheratz (A)	The head of the woman in chains	The weakened one – broken down

One can easily see how these two types of noun meanings can drastically alter the message given by the star chart. One final interesting example of how important it is to recognize the descriptive meanings of names found in ancient cultures comes from Scripture and is often called The Gospel in Names. The following is a list of the godly line of men (and Eve, as well) that came from Adam through his son Seth. By each name is its descriptive meaning:

ADAM	MAN
EVE	LIFE
ABLE	TRANSITORY
SETH	APPOINTED
ENOS	FRAIL, INEVITABLE
CAINAN	TO REDEEM
MAHALALEEL	RIGHTEOUS GOD
JARED	TO DESCEND, TO CONDESCEND
ENOCH	TEACH, TO INSTRUCT
METHUSELAH	DEATH SENT AWAY
LAMECH	POWER
NOAH	REST. COMFORT.

Reading these descriptions in the order given by connecting them with suitable conjunctions gives the reader the Gospel itself! MAN'S LIFE is TRANSITORY and APPOINTED to INEVITABLE FRAILTY (and death is the ultimate frailty). In order TO REDEEM (man), the RIGHTEOUS GOD CONDESCENDS TO DESCEND (to earth) TO TEACH (the way of eternal life) and by His DEATH, DEATH ITSELF IS SENT AWAY and in its place the POWER of God comes with REST and COMFORT.

Finally, we want to understand something about two different word parts that will be seen time and again during our study of the star chart: the words translated "branch" and the words translated "to come." These words will be seen as referring to the promised Messiah as the "branch" or the seed (posterity) of the woman and also as the one who is "to come" – that is, the promised one. Regarding the word "branch," seeing examples of the equivalents in other languages may be useful to understanding its integral significance to the meaning of the name:

English	suffix "son"	Richardson
Scandinavian	suffix "sen"	Swendsen
Scottish	prefix "Mc" or "Mac"	MacDonald
Irish	prefix "O"	O'Reily
Hebrew	prefix "Bar" or "Ben"	Bar Yusef
French	prefix "de"	Charles deGaulle

The word translated "to come" is the original Hebrew word Bo. It is a part of many Jewish names, reflecting the broad scope of the Messianic theme in every aspect of Jewish life. Bo is only one of a number of similar word parts.

Let's summarize. God not only drew the figures of these ancient constellations, but He also named them. He gave them descriptive names which conveyed very specific truths. In other words, He not only ordained the *sound* of the name, but He also *filled* those names with the very message He wanted to impress upon the minds and hearts of the ancient people.

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