

GOD'S ASTRONOMY TRUTH – SATAN'S ASTROLOGY DECEPTION

MP3: ASTRONOMICAL PRINCIPLES IN THE BIBLE

Article by Brian H. Butler B.A., D.O., F.A.S.K.

Class of '64 Graduate & former Faculty Member of Ambassador College, England.

These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977-97 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

There are vital factors to enable us to understand and rightly divide the Scriptures. 1. The events 2. Where events took place, and 3. When. This lecture is going to focus more on 'when', how we look at time, or chronology.

Our 'Day' is determined by our perception that the Sun 'rises' and 'sets', but of course in reality it is the rotation of the Earth that enables us to establish our 'Day'. With expert help it is possible to determine the exact time of sunrise and sunset, in fact, these can be predicted with extreme accuracy for years to come, and may be read by consulting an Ephemeris.

There exists an Ephemeris of the precise times for 6000 years, not friendly for the end user though, but for scientists invaluable.

Our 'Month' is determined by the phases of the Moon. We perceive the Moon 'rising' in the West sky with a crescent on its right side, a 'fingernail' so to speak. Fifteen days later, there appears a full Moon, a complete circle. The next fifteen days approximately sees the Moon diminishing in size until twenty-nine and a half days after its first appearance, it is back to being a 'New Moon' again.

Our 'Year' is defined by the time it takes the Earth to orbit the Sun which takes $365\frac{1}{4}$ days. This is the reason our Gregorian Gentile Solar calendar has to be adjusted every fourth year by adding a day. The calendar in the Bible is a Solar/Lunar calendar, and is complicated to compute, but that work is done by scholars of the Hebrew Calendar.

Our 'Week', there is nothing in astronomy to determine a week. We have the concept of a 'week' only by revelation in the Bible. Day 1,2,3,4,5,6, and the 7th day Sabbath are used by the Word, Christ to delineate our 'week'.

Psalm 19 gives us the Law of God as a yardstick of perfection and exactness to compare with the movement of the heavens. The first verses talk about the heavens give us signs, and in a sense 'talk to us'.

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Indeed, the heavens do declare the Glory of God, and our Earth His handiwork. And if we know how to 'listen' the movements of the heavens, and the constancy of the heavenly bodies will 'talk' to us of His Glory. Then the Psalmist goes on to compare the perfection of the heavens to the perfection of the Law.

Psalm 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

In Genesis we are told that God made Light on the 4th day.

Genesis 1:14 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, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

Here is the introduction of the "Calendar", and that the Sun and the Moon are to divide our time into days, months, and years, and to give us 'signs' that God is in control, and is communicating with us if we could only understand it. It all seems a very simplistic story, until we give it some serious thought, and realize just what God did when He created the Sun, Moon, our Planetary System, and the Stars, and that they exist in perfect order as a backdrop to our lives on Earth.

Genesis 1:15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And 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. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven

to give light upon the earth, 18 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. 19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

In 1 Kings 12:32-33 the word translated 'ordained' here is the exact same word as is used when God created Light, it was 'ordained' by him to rule over the day and the night. The word 'ordained' means: to order by virtue of superior authority; a decree.

The heavenly astronomical bodies do go through the twelve signs of the Zodiac, that is a fact of Astronomy. Every nation on Earth has mentions in its history and folklore of the Zodiac, and comments on it abound in many manuscripts, but one thing is certain, no record has ever been found of how this pattern was ever discovered or by whom.

Astrology on the other hand is a Satanic perversion of a God-ordained and created Astronomy. It is a complete nonsense that the Sun, the Moon, and the heavenly bodies have any influence whatsoever on human behaviour or destiny. Humans have consistently rejected God's rule, the perfection of His Law, His wishes for the behaviour of His children; so human beings have also rejected the perfection and majesty of Astronomical principles for a Babylonian based pagan system of Astrology.

Isaiah 47:12 Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. 13 Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. 14 Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.

Horoscopes are based on a Gentile Babylonian perversion of Biblical and Hebrew astronomy, which is as old as the hills as people say, and probably back to the time of Nimrod and the Tower of Babel.

Every newspaper and magazine has its column of Horoscopes every day, week or month offering predictions for each of the signs of the Zodiac every. They churn out a bland meaningless generalized twaddle which anyone can take personally if they so wish. Does anyone really think their pathetic predictions could possibly apply to every twelfth person on earth? Of course, the astrologer relies on the fact that their readers rarely think seriously about anything let alone their prattlings. It is just a game. Or is it?

Or is it yet another form of idolatry which encourages people to entertain themselves with these ideas ahead of God's truth and Word. Satan sure knows how to keep people busily thinking about anything that takes them away from God's Truth.

We have already seen in Psalm 19 that the heavenly bodies and their movements in the sky do have meaningful understanding for us that God intends us to take notice of.

The Bible reveals the exact time of the birth of Jesus Christ within forty-five minutes! But as usual, the Biblical truth has been rejected in favour of the ancient Babylonian perverted myths and pagan rites of Saturnalia which is now called Christmas.

The actual day when Christ was born was on the Day of Trumpets, in the year 4-3 B.C. which would have equated to our September 11th at sundown. That day, the sunset at 6.15 p.m., and the Moon setting at 7.45 p.m., it was a day of the New Moon on the 1st Tishri, the day of Trumpets.

Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews, was born on the day of Trumpets which was the beginning of the civil year, the ceremonial date on which all kings were crowned. Christ will return as King of Kings when the last Trumpet sounds.

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

A sentence in Revelation, given of course by Jesus Christ to John, gives us another clue to the exact time of Christ's birth.

Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

On that day, when the Moon was 'under her feet', that is in relation to the constellation of Virgo.

God said in Genesis that the Sun and the Moon were given to reveal signs.

Genesis 1:14 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, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets (churchianity ministers) prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule (and perpetuate falsehoods) by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

People really LOVE their 25th December Christmas, and put more energy (and money) into this pagan idolatrous period than any other. In fact the

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Scriptures show that when the shepherds came down to see Jesus from tending their sheep on the hills, it was in September. If it had been December, they would have taken the sheep down from the hills months ago because of the cold.

As the shepherds arrived at where Jesus was, they saw a baby in a manger. (Gk: brephos – baby, infant)

The angel appeared to the shepherds on the day, the 1st of Tishri, the Day of Trumpets when Christ the King was born.

Luke 2:11 For unto you is **born this day** in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe (Gk: brephos – baby, infant) lying in a manger.

Luke 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe (Gk: brephos – baby, infant) lying in a manger.

Then we have the account of the 'wise men' visiting Christ, which occurred fifteen months later after the event with the shepherds, and actually took place on the 25th December.

There were many signs in the heavens around the time of the birth of Jesus Christ. Even non-religious astronomers concede that if they 'rewind' the movements of heavenly bodies, and go back to 3 B.C. the activity in the heavens was nothing short of remarkable. In fact, they see it as a unique

time when a uniquely magnificent display took place. Christ's arrival on Earth as a child was heralded in the skies.

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was (had been) born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, (who by the way was an Edomite), behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

The magi had been watching this Star for some time because by the time they arrived at Herod's palace, they were talking about a young child, not an infant.

Matthew 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; (Gk. Paidiôn – a toddler, a half grown boy) and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. 9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the East, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child (Gk. Paidiôn – a toddler, a half grown boy) was.

The Star that the magi had been watching for some time had stopped right in the middle of Virgo, signifying to these Gentile wise men, that Christ was (or had been) born to a virgin.

Matthew 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child (Gk. paidiôn – a half grown boy) with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

The Magi were Gentiles, no doubt very wise in the knowledge of Astronomy and Astrology, and their visit to the Christ child was about fifteen months after Jesus' birth, and was without doubt on or around the 25th December! The giving of gifts at this time of the year had been well established for centuries associated with the pagan festival of Saturnalia, as well as the custom of taking gifts to Kings. There is absolutely nothing to indicate how many Magi there were; only because of three types of gift people have assumed there were three.

Matthew 2:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

God was working with the minds of the Magi.

Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, **from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.** Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

This part of the account clearly shows the timing of the arrival of the wise men to Herod's palace. So to be sure, on the basis of what they told him of the timing of the star and the time of birth Herod ordered the slaying of all children two years old and under. His Edomite roots made it natural for him to want to slay Jews, and especially one which might be Royalty to threaten his position.

As we saw at the beginning of this article, Psalm 19 tells us of the perfection of the heavenly motions, and likens them to the perfection of the Law. The "Old Law" was perfect in itself, but it was for 'children' who did not have the Holy Spirit to enliven their minds, carnal immature humans who barely understood it, and could never have it live in their hearts and minds. Even under threat of death by stoning for breaking the Law, consistently over centuries they ignored God's wishes and went their own way.

Once Christ came on the scene, the whole relationship of God to humankind, and humankind to God changed dramatically. Now the "New Law" is written in the hearts and minds of those who are the called, making all of us 'new creatures'.

Romans 10:18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

There is a lot of knowledge for us to gain from the heavens, and of course we must be wary of mixtures of truth and error and 'reading' things that are not there. We have constantly to be on our guard 'rightly to divide the Word of Truth', and be careful to ask God's help to understand which parts of His Word apply to us today, and how we should apply the principles to our lives.

Learning from these 'signs' we can observe the constancy, the stability, the precision, and the accuracy to the nth degree of the heavenly bodies.

Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

This New Covenant has not yet been established and implemented, this is prophecy for time to come. We only have to ask ourselves: Is the Law written in the hearts and minds of Jews, Israel, Israelis, now? Or are they still God resisting, Christ rejecting, aggressive warriors armed to the teeth, cruelly subjugating their Palestinian 'brothers' at every turn?

Jeremiah 31:35 Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name: 36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. 37 Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord.

The ordinances of the Sun, the Moon and the Stars have not departed, so Israel is not banished for ever, or been totally cast off by God. Their time is coming when He will write His laws in their hearts, and they will once again become His people, but that is yet future.

Jeremiah 33:19 And the word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah, saying, 20 Thus saith the Lord; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; 21 Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. 22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

Nobody can break the covenant of the day and night, or number the host of the heavens or the sand of the sea, so God will not break the Covenant He has made with David. Jesus Christ who is a 'Son of David' is now ruling at the right hand of the Father.

Psalm 89:33 Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. 34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. 35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. 36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. 37 It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

As mentioned above, there is an abundance of evidence in ancient documents back to the 6th Century B.C. to support the calculations of the movements of the Sun and the Moon recorded in the Ephemeris. When did this constancy and assurance of seasons and of day and night begin? It began after the flood in the time of Noah.

Genesis 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. 22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Prior to the time of Noah, when Adam and Eve were ejected from the Garden of Eden, the world was a very different place, with a very different ecological and meteorological environment. It would have appeared that the Earth was under a curse. There are indications of this fact in the Bible. For the next 1656 years until the flood of Noah, different conditions prevailed.

Genesis 5:5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died. God told Adam that In the 'day' you eat thereof you will surely die. Adam died within the 'thousand year day' as God predicted.

Genesis 5:21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: The name Methuseleh means: When he dies, it shall come.

What was the 'it'? It was the flood of Noah. In the year that Methusaleh died, the flood came.

Genesis 5:27 And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.

Genesis 5:32 And Noah (his name means 'comforter') was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

It says that the fountains of the deep were broken, and the windows of heaven were opened, a different phrase from the rains came. There must have been a release of a great volume of water. People of a scientific mind look at today's world and scoff, but all cultures have folklore of a worldwide flood. They ask where all the water came from. Since the evaporation of the oceans results in rain clouds, the rain falls back into the ocean and the seas do not rise nor are the rivers full as Solomon observes when describing the typical weather systems of the Earth.

Ecclesiastes 1:6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. 7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

So under the circumstance we see in the weather patterns of the Earth now, it would be impossible for enough of the sea to turn into vapour to come down as rain to flood the Earth, so it is not unreasonable to suggest that a band of ice crystals could explain where the flood waters came from. In the book of Job, God is talking to him about creation, and the state of the world.

Job 38:8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? 9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,

What 'cloud' created thick darkness, and what does it suggest by mentioning 'swaddlingband' for the earth? Many of the planets have 'rings' around them, mostly it appears that they are of ice. It appears from this description in Job that in the beginning of time that the earth had a 'swaddlingband' of ice around it that produced intermittent 'thick darkness' as the Earth rotated. God shows that He is of course in charge of it all.

Job 38:10 And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors,
11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

Until the flood? Then the ring of ice melted, which caused a rise in the oceans, and after the flood subsided as the waters went back into the 'great deep' God then set the boundaries of the borders of the oceans somewhat as we know them today. One thing is certain, the Noachian flood was worldwide, or at least it certainly flooded completely everywhere that human beings lived resulting in every person that was not in the Ark to drown.

God had stated that the day and night, the seasons, would not be disturbed or if they were it would break His Covenant with David. God does not allow His Covenants to be broken.

So what about Joshua's 'long day' when the Sun 'stood still'? Or what happened when the sundial of Hezekiah went back forty minutes? If these events occurred just as described, as that would have constituted an interruption in the day/night sequence. We need to understand what happened here, as what did happen did not break God's Covenant of the constancy of the days and the nights. God's promises have not been violated.

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Isaiah 60: 19 The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. 20 Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

The light that comes from God's Glory and His face is like the Sun shining in its full strength. In the New Holy Jerusalem, that comes down to Earth from heaven, God's Glory will replace the light of the Sun.

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light

of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.
25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

Isaiah 28: 21 For the Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

The miracle that occurred in Joshua's long day is going to happen again in the future. When Paul was telling the King about his experience on the road to Damascus, he speaks of a light from heaven that was brighter than the Sun.

Acts 26:13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

Jesus Christ is linked to the Sun in Malachi. The face of Jesus Christ as God the Word shined like the Sun in its full strength.

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.