

Is the Gospel in the Zodiac?

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(Galatians 1:8)***

By Harley Hitchcock

What is the gospel in the Zodiac theory?

It states that when God created the heavens, he placed the Zodiac collection of stars in the sky. These various shapes and formations of people and animals were to depict the fall and redemption of man and the coming of Jesus with his death and resurrection.

However, the names of these formations were later corrupted by man and given other names like Leo, Virgo, Capricorn and so on.

It was the Babylonian occultists who were responsible for this corruption and turned God's 'gospel in the stars' into future predictions and determining man's personality traits, with which we are familiar today.

Who started it?

Ethelbert W. Bullinger in 1893 popularized the 1863 work of Miss Florence Rolleston of England, in his book "The Witness of the Stars". Prior to this, Joseph Seiss released his book "The Gospel in the Stars" in 1884.

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How did Bullinger formulate his theory?

On page 1 of his book "Witness of the Stars" he states that for 2500 years man was without written revelation from God. He then poses the question - "Did God leave himself without a witness?" He answers his own question by stating that he didn't as he revealed himself and the gospel in the stars.

What scriptures does Bullinger use to back his theory?

He quotes Romans 1:19-20.

19. Because that which may be known of God is manifest ***IN THEM***; for God hath showed it unto them.

20. For the **invisible things** of him from the creation of the world are **clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they **are without excuse**: (Romans 1:19-20).

Well so far so good!

Not so. Bullinger stumbles badly with the misinterpretation of "in them" of verse 19 as 'the stars'.

In fact 'in them' are the unrighteous and ungodly men who have rejected the creator and worshipped the creation. Romans chapter 1 tells of God's wrath toward those who have rejected the knowledge of God and instead worshipped the creation.

Worshipping creation and not the creator

After rejecting God the creator, Romans 1:21-23, 24 shows that the pagan imagination of man worshipped the creation. Vast evidence is available and can be seen in totem poles, mascots for sporting teams and the tribal worship such as animal deities and so on.

What was the next step?

Why, man simply looked in the sky and imagined that these 'divine creatures' must have come from heaven. And so man put them in a Zodiac in the sky.

Where did the Zodiac come from?

From Babylonian occult theory. It's established that the Babylonian night sky watchers put names to the various figures they imagined they saw. "... the **Babylonians were a nation of stargazers**, and that they kept a body of men to do nothing else but report eclipses, appearances of the moon, sunspots, etc., etc." "**Astronomy, mixed with astrology, occupied a large number of tablets in the Babylonian libraries.**" "**They were inventors of the Zodiac.**" (Dr Budge in "Witness of the Stars" p11-12 E. W. Bullinger).

What does God think about astrology?

God says to Babylon "*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. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them;...***" (Isaiah 47:13-14)

Clearly, God is not impressed. Could God create the Zodiac in the sky and then condemn people for stargazing?

Does God use second rate men, material or wisdom?

Here is what Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, thought of his own star gazers and prognosticators compared to Daniel.

"And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm."
(Daniel 1:20)

Did God make the stars and give them names?

He did. The Bible has the names Pleiades, Arcturus and Orion. (Job 9:9)

Well couldn't God have originally created all the figures we see in the night sky?

There is no practical or visible evidence to support this claim. Quite clearly, one would need the spaced-out brain of a hippie on drugs to even start and see some of the shapes suggested. Bullinger even admits

"THE FIGURES THEMSELVES ARE PERFECTLY ARBITRARY. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE GROUP OF STARS TO EVEN SUGGEST THE FIGURES." (p17).

God certainly named the stars (Ps 147:4) but the Zodiac names and signs came from elsewhere.

Is there any evidence of the Zodiac in the Bible?

Not a scrap.

Is Bullinger convinced of his theory?

Definitely not. He states *"It is for the readers to judge how far my conclusions are borne out by the evidence."* (p iv "Witness of the Stars"). Like a lot of these things, someone 'flies a flag' or waves a theory around in the air hoping to get some discussion on it.

Unfortunately, fiction then becomes fact and Christians who are weak in the faith will believe anything.

Who is behind the 'gospel in the stars' theory?

Satan. You see, in the beginning was the Word - not the picture or the vision or the Zodiac. Satan hates God's written word just as he hates the living Word, Jesus. He'll do anything he can to detract, or subtract from either.

"Look! Up in the sky!"

This gets people away from looking to and studying God's word - the Bible. Astronomy and astrology gets mixed with the Bible and before long, confusion is the result.

Is God into mixtures?

Definitely not. God is light and in him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). Read Leviticus chapter 19 and see that God demands separation.

An example in the theory is Sagittarius the Archer pictured as a half-man and half-horse. He represents the Redeemer's triumph. Is this a Biblical picture that God would equate Christ as half-man, half-horse? I think not.

What are the dangers then?

Immense. After a well known pastor extolled the virtues of this theory on a national Christian television network in America, there was a documented case of a woman who became convinced that she was a "Scorpio",

possessing certain character traits as defined in astrology. She probably wasn't and isn't the only one to be affected this way.

If this trend continues, we will see Christian bookstores catering for such people by stocking Zodiac signs. You may laugh, but Rex Humbard, a famous tele-evangelist, stated on Christian television that he is Leo and that's why he has a stone lion in his yard.

Destroy their pictures!

It is not by chance that God instructed Israel when entering Canaan, to "**...destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images**, and quite pluck down all their high places:" (Numbers 33:52).

Surely, trying to find God's plan of redemption in the Zodiac is the equivalent of drawing similarities between Harry Potter stories and those in the Bible.

In these last days ...

Well meaning Christians are being duped by Satan's latest Side Show. Satan is ever vigilant and wants to draw us away from saying "Isn't the written word of God a wonderful revelation!" He wants us to say "Look! There is another gospel - and it's in the stars!" Satanic distractions like the "Gospel in the Stars" theory can only serve to destroy, delay or sidetrack those who are weak in the faith.

Dear reader, let us be sober minded. "**But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach ANY OTHER GOSPEL unto you than that which we have preached unto you, LET HIM BE ACCURSED.**"

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