***The Signs of the Zodiac, No. 5
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We are studying Romans 10:18-21. Our subject is "Revelation Rejected," and this is segment number six.

**Creation**

The Bible is God's inerrant written communication to mankind. And in this Bible, God tells us that He has created the universe by the power of His spoken word. It is very important that we, from time-to-time, remind ourselves, and especially in this series, as we are looking out at some of the dramatic handiwork of God, that He indeed is the One who made it. And He did it just by saying that it should be done. He spoke it into existence out of nothing.

Carl Sagan, a leading astronomer, says, "That is not so" – that matter basically is eternal, and that life has not been created on this earth, but that it has arrived by a spaceship from some other planet; from some other galaxy; or, from some other source of life out there in space. He says that: "Evolution is undoubtedly not a theory, but beyond question – the answer to the origins of all the life forms we see on this earth."

But when we come to the Bible, we look in Genesis 1:1, and it says, "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." And that means that God Himself, by His own authority, on the basis of His own capacities, did something that was not there before He brought it into being. He declared it into being – the heavens and the earth.

So, who's right: Carl Sagan; or, God? Obviously, God is the One who knows what He is talking about, and Sagan knows nothing about the origins of life, because he has closed his mind to the only source of information – the inerrant, living, active Word of God. So, what did not exist one moment was fully developed reality the next moment, simply by the spoken Word of God. There was no evolutionary process involved.

We found in Psalm 19:1 that God's creation declares His personal glory; that is, His perfection in every way. We found from Romans 1:20 that God's creation testifies to His existence; to His eternal power; and, to His deity. God has thus designed His creation to convey a message about Himself to all mankind. We have this stated very explicitly in Psalm 97:6: "The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the people see His glory." That's exactly what Paul is saying. The psalmist, centuries before Paul came on the scene, said, "The heavens declare the righteousness of God. Now how can that be true? How can you look up in the sky and say, "That's a perfect, absolute righteous God? He's going to expect me to be as perfect as He is, or I can't go to heaven." You have to be as perfect as God, or you can't go to heaven. You have to be as good as God, or you can't go to heaven. How can that be? Well, we're finding out. It's the message of the constellations of the zodiac that have given us that message, and which gave the ancient people that message. And all the people see His glory as they look up at what He has created in those heavenly luminaries.

**The Signs of the Zodiac**

Well, God's message, indeed, we have indicated, comes, in part, through the star constellations making up the signs of the zodiac. This message deals with the subject of human salvation – to keep people from having to go to the lake of fire. The original message of each consolation has been perverted by the pagans over the centuries into myths. The mythical stories, however, still do reflect the original message. So, with the Bible revelation, and with the names of the stars that have come down to us, we can reconstruct the story pretty well. The names of the key stars give us clues to the original meanings of that particular constellation.

**Book 1 – The Redeemer**

Well, the twelve signs of the zodiac tell the story of God's plan for salvation.

1. **Virgo**

We have begun with Virgo the virgin. This constellation portrays a virgin woman who will bear a sinless son, who is a God-Man, Who will judge the lost, and care for the saved.

1. **Libra**

The second constellations is Libra the scales. Libra the scales portrays the lost people of the world who lack the absolute righteousness which is necessary to balance themselves against God's standard of Jesus Christ. You have to be as good as Jesus Christ to go to heaven. So, the sinless God-man, the virgin Son, this constellation told us, will die so as to pay for their sins. He will be resurrected. He will be made King over the redeemed, and He will balance the scales of judgment in their favor.

1. **Scorpio**

The third consolation that we looked at was Scorpio the scorpion. This constellation portrays Satan bruising Jesus Christ upon the cross, but being crushed in return, and thereby, releasing mankind from the authority of Satan.

1. **Sagittarius**

Chapter four of book one book of this story in the sky is dealing with the Redeemer. Chapter four was Sagittarius the archer, which portrays Jesus Christ as the God-Man who is delivering a death blow to Satan, causing the believers in turn to sing for joy over their escape from the lake of fire.

**Book 2 – The Redeemed**

Then we came to book two in the story in the skies, which was entitled "The Redeemed."

1. **Capricorn**

Chapter one of book two is the constellation Capricornus the sea goat. This portrays the Lord Jesus Christ being sacrificed for the sins of the world, and being resurrected, and drawing believers into salvation by trusting in Him.

1. **Aquarius**

Chapter two dealt with Aquarius, the water bearer, which portrays the Lord Jesus Christ as pouring out the waters of eternal life to all who will drink of it, based upon His death on the cross.

1. **Pisces**

Then we came to the sign of Pisces the fish. This portrays multitudes of believers who, though now rejected by the world, enjoy the benefits of the death of Jesus Christ for them as the Lamb of God Who will one day reign over the world with Him. Now those believers are chained and rejected, but they will yet be released.

1. **Aries**

Chapter four in the book on the redeemed was Aries the ram. The subject of that was "The Blessings Enjoyed." This portrays a resurrected Jesus Christ as a ram with powerful curved horns, lying down in a confident repose in the picture of a conqueror.

* 1. **Cassiopeia**

The decans are sidepieces that further explain this particular constellation. First of all was Cassiopeia, which pictures the redeemed (the church) seated on a throne, preparing herself to become the bride of Christ.

* 1. **Cetus**

The second sidepiece was Cetus the sea monster, who portrays Satan as a monster, but who is held in check by a cord which is held on his neck by the victorious, resurrected Jesus Christ.

* 1. **Perseus**

Then we came to the third one, where we stopped last time, which is Perseus, the breaker. This portrays a mighty warrior with wings on his feet who is carrying off in triumph the cutoff head of Medusa in his left hand, and who holds aloft a sword in his right hand. As the ancients looked up into the sky, they looked at this constellation, and this is the image that they imposed upon it – an image which had come down from earliest times. The name "Perseus" means "the breaker." The brightest star is "Mirfak." "Mirfak" means "he who helps." The star in the left foot has a name which means "he who breaks." The names of these stars are important because they give us a clue as to what the original meaning of this constellation was.

In Micah 2:13, the Scriptures speak of "the breaker" who will come one day, who will break open the way for the people of Israel to pass into safety. That breaker spoken of in Micah 2:13 is the Lord Jesus Christ. So, Perseus pictures Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God, Who removes all barriers to God's pastures of blessing, which Micah 2:12 speaks about.

The sword in his hand picture Jesus Christ smiting his enemy, Satan. The wings on his feet speak of his speedy return as Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

He holds in his left hand the head of the mythological Medusa, which speaks of the defeat of Satan by the Lord Jesus Christ. Greek mythology called the head of Medusa "trodden underfoot." But the Hebrew name for the head of Medusa is Rosh Shatan, which means the head of the adversary. So, that's an interesting thing. The Jews refer to this head as the head of the adversary, obviously filling out the picture of Jesus Christ here, the Conqueror, Who has chopped off Satan's head, and thus done him in.

The brightest star right on the forehead of Medusa is named "AlGol," and that means "the evil spirit." That's an interesting thing that they should call that star "the evil spirit," thus communicating that this is indeed the head of the evil one. This star "AlGol" is kind of an interesting star because it varies in its brightness for an 8-hour span in every 69-hour period. Every 69 hours, there will be a span of 8 hours in which this star will suddenly change from its light to very dark, and then come back to being light again. And it'll do that every 69 hours. Over an 8-hour span within that 69 hours, it'll fade out, and then come back brilliantly again. It's almost as if it is a sign of the fact that this head is symbolic of Satan who changes from an angel of light, as he is spoken of in 2 Corinthians 11:14, and then fades out to becoming a dark, devouring lion as 1 Peter 5:8 speaks of him. This is just one of those interesting things when you look up in the sky. And if you were a person who is into astronomy, you could follow this pattern of this star, and its fade in and fade out, almost symbolically of Satan's changing his colors – the chameleon quality of this creature.

Here's the story of the mythology. Some of you, I'm sure, are acquainted with this. In Greek mythology, Perseus is one of the most beloved and admired of the hero gods. He is a son of a god who set the infant Perseus and his mother adrift at sea. Jupiter, the chief of the gods, had them rescued by some fishermen, and taken to the local king. The king honored Perseus by making him the keeper of the Temple of Wisdom, which made him a favorite of the other gods. I want you to see (you know enough about the Bible) how the mythological story keep reflecting things that are true about Jesus Christ, Who certainly is the keeper of wisdom.

There was a great feast held, and all the Lords were bringing presents to the king. So, Perseus wanted to bring something really special to the king upon this occasion. So, he went out and cut off the head of Medusa. That was no easy thing to do, because, as you remember the story, if you looked at Medusa, she looked you in the eye, and, like many women today, she turned you to stone. This was a terrible gal to come up against. So, Perseus, very cleverly, got himself a shining shield, and he went backward looking in the shield, and zapped her head off before she could look him directly in the eye and turn him to stone. But he brought this Medusa head, and its hair was all wiggling snakes. So, he brought this wiggling snake thing. This is very apropos a figure here of Satan himself. And Perseus was honored for this victory over the terrible Medusa by being placed up in the sky to be immortalized as a star constellation.

As Perseus was returning, the story further says, from the slaying of the Medusa, he saw the beautiful chained Andromeda that we have looked at previously. He saw Andromeda chained and about to be devoured by a sea monster. Perseus got Andromeda to agree to be his wife if he saved her from the sea monster. She was a captive audience, so to speak. He said, "I'll let this guy eat you; or, if you marry me, I'll save you." I mean, the girl didn't have too much choice, but she says, "Perseus, I'll go with you. I hate that sea monster."

So, Perseus kill the sea monster. And he and Andromeda were married, and they had many noble sons and daughters. Can't you see Jesus Christ in all of this? He Who conquers Satan; He who saves the bride, the church; and, through Whom He has many sons and daughters of those who become born again and come into the Kingdom of God as children of God?

The mythological story of Perseus obviously had an origin in a true story that God had given Adam concerning this constellation as it related to something that was going to be true about Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was born the divine human Son, subjected indeed to suffering, but triumphed over evil, and then honored by His Father. Jesus Christ is the keeper and channel of God's divine viewpoint and doctrine – that wisdom which is now preserved for all believers. Jesus Christ, on the cross, broke the power of Satan, and indeed cut off the devil's head. So, it was Jesus Christ who broke the chains of the church age believers as He broke the chains of Andromeda, and freed her from her enslavement. It is Christ who has broken our chains, and has made us His bride in the process. This completes the second book.

**Book 3 – The Redemption**

We come to book three now – the final segment of the story in the stars. Book three is entitled "The Redemption." And now things start getting very serious up in the sky.

1. **Taurus – The Savior as the Judge of the Earth**

The first sign of book three is the sign of Taurus the Bull. Chapter one of this book is entitled "The Savior as the Judge of the Earth." This star constellation portrays a large wild ox with two large horns, with his head lowered, and he is charging swiftly with great energy at his enemy. It is a very frightful sign. This is not just the ordinary ox as we are acquainted with. But this is an animal which is now extinct, which was known in the ancient world, and which was a huge animal. But this creature is charging down. The eye of the bull (the bull's eye), his right eye, has a star. It is a bright star – the brightest star in this constellation. It is called "AlDeberan," and that means "the leader" or "the governor," giving us a clue immediately that this bull is Jesus Christ.

The second, brightest star up here in the tip of his left horn is called "ElNath." It's an Arabic word, and it means "wounded" or "slain." The back part of the bull actually comes out of the constellation of Aries, the ram, which represents Jesus Christ. So, you have another indication that, out of Aries, the Ram, comes Jesus Christ, the bull. Aries, the ram, the one who is now in repose as having accomplished salvation. Now, out of that, comes another part. From this same ram comes now a creature of judgment. Out of one side comes the part of salvation – the extension of salvation. Out of the other comes, from the same God, the divine judgment.

This side portrays Jesus Christ, the virgin's Son, coming to exercise fierce judgment upon those who have rejected His sacrifice for their sins. Mythology describes Taurus as snow one, thus indicating his righteousness. This form was assumed by the chief god Jupiter, out of his love for Europa, mythology tells us, whom he carried on his strong back across the sea to Crete. The god of the sea demanded that the bull, Taurus, be offered in sacrifice, because of his coming across his territory. But because of his beauty, the king of Crete saved the bull. Later, the bull went mad and created great havoc among the Cretans. The raging of this bull was finally brought under control by Hercules the hero – Hercules, who again represents Jesus Christ.

So, here you have the myth, again, reflecting original truths about Jesus Christ and His bride, the church, whom He loves; and, His wrath against unbelievers. It is this bull indeed, which carried believers to safety. It is this bull who was attacked and abused. It is this bull who was protected by his father. It is this bull, Jesus Christ, Who created great havoc among the unbelievers when His judgment is placed upon them. It is this bull, whose just rage can only be controlled by Jesus Christ Himself, as in the figure of Hercules, because the justice of God was satisfied on the cross.

High up on the bull's left shoulder, you will see a cluster of seven stars which are named the Pleiades. "Pleiades" means the "congregation of the judge or the ruler." It is a very lovely little cluster of stars that you see up in the sky on the shoulder of the bull. Mythology viewed these seven stars as the daughter of Atlas, the powerful man you know who was holding up the world on his shoulders. There was the imposition of the seven daughters of Atlas. You will see that there are only six daughters there. And the stories of mythology tell us that one daughter, named Merope married a mortal. And this was so humiliating that she was ashamed, so she always hides behind one of her other sisters. And that's why you can only see six up there, though there are seven sisters. These daughters of Atlas, the congregation of the judge, were placed in the stars on Taurus because they were such virtuous women, and because there was an unusual affection among them – a great sympathy that they interchanged between them.

Here again, you see the original story – that which is reflecting the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is indeed the congregation of the judge – church saints who are filled with "agape" love, and who have a sympathy for one another as they are filled with the Spirit, but who are securely supported in that eternal life on the back of the bull, Jesus Christ. And incidentally, supported on the back of that bull in their salvation as He Himself is in the process of charging unbelievers. While he's exercising his judgment, the Christians are safe.

There is another group of stars on the face of the bull which are called the Hyades. That too means "congregation." These were viewed as other sisters of the Pleiades women.

So, Taurus is the message of God's wrath against those who reject the offer of grace salvation. And this wrath was very clearly enunciated by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah; for example, in Isaiah 34:2-8. We'll let you run that down on your own. But if you read through that passage, you will see that there is indeed a judgment which is coming upon those who reject God's provision of salvation. You may also look at Isaiah 26:20-21, where we read, "Come My people. Enter into your chambers, and shut your doors about you. Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, till the indignation is passed. For, behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity. The earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain." So, Isaiah is saying, "The time is coming when God's period of grace has passed. Then He's going to act as judge. And you are going to receive the wrath of God if you do not have God's absolute righteousness credited to your account so that you are, in the sight of God, as good as His Son. Jesus Christ.

The bull represents this wrath of God. Now it is God allowing sinners the time to repent, patiently holding back and waiting before His wrath is turned loose. Isaiah 13:9-15 will tell you about that – that patient holding back. But once the time of God's grace is passed, there will be no escape from God's holy wrath, and from His judgments. This was certainly illustrated, you can be sure, during the Noahic flood, when people treated Noah as a fool, and laughed at him, and for 120 years they would not listen to him. And finally, there was nobody, in all the vast numbers of human beings on the face of the earth, who trusted and believed in the living God, and who accepted the message of Noah, except eight people, and they were all in his family. And those eight were carried safely through by the ark.

Now you can imagine what happened when that rain started coming, and people began to get the realization that Noah knew what he was talking about. And they hurried and scurried to try to build their own flotation devices. And, one-by-one, God took them down and drowned them. Oh, you can be sure that many of them managed something. You can be sure that they were clever enough to put something together that they were able to float around on. But they didn't count on having to float for a year. And they had no way to secure the food and the water and everything they needed, and they soon died. And one-by-one, they toppled over into the deep. Once God's period of waiting in Noah's day was passed, there was no turning back.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 tell us that that's how it's going to be in the future, too: "And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels." Some of these people in Thessalonica had been told by some knuckle-headed, disinformation preachers who had come through, that the rapture had taken place, and that they had missed it. That's what Paul says: "Put yourself at ease. Don't be troubled that scuttlebutt. That's not true. When the Lord Jesus comes from heaven," verse 8 says, "in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power."

The time is coming when God is going to exercise His judgment. And notice what's associated with it: "flaming fire." Yes, the judgment of God upon unbelievers will be with flames. Revelation 6:12-17 give you further details, that you may read on your own, of God coming in judgment, so that all the political leaders of the world are scurrying around like a bunch of rats, unable to figure out what to do. And it says: "Finally trying to hide themselves in the mountains, asking the mountains to fall on them, to hide them from the face of the wrath." So much for the leaders who know so much, who have distanced themselves from the Word of God so that they know nothing.

It is indeed true that the fool has said in his heart that there is no God. Now you can say that, and mean it, like the Russians do: "There is no God." And you're a fool that way. Or you can say it by ignoring the Word of God, and in effect, you're saying it the same way, but you're not putting it in words. You are saying, "There is no God, and doctrine is not important." And you do not function in society on what the Bible says. Can you imagine how many problems human society has in this country that could be solved overnight if the biblical principles were applied to the situation and to the sinners? It would be practically a millennium.

When the Lord Jesus Christ comes to judge the world of the antichrist, the daughters of the King will come riding on this world with Him, to judge and rule with Him in total safety.

The decans, the sidepieces, that expand this judgment side are awesome in themselves.

* 1. **Orion – The Sublime Vanquisher**

First of all, there is one of the most glorious figures that we find up in the sky: Orion, the glorious one. Paragraph one of this is entitled "The Sublime Vanquisher." This portrays a man with a large club in his right hand, about to deliver a blow. And in his left hand, he holds the skin of a slain lion. His left foot is in the act of crushing the hare – the rabbit, who is his enemy. He wears a brilliant, starry belt across the middle, from which hangs a mighty sword. The handle of this sword was viewed as being in the shape of a lamb's head. Orion is one of those brilliant constellations. All of you can look up into the sky and readily identify it. Some businesses use this as a symbol. They put the stars that make up the Orion constellation, and they use it in their advertising.

This is one of the most beautiful constellations in the sky, and it is one which is mentioned in the Bible. So, we're pretty sure that the name "Orion" came from the original naming that God did of all the stars. Job 9:9 refers to Orion. Job 38:31 and Amos 5:8 refer to this constellation.

The word "Orion" means "he who comes forth as light." Now what could you say more than that? "Orion" means "he who comes forth as light." And it is obviously speaking about Jesus Christ.

The brightest star (a first magnitude star) is in his right shoulder, and it is called Betelgeuse. "Betelgeuse" means "the coming of the branch." He has another star (a first magnitude star) in his left foot. It is called "Rigel," and it means "the foot that crushes." It is lift it up over his enemy, the hare, which represents Satan, and he's ready to stomp down upon him. You have Genesis 3:15 reiterated again in a variety of ways. So, the next time you look up in the sky and you see Orion, which is not too hard to locate, find that left foot, and see the hare under it, and he's about ready to stomp the life out of him, and realize that it is Orion – he who comes forth as light, the sublime vanquisher, is about to crush Satan with his foot.

There is a another star in his left shoulder called "Bellatrix," and it means "coming quickly" or "swiftly destroying," all of which again are significant descriptions of what Jesus Christ is doing. There is one more star in his belt call "AlNitak," which means "the wounded one." The fantastic meaning of these stars tells us what this constellation is to portray. There is one other star in his right leg called "Saiph," which means "bruised." So, all these star names very clearly apply to Jesus Christ as the One who came as the Savior.

The stars indicate that Orion represents the soon-to-come Lord Jesus Christ of the royal branch of David, Who is to be bruised by Satan on the cross, but Who in turn would crush Satan by paying for human sins, and thus totally defeating the devil. In Isaiah 42:13, we read, "The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man. He shall stir up jealousy like a man of war. He shall cry; yeah, roar. He shall prevail against his enemies." Now remember that Orion is a sidepiece of Taurus the bull. Taurus the bull is God charging in His righteous wrath and indignation, about ready to apply judgment. And He's doing it through this superhero Orion, representing Jesus Christ.

Now the ancient myths about Orion tell us that he was a super person who was given to man as a gift from the gods – three gods, as a matter of fact. Jupiter; Neptune; and, Mercury gave Orion as a gift to mankind. Orion was described as a handsome man of surpassing strength and size, who could walk dry shod on the sea. Now who do you think that's talking about? He was, furthermore, described as being a great hunter, capable of killing any animal on earth, and that he cleared the earth of all the evil beasts. He loved Merope, one of the Pleiades daughters. So, the king put out Orion's eyes, who then had his sight restored by turning to the sun. Now that's a significant part of the story. He loved Merope, one of the daughters of Pleiades. The king didn't like that. He put out Orion's eyes. Orion looks to the sun, and he gets his eyesight back. A scorpion hits him, and he dies from the wound. The goddess Diana goes to the gods and asks that Orion be raised to immortality? He is, and then he's placed up in the sky to preserve his immortal status.

You can see that the Orion myth reflects the original message of the constellation which dealt with Jesus Christ. Indeed, the Lord Jesus Christ was a superhero, the sublimest of all men, and Who, has a God-Man, could walk dry shod on water. Jesus Christ had the power, and did clear out the powers of evil, and broke the back of Satan on this earth. Jesus Christ was stung by the scorpion (Satan) on the cross so that His eyes were blinded in death. But His eyesight was restored in the resurrection. The Lord Jesus Christ was elevated to the place of honor, then, in the Father's presence in the heavenly throne room. Someday, the Lord Jesus Christ will permanently clear the earth of the evil people when He comes to rule upon this earth.

* 1. **Eridanus – The River of Judgment**

The second sidepiece looks like a river, and it is a river. It is called "Eridanus." This is paragraph two of this chapter, the chapter of the bull. It is entitled "The River of Judgment." It portrays a river which is flowing from beneath the raised attacking foot of Orion. As you look up to the sky, there is Orion; and, there is Taurus the bull charging out of Aries the lamb, as we indicated. And associated with Taurus is Orion. And from under the foot of Orion flows "Eridanus," this river. And I want you to notice that it's also coming under the paws of Cetus the sea monster, which represents Satan.

So, I think you can see what Satan is trying to do there– to hold this river back. It is coming from the foot of Orion, representing Jesus Christ. So, what we have here is this river "Eridanus," a river of judgment, coming from beneath the attacking foot of Orion. This river flows in a weaving pattern, and it goes downward toward the horizon, and goes down, as if signifying that it's going to the lower regions of hell. The river flows, as we've shown you, under the feet of Cetus (Satan), who vainly tried to stop it.

The brightest star at the end of the river is named "Achernar," just as it goes down out of sight. "Achernar" means "the end of the river." The second brightest star is up at the top, where it begins, and it's at the source of the river, and its name means "bent down." The feet of Cetus, at this point, are trying to hold the river from going forward. Orion's foot is above it.

So, the decan pictures a river which will carry unbelievers into the lake of fire forever from God's Great White Throne judgment that you read about in Revelation 20:11-15. That judgment tells us that all unbelievers will be gathered before this Great White Throne, and that God will examine the record of the books that are kept upon these people, and they will see that the record of their works shows only human good. They do not have the divine good necessary to go to heaven. Consequently, they will all be condemned along with Satan. So, Revelation 20:14 says, "And Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Whosoever was not found written in the book of life (that is, the Lamb's book of life) was cast into the lake of fire." This river portrays a fiery river which is flowing into the lake of fire.

Mythology views this river as a river into which the arrogant Phaethon, who is the son of Helios, the sun god, was cast into this river in punishment after he arrogantly tried to drive the chariot of the sun across the sky one day, and he almost burned up the earth. The original story about the river of fire is found in the Bible. I'll just read one of them, in Daniel 7:9-11: "I beheld, till the thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days did sit (Jesus Christ), Whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him." That's why it's coming forth. In the original constellations, it's being pictured as coming from under the foot of Orion, representing Jesus Christ, because the God who is willing to save you is the God who is going to put you in the flames of hell. And the river of fire flows from that same God.

"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. And a thousand thousands ministered unto Him. And 10,000 times 10,000 stood before Him. The judgment was set, and the books were opened." This is the same picture as the Great White Throne Judgment. Thousands of us are standing there as the agents of the living God. Thousands of us are standing there associated with this Orion, ready to exercise judgment, as other 10,000 upon 10,000 are standing there ready to be judged and condemned.

"I beheld them because of the voice of the great words which the horn spoke. I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame." You may read further Isaiah 66:15-16 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, all of which indicate that there is such a river of fire. Eridanus proclaims the terror of falling under the righteous wrath of Taurus, the bull, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is clearly declared in Hebrews 10:26-31: "It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of this living God." And it is a judgment from which there is no return. Once in this river, a person is doomed.

* 1. **Auriga – The All-Ruling Shepherd**

The second sidepiece explaining this particular constellation is "Auriga" the shepherd. This is paragraph three. The subject is "The All-Ruling shepherd." This portrays a shepherd who is seated on the Milky Way galaxy. He cradles a she goat in his left arm, who is hold onto his left shoulder, and she is looking back with concern toward Taurus the charging bull. In his left and he holds to frightened little kids – little goats. He holds those two little frightened animals also in his hand. In his right hand, he holds a band, or a cord – something to tie with.

The star names of Auriga give us, again, an indication of the meaning of this sidepiece. The brightest star (a first magnitude star) is named Capella, and it means "a she goat." The second brightest star is "Menkalinon," and it means "the band" or "the chain of the goats." Another in his right foot is called "Elna," and it means "wounded" or "slain." So, again, the stars tell us, by their names, that this constellation speaks of Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd who ties His sheep to Himself so that they cannot be lost, and he protects them from divine judgment against sin. There are, of course, many passages in Scripture which present Jesus in that light. For example: John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20; and, 1 Peter 5:4 all present Him as the Good Shepherd. This constellation portrays Jesus Christ holding the mother goat securely in His arm, and protecting the little kids in His hand. This is the picture which is found in Isaiah 40:10-11. The band, or the code, in His other hand, represents His power to bind Satan, and to guide His sheep into safe green pastures. It's a picture of tender, divine mercy toward believers in the midst of divine judgment – judgment while He's charging upon these unbelievers.

So, Taurus testifies to a day of divine judgment which is coming upon the human race to burn them with divine wrath. This is expressed in this way in Malachi 4:1 (the last book of the Old Testament): "'For behold, the day comes that shall burn like an oven, and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall be stubble. And the day that comes shall burn them up,' says the Lord of Hosts, "that it shall leave them neither foot nor branch, but unto you that fear My Name shall the Son of righteousness arise with healing in His wings, and you shall go forth and grow up like calves of the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this,' says the Lord of Hosts." Only in the Lord Jesus Christ is there safety from God's righteous wrath, which is coming upon this earth, and which is portrayed in this way. The mighty wrath portrayed by the constellation of Taurus is going to be executed upon the very same people who had a chance to escape it all, if only they accepted God's plan of salvation.

So, if you're here today, thinking that you have a plan of salvation that includes something you can do, I can assure you that you are going to regret that for all eternity. If you had something to what God has done, it will take you straight into Eridanus, the river of fire, and you will find yourself under the foot of Orion, the judge, instead of finding yourself in the tender loving care and protection of Auriga the shepherd. In Matthew 11:28-29, we read, "Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

That's the offer. Take Jesus Christ, and escape all this. The constellation of Taurus and its decans is clearly expressed in the whole 37th Psalm. And I would encourage you to go home and make that your Sunday afternoon reading, and you'll get the full picture of the sign of Taurus the Bull.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1988

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