

**Israel Will Be Blessed by Virgo's Messiah; Spiritual Israel Will Multiply by Means of the Seed of the Woman, Gen 3:15; Documentation that Pisces Is the Sign of Israel: Capt, Caldecott, Bullinger, & Allen; Leo: the Lion of the Tribe of Judah; the Conquering King; Minor Constellations: Hydra: the Serpent, Crater: the Cup of Divine Wrath, & Corvus: the Devouring Raven**

Pisces speaks of the Jewish people who will be blessed by the work of Virgo's virgin-born Savior. They are illustrated as fishes who multiply into a multitude. In addition, the concept of mass procreation is also depicted by seeds. Jesus Christ is the Seed while the Jews are the seeds who inherit the Lord's kingdom and blessings.

These are spiritual seeds, therefore those who inherit must not only have the genes of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob but also the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This concept is communicated through several passages of Scripture, for example:

**Psalm 33:12** - Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.

The "nation" here is to be viewed literally and figuratively. The literal nation in context is Israel but it also refers to those Israelites who have believed in Messiah for salvation.

The One who makes salvation possible is called the "Seed" in:

**Genesis 3:15** - I will put hostility between you and the woman, between your seed [זֶרַע zera'] and her seed. He shall crush your head but you shall bruise His heel.

The word "seed" is the masculine singular noun זֶרַע zera' which refers literally to "the fertilized ripened ovule of a flowering plant containing an embryo and capable normally of germination to produce a new plant."<sup>1</sup>

This, quite obviously, is not the meaning intended here. It identifies Lucifer as the source of one progeny and the Lord as the source of another.

The original progeny of Lucifer's is the fallen angelic creation followed by those of the human race who follow him to the exclusion of Jesus Christ.

The original progeny of the Lord's is Israel, specifically, those who believe in the Messiah, followed by any member of the human race who believes in Him for salvation and eternal life.

It was Jacob's desire that Ephraim and Manasseh would "grow like fishes into a multitude" in Genesis 48:16. The "seed of the woman" in Genesis 3:15 identifies Jesus as the spiritual seed of those who would receive the inheritance promised to those who believe in Him. These blessings are imputed both in time and eternity. The "seed" of the Lord is multiplied "like fishes" and symbolized by the constellation Pisces.

Astronomy is one of the best documented disciplines of the ancient world and each culture assigned names to the arrangement of stars in each of the Carousel's constellations:

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<sup>1</sup> Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v." seed."

The principle achievement of the science of astronomy in the centuries during which the books of the Old Testament were written was the arrangement and naming of the constellations, and there can be no reasonable doubt that the same system was known to the Hebrews as that which has been handed down to us through the Greek astronomers. These constellations have a much greater antiquity than this, and it is probable that they were well known to Abraham before he left Ur of the Chaldees.

It has been frequently shown that these constellations themselves supply evidence that they were designed about 2700 B.C. They thus antedated the time of Abraham by some centuries, and since some of their most characteristic forms are found upon old Babylonian "boundary stones," it is clear that they were known in the country from whence he came out.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, the fishes of Pisces illustrate the people and nation of Israel. We have just noted this from Capt's *The Glory of the Stars* and here by Caldecott. There are two more sources that confirm this belief. E. W. Bullinger writes in his *The Witness of the Stars*:

The sign of Pisces has always been interpreted of Israel. Both Jews and Gentiles have agreed in this. Abarbanel,<sup>3</sup> a Jewish commentator, writing on Daniel, affirms that the sign of Pisces always refers to the people of Israel.<sup>4</sup>

And on this same subject we also have confirmation from Richard Hinckley Allen's *Star Names*:

Within their [the fishes of the constellation Pisces] boundaries took place the three distinct conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn in the year 747 [A.U.C. (L *ab urbe condita*) from the year of the founding of the city] of Rome,—the year to which for a long time was assigned Christ's birth; these phenomena strikingly agreeing in some of their details with Matthew's account of the Star of Bethlehem. The opinion that these appearances guided the Magi in their visit to Judaea was first advanced and advocated by the celebrated [Johannes] Kepler, and worked out in 1826 by [Christian Ludwig] Ideler, and in 1831 by [Johann Franz] Encke *leh'-kal*. It is noticeable that the Rabbis held the tradition, recorded by Abrabanel in the 15th century, that a similar conjunction took place in Pisces three years previous to the birth of Moses, and they anticipated another at their Messiah's advent. Thus the Fishes were considered the national constellation of the Jews, as well as a tribal symbol.<sup>5</sup>

We have established that Virgo: the virgin, i.e., Mary, is the first constellation in the Carousel and its brightest star is Spica: the Branch. Also in this same section of the sky is the constellation Coma: woman with child, "the desire of nations."

The seventh constellation of the twelve is Pisces, or the Fishes which represent Israel while the twelfth is Leo, the third formation that is of great interest in our study.

### b. Leo: The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

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<sup>2</sup> W. Shaw Caldecott, "Astronomy," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 1:309.

<sup>3</sup> There are two spellings of this man's name: Abrabanel \äb-rä-bä-nel\ and Abarbanel \ äb-är-bä-nel\ . Each is found among the various references we are consulting.

<sup>4</sup> Bullinger, *The Witness of the Stars*, 96.

<sup>5</sup> Richard Hinckley Allen, *Star Names: Their Lore and Meaning* (1899; repr., Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 1963), 341.

**Leo** (the Lion). Of all the constellations, Leo is the only one whose constituent stars actually resemble a lion. All the ancient views of this constellation regard it as reflecting royalty of a king who conquers an adversary and delivers his people.

There are seven words for lion in the Old Testament but the one that makes reference to the lion of the constellation and the Lion of the tribe of Judah is **אֵרֵיחַ** *aryeh*:

Because it is the strongest animal, the lion is the symbol of power and courage (2 Samuel 17:10; 23:20; 1 Chronicles 11:22; 12:9). (p. 171)

Yahweh's activity is frequently compared with the lion's behavior. As a rule, the image encompasses the frightening and threatening elements of his coming to judge (Jeremiah 50:44; 49:19; Hosea 5:14; 13:7, 8; Job 10:16). This imagery is consonant with the fact that portrayals of theophanies use the verb *sh'ag* [אָגַף], which probably originally referred only to the roaring of the lion (Job 37:4), five times for the terrifying speech of Yahweh (Jeremiah 25:30 3x; Amos 1:2; Joel 4:16).

Yet this comparison can also emphasize Yahweh's strength and invincibility in the context of his saving intervention in the history of his people (Isaiah 31:4; Hosea 11:10); correspondingly, *sh'ag* also expresses God's might in these contexts.<sup>6</sup> (p. 172)

The constellation Leo consists of 95 stars the most brilliant being Regulus. Leo's feet are over the heads of Hydra, the serpentine representation of Lucifer which He will crush at the Second Advent.

All the stars in Leo magnify and exalt Him as the Coming Conqueror and Judge: The brightest star is called Regulus, meaning "treading under foot." Because it marks the heart of the Lion it is sometimes called by its modern name "Cor Leonis," which means "the heart of the Lion." The next star (in the tip of the tail), also the first magnitude, is named "Denebola," meaning, "the Judge" or "the Lord comes." The next star (in the mane) is called Al Giebha meaning, "the exaltation." (pp. 129, 131)

As nearly and full as names can express it, we have the same things in the Zodiacal Leo that we find ascribed to the Lion of the tribe of Judah in the Apocalypse. They both tell one and the same story—the story of the wrath of the Lamb and His great final judgment.

Even among the stupendous works of battle and judgment, as He exercises the powers and prerogatives of the Lion, Christ never ceases to be the Lamb of God. He is the Lion to His enemies, and to His friends, the Lamb.

What is thus pictured in the last book of the Scriptures is the same that was fore-ordained and recorded in this last sign of the Zodiac, before any book of our present Bible was written. In the three minor constellations of this sign, the work of Leo is more fully developed and described. (p. 131)

1. **Hydra the Serpent.** According to the myths, this Hydra was the terrible water snake which answers to the picture of "the Great Dragon ... thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). His satanic kingdom has set itself against the establishment of God's kingdom in earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

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<sup>6</sup> E. Stolz, "אֵרֵיחַ 'ari, lion," in *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*, eds. Ernst Jenni and Claus Westermann, trans. Mark E. Biddle (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1977), 1:171–72.

Satan, once a good angel and a chief among the angels, “kept not his first estate,” but abused his free will to sin and rebel. He seduced our first parents into transgression. The great mission of the promised Seed of the woman was to bruise effectually the Serpent’s head. This is the all comprehensive burden of the promise given to the fallen Adam and his children after him. (p. 133)

2. Crater the Cup. This is no fabled wine-cup of Bacchus; but it is, “the cup of his indignation” (Revelation 14:10).

The Cup of divine indignation is the portion of the worshippers of the son of perdition, which is poured out without adulteration or dilution. Dreadful beyond understanding is the picture John, the Revelator, gives of this Cup of unmingled and eternal wrath, but no more dreadful than the picture of it which the primeval prophets have thus inscribed upon the stars. (p. 134)

3. Corvus the Raven. Our final picture is of a raven, the bird of prey, grasping the body of Hydra, the serpent, with its feet and tearing the serpent’s body with its beak. The Scriptures often associate birds of prey with judgment and punishment. In Revelation, the birds are summoned to gather for the task of clearing away the carnage in the final scene of slaughter that accompanies the coming of Him who is “King of Kings” and “Lord of Lords” (Revelation 19:17–18). (p. 135)

On the face of the lovely stars it has been written from the beginning, the same as in the Book. Satan’s doom is sealed. The lion he cannot destroy. Satan’s power will soon be seized by the Almighty power. The father of lies will be crushed, torn, pierced and forced to drink of the cup of eternal wrath, while the multi-headed body in which he has operated through all the ages is given to the birds of prey to be devoured.<sup>7</sup> (p. 136)

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<sup>7</sup> Capt, *The Glory of the Stars*, 129, 131, 133–36.