

## ~ZODIAC (150)

[Hebrew, *maz-za-lohth*]

### .. Connection With Astrology

- The band of stars seen from the earth as appearing within nine degrees on either side of the plane of Earth's orbit around the sun. Concerning King Josiah of Judah.
- And he put out of business the foreign-god priests, whom the kings of Judah had put in that they might make sacrificial smoke on the high places in the cities of Judah and the surroundings of Jerusalem, and also those making sacrificial smoke to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations of the **zodiac** and to all the army of the heavens. (**2 Kings 23:5**)
- Says; And he put out of business the foreign-god priests, whom the kings of Judah had put in that they might make sacrificial smoke on the high places in the cities of Judah and the surroundings of Jerusalem, and also those making sacrificial smoke to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations of the **zodiac** and to all the army of the heavens.
- The expression here rendered, **constellations of the zodiac**, comes from the Hebrew word *maz-za-lohth'*, which occurs but once in the Bible, although the word *Maz-za-rohth'* found at;
- Can you bring forth the **Mazzaroth** constellation in its appointed time? And as for the Ash constellation alongside its sons, can you conduct them? (**Job 38:32**)
- May be related. It is the context that helps make clear its meaning.
- The discovery of what may be called the **zodiacal** zone is generally credited to the early Babylonians. They doubtless observed the apparent yearly path of the sun among the stars, which path is now known as the ecliptic.
- The astronomers could note that within a zone about 18 degrees wide, extending 9 degrees on each side of the ecliptic, lie the apparent paths of the sun, moon, and major planets, as viewed from the earth.

- It was not until the **Second Century B.C.E**, however, that a Greek astronomer divided the **zodiac** into 12 equal parts of 30 degrees each, these parts came to be called the signs of the **zodiac** and were named after the related constellations.
- The word **zodiac** is from the Greek and means, **circle of animals**, since most of the **zodiacs** 12 constellations originally were designated by the names of animal or marine life.
- These signs today no longer coincide with the constellations after which they were originally named. This is due to what is known as the precession of the equinoxes, which results in a gradual eastward shift of the constellations by about one degree every 70 years in a cycle that takes some 26,000 years to complete.
- Thus the sign of Aries, in the past 2,000 years, moved approximately 30 degrees, into the constellation Pisces.

### · Connection With Astrology

- The **zodiacal** constellations were made objects of false worship from early Mesopotamian times onward. Certain qualities were attributed to each of the different constellations, and these were then used in astrological predictions based on the particular position or relationship of the celestial bodies to the signs of the **zodiac** at any given time. As shown by the text at;
- And he put out of business the foreign-god priests, whom the kings of Judah had put in that they might make sacrificial smoke on the high places in the cities of Judah and the surroundings of Jerusalem, and also those making sacrificial smoke to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations of the **zodiac** and to all the army of the heavens. (**2 Kings 23:5**)
- Such use of astrology was introduced into Judah by foreign-god priests whom certain kings had brought into the country. Yehowah God long before had prohibited such star worship on penalty of death.
- In case there should be found in your midst in one of your cities that Yehowah your God is giving you a man or a woman who should practice what is bad in the eyes of Yehowah your God so as to overstep his covenant. (**Deuteronomy 17:2**)
- And he should go and worship other gods and bow down to them

or to the sun or the moon or all the army of the heavens, a thing that I have not commanded. ([Deuteronomy 17:3](#))

- **And it has been told you and you have heard it and have searched thoroughly, and, look! The thing is established as the truth, this detestable thing has been done in Israel! ([Deuteronomy 17:4](#))**
- **You must also bring that man or that woman who has done this bad thing out to your gates, yes, the man or the woman, and you must stone such one with stones, and such one must die. ([Deuteronomy 17:5](#))**
- **At the mouth of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one dying should be put to death. He will not be put to death at the mouth of one witness. ([Deuteronomy 17:6](#))**
- **The hand of the witnesses first of all should come upon him to put him to death, and the hand of all the people afterward, and you must clear out what is bad from your midst. ([Deuteronomy 17:7](#))**
- **Astrology was a predominant facet of Babylonian worship. The predictions based on the **zodiac** by her astrologers, however, did not save Babylon from destruction, even as the prophet Isaiah had accurately forewarned.**
- **Stand still, now, with your spells and with the abundance of your sorceries, in which you have toiled from your youth, that perhaps you might be able to benefit, that perhaps you might strike people with awe. ([Isaiah 47:12](#))**
- **You have grown weary with the multitude of your counselors. Let them stand up, now, and save you, the worshipers of the heavens, the lookers at the stars, those giving out knowledge at the new moons concerning the things that will come upon you. ([Isaiah 47:13](#))**
- **Look! They have become like stubble. A fire itself will certainly burn them up. They will not deliver their soul from the power of the flame. There will be no glow of charcoals for people to warm themselves, no firelight in front of which to sit down. ([Isaiah 47:14](#))**

- Thus they will certainly become to you, with whom you have toiled as your charmers from your youth. They will actually wander, each one to his own region. There will be no one to save you. (**Isaiah 47:15**)

**See Also ASTROLOGERS**

- In modern times the **zodiacal** signs continue to play an important part in the worship of many people. Interestingly, the signs of the zodiac found their way into some of the religious cathedrals of Christendom and can today be seen in such places as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, as well as on the cathedrals of Amiens and Chartres, France.