

STARS THAT GIVE NO LIGHT

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Is astrology a science? Is it an art? Is it a true religion? Is it a spaceage technical field? Do the stars and planets really govern our lives? Can astrologers predict the future? Do the stars of the zodiac emit some kind of mysterious influence over us here on planet earth? Is it a friend to psychology and religion? Is it a companion of astronomy? The answer to each of these questions is an absolute NO!

Now I'm not audacious enough to assert a negative answer to these questions and expect all to agree. This debate has been around for thousands of years, and a mere man with no credentials cannot expect to be believed merely because he says so.

However, let me say this: If it is a science, it should be able to be proven under tested conditions. It has not been. In fact, the contrary is true. If it is an art, it is a forgotten one, for astrologers throughout history have repeatedly been proven wrong in their predictions.

The few cases, which astrology presents as apologies for their craft, can easily be put down as coincidence. Many of the examples are absolutely fraudulent, and pervert the facts of history. Is astrology a true religion? If it is, it is a selfish one, for it centers everything around what is good for the individual who has paid for the reading. If it is true religion, then religion is pantheistic in nature. If astrology truly is a spaceage technical field, then it is the only witchcraft that has become so. Its cohorts, alchemy, chiromancy, and numerology, did not arrive to a technical field.

The use of computers, mathematical charts and diagrams of the universe does not make a subject a technical field. NASA surely does not make use of this "field" before a spacecraft is orbited into the heavens. If there is an astrologer who can predict the future, he is not known. There is no astrologer who is a true prophet, yet there is much true "profit" for the astrologer.



If stars and planets govern our lives, we have lost free will, and neither the facts of science, the true arts of man, nor the true religion of God can change our behavior. If astrologers can predict the future accurately, they have never consistently done so.

They have surely been unwise for such wise and capable men. They have suffered disease, divorce, debts, delinquency, deception, and death like the rest of us. If the stars emit some kind of mysterious influence over us, we are at a loss to explain why it is

only the stars of the zodiac that do so. It seems strange that the ten brightest stars are completely disregarded by astrologers.

Also, it seems inconsistent that eight of the ten closest stars are ignored. Why are the brightest and closest stars ignored? The answer cannot be based on scientific knowledge, for if it is a "mysterious influence", we cannot test it! It would seem more reasonable that the nearest and brightest stars would be more influential than the dim stars at great distance. If astrology is a friend to psychology and religion, it is a strange friendship for astrology is usually in contradiction to both psychology and religion. Psychology and religion would encourage a sane, sensible, systematic approach to life's problems.

Astrology causes one to flee from reality, act spasmodically, and inconsistently. Good psychology and religion would encourage you to admit your guilt and help prepare you to avoid the mistake again. Astrology would have you blame the stars, and jump at another horoscope reading to go the direction your star leads, even though it may again be wrong.

If it is a companion to astronomy, they meet in secret, for astronomers consistently deny an association. They mock it and refute it. There are no offers for horoscope readings in astronomy journals. Astrologists must go back 300 years to find an astronomer named 'Kepler' to support it. Even he said, "This foolish daughter, astrology, supports her wise but needy mother, astronomy, from the profits of a profession not generally considered creditable."

James S. Pickering, the astronomer, said, "Unfortunately, astrology, unlike alchemy, while thoroughly discredited by

both science and religion, has not lost its hold upon gullible or weak individuals." Other famous astronomers, such as Russell, Dugan, and Stewart, called it a 'baseless delusion'.

If astrology is not science, religion, art, or a technical field, then what is it? Simply put, it is occultism. Its roots are in paganism. Its beginning is in Mesopotamia about 3000 B.C. The astrologers were the old priests of Babylon. The term is synonymous with the Chaldeans' magicians, so often spoken against in the Scripture. It was copied by the Greeks, who incorporated it into their sciences. This postponed great advances in science.

The Greeks also included it in their philosophies and thus retarded the wisdom of Greece and those nations which fostered their ideologies on Greek culture. It permeated Greece, Rome, and early Christian times. The early Christians continued their Judeo-opposition to this witchcraft. They did this without the aid of science, but based entirely on the revelation of the Word. They pointed out that the wise men, led by the star, went to a foreign, murderous king who would have killed the Messiah. It was by consulting the Word of God that they finally knew where the Christ was born.

Though this apology may have been over-zealous, still it shows the abhorrence which the early Christians felt for astrology. They were well aware that ancient, star-gazing priests of paganism got their power by pre-announcing an eclipse to the king. The priests' wisdom in this regard made the populus believe that they were wise men, who knew magical arts. In this way, the ancient priests held the masses in check and got them to obey the priests, and worship the gods of their own making.

It was by foretelling the activity of the planets that the priests impressed the Egyptians and caused them to go into astrology. It was a pseudo-art. It is now a pseudo-science. The early Christian book called *The Didache* (100-150. A.D.) said, "Do not use magic formulas, astrology, or purification charms: you should not wish to watch such things for they all breed idolatry."

In 120 A.D. a famous mathematician, named Aquila Ponticas, was excommunicated for practicing astrology. The Christians opposed this fraud strictly on religious, and not scientific, grounds. There are, as will be noted, Scripture which instructed them to flee this kind of delusion.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY ASTROLOGISTS AND THOSE BECOMING INTERESTED IN THIS PSEUDO-SCIENCE:

1. Astrology is based upon **Tetrabiblos**, the work of Claudis Ptolemy (140 A.D.), which he compiled from all the ancient sources. His premise was that the earth was the center of the universe. Galileo and Copernicus disproved this assumption. Thus the

whole foundation of his system was in error. How can the foundation of a system be wrong and the superstructure stand? Can a house built upon a broken foundation stand?

2. Why is the moment of one's birth and location the foundation for a reading? Why not the location and time of one's conception? Do the stars' influx penetrate the universe and atmosphere, but not the womb? Even Ptolemy admitted that the moment of conception seemed more likely.
3. Since the constellations have changed drastically since Ptolemy's calculation due to the movement of the sun in the heavens, why do astrologers still base their readings on a 2,000 year old calculation? Today horoscopes are off a whole month, or 1/12th of the zodiac, which means they are one whole constellation amiss, Imagine a doctor who had a prescription book which was written in 140 A.D. The doctor decided to have a new copy made. It had been written in cursive, but is reprinted by a printer. Would he say, "Now the prescription for gout used to be listed on page 10, so I will just give him the prescription on page 10 of the new book?" Is this scientific? Would you go to such a doctor? This is how astrologists work today!
4. How many constellations are there in the zodiac? Are there twelve or sixteen? Why do astrologists ignore four of them? What about Ophiuchus, Cetus, Orion and Auriga, which are in the zodiacal band? Many are born in Ophiuchus in late fall, not Scorpio or Sagittarius. Why is it ignored? Does not that constellation bear influence?
5. Why can't statistical studies bear out astrology? Repeated statistical studies of certain occupations and professions have been done with no conclusive proof. Bart Bok took the American Men of Science and checked their zodiacal signs, but it showed no relevance whatsoever. Even psychologist Carl Jung, whom astrologist once used for a witness, wrote before he died, "If astrologers had concentrated on more statistics to justify scientifically the accuracy of their forecasts, they would have found out long ago that their pronouncements rest on unstable foundations."
6. Since the location and time of birth determine what happens to a person, why are twins, who are born in the same four minutes' time span (so still under the same sign), so different? Augustine rightfully cast off astrology, for he found a prince and his slave who were born at precisely the same moment. Why should these men not die at the same moment? Do twins die at the same time, or have the same calamities?

Pope Gregory asked if a child who emerged slowly from the womb could not be under different signs in his head and feet? The answer was, "A powerful

intellect may often be found in someone whose legs are weak." It would be interesting to hear an astrologist give a reading for Zerah. Though his brother was born before him, his hand had emerged from the womb first. (**Genesis 38:28-30**)

7. Perhaps you could explain why stars which are millions of light years away can affect us now? A planet that seemed to be at mid-heaven when I was born was actually in its descent at the time of my birth. This is even more complex with a star. A star which was seen on the night of my birth, may have given off that light before this country was inhabited by white men!! In fact, the star of the zodiac that may be ascending on my grandchild may already be burned out before that child is born. What kind of an influence can it make or have on that child?
8. There are imaginary segments of space on the celestial sphere. These are called 'houses' and are imagined to be fixed by astrologers. How many are there? Eight or ten? Are they equal 30° or do they differ in length? Why does the pseudo-science disagree so much over the number, the distribution of degrees, and the significance of each house?
9. How did astrologists so quickly determine the meanings of the newly discovered planets of Neptune, Pluto, and Uranus? Were their influences registered on statistical studies? No! The planets were named after pagan gods and their characteristics became the meaning of the signs for these planets. Neptune was of the sea, Pluto was lord of the dead, and Uranus the god of change. Astrologists made these concepts the meaning of the signs. We are back to pantheistic paganism. The universe is not a superconscious identity in and of itself.
10. Since the earth is a planet, and we are on it, why doesn't its own influx affect us more than the influence of all the stars?
11. If the conjunction of the planets is a bad omen, why hasn't a catastrophe occurred when the planets are lined up? This has happened ten times since 1000 A.D. Does 1186, 1524, or 1962 record great catastrophes?
12. Astrologists say that one must know what constellation one is born in to predict his future. One cannot tell this if he is born above the latitude of 66 degrees. Those born in Greenland, Alaska and Finland evidently do not exist or have a future, for they are born beyond this latitude.
13. Astrologists must face the fact that their predictions have caused havoc in the whole world. It cannot be denied that kings have risen and fallen due to this evil. Many have blamed their evil on following the

stars. In Shakespear's '**King Lear**' we read: "This is the excellent foppery of the world, that when we are sick in fortune - often the surfeits of our own behavior - we make guilty of our disasters the sun, the moon, and stars: as if we were villains on necessity, fools by heavenly compulsion; knaves, thieves, and treachers by spherical predominance; drunkards, liars, and adulterers by an enforced obedience of planetary influence; and all that we are evil in by divine thrusting on. An admirable evasion of whore-master man, to lay his goatist disposition to the change of a star!"

The fatalism of astrology is an evil that has no doubt caused the damnation of many souls. In Julius Ceasar we read: "The fault, dear Brutus, lies not in our stars, but in ourselves that we are underlings." Well said, Cassius.

14. How can astrolgers account for mass tragedies of men and women of every sign? In the Jonestown massacre those hundreds that died no doubt did not have the same sign. As Cicero asked his Roman countrymen, "Were all those who perished at the Battle of Cannoe born under the same star?" We ask, "Were those of the Titanic that died born under the influence of the same star?" No. Then what truth is there in astrology?
15. If history records a handful of astrologers, who seemed to have an above average success in the prediction of future events, it would not follow that astrology would be true. There are several factors to consider. It could be luck or coincidence. It could also be attributed to satanic power. If it is a science, it should prove true the majority of the time. To be of God, it must prove true each and every time.

As mentioned earlier, almost all nations have been involved in astrology. Through astrology the Babylonian priests manipulated the masses and introduced them to pagan idols.

The Egyptians used them to provide a supposed entry into the world of the dead. This is why the pyramid passages were lined up with the stars. The Greeks did not confine astrology to nations and kings, but predicted individual fortunes through astrology. Rome was literally ruled by astrology. Most of her leaders lived and died by astrology.

The early Christians opposed it, but it was revived after the Dark Ages, during the Renaissance, by the Arabians. After waining again, it was revived and used by Hitler, who used it to lead the Germans into war during World War II. He used it to manipulate the Germans. Almost all of the nations involved used astrology during World War II, because Hitler used it as a phychological weapon.

The British tried to anticipate his moves by astrology since

they thought he was using it. He was thus able to mislead them, because he did not actually use it to plan attacks.

Many nations in political unrest today are being manipulated by astrologers. Today in the United States astrology has grown in popularity. At least three-fourths of all newspapers in America carry a horoscope, as well as leading magazines.

One Sunday paper received over 100,000 questions one year for their resident astrologists. Many universities are teaching it. The public library where I researched this paper has over 100 pro-astrology books. Three persons in five minutes looked at this selection while I looked for a certain book.

WHY IS THERE ALL THIS INTEREST IN ASTROLOGY?

1. It's the "in" thing to do. The movie stars and athletes, America's heroes, are into it. This makes it popular.
2. It could be an attempt by our enemies to get us believing in astrology, so they may "mass control" us in event of war. Hitler did it in Germany. Before him Lord Northcliffe did it to influence Britain. Rome was politically controlled for years by Thrasylbulus and his son Balbillus through their predictions. It is not impossible that Satan is using astrological-psychological warfare. If a generation can be made to believe and follow astrology, we can be lulled to sleep by a promise that there is no danger.
3. A generation of educators are turning America into humanists that deny God and all absolutes. We should not be surprised to find men turning to the Occult. Men want direction. They want advice. They want to feel a part of the whole. This basic desire turns men to astrology for their answers to life. Astrology is the devil's lie which is being substituted as God's truth. Astrology thrives in an age of uncertainty. Our age is uncertain and therefore astrology prospers. It is frightening to think of magic controlling part of our population.

BUT GOD SPEAKS OF ASTROLOGY MOST DEFINITELY.

He associates it with haruspices (examining animal's liver), necromancy, fortune telling and divination. Moses says: "There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do." (**Deuteronomy 18:10-14**)

The test of a prophet, a fortune teller, or any one who professed to have knowledge of the future is found in **Deuteronomy 18:20-22**, which reads: "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

Of Manasseh, who worshipped the stars, we read: "And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger." (**II Kings 21:5-6**)

God spoke of the sin of Babylon, saying: "Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast labored from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. 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." (**Isaiah 47:12-13**)

Who is alarmed at the stars? God says that it is the fear of the heathen. "Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them." (**Jeremiah 10:1-2**)

It is only among the Jews in pre-Christian times that we find astrology condemned. It is mocked in the law of Moses. Plato and Aristotle were misled by the delusion as were the Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, Persians, and Assyrians, It is Daniel's God who can reveal things, not the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans.

The gnostics, who also professed Christianity, claimed to have revelation by the stars. Paul warned the Colossians not to let them spoil them by their astrology, as they were trying to do. He didn't want them beguiled by the ordinances of "Don't touch this; Don't taste that; Don't handle this." These were the prohibitions of the horoscopes. He wrote to the Galatians saying that he feared he had wasted time on them in that they observed days.

The Gnostics ("Knowing ones") held that the constellations were either animated heavenly beings, or were governed by them, and that only the Gnostics had the wisdom to understand them. Paul warns them of the dangers of such foolishness. Haman acquired from the astrologers the day to slaughter the Jews, but in the end he was slain and the feast of Purim was established as a

day of joy, not calamity. Ironically, Esther means "star". Haman had his eye on the wrong star!

CONCLUSION:

We have only scratched the surface in our investigation of astrology. It is not a science like astronomy, but an illegitimate daughter of that science. We have seen it is but myth and magic. Its bedfellow is merely witchcraft.

We've seen its history and development. We've seen its inconsistencies and the problems that it produces. We've seen it condemned by God's Word and the warnings of Paul. It beguiles unstable souls, robbing them of their reward. It would do well for Christians to follow the example of the Ephesians and burn those books dealing with these curious arts.

To even read the daily horoscope may be the communication of demons. Who will affirm that the author of the horoscope may not be inspired of Satan? The Word of God is powerful for one reason.

God spoke the words. It is not the arrangement of the words, nor the words used, that make His words powerful. It is the source of those words.

So Satan's words, whether from a ouija board, a séance, or an astrologer may have force, not by what is said, but from the very source of those words.

The Christian should avoid the appearance of evil in this matter as in all other matters.

Isaiah says it well: "Should not the people of God, seek unto, their God?" And again: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them." (**Isaiah 8:19b and 20**)