

Biblical Astronomy

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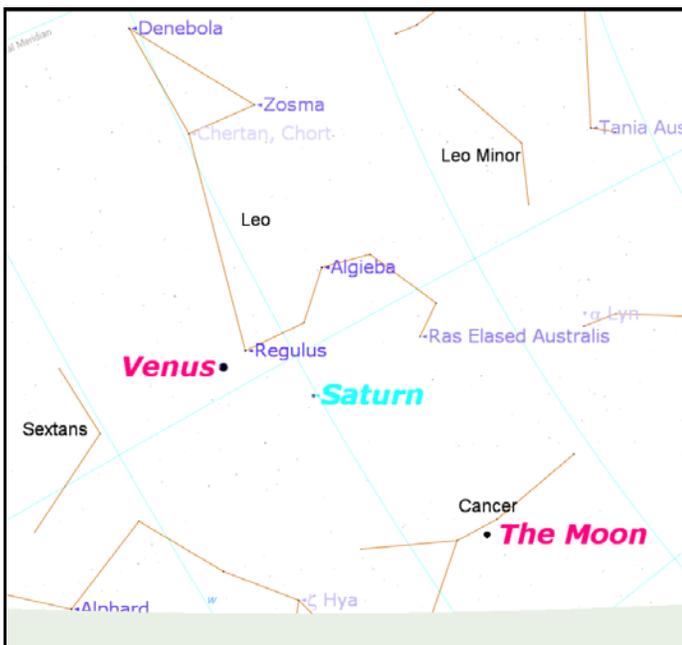
NEW MOON REPORT

Nehemia Gordon from Jerusalem, Israel compiled the following New Moon Report for the month of July 2007 and the beginning of the Fifth Biblical Month, which is the month of Av on the Hebrew Calendar.

“On Sunday July 15, 2007 the New Moon was sighted from Israel. The moon was first sighted by Magdi Shamuel at 19:57 from Bet Ezra (near Ashdod) and by Neria Haroeh at 20:11 from Masliah (near Ramla).”

It is expected that the next new moon will be visible from Jerusalem near sunset on August 14, 2007.

The chart below shows the position of the new moon in *Cancer* near the time of the first crescent sightings from Israel on July 15, 2007. There were some nice groupings of the moon, *Venus*, *Saturn* and *Regulus* in *Leo* on July 16 and 17, when *Venus* was in conjunction with *Regulus*.



On July 17, the moon occulted (passed in front of) the star Regulus. This was seen in Australia, and parts of south and west Asia. This was not seen from Israel with the naked eye since it was about 11:15 am Jerusalem time, in the light daytime sky, when the occultation occurred over Jerusalem.

These were and are the highlights of celestial events from mid to late July. See the June 2007 issue of *Biblical Astronomy* for celestial events from early to mid July. There is not much going on as far as celestial events in the last half of July and up through August 12, when the Perseid Meteor Shower peaks. Since the August newsletter will most likely be published around August 15, after the fact, I will report on the meteor shower in this issue.

PERSEIDS SHOULD PUT ON GREAT SHOW

It is that time of the year again, a time for summer stargazers to go out in the warm evening and lie under the stars and watch for falling stars (meteors).

The Perseid Meteor Shower is one of the most popular showers of the year. Mainly because it has a good rate of meteors and it occurs in the summer. The other popular shower is the Leonids, but that occurs around mid-November when it is a bit cold to lie out on the lawn for a few hours or so.

Chart 443 shows the radiant (where the meteors appear to come from) of the shower above the elbow of *Perseus*. This picture is from an astronomy program and is a bit off, but all in all, it is a pretty good illustration of Y'shua (Jesus) delivering His captive bride.

The Hebrew name for *Perseus* is *Peretz*, which means *the Breaker*. This represents Messiah when he comes with His saints to defeat the beast in Revelation 19:11- 21. His white horse is *Pegasus*. *Pegasus* in Hebrew, *Peka-Sus*, means chief horse.

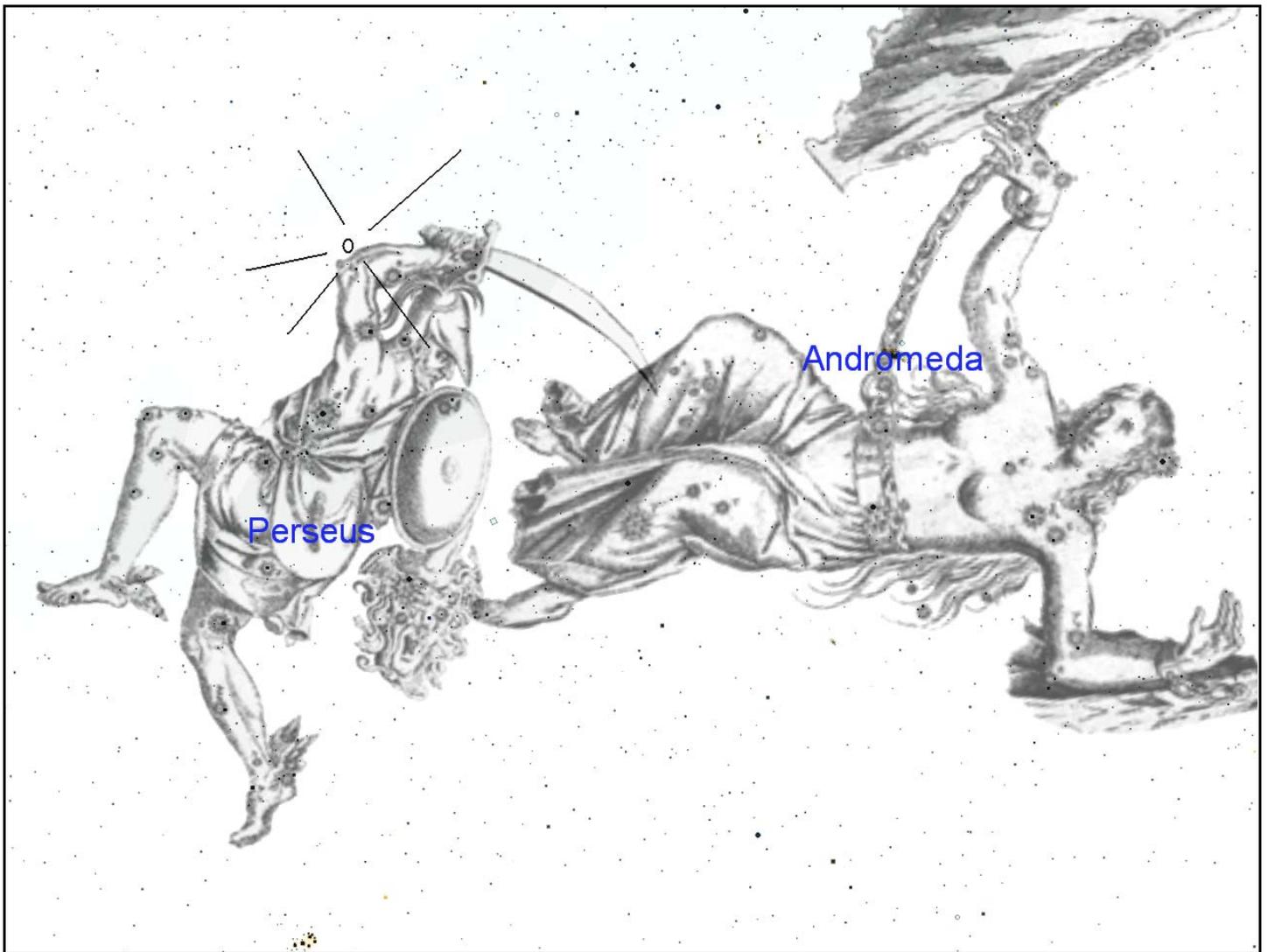


Chart 443 – Radiant of the Perseid Meteor Shower (peaks on August 12/13 every year).

In Greek mythology, which came long after the Mazzaroth was formed, the horse *Pegasus* belongs to *Perseus*. The Greeks perverted the true meaning of the constellations in their myths. In their story, *Perseus* delivers *Andromeda*. In truth, this represents Messiah Y'shua delivering his captive bride. Here He is seen holding *Rosh Satan*, the head of Satan in His hand.

Like sparks flying from the sword, every year this meteor shower brings to mind that day which shall surely come, when Messiah will defeat His enemies and the enemies of His people and come to reign on Earth as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Halleluyah!!!

The Hebrew name for *Andromeda* is *Sirra*, the chained. The theme for *Sirra* is the redeemed in their bondage and affliction. Some of the stars in this constellation are *Al Phiratz*, the broken down; *Mirak*, the weak; *Al Amak*, struck down, *Adhil*, the afflicted; *Desma*, the bound.

The picture above portrays the following verses of Scripture.

“Hear now this thou afflicted....
 Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion;
 Put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem.
 Shake thyself from the dust;
 Arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem:
 Loose thyself from the bands of thy neck,
 daughter of Zion.
 For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold
 yourself for nought;
 And ye shall be redeemed without money.”
 (Isaiah 51:21 – 52:3)

The delivered bride is shown making herself ready and is arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright white, in the constellation *Casseopea*, the captive delivered, and preparing for her Husband, the Redeemer.

The following article concerning this year's Perseid Meteor Shower is from Space.com and was written by Robert Roy Britt on July 12, 2007.

August Meteor Shower Will Be 'A Great Show'

"The annual Perseid meteor shower is expected to put on a great show this year, peaking in mid-August with a display of dozens of shooting stars each hour.

The Moon will be out of the way, leaving dark skies for good viewing as Earth plunges through an ancient stream of comet debris. Little bits, most no larger than sand grains, will vaporize in Earth's atmosphere, creating sometimes-dramatic "shooting stars."

"It's going to be a [great show](#)," said Bill Cooke of NASA's Meteoroid Environment Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama. "The Moon is new on August 12, which means no moonlight, dark skies and plenty of meteors."

How many?

This year the [Perseid meteor shower](#) could deliver one or two visible streaks every minute during peak times, Cooke said in a statement yesterday. Urban skywatchers will see fewer due to local light pollution.

The meteors in this shower all appear to emanate from the constellation Perseus. The best times to watch will be late night Aug. 12 through dawn Aug. 13.

"The August Perseids are among the strongest of the readily observed annual meteor showers, and at maximum activity nominally yield 90 or 100 meteors per hour," said Joe Rao, *SPACE.com's* Skywatching columnist. "However, observers with exceptional skies often record even larger numbers."

Observing tips

To see the show, one need only find a comfortable spot with a clear view of the northeast horizon, away from local lights. A dark rural location is best. Lie back on a blanket or lounge chair and scan the entire sky. In the late evening, starting around 9 p.m. local time, sharp-eyed observers might see "earthgrazing" meteors that skim the northeast horizon.

"Earthgrazers are long, slow and colorful," Cooke said. "They are among the most beautiful of meteors." But don't expect more than a handful in an hour, he said.

Later and during the overnight hours, the shooting stars will be higher in the sky as Perseus rises. Some skywatchers [enjoy counting](#) the number of meteors they see per minute, per hour or during a 15-minute interval and comparing notes.

Telescopes and binoculars are no help, as the meteors move too swiftly and are [best observed](#) with the naked eye.

The cosmic rivers of debris have been laid down for millennia by the comet [Swift-Tuttle](#), which passes through the inner solar system every 130 years. Perseid meteoroids are exceptionally fast, entering Earth's atmosphere at roughly 133,200 mph (60 kilometers per second) relative to the planet, slamming into the air like bugs hitting a windshield."

NOGAH TO BECOME MORNING STAR AGAIN

The planet *Nogah* (*Venus*) spends about half of a year in the evening sky and the other half in the early morning sky. Its Hebrew name, *Nogah*, means *bright* and its Coptic name, *Surath*, means *morning twilight*. It is the *bright and morning star*.

Venus has been in the evening sky for many months and is about to disappear from the evening sky, and will not be seen again after that for about three weeks, when it will be seen in the early morning sky just before sunrise.

The following article by Joe Rao is a July 13, 2007 Space.com news release.

Curtain Call for the Evening Star

"Venus has been a prominent evening object since last winter. But it will finally relinquish the title of "Evening Star" in less than three weeks.

Its departure will be quite dramatic.

Tonight, Venus is still fairly high up in the west-northwest sky at sunset and sets about 100 minutes later. It is now also glowing at its greatest brilliance, blazing at an eye-popping magnitude of -4.5; more than 17-times brighter than Sirius, the [brightest star in the sky](#).

On this scale, smaller numbers represent brighter objects, and negative numbers are reserved for the brightest of all.

On the evening of [Friday the 13th](#), Venus will pass 1.7-degrees below the bluish star Regulus, the brightest star of Leo, the Lion. (For a comparison, the apparent width of the moon is roughly equal to one-half degree.) But poor Regulus is no match for Venus, as it will appear only 1/229 as bright, so you may actually need binoculars to see this star against the twilight sky.

On Monday, July 16, you'll see a crescent moon well to the right of Venus. And hovering just above and to the right of the moon on that same evening will be the planet Saturn. The next evening, the moon will have moved well away to the upper left of Venus.

Venus will be setting about four to five minutes earlier each night, so it will be dropping noticeably lower and getting deeper into the glow of evening twilight during the waning days of July. On July 26, Venus will be setting only about an hour after sundown and by the end of July, that will have diminished to only 45 minutes; by then you'll need a clear and unobstructed horizon to spot it. A few days into August and it will be gone from our evening sky.

Curtain falls for Act I

That will mark the end of Act I for the 2007 Venus show. Then will come about a three-week "intermission," as it sweeps between the Earth and the Sun (inferior conjunction) on August 18.

Then, just a week later it will begin to emerge into view as a morning object, rising in the east about 45 minutes before sunrise. That will mark the beginning of Act II: By the end of August, Venus will be rising around 5:00 a.m. local daylight time, and ultimately will become a brilliant predawn fixture in the eastern sky for the balance of this year.

During the rest of this month, and again toward the end of August, Venus will appear as beautiful crescent in telescopes and even steadily held 7-power binoculars. That crescent will be getting progressively thinner during July, with the illuminated portion of Venus' disk diminishing from 26-percent on July 13th, to only half of that by the 27th and less than 10-percent by month's end. That crescent will also be getting progressively larger in apparent size as Venus approaches the Earth. On the

13th, it will be 41 million miles (66 million kilometers) away.

But by Aug. 1, that distance will have diminished by 11 million miles (18 million kilometers) and the filament-like crescent will appear 27-percent larger.

Parting is such sweet sorrow

For those who have been so accustomed (as I have) to seeing their brilliant friend greet them each evening at sundown in the western sky, it might actually seem a little sad to finally see Venus finally go.

But as American writer, Richard Bach once wrote: "Don't be dismayed at goodbyes, a farewell is necessary before you can meet again and meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends."

And indeed, this will be only a temporary farewell to Venus; by the end of August her friends can meet up with her again in the eastern sky before sunrise."

The following article on Venus is from Francis Rolleston's *Mazzaroth*, which was written in 1862.

ON THE PLANET VENUS

In the Egyptian Planisphere this planet is delineated as a woman, under her name Athor, she who cometh; the Christian Church, or the Church of God, in all ages. She is in a kneeling position under her house Taurus, seven stars, the Pleiades, before her. As after the time of the siege of Troy tradition says one vanished, this figure refers to a date previous to that time, 1000 BC. The swine, enemy of the Serpent, is after; the Ram, of the sign Aries, with the circle of a complete era on his head, before.

From the little respect paid by the Egyptians to the planets, compared with that paid to the more brilliant of the fixed stars, it may be inferred that they knew them to be but earths, while the stars were suns, probably by tradition from the great founder of the science, the Hermes Trismegistus of Egypt and Greece, the great, thrice great, who did not share the destiny of other men, the Prophet Enoch, of whom is recorded, "God took him."

The Egyptians knew, what the Greeks did not for a long time, that the morning and the evening star were the same planet: Pythagoras is

said to have been the first who pointed out this fact to the Greeks; he is also said to have acquired his astronomy with other knowledge in Phoenicia. What the Phoenicians then knew must have been known to the Hebrews, at that time a highly civilized nation, and having had the instruction of Solomon. They therefore must have recognized the planet under both its aspects. As an evening star it is not mentioned in Scripture, and it is doubtful whether it is alluded to as a morning star, except in the Apocalypse. In Isaiah 14:12, Lucifer is in the original Hillel, the shining, the brilliant, a name which has no affinity with any extant of the planet Venus, though much with many names of the Sun, as Heli, Sanscrit, and Helios, Greek. If, however, from the mythology of the ancients, we may infer the original symbolization of the planet Venus, as a type of the Church of Him who was to come, the Sun of Righteousness (Mal 4:2), both these aspects will be found expressive and suitable. Before the first coming, the Church as the morning star, heralded the Sun by prophecy; and in the evening star typified the declension of the Jewish dispensation, still however transmitting some rays of the splendour of the promised Messiah. After the Sun of the first coming was set, the twilight of the great apostasy began to close around; when the Church, as the planet Venus, receding from the source of light, became less bright, even while increasing in apparent magnitude, it might well be typified by the evening star; again approximating to the Sun, disappearing from our sight, to rise in renewed splendour as the morning star announcing His return.

Venus, the beloved, the bright, the star of evening, descending and declining in brilliancy after the departure of the sun, but to return as the morning star with increased splendour at his reappearance,—by all tradition spoken of as the bride of a divine person, of Mars or of Odin,—is an expressive and suitable type of the Church, falling away and to be restored at the second coming of her Lord, as the bride of Christ, the Lamb's wife of the Apocalyptic vision. The invariableness of this tradition is the more remarkable, as the Germans and other northern nations made the moon masculine, as in the well-known legend of Anningait and Ajut among the Laplanders.

This planet was considered sacred to the Assyrian goddess Baltis, **בעלה**, who is represented with a star on her head, and standing on a lion. "A female divinity called by Diodorus Siculus, *Hera*

(who bears, **הר**), held in her right hand a serpent by the head, and in the other a sceptre," probably originally a branch. Layard identifies her with Astarte,* stary, **אהר**, and Mylitta, bringing forth, **ילרה**.

* Zohara is the Arabic name for the planet Venus.

"You ought, if possible, to get a sight of Lepsius' Introduction. Only one volume is out, and not translated. I hold him to be a great charlatan in many things, but as regards scholarship he is unrivalled; and in this volume every thing that can be said on Greek and Egyptian astronomy is to be found. It is a quarto of magnificent print, and I can lend it you if you like. If you look to Pliny, Hist. Nat. ii. 6, you will see what he says about Pythagoras and the evening star. The Greeks strictly called Hesperus the evening star, Phosphorus the morning star; the Latins, Lucifer and Vesperugo.

"What Lepsius says is briefly this, 'Authorities are then given.' The fifth planet, the star of Aphrodite, is called by the Greeks Heosphoros, called by Aristotle Hera. The morning star is Sion or Toone, Toone being *morning*. Kircher said the Coptic for Venus was Souroh."* (C.H. Cottrell)

* Heb. **שהרה**, star of twilight.

NOTES

A Spanish missionary wrote in Mexican (1529) the traditions of their religion, &c., which he had gathered from the Mexicans themselves. This is published in vol. vi. of Lord Kingsborough's great work. (B.M.)

At Palenque is found a vulture slaying a serpent, and the cross among sacred emblems; also, a woman and child, holding a branch, receiving offerings; also, seven stars on a blue ground, probably the Pleiades (?); and a man and woman with a sword between them.

Many Hebrew words may be found in the dialects of the Indians, as Abba, father.

The name of the sun was Naolin, **נעלה**, who arises, comes. (Lord Kingsborough, B.M.)

When the sign Aries (the white rabbit) arrived, they fasted for the fall of the first man.

Much has been written on the Cabiri of Samothracia, the three potent divinities. Cabir appears to have been the Gentile equivalent of

Cherub, "like the mighty," Cabiri being "like the strong" or "mighty," also, though from a different root. The triad of the Greeks and Romans was, of the god of the heavens, the god of the sea, and the god of the infernal regions, or separate state; but the Egyptians and Oriental heathen made theirs of father, son, and mother. (This mother was however not like the Freya of the Scandinavians, but represented the planet Venus; she was Isis, Isha, the woman of Genesis 3:15, and of the sign Virgo.) Such, too, we find it in Mexico; while in Polynesia we find it of father, son, and bird, as may be seen in the London Missionary Museum.

[The following is an extract from a letter of the clergyman referred to earlier (Zodiac of Esne). It was received by the Writer of Mazzaroth a few days before the close of life, and accepted as a correct and beautiful application of the figures to which it relates. A friend, who was in daily intercourse with the lamented Writer of this work at the time, testifies of the pleasure with which the idea contained in the letter was dwelt upon by the spirit so soon about to pass from amid symbols to realities.]

"The figures of the five planets in the Dendera Planisphere are all of them distinctly characteristic. One of them is unclothed, Venus, and in a kneeling attitude, with four dolphins erect on her head. Does this figure symbolize the Church of Christ (Nogah), His 'beloved,' here in her state by nature, to be clothed only in His righteousness, and made 'to sit with Him in heavenly places?' If so, such raising up may be indicated by the four dolphins erect on the head of this kneeling figure—a dolphin being the ancient symbol of raising or lifting up. The Church's future elevation in glory seems indicated likewise by a youth sitting on a lotus on the right of the four dolphins, the meaning of which is, 'hidden but to come.' 'When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory.'

"If my rendering of the Planet Venus in the Dendera Planisphere is correct, it might account for the Greek fable of Venus rising from *the sea*."

Francis Rolleston's Mazzaroth is available in the Biblical Astronomy Bookstore in the Products section on the Biblical Astronomy Website at www.biblicalastronomy.com

If you wish to order this product offline, you can order it by mail for \$30.00 USD (includes shipping) from:

Biblical Astronomy
P.O. Box 2272
Oregon City, OR 97045

For overseas orders, please add an extra \$4.00 USD for extra shipping costs.

Perhaps I should start a "most ridiculous item of the month" column when things are slow or when there is not much to speak of celestially. Well, I did find an interesting article, so here is the first and hopefully the last "most ridiculous item of the month."

The following is a July 18, 2007 Associated Press release.

Mystery Object From Sky Identified as Woodchipper Part

BAYONNE, N.J. (AP) -- A hunk of metal that crashed through the roof of a home had NASA and Federal Aviation Administration officials scratching their heads.

It didn't look "very space-y," said Henry Kline, a spokesman for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "It's obviously made for something ... But we wouldn't know what to do with it."

It didn't appear to be an airplane part either, the FAA said.

Finally, FAA spokesman Jim Peters said Wednesday, a colleague in his office [solved the mystery](#): It was part of a commercial woodchipper. The same part from another woodchipper's grinder had caused similar confusion last year, he said.

How it got on a Bayonne roof was anyone's guess, but Peters had a theory. The grinder piece moves very fast and, apparently, it can launch into the air if something goes wrong.

The man who lives in the house was watching television Tuesday when he heard a crash and saw a cloud of dust. In the next room, he found the hunk of gray metal, 3 1/2 inches by 5 inches, with two hexagonal holes in it.

The part was being returned to Bayonne Police on Wednesday, Peters said.

"It belongs to somebody," Police Director Mark Smith said.

YHVH bless you and protect you from the darts of the enemy and flying woodchipper parts.