

Biblical Astronomy

February 2010

Editor – Robert Scott Wadsworth <> P.O. Box 2272, Oregon City, OR 97045
Phone (503) 655-7430 <> e-mail – starguy1@comcast.net <> Website – www.biblicalastronomy.com

NEW MOON REPORT

Nehemia Gordon from Jerusalem, Israel compiled the following New Moon Report for the month of February 2010 and the beginning of the Twelfth Biblical Month.

“On February 15, 2010 the new moon was sighted from Israel. The moon was first sighted: from Jerusalem by Willie Ondricek at 17:56; from elsewhere in Jerusalem by Devorah Gordon at 17:57; from Alon Shvut by Bruce Brill at 18:02.”

The next new moon is expected to be visible from Jerusalem near sunset on March 17, 2010 when the moon will be 3% illuminated and 18.41⁰ above the horizon at five minutes past sunset. This will most likely be the new moon of the Abib and will start the month of Abib (Nisan). The barley should be abib well before then.

Since the March/April newsletter will be published after the Barley and New Moon Reports come in, I am including a chart here for the New Moon of the Abib on March 17, 2010.

Chart 515 shows the new moon, *Venus*, *Mercury*, and the Sun in the constellation *Pisces* at 5 minutes past sunset on March 17, 2010 as viewed from Jerusalem. There are 7⁰ of separation between the moon and *Nogah* (*Venus*). The moon is shown enlarged in this chart. It will have a bright crescent being 3% illuminated. Venus will also be shining brightly at a magnitude of -3.91.

Nogah is the *Bright and Morning Star* but is seen here in the evening. *Catab* (*Mercury*) represents the messenger angel Gabriel who is also the announcing angel for the King, blowing his trump to announce the King's presence or arrival. The Sun represents Messiah as the bridegroom. The moon is Yahweh's faithful witness, here announcing that it is the beginning of the new year. The constellation *Pisces* represents the nation of

Israel. This is all something to ponder on when sighting the New Moon of the Abib this year.

I had a viral infection in my back muscles and heart and was not able to do the newsletter until now. I had excruciating pain in my lower back and yesterday (March 3) my heart was beating at a rate of 120 beats per minute while I was sitting still. I had chest X-rays and an EKG. Everything is fine now and I believe the virus has pretty much run its course. My heart rate is back to normal today and most of my back pain has vanished (it came back). I had the back pain over the last couple of weeks. I could not sit at the computer for over a couple of minutes at a time. I have not answered many e-mails that I received yet because I have been unable to. I will be getting to those after I publish this much belated newsletter.

I was able to let the online subscribers know via e-mail that I had been ill and that this newsletter would be late. I received many e-mails with prayers and encouragement toward my situation. I thank all of you who sent them to me. It seems it's always something when newsletter time comes of late that puts a thorn in my side. I am planning on getting the March/April 2010 newsletter published in a couple of weeks.

STANGE OBJECT IN ASTEROID BELT

There was a strange object that appeared in the asteroid belt in January. Astronomers are a bit puzzled with the object since they have never seen anything like it before. I did not think of this object as much of a sign since it is very dim – magnitude 20 – and far from the range of apparent brightness to be visible with the unaided eye. It also does not appear to be on an orbit with the sun, which would take it toward the inner planets. It can only be seen with large telescopes. It is only strange in the sense

that nothing like it has ever been seen before. There are most likely many such strange objects that have as yet to be seen, but we see more and more of them as our telescopes and other instruments get better. The article below is from the Sky & Telescope website which was written by Kelly Beatty and released on February 2.

A "Whodunit" in the Asteroid Belt

"The mystery of a comet-like object circling among the main-belt asteroids has deepened, now that astronomers have slewed the Hubble Space Telescope over for a close-up look.



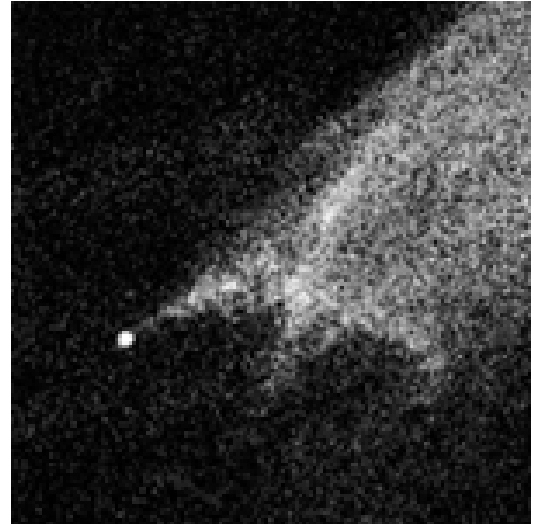
At first astronomers thought the object designated P/2010 A2 was a comet, but this Hubble Space Telescope image, taken January 29th with the Wide Field Camera 3, suggests that it's not behaving like a normal comet. *NASA / ESA / D. Jewitt (UCLA)*

[Today's release](#) of an HST image taken four days ago shows that P/2010 A2 is no normal comet. There's a strange X-shape feature at its brightest end (I hesitate to call it a "nucleus") that defies easy explanation. "This is quite different from the smooth dust envelopes of normal comets," explains David Jewitt (University of California at Los Angeles), who led the Hubble effort. The Hubble view also clearly shows a pointlike object hovering nearby, about 1,000 miles from the "X" and seemingly connected to it by a thread of material.

Comets within the asteroid belt aren't unprecedented. [Jewitt's website](#) comments that four others are known. Most notable among these is 133P/Elst-Pizarro, first spotted as an asteroid in 1979 and then found to have a cometary appearance in 1996.

But apart from its long tail of debris, P/2010 A2 doesn't look much like a comet, at least in the

HST images taken on January 25th and 29th. Moreover, it lacks the emissions that are usually found in a comet's coma and tail. "No gas yet," Jewitt told me, "but we are still looking." Unfortunately, a request to observe this curiosity with the Spitzer Space Telescope was turned down.



Enlarging the Hubble Space Telescope image shows the unusual crisscrossing filaments of the comet-like object designated P/2010 A2. Note the how one strand extends to the "nucleus" at left. This cropped view is about 4,000 miles (7,000 km) across. *NASA / ESA / D. Jewitt (UCLA)*

The most likely explanation for this object's sudden appearance (it's a stretch to call it "dramatic" — it's only 20th magnitude) is that a pair of small, unseen asteroids collided, creating the trail of debris [first spotted on January 6th](#) by the LINEAR telescope in New Mexico.

So would a smashup involving two main-belt asteroids result in something like this? Perhaps. "Bill Bottke and I are thinking about what kind of modeling would be useful to do with this object," notes David Nesvorny (Southwest Research Institute), "but we have nothing definitive so far." Bottke notes that while a collision seems plausible, it's also possible we are witnessing an asteroid that's been spun up (by gradual interactions with sunlight) to the point that it started shedding mass.

Jewitt says that there's no handle yet on whether the "nucleus" is tumbling or spinning rapidly. But he says more Hubble sessions are planned in the months ahead."

I could not bring this object up in any of my astronomy programs and could not find it in CBAT. I did find its coordinates for March 5th and it is slowly moving through the constellation Gemini.

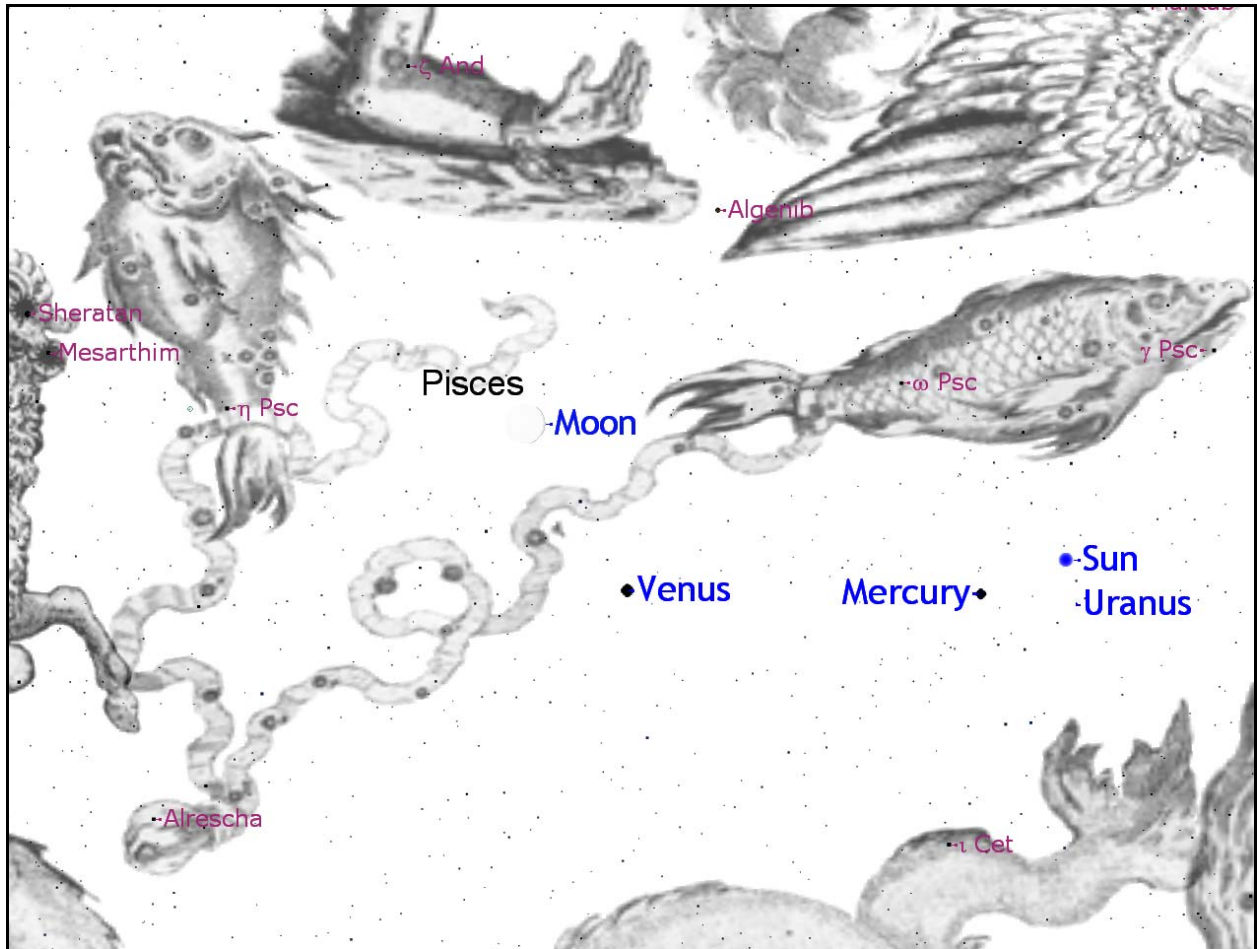


Chart 515 – The New Moon of the Abib in Pisces with Venus, Mercury and the Sun on 3/17/10

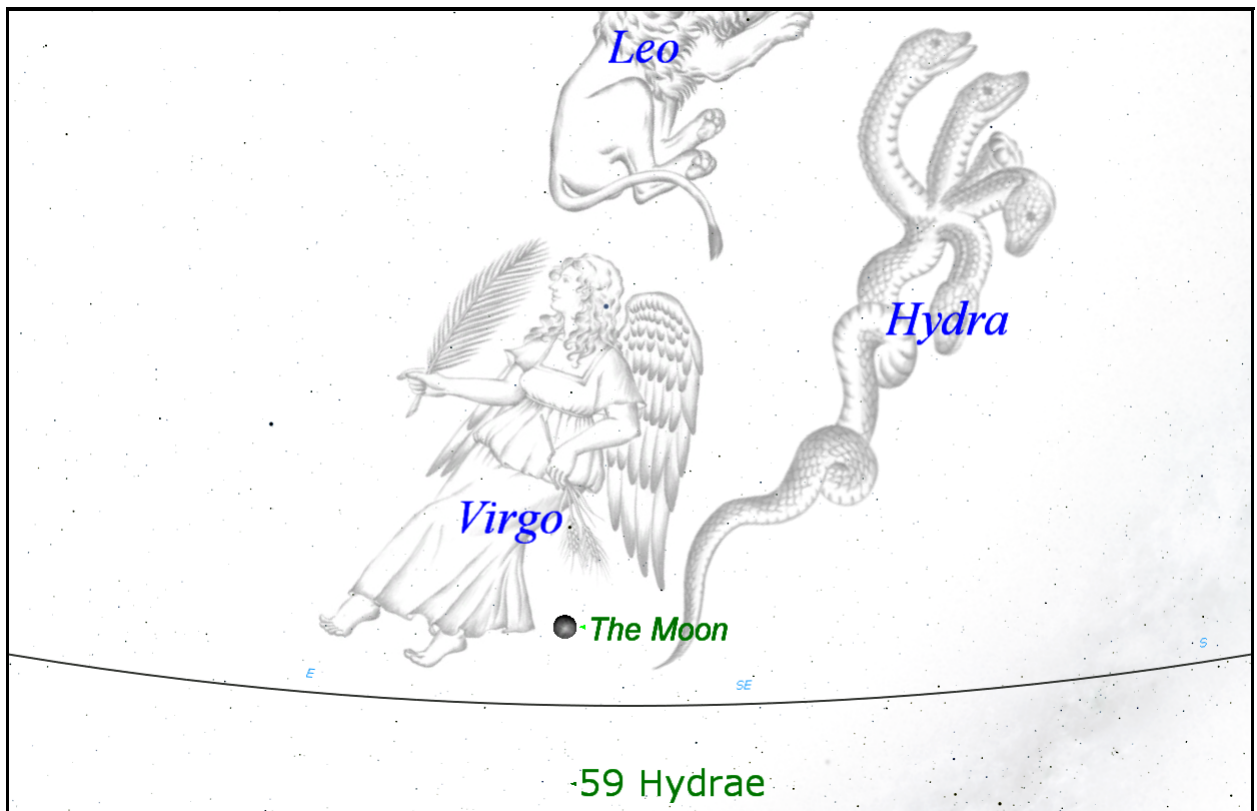


Chart 516 – Virgo, Hydra and Paschal Full Moon rising in the east-southeast as seen from Jerusalem in the early evening of March 31, 2010

THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON

This article was originally scheduled for the March/April newsletter, but because of lack of activity for February, I am putting it in here. There will still be plenty to write about in next month's newsletter.

I have written on this subject matter in previous newsletters, my book and DVD set, but it has been a while since I last wrote about it. Here it is again with a slightly different angle.

The following are excerpts from Revelation 12:1 to 13:1 from the KJV.

“And there appeared a great wonder (sign) in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth and pained to be delivered.

And there appeared another wonder (sign) in heaven; and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew (draggeth) the third part of the stars of heaven..... and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

Chart 516 shows the constellations Bethulah (Virgo) and Hydra, which represent the woman and the dragon respectively from Revelation 12. The picture that this particular astronomy program shows of Virgo is a bit off. She should be facing a bit in the opposite direction, more toward the serpent, though the palm frond and staff of wheat or barley are held in the correct hands. Hydra represents the dragon and the serpent, one in the same. I chose this program because it shows the snake with multiple heads. In ancient planespheres, Hydra is shown with seven heads. He is the “dragon” who “stood before the woman.” The tail here is also greatly shortened from ancient pictures where the snake wrapped around 120⁰ (one third) of the Zodiac. The star 59 Hydrae in the chart is part of the tail, which extends even further below the horizon as seen here. Figuratively speaking, as Hydra rises in the east, it drags one third of the other stars in their rising along with it. Though the scriptures say that he flings them to the earth at some point in time.

...And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place where she is nourished

for a time, and times, and half and half a time, from the face of the serpent.... And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

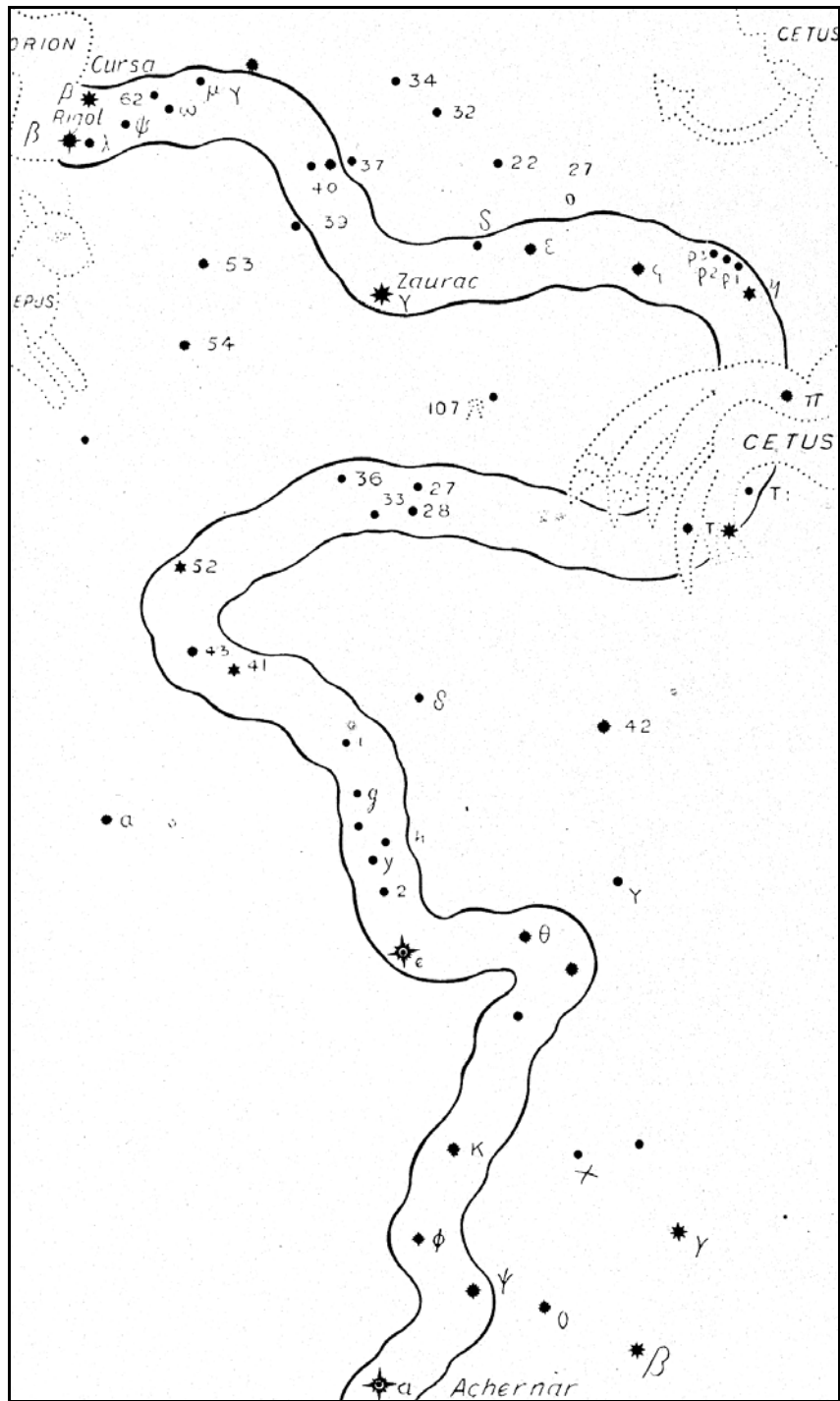
In some planespheres Virgo is shown with no wings, while in others she has wings. In the secular astronomy program that I used to make Chart 516, she has wings (only one showing here, but other planespheres show two wings), which are quite fitting to Rev. 12:14.

The following scriptures are from the NIV, which does a much better job in translating this part of Revelation than the KJV.

Revelation 13:1-5 (NIV) – **And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name....The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority....and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.**

During the Fall Feasts when they occur late in the year from late September to mid-October, and during the Spring Feasts, the constellation Cetus, representing the dragon, is seen standing on the west-southwest horizon and from Jerusalem appears to be standing on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. At the same time, Hydra, who has seven heads, is rising in the east-southeast and appears to be rising out of the Dead Sea as seen from Jerusalem. In the fall this is seen in the early morning sky and in the spring in the early evening sky. These are not seen like this for any other part of the year, but only during the Spring and Fall Feasts. This is an amazing portrayal of Revelation 13:1 (NIV). During the Fall Feasts the constellation Draco (the dragon) is seen being cast down to the earth during the same time. During the Spring Feasts, the dragon is seen ascending into the heavens when hydra is rising out of the sea. Also see the September 1996 and the September/October 2003 (has better pictures) issues of *Biblical Astronomy* for further info.

Chart 516 shows Bethulah and the dragon over the east-southeast horizon as seen from Jerusalem about 90 minutes after sunset on March 31, 2010. The horizon is the curved line below the constellation pictures. Here the Paschal Full Moon is seen at the time of this event on Passover evening.



ERIDANUS (The River of the Judge)

The river of wrath breaking forth for His enemies

Eridanus is a decan constellation to the Sign *Taurus*.

Ancient Names for this constellation

Peh-ta-t (Denduran) – *the mouth of the river.*

Eridanus (Heb.) – *river of the judge or ruler.*

Complementing scriptures to this constellation picture

Daniel 7:9-11 (KJV) – “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, Whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire. ¹⁰A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousands thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. ¹¹I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, *and given to the burning flame.*”

Revelation 19:20 (KJV) – “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. *These both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*”

Other complimenting scriptures are Psalm 97:3-5; Psalm 50:3; Habakkuk 3:5; Isaiah 30:27-33; Nahum 1: 5,6; Isaiah 66:15,16; and 2 Thessalonians 7-9.

Stars in Eridanus and the meanings of their names

Achernar (Heb.) – *after part of the river* (the mouth of the river where it flows into a lake or sea).

Cursa (Heb.) – *bent down*. This star is at the source of the river.

Zourac (Arab.) – *flowing*.

Phaet (Heb.) – *mouth (of the river)*.

Ozha (Heb.) – *the going forth*.

Taurus’s decan constellations *Orion* and *Eridanus* clearly portray Messiah when He comes to judge the earth as written in the scriptures above. Orion as the Redeemer coming forth as a bright light breaking forth and Eridanus as the fiery river of judgment flowing forth from before Him. This river of fire is seen coming forth from His left foot. See also the picture for the constellation Orion. The following is from E.W. Bullinger’s *The Witness of the Stars*, pp. 130-132:

“Here, then, we have a river flowing forth from before the glorious *Orion*. It runs in a serpentine course towards the lower regions, down, down, out of sight. In vain the sea monster, *Cetus*, strives to stop its flow. It is "the river of the Judge," and speaks of that final judgment in which the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire. It was evidently originally associated with *fire*; for the Greek myths, though gross perversions, still so connect it. According to their fables, something went wrong with the chariot of the sun, and a universal conflagration was threatened. In the trouble, *Phaeton* (probably a reference to the star *Pheat*) was killed and hurled into this river, in which he was consumed with its fire. The whole earth suffered from such a burning heat that great disasters ensued. We see from this myth two great facts preserved in the perverted tradition, viz., *judgment* and *fire*.

Is not this the testimony afterwards written in *the Book*? Daniel sees this very river in his vision of that coming day, when the true Orion shall come forth in His glory. He says, "I beheld till the thrones were placed, and one that was ancient of days did sit:...His throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire. A FIERY STREAM ISSUED AND CAME FORTH FROM BEFORE HIM." This is *the River of the Judge*; for he goes on to say, "the judgment was set, and the books were opened" (Dan 7:9-11, RV).

With this agree the New Testament scriptures, which speak of "the Day of the Lord," "when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, IN FLAMING FIRE taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess 1:7,8).

This is the true Eridanus. It is no mere "picture." It is a dread reality! It is written in stars of fire, and words of truth, that men may heed the solemn warning and "flee from the wrath to come!"