

Biblical Astronomy

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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 January 2008 and the beginning of the Eleventh month on the Biblical Calendar.

“On Wednesday January 9, 2008 observers across Israel looked for the new moon but it was not sighted. There was heavy cloud coverage. The moon had 1.38% illumination and 56 minutes lagtime, which puts it within the potential visibility range based on previous sightings from Israel.”

There was no report for January 10, 2008.

The next new moon, which will be the beginning of the Twelfth month on the Biblical Calendar, is expected to be visible from Jerusalem near sunset on February 8, 2008.

COMET UPDATES

Comet Holmes 17P is still within naked eye visibility between magnitude 3.5 and 4.0. There were reports as of January 14 of naked eye sightings. The comet is fading very slowly and will most likely still be within naked eye visibility when it comes into a very close conjunction with the star *Algol (the ghoul or evil spirit)* in *Rosh Satan (the head of Satan)* in the constellation *Perseus* on January 22, 2008. See Charts 450 and 451 and the article on the comet in the November 2007 issue of *Biblical Astronomy* for the conjunction of these two celestial bodies.

Comet Tuttle 8P did not brighten much more than 5.5 in magnitude. Though this is just within naked eye visibility, it would be very difficult if not impossible to spot with the naked eye even in dark skies. The comet is now at magnitude 5.6. Unless there is a rare outburst, the comet is expected to slowly fade away.

Speaking of comets, there is a very good article that I recommend for reading in the February 2008 issue of *Astronomy* magazine. It still may be available in stores and newsstands and may also be available in your local library.

The name of the article is *How Comets Shaped History* by Richard Jakiel. It covers many of the most famous comets throughout history and historical events that occurred during their visits.

The following is an excerpt from the article concerning last year's surprise January comet, Comet McNaught. This is something that I did not realize or think about until now.

Mithradates' "Horse comet"

“In the first century B.C. the Roman Republic controlled much of the Mediterranean world, and its interests were expanding eastward. But Mithradates VI, King of Pontus – in what is now central Turkey – proved to be a major roadblock. He led his armies against Rome in several wars before his 65 B.C. defeat.

Not one, but two comets are associated with this “scourge of Rome” – the first with his birth (134 B.C.) and the second with his coronation (119 B.C.). Both comets became symbols of Mithradate's greatness, but it's the first that most interests researchers like Rutgers University's Michael Molnar.

Mithradates struck some bronze coins that depict a foreboding *hippeus* (horse) comet. Pliny, the Roman naturalist, says this kind of comet had plumes like horses' manes. Molnar suggests the horses' manes are synchronic bands – dusty streamers in the tail that arc toward the comet's icy nucleus. These unusual features were a highlight of last year's appearance of Comet McNaught (C/2006 P1).

Molnar believes the visibility of these bands indicates *hippeus* comets had a close encounter with

Earth, approaching perhaps as close as 600,000 miles (1 million kilometers). One ancient writer, Hephæstion of Thebes, says *hippeus* comets foretell the quick fall of kings and tyrants and rapid changes in national affairs. ‘It is likely that the comet was interpreted as an omen of violent revolution, but Mithradates apparently altered the focus of the portent,’ explains Molnar. How? Molnar thinks Mithradates transformed the comet into a symbol of his own struggle to evict Rome from Asia Minor.”



Was Comet McNaught (C/2006 P1) a ‘horse comet’? The distinct banding in its broad dust tail fits the first-century A.D. description of a type of comet with a horse’s mane.

This becomes most interesting when considering the fact that Comet McNaught appeared as a white mane (white horse). It was at its brightest when this mane appeared in the constellation *Sagittarius*. *Sagittarius* portrays a man with a bow riding a white horse (see painting and article on *Sagittarius* in the July 2006 issue of *Biblical Astronomy*). Also check out the charts and articles on Comet McNaught in the December 2006/January 2007 and February 2007 issues of *Biblical Astronomy*). This stuff just gives me the chills when I think about it. This is one striking portrayal of Revelation 6:1, 2.

FOUR PERCENT CHANCE OF ASTEROID STRIKING MARS ON JANUARY 30TH?

There have been recent reports that an asteroid is on a collision course with Mars. This is not a hoax.

The following is a December 28, 2008 Sky & Telescope news release written by Kelly Beatty.

Odds of Mars Strike Now 1-in-25

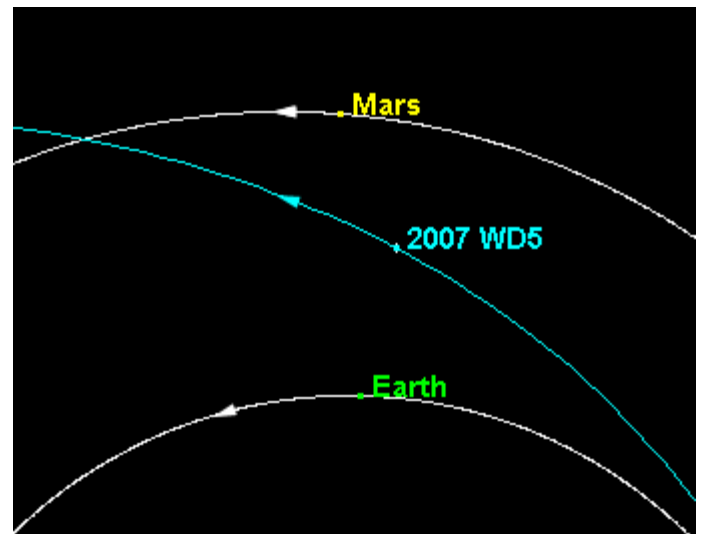
“A week ago [I told you](#) about a small asteroid with roughly a 1% (1-in-75) chance of hitting Mars late next month.

Well, the odds of an impact have just gone up!

Earlier today dynamicists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory [announced](#) that 2007 WD₅ now has a 1-in-25 chance (4%) of striking the Red Planet. They’ve adjusted the prediction based on the asteroid’s serendipitous appearance in three images made November 8th, nearly two weeks before its discovery by the Catalina Sky Survey team on Mount Lemmon in Arizona.

Most likely, 2007 WD₅ will miss Mars by about 15,000 miles. But if it should strike, it will do so at about 8½ miles per second on January 30th, within a few minutes of 5:56 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

No observations of the little asteroid have been acquired since December 19th, though new images — and a much better prediction — should be made within the next few days.”



Estimated to be about 150 feet across, the small asteroid designated 2007 WD₅ will pass very close to Mars — and might hit it — when the two cross paths (upper left) on January 30th.

I was excited that there may be some heavenly fireworks on my 60th birthday on January 30th, but that excitement was pretty much extinguished when I read the following update on January 11, also written by Kelly Beatty.

Mars Dodges a Bullet

JUPITER AND VENUS IN CONJUNCTION

“Word from the orbit gurus at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory is that the impact watch for Mars is officially "off." On January 9th [they announced](#) that the odds of tiny 2007 WD₅ crashing into Mars on January 30th have dropped precipitously, to about 1 in 10,000 (0.01%). Instead, the two should come no closer than about 16,000 miles.

This near miss was the likely outcome all along, but uncertainty remained until some big telescopic guns weighed in earlier this week with updated tracking observations. Estimated to be no more than 150 feet across, the asteroid is a dim 24th-magnitude blip and getting fainter as it moves outward from Earth and toward Mars.

Over the past few weeks astronomers have responded to this "will it or won't it?" situation just as they should have. A possible impactor was found, its projected track (though wildly uncertain) showed that a collision couldn't be ruled out, and the call went out for additional observations that eventually settled the matter.

Because the drama surrounding 2007 WD₅ played out 50 million miles away, we were all spared the sensational news-media hype that usually surrounds these "killer asteroid" stories.

In discussions among the scientists involved, a few hold the opinion that the public becomes needlessly agitated when they learn that some space rock has a 1-in-XXXX chance of hitting Earth, only to learn later that additional observations have ruled it out. Others say that being able to watch the probability game play out is a good thing, a demonstration of how science actually "works."

What do *you* think?"

Chart 454 shows the position of the planet *Mars (Adom)* in the constellation *Taurus* and near the constellation *Auriga* at the time the comet passes or impacts the planet. *Taurus* represents God's wrath being poured forth and judgment coming to His enemies. *Auriga* is the great shepherd who took God's wrath upon himself for all those who believe in him and are his sheepfold. In one of its portrayals, Mars (Adom) represents the atoning blood of Messiah who took the "impact" of God's wrath upon himself in our stead.

We will just have to wait to see if the asteroid will "impact" Mars on this passing on January 30th. Most likely it will not, but we don't know everything.

The planets *Zedek (Jupiter)* and *Nogah (Venus)* will come into a close conjunction with one another in the early morning of February 1, 2008. **Chart 455** shows the position of the two planets in the constellation *Sagittarius* at the time of conjunction as seen over the southeast horizon of Jerusalem at 5:30 a.m. on February 1. The two planets come to within 0.6 degrees from each other at their closest approach.

Also at that time there will be a bright waning crescent moon in the constellation *Scorpius*. The arrow in the bow of the horseman is aimed at the heart of the scorpion (not shown well here in the *Starry Night* program).

Jupiter and Venus are the two brightest planets in the solar system and far outshine the brightest stars. It is a real neat sight to see them in close conjunction with one another. If you are up an hour before your local sunrise on February 1st, and the sky is clear, it will be worth your while to take a gander above the southeast horizon where these two planets will be dancing. Well, it beats looking for the groundhog on the next day and it is a more attractive sight.

WHERE'S THE ONLINE BOOK?

I did say that I hoped to have the first parts of the third edition of *A Voice Crying in the Heavens* on the website by late December or early January, but it just hasn't happened yet. Things seem to keep popping up and delaying me in my writing. I have finished many of the constellations for the first part of the book and hope to have them posted soon.

The book will be in three parts just as the Biblical Astronomy DVD set is done. The first part will be the constellations and the stars in the constellations and their Biblical meaning. The second part will be major celestial events from Adam to Messiah's first appearance and the third part will be on celestial events pertaining to the soon reappearing of Messiah. There will be further information in the book in appendixes containing major celestial event through the year 2047 and all of the feast dates or closest proximities according to the Biblical calendar for each year through 2047, just to mention a sample of the appendixes.

Yaweh bless you richly and protect you.

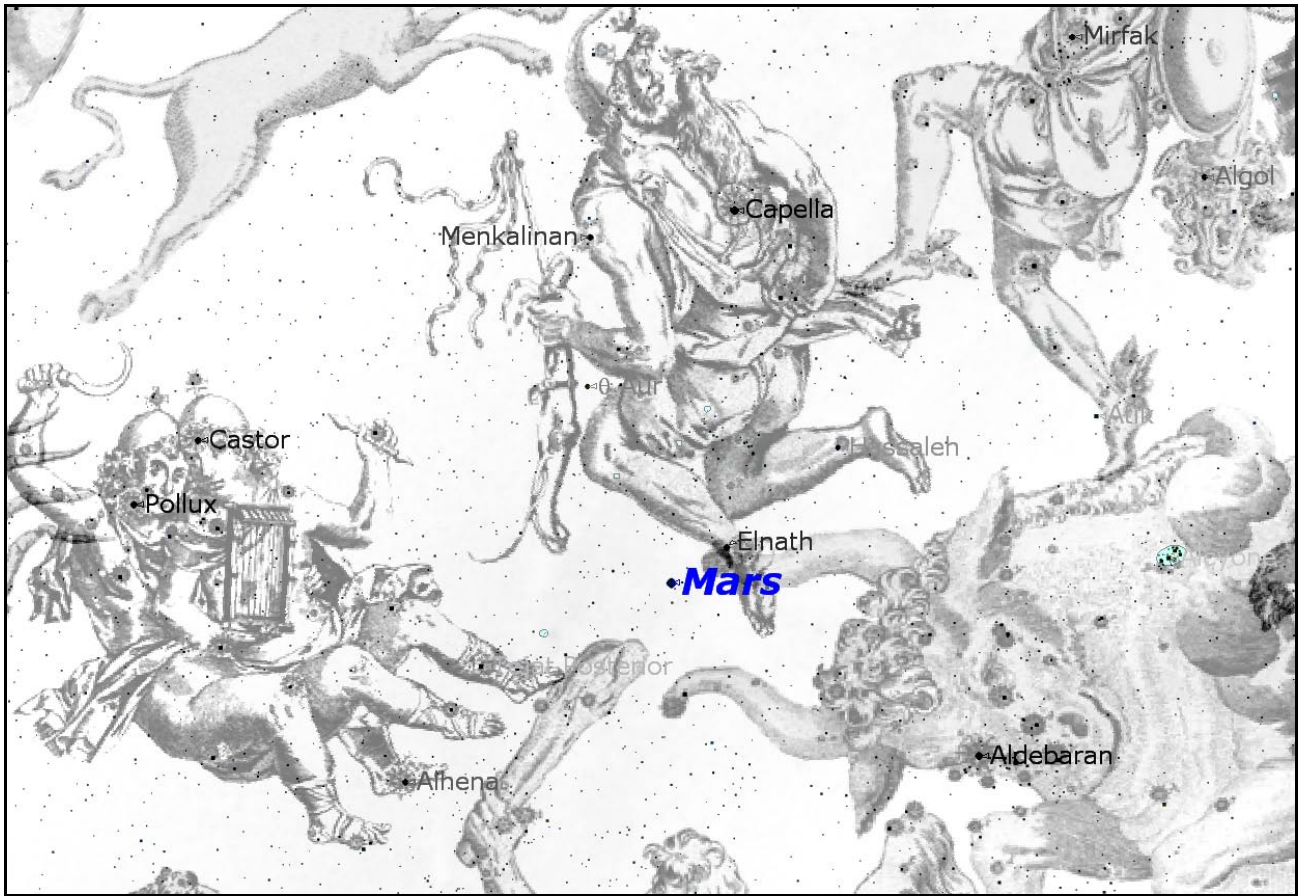


Chart 454 – Position of Mars in Taurus on January 30, 2008

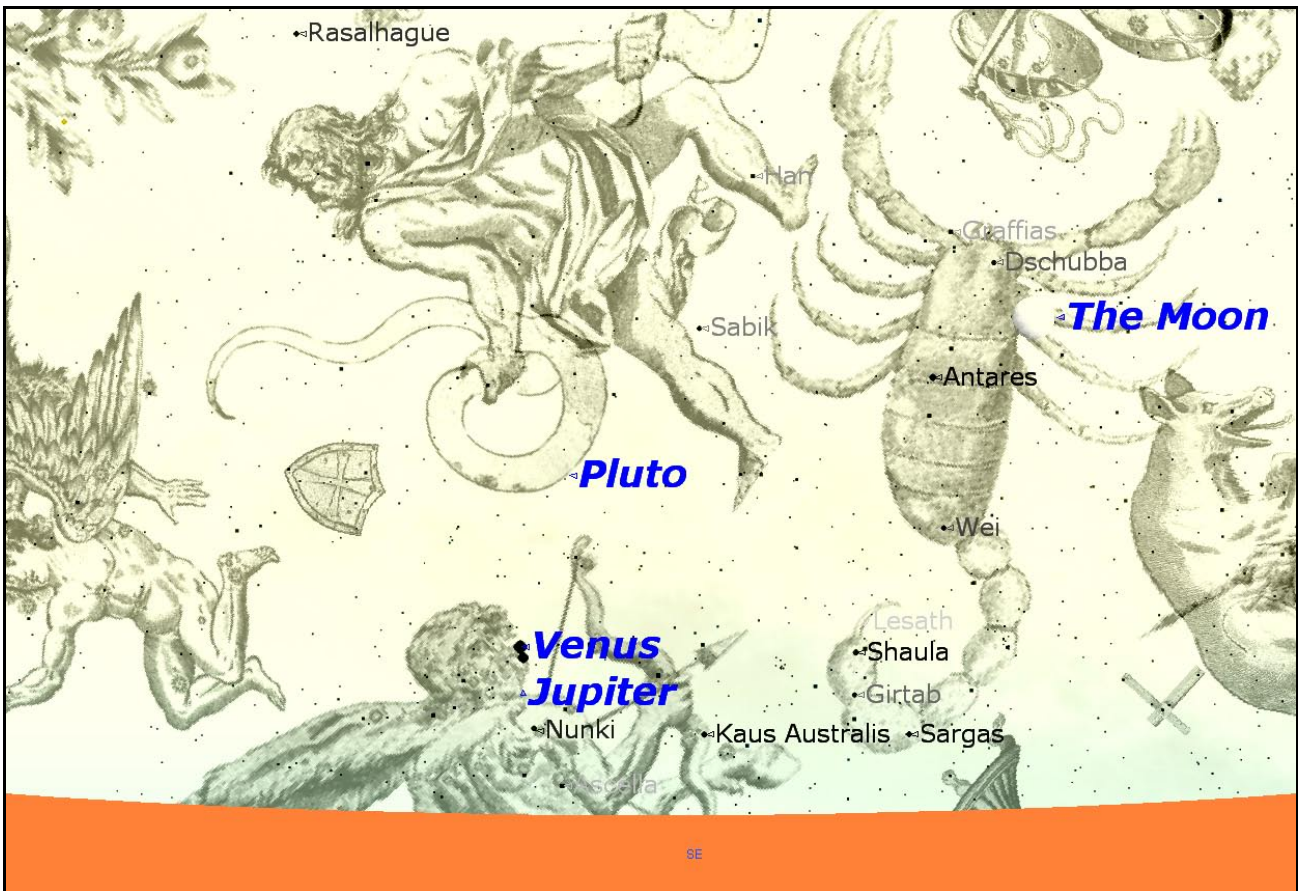


Chart 455 – Jupiter and Venus in conjunction as seen from Jerusalem at 5:30 a.m. on February 1



AQUARIUS (the Water Bearer) and PISCIS AUSTRALIS (the Southern Fish)

Their blessings ensured, or the living waters of blessing poured forth for the redeemed

Aquarius is the main constellation in the Sign Aquarius.

Ancient Name for this constellation

*Deli (Heb.) – the water urn, or bucket, the same meaning as its Arabic name **Delu**.*

Hupei Tirion (Denduran) – the place of him coming down or poured forth.

Aquarius (Lat.) – *the pourer forth of water*

Complementing scriptures to this constellation picture

Numbers 24:7 – He shall pour the water out of His buckets, And His seed *shall be* in many waters, And His king shall be higher than Agag, and His Kingdom shall be exalted.

Isaiah 44:2, 3, 6 – Fear not, O Jacob, My servant; And thou, Jesurun whom I have chosen, For I will **pour water** upon him that is thirsty, And floods upon the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessings upon thy offspring. Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his Redeemer the LORD of hosts.

Stars in Aquarius and the meanings of their names

Sa'ad al Melik (Arab.) – *the record of the pouring forth.*

Saad al Sund (Arab.) – *who goeth and returneth, or the pourer out.*

Scheat (Heb.) – *who goeth and returneth.*

Mon or *Meon* (Egypt.) – *an urn.*

The main theme of this sign and constellation is Yahweh's blessings and spirit being poured forth on the seed of Jacob or Israel. It is no coincidence that the tail of *Capricorn* runs into *Aquarius*. It was in *Capricorn* that we have the portrayal of Messiah sacrificing himself to the death and paying the atonement in his blood for our sins so that we might have life in him. It is the fish tail of *Capricorn* that represents the resurrection of Y'shua to life. Through this resurrection we are also resurrected unto life. Blessings were poured forth on us at the day of Pentecost 50 days after Messiah's resurrection when we first received the gift and baptism of holy spirit from THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Piscis Australis is a decan constellation to the Sign *Aquarius*.

Ancient name for this constellation

Aar (Denduran) – *a stream*

Piscis Australis – *the southern fish*

Major star in Piscis Australis and the meaning of its name

Fom al Haut (Arab) - *the mouth of the fish.* This is a very bright first magnitude star.

This fish represents the seed of Jacob (Isaiah 44:2, 3) or Israel. The mouth of the fish is receiving what is being poured forth. The picture above incorrectly has the star *Fom al Haut* in the eye of the fish instead of being its mouth. This fish represents all of the tribes of Israel, and both houses (the House of Judah and the House of Ephraim (Israel)). In the Sign, *Pisces*, the two fishes of that constellation each represent one of the two houses of Israel. This fish is as large as both of those fish put together. Both houses are seen here together as one fish in *Piscis Australis*.

Both houses received the outpouring that was poured forth on the Day of Pentecost following the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). This same pouring forth is available to all who confess Y'shua as their master and believe that Elohim (God) raised him from the dead.