



# The Living God Ministries, Inc.

Montgomery & Spanish Fort, Alabama

February 28, 2020

## Consider His Heavens

Warm hellos to you dear brethren, co-workers, and spiritual family on the Coast of the Gulf of Mexico and scattered children of God, from my "mobile office" here in Mankato, Minnesota.

It's a wee bit chillier up here to the north than in lower Alabama. Over the last several weeks we have had a bit of cold weather even in the Mobile area.

Usually the coldest temperatures occur when the skies are clear. The stars seem brighter then. We've lived in several different states and places over the years. The location where the stars always seemed brighter to me on a clear night, was my wife's home town of Milton, Wisconsin, especially during the winter months.

While visiting here in Minnesota I've had a similar opportunity the last couple of evenings. I have learned over the years to identify some of the star groupings - called *constellations*. When you locate the Big Dipper (part of Ursa Major) you use the stars that make up the end of the cup to point the way to locate Polaris at the end of the handle of the Little Dipper (part of Ursa Minor). These two stars are called "pointer stars."

Years ago I found an interesting web site that shows these constellations, and when one points his/her mouse at the stars in the graphic, the lines are drawn that show the outlines of the two Dippers and the line from the pointing stars. Here's the link to "Catching the Light":  
[http://www.astropix.com/HTML/SHOW\\_DIG/Big\\_and\\_Little\\_Dippers.HTM](http://www.astropix.com/HTML/SHOW_DIG/Big_and_Little_Dippers.HTM)

Actually the Big and Little Dipper are each an 'asterism', a highly recognizable part of a constellation. We can find two of the best and brightest galaxies in the sky just above the two stars that form the neck of the Bear -- they are M81 and its neighbor M82. Since the earth's North Pole points to Polaris and the earth rotates around its poles, all the constellations seem to rotate around Polaris, including the Big Dipper.

Those before us, the ancients, looked into the heavens and observed and identified star groupings and named them. Interestingly, the Scriptures mention several names. We recall when God confronted Job with the following. "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring out Mazzaroth (Heb. mazzarah) in its season? Or can you guide

the Great Bear (Heb. 'Ayish) with its cubs?" (Job 38:31-32)

[Here are some commentarial thoughts I found interesting: From "Mazzaroth; the twelve signs of the zodiac" (Family Bible Notes). "Mazzaloth (to which Mazzaroth here is equivalent) displays into the sky the signs of the Zodiac at their respective seasons--the twelve lodgings in which the sun successively stays, or appears, in the sky.

Arcturus--Ursa Major. His sons--the three stars in his tail" (JFB Commentary)

The Online Bible Hebrew Lexicon explains mazzarah as referring to "the 12 signs of the Zodiac and their 36 associated constellations." This Lexicon also explains 'Ayish as referring to "a constellation, 1a) Great Bear, Ursa Major, 1b) Arcturus."

Not all commentaries agree with the above identifications of the Hebrew words in Job 38 and also Job 9. I don't suggest the above as the final word, but it is obvious that Job was keenly aware of some of the star arrangements in the sky and the names for them.

One Commentary comments on Job 26:13: *By His spirit He hath garnished the heavens; His hand hath formed the crooked serpent.* He interprets "crooked" as "implying the oblique course, of the stars, or the ecliptic." He and others interpret this as referring to "a figure of stars shaped like a serpent" and this is called "Draco, the dragon."

Again, this is interesting, although partly commentaries speculation. The "ecliptic" is the great circle on the celestial sphere that represents the Sun's apparent path (as viewed from the earth) among the background stars in one year. The plane of the ecliptic corresponds to the plane in which the Earth orbits the Sun.

One more mention of constellations in the book of Job is as he answers one of his friends. *"He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south."* (Job 9:8-9)

Bullinger in his work "Witness of the Stars" makes the suggestion or argument that the constellations of the 12 signs of the Zodiac are indicative of events in God's plan. Others offer similar observations.

Genesis 1:14 has inferences as well. We know that ancient pagan religions often developed their own mythologies and gods and goddesses based on real individuals and events that they then corrupted. Bullinger states concerning these religions that "they themselves are a corruption and perversion of primitive truth."]

I also mention these stars and constellations in part because when I traveled to Santa Rosa, Colombia on several occasions, and looked into the heavens on multiple evenings while walking home on lightless streets, and saw the glory of the heavens, it helped me to honor and praise our Creator God. One feels pretty small and insignificant when gazing up to such vastness! Sometimes you have to get away from all the cities and lights to see His creation more clearly.

The Psalms inform us about God. "*He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.*" (Ps 147:4)

Isaiah also comments on the greatness of the true God. "*Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.*" (Isa 40:26)

We read in Psalm 8:3-6, v3 *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.*

That same Creator that designed and brought into being the stars and the heavens also created you and me. We've got an awesome potential don't we. I think we've only scratched the surface of the size of the universe. I don't think we grasp our incredible potential fully either.

May you be encouraged this Sabbath by reviewing God's precious truths, promises, and plan for you and me. Consider the heavens He's made! Keep focused on the positive, good, and holding on to that vision of Christ's return and His promises...When He returns it's really only a beginning...as a famous character exclaimed, "To infinity and beyond!" ...

Our prayers and thoughts are with you daily. Please do pray for us as well.

**Scott Hoefker**

(Pastor, *The Living God Ministries Gulf Coast*)

The schedule for this **Sabbath** is:

**February 28<sup>th</sup> / Friday: Evening Praise Sacrifice to welcome God's Sabbath - 6:30 pm** (via Teleconference live connect with Stephen Glover and Friends.)

**February 29<sup>th</sup> / Saturday: Spirit and Truth Worship Services - 10:15 am** will be held in **Mankato, MN** (and via phone conference to all) *and combined Montgomery Services at 1:00 p.m.* will be held with the LGM and CGI at the CGI hall.

A **Family Fellowship Meal** [Potluck] will be enjoyed and shared in both Mankato and Montgomery shortly after each worship services.

Telephone Ministry (English): Call **1-712-770-4700**; then, when asked, enter Code **112165 #** to join.

(Note: All callers are muted and must press \*6 to comment and \*6 to resume mute.)  
All times are listed in Central Standard Time zone.

#### Our Daily Bread Recordings

Sunday through Saturday / Our Daily Bread [listen anytime 24/7 to a recorded 15 minute message] Call 1-712-770-4709 (note this call in number is different and ends in "9"), then when asked, enter code 112165# [reference code numbers are on "Spiritual Fellowship Opportunities" on this website <http://www.tlgministriesgc.org> or at "Resources/Archives" on <http://www.haggai114.net>]

#### Daily Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday – Friday / **Morning Sacrifice** (Prayers & Scripture Reading) at 6:00 a.m.  
Sundays / **The Minor Prophets** (Interactive) at 6:30 p.m. [Whit, Logan & Friends]  
Mondays / Africa Discipleship at 7:00 a.m. [Stephen & Moses]  
**Almond Branch Fellowship** at 6:30 p.m. (Interactive) (Stephen & Friends)  
Tuesdays / **Haggai Fellowship** (Interactive) at 6:30 p.m. (Interactive) [Stephen & Friends]  
Wednesdays / Africa Discipleship at 7:00 a.m. [Stephen & Moses]  
1st & 3rd Wednesday / **Sons of God Fellowship** (Young men training) at 6:30 p.m. [Stephen & Friends]  
2nd & 4th Wednesday / **Lydian's Fellowship** (Ladies) at 6:30 p.m. [Esther/Gayle/Laura & Friends]  
Thursdays / **Mt. Carmel Fellowship** (Interactive) at 6:30 p.m. [Scott & Friends]

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