

## Astrology from Ancient Egypt

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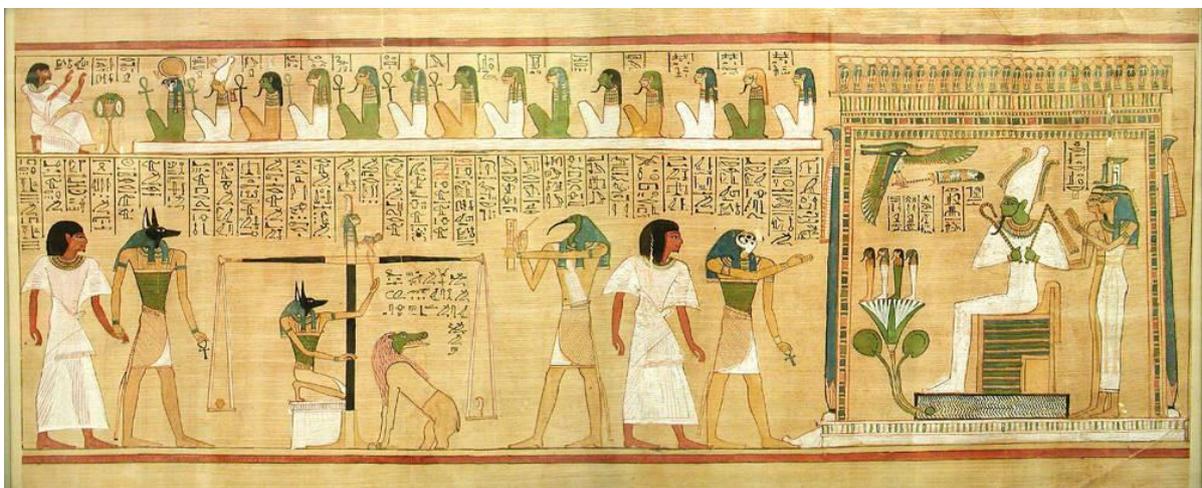
Osiris, Isis, Horus, Thoth, Anubis, Nephthys, Set, Maat, Ra. Names of Egyptian Gods are at the origin of our sense of natural cycles. And yet the meaning of these mythical names is largely unknown.

Osiris is the God of the afterlife. With his green skin, Osiris is also a god of fertility, celebrating the return to life each spring after the death of the old year in winter, marked also in Egypt at the rising of the Nile in early summer. Osiris is one of the dying and rising saviours who formed the myth of Jesus Christ in the passion celebration of the annual triumph of light over dark, and of life over death. Easter is connected to the equinox because its natural meaning is the annual change from dark to light at the turning point from winter to spring.

Isis, the cosmic mother, the bride of Osiris and virgin mother of Horus, continues today in the form of the Blessed Virgin Mary, adorned with her celestial crown of twelve stars as described in Revelation 12. These twelve stars represent each month of the year in the cycle of the zodiac.

Horus, god of the rising sun, son of Isis and Osiris, gave many of his qualities to Jesus Christ. Thoth, God of Wisdom, was a principle source, through his priesthood, of the theology of the word in the gospel of John. Anubis, a god of the dead, was the jackal embalmer who continued as Saint John the Baptist. Nephthys and Set, queen and king of the underworld, morphed into Greek myth in Persephone and Pluto, and continue in Christianity as Martha and Satan. Amun-Ra, God of the Sun, is at the origin of the Judeo-Christian idea of God the Father, whose etymological cognates also stretch to India, through Deus Pater, Jupiter, Zeus Patera and their common origin in the Indian sky god Dyaus Pita. Maat, the Egyptian cosmic order, continued to inspire the New Testament in the name of the Gospel of Matthew.

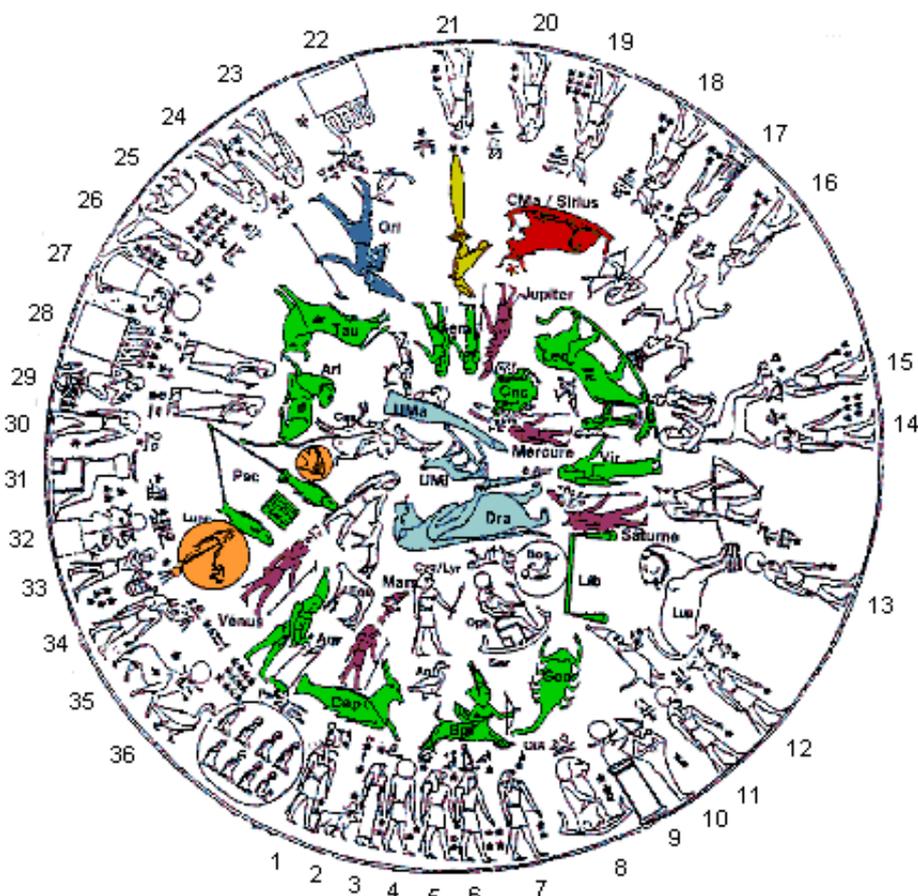
The main Egyptian Gods are shown in the [Hall of Judgment](#).



Egyptian myth is far closer to us than we often see. Egypt thrived for three thousand years or more as a stable and prosperous kingdom, building immense pyramids and other temples in honour of their worship of the stars and the annual cycle of life. The loss of Egyptian lore, buried beneath the rubble of Christendom, has seen a degradation of human thought, with supernatural dogma replacing the deep wisdom of nature as a basis for community and identity.

Not much is known of the detail of Egyptian astrology, before the Greek invasion, although Egyptian gods were at the centre of the mysteries that embedded the wisdom of the stars. It is unclear how much and what the Greeks borrowed from Egypt, compared to their other main source in Babylon. Illustrating the scale of Greek tribute to Egypt, Euclid of Alexandria, founder of geometry, clearly obtained much of his mathematical knowledge from Egypt, as he lived all his life in that country as a leading Greek in the wake of Alexander's conquest. Ptolemy, whose astrological system provided Western cosmology from early Christian times until Galileo, was Egyptian.

[Dendera Zodiac](#)



An example of Egyptian astronomy is the Dendera Zodiac, from the temple of Hathor on the Upper Nile River, known to date at least to the Greek invasion after Alexander. Now in the Louvre Museum in France, this large sky map shows the stars of the sky, with the zodiac constellations forming a ring

around the ceiling, around the rest of the main constellations. Much of the rest of the sky map of Dendera shows an Egyptian code that has not yet been fully deciphered, including the decans around the rim which the Egyptians used to mark every ten days, three per month and 36 in the year, plus the five epagomenal days of the old 365 day calendar of Maat.

Precession of the equinox, the slow movement whereby the sun shifts its stellar position against the seasons in a cycle of about 25,765 years known as the Great Year, is a theme embedded in Egyptian cosmology. Understanding precession is essential to understanding Egyptian thought, in its ideas and its fate.

The Greek astronomer Hipparchus, writing in the second century before Christ, based his estimate of precession of the equinox on Babylonian star records, from observation of the shift of the star Spica in Virgo. We now know that precession is caused by the gravity of the sun and moon applying torque to the equator of the earth, making our planet wobble like a spinning top. The Egyptians did not know the scientific cause of precession, but they were very aware of its effects on the earth in changing observation of the positions of stars over time.



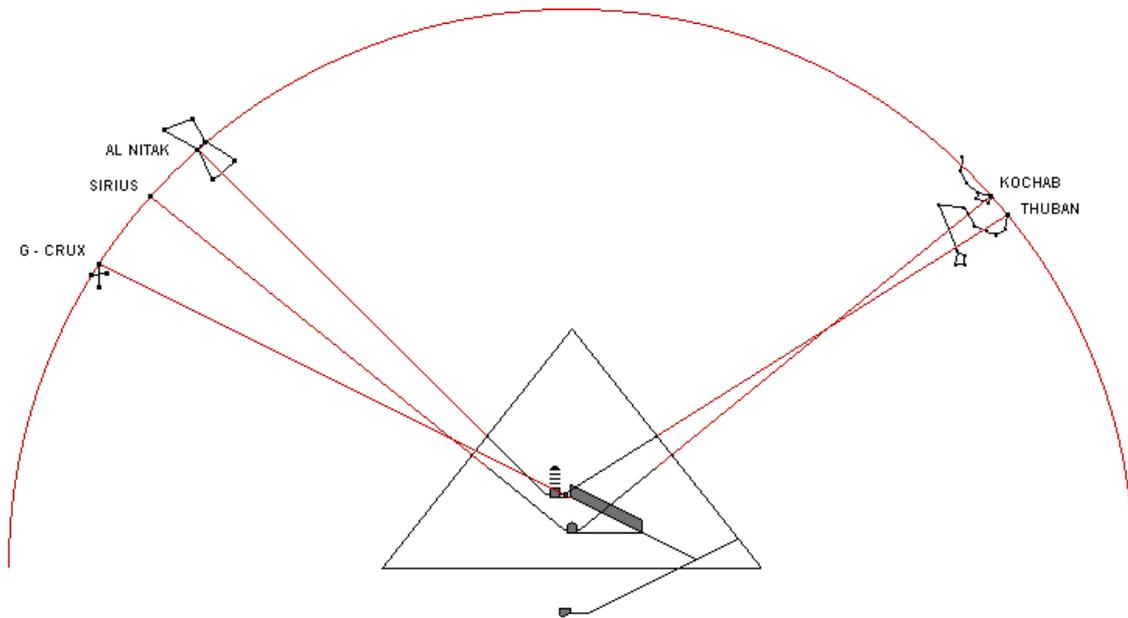
The Egyptians were very familiar with precession, although records of Egyptian knowledge of precession are largely lost, except for a few fragmentary ruins and codes. It may yet be possible to reconstruct more of the Egyptian worldview, starting with their approach to precession.

Sir Norman Lockyer, founding editor of the leading scientific journal *Nature*, and discoverer of the second element, helium, is a primary source for beginning to understand Egyptian astrology. Lockyer's great book, *The Dawn of Astronomy – Temple Worship in Ancient Egypt*, explains how the Egyptians aligned their temples as horizontal telescopes, pointing to the spot on the horizon where they knew a star would rise each night. Temples of Egypt point to the sun, Sirius, Canopus and other bright stars. The heliacal rising of Sirius, the first day each year it becomes visible before dawn, provided the Egyptians with a highly accurate stellar clock of the year over millennia of observation. Their temples were established to observe the cosmos, providing a link between the mundane world and the eternal stars.

From the day it first becomes visible at the start of summer, Sirius rises four minutes earlier each night, until in December it is already above the horizon at dusk. Lockyer explains how we know the ancients were aware of the big movement of precession of the equinox well before Greek times. Major Egyptian temples are aligned to the rising point of particular stars. However, due to precession this rising point shifted over the millennia. We see that under and alongside the existing temples, for example at Dendera and Karnak, are foundations of older temples which pointed to where the star was at an earlier time. Lockyer explains how the Egyptians must have noticed that their star temples no longer operated as before. When Sirius rises in the eastern sky, it sends a shaft of light along the long corridor of the temple opening. The early Greek historian Herodotus explained how in Phoenicia, this method was used by priests to light up a large gemstone, an emerald, in the sanctuary of the temple.

Over centuries, as the rising point of Sirius shifted, the ritual no longer worked, and the temple had to be torn down and rebuilt on a new axis, pointing to the new position of the star, to maintain the connection between heaven and earth. A scientific paper, [On the possible discovery of precessional effects in ancient astronomy](#), by Giulio Magli of

Dipartimento di Matematica del Politecnico di Milano, explains that the same thing happened on the island of Majorca, where successive layers of ruins point towards the rising position of the Southern Cross, and in other sacred places. The Great Pyramid provides a time lens on the North Celestial Pole, with its tube that formerly pointed to the pole star Thuban in Draco the Dragon.

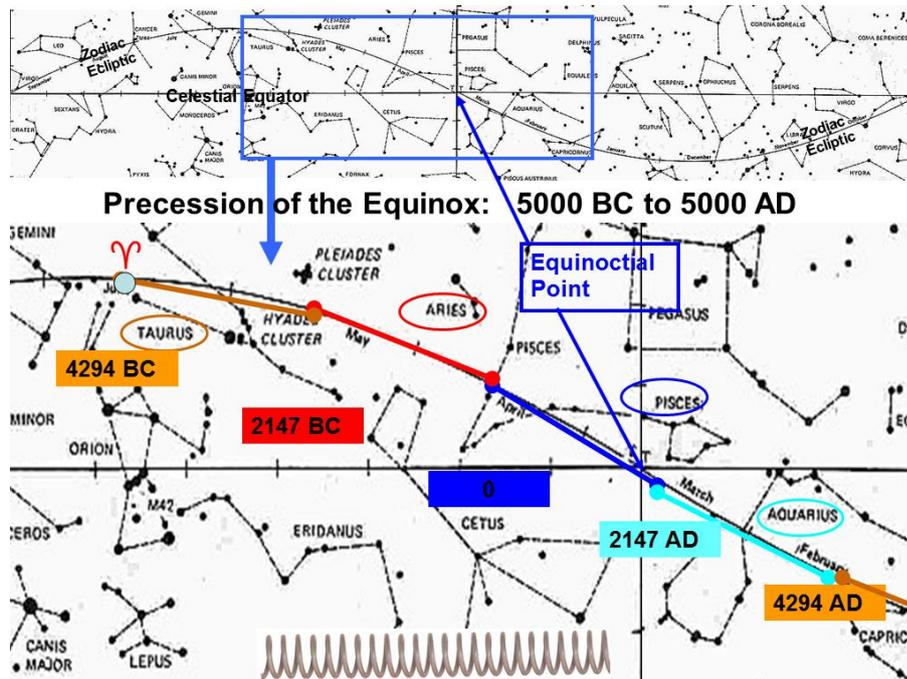


<http://home.hiwaay.net/~jalison/Art2.html>

As part of their star worship, the Egyptians observed the night sky carefully for thousands of years in the bright dark desert night. Their close knowledge of the positions of all the stars as markers of time enabled them to see the larger cycles that structure the movement of the earth against the cosmos. These cycles, with the day and year as wheels of time within the big slow wheel of precession, are mentioned by the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel, in his image of wheels within wheels framed by the four living creatures, or angels.

These four angels of Ezekiel appear again in Revelation. They mark the four cardinal points of the sky, the zodiac stars Aldebaran in Taurus the Bull, Regulus in Leo the Lion, Antares in Scorpio the scorpion/eagle, and Fomalhaut in Aquarius the man. These four living creatures stand before Osiris in the hall of the dead as the four sons of Horus. They later became the four evangelists around the throne of Christ. They are primary markers of precession of the equinox, having formerly, during the Age of Taurus, occupied the cardinal points where the sun entered each season, moving then through mid season, marking the fixed signs during the Age of Aries, and late season, marking the mutable signs during the Age of Pisces. For example Aldebaran has moved over the last six thousand years from the tropical sign of Aries, through Taurus to its current position in Gemini. It will again enter the cardinal sign of Cancer in the Age of Aquarius. These four stars are now once again approaching the cardinal points of the solstices and equinoxes. In the Age of Aquarius, Fomalhaut will become the northern spring star, occupying the cardinal point of the sky, and likewise Aldebaran will be

the star of the summer solstice, Regulus the star of the autumn equinox, and Antares the star of the winter solstice.



This sky map of the position of the spring equinox over historic time since the dawn of the Age of Taurus shows Aldebaran, the Eye of the Bull, in the star group called the Hyades Cluster. We see here that Aldebaran was the spring equinox star in about 3000 BC.

The upper diagram shows the whole

ecliptic. The four stars that became the four living creatures are not marked, but they are each just to the right of the four turning points of the curve, where the ecliptic crosses the equator at the equinoxes and where it is furthest from the equator at the solstices.

Here we see the four living creatures surrounding the mandorla of Christ, as King of the Cosmos, in an old stained glass church window with the four evangelists as the four living creatures from Ezekiel and Revelation. Saint Luke is Taurus the bull, Mark is Leo the Lion, Matthew is Aquarius the man, and John is Scorpio the eagle. Jesus Christ sits at the center in a shape called the Vesica Piscis, a feminine symbol formed by two circles whose edges touch their centres, cryptically mentioned in the Bible at John 21:11.

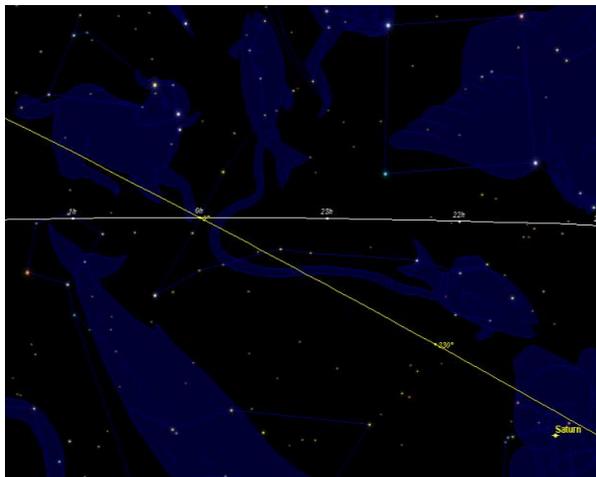


Isis, Queen of Heaven, was a patron of astrology, as was Thoth, God of Wisdom. From Thoth we have the Hermetic axiom 'as above so below' which Jesus used in the Lord's Prayer with the idea 'as in heaven so on earth'. The Emerald Tablets of Thoth containing this main doctrine are available in English, notably translated by Sir Isaac Newton.

The Egyptians saw that their civilization mirrored the slow sweep of the heavens, stretching back to the beginning of the Dynastic times in 4000 BC, and even earlier to their imagined beginning of time, called Zep Tepi, in about 10,000 BC. The early dynastic times formed the Age of Taurus, when the spring equinox occurred with the sun in the constellation of Taurus the Bull from about 4300 BC. The later times, from about 2150 BC, were the Age of Aries the Ram. As the Age of Aries collapsed in war and invasion of Egypt by successive northern kings – from Babylon, Assyria, Greece and Rome – Egyptian civilization itself collapsed, and its hieroglyphic writing and language became incomprehensible.

Only with Napoleon, a still later northern invader, was the Egyptian writing decoded, using the Rosetta Stone, which had the same text in three languages, and enabled proof that hieroglyphs are letters, and subsequent ability to read Egyptian writing such as the reawakening of Osiris in the *Book of Going Forth By Day*, found in pyramid and coffin texts.

How must the Egyptians have seen their religious and spiritual context at the time of the Roman conquest? The idea of a new age, as the equinox precessed into Pisces in 21 AD, shown here as the cross marked by the zodiac in yellow and the celestial equator in white,



was very much in the air. In the traditional constellation diagram, the foot of the ram Aries touches the point where the equinox moves into Pisces, at the 'alpha and omega' turning point of the Great Year, crossed by the celestial equator in 21 AD, the time of Christ. Various figures were identified as the messiah of the new age. Eventually the composite myth of Jesus Christ achieved consensus as a story that came to dominate the world.

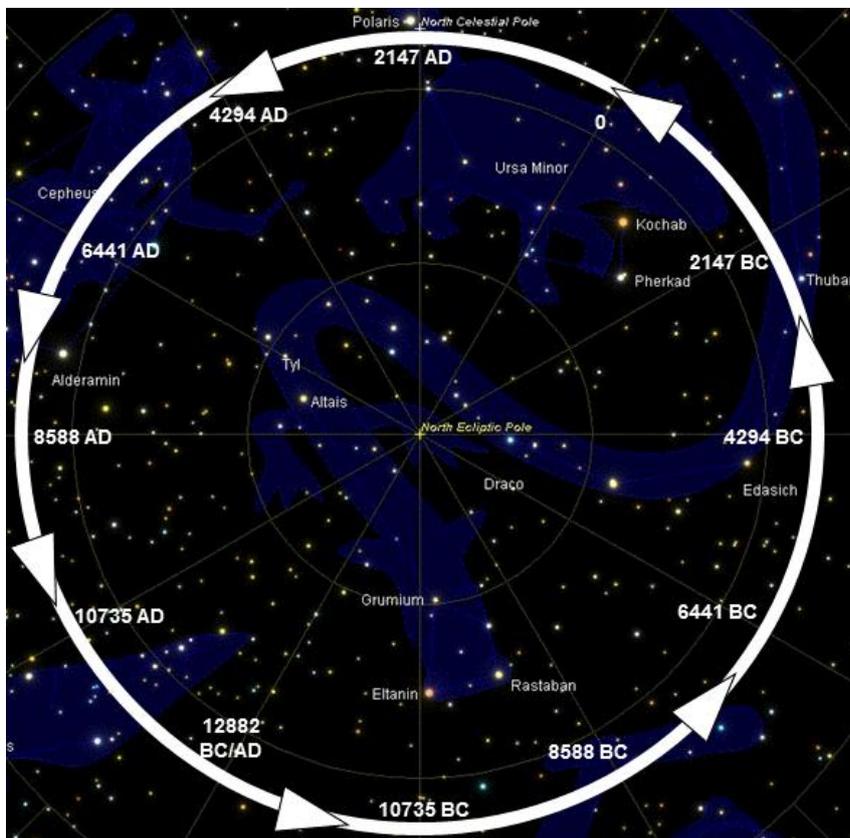
The Egyptians inserted much of their astrological lore into the Bible. However, this was done in code, because the prevailing dogma was hostile to the worship of nature. Instead of accepting Egyptian wisdom, the church erected a misogynist, alienated, supernatural story. Looking now to decode this story, much as Champollion decoded the Rosetta Stone, we can see how the cosmology of Christianity evolved from the precedent of Egyptian astronomy, with astrology at its centre.

The miracle of the raising of Lazarus places the Egyptian God Osiris at the centre of the esoteric New Testament. This story at the middle of the Gospel of John is copied from an old Egyptian story. Even the names of Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha are barely concealed references to Osiris and the two Merta, Isis and Nephthys. Osiris is at the centre

of Egyptian cosmology as symbol of the annual cycle. There are many other similarly coded cosmic references in the Bible that plausibly owe their origin to hidden Egyptian astrological influence.

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is a coded explanation of precession of the equinox. The bread represents the constellation Virgo, and the fishes are the constellation of Pisces. The miraculous abundance produced from this combination reflects the movement of the equinoxes into Virgo and Pisces in 21 AD, marking the positions of the sun and moon at Easter. The idea is that harmony with the cosmos provides the basis for creativity. A similar abundance in the Age of Aquarius the water bearer can be achieved through scientific innovation in our use of water.

The holy city, New Jerusalem, is entirely astrological. By old tradition, its twelve foundations described in Revelation are the twelve signs of the zodiac in reverse order beginning with Pisces and ending with Aries, corresponding to the twelve ages of the zodiac beginning with



Jesus Christ. So too, the River of Life is the Milky Way, the Tree of Life is the zodiac, and the dragon who gives his seat to the bear-lion marks the observed shift of the North Celestial Pole from the constellation of the dragon where it sat during the Ages of Taurus and Aries, into the constellations of the bear and lion, its position for the Ages of Pisces and the beginning of Aquarius.

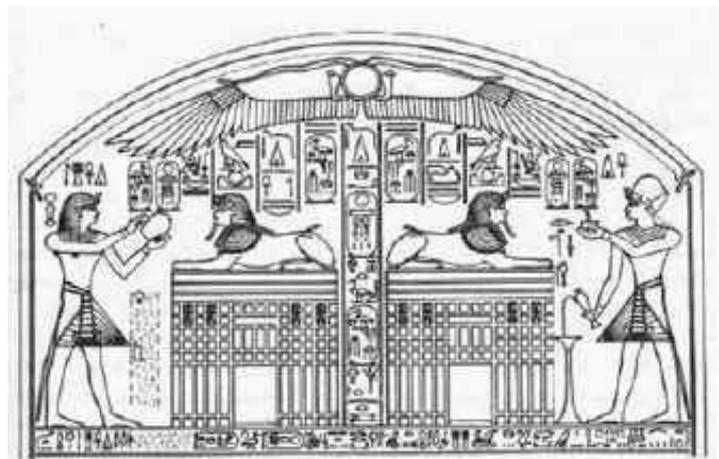
These symbols encoded in the Bible show a deep eternal stellar wisdom. The concealment and lack of awareness of this material is a major scandal, and reflects the dominant corruption of the world. *Black Athena – The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization*, a book written in 1987 by Cornell University Professor Martin Bernal, provides a good explanation for this widespread suppression, in terms of the racial prejudice of the academic discipline of Classics, which was corrupted by the desire to prove European superiority into a cultural failure to see how the river of civilization flowed through Egypt into Greece. The subterranean stream of Egypt, called by Coleridge Alph the Sacred River,

continues into modern times as hermetic wisdom, applying the hermeneutic task of joining heaven and earth. Astrology has been a big part of this continuity with old Egyptian wisdom. To give one big example of how this subterranean river of Egyptian wisdom has continued, we may look to the work of Leonardo da Vinci. Living at a time when such views were deemed heretical, Leonardo embedded 'as above so below' symbolism in his paintings. The Last Supper is a mirror of the sun and the twelve signs of the zodiac, The Baptism of Christ is modelled on the stars of Pisces for Jesus and Aquarius for John, and Saint Jerome and the Lion mirror Aquarius and Leo, the axis constellations of the New Age.<sup>1</sup>

Egyptians certainly used astrology for personal purposes, as explained by Ptolemy, but they also used it as a foundation for their natural religion. Although records are largely lost, we can see from these traces in the Bible and Leonardo that the mirroring between sky and earth of ancient wisdom persisted, even though in distorted and hidden form.

The Sphinx of Giza embeds Egyptian knowledge of precession, a knowledge dimly seen by Yeats in his image of the man-lion slouching towards Bethlehem in his poem *The Second Coming*. In the Age of Aquarius, the earth will return to the stellar axis known by the Egyptians as Zep Tepi, the first time, but in reverse. 12,880 years ago, at Zep Tepi, the sun was in Leo at the spring equinox. Leo is now becoming the autumn constellation.

Between the paws of the Sphinx is a stela that explains this myth, showing the two figures Aquarius the Water Bearer and Leo the Lion. The axis of Aquarius and Leo represents the Golden Age, which in the ancient cosmology had been followed by successively worse ages of Silver, Bronze and Iron. The Indian myth of the yuga says the earth will ascend again through the metals toward a new golden age in a perpetual cycle.<sup>2</sup>



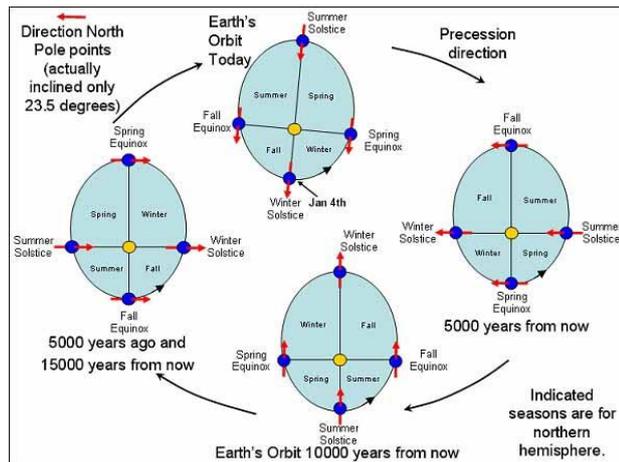
Looking now to how the time scale of precession is an actual scientific understanding of the main orbital cycle of the earth, we see that precession is the main driver of the cycle of light and dark over the 21,600 year periods that cause ice ages. With slower cycles known as axis obliquity and orbital eccentricity, precession of the equinox causes the earth to follow a slow regular pattern of light and dark, heat and cold. Precession combines with the slow rotation of earth's orbital frame to put the solstices and equinoxes in the positions of the orbital egg<sup>3</sup> that are closest to and furthest from the sun every 21,600 years.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.booktalk.org/the-zodiac-in-leonardo-da-vinci-s-last-supper-t10213.html>

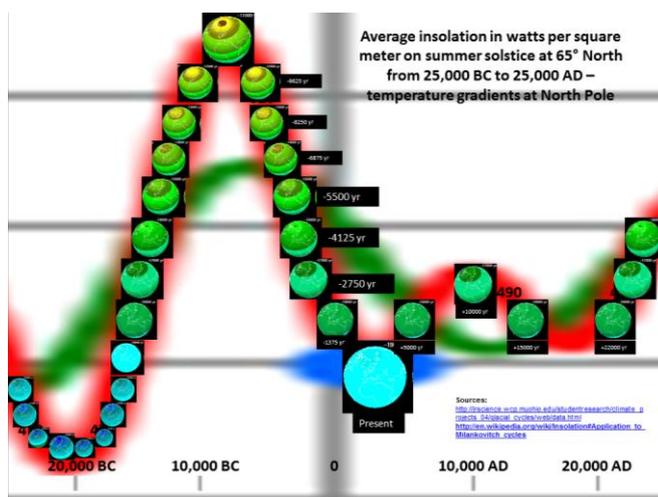
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.goroadachi.com/etemenanki/endgame-4-p2.htm>

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milankovitch\\_cycles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milankovitch_cycles)

These positions on the orbit are called perihelion, when the earth is closest to the sun, now about 4 January each year, and aphelion, when we are furthest from the sun, about 4 July. When northern summer is at perihelion the earth is warmer, and when northern winter is at perihelion the earth is cooler.



Earth's orbital perihelion passed the northern winter solstice, the shortest day of the year on 21 December, in 1296 AD, matching to the time the ancients saw as the depth of the iron age. This ended a mild ten thousand year period of global cooling since the dawn of the Holocene when the ice age ended about 11,000 years ago. The end of the ice age was caused by the movement of the orbit into a position where the northern summer solstice was at perihelion, closest to the sun.



Because of conflicting orbital factors of obliquity and eccentricity, as described by Milankovitch, the cooling was mild through the Holocene. In 1296, about 700 years ago, the planet entered a new ten thousand year warming phase. This finding is scientific and falsifiable by comparison to previous climate cycles seen in ice core records dating back 800,000 years. Temperature map for the earth over 50,000 years is shown in this diagram.

The Egyptians saw that the time since Zep Tepi, the Holocene, had been one of slowly hardening climate. The human response to this mild cooling was the production of technology, and it appears, gradual loss of earlier sense of harmony with nature. The next Zep Tepi axis begins now in the Age of Aquarius. The Egyptians saw the cycle would reverse in this new Zep Tepi, repeating the phase of the 'Atlantean' time between the last glacial maximum 20,000 years ago, when the winter solstice was last at perihelion, and the dawn of the Holocene, when the summer solstice was at perihelion. The next ten thousand years is the Anthropocene. During the Atlantean period the sea rose by nearly 150 metres to its present level, flooding all ancient coastal settlements.

The Egyptians well understood that the triumph of Rome meant the destruction of their wisdom. So they hid their knowledge of the stars in the Bible. We are now in a position to put the pieces together for the jigsaw puzzle of the earth, and see that the Biblical prediction of apocalyptic conflict between good and evil described in Revelation is almost

upon us. The war in heaven between Michael and Satan recapitulates the Egyptian conflict between Horus and Set, and the Biblical temptation of Christ by Satan in the wilderness. Each conflict of good and evil marks an age – Horus against Set the Age of Aries, Christ against Satan the Age of Pisces, and Michael against Satan the Age of Aquarius. To find the side of the angels in this cosmic conflict, it helps immensely to use the scientific observation of the stars by the Egyptians, as a framework to interpret world politics and history.

The wheat and tares of the world have not yet been shaken out. Christ said the apocalypse will be fought between the merciful and the unmerciful. Mercy is on the side of grace and love and truth, and must ultimately win in view of the adaptive evolutionary power of these ideals. A peaceful and stable transition to a world of peace, love, truth and justice may yet be possible. However, the scale of delusion in the world is immense, creating massive entrenched interests that have little desire to understand ultimate truth. Jesus taught forgiveness for the confession of sins. It is hard for deluded people to see their error as a sin, or to understand that they are wrong. For example, just in academia, the entire argument of this paper is likely to be rejected out of hand by some, for reasons of prejudice and career. Opening intellectual debate about the topics in this paper would be an interesting way to explore the moral purpose of religion and philosophy and politics.

Thoth, the ibis headed god of writing, has long been my favourite Egyptian god.

Mathematics, logic and astronomy sit within the domain of Thoth. Greeks shuddered at the sight of Thoth, with his bird head, because they felt human alliance with animals was repugnant to their anthropocentric culture. So they invented Serapis, putting together Osiris and Zeus in human form as a *modus vivendi* for Egypt and Greece, excluding animals from the pantheon. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, the cult of Serapis needed to change again to accommodate Israeli messianic prophecy, and Jesus Christ was born, as a synthesis of Jewish, Egyptian and Greek cultural needs for a transformative redeemer.

The invention of Christ was fiction, not fact. It is an ideal story of how a messiah would have responded to Rome, had he existed. There is no evidence that Jesus actually existed, and abundant circumstantial evidence to show he was deliberately manufactured, with both an esoteric side for teaching within the school and a popular or exoteric side – seen in the main stories of the New Testament – for the general public. The Egyptians provided the esoteric teachings through Alexandria. Sadly, it appears this method of instruction was primarily face to face in spoken word, rather than committed fully and explicitly to writing. Or at least if it was written, the record perished along with the general Christian bonfire of pagan thought.

The Egyptian cosmology was suppressed by Rome, but it lived on in the hidden message of the stars encoded in the Bible. The tree of life, in Revelation a symbol of the zodiac, having twelve fruit, one for each month, also appears at the beginning of the Bible in Genesis, as the mysterious second tree alongside the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The

expulsion from the garden of the tree of knowledge is also an expulsion from contact with the tree of life.

Considered against the Egyptian Zep Tepi model of time, and the scientific model of climate change, the Biblical framework of redemption has a perfect fit. The fall from grace into history is the loss of contact with the tree of life, representing the cosmic framework of the zodiac. The atoning redemption of humankind through the cross of Christ is the restoration of understanding of the deep myths of the cosmos, primarily the tree of life as the zodiac, and the river of life as the galaxy. The tree of life as the zodiac and the river of life as the galaxy actually form the two arms of the Christian chi rho cross, which Plato tells us in the *Timaeus* represent time, as the zodiac, and eternity, as the Milky Way.

The astrology of ancient Egypt provides an unseen basis for Christian theology, in its big myths of the cosmos. Christianity has distorted these myths to fit with its political agenda. It is now possible to analyse the evolution of Christianity to see its real social and intellectual origins. The cyclic cosmos venerated by ancient Egypt for thousands of years should now be restored as an essential part of efforts to atone for our sins against nature, to understand the unity of heaven and earth.

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