

Dossier on the Birth of Jesus & the Star Gospel

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The only true superhero: Jesus Christ!
~ Willie Aames

Sometime in early 3 BC, two years before Simon's wife Dinah conceived her second son Judah in our story, another Jewish wife in Nazareth, a town in northern Israel, also became pregnant. Later that year when the wife was expecting, the couple left their home, but the trip was not done for either business or pleasure. They, along with all of their countrymen, were forced by the Romans to register in a census that had been ordered by the Emperor. In order to comply, they had to return to the city or town of their ancestry at some time during that year. Both husband and wife were from the tribe of Judah, and therefore had to register in Bethlehem, the ancestral town of King David.

With so many travelers on the roads, the inns and guesthouses were full, so when they reached Bethlehem, they could not find any place to stay. The wife was about to give birth, so her husband persuaded an innkeeper to let them stay in his stable. There, on the evening of 11 September 3 BC, on Rosh Hashanah, the first day of the Jewish New Year and the "festival of trumpets," their son was born.¹

This seemingly mundane event in the lives a poor and little-known Jewish family was accompanied by a series of unusual celestial occurrences. A month or so before, on August 12, the planet Jupiter, named after the father of the gods, along with Venus, representing the goddess of fertility, had risen together in the east. Then in September, Jupiter conjoined with Regulus, the "king star" of the constellation Leo the Lion. The lion, being the king of beasts, is the symbol of the tribe of Judah. These unusual conjunctions continued throughout the winter into the following year, culminating with the joining of Jupiter, Venus, Mars, and Mercury in late summer. The planets then separated and Jupiter continued on its way until December 25, the winter solstice, when it was located in the constellation Virgo, the virgin, and appeared to stand still for a time.

During the same period, an even more unusual celestial event took place. A bright star appeared in the constellation Pisces, long considered as the symbol of Israel and later of Christianity. This brilliant star or supernova overpowered and dimmed all of the other stars in same region of the sky.

Celestial occurrences were carefully studied by many in the ancient world, especially in Persia, where the kings had long maintained court astrologers. Daniel, or Belteshazzar (his Babylonian name), the Jewish author of the Old Testament book named after him, had been a high official and chief astrologer for both the Babylonians and the Persians. He had written about the birth of the Jewish King and Messiah. Even the

¹ For a discussion of the dating of Christ's birth and the associated celestial occurrences, see <http://fbcrecordings.tripod.com/id32.html>.

Romans were aware of this prophecy—the emperor Nero was later advised by some of his astrologers to consider moving the seat of government from Rome to Jerusalem.²

When the celestial events described above were observed in Persia, there was great excitement, and several of the senior astrologers set out to see for themselves what was happening. They traveled throughout the spring and summer of 2 BC, arriving in Jerusalem some time in the late fall. They immediately went to King Herod the Great, who at this point was a vile old man at the end of his life, plagued by deteriorating health. The visiting astrologers, also known as “magi” or “wise men,” caused great consternation at Herod’s court by asking the question, “Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to find him.” Herod immediately brought in the chief priests and asked them about prophecies related to stars and kings, and to his dismay, they showed him a prophecy from the book of Numbers:

A star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall arise from Israel. It shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all of the sons of Sheth, and Edom and Seir shall be a possession.

Numbers 24:17

Herod immediately was concerned because he himself was Edomite—an Idumean from the land of Edom. So, along with the astrologers, he asked the priests where this King of the Jews was to be born. They showed him another prophecy from the book of Micah:

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from out of you will go forth a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.

Micah 5:2

Herod decided that he also had to find this baby, but for a different reason than the magi—so that he could kill it and remove any threat to his throne and the future of his dynasty. Therefore, he told the magi to return afterwards and let him know where the baby was, so that he could go and worship him as well. They agreed and went on to Bethlehem, which is only seven miles from Jerusalem. Sometime near the end of December of 2 BC, they searched the town and eventually located Joseph, Mary, and their baby son who had been staying in Bethlehem for the past year. The magi gave the baby the gifts that they had brought—gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The magi were, however, suspicious about Herod’s motives in wanting to see the child, so they returned home without stopping in Jerusalem. For the same reason, the parents took their baby and immediately left for Egypt. Herod neglected to have the magi followed, because they had agreed to come back and report to him what they found. But after some days had passed with no report, Herod realized that he had been tricked, and in a rage he ordered that all of the babies under two years of age in the Bethlehem area be murdered (the baby Jesus would have been around one year and four months old at that point). This was Herod’s last act of cruelty—he died soon afterward in the early months of 1 BC.

² In a letter from Suetonius, the Roman historian, to Nero.

There has been confusion over the date of Herod's death, which was one of the main indexes used by historians to establish the chronology of Christ. Based on Josephus' *Antiquities* it has traditionally been inferred that Herod died at the end of March, or early April of 4 BC. However, modern scholarship has provided new insights into Josephus' manuscripts³ and presents evidence indicating that the date of Herod's death was actually 1 BC. The primary discovery is that a printer who was typesetting the manuscript *Antiquities* made an error in the year 1544. According to scholars, every Josephus manuscript produced prior to 1544 supports the contention that Herod died in 1 BC.⁴

The Star Gospel

There are many Biblical references in both the Old and New Testaments to the importance of stars. For example:

- “He determines the number of stars and calls each one of them by name.” Psalms 147:4
- “Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars; the one who leads forth their host by number. He calls them all by name, and because of the greatness of his might and the strength of his power, not one of them is missing.” Isaiah 40:26
- “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:2
- “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” Matthew 24:29
- “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations.” Luke 21:25
- “So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.” II Peter 1:19
- “Wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.” Jude 1:13
- “And the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.” Revelation 6:13
- “The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.” Revelation 8:11-12
- “And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.” Revelation 12:4

³ David W. Beyer, *Josephus Re-Examined: Unraveling the Twenty-Second Year of Tiberius*, in *Chronos, Kairos, Christos II*, edited by E. Jerry Vardaman. Macon: Mercer University Press, 1998.

⁴ Ernest L. Martin, *The Star That Astonished the World*, Second Edition; Portland, Oregon: ASK Publications, 1996

- “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” Revelation 22:16

The Bible uses the word “star” in multiple ways—it could refer to a literal star in the sky; to a divine, angelic, or demonic being (e.g., Job 38:7, Isaiah 14:12-13, Daniel 8:10); or to people (e.g., Numbers 24:17, Judges 5:20, Daniel 12:3, Revelation 1:16,20).

But regardless of how the word is used, it is clear that stars were very significant to ancient peoples. The Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and others were obsessed with the study of astronomy—the stars, the constellations, and their meaning. Many ancient structures, such as Stonehenge, the Sphinx, and the Great Pyramid at Giza, were associated with the study of stars.

What was the origin of this obsession? The stars and planets were used to guide the planting and harvesting of crops, as a navigational aid, and as a means to track the passage of time. But much more significant is the study of the stars in relationship to divine signs and their import. The Chaldean astrologers, also known as the Magi, studied the stars for this reason, and traveled all the way from Persia to Jerusalem, a thousand mile journey, to seek an answer to the question: “Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to find him.”

After the fall, God gave a message of hope to Adam and his descendents written in the stars.⁵ It is not known how this knowledge originated, who received it, or how it was passed on, but the idea of the stars and constellations having divine import is very ancient.⁶

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years.”

Genesis 1:14

The heavens are telling of the glory of God, and the firmament is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. Yet their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber. It rejoices as a strong man to run his course. Its rising is from one end of the heavens, and its circuit to the other end of them; there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Psalms 19:1-6

The Bible also indicates that the fall of Adam and Eve produced profound changes, not only in the psychology of people, but also in the physical world:

To the woman he said, “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth. In pain you will bring forth children. Yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” Then to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the

⁵ See: E.W. Bullinger, *Witness of the Stars*, Joseph A. Seiss, *The Gospel in the Stars*, or Clyde L. Ferguson, *The Stars and the Bible*.

⁶ Josephus credits the invention of astronomy to Adam, Seth, and Enoch.

voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; cursed is the ground because of you. In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, until you return to the ground, because from it you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:16-19

The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord...So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.”

Genesis 6:5-8, 13

Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it has from the beginning of creation.” When they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By those same waters the world at that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

II Peter 3:3-7

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Romans 8:19-21

The Romans passage above indicates that all of the world’s peoples as well as the planet itself have been “subjected to futility” by God, a futility and a frustration that all of us are intimately familiar with. But one day God will destroy this world and replace it with a “new heaven and a new earth.” The star gospel was a divine message written in the constellations of the night sky that explain God’s overall plan for the ages.

The constellations of the star gospel were grouped into the twelve signs, known as the Zodiac (meaning, “circle of animals” or “steps”), and is the source of our calendar. The word “Zodiac” has come to be associated with astrology and fortune-telling, but originally it was used to denote the twelve months or stages of the sun’s path through the sky (note the description of this in the Psalm 19 passage above). The Zodiac is very old and dates back to the beginning of civilization. For example, an ancient Egyptian representation of it appears on the ceiling of the Temple of Hathor at Dendara.⁷

⁷ Patrick Heron, *The Nephilim and the Pyramid of the Apocalypse*, Citadel Press, 2007, p 91

In the contemporary world, the stars are obscured due to all of the light in the night sky, so we rarely witness the heavens as the ancients did centuries ago. Even so, some of the constellations are quite hard to see, and others require some imagination to understand. For example, the constellation Cassiopea, representing a queen, consists only of a crown in the shape of a “W” or an “M,” and Canis Minor, the little dog, consists of only the dog’s tail. Some scholars therefore have rejected the constellations as arbitrary and meaningless—figures concocted by the overactive imagination of the early astronomers. However, many of the constellations, such as Orion, are obvious and very clearly visible. Furthermore, the signs used in the Zodiac were very similar among widely dispersed ancient peoples, including the Babylonians, the Chinese, the Hindus, and the Egyptians, suggesting a common original source of information and understanding.

The Zodiac is a group of three “books,” each of which has four “chapters” to provide knowledge of God’s plans for the world. It was written in the stars, in a place where the message could be perpetually seen by all, and in a way that only God could employ. Associated with each of the twelve major signs of the Zodiac are three additional minor ones, making a total of forty-eight constellations. Following are the signs of the Zodiac,⁸ along with their meanings and a verse from the Bible illustrating each one:

Book & Chapter	Constellation	Meaning	Biblical Reference
Book #1: The First Coming of the Messiah			
Chapter #1	Virgo—the virgin	The virgin birth of the Messiah	“A virgin shall conceive and bear a son,” Isaiah 7:14
	Coma—the infant	The Messiah as a baby	“The desired of all nations shall come,” Haggai 2:7
	Centaurus—the centaur	The Messiah despised and misunderstood	“He is despised and rejected, a man of sorrows,” Isaiah 53:5
	Arcturus/Bootes—the shepherd	The ministry of the Messiah	“The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep,” John 10:11
Chapter #2	Libra—the scales	The Messiah satisfying the justice of God	“Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?” Genesis 18:25
	Crux—the cross	The instrument of the Messiah’s suffering	“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross” I Peter 2:4
	Lupus—the victim	The slain Messiah	“Christ died for our sins” I Corinthians 15:3
	Corona—the crown	The crown of thorns on the Messiah’s head	“They put a crown of thorns on his head” Matthew 27:30
Chapter #3	Scorpio—the	The Messiah’s	“The Son of God was made

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp 54-55

	scorpion	enemy	manifest that he might destroy the works of the devil,” I John 3:8
	Serpens—the serpent	The one who crawls and bites on the heel	“You shall bruise his heel,” Genesis 3:15
	Ophiuchus—the attack	The man grasping the serpent	“I beheld Satan falling from heaven like lightning,” Luke 10:18
	Hercules—the strong man	The mighty man victorious	“All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth,” Matthew 28:18
Chapter #4	Sagittarius—the bowman	The Messiah’s triumph	“He has led captivity captive,” Ephesians 4:8
	Lyra—the lyre	Praise for the conquering Messiah	Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever,” I Peter 4:11
	Ara—the altar	Fire prepared for the enemies	“Everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels,” Matthew 25:41
	Draco—the dragon	The ancient symbol for Satan	“The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan,” Revelation 12:8
Book #2: The Aftermath of the Messiah’s First Coming and the Interregnum			
Chapter #5	Capricorn—the goat	the Messiah’s atoning work	“He gave himself as a ransom,” I Timothy 2:6
	Sagitta—the arrow	God slays the Messiah	“The soul that sins shall die,” Ezekiel 18:20
	Aquila—the eagle	The smitten Messiah falls	“He said, ‘It is finished!’ And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit,” John 19:30
	Delphinus—the dolphin	The dead Messiah rising again	“He is risen,” Luke 24:6
Chapter #6	Aquarius—the water carrier	The blessings of the Messiah	“I came that they might have abundant life,” John 10:10
	Pices Australis—the fish	The blessing bestowed	“I am the way, the truth, and the life,” John 14:6
	Pegasus—the white horse	Spreading the blessing	“Preach the gospel,” Mark 16:15
	Cygnus—the swan	Circling the world	“The Holy Spirit will reprove the world of sin,” John 16:8
Chapter #7	Pisces—the two	Israel and the	“So that apart from us they

	fish	church	would not be made perfect.” Hebrews 11:40
	The Band—the ribbon	God’s people together	“Around the throne were twenty-four thrones,” Revelation 4:4
	Andromeda—the woman in chains	The redeemed in bondage	“Many are the afflictions of the righteous,” Psalms 34:19
	Cepheus—the ring	The deliverer coming to loosen the bonds	“He ever lives to make intercession for us,” Hebrews 7:25
Chapter #8	Aries—the ram	The Messiah in the last days	“Worthy is the lamb to receive power, glory, and honor,” Revelation 1:11
	Cassiopea—the queen	The captive woman is delivered and becomes both bride and queen	“The marriage supper of the lamb has come” Revelation 10:7-8
	Cetus—the sea monster	The antiChrist	“Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea,” Revelation 13:1
	Perseus—the armed man	The deliverer coming to the rescue	“He will dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel” Jeremiah 19:11
Book #3: The Second Coming of the Messiah			
Chapter #9	Taurus—the bull	The rule of the Messiah	“He will rule them with a rod of iron,” Revelation 19:15
	Orion—the warrior	The Messiah as a warrior	“and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and wages war.” Revelation 19:11
	Eridanus—the river	Wrath breaking forth as a flood	“A fiery stream issued from before him,” Daniel 7:9
	Auriga—the shepherd	Safety for the redeemed in the day of wrath	“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection,” Revelation 20:6
Chapter #10	Gemini—the twins	The Messiah as the New Adam	“The first Adam, became a living soul, but the last Adam became a life-giving spirit,” I Corinthians 15:45
	Lepus—the hare	The enemy trodden	“And the rest were killed

		underfoot	with the sword which came from the mouth of him who sat on the horse,” Revelation 19:21
	Canis Major—the large dog	The Messiah hunts those opposed to him	“With the breath of his mouth he shall slay the wicked,” Isaiah 11:4
	Canis Minor—the small dog	The armies of the Messiah	“And the armies of heaven follow him,” Revelation 19:11
Chapter #11	Cancer—the crab	The Messiah’s tenaciousness in caring for his people	“Neither principalities nor powers can separate us from the love of God in Christ,” Romans 8:30
	Ursa Major—the large bear	The greater sheepfold (NT believers)	“In my Father’s house are many mansions,” John 14:2
	Ursa Minor—the small bear	The lesser sheepfold (OT believers)	“Abraham’s bosom,” Luke 16:22
	Argo—the ship	The pilgrim’s arrival at home	“But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at his coming” I Corinthians 15:23
Chapter #12	Leo—the lion	The Prophecy of the Messiah’s triumph	“The lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed,” Revelation 5:5
	Hyrda—the flying serpent	The serpent destroyed	“The devil that had deceived the nations was cast into the lake of fire” Revelation 20:10
	Crater—the cup of wrath	Wrath poured out	“This is the second death, the lake of fire,” Revelation 20:14
	Corvus—the raven	the birds of prey devouring the enemy	“Whoever’s name was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire,” Revelation 20:15

Note that the Zodiac begins with the sign Virgo, the virgin who would bear a child, and ends with Leo, the lion from the tribe of Judah who will rule. This is the meaning of the ancient Sphinx in Egypt, which has the head of a woman, and the body of a lion.

In considering the above list it quickly becomes clear that Satan had to corrupt and trash the Zodiac, because it was such a powerful witness to the coming Messiah, who would ultimately defeat and crush him. This corruption was accomplished in the days of

Nimrod, the first conqueror of Babylon, who, along with his evil wife Semiramus, reinterpreted the star gospel and began the practice of using astrology as a means of divination and sorcery,⁹ which has continued down to our day. The Bible warns us from attempting to use the stars in this manner:

Stand fast now in your spells, and in your many sorceries with which you have labored from your youth. Perhaps you will be able to profit; perhaps you may cause trembling. You are wearied with your many counsels; let now the astrologers, those who prophesy by the stars, those who predict by the new moons, stand up and save you from what will come upon you.

Behold, they have become like stubble. Fire burns them. They cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame...So have those become to you with whom you have labored, who have trafficked with you from your youth. Each has wandered in his own way, and there is none to save you.

Isaiah 47:11-16

There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer.

Deuteronomy 18:10

For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king.

1 Samuel 15:23

Outside [of the city of heaven] are the dogs, the sorcerers, the immoral persons, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

Revelation 22:15

Considering the importance of stars in the Scriptures also reveals the implacable hatred and the immeasurable animosity that Satan has for Christ. Before his fall, Lucifer had been the “star of the morning” and the protector of earth—the brightest and most powerful of all of the angels.

Thus says the Lord God, “You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering. The ruby, the topaz and the diamond. The beryl, the onyx and the jasper. The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald. And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets was in you. On the day that you were created, all of this was prepared.”

“You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.”

⁹ See the vignette: *Nimrod and Semiramus—The King and Queen of Heaven* in *Unholy Grail—Book One*.

Ezekiel 28:12-15

But all of that was not enough for Lucifer. He was jealous of Christ and wanted to be the Son of God, the ruler of the universe, and the true “morning star.” Therefore, he attracted a third of all of the angels to his side and started a war in heaven against his own father.

By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned. Therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade, you profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you. All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you. You have become terrified, and you will cease to be forever.

Ezekiel 28:16-19

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. And she was with child, and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon...his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

Revelation 12:1-4

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, but they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”

Revelation 12:7-10

Lucifer was defeated and thrown down to earth with his minions. So he became Satan, the Devil, the ultimate conspirator, and our relentless enemy—as the above verse in Revelation indicates, Satan hates us so much that he accuses us before God day and night. Christ superseded Lucifer, not only as our protector, but also as our redeemer and friend. Jesus Christ is the “bright morning star.” All of the kingdoms of the world will one day belong to Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.