

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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## Questions about Astrology & The Bible

One of the biggest businesses in America is astrology. There are over 175,000 part-time astrologers and 10,000 full-time. And over 2,000 newspapers carry daily horoscopes. The popularity of astrology is everywhere, with astrological signs on T-shirts, coffee cups and jewelry. Now we have those Television commercials of 1-800 and 1-900 numbers with quick astrological counsel. Something this popular naturally leads to questions. With common sense, and with faith in God's Word, there are some answers:

### 1. Why should the current revival of interest in the occult and astrology cause us concern?

The respectability and credibility so many people are giving to the occult and to astrology should alarm us for at least two reasons: (1) Because of what the Bible says about sorcery (Galatians 5:20 and Revelation 21:8), and (2) It is a troubling fact of history, that outbreaks of occultism frequently accompany the collapse of a civilization; one example is, the Roman Empire. [From the Seattle Daily Times, Sept. 8, 1975 - "History has shown that astrology thrives best in times of religious decline and of social unrest."

### 2. What is astrology?

It operates on the premise that the destinies of nations and individuals are determined by the relative positions of the stars and planets. This information and the guidance one seeks is allegedly available through the charts drawn up by professional astrologers. [Astronomy is not the same as astrology. Astronomy is the objective, scientific study of the stars and planets, with a view toward understanding their motion and relation; NOT with a view toward their alleged influence on human conduct!

### 3. Is astrology upheld by scientists?

No! In 1975, a statement endorsed by 186 prominent scientists challenged "the

pretentious claims of astrological charlatans." The Associated Press report of this went on to say: "There is simply no scientific basis for astrology, which deals with the presumed influences of stars, planets and other heavenly bodies on human affairs..," (Wichita Eagle, Sept. 3, 1975).

### 4. But isn't it true that astrologers have made some amazing predictions that turned out to be true?

No! In May of 1974, the Reader's Digest reported on a survey of the predictions made by the three most popular British astrologers in one year. Of these three popular astrologers, the "TOP ACHIEVER" was right only 12 times out of 30. The third "seer" had only 4 correct guesses out of 30 tries. Further, some of their "visions" are only educated predictions, based on currently available data. Thus, they do not have an impressive track record.

### 5. Where did astrology come from?

According to the Bible, it came from the eastern, idolatrous nations. God warned His people about this influence (see Deuteronomy 4:19; 17:2, 3, 5; 18:9-12; Isaiah 2:6; 47:13, 14).

### 6. Are the concepts and messages of astrology cohesive and united?

Astrology is a strange, divided, "mixed bag" of conflicting messages. Check what your astrological message is for today as it reads in four or five different charts; see if you can discern a unified message.

### 7. What has God said about all this?

"And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage ... For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God ... To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him," (Deuteronomy. 4:19, 24, 35). "You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; let now the astrologers, the stargazers, and the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from these things that shall come upon you. Behold, they shall be as stubble, the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; it shall not be a coal to be warmed by, nor a fire to sit before," (Isaiah 47:13,14).

### 8. Are there New Testament passages that relate to this interest in the occult and sorcery?

Galatians 5:20 affirms that "sorcery" is a work of the flesh. The King James has the word "witchcraft," which is from the Greek, PHARMAKEIA. The word means charms, remedies, or guidance sought in drugs, incantations, star gazing and sorcery. Vines says, of PHARMAKEIA: "...primarily signified the use of medicine, drugs, spells; then, poisoning; then, sorcery ... In sorcery, the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult

powers ..." "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death," (Revelation 21:8). The Ephesians had been involved in things in the category of sorcery, but when they obeyed the gospel they burned their incantation books (Acts 19:18-20).

### 9. Is astrology a type of revelation from God?

No! "God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us BY HIS SON...", (Hebrews 1:1,2; see, Ephesians 3:1-5; Jude 3).

### 10. Who must we turn to for the guidance we need?

THE LORD, who is "wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance," (Isaiah 28:29). To those involved in astrology, my admonition would be: "Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail," (Jeremiah 7:8).

✍ Warren E. Berkley



## Some Thoughts Concerning God's Will

Sadly, there are many today who do not consider or acknowledge God's will. So, with that thought in mind, let's consider some thoughts concerning God's will. Beginning with...

### 1) God Has A Will.

Folks, it is important for us to understand that God does have a will, and in Psalm 40:8, David said, "I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart." Now, wouldn't it be great if we all had the same mindset of David, when it came to God's will? You see, it would be great if we all delighted to do God's will, for God desires for all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). He wills for no one to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). However, those who do not acknowledge and obediently do the will of God will be among those who will not enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21-23).

### 2) God's Will Has Been Revealed.

Not only does God have a will, but also His will has been revealed. In 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, the apostle Paul informed that the Spirit of God has revealed the things that have been freely given by God. We also learn in Ephesians 3:1-7, that the mystery of Christ has been revealed, and in Colossians 1:26, we also learn this fact. Therefore, my friends, God's will has been made known (Ephesians 1:9), and it has been revealed to us.

### 3) God's Will Can Be Understood.

So, God has a will, His has been revealed, and it's also important to note that God's will can be understood. In Ephesians 5:17, Paul penned, "do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." You see, this passage implies that God's will can be understood, and going back to Ephesians 3:4, we learn that we gain understanding of God's will by reading the Scriptures. Therefore, do not be unwise, but rather be one who understands the will of the God. For, as we learn in Hosea 4:6, God's people of old were destroyed due to a lack of knowledge concerning God's will.

### 4) God's Will Does Not Change.

Another important point to make concerning God's will is that we must always understand that God's will does not and will not change. You see, God says what He means and means what He says, and in Psalm 119:89, we learn that God's word is forever settled in heaven. Therefore, know that the way of God is perfect (Psalm 18:30), and because of that it needs no changing. So, do not add to His word's, lest He rebuke you and you be found a liar (Proverbs 30:6).

### 5) We Need To Be Reminded of God's Will.

Last, but certainly not least, we need to realize the need to be reminded of God's will. You see, as human beings we have a tendency to forget things. Therefore, it is important for us to be reminded of the things concerning God's will, and in 2 Peter 1:12, we learn that Peter understood the importance of not neglecting to remind others of God's will. Therefore, let's stir up minds by way of reminder, and let's be ever mindful of God's will (2 Peter 3:1-2).

My friends, may we all be one who knows and is obedient to God's will (Revelation 22:14).

✍ Brad Phillips

## Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship . . . . . 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study . . . . . 7:00 p.m.

### Evangelist

James Hahn . . . . . (317) 443-1938