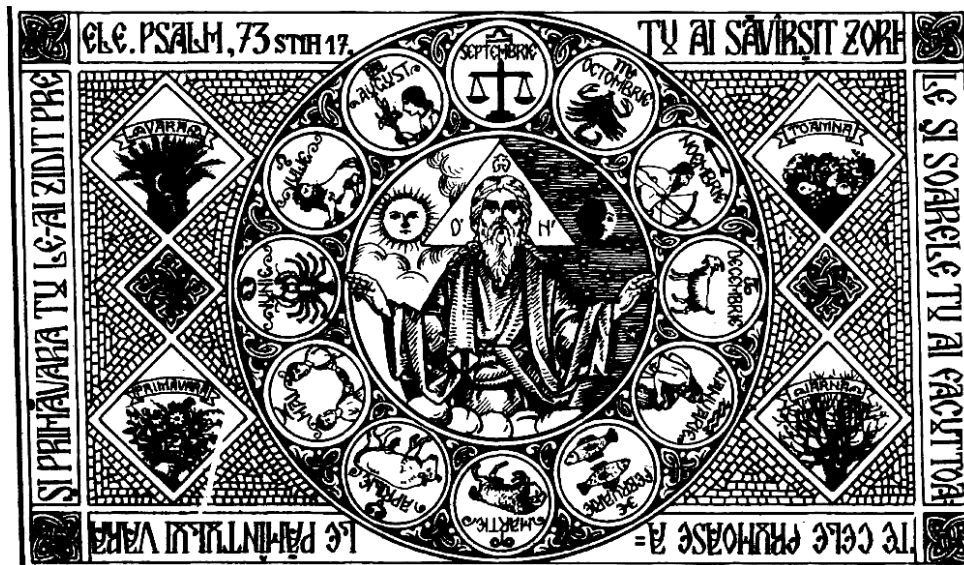


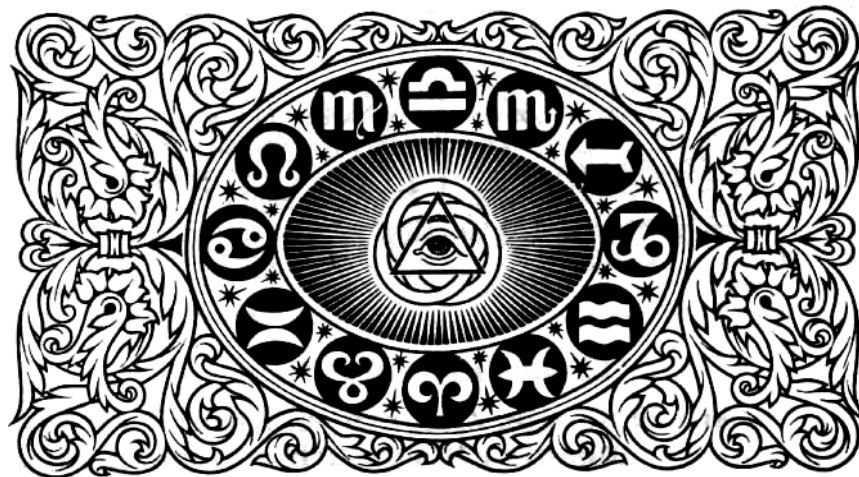
## ASTROLOGY – THE LABOUR OF THE STARS

(Fr Dan Bădulescu)

Ro version: <http://www.hexaimeron.ro/Astronomia/Astrologia.html>



For those wondering the compatibility of "astrology" with Orthodox teaching we mention at the outset that yes, there is a astrology revealed by God, i.e. a teaching about the labour of these celestial bodies. Let us try to outline briefly the essential elements of this astrology. Here we see that the earth is made at the beginning and is therefore the center of the visible creation and the heaven turns around it. So *it is not a planet*, but central and stationary landmark around which other bodies called lights and stars are born. The great light is the sun and the smaller the moon. But - look! they too are considered to be planets! Stars are called these bodies "fixed" which rotate with the sky from sunrise to sunset.

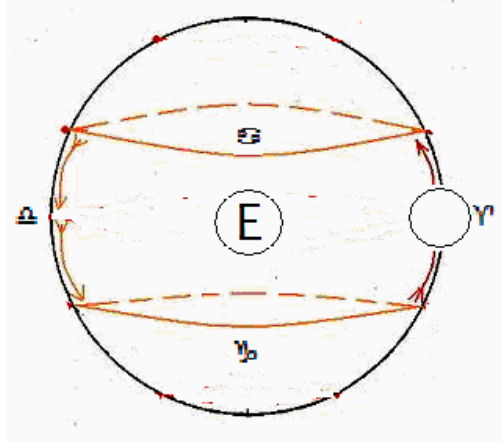


For those who ask: "But where is something like this in Scripture?" we indicate that we use and we still use traditional patristic sources also:

- St. Basil the Great (*Hexaimeron*)
- St. John Damascene (*An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*)

In connection with the star of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-2; 9), St. John Chrysostom developed large this problem into other homilies (*Discussions on the Star of Bethlehem where it is presented evidence against the supporters of astrology*).

How are explained the planetary motions through the signs? Of course, not by rotation (circular), but by moving up and down the planet that is set to its "heaven" something like this:



You might rightly ask, and the following question: "The paper from *Genesis* is reported by Moses in a long time after those things occurred. (For those who receive traditional chronology, would be approx. 3-4000 years after creation of the world.) But until then what said the revelation?"

We have an answer to this question, a traditional one, that can be called apocryphal, contained in the church timeline books called *Chronograph*. According to these trustworthy sources, the first man who received the discovery of settlement and movement of heavenly bodies, i.e. the cosmology and astrology, was Seth, around the year 300 from creation of the world:

And observe how its supernatural character: Set *is kidnapped* in the sky 40 days by the angel.

In parallel with the blessed Set's tribe, "the sons of God", there were also descendants of Cain, which have deviated from God's commandments, and were the originators of magic, occultism, witchcraft, fortune telling, occultism, idolatry and polytheism.

Let us now see the emergence and history of astrology from the perspective of the Church:

"Forgetting the one God, alive and almighty, the East fell over time under the rule of human nature and, because the stars are the most powerful bodies in the built world, this means that they were ruled by the stars. The eastern peoples believed that planets were living and powerful beings that ruled over all things made on earth, and human lives too. The eastern nations adored them looking at them as some good and some evil. They signified good or evil gods, which refreshed their flaming or burning eyes, keeping or killing life. People offered sacrifices, even human sacrifices, both to the good and evil gods, so to win the goodwill of the good gods, and to remove the enmity of and evil gods. To get rid of these popular beliefs inconsistent with human wisdom, scholars from the East began to look in the stars and see what they can bring to people's lives. They were the first to make the science of the stars: that we call astrology. However, this science did not bring has brought freedom to the people, but enslavement, and found a greater and greater fear. The kings of the east "discovered" that the stars were not actually gods, as people believed, but that their strong influence on all living things on earth was so great and with so mathematical precision, that no person living was able, through a bit of space or a moment, to free himself from the blind and ruthless enslavement of the stars. As the stars were not made for man, but man for the stars! The stars governed his birth and life, the happy and unhappy experiences, his character and transformations of nature, every event in his life and even

death! The man was a perfect slave and helpless toward the stars. He was a dream, in which the stars have darkened his consciousness again. This "science" brought and guided and nurtured all kinds of occultism, witchcraft, divination, spells and charms, and all the other things that, for Christians, have a single name: superstition. It was a dark and suffocating cloud that spread from the east and west side down on the world with its deadly weight. And so the kings did not left free conscience to humans, but enslaved it even tighter, forming a deep fatalism, in which man was suffocated by the fear of being alone, rejected and helpless." (St. Nikolai Velimirovich, *Sermon on Nativity*)

Scripture is very poor in the astrological references. The only relevant passages can be found in the Book of Job (9:7-9; 38:31-34).

There are many more references relating to the prohibition of the polytheistic worship of the stars, followed by off mightily by God to "service of the stars", even at the astrological level of the Persian Magi. The troparion of the Nativity say about them:

"Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge For through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness; And to recognize You as the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, Glory be to You."

God's law as given through the prophet Moses speaks about combating of the cult of stars (Deuteronomy 4:19; 17:3-5). Prescriptions of Moses and the prophets are listed next (Isaiah 47:13; Jeremiah, 19:13-15).

So was the God's given to the chosen people. But, unfortunately, even they have turned away repeatedly from it, rulers and people alike (2 Kings 21:3-7).

King Josiah, helped by the high priest Hilkiah took very drastic measures in order to destroy astrology idolatry (2 Kings 23:4-16).

The Holy Fathers and ecclesiastical writers have strengthened with one the voice condemnation of astrology:

- Tertullian;
- St. Basil the Great (*Hexaameron*);
- St. Ambrose of Mediolanum (*Hexaameron*);
- St. Cyril of Jerusalem (*Catechesis*);
- St. John Chrysostom (*Homilies on Genesis*);
- Blessed Augustine (*Confessions*);
- St. Gregory Palamas ("*Philokalia*");
- St. Simeon of Thessalonica

#### *Church Rule*

"2045. - Astrology or search in Signs, appealing exposed in horoscope, is alleged science, which can know how to be, and the fate of someone, after days of planets, and astronomical findings. In reality it is a hoax occultist, contrary to truth and condemned by the Church because *it has no knowledge about astronomy or the truths of revelation.*"

Hence we have ban on any astrological concerns, or encourage them, or even tacit acceptance. In the confession it would proper to give more careful inquiry, especially on women, to see if they have not fallen into this sin, which most of them do not realize it as such.

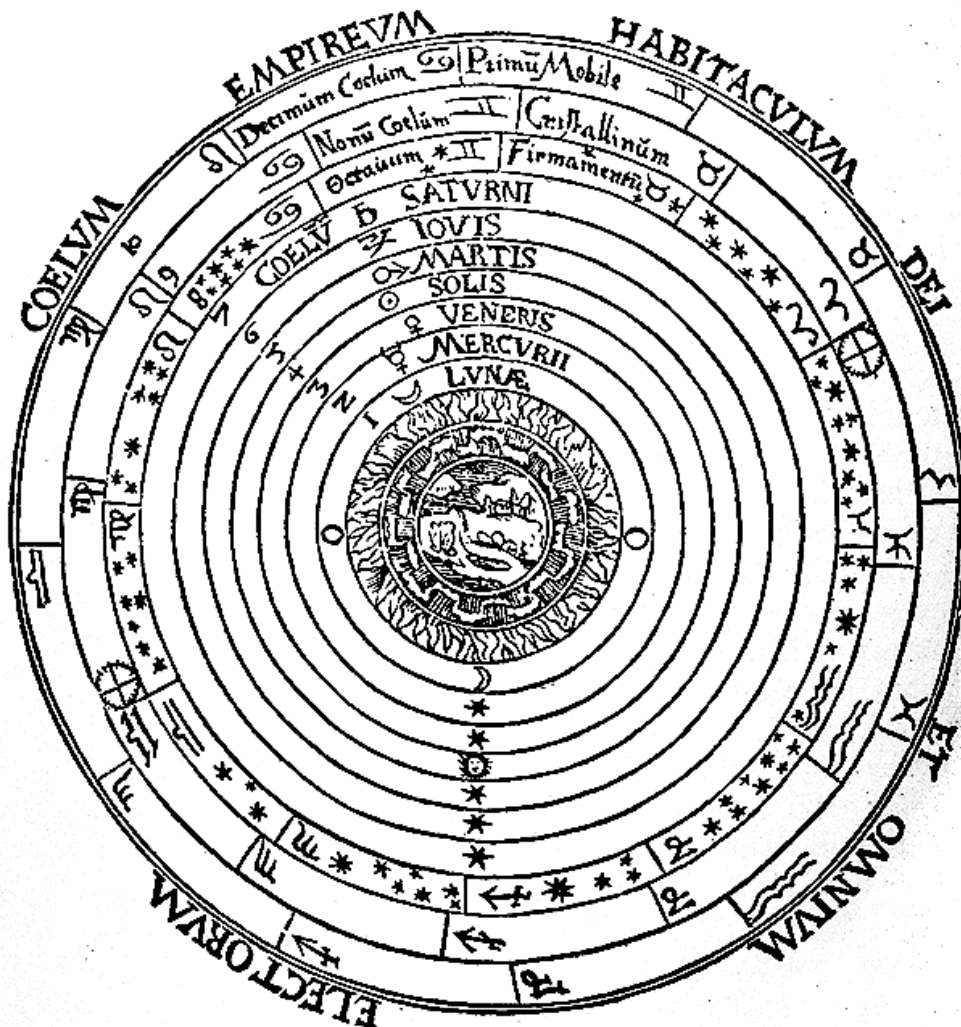
We shall find that answer, by understanding why was necessary for man to know the movements of the heavens, being initiated into this, as seen, by God. The Holy Fathers and ecclesiastical writers give us the answer: for the benefit of meteorology and agriculture, and the navigation:

- Eusebius of Caesarea (*The Life of Constantine the Great*);
- St. Basil (*Hexaemeron*);
- St. John Chrysostom (*Homilies on Genesis*)

So used the astrology (and chronology) the "sons of God", i.e. the sethites. Here should be observing that the Church frame the Fathers have treated astrology in Set's manner, that is its blessed applications. Among these, a basic one was to establish a church calendar (Liturgical). So can be explained, among other things, the presence in St. John Damascene work *An Exact Exposition...* of the astrological section. The Saint was concerned also with the composition of perpetual paschaleon tables, so he had astronomical/astrological concerns.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> century the astronomical system in Eastern Orthodox was broadly thus described by St. John Damascene and by Matthew Blastaris.

For at, in our turn to try to understand the old astrology reasoning we must somehow go back in time to review the geocentric representation of the heaven and zodiacs in the Ptolemaic view of the scholastic period (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century)




Observe  
central  
location of  
Earth

surrounded by the 10 heavens. The first 7 heavens belong to the 7 planets.

the  
the

Then follows not two but even three zodiac heavens!

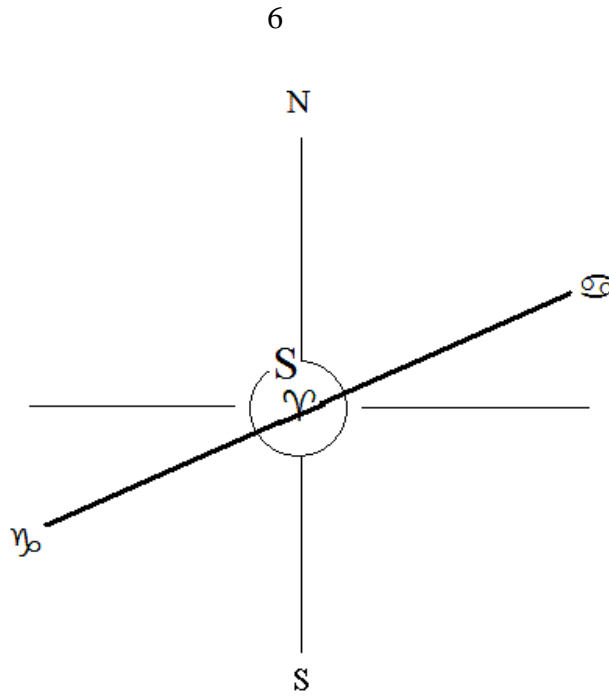
- The 8<sup>th</sup> heaven *Octavum Firmamentum* contains as you can see the zodiacal constellations. Also known as "sidereal or "felt zodiac";
- The 9<sup>th</sup> heaven *Coelum Crystallinum Nonu* has the 12 zodiac signs but does not contain any celestial body, no planets, no stars (constellations). Also known as "tropical or "thought" zodiac". It is slightly shifted at that date to the first zodiac.

This is because the sky is divided into sectors rigorously equal in size while significantly unequal constellations. The symbol  represents the equinox. We note that at the time the vernal points were in Fish and Virgin, i.e. the precession phenomenon occurred. This will play a decisive role in the motivation for the Gregorian calendar reform. Yet, in 12<sup>th</sup> century the vernal equinox is not in Aries nor the March 21!

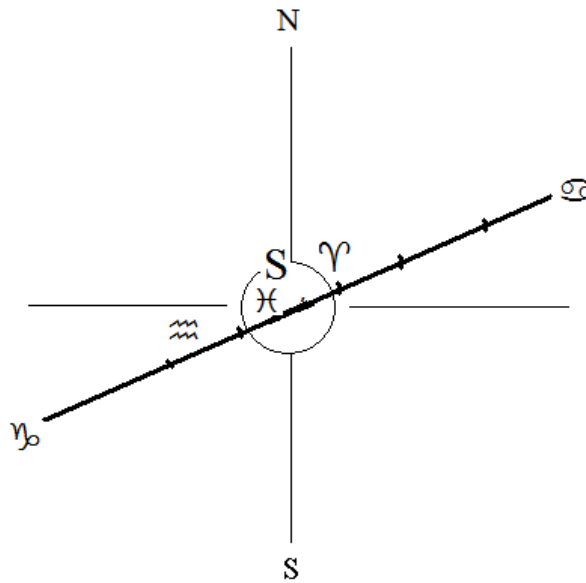
The heavens 8 and 9 have in common vernal points. The gap between them that can be seen is due to the fact that in 9<sup>th</sup> heaven are 12 zodiac signs rigorously equal sectors of 30 °, while the zodiacal constellations as we said, have durations (and lengths) slightly different.

Broadly speaking, the classical astrology can be described as follows:

"Blastaris, when he wrote these words, seems to have read the paschal rules of Anatolius, an Alexandrian by birth and a very scholarly man from the third century, who became about the year 270 bishop Syria Laodicea and was still living in the year 282. This fragment is preserved in the *Ecclesiastical History* of Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea of Palestine (Book. VII, chap. 32). Under the opposite side of the universe means the southern hemisphere of the celestial globe, which is divided by the celestial equator, called by Matthew Blastaris in another place of the treaty, the largest circle of the parallels, equinoctial circle, by the northern hemisphere. In the month of March the sun finishes its course in the southern hemisphere and move in the northern one. It has his way *in the zodiac, which is divided into 12 parts, called by Blastaris twelfths, 6 in the northern hemisphere and 6 in the southern hemisphere*. The sun through this route in a year passing through the 12 twelfths and spending in each of them almost a month. The 12 months of the year thus correspond to the 12 parts of the solar track. The first twelfth is that of Aries, in which the sun enters the northern passage. When this is at its beginning, then it is in one of two points, in which the solar path, the ecliptic, cuts the celestial equator, equinoctial circle, i.e. the spring equinoctial point, about Blastaris says elsewhere that it is seen at the beginning of Aries. So after our pascaliograph, the men who were involved in observing the stars, say astronomers, called this twelfth of the circle of the zodiac "the equinoctial twelfth". During the time that the sun is in the afore mentioned twelfth, in the northern hemisphere begins to increase its power of heaters, in our part the nature wakes from the winter sleep to a new life. This time is very well suited to begin a new year with him, and that's why the month in which falls the vernal equinox was chosen by several people as the first month of the year; so the ancient Hebrew begun their year with the month of Nisan, the ancient Romans with March. Hence the name is easily explained: "the beginning of month", which the ancient astronomers gave to that twelfth according to Blastaris. Ancient Astronomy counted the degrees of the sun and all stars length from 0 to 360 from the spring equinoctial point to the west. This point is also a starting point in determining *the path of the sun and planets, of which all known in the ancient times run through the zodiac*. From here come the names: "The head of the circle", "the opening of the planets course" for the first twelfth. And if this twelfth assignment of names: "the beginning of the months, head circle, the opening of planets' course", then, consistently, the twelfth before this had to be named: "The last of the months, the twelfth in the end, the conclusion of planetary revolution." (cf. prof. C. Popovici Matthew Blastaris *Syntagma Letter P: On the Holy Pascha*) Returning to the first week of Creation, on the 4<sup>th</sup> day when there are bright lights, planets and stars, the sun is in Aries grade 1, at the vernal equinox (we can call if you want March 21). If we then watched the fixed earth in the center, as did Adam on Day 6, to the east, the heavenly situation would be shown schematically as follows:

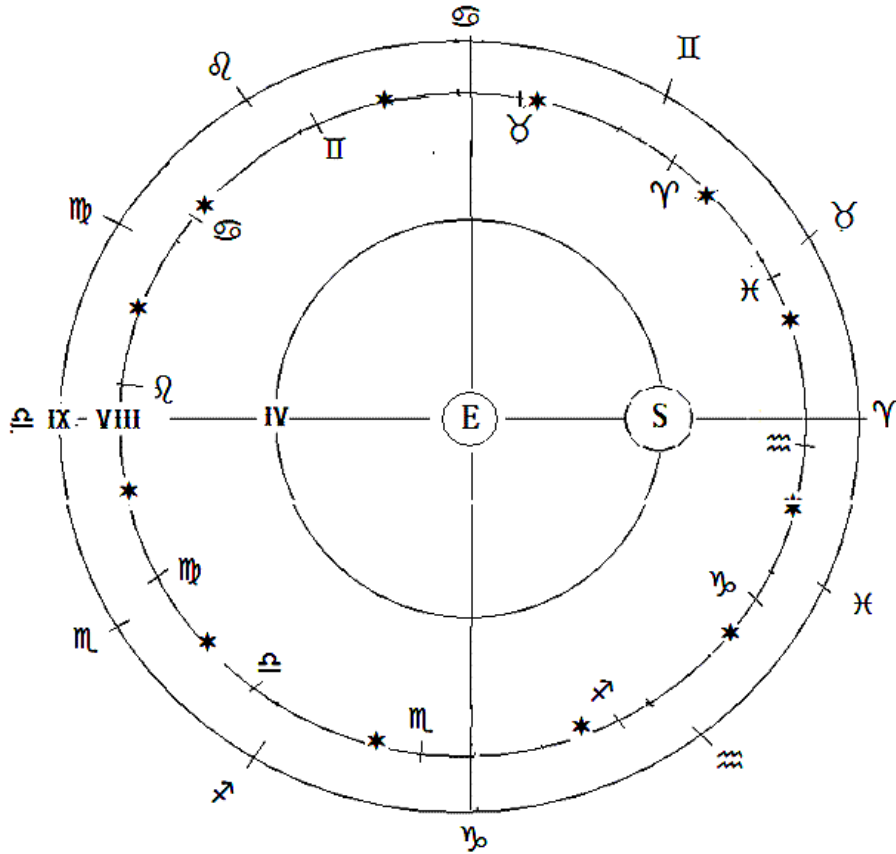


S in the center represents the sun. N is north and S south. As early as in year 2, the sun was already out of Aries and went into Pisces where it is today also. This is exactly what shows and confirms the current astronomical observations: the vernal equinox occurs in the zodiacal constellation of Pisces!



*Position of the vernal equinox (northern hemisphere) today.*

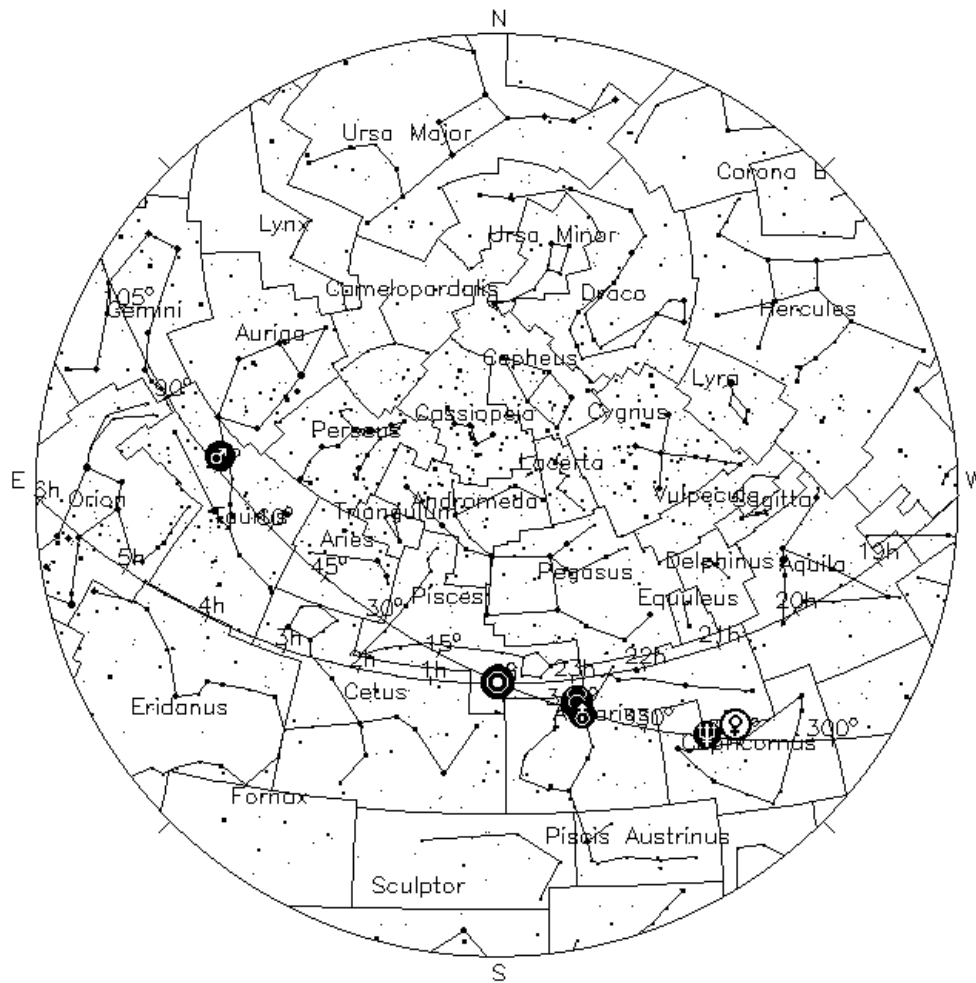




*Sidereal ("felt") and tropical ("thought") zodiac*

We recall now the problem of the two zodiac, the tropical and sidereal. The Sun is on the 4<sup>th</sup> heaven, the sidereal zodiac (the one with signs, constellations, called "the felt"), is the 8<sup>th</sup> heaven, and the tropical, without stars (also called "the thought"), is 9<sup>th</sup> heaven. As shown in the diagram above, during the 7517 years from creation, the two zodiac were shifted so that today we can place the vernal equinox in the sign "felt" (sidereal) Fish, towards its end.

And because nowadays most people, be they believers even practitioners, they need as breathe air a confirmation from scientific authority, we offer here an element that will be for many shocking: a current astronomical map (obtained by program *Home Planet*) of the vernal equinox:



*The Spring Equinox March 21, 2006*

Situation of the sky on March 21, 2006, viewed from Bucharest, 12:24 local time. Note the sun, at the center diagram in *Pisces* (*Pisces*, on the chart between  $0^\circ - 30^\circ$ ), and *very close to sign Aquarius* (*Aquarius*, the diagram between  $(0^\circ) 360^\circ - 330^\circ$ )

The two diagrams are practically the same!

How we explain this coincidence? Let us first clarify that, in our view, this scientific confirmation has little relevance since for us *the testimonies of Scripture and Tradition are quite sufficient*. But as for this Tradition to be really Tradition, it should be taught from generation to generation, or we see with great concern that the nearly 200 years since the transmission of elements of cosmology and patristic astro-nomie/logie fell to an extreme. Should not every effort be made to recover them?

To obtain the astronomical map presented were used astronomical observations and a modern computer software. But how came the zodiacal map above?

According to traditional cosmological revelation most clearly depicted by Matthew Blastaris, in the first week of creation things were as follows: on days 1-6 extended spring equinox. Now, if that would be developed and applied to the Julian calendar from the first day, things would have been as follows:

Day 1	March 18...
Day 4	March 21, the appearance of lights, the spring equinox was in the Sidereal (felt) Aries, which corresponds to the same in this



moment with the tropical (thought) one, grade 1.

Day 6            March 23, the creation of man. Basically, the same astral configuration!

From the eighth day (Sunday, March 25), the astral movements are those known.

Let those who believe, being deceived by the enemy, that they can be simultaneously good Christians and followers of astrology, take care!

This type of faithful met increasingly often since 1990 especially among women, who come to church and parallel research in various publications and individuals involved in astrology. And - summit! - sometimes receive from these "experts" urge to ask the priest to read the molybdenum of St. Basil the Great, whether in church or at home linked with the blessing of water. There is said: "So, Lord, take away from Thy servant (N) all work of the devil, all strife, all spell, serving idols, witchcraft with the stars, *divination with the stars...*"

What do they think that could mean: "witchcraft with the stars, divination with the stars", if not astrology and horoscopes?

Serious research, both theological-spiritual and the scientific astronomical proves eloquently that "human astrology" is an error in both directions as part of the magic, the occult and divination, with the same features inspired by the same source: the devil.

We can not serve two masters at the same time, and the light and darkness have no fellowship.