

Biblical Astronomy

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NEW MOON REPORTS

Nehemia Gordon from Jerusalem, Israel compiled the following New Moon Reports for the months of August and September 2010 and the beginnings of the Sixth and Seventh Biblical Months.

August – “On Wednesday August 11, 2010 the new moon was sighted from Israel. The moon was first sighted from Mount Tabor by Nehemia Gordon at 19:37 and shortly thereafter by Eddy Queen, Daniel Queen, Nathan Queen, and Abby Queen. The moon was also sighted from Jerusalem by Terry Telligman at 19:41. Pictures of the new moon from Mount Tabor taken by Abby Queen are posted at:”
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nehemia-Gordon/371892568628>

September – “On September 10, 2010 the new moon was sighted from Israel. The moon was first sighted: from Jerusalem by David Cachicas at 6:38pm and then shortly thereafter by Rick Busenbark, Klaus Binder, Yoel Halevy, Nehemia Gordon, and Devorah Gordon; from Ariel by Frank Mecklenburg and Charlotte Mecklenburg at 6:45pm; from Kefar Eldad by Bruce Brill at 6:53pm and then shortly thereafter by Hen-el Brill; from Mevasert by Tekiyah Chavah at 7:00pm and then shortly thereafter by Ariel Chavah; from Hadera by Deborah Boer at 7:05pm.

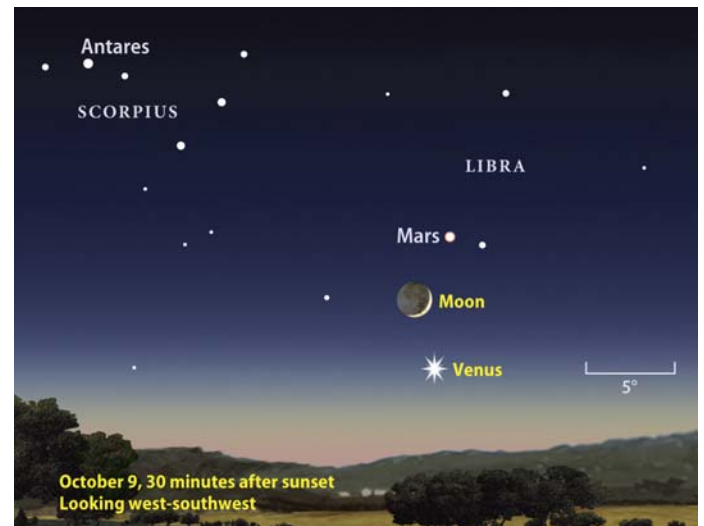
Friday night and Saturday day is the beginning of the new biblical month and the festival of Yom Teruah. Pictures of the new moon of Yom Teruah sighted from Jerusalem are posted at:”
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nehemia-Gordon/371892568628>

See the August 2010 issue of *Biblical Astronomy* for the article and simulation on the first page of the first crescent new moon along with

Venus, *Mars* and the star *Spica (Tsemech)* that took place at the ushering in of the Day of Trumpets on the evening of September 10, 2010.

The next New Moon is expected to be visible from Jerusalem near sunset on October 9, 2010 when the moon will be 4.9% illuminated and 8.7° above the horizon at 5 minutes past sunset.

Below is a simulation of the new moon to take place on October 9, 2010 along with the planets *Nogah (Venus)* and *Adom (Mars)* below it and above it as seen from the eastern United States at thirty minutes after sunset.



The moon and *Venus* are in *Bethulah (Virgo)* and *Mars (Adom)* – here representing the atoning blood of Messiah) is in *Libra* (the sacred mound or alter of sacrifice). The moon is under the feet of the woman.

Chart 535 shows the new moon and the two planets *Venus* and *Mars* above the horizon, and below the horizon the sun, *Saturn* and *Mercury* in *Bethulah* (also the women or *Revelation 12:1*) shortly after sunset on October 9, 2010 as viewed from Jerusalem. Here, the woman is clothed with the sun and the moon is under her feet (here, the sun actually being in the midst of *Bethulah* unlike

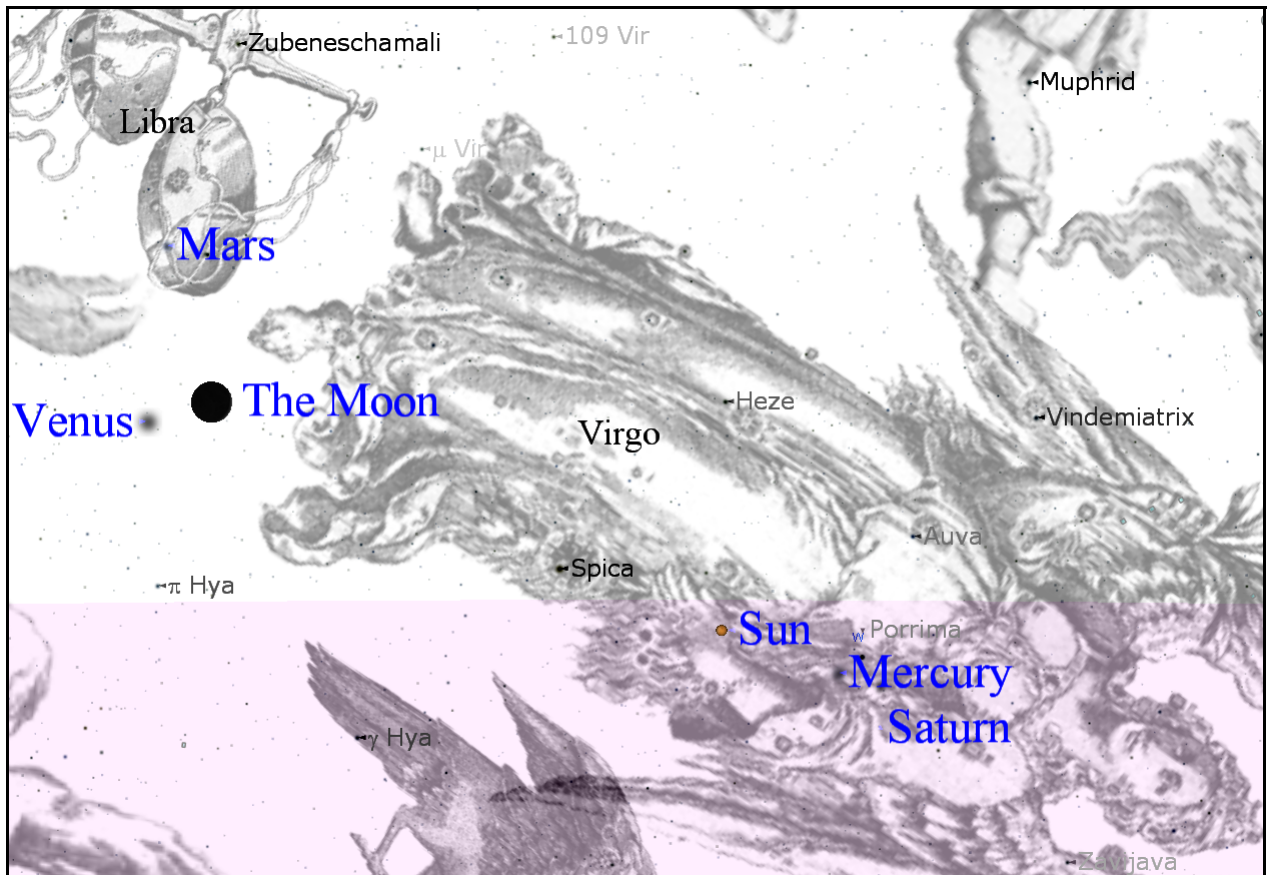


Chart 535 – Bethulah clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet on October 9, 2010

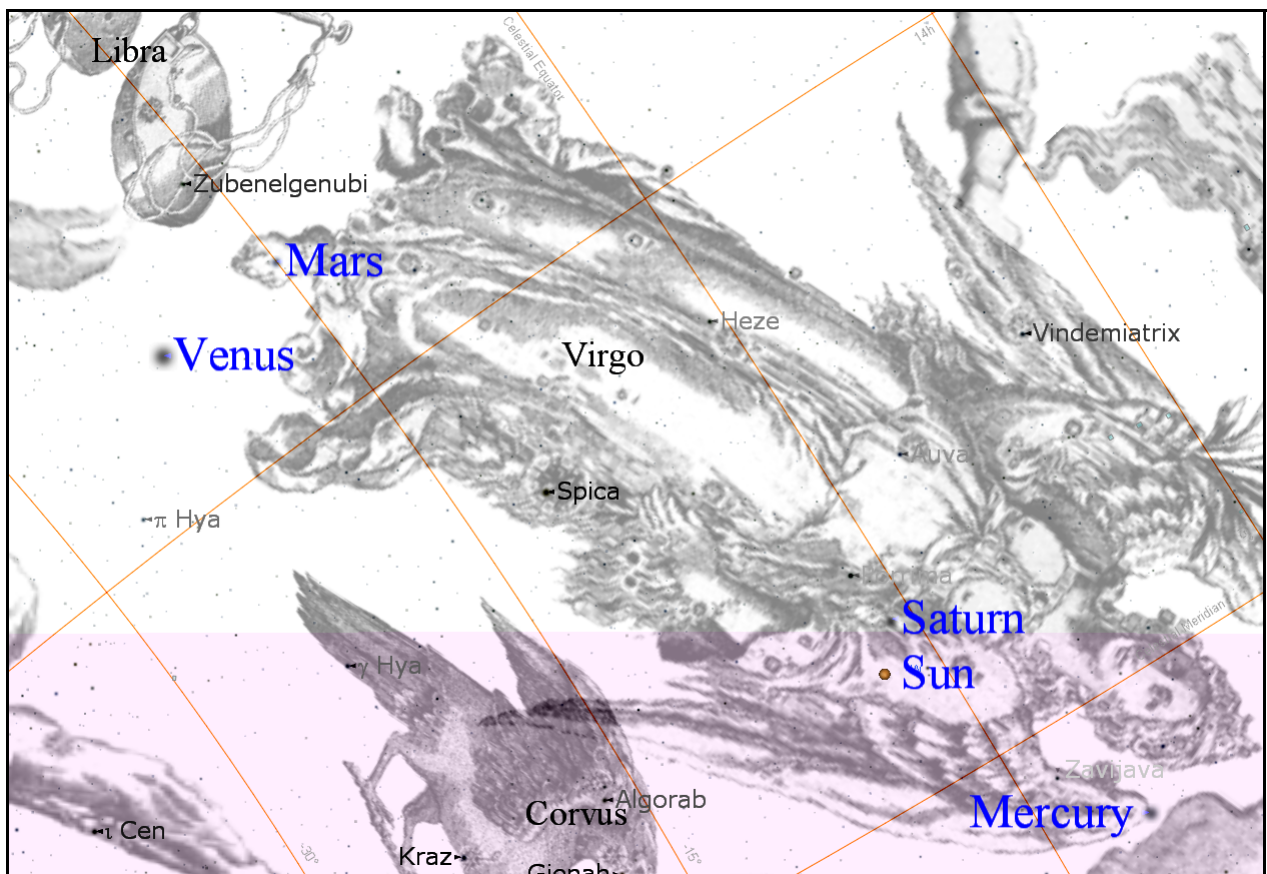


Chart 536 – Venus and Mars in conjunction in Bethulah in the early evening sky as seen from Jerusalem on September 29, 2010.

September's event during the new moon, when the sun was in Leo). The new moon on October 9th will also be in conjunction with *Nogah (Venus) the Bright and Morning Star*.

Saturn will be absent in the sky (as far as viewing with the unaided eye) from about mid September through mid October since it will be near and/or in conjunction with the sun. The actual conjunction of the sun and *Saturn* (Satan) takes place on September 30. So this noxious planet will not be visible during the feasts this year. It comes back into clear view as a morning star (planet) around mid October. Below is a list for the dates of the Fall Feasts.

Day of Trumpets (Yom Teruah) – sunset September 10 to sunset September 11.

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) – sunset September 19 to sunset September 20.

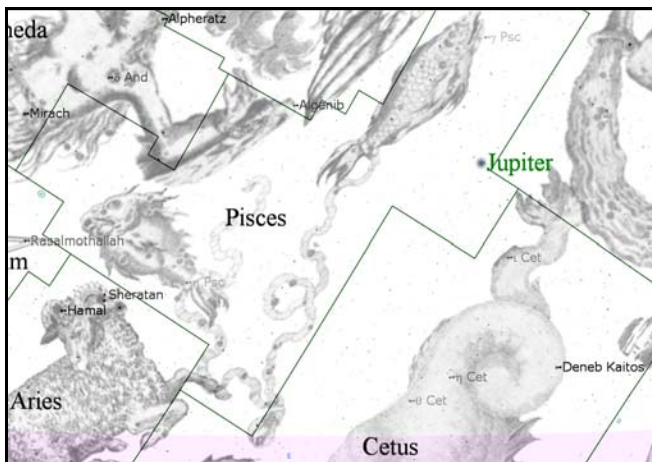
First Day of Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) – sunset September 24 to sunset September 25.

Last Great Day (Shemini Atzeret) – sunset October 1 to sunset October 2.

ZEDEK AT ITS BRIGHTEST IN 47 YEARS

The planet Zedek (Jupiter) will be at opposition (closest approach to the earth for the year and at the opposite side of the earth as the sun is) on September 21, 2010. At this time, Jupiter will appear brighter (Mag. -2.9) and larger ($49.9''$ across) than at any time since October 1963.

Below is a chart showing *Jupiter* in the constellation *Pisces* at the time of opposition. The



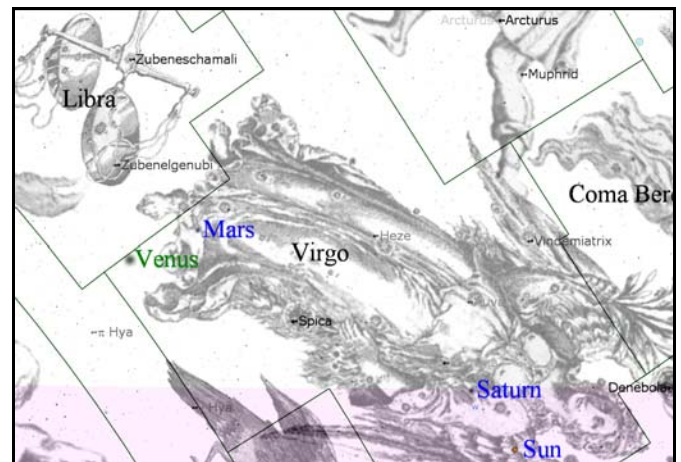
lines on the chart are the constellation border lines. The colored area on the chart is the area below the horizon. This is as seen from Jerusalem in the early evening sky not long after the beginning of the Twelfth Day of the Seventh Month on the Biblical Calendar, also called Tishri 12.

The constellation *Pisces* represents the nation of Israel and also the Two Houses of Judah and Ephraim. *Zedek* represents Messiah and/or Yahweh our Righteousness. Here, the glory of Yahweh is shining brightly on the nation of Israel.

This event has already happened at the writing of this newsletter. It took me much longer than normal to recuperate after my long trip to New York and being under a bunch of stress. At one point my leg was swollen quadruple its normal size, and that is no exaggeration. I have not yet fully recuperated, which is why this issue will have no feature constellation. I plan on starting those up again in November. I was able to get the news about Jupiter and Venus out to the online subscribers before it happened, but I had no way until now of getting it out to the postal subscribers. At least half of the postal subscribers do not have a computer or online access. If you are a postal subscriber, you also have access to the online newsletters at no extra cost. Please send me your e-mail address so I can put you in the same address book as the online subscribers. That way when I send out bulletins or important news, you will not have to wait for the postal version to get time sensitive info.

VENUS AT ITS BRIGHTEST

On September 23, 2010 Venus will be at its brightest magnitude for its current cycle. Below is a chart showing Venus in the constellation *Bethulah*



as seen from Jerusalem in the early evening sky at the time that it is at its brightest. Astronomy Magazine puts its magnitude during this particular cycle as -4.8 . However, both of my astronomy programs place its brightness at magnitude -4.56 . The brightness of magnitude -4.8 is the peak brightness that Venus ever reaches, but it does not always reach that brightness during its various cycles. I believe that Astronomy Magazine made an error, though its peak brightness is -4.8 , it will not reach its peak brightness during its peak for this cycle. At any rate, with a magnitude of -4.56 , Venus will still be shining very brightly, far outshining any of the other stars and planets in the sky.

The constellation Bethulah represents the faithful of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. *Nogah* (*Venus*) representing Messiah, will be shining at its brightest in this cycle. Here, the glory of Messiah is shining brightly on the faithful of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Since this takes place in the early evening of September 23, it is near the beginning of the 14th day of the Seventh Biblical Month, or Tishri 14.

NOGAH AND ADOM IN CONJUNCTION

Venus will pass 6^0 south of Mars on September 29, 2010. This is not a particularly close conjunction, but still a conjunction nonetheless.

Chart 536 shows the positions of Venus and Mars at the time of conjunction as seen from Jerusalem in the early evening sky shortly after the beginning of the 20th day of the Seventh Biblical Month and also the sixth day of Tabernacles.

Though the separation between the planets is not real close, they are both in the same celestial longitude and in alignment with the North Celestial Pole, which is the astronomical definition for a conjunction.

NOGAH DOES RETROGRADE LOOP

Venus is now near the beginning of its retrograde loop for this particular cycle. **Chart 537** shows the path of Venus from September 1 to December 25, 2010. Each green dot on the chart is ten days. The furthest green dot in the lower loop on the chart represents October 9. Venus will stop in its forward progress on October 9 (the first day of the 8th month when Bethulah will be clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet – Chart 535)

and then start to move backward in retrograde motion on October 11. It will appear to stand still for a couple of days. *Nogah* will be moving forward beneath the feet of Bethulah from the Day of Atonement and on through the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. It will be shining brightly throughout the Feast.

Nogah will turn back to its forward movement around November 20, and continue on until its next retrograde cycle in May 2012. Venus goes into retrograde motion every 1.6 years. It comes back to the same loop every 8 years to the day and there are 5 different loops in that 8-year cycle. It comes back to each individual loop every 8 years to the day and the loops themselves are 1.6 years apart. In E.W. Bullinger's *Companion Bible, Appendix 10*, it is written concerning the number 8 that "It, or its multiple is impressed on all that has to do with the Lord's Names, the Lord's People, the Lord's works." The number 5 denotes Divine grace. Fitting for the Bright and Morning Star representing Messiah Y'shua.

Bethulah is holding a staff of wheat in her left hand and a palm frond in her right hand. The brightest star in Bethulah located in the staff of wheat is *Tsemech*, *THE BRANCH*, representing Messiah. This constellation is representative of all the Feasts, but especially the Feast of Tabernacles and the harvest at the end of the world. Is this harvest to soon begin? She will be setting below the horizon and after late October will not be seen in the early evening sky again until Passover, and the cycle of the Feasts starts over again.

BRIGHT COMET ON ITS WAY

Periodic Comet 103/P Hartley will be passing fairly close, as far as comets go, to the earth in October. Its closest approach to the earth will be 11.2 million miles. However, this comet is fairly small as comets go, being a little less than one mile in diameter. The comet is still expected to come into view for the unaided eye at a peak brightness of around magnitude 5.0. My astronomy programs estimate the peak brightness of the comet at a magnitude 4.44 when it is at its closest to the earth on October 20, 2010. We will see what happens.

Chart 538 shows the path of Comet Hartley (103P) from September 25 to November 3, 2010. The comet passes through the constellations *Cassiopeia*, *the captive delivered and preparing for*

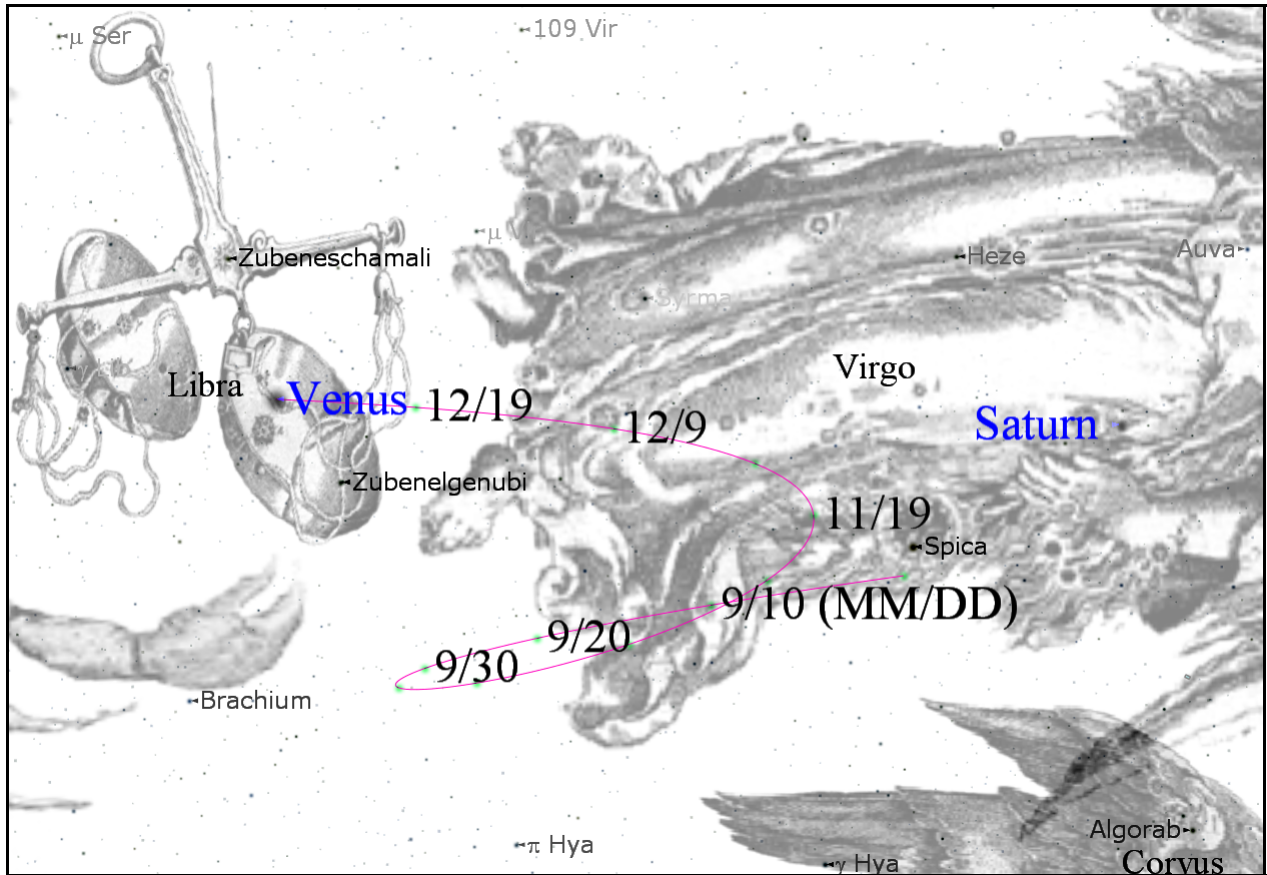


Chart 537 – Path and retrograde loop of Venus from September 1, to December 25, 2010

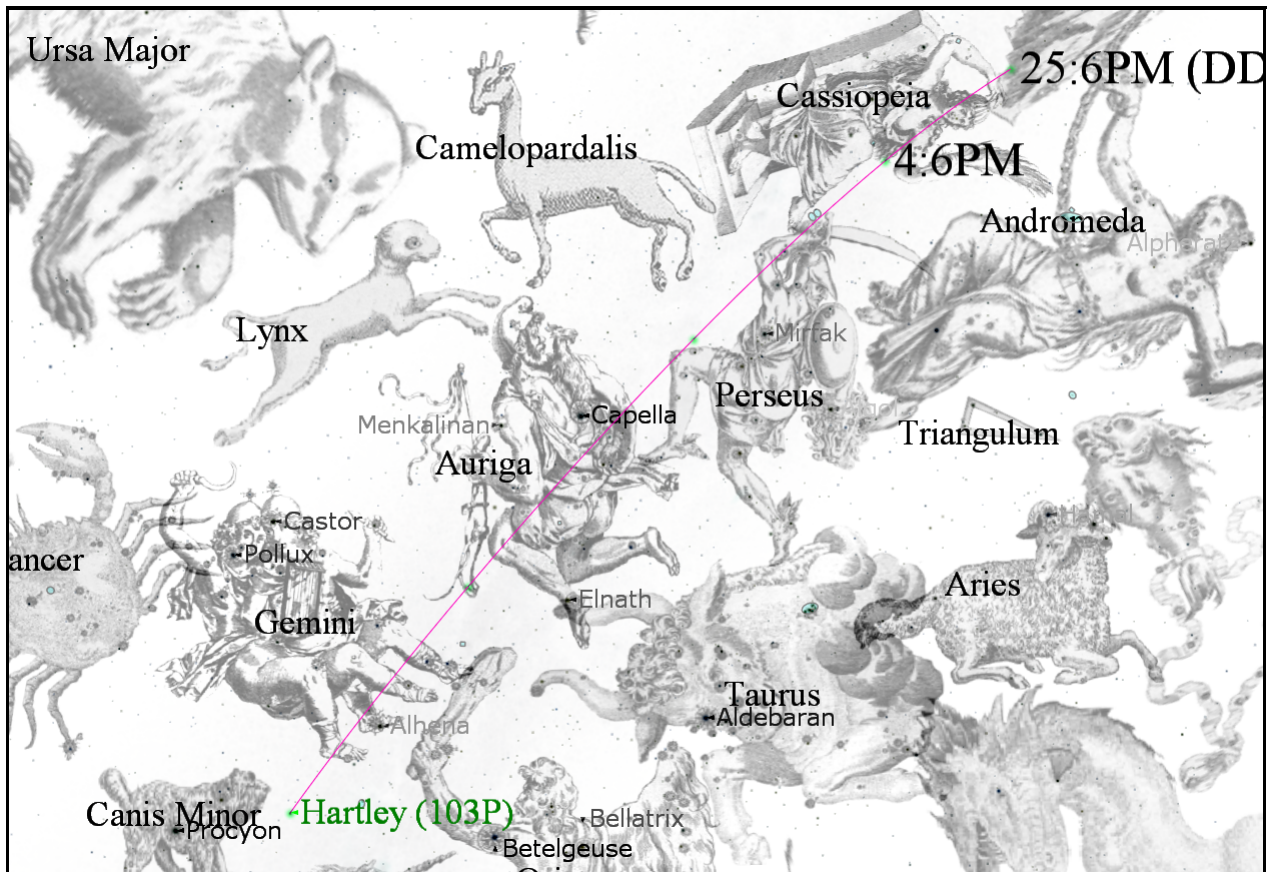
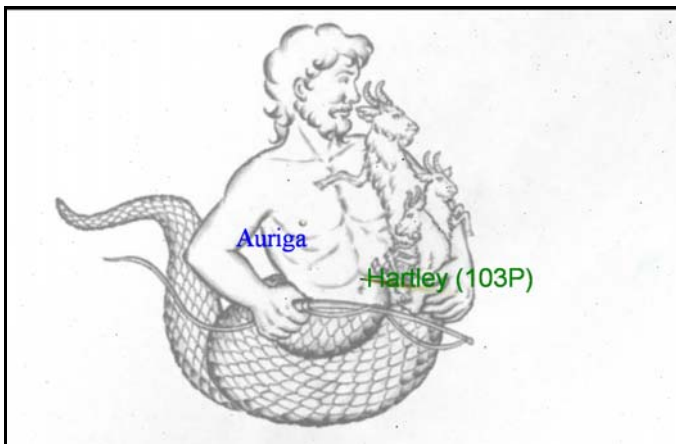


Chart 538 – Path of Comet Hartley (103P) from September 25, to November 3, 2010

her Husband, the Redeemer; **Perseus**, “The Breaker” delivering the redeemed; **Auriga**, Safety for the redeemed in the day of wrath; and **Gemini**, Messiah’s reign as Prince of Peace. These are the constellations in the order that the comet is going through them with the main theme of each. This is hardly a bad omen since the message is concerning the Bride making herself ready for her Redeemer; The Breaker delivering the redeemed; with safety for the redeemed in the day of wrath that is to come shortly after the Tribulation; and the Messiah’s reign as Prince of Peace for 1,000 years after the day of wrath is finished and Messiah begins to rule. This prophecy will surely come to pass.

The comet should still be visible to the unaided eye throughout October and into early November. The Starry Night astronomy program shows the comet at magnitude 4.94 on November 3. It will quickly fade from there and on November 18 will have a magnitude of 6.06, which is beyond naked eye visibility for a comet.

The chart below shows the position of Comet Hartley (103P) in the midst of the constellation Auriga on October 20, when it is at its closest approach to the earth and shining at its brightest at magnitude 4.44.



This is a strange picture of this constellation. I have never before seen this particular picture of Auriga that has what appears to be the tail of a serpent. However, it was the best picture out of my two programs that have pictures for displaying clarity and the correct position of the constellation. Just ignore the serpent’s tail. To see the Biblically correct rendering of Auriga, see the *March/April 2010* issue of *Biblical Astronomy*, where Auriga is the feature constellation on the last two pages. This will give you better insight on the meaning or theme of this constellation.

The following is an article from Sky & Telescope.com concerning the comet.

Track the brightest visitor of the year

“Have you ever seen a comet with just your eyes? Although Comet 103P/Hartley won’t deliver quite the thrill that Comet C/1995 O1 (Hale-Bopp) did in 1997, it should be a memorable sight under a dark sky. Astronomers expect Comet Hartley to peak near 5th magnitude in October, when it will look like a silver sword hanging beneath the majestic W of Cassiopeia the Queen. This region lies high in the northeast these October evenings.

Compare Hartley with the Andromeda Galaxy (M31), which lies about 15° to the comet’s south. Does the comet glow brighter or fainter than the galaxy? Does it appear sharper or fuzzier? As October begins, Hartley lies near the Pacman Nebula (NGC 281). And with perfect timing for the New Moon weekend of October 9, the comet floats next to the Double Cluster in Perseus (NGC 869 and NGC 884).

Enjoy the sight with binoculars, and then target Hartley with a telescope. Pump up the power to view the straight gas tail, which could show some blue-green color through large scopes. The gray-white dust tail spreads out in a narrow “fan” from the central coma. This fan tilts from night to night until October 28, when it appears edge-on. The comet then lies in Gemini, not far from the gibbous Moon.”

Below is a color photo of the comet taken by Michael Jager in early September, 2010.



See the link below for a great video clip on this comet.

<http://www.astronomy.com/asy/default.aspx?c=a&id=10214>