CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

God's truth is revealed through His wonders of creation and His Word. God created the heavens for greater significance than separating the day from the night. It was created to display "Heavenly Signs." The heavens reveal to mankind the truth about the End Times and the timing of events. "In the Last Days God says I will grant wonders in the sky above" which is from Act 2:17-19. Before there was the Word of God given to man, the heavens were used to declare the Glory of the Creator. God had given a clear interpretation of the star constellations to Adam, who handed it down generation after generation. Many scholars and Biblical writers state that God defined the star motion through the skies at the time of creation and science has confirmed this as well. The constellations are a set of pictures in the sky that convey a message about creation and the plan of salvation for this world. The Constellation of Virgo represents Christ born of a virgin. Virgo has a branch or stem in her hand which is mentioned in Isaiah 11:1. The Virgin Mary gave birth to Christ the male child, who was from the stem of Jesse, the father of King David. The "head and eye" of the dragon in the Constellation of Draco is over Virgo ready to devour her which is mentioned in Revelation 12:4. The dragon is described as the Serpent of Old, the Devil and Satan in Revelation 12:9. Christ is our Savior and Shepherd. The "True Shepherd or Heavenly Shepherd" is symbolized by the Constellation of Orion. The Lamb became the "suffering servant" and the ultimate sacrifice for atonement. The Messiah is symbolized by the planet of Jupiter and Taurus, the bull represents a priestly sacrifice. It ends with the Constellation of Leo representing the Lion of Judah; who is Christ, the Messiah. Leo represents Christ's Second Coming and His Judgment, which is symbolized by Libra, the scales of justice. At the "End," Christ will become the King of Kings and Lord of Lords on this renewed earth. The Word was with God from the beginning before the creation of this visible universe and world. The truth is the Prophetic Word is divinelygiven and inspired by God to the Prophets and the Apostles for the End Times. The Apostle John's vision in Revelation has many signs seen in the heavens. The prophetic events are aligned with "Heavenly Signs" which demonstrate there is an Almighty God who set these heavenly bodies into motion at the time of creation. There was a plan of salvation from the beginning and a "Grand Design" for Christ to reign upon this earth. This has been written for those who are looking for a clear and concise explanation and for validation of the order of End Times Events. This includes the event of Christ's return. Christ knows the time of His return and reign on this earth. He would like us to know through His wonders of creation and His Word the order and timing of events "in the last days."

Interpretation of these heavenly signs will be validated through independent sources. The heavenly signs will be used to generate a timeline for the events described in scripture. The sign of His Bride being gathered is a visible light tunnel into the far reaches of the heavens. It is so unique in sweeping across the earth that it cannot be mistaken for anything else except the gathering of His Bride. A similar light tunnel event occurs with Christ's return to the earth with His immortal armies of war. The Rapture is represented by the "*True Shepherd*" coming and Christ's return is symbolized with the Lion of Judah. Both of these symbols appear on the light tunnel and together with the sign of the Messiah in the skies. The statement in scripture is to "*be alert, ready and not to turn back*." These statements are mentioned in Christ's Olivet Discourse about the End Times found in Matthew, Mark and Luke. The Prophet Joel states that God "... *WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE*" for the End Times, the Last Days. The Bible makes a number of surprising references to "*signs*" in the heavens from the Book of Genesis on creation to the Last Book of the Bible in Revelation about the End Times. The word "*sign*" and what the disciples were requesting of the Christ when they were asking for "*signs*" of the End Times Events in the Olivet Discouse. The first usage is in Genesis in the context of God's creative acts and the very beginning of this visible universe.

Genesis 1:14-15 **"Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day** from the night, and let them <u>be for signs</u> and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth" and it was so." ²

² New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Gen 1:14). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

It states that the heavens were created to be used for "*signs*." The sun, moon and stars, which include planets, were in the divine scheme of things, intended to be "*for signs and for seasons*". The final usage is in Revelation 12 and 15. It is referred to as a "*great sign*" in the heavens because it symbolizes God's chosen people, Israel. It is used in the context of Christ's birth on this earth. It is a sign of Israel and its twelve tribes, which includes the sun and the moon with the crown of stars, known as the Pleiades star cluster.

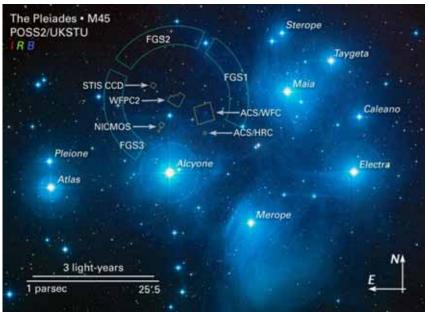
Revelation 12:1 "A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;" ³

.Psalms 147:4 "He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them." 4

We know through scripture God has named all the heavenly bodies. God's naming goes on to the present time; even though he uses man to do this. As an example is the dwarf planet Ceres, which was named in 2006, once it was determined not to be an asteroid, but a true planet.

Ceres is the smallest dwarf planet in the inner Solar System. Goddess of the seasons; Demeter Ceres means **"Earth Mother"**. Ceres' name may derive from the hypothetical Proto-Indo-European root *ker, meaning "to grow", which is also a possible root for many English words, such as "create", "cereal", "grow", "kernel", "corn", and "increase". Roman etymologists thought "ceres" was derived from the Latin verb gerere, **to bear**, or **bring forth**.

The planet of "*Ceres*" was seen in the sky above Bethlehem during the Birth of Christ our Lord; and it is the last object in the heavenly cluster to come down to earth as part of the Bethlehem Star. The choice by man of the name "Ceres" was not based upon the fact that it was associated with the Birth of Christ by a virgin. Ceres has the meaning of "to bear", or "bring forth" from an "Earth Mother." How appropriate it is to Christ's birth. Both the Old and New Testaments assume what happens in the heavens matter and are given by God as signs of events on the earth. We should follow the guidance and counsel of the Bible on the use of signs. Astrology assumes that the stars are the direct cause of earthly events. The Bible lets us know that they are to be used as messages about earthly events either in the past or in the future. It may be useful to think of them as *Road Signs and Warnings*. There is a distinct difference between a sign and considering them as an active agent.



The Pleiades star cluster – Crown of Authority (NASA)

Job 9:9; 38:31-33

9:9 "Who makes the Bear, Orion and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south;"

- *38:31 "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion"?*
- 38:32 "Can you lead forth a constellation in its season, and guide the Bear with her satellites"?
- *38:33 "Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, or fix their rule over the earth"?*

⁴ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Psalms 147:4). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

³ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Rev 12:1). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

Christ said in Luke 21:25 "*There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth....."* This will occur during the End Times. We shall use ancient interpretation for planetary signs and their meaning, and use Biblical text wherever it is possible to explain the heavenly events as seen in the skies. Independent of the language (*Hebrew, Arabic or English*) names given to these heavenly bodies and their meaning should stay the same. God's naming of the stars also includes naming the constellations and their star clusters as is seen in the Book of Job.

Stars and Constellations

Most scholars believe the Book of Job is one of the oldest manuscripts of text ever written. In the Bible, it predates the time of Abraham and the founding of the Jewish nation of Israel. Isn't it intriguing to find this oldest book is written about the stars and the constellations? It states that God himself put them in their place in the heavens. It also references the same constellations we know today by their names. Other than the Bible, there are ancient literatures (*Babylonian*) which appear to support the names as well. It appears the star configuration of the constellations and what they represent may be the oldest surviving text of any language. Does this point to some level of importance and significance to mankind? There must be significance to their names. Some constellation and star names date back to the time of Job in the Bible such as "*Bear*." The Pleiades star cluster was given the Hebrew name <code>.crown</code> of authority as a heavenly sign. Some of today's present names of stars and their meaning were recorded during the ancient times of the Babylonian Empire. A prime example is the Star of Bethlehem. There are many passages which state that God arranged the stars.

Isaiah 40:26 "Lift your eyes on high, and see who created all these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number; He calls them all by name. Because of his greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one of them is missing."⁶

The first time I understood there was meaning to "*Heavenly Signs*" was with the birth of Christ and how the Magi saw the Star of Bethlehem in the East. The Magi understood that this was a sign of the Messiah, the King, and they came to worship Him and give Him gifts. I wondered how they knew the star represented the King. It was because of the heavenly bodies which made up the Bethlehem Star. It had meaning and significance to the Magi.

JOHANNES KEPLER (1571-1630) paved the way for rediscovery of the Bethlehem Star. He puzzled out the math which drives the heavens. He even used his formula to search for the Bethlehem Star. But unlike us, Kepler had no computer. With software incorporating Kepler's equations, we can animate ancient skies or the future skies over the Middle East with great precision and accuracy.

JOHANNES KEPLER set out to show that a planet would travel in a perfect circular orbit around the sun, called a solar orbit. This presented an easy mathematical model and simple view and beauty of his planetary understanding. Nevertheless, he could not force the mathematical model of circular orbits to align with what was observed in the night skies.

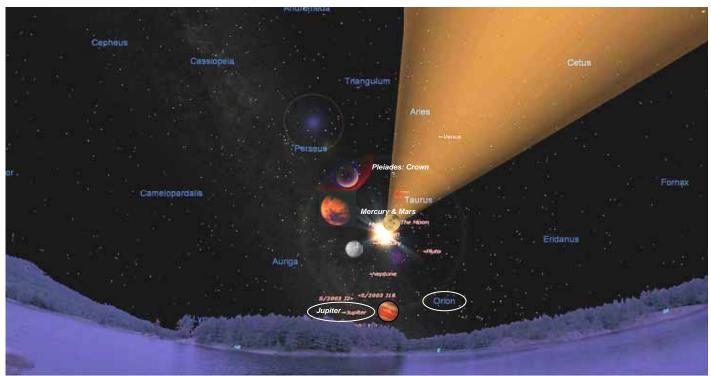
TYCHO BRAHE (1546-1601) made an invitation to Kepler to come to Prague and collaborate in the study of the solar system. At this time, it was poorly understood even after following Newton's work. It was thought, that the planets were "*Wandering Stars*". This was due to the fact that planetary movement across the skies didn't necessarily follow the normal path from east to west of the true stars in the night sky. Planets could retrace their paths in the night sky based upon night time observation. Both men were brilliant and motivated to unravel the mystery of planetary motion. Tycho Brahe died suddenly and Kepler found himself with full access to Brahe's

⁵ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

⁶ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Isaiah 40:26). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

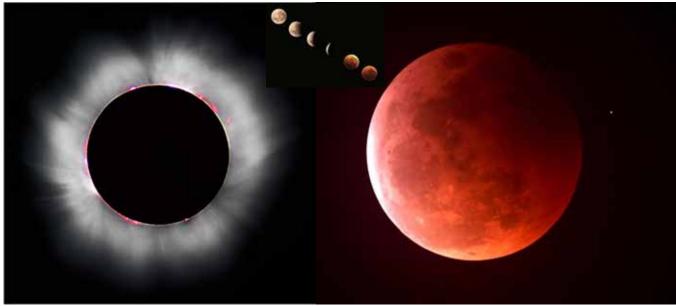
library and works, which ended up changing everything going forward from this point. Kepler published his First and Second Law of Planetary Motion in the year 1609. This was followed by Kepler's Third Law, about ten years later. These mathematical law models were so accurate that NASA and other astronomers worldwide use them today. Kepler's laws hold the keys to the heavens. The motion of the planets and the constellations are so unique that they can be used to pinpoint an actual day in the past or in the future with inclusion of the sun and moon even the hour of the day. With software incorporating Kipler's equations, we can model with computers as well as create the observable heavens for future and past heavenly events. All that is needed is to provide a given latitude and longitude of observation on the earth. In minutes the software can reproduce the numerous sky maps by computer hardware, which calculates using these equations. This software can be used to animate the night or daytime skies at any speed in time. This will make years, months, or days pass within a moment of a real time clock. This is what has been used to create the "*Heavenly Signs – Grand Design for the Rapture*" pictures incorporated into this book. This has been done by running computer software called "*Starry Night*" by Simulation Curriculum Corporation.

What is the significance of heavenly bodies? In traditional astrological nomenclature, the stars were divided into "fixed stars" (Latin stellæ fixæ), which means the stars and other galactic or intergalactic bodies that are recognized by astronomers and "wandering stars" (Greek: $\pi\lambda\alpha\nu\eta\eta\eta\alpha$ $\alpha\sigma\eta\eta\rho$, planētēs astēr), which we know are the planets of the solar system. The first sets of stars were called "fixed" because it was thought they were attached to the firmament, and are the most distant from earth of the heavenly spheres. The fixed star movement across the sky is very predictable based upon their relationship to other stars and typically rise from the east and go down in the west much like the sun. The "Image of Darkness" shown below has a number of significant signs. One of those signs is the Pleiades star cluster marked in white as "Pleiades: Crown" which represents, a crown of authority, independent of its name Seven Sisters, Pleiades or $\pi\gamma\gamma\gamma$?. This is the eclipse of the sun with Mars, Mercury, and the moon, which radiates sunlight upward and not onto the earth. Jupiter and Orion are just above the treetops. Jupiter symbolizes the Messiah and Orion represents the "True Shepherd." Is this the sign in the sky of the "Son of Matt" that is mention by Christ in Matthew 24:30? During the creation of the heavens and earth, God has put signs into the heavens for us to see and interpret. We will first take a look at the significance of the moon. Total solar eclipses are considered a bad omen for the nations. While blood moons are an omen for the Jewish people and the nation of Israel and is recognized by today's world in which we live as well as in ancient times.



June 2393 Image of Darkness - Sunrise, the sun eclipsed by Mars, Mercury and the moon

There are three sets of blood moons or lunar eclipses that corresponded to significant events in the past. The Spanish Inquisition's final year 1492 when the Alhambra Decree ordered all remaining Jews who would not convert to Christianity to leave Spain. The Israeli 1948 War of Independence and the 1967 Israeli Six-Day War had back-to-back blood red moons occur on the first day of Passover and Sukkot as well as the following year. The other blood moons were in 162/163 AD, 795/796 AD, 842/843 AD and 860/861 AD. Solar eclipses have been interpreted as bad omens or forewarnings. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus wrote that Thales of Miletus predicted an eclipse that occurred during a war between the Medians and the Lydians. Both sides put down their weapons and declared peace as a result of the eclipse. The Trojan War and the final battle of Iliad occurred during a solar eclipse on June 11, 1312 BC. Numerous historical wars have occurred during a total solar eclipse. There are a maximum of seven eclipses that can occur in any year. It is interesting to find that the size of the moon and the distance from the sun allows for a total eclipse to occur. This tells of an intelligent designer, the Creator of this world. Therefore, the sun and moon must have some importance as a sign in the heavens.



Total Solar Eclipse with the moon – Designed by the Creator

Red Blood Moon – Lunar Eclipse

What is meant by God saying "And I will grant wonders in the sky above"? The Hebrew word for "wonder" is *ng'n* mopheth: a wonder, sign, portent – marvel.⁷ A "wonder" would be an unusual event in the heavens (you should marvel at *it*) such as: stars changing their relative positions in the same star cluster, or radiant light above the heavens changing direction and then coming down onto the earth during the same day. It is an amazing wonder that God had set the motion of these heavenly bodies at the time of creation to be used as "signs." This includes the Bethlehem Star marking the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ in time and in space. This heavenly event showed the Magi the birth of a King. What will be the signs for the End Times? Remember, God has also named all the fixed stars, wandering stars, and constellations in the sky. There must be significance to the names as well as the motion in the heavens given to us as signs. We need to interpret them correctly based upon the meaning given by their names in the heavens above. The Pharisees asked Christ to show them a sign from heaven. Christ responded with the following question "Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times" from Matthew 16:3. They were not like the Magi, who understood a heavenly sign of the Messiah, the King given at Christ's birth. The sign was so effective that they made a long journey to worship the King with gifts they brought with them. The Magi had the correct understanding to interpret the heavens with the signs seen in them. It was clear to them that a King of Kings was to be born. God was to take on flesh and become a

⁷ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

man on this earth. Many of these interpretations have been corrupted over time. The Romans and Greeks turned them into gods and goddess. Orion known in Babylonian times as the "*True Shepherd*" has turned into the "*Hunter*." The shepherd's staff has been turned into a "*Hunter's*" club. Therefore, we will need to go back into history to get the proper interpretation of the constellations and planets that are in the heavens. It is extremely disturbing to look at the heavens and see the beautiful blue skies missing after existing for centuries. During the End Times, the sky has been replaced with darkness. Evil in the world, with wickedness ruling on it, seems to need darkness and not light. God provided darkness during the End Times for evil to dwell upon the earth. For if you remember, it was Christ's birth that led us on the journey of the End Times and the Rapture. Nevertheless, what was found was month after month of darkness on the earth due to planetary and solar eclipses.

The Time Known through Heavenly Signs

The Prophet Joel and the Apostle Peter said there will be "*wonders in the sky*" as signs. Heavenly signs will provide an accurate date of these heavenly events which are unique in the skies. God set the rules of the heavens during creation, which is demonstrated through the fulfillment of His Word. In Job 38:33, God asked him "*Do you know the ordinances of the heaven or fix their rule over the earth*"? The Disciples asked Christ what would be the "*sign of Your coming, and of the end….*" Christ answered them with a long list of events that must occur prior to His return. Christ understood in detail the order of events prior and during the Tribulation period. Many believe in the fact that neither the day nor the hour is known. How could this be? In John 1:3, it states the "*All things came into being through Him.*" This includes the creation of the heavens with its signs. This belief comes from quoting scripture out of context. In Matthew 24:34, it uses "*generation*" that is the time from creation until the universe is destroyed.

Matthew 24:35-36 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."*

2 Peter 3:7 "But by His word <u>the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire</u>, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."⁸

Only God the Father knows when this earth will pass away. It doesn't say Christ will not know when He will come again. There will be no signs in the heavens when the present heavens and earth will pass away with fire. The angels in heaven do understand the End Times; that is why the Archangel Michael, described those events to Daniel over 500 years before Christ's birth. Christ, the creator, must understand the timing. It is because "*the ordinances of the heavens*" were determined at the time of creation. He knows every thing relative to this "*generation*."

Daniel 12:1 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued"⁹

Michael, the archangel, describes a "*time of distress*" which has "*never occurred*" before in time. It says all who are found written in the "*Book*" (Rev. 20-12) will be rescued. The Apostle Paul states we should be aware of the time of His Coming so we would not be overtaken as a thief in the night. Paul warns us to not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. This is referring to the Rapture of being "*caught up together....in the clouds to meet the Lord*." This is the Rapture of His Bride in Christ. We shall learn why the statement about staying "*Alert*" is made.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 **"But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a** thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night, nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us <u>be alert</u> and sober: "

⁸ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Mt 24:35-36; 2 Peter 3:7). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

⁹ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Da 12:1, 1 Thess 5:4-6). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

Scripture makes the statement "And then the <u>sign</u> of the Son of Man will appear in the sky....." as mentioned in Matthew 24:30. Do you know what is the sign which Christ says will appear? We will see the sign just above the tree tops appear in the heavens prior to being "caught up together... to meet the Lord." We shouldn't be in darkness.

Heavenly Signs

It should be obvious that "*Heavenly Signs*" are given for seeing. The very nature of a sign is it should be viewable among people on the earth; those who are looking for them. God wants us to know the timing of these events.

- Men are called upon to see, look at, and behold signs.
- God created signs in the heavens for us to observe.
- Signs are intended to be conspicuous and not hidden.

These events are targeted during the End Times over Jerusalem, which will become our primary viewing point on this earth. The Bible is clear about the use of "*Signs in the Heavens*". The Bible lets us know, they are to be used as messages or warnings about earthly events. The heavens and the universe truly declare His Mighty Glory.

Psalm 19:1 "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; ... expanse is declaring the work of His hands."¹⁰



The Whirlpool Galaxy with the Black Hole – symbol of the cross, Hubble Telescope (NASA)

Signs were placed in the heavens by Christ Himself and the motion of heavenly bodies was determined at the time of creation. Otherwise, this would be denying Christ's Deity, who is seated at the right-hand of the Father. The meaning of the names of stars, their clusters and constellations were also given to us by Him. An example is a constellation that uses the dragon to represent Satan. It is in John's vision to fulfill scripture prophecy and to align with a sign in the heavens that were created at the very beginning of time. Even though it is unusual to call Satan the "great dragon," it is the term used throughout Revelation. This was because the "sign" seen by the Apostle John was a "dragon" – "appeared in the heaven." The word "dragon" matches the heavenly sign.

Revelation 12:3 *"Then another <u>sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon</u> having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems."*

Revelation 12:9 **"And 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."¹¹

¹⁰ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Ps 19:1). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.



Draco depicted as a Dragon (Jehoshaphat Aspin, 1825)

The Constellation Draco: Early Christians saw Draco as the serpent which had tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Draco was the serpent-like dragon that twined round the tree in the Garden and guarded the apples.



Hydra - Seven Headed Serpent (Lambeth, Palace, U.K. 16th Century)

The Constellation of Draco is depicted as a dragon snake. We will see how this constellation is used as a sign for Satan being thrown down to the earth. This event occurs prior to the first Trumpet Judgment, in which Satan has no longer access to Heaven to accuse the brethren. We will use the Draco Constellation to show this alignment between His Word which matches the heavenly sign of His creation. Before the Word was given to man, God created the constellation in the heavens as a picture story of His plan. The beginning of this Hebrew heavenly star cycle occurs with the Constellation of Virgo and ends with the Constellation of Leo. Virgo represents Christ born of a virgin. Christ is the Lamb of God; who is our Savior and Shepherd. The "True Shepherd or Heavenly Shepherd' is symbolized by the Constellation of Orion. In the center of the heavens is Draco, the dragon, who is ready to deceive the entire world. Leo, the Lion's paws are on the head of the serpent Hydra ready to strike the serpent's head (see the Star Constellation Map at the back of this book). This is mentioned in Genesis 3:15 where the Lord said to the serpent "He (Christ) shall bruise you (serpent) on the head (fatally)." Satan will undoubtedly be conquered by Christ. Satan is symbolized by three constellations – Draco, the dragon, Serpens, the serpent, and Hydra, the water beast, that has seven heads. All three symbols are used in scripture - Leviathan the twisted serpent of the sea in Isaiah 27:1, the Serpent of Old in the Garden of Eden and the Dragon in Revelation. This all represents the "Grand Design' for this world by God from the beginning of creation. Those who have understanding will see that there is alignment between the "Heavenly Signs" given by God and His Word. This earth was ultimately created for Christ to reign in righteousness with His selected bride. "All things came into being through Him..." from John 1:3. The position of the sun, moon and stars in space are uniquely given in time. We will use them to fix chronological events in time as prophetic scripture has revealed them. It is God's creation of the heavens with it signs that declares the ultimate truth of the End Times. Christ declared in Luke 21:25 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars and on the earth dismay among nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves." This roaring of the waves is caused by the gravitational forces on the seas creating tides. This is due to the multiple planetary eclipses with the sun and the moon during the End Times. The planetary eclipses creating greater gravitational energy than the moon by itself. God has declared and created these signs in the heavens to occur in the Last Days as scripture tells us. Those who have wondered about creation and if the Bible is truly from God will definitely get a clear answer to both questions by reading this book. Those who have insight will clearly see the "Heavenly Signs' as a "Grand Design" of this visible universe and the alignment of God's Word.

¹¹ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Re 12:3, Re 12:9). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.