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The Second Book: The Church (The Result of His First Coming)

Capricorn: The Goat

Chapter One: The Goat of Atonement Slain for the Church

In the first book we have seen the first coming of **Jesus Christ**. In this second book we see the results of **His** First Coming, namely the Church. In Chapter One we have the Sacrifice given for the Church. In Chapter Two we have **the Ruach ha-Kodesh** given to the Church. In Chapter Three we see the Church in conflict with the enemy and in Chapter Four we see **Christ's** return with the Church, but the main point of this second book is that all four chapters are, in some way, connected with fish (**Matthew 4:19**).



It is noteworthy that this second book opens with **the Goat** and closes with **the Lamb** because they are both animals of sacrifice. **The goat** as an animal of sacrifice was especially important on the Day of Atonement (see my commentary on **Exodus Go - The Day of Atonement**). The high priest was to **lay both hands on the head of a live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites - all their sins - and put them on the goat's head. Then he shall send the goat away into the desert**

to die (**Leviticus 16:20-22**). **Messiah** became our sacrifice. In all ancient zodiacs we find a **goat** with the tail of a fish associated with the sign of Capricorn. In the Egyptian zodiac it is seen as half-**goat** and half-fish, and it is there called *Hu-penius*, which means *the place of sacrifice*. In the Indian zodiac we see a passive goat being passed through by a fish. There can be no doubt about the significance of this sign. In **the goat** we have the transferring of **sin** to the sacrifice (**Psalm 103:12**), and in the fish we have the people for whom the sacrifice was made (**Acts 2:1-41**). When we come to the sign of Pisces we shall see more clearly that it points to the Church.

The Hebrew name of the sign is *Gedi*, *the kid* or *the cut off*. This name is the same as the Arabic *Al Gedi*. *Capricornus* is merely the modern Latin name of the sign and means *goat*. The two brightest stars are **alpha**, *the kid* or *goat* called *Al Gedi*, and **beta**, *the sacrifice that comes* called *Deneb Al Gedi*. In the first chapter of the first book we saw a woman with a *branch* in her right hand (**Isaiah 11**) and some ears of corn, pictured as *the seed* or *offspring*, in her left hand (**3:15**), thus giving a two-fold testimony of **Yeshua Messiah**. Here we see **Him** coming to die, but producing much fruit. **Yeshua** said: **I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds (John 12:24)**. The living fish proceeds from the dying **goat**, and yet there is only one body. That picture, which has no parallel in nature, is seen clearly in the grace of **God**. One day in heaven, there will be **a great multitude that no one can count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They will be wearing white robes and . . . holding palm branches in their hands (Revelation 7:9)**. The fish shall obtain eternal life through **the death** of the sacrifice of **the goat**.

However, it is not the actual **death** that we see here. The first chapter in each book pictures *a prophecy* about **the Lord**. The last chapter in each book confirms *the fulfillment* of that prophecy. The second chapter in each book presents the work of *grace* necessary to sustain the prophecy, while the third chapter shows the results of the *conflict* needed to attain the final victory and triumph. Therefore, there is an **A-B-B-A** literary structure, where the first and last chapters picture the *prophecy* and *fulfillment* of **the Messiah**, while the two central chapters image the *grace* and *conflict* of **Christ**.

The First Book: The Redeemer (His First Coming)

A Virgo: The *prophecy* of the Seed of the woman

B Libra: The work of **Christ** accomplished in *grace*

B Scorpio: The work of **Christ** accomplished in *conflict*

A Sagittarius: The *fulfillment* of promised victory

The Second Book: The Church (The Result of His First Coming)

C Capricorn: The *prophecy* of the Coming Sacrifice for the Church

D Aquarius: The results of the work of **Christ** given in *grace*

D Pisces: The results of the work of **Christ** enjoyed in *conflict*

C Aries: The *fulfillment* of the return with His Church

The Third Book: The Messianic Kingdom (The Result of His Second Coming)

E Taurus: The *prophecy* of the coming Judge of all the earth

F Gemini: **The Lord's** reign in *grace*

F Cancer: **The Lord's** reign safe from all *conflict*

E Leo: The *fulfillment* of the ultimate triumph

The Church was a mystery to the righteous of the TaNaKh. And the Torah looks forward and the B'rit Chadashah looks back. When the righteous of the TaNaKh looked to the witness of **the stars**, they viewed these four middle constellations as the promise of **His Seed (NKJ)** or **His Offspring (NIV)** in **Genesis 3:15**. Before the cross, **ADONAI's** channel of blessing came through Isra'el, **but as we look at these constellations today, we view them as the Church made up of Jewish and Gentile believers (Ephesians 2:14)**.

Therefore, in Capricorn we must look for the *prophecy* of the coming sacrifice for the Church. We now come to the three constellations, which give us three pictures of **the death** of this sacrifice and **His** living again.



1. Sagitta (The Arrow): The Hebrew name is *Sham, destroying or desolate*. There are many other stars in the heavens with a straighter line that would have been better served for an arrow. Only two of eighteen stars in this constellation are in the same line. Why are these **stars** chosen? Why is the arrow placed here? The only explanation can be that the same Hand that arranged the stars also wrote the Book! This is not the arrow of Sagittarius, for it has not left his bow. That arrow is destined for the enemies of **the LORD**. This arrow is for the Son of **God**. **He was stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. He was pierced for our transgressions (Isaiah 53:4-5). Christ**, the sacrifice, would be **pierced** by this arrow. The arrow is pictured alone in the air, having been shot by the hand of **God** the Father. This was the will of **ADONAI** that **Jesus** came to do. Therefore, the work that the arrow accomplishes is seen in the falling eagle and the dying **goat**.



2. Aquila (The Eagle): Here we have an additional picture of the effect of this arrow in the **pierced**, wounded and falling eagle, gasping in its dying struggle. Remember: **He was pierced for our transgressions (Isaiah 53:5)**, and the names of the stars of this constellation confirm this illustration. The constellation contains 74 stars. The brightest of them, **alpha** in the eagle's neck), is a notable **star** of the first magnitude called *Al Tair* (Arabic), which means **the wounding**. The **star beta** (in the throat) is called *Al Shain* (Arabic), *the bright*, from a Hebrew root meaning **scarlet colored** as in **Joshua 2:17-18**. **The men said to Rahab, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land; you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down."** The **scarlet cord** represents deliverance from death.

If, on the day of judgment (see my commentary on **Revelation, to see link click Fo - The Great White Throne Judgment**), some say: **Lord, Lord**, and will be turned away because their faith was false (**Matthew 7:21-23**), how can I be absolutely sure that my faith is genuine? The answer is found in the actions of **Rahab**, and the men of Jericho. They all believed alike that the **God** of the Hebrews had the destruction of their city in mind and they all had the faith that **He** was able to do it. Everyone was looking out for his or her own safety. Thus when the Israelites came to the city, the men of Jericho sought to kill the spies. **Rahab** also had **her** own safety in mind, but **she** chose to throw **herself** upon the mercy of **ADONAI** and trust **Him** fully. Only **Rahab's** faith was genuine because **she** acted in faith (see my commentary on **Hebrews Cu - The Faith of Rahab at Jericho**). **She** hung **the scarlet cord in her window**, which by its color speaks of safety through sacrifice, and points to the cross where *alone we have safety through His blood*.

The star gamma (in the back) is called *Tatated*, which means *wounded or torn*. The star delta, signified by the letter **d** (in the lower wing) is named *Alcair*, which means **the piercing**, and **the star epsilon** (in the tail), *Al Okal*, has the significant meaning of **wounded in the heel**. Surely, **God determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name (Psalm 147:4)**.



3. Delphinus (The Dolphin): This is the brightest cluster of 18 stars, five of which are of the third magnitude. It is easily distinguished by the four brightest, which are in the head. It is always pictured as a fish full of life and the head is always pointed upward, just as the head of the eagle is always pointing downward. The dolphin is pictured as rising up and leaping out of the sea. The message of Capricorn is thus pictured in the comparison of the dying goat, the falling eagle and the rising dolphin.

Jesus died and rose again (First Thessalonians 4:14). Apart from **His** resurrection, **His** death was meaningless. To believers, **His** resurrection is central to our faith. **He is the firstfruits of those who have died (First Corinthians 15:20).** Because **He** conquered death and **rose again**, followers of **the Messiah** have the confidence that since they are **in the Messiah (Ephesians 1:20)** they can also conquer death and the grave. This is the great *prophecy* about **Christ** in this first book. **He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification (Romans 4:25).**

Each chapter ends in glory, therefore, this strange **goat-fish**, dying in its head, but living in its tail - falling as an eagle **pierced** and wounded by the arrow of **death** - springs up out of the water with the beauty of a dolphin. The only way the Church can find life is through **His death**.