

Astrology, King Jesus, & King Arthur

by Ralph Ellis

The Israelite Zodiac

In my previous article we saw that both the Old and New Testaments are infused with a great deal of astrology, if we did but know how to discover and identify it. While this aspect of Judaeo-Christianity is studiously ignored by the religious establishment, it is a fact that large segments of ancient Judaism and Nazarene Christianity revolved around the veneration of precessional astrology-astronomy and the twelve signs of the zodiac. But why would a religion venerate the precessional zodiac? It is possible that this veneration was devised to maintain an accurate record of a royal and cultural history through many millennia. With a calendar derived from precessional astrology, one only needs to mention the symbol of the zodiac that an event or monarch was associated with, and the era concerned can be narrowed down considerably: sometimes to just a few years.

The fact that the Israelites were known as Shepherds (Aries) and that Moses killed 3,000 Apis bull worshippers during the infamous 'golden calf' affair at the foot of Mt Sinai,[4] strongly suggests that this event occurred just after the constellation of Taurus had ceded its dominant position at the vernal equinox (the spring equinox), to Aries. In other words, this this event probably happened shortly after the Great Month of Taurus turned into the Great Month of Aries in about 1750 BC. And if we are bold enough to equate the Israelite Exodus out of Egypt to Jerusalem with the Hyksos Shepherds Exodus out of Egypt to Jerusalem, as does Josephus Flavius,[6] then this would be correct, for the accepted date for the Hyksos Exodus is around 1570 BC. And so it would appear that this religious dispute had simmered for more than a century, before the final exodus occurred, much as Egyptian history records.

Arthur's Round Table

However, it is likely that the knowledge of precessional astronomy was all-but lost, after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70, and again in AD 136. If any knowledge of precession was to survive this concerted onslaught, then these ancient traditions would have to be relocated elsewhere and if necessary go underground. So where did they go to? Surprisingly, it is my contention that many of these ancient traditions were transferred to Northern France and England, where they became the foundation for the many myths and legends of King Arthur. The evidence for this transfer mechanism will have to wait for another article as it is verbose and complex.

This is why the historical and mythical thread for the zodiac is interwoven into the legends of the Arthurian Round Table, as narrated in the *Vulgate Cycle* - that enormous but turgid and impenetrable corpus of Arthurian legend that is well known for its soporific effects. [15] Within this great Arthurian library there are many accounts of the Round Table and one of them, *Quest for the Holy Grail,* says that the original Round Table was actually the Last Supper Table of Jesus and his twelve disciples. So Leonardo da Vinci may have been wrong in

his famous depiction of the Last Supper in the Santa Maria delle Grazie, for it is likely that his much debated fresco should have depicted a circular table.

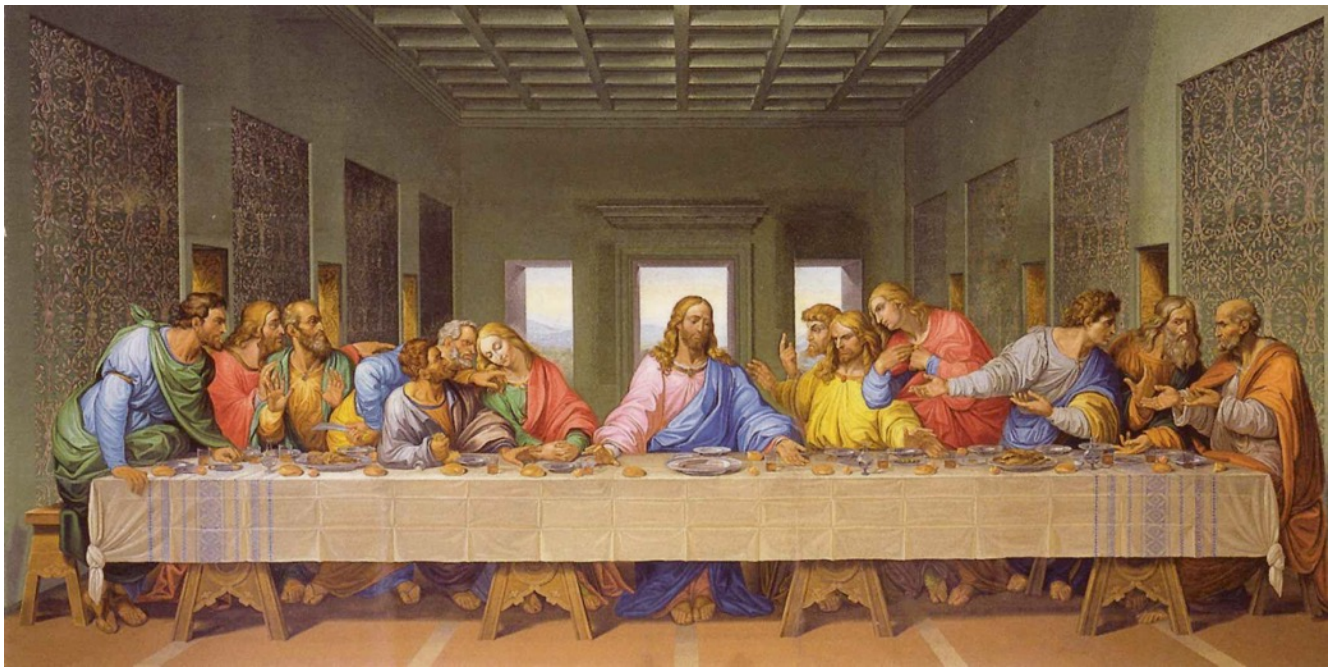


Fig 5.1 The Last Supper painting by Giacomo Raffaelli, a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's famous Last Supper mural. However, Arthurian legend maintains that the Last Supper Table was a circular, Arthurian-style table.



According to *Quest for the Holy Grail* there were three Round Tables. This tabular lineage begins with the famous table of the Last Supper, where Jesus broke bread and drank wine with his twelve disciples. The second table in this lineage was the table of Joseph of Arimathaea, which was presumably fabricated after the Jewish Revolt in AD 70. (*Quest for the Holy Grail* records Joseph of Arimathaea as being a contemporary of Emperor Vespasian.) Then we come to the third of these influential tables, the famous Round Table of Arthurian

Fig 5.2
A detail from Raffaelli's Last Supper showing 'St John'. Clearly this St John is decidedly female (even more so than in Leonardo da Vinci's original version). And since she is wearing orange and green robes, this just has to be an image of the golden-haired Mary Magdalene.

legend. And, just as one might expect from an ancient tradition of this nature, King Arthur also chose to surround himself with twelve knightly disciples in a direct imitation of Jesus' Last Supper Table. However, since Jesus' disciples were armed with swords, as the gospels clearly relate, then perhaps they too could be considered knightly disciples of the (round) Last Supper Table:

> Then (Jesus) said unto them (the disciples): He that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his wallet: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. (author's brackets) [17]

Arthur's Zodiac

So what is this table symbolism all about? Why is a humble table such an integral component of leadership, kingship, and the history of both Judaea and England? The surprising answer to this, is that this famous table is not a table at all - in actual fact, the twelve-segmented layout of the Round Tables of Jesus, Joseph, and King Arthur came directly from the circular design of the Egypto-Greco-Judaean zodiac. A very good example of this zodiac imagery can be seen in the Hamat Teverya zodiac from Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee, the very same zodiac that was discussed in the previous article. [18]

So the Arthurian table was probably a real table, fabricated in wood just like the Round Table at Winchester, but its twelve dividing segments would have been marked out not simply with the names of the twelve knightly disciples, but also with the twelve signs of the zodiac that each knightly disciple was associated with. Thus the circular design of the Arthurian table was not simply a method of ensuring equality among the knights of the realm, as the mythology maintains, it was also a teaching aid that graphically described and explained the movement of the astrological constellations in the heavens above. But do note the position of the king-christ figure on the Hamat zodiac. Unlike the layout of the Winchester, the king-christ-sun figure is actually sitting in the center of the Hamat zodiac, because the Sun sits at the center of the zodiacal constellations. And so the Hamat zodiac graphically demonstrates the true form that all of these Round Tables would have originally taken, with the Sun-god (Jesus, Joseph or Arthur) sitting in the center of the zodiac surrounded by twelve knightly constellations.



Fig 5.4 The first century Hamat Teverya zodiac at Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee - the template for the Round Table imagery of New Testament and Arthurian legend. This zodiac was probably constructed in the early first century, during Jesus' lifetime.



Fig 5.5 King Arthur and the Round Table. In this representation of the Arthurian table, there is an empty space in the center of this round table where the Arthur-Jesus figure would have sat, just as can be seen in the Hamat Teverya zodiac.

Jesus to Arthur

But here is the real conundrum. If the legends of King Arthur's round table were based upon the traditions of Jesus and from the image of Helios on the Hamat zodiac, then how do we get from the names Jesus or Helios to the name Arthur? A name change would have been obligatory, of course, because it would not have been wise during the Middle Ages to have mentioned that the legends of King Arthur of England were based upon the history of King Jesus of Judaea, as that may well have attracted the hot pokers of the Inquisition.

The answer to this is quite straightforward, if readers use a little lateral thinking. We are perhaps all very familiar with the classical layout of the zodiac, but within astronomy there is an alternative method of looking at the heavens. The Hamat Teverya design is based upon a standard cosmic view of the Solar System, with the observer looking from above and seeing the Sun far below surrounded by the twelve astrological constellations. However, if the observer stands instead on the Earth and looks upwards, what they will actually see is the dome of the night sky, with the northern stars in the center, surrounded by the twelve astrological constellations. Take a look at the standard planisphere layout in fig 5.6, that this Earth-bound view creates.

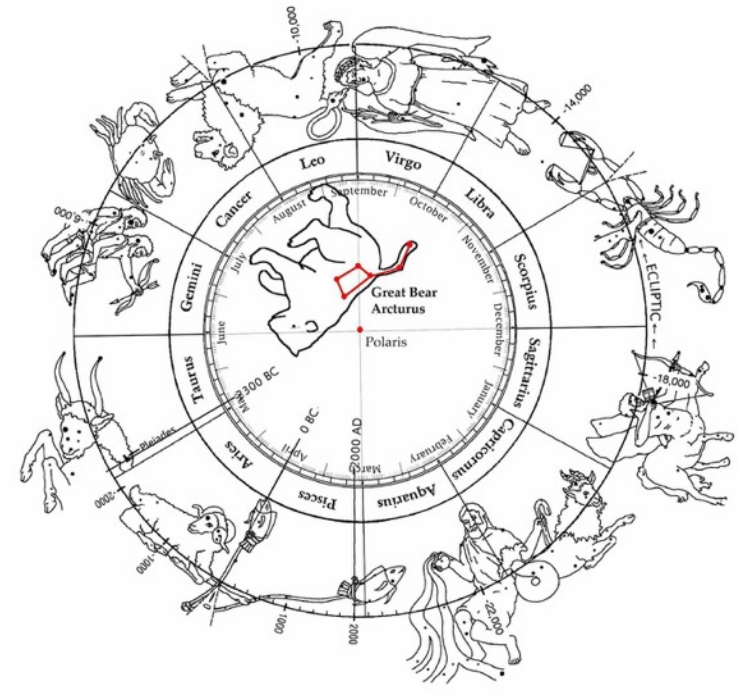


Fig 5.6
The constellations and the northern skies on an Earth-view zodiac. The center of this type of zodiac is occupied by the Great and Little Bears - Ursa Major and Ursa Minor. The Big Dipper section of Ursa Major is sometimes called 'Arthur's Chariot' or 'Arthur's Wagon'.

In this alternative layout, the center of the zodiac (the center of the Round Table) is not occupied by Helios the Sun (Jesus or Arthur) as it is in the Hamat zodiac. Instead, we see the constellation of the Great Bear (Ursa Major). However, it so happens that the most common explanation for the name 'Arthur' is that this famous king was named after the Celtic word *artos* meaning 'bear', or even *art-fawr* meaning 'great bear', from which we are supposed to derive the name 'Arthur'. However, while this may be the most popular explanation in books on Arthurian legend,[19] the true linguistic root for the name of the Great Bear was not Welsh, but Latin and Greek. The name 'Arthur' was actually derived from the Latin *arctus*, which refers to the north (from which we derive the English word 'Arctic'). But in its turn this Latin word was derived from the Greek *arktos* αρκτος, meaning 'bear'. It would appear that the bear was named by the Greeks, while the Latin word for 'north' was derived from the position of that great cosmic bear in the northern skies. And no doubt the Celts took their name for a bear from this same linguistic lineage.

Thus the bear that stood in the center of the zodiac was called Arktos or Arctus, in Greek and Latin respectively. It is from this root that the troubadours and chroniclers of the Middle Ages have derived the name for their King Arctur or King Arthur. But since the Great Bear occupies the same position in the center of a zodiac as does the Helios-Jesus figure on the Hamat zodiac, then 'Arthur' would have been the perfect pseudonym for Jesus - as anyone well versed in the occult world of precessional astrology would have been able to join up the dots and discover which famous individual the legends of King Arthur were originally based upon. And this deception was so astute and breathtaking, that very few initiates of Celtic mythology have ever seen the truth about Arthurian legend - that much of this mythology simply recounted the epic story of Jesus-Arthur and his twelve disciple-knights of the Round-Zodiac-Table of the Last Supper.

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Extracted from the books:
Cleopatra to Christ,
King Jesus,
Mary Magdalene, Princess of Orange.
All are available on iPad, Kindle, or Nook.
Paperback copies available from Adventures Unlimited of Illinois.

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2. Josephus, Antiquities 3:7:7
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http://www.essene.com/History&Essenes/toled.htm
13. Mark 15:17, John 19:2
14. Ptolemy of Mauretania was executed by Caligula for wearing a purple cloak.
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