

## About Astrology

**A brief astrological history:** Astrology is the study of how the movement of the planets affects humans. In ancient times, astrology was used by kings and nations to predict the outcome of wars and other future events. It was assumed that one's fate was set in stone, and astrologers used the horoscope, now usually called the birth chart, in order to divine the future. More recently, astrology has been used as a psychological tool to explain behavior patterns and identify strengths and weaknesses. With the growing interest in and awareness of transformational consciousness, we are learning how astrology can reveal the tools to maximize our own evolution from the limits of our personality into a more fully integrated and conscious being.

**How does astrology work?** There are many theories about why astrology works, and the system is incredibly accurate. Astrology looks at our solar system from the viewpoint of the ancients, with the earth being in the center and the sun, moon and other planets orbiting around us. It is a "geocentric" or "earth centered" system. For this reason, it is not astronomically correct. Each planet (including the Sun and Moon) represents a different energy or function, and the sign that the planet falls in tells us the way that function operates in the individual birth chart, or on a more global level.

The angles that the planets make to each other (called "aspects") describe the way those energies or functions work together. The "hard angle aspects" include the squares (90 degrees) and oppositions (180 degrees) and are the challenging aspects. These planets are in conflict or tension with each other and can create difficult situations. However, this tension and conflict is what generates the energy for change and transformation and so they should not be considered "bad." Harmonious aspects are the sextiles (60 degrees) and trines (120 degrees). These aspects facilitate change and are much more comfortable; however, they can also lead to missed opportunities due to the complacency that can result, so they should not necessarily be considered "good." When two or more planets are next to each other (0-degree angle) they are said to be "conjunct." Whether they work well together or not depends on the nature of the planets and the sign that the planet falls in.

**What is a sky-watch report?** Sky-watch reports the current position of the planets and their interaction with each other at the current time. The dances of the planets create different energy climates that affect us in various ways. Identifying these climates helps to identify trends on a global level as well as a personal level. These are called "**transits.**" The extent to which these dynamics will affect us personally will depend on our individual birth-chart and the position of our own planets.

### **TRANSITS AND TRANSFORMATION: TURNING CRISIS INTO HEALING**

As humans, we tend to think that happiness is better than sadness, that good luck is better than bad. We may avoid difficult confrontations and pursue more comfortable situations. When tragedy strikes our well-protected lives, we shout out to our god of choice: "How could you do this to me??" We believe that our birthright is the pursuit of happiness, and we spend our lives trying to protect ourselves from sorrow.

The soul, however, has a different journey. The soul travels an ancient evolutionary path that seeks wisdom and connection with the divine. Often in our desire to defend ourselves from discomfort, we erect barriers within ourselves. Often, we become so effective in compartmentalizing our emotions we become cut off from our very selves, our soul and our spirit.

In astrological terms, the orbiting planets form geometric angles to our birth-chart planets, or "transits." Each transiting planet has its own nature, its own personality and its own purpose—calling upon us as the ancient gods they represent to bring forth something in ourselves that has been lost. The inner planets move quickly: a transit of Venus will encourage relationships and creativity; a transit of Mars demands that we defend ourselves appropriately. Easy Jupiter transits can bring financial opportunity, or liberate us from difficult situations, whereas the challenging transits can cause reckless and risky behavior. The outer, or transpersonal planets, including Saturn which acts as the bridge between the personal planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter) and transpersonal (Uranus, Neptune and Pluto), take much longer to traverse the zodiac and therefore their effects are felt for a longer period of time.

The planets in our birth chart also "progress" through time, particularly the inner planets which move more quickly. The placement of the planets in our "progressed" chart offer additional information about the person that we have become; this serves as a transparent overlay that defines us at this moment in time. The relationship of the planets in our progressed chart to our birth chart offers additional information about our current situation.

These transits can initiate great opportunities and personal distress for us, but even in the most difficult of crises, hidden in the pain is a gift that opens the doorway into the realization and connection of the soul. Each planet can be identified as a god demanding us to delve deep within ourselves. Encounters with these gods through the challenging planetary transits (squares and oppositions) bring burdens, but also offer great gifts. In making an offering to these gods, we are better able to receive their gifts of transformation.

### **Astrology in the Bible and Astrological History**

"There shall be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars." - Jesus Christ, Luke 21:25

The Bible is filled with references to astrology. This is because astrology was widely accepted as truth in Biblical times.

Everyone knew the influence of the sun on the earth, and the sun was a star. It certainly made a pattern, so far as life on earth was concerned - it shaped everything, or at least nourished everything.

One of the great astrological stories in the Bible is the story of the star of Bethlehem. It is written that the star was a sign from God signaling the birth of the Messiah into the world.

According to Flavius Josephus, the famed Jewish historian, the Jewish temple at Jerusalem had the twelve signs of the zodiac inlaid in its floor. In modern times, Israel issued stamps with the zodiac signs identified with the twelve tribes of Israel and the astrological symbolism of the temple.

The Bible states that God made the heavenly bodies to show us "signs" of his intentions. These signs can be read by anyone who knows how to interpret them. Astrology is about interpreting these signs in the motions of the sun, moon, planets, and stars.

(Gen. 1:14-15)

The Bible states that the first communication from God came from the stars. David writes in his Psalm:  
David writes (Psalm 19:1-4)

Bring forth the Mazzaroth (the zodiac) in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? (an astrological constellation)" (Job 38:32)

In one of the prophetic dreams of Joseph, he saw eleven stars bowing down to his star. The interpretation of this dream was obvious and that was that Joseph's brothers will bow down to him.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:  
Eccl. 3:1-8)

Astrology refers to every 2160 years as a new "AGE" which is a different sign of the zodiac that comes into position to influence the Earth. The Bible describes events that will occur according to the signs of the astrological "ages".

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the AGE." (Matt. 28:20)

"The harvest is the end of the AGE, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the AGE." (Matt. 13:39-40)

"What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the AGE?" (Matt. 24:3)

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All these Bible verses are referring to the end of the AGE of Pisces (the fish, the Church age) and the beginning of the AGE of Aquarius (the water-bearer, Christ).

Jesus was born under the end of the age of Aries (the ram or lamb) and this may explain why he called himself the "lamb of God." By the time Jesus began his ministry, it was the beginning of the age of Pisces (the fish, the Church age). The sign of the fish has special significance to Christianity because the sign of the fish has been known throughout the millennia to be the sign of Christianity. Jesus recruited "fishermen" as disciples to make them "fishers of men." He fed the masses with a miraculous draft of fishes. His followers were known in Latin as "pisciculi", the "little fishes."

Around the year 2300 A.D., the end of the age of Pisces will occur. The world will then enter a new age, the age of Aquarius (the Water-Bearer). It should be obvious to Christians that the identity of this "Water-Bearer".

Sometime before the age of Aquarius arrives, major earth changes were foretold by Jesus and Cayce to occur. Jesus said that before this happens, there will be wonders in the sun, moon, and stars signaling this coming age of the **Christ consciousness**.

Another astrological reference concerning Christianity deals with the winter solstice which begins on December 21. It is the day of the year when the night is longest and the daytime shortest.

The ancient Egyptians knew that as long as the sun rose in the morning, life would continue on the Earth. This explains why the Egyptians used the sun as their symbol for the eternal life of the cycle of the seasons. In many churches today, the symbol of the cross with a circle in the center of it appears on church steeples. This icon of the circle as representing the sun, comes from the Egyptian belief that the sun represents eternal life.

The concept of the zodiac is very ancient, with roots in the early cited cultures of Mesopotamia. Astrology is, more than likely, the oldest religion created by humans. The first twelve-sign zodiacs were named after the gods of these cultures.

The concept of reincarnation is a necessary tenet of astrology. The notions of reincarnation and karma together explain why some people are born into lucky circumstances and others into unfortunate conditions. Reincarnation also provides a framework for explaining why a person has certain personality traits.