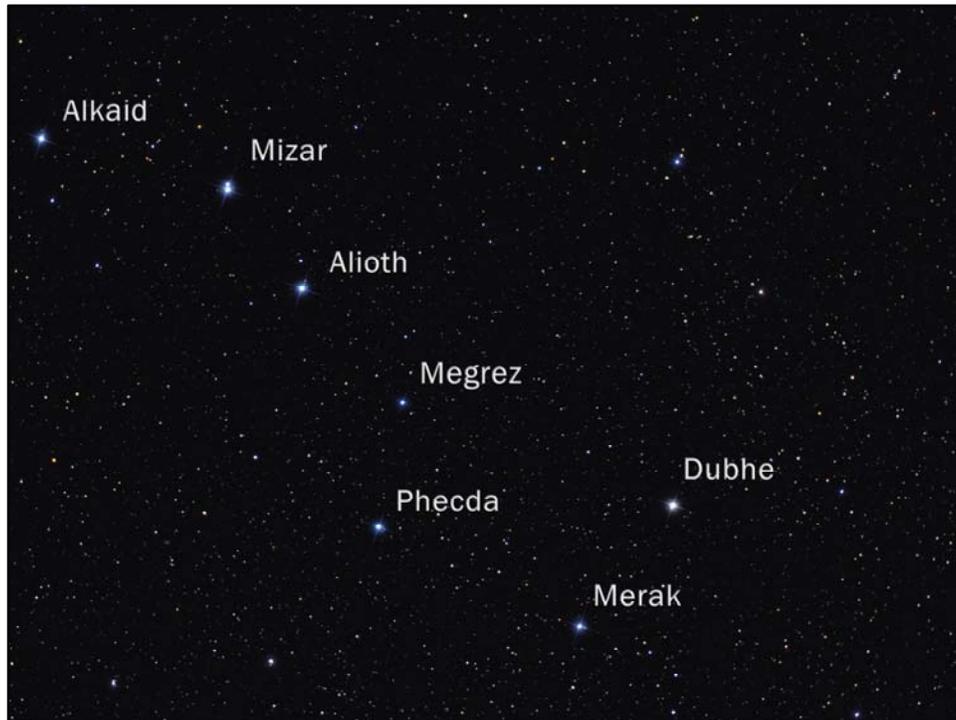


Bethlehem, PA - Bible Class
Wednesday, January 5, 2011

The Story of the Bible
Connecting the Dots



Alkaid is the third brightest star in the constellation and places number 35 in the list of the brightest stars

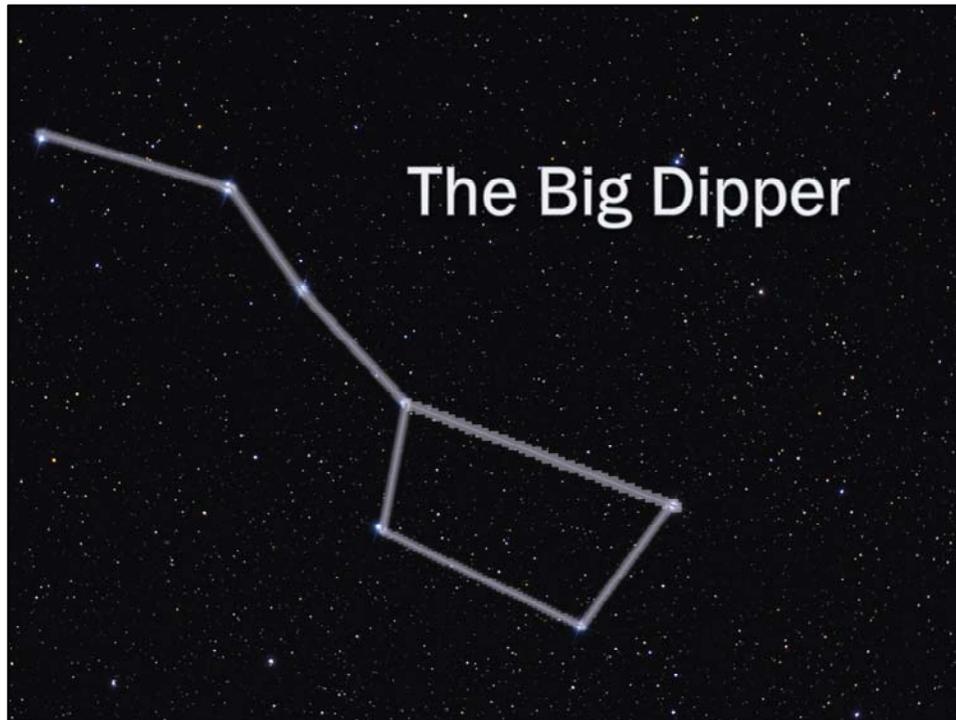
Almost exactly 100 light years away. 6×10^{14} miles. 6.3 million times as far as the sun is from us.

35000 degrees F on its surface. 6 times more massive than the sun. 700 times brighter.

We would have to be living on Neptune to survive if Alkaid were our sun.

Dubhe → head of Ursa Major, orbited by a much dimmer star

Merak → orbited by a cooling cloud of dust, some think that it implies that planets are about to be formed.



Each star has a story.

But each story together forms a larger story.

Also consider the story of the Big Dipper and how it affected humanity (slavery, "Follow the drinking gourd")

Why is this an important study?

- ◉ While we can admire each individual star in a constellation, we miss greater meaning unless we see the connections and the significance.
- ◉ This is true about many other things in life as well, but especially our study of the Bible.
- ◉ To fully appreciate the Bible, we must know:
 - Each event in the Bible (each star)
 - The connections between each event (constellation)
 - The overall message (significance)

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-Human body, mechanical devices (cars, etc.)

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What do we learn...?

- ◉ When we study an event, we are good remembering the details specific to that story...
- ◉ Consider the Tower of Babel:
 - What did the people do?
 - What was God's response?
 - In the big picture of history, when did this event occur?
- ◉ We are generally not as good as remembering what happened before, after, or understanding why it happened.

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When we study an event, we are good remembering the details specific to that story...

Consider the Tower of Babel:

What did the people do? They wanted build a city and tower

What was God's response? Confused their language (Babel = confusion)

In the big picture of history, when did this event occur?

We are generally not as good as remembering what happened before, after, or understanding why it happened.

What happened before the Tower of Babel? After disembarking from the ark, God commanded the people to multiply and fill the earth (Gen. 9:1) Why was their desire to build the city and tower wrong? They wanted to stay together to "make a name" for themselves, not obey what God told them to do

What was the final result? People became separated into nations – "nationalism" surfaces... fighting between tribes and clans, etc.

An Example...

- ◉ Consider 2 Chronicles 33-34 – the accounts of Manasseh, Amon, and Josiah.
- ◉ Josiah's father was Amon, an evil king, and his grandfather was Manasseh, one of the worst kings in the history of the Jews.
- ◉ We can learn a lot from what Josiah chose to do and the example he's left for us, but we can gain greater understanding if we step back and look at the bigger picture of history.

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Consider 2 Chronicles 33-34 – the accounts of Manasseh, Amon, and Josiah

Chapter 33 – Manasseh and Amon and their evil actions

Chapter 34 – Josiah and his good actions

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We can learn a lot from what Josiah chose to do and the example he's left for us, but we can gain greater understanding if we step back and look at the bigger picture of history.

An Example...

- ◉ Despite his evil fathers, Josiah became one of Judah's best kings...how did this happen?
- ◉ Consider other passages:
 - 2 Kings 21:10-15
 - 2 Kings 22-23
 - Zephaniah 1:1-6
- ◉ We can continue to go further back in history and understand more about what is going on...

An Example...

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Consider other passages:

2 Kings 21:10-15 – sins of Manasseh

2 Kings 22-23 – righteousness of Josiah

Zephaniah 1:1-6 – compare to Josiah's actions in 2 Chronicles

Verse 4 – Worshippers of Baals and their priests – Compare to 2 Chronicles 34:4-5 (Judah and Jerusalem are cleansed, priests disposed of, Baal removed)

Verse 5-6 – Those who bow down to the hosts of heaven, worship other Gods including Milcom – 2 Chronicles 34:3 (Josiah sought God)

We can continue to go further back in history and understand more about what is going on

How did Judah (Manasseh) get so evil? Ahab and Baal... How did Baal get introduced? Ahab's family's influence over Judah... How did Ahab gain influence? Jehosaphat's marriage treaty with Ahab...Rehoboam's unwise decisions...Solomon's idolatry...David's adultery...Saul's pride...The people wanting to be like other nations and wanting a king...etc.

The Goal of this Class...

- ◉ The goal of this class will be to help us learn the “big picture” of the Bible and then to understand where each event we know fits into it.
- ◉ By understanding how each event and person is intertwined, we will also improve our abilities to study individually and with others.
- ◉ To accomplish these goals, we will examine the Bible as seventeen major time periods.

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The Time Periods...

- Before the Flood
- The Flood
- Scattering of the People
- The Patriarchs
- The Exodus
- Wandering in the Wilderness
- Invasion and Conquest of the Land
- The Judges
- The United Kingdom
- The Divided Kingdom
- Judah Alone
- The Captivity
- Return from Captivity
- Years of Silence
- Life of Christ
- The Early Church
- Letters to Christians

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