

"The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below."

Testing the Star of David – Frequently Asked Questions

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O Elohim, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

This teaching is a follow up to the "<u>Testing the Star of David</u>" intended to address some frequently asked questions.

We have known for years that once we released a teaching on this subject, it was going to be quite controversial. Much to our surprise, it had one of our highest agreement rates out of the 200+ teachings we have released to date.

Despite that, out of the nearly 30,000 that have watched the teaching a week after its release, there also exists a small but passionate minority defending the image of the Star of David. We also understand that an online petition, consisting of 68 people at the time of this video, was signed, passionately demanding we remove the "<u>Testing the Star of David</u>" teaching. While 68 out of 30,000 may not sound like enough to warrant a follow up FAQ, collectively, they do in fact ask some good questions and make some interesting points. We respect that, and admire their passion for what they believe to be right.

Some time ago, we released a teaching titled "<u>The Church: His Model</u>" which was also highly controversial. It taught that the Biblical model when assembling together did not include a singular head pastor to lead a congregation, but instead a plurality of elders. Understandably, there were many head pastors quite vocal against that teaching. We released a follow up FAQ video which addressed some of the questions and concerns. It has been a blessing to know that some of those concerned congregations have either adopted, or are in the process of adopting, the Biblical model for a faith-based organization.

Likewise, we hope that this FAQ on the subject of the Star of David will respectfully offer some clarity to those who have expressed concern or still have questions.

If you have not watched "<u>Testing the Star of David</u>" we would recommend watching that teaching before continuing with the FAQ.

In that teaching, we conclude the following:

- Amos 5:26 and Acts 7:43 refer to a particular image of a star that Israel adopted in worship. That star is related to the God of Saturn according to Biblical scholars.
- According to the occult, it was known from ancient times that the hexagram, or 6 pointed star, is considered to be the Star of Saturn.
- Thus, based on Biblical references of this star, and confirmation of the Star of Saturn being a hexagram, we issued prayerful consideration in adopting this star.

At 119 Ministries, we desire to have a Biblical basis for everything we do and teach. We have found no Biblical evidence supporting the image of the hexagram in a positive way, but instead only negative connotations.

At this time, we would like to address some of the questions we have received in response to the "*Testing the Star of David*" teaching.

The remainder of this teaching will be in Q & A format.

Do we believe the hexagram is cultic or pagan in origin?

No, we do not believe the hexagram is cultic or pagan in origin. We have never said any such thing.

We do understand any confusion, as many simply make issues of something being pagan. Whether or not something is pagan or not is not the issue.

The issue is that we should worship Yah in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24) and not include anything in our worship of Yah that has been used to worship other gods and is not expressly Biblical in nature (Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

Thus, it is not whether something is pagan, but instead, whether it violates Torah. For more on that subject, we would recommend the teaching "What is Pagan?"

The hexagram is present in nature in different capacities. Even the image of the related hexagon being found on Saturn would be an example of something YHWH seemingly placed for His purposes, and perhaps that purpose may be more clear later in the video.

While we do not believe the hexagram to be natively pagan in nature, we also do not believe bunnies, eggs, pine trees, mistletoe, the pentagram, or calves are natively pagan in origin either. YHWH created all of those things. Yet, you do not see 119 advocating for the symbols embedded in Easter or Christmas, or promoting golden calves in the worship of our Creator. The same holds true for the hexagram.

We do believe that all of the elements Yah wanted us to symbolically include in worship of Him or be used as Biblical metaphors, are already explicitly and clearly offered to us in the Scriptures. Meaning this, it is either clearly of the Bible, or it is of man.

Acts 5:29

"We must obey God rather than men."

Our critics readily admit that the hexagram has been symbolically incorporated in the worship of various false gods since ancient times, and that it even continues today. In that admittance, just like we do with the ways and traditions of Christmas and Easter, we point out the following in the Torah:

Deuteronomy 12:29-32

"When the Lord (YHWH) your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.' You shall not worship the Lord (YHWH) your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods."

"Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it."

Simply because something is used as a religious symbol that also occurs in nature it does not sanitize it in any capacity.

Yah is equated to an ox in the TANAKH. Calves also occur in nature. We would not tell Aaron that it was ok to create the symbol of the golden calf just because it occurs in nature, would we? Keep in mind, they did not literally worship the golden calf. Instead, they devoted their worship to YHWH in the context of the symbolism of the golden calf.

But surely the hexagram cannot be compared to the golden calf...right?

It is interesting to note that Stephen mentions the golden calf, two verses before he mentions the star of Saturn. Is that a coincidence?

Acts 7:41-43

At that time **they made a calf** and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and were rejoicing **in the works of their hands.** But God turned away and **delivered them up to serve the host of heaven**; as it is written in the book of the prophets, 'It was not to Me that you offered victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it, O house of Israel? You also took along the tabernacle of Moloch and the **star of the god Rompha (Saturn)**, the **images which you made** to worship. **I also will remove you beyond Babylon.**'

Consider these things.

For the same reasons we do not use bunnies and eggs, or pine trees in context of our worship of Yah, we also express caution incorporating a hexagram in the context of worshiping YHWH.

Sure, we can invent all kinds of potential symbolism of the hexagram and how it might have Biblical metaphorical parallels, but man does the same thing with bunnies, eggs, Christmas trees and many other things as well.

In fact, man did the same thing with a golden calf, and we all know how well that worked out.

Do we believe that the hexagram is evil?

No, we do not believe the hexagram is evil in of itself. We have never said any such thing. We understand how that could have been confused. To clarify, we will again point to other symbols that have incorporated in the faith.

We do not believe bunnies, eggs, pine trees, mistletoe, the pentagram, or calves are evil in of themselves either. Yet, for the same reasons we do not use those things in our worship of Yah, we have taken the position of not attaching the hexagram to anything related to the worship of our Creator.

It does not matter if you have bunnies or pine trees in your backyard, or eggs in the fridge, or even a flower that resembles a hexagram growing in your garden. That is not the point. The point we are attempting to make is that we do not want to take those objects, like the nations have in their worship of false gods, and repackage them with man-made symbolism and inject them into the context of the worship of YHWH.

If YHWH was actually ok with us worshipping Him in the ways that other gods have been worshiped or symbolized, then He would not have told us not to do such things in the Torah.

Likewise, we do believe that the hexagram has been and continues to be used for evil, in the worship of false gods. We believe the first instance and usage of this symbol in a religious setting, according to archeological records, was for false god worship. Such evidence will be presented later in this FAQ teaching.

Is 119 anti-Semitic?

No, 119 is not anti-Semitic. We know that nearly everyone familiar with 119 understands that, but there are some that are genuinely concerned.

We love Israel, and we claim to be grafted into Israel. We are not against the very group we claim to be a part of. Yet, it has been suggested we are anti-Semitic because we do not necessarily agree that a hexagram appropriately symbolically represents Israel or should be included on items used in the context of worshiping our Creator.

Being cautious of or even against a particular usage of a symbol does not necessarily equate to being against a people. We simply claim the menorah as a valid and Biblical symbol of Israel.

Yes, there are those who are anti-Semitic that are also against the history of the Star of David, and they like to point that out.

However, there are those who are against Christianity because they know the origins of the traditions of Christmas and Easter. Many atheists propose that Christianity is simply Mithraism as a result.

Just because 119 Ministries teaches against Christmas trees does not mean we dislike or hate Christians. Likewise, just because we express caution surrounding the hexagram, does not mean we dislike Israel or Jews.

To equate 119 to being anti-Semitic is not a fair representation of reality or logic any more than it could be said that 119 dislikes Christians.

Simply put, we test and examine the traditions of both Jews and Christians and compare both to the Scriptures. Just like we must discard worshiping YHWH in association with a Christmas tree or Easter bunnies, likewise, we do the same with the hexagram. We can do no different, as we find the comparison to be the same.

We have found that there is no shortage of actual Jews that are against the Star of David, for some of the same reasons we have already outlined, if not for more reasons. Would that make such Jews anti-Semitic? What would that even look like?

We bring these things to light because we love the Jews. If we did not love the Jews we would not care to teach on this subject. Did not the Messiah correct the Pharisees in love and a sincere desire for a change? Or was our Messiah anti-Semitic, despite also Him being a Jew Himself?

Do we believe the modern state of Israel to consist of real Jews?

Generally speaking, we would agree that most in Israel are actual descendants of the House of Judah. We understand that there are strange doctrines that exist that teach that real Jews are one group of people or another. We do not subscribe to such teachings, nor agree with them.

Do we condemn the forming of the State of Israel?

No, we do not condemn the forming of the State of Israel. We fully believe that the modern State of Israel exists today to fulfill Yah's purpose and divine timing.

For example, we know that in the future there is an event, called the abomination of desolation, that will take place and armies will surround Jerusalem (Luke 21:20). Without the modern State of Israel, this would not occur.

This may be difficult for some to receive, but consider the following questions.

Has Jerusalem ever been invaded because Israel was obeying Torah? Or does invasion and exile occur because of disobedience to the Torah?

Israel was always invaded because of their disobedience.

Israel will be invaded at some point in their future, coupled by what the prophets and our Messiah dubbed the abomination of desolation.

While we love Jews, as they are our brother Judah, generally speaking, they need to come fully back to the Torah they claim to have faith in, just like our Christian brothers in the Messiah.

In Jeremiah 3, we see that while the House of Israel did not return at all, the House of Judah never returned to Yah with her whole heart. But what does that mean?

As an example, in Mark 7, we see the Messiah accusing the Pharisees of forsaking the Word of God to follow the traditions of the elders. We see today that most Jews still do not follow the Torah as Yah intended, and as our Messiah taught and exampled. Instead, we generally see most Jews practicing the traditions of the elders, thus nullifying the Word of God as written by Moses. Generally speaking, this still occurs to this day.

Those in Judah who understand this, will flee according to Yeshua's direction following the abomination of desolation. (Matthew 24:16).

We say this only to show that both Jews and Christians have adopted traditions that are contrary to the Torah.

We all need to work together to bring the errors we have inherited to light, so we can expose them, and destroy them, leaving us with only the pure light of the Torah. Yah want us all to come to Him with our whole heart, not with manmade images, doctrines, and symbols we may esteem so highly.

Jeremiah 16:19

O (YHWH) Lord, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit.

Could the star mentioned in Acts 7:43 and Amos 5:26 refer to a five-pointed star instead?

We have found no ancient evidence that the Star of Saturn is a five-pointed star. Evidence suggests that the star of Saturn is a six-pointed star. We discuss this later in the teaching.

Could it be that Israel was simply worshiping an actual star and not a six-pointed image?

It was the god of Saturn that was referenced in context to the star being associated with worship. Both Amos 5:26, and Acts 7:43 state that it was an image Israel created to be included in their worship. Thus, the star in question is an actual image of a star, not the star itself.

Acts 7:43

You also took along the tabernacle of Moloch and **the star** of the god Rompha (Saturn), **the images which you made to worship.** I also will remove you beyond Babylon.'

The image of a star, related to the god of Saturn, was made, or replicated by Israel, and used in the context of worship.

How confident can we be that the hexagram is the same as the star of Saturn?

The star Stephen mentioned in Acts 7:43 is referring to Amos 5:

Amos 5:26

You shall take up **Sikkuth** your king, and **Kiyyun** your **star**-god—**your images that you made for yourselves**.

Stephen mentions the god Rephan to be associated with the noted star. Stephen was quoting from the Septuagint, which is the Greek version of the Old Testament, the TANAKH.

As we see in the Hebrew Scriptures, Rephan is the god Kiyyun.

Kiyyun is dominantly believed by scholars to be the god of Saturn.

Strongs: H3559 – Kiyuwn

probably a statue of the **Assyrian-Babylonian god of the planet Saturn** and used to symbolize Israelite apostasy

and in another lexicon

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon - Kiyuwn

"The name of an idol worshipped by the Israelites in the wilderness, i.e. the planet Saturn"

Let's read again what Stephen said:

Acts 7:43

You also **took along** the tabernacle of Moloch and **the star** of the god Rompha (Saturn), **the images which you made to worship.** I <u>also</u> will remove you beyond Babylon.'

After mentioning the star of Saturn, Stephen also quotes Amos to state: "I <u>also</u> will remove you <u>beyond</u> <u>Babylon.</u>"

Why does he say "also remove you beyond Babylon" after mentioning the star of Saturn?

YHWH states that the star of Saturn was "taken along" by Israel. Meaning this, they certainly took it from somewhere. Was this star "taken" out of Babylon?

This appears to be the case as revealed in the last half of the verse, almost as if YHWH is saying, "just as you took this star of Saturn beyond Babylon, you also, I will take beyond Babylon."

Acts 7:43

You also <u>took along</u> the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of the god Rompha (Saturn), the images which you made to worship. I also will remove you beyond Babylon.'

Isn't that an interesting play on words?

Because Israel took these things out of Babylon, and thus beyond Babylon, Israel was also exiled beyond Babylon.

Is there anything to suggest that the star of Saturn was used to worship the god of Saturn in ancient Babylon?

At this point, it would be beneficial to examine some history concerning the hexagram.

As we already know, the hexagram is heavily linked to the occult.

In fact, the word 'hex', which means a curse, essentially comes from the word hexagram, the 6 pointed star.

If you put a hexagram on a person, the occult meaning is this: you are putting a curse on a person.

When you put a hexagram on a nation, the occult significance is that the nation is under a hex or a curse.

But from where did the occult develop this practice of utilizing a hexagram for such purposes?

The hexagram, in a religious setting, dates back to the earliest archeological records ever discovered.

The Sumerians were likely the first anti-YHWH culture that flourished after the flood. A teaching we would recommend related to this is "A Biblical Profile of Nimrod."

Sumer, like Babylon, consisted of ancient Mesopotamia.

Babylon became the empire that Sumer started.

They were the same people.

The Sumerian artifacts that we are going to present are dated to be about 2,500 to 3,000 years before Yeshua, or about 4,500 to 5,000 years old, obviously well before Israel as a people even existed.

The first documented image of the hexagram is found in the Sumerian Cylinder Seal 243.

This seal is currently at the Berlin Museum of Near Eastern Antiquities. Many of these finds were discovered by the German Oriental Society from 1899 to 1917. They were made public in 1930 in the Bode Museum. They have been in Germany ever since.

It is interesting to note that the earliest archeological and religious discoveries that include the Sumerian/Babylonian hexagram were German discoveries. This is the same symbol Hitler used to tag Jews in World War II and these were important Sumerian and Babylonian findings during his lifetime by his nation. Some perpetuate Hitler's motives of tagging Jews with this Babylonian symbol by basically agreeing with Hitler's actions.

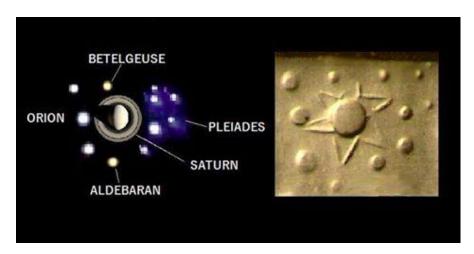
You can clearly see the hexagram surrounding an astrological body, which is surrounded by additional astrological bodies.

VA 243

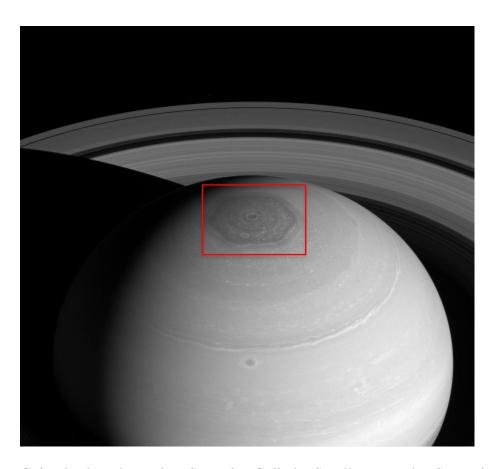


The most knowledgeable scholars in the tangled field of Sumerian and Babylonian archaeology understand this collection of astrological bodies to be Saturn in the middle, surrounded by various constellations.

Thus the first anti-YHWH civilization following the flood attributed the hexagram to Saturn.



Ironically enough, as we revealed in our first video on the subject, Saturn itself retains a permanent hexagon shape on its north pole.



Going back to the ancient Sumerian Cylinder Scroll, we see that Saturn is directly placed in the center of the hexagram, exactly where the hexagon inside the hexagram is located. On the actual planet of Saturn, we see a hexagon directly on the center of the north pole.



Scholars believe the god sitting in the chair is also the god of Ninurta.

"Ninurta", the name of one of the Mesopotamian gods associated with Saturn, meaning "Lord Earth" or "Lord Plow".

Mesopotamian Astrology: An Introduction to Babylonian and Assyrian Celestial Divination

By Ulla Susanne Koch; 1995

Astrology in Mesopotamian Culture By By A. E. Thierens; 1935

Astrology in Ancient Mesopotamia: The Science of Omens and the Knowledge of the Heavens By Michael Baigent; July 2015

The god Ninurta is associated with Saturn, and the celestial body in the hexagram is astronomically positioned as Saturn.

Scholars also conclude that Ninurta is also the same figure known today as the Biblical Nimrod.

Interestingly enough, this would link Saturn and the hexagram back to Nimrod, according to secular scholars.

Eleanor Robson, 'Ninurta, god of victory', Nimrud: Materialities of Assyrian Knowledge Production, The Nimrud Project at Oracc.org, 2015 [http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/nimrud/ancientkalhu/thepeople/ninurta/]

Streck, M.P., 1998-2001. "Ninurta/Ningirsu. A. I. In Mesopotamien", in D.O. Edzard and M.P. Streck (eds.), Reallexikon der Assyriologie 9, Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, pp. 512-522.

Black, J.A. et al., 2004. The Literature of Ancient Sumer, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Grayson, A.K., 1991. Assyrian Rulers of the Early First Millennium BC: I (1114-859 BC) (Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia. Assyrian Periods. Volume 2), Toronto: University of Toronto Press, A.0.87.1; 143, A.0.99.1.

Toorn, K. van der and P.W. van der Horst, 1990. "Nimrod before and after the Bible", The Harvard Theological Review 83, pp. 1-29 (PDF available via JSTOR for subscribers).

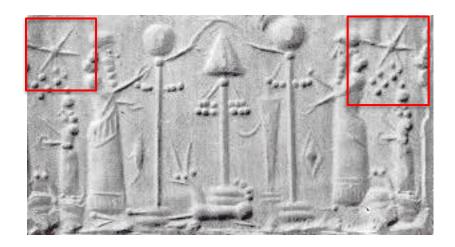
In this, we realize that the hexagram is found in a Babylonian religious setting over 4,000 years ago, connected with the worship of Saturn. The symbol is more connected with the worship of the god of Saturn than anything natively Jewish, as Jews did not even exist yet.

Acts 7:43

You also took along the tabernacle of Moloch and **the star** of the god Rompha (Saturn), **the images which you made to worship.** I also will remove you beyond Babylon.'

Sumerian Seal 243 is not the only 4,000+ year old archeological find presenting a six pointed star in a religious setting.

(Frankfort, Plate XXXIII – seal d)



Note the six-pointed stars in the upper left and upper right corners. In both cases, note the presence of accompanying "dots" in groups of seven – again, the Pleiades (the "extra dot" over the head of the smaller standing figure denotes a deity as it is a star). The seven dots are the seven stars of the Pleiades.

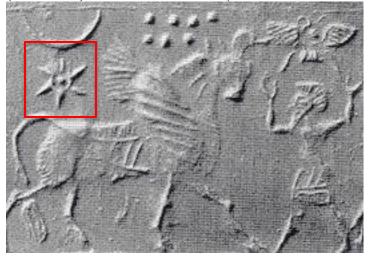
If you recall, in artifact VA 243 we also saw Pleiades surround Saturn, which was denoted as a hexagram in that instance.

In ancient Sumerian artifacts, Saturn was clearly linked to a Hexagram in the worship of a particular god.

As E. Douglas van Buren, an expert on Sumerian and Mesopotamian art comments:

"In the earliest representations of the 7 dots as yet known it can be seen that . . . they formed a ring or rosette around a central dot (Saturn) . . . [From] the early Babylonian period onwards it is increasingly common to find the 7 dots arranged like stars in the constellation of the Pleiades, and in the last quarter of the second millennium the dots are shaped for the first time as stars."





In this ancient Sumerian seal, the six-pointed star of Saturn is again associated with the Pleiades representation. Again we see a celestial body centered in the six-pointed star.

While the star of Saturn originated in Sumer and greater Babylonia in archeological records, according to the Scriptures, it eventually made its way into Israel at some point in its history.

Acts 7:42-43 (Quoting Amos 5:26)

"But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

"Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices, during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? You took up the tent of Moloch and **the star** of your god Rephan (Saturn), the **images that you made to worship**; and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.""

Jeremiah 8:2

"And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, **and all the host of heaven**, whom they **have loved**, and whom they **have served**, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth."

We do find some archaeological evidence of Jews having adopted the usage of the star of Saturn.

For a rather thorough analysis of that history, we would recommend this article.

Magen David Symbol Research from the 1st to the 11th century C.E. http://zeevgoldmann.blogspot.com/

We will highlight some of the evidence.

Almost every researcher of the Star of David mentions the "seal from Sidon", but although the seal was purchased in Sidon, it belonged, according to the inscription on it, to a fellow named Joshua son of Asayahu, who lived in Israel during the later kingdom - the sixth century BCE.





The hexagram was also found in a synagogue in Capernaum.

Kohl and Watzinger noted in their book on ancient synagogues in Galilee that the origin of the Star of David is indeed pagan, and its meaning for pagans was magical, but its amazing appearance among the decorations of synagogues in Israel shows that the Jews have adopted it as an emblem.

Gershom Scholem, however, concluded from these findings an interesting observation. He says:

"...in the synagogue of Capernaum (second or third century C.E.) it (the hexagram) is found side by side with the **pentagram** and **the swastika** on a frieze".

Although scholars have attempted to trace the Star of David back to King David himself; no Jewish literature or artifacts document this claim.

Rather, all evidence suggests that the early Jewish use of the hexagram was limited to "practical Kabbalah," that is, Jewish magic, probably dating back to the 6th century C.E.

Kabbalah is linked to the usage of the hexagram.

Note this particular amulet. On the front are many symbols, including two hexagrams on two pillars.

These cultic seals can still be purchased today, though we obviously do not recommend it.



'Magic coins' and 'magic squares': the discovery of astrological sigils in the Oldenburg Letters Anna Marie Roos; Published 20 September 2008.DOI: 10.1098/rsnr.2007.0046 The Royal Society Journal of the History of Science

The backside of the amulet contains a magic sun square and also some hexagrams. The occult is rather familiar with these magic squares.

Adding the numbers of any column either horizontally or vertically, and also the two diagonals crossing the square, the total is the same — 111.

The sum of the six columns, either horizontally or vertically of the magic sun square, is 666.

Why did the sun square contain 36 numbers?

Babylonian astrologers divided the starry heavens into 36 constellations, appropriating ten days for each. These were represented by different amulets called "Sigilla Solis," or the Sun Seal.

John H. Rogers, "Origins of the ancient constellations: I. The Mesopotamian traditions", Journal of the British Astronomical Association 108 (1998) 9–28

Thus, the 36 numbers represented the "whole host of heaven" by representing all constellations in early Babylonian cosmology.

Recall what the prophets stated about Israel and the whole host of heaven:

Acts 7:42-43 (Quoting Amos 5:26)

" But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

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"'Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices,
during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?
You took up the tent of Moloch
and the star of your god Rephan (Saturn),
the images that you made to worship;
and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.'
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Jeremiah 8:2

"And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, **and all the host of heaven**, whom they **have loved**, and whom they **have served**, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth."

Kabbalah would also use these magic squares by placing Hebrew letters and signs over the numbers to gain supposed predictive insight.

"Magic coins" and "magic squares": the discovery of astrological sigils in the Oldenburg Letters Anna Marie Roos; Published 20 September 2008.DOI: 10.1098/rsnr.2007.0046 The Royal Society Journal of the History of Science



This magic sun square on an iron plate is inscribed with Arabic numbers in a six by six grid. Such plates were buried in the corner of the foundation to ward off evil spirits.

There were many magic squares, such as the square of Saturn, or Jupiter.

The occult credits these magic squares to Solomon. The Seal of Solomon is described as a 6-pointed and a 5-pointed star. Often the talisman of Saturn contains a hexagram on one side, and a pentagram on the other side.

Legend connect these symbols with the "Seal of Solomon," the magical signet ring used by King Solomon to control demons and spirits, or protection from them.

1 Scholem, "The Star of David; History of a Symbol," in The Messianic Idea in Judaism, 271; 2 Gittin 68a; 3 Eder, the Star of David

Recall the symbols found at the synagogue in Capernaum.

"...in the synagogue of Capernaum (second or third century C.E.) it (the <u>hexagram</u>) is found side by side with the <u>pentagram</u> and the swastika on a frieze".

Whether the fact that the occult credits the sun square (that mathematically equates to 666) to Solomon is of any significance is difficult to prove as an absolute. It should be noted however that Solomon is numerically associated with 666 in the TANAKH.

1 Kings 10:14

"Now the weight of gold that came to **Solomon** in one year was **six hundred threescore and six** talents of gold..."

We all know that Solomon went the wrong way for quite some time.

The hexagram itself is also geometrically linked to three sets of sixes. The hexagram as a whole contains 6 points. The hexagram contains 6 triangles. The center of the hexagram is a 6-sided hexagon.

The magic squares have also found their way onto Catholic churches.



(A magic square on the Sagrada Família church façade)

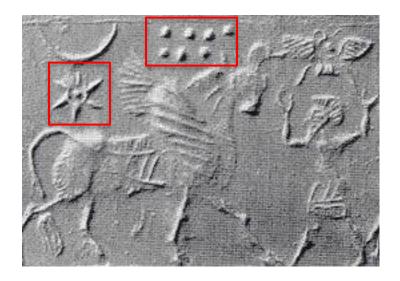
The hexagram has even made its way onto the infamous hat of the pope.



On the hat, notice the planet in the center of the hexagram, just like the Sumerian / Babylonian religion depicting Saturn. It is exactly the same.

They also included Saturn in the center to the hexagram. While we cannot state for certain that this is where the pope hat derived this imagery, it is interesting that the pope hat contains a hexagram with a dot in the middle, just as the Sumerians did. The Sumerians also placed 7 dots around the image of Saturn inside of the hexagram. Also notice the 7 red images surrounding the hexagram on the pope's hat.

We saw the same pattern and imagery in the Sumerian artifacts.



And here, with the 7 stars of Pleiades occurring with other constellations surrounding Saturn and the



In summary, here are the facts:

- Ancient Sumerian artifacts contain the hexagram embedded over the center of Saturn and include the god of Saturn, establishing the Babylonian linkage of the hexagram to the star of Saturn.
- The planet of Saturn actually contains the geometric center of a hexagram
- The Brit Hadasha and the Prophets note that Israel removed the star of Saturn from beyond Babylon and was used in the context of worship.

Do hexagrams in nature symbolically associated with Biblical concepts or metaphors prove that the Star of David should be associated with Israel or integrated in our worship of YHWH?

No.

There are many teachings in the Bible, and nearly anything that exists can be used to metaphorically and conceptually teach any number of Biblical ideas. We see this occur with traditions in Christmas and Easter, but it does not sanitize those traditions just because man can think of a Biblical concept or principle that could relate back to it.

According to the Torah, if a symbol or practice was associated in how the nations worshiped their gods, we should not include it in our worship of YHWH.

Deuteronomy 12:29-32

"When the Lord your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.' You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods."

"Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it."

There are many things in nature that have hexagrams, such as snowflakes, flowers, and fruits. Does that mean I should keep them out of my house or backyard?

No, that is not what the Torah teaches. According to the Torah, we simply do not incorporate religious practices or symbolism known to be associated with false god worship in our worship of YHWH.

The rainbow was hijacked by the LGBT community. Does that mean I am to avoid the rainbow?

No, that does not mean you are to avoid the rainbow. Unlike the hexagram, the rainbow is a true Biblical symbol clearly given to us by YHWH. In addition, or more importantly, while the LGBT community is certainly using the rainbow to represent a false ideology, they are not using the rainbow in the worship of false gods.

If the Menorah was used for cultic practices would we have to stop using the Menorah?

No, of course not. YHWH was interested in Israel not adopting the religious ways of the nations. If the Menorah was suddenly used for false god worship, that would not make it the way of the nations, it would be Biblical ways or Biblical symbolism adopted by the nations.

Of course we have not found any religious practices that have adopted the Biblical Menorah into their worship of false gods, just as we do not see any Biblical holidays adopted by those that worship false gods. They, in fact, invent their own.

We do not see any clear metaphors in Scripture detailing the hexagram as a Biblical symbol.

Archeological records demonstrate that the first religious usage of the hexagram was by the Sumerians and by the Babylonians, which we have already illustrated.

If the Torah is about not worshipping Yah in similar ways the nations worshipped their gods, and the hexagram is just a symbol on a geo-political flag, is that really an issue?

There is some fantastic insight in this question. For example, the U.S. flag has pentagrams on it. Yet, most do not associate the U.S. flag in their worship of Yah. It is a secular flag. Nations will do what nations will do. Thus, it is not violating Torah.

However, the hexagram representing Yah's people could be argued to be different. Israel is not to be a secular nation, but be a light to the nations, representing our Creator in everything that Israel does. Choosing the Star of Saturn as a symbol of Yah's people does not appear to be the best idea.

The bigger issue is that the Star of Saturn appears on mezuzahs, menorahs, flags that are waved in worship, tallits, and other items associated with the worship of YHWH. In that way, the Star of Saturn is being used in the same context of our worship of our Creator (Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

Remember, the issue is not about worshipping the hexagram. No one claims to worships bunnies, eggs, or pine trees either. It is evident that no one is doing that. The Torah states we are not to worship Yah in the same ways and contexts that the nations worshipped their gods. It is just something to think about...

It is not that the symbol in of itself is bad, it is just the fact that it has been historically used and is still used, to worship false gods. In that, YHWH states He wants nothing to do with it in the context of worshipping Him. That should make some sense.

History has proven that our tendency is to implement religious images, like the image of a hexagram, or a "golden calf" in our worship of our Creator. This is the reason that our Father instructs us to worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

We would encourage the Body to pray about it, study it, and come to a decision themselves.

I have seen teachings that associate Biblical verses with natural occurrences of the hexagram in the attempt to justify its usage. What are your thoughts on that?

The pomegranate, honeycomb, snowflake, lily, and almond flower have been presented in teachings to justify using a hexagram to represent YHWH's nation of Israel, and to be incorporated in worship of our Creator.

As we have already said, there are many teachings in the Bible, and nearly anything that exists can be used to metaphorically and conceptually teach Biblical ideas. We see this occur with traditions in Christmas and Easter, but it does not sanitize those traditions just because man can think of a Biblical concept or principle that could relate back to it.

Elohim also has many five sided elements in nature, yet we wouldn't condone a flag representing Yah's people or worship with a pentagram either.

Christianity goes to great lengths to attempt to associate Christmas and Easter traditions to the Bible, as

a passionate attempt to retain their traditions for their own interests. Likewise, we see that attempts to justify the hexagram are by the same methods.

The Pomegranate

The pomegranate is a fruit and its flower has hexagram characteristics associated with it.

Pomegranates and bells were sewn into the hem of the garment of the High Priest.

The pomegranate is associated with many seeds, which we know to metaphorically relate to the Torah (i.e. Luke 8:11).

The seeds are red. When a pomegranate is sliced in half, from the top down, it is not uncommon to find the seeds in four chambers. This suggests that that the pomegranate could represent a heart, and the seed, or Torah, is in our heart. See Psalm 40:8 for an example of the obvious Biblical metaphor:

Psalm 40:8

I delight to do your will, O my God (Elohim); your law is within my heart.

The blue, purple, and scarlet colors of the attached pomegranates likely symbolically represent our Messiah Yeshua. The blue would stand for the Torah, similar to the color of blue in our tzitzits. The purple would stand for the royalty of our Messiah Yeshua our King. The scarlet would represent the blood he shed for us and the forgiveness of our sins.

The gold bells are something that we hear, invoking the act of listening. Listening is metaphorically related to obeying the Torah (i.e. Jeremiah 22:21). The gold is also related to the Torah.

We would recommend our teaching "Streets of Torah" for more analysis of the colors blue and gold.

Thus, the pomegranates and bells speak to obeying the Torah.

Unlike all of the other metaphors, we do not find any metaphors for us in the Scriptures that define for us any hexagon characteristics of a pomegranate. All metaphors of the pomegranate are already present in the Scriptures, with the exception of any hexagon characteristics. It is a stretch at best to project any value or metaphorical interpretation on a hexagon simply because of a pomegranate.

In fact, when the pomegranates of the fabric are attached to the High Priest, they would have likely resembled something like this. As you can see, the image of the hexagram is not retained.



Honeycomb

Deuteronomy 27:3

And you shall write on them all the **words of this law**, when you cross over to enter the land that the Lord (YHWH) your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and **honey**, as the Lord (YHWH), the God of your fathers, has promised you.

There are multiple instances of honey being associated with the Torah. It has been suggested that because bees make honeycomb, and that because honeycombs are hexagonal in nature, that it Biblically validates the usage of a hexagram.

It is the honey itself that Yah metaphorically relates to the Torah. Yet, the bees themselves are not necessarily metaphorically positive.

Psalm 118:12

They surrounded me like bees; They were quenched like a fire of thorns; For in the name of the Lord I will destroy them.

So, if the bees are not positive, yet they make the honey, what is there to suggest that the honeycomb itself is viewed by Yah as good?

One can eat the hexagon honeycomb along with the honey. A little will not hurt you, and some do eat the honeycomb. However, for many, it causes digestive distress when eating a small amount of honeycomb.

In fact, if you eat too much of the honeycomb, it can kill you.

Eating large amounts of honeycomb may cause gastrointestinal blockage, which is potentially life-threatening.

The Cases Journal reports on a woman who landed in the hospital with a large stomach obstruction from eating large amounts of honeycomb over a two-month period. She thought eating large amounts would

increase the health benefits. Instead, the honeycomb accumulated in her gastrointestinal tract and formed a large mass that required surgery to remove. The case report was published in the May 2009 edition.

So, if you have a honeycomb, the best thing to do might be to chew on it to obtain the honey (Torah), but spit out the hexagonal honeycomb.

It is interesting that the physical reality could teach that spiritual lesson, but perhaps it is just a coincidence.

The Lily

Luke 24:27

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Lilies typically have six petals, therefore it is argued that the hexagram, with its six points, is a valid Biblical symbol.

This of course is assuming that the image of a hexagram is the exact same thing as an image of a flower, which of course, it is not.

The hexagram is referred to as a star, not a flower. The hexagram represents a star, not a flower. The hexagram represents a star, not a flower.

In modern Hebrew this lily is referred to as the shoshan tsahor (pure white lily). The word shoshanah is translated "lily" in several places in the Hebrew, but the word could refer to other trumpet-shaped wildflowers of Israel, such as the fragrant blue hyacinth (also of the lily family). Moreover, there is no certainty that shoshanim (pl. of shoshanah) is the Hebrew word behind the Greek krina (lilies) of the Gospel references.

The lily's preference for secluded valleys has discredited it as a flower of the field. Several wildflowers native to Israel have been suggested in its place for "lilies of the field" in Matthew 6 and Luke 12.

Scholars have proposed no less than half a dozen possible flowers that could be what is being referred to, and many do not have six petals.

There are certainly some archeological finds that illustrate a flower with six petals. However, there are also references to 5 petals or even 12 in some instances.

Even if the flower referenced did have six petals, it does not lend support for today's usage of the hexagram.

In Hosea 2, we see YHWH likened unto a pine tree. Does that mean that Christmas trees are now a good thing?

We cover than in depth in the teaching "<u>Hosea's Christmas Tree</u>", which offers some nice parallels to consider as it relates to the hexagram debate.

Snowflakes

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord (YHWH),
"Though your sins are as scarlet,
They will be as **white as snow**;
Though they are red like crimson,
They will be like wool.

Because snowflakes naturally contain 6 points, and it is found positively in Isaiah 1:18, it is then argued that hexagrams are Biblically supported. This is the same argument already used for the pomegranate, lily and honeycomb.

Well, while sins being white as snow is a good thing, three times as often, snow is compared to leprosy.

Exodus 4:6

The Lord (YHWH) furthermore said to him, "Now put your hand into your bosom." So he put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was **leprous like snow**.

Numbers 12:10

But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, **as white as snow.** As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous.

2 Kings 5:27

"Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper as **white as snow**.

We would argue that leprosy is not a good thing.

Almond

Exodus 25:34

And on the lampstand itself there shall be four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers,

An almond flower can have 5 or 6 petals, and most of the time it is 5 petals. Thus, the almond tree does not lend much support for a hexagram, and even if it did, it would be no better than the pomegranate, snowflake, or honeycomb.

Conclusion

We hope that addressing these FAQs provided additional clarity on this challenging subject.

We are not anti-semitic. We are not saying that the hexagram characteristics of flowers, fruits, etc. are pagan in nature.

In summary, there is little debate that the hexagram was used in conjunction with the worship of false gods.

Because of that, according to the Torah, we should not want to attach such a symbol representing YHWH's people and be associated in the worship of Him.

We have zero evidence that the hexagram was used by David to justify calling it the Star, or Shield, of David. However, we have a pile of evidence dating back nearly 5,000 years defining it as the Star of Saturn. Perhaps it is time that we stop calling it the Star of David, and what it really is, the Star of Saturn.

While some are passionately interested in preserving such an image, the question becomes "why?"

The last thing we as His people should desire is putting the offense of man over offending Yah.

Lastly, we would simply encourage others to research these things for yourself, all in an effort to test everything.

Study these things, pray about them, and decide for yourself.

Joshua 24:15

Choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD (YHWH)."

We hope that this teaching blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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