

When the Sun sets every evening while it is in or near the constellation of Leo, Jupiter will easily be seen rising on the eastern horizon, in the sign of Aquarius, just after sunset and can be easily viewed in its great and beautiful brightness.

PTOLEMY

The 'classic' geocentric model, which the ancients followed for centuries, is essentially Ptolemy's model. It was studied and written about (in the first century AD) by this Greek mathematician, astronomer, geographer and astrologer in his famous book, which came to be known as the *"Almagest"*. The 4th Century BC Greek philosopher Aristotle had proposed a geocentric system, which Ptolemy built upon by accurately tracing the paths of the planets. As the planets slowed down, stopped and reversed their paths through the Zodiac (retrograde motion), Ptolemy developed a system to measure and calculate these movements. This system could then be used to predict when any planet would move direct or reverse in the future. This system was used to predict the motions of the planets for the next 1500 years with reasonable accuracy. The system Ptolemy developed was known as 'epicycles'.

According to a Documentary released by The History Channel of www.history.com in September 2007, titled *"The Universe: Beyond the Big Bang"* the narrator, David Ackroyd states that *"Using complex circular motions called epicycles, Ptolemy could predict their prescribed paths and changing velocities. Ptolemy's system reliably predicted the future behaviour of the planets."* In the Documentary, Owen Gingerich of the Harvard Smithsonian CTR For Astrophysics states: *"He essentially showed that the positions of the planets could be calculated for anytime past or future. It was a tour de force of mathematical understanding!"*

Since the Copernican revolution, the theory of epicycles has been abandoned along with the geocentric model.

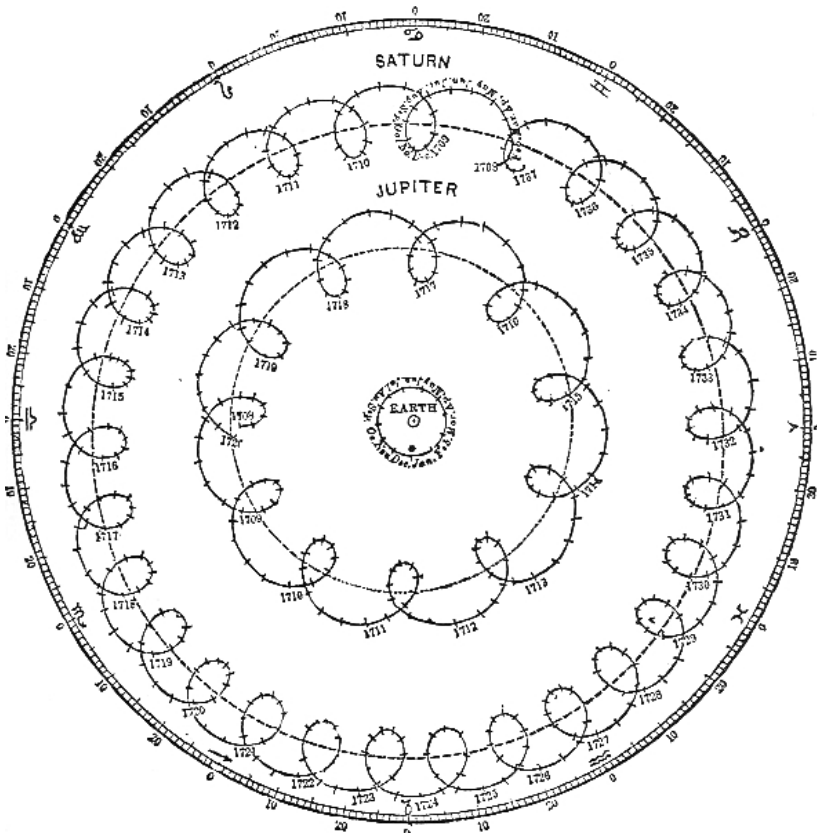


DIAGRAM SHOWING THE CYCLES AND EPICYCLES (RETROGRADE MOTIONS) OF SATURN & JUPITER AROUND A STATIONARY EARTH (GEOCENTRIC MODEL)

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The planets are not spinning balls of rock being pulled by a force known as gravity. They are not physical, nor can one 'land' on them. They are simply spiritual beings or celestial bodies given a designated transit all in Divine order, by a God of order, to mark the timings and cycles of life and for signs too (**see Appendix A**).

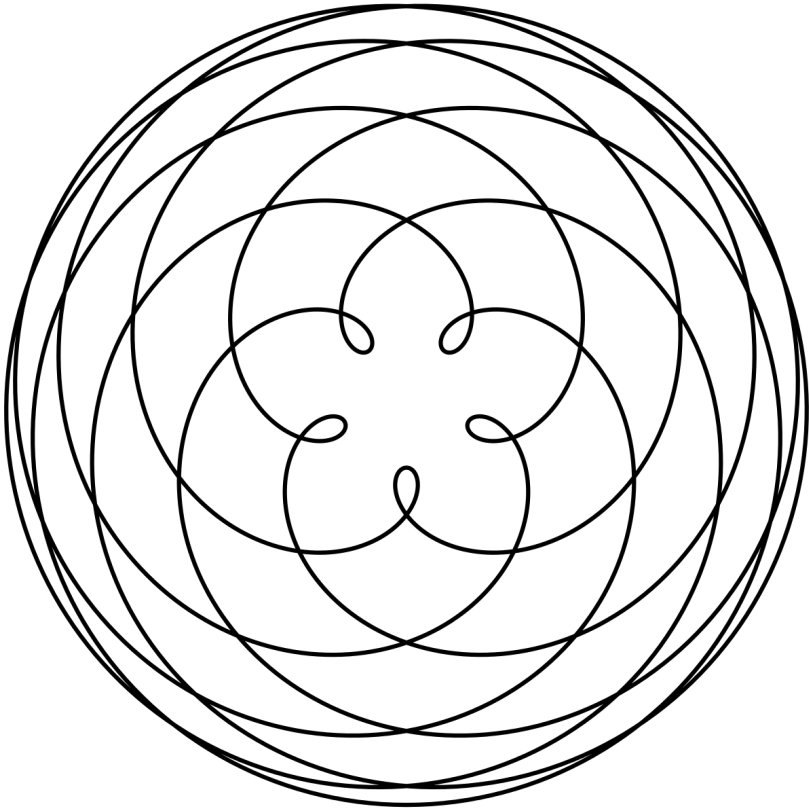
If each planet has a set order of when and how often to move forward and backward, they could easily travel direct and then reverse at set times as per their designated order of cycle given to them at the time of creation. In **Appendix B: "Sidereal Time"**, I give a detailed description to explain retrograde motion. It is said using his system, Ptolemy could trace and predict the retrograde cycles with reasonable accuracy.

We do know, that each planet has its own unique set pattern of forward and retrograde transits throughout the year. For example the fastest moving planet Mercury turns retrograde three times per year. It is never more than 24 to 28 degrees away from the Sun. It is a fact that as soon as Mercury is about to go a certain distance beyond the Sun, within the Zodiac, it simply stops (stations) and then reverses its path through the Zodiac (goes retrograde) for three weeks. As stated above, one possibility for this without using the theory of epicycles is that when Mercury appears to stop (in its movement through the sign it is currently placed in), Mercury has adjusted its speed in its daily cycle around the Earth to be equal to that of the stars themselves (23 hours and 56 minutes). There is no apparent movement of Mercury in relation to the stars themselves i.e. the sign it is currently in. When Mercury appears to move backwards in relation to the sign it is in at the time, this would equate to it having picked up speed in its movement around Earth compared to the stars themselves (sidereal time). Mercury would ever so slightly forge ahead of the stars in its daily rotation around the Earth. This would cause it to move backwards within the sign of the Zodiac it is situated in.

However, it makes sense that the planets do indeed retrograde by means of a type of epicycle; as the pattern of a circle or ellipse created by the epicycle remains consistent with the heavens as a whole - namely that it is one big circle made up of many circles, all revolving within that larger circle. This would explain how the transit of Venus creates its unique pattern over the course of its eight-year transit. In fact, looking at the pattern of Venus, with its various loops and circles caused by the backward motion of Venus, it really does appear that Ptolemy was indeed correct about the epicycles, or at least in part.

(See the system proposed by Tycho Brahe)

The obvious conclusion one comes to in researching the nature of the cosmos, is that it could only have been put in place by the most incredibly intelligent designer.



VENUS TRANSIT PATTERN IN THE GEOCENTRIC MODEL. EARTH IS AT THE VERY CENTRE.

Regardless of exactly how the retrograde planetary motions are explained, I believe that they are definitely not some optical illusion caused by the movement of the Earth, as the heliocentric enthusiasts claim. Rather, the planets really do revolve around Earth in a geocentric system. (See *The Tychonic System* later on pages 45/46).

Ptolemy also famously recorded 48 constellations of the heavens and their respective stars. He recorded and 'rated' each star based on its brightness and colour, its magnitude, longitude, latitude and direction north or south of the ecliptic. Today all this documented knowledge of the stars and the traditional geocentric cosmology is known as the Ptolemaic system.

MARS - ADOM

The original Hebrew names for the red planet Mars were “Adom” meaning ‘red’ or ‘blood shedding’ and “Madim” which means ‘made like blood’. Some Biblical astronomers suggest that Mars represents Michael the Archangel because he is the angel (malak) that is at war with the Devil.

This is interesting because the heart of the scorpion (which might represent Satan), Antares (the brightest star of Scorpio) means “the enemy of Mars”.

MERCURY - CATAB

The Hebrew word “Catab” meaning ‘powerful’, ‘strong’ and ‘who cometh’ was the original word for the planet Mercury. Also the word “Cochab” which means ‘coming in a circle’.

Biblical astronomers suggest that it can represent Gabriel who was Yahweh’s chief herald, the annunciator. The messenger angel who visited Mary, Zechariah and Daniel. If we look at the traits associated with Gabriel in the Bible, it is quite astounding how he shows many of the traits we often associate with the planet Mercury both astronomically and astrologically. As mentioned in Chapter 2, Mercury is the fastest moving planet, moving very swiftly. Metaphorically he is the messenger who moves at a lightning speed. He rules over communication. This is why when Mercury goes retrograde it is often associated with issues in our day-to-day communication.

In **Daniel Chapter 9:21** we read about Gabriel ‘flying swiftly’. Not only do we have various descriptions in the Bible of Gabriel delivering Yahweh’s message but he is also described with this trait that can only be associated with Mercury!

“ Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, ‘O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand...and I have come to tell you...’ - **DANIEL 9:21-22** ”

The wandering star Mercury rules over the logical mind, understanding and rational thinking, here we see Gabriel flying swiftly and delivering a message to Daniel, in order to give him the skill to understand.

Because Mercury rules over all communication including speech, is it not even more astounding, fascinating and intriguing that it was Gabriel, who struck Zechariah mute by taking away his ability to speak? This occurred after Zechariah doubted Gabriel's words that Elizabeth would bear him a son.

“ And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of Yahweh, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”

- LUKE 1:19-20

In this passage there is much emphasis on speech. Gabriel even emphasizes that Zechariah did not believe Gabriel's “words”. This begs the question whether Mercury is merely a representation of the angel Gabriel or whether they are literally one and the same. Astrologically, Mercury is the planet that imparts the power over our ability to communicate. In the coming section I will further address the link between the ‘planets’ and the archangels. Interestingly in **Acts 14:12** it tells us that Paul was even called ‘Mercurius’ because he was the chief speaker! *“And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.”*

Saturn – Sabbatei

In Hebrew it was known by the name “Sabbatei” meaning ‘resting’. Also known as ‘Sabbath’ meaning ‘dwelling’ or ‘restoring’.

To the Romans, Saturn also translated it as meaning ‘to sow’ from the word “Serō”.

But all through various cultures, Saturn was known by names such as the ‘planet of time’, the ‘planet of karma’ and was generally viewed as a tough malefic energy, maybe not quite a planet of death and discord but a tough energy all the same. Saturn takes 29.5 years to come full circle around the Mazzaroth. **See Appendix A for more on Saturn.**