



TIME TO SUIT UP!

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:11



"Starlight, star bright, first star I see tonight. Wish I may, wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight."

"When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are."

Did you ever wish on a star? Neither did I! Maybe some folks just said this because it sounds kind of romantic. After all, things like stars and moonlight give us that mysterious, dreamy, poetic feeling.

Don't worry, we're not going to get romantic today. But we do want to talk about stuff like stars.

DISCUSS: *Did you ever hear someone ask, "What's your sign?" What were they talking about? Do you know what your sign is? Does it make any difference to you what it is?*

Did you know that over 2000 newspapers across our country print a daily horoscope? Did you know that nearly one in every five Americans read it? Astrology has become big business for many people today!

WORD GAMES: Be careful not to confuse **ASTROLOGY** (the horoscope) with **ASTRONOMY** (the scientific study of the universe).

History Lesson: Astrology is nothing new. Its roots can be traced back to an ancient religion that claimed that stars influence people. The Chaldeans of Babylonia decided that the planets were gods and their movement predicted the outcomes of wars. The Greeks and Romans decided the planets could influence people as well.

HOW DOES IT WORK? *The basic idea is that the stars and planets are part of the entire universe. This would mean that man, also a part of their pantheistic universe, must be affected by them. Astrologers tell us the stars predict what course our lives will take.*

Astrology is based on the assumption that if one knows the exact time and place of birth, he can look on a chart and find his "ascendant" or astrological sign that was supposedly rising on the eastern horizon. Then by using the zodiac sign, he can just pick up the daily newspaper and find out how he's going to act and think.

There are a few basic problems though.

1. Who does one believe if two different astrologers give opposite readings?
2. When the horoscope was set up, the planets supposedly revolved around the earth. Now we know they don't. Won't that louse up the whole thing?
3. What about Uranus, Neptune and Pluto? They aren't included in the chart because they weren't discovered yet when the chart was drawn up.
4. What about twins? They were born in the same place at the same time. Shouldn't their lives be lived identically?
5. What if someone is born on the north or south poles? There planets don't always arise in the eastern horizon? Do those people have no future at all?

⚠ DANGER—MINE FIELD: *Astrology and the horoscope give planets the right to decide one's future. That's idol worship. Our future is in God's hands. Stay away from reading such foolishness. It's just another name for simple fortune telling.*

BATTLE PLANS: How affective is astrology? See Isaiah 47:13-15.

What does the Lord say about worshipping the stars in Deuteronomy 4:15-19?

How seriously do folks take astrology? See Jeremiah 10:2.

DISCUSS: *Why should the Christian simply stay away from reading horoscopes? What dangers could there be?*

PRAYER: Thank the Lord for giving you the stars, moon and sun, not to serve as objects of worship, but as beautiful creations God placed in the sky for your survival and enjoyment.

AMMUNITION: Psalm 19:1 *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*