

The Birth of Science – Stars Over Ancient Babylon

Stars over Ancient Babylon video (45 minutes, online).

Many people today assume that science began with the Greeks, but we will see that it goes back much earlier. Babylonian astronomers were sources for Greek astronomy. Without the Babylonian contributions, later Greek astronomy such as we find in Hipparchos (150 BC) and Ptolemy (150 AD) would not have been possible.

The animations in the video are very helpful for understanding the concepts, so I highly recommend watching the video version. Watch Streaming, Watch not streaming, or Download using the links on the right side of this page:

<http://hsci.cas.ou.edu/exhibits/exhibit.php?exbid=47&exbpg=1>

I apologize for the sound quality of this movie: in order to get it ready in time one semester my wife and I had colds and finished recording it after 3 o'clock in the morning, so we sound stuffy and sleepy. Someday perhaps we will go back and re-do the narration, but hopefully the video is still better than a typical in-class PowerPoint presentation, despite its flaws.

Study questions at the bottom of this page:

<http://homepage.mac.com/kvmagruder/hsci/02-NearEast/reading1.html>

Interpretation questions for reflecting on the significance of the video:

<http://homepage.mac.com/kvmagruder/hsci/02-NearEast/interpretation.html>

Not so trivial pursuit question of the day: As you watch the video, can you identify the reference to Daniel?

What other biblical events can you correlate with the video's outline of Mesopotamian history?