

# Reagan and the Stars

By Jamie Buckingham

**R**onald Reagan's involvement with Star Wars took a different twist recently when we discovered his interest in outer space was apparently not limited to SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative). It seems that the Reagans—and Nancy in particular—believe the stars possibly control their fate, as well as the fate of this nation. According to the former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, the Reagans are followers of astrology.

The Sunday after Regan's book, *For the Record*, hit the market I introduced my sermon on astrology with a confession. "I've never preached on this. I assumed you had enough sense to stay away from it. Now I find the president of the United States not only reads his horoscope every morning, but lets his wife influence national affairs by the position of the stars."

I have mixed feelings about these recent kiss-and-tell books. But this is an era of revelation when things done under cover are being shouted from the rooftops. This is true for presidents as well as televangelists.

Mrs. Reagan's reliance on astrology began with the 1981 assassination attempt on her husband. The president admits, however, in his autobiography, *Where's the Rest of Me?*, he often consulted astrologer Carrol Righter and reads his horoscope every morning.

Some Reagan decisions were apparently made only after listening to his wife's magicians and diviners. The 1985 Geneva summit, the 1986 Iceland summit, and the 1987 Washington summit were all set after consultation—not with God—but with an astrologer. The December 8, 1987, U.S. Soviet arms treaty was signed at 1:30 p.m. rather than on prime-time television because Nancy's astrologer said the stars were not in the right position. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater has confirmed that Nancy Reagan is involved in astrology and uses it in planning the president's activities.

Astrology is a theory of divine govern-



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*gets more responses in the letters to the editor column than any other columnist.*

ment of the world. It says man's life and happiness are dependent upon the placement of the stars in the heavens. A horoscope, also called a "nativity," is a map of the heavens at the hour of birth, showing the position of the stars from which all fate is determined. Each of the 12 signs of the zodiac is credited with its own characteristics and influence.

The entire system, according to the Bible, is evil. Condemned is he who practices "divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist..." (Deut. 18:10-11). Isaiah specifically condemned "astrologers... (and) stargazers who make predictions month by month" (Is. 47:13).

Daniel called the astrologers "enchanters"—their practice occultic and energized by demons.

The president, of course, is not the first leader to consult the powers of Satan. Egyptian pharaohs and Babylonian kings had their court magicians. Calpurnia, wife of Julius Caesar, advised her husband through astrological predictions. Edmund advised mad old King Lear saying, "It is the stars. The stars above us govern our condition." And Mary Todd Lincoln held seances in the White House.

King Saul commanded his servants to seek for a woman who had a familiar spirit and could conjure up the dead. His purpose: to make inquiry concerning the future. God's judgment was harsh: "Saul died because he...consulted a medium for

guidance, and did not inquire of the Lord. So the Lord put him to death..." (1 Chr. 10:13-14).

The question: To whom do you look for guidance? The Bible and the Holy Spirit, or horoscopes and Satan? Horoscopes are satanic in that they are fatalistic. For instance: those born under Jupiter are destined for riches, fame or beauty. Those under Saturn may be cursed to poverty, obscurity or deformity. It's all based on interpreting life from Satan's perspective—from the surface of the earth. Think how ridiculous it would be to "read" the stars from outer space.

How do I feel about Reagan now? Disappointed. Yet there was far less public outcry over his dependence on diviners than Pat Robertson's dependence on God. "It's always bothered me," Karl Strader told me referring to Reagan, "that our 'Christian' president doesn't go to church."

Some read their Bibles. Some read the stars.

It doesn't look any better if we elect a Democrat come November. According to *The Washington Post* Michael Dukakis as governor once appointed a woman by the name of Laurie Cabot, who teaches witchcraft at Salem College, as Massachusetts' "official witch in residence."

Sigh!

The morning after preaching against astrology I heard my grandchildren screaming in the front yard. A 32-inch coral snake, one of the deadliest in America, had slithered in from the woods and invaded their play area. We've only seen one on our rural Florida property since we bought it 12 years ago. I rushed out and killed it with a shovel. The following morning the children found another which I killed. Wednesday morning my wife almost stepped on a third coral snake. This time she had to wield the shovel. Something had been stirred in the underworld. It was time to take authority—which I should have done on Sunday.

Is astrology harmless? All I know is if you preach against it, have a shovel handy. ■