

MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Astrology, History, Spirit and Soul
Week 2: Babylonian astrology and cosmology
Required Reading
Nick Campion

There is a considerable amount of required reading this week. It may not be possible to read it all in which case you can file or download it for later. Treat this material as all required *if* you decide about Babylonian astrology in your final essay.

We have two levels of required reading:

1. Required Reading All Students: this is necessary for a full understanding of the module
2. Required Reading if you are writing about Babylonian astrology: this is necessary if you intend to make Babylonian astrology the focus of your Essay 2.

Required Reading for All Students
Secondary Sources

Campion, Nicholas, *A History of Western Astrology*, Vol. 1, The Ancient World, Chapters 3, 4 and 5.

Primary Sources

Pingree, David and Erica Reiner, *Babylonian Planetary Omens, Part 1, Enuma Anu Enlil, Tablet 63: The Venus Tablet of Ammisaduqa*, Undena Publications, Malibu, 1975.

This extract contains pp 29. 60 and 61, the three pages in the text which have been translated into English.

Sachs, A.J., 'Babylonian Horoscopes', *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, Vol. 6, 1952, p 40 - 75. (Available on JSTOR)

The Horoscope and Nativity Omen texts are mainly on pp. 50-70. Read the commentary but do not worry about the technical astronomy and

mathematics. This material has been updated by Francesca Rochberg in her *Babylonian Horoscopes*, but Sachs remains reliable.

Historiography

Evans, Richard, *In Defence of History*, London: Granta Books 1997
Read the Introduction and Chapter 1.

Neugebauer, Otto, 'The Study of Wretched Subjects', *Isis*, vol. 42, June 1951
(Available on JSTOR and on Moodle)

Required Reading if you are writing about Babylonian astrology

Secondary Sources

Campion, Nicholas, 'More on the Transmission of the Babylonian Zodiac to Greece: the case of the Nativity Omens and their Modern Legacy', Paper presented at the ARAM Conference on Astrology in the Near East, University of Oxford, 8-10 July 2010. (Available on Moodle)

Koch-Westenholtz, Ulla, 'The Meaning of Time: Mesopotamian Calendar Divination', in Nicholas Campion and Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum (eds), *Astrology in Time and Place: Cross-Cultural Currents in the History of Astrology* (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016), pp. 189-216. (Available on Moodle)

Rochberg-Halton, Francesca, 'Elements of the Babylonian Contribution to Hellenistic Astrology', *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 108, no 1, January-March 1988, pp 51-62. (Available on JSTOR)

Reiner, Erica, *The Uses of Astrology*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 105, No. 4 (Oct. - Dec., 1985), pp. 589-595. (Available on JSTOR)

Primary Sources

Only small amounts of Babylonian astrological material have been translated, and only small amounts of the translated material are available digitally. We

suggest the following selection. We do not require you to read all this material unless you choose write on Babylonian astrology.

King, L.W., (trans.), 'Enuma Elish: The Epic of Creation', (from *The Seven Tablets of Creation*, London 1902), Tablets 5 and 6.

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/ane/enuma.htm>

The 'Enuma Elish' is the Mesopotamian creation myth. Enuma Elish, the first two words of the epic, means 'When above'. Tablets 5 and 6 relate the creation of the structure of the universe by the Babylonian God Marduk.

Oppenheim, A.Leo., 'A Babylonian Diviner's Manual', *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, The University of Chicago Press, Apr., 1974, Vol. 33, No. 2 (Apr., 1974), pp. 197-220 (Available on JSTOR).

Thompson, R.Campbell, *The Reports of the Magicians and Astrologers of Nineveh and Babylon in the British Museum*, 2 Vols, London: Luzac and Co., 1900.

There is a full PDF here:

<https://resources.warburg.sas.ac.uk/pdf/FAH10b2344403v2.pdf>

For extracts see here:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/babylonian-astrology.asp>

Campbell's translations have been superseded by Herman Hunger, but as Hunger's material is difficult to obtain, Campbell remains a good indication of the style of astrology in the Assyrian period.

The Enuma Anu Enlil (EAE) is not available on line, but some material can be found at

Frahm, E. and Jiménez, E., 2013, "About the Project," *Cuneiform Commentaries Project* (E. Frahm, E. Jiménez, M. Frazer, and K. Wagensonner), 2013–2022; accessed January 27, 2022, at <https://ccp.yale.edu/about-project>.

DOI: [10079/k3j9ks3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4939-9999-3)

<https://ccp.yale.edu/about-project>

and

<https://ccp.yale.edu/babylonian-planetary-omens-part-two-enuma-anu-enlil-tablets-50-51>

Jiménez, E., 2015, "Commentary on Enūma Anu Enlil 20 (CCP 3.1.20.B.a)," *Cuneiform Commentaries Project* (E. Frahm, E. Jiménez, M. Frazer, and K. Wagensonner), 2013–2023; accessed July 21, 2023, at <https://ccp.yale.edu/P348755>. DOI: [10079/fttdzc5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4939-9999-3)

Jiménez, E., 2014, "Commentary on Enūma Anu Enlil 1 (CCP 3.1.1.C)," *Cuneiform Commentaries Project* (E. Frahm, E. Jiménez, M. Frazer, and K. Wagensonner), 2013–2023; accessed July 20, 2023, at <https://ccp.yale.edu/P461268>. DOI: [10079/5mkkww1](https://doi.org/10.1007/5mkkww1)

An image is here:

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/W_K-4292