

*Jacques M. Chevalier*

## **A Postmodern Revelation**

*Signs of Astrology  
and the Apocalypse*

In this new interpretation of the Book of Revelation, Jacques M. Chevalier examines the relationship between astromythology and Western interpretation. While scholars have noted the influence of ancient astromythology in Revelation before, Chevalier shows how John's heavenly imagery is the key to a polemical dialogue between modes of storytelling in Western history: astrology and eschatology, and naturalism and logocentrism. The book also explains how the 'genealogical' concerns of modern academia about the origins of natural and cultural history have supplanted the future-oriented visions of sidereal divination and Christian prophecy.

The first three chapters and epilogue situate Chevalier's biblical analysis in the context of broader interpretations of astrology and the apocalypse developed by Jung, D.H. Lawrence, Lévi-Strauss, Derrida, Foucault, Cassirer, Adorno, Frye, Barthes, and Morin. They also provide the reader with a solid background in the history of astrological belief systems and exegetic readings of Revelation extending from antiquity to the late twentieth century. The remaining chapters are devoted to two questions. First, how does the imagery in Revelation relate to expressions of astromythology? Second, how do twentieth-century readings of Revelation reflect a 'genealogical' perspective on notions of signs, textuality, and destiny?

*A Postmodern Revelation* is itself an 'apocalypse,' a revelation to scholars interested in sign theory, eschatology, and the history of astrology. The book does far more than interpret the specific biblical text of John's Revelation: it plays with polemics and parallels in the history of Western thought, tracing the history of signs and their meaning from antiquity to a postmodern era that heralds the end of all myths of the End.

JACQUES M. CHEVALIER is Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University. His previous books include *Semiotics, Romanticism and the Scriptures*.

**TKKL** TEORIA Y CRITICA DE LA CULTURA Y LITERATURA  
Investigaciones de los signos culturales  
(Semiótica-Epistemología-Interpretación)  
**THEORY AND CRITICISM OF CULTURE AND LITERATURE**  
Investigations on Cultural Signs  
**TCCL** (Semiotics-Epistemology-Interpretation)



