

Recommended Reading for SHWEP Oddcast Episode: Astral Weeks. On the Planetary Order in the West

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15th July 2026

1 On Planetary Gods, Planetary Orderings, and Related Cosmological Matters

Ilaria Bultrighini. Theōn Hemerai: Astrology, the Planetary Week, and the Cult of the Seven Planets in the Græco-Roman World. In Irene Salvo and Tanja Susanne Scheer, editors, *Religion and Education in the Ancient Greek World*, pages 217–40. Mohr Siebeck, Rottenburg, 2021.

Franz Cumont. Les noms des planètes et l'astrolâtrie chez les Grecs. *l'Antiquité Classique*, 4:5–44, 1935.

Jacques Flamant. Sotériologie et systèmes planétaires. In Ugo Bianchi and Maarten J. Vermaseren, editors, *La sotériologia dei culti orientali nell' imperio romano*, number 92 in EPRO, pages 223–42. Brill, Leiden, 1982.

Stephan Heilen. 'Hadriani genitura': Die astrologischen Fragmente des Antigonos von Nikaia: Edition, Übersetzung und Kommentar. De Gruyter, Berlin, 2015, 569–80 [on the names given to the planets in Græco-Roman sources].

O. Neugebauer. *A History of Ancient Mathematical Astronomy*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, NY, 1975 [690–92 give a big list of different planetary orderings in antiquity].

Aurelio Pérez Jiménez. Relaciones divinas y asociaciones planetarias: Mito y astrología antigua. In Jesús Peláez, editor, *El dios que hechiza y encanta: Magia y astrología en el mundo clásico y helenístico. Actas del I Congreso Nacional, Córdoba, 1998*, pages 249–63. Ediciones El Almendro, Cordoba, 2002, 249–51 [on the names given to the planets in Græco-Roman sources].

F. Rochberg-Halton. Benefic and Malefic Planets in Babylonian Astrology. In E. Leichly et al., editor, *A Scientific Humanist: Studies in Memory of Abraham Sachs*. Philadelphia, PA, 1988 [on different planetary orderings in Seleucid and earlier neo-Babylonian texts].

2 On the Origins of the Planetary Week and Related Matters

Primary sources on how the planetary week works: Vettius Valens, *Anthology* 1.10; Cassius Dio 37.18–19.

See also:

Ilaria Bultrighini. Notes on Days of the Week and Other Date-Related Aspects in Three Greek Inscriptions of the Late Roman Period. *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik*, 2011:87–96, 2017.

Ilaria Bultrighini. Thursday (dies iovis) in the later roman empire. *PBSR*, 86:61–84, 2018.

Ilaria Bultrighini. Theōn Hemerai: Astrology, the Planetary Week, and the Cult of the Seven Planets in the Græco-Roman World. In Irene Salvo and Tanja Susanne Scheer, editors, *Religion and Education in the Ancient Greek World*, pages 217–40. Mohr Siebeck, Rottenburg, 2021 [a fantastic discussion of the cultic side of the planetary week in ancient Italy and beyond].

Ilaria Bultrighini. Visualizing the Seven Planets of Graeco-Roman Antiquity as Rulers of the Days of the Astrological Week. In Rana Brentjes, Sonja Brentjes, and Stamatina Mastorakou, editors, *Imagining the Heavens across Eurasia from Antiquity to Early Modernity*, pages 105–20. Mimesis International, 2024.

Ilaria Bultrighini and Sacha Stern. The Seven-Day Week in the Roman Empire: Origins, Standardization, and Diffusion. In Sacha Stern, editor, *Calendars in the Making: The Origins of Calendars from the Roman Empire to the Later Middle Ages*, pages 10–79. Brill, Leiden, 2021.

F.H. Colson. *The Week; An Essay on the Origin and Development of the Seven-Day Cycle*. Cambridge, 1926 [the classic work. [Available online](#)].

Eviatar Zerubavel. *The Seven Day Circle: The History and Meaning of the Week*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 1989.

3 On the Planetary Hours Specifically

See most of the scholarship listed in the previous section, and add:

Roger Beck. *Planetary Gods and Planetary Orders in the Mysteries of Mithras*, volume 109 of *EPRO*. Brill, Leiden/New York, NY/Kobenhavn/Köln, 1988, 8.

Stephan Heilen. Short Time in Greco-Roman Astrology. In Cassandra J. Miller and Sarah Symons, editors, *Down to the Hour: Short Time in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East*, pages 239–70. Brill, Leiden, 2020.

Martin Nilsson. *Greek Piety*. Clarendon, Oxford, 1948, 112–13.