

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher! Stories about the Bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle

Written in the Stars

by Jim Schmitmeyer

Couples engaged to get married often up a gift registry at some store. This allows their friends and family know where to purchase a wedding gift and just what sort of gift the new couple desires to receive. This is how it works: you visit the designated store or go on-line to its website and request the couple's wish list. After you purchase a gift, that item is removed from the list. This keeps a newly married couple from receiving, let's say, twenty-five toasters. Or, if they're Catholic, fifteen statues of Our Lady for the flowerbed. Wedding registries are practical and convenient.

In addition to gift registries, there are *star* registries. I heard them about on a country radio station just last week. Star registries precede gift registries are more romantic. In place of simply singing a song to your sweetheart, you can now name a star in her honor for just \$19.95.

It is a nice idea but one that does carry potential risks. For example, how does a young man point out which exact star belongs to his girl? Can he afford to buy a telescope in order to do so? Can he operate a phone app to locate the star without looking like an idiot?

Worse of all, how does make this statement sound romantic: "*Honey, I named this star in the Milky Way after you! Look up there and you'll see it twinkling at 26.8 degrees NE of Canis Majoris, tucked in between Leonis and T-Alpa-792?*"

Naming a star after someone you love is a nice gesture, the Bible offers a much better approach. In the Book of Psalms we read, "Lord, when I look to the heavens and see the stars that you arranged and set in place, what is man that you should think of him? Mortal man that you should care for him?"

Which is more impressive? Naming a star after someone you love, or knowing that the Creator of the stars already knows her name?

Psalms 148 says it the best: *Praise Him, sun and moon! Yes! Praise Him, all you shining stars!*