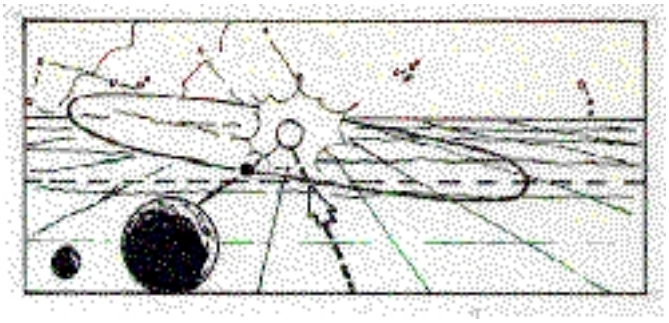
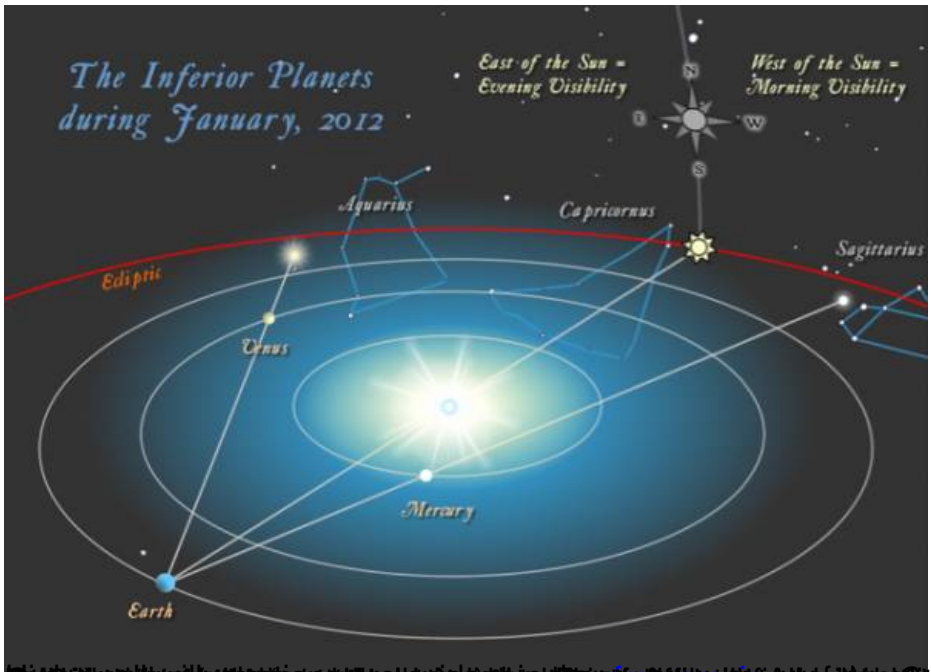


Jay Ryan has been steadfast in producing high-quality illustrations of the night sky that succinctly convey the appearance and the motion of celestial bodies. Fifteen years ago he depicted the alignment of Earth, Venus, and the sun from the perspective of an observer outside Earth's orbit, clearly explaining the circumstances that yield two transits of Venus in eight years. As the 2012 transit of Venus approaches, Ryan is again on the scene with his new illustrated guide Celestial Almanack. While his target audience is Christian homeschoolers, *Celestial Almanack* will be a valuable reference for all observers of the night sky who want a timely guided tour of the heavens.

The inaugural issue from January 2012 sets the stage for everyone who notices the bright object in the western sky after sunset. For Ryan, a goal is to get people to watch the celestial dynamics unfold over time. The 2012 transit of Venus experience begins well before June 5 or 6.

"I'm concerned that most people never even bother to notice Venus, even when it's blazing bright as the evening star," Ryan said. I'm trying to get people to notice Venus beforehand, and learn a bit about its synodic cycle. This way, they can spot Venus in evening sky through the winter and spring and then watch it disappear into the sunset. Then when they see the actual transit in June, they have some context and hopefully more appreciation for the big picture of Venus' motions."


The Inferior Planets
during January, 2012
East of the Sun =
Evening Visibility
West of the Sun =
Morning Visibility
Aquarius
Capricornus
Sagittarius
Ediptic
Venus
Mercury
Earth