CHANGE IN SYNODIC CYCLE PHASE:

Year ranges for duration of phases can vary widely, so need to check timing with natal chart.

**Superior Conjunction** (one degree on either side) - approx. 2 years - Purifying, clarifying rebirth of Mercury that germinates essential purpose in cycle ahead. Insights felt may not be able to be fully manifested yet but seed intention. Leads into long period (at least a decade) of Mercury emerging from beams of the Sun to become visible again. During this time the insights of Superior Conjunction are integrated in order to manifest into life structures and the world.

**Visible Evening Star direct** (Mercury 15 degrees or more ahead of Sun) - Productive period for progressed Mercury using nocturnal, inner discernment that can digest meaning from experience and express understanding eloquently. Subjective inner senses helps clarify meaning and can more smoothly find places of achievement within collective.

**Stationing Retrograde** (can be stationing retrograde on one degree either side of stationing degree for up to 10 years; within 5 minutes on either side for 2 - 3 years) - Key events and insights dramatically cause shift or deepening of path and purpose, taking the person to the next major stage in life. If there has been a long build up, something can be released with culmination as life direction begins to shift with intensity of focus.

**Retrograde Under the Beams before Inferior Conjunction** - long period (decade or more) of intensification of inner passions and purpose. Progressed Mercury guides soul through phase in which outdated elements of life are shedded to facilitate deepening of purpose from within. “Cinematography of life narrative” has chiaroscuro high contrasts of light and shadow.

**Inferior Conjunction** (within one degree of Sun conjunction) - approx. 1 year - Light in the darkness, rebirth during “underworld journey” of progressed Mercury. Events and insights that germinate essential purpose, incubating more authentic expression in cycle ahead. Leads into long period of Mercury moving retrograde by progression until it stations direct and emerges again as a visible Morning Star. During this time we integrate insights from Inferior Conjunction.

**Stationing Direct** - Can take up to 10 years stationing within a degree on either side of stationing. Can take 2-3 years for five minutes on either side of stationing, and can have approximately a year of virtually no movement. Key events cause shift or deepening of purpose, taking the person to the next stage in life fueled by insights received from retrograde phase. Often corresponds with shift toward more external achievement, assertively initiating one’s own path with goals.

**Visible Morning Star direct** - Long period of progressed Mercury moving direct at least 15 degrees behind the Sun that extends until progressed Mercury goes under the beams of the Sun to undergo purifying, regenerative phase leading into Superior Conjunction. Progressed Mercury is curious, explorative, finding connections and weaving together understanding. Outwardly directed setting of intentions and achievement of goals. Integrates insights from retrograde journey into presence of self and external work. “Cinematography of life narrative” is fully lit, with everything in focus.
CHANGE IN HOUSES (PLACES):

Pay attention when Mercury approaches and crosses the house cusp. Progressed Mercury will become especially significant when crossing angles (ASC, MC, DSC, IC) and angular places (1st, 10th, 7th, and 4th houses). Keep in mind houses ruled by Mercury in natal chart.

CHANGE IN ELEMENTS:

**Fire signs:** (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) Progressed Mercury entering the hot and dry Fire signs has outwardly directed, upward and inspirational force. Progressed Mercury becomes more individualistic, optimistic, intuitive, instinctive, and active. Progressed Mercury becomes more willing and able to induce change, movement, and bring greater vitality to significations of Mercury. Quicker pace that initiates events and action.

**Earth signs:** (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn) Progressed Mercury entering the cold and dry Earth signs has inwardly directed, downward and grounded force. Progressed Mercury becomes more sensual, tactile, pragmatic, structured, and disciplined. Progressed Mercury gains stronger connection to physical plane and understanding through inner senses. Slower pace that is more receptive to events, allowing things to take shape in their own time.

**Air signs:** (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius) Progressed Mercury entering the hot and moist Air signs has outwardly directed, upward and cohesive force that is connected to intellectual currents and the exchange of ideas. Progressed Mercury becomes more social, rational, jovial, and able to listen and unify perspectives while adjusting to diversity. Quicker pace that initiates events.

**Water signs:** (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) Progressed Mercury entering the cold and moist Water signs has inwardly directed, downward movement into inner feelings and senses. Progressed Mercury becomes less verbal and more connected to emotions, feeling into psychic environments and attuning to unconscious; becomes more compassionate and sympathetic, interested in connecting and unifying. Slower pace more likely to take the shape of container.

CHANGE IN MODALITY:

**Cardinal signs:** (Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn) Progressed Mercury gains greater ability to initiate action but becomes less focused on bringing things to completion; may not stick with it and instead stop and start a new course of action. Progressed Mercury gains in dynamic energy of new directions and becomes more changeable, impulsive, and impatient.

**Fixed signs:** (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius) Progressed Mercury gains greater ability to stabilize initiatives and brings things to completion. Greater focus on endurance, persistence, security and self-control. Progressed Mercury can be slow to start and change, more cautious.

**Mutable signs:** (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces) Progressed Mercury becomes more flexible and open to shifting currents. More digressive with tendency to start two or more actions with the latter finishing before the former. Progressed Mercury becomes more curious and adaptable, but needs to guard against becoming more scattered and inconsistent.