Why Kepler?

- Access to Tycho's observations
- Tycho's redefinition of the goal of astronomy: agreement within observational accuracy at all times around the zodiac
- Kepler's demonstration of limitations in relying on acronychal observations
- Idea, inherited from Copernicus, of employing theory-mediated triangulations to determine sun-planet and earth-sun distances vs. time
- > Tycho's exceptionally accurate theory of the Sun
- > The (perhaps coincidental) choice of Mars