



# The Star of Bethlehem

Presented by Rick Larson

## Introduction

The story of how this study came about.

- “Daddy, make a star.”
- Article – “The Star was a real astronomical event.”
- External Evidences - Things outside the Bible that show the Bible is true.

## Kepler’s Discovery

**Question:** *If the star was a real astronomical event, why are we just hearing about it right now?*

*Several Reasons We Have Not Known:*

<p><b>1. We couldn’t know what the ancient skies looked like before we discovered the <u>math</u> behind the movements in the solar system.</b></p>	
<p><b>2. Johannes Kepler discovered the math of planetary motion in the 1600s</b></p>	<p>He figured out the three laws of planetary motion which are still in use today by NASA to predict where planets will be. It is all like a great clock - extremely regular, mathematically precise.</p>
<p><b>3. Today we have taken that math and put it into software.</b></p>	<p>With this you can see the night sky from anyplace on the surface of the earth at any time in history in an instant. And it’s so face you can animate the sky.</p>
<p><b>4. Kepler looked for the Star of Bethlehem</b></p>	<p>He wrote two books on the subject of the Star. But he missed the Star because he was mistaken on the date of King Herod’s death. Kepler was taking his information from the writings of <b>Flavius Josephus</b>. Kepler thought Josephus’ inference for Herod’s death was 4B.C.</p>
<p><b>5. All the oldest manuscripts are consistent with having Herod die in <u>1B.C.</u></b></p>	<p>So when we look for the Star in 2 or 3 B.C., the sky explodes!</p>

# The Stars and the Bible

## Astrology versus Astronomy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stars in the Bible...God takes credit for the stars! He names them!</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The oldest book in the Bible, Job</b>, talks about stars, and God takes credit for them. Job 9:9; 38:31, 32; Isaiah 40:26</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Hubble Space Telescope</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are at least a hundred billion galaxies the size of our Milky Way</li> <li>○ Each galaxy has at least a hundred billion stars in it.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Each star is right where God wants it to be. Isaiah 40:26</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.</i></li> <li>○ Not one of the stars is “missing”→(“out of place...not where you belong”)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>King David - Psalm 19:1-4</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The heavens <u>declare</u> the glory of God; the skies <u>proclaim</u> the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they <u>pour forth</u> speech; night after night they <u>display</u> knowledge. 3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. 4 Their <u>voice goes out</u> into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.</i></li> <li>○ David uses verb after verb after verb to say that <b>“the stars communicate.”</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Apostle Paul - Romans 10:17, 18</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Did the Jews know Messiah had come?”</li> <li>○ Paul quotes David, “The Jews, my people knew the Messiah had come because the stars told them.”</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jesus - Luke 21:25</b></li> </ul>	<p>“There will be signs in the sun moon and stars...”</p>

## The Distinction

- ASTRONOMY treats stars like→ **Thermometers** (indicators)
- ASTROLOGY treats stars like→ **Thermostats** (that determine our life)

# Messiah's Star 19:07

## Nine Characteristics of the Star

- Clues to Solve a Mystery... "The star must completely line up with Scripture."

[www.Bethlehemstar.net](http://www.Bethlehemstar.net)

### Matthew 2

<p><i>1After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem</i></p>	<p><b>1. The Star appeared during the time of King Herod and observed by Magi from the East</b></p> <p><b>Who are the "Magi"?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Philo</b>, a Jewish philosopher and historian, describes a particular school of Magi called "<b>The Eastern School.</b>"</li> <li>• Theory - "<i>Perhaps they were descended from Daniel's day.</i>"</li> </ul>
<p><i>2and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"</i></p>	<p><b>2. The Star suggested Birth</b>  <b>3. The Star suggested the Jewish Nation</b>  <b>4. The Star suggested Kingship</b></p>
<p><i>We saw his star [rising] in the east and have come to worship him."</i></p>	<p><b>5. The Star rose in the east and observed by magi in the east.</b></p> <p>Who wants to worship a Jewish King?          Perhaps someone of Jewish descent.</p>
<p><i>3When King Herod heard this he was disturbed and all Jerusalem with him.</i></p>	<p><b>6. They were shocked!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The star was NOT observed by Herod or all of Jerusalem.</li> <li>• Herod does not know when the star appeared. He had to ask.</li> </ul>

<p><i>4When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" 7Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.</i></p>	<p><b>7. The Star was associated with an exact timing.</b></p>
<p><i>8He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.</i></p>	<p><b>8. The Star went ahead of them from Jerusalem south to Bethlehem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Star endured over time (seen from the east and then stopped over Bethlehem)</li> </ul> <p><b>9. The Star stopped over Bethlehem</b></p>

**Quiz! – What might the Star have been? Why or Why Not?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Shooting Star?</b> (<i>Meteorite</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Comet?</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Nova?</b> (<i>an exploding star</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Wandering Star?</b> (<i>planet → “to wander”</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Might one of these wandering stars be Messiah’s star?</li> <li>• <b>Jupiter →the “King Planet”</b></li> </ul>

# The Starry Dance

## The View from Babylon

(Looking east from Babylon. Babylon is in Iraq about 60 miles south of Baghdad. )

### September, 3 B.C.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jupiter is rising!</b> In the path of Jupiter there are two objects rising: <b>The planet Jupiter, and the Star “Regulas.”</b> (Regal, Sharu, Rex → “King”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So we now have the <b>King Planet</b> (Jupiter) rising with the <b>King Star</b> (Regulas) from the view from Babylon.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Retrograde Motion”</b> - we are watching the planets from a moving platform, the earth is moving.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jupiter</b>, (the King Planet), <b>draws a halo</b> (King’s Crown) <b>around Regulas</b> (the King Star) <b>three times with “retrograde motion.”</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Israel</b> <b>Genesis 49:9, 10</b> <i>You are a lion's cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Messiah comes out of the tribe of <b>Judah</b>.</li> <li>• The animal for the tribe of Judah is a <b>Lion</b>.</li> <li>• Jupiter crowed Regulas in the constellation of <b>Leo the Lion!</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Revelation of John</b> <b>Revelation 12:1-5</b> <i>A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a <u>woman clothed with the sun</u>, with <u>the moon under her feet</u> and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. 3Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red <u>dragon</u> with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ...</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>CHILD</b> is Jesus</li> <li>• The <b>WOMAN</b> is Israel, or in human terms, Mary, the virgin.</li> <li>• The <b>DRAGON</b> is Satan, but in Human terms it was Herod who tried to kill Jesus.</li> <li>• <b>John is describing the birth of Jesus as seen in the heavens!</b></li> <li>• <b>Virgo</b> (the Virgin) clothed in the sun (day time) follows Jupiter into the sky with the crescent moon at her feet.</li> <li>• This is the Jewish New Year → Rosh Hashanah.</li> </ul>

**Summary of September 3B.C.**

**Jupiter** (the King Planet) is crowning **Regulas** (the King Star) in the constellation of **Leo the Lion**, (representing the tribe of Judah). Behind it rises **Virgo** (the Virgin) and she is *clothed in the sun* and she has the *new moon at her feet* (exactly what John described in Revelation 12)

**June of 2 B.C.** (*Jumping forward nine months*)

- Babylon looking west is looking toward Israel
- Jupiter the King Planet and Venus the Mother planet coming in very close conjunction.
- This is the brightest “star” there ever was in the night sky.

**November of 2 B.C.**

- Can a star stop? How can a star stop? But stars are always stopped. What did Matthew mean when he said that the star stopped?
- **Retrograde motion!**
- Jupiter stopped in its retrograde motion over Bethlehem on 12/25 of 2 B.C.
- This is quite possibly the date of the first Christmas when the magi brought gifts to Jesus.

**The Chronology**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conception of Christ</b> <i>September of 3 B.C.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Coronation</b> (<i>Crowning</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jupiter</b> crowns <b>Regulas</b> in <b>Leo</b>.</li> <li>• Up rises <b>Virgo</b> clothed in the sun, a new moon birthed at her feet, Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year.</li> </ul>
<p><i>(Nine months later)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Birth of Christ</b> <i>June of 2 B.C.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>The Brightest Star</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>biggest planet</b> (Jupiter) comes together with the <b>brightest planet</b> (Venus) to make the <b>brightest star anyone alive had ever seen right</b> over Jerusalem as it sets.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Magi Arrive in Jerusalem</b> <i>November of 2 B.C.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>A Southern Star</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Magi arrive in Jerusalem and go to Herod</li> <li>• “We have seen His star. Where is the baby king?”</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herod says “Bethlehem”</li> <li>• They look up and sees the star right over Bethlehem...Jupiter is in full retrograde</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Magi arrive in Bethlehem</b> <i>December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 B.C.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>The Star Stopped</b> (<i>Retrograde Motion</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jupiter stopped in full Retrograde over Bethlehem</li> <li>• They find the baby boy in a house ...the first Christmas!</li> </ul>

*The star of Bethlehem is the beginning of the “Celestial Poem” that ends at Christ’s death.*

## **The Day of the Cross** 49:24

- Jesus was killed at Passover and Pentecost is the next Jewish holiday.

## **Chronology of Christs Death**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dies on Passover</li> <li>• Buried</li> <li>• Rises again</li> <li>• Appears for forty days</li> <li>• Then he leaves and says stay until they receive power</li> <li>• Pentecost arrives</li> <li>• Peter Quotes Joel 30, 31 →</li> <li>• Joel Predicted it and you have seen it...→ Blood Moon – Lunar Eclipse</li> </ul>	<p><b>Acts 2:19- 22</b> <i>I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.</i></p>
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## **Dating of Christ’s Execution**

- Preparation Day before the Sabbath (Friday to Saturday) Luke 23:54
- Just before the Passover Feast John 13:1
- Passover begins at twilight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month. Leviticus 23:5
- **Jesus must have been killed in a year when Nissan 14 happened to fall on a Friday**
- Jesus was about 30 years old when He began his ministry Luke 3:23
- John records three Passovers during Jesus’ ministry
- He was taken before Pilate, who was governor A.D. 26-36 - Matthew 27:2

## The Day of the Cross – April 3, 33 A.D.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Crucified at 9am</b> (3<sup>rd</sup> hour)</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>At Noon</b> (6<sup>th</sup> hour)</li></ul>	While He was on the cross... <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sky gets dark</li><li>• Earthquakes</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Died at 3pm</b> (9<sup>th</sup> hour)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tombs get shaken open</li><li>• The Veil in the Holy of Holies ripped in half from top to bottom.</li><li>• They had to get Him off the cross before sundown or he would defile the Passover</li><li>• When the moon rose that evening it was a blood moon → Lunar Eclipse</li><li>• Moon is in full eclipse at the time of Jesus' death.</li><li>• A Full Blood Moon rises at the foot of Virgo</li></ul>

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## Conclusion

### So What Does This Mean?

- You can press the Scriptures extremely hard and they hold up.
- Messiah has come!
- It is possible to have reconciliation with a perfect God because of Messiah's sacrifice.
- The star, part of the natural order, was a clockwork star in a clockwork universe.
- God knew before time exactly when Messiah would enter the human race and die on the cross.