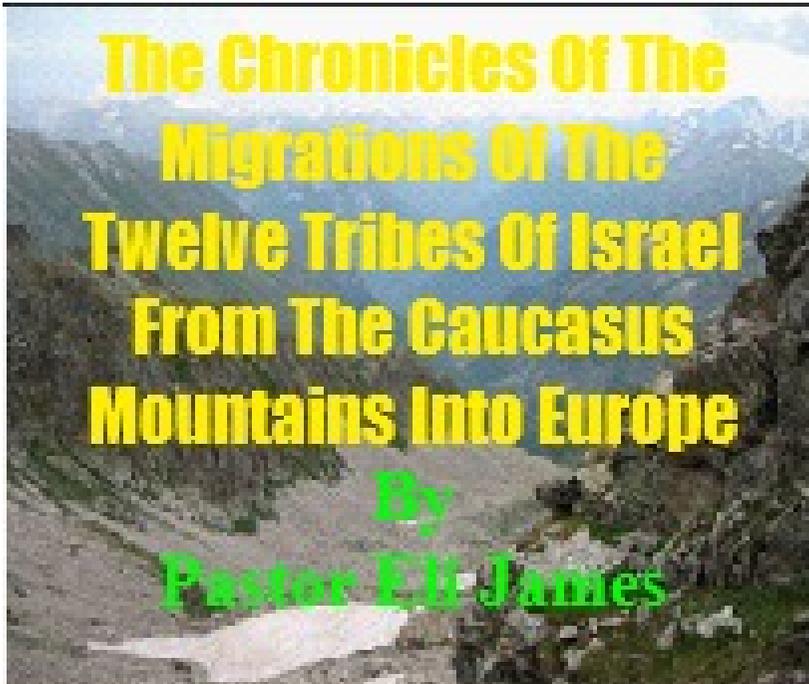


The Mystery of the Star of Bethlehem

**By
Pastor Eli James**





The above PowerPoint presentation is available at Pastor Eli's website:

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The Mystery of the Star of Bethlehem

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS! And for all of you heathen:
"Happy holidays!!"**

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT THE EXACT CIRCUMSTANCES surrounding the birth of Christ. Although the Jews deny that Jesus was the Messiah, the fact is that Jesus fulfilled up to 425 prophecies about His coming. {This [website](#) contains a number of these prophecies: These prophecies, contained within the priesthood's own scrolls, prove conclusively that no one else could possibly have been the one intended, the "anointed one," for no one else comes even remotely close to fulfilling any of the prophecies – not even one! It is quite shameful of the so-called "Christian" theologians, that they have never challenged the rabbis to explain why they don't consider Jesus to be the Messiah, given the fact that He fulfilled so many Messianic prophecies from the Old Testament!!

There is simply no doubt that Jesus Christ fulfilled Daniel's "70 Weeks" prophecy, which stated that Messiah would put an end to the "sacrifices and oblations" after 70 weeks of years, the starting date having been the year 458 BC, the year that Artaxerxes issued his proclamation for the rebuilding of the City of Jerusalem, as part of the Return from Babylon. The House of Judah had been captive in Babylon for 70 years before being allowed to return. 70 weeks of years = $70 * 7 = 490$ years. $490 - 458 = 33$ AD. (We always add 1 year to any BC to AD crossover computation, because there is no zero year as there is for – (minus) numbers to + (plus) numbers.) There is simply no doubt that this prophecy was fulfilled by Yahshua Messiah. The timing of Christ's mission is absolutely perfect; and the ritual sacrifices of the Temple in Jerusalem were indeed put to a stop, although that fact was not completely accomplished until 70 AD, when the Roman army utterly demolished the Temple. It could be said that the process of putting an end to the

sacrifices and oblations was begun by Jesus when He drove the money-changer-priests out the Temple with His whip, and it was ended by the Roman Army. The rabbis of Judaism, who are both the literal and theological descendants of those same moneychangers, need to explain why they don't think Jesus fulfilled these Old Testament prophecies!!!

Stephen Jones, in his book, **Secrets of Time**, has done masterful research on determining the timing of Daniel's prophecy, which very precisely predicted the First Advent. In analysing the historicity of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27), Dr. Jones breaks the prophecy down into three time periods:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>(1) Seven Weeks</i> | <i>458 BC - 409 BC.</i> |
| <i>(20) Sixty-Two Weeks</i> | <i>409 BC - 26 AD</i> |
| <i>(3) One Week</i> | <i>26 AD -- 33 AD.</i> |

Daniel's prophecy states very specifically that "the sacrifice and the oblation" would cease in the final week. Since it appears that Jesus was crucified on April 3, 33 AD, the "midst of the week" would have been the Fall of 29 AD, signifying the event of His baptism by John, when Jesus was "about thirty years of age." (Luke 3:23.) Since an Israelite male had to be, by the Law, thirty years of age before he could become a priest, His baptism was, therefore, the beginning of His priesthood and also the beginning of His official public life. Although the priestly sacrifices were not actually stopped until 70 AD, when the Temple was destroyed, His Baptism was the starting date of the events which led to the fulfilment of the prophecy.

The important fact is that **it was Jesus who caused the sacrificial rituals to come to an end**. No one can possibly doubt this. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the Messiah prophesied by Daniel. No rabbi has ever refuted this fact. They simply ignore such facts when they deny that Jesus is the Messiah.

The Timing of Christ's Birth

The consensus of opinion seems to be that Jesus lived 33 and a half years. If this opinion is correct, then Jesus was born in the Fall of 2 BC,

probably on Sept. 29. (According to my calendar studies, Sept. 29, 2BC would have been the Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles, 2 BC. The prophetic significance of this particular Feast Day is that it is a reference to the Second Coming!) Dr. Jones analyses numerous historical documents, the majority of which tend to confirm the 2 BC dating.

For example, he quotes the Roman historian Tertullian, who wrote that Christ was born 28 years after the death of Cleopatra. Cleopatra died in the year 30 BC. $30 - 28 = 2$ BC.

Tertullian also stated that Jesus was born in the 41st year of the reign of Augustus Caesar. Augustus began to rule in 43 BC. $43 - 41 = 2$ BC.

But the clincher is the lunar eclipse that occurred near the time of Herod's death. Josephus tells us that there was such an eclipse just before Herod died. (**Antiquities**, Book XVII, Chap. 6.) A search of the astronomical data shows that there was, indeed, a lunar eclipse on January 9, 1 BC. Herod lived about three weeks longer. This was the only lunar eclipse for Jerusalem between Tertullian's dates and the death of Herod, leaving little doubt that Jesus was born in the Fall of 2 BC. No other year fits this data, although many researchers believe that Jesus was born in 4 BC. The majority of these researchers, however, have not incorporated the dates which were provided by Tertullian.

The Magi of Parthia

Most experts and historians today accept the fact that the three wise men were "astrologers." Although the job description was slightly different in those days, the wise men were certainly astrologers in the old sense of the term, which involved a lot of star-gazing, eclipse-recording, time-keeping, and omen-watching. It is quite likely that these Magi, as descendants of the House of Judah in Parthia, were familiar with Daniel's prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, otherwise, they would not even have anticipated His coming in Judea. It is quite likely that these Magi were Parthians.

In the current issue (Dec. 2007) of **Thy Kingdom Come**, an Identity publication (POB 1478 Ferndale WA 98246 USA), Don Robson has this to say:

“The Magi were a powerful body of Levites representing the priesthood of Israel. They had their own cities and fields for produce just as they had in the homeland, the holy land. Furthermore, they governed their own cities according to the Law of Moses. Because of this circumstance, they were acquainted with the Law of Moses and no doubt the prophecies concerning the birth of the Messiah, the King of Israel.” -- p. 8.

The history of the nation of Parthia goes back to the Exile of the Northern Ten Tribes of the House of Israel, which was a deportation undertaken by the Assyrians from 745-712 BC. The Assyrians had deported these Israelites from their homeland to the territory of Media, which was located between the Black and Caspian Seas, just south of the Caucasus Mountains. Two main groups emerged out of this collection of the Ten Tribes, which also included many thousands of Judahites and Benjaminites who were later added to the total under Sennacherib of Assyria. (2 Kings 18:13; Isa. 36:1.) These two groups can be categorized as the settlers and the migrants. The settler group of Israelites, that stayed in Media, stuck together as a nation and outlasted the nation of Media. They became known as the Parthians. Parthia was a very great empire that controlled much of Mesopotamia before and during the time of Christ. In fact, Parthia stood in the way of Rome’s attempted eastern thrust through Mesopotamia. Rome was never able to defeat the Parthians; and the Parthians were justifiably able to boast that they were the one nation that Rome could not defeat on the battlefield! The reason why you may have never heard of Parthia is because the Jews control the flow of information via their ownership of the publishing industry. They do not want White People to know their own history, especially as it relates to our history as the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

School text books contain little or no information about Parthia, despite the fact that Parthia was the equal of Rome in military might. As

a result of this blackout of information, few people know about the relationship between Rome and Parthia.

The migratory group of Israelites of the Ten “Lost” Tribes migrated north and west into Europe. This group of Israelites became known as the Caucasian people. Most Caucasians have no idea that they are, in fact, Israelites of the Dispersion!

This Christmas study focuses more on the Parthians and their relationship to the Lion of Judah, Jesus Christ. It is a fact that the Israelites of the Dispersion had become paganised. This was actually the reason why Yahweh had them deported, back in 745 BC, so they would stop mixing with the pagan nations around them! It is also a certainty that the Parthians practiced a religion which was partly the Mosaic Law and partly various forms of paganism. One of these practices, undoubtedly, was a distorted form of the Adamic Mazzaroth (Zodiac), which would have been the foundation of modern astrology, which is today distinguished from astronomy. There can be no astrology without astronomy, which involves the careful recording of the positions of the stars and planets in the sky. What we have to understand is that, in those days, the astronomer-priests did not make this distinction between astronomy and astrology. The mythology and the record-keeping went hand-in-hand.

The Zodiac of Adam

The twelve signs of the Zodiac go back into ancient history and there is a great amount of debate about the origins of the Zodiac. What we do know is that the various Zodiacs of Egypt, Sumeria, India, Persia, and others have a lot of similarities, which suggest a common origin. According to Joseph Seiss, in his book, **The Gospel in the Stars**, the Zodiac was conceived and designed by none other than our forefathers, Adam and Seth. He presents evidence that the original signs of the Zodiac were actually prophetic symbols for the coming of Jesus Christ, from Advent to Advent, with each sign depicting various stages in the life of Christ, including his sacrifice on the cross. (Only much later was the meaning of the Zodiac changed into secular astrology!) This Zodiacal foretelling of the exploits of the life of Christ amounts to a total of forty-eight

constellations: the well-known twelve plus three decans for each sign. {For a thorough understanding of the prophetic use of the Zodiac of Adam, please see my article entitled, **The Prophetic Mazzaroth**, for some quite astonishing information: [Click Here](#)

One of the original decans, or sub-signs of the Zodiac, was the Southern Cross. This decan is no longer visible from the northern hemisphere, as it has sunk below the horizon. (When I was a soldier in Vietnam, the Southern Cross was one of the most easily discernible constellations in the night sky, quite striking and beautiful.)

Seiss claims that the Southern Cross was put in Libra by Adam because the Cross symbolizes redemption. Libra is the sign of the balance scale. Symbolically, the Messiah's sacrifice balances our sins. Very neat Christian symbolism! He also suggests that this very same decan, the Southern Cross, was visible near the horizon above Bethlehem as viewed from Jerusalem at the very time that the wise men were looking for the Christ child. This is one of the possible night-time signs which drew the wise men back to Judea, for, as Parthians who were aware of their racial origin as Judahites of Judea, they were well aware of the prophecies pertaining to the Messiah! Seiss also mentions the planetary conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn at that time, but he says that they were not close enough to appear as a single star. Nevertheless, this is also an aspect that astrologers of the time would have been looking for. In fact, due to the occasional retrograde motion of the planets, Jupiter and Saturn were conjunct on three separate occasions just before the birth of Christ and each time in the sign of Pisces, the sign of the fishes. (The fish is a symbol of Christianity even today.)

Since the astrologers (astronomer-priests) of various countries kept in touch with each other, there is little doubt that all of the astrologers of the ancient world were familiar with the fact that the Israelites were anticipating the fulfilment of the prophecy of the coming of their Messiah. In this regard, there were certain other astronomical features, besides the sinking of the Southern Cross and the Saturn-Jupiter conjunctions. Seiss states that ancient folklore attributes to Seth a prophecy that the Messiah would come at the appearance of a very bright star. The Zend Avesta of

Zoroaster contains such a prophecy. Zoroaster is said to have obtained his knowledge from Daniel, the Biblical prophet.

Just as today, astrologers then were a professional group who kept in touch across national boundaries, for they all kept records of their own, and when someone succeeded in forecasting an event, the word got around very quickly. A fulfilled prophecy was always BIG NEWS in those days! Such prophecies would have been known to all astrologers from India to Egypt to Druidic Britain, and possibly further. (Stonehenge was, very obviously, an astronomical observatory.) They depended upon each other for observational data, information, scuttlebutt, and new ideas.

Portents in the Skies

Seiss tells us, *Now it is a matter of record that a new and peculiar star did make its appearance in the first decan of Virgo [the Virgin] in the period immediately preceding Christ's birth.* He cites Chinese records as well as Ignatius, Hipparchus and Ptolemy as all confirming the existence of this star which gradually faded away by about 150 A.D. Seiss states further, that the star appeared in the head of Coma, the sign of the Infant accompanying the Virgin. *It was on the meridian at midnight at the spring equinox, just **nine months** before Christ was born, as again three months thereafter.*

(I hope you are beginning to appreciate that the original Zodiac {*Maz-zaroth* in Hebrew} was loaded with Christian symbolism from the very beginning. This Christian symbolism gradually became paganised and mythologized over the centuries, with various adaptations added to its symbolism by later generations of astrologers.)

Two years before the birth of Christ, the planet Jupiter had three conjunctions with the star, Regulus [meaning *ruler* or *law-giver*], in the sign of Leo, the Lion. The star, Regulus, was known in the ancient world as "the star of kings." The planet, Jupiter, was known as "the planet of kings." With these two objects conjuncting three times in a span of two years, any astronomer-priest would have predicted that a very important king would

soon be born!!! But, without a knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures, the identity of this King could not be known.

On page 100, Stephen Jones lists this incredible string of conjunctions for the planet, Jupiter:

Venus-Jupiter	12 Aug. 2BC
Jupiter-Regulus	14 Sept. 3BC
Jupiter-Regulus	17 Feb. 2 BC
Jupiter-Regulus	8 May 2 BC
Venus-Jupiter	17 June 2BC
Mars-Jupiter	6 Aug. 2BC

Now, for the shocker:

Jupiter stationary over Bethlehem as viewed from Jerusalem:

December 25, 2 BC

Although, Dec. 25 is probably NOT the birthday of Christ, it is quite probable that the Magi located him on or about that date, so that the tradition of gift-giving is related to Dec. 25, but not the actual birth of Christ!

Quoting from the Jones book:

*“In contemplating the significance of the conjunctions...there is much that we can say. Jupiter was considered to be the Planet of the Messiah. The Hebrew name for Jupiter was **sedeq**, or ‘righteousness.’ It is often spelled ‘Zadok.’ It is connected to the Order of Melchi-**sedec** (Heb. 5:10), of which Jesus is the Chief Priest. And so the Messiah was connected to the signs in Jupiter, or **sedeq**.*

“The Hebrews considered Jupiter to be the planet associated with and governing Jerusalem, although the Romans considered it to be the planet of Rome. However, the Magi did not go to Rome, but to Jerusalem, as they followed Jupiter westward. Isaiah 1:26 calls Jerusalem ‘the city of

sedeq.’ This can be translated either as ‘the city of righteousness’ or as ‘the city of Jupiter.’ The Magi thus followed Jupiter to the city of Jupiter-Jerusalem. In the nearby town of Bethlehem, they found the Messiah, the High Priest of the Order of Melchi-sedec.”

“Even as Jupiter was considered to be the planet of the Messiah, so also was Regulus considered to be the star of the Messiah. Regulus is located between the feet of constellation Leo, the Lion of the tribe of Judah. This star is the ‘sceptre’ and the ‘lawgiver’ referred to in Gen. 49:9-10.” -- p. 101.

Now, the Messiah, even before He was born, was already known as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The star, Regulus, is in the sign of Leo, **the Lion** (!), situated directly between the two front “feet” of the Lion. Genesis 49:10 prophesied: *The scepter shall not depart from Judah (symbolized by Leo, the Lion), nor a lawgiver (Regulus) from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.*

The Magi, as Parthians descended from the House of Judah, knew that the tribes of Judah and Benjamin were still living in Judea. Being of Judahite stock, they quite likely were still aware of the Scriptural prophecies concerning the Messiah. Plus, if the Magi from the east were aware of all of these “astrological” events, prophecies, etc., or only some of these things, they certainly would have had good reason to journey to Judea, and even specifically to find the town of Bethlehem, for it was also prophesied by Micah around 710 B.C: But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting. Micah 5:2. (Ephratah, apparently a patriarch of the Tribe of Ephraim, was the founder of the town of Bethlehem in the land of Judah.)

Something Quite Extraordinary!

Now, Seiss wrote his book in 1882, when the term, super-nova, had not yet been invented. Indeed, no such concept was yet possible in those

days, as astronomy was still in its infancy compared to today. Today, with astronomy's sophisticated development as a result of the invention of the computer, astronomers can calculate eclipses, star positions, planet positions, etc., back several thousand years. Recent evidence suggests that this super-nova was also involved in the "Star of Bethlehem." Although most scientists still disagree that this "star" could have been involved, I think the answer lies in the fact that this star's luminosity varied with time. As Seiss pointed out, this new star was first observed about 125 years before Christ and faded about 150 years after Christ. The name of this star is 5 Comae.

Going back to the Chinese records, the Ch'ien-han-shu records a nova that lasted about 70 days. In the Bible the number 70 signifies the end a long period of waiting. The 70-year Babylonian Captivity and the 70 weeks of Daniel's prophecy concerning the coming of Christ have this theme. The problem is how to determine, astronomically, exactly when a fluctuating star was at its brightest.

One researcher, Mark Kidger, in his book, **The Star of Bethlehem**, also pursues the nova theory. The suggested nova star may not yet have completely blown itself out of the sky, for in 1925 a nova was seen in the same area of the sky and it was named DO Aquilae. The binary pulsar, PSR 1913+16b is also a possible candidate. Says Kidger, *But whatever it was, we are probably close to being able to identify the star of Bethlehem. If it was a nova, the telltale cloud of hydrogen gas that it ejected is probably still just detectable, and will one day give the star away.*

From the astronomical events presented here, it is evident that the Magi had foreknowledge of the event from prophetic, astronomical, and Zodiacal information. It is also possible that the sudden appearance of this star had compelled them to journey to Jerusalem. That is when the nova happened to shine very brightly.

Once in Jerusalem, everything started to fall into place. In fact, Herod even told them to look in Bethlehem, for his advisors were aware of the Bethlehem prophecy. Matthew tells us that they followed the star to Bethlehem, but that may just be a way of saying that it seemed to travel

along with them on their journey. As anyone who has travelled at night along a highway knows, the moon and stars seem to move along with you as you travel; and that may be all that was meant by Matthew. It could also mean that the star, as a super-nova in the process of exploding, shone brighter and brighter as they got closer to their destination.

Some researchers have suggested that the Star of Bethlehem is a reference to all of these “signs” taken together, as a group of indicators pointing to the Virgin Birth, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David, with the involvement of the “star of kings,” the “planet of kings,” etc.

Then, again, maybe it was an angel sent by Yahweh to guide the Magi to Jerusalem and on to Bethlehem! We cannot rule out the miraculous, as the earthly walk of Jesus Christ was replete with miraculous healings, signs and wonders.

The important thing is that, from all of the above indicators, the Magi were able to find Jesus. The Star of Bethlehem, whatever it actually was, was visible to everyone; but only people like the Magi could understand its significance. A supernova would certainly attract their attention and spur them on to Bethlehem, where the Messiah was prophesied to be born.

Just as Mark Twain came in with Halley’s Comet and went out with Halley’s Comet, Jesus Christ may also have a star to call his own. If it came once, it may come again! So, this next Christmas, take a moment to look up at the beautiful stars of the cold night sky. You just might see a super-nova portending another visit.



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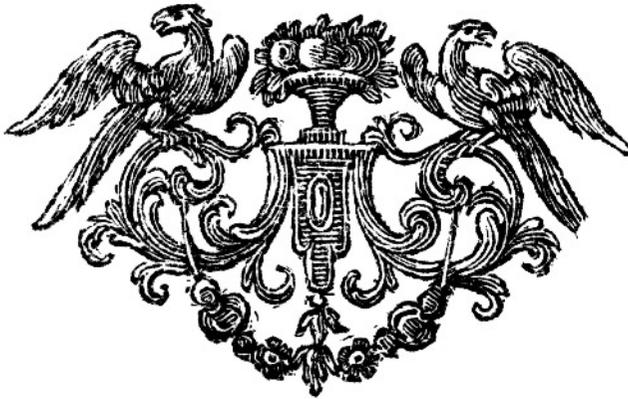
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