

Prophecy Lesson 9
Twenty Four Hours that Changed the World
December 23, 2020

This, quite possibly, is the most important of the Christmas Star lessons because it combines what we've learned about the astronomy in previous lessons with the Scripture to reveal a remarkable story, the most notable parts of which happened during the 24 hour day of Jesus' birth.

We ended a previous lesson with the wise men, still in the east having observed the first Jupiter Regulus conjunction on December 1, 3 BC, followed less than 3 months later by the second of the three Jupiter Regulus conjunctions on February 17, 2 BC. I believe this conjunction was the confirmation sign that the August 12, 3 BC Venus Jupiter conjunction was what they believed to be the Christmas Star and they began making plans to leave their home in the east for Jerusalem when they could travel in the early spring. I indicated previously that Sushan, Persia is located about 750 miles east of Jerusalem. Because the wise men would travel with a large entourage (much larger than just three wise men), I estimated in the Christmas Star DVD that it could take up to two months (40-60 days) for a caravan journey consisting of both horses and camels (Royalty, including wise men would not travel by camel) to reach Israel. If they departed Sushan in early to mid April, they would have arrived in Jerusalem sometime in early to mid June. Venus became the evening star (in the western sky) by the end of March 3 BC so the wise men would literally follow Venus, the Messiah's Star westward during their entire trip to Israel. In the Christmas Star DVD, I indicate that the wise men arrived in Jerusalem a week or so before Christ's birth. This allowed time for them to report to the religious leaders their having seen the star in the east and for the word to spread to the people and to Herod: *"When King Herod heard this he was disturbed and all Jerusalem with him" (Matthew 2:3)*. The wise men would also continue to observe Venus and Jupiter in the evening sky, so they were very aware that the planets were going to form another conjunction while they were in Israel.

During this time, Joseph and Mary would have passed through Jerusalem on their way to Bethlehem, arriving late in the afternoon or early evening of June 16th at about the time Mary began to labor. No room was found for them in the inn and there was no time to contact relatives or friends so they were boarded in the stable where Jesus would be born.

Now the stage was set for the 24 hours that changed the world. Let's pick up the story with a video clip from the Christmas Star DVD: <https://youtu.be/FpyiWdSU7VY>.

With the day of Jesus' birth divided into two parts, the video clip revealed how the story developed during the first six plus hours on June 17th. The Scriptures in **Luke 2: 7-18** were literally fulfilled between midnight and sunrise: 12:30-3:00 AM – the birth of Jesus; 3:00-7:00 AM - Angels announce the birth to the shepherds and the shepherds visit the child in the manger by early morning. The passage where the shepherds visit the newborn Christ child is critical because it sets the stage for the wise men's visit later that day. *"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what they had been told them about the child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them" (Luke 2 17-18)*. This is important because when the wise men paid their visit to Jesus later that day, the babe was no longer in the manger. Matthew 2:11 tells us, *"On coming to the house, they saw the child, with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him."* When the shepherds left the manger that morning, they spread the word to the town. Those who heard the good news were amazed and most certainly visited the stable to see the child themselves. Word no doubt spread to Joseph and Mary's relatives and friends, and upon learning what happened and where they were

located (in the stable) the family was quickly moved to the home of family members or friends, probably by midday. So, the Nativity chronology for the first half of June 17th was:

12:30 – 3:00 AM - Aries rising - Jesus is born

4:00 - 6:30 AM - Angels, heavenly host, and shepherds the manger – Upon departing the manger they spread the word

8:00 AM – Noon - Mary, Joseph and the baby are relocated from the stable/manger to a house in Bethlehem

Now let's turn our attention back to the Matthew account and the wise men's encounter with King Herod that same day. The chief priests and teachers had revealed to Herod, a day or so before his meeting with the wise men, that the child would be born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2: 4-6). Scripture seems to be clear that Herod called the wise men to their secret meeting during the day or afternoon of June 17th. *"Then Herod called the wise men secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared"* (Matthew 2:7). At the meeting, the wise men shared that they'd observed the star (12 Aug 3 BC Venus Jupiter conjunction) ten months before which meant (at least to Herod) that the child was by then, about ten months old. The wise men departed for Bethlehem soon after the meeting and the star they had seen in the east re-appeared. *"After they heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them and stopped (or was stationed) over the place where the young child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed"* (Ma 2:9-10). The wise men had to make the trip from Jerusalem to Bethlehem between 4:00 and 6:00 PM that afternoon because it was when Venus would have been visible high in the southern sky ahead of them. Jupiter was not visible, but the wise men knew from watching the planets converge in the days prior that the two had merged into a second appearance of the Christmas Star. As the sky darkened over Israel later that day, the Star they observed as the Christmas Star was Venus, the Messiah's star, and the conjunction had again merged into a single star with Jupiter. Jupiter, buried in the brilliance of Venus, was not visible at all that day or for the remainder of the evening.

I believe the joy the wise men felt when they saw the star (Venus) in daylight (as in the Queenstown approach video) was twofold. First, they knew they would be observing the Christmas Star as it stationed itself over Bethlehem and Israel, in the western sky for the entire evening of June 17th. And second, I believe they realized upon seeing the star on their daylight journey to Bethlehem, that they would be worshipping a newborn king, not a ten month old toddler.

The Nativity chronology for the second half of June 17th, as revealed in **Matthew 2:7-11** is as follows:

Late morning – early afternoon - Secret meeting between King Herod and the wise men

3:00- 5:30 PM - Wise men observe star in daylight in route to Bethlehem from Jerusalem

6:00- 8:00 PM - Wise men visit and worship the newborn king

8:00- 11:00 PM - Christmas Star stationed over Bethlehem, Israel and the Roman Empire

The concluding video clip from the Christmas Star DVD summarizes how the pieces of this incredible story come together, via Scripture and astronomy, to make June 17, 2 BC, the day Jesus was born, a truly incredible day in history. As the clip begins, I indicate there are seven heavenly signs for the Nativity. In these lessons, I've presented the five most important of the signs: the 12 Aug 3 BC conjunction (Heads up sign), The Sign of Revelation 12 (Mary's conception in Virgo), The Jupiter Regulus Triple conjunction (Head out sign), Aries rising (Birth of Christ sign) and the June 17, 2 BC Christmas Star (God's heavenly sign that forever marks the date for the birth of Jesus Christ):

<https://youtu.be/KTo9KV5OdiU>

The next lesson reviews the 21 December 2020 Jupiter Saturn conjunction and its significance with respect to the Christmas star and Christ's Second Advent. It addresses the importance of why Christ's first advent chronology is critical to understanding the chronology for His Second Coming. The entire Christmas Star video can be seen on the Christmas Star website at: www.thechristmasstar.org by clicking on the Christmas star tab at the top of the page.