

BETHLEHEM STAR

Let's first look at the text:

Matthew 2:1-16

Now when the **birth of Yeshua** took place in **Bethlehem** of Judaea, in the days of Herod the king, there came wise men **from the east** to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is the King of the Jews **whose birth has now taken place**? We have seen his star in the east and have come to give him worship. And when it came to the ears of Herod the king, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And he got together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, questioning them as to where the birthplace of the Messiah would be.

And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judaea; for so it is said in the writings of the prophet, You Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the chiefs of Judah: out of you will come a ruler, who will be the keeper of my people Israel. Then Herod sent for the wise men privately, and put questions to them **about what time the star had been seen**. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, Go and make certain where the young child is; and when you have seen him, let me have news of it, so that I may come and give him worship. And after hearing the king, they went on their way; and the star which they saw in the east went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the **young child** was. And when they saw the star, they were full of joy.

And they came into the house, and saw the young child with Mary, his mother; and falling down on their faces they gave him worship; and from their store they gave him offerings of **gold, perfume, and spices**. And it was made clear to them by God in a dream that they were not to go back to Herod; so they went into their country by another way. And when they had gone, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream, saying, Get up and take the young child and his mother, and go into Egypt, and do not go from there till I give you word; for Herod will be searching for the young child to put him to death. So he took the young child and his mother by night, and went into Egypt;

And was there till the death of Herod; so that the word of the Lord through the prophet might come true, Out of Egypt have I sent for my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was very angry; and he sent out, and put to death all the male children in Bethlehem and in all the parts round about it, **from two years old and under, acting on the knowledge which he had got with care from the wise men**.

On December 21, 2020, the time of the winter solstice, there is a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn that happens every 20 years. Here is the current schedule:

- **May 28, 2000**
- **December 21, 2020**
- **October 31, 2040**
- **April 7, 2060**
- **March 15, 2080**
- **September 18, 2100**

Not all conjunctions are equal though as to the closeness of the planets in appearance. This one is very close being only .1 degree apart, which is equal to about 1/5th of the diameter of a full moon. The last time they were this close was in the year 1226. As you can see, the months are random, and this phenomenon may not have occurred in December the year when Messiah was born.

We also know Messiah was born in the Month of Tishri, which would have been in a September/October timeframe during which the conjunction could have happened as well. The conjunction, if it took place in December, may very well have occurred during Hanukkah when Messiah was conceived, and the Magi arrived at His birth maybe a year later as the text says: **He had already been born and at the time He was a young child.** More than likely Joseph and Mary stayed in the Bethlehem–Jerusalem area. We know the Magi were not at His birth or even there a month later, as they still had no income to afford a lamb 30 days after His birth when taken to the Temple according to Leviticus 12.

We also know God has put the lights in the sky for signs as well!

Genesis 1:14

And God said: Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years...

The real question is: Is the conjunction this year a sign from God that something will happen in the near or long term? I believe that we are in for big changes both near and long term.

The long-term perspective is the Millennial reign of Messiah is coming soon. The shorter long-term perspective is we probably have 9 more years till it happens. A shorter-term perspective is the next Shemitah cycle of 7 years begins in just 2 years on Rosh Hashanah of 2022.

It is said that the Hebrew calendar is 210 years off the number of years they were in Egypt. If so, you add 210 years to 5781 and you get 5991. On Rosh Hashanah 2022 it will begin the final 7-year Shemitah Cycle before the Hebrew year 6000 and we enter the 7th Millennium.

Pastor Mark