



Monday Matters December 16, 2013

What An Amazing Starry Night!

Have you ever just looked up at the heavens on a clear night and seen brightly shining stars? Where we live there is little man-made light since we live way out in the country. In Matthew Chapter 2 it tells of the Magi from the east who were looking for a king of the Jews. They said, "We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." The Scripture continues, "The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over this place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed."



So what was the amazing star the Magi saw in the heavens? Ruth Schenk of the Southeast Outlook recently wrote:*It was no ordinary star. Some guess that the star was a comet, but ancient records of the comet sightings do not match the time of Jesus' birth. Others have said it was an exploding star or supernova, but there are no records of that either.*

Many believe the Bethlehem star was a miracle - God's special creation to announce the birth of His Son.

Quote of the Week

"The star of Bethlehem was a star of hope that led the wise men to the fulfillment of their expectations, the success of their expedition. Nothing in this world is more fundamental for success in life than hope, and this star pointed to our only source for true hope: Jesus Christ."

~ Dr. D. James Kennedy ~

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Frederick A. Larson went to law school and became a lawyer and entered into a commercial litigation practice in Los Angeles. Sometime afterwards he became interested in researching the Star of Bethlehem. Ms. Schenk continued to write that Mr. Larson thought *the star was a fascinating mystery. He studied it for eight years, approaching it like a puzzle with clues from the Biblical record. He matched the facts from the Bible with a computer program called Starry Night that lets people view the night sky from anywhere on earth at any time in the past, present or future. He worked with the Biblical timeline and historical records to discover as much as possible about the Bethlehem Star.*

Through years of research, Larson came to believe that the Magi saw Jupiter, which is called the "King Planet," move in a shallow circle like a halo to crown Regulas, a star that is often called the "King Star."

Jupiter then continued on its path through the sky until it moved next to Venus in the western sky. Two planets close to one another would have created a spectacular sight.

The Magi saw the star stop over Bethlehem. According to Larson, stars don't stop, but planets periodically appear to reverse course and move backward through the other stars. Astronomers call this effect retrograde motion.

So on that spectacular night, the King Planet "crowned" the King Star while moving in a small orbit that looked like a crown. The Bethlehem Star was one of many amazing happenings that night. A king was born in a barn. Angels sang to shepherds on the hillsides. Wise men brought gifts. A star stood still.

Larson believes God is in the details.

"Our solar system is like a clock. It is mathematically correct," he said. "If the star is part of that incredible, natural order, then from the moment God flung the universe into existence, He knew when He would enter the human race as a man."

God's gift over 2000 years ago came as a baby born in a barn with a brilliant star pointing down from heaven. It wasn't until 33 years later when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave that the gift was



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Rick Larson discusses why he started researching the Star of Bethlehem in this recent interview on CBN.



made available to everyone who believed in Him (John 3:16). Let's remember the reason for this season and His gift to us if we receive it.

by Ron Nelson
and thanks to Ruth Schenk

Check out Rick's website at:
www.BethlehemStar.net