

Was the Christmas Star a "One Time" supernatural event?

Whether you believe in the Christmas story 2,000 years ago or not, one thing's for sure; today's calendar "is" the "church" calendar based on the life of Christ.

If fact, the correct date this Christmas is Monday, Dec. 25th, 2017 AD; AD is Latin for *Anno Domini* which means "in the year of our Lord."

Historically, calendars have always been named after a king and today's calendar has never been changed since the first century because no one claims to be a monarchy that can replace Christ.

This is not a religious statement, but in your face facts skeptics can't refute.

Christ was the only "supernatural" king since he not only claimed to be God in human flesh, but clearly stated in *John 18:36* "My kingdom is not of this world" meaning he came from outside the Earth as ruler of another domain.

This is too hard for the natural mind to understand which made me wonder if his arrival forecasted in the night sky by Jewish prophets is traceable even with today's technology?

Unfortunately, I don't have a definite answer as I've been trying to find this out a long time. I've studied some very good documentaries etc. like *The Star of Bethlehem* made in 2007 by Frederick A. "Rick" Larson but it later ran into historical conflicts around Herod's chronology. Check out *An Evaluation of The Star of Bethlehem* DVD by Dr. Danny



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R. Faulkner; a reputed pro astronomer and theologian <https://answersingenesis.org/holidays/christmas/an-evaluation-of-the-star-of-bethlehem-dvd/>. Also, there are several unexplainable astronomical events like 48 hours of continuous sunlight (*Joshua 10:13*), 3 constant days of nightfall in Egypt (*Exodus 10:21-23*) and noonday darkness at Calvary (*Luke 23:44-45*).

Jesus said something very astonishing to one of the religious leaders of the day Nicodemus which really summed

up the miracles and his whole reason for coming in those days found in *John 3:36* "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him". This is what the whole "Supernatural" Christmas season is about and what I suggest you believe.

Sky watch for the next month:

1. Waning Crescent Moon above Mars: Wednesday Dec. 13 before dawn look SE at the Moon from about 4:30 a.m. as it rides above the red planet.

2. Waning Crescent Moon above Jupiter: On Thursday Dec. 14 before dawn look SE at the Moon from about 5:30 a.m. as it rides above the king planet.

3. Gemini & Ursid Meteor Shower : We actually have two mild meteor showers this month; the Geminid peaks Wednesday, Dec. 13 just after midnight on a moonless night in the constellation of Gemini. The Ursid shower peaks Friday, Dec. 22 morning before sunrise when earth moves through the center of the dust trail left behind by comet



8P/Tuttle on a moonless sky. For more on all meteor showers next year check out the International Meteor Organization at www.imo.net/calendar/2018.

4. Winter Solstice Arrives: Thursday, Dec. 21st is officially the shortest day of the year at 9:28 a.m. This occurs when the sun reaches its most southerly declination of -23.5 degrees and likewise the North Pole is tilted 23.5 degrees away from the sun.

Depending on the Gregorian calendar, the December solstice occurs annually on a day between Dec. 20-23.

On this date, all places above a latitude of 66.5 degrees north are now in darkness, while locations below a latitude of 66.5 degrees south receive 24 hours of daylight.

Public Events for the next month:
Christmas Observers Group Meeting at Wilson Coulee Observatory near Okotoks- Saturday, Dec. 15, starting at 9

p.m. Dress warmly even when daytime temperatures seem mild; standing at telescopes can get chilly - try layering of clothes, a warm hat and warm footwear. Happily, the Sid Lee building is heated.

For further information, contact Jack Milliken at calrascsec@telus.net and the website is <http://calgary.rasc.ca/RecurringEvents.htm#recOG>.

Merry Christmas and thanks for tuning in all year!

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada-the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with over 5,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at (403)560-6574, Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com. The members meet the second Friday at the Trek Center in Vulcan monthly and you can visit at <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2018.htm>