

# Columnist: Was the Christmas star an angel?

For centuries scholars, theologians, historians and the plain old interested have tried to figure out what exactly the bright Christmas star was.

Theories range from comets, planetary conjunction, supernova and more. Personally I believed the planetary conjunction theory after watching Rick Larson's 2007 documentary Star of Bethlehem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7YTE7WFB6Y>, however

after seeing a few conjunctions over the years, I'm no longer this is the case.

Check out "An Evaluation of The Star of Bethlehem DVD by Dr. Danny R.

Faulkner; a very reputed professional astronomer and theologian <https://answeringgenisis.org/holidays/christmas/an-evaluation-of-the-star-of-bethlehem-dvd/>. I don't believe it is traceable through astronomical software since this rare event must have been a miracle like the creation illustrated in Genesis 1:1. Upon study, I have found the word star in both Old Testament Hebrew and New Testament Greek are interchangeable with angels. Angels have the ability to be bright, autonomous and not subject to the regular performances of the cosmos. While many ancient scholars don't share this opinion, it's the only one that make sense as it fits all the parameters outlined in the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Christmas is not just another holiday; it is a celebration of a "supernatural" occurrence for the strict benefit of mankind. John 3:36 sums it up best: "He that believeth on the Son



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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!

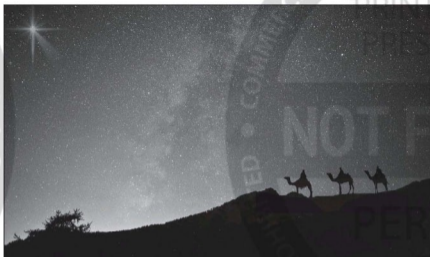
Sky watch for the next month:

1. Venus below Saturn sunset- Sunday, December 10th at dusk look SSW before 16:30 and watch these set into the horizon after sunset.

2. Crescent Moon and Venus sunset- Saturday, December 28th at dusk look SSW before 16:30 and watch these set into the horizon after sunset.

3. Geminid & Ursid Meteor Shower- We have two mild meteor showers this month; the Geminid peaks Friday, December 13th just after midnight on a moonlight night in the constellation of Gemini. The Ursid shower peaks Sunday, December 22nd morning before sunrise when earth moves through the center of the dust trail left behind by comet 8P/Tuttle on an almost moonless sky. For more on all meteor showers next year check out the International Meteor Organization at [www.imo.net/calendar/2020](http://www.imo.net/calendar/2020).

4. Winter Solstice Arrives- Saturday, December 21st is officially the shortest day of the year at 09:19 pm with 8 hours, 7 minutes and 18 seconds of daylight. 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:

Special Meeting at Ambrose University on the origins of the Star of Bethlehem - Saturday, Dec. 14 starting at 18:30-20:30 at the Athart Theater, 150 Ambrose Circle SW

Calgary. A presentation on faith and science by Dr. Stephen Jeans, developer and instructor of Ambrose University's Earth and Space Science courses. Come to an evening of beautiful image presentations which begin to explain current findings about comets and other natural phenomena of our universe including stars and novae that may have been the sign of the nativity. This presentation is about an hour of full-colour space images (mainly from ground-based astrophotographers and space-based NASA telescopes) and includes some analysis of biblical accounts to suggest how/what might have been the

Christmas star of the Magi. The RASC Calgary will help point out the Geminids meteor shower and more. [https://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/J Jeans\\_2019\\_StarBethlehem.pdf](https://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/J Jeans_2019_StarBethlehem.pdf).

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 1868 with over 5,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com). The members meet once a month on weekends at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis and you can check out times at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/calendar>. Like them at Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/272037680377/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/272037680377/), Twitter <https://twitter.com/CalgaryRASC> & YouTube [www.youtube.com/user/RASC Calgary](http://www.youtube.com/user/RASC Calgary).