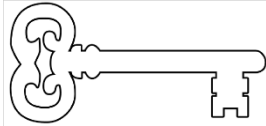


The Prophecy Club

Session 13: "The Mazzaroth Heralds Yahshua's Birth"

Start Date: October 27, 2020 @ 10 AM (PDT)

- The Fourth Key to Unlock Bible Prophecy



Mazzaroth (the heavenly lights) - the original constellations and the original parts of the solar system

In the Book of Job, the heavenly lights including the stars, constellations and anciently recognized parts of our solar system, were called the Mazzaroth (Job 38:32).



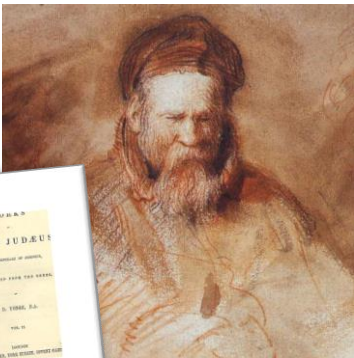
THE BETHLEHEM STAR WAS AN ASTRONOMICAL (SKY) EVENT!

Star Clues from Matthew 2:

1. When did the star appear? (Matthew 2:1)
In the days of Herod (his reign) and in tandem with

the Birth of Yahshua, the sky event occurs.

- Herod died in 1 B.C. B.C. (so 3 B.C. is within his reign)
2. The sky event didn't only happen locally. Wise men from the East (Babylon) witnessed it (Matthew 2:1).



Historical background on the magi from Philo Judeus: "*Among the Persians there is a body of the Magi, who, investigating the **works of nature** for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the truth, do... initiate others in the divine virtues by very clear explanations.*"

- How did the wisemen know about any sky event or its meaning? – Daniel 2:13 Daniel was a Babylonian magi (wiseman) - and was the head of the wisemen

He was the reason they knew the star prophecy of Genesis 49:10, which talked about the scepter in the lion's paws (Judah's constellation).

“The Magi were... Priests, descendants of the priesthood the Prophet Daniel had organized in Persia some 500 years earlier... Knowing the time was at hand (for the Messiah to come), these priests had been searching the heavens for the promised sign of His coming. Parthia was a powerful kingdom north and east of Israel, a remnant of the Persian Empire that had recently defeated the Roman Legions... The Magi were among Parthia's most powerful leaders. No Parthian ruler could ascend to the throne without their blessing and indeed their political influence was felt throughout the Middle East... Because of his lifetime of service at the highest levels of Babylonian and Persian governments, Daniel had become a wealthy man. Since he was most likely castrated by Nebuchadnezzar he had no heirs, and so after he formed the Magi, he left his fortune in their care to be given to the Messiah upon His birth... The Magi's gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh were Daniel's fortune, delivered to Him just in time to fund His escape from Herod's soldiers” (**Grace Through Faith, The Christmas Story, part 2**)

3) In Matthew 2:2, we find a very “telling” question posed by the Magi. “...And asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?”

- The Magis' question gives us three points for our list of qualifications for the Star. Whatever happened in the sky indicated:
 - 1) Birth
 - 2) Kingship / (God)
 - 3) Jews (Judah)
- **the wisemen give us another clue. They say, “We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” (Matthew 2:2)**
- When the wise men said "we saw his star in the east," they didn't mean "we saw his star while we were in the East."
- The Greek text here says the Star was "*en anatole*," meaning they saw his star rising in the east.
- That's what all but polar stars do, because of the rotation of the Earth. The star must rise in the east, but not all celestial objects do that. So, that's another qualification for the Star:
 - 4) It must rise in the east like most other stars.

Micah 5:2 was read to Herod, identifying Bethlehem as the Messiah's Birth location

Matthew 2:7: "Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared."

- Here we find that the star:

5) appeared at an exact _____ time.

6) And Herod didn't _____ know _____ when it appeared. He had to ask _____.

Matthew 2:8-9: "He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was."

And now we have the last three qualifications for the Star:

7) The star endured over a considerable period _____ of time _____.

The Magi saw it, perhaps from Babylon, traveled to Judea and saw it still.

8) It appears ahead _____ of them _____ as they trek south not so much as a guide as a further confirmation of the signs they had seen.

9) the Star stopped _____ !

Reviewing the 10 Identifying Star Clues:

1. The heavenly event took place in 2-3 _____ B.C.
2. It indicated Birth _____
3. It meant Kingship _____
4. The heavenly event had something to do with the Jews (Judah) _____
5. It rose in the east _____ (like most stars)
6. It appeared at an exact _____ time _____.
7. Only the learned (astronomers) knew when it appeared _____.
8. It endured _____ in the heavens for a long _____ period _____ of time.
9. It appeared ahead _____ of the wise men as they traveled south _____ from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.
10. It stopped _____.

- To begin finding a heavenly event, and making the connection with Bible prophecy, we first need to determine the date of the event. Events, by date, can be recreated in astronomy software going forward or backward in time, so long as you have the date of the sky event. The Bethlehem Star is a famous sky-event which heralded the Saviour's Birth. But to recreate it and understand it, so that we can really see how the heavens were part of the prophetic announcement of the Saviour's Birth, we first need to determine the precise date(s) that the sky event occurred.
- To find this, we may use the following:
 - A. Year of Baptism 27 AD
 - What does Luke 3:21-23 say about *Yahshua's* age at the time of His baptism? "about 30 years old"
 - Look up "began to be". What is the meaning? "nearing" or in precedence (preceeding being 30)
 - Based upon this, how old was *Yahshua* at the time of His Baptism? 29 years old, just before turning 30
 - Messiah's Baptism happened in what year of Tiberius' reign – Luke 3:1-3? It was the 15th year of Tiberius's reign
 - What year was this, consider the following evidence from Roman records: 27 AD

In Luke 3:1, we find that John began baptizing (and *Yahshua* was baptized in) the fifteenth year of Tiberius' reign.

According to Roman records, Tiberius reigned with the aging Augustus as co-regent beginning in the year 12 AD. He became the sole regent in 14 AD, but his fifteenth year is reckoned from 12 AD and was 27 AD.

Within "the provinces" of Rome, Tiberius had equal standing and authority with Caesar Augustus even while Augustus was still alive. Historian Will Durant points out that "all Rome which hated [Tiberius] for his stern puritanism, resigned itself to the fact that though Augustus was still prince, Tiberius had begun to rule." (Durant, *The Story of Civilization*, Vol. 3 "Caesar and Christ" p. 231)

$$12 \text{ AD} + 15 = \underline{27 \text{ AD}}$$

Thus the reign of Tiberius is dated (not from his sole reign at the death of Augustus) but from the beginning of his joint reign (two years prior to his death in A.D. 12) when Tiberius was given legal equality with Augustus. The 15th year if Tiberius would then correspond to A.D. 27.

B. Year of the Temple Construction 19 B.C.

- According to John 2:13-20, *Yahshua's baptism and beginning of His ministry happened in the 46th year of the Temple reconstruction project.*
- Roman records, which are accepted in Biblical history, place the Temple construction beginning in 19 BC.

19 BC + 46 years = 27 AD

- Putting this information together, *Yahshua* was 29 years old in 27 AD (the year of His baptism).
- Now that we know the year of His baptism, and Messiah's age at baptism, we can count backwards to the year of His birth (which gives us the year for sighting the sky events, now called "the Bethlehem Star"). Given this information, in what **year** was *Yahshua* born? 3 B.C.
- But knowing the year in which to look for a sky event is not precise enough to find the Bethlehem star, sky event. We need to know the precise **day**. There is much Scriptural evidence to show that *Yahshua* was born on Sukkot / Tabernacles 1, which is the 15th day of 7th month (Biblical) - Tishri

The following is the evidence for this being the precise day of His Birth:

A. *Yahshua* was born in a "stable" (a shelter for animals) – Luke 2:7

- The Hebrew word for "stable" (a temporary shelter for people or cattle is: Sukkah (Sukkot) (Genesis 33:17).

B. *Yahshua's* Birth wasn't during the winter, because (since ancient times in Israel) the sheep left their pastures after Sukkot ended. And according to Luke 2:8, there were sheep in the pastures at the time when the angel announced His birth.

C. A study of the time of John the Baptist's conception helps us determine *Yahshua's* birth. This is because Luke 1:26-33 tells us that *Yahshua* was conceived 6 months after John.

- When the angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias in the Temple, it was during the ministrations of the Abia (Abijah) order of priests (Luke 1:5, 1 Chronicles 24:3-19).
- This order of priests ministered in the Temple beginning the 9th week of the Hebrew year according to the ordinance of 1 Chronicles 24:10.

**David Ordained that the 24 Priestly Courses
Would Minister for 8 Days From Sabbath to Sabbath**

The **24 Priestly Courses** *changed shifts* after both the daily sacrifice and the incense offering were concluded and the “priestly blessing” had been delivered to the **Israelites** assembled in the temple. **Josephus** informs us that it was **David** who ordained each course should minister eight days from **Sabbath to Sabbath**.

Josephus, Antiquities 7 / 365 [David] divided them [the Levites] also into courses: and when he had separated the priests from them, he found of these priests **twenty-four courses**, **sixteen** of the house of **Eleazar I (1398-1379)**, and **eight** of that of **Ithamar**; and he ordained that each course should minister to Elohim eight days, from **Sabbath to Sabbath**.
William Whiston, *The Works of Josephus*, p. 208.

A Scriptural example of this *shift change* can be seen from this account in the time of **Jehoiada I (c.837-812)**.

2 Chronicles 23:8 So the Levites and all **Judah** did according to all that **Jehoiada I (c.837-812)** the priest commanded. And each man took his men who were to be on duty on the **Sabbath**, with those who were going off duty on the **Sabbath**; for **Jehoiada I (c.837-812)** the priest had not dismissed the divisions.

Table to Calculate the Timing of John’s Conception (which happened immediately after Zacharias returned home from his temple service) – 1 Chronicles 24:7-18

Week #1	Week #2	Week #3	Week #4	Week #5	Week #6	Week #7	Week #8	Week #9	Week #10	Week #11
Course #1	Course #2	All Priests	Course #3	Course #4	Course #5	Course #6	Course #7	Course #8	All Priests	Course #9
Jehoiarib 1 Chron. 24:7	Jedaiah 1 Chron. 24:7	All the priests	Harim 1 Chron. 24:8	Seorim 1 Chron. 24:8	Malchijah 1 Chron. 24:9	Mijamin 1 Chron. 24:9	Hakkoz 1 Chron. 24:10	Abijah 1 Chron. 24:10	All the priests	Jeshua
Key Event: Spring Tekufah (Equinox)		Key Event: Passover U.B.							Key Event: Shavuot Pentecost Feast of Weeks	Key Event: conception of John within 2 months of Zacharias' return home

- There are several textual connections with Sukkot (F.O.T.) and the timing of Gabriel's announcement.
 - Pentecost would later be celebrated as the day Christ's Followers" were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). It's not coincidental that John's father Zechariah lost his ability to speak due to his unbelief and that John the Baptist would be "filled with the Holy Ghost while still in his mother's womb".
- This means that Zacharias very likely met with Gabriel in the Temple on Shavout (Pentecost). He then returned home, the week after, having been struck dumb. John was conceived within the next couple of months.
- **Luke 1:23** – The fulfillment of the Feasts shows that John the Baptist was born on Passover (the time of Elijah's appearance)
- **One of the ceremonies** of the Passover Seder is to set a special place setting, for Elijah, and to open the door to welcome him according to Malachi 4:5. *Yahshua* later said that John the Baptist was the Elijah (Matthew 17:10-11)!
- This is the anchor point for discovering the exact time of *Yahshua's* Birth. *Yahshua* was born six months after John the Baptist (Luke 1:24-26).
(Seder is eaten on the 15th of Abib)
- Six months after Passover Seder/(UB 1) is 15th of Tishri (7th month) - specifically, *Yahshua* was born on the 15th day of the 7th month, which is the first day (Sabbath) of Sukkot.

Note: Tabernacles has always been about "Tabernacling with Yahweh" (Let them make me a sanctuary-wilderness Tabernacle-that I may dwell (tabernacle) among them.

D. Evidence in the Angel's Announcement Wording to the Shepherds

Yahshua's First and Second Advent are on the first Sabbath of Sukkot

- It is interesting also, that when the angel announced *Yahshua's* birth to the shepherds, he used terms that were related to the Feast of Tabernacles. He said he brought

“Good Tidings” of “Great Joy”. This feast is the feast of Sukkot. Why? Because it has always been about God dwelling with (Tabernacling with) people.

E. Evidence in the Angel’s Message to Joseph

- In Matthew 1:23, it is also interesting to see what the angel said to Joseph. What did the angel call Yahshua? Emmanuel (Immanuel), which means “God with us”. In fact, *Yahshua* WAS the embodiment of *Yahweh*. In Him dwelled the fullness of God, as it says in John 1:14 and Colossians 2:9. And Yahweh dwelt in our midst through *Yahshua* (Matthew 18:20).

Based upon all of this evidence, the following dates are significant (for sky events) in 3 BC BC (the year of Yahshua’s Birth):

- The Feast of Trumpets (1st day of the 7th month) was on September 11
- The Feast of Tabernacles (15th day of the 7th month through the 21st day) was September 26.

With the dates now known, following is the progression of the sky-events which heralded *Yahshua’s* Birth.

- **August 12, 3 B.C.** – Jupiter and Venus entered conjunction in the Lion (Aryeh)... Astronomers (which the Magi were) began observing the movements of Jupiter (*Tsedek*), the King planet.

- **September 11, 3 B.C.** – The Heavenly sign of Revelation 12:1 appeared, announcing that the “woman” was “great with child” (soon to be delivered).

Sky Event Happened: Sept 11, 3 BC and 23RD September 2017

Revelation 12v1&2
 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

11=November 2016 4=April 2017
 12=December 2016 5=May 2017
 1=January 2017 6=June 2017
 2=February 2017 7=July 2017
 3=March 2017 8=August 2017



September 14, 3 BC – Jupiter (the King planet) was in conjunction with Regulus (the King star) in Leo (Aryeh), the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. This was the first of three conjunctions. The next two were on February 17, 2 B.C. and May 8, 2 B.C. This was a coronation sky event, clearly indicating the “King”.

This was a fulfillment of Jacob’s prophecy regarding the sceptre (star) departing from between the lion's feet when Shiloh (Messiah) comes.

June 17, 2 BC – Jupiter and Venus in conjunction in *Aryeh* (Leo)

August 27, 2 BC – Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, and Venus all converged in *Aryeh* (Leo).

Hanukkah, 2 BC – Wisemen arrive in Jerusalem seeking Yahshua. Yahshua would have been over a year old, but not yet two. The Magi presented Messiah with

their gifts during the 8 days of *Hanukkah*. During Hanukkah, Jupiter, the king planet, came to its stationary point in mid-Bethulah (Virgo), the virgin. It would have appeared to be “stopped” over Bethlehem, as viewed from Bethlehem.

Late December, 2 B.C. – Herod orders all boys 2 years old and under to be killed.
– Matthew 2:16-17 (*Yahshua* was about 15 months old at this time).

January 10, 1 BC – Lunar Eclipse, mentioned by Josephus, preceded Herod’s death (Herod died on January 28, 1 B.C.)