

Today, we want to look a little closer at “The Christmas Star”.

## Matthew 2:1-11

The past few weeks we heard a lot in the media about “The Christmas Star”.

NASA calls this event “The ‘Great’ Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn”, where the two planets are drawing closer to each other in the sky as they head towards a “great conjunction”.

The alignment finally peaked on December 21 & at that time; the two giant planets appeared a tenth of a degree apart.

Think of the solar system as a great big race track, with the sun the center of the race track.

Each planet has its own racing lane & the earth is in the middle of all the other the lanes.

Saturn & Jupiter pass by each other about every 20 years, but what makes this particular event so special is that it’s been nearly 400 years since the planets passed this close to each other in the sky, and nearly 800 years since the alignment of Saturn and Jupiter occurred at night - allowing nearly everyone around the world to witness this “great conjunction.”

Because of the timing of this event, during the Christmas season when millions of Christians honor the birth of JESUS, the alignment of these two planets has an eerie similarity to the star that the wise men saw, which would lead them to the Messiah.

December 25<sup>th</sup> is the day that we celebrate Christmas, but some believe that JESUS was actually born in April.

Astronomer Michael Molnar wrote in his book 'The Star of Bethlehem - The Legacy of the Magi', that he believed JESUS was born on April 17, 6 BC – after he says a ‘great conjunction’ took place with Jupiter & the moon, as Jupiter came to a standstill in the east.

The natural course for lambs to mate is in the fall & they give birth in the spring.

The weather would be mild, the grass would be plentiful & this would give the new lambs the best chance for survival.

But this would be a good time for predators to attack & so the Shepherds would watch over the flock at night – and scripture would agree with this.

Luke 2:8 – And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Shepherds would defend the sheep at night from anything that tried to bring it harm.



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*So there is a good chance that “The Christmas Star” that the wise men were guided by was also a ‘great conjunction’ of the alignment of planets or heavenly bodies to announce the coming King.*

*Regardless of when JESUS was born or what “The Christmas Star” actually was – the important thing is – that JESUS was born & the heavens announced HIS birth.*

*And so we celebrate HIS birth, the greatest gift ever given to man.*

*Notice that as the wise men followed the star, they brought gifts to JESUS.*

**Matthew 2:11 – And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.**

*It appears to me that the three gifts are symbolic of Christ’s identity.*

***GOLD – representing HIS Royalty***

*Gold is symbolic with kings & there is no king greater than CHRIST*

***FRANKINCENSE – representing HIS Deity***

*Frankincense is a very expensive essential oil & incents were always burned before the LORD in the Old Testament.*

***MYRRH – representing HIS Sacrifice***

*Myrrh is used to anoint a body for burial & JESUS would be buried – but only for a short time.*

*What is guiding you to JESUS?*

*Do you worship HIM as your KING?*

*Do you worship HIM as your LORD?*

*Do you worship HIM as your SACRIFICIAL LAMB?*

*Whatever or whoever you are following is either leading you to JESUS or from JESUS.*

*What is guiding you?*



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