



## Endnotes for *The Star of Bethlehem*

Fall 2016 *Bible and Spade*

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Keller, Werner. [1955] 1995. *The Bible as History*. New York: Barnes & Noble, p. 325.

<sup>2</sup> An interesting survey of the history of interest in the Star is found in Aaron Adair, “The Star of Christ in the Light of Astronomy.” *Zygon* Vol. 47, Issue 1, pp. 7-29 (March 2012).

<sup>3</sup> Adair, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup> See A. A. Barrett, “Observations of Comets in Greek and Roman Sources before A.D.410,” *Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada* 72 no. 2 (1978), pp. 81-106.

<sup>5</sup> While moderns don’t consider planets to be stars, the ancients did. The term “planet” comes from the Greek, πλανήτης, which means “wandering star.” They saw them as differing from the others only in that they moved across the field of fixed stars, seemingly erratically.

<sup>6</sup> Andrew McGowan, “How December 25 Became Christmas,” <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/jesus-historical-jesus/how-december-25-became-christmas/>.

<sup>7</sup> Emil Schurer, *History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus Christ* (originally published 1887/8).

<sup>8</sup> “This star was not of the ordinary run of comets or new stars, but a special miracle moved in the lower layer of the atmosphere.” (*Kepleri opera omnia* 4, p. 346).

<sup>9</sup> The author’s first exposure to this theory was under the tutelage of Dr. Wasley Krogdahl at the University of Kentucky in 1961.

<sup>10</sup> Molnar, Michael. *The Star of Bethlehem: The Legacy of the Magi* (New Brunswick and London: Rutgers University Press, 1999).

<sup>11</sup> Interview with Louisiana State University astronomer Brad Schaefer regarding the Bethlehem star. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUaSQk3hdDc>.

<sup>12</sup> He claims that Aries is the astrological sign for Judea, that Matthew’s phrase “at its rising” (ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ) means a heliacal rising of a planet, that “went before” (προῆγεν) is a form of προήγησις (the astrologers’ term for retrograde motion), and that Herod died in 4 BC B all of which are demonstrably wrong. See Adair, Aaron. *The Star of Bethlehem: A Skeptical View* ([place of publication not identified]: Onus Books, 2013), pp. 69-82.

<sup>13</sup> W. E. Filmer, *Journal of Theological Studies* 17/2 (Oct 1966): pp. 297-298.

<sup>14</sup> Sinnott, Robert. “Thoughts on the Star of Bethlehem,” *Sky & Telescope* 36 (1968): pp. 384-386.

<sup>15</sup> Ernest L. Martin, *The Star That Astonished the World*. 2nd edition, 220 pages (Portland, Oregon: Academy for Scriptural Knowledge, 1991). Available online at <http://www.askelm.com/star/index.asp>.

<sup>16</sup> David W. Beyer, “Josephus Re-Examined: Unraveling the Twenty-Second Year of Tiberius,” *Chronos, Kairos, Christos II: Chronological, Nativity and Religious Studies in Memory of Ray Summers*, edited by E. Jerry Vardaman (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1998) pp. 85-96.

<sup>17</sup> By Timothy Barnes in *Journal of Theological Studies* 19 (1968): p. 205. There the controversy rested until Beyer reported on his research.

<sup>18</sup> Jack Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology: Principles of Time Reckoning in the Ancient World and Problems of Chronology in the Bible* (revised from the 1960's) (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998).

<sup>19</sup> Finegan lists these and others in table 139.

<sup>20</sup> In Latin, from *rex*, “king.” In Greek, *basilikos aster*, “kingly star.” In Persian, *sharru*, “king.”

<sup>21</sup> Frederick Larson presents his theory at length at <http://www.bethlehemstar.net>. He also has a DVD: “The Star of Bethlehem.” (MPower Distribution and Stephen Vidano Films).

<sup>22</sup> For an extended treatment of the date of the crucifixion, the earthquake, and the “blood moon,” see Rodger C. Young, “How Lunar and Solar Eclipses Shed Light on Biblical Events,” *Bible and Spade* 26.2 (2013) pp. 37-43.

<sup>23</sup> Adair, Aaron. *The Star of Bethlehem: A Skeptical View* ([place of publication not identified]: Onus Books, 2013).

<sup>24</sup> As even Adair acknowledges: “While strange sounding to moderns, the model [involving epicycles, with planets orbiting around a point that was itself orbiting around the earth] was very successful in its day in predicting the future location of the planets.” (p. 57).

<sup>25</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/holidays/christmas/an-evaluation-of-the-star-of-bethlehem-dvd/>.

<sup>26</sup> Origen, *Homilia in Numeros* 18.4.