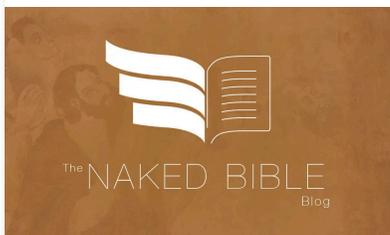


DR. MICHAEL S. HEISER

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Posted by MikeHeiser | Sep 11, 2016 | Astral prophecy, Biblical History, Biblical Theology & Doctrine, Eschatology / End Times, Jesus, NakedBible, New Testament | ★★★★★



Many readers will know that I believe the actual birthdate of Jesus was Sept 11, 3 BC. This isn't based on any original research of my own (here's a [short YouTube video of me discussing the date](#)). Rather, it is based on the work of E. L. Martin's *The Star that Astonished the World* (which can be read [for free](#)). Most academics are unaware of Martin's research because he wasn't a member of the biblical studies guild. Others reject it out of hand because of Martin's involvement with the old Worldwide Church of God. The quality of one's research, however, doesn't depend on having a PhD in biblical studies or whether one is doctrinally correct in all areas. I don't buy Martin's views on other things, but I find his work on the birth of the messiah persuasive (and it has a long history of endorsement in planetariums).

As noted, most academics have no inkling about Martin's work or its basis. In briefest terms, Martin considers Rev



12:1-7 to describe the actual celestial events of the birth of the messiah (which birth is part of the context of Rev 12:1-7). Most New Testament scholars don't consider Rev 12 as astral prophecy. The major voice in that regard is Bruce Malina, a well-known New Testament scholar. Unfortunately, Malina dramatically overstates his case in his book, *On the Genre and Message of the Book of Revelation*. Malina argues that (basically) the entirety of the book of Revelation is astral prophecy. Scholars like G. K. Beale and David deSilva have rightly pointed out Malina's near total neglect of the Old Testament context of John's Revelation. Malina's work deserves such criticism. But it's misguided to think that we have to choose between seeing astral prophecy everywhere in Revelation to the neglect of how John uses the Old Testament, and seeing it nowhere. I don't buy that either-or fallacy.

Martin's thesis has, of course, been critiqued in some detail. There are problems, but none of them are insurmountable and can be rebutted with good evidence. This reality, along with the comprehensive explanatory power Martin's work, as well as the date's remarkable synchronicity with Jewish messianic symbolism and calendar, make Martin's work persuasive to me. Most of the criticisms of Martin's work revolve around the fact that it requires a date of 1 BC for the death of Herod the Great, something that flies in the face of the (current) consensus of 4 BC for that event. Critics of a 1 BC death for Herod that I have read seem oblivious to the past and recent work in defense of that date — at least I have found references to that research lacking in their criticisms. A date of 1 BC for Herod's death is not only possible, but more accurately reflects the data now available.

The two best sources for defending Herod's death in 1 BC — which, again, seem utterly neglected in criticisms of Martin's work — are:



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1) The difficult to find article by **Ormond Edwards**, **“Herodian Chronology,” *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 114 (1982): 29-42.** Edwards’s article is a study of Herodian coinage and its implications for dating Herod’s reign, including his death. Edwards’ research shows that the death of Herod the Great was Tishri 1, 3 BC (Martin’s Sept 11) by the civil new year’s calendar, or Nisan 1, 2 BC using the ecclesiastical calendar.

Edwards writes in his conclusion:

“It is concluded that Josephus in *Jewish War* was mistaken in his handling of the calendars of the Herodian period. He dated all the Herods’ reigns from the spring new year, whereas the earlier Herods (excluding Agrippa II) dated their coins from the autumn civil new year’s day preceding accession. The error comes to light only when the data in Josephus is compared with the coin dates.”

2) The more recent article by an expert in biblical chronology, **Andrew Steinmann**, **“When Did Herod the Great Reign?” *Novum Testamentum* 51 (2009) 1-29.**

The abstract of this article reads:

For about 100 years there has been a consensus among scholars that Herod the Great reigned from 37 to 4 BCE. However, there have been several challenges to this consensus over the past four decades, the most notable being the objection raised by W. E. Filmer. This paper argues that Herod most likely reigned from late 39 BCE to early 1 BCE, and that this reconstruction of his reign can account for all of the surviving historical references to the events of Herod’s reign more logically than the current consensus can. Moreover, the reconstruction of Herod’s reign proposed in this paper accounts for all of the datable

evidence relating to Herod's reign, whereas the current consensus is unable to explain some of the evidence that it dismisses as ancient errors or that it simply ignores.

The above articles are not in the public domain, so I cannot post them. However, I can get copies to interested parties [if you subscribe to my email list and the newsletter](#). This option is only for a limited time. It will start with the next issue (#5) but not continue indefinitely.

There are other issues in Martin's work that need scrutiny. I'm actually engaged in doing that at present. Having just handed off the manuscript of a new book on *1 Enoch* (focused on the importance of the Watchers' transgression for New Testament theology) that will launch Feb-March 2017, I'm now turning my attention to a partially-written manuscript on astral prophecy. That book will aim to explain what astral prophecy is and isn't, and expose abuses of it in Christian prophecy talk.

By way of illustrating the abuses, one of the reasons Martin's work has drawn criticism is because some Christians think that the celestial imagery of Rev 12:1-7 somehow (a) affirms biblical prophecy, or (b) plays a role in future prophecy. The first is simply not true. There was no Old Testament prophecy about the specific astronomical events in Rev 12 signaling the birth of the messiah. The book of Revelation was the *last* book of the New Testament. It was written well *after* the birth of Jesus. Revelation 12:1-7 wasn't a *prediction* about celestial events and the messiah. Rather, John is giving us the celestial circumstances handed down to him by unnamed witnesses and (effectively) establishing the birth with significant celestial signs. This isn't a contrivance on his part because the Sept 11 3 BC date must (and does) work with the rest of the chronology of Jesus' life produced

by the New Testament and other sources. In regard to future prophecy, there is no verse in the Bible that tells us: (a) that the signs of Jesus' birth will be mirrored at his second coming, or (b) that the signs of Rev 12:1-7 are the meaning of "the sign of the son of man" mentioned in relation to the second coming (Matt 24:30). Anyone who tells you they can predict the time of the second coming based on a repetition of the celestial events of Rev 12:1-7 should be ignored.

Another abuse comes from folks out there who are using the celestial signs of Rev 12 to predict the rapture and the tribulation are going to happen on Sept 23, 2017. I'm not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, but I'm going to predict something: *This won't happen. This is a false prophecy.* I'm not going to be chummy toward people who abuse Scripture after the fact, like saying certain passages predicted the fall of the twin towers or an American financial collapse, or [fill in the blank with a modern event impacting America]. Sorry, but America isn't the focus of biblical prophecy. I don't care what code language they think they've figured out (or had channeled to them by special revelation). Ignore these people. Their exegesis is awful (if I were [Ezekiel](#) I might use scatological language now, but like I said, I'm not a prophet).

I have many reasons for criticizing modern "prophetic" use of Rev 12:1-7, but I'll save that for the book. For now I'll just say that much of what passes for "application" of Rev 12:1-7 misses something very important: the other celestial signs associated with the birth of Jesus that were present on Sept 11, 3 BC that *are not mentioned* in Rev 12:1-7 (i.e., there's a lot more going on in the sky than the items John mentions). Our modern "prophets" don't seem to be aware of that. But even if they were, see the above — there is nothing in the Bible that says any of this should matter for the second coming.

The bottom line is that if I, or anyone else, tells you they know when the Lord is returning, ignore it. That said, I'm not dumb enough or vain enough (or in the habit of ignoring Matt 24:36) to do that. I'm not going to portray myself as a prophet to dupe you into buying something from me, thinking you're getting secret information dispensed to me from on high. I just do biblical scholarship and give readers the academic breadcrumb trail. You know the drill if you've followed my work for any time. Sure, I'm interested in astral prophecy, but I'm just a biblical scholar. I'm blessed to have an astronomer who has an eye for all this material to provide fodder for consideration and check my own work. Fans of my novel, *The Portent*, know that person by the name Mantello, as that novel, the sequel to *The Facade*, weaves astral prophecy into the storyline (which will continue in the third novel). Mantello is not the real name of the astronomer who works with me, nor is he a mute Pakistani teenager, but he is indeed real. I'm meeting with him, Lord willing, in November to talk about the book manuscript. He's an invaluable resource. Please pray that my time with Mantello is productive.

So, happy birthday Jesus. While only the most callous and inhumane will fail to mourn the loss of so much life on this date in our own memory, let's not forget the theological significance of the date for the whole world.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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56 Comments

Norman Kurata on September 11, 2016 at 3:47 pm

Dr. Heiser, how does this relate to the upcoming similar astral conjunction on Sept. 23, 2017?

mheiser on September 16, 2016 at 4:36 pm

In my view, it doesn't. I don't think Rev 12 has anything to do with Sept 23, 2017. But there are date-setters out there who are saying that:

Aaron Wenninger on September

17, 2016 at 7:07 am

If Jupiter is considered the king planet and retrogrades within the belly of Virgo for the same period of time as a full term pregnancy, along with the other specific factors being met, sun, moon, 12 stars all aligning within the Jewish holy week sep 2017.

How is this not significant with the understanding of the rarity of such an alignment?

Thx!

mheiser on September 17,

2016 at 6:13 pm

Because there's a lot more to the night sky of Sept 11 3 BC than the Sept 2017 sky. And there's also the issue of calendrical alignments extending from the 3 BC date. It would take a book to explain it (well, okay, 50 pages with illustrations), which is why I'm working on it.

**Aaron
Wenninger** on

September 18, 2016 at

5:30 am

Thx!.. look FWD to
the book..In short..
What about Luke
21 referring to the
2nd coming(and
there will be signs
in the sun moon
stars.. To know
when redemption
draws near)
wouldn't this be
license to consider
Sep2017 as the
great sign of rev
12?

Didn't Jesus rebuke
the religious folk for
Not understanding
the signs of his first
coming? I think I've
heard you insist
that none knew of
the first advent,
therefore we can't
know of the second
either?... But what
of Simeon who was
told by the spirit..
Or the wise men
who read the star?
Wasn't the 70wks
of Daniel able to be
interpreted if one

chose to seek it
out?
I sense some
negative
assumptions
referring to those
who would use this
to (date set).. But
I'm not looking for a
date, only an
understanding of
the season of which
i believe this sign
may show us in
2017...

Side note on
dates.. Do you think
it's reasonable to
expect the return of
Christ to continue to
coincide with the
Jewish prophetic
feasts?.. As Christ
had already fulfilled
the first four..

Trumpets would be
the next... If we
can't know the day
or hour, this idiom
of which
corresponds to the
feast of trumpets,
can we know the
month and week of
his coming?

Activist Crone on

August 15, 2017 at 12:18

pm

I see this is a yr old,
so perhaps I've
missed the release
of this book? Oh
dear. My brain is
still slightly bruised
from Unseen Realm
studies, and now
celestial charts &
illustrations?

Ahh..bless you Dr.
Mike for keeping us
wanting more of the
Word & its'
meaning. May
Father be pleased
& continue to bless
your life & work!

AncientThought.org on September 11, 2016 at 4:38

pm

Have you read Nicholls' "The Great Christ Comet"? He critiques Martin's thesis, and also engages a little bit with the dating of Herod's reign. He spends a few paragraphs arguing that Martin's astronomy does not work and does not match the proper exegesis of Revelation 12. That said he **does** view Revelation 12 as an account of the birth of Jesus, and an astral prophecy. I tried working my way through Martins' work and Nicholls to figure out who was right, but had to give up (my training is in

Biblical Studies, not astronomy!), but hope to maybe pick it up again.

mheiser on September 15, 2016 at 5:24 pm

no, but my astronomer has read most everything critiquing Martin.

Nazarene on September 16, 2016 at 6:36 am

The main reason The Star can't be interpreted as a comet is that comets were seen as omens of doom in ancient times. I'd be curious to know what Nicholls does with that if you would be willing to share.

Respectfully,

Nathan

Bea James Baldrige on September 11, 2016 at

7:18 pm

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1179/peq.1982.114.1.29>

Kenneth Conklin on September 11, 2016 at 8:17 pm

Insanely awesome...even after reading through everything in The Portent, and then checking out Mr. Martin's work. I'll have to preach "Christmas in Revelation" at some point when I get the chance...though it will feel rather awkward telling people when the birth likely truly occurred!

Looking forward to the forthcoming resources, both newsletter-related, and soon to be published!

Thanks for the hard work, and sharing with us
the bread crumbs of it.

xaMsalohciN on September 11, 2016 at 9:07 pm

Took me a while.

Wound up in Neil Armstrong's home town
(Chasing Schoenheit).

And the torpedo museum in Rijeka.

Ask – the right question...

God's Guidance/Continued Success.

Best.

Alan Fuller on September 12, 2016 at 7:59 am

If Rev 12:1 is some sort of astronomical or
astrological description of the birth date of
Jesus, then what is the relation to Gen 37:9.

Could it also describe an astronomical situation,
or is the symbolism merely a coincidence?

Why does the man child remain in heaven while
the dragon comes to earth?

Christ was crucified on earth as an adult, not in
heaven as a baby. He also claimed to see Satan
thrown down before His crucifixion (Luke
10:18). Why is it portrayed differently in Rev 12?

I think these are some questions that have to be
addressed in a serious investigation, and given
convincing answers.

mheiser on September 16, 2016 at 4:33 pm

The messiah was born on earth but
ascended to heaven (that's the point of
the language).

This post wasn't meant to be an essay explanation of the idea. For that, read Martin's book.

Ferdinand The Bull on September 18, 2016 at 6:14 am

Wasn't Jesus ascending into heaven a known fact in the early church already? Was there need for further clarification? Just doesn't seem to make sense that John is pointing out a previous celestial event that no one in that day could verify about Jesus's birth and ascension and place it in a book that focuses on future events.

mheiser on September 29, 2016 at 5:19 pm

not sure I follow this question – ?

joel diederich on November 8, 2016 at 2:22 am

BTW, where are you concerning subsequent celebrations of one's birth with candles, cake, spans, pinches and presents? Pagan worship, or scripturally correct? [i'm really not baiting you, just trying to discern the righteous walk in my own life]

mheiser on November 26,

2016 at 3:50 pm

Celebrate a birthday any way you want to. Unless you're bowing down in your heart (or in reality) to another god, you're good.

mheiser on September 16, 2016 at 4:34 pm

I'd also recommend Beale's commentary on the matter of the woman and child.

Alan Fuller on September 16, 2016 at

10:03 pm

I'm just finishing Beale's shorter commentary.

There, in line with our view of Rev. 12: 2, the disciples represent the mother, the messianic community, in the midst of which the Christ was born in resurrection, and which would later present the resurrected Christ to the world. In Rev. 12: 2 it is, however, Christ's first birth that is in mind and not this later resurrection birth.

Beale, G. K.; Campbell, David. Revelation: A Shorter Commentary (Kindle Locations 5002-5004). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.. Kindle Edition.

Christ was born in resurrection,
but the first birth in view (12:2)
was in the midst of the messianic
community? I'm not sure that
makes anymore sense than some
sort of astronomical sign. BTW
Beale doesn't say anything about
astronomical signs.

mheiser on September 29,

2016 at 5:38 pm

I'm not sure what Beale is
saying either with that
phrasing.

Bilbo on September 13, 2016 at 8:47 am

I like this interpretation of Revelation 12:1-7.
However, I'm wondering if it is possible that it
refers not only to a past event, but also looks
forward to a future event. With that in mind, I'm
curious how often this combination of celestial
events occurs, and whether it has occurred
recently, or will occur recently.

Joshua Luna on September 13, 2016 at 1:33 pm

Mike, interesting article and I appreciate the
reference to Martin's work (had not seen it
before). Seems there is also a DVD out there on
the Star of Bethlehem by Larson that per
reviews follows Martin relatively closely (?) for
those interested. I just ordered it and will post
about it if the film's scholarship isn't flimsy. I had
been batting back and forth the Messiah's
probably birth date between Trumpets and
Tabernacles based on the tabernacle language

of John 1 as well as the “light” entering the world comment (Feast of Dedication?)—but the latter works as a conception date for either one I suppose.

The Biblical Holydays continue to amaze. Sure, Yeshua (Jesus) could have conspired to get himself killed during the Passover festival. And nothing prevented the Apostles from conspiring to perform a Shavuot hoax some 7 weeks later. Yet conspiring to be born on a Holyday is true ingenuity only the best fraudster could cook up.

Of a similar line of thoughts is the trumpet of 1Th 4. The Day of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement both make reference to the blowing. The inauguration theme works with Yom Teruah but the consummated Atonement does as well. Any thoughts, Mike?

mheiser on September 16, 2016 at 4:35 pm

Larson's DVD follows Martin but never credits him. It also skips a lot of the details.

Nazarene on September 17, 2016 at 2:49 pm

Larson mentions Martin only once in passing. Something to the effect of, “when I found Martin's work, it really confirmed everything for me” which passively gives Larson the credit instead of ELM. For 3 years I had

no clue who “Martin” was until you sent me that link. Not nearly enough credit to Martin IMO considering how much of his material Larson uses.

I do enjoy Larson’s production quality... But I can’t wait for the Mike Heiser DVD with all the important details that Larson leaves out (e.g. 9/11, Roman history, reversal of Enoch in the Magi etc.) 😊

Activist Crone on August

15, 2017 at 10:27 am

Christian astrophysicist Barry Setterfield, setterfield.org, has researched this in great detail, arriving at this same conclusion pertaining to the times of conception and birth of Jesus. He has produced a DVD, The Christmas Star, that he might share his findings with us seekers!

I’m not aware of whose works he studied while doing his own research, and don’t recall any credits given to others. It would be possible that he

(Setterfield) came up with
his conclusions on his
own.

Christopher Hughes on September 13, 2016 at 3:05

pm

Just for your consideration:

The precise gestational term of a pregnancy is
280 days (40 weeks).

Keeping that in mind consider the following:

On the morning of Sept 11th 3 BC you have the
constellation Virgo the Virgin rising with the sun
in her womb and the moon at her feet (Rev 12),
in my opinion announcing the conception of
Jesus the night before (Sept 10th 3 BC), where
the sun in the womb announces conception (not
birth, the sun being in the womb, you can see
this when running it through an astronomy
software, the woman "with child" per Rev 12).

Add 280 days to Sept 10 of 3 BC (Julian Day
#1720580) and that = June 17th of 2 BC, an
exact 40 week gestational period later (Julian
Day #1720860), where $860 - 580 = 280$ days.
So, I think that Jesus was born this day
because on that very date (way too
conveniently for my sensibilities) Jupiter and
Venus were in an incredibly close conjunction
(one that is rare, being as close as they were)
which was itself probably the Star of Bethlehem
announcing His birth to the Magi.

And, all of this happened after Jupiter had
"crowned" Regulus (a star in Leo the Lion,

meaning “king”) over the course of that same 40 weeks/9months (via retrograde motion), beginning 3 days after His conception on Sept 10 of 3 BC. The dates of these crowning conjunctions of Regulus by Jupiter were Sept 14th of 3 BC, Feb 17th of 2 BC and May 8th of 2 BC. Note that each conjunction falls within a separate Trimester of Mary’s pregnancy (Sept 14th = start of 1st Trimester; Feb 17th middle of 2nd Trimester; May 8th middle of 3rd Trimester).

The Magi would have already been taking note of all that, simply because that is just what they did for a living. Once they saw the final conjunction of Jupiter and Venus at the end of all the above, as close and spectacular as it was, they would have made all of the appropriate connections at that point. Maybe they were in Babylon and had Daniel’s prophecy (Dan 9) on hand and acted on it, I don’t know, but they saw King Planet with King Star going through all of that in Leo the Lion (signifying Judah) with the involvement of a Virgo and Venus (Virgin/Mother), and off they went to find a newborn king. Thus, I think that Jesus had to have been born on June 17th of 2 BC and I think that the astronomy and history line up better that way.

Take into account also the probable date of His crucifixion being Friday, April 3rd of 33 AD (Julian calendar). If Jesus was born in 2 BC then He would be between 33 and 34 years old (i.e., thus about 33 ½ years old) on April 3rd of 33 AD, having turned 30 in 29 AD (for

argument's sake let's assume it was in June).

This lines up with the 15th year of Tiberius as well (as we need it to because Luke 3 says that in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar John the Baptist began his ministry and the birthday of Jesus turning 30 soon followed), via the Roman way of reckoning that year, year 1 of Tiberius' reign beginning 1 January of 15 AD.

The 15th year of his reign then of course would have been 1 Jan of 29 AD, Jesus therefore turning 30 during the year of 29 AD. So again, if Jesus turned 30 in 29 AD then subtract 30 from 29 and, recognizing that there is no year zero, that lands his birth in 2 BC (where 1 BC corresponds to "zero" numerically, such that 29 AD minus 30 = -1, where -1 = 2 BC; to explain further where for the purpose of doing calculations 1 AD = 1 numerically, 1 BC = zero numerically, 2 BC = negative 1 numerically, and so forth...).

But also note, if He was born in 3 BC then in order to be between 33 and 34 years old at His crucifixion (which a straightforward reading of the gospels seems to indicate, though I know there is differing opinions there) He would have to have died in 32 AD (and in 32 AD Nisan 14 was not on a Friday, it was rather on a Monday, so of course that date won't work for the crucifixion).

All of that makes the most sense to me. The recognition of the gestational period being seen between Sept 10-11 of 3 BC and June 17th of 2

BC was from my own research, I have never read that before anywhere else....

See it explained in this video that I made on youtube – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WG3pZVCR174&feature=youtu.be>

bethyada on September 16, 2016 at 10:57 pm

Hi Christopher. Most of that sounds feasible. It is not completely unique though, [here is something I wrote](#) in 2008 along your lines. Some of my reasoning may have come from my reading of Martin.

Note that the gestational period of humans is approximately 38 weeks based on conception. The 40 weeks dates from mother's last period.

I have read that Luke's: "Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age,..." could possibly be translated: "Jesus, when he began his ministry, was nearly thirty years of age,..." or the like. Meaning that the passage meant Jesus was 29 turning 30.

Activist Crone on August 15, 2017 at 10:57

am

You stated that "32 AD Nisan 14 was not on a Friday, it was rather on a Monday, so of course that date won't work for the crucifixion)."

No matter how a day's measurement of time is defined, or has been 'juggled' to make the crucifixion/resurrection events fit three days and three nights into the framework of Friday afternoon to pre-dawn Sunday morning, it doesn't jive. It seems that the misunderstanding arises from the lack of understanding the multiple Sabbaths occurring during the week of our Lords' death and resurrection as a result of Passovers' High Holy Days (Sabbaths) as well as the weekly Sabbath day of rest. It is more likely that He was crucified on that weeks' Wednesday afternoon, was resuscitated before that Saturdays' Sabbath began at sunset, or dusk, and was ministered to by angels either while still within the tomb or in another nearby location after leaving it, thus being gone by the time the women went to tend to or mourn at His burial site. If my reasoning is entirely off the mark, I'm hoping Dr. Mike will get it straightened out!

mheiser on August 24, 2017 at 11:56 am

not sure why this matters for the birth date (or really anything else). If you aren't using the Qumranite (Enochic) calendar system, you can't lay claim to any "eternal calendaring" (is that a word?) or divine significance to calendar. But again, I don't really care

about this item. Not sure this is
even intended for me!

General Han Solo on September 16, 2016 at 8:20 pm

Dear Mike,

What's your take on the Wiki entry in regards to
this work, especially this excerpt (about
December 25th):

Jupiter next continued to move and then it
stopped in its apparent retrograde motion on
December 25 of 2 BC over the town of
Bethlehem.[92] Since planets in their orbits
have a "stationary point",[85][87] a planet
moves eastward through the stars but "After it
passes the opposite point in the sky from the
sun, it appears to slow, come to a full stop, and
move backward (westward) for some weeks.
Again it slows, stops, and resumes its eastward
course," said Chester.[87] The date of
December 25 that Jupiter appeared to stop
while in retrograde took place in the season of
Hanukkah,[85] and is the date later chosen to
celebrate Christmas.[92][96]

mheiser on September 29, 2016 at 5:39 pm

which work?

Rhonda Howard on September 20, 2016 at 6:22 am

Jesus Christ our Promised seed by Dr. Victor
Paul Wierwille, 1982. He goes into great detail
through prophecy; planet alignments and history
and calendars that Jesus Christ was born on

September

11. http://www.preteristarchive.com/Books/pdf/1982_promised-seed.pdf

Gloria Urban on September 21, 2016 at 10:12 am

Mike, in reading the Portent, I was so fascinated with this theory. I struggled to find where the fiction ran and where I was actually learning history. Thanks for this article to shed some light for those of us who are just normal people. I consider myself one of those five or six, you refer to in the podcast, who have a desire to go deeper. You have changed my thinking on so much that I wonder who I am. Bless you for all you do.

mheiser on September 29, 2016 at 5:11 pm

you're welcome, and bless you for your interest in Scripture!

mheiser on September 29, 2016 at 5:38 pm

It seems apparent that the dragon is part of the signage (either hydra off the ecliptic, or scorpio on the ecliptic, or the combination of scorpio and libra (thought of in ancient systems at various points as the claws of scorpio). See the discussion in Malina, 160-162.

But otherwise I don't know what you mean by "another" sign.

bethyada on September 30, 2016 at 8:55 pm

See here:

<http://www.askelm.com/news/n020723.ht>

The “wonder” in Revelation 12:3 is the same kind as the “wonder” in Revelation 12:1. That likely means that the wonder in verse 3 is also an astronomical indicator. However, Dr. Martin was never able to identify the celestial formation that indicated when, where, or the pattern in the heavens, of the second sign in verse 3, other than the information in the text. I asked Dr. Martin (bugged him about it actually) at least 4 times over a ten year period. He said he not yet developed more information about that “wonder” in Revelation 12:3.

I understood that Martin believed that the sign of the woman pointed to dating around Jesus’ birth (as per your post) and that the sign of the dragon also pointed to a specific date.

mheiser on October 26, 2016 at 12:35

pm

The dragon is usually identified with either Hydra (off the ecliptic) or the scorpion (in antiquity, scorio and libra were combined into a dragon with claws) on the ecliptic.

John Ashcraft on March 13,

2017 at 6:42 pm

What about Draco being
the Dragon?

mheiser on April 1,

2017 at 5:59 pm

Draco = northern
polar fixed stars.

John Ashcraft on

April 1, 2017 at 7:38 pm

Rev 12:3. And there
appeared another
wonder in heaven;
and behold a great
red dragon (Satan),
having seven
heads and ten
horns, and
seven crowns upon
his heads.

It recently occurred
to me that the
dragon
appearing in
heaven (verse 3)
was actually
referring to the
constellation
DRACO/Hydra. In
fact, the word for
'dragon' used in the
Bible in the
Greek language is

DRAKON (G1404).

The Bible goes on
in verse 4 to say
that the dragon's
tail 'drew the third
part of the stars of
heaven'.

Looking at a star
chart of the
northern sky, from
the perspective of
Polaris

or the pole star over
the North Pole, the
sky is divided into
24 hours,

portioning out the
sky like a 24 hour
clock. Locating

stars or other
points in the sky
can be done by

knowing its hour of
RIGHT

ASCENSION (R.A.)

and

the DECLINATION
(height above the
equator). The TAIL

OF DRACO wraps
around the heavens

from about 11' 30"
(11 hours, 30

minutes) R.A. (the
star

that is at the tip of
its tail) all the way
to about 19' 30".

The total
portion of the sky
that the DRAKON
crosses is 8 hours
of Right Ascension
(R.A.). There are
only 24 hours of
R.A., 8 being a third
of 24 which
means, the
dragon's tail drew A
THIRD OF THE
STARS!!!! ONE-
THIRD of the
stars visible lie
within the R.A. lines
to which the TAIL
OF THE DRAGON
EXTENDS!

The dragon is
interesting because
it has several
details as well.

The dragon being
described as red,
which is not
mentioned again –
anywhere in
scripture. Eltanin,
the brightest star in

the constellation, is
an orange giant
star, with a
companion red
dwarf star.

The head of Draco
actually does have
seven stars (“seven
heads”), even
though it is
commonly
displayed as only
four stars on most
charts (Gamma
Draconis –
companion red
dwarf star, Nu
Draconis – binary
v1 & v2 Draconis,
Beta Draconis –
Binary with dwarf
star companion).

The constellation
used to be called
the
Great Dragon, as
one of its stars,
Thuban, used to be
the pole star
around 3000
B.C.

Dr. Heiser, I've long suspected Jesus, The Atonement for our sins, was born precisely on The Day of Atonement. As His death precisely occurred on an anniversary of Passover because Jesus Himself is The Passover Supper. A definition of Yom Kippur is also the very definition of Jesus. Because God is Spirit, and therefor could not die, birthing, Fathering, Himself, in the flesh so He could die a Holy sacrifice of flesh. His return we're told will be in His transformed body. I Cor 15:46. If your 9/11 birth date on the Gregorian calendar is correct my question is: was 9/11 in the year of Jesus's birth on the Hebrew calendar on The Day of Atonement?

10th Day of the 7th month Tishiri; civil year

Tishiri first month.

Anna Glover

mheiser on October 26, 2016 at 12:57 pm

No, it was Tishri 1.

Activist Crone on November 18, 2016 at 2:36 pm

Count me among the 'deeper seekers of truth', along with other sentiments expressed by your last poster here. After much turmoil following a decade deceived by legalistic religion, I met Jesus & fell in love with the Word. Early on I asked Him to not allow me to be deceived again, to give me eyes that SEE, which briefly explains how I've come to find your trail of breadcrumbs! My thanks to you for sharing your dedication & hard work with us. On my grandest 'study day', I still laughingly refer to my efforts as those of a wannabe scholar! I just finished

first read through of Unseen Realm, with deeper study to follow this winter. I hope Father is pleased & continues to Bless you in your life & work. Again, thank you.

Have you seen the work of astrophysicist Barry Setterfield on this topic?

<http://www.setterfield.org/GSRdvds.html#star>

mheiser on November 26, 2016 at 4:33 pm

I've never seen Setterfield's work on this (nor have I heard of him until now).

Thanks for the link!

I read your follow-up that you asked me not to post. I lament with you.

John Ashcraft on February 23, 2017 at 1:42 pm

When using Stellarium, why was the moon not under Virgo's feet on the Day of Trumpet/Yom Teruah in 3 BC but under her feet by the 2nd Annual Sabbath of Sukkot. Why were there no planets in the birth canal on Yom Teruah but on Yom Kippur you have the Sun and Mercury at Spica and the Sun is born on the Second Annual Sabbath of Sukkot.

mheiser on March 13, 2017 at 3:49 pm

I don't know, as I don't make astronomy software, nor how to use Stellarium.

Works just fine in Starry Night Pro.

John Ashcraft on February 23, 2017 at 1:57 pm

Now about the Sabbaths and how they are tied to Yeshua/Jesus. Matthew, Mark, Luke says the Son of Man is L-rd even of the Sabbath. That means to me that everything occurring with Yeshua will occur on a Sabbath, 4th day, Rosh Chodesh (first sliver of the new moon), full moon, or the 7th day of Feast of Tabernacles.

Yeshua was conceived in 4 BC at Chanukkah (Festival of Lights and Feast of Dedication) on a Sabbath either on Dec. 15th or the 22nd. Born in the Fall on either Yom Teruah (Day of Trumpet) or on the first Annual Sabbath of Feast of Tabernacles in 3 BCE. Messianics teach Feast of Tabernacles. He was circumcised on the 8th day (A new beginning) on the Second Annual Sabbath. According to Stellarium (free Astronomy program) and Torahcalendar.com, He was born on Yom Kippur in 3 BC (Stellarium -4) or Feast of Tabernacles. He began His ministry in 27 CE and baptized either in January (Michael Rood Chronological Gospels) or Day of Atonement (Biblical Astronomy article). Entered Jerusalem on a donkey in 29 CE (Shemitah year) on Abib 10 (Saturday), Month 1. Died on Passover (not a Sabbath) on Wednesday (4th day and 4th candle called the Christ candle or servant candle of the Menorah (7 candles)) (each candle represents a day and 1000 years). Buried on Thursday (Wednesday night by the time the first three stars came out which starts a new day). Possibly the men came out of the tomb

when the stars had appeared and closed the tomb after the stars came out. This Day was the Feast of Unleavened Bread Annual Sabbath. Rose 72 hours later at the beginning of the Feast of First

Fruits. Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) is the Messianic Kingdom at the Second Coming in 2017 (Psalm 117) and 2018 (Psalm 118). The rapture is on the Day of Trumpet in 2017 (Psalm 117 is all about deliverance from Babylon (freedom, liberty, Jubilee) and Armageddon in 2018 on the Day of Atonement (Rev. 14:20ff- Wheat and Tares; Rev 15–Day of Atonement Typology); Rev. 16/19 Armageddon on Day of Atonement (Psalm 118:10). Psalm 118:5 is Day of Trumpet. Psalm 118:15 is the word “Tabernacles” (KJV) which is FEast of Tabernacles and the Messianic Kingdom.

John Ashcraft on February 23, 2017 at 2:06 pm

Day of Trumpet (Lev 23:24-25); Zeph 1:14-16 Day of the Lord is a day of TRuMPET and ALARM (Matt 25). According to Isaiah the Day of the Lord is a one year event and covers both the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments of Revelation. It begins on the Day of Trumpet with the rapture and ends on the Day of Atonement with Armageddon (Psalm 117-118; Deut 24:5; Jn 6:40, 44,54). Matthew 24:31 (Day of Trumpet); I Cor 15:52 (Day of Trumpet); I Thess 4:16-18 (Day of Trumpet); Rev 6:12-17 (Day of Trumpet/Day of Atonement); Rev 11:15ff (Day of Trumpet Typology); Rev 12:1: Woman clothed with the Sun in 2017 on the Day of Trumpet. Rev 2:10 Ten days of Tribulation (Days of Awe)

Day of Trumpet to Day of Atonement. 10 days =
10 years. 2007-2017/2018.

mheiser on March 13, 2017 at 3:51 pm

The day of trumpets may or may not have any relationship to the trumpet reference here. We just aren't told.

Incidentally, the same reference appears in 1 Cor 15:52, amid some other things that are associated (in Revelation) with events after the millennium.

John Ashcraft on February 23, 2017 at 3:00 pm

Joe 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; According to Isaiah, the Day of the Lord is a one year event and covers both the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments of Revelation. It begins on the Day of Trumpet with the rapture and ends on the Day of Atonement with Armageddon and this is what Jewish Messianics teach.

Joe 2:10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

It is interesting to note that the Solar Eclipse of August 21, 2017 is on the Eve of Elul 1 which is 40 days from Day of Atonement but you have never studied Astral Prophecy this way by tying it to Leviticus 23 timeline. Remember Jonah and the Whale where Jonah was told to go to

Ninevah 40 days in advancement.

Planet X should be coming out from the Sun 40 days out. It is either a brown dwarf giant or red dwarf giant and in the Bible it is called "The Destroyer" or El Shaddai (destroy).

Joe 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

Joe 2:16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

Have you ever read this verse based on Day of Atonement? Hmmm. Did you know that on the Day of Atonement the Trumpet is only blown 1 time. That the Day of Atonement is a Solemn Fast and that people in Temple times gathered together on the Day of Atonement.

Did you know that prior to the Flood beginning in November that on the Day of Atonement was a global earthquake (axial poleshift) and that there will be a repeat of it on the Day of Atonement at the beginning of the Day of the Lord (Rev 8:5) and it will be between 6.0-10.0 but the big one is not until the Day of Trumpet one year later when every mountain will be moved out of its place (Psalm 118=2018). That one will be 10.0-50.0.

Using Stellarium, September 30th is Day of Atonement in 2017 and it is on the last Sabbath of September. It is interesting that the lineup of planets are in a row except for the Sun and they are lined up with Regulus but what I find more

interesting is 2 planets are in line N/S, N/S, and N/S as well during this timeframe. One of the S's or N's is Spica.

Danielin Perintö on April 20, 2017 at 6:50 am

Hi brother Michael! I appreciate your humble attitude and easy-to-understand studies on what the others have found in the fascinating field of the Ancient Astral Prophecies. I decided to use your work as one of my references. I love the way how you are able to present the often misunderstood controversial theme of Biblical Astroprophecy to the community of Biblical scholars from the academic perspective.

I've been in the field of Mazzaroth or Biblical Hebrew astronomy for years and my heart leaps for joy of hearing the Bible scholars on the Ancient Near Eastern languages and cultures like you finding the exciting realm of ancient prophecies from the astronomical perspective. The language which was common knowledge to the ancients but which we have limited serve as "our signs" even if they have been YHVH-God's Signs from the Beginning (Gen 1:14-19). I believe Astral Prophecies to be the world's oldest field of science and foundation of all ancient cultures even to this very day in relation to Gen 3:15 regarding the Promise of the Coming Redeemer. In a way or another everything have always spinned "under the Polar Star" from the very beginning. We are dealing here with something which is about make complete breakthrough in such a time as this through the Restoration of All Things (Acts 3:19-21).

Have you heard of the work of Robert Scott Wadsworth? He has been titled as “Walking Encyclopedia of Biblical Astronomy” and he is one of the modern pioneers in the Messianic Prophetic Signs in the Biblical Salvation History. What Mr. Ernest L. Martin or E.W. Bullinger didn't have Mr Wadsworth has: astronomy software combined with the understanding of the Hebrew concept of the Salvation History. His most familiar work is Biblical Astronomy – A Voice Crying In The Heavens. Here's 15 minutes from Robert Wadsworth on the “Seed War” in Gen 3:15 from the astroprophetic perspective: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwZHKok7wF4>

Was Ophiuchus (which is one of Virgo's decan signs) and Scorpio what Adam, Eve and the serpent saw in Gen 3:15 in relation to what God revealed to them regarding the Seed War? The Biblical text doesn't say God revealed the stars signs to them but the ancient Astral Prophetic context makes us ask that question. Were the Star Signs, which are all about the Redemption of Mankind, revealed to man after the fall in the Garden because there became need for the Redemption?

Secondly, I am totally on the same page on Rev 12:1-7 being the Messiah's Birth Sign (so happy birthday Yeshua-Jesus!). Happy to hear too what you think on predicting the rapture according to the (incorrect) understanding of the Sept 23 2017 astral sign in Bethulah (Virgo) and Arieah (Leo). I've shared the same concern for

years. Unfortunately I can verify there have been self-appointed “Mazzaroth prophets” who use these ancient God-given signs for their view of “Christianized foretelling” according to their personal desires and perspective on Biblical eschatology.

While the “rapture” won’t happen on the date which they have set I believe the Sept 23 sign could still be somehow related to the endtime-prophecy regarding the Sealing of the 144 000 “Firstfruits” in Revelation 14 according to the movement of “The King Star” in Virgo for nine months and coing out of the “womb” in Sept 23rd 2017 together with the other rare major signs in Virgo and Leo. While the astral prophecy in Rev 12:1-7 is first of all about the Messiah’s Virgin Birth I see it as a two-fold progressive prophecy according to the ancient Biblical Hebrew principle of the Redemption of the Firstborns. Yeshua-Jesus is the Firstborn of all firstborns (1 Cor 15:20). The historical and prophetic principle of the Israelite Firstborns is much larger topic so I will not go further on that now. However, please see Daniel Brecher on the ancient Hebrew principle of the Redemption of the 144 Firstborns (or “144 Aleph” in the Hebrew text of Revelation) from the 12 Tribes of Israel on Passover in the Temple history. I have his book titled in Finnish “Juutalaisin silmin” published by “Gefen kustannus”. Don’t know is it available in English. I believe you would love it Michael!

What I have presented here are only about how I interpret the “ancient astroprophetic grammatic” according to the principle of the Redemption of the Firstborns in the history of Israel and the present Signs in the Sun, the Moon and the Stars (Luke 21:25-28). I could be wrong but I will definitely keep “looking up” as the Messiah commanded and trying to do my best on interpreting the Signs prior to His return for my and others encouragement.

Shalom & Blessings!

Ken Rutherford on May 8, 2017 at 2:32 am

If Jesus dies at age 33 as is commonly accepted, does this put his death at AD 30? Does that fit well here?

Timothy Wood on July 29, 2017 at 1:08 pm

I would be grateful if you commented on Nicholl´s work The Great Christ Comet published by Crossway in 2015.

mheiser on August 24, 2017 at 12:06 pm

haven't read it

Robert E Sackett on November 10, 2017 at 6:41 pm

I assume that you would know this but just in case. In my studies I too came to a 3 BC birth date. But I was wrong because I did not know that historical dating and astronomical dating are one year off. See: Wikipedia for the article "year 0". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_zero

