

Revelations on The Real Date of the Birth of Jesus, the Messiah

by

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Dedicated to the glory of God for his
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Introduction

The actual real date as to when the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, was born has been a real puzzler for scholars for nearly 2,000 years. This author could not figure this one out either, even after years pondering and studying the problem. Finally he gave up, got on his knees at his bed side, prayed earnestly about it, and asked God to reveal to him, exactly when it was, for no one seemed to know, and yet it seems so very important to many people. A moment later, that day of 22 November 1970, God showed him that it was on the Feast of Purim (see The Book of Esther, chapter 9, verses 20 to 32) .

How did God Reveal this Secret?

What happened, was that he simply got off his knees and in faith, believed that God would show him the answer in a moment. The Holy Spirit must have put into his 'heart' or mind to take a look at a book on his one and only book stand at that time. It was the book, Religions of America. He simply opened it up in faith that God would guide his fingers to open the book to the right place and his fingers opened to the page on the Feast of Purim.

Similarity of
the Traditional Christmas and Purim

He read the article about salvation of the Hebrew people from possible extermination and of a two day holiday. To him, it sure reminded him of Christmas and Boxing Day holidays, events celebrating a gift from heaven and of the means of a coming salvation through the birth of the baby Jesus to a virgin named Mary and her espoused husband Joseph in Bethlehem of Judea. Further events soon conclusively proved this baby to be the promised coming Messiah. This happened during the years that Herod the Great was king of Judea. This

Herod is said to have died in 4 B. C.¹

Any Confirmation in the Bible?

The bible mentions that because of a special decree from Caesar Augustus to take a census in his empire, the parents of the coming Jesus had to return to Joseph's home village of Bethlehem. Upon getting there, there was no room anywhere to lodge, so they had to stay in a stable. This was the reason why Jesus was laid to rest in a manger.

With this clue of there being no where to lodge, even with their relatives and friends suggests that there must have been a major important Hebrew festival like the Feast of Purim.

The Dating of the Feast of Purim

Many years later, God revealed to this writer that this was on February 23, 5 B. C.², about a year before Herod died. As the Feast of Purim (pronounced as poor'im) falls on the fourteenth day of the lunar month, which comes one month before Passover and the usual

1 Werner Keller, trans. William Neil, rev. Joachim Re-hork and B. H. Rasmussen, *The Bible As History*, (New York: Bantam Books, rev. ed. 1982) p. 367.

2 At first this writer figured out that this happened on a leap year. Normally this would have been on a leap year, if one goes back in time from our present leap year systems but the Romans did not have a leap year that particular year. This date of the Feast of Purim that year was worked out from one or more astronomy programs which show the dates when the new moons and the full moons occur. According to the MyStars! astronomy program, the full moon of 14.75 days would have occurred at about 6:20 hours local time over Jerusalem in February 23, 5 BC.

Easter time³, one just has to determine when the new moon and the full moons occur for that particular area of the world. This can be done fairly easily nowadays with computer astronomy programs.

The Significance of this Time of the Year

Upon God revealing the Hebrew festival of Purim as the proper time of the Messiah's birth, we now know why there was no room to lodge, even with their relatives and friends (Joseph was originally from there). This festival also happened during the warming up time of the season of winter, when the lambs are being born.

Because the lambs are so helpless when they are born, they are easy prey for any predators like foxes, wolves, or even lions in those days. During this time of the year, near the end of February and on, The shepherds therefore have to be alert and stay up during the night, to keep the lambs from being attacked and eaten by any roaming nearby predators.

This aspect of the helpless lambs being born during this time of the year is important to note, because Jesus was called the Lamb of God, that was to be slain for the sins of the world (John 1:29, 36).

Any Significance in the Sky in those Days?

Why ask that, you might say. Well look and see what the Holy Scriptures say:

Genesis 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the

3 Lunar months begin on the day of a new moon and they are usually about 29.5 days long. According to the Canadian Jewish Reference Book and Directory 1963, Purim has occurred as early as 23rd February in 1987 and as early as 5 February in 1996 (p. 57). In 2006, March 14 would be a full moon and the day for the Feast of Purim.

firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and **let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:** 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.16 And God made two great (n) lights; the greater light to (o) **rule the day**, and the lesser light to **rule the night:** he made **the stars also.**18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that [it was] good.

We know too that there were prophecies such as cited below, concerning strange events that would happen in the heavens, regarding the crucifixion of the Messiah.

Amos 8:9 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day: Luke 23:45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. Isa 30:26 Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound. 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.⁴

⁴ Both of these last verses are referring to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, as discovered from finding a report on Chinese astronomy of a supposed double sunrise that happened to China at the same time of the resurrection of Jesus. The first supposed sunrise was that of the moon, when it became as bright as the sun. (Isaiah 30:26) This happened while the sun was having big problems with that sunspot that blocked the sun for three hours on the day of the crucifixion. (Amos 8:9; Luke 23:45) By Saturday night, shortly before midnight apparently, part of the sun exploded and made the sun to appear seven times brighter, in the opinion of the ancient people of that time.

The Bible also mentions that there will be signs and strange events in the last days concerning “the Day of the LORD” and the coming of Jesus for the saints.

Luke 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

Because of the foregoing remarks and Scripture passages, we should not be surprised to read of the following sign:

Mt 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for **we have seen his star in the east**, and are come to worship him. 9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, **the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.** 10 When they saw **the star**, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

God has therefore been using the sun, moon, stars, comets, and planets to help us understand the timing of special times and events. Most likely then, they were also being used to determine the timing of the conceptions and births of both John the Baptist and of Jesus.

See below and see whether this is so or not, concerning the previous statements in Scripture. Consider whether the timing of these important prophetic and religious events to the astronomical events are just coincidental or purposefully arranged by God.

The Age of Pisces

If one looks at an almanac or a book on astron-

omy though, one will see that at the time of the birth of Jesus, the sun was crossing the area in the sky with the constellation Pisces (Fishes). This was from February 19 to March 20. It is said that the Age of Pisces, meaning the fishes, is referring to our Christian era. In the catacombs of ancient Rome, the sign of a fish was often used between strangers as a sign that the one doing the drawing was a Christian.⁵ This is because the spelling for the word fish in the Greek is ichthys. This was used as an acronym for Iēsous Christos Theou Hysios Sōtēr, meaning 'Jesus Christ, of God the Son, Saviour.'⁶

One night on 17 December, the astronomer, Johannes Kepler, shortly before that Christmas of 1603, he was observing the conjunction of the two planets, Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation Pisces. On checking his notes, he apparently found what Abarbanel, a rabbinic writer had written about this constellation of Pisces. He had said that during a conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in this Pisces, their Messiah would come. Kepler calculated things out and found that there should have been three conjunctions of those two planets in 7 B. C. Astrological tables suggested it must have occurred in 6 B. C. Kepler chose 6 B. C. and believed Mary's conception occurred in 7 B. C.⁷ This same source though, says on another page, that Keller just thought that these conjunctions of Mercury, Jupiter, and Saturn were just forerunners and

5 Joan Andre Moore, *Astronomy in the Bible* (Nashville: Abington, 1981) p. 98.

6 G. Dalman, *Fish, Fishing, The Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (1980), Vol. 1, p. 509.

7 Werner Keller, p. 361.

that Jesus was born after 6 B. C.⁸

To the Chaldean, the sign of the West and of the Mediterranean countries in the Zodiac was the constellation Pisces. To the Hebrew people though, it was their sign of Israel and of their Messiah. This constellation stood at the end of the course of the sun and at the beginning of its new course through the Zodiac and of the heavens. They also saw it as the end of the old age and as the beginning of a new one.⁹

Confirmations

This writer prayed for confirmation a number of times as to whether the Feast of Purim was the real date for Jesus' birthday and God confirmed it many times on the Feast of Purim days. One time it was through the strange playing of Christmas Carols over the loud speaker system of a Canadian Tire store where he was working one day on the Feast of Purim. Other times, a friend gave him a gift of groceries and another friend gave him a turkey, each on the Festival of Purim day.

On another occasion the author happened to give a left over Christmas gift to Stanley Burrows, who was a poor pensioner at the time. When a Mr. Ken Davis saw Stanley with a gift wrapped as a Christmas gift, he said, "Merry Christmas." This all happened without the giver or receiver realizing it was the Feast of Purim. It was only after reflecting these events and asking God why were these things happening that the writer realized it was the Feast of Purim time, the date of Jesus' birthday. He also remembered that he had prayed about two weeks previously for confirmation

8 Ibid. p. 368 but in 7 BC it would have been Elizabeth's conception, while Mary's would have been in 6 BC.

9 Ibid. p. 364.

about considering the Feast of Purim as the day to celebrate Jesus' birth rather than our calendar date. Other amazing miracles happened on other years as well, to confirm that was the day.

God therefore wants us to remember Jesus' birthday on this Feast of Purim festival time, rather than on the exact date like February 23. This Hebrew Feast moves about the calendar from one year to the next, just like Passover and Easter.

How was the Year Revealed?

One or two days before the year was discovered, he prayed that God would reveal the exact year that Jesus was born, because he was having difficulty working it out mathematically and astronomically from any full moon on a Feast of Lots or of Purim.

At the time he was working at the Limestone Generating Site, 464 miles north of Winnipeg, which is close to Churchill, Manitoba, he happened to see an amazing article in the Winnipeg Free Press. It was the January 8, 1976 issue (Volume 83, No. 87) on page 21. It was entitled "Yule star called a comet." It told that according to astrophysicist Paul Feldman of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, the "Chinese records for March [of the year] 5 BC mention a "broom star" [a comet] that" traveled eastward for about 35 days.

Proof from the Bible

The Bible tells us that Zacharias, the husband of Elizabeth and the father of John the Baptist, was "of the course of Abia" (Luke 1:5) and "it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course . . . there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord . . ." (Luke 1:8-11).

This course of Abia was the eighth of twenty-four

sections that the priestly tribe was divided into and each one "took a turn at officiating in the Temple for a week at a time."¹⁰ Note though that as there is about fifty-two weeks in a year, this procedure was done twice a year and it started on the first month of their year which began with the month of Nisan or Abib, which is in about our April.¹¹

After the Feast of Trumpets and of Tabernacles, the courses were apparently repeated.

Most scholars, realizing that the ministration of the courses take place twice a year, seem to take the same wrong view point of the Companion Bible, it is that the angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias in the first ministration (called second in the Companion Bible - - using the civil year dating of the beginning of their years), in the month of Sivan (May/June) rather than of Bul (October/November) or Chisleu (November/December). They therefore have John the Baptist conceived and born at the wrong times of the years. The same thing happened with the timing of Jesus.

Consider these possible dates for the above conceptions of both John the Baptist and Jesus and for their births.

Conception of John the Baptist

New Moon (rose at 7:00 a. m. in the constellation Sagittarius but not seen because of the sunrise at 6:16 a. m.) on 22nd November 7 B. C. at 6:07 a. m. when Venus was in the constellation Libra but also very close to Neptune in Scorpius and with Mercury a little lower in the sky in Serpens. Hours before, Jupiter and Saturn

10 Dr. R. J. Zwi Werblowsky and Dr. Geoffrey Wigoder, editors, The Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion (London: Phoenix House, 1965) p. 309.

11 See 1 Chronicles 24:7-10 for the placements of these courses.

were very close to each other in the constellation Pisces at 00:00 hours on 22st November 7 B. C., just before they set in the west. The new moon time may have been when John the Baptist was conceived in the womb of Elizabeth by Zacharias, the priest.

Conception of Jesus of Nazareth

As with John the Baptist, his conception in his mother but by the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit occurred very likely around the time of the new moon. In this case it was about six months later on 18th May 6 B. C. when there was a new moon at 8:57 a. m. Mars, Venus, the new moon and the Sun were all in the constellation Taurus at this time. Mars was in conjunction with the Sun, rising at 4:37 a. m. that day, with the Sun rising at 4:38 a. m.

Earlier, during that night, before the new moon and the sunrise, Neptune was in Scorpius and Mercury was in Gemini. At 4:00 a. m. Venus was in Taurus; Jupiter in Aries; and Saturn and Uranus (not seen by naked eye though) in the constellation Pisces.¹²

Birth of John the Baptist

As the usual gestation period for humans is 280 days¹³ (280 days = 40 weeks or nine months 5.5 days), then John the Baptist could have been born on August 29, 6 B. C. during a full moon. At 1:00 a. m. the moon would have been 14.9 days old in the constellation Pisces, with Jupiter in Taurus and Saturn in Cetus. At 3:00 a. m. Mars would be in Leo. The moon would have become 14.6 days old after sunset the day before and

¹² MyStars!® Astronomy program (see www.relativedata.com)

¹³ The New Illustrated Medical and Health Encyclopedia Vol. 1, p. 341.

would have become 14.8 days old by 11 p. m. that same night.

Birth of Jesus of Nazareth

As with John the Baptist, Jesus' birth was very likely about 280 days later too. May 18, 6 B. C. at 8:57 a. m. to February 18 at the same time is 276 days but to February 23 for the full moon time at around 5:24 a. m. and the Feast of Purim, it is actually almost five more days for a total of almost 281 days.

The full moon would have occurred within the Zodiac area for the Constellation of Virgo (Virgin) and just below the Constellation of Coma Berenices.

"By the ancient Arabs this was called 'The Son of the Virgin'. It is close beside the Constellation of Virgo the Virgin. Could anything be more appropriate?"¹⁴

At 6:00 a. m. that morning before the sunrise at 6:19 a. m., Mars would have been in the constellation Aquarius, while the Sun was coming close behind before the horizon in Pisces. Neptune would have been in the constellation Ophiuchus while Mars was close by in Scorpius.¹⁵

So it can be seen that by the facts of astronomy and the timing indicated by the Bible, that what was given to this writer must have been by a miracle from God. Praise God. As God went to so much trouble to have these things so precise, let us start remembering Jesus' birthday on the Feast of Purim days from now on.

Note too the similarity of the holidays, the Feast of Purim was to celebrate a great victory and of a salvation from the enemies of the Hebrew people with the help of a saintly Hebrew Queen Esther and her

¹⁴ David J. Gibson

<http://nabataea.net/birthdate.html>

¹⁵ MyStars!® Astronomy software program.

uncle Mordecai while they were under captivity by the Persians. Now, hundreds of years later, a saintly Hebrew virgin by the name of Mary becomes a vessel for bringing about the greatest Saviour of the Hebrew people from their oppression under the Roman Empire and of the whole rest of the nations of the world who were under the bondage of sin.

What shall we then call this new time of celebrating Jesus' birthday? How about the Messiah Jesus Day, Christ Jesus Day, or Jesus of Nazareth Day?

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