



## Endnotes for *The Star of Bethlehem* Fall 2016 *Bible and Spade*

<sup>1</sup> Werner Keller, *The Bible as History* (New York: Barnes & Noble, 1995 [1955]), 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 (March 2012), pp. 7–29.

<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, *planetes*, 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,” [www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/new-testament/how-december-25-became-christmas/](http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/new-testament/how-december-25-became-christmas/).

<sup>7</sup> Emil Schurer, *History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus Christ* (originally published 1897/8).

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

<sup>11</sup> The podcasts, featuring Louisiana State University astronomer Brad Schaefer, can be accessed at [tbts.info/episodes?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search=bethlehem&commit=search](http://tbts.info/episodes?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search=bethlehem&commit=search).

<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 Aaron Adair, *The Star of Bethlehem: A Skeptical View* (Fareham, UK: Onus Books, 2013), pp. 69–82.

<sup>13</sup> W.E. Filmer, *Journal of Theological Studies* 17/2 (Oct 1966), pp. 297–98.

<sup>14</sup> Robert Sinnott, “Thoughts on the Star of Bethlehem,” *Sky & Telescope* 36 (1968), pp. 384–86.

<sup>15</sup> Ernest L. Martin, *The Star That Astonished the World*. Second edition, 220 pages (Portland, Oregon: Academy for Scriptural Knowledge, 1991). Available online at [www.askelm.com/star/index.asp](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 1960s) (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 [www.bethlehemstar.net](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> Aaron Adair, *The Star of Bethlehem: A Skeptical View* (Fareham, UK: 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> See [answersingenesis.org/holidays/christmas/an-evaluation-of-the-star-of-bethlehem-dvd/](http://answersingenesis.org/holidays/christmas/an-evaluation-of-the-star-of-bethlehem-dvd/).

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