

What is the Significance of the Re-appearance of the Messiah's Star over America on 30 June 2015?

By Jim Dodge

Few people are aware that a remarkably rare re-appearance of the Christmas or Messiah's star will take place on the evening of 30 June 2015 across America during what appears to be a critical point in this nation's march toward its end-time destiny. Is the Star's re-appearance, in the season of the Lord's return, just a coincidence that should be disregarded because it may not be specifically revealed in the Bible, or could it be God's sign of hope for believers and a sign of warning for unbelievers just as it was for Israel at the time of Jesus Christ's first coming two thousand years ago?

If you are just learning about the June 30th re-appearance of the Messiah's star for the first time, I want to take a moment to focus on why I believe the re-appearance of this heavenly sign is significant. In 2012, when the Holy Spirit laid the question of when was Jesus born that led to the 2014 development of The Christmas Star on my heart, I had no idea why the Lord wanted me to pursue this issue, since I believed then that the Bethlehem star was 2000 year old history that only pointed to Christ's First Coming. At the time, I was preparing a prophecy study on Christ's Second Coming. It wasn't until February 2015, when I discovered the uniquely similar parameters for the 30 June 2015 star that nearly match those of the Star that appeared 2000 years ago, that reason for my work on The Christmas Star became clear.

In doing the Christmas Star research, I discovered several important things. The first was that the Messiah's star is a repeatable event. While the parameters that created this particular the star (resulting from a Venus- Jupiter conjunction) are very rare, it was clear and reasonable to assume that God could make His Star appear whenever it suited His purposes, for His glory. I also discovered that there were a total of seven different heavenly stellar configurations or signs, culminating in the Star, that were involved in the nativity as it spanned the period from before Mary's conception to after the day of Jesus' birth. Importantly, in putting together the Christmas Star, when I divided Jesus' birthday, 17 June 02 BC, in two parts to accommodate the separate appearances of the heavenly signs in order to fulfill scripture, it became clear that the signs and events involved in the first half of the day pointed to Christ's first coming and those in the second half of the day pointed to Christ's second coming. You can see how this develops in The Christmas Star DVD (available by going to the link on page 3 of this paper). It was clear from this division of signs and their sequencing that the Christmas or Messiah's star was the nativity sign that pointed to Christ's Second Coming and His return as a conquering king.

In the Postscript of The Christmas Star DVD, I postulated the possibility of the appearance of a heavenly sign during the season of the Lord's return, but I had no idea that God had already programmed a second appearance of the Messiah's star at a time that coincided with the appearance of the 2014-15 Lunar eclipse Tetrad. In order to understand why this second appearance of the Messiah's star may actually be a fulfillment of Bible prophecy, we need to consider Numbers 24:17. The verse speaks of Balaam's oracle and his prophecy of the Messiah's star: *"I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth"*(Num 24:17). The first part of this remarkable

prophecy of Balaam anticipates by over 1,400 years that a star would arise out of Jacob. This is confirmed in Matthew 2:2 when the wise men describe it as the “star they had seen in the East”. So, the first half of Balaam’s prophecy clearly points to the Christmas Star of Christ’s nativity. But, the second part of the passage (in blue) speaks of a Sceptre (symbolic of Kingly rule) rising out of Israel that shall “smite” and “destroy”. This does not describe Christ at the nativity or when He entered Jerusalem on a donkey as the “king of the Jews” on Palm Sunday, 33 years after the Star’s appearance. The second half of this verse clearly speaks of Christ’s Second Coming, an event that has not yet happened. Therefore, if we believe that the Star appeared as a fulfillment of the first half of Balaam’s prophecy for Christ’s First Coming, it is logical and reasonable to assume that a re-appearance of the same Star is at least possible, even likely, during the season of the Lord’s Second Coming.

If Balaam’s prophecy is a prediction of the Star’s appearances for Christ’s First and Second Comings as I believe it is, it should be possible to compare the Star’s parameters for the nativity with the pending June 2015 appearance to see how similar the two appearances are. The Messiah or Christmas star is a rare stellar event that appears as a conjunction between the planets, Venus and Jupiter in the morning or evening sky. Being an inner planet relative to the Earth, Venus spends about 60% of the time in the sun so is normally only visible for a few hours as a morning or evening star when the planet is separated from the sun by more than about 20-25 degrees. While Venus passes Jupiter in their orbits around the sun about once every 10 months, a pass that results in a conjunction like the one that appeared on the day of Jesus’ birth on 17 June 02 BC is very rare. What follows is a comparison of the parameters of the 02 BC Christmas or Messiah’s Star with those of the re-appearing star on 30 June 2015:

Parameter	% of time	17 Jun 02 BC	30 June 2015
Venus appearance	20%	Evening Star	Evening Star
Constellation	8%	Leo	Leo
Venus-Sun Sep. dist	<20%	45 degrees	40 degrees
Venus –Jupiter Sep dist	<1%	35 arc sec.	20 arc min.
Duration of conjunction	<1 %	12 hours	about 9+ hours
Post sunset visibility		3 hours	2 hrs 20 min
Global Viewing Area		Old World (from China to Europe) including Israel	New World (From Bermuda to Hawaii) including America

Venus appears as the morning or evening star for about 6-7 months every other year, so for most of 2014, Venus was the morning star, and for 2015, it will be the evening star. The conjunction of Venus and Jupiter for the Christmas Star took place in the Constellation Leo (Lion of the Tribe of Judah), one of the 12 constellations in the Zodiac. So, there is about an 8% chance that both the first and second coming Venus –Jupiter conjunctions would each take place in the constellation Leo. The maximum separation distance that Venus can have from the Sun is 45 degrees (relative to the Earth). Since the stars and planets generally pass through the heavens at a rate of about 15 degrees per hour, this means that, while conjoined with Jupiter, Venus was visible for about 3 hours after sunset for the Nativity, and it will be visible for about 2 hours 20 minutes after sunset for the 2015 event.

The angular separation between Venus and Jupiter at their point of closest approach is the factor that determines the magnitude of brightness of the resulting star. This angular separation is calculated in arc minutes and arc seconds on astronomy computer programs and is measured from the centers of the

planets as opposed to the edges. Thus, the record breaking 35 arc second separation distance between Venus and Jupiter during the 17 June 02 BC conjunction was so close that Venus actually overlapped or partially eclipsed Jupiter. This would have resulted in Venus completely blocking the light from Jupiter because, as the third brightest object in the heavens, Venus is about eight times brighter than Jupiter in the night sky. Since the separation distance between the planets for the 2015 conjunction will be 20 arc minutes as opposed to 35 arc seconds, the light from both planets should be complementary and it will likely make the star appear brighter than the Nativity conjunction when it was at its closest point of approach (35 arc sec) on the evening of Jesus' birth.

Probably the most significant difference between the two stars is the issue of: where in the world each conjunction was and will be observed. For the Nativity, the Messiah's star was seen for about 3 hours after sunset from China to Western Europe, and the Star reached its point of closest separation when it was over Israel. In 2015, the Star will appear over the Western Hemisphere, including all of the United States for about 2 hours 20 minutes after sunset and will remain within 25 arc minutes of separation for the entire period.

From the above, I do not believe that the 30 June 2015 event is a coincidence or accident. An analysis of the prophetic significance of the 2015 Messiah's star, along with the meaning and significance of the 2014-15 Blood Moon Tetrad is presented in my **Prophetic Implications 2015** paper (available by going to <http://fccangels.org/index.php/ministries/prophecy-studies>). These 2015 events (30 June Messiah's star and 28 September final eclipse in the Tetrad) appear to tie Israel and America together at a critical point in God's end time plan. In that plan, the 2015 appearance of the Messiah's star could very well be a final warning for a nation in grave spiritual crisis, just as it was for ancient Judah who rejected their Messiah at his First Coming, and that America's time of judgment is at hand.

Observing the 30 June 2015 Star

If you have doubts about what the star might mean or if the Messiah's star is even real, consider taking the time to confirm for yourself this incredible pending revelation of God's glory on June 30th. Venus has been appearing as the evening star in the western sky just after sunset since early January. By mid June, Venus and Jupiter will be clearly visible shortly after sunset as they begin to merge in the Constellation Leo. Pay particular attention to the brightness of the individual planets a few days before the conjunction (pick the same time each evening to observe them – for example, 9:00 PM). That way you will be able to appreciate the significant change in the star's appearance and brightness when it becomes the Messiah's star on the evening of June 30th. The conjunction reaches its closest point of approach between the planets by about 6 PM in the Eastern U.S. and it will remain in conjunction for about 10 hours. Thus, the 2015 Christmas/Messiah's star will be visible for a nearly two and a half hours (from 8-10:20 PM) across the entire Western Hemisphere (from Bermuda to Hawaii).

For those who know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the Messiah's star should be a great sign of hope and a confirmation that He is, indeed, coming again - soon. The June 30th appearance should give believers incredible hope in the nearness of the Rapture of the Church - when true believers will be taken out of this world, in the blink of an eye. We will not only escape God's coming wrath, but we will be with Jesus Christ forever (1 Thess 4:13-18). Now is the time to look up and prepare, for our redemption is drawing near. Maranatha!