

Star of Bethlehem mystery solved?

With all the modern technology and instant communication we have at our finger tips, is it now possible to solve some of the mysteries spoken about for centuries? One of these is the famous "star" that appears in the Christmas story of Matthew's Gospel (Matt. 2:2,7,9,10). Recently, there was a movie called "Star of Bethlehem" (www.thestarofbethlehemmovie.com) made in 2007 by lawyer Rick Larson. While Larson is Christian by background, he was just as sceptical until one day he got fascinatingly curious about the star folks casually stick on top of the annual Christmas tree. After studying both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke with the combination of the Old Testament saints, he has come up with some startling evidence. Not only did the star shine as bright as the Bible says, but there is much more to it than that. Without volunteering too much information, he even ties it into the Easter story. If you are really interested in the Christmas story, I



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The Sky's the Limit

highly recommend buying the DVD and satisfy yourself. I have not seen one bad review of any merit. It's worth the \$15 investment and makes an excellent stocking stuffer.

Sky watch for the next month

There will be a total lunar eclipse on the winter solstice, which is Dec. 21, starting just after midnight, peaking at 2:16 a.m. and lasting until just after 5 a.m. While the time is odd for most, there is well over an hour of blood red moon outside the peak time before winter arrives at 11:38 p.m.

Check out the Christmas morning planet bonanza just before sunrise on Dec. 25. In the southeast-east will be Mercury on the horizon, Venus will be in the south-southeast (the

bright one) and Saturn south 35 degrees up. You might need the binoculars you got under the tree to see Mercury.

Don't miss the Geminid and Ursid Meteor showers. We actually have two mild meteor showers this month of which Geminid peaks Dec. 14 at 5 a.m. and Ursid on Dec. 22 after sundown. For more on all meteor showers check out the International Meteor Organization at www.imo.net/calendar/2010.

See the Seven Sisters (M45). This is one of the most famous winter star clusters better known as the Pleiades. It can be seen all month starting at sunset in the northeast and crossing all night to set at dawn in the northwest. Did you know the Old Testament prophets mention this Messier object three times in the Bible?

Public events for the next month

The late night lunar eclipse celebration, which is hosted by All-Star Telescope (<http://www.allstartelescope.com/>) just outside Didsbury, takes

place Dec. 20 starting at 10 p.m. and goes until 2 a.m. This full facility telescope dealer has a heated showroom and everything is provided at no charge. I am planning to attend, and you are welcome to caravan with a group I am assembling. We're leaving Vulcan three hours beforehand. For further information, contact Ken From at 866-310-8844, or visit www.all-startelescope.com/index.php/Observer-Nights.html.

The monthly star gazing night, which is hosted by All Star Telescope, takes place on Saturday, starting at 6 p.m., weather pending. I am planning to attend and you are welcome to caravan with a group I am going with. Again, we're leaving Vulcan three hours beforehand.

Merry Christmas and thanks for reading all year!

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