When did the Sign of Revelation 12 Really Appear?

by Jim Dodge – July 2017

More than a few prophecy blogs and websites are hailing Revelation 12 as the "Hottest topic trending on Google", with the claim that on September 23, 2017 a sign will form in the heavens that fits the description of Revelation 12. What does this mean and is it true? There are two "wonders" or signs (the woman and the dragon) described in Revelation 12 but expositors point specifically to the "appearance" of the sign of the woman described in verses 1 and 2: "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed in the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered." As a heavenly sign, this is the description of a stellar configuration involving the constellation Virgo, the virgin. Once each year the sun takes about one month to pass through Virgo and, on one day during that month, the moon (which passes through Virgo in 2-3 days) will be located beneath the feet of the virgin. This is an annual event and, importantly, it is not visible to the naked eye for the obvious reason that the configuration appears in daylight when the constellation is clothed in the sun. Significantly, the appearance of this stellar configuration (the virgin, clothed in the sun with the moon at her feet) frequently coincides with the Jewish Holy day of Rosh Hashana (see Table 1).

Since this sign of the virgin, clothed in the sun, with the moon beneath her feet is an annual occurrence, the question becomes, what makes the appearance of this "wonder" so significant in 2017? Figure (1) is an illustration of the sign as it will appear, but not be seen, on September 23, 2017. The virgin is clothed in the sun (located by her head) with the new moon appearing below her feet. The planet Jupiter appears in Virgo along the virgin's left thigh. The claims made about this sign are examined in an excellent **Answers in Genesis** article by Dr. Danny Faulkner on the following link: https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/stars/what-will-happen-september-23-2017/.

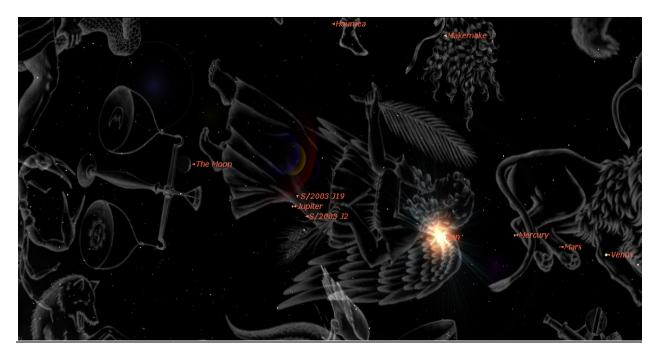


Figure (1). Sign of the Virgin, clothed in the sun with the moon at her feet – 23 September 2017

Dr. Faulkner rightly concludes that "Probably nothing unusual" will happen when this sign appears on 23 September. In this paper, I will briefly expand on Dr. Faulkner's analysis of three claims made about this sign and attempt to make the case, scripturally, that God revealed this sign to mark the date for the conception of Jesus Christ 2,020 years ago.

1. First claim: The three planets in the constellation Leo plus the nine stars that define Leo combine to comprise a crown of 12 stars on the head of the virgin.

Proponents for this sign claim 2017 is special due to the appearance of the three planets, Mercury, Mars and Venus in the adjacent constellation, Leo. They see these three planets combining with the nine stars that define Leo (even though there are more than nine stars in Leo) to form the crown of twelve stars adorning the virgin's head (see figure 1). Dr. Faulkner succinctly addresses this issue by citing that virtually all websites promoting this prophetic sign state that "since Leo is to the upper right of Virgo's head, one might see this combination of three planets and nine stars as the crown of 12 stars". He correctly points out that the 12 stars would be far above Virgo's head. What proponents for this view are essentially claiming is that the virgin is crowned with a lion on her head. This not only doesn't make sense, but there is neither scriptural nor astronomical evidence upon which to base this claim. I took the time with my Starry Night Pro program to insert the constellation boundaries in order to see what the separation area between Virgo and Leo looks like. In figure (2) below, you can see the boundary that divides Leo from Virgo. Arrows point to eight stars that appear within Virgo's boundary located above the head. By adding the four stars that form the line of placement for a crown on the virgin's head, we have a total of twelve stars.

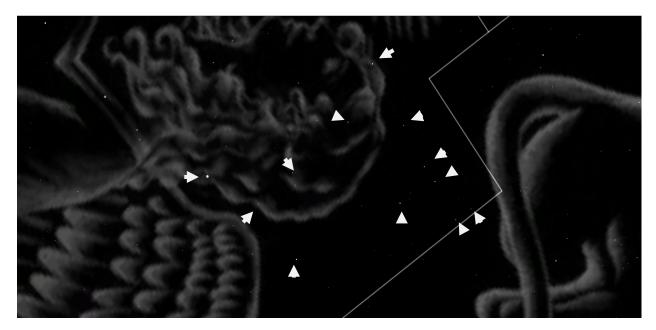


Figure 2. Constellation boundary with the stars in Virgo above the head

By connecting lines between the stars, the result is what appears to be a much better rendition of a crown (or headpiece) on the virgin's head than what the proponents of the lion crown advocate (See Figure (3)). Importantly, if this is what the scripture in Revelation 12:1 actually refers to as the crown of

twelve stars, then Virgo is <u>always</u> adorned with a crown of twelve stars. Therefore, the number of planets in the adjacent constellation is irrelevant, at least with respect to a crown on the head of the virgin.

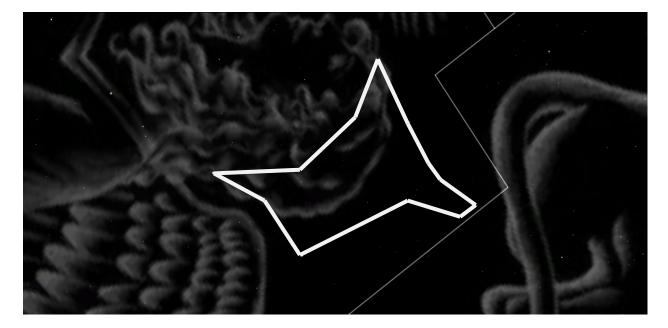


Figure 3. A crown of twelve stars on the head of the Virgin.

2. Second claim: The appearance of four planets (1 in Virgo and 3 in Leo) during the 23 September sign event is extremely rare.

Using the Starry Night Pro program, I made a table (1) of data for 21 years of the sign's appearance between 2000 and 2020 to determine how rare the 23 September 2017 configuration actually might be. Since the sign frequently appears during the Jewish holy day of Rosh Hashana, those dates are included, along with the date of the event (Virgo clothed with the sun, with the moon at her feet), the location of the sun in Virgo, the type of moon at Virgo's feet, and the number of planets in both Virgo and Leo when the sign appears. Interestingly, during the 21 year period, the sign appeared seven times on Rosh Hashana (year in bold print), seven times on the day after Rosh Hashana and seven times a full month after Rosh Hashana. For the data in the table, the sign was observed from Jerusalem to confirm the sign's appearance with respect to dates for Rosh Hashana.

Table 1. The Virgin, clothed in the Sun, crowned with twelve stars, with the Moon beneath her feet

	Viewed from Jerusalem							
Rosh Hashana	Year	Event date	Sun loc.	Moon	Planets in Virgo	Planets in Leo		
30 Sep-1 Oct 18-19 Sep	2000 2001	30 Sep 20 Sep	bosom head	new new	Mercury, Venus Mercury	Mars Venus		

07-08 Sep	2002	08 Oct	womb	new	Mercury, Mars	None
27-28 Sep	2003	28 Sep	neck	new	Venus	Mercury, Jupiter
16-17 Sep	2004	18 Sep	head	new	Jupiter	Mercury
04-05 Sep	2005	05 Oct	bosom	new	Mercury, Jupiter	None
23-24 Sep	2006	25 Sep	neck	new	Mercury, Venus, Mars	None
13-14 Sep	2007	12 Oct	womb	new	Mercury	Venus, Saturn
30 Sep-1 Oct	2008	01 Oct	bosom	new	Mercury, Venus, Mars	Saturn
19-20 Sep	2009	21 Sep	head	new	Mercury, Saturn	Venus
09-10 Sep	2010	09 Oct	womb	new	Mercury, Saturn	None
29-30 Sep	2011	29 Sep	neck	new	Mercury, Venus, Satu	rn None
17-18 Sep	2012	19 Sep	head	new	Mercury, Saturn	None
05-06 Sep	2013	07 Oct	womb	new	Mercury, Saturn	Mars
25-26 Sep	2014	27 Sep	neck	new	Mercury, Venus	None
14-15 Sep	2015	14 Oct	hip	new	Mercury	Venus, Mars, Jup.
03-04 Oct	2016	03 Oct	bosom	new	Mercury, Jupiter	None
21-22 Sep	<mark>2017</mark>	23 Sep	head	new	Jupiter	Merc, Venus, Mars
10-11 Sep	2018	10 Oct	womb	new	Mercury	None
30 Sep-1 Oct	2019	01 Oct	bosom	new	Mercury, Venus, Mar	s None
19-20 Sep	2020	20 Sep	head	new	Mercury	None

Because Mercury is so close to the sun, it will always be present when the sun is located in Virgo. Being the next closest planet to the sun, Venus will normally appear in Leo, Virgo or Libra when the sign appears (10 times in Virgo or Leo in the 21 years). Mars passes through Virgo about once every 2 years and appears four times in Virgo during the period; Jupiter passes through Virgo and makes one to two appearances in the constellation every 12 years. Saturn will spend 4 or 5 years in Virgo about every 27 years. Thus, the appearance of multiple planets in the two constellations when the sign appears is common, not unusual. Proponents for the sign claim that the appearance of four planets in the two constellations in 2017 is extremely rare. But, as can be seen in the table, four planets appeared in the two constellations in 2008, 2015 and 2017, and in 2008 the sign appeared during Rosh Hashana. The number of planets in the two constellations in conjunction with the sign's appearance for the 21 year period is as follows: 1 planet = 2 times; 2 planets = 8 times; 3 planets = 8 times; 4 planets = 3 times. Four planets appearing in the two constellations is not an "extremely" rare occurrence.

The above provides further confirmation that Dr. Faulkner's conclusion that "Probably nothing unusual" will happen on September 23, 2017 is the correct answer. An underlying question about this sign as it appears in Revelation 12 is: What is its meaning and significance in Scripture?

In his commentary on Revelation 12:1-2, Dr. Henry Morris reveals the following: *"By calling this miraculous scene in the heavens a sign, John helps to confirm that the other events described in Revelation should be understood literally if they are not designated as signs... The sign is so comprehensive that it embraces the entire plan of redemption, beginning with the Edenic promise. Here, in the middle of the Book of Revelation, the Lord has provided through John several parenthetical revelations, each extending from primal history up to this climatic point, the midpoint of the seven year tribulation, and then even beyond to the end. This symbol might at first suggest a connection with Joseph's dream (Gen 37:9-10) in which he saw the sun, moon and eleven stars, representing his parents and brothers, bowing down to him; yet, there are important differences, and the sign must go far beyond that. The key is Revelation 12:17, the climatic verse of the chapter, referring to the enmity of the dragon against the woman and her seed. This recalls God's promise in Eden. Speaking of the old*

serpent, He had said, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed, and her seed; (He) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen 3:15). Thus, the woman in the sign must represent Eve, "mother of all living" first of all, then Israel, the wife of Jehovah, and the church, the bride of Christ. Even beyond that, the phrase "the woman" must refer to all godly women and finally to Mary, the particular godly woman who was chosen to bring the promised Seed into the world. In this context (Revelation 12), the sign will have special application to Israel; the church will have been taken out of this world, and God will be dealing with Israel in a special way once again."

Dr. Morris is clear that context is critical for this sign because it represents a comprehensive view of God's plan for redemption, not just a singular event. John observes this "wonder" or sign just after the midpoint of the Tribulation (after the seventh trumpet sounds in Rev 11:15). By this time, the church has been removed (raptured) from the earth for at least three and a half years and it will be nearly that long before Christ returns in the Second Coming. Dr. Morris rightly points out that the significance of the sign in this context can only apply to Israel. A war in heaven immediately follows the appearance of the sign beginning in verse 7. After Satan and his forces are defeated and cast from heaven to earth, the "Great" Tribulation (second half -worldwide persecution of the Jews) described in Matthew 24:21 begins. Clearly Satan's objective is to destroy God's chosen people and prevent the fulfillment of God's plan before the return of Christ. There is certainly no "birthing" event related to the sign in this context and since Christ will return as a conquering king and not as a newborn babe, the 23 September 2017 sign really has nothing to do with Christ's return at the end of the age. Today, in 2017, the Rapture has not yet happened and the Tribulation has not begun, so it should be obvious that the 23 September appearance of Virgo clothed in the sun with the moon at her feet cannot be the sign of Revelation 12.

3. Third claim: A final claim made by proponents for the Great Sign of Revelation 12 in 2017 involves the presence of Jupiter in Virgo.

The claim is made that "Jupiter was known by the Jews as the planet of the Messiah ... and that on September 23, 2017, Jupiter is in the womb of Virgo and is about to be born (Supposedly representing a "period of delivery that will result in the Messianic Kingdom"). I agree with Dr. Faulkner's assertion that both these claims are false. I could find no online references; historical, scriptural or otherwise to support a Jewish belief or tradition that Jupiter is known as the Messiah's star. Also, Jupiter is not in Virgo's womb on 23 September. It's located below Virgo's left thigh (see Figure 1). Nowhere in Scripture is any reference made or implied that Jupiter is the Messiah's star. The only references to Jupiter in the entire Bible appear in Acts 14:12-13, where pagan Gentiles worship Barnabas and Paul as the Roman gods of Jupiter and Mercury.

The True Messiah's Star

It should be clear from the above that Jupiter is not the Messiah's star. If true (and it is), does Scripture provide evidence of a "star" that can be associated with the Messiah? Indeed, it does! We know from Genesis 1:14 that God uses the "lights in the heavens" for signs.

-Lights (stars) in the heavens will be used for Signs... (Gen 1:14)

In Numbers 24:17, Balaam prophesies: *"I shall see him, but not now, I shall behold him, but not near; there shall come a <u>Star</u> <i>out of Jacob…"*. Here, the text specifically refers to a "Star" as the one who is to come and, the word star is capitalized. This passage not only links the coming Messiah to a star, but to a specific star… one that has a name that can be seen as another name for the Messiah.

- ... there shall come a Star out of Jacob. (Numbers 24:17)

Job 38: 6-7 tells us: "Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the cornerstone

thereof. When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Dr. Morris comments that: "The stars of heaven were not made until the fourth day of creation, whereas the foundations of the earth had been laid on the third day. Thus, the "morning stars" were the same as the "sons of God" or the angels (also see Job 1:6 and 2:1); this verse is seen as an example of Hebrew parallelism". Taking this one step further: since Jesus Christ is the true ("one and only") Son of God, this parallelism can lead to a conclusion that Jesus is the most significant "morning star".

-The "sons of God" are referred to as "morning stars" (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7) In Isaiah 14:12-13 we read: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O <u>Lucifer</u>, <u>son of the morning!</u> ...For thou hast said in thine heart, "I will ascend into heaven, <u>I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: ..."</u>. Dr. Morris' comments on this: "Lucifer" means "shining one" and is rendered "day star" in some translations. The "stars" here are evidently angels (compare to Job 38:7). Although Lucifer had a throne as God's "anointed cherub", he aspired to reign over all God's holy angels. Moreover, Lucifer desired not only to rule over the angels but to be like God Himself. This absurd ambition on the part of a created being – thinking himself capable of defeating his own Creator – can only be rationally understood if Satan did not really believe that God had created him." This passage is illuminating because it sheds light on the fact that, as the great "imposter", Satan desires to replace Jesus Christ as the "Star" Balaam prophesied was to rise out of Jacob in Numbers 24:17.

Satan aspires to impersonate Messiah as the "shining one", "day star" & "morning star" (Is 14:12-13) In 2 Peter 1:19 Peter comments on the certainty of Scripture with these words: *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy, where unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a <u>light</u> that shines in the darkness, until the <u>day dawn</u>, and the <u>day star</u> arise in your hearts." Here Peter confirms that it is not in man that we must trust, but in Christ as revealed in Scripture. At His return, Christ will be recognized as the true "day" or "morning" star.*

- Only in Jesus Christ can we see the true "day" or "morning" star (2 Peter 1:19) In the letter to the church of Thyatira, Jesus tells those who "overcome and keep my works to the end" this: "And I will give him the morning star" (Revelation 2:28). Christ is Himself the "morning star" and He will give His own presence to His people (1 Th 4:16-17).

Finally, if any doubt remains about who the "day" or "morning" star is, Jesus makes it absolutely clear in the sixth verse from the end of the Bible when He tells us this: **"I Jesus have sent my angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star" (Revelation 22:16).** Dr Morris' comments on this verse: "Satan had aspired to be "Lucifer, son of the morning" (Is 14:12) where "Lucifer" can be translated "Day Star" (Hebrew *haylel*) referring to Venus, the bright star of the dawning. Here, however, after Satan has been forever banished to the lake of fire, Christ proclaims that He alone is "the bright morning star" where "morning" in this case is the Greek *orthoinos, always referring only to Venus*, the star of early dawn. At the end of His Revelation, the Lord is reminding all readers that He, not Satan, is the harbinger of eternal light and life... Christ is the true Day Star, Son of the morning."

I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star (Rev 22:16).

There is only one celestial object in all of creation that has ever been referred to as the "Day star", "Morning Star", "Morning and Evening star" and "the Bright and Morning star". That star is the planet Venus. As the third brightest object in the heavens after the sun and moon, Venus is unique among all the other planets and stars. In the morning or evening sky, Venus can be as much as six and a half times brighter than Jupiter (fourth brightest object) or Sirius (the brightest star) depending on sky conditions and Venus' separation from the sun. The Moon and Venus are the only objects that can be seen in daylight (possible when Venus is separated by more than 25 degrees from the sun). Venus doesn't need to be enhanced to be the most notable or recognizable star in the morning or evening

skies because nothing competes with it in terms of visibility or brightness. As this is written in July 2017, Venus has been the morning star since late March and will remain so until September. One only has to observe Venus about an hour before sunrise to appreciate its significance. Unless the moon is present, all the other stars and planets have disappeared in the pre-dawn light. Only Venus visibly reigns in the eastern sky. Based on the Scriptural and astronomical evidence presented above, it is not difficult to conclude that Venus is the only celestial object that qualifies to be Messiah's star. <u>Christ Himself</u> confirms this in Revelation 22:16.

With the above in mind, let's consider the sign of Revelation 12 in the context of Christ's first coming and what the sign represents in view of God's redemption plan as previously pointed out by Dr. Morris. In developing **The Christmas Star** (www.thechristmasstar.org), I make the case that Venus, as the Messiah's star, played the major role in a rare quartet of conjunctions with Jupiter during the 24 months from August 3 BC to August 1 BC. The first of these conjunctions appeared as the star the wise men "had seen in the east" (Ma 2:2) on 12 August 3 BC. The second appeared as the evening and Christmas star that led the wise men to Jerusalem ten months later and to Bethlehem (Ma 2:9-10) on the evening of Christ's birth, June 17, 2 BC. The third and fourth conjunctions in the quartet are not addressed in The Christmas Star. Venus also played an important role in another sign during this time.

Nine months before the birth of Christ, the sign of "Revelation 12" appeared on Rosh Hashana. In 3 BC, Rosh Hashana was 11-12 September. Figure (4) shows Virgo, clothed with the sun, with the moon at her feet (adorned with a crown of 12 stars) on 11 September, 3 BC. Venus, the Messiah's star, has just entered Virgo and Jupiter is about to form the first of three rare conjunctions (triple conjunction) with Regulus (king star) in Leo three days later on 14 September. Importantly, The sun, representing the light of the world, is in Virgo's womb marking what I believe represents Mary's conception by the Holy Spirit. The conception is confirmed nine days later on 20 September 3 BC when Venus, the

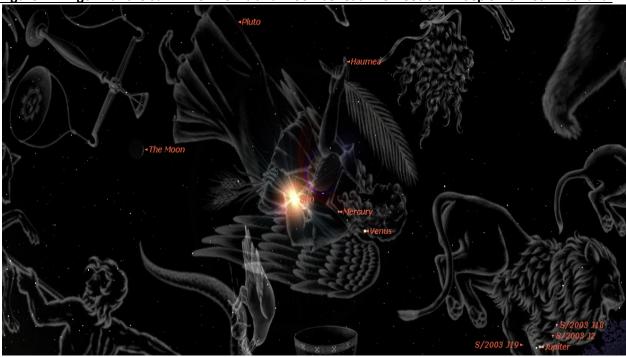


Figure 4. Virgo with the sun in her womb and moon beneath her feet on 11 Sep 3 BC- Rosh Hashana.

Messiah's star appears in the womb of the virgin (Figure 5). Venus remained in the virgin's womb for seven days from 20-26 September 3 BC. I believe Christ was in the womb of His mother when this sign appeared. 277 days (human gestation period) later, on 17 June 2 BC, the Savior of the world was born.

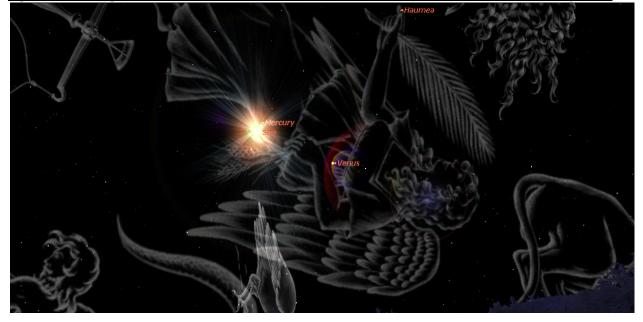


Figure 5. The virgin, clothed with the sun and Venus, the Messiah's star, in her womb- 20 Sept 3 BC

The Scriptures and the astronomy provide a far stronger case for the sign of Revelation 12 being fulfilled for Christ's conception in the First Coming than for the case currently being made for 23 September 2017. Two thousand twenty years ago on Rosh Hashana, 11 September 3 BC, the sign of the virgin (Revelation 12) appeared with the sun in Virgo's womb with the moon beneath her feet to mark the point of Mary's conception. Nine days later, from 20-26 September, Venus, the Messiah's star, occupied the womb of the virgin as confirmation that the Divine had become incarnate. What an incredible moment in time when God the Son, left His heavenly throne to dwell for nine months in the womb of His mother, the virgin Mary, until his carnal birth on 17 June 2 BC. This heavenly sign of the virgin and those described in The Christmas Star, all involve Venus, and they result in a chronology for Christ's first coming that fits perfectly with Scripture:

12 Aug 3 BC- (Venus-Jupiter conjunction) – Heads up star wise men saw in the east (Ma 2:2) 11 Sep 3 BC – (Virgo, Sun, Moon, Venus) – Rosh Hashana - Christ's conception in Mary's womb (Lk 1:35) 17 Jun 2 BC – (Venus-Jupiter conjunction) – Christmas Star - Birth of Christ in Bethlehem (Lk 2:7) From these dates it can be determined that: Christ's ministry began when he was 30 years and 9 months old (Luke 3:23) at the time of Passover in 30 AD, and he went to the cross (Ma 27:35) three Passovers later, after three years of ministry, on 3 April 33 AD when he was 33 years, 9 months and 16 days old (from birth). No other heavenly sign or event supports the dates for the First Coming chronology of Jesus Christ like those based on the Christmas star quartet of conjunctions from 3-1 BC and the sign of the Virgin (Revelation 12) that appeared on 11 September 3 BC - all involving Venus (the Messiah's star).

A critical point made in Dr. Faulkner's conclusion is this: "What sort of prophetic event is the sign (of Revelation 12 on 23 September 2017) suppose to usher in? Clearly, most people promoting this have in mind the Lord's return. Some explicitly state this, but others, mindful of the words of Jesus in

Matthew 24:36, are hesitant to make that claim, though their implication is clear enough." I agree and am convinced that the sign of the virgin appearing in September 2017 (a sign that no one will see with the naked eye) neither points to nor marks a major end time prophetic event because it isn't about the virgin or the birth of Christ... it's about His return as our Lord and Savior. The Second Advent of Christ will happen in two parts: the first, being the Rapture of the church when Christ returns in the air to claim his bride. This is a signless event, including heavenly signs. The Second Coming, when Christ returns as a conquering king to set up His Millennial Kingdom takes place at the end of the Tribulation, at least seven years after the Rapture. Thus, the September 2017 sign cannot point to or mark the Lord's return because the Rapture and Tribulation have not yet happened. This means that if there is a heavenly sign involved in the Second Advent of Christ, it can only point to, not mark the coming event.

Is it possible that such a sign, one that points to the Second Advent of Christ, exists? It would be safe to say that if there is such a sign, it would likely be similar to the sign(s) that revealed the First Advent of Christ. Therefore, it would clearly involve Venus, the Messiah's star, and it would have characteristics similar to the First Advent heavenly signs. Is there such a sign? The critical celestial configuration for the First Advent was not just the Christmas star, but it was a rare quartet of Venus Jupiter conjunctions that included the Christmas star. The 3-1 BC conjunction quartet (four conjunctions in a 24 month period) is rare, appearing on average once every 200 years. The three most prominent periods of appearance for these quartets are once every: 131 years (44% of the time), 224 years (26% of the time), 510 years (9% of the time). The last time such a quartet appeared was in 1791-93, at the time of the birth of our nation. The most recent appearance, 224 years later, was the 2014-16 guartet. The next one will not appear for 131 years, in 2146-48. Incredibly, the 2014-16 conjunction guartet has remarkably similar parameters to the 3-1 BC Christmas Star guartet. Notably, the 2014-16 guartet has appeared in conjunction with the convergence of all the other prophetic signs that are pointing to the soon return of Christ. Is this significant or just a coincidence? I attempt to make the case for the 2014-16 Venus Jupiter conjunction quartet as a true alternative to the sign of "Revelation 12" in a paper titled: Wise Men Still Seek Him – Heavenly Signs for the Messiah's Return (click here). Part 1 develops the celestial template for these signs; Part 2 addresses the symbolism and meaning for each conjunction as a heavenly sign, and Part 3 addresses convergence and how this sign may be linked to the timing for the Second Coming. Part 3 and the conclusion of this paper are worth considering so you can come to your own conclusion.

Conclusion

From what has been presented, my conclusions are: (1) the 23 September 2017 event is not the "Sign of Revelation 12"; (2) Venus, not Jupiter is the celestial object that Christ Himself identifies as His star; (3) The 11 September 3 BC "Sign of the Virgin" <u>marked</u> the conception of Jesus Christ in his mother's womb as the real sign of Revelation 12 (2,020 years ago); (4) Because of its remarkable similarity to the Christmas Star conjunction quartet, I believe that the 2014-16 Venus Jupiter conjunction quartet has the most potential to be a Second Coming heavenly sign. It both confirms the convergence of all the other signs and it supports a period or window of time that will accommodate the Messiah's return, likely within the next two decades. I must point this out in my conclusion as Dr. Faulkner did in his: We don't need to seek a heavenly sign to prepare for Christ's return. Christ's return has always been imminent. Thus, we must be ready now, because in the twinkling of an eye, when least expected, it will come like a thief in the night (1 Thess 5:2) for those who are not prepared. Are you ready? Praise God! Maranatha.

References:

- 1. Answers in Genesis article: What will Happen September 23, 2017 by Dr. Danny Faulkner May 2017 (www.answersingenesis.org)
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- 3. Figures and Table from: Starry Night Pro 6.4 and online Hebrew date calculator
- 4. The Great Sign of Revelation 12 Appears in 2017 by Daniel Matson (2014) (www.watchfortheday.org)
- 5. Wise Men Still Seek Him Heavenly Signs for the Messiah's Return by Jim Dodge (2016) (www.thechristmasstar.org)