

Wise Men Still Seek Him – Heavenly Signs for the Messiah’s Return

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Wise Men Still Seek Him – The Heavenly Signs for the Messiah’s Return

Introduction

In the book of Daniel, God told the prophet to “*shut up the words and seal the book*” (Dan 12:4) until the time of the end concerning signs he had been given, in part because Daniel could not understand them. But, one set of signs was not shut up or sealed: **God’s heavenly signs**. These signs were not sealed because wise men, inspired by Daniel, having possession of the Hebrew scriptures and whatever Daniel had passed on to them, along with five hundred years of heavenly observations, were able to decipher and understand God’s heavenly signs well enough to be in Jerusalem and follow the star to Bethlehem on the day Jesus was born, thus fulfilling the prophecies and the scriptures that ushered in the Messiah’s First Coming. Even so, when the signs appeared, the rest of the world was clueless.

God also told Daniel in the same verse that at the time of the end, “*knowledge shall be increased*” so that wise men in that day would be able to decipher and understand the signs and prepare the world for the Messiah’s return. Today, knowledge has greatly increased and, with tools of modern technology developed in the last 40 years, we are able to look forward and backward thousands of years in time to not only see and understand the heavenly signs involved in the Messiah’s first coming, but to understand their significance and how they might be involved and applied to the time of the Lord’s return. Incredibly, as this is written, I believe the last of the heavenly signs that may be pointing the world to the Messiah’s return is about to be revealed. And, sadly, as it was before the Messiah came the first time, the world, including much of the prophecy world, remains clueless. Now, at a time when all the non heavenly signs seem to be converging to set the stage for the Messiah’s return, it is a purpose of this paper to illuminate “wise men” at the end of the age (that would be us) to the fact that God’s heavenly signs are still in play; they are important and they may *confirm* what the non heavenly signs have been telling us, and it is that: Jesus is coming soon!

The paper is lengthy because little has been written about God’s heavenly signs and there is virtually nothing in the public record about heavenly signs relating to the Messiah’s return. Part 1 builds on the foundation established in the Christmas Star DVD (revised 2016) and is complimented with analysis using the tools of modern technology to *identify and link* the heavenly signs for the First and Second comings together. Part 2, the longest part of the paper, *interprets* the meanings and symbolism involved in the critical signs for both appearances. Part 3 attempts to *resolve* timeline differences for the sign appearances between the major events in both of the Messiah’s earthly appearances. So, it is part 3 and the conclusion of this paper that should interest prophecy experts and those who yearn for the Lord’s soon return. Rarely does an author tell his reader to read the last chapter of the book first, but in this case, I’m making an exception. Part 3 begins on page 29.

There is a sense of urgency in this because what will likely be the last of the heavenly signs pointing to the Messiah’s return will appear in the western evening sky, during the first hour after sunset, around the world, in less than four months, on **27 August 2016**. If what is revealed in this paper is true, the appearance of the 2016 “mirror image” Venus Jupiter conjunction, with nearly identical parameters to the one the wise men observed “as the star they saw in the east”, may well be the sign that begins the final countdown to the “*great and terrible*” day of the Lord.

Wise Men Still Seek Him –Heavenly Signs for the Messiah’s Return

Part 1 Background

“The Heavens declare the glory of God... Day unto day utters speech and night unto night shows knowledge.” (Psalm 19:1, 2). And God said; “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years.” (Gen 1:14). The “glory of God,” revealed by the heavens, is not only the infinite power, complexity and majesty seen in the stars but is also the Lord Jesus Christ, *“the brightness of His glory” (He 1:3).* The signs established in the stars (Gen 1:14) and arranged in the constellations (Job 38: 31-33) have, from the beginning, set forth pictorially the divine plan of redemption through the coming Seed of the woman (Gen 3:15) who was to become God incarnate. The Lord tells us *“I am the light of the world” (John 8:12)* and *“...the bright and morning star” (Rev 22:16)* as heavenly confirmation that He alone is our Lord and Savior.

We see from the above passages that heavenly signs are clearly one of the many ways God reveals Himself to us. The signs revealed in the Christmas Star did just that. In fact, they gloriously reveal and mark the conception and incarnation of Jesus in ways that defy imagination and probability. Furthermore, the heavenly signs marking the Lord’s only incarnate appearance on earth and that pointed to His first appearance as the Messiah, literally fulfill Bible prophecy while confirming the details revealed in Scripture about the wise men’s special role in the nativity story. Because the wise men didn’t have telescopes or thousands of years of computer generated star data at their fingertips like the wise men of today, it was necessary for God to provide a spectacular, yet irrefutable sequence of heavenly signs that appeared only over Israel, at exactly the right moments in history, to fulfill the promise of His coming Son, the Messiah, our Savior. What made these signs so special, especially the Christmas Star, is how God was able to take ordinary celestial bodies and stellar events (like a common, repeatable Venus Jupiter conjunction) and turn it into something truly extraordinary like the Christmas star, to mark the birth of Jesus. Assuming the wise men observed the night sky for this heavenly sign beginning at the time of Daniel more than 500 years earlier, it was possible that they witnessed and recorded more than 200 Venus Jupiter conjunctions. But, not a single conjunction during that period visibly merged into a single star until the “heads up” 12 August 3 BC conjunction appeared ten months before the birth of Christ. The “heads up” star was followed ten months later by the most significant visible Venus Jupiter conjunction to appear in the 9400 year Solex conjunction database, and since the Creation. This was an incredible revelation of God’s heavenly handiwork.

As incredible as the timing and appearance of the heavenly signs for Christ’s nativity were, we need to understand the meaning and significance of these First Coming signs for the Messiah before considering heavenly signs that might point to the Messiah’s Second Coming. The Christmas Star specifically marks the date for Jesus’ birth, but it also pointed to His only incarnate appearance as the Messiah. That event happened on Palm Sunday, five days before Jesus went to the cross, nearly 34 years after the Christmas Star appearance (Luke 19: 28-44). This event was prophesied by Daniel (Dan 9:25) and fulfilled in accordance with scripture, but the date was not marked by a heavenly sign. Appendix C reveals how the date for Jesus’ crucifixion on 3 April 33 AD was determined from Daniel’s prophecies and from Luke. From that date, we simply subtract five days from the Crucifixion date to get 29 March 33 AD as the date for Christ’s only incarnate Palm Sunday appearance as the Messiah. So, while the

heavenly signs for the nativity clearly marked the date of Christ's incarnation (birth), they only pointed to His first, and only, incarnate appearance as the Messiah. This is an important distinction as we consider heavenly signs for the Messiah's return. The Scriptures make clear in Matthew 24:36, Acts 1:7 and Zech 14:7 that no man knows the day or the hour for the Messiah's return, so we should not expect Second Coming heavenly sign(s) to mark a date for the Second Coming. Even so, the revelation of heavenly signs that merely point to recognizable and defined period of time for the Second Coming would be an extraordinary confirmation that the increasing number of non- heavenly signs we are seeing today, confirm the Messiah's soon return.

Because God is unchanging (Mal 3:6), it is reasonable to assume that because His heavenly signs played a major role in marking and pointing to the critical times and events for Christ's first coming, specifically for the nativity, there must be heavenly signs that point to the times and the season for Christ's return. If true, what then does the Bible reveal about heavenly signs for the Lord's return? Regarding end time signs, Jesus tells us in Luke 21:11, in response to the disciple's question, what to expect; *"And great earthquakes shall there be in diverse places, and famines, and pestilences and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven."* These signs from heaven, referred to in Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Matt 24:7 and Rev 6:12, relate to the sun (becoming black as sackcloth) and moon (becoming as blood). They appear during the Tribulation when God is pouring out His wrath on a world being judged. These events happen between the Lord's return in the air to Rapture His church and His Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation, but they neither point to a time nor do they mark a date for His second coming. In this context, these signs really have little in common with the heavenly "signs" spoken of in Genesis 1:14 or with the stellar configurations that marked and pointed to the Messiah's first coming as revealed in the Christmas Star. Fortunately, Scripture reveals more than is revealed in Luke 2:11 about heavenly signs for the Messiah's return.

In the Christmas Star, it is pointed out that Jesus revealed a huge prophetic clue to the latter day "wise men" when He confirmed in Revelation 22:16 (fifth verse from the end of the Bible) that He is the *"Root of David and the bright and morning star"*. Of equal importance is what an Elder reveals to John in the throne room of heaven as he weeps because no man is able to open and read the "book" in Revelation 5:5: *"And one of the Elders said to me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book and loosen its seven seals."* These passages are important for two reasons: First, they symbolically refer to Venus, "the bright and morning star" and to the Constellation Leo, "the Lion of the tribe of Judah", which are the star and constellation that comprise the critical heavenly signs for the Lord's first coming in The Christmas Star. Second, since these Revelation scriptures were revealed to John nearly a century after Jesus' birth, they played no prophetic role in the nativity story. Thus, their revelation at the end of the Bible in this context adds credence to the fact that God uses the same heavenly signs to reveal Christ's Second Coming that He used for the First Coming.

Finding the Connection between the Heavenly Signs for the First and Second Comings

Since the foundational template for the heavenly signs that marked and pointed to Christ's first coming includes Venus, Jupiter and the Constellation Leo with its key star Regulus, it logically follows that these

stellar bodies and configurations would be prime candidates as heavenly signs for Christ's return. In 2015, an analysis of two sets of Venus Jupiter conjunction data were considered to determine if a contemporary stellar configuration might exist that links to the stellar configuration for the Christmas Star.

The first study analyzed 200 years of Venus Jupiter conjunction data for the years from 1900 to 2100. Two hundred five (205) conjunctions appeared during this period with a time interval between conjunctions that averaged one conjunction every 1.2 years. The conjunctions were classified based on the separation distance between Venus and Jupiter at their point of closest approach, as follows:

Venus Jupiter conjunctions - 1900-2100

| Type | Separation Distance | Number |
|--|--|--------|
| A. Unremarkable (U) conjunctions | Greater than 2 degrees of separation | 54 |
| B. Notable (N) conjunctions | 1 to 2 degrees of separation | 45 |
| C. Significant (S) conjunctions | Between one tenth (.1) and 1 degree of separation | 105 |
| D. Major (M) conjunctions | Less than one tenth (.1) degree of separation | 1 |
| E. Extraordinary (E) conjunctions | Less than one hundredth (.01) degree of separation | 0 |

Notes and Highlights from the data:

1. About half (51%) of the 205 conjunctions were visible with the naked eye. This is because conjunctions that appear less than 20 degrees from the Sun cannot be seen.
2. Venus Jupiter conjunctions appear as a single star (astronomy term is "double star") to the naked eye when the separation distance between the planets is less than one tenth (.1) degree. Thus, only Major and Extraordinary conjunctions in the table above can potentially be observed as a single star.
3. The observable period of time for a merged conjunction as a single star is limited. A **Major** conjunction with separation close to one tenth (.1) of a degree can be observed as a single star for an hour or more (in one or two time zones), depending on its distance from the sun when merged. An **Extraordinary** conjunction (less than .01 degree of separation) can be seen for three hours or more (3-4 time zones), depending on its distance from the sun. **Significant** conjunctions will appear to look the same around the world in all 24 time zones for the period of about a day.
3. Of the 205 total, 48% of the conjunctions were Unremarkable or Notable and 51% were Significant.
4. Only one Major conjunction appears as a single star on **27 August 2016** (it will be visible). No Extraordinary conjunctions appear during the 200 year period. For the remainder of this paper, an Extraordinary conjunction is defined as any major conjunction with less than one hundredth (.01) degree of separation that is visible with the naked eye for more than one hour. In the 9400 years of Solex data only six conjunctions had separation distances of less than .01 degree. Of these six, three were not visible at all and the other two were visible for less than one hour. Only the Christmas Star (17 June 2 BC) conjunction was visible for more than one hour and it was observable for more than three hours.

A primary reason for looking at this two hundred year period of time was to see if there were any stellar configurations with parameters similar to the Christmas Star pair of conjunctions (12 Aug 3 BC & 17 June 2 BC) that appear in the Constellation Leo, especially after the 1948 re-birth of the nation of Israel. This

date is significant because it is very unlikely that God would reveal His heavenly sign(s) for the Messiah's return before Israel was back in the land. The following notes apply to this aspect of the analysis:

5. Fifteen of the 205 conjunctions appear in the Constellation Leo.

6. Two back to back conjunction pairs appeared in the Constellation Leo: the 9 Aug 1920 - 25 Oct 1921 pair and the 30 Jun 2015 - 25 Oct 2015 pair. The 1920/21 conjunctions appeared ten months apart (similar to the Christmas Star pair) but the 1920 conjunction was not visible because it was only 11 degrees from the sun. Also, this conjunction pair appeared more than two decades before Israel's 1948 rebirth. Both conjunctions in the 2015 pair are Significant and they were both visible for nearly three hours because of their significant separation from the sun. Importantly, this conjunction pair appeared (more than 65 years) after the rebirth of Israel. It was while considering this conjunction pair that a key to unlocking the mystery of the heavenly signs for the Messiah's return was discovered. But, it did not become clear until later when the 9400 years of Solex data was analyzed. I noticed something odd about the 2015 conjunctions – the two conjunctions appeared less than four months apart. Since the average time between conjunction appearances is about 1.2 years (the most common V-J conjunction intervals are 8, 10, 12 and 14 months, with 8, 10 and 12 months being the most common) it was clear that this Significant conjunction pair, separated by less than four months in time, was an unusual event. Although other pairs of conjunctions in this period had a similar interval of time between appearances (1922, 1946 and 1970 were notable), either one conjunction in each pair appeared almost directly in the sun, or the separation distance for one conjunction in the pair was greater than 4 degrees, or both. None of the parameters for these conjunctions were remarkable, particularly when compared with the 2015 pair. At this point in the 200 year study, it was clear that further analysis of what I termed these "short interval conjunction pairs" was necessary, especially with respect to the 2015 pair.

My initial conclusions from the 200 year study were:

1. Only one Major visible conjunction appears in the 200 year period, on 27 August 2016. Remarkably, the parameters for this conjunction nearly match those of the 12 August 3 BC Christmas Star "heads up" conjunction.

2. Only one pair of conjunctions, both Significant, appeared in the Constellation Leo during the period; the 30 June and 25 October 2015 short interval pair. Importantly, this conjunction pair appeared 67 years after Israel's 1948 rebirth so it satisfies the timeframe requirement as a possible configuration for the heavenly signs for the Messiah's return.

The second study involved a filtered analysis of 9400 years of Solex Venus Jupiter conjunction data. This research was greatly enhanced by the efforts of Allan Johnson, who was able to selectively filter the more than 9500 conjunctions between 5175 BC and 4164 AD, on a spreadsheet that enabled us to focus on the conjunction history involving the short interval pairs described above. One of the most interesting initial observations was that while the short interval pair is normally separated in time by less than four months (111-121 days), the conjunctions bracketing each short interval pair almost always appeared ten months on either side of the short interval pair. This results in four consecutive Venus Jupiter conjunctions appearing within a 24 month period, more than twice the normal 1.2 year interval average (4 conjunctions in 2 years versus 4 conjunctions in 4+ years). These four conjunctions: the short interval pair plus the one preceding and the one following the short interval pair, are what is called

a conjunction Quartet in the Solex spreadsheet analysis. The spreadsheet for short interval pairs was then filtered to focus on the Quartets resulting from these short interval pairs.

In the 9400 years of Solex data, there are 47 of these bracketed, short interval pairs or conjunction Quartets and they occur on average about once every 200 years. Additional analysis revealed a cyclic pattern with the most frequent period (44%) being a 131 year interval between Quartets. The second and third most frequent intervals are 224 (26%) and 510 (9.5%) years respectively. From these numbers it became clear why the 2015 short interval pair and the resulting 2014-16 conjunction Quartet it formed, turns out to be the only significant Quartet appearing in the 200 years between 1900 and 2100.

The most surprising discovery from the short interval and Quartet analysis was that the Christmas Star (17 Jun 2 BC) conjunction is a part of one of these short interval pairs and the "Heads Up" Star (12 Aug 3 BC) is the first of the four conjunctions that form what will be called the Christmas Star Quartet for the remainder of this paper. Equally remarkable in the Quartet analysis was the discovery that the 2015 short interval pair and the August 2016 Major conjunction combine with the August 2014 conjunction to form a nearly identical Quartet to the Christmas Star Quartet. The Christmas Star website provides additional astronomical evidence that supports these two Quartets and distinguishes them from all others in the 9400 year Solex database. So, in this next section, I want to compare the significance and parameters of these two Quartets to confirm their uniqueness and rarity and to build a case that these are the foundation stellar configurations for the heavenly signs that mark and point to Christ's First Coming and to the Messiah's Second Coming.

The most important issue that ties these two quartets together is the incredible timing of their appearances, coupled with the support that is found for them in the Scriptures. It is the timing of each Quartet's appearance that largely eliminates all other Quartets from consideration. For the Christmas Star quartet, the wise men had the 483 year timeline given them by Daniel (Dan 9:25) to be able to determine within 100 years, when the sign(s) for the Messiah's first coming would appear. Even though two other Quartets appeared during the 500 years before Christ's birth, their appearances were more than 100 years before the time the Messiah was prophesied to appear by Daniel. Importantly, The Christmas Star conjunction in this Quartet precisely marks the dates for Christ's incarnate birth. Regarding the timing of the 2014-16 Quartet, the Scriptures speak of many more signs that are prophesied to appear and converge as the day of the Lord's return approaches and, remarkably, this Quartet appears in the midst of the converging end time signs. The most important end time sign and the key to understanding God's timeline is Israel. Since Israel was not back in the land until 1948, it makes perfect sense that the heavenly signs that point to the Messiah's return would not appear until after Israel's rebirth as a nation. The last significant Quartet to appear before 2014-16 was in 1790-92, 224 years earlier, during the foundation of America and during the Jewish Diaspora. The next Quartet after 2014-16 will not appear for another 131 years until 2145. Therefore, during the 355 year period between the most recent and the next expected Quartet, only the 2014-16 Quartet falls within the 100 year window of time when the fulfillment of all end time prophecy is expected to be fulfilled, according to the Scriptures.

Comparison of the Christmas Star and 2014-16 Conjunction Quartets

The most important conjunctions in each Quartet are the pairs that appear in the Constellation Leo, highlighted in green. This will become clear when their meanings and symbolism are considered in Part 2. Remarkably, four of the eight conjunctions (50%) in these two Quartets are major conjunctions. By comparison, the three quartets (12 conjunctions) preceding the Christmas Star Quartet only had one major conjunction and it wasn't visible. The three Quartets preceding 2014-16 also only had one major conjunction between them.

The 3-1 BC Christmas Star Quartet

| | Date | Sep dist. | Dist from Sun | Constellation | Time visible | Merged Location |
|----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | 12 August 3 BC | .070 deg. (M) | -21 deg. | Leo | 1 hour | Israel (GMT+2) |
| 2. | 17 June 2 BC | .007 deg (E) | 45 deg. | Leo | 3 hours | Israel (GMT + 2 to 0) |
| | | | 118 days | between short interval pair | | |
| 3. | 13 October 2 BC | 1.83 deg (N) | -46 deg | Virgo | 3 hours | Worldwide |
| 4. | 21 August 1 BC | .097 deg (M) | 19 deg | Virgo | 45 min. | Hawaii (GMT -10) |

The 2014-16 Quartet

| | Date | Sep dist. | Dist from Sun | Constellation | Time visible | Location visible (when merged) |
|----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | 18 August 2014 | .198 deg (S) | -18 deg | Cancer | 1 hour | Worldwide |
| 2. | 30 June 2015 | .334 deg (S) | 43 deg | Leo | 3 hours | Worldwide |
| | | | 117 days | between short interval pair | | |
| 3. | 25 October 2015 | 1.025 deg (S) | -47 deg | Leo | 3 hours | Worldwide |
| 4. | 27 August 2016 | .069 deg (M) | 22 deg | Virgo | 1 hour | Bermuda (GMT-4) |

Significant Points of Comparison between the Quartets

1. The Calendar month sequence in each quartet is the same: August, June, October, August
2. The four conjunctions in each Quartet appear over a period exactly of two years and nine days.
3. The number of days between the short interval pair in each Quartet (118 & 117) differs by only one day.
4. Conjunctions (2) and (3) define the close interval pair in each quartet. The 17 June 2 BC Christmas Star is a part of the short interval pair in that Quartet.
5. The four conjunctions highlighted in green appear in the Constellation Leo, making Regulus symbolically significant in each Quartet.
6. Four of the eight conjunctions in the two quartets are major conjunctions (12 Aug 3, 17 Jun 2, 20 Aug 1 and 27 Aug 2016). The 17 June 2 BC Christmas Star conjunction is the only conjunction in the 9400 year Solex data with a separation distance of less than one hundredth of a degree that was visible as a single star for three hours.

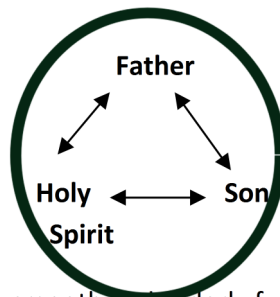
7. The Christmas Star pair (12 Aug 3 and 17 Jun 2 BC) in Leo were each visible as a single star, but only over Israel. No other back to back major conjunction pairs appear as a single star in the 9400 year Solex database.
8. The 2015 conjunction pair (30 Jun and 25 Oct) in Leo, were each visible for 3 hours around the world.
9. Of the eight conjunctions in the two Quartets, the first and eighth conjunctions and the fourth and fifth conjunctions are linked as described in (10) and (11) below.
10. The first 12 Aug 3 BC “Heads up” and eighth 27 Aug 2016 “It is Finished” conjunctions have nearly identical parameters except that one is the morning star and the other is the evening star. Each is only visible as a single star for about an hour in one time zone. This makes the 27 Aug 16 conjunction significant as it may be the first opportunity to obtain photos of what the wise men might have observed as the “star they saw in the east” 2000 years ago.
11. The fourth conjunction (21 Aug 1) was only visible as a single star for a short period in one time zone (GMT-8), so it appeared around the rest of the world, including Israel, as a star pair with parameters that nearly match the fifth (18 Aug 2014) conjunction. Both conjunctions would have appeared about the same to the naked eye around the world.

Wise Men Still Seek Him – Heavenly Signs for the Messiah’s Return

Part 2 – Heavenly Signs for the Messiah; The Significance, The Symbolism & The Meaning

A. Understanding the Symbolism associated with God’s Heavenly Signs

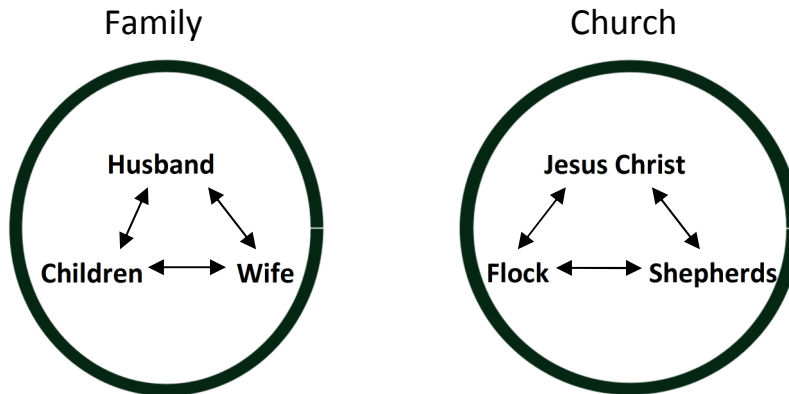
In order to fully understand the significance of the heavenly signs for the Messiah, we must pause and attempt to consider the nature and character of God. The Bible teaches that God not only exists as a personal Spirit being, but that He does so in Holy Trinity. As the Creator, God revealed Himself to us in two ways: His General Revelation – in the creation (Psalm 19:1-6, Romans 1:20) and, His Special Revelation – His Holy Word (Psalm 119:105, John 1:1). Through His creation, we see the voice of nature making loud and unmistakable statements pointing to His design and order. This same element of order is apparent in the social systems God has instituted. But, the order we can see in these areas is not simply an expression of the Lord’s creative design. Instead, it flows from His very nature as a reflection of who He is. God embodies in Himself the ultimate expression of “the one and the many” in the Triune Godhead: God the Father; God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity exemplifies diversity within unity and it is bound up in the Triune essence: Relationship, Union, Communion, Intimacy, Fellowship and Community and it reflects the “Oneness” of the Godhead:



The Trinity

This triune nature serves as the basis for a smooth and orderly functioning of creation. If true (and it is) then it should not be hard to see evidence of this divine imprint in God’s social order and in nature.

Examples of this “Oneness” in unity and relationship in the social order are evident, for example, in God’s institutions of the family and in the church:



The unity we see in the Trinity and in God’s social order is also evidenced in nature. Examples include: the three primary colors (red, blue, green); the three states of water (solid, liquid, water vapor); three parts of an atom (proton, neutron, electron). But, what about the cosmos and God’s signs in the heavens (Gen 1:14), particularly those that may represent heavenly signs for the Messiah? Is it possible that God placed His divine imprint on specific heavenly signs to reveal His nature and glory? If we faithfully and diligently consider the heavenly signs for Christ’s first coming as revealed in the Christmas Star, His divine imprint may not be that difficult to see.

The Christmas Star establishes the foundational template for the Messiah’s heavenly signs in a Venus Jupiter conjunction that appears in the Constellation Leo. Jesus tells us that, as the “bright and morning star”, his heavenly sign is Venus (Rev 2:8, 22:16). This confirms that the “Star” prophesied by Balaam (Num 24:17) must have been prophesied to be an enhanced form of Venus. We also know that the only celestial body capable of enhancing the appearance of Venus is Jupiter in a conjunction (by as much as 16%). Finally, we know that the critical pair of Venus Jupiter conjunctions in the Christmas Star appeared in the Constellation Leo, representing The Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Gen 49:9-10, Rev 5:5). So, the three heavenly bodies that derive from this celestial template are Venus, Jupiter and Regulus, the key star in Leo. Other Christmas Star configurations and planets, such as Virgo, Aries, Mercury and Mars contribute to the story, but Venus, Jupiter and Regulus are the keys to understanding God’s triune nature in the heavenly signs that point to the Messiah. Let’s briefly consider how these planets and star reflect God’s divine nature in His heavenly signs:

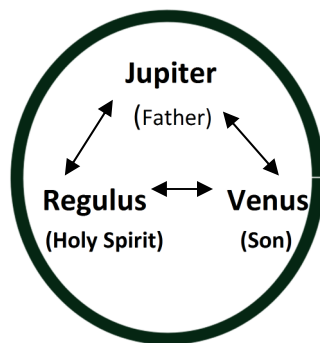
1. **Venus**, the “bright morning star” is also the “bright evening star”. It is the brightest star in the heavens (six times brighter than Jupiter) and is the third brightest object in the sky, after the Sun and the Moon. It is the only star that can be observed in daylight. Venus can normally be seen in the morning and evening skies for about fourteen of every twenty four months. It can be enhanced in a conjunction with Jupiter and still remain the third brightest object in the heavens. There is no other “star” like Venus and, likewise, there is none like Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus tells us that he is the “bright and morning star” and the “light of the world”. Thus, Venus

is the celestial body that best reflects the divine imprint of Jesus, the Messiah as “God the Son” in what we’ll call the heavenly trinity.

2. **Jupiter** has been called the “king planet” throughout history. It is the fourth brightest star in the heavens. It is the only heavenly body capable of “enhancing” Venus in a conjunction. Conjunctions between Venus and Jupiter reflect unity and diversity in the “Oneness” of the Godhead. Jesus tells us: “*I and my Father are one*” (John 10:30). Jupiter is the most visible object in the night sky and it can be seen around the world for more than eleven months each year. Jupiter represents God’s ever present nature in the heavens as it symbolically glorifies the Son and reveals His majesty in the heavens. The king planet represents “God the Father” in the heavenly trinity.
3. **Regulus**, the “king” or “noble” star is the primary star in the Constellation Leo. Interestingly, Regulus is a “double star”. It is the most significant star among the twelve constellations of the Zodiac because of its fixed position, in Leo, along the ecliptic. This makes Regulus unique among all the stars because it can form conjunctions with the planets, the most significant being with Venus and Jupiter. Regulus is not a bright star as are Venus and Jupiter. It can be seen, at least for short periods, in the night sky for nine to ten months each year. Regulus plays the critical background role of the Holy Spirit in the heavenly trinity -- just as the Holy Spirit is ever present, yet not easily observed, indwelling the hearts of those who believe. Regulus represents “God the Holy Spirit” as the third part of the divine imprint in the triune Godhead of heavenly signs.

God’s ultimate expression of unity, diversity and oneness *in the heavens* is evident in His divine imprint on these three stars as shown in the diagram below. In order to understand and appreciate the symbolism and meanings involved in the heavenly signs for the Christmas Star and the 2014-16 Quartets, this “Celestial Trinity” will be the foundation template used to decipher and interpret the heavenly signs that mark and point to the Messiah’s first and second comings:

The Celestial Trinity



All Venus Jupiter conjunctions in the two Quartets symbolize the unity and oneness of the Godhead. The separation distance between the planets in each conjunction reveals the degree of physical separation that exists between the Father and Son during the event that the sign represents. See Appendix A for a summary of the timing, symbolism and meanings for the conjunctions listed in Part 2.

B. The Christmas Star Quartet – Heavenly Signs for the Messiah’s First Coming

The Christmas Star DVD focused on seven heavenly signs that marked or pointed to the events surrounding Christ’s nativity. But, it did not address the meaning and significance of third and fourth conjunctions (13 October 2 BC and 21 August 1 BC) in the Christmas Star Quartet. What follows is a review of the key conjunctions that appeared in the Christmas Star and it includes the third and fourth conjunctions in the Quartet as they point to the post-nativity Messiah during His first coming. This review lays the foundation for understanding the meaning and significance of the second coming heavenly signs involved in the 2014-16 Quartet. There are two conjunctions (2 & 4) in the Christmas Star Quartet and three conjunctions (3, 4 & 5) in the 2014-16 Quartet included that are not part of the Quartet conjunctions. They are included because they appear in association with the two conjunctions in each Quartet that appear in the Constellation Leo. This makes them significant. Each conjunction is described in terms of its significance (astronomically), its symbolism (spiritually) and its meaning (prophetically) so that we can begin to comprehend God’s incredible glory in His heavenly signs.

1. Venus – Jupiter Conjunction (Major) - 12 August 3 BC - The “Heads Up” bright morning star.
 - a. **The Significance** - This is the first of eight Venus Jupiter conjunctions in the two Quartets pointing to the coming Messiah. It was the first major conjunction since the time of King David to appear as a visible, single star. It was only visible as a single star over Israel (GMT +2) for about an hour before sunrise when it appeared. This is important because the prophecies about the Messiah’s star were only known from the Hebrew writings to the Jews and the wise men. Therefore, the only location in the world where observance of this appearance would be meaningful was over Israel. Because the wise men were in Persia, more than 750 miles to the east when the star appeared, it is not clear what they actually saw. While it is clear that whatever they saw was not significant enough for them to pack their bags and head for Israel, Scripture makes it clear that it got their attention because they refer to it as *“the star they had seen in the east”* (Matt 2:2) after their arrival in Jerusalem. (Note: this issue may be somewhat resolved on 27 August 2016 when the exact mirror image of this conjunction will appear as the final heavenly sign for the Messiah’s second coming). This was the first of the four conjunctions in the two Quartets to appear in the Constellation Leo, the sign of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. This links Regulus with the Venus - Jupiter star as the third part of the symbol for God’s celestial trinity.
 - b. **The Symbolism** - The symbolism in God’s heavenly signs reflects the relationship, diversity and unity expressed in the eternal Godhead. This divine imprint is clearly evident in the eight Venus Jupiter conjunctions that comprise the first and second coming Quartets. Each Venus Jupiter conjunction is a reflection of the unity and intimate relationship that exists between the Father and the Son, expressed by the Lord’s statement, *“I and the Father are one”* (John 10:30). The degree of separation between the two planets in each conjunction reflects diversity in the Father - Son relationship within the triune Godhead. For our purpose, “notable” and “significant”

conjunctions in the Quartets point to significant events, both in heaven and on earth, that relate to God's plan for His creation through the Messiah in heavenly signs.

"Major" conjunctions that merge into a single star, point to a major event involving the Messiah and they point to the specific audience for whom the sign is intended. This 12 August 3 BC "major" conjunction only appeared as a single star over Israel. Revealed to Jews, the merged conjunction symbolized the beginning of the season of the Messiah's first coming. It symbolized the unity of the Father and Son in heaven as the Son prepared to depart from the right hand of the Father to become the incarnate Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. It was God's symbolic "heads up" sign in the heavens to Israel that what had been prophesied about the coming Messiah was to soon be fulfilled. But, only a small cadre of wise men in a distant land, who knew the Scriptures and the teachings of Daniel, would be able decipher the heavenly sign and understand what God was about to do. The rest of the world, including the Jewish religious leaders who had the writings, were clueless.

- c. **The Meaning** - This first appearance ever recorded (Matt 2:2) of a conjunction star formed by Venus and Jupiter had a twofold purpose. God always precedes major events in His "Plan for the Ages" with one or more signs; be it in the fulfillment of a promise, as a blessing, or to warn of coming judgment. This sign is the first of God's heavenly signs that pointed to the Messiah's first and second coming appearances during the next two millennia. In the near term, ***it was the "Heads up" sign for the wise men that a significant event was about to take place in Judah.*** It confirmed their expectation of the promised Messiah, represented in the form of a "Star" (Num 24:17) and its appearance fit within the timeframe prophesied by Daniel in his seventy week prophecy (Dan 9:25). In the long term, this sign ***established the template for a common set of heavenly signs that link the first and second coming signs together.*** This first appearance of the star both confirms Scripture and it defines the basic heavenly sign template that points to the Messiah during the seasons of His first and second comings.
2. Jupiter –Regulus Triple Conjunction – 14 Sept 3 BC; 17 Feb 2 BC; 08 May 2 BC - **Decision Point Sign for the wise men, spanning the period of Mary's pregnancy**
 - a. **The Significance** - A Jupiter Regulus triple conjunction is not that rare. Jupiter passes through Leo once every twelve years and it experiences retrograde motion during each cycle. Since Regulus is located near the center of Leo, Jupiter's retrograde motion makes it more than likely that the planet will pass the star more than once during a given cycle. The Solex data reveals that a Jupiter Regulus triple conjunction occurs about once every seven Jupiter cycles through Leo or once every 84 years. What makes a triple conjunction like the one in 3-2 BC so rare is how it relates to Venus. Because Venus orbits the sun about once every eight months, Venus will pass through Leo at least one time while Jupiter is in the constellation. On rare occasions, Venus may pass through Leo twice when a Jupiter Regulus triple conjunction occurs. This can result in a pair of Venus Jupiter conjunctions with the potential to bracket a Jupiter Regulus double

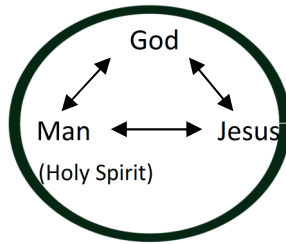
or triple conjunction. In the 1000 year period before the birth of Christ, there was only one other Jupiter Regulus triple that was bracketed by a pair of Venus Jupiter conjunctions. This happened in 512-11 BC, about the time the wise men may have begun watching the heavens to prepare for the signs of the coming Messiah. Importantly, while the parameters of the 512-11 triple double were similar in some respects, there was not a short interval pair of Venus Jupiter conjunctions associated with it to create a Venus Jupiter conjunction Quartet (four conjunctions in two years). Also, while the August 512 BC Venus Jupiter conjunction did merge into a single star, it appeared over Israel only as a “significant” two star conjunction. This helps to explain why the 3-2 BC Jupiter Regulus triple that was bracketed (almost equidistantly) by the Christmas Star pair developed into such a rare, but perfectly timed, celestial event. As revealed in the Christmas Star, the odds of this rare triple double occurring as it did are more than a million to one. It is the only combination of celestial events like this to appear in the 9400 year Solex database.

- b. **The Symbolism** - This triple conjunction **sign** between Jupiter and Regulus reveals a unique aspect in the diversity of the triune Godhead. The “oneness” in unity between the Father and the Son is normally symbolized in Venus Jupiter conjunctions. But, something that only happened once in all eternity occurred during this Jupiter Regulus triple conjunction. The Son was not in heaven seated at the right hand of the Father during the eight month appearance (14 September 3 BC to 08 May 2 BC) of this heavenly sign. God the Son, the creator of the universe, had become incarnate and was in hidden the womb of his mother, Mary, for this entire event. While the triune Godhead is forever in spiritual unity, this heavenly sign marked the first eight months of the only 34 year period in all eternity when “God the Son” experienced physical separation from the triune Godhead. After his ascension to heaven, Jesus told his disciples that he would pray to the Father: *“...and He will give you another Comforter, who will abide with you forever”* (John 14:16). Then God sent the Holy Spirit to abide in the world as a substitute for the incarnate presence of God the Son. During the period of Jesus’ incarnation, his glorified nature resided in the Godhead within the Holy Spirit. This principal of substitution and diversity is evident and symbolized in the three Jupiter Regulus conjunctions. The Son relinquished his glorified nature to the Holy Spirit in the Godhead to become incarnate and thus, Venus as the glorified symbol of the Son does not appear in the Constellation Leo during the period of the Jupiter Regulus conjunctions. Venus as “God the Son” relinquished his glory and brightness to Regulus the Holy Spirit. For Christ’s incarnation, Regulus symbolically represents the Son in the Godhead. Jupiter, as God the Father, passes over Regulus three times during these eight months to symbolize God the Father (King planet) hovering over “God the Son” (little King star). This reminds of the Spirit of God “hovering over the face of the waters” in Genesis 1:2 and of His desire to *“...gather thy children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings...”* (Luke 14:34). It is symbolized in the heavenly sign as Jupiter hovers over Regulus while the incarnate Son was hidden from Satan in the womb of his earthly mother.

- c. **The Meaning** – The timing for the appearance of this heavenly sign is critically important. It began one month after the 12 August “heads up” sign appeared, as Jupiter passed Regulus (14 Sept), three days after the sign of the Virgin appeared with a new moon under her feet (11 Sept) to mark Mary’s conception. It ended when Jupiter passed Regulus (08 May), one month before the birth of Christ. At the midpoint of Mary’s pregnancy and midway between the “heads up” sign from the previous August and the Christmas Star (17 June) appearance that marked the birth of Christ, the second conjunction between Jupiter and Regulus in less than five months, on 17 February, highlighted by a lunar occultation, gave the wise men the confirmation they sought: that the “heads up” sign they had seen the previous August was the Messiah’s star. This event is what motivated their decision to depart Persia for Judah in time to be in Jerusalem when the Christmas Star appeared. ***The Jupiter Regulus triple conjunction marked the period of Mary’s pregnancy. The second conjunction in the triple, on 17 February 2 BC, marked the wise men’s “decision point” to depart Persia for Judah in order to be in Jerusalem when the Star appeared.***
3. Venus Jupiter Conjunction - 17 June 2 BC (Extraordinary) - The Christmas Star
- a. **The Significance** - An exhaustive review of 9400 years of Venus Jupiter conjunction data confirms the uniqueness and rarity of the Christmas Star. Of the six “Major” Venus Jupiter conjunctions in the database with the potential to become extraordinary stars, only the Christmas Star (17 June 2 BC) qualifies. Three of the six conjunctions were not visible. The other two were each visible for about an hour but, they did not appear in Leo and they were not visible as a single star over Israel. The Christmas Star and the 12 August 3 BC conjunction that preceded it are the only two conjunctions that appear back to back as single stars in the entire Solex database and both appeared, only over Israel. Major conjunctions that merge into a single star are normally only visible for a short period of time (about an hour) over a limited geographic area (one or two time zones). The rare exception is the subset of a “Major” conjunction which we have labeled an “Extraordinary” conjunction. The two parameters that make a conjunction extraordinary are: separation distance of less than one hundredth (.01) of a degree at the point of closest approach and, separation from the sun by more than 40 degrees. A conjunction with these parameters can be observed in three or four time zones as a single star and it has the potential to enhance the brightness of Venus by up to 16 percent. Of all the conjunctions in the 9400 year Solex data base, the Christmas Star appearance on 17 June 2 BC is the only conjunction with these parameters, making it a “one of a kind” extraordinary conjunction. The Star was visible after sunset over Israel for more than three hours after merging into a single star. This extremely close separation between the two planets, coupled with 45 degrees of separation from the sun also made it possible for Venus to be seen in daylight for those who knew where to look for it. Venus first became visible as the evening star about the first of February 2 BC (before the wise men observed the second leg of the Jupiter Regulus conjunction on 17 Feb), so Venus was the evening star and the wise men were literally able to follow

the star as it went before them, in the western sky, each evening on their journey from Persia to Judah. Moreover, Venus was observable even in daylight after about 20 May, nearly a month before Christ's birth. Nevertheless, even for those not familiar with the night skies, the Christmas Star could have been observed for at least an hour after sunset in each of the five time zones that spanned the entire Roman Empire, from Persia to the Atlantic Ocean, when it appeared on the evening of 17 June 2 BC. Incredibly, there is not a single sighting of this event recorded anywhere in history... except of course, in the Bible (Matt 2:9-10).

- b. **The Symbolism** - The unity of the Father and Son in the triune Godhead is revealed in the heavens by Venus Jupiter conjunctions in two ways: First, "Significant" Venus Jupiter conjunctions (two distinct stars with .1 to 1 degrees of separation) symbolize the distinctly **separate but intimate fellowship and communion between Father and Son** that is represented in the triune Godhead. Second, "Major" Venus Jupiter conjunctions (single star with less than .1 degree of separation) symbolize the oneness or **divine union in the Father- Son relationship** within the Godhead, confirming what Jesus tells us in John 10:30 – "*I and the Father are one.*" Since these divine attributes can be exhibited and symbolized by any visible "significant" or "major" Venus Jupiter conjunction, the question becomes: What additional symbolism can be derived from the extraordinary appearance of the Christmas Star? While there are numerous manifestations by the Lord in glorified form to individuals, either as the "Angel of the Lord" to Jacob, Joshua, Moses, Isaiah and Daniel for example, in the Old Testament, or as the resurrected Christ to more than 500 before His ascension and later to Paul and John in the New Testament, the Christmas Star appearance symbolizes something more that is profound and hard to comprehend. Here in this heavenly symbol representing ultimate unity and glory in the divine Godhead, we see an event that happened only once in all eternity symbolized in the Christmas Star. The God of heaven physically left his glorious domain in the triune Godhead to become incarnate man, to dwell in his creation. Why would God do this? In separating from this most intimate and profoundly mysterious sphere of glory and majesty, He would soon purchase for us at the price of His precious blood, our sins. It was done not simply for our salvation from hell because it was much more than that. The God of heaven came to earth as God the Son and by the shedding of His blood, made it possible for us to be extended an invitation *into the Godhead itself*, where we might experience the incomprehensible wonder of oneness with the Creator of the universe. The God of the universe came to make His dwelling both *with* us and to be *in* us. We now have an incredible, undeserved opportunity to experience the unity, the intimacy, the relationship, the communion, the fellowship and the oneness that reside perfectly in the triune Godhead itself. The Christmas Star not only symbolically represents the mystery of God becoming man, but it marks the exact date when God became man. Before Christ came to earth, the God-man relationship we have today was not possible. But now, by the trust in Him:



God – Man relationship

- c. **The Meaning** - Astronomically, the Christmas Star has no counterpart in recorded history. No other conjunction had the combination of incredible separation distance between planets; separation from the sun; duration of visibility; appearance in the exact geographic location and at precisely the right time required to fulfill Scripture. Appearing in the Constellation Leo, the Christmas Star was the first conjunction in the short interval pair that created the foundation template for the Quartet of First Coming heavenly signs. This led to the identification of the remarkably similar Quartet for the signs for the Messiah's Second Coming described in Part 1. Scripturally, the Christmas Star precisely fulfills prophecy while glorifying God despite the fact that when the sign appeared, it did not appear in a way that represented what the world was expecting. The world was expecting the star to usher in a conquering king, who would free them from the shackles of their enemies and to rule over them. Instead, God used the sign to mark the coming of a Lamb (His sacrifice), to become the Savior of the world in the form of a newborn baby. The heavenly signs that point to the Messiah's Second Coming are significant, but even they cannot compare with what God revealed to the world in the appearance of the Christmas Star. By becoming man, the Son of God opened the door for those who believe to the greatest gift possible: Eternal life and intimate access to the divine Godhead itself for all eternity. Halleluia! Praise the Lord!

4. Jupiter Mars Conjunction - 27 August 2 BC - Herod's Edict to Kill the Children

- a. **The Significance** - Mars has been associated with a warlike image throughout history. Mars normally passes Jupiter in its orbit around the sun about once every 27 months. It is interesting to note that Mars makes a single appearance in each of the first and second coming Quartets of God's heavenly signs. Unlike the Jupiter Mars conjunction appearance in the 2014-16 Quartet, this 27 August 2 BC conjunction is not visible to those on earth because it appears too close to the sun to be seen. It was only by using tools available to modern day wise men that this sign was discovered. Despite its not being visible to the naked eye at the time, I believe God placed this conjunction in the first coming Quartet to remind us that Satan is alive and well on planet earth and his deeds, even those done in secret, are not hidden from the Father.
- b. **The Symbolism** - Mars' history of conflict symbolizes Satan's ever present evil nature and diabolical desire to destroy the Son of God and everything that He represents. As a heavenly sign, Mars in conjunction with Jupiter is symbolic of the reality that Satan still had access to God and heaven (Job 1) at the nativity and that he has been in conflict with God (Is 14, Ezek 28) since the beginning, in the Garden of Eden. Examples in Scripture of Satan's evil spirit entering a weak heart are many, and include: Pharaoh (Ex

7-11), King Saul (1 Sam 13-14; 18:10) and Judas Iscariot (Jo 6:70-71). The timing of this 27 August 2 BC Jupiter Mars conjunction symbolically represents the significant spiritual conflict that exists between God and Satan. Satan's evil spirit indwelt King Herod well before the birth of Christ, but this conjunction, appearing 70 days after the Christmas Star, seems to coincide with the timing of Herod's decree to slay the children of Bethlehem in support of Satan's attempt to destroy the Christ child. We know that Joseph took Mary and the baby to be presented to God, 40 days after his birth, at the temple in Jerusalem. But, we don't know how long the family remained there. It seems clear that at some point during the period after their arrival in Jerusalem, Joseph took the family and fled to Egypt. At about the same time, Herod would have realized that he had been mocked by the wise men (Matt 2:16) and ordered the execution of the children. Whether the timing for this sign's appearance coincides with Herod's edict to kill the children or with their actual destruction is not known. What is clear from Jeremiah 31:15 and Matthew 2:18, is that this event was prophesied and fulfilled in scripture. The timing of the Jupiter Mars conjunction, as a first coming heavenly sign, seems to fit well within the timeframe for Satan's wrath and Herod's edict to murder the innocents. But, there is another prophecy that seems to be linked to this sign as well and it concerns Herod's death. As a part of his prophecy about the coming Star in Numbers 24:17, Balaam's oracle tells us that: *"...a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel..."* This reference to the Sceptre reminds us of Jacob's messianic prophecy regarding the coming Lion of the tribe of Judah in Genesis 49:9-10 that says, *"The Sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come..."* Shiloh is a name for the Messiah, probably related to the Hebrew word for "peace" or "the one that brings peace." When David finally became king, Judah held the sceptre and it remained the symbol of dominion and power for the people of Judah while they were in the land until the death of Herod. Ussher indicates in his **Annals of the World** that after issuing the decree to kill the children in Bethlehem, God struck Herod with the disease that would kill him. As revealed in the Christmas Star DVD, Herod died and the sceptre departed Judah about six months after the birth of Christ. Thus, the fulfillment of Jacob's prophecy can be linked to Herod's edict, his death and indirectly, with the appearance of the August 2 BC Jupiter Mars conjunction. Importantly, this heavenly sign reveals Satan's unseen presence, his evil intent against the Godhead and what it represents throughout history, so the appearance of the Jupiter Mars conjunction as a heavenly sign in the Christmas Star Quartet makes it a significant symbolic event in the heavenly signs for the Messiah. Christ defeated Satan at the cross, but he will not be destroyed until the Messiah returns, as the second coming signs will reveal.

- c. **The Meaning** - The 27 August 2 BC Jupiter Mars conjunction represents Satan's presence and his evil intent throughout the ages to thwart God's plan. The timing of this conjunction's appearance points to the timeframe that marks the dates for Herod's edict to kill the children of Bethlehem and for his death. In the Christmas Star, the Jupiter Mars conjunction focuses on Herod's edict to kill the children as a part of the nativity story, but in part three of this paper, the relationship between the heavenly sign

and the sceptre's departure from Judah marked by Herod's death appears to be more important with regards to timing, when the first and second coming signs are considered together in God's plan.

Note: The first two conjunctions in the Christmas Star Quartet: 12 Aug 3 BC and 17 June 2 BC, pointed to and marked dates for Christ's nativity. Both occurred in the Constellation Leo; both were major conjunctions and they each appeared as a single star over Judah. The next two conjunctions in this Quartet and the four in the 2014-16 Quartet point to Jesus the Messiah, the Savior and Redeemer for the whole world, not just for the Jews. So, the six remaining conjunctions, including two major conjunctions, have been or will be seen as two separate stars by the whole world, around the whole world, because they have meaning and significance for everyone who puts their faith and trust in Him.

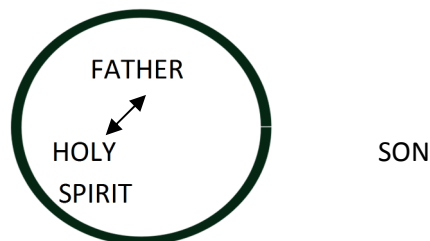
5. Venus Jupiter Conjunction – 13 October – 2 BC (Notable) - **The Sacrifice and Redemption**

- a. **The Significance** – This is the second conjunction in the short interval pair with the Christmas star that created the foundation conjunction pair in the Quartet. Of the eight Venus Jupiter conjunctions that comprise the two Quartets for the heavenly signs of the Messiah's first and second comings, this is the only "notable" conjunction, closing to only within 1.8 degrees of separation between the planets. The conjunction was visible around the world at this separation distance (between 1.8-2.0 degrees), for about 3 hours before sunrise each morning over a three day period. Despite being merely a notable conjunction in terms of separation distance between the planets, the 13 October 2 BC conjunction, appearing just 118 days after the Christmas Star, turns out to be the second if not the most important heavenly sign of all. It points more than 33 years into the future from the time of its appearance, to 3 April 33 AD and Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for the redemption of the world. The Christmas Star gloriously marks the point where Jesus became a man. But, until He went to the cross and shed his precious blood, died for our sins and was resurrected from the dead after three days, the price for our redemption had not been paid. The appearance of this conjunction and the symbolism it represents changed everything.
- b. **The Symbolism** - The separation distance between Venus and Jupiter in the 13 October 2 BC conjunction was so great that it barely met the definition for a conjunction. But, this large separation between the planets is exactly what God intended for this heavenly sign. Jesus became incarnate in order to redeem mankind to the Father. Throughout his incarnate life he was physically separated from the Father in the Godhead, but was indwelt by the Holy Spirit Luke 3:22, John 1:32). This relationship between Father and Son changed when Jesus bore the burden of our sin at the cross. Isaiah 53: 5 & 10 tells us why: *"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed. ... Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin..."* Paul amplifies this in 2 Cor 6:21 with a message of reconciliation: *"For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin: that we may be made the righteousness of God to him."* According to Paul, Christ "knew no sin". Peter says that

He “*did no sin*” (1 Pe 2:22) and John says that “*in him is no sin*” (1 Jo 3:5). Yet He was “*made sin*” for us, suffering and dying as the “*propitiation...for the sins of the whole world*” (1 Jo 2:2) in order to reconcile God to sinful mankind. Because sin cannot exist in God’s presence (the triune God is sinless and no sin can enter or be a part of the Godhead), Jesus would endure the cross, his death and three days in the tomb completely separated from God and the Godhead. This combination of physical and spiritual separation from God is accurately symbolized in the large separation distance between Venus and Jupiter in the 13 October 2 BC conjunction. The conjunction was visible for three hours (as two widely separated stars) each evening during the three days from 12 to 14 October 2 BC. These three days align perfectly with the three days Jesus experienced death and complete separation from the Godhead. His words on the cross say it all: “*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me...*” (Ps 22:1, Mk 15:34). In appearance, the 13 October 2 BC conjunction was the most common of Venus Jupiter pairings, but in it was revealed God’s incredible, Amazing Grace.

- c. **Meaning** - The 13 October 2 BC Venus Jupiter conjunction pointed 33 years into the future from the time of its appearance to the event that changed the world. Christ’s death and resurrection created the opportunity for a God-Man relationship that had never before existed and that would now endure for all eternity. “*...if there be no resurrection from the dead, then Christ has not risen. And if Christ has not risen, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also in vain*” (1 Cor 15:13-14). This heavenly sign points to the separation of God the Son from the Godhead, for three days (3-5 April 33 AD), when He became sin for us:

Three Days that Changed the World



6. 21 August 1 BC Venus Jupiter Conjunction (Major) - **The Ascension and Restoration to the Godhead of Christ the Messiah**

- a. **The Significance** - This is the final conjunction in the Christmas Star Quartet and it marks the end of the first coming heavenly signs. It appeared two years and nine days after the “Heads Up” conjunction in August 3 BC. It is the least impressive conjunction in terms of visibility because it was only observed as a major conjunction in time zone GMT-10 (Hawaii), for about an hour, due to its proximity to the sun. Thus, it would have mostly been observed as a significant conjunction around the world, including over Israel. The parameters of this conjunction are very similar to those of the first

conjunction in the 2014-16 Quartet (18 Aug 2014) so it provides the link that ties the Quartets for the first and second coming signs together.

- b. **The Symbolism** - What the conjunction lacks in visual impressiveness is more than compensated for in the significance of its symbolism. This heavenly sign marks the end of Christ's earthly ministry, His ascension and His return to heaven after nearly 34 years of physical separation from the Godhead. The Gospel could now be proclaimed (1 Cor 15:3-4). Man was given the incredible opportunity to enter into an intimate relationship with the Creator of the universe because Jesus, the man, had been restored to the Father in glory. We were reconciled to the Father and given spiritual access to the Godhead. Upon His return to heaven to the right hand of the Father, we learn from Psalm 110:1: *"The Lord said to my Lord. Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool"*. This verse literally tells us that: *"Jehovah said unto Adonai"*. It is a remarkable conversation between two persons of the Godhead. It is clearly a Messianic psalm and is quoted as such at least 12 times in the New Testament. This psalm prophesies the rejection of Christ by His enemies, then His ascension to the right hand of God, there to wait until the time of the subjugation of His enemies. Today, we are in the time (the Church Age) between the Lord's ascension and the time of the subjugation of His enemies. The heavenly signs for the Messiah's second coming, which we are about to consider, point to the fulfillment of the Father's promise to the Son concerning the "subjugation of His enemies".
- c. **The Meaning** - The 21 August 1 BC conjunction appeared nearly 34 years before the date that marked the Lord's ascension to heaven on 15 May 33 AD (40 days after His resurrection). Today, nearly 1,983 years have passed since that amazing event, so the time of the subjugation of the Lord's enemies is drawing near. The heavenly signs in the 2014-16 Quartet will reveal and point us to when that time will be.

C. The Signs for Christ's Return in the 2014-16 Conjunction Quartet

Determining the timeframe for the appearance of the Messiah's second coming signs was not difficult once the template for the Christmas Star conjunction Quartet was identified. A review of contemporary Bible prophecy expert's estimates (those with a pre-tribulation rapture, dispensational view), revealed their belief, without exception, that the second coming could not happen before Israel was back in the land – after 1948. Most were confident that it would likely occur before the year 2050, in large part due to the convergence of so many non-heavenly prophetic signs that point to this being the season of the Lord's return. So, the 100 year period between 1950 and 2050 became the focus in this paper, as the most likely timeframe for the heavenly signs that might point to the Messiah's second coming. The Solex spreadsheet with 9400 years of conjunction Quartets clearly points to the 2014-16 Quartet as the only candidate that fits within the 100 year timeframe between 1950 and 2050. The most recent Quartet before it was in 1791-92 and the next one will not occur until 2145-46. This Quartet is further confirmed in the 200 year analysis (1900-2100) and it not only confirms 2014-16 as the Quartet most closely resembling the Christmas Star Quartet, but it reveals the 27 August 2016 conjunction as being the only visible major conjunction that appears between 1900 and 2100. It is the fourth conjunction in

the 2014-16 Quartet. Importantly, 2014-16 is the only Quartet within 500 years having two conjunctions to appear in the Constellation Leo that match with the Christmas Star Quartet. The challenge for the second coming signs was to determine what each heavenly sign represented or symbolized. The signs we are about to consider are based on the Christmas Star template. The two most important conjunctions in the Christmas Star Quartet are the 12 Aug 3 BC and 17 Jun 2 BC pair, with both appearing in the Constellation Leo. These conjunctions point to and mark the date for Christ's incarnate first coming appearance, so they were special, both for the wise men to fulfill scripture and to define the template. Likewise, the two most important conjunctions in the 2014-16 Quartet are the 2015 short interval pair (30 June and 25 October) because they both appear in the Constellation Leo. They become the foundational second coming heavenly signs as each conjunction will represent one of the two parts in the Messiah's second coming: First, the Rapture of the Church when Christ returns in the air to claim His bride; and second, the actual second coming, when Christ returns as the Conquering King of Kings and Lord of Lords. These two heavenly signs also strengthen the case for a pre-tribulation rapture.

1. Venus Jupiter Conjunction – 18 August 2014 (Significant) - **Heads up, the Season of the Lord's return is now!**
 - a. **The Significance** – This conjunction is the first in the 2014-16 Quartet. Astronomically, it is a significant conjunction and it was visible as a pair of morning stars for about an hour before sunrise. It reached its point of closest separation when viewed from Israel, but even there, it appeared as two stars in a significant conjunction. The parameters of this conjunction are very similar to those in the fourth or last conjunction in the Christmas Star Quartet (20 August 1 BC). The similarities between these two conjunctions link the Christmas Star Quartet, representing the first coming signs, with the second coming signs in the 2014-16 Quartet. This linkage gives us the ability to decipher and understand the signs in the 2014-16 Quartet based on the template defined by the Christmas Star Quartet. Because God never changes, we can assume that the same symbolism represented in the signs for the first coming can be applied to the heavenly signs for the second coming.
 - b. **The Symbolism** - The six major and significant conjunctions in the two Quartets symbolically represent the unity and oneness between Father and Son in the Godhead. Thus, the fourth conjunction in the Christmas Star Quartet (20 Aug 1 BC) was symbolic of Christ's restoration to the union in the triune Godhead following His incarnate sacrifice on the cross, resurrection and His ascension to heaven. Christ's ascension was symbolized by a significant "two star" conjunction (20 Aug 1 BC) that pointed to His physical return to the Godhead on 15 May 33 AD. Now, nearly 2,000 years later, a nearly identical heavenly sign (18 Aug 2014) has appeared that will usher in the signs for the Messiah's second coming. It appeared in the form of a significant "two star" conjunction just like the one that ended the signs for the Messiah's first coming. During the intervening period, Jesus has been at the right hand of the Father, in the triune Godhead, awaiting the fulfillment of God's promise to make the Christ's enemies His footstool (Ps 110:1). The timing of the August 2014 conjunction, coupled with the

convergence of so many non-heavenly signs (including the rebirth of Israel as a nation) makes it clear that this conjunction symbolically links the past and present union of the Son with the Father in the Godhead and it also acts as a “heads up” for the watchmen to alert the world that the season of the Lord’s return is upon us.

- c. **The Meaning** – This first conjunction in the 2014-16 Quartet is special because of its similar parameters to the last conjunction in the Christmas Star Quartet (20 August 1 BC) and it links the two Quartets together across more than 2000 years in time. It ushers in the heavenly signs that point to major events concerning the Messiah’s return. The timing of the August 2014 conjunction is remarkable because it coincides with the clearly visible convergence of many non-heavenly signs that point us to the day of the Lord, so it plays the role of a “heads up” sign just like the 12 August 3 BC conjunction gave the wise men a “heads up” that a significant event involving the Messiah was about to happen in Judah. Likewise, the appearance of this leading sign in the 2014-16 Quartet means that Christ, the Messiah is literally at the threshold and will soon return to claim His inheritance. In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 Paul tells us that we need not worry about the “*times and the seasons*” because we are “*not in darkness*” that the day of the Lord should overtake us as a thief. We are “*children of light*” so should not “*sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober*”. The 18 August 2014 conjunction is the heavenly sign that tells us to watch and be sober, for the season of the day of the Lord is at hand.
2. Venus Jupiter Conjunction – 30 June 2015 (Significant) - **Christ Returns in the Air to Rapture His Church**
 - a. **The Significance** – The most important pair of conjunctions in the 2014-16 Quartet is the short interval pair (30 June and 25 October 2015), in part, because they both appear in the Constellation Leo, so they form a parallel with the Christmas Star pair (12 Aug 3 BC and 17 June 2BC). As a short interval pair, the 2015 conjunctions appear only 117 days apart. This period of time is symbolically important. Both conjunctions are significant conjunctions and both were visible for more than 3 hours everywhere around the world. These signs, pointing to the Lord’s return, are meant for the whole world to see...not just for Israel. What distinguishes each conjunction in the 2015 pair is the separation distance between the planets during each appearance. This is addressed in the symbolism represented by each conjunction.
 - b. **The Symbolism** - One premise in this paper is, that the short interval pair of conjunctions in both the Christmas Star and 2014-16 Quartets are the most significant pair of heavenly signs in each quartet. For the Christmas Star short interval pair, the 17 June 2 BC Christmas Star symbolizes Christ’s only incarnate appearance and it marked the date of His birth. The second leg of that short interval pair, appearing 118 days later on 13 October 2 BC, pointed to Christ’s sacrifice on the cross for the sins of the world... likely the most important event in history. The 2015 short interval pair points to the two most important events relating to the Messiah’s return. The Scriptures make it clear that Christ’s return will happen in two parts, both of which are described in the postscript of The Christmas Star DVD: The first event, described in 1 Thessalonians

4:13-17, tells of Christ's return in the air to rapture (snatch away) His church (the bride of Christ). This event takes place before God pours out His wrath during the Tribulation (Lu 21:28, 36; Ro 5:9; 1 Th 1:10, 5:9; Re 3:10). Paul makes this clear to the Thessalonians when he tells them that the Antichrist will not be revealed until the *restraining force (Holy Spirit)* "is taken out of the way" (2 Th 2:3-7). The Holy Spirit indwells the true church and is removed (returning to His place in the Godhead) with the church at the Rapture. The removal of the church and the Holy Spirit at the Rapture is what allows evil to multiply and Satan to indwell the Antichrist, ushering in the Tribulation. This means that the event marking the second part of Christ's literal return to the earth as the conquering King, does not occur until the end of the Tribulation (Zech 14:2-4, Rev 19:11-16). Thus, Christ's second coming takes place in two parts in the following End Time sequence of events: The Rapture – The Tribulation – The Second Coming. This sequence is symbolized in the 2015 short interval conjunction pair: The 30 June 2015 conjunction symbolizes the Rapture; the 25 October 2015 conjunction symbolizes Christ's Second Coming and the short interval period of time between the two events symbolizes the seven year period of the Tribulation. These heavenly signs seem to confirm a pre-tribulation rapture. The separation between Venus and Jupiter in the 30 June 15 conjunction is significant. At one third of a degree of separation, this significant conjunction represents physical unity between Father and Son in the Godhead. Christ does not physically separate from the Godhead when He returns in the air to rapture His church. This is symbolized by the close separation distance in the 30 June 2015 conjunction.

- c. **The Meaning:** The 30 June 2015 conjunction points to the rapture of the church and removal of the restraining force (indwelling Holy Spirit) that allows evil to multiply and the Tribulation to begin. The Rapture has always been imminent and even though we don't know the day or the hour of Christ's return to rapture His church, 1 Th 5 tells those who believe that they are children of the light and to be ready for Christ's imminent return. The appearance of the 30 June 2015 conjunction points to the Messiah's return to "claim His bride" (Rapture the church) as described in 1 Thessalonians 4: **He Appears in the Air; He Appears for His Bride (the Church); He Appears as the Deliverer; He Appears as a Bridegroom and He Appears in Grace.**

Note: The next three signs are not conjunctions that define the 2014-16 Quartet. Rather, they appear in between the June and October 2015 short interval pair of Venus Jupiter conjunctions defining the period of the Tribulation. Each sign appears in the Constellation Leo, adding to their significance. Importantly, each of these signs describes a condition or state that exists or will exist during this culminating period at the end of the age but they do not necessarily point to or mark a specific date. Nonetheless, each sign represents a fulfillment of end time prophecy that can illuminate and broaden our understanding of God's plan as revealed in His heavenly signs.

3. Venus Moon Conjunction - 18 July 2015 - **Great outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the Tribulation**

- a. **The Significance** – Astronomically, the moon passing Venus is a common celestial event. Two reasons why this Venus Moon conjunction is special are: First, it occurs between the appearances of the 30 June and 25 October short interval conjunctions that point to the two parts of the Lord’s second coming. Thus, the timing of this event is significant. Second, the moon is a new moon. When this new moon passed just below Venus on 18 July 2015, the top of its crescent almost touched Venus to form what visually appeared to look like a comet with a significant tail. Coincidentally, but because it was not visible with the naked eye due to the bright sky shortly after sunset, the *Panstars* comet appeared just below and to the right of the Venus Moon conjunction. Since the moon passes Venus fairly quickly in the night sky, this configuration was best observed in time zone GMT-6 (CST) for no more than about 30 minutes so it was not visible for the world to see. I believe that God revealed this sign to point to something that many will experience during the Tribulation, but it is not an event that can be observed because it will take place in the hearts of men. Photos and computer images of this unique stellar event will be posted on the Christmas Star website.
- b. **The Symbolism** - The removal of the restraining force (the Holy Spirit dwelling in the hearts of those who will be raptured) that precedes and initiates the Tribulation, will temporarily set the world back to times and conditions that existed before God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of believers following Christ’s ascension on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). In Matthew, Jesus characterized this early part of the Tribulation (without the presence of the Holy Spirit) as a time that will be “...as it was in the days of Noah...” (Matt 24:37-38) where “*God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*” (Gen 6:5). Despite a great pouring out of God’s wrath on a rebellious world during this tumultuous time, His fundamental purpose is not to destroy, but to save. Isaiah 26:9 explains it this way: “*When the earth experiences Your judgments, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.*” God “*does not wish that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9). The Bible describes two great outpourings of the Holy Spirit during the Tribulation that are linked and appear to be symbolically represented by the 18 July 2015 heavenly sign of Venus atop the new crescent moon, looking like a comet with a long tail that points down towards the earth. It symbolizes the incredible pouring out of the Holy Spirit on a world experiencing God’s well deserved wrath. The first outpouring is a result of the work of the 144,000 who are sealed in Revelation 7 and of God’s two witnesses in Revelation 11. Their efforts will cause many to come to the Lord, and a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit that yields “...*a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people and tongues...*” (Rev 7:9). The second great outpouring involves the spiritual restoration of Israel and the remnant of Jews who finally recognize Jesus Christ as the Lord and their Messiah (Zech 13:1-9). It is the transformation of this remnant, at the end of the “great” tribulation that usher’s in the Lord’s return. “*And I will bring the third part through the fire, and refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, it is my people: and*

they will say, The Lord is my God” (Zech 13:9). Because of God’s amazing grace, even at a time when it is least deserved or expected, the 18 July 2015 heavenly sign points to what may well be the greatest revivals and turning to the Lord in human history and it leads to Christ’s return – the Second Coming.

- c. **The Meaning** - When the Holy Spirit that has restrained the forces of evil is removed at the Rapture, it temporarily produces a godless, rebellious world that begins the Tribulation and brings on God’s wrath. But the 18 July 2015 Venus Moon conjunction symbolically reveals His amazing grace so that, even during the pouring out of incredible wrath, the Holy Spirit will enter the hearts of men. Many will be saved and from this outpouring and a remnant of Jews, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, will recognize Jesus Christ as their Lord and Messiah. This is what will bring about the Second Coming.

4. Venus Jupiter Regulus Conjunction – 23 July 2015 - **Heavenly appearance of the Triune Godhead- God is in Control**

- a. **The Significance** – This triple conjunction appeared in Leo after Venus began slowing down when it passed Jupiter on 30 June and Regulus on 14 July 2015. Then, Venus began to reverse course on its track as the evening star back towards the sun. On 23 July, the separation between Venus and Regulus was about 4 degrees; the separation between Jupiter and Regulus was about 4 degrees, and the separation between Venus and Jupiter was 6 degrees. The resulting configuration appeared as a 4x4x6 isosceles triangle involving Jupiter, Venus and Regulus and it appeared to look remarkably like the Heavenly Trinity of the triune Godhead. While it is unknown how often a stellar configuration like this happens, this appearance, in the Constellation Leo, between the short interval conjunctions that point to the Lord’s return, is significant. This sign was visible, about an hour after sunset, when Regulus first became visible in the evening sky, around the world, on 23 July 2015.
- b. **The Symbolism** - This triple conjunction (involving three heavenly bodies) appeared five days after the Venus Moon conjunction on 18 July that symbolized a pouring out of the Holy Spirit during the Tribulation. The 23 July triple conjunction symbolizes the triune Godhead. Interestingly, it has Regulus, representing the Holy Spirit at the top of the Triangle (Photos and computer images forthcoming). This symbolism points to the power of the triune Godhead during the Tribulation and it confirms that God remains in control, even as His wrath is being poured out upon a world in total rebellion against Him. In Psalm 2, God reveals His displeasure with unbelievers (verses 1-5): *“Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed, saying, ‘Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us’. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.”* The God of heaven will not be mocked. He sets up kings and nations and takes them down. The outpouring of His wrath in the Tribulation sets the stage for the fulfillment of Psalm 110:1 where God the Father tells God the Son: *“I will make thine enemies thy footstool.”*

But even during this terrible time of God's wrath and judgment, the heavenly symbol of the Trinity, with Regulus at the top, reminds us that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, His purpose is to save and not to punish.

- c. **The Meaning** - This heavenly sign points to a period during the tribulation when God's wrath is being poured out. The Antichrist has risen to power and has begun to conquer (Rev 6:2); peace has been taken from the earth and there is much death from famine and pestilence and war (Rev 6:4). The pouring out of God's wrath leads to the destruction of one third of the world population by the Tribulation midpoint. Nevertheless, this heavenly sign, symbolizing the triune Godhead in the midst of judgment, confirms to the world that God is in control. Even though this is just the beginning of the time of sorrows, His offer of grace and salvation, symbolized by the prominent position of the Holy Spirit in the celestial trinity that appeared on 23 July 2015, remains available to any who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.
5. Jupiter Mars Conjunction – 17 October 2015 - **War in Heaven**
- a. **The Significance** – Mars spends about six months passing through the Constellation Leo once every two years. Jupiter spends a year in Leo as it passes through once every 12 years. In the previous five cycles when Jupiter was in Leo (2004, 1992, 1980, 1968 and 1956), Mars was nowhere near the constellation, except in 1968 when it was entering Leo as Jupiter was entering Virgo. Thus, a Jupiter Mars conjunction appearing in Leo is not a common event. What is remarkable is that the Christmas Star and the 2014-16 Quartets each contain a Jupiter Mars conjunction (26 Aug 2 BC and 17 Oct 2015) and each conjunction appears between the two conjunctions that define the short interval pair in each Quartet. The 17 October 2015 conjunction appears late within the timeframe of the short interval pair, so it points to an event involving God and Satan near the end of the Tribulation.
 - b. **The Symbolism** - We learned about Mars' warlike image throughout history in The Christmas Star. Satan has been at war with God since the beginning, in the Garden of Eden. Paul reminds us of the devil's threat to us this way: *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Eph 6:11-12). The appearance of this sign, with Jupiter and Mars symbolizing God and Satan respectively, points to the final interaction between the spiritual forces of good and evil during the Tribulation in what Revelation describes as "The War in Heaven" (Rev 12: 7-9). It represents a fulfillment of the Father's promise to make the enemies of the Son "thy footstool" (Ps 110:1). Christ defeated Satan at the cross. In the war in heaven, Satan will be defeated by Michael and his angels and cast out of heaven to the earth. Revelation 12:12 is a warning following Satan's heavenly defeat: *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time (Rev 12:12)*. Peter makes it clear that Satan is the adversary, coming *"...as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking*

whom he may devour" (1Pe 5:8) until the time of Christ's return, described in Revelation 19:11-16.

- c. **The Meaning** - The 17 October 2015 Jupiter Mars conjunction, appearing a short time before the sign that points to the Lord's return, has long term and end time meanings. Over the long term, the sign symbolizes the conflict that has raged between the forces of good and evil since the creation. In the near term, the sign points to the defeat of Satan by God's forces in heaven during the Tribulation. This defeat fulfills God's promise to the Son that Jehovah will make Adonai's enemies His footstool and it prepares the way for Christ's return at the Second Coming.
6. Venus Jupiter Conjunction – 25 October 2015 (Notable) - **Christ Returns – the Second Coming**
 - a. **The Significance** – The second Venus Jupiter conjunction in the 2015 short interval pair, appearing in Leo, was visible for more than three hours before sunrise, all around the world, on 25 October 2015. This conjunction had the greatest separation between planets in the Quartet at just over 1 degree. When this separation distance is combined with those of the other three conjunctions in the 2014-16 Quartet, it totals the smallest combined separation distance of all 47 Quartets in the 9400 year Solex database, including the Christmas Star Quartet. The 2014-16 Quartet yields a total of 1.624 degrees and the Christmas Star Quartet comes in second with a 2.008 degree total, making them the two Quartets with the smallest combined total separation distances on record. This is another remarkable parameter that links the Quartets together as God's representatives of the first and second coming signs for the Messiah. The third conjunction in each Quartet (13 October 1 BC and 25 October 2015) each has the largest separation distance, making them symbolically, two of the most significant conjunctions among the first and second coming heavenly signs.
 - b. **The Symbolism** - The one degree of separation between Venus and Jupiter in this conjunction symbolizes the Son physically separating from the right hand of the Father in the triune Godhead, while remaining in spiritual union, to return to earth where "*His feet stand*" upon the Mount of Olives (Zech 14:4) and He defeats the forces of evil and lays claim to his kingdom. Zechariah 14:3-8 and Revelation 19:11-21 provide the dramatic details of the Messiah's second coming.
 - c. **The Meaning:** The 25 October 2015 Venus Jupiter conjunction symbolizes and points to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ when He returns to earth as described in Revelation 19: **He Returns to Earth; He returns with His Bride (the Church); He Returns as a Warrior; He Returns as a King; He Returns in Wrath and He Returns to set up and Rule in His Millennial Kingdom.**
 7. Venus Jupiter Conjunction – 27 August 2016 (Major)- **The Millennial Kingdom**
 - a. **The Significance** – This is the fourth and last of the conjunctions in the 2014-16 Quartet and it brings to a close the two remarkable sets of heavenly sign appearances for the Messiah that span a period of just over 2,000 years. Incredibly, this final conjunction has parameters that are nearly identical to the "heads up" conjunction on 12 August 3

BC that marked the first of the Messiah's heavenly signs in the Christmas Star Quartet. These are the "bookend" conjunctions that mark the beginning and the end of God's heavenly signs for the Messiah. The 12 August 2 BC major conjunction appeared as a bright, single, morning star for about an hour over Judah, but it was observed as a significant, two star conjunction around the rest of the world. The 27 August 2016 major conjunction will be seen as a bright, single, evening star for about an hour over the western Atlantic (GMT-4) and it too, will be observed as a significant two star conjunction around the rest of the world. The wise men were located about 750 miles east of Judah when the "heads up" sign appeared as a single star, leaving some uncertainty as to what they actually observed. For the August 2016 conjunction, the east coast of the United States, particularly south of Charleston, SC, provides viewing locations about 750 miles west of where the conjunction will appear as a single star. This will give the world the best opportunity in more than 2,000 years to observe (and photograph) what the wise men actually observed as "the star they saw in the East" (Matt 2:2) that gave them the "heads up" for the coming Messiah. While this final conjunction on 27 August 2016 has a symbolic purpose as described below, it, like the 12 August 3 BC conjunction, should be considered as a "heads up" sign...that the second coming prophecies are about to be fulfilled. Like the wise men who deciphered and understood the signs and prophecies given them for the Messiah's first coming, today's wise men must decipher and understand what God has revealed in His signs for the Messiah's return.

- b. **The Symbolism** - This final conjunction in two Quartets, representing God's heavenly signs, has two purposes: First, it marks the end of the presentation of God's heavenly signs for the Messiah to the world and, it serves as a "heads up" that the climactic period of the Season of the Lord's Return is at hand. Each sign in the Christmas Star Quartet pointed to prophetic events that were literally fulfilled within 35 years of their appearance, so it is logical to assume that the prophetic fulfillment of all the signs in the 2014-16 Quartet will be fulfilled within a comparable period of time. Second, this sign points to the beginning of the Lord's Millennial kingdom on earth. Zechariah 14:9-21 and Revelation 20:4-6 describe this kingdom. *"And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one (Zech14:9)*. As the only major conjunction in the 2014-16 Quartet, the August 2016 sign signifies the same unity and oneness in the triune Godhead that was revealed in the "heads up" conjunction that the wise men observed in the first conjunction in the Christmas Star Quartet. But there is one significant difference. While the first conjunction revealed the Trinity as it existed in the heavenly realm, this final conjunction symbolizes the Trinity as it will exist in both heaven and on earth as God the Father rules in heaven and Christ the Messiah rules on Earth during the 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom.
- c. **The Meaning** - The 27 August 2016 Venus Jupiter conjunction symbolically serves as a "heads up" sign that the prophetic events revealed in the 2014-16 Quartet will happen in the next two or three decades. Additionally, this sign symbolically points to the

Millennial Kingdom that follows shortly after the return of the Messiah. ***The Heavens declare the Glory of God!***

Wise Men Still Seek Him – The Heavenly Signs for the Messiah’s Return

Part 3 -Convergence and Informed Speculation about the Timing of the Second Coming

It should be clear by now that the appearance of the 2014-16 Quartet of heavenly signs, with remarkably similar parameters to the Christmas Star Quartet, is not just an accident. If these signs do provide the “heads up” believers have been looking for that Christ’s return is imminent, then might it be possible to determine, with some degree of accuracy, when these events might happen? The analysis that follows is based on a Pre-millennial, Pre-tribulation and Dispensational perspective.

God tells us in Genesis 1:14 that He gave the lights (stars) in the heaven “*for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years*”. Regarding SIGNS, the first two parts of this paper make the case that the Christmas Star Quartet is the fulfillment of heavenly signs for the Messiah’s first coming, and the nearly identical stellar configuration and heavenly signs in the 2014-16 Quartet point to the events for the Messiah’s soon return. Regarding SEASONS, it is indisputably clear from the convergence of the many non-heavenly signs being fulfilled as this is written, that we are indeed in the SEASON of the Lord’s return. Regarding DAYS, the Bible tells us that only God knows the day and the hour (Ma 24:36). Therefore, while heavenly signs may point to a specific day, even to a time of day, the Scriptures reveal that days and hours are not the times we need to know, so we will not go there. Still, it may be possible from what we now know about heavenly signs, to refine the current estimates of the SEASONS for periods currently defined, down from decades to a matter of a few years. We are told in Daniel 12:4 that in the latter days, knowledge will increase. Paul tells us in 1 Thess. 5: 1 & 5 that we will know the “*times and seasons*” because we are “*the children of light... and of the day*”, not of darkness.

To begin, I want to turn to what some may consider an unlikely source in order to define a foundational window of time from which to begin our analysis of God’s heavenly signs and the period of the end times. Most people are aware that Isaac Newton was one of the greatest scientists who ever lived. But, it may not be well known that he was unsurpassed as a theologian and prophetic scholar as well. You can find out more about this incredible man by going to the website: www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk. Newton wrote more about Bible prophecy (nearly 1.3 million words) than most scholars of his day wrote in a lifetime. He meticulously studied the Bible, verse by verse, and recorded more than 1500 prophetic references to the Second Coming alone. He was keenly interested in the interpretation of Biblical prophecy. Importantly, he believed that God had specially chosen him to deliver the truth about how prophetic texts were to be understood. One of his prophetic statements about the end times has been frequently quoted by modern day prophecy experts:

“About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the Prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition.” -Sir Isaac Newton

These words were written more than three centuries ago (1680’s) and are certainly relevant for us today. Newton made two end time predictions in his prophetic notes on Daniel and Revelation that are

noteworthy. His first prediction, using the 1290 and 1335 numbers from Daniel 12:11-12, was to predict that the Jews would be restored to their homeland in **1944**. Second, based on his belief that the Catholic Church was the “Mystery Babylon” described in Rev 17 and 18, he again used the 1290 number from Dan. 12 to predict that the Great Apostasy would be in the year **2060**. This prediction was subsequently revised to the year **2012** by scholars who believed the starting date Newton used for his calculation was off by 48 years. For our purposes, these two Second Coming predictions create a window of time rather than a specific year, that we can use to define a range of possible dates (between 2012-2060) for our Second Coming analysis. Since we just entered the 50 year window of time predicted by Newton revisionists (2012) for Christ’s return, I want to add an adjustment to this number as a starting point from which to analyze the heavenly signs for the Messiah’s return. The adjustment is this: Since we know from Scripture that the Messiah will return at the end of Daniel’s 70th week or the end of the seven year Tribulation, and since we are not yet in the Tribulation, the Second Coming cannot happen for at least seven years, or before the year 2022. Therefore, the Newton based prediction for the Second Coming of Christ now becomes the remaining 38 year period between 2022 and 2060. I mentioned in Part two that a survey of contemporary prophecy experts revealed that the vast majority of them believes the Second Coming will happen before the year 2050. This date fits in the timeframe of the Newton based prediction.

Next, we need to consider how this 2022-2060 window of time aligns with God’s 7,000 year plan as prophesied in Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8 and that is best and most recently described in Ken Johnson’s Prophecy Watcher (Feb 2016) article titled: **Enoch’s Seven Thousand Year Plan**. Johnson cites several ancient church fathers who believed and “taught that the weekly Sabbath was a picture, or typological prophecy, of God’s plan for seven thousand years of history. Just as we have six days to work and one day to rest, so then we have six thousand years of human history from the creation to the Second Coming and a one thousand year day of rest in the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.” The plan is most clearly described in the ancient Epistle of Barnabas 15:4-6: *“My children, attend to the meaning of this expression, “He finished in six days.” This means, that the Lord will finish all things in 6,000 years, for a day with him signifies a thousand years. But he himself testifies to me, saying, “Behold, a day of the Lord will be as a thousand years.” Doubtless, my children, in six days, that is, in 6,000 years, all things will be finished. “And he rested on the seventh day.” This means: When his son shall come, abolishing the time of the lawless man, and judge the impious ones, and change the sun and the moon and the stars, then he will beautifully rest on the seventh day”*. According to Johnson, this was a common teaching in the early church. In the article, he describes three ancient views of God’s 7,000 year plan based on three generally defined, two thousand year periods of history: First, the “age of Chaos”; second, the “age of the Torah” (Law); and third, the “days of Messiah”. The article provides three interpretations of the plan and each predicts a year for the Second Coming. The table below summarizes the three interpretations, with a predicted time for the Messiah’s return:

| Prophet | 1 st Period Chaos/Patriarchs | 2 nd Period Torah/Israel | 3 rd Period Messiah/Church | Second Coming | Millennium Messiah reign |
|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Enoch 10 -700 yr periods | Creation – Abraham 0- 2018 AM 2018 yrs | Abraham- Ascension 2018- 3957 AM 1939 yrs | Ascension –Messiah Return 3957- 6001 AM 2044 yrs | (Jewish calendar) 2075 | 1,000 yrs |
| 2. Elijah Bk of Jashar | Creation – Abraham 3,965- 1,965 BC 2,000 yrs | Abraham-Dest. Jerusalem 1965 BC - 65 AD 2, 000 yrs | Dest. Jerusalem –Days of Messiah 65 AD-2065 2,000 yrs | 2065 | 1,000 yrs |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| 3. Ancient Rabbis | Creation-Exodus | Exodus –Messiah | Days of Messiah | | |
| | 3,925 -1477 BC | 1477 BC- 32 AD | 32 AD- 2032 | | |
| | 2,448 yrs | 1,509 yrs | 2,000 yrs | 2032 | 1,000 yrs |

Each version of the plan reveals a second coming date that falls in this century and, in descending order, the predictions move closer to the beginning of the period predicted by Newton. But, the lack of a common date for the creation and the discordant events and dates that define each 2000 year period described in the article make it hard to identify one plan over the others as the most relevant. That said, it is clear from both Scripture and the Johnson article that God has a 7,000 year plan. It is also clear that, today, we are very close to the six thousandth year of that plan. With the above in mind, what I want to do is determine what the 7,000 year plan might look like by applying what we’ve learned from the heavenly signs and the Christmas Star to see if it supports one of the versions above and/or fits within the 2022-2060 timeframe defined by Newton’s work. By doing this, we will be better able to understand how the signs and dates in the 2014-16 Quartet might be applied to the resulting 7,000 year date estimate for the Messiah’s Second Coming.

A. God’s 7,000 Year Plan based on Scripture, Ussher’s Chronology and The Christmas Star Quartet

This version of God’s 7,000 year plan develops the three 2,000 year periods using Ussher’s chronology for the creation; the Scriptures for the time of Abraham and dates revealed in the Christmas Star for Christ’s First Coming, to refine the dates for the transition points in each 2,000 year segment of the 6,000 years of history.

The Date for the Creation: The chronology in Ussher’s **Annals of the World** worked well for the development of the Christmas Star, so it will be the resource we use to determine the date for the Creation. Ussher was a strong believer in God’s 7,000 year plan as revealed in the introductory notes of his work. He states: “According to our calculations, the building of Solomon’s temple was finished in the 3000th year of the world. In the 4000th year of the world, Mary gave birth to Christ.” The first two entries in the section of Ussher’s book titled “The Seventh Age of the World” are as follows:

1. **5BC – Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born of the most blessed virgin Mary in the fullness of time.**
2. **4BC – The child was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth and was given the name Jesus...**

The implication from Ussher’s date entries is that Jesus was born on 25 December 5 BC and circumcised eight days later on 2 January 4 BC. Four thousand years before this time is the year 4004 BC which is the date Ussher defined for the creation. From the Christmas Star, we know that Jesus was born two years later in June 2 BC, so to comply with Ussher’s premise that Jesus was born in the 4,000th year of the world, the date for the creation changes from 4004 to 4002 BC for our 7,000 year plan.

Date of the Creation - 4002 BC

The Date for the time of Abraham: I agree with Ken Johnson and the ancients who believed that God’s call to Abraham is the significant event that highlights the 2,000th year after the creation. This turns out to be a more challenging date to determine than one might think because of a conflict involving the interpretation of the scriptures regarding the date of Abraham’s birth between ancient Jewish and modern day scholars, including Ussher. The ancients mark the year of Abraham’s birth, being the first of Terah’s three sons (Gen 11:27), when Terah was 70 years old, at 1,948 years after the creation. This

fits. But, Ussher and others interpret Genesis 11:32 and 12:4 (involving Terah's death in Haran and Abraham's age when he departed Haran with Lot) to mean that Abraham was the youngest of Terah's sons and was born when his father was 130 years old. This 60 year difference makes the date for Abraham's birth 1994 BC. This is eight years after the 2002 BC date marking the 2000th year of the world. If Abraham was born in 1994 BC, it significantly complicates the subsequent timeline involving the 400 year period of the Jews in Egypt and the timing for the Exodus. One thing that became clear in my research is that the events described between Genesis 11:27 and 12:20 do not necessarily occur in chronological order. This is confirmed by Dr. Henry Morris in his analysis of these passages and his chronology that *supports* the ancient Jewish timeline marking Abraham's birth at 1948 years after the creation. Dr. Morris suggests that it would have been a very unlikely circumstance for Abraham to be born when Terah was 130 years old in view of the special miracle required for Abraham to have a son when he was only 100. Importantly for us is that God's call to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 is revealed in scripture after the events involving Terah's death and Abraham's departure from Haran described in Genesis 11. But, Stephen makes it clear in his sermon in Acts 7:2 that God's call was made to Abraham when he was still in Mesopotamia, in the land of Ur, *before* he departed for Haran or Canaan. This confirms that the events described in these passages are not chronological and, importantly, that Abraham had to be born when his father was 70, not 130. Thus, for our 7,000 year plan, Abraham was born 1948 years after the creation in 2054 BC. Therefore, he would have been about 52 years old, living in Mesopotamia, when he received God's call (Gen 12:1-3) in the year 2002 BC.

God's call to Abraham – 2002 BC

The Time of Christ: For this period, we will use the Christmas Star data to determine the end of the second 2,000 year period and the beginning and end of the third. The table below shows the four critical events in the Christmas Star, defined by: the date the sign appeared, the actual date of the event, and the time lapse between the appearance of the sign and the event. The dates for Jesus' birth and death are critical since from them we can determine important dates for the 7,000 year plan:

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Date Sign Appeared</u> | <u>Date of Event</u> | <u>Time Lapse</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Head's Up sign for Wise Men | 12 August 3 BC | 12 August 3 BC | 0 days |
| 2. Birth of Jesus Christ | 17 June 2 BC | 17 June 2 BC | 0 days |
| 3. Crucifixion - Sacrifice | 13 October 2 BC | 03 Apr 33 AD | 33 yr 5 mo 21 da |
| 4. Ascension of Christ | 21 August 1 BC | 15 May 33 AD | 33 yr 7 mo 01 da |

Important dates for the 7,000 year plan that derive from the Christmas Star dates include:

1. The Death of Herod 25 Nov 2 BC
2. The Birth of the Church (first Pentecost) 25 May 33 AD

The 17 June 2 BC date for Jesus' birth is the key to determining the important dates we need for the plan, but I don't believe this date, in and of itself, is a part of God's 7,000 year plan. Here's why. The second two thousand year period in the plan is focused on the Law, the Torah and the point in history when the rule of law, under the Torah, ended in Israel. So, we are not looking at dates for Jesus' birth or death to complete this segment in God's plan but rather, for an event marking the end of the rule of law through the Torah. Two Old Testament prophecies link the Messiah's first coming (specifically His

nativity) with the departing of the Law from Israel. These scriptures, both referenced in The Christmas Star, are the keys to understanding when the rule of law under the Torah, ended in Judah. Genesis 49:10 tells us: *“The Sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of people be.”* Numbers 24:17b says: *“...and a Sceptre shall arise out of Israel...”* These important prophecies were strikingly fulfilled with the birth of Jesus. They tell us that the Sceptre (the Law), or the one who would rule by the law of God will rise out of Israel and, that he will arise before the last reigning monarch, who gave at least some deference to the Law, departed. The last ruler over a combined Judea and Samaria to do this was Herod. A large part of his treasure and resources were spent rebuilding and refurbishing the Second Temple during the first twenty years of his reign, in part to gain favor with the Jews, particularly the religious leaders. During this period, the Jews were, for the most part, governed by the Torah. But, by the end of Herod’s reign, Roman law had largely replaced the Torah in most areas except for the religious aspects of Jewish life. After Herod’s death, his son Archelaus reigned for about six years at the behest of Caesar, but was banished to Europe in 6 AD. By then, Quirinius, the governor of Syria had taken over Samaria and Caesar installed Roman governors to rule in Judah. Thus, the important date that marks the end of the second 2,000 year period in God’s 7,000 year plan is the date of Herod’s death...when the sceptre departed Judah. We know from the Christmas Star that God struck Herod with the disease that killed him immediately upon his ordering the deaths of the children in Bethlehem after being mocked by the wise men. This occurred sometime during the August following Jesus’ birth. Both Josephus and Ussher record that by the end of November in “2 BC” (about six months after Jesus’ birth), Herod was dead. Even though the year of Jesus’ birth and Herod’s death are one and the same, the important event that marks the end of the second 2000 year period in God’s plan was the *departure of the sceptre from Judah* upon the death of Herod.

Departure of the Sceptre from Judah - 2 BC

The Third 2,000 Year Period in God’s Plan: This third 2,000 year period is the most straightforward and easiest to define. It should be noted that it does not depend on an end date from the previous 2,000 year period in order to be defined. It was described as the “time of Messiah” by the ancients. Today we call it the “Church Age”. From the Scriptures, we know that the birth of the church happened on Pentecost, fifty days after Christ’s resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:1). From the Christmas Star data we know that Jesus died on 3 April 33 AD; He arose from the dead, three days later, on 5 April 33 AD; He ascended into heaven, forty days after His resurrection on 15 May 33 AD (Acts 1:3), and God sent His Holy Spirit to indwell the believers gathered in Jerusalem at Pentecost on 25 May 33 AD, fifty days after Christ’s resurrection. This event marked the birth of the Church and what today is called the Church Age. Using the same 2,000 year period defined by the ancients, if this third period began on 25 May 33 AD, then the 2000th anniversary of the Church will be on 25 May 2033, seventeen years from now. This brings up the question: Does this two thousand year period we call the church age include the seven year tribulation period? As we begin to decipher the signs in the 2014-16 Quartet, the answer to this question may become clear. Pending that analysis, we will use the bi-millennial anniversary for Pentecost to represent the date for the Lord’s return.

Birth of the Church - 33 AD

The Lord’s Return – 2033 AD

Before laying out the 7,000 year plan that results from the above analysis to compare with the three alternatives in the Johnson article, I want to draw your attention to something in this plan that doesn't appear in the other plans. This plan contains a 34 year gap, from 2 BC to 33 AD. Just as there is an undefined gap in time between the 69th and 70th week in Daniel's Seventy Week prophecy (Dan 9), a defined gap of 34 years appears in our version of God's 7,000 year plan. The gap represents the 34 year period of time for Jesus Christ's incarnate life, His ministry and His sacrifice on this earth. Appropriately, this remarkable period of time does not fit anywhere within the confines of the 6,000 years defined by the three 2,000 year periods. Below is what a 2016 version of God's 7,000 year plan looks like:

| 1 st Period | 2 nd Period | Gap | 3 rd Period | Millennium |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Creation----- | Call to Abraham---- | Sceptre departs Judah | Birth of the Church – | Christ Returns |
| 4002 BC | -- 2002 BC | -- 02 BC | 2 BC-33 AD | 33 AD – 2033 AD |
| 2000yrs | 2000 yrs | (34 yrs) | 2000 yrs | 1000 yrs |
| Age of Chaos | Age of Torah | Christ Incarnate | Church Age | Christ reigns |

The following table shows the range of dates projected for Christ's return, based on man's feeble view of God's 7,000 year plan... while peering through the glass "darkly" (1 Cor 13:12):

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Newton based prediction for the period of Christ's Return (modified) | 2022 - 2060 AD |
| Enoch's ten 700 year periods date | 2075 |
| School of Elijah date | 2065 |
| Ancient Rabbi date | 2032* |
| 2016 Revision date | 2033* |

* Half the Second Coming date predictions fall within the 2022-2060 estimate.

The question now becomes: Is it possible to analyze and compare the signs and timing in the 2014-16 Quartet with the signs and timing in the Christmas Star Quartet to reasonably determine a timeframe for the Messiah's return? The next section attempts to do this.

B. Comparison and Analysis of Two Quartets in Search of a Timeline for the Messiah's Return

The first part of this paper makes the case that the Messiah's first and second coming heavenly signs are revealed in the Christmas Star and 2014-16 Venus Jupiter conjunction Quartets. The second part focuses on the symbolism and meanings for the critical signs in each Quartet. The first part of this section looked at God's 7,000 year plan to see what impact the results of the heavenly sign analysis might have on the dating issues described by the various scenarios in the plan. For the remainder of this section, we will compare the date for each sign's appearance in both Quartets with the date and period of the fulfilled events in the Christmas Star Quartet, to see if reasonable dates for the events predicted by the signs not yet fulfilled by the 2014-16 Quartet can be determined. The table below gives us a starting point for the analysis. The key elements include: (1) the Event represented by the heavenly sign; (2) the date of the heavenly sign's appearance; (3) the date when the event actually happened, and (4) the period or the time lapse between the sign's appearance the date of the event.

The 3-1 BC Christmas Star Quartet

| <u>(1) Event</u> | <u>(2) Date of the Sign</u> | <u>(3) Date of the Event</u> | <u>(4) Sign> Period < Event</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Wise Men "Heads Up" | 12 Aug 3 BC | 12 Aug 3 BC | 0 |
| 2. Christ's Birth | 17 Jun 2 BC | 17 Jun 2 BC | 0 |
| 3. Christ's Sacrifice | 13 Oct 2 BC | 03 Apr 33 AD | 33 yr 5 mo 21 da |
| 4. Christ's Ascension | 21 Aug 1 BC | 15 May 33 AD | 33 yr 7 mo 01 da |

The 2014-16 Quartet

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| 1. Wise Men "Heads Up" | 18 Aug 2014 | 18 Aug 2014 | 0 |
| 2. Tribulation Start | 30 Jun 2015 | ? | ? |
| 3. Second Coming | 25 Oct 2015 | ? | ? |
| 4. Messianic Kingdom | 27 Aug 2016 | ? | ? |

Points of interest in the above template include:

- The period between the appearance of the first and last conjunction in each Quartet is exactly two years and nine days: 12 Aug 03 – 21 Aug 01 = 739 days = 18 Aug 2014 – 27 Aug 2016
- For the Christmas Star Quartet, the period between the appearance of the last sign (4) and the date of the event it represents is 33 yrs 7 mo and 1 day. For the analysis, the number is rounded to 34 years.
- The "Heads up" sign (1) and the date for that event is the same (no time lapse) in each Quartet.
- The Christmas Star sign marking Christ's birth is the only other sign where the date of the appearance and date of the event are the same (no time lapse).
- The two most important events in the Christmas Star Quartet, (2) Christ's birth and (3) His crucifixion, are represented in the Quartet by a short interval conjunction pair, separated by 118 days.
- The two most important events in the 2014-16 Quartet, (2) The Rapture/Tribulation start and (3) The Second Coming, are represented in the Quartet by a short interval conjunction pair, separated by 117 days.

An issue I want to clarify before beginning the analysis relates to the description of the second event (2) "Tribulation Start" in the 2014-16 Quartet. In Part 2, the Rapture is represented by the symbolism and meaning in the 30 June 2015 Venus Jupiter conjunction. While the meaning and symbolism remain unchanged with respect to the heavenly sign, there is a problem doing an analysis of the sign as defined, to determine a date for the event. This is because the Rapture cannot be linked to a specific date. It represents the imminent appearance of Jesus Christ as our Blessed Hope, who will come in the air and "snatch away" His church at any time before the Tribulation as revealed by Paul (1Th 4:13-17). Importantly, Christ tells us that we cannot know the day or the hour of His coming regarding the Rapture (Matt 24:36; 40-44; 25:1-13). Paul also tells us that the Antichrist will not be revealed and the Tribulation cannot begin, until "a restraining force is taken out of the way" (2 Th 2:3-7). Ample evidence in Scripture reveals that it is the "believing" church, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, that serves as the primary restrainer of evil in the world today. At the Rapture, the Church and thus, the restraining force,

will be removed; the Antichrist will be revealed and the Tribulation will begin shortly thereafter. Since the Rapture is always imminent and it can happen at any time between now and the start of the Tribulation, a specific date for the Rapture cannot be defined, even though the window of time remaining for the Rapture gets smaller with each passing day. Because we know the Rapture occurs before the Tribulation begins (Pre-Trib Rapture), the event for the 30 June 2015 date (2 in the table) has been changed to "Tribulation Start" to mark the beginning of the Tribulation, though it is possible, but unlikely, that the date for the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation coincide. By defining the event this way, we have a timing reference to use in our analysis of the 2014-16 conjunction Quartet. Daniel defined the length of the Tribulation in his 70 week prophecy (Dan 9:24-27) as the last week in a period of 70 weeks of years (490). Sixty nine weeks led up to the death of the Messiah. The final week of seven years (Tribulation) would occur at the end of the age, just before Messiah returns. The length of the Tribulation is also confirmed in Revelation 11:3, 7 and 13:5 where it is divided into two periods of three and a half years each. Finally, we know the Tribulation ends with the return of the Messiah. So for the 2014-16 Quartet, **the period of time between the 30 June 2015 "Tribulation Start" event and the 25 October 2015 "Second Coming" event represents a period of seven years for the time of the Tribulation.**

Seven is the number that characterizes fullness or completeness in Scripture: Seven days of creation; a seven day week; the seventh day Sabbath; seven weeks of years, seven heavenly signs and God's seven thousand year plan. The Bible's message, from beginning to end, has been time stamped with the number seven. For this analysis, we will continue to depend on the number seven.

As we begin the analysis, it is important to note that though the Christmas Star and 2014-16 Quartets are separated in time by nearly two millennia, all four conjunctions in each Quartet appear, from first sign to last, over a period of exactly two years and nine days. We know too that the period of time between the appearance of the last sign in the Christmas Star Quartet and the fulfillment of that event (Christ's Ascension) was 33 years, 7 months and 1 day (rounded to 34 years). While it might be logical to assume that this same timing could or should apply to the timing for the 2014-16 Quartet events, there is a major difference in the circumstances involving the Messiah's first and second coming appearances. It is this: Christ became *incarnate* for the period of His first coming, but His return will be in a *resurrected and glorified* body. The first time, He was born of a virgin, raised and matured in relative obscurity and He spent the final three years of His life fulfilling the prophecies and His purpose. When Christ returns in the air to Rapture His church, it will be "*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump...*" (1 Cor 15:52). His return at the Second Coming will be no less dramatic: "*For when they shall say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape.*" (1 Th 5:3). This means that the timing for the first coming events was directly linked to the 34 year period of Christ's incarnation, but this is not an issue for the Second Coming. Both parts of the Second Coming (the Rapture and the Day of the Lord) will be sudden, instantaneous events. So the key objective in the analysis is to decipher what difference in the timing, from the appearance of each sign to the fulfillment of the event, there might be with respect to a glorified Second Coming as opposed to an incarnate First Coming, even though the signs in each Quartet are revealed over exactly the same period of time.

First, let's do the simple analysis to see what the dates for the second coming would look like if the period between the appearance of the 2014-16 Quartet signs and their fulfillment matched with the same 34 year incarnate period defined in the Christmas Star Quartet. For the Christmas Star Quartet, since the four signs all appear during a 2 year period and the appearance of the fourth sign (Christ's Ascension) pointed 34 years ahead to the date when the event happened, if we apply this number, without refinement, to the timing of the last two events with respect to the appearance of the signs in the 2014-16 Quartet, we get the following: (3) Oct 2015 + 34 years = 2049 and (4) Aug 2016 + 34 years = 2050. If we assume that the Second Coming and the start of the Millennial Kingdom occur in the same year (highly probable), then dates for the last three events in the 2014-16 template look like this: (2) Tribulation start: 2042-2043; (3) Second Coming: 2049-2050; (4) Millennial Kingdom: 2049-2050. These dates fit within the 2022-2060 prediction and they closely match the 2050 date predicted by modern day prophecy experts, but it should be clear that they need some refinement.

Looking at the four signs in the Christmas Star Quartet, we see that the first two signs (Heads Up and Christmas Star) focus on the period of Christ's nativity, and the last two signs (Crucifixion and Ascension) focus on the period of His ministry at the end of his incarnate life. If we define the period for Christ's nativity as the time from His birth to Herod's death (when the sceptre departed Judah), it equates to a period of about 6 months (Jun – Dec 2 BC). The period of Christ's earthly ministry, from His baptism by John to His Ascension, involved a period of about three years. Thus, the four signs in the Quartet focus on two key periods during Christ's incarnation: the first six months of His life and the last three years of His life and ministry. This totals a period of three and a half years.

The periods between the short interval pair of conjunctions (2 & 3) in each Quartet are nearly identical (118 and 117 days respectively). For the 2014-16 Quartet, we previously defined the period for the short interval pair of signs as the time of the Tribulation (Tribulation Start to Second Coming) - a period of seven years. If we apply the key period of Christ's life and ministry (3.5 years) to the short interval pair of signs in the Christmas Star Quartet, the symbolism in the timing appears to be significant:

17 Jun 2 BC (Christ's Birth) > **short interval period = 3.5 yrs** < 13 Oct 2 BC (Crucifixion)
 30 Jun 2015 (Tribulation Start) > **short interval period = 7 yrs** < 25 Oct 2015 (Second Coming)

This turns out to be a remarkable insight if we consider these numbers in the context of the fullness or completeness of God's plan with respect to the Quartets and the number seven. In the Christmas Star Quartet, if the short interval period between the two main conjunctions (2 & 3) represents **three and a half years**, this equates to one half of the number seven or half way to completion. In the 2014-16 Quartet, if the short interval period between the two main conjunctions (2 & 3) represents **seven years**, this equates to **Completion**. This is remarkably illuminating. God tells us from the very beginning that His plan is revealed in the heavenly signs (Gen 1:14, Psalm 19:1). The signs and symbolism in the Christmas Star Quartet represent the first part, or first half of God's plan for the coming Messiah and the 2014-16 Quartet represents the second half... and the COMPLETION of His plan. It doesn't directly give us the answer to the timing for the Lord's return, but it does add strength to the case that the Christmas Star and 2014-16 Quartets are the keys to understanding and wisdom about the heavenly signs for the Messiah. It was while doing this exercise involving the 3.5 year period of Christ's ministry during His incarnate life that it became clear that the 34 year period of Christ's incarnation, His life and His

generation were the keys to understanding the timing between the appearance of the sign and the event represented the Christmas Star Quartet. It's the period we defined as the 34 year gap in God's 7,000 year plan.

The Generation of Jesus: The 34 year gap in God's plan is important because it represents the generation of Jesus. It includes those who condemned and crucified Him. When Pilate tried to release Jesus during his trial and give them Barabbas instead, the crowd refused and cried out to crucify him. *"When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing....he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person.... Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us and on our children." (Ma 27:24-25). This tragic mistake by those in that generation who were immediately responsible for Jesus' execution, brought condemnation upon themselves and their children and it has been answered by God in full measure on the Jews for almost two thousand years. And, there is more to come.*

My paper titled: **What is the Meaning of a Generation in the Bible?** (Posted on the Christmas Star website) attempts to understand the makeup of a generation from God's perspective and how He deals with each segment of that makeup depending on His purpose. The Bible defines the length or duration of a generation in Psalm 90:10 as 70-80 years. But, in Numbers 1: 45-46 and 14:28-29, when the Jews were in the wilderness for forty years after their Exodus from Egypt, God brought meaning and significance to the makeup of a generation by breaking it into three distinct parts of 20, 40 and 20 years respectively. The first part, from birth to age 20, represented what I call the "Pre-Productive" period of each generation; one that God largely treats or refers to as the "innocent" part of a generation throughout Scripture. The second and most significant part, the forty years from ages 20-60, represents the "Productive" years in every generation. Finally, the third part, from ages 60-80 or until death, represents the "Post-Productive" years of a generation. It is the 40 year Productive part of a generation that I want to focus on to identify a possible solution for the timing issues involving the appearance of the signs and fulfilled events between the two Quartets.

As the forty years of wandering in the wilderness came to an end after the Exodus, God numbered the Jewish men who were to make up the army that He led into the Promised Land. It numbered more than 600,000. There were none in this number over 60 years of age (no post-productive population) because God had condemned all who were 20 years of age and older to die in the wilderness forty years earlier. Only Joshua and Caleb (and possibly spouses) were spared. So, the entire population that entered Canaan (it probably numbered 1.5 to 2 million) was composed of generations of Pre-Productive and Productive Jews. When it was time to enter and take the land, the women and all those less than 20 years of age (pre-productive population) remained on the east side of the Jordan until the land was taken. This event, like most of the other major events in the Bible, is reflective of how God routinely uses the Productive part of any generation for His purposes and glory. That said, there are clear examples of Jews who, in the Pre-Productive part of their lives, performed and glorified God before they turned 20, like Joseph, David and Daniel, but they were exceptions. Jesus' incarnate life is the more typical example of what the transition between the pre-productive and productive years in a generation is like. Other than the scriptures that fulfilled the nativity prophecies about Him, little is known about

the first 30 years of Jesus' life. His entire ministry and the fulfillment of nearly 100 prophesies relating to His first coming occurred during His Productive years between the ages of 30 and 33.

Based on the above, I decided to see if the timing disparity between Christ's **incarnate** appearance in the first coming Christmas Star Quartet and His pending **supernatural** appearances in the second coming 2014-16 Quartet might be resolved to some degree by considering what we just learned about the parts of a generation. Since Jesus was incarnate as a human being for 34 years (rounded), His generational makeup involved 20 Pre-Productive years and 14 Productive years. If we eliminate the 20 pre-productive years, as was typical in Scripture, and apply only the productive years to the 2014-16 Quartet, there are 14 years (a multiple of seven) to deal with. It was concluded earlier that the period of time between the Tribulation Start and the Second Coming in the 2014-16 Quartet signs represents the seven year period of the Tribulation. Subtracting these seven years from the 14 Productive years gives us a remainder of seven years. Since we know that the period between the Second Coming and the beginning of Christ's Millennial reign is measured in weeks or months, not years, the remaining seven year period cannot be applied to the end of the Quartet timeline. It only makes sense to apply these seven years to the period between the end of the appearance of the signs and the "Tribulation start" event. Because we don't know if the fulfillment of the events is based on the date of the appearance of the first sign in the Quartet or the last sign, and since the signs appeared over a period of two years, the dates resulting from the application of this pair of seven year periods results in a two year window of time for each event to happen. By applying the seven and fourteen year periods to the June 2015 and August 2016 dates for the signs in the table below, we get dates that still fit in Newton's window of time and they are more in line with what we see from the convergence of all the non heavenly signs being fulfilled around us now, as the day of the Lord draws near.

The 3-1 BC Christmas Star Quartet

| <u>(1) Event</u> | <u>(2) Date of the Sign</u> | <u>(3) Date of the Event</u> | <u>(4) Sign> Period < Event</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Wise Men "Heads Up" | 12 Aug 3 BC | 12 Aug 3 BC | 0 |
| 2. Christ's Birth | 17 Jun 2 BC | 17 Jun 2 BC | 0 |
| 3. Christ's Sacrifice | 13 Oct 2 BC | 03 Apr 33 AD | 33 yr 5 mo 21 da |
| 4. Christ's Ascension | 21 Aug 1 BC | 15 May 33 AD | 33 yr 7 mo 01 da |

The 2014-16 Quartet

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wise Men "Heads Up" | 18 Aug 2014 | 18 Aug 2014 | 0 |
| 2. Tribulation Start | 30 Jun 2015 | (2021 – 2023) | 7 yrs ± 1 |
| 3. Second Coming | 25 Oct 2015 | (2028 – 2030) | 14 yrs ± 1 |
| 4. Messianic Kingdom | 27 Aug 2016 | (2028 – 2030) | 14 yrs ± 1 |

It should be apparent that the predicted timeframe for the Lord's return has moved closer by twenty years, from the 2050's to the 2030's, dates that are earlier than what was predicted by the 2016 update of God's 7,000 year plan. So, the question is this: Is there evidence to justify the elimination of this twenty year pre-productive segment of a generation that supports the 2030 period as a more believable timeframe for the Lord's return? In this final section, we will consider four issues that might help you

make the decision about whether or not the timeline fits with the evidence. The first two issues relate to what Jesus tells us to watch for as the time for His return draws near.

1- A Generation in the Bible: In response to the disciples' question about when the time of "these things" will be, Jesus gives a checklist in Matthew 24 concerning all that must happen before He returns. Then, in verse 27 He begins to describe what the Second Coming will be like and He cites the "Parable of the Fig tree" (verses 32 -35). In the parable, Jesus gives a strong clue about the timing when He says: "*Verily I say to you, This generation shall not pass, til all these things be fulfilled*" (Ma 24:34). Questions arising from this statement are: What generation was Jesus talking about and what was He referring to regarding the "passing" of "This" generation?

Let's first consider what constitutes the "passing" of a generation. Psalm 90:10 tells us that the length or span of a generation is 70-80 years. Based on current U.S. census data, 97.8 percent of the population in any given generation never reaches age 80, and only 1.8 % of the population in every generation reaches age 84. What seems clear from Jesus' statement in Matthew 24:34 is, that all things He told his disciples would happen, will occur before the generation of the end times referred to in the passage, passes away. So, if 97.8 percent of any given generation passes away before the age of 80, it makes sense that what Jesus told His disciples in the end time scriptures was that all will be fulfilled during the 80 years before He returns at the Second Coming and the generation that sees all these things will not pass away (completely) before it does. It also means that most if not all the major signs pointing to His return will be fulfilled during the 80 year lifetime of the "end time" or terminal generation.

Concerning the question about the generation that Jesus was referring to, scholars have attempted to figure this out, literally, for generations. In the past, it was thought that the prophecies might refer to the World War I generation that was involved in freeing up the land of Palestine from the Ottoman Turks that led to the Balfour Declaration and the British mandate to restore Israel to the Jews early in the twentieth century. But today, the WW1 generation is long gone and it would be another 30 years beyond that generation before Israel was in the land it would call its own. For most of the past four decades, the view held by many Bible scholars was that the World War 2 generation, the generation that restored the Jews to the land in 1948, was the generation Jesus spoke of. This generation actually experienced and brought about the rebirth of Israel as a nation after nearly 1900 years. The case for WWII being the terminal generation was based in part on the period of a generation being 40 years that mistakenly led to a great expectation that the Second Coming would happen by the year 1988, forty years after Israel's rebirth. But, that too, did not happen. Today, the World War 2 generation has essentially passed away if we view the length of a generation as described in the Bible as 80 years, since the youngest surviving WWII vets today are in their early nineties.

So, what about the next generation? This is the generation that was born or came into existence when Israel was reborn as a nation. In the United States, we call it the Baby Boomer generation. It is clear from Jesus' end time prophecies that Israel will exist during the times He refers to because many of the signs deal specifically with the Jews after they are back in the land. So, what if Jesus was telling His disciples that it was the generation that was to come into existence at the time of the rebirth of Israel

that would be the generation that would see all these things? Let's consider this possibility with respect to the three different segments that make up the generation we discussed earlier.

As described previously, a generation was divided into three parts by God during the Exodus: The Pre-Productive years – Ages 0-20; the Productive years – Ages 20-60; and the Post-Productive years – Ages 60-80 or until death. If we define a generation as beginning in the year of the rebirth of Israel, then the parallel life spans of the nation and that generation reveal some remarkable insights (See Appendix B for more details). The three segments that define the generation for a person born in 1948, the year of Israel's rebirth are:

1948-1967 (20 yrs) - Pre-productive Years

1968-2007 (40 yrs) - Productive years

2008-**2028** (20 yrs) - Post –productive years

Total 80 years The time when the Bible tells us that a generation passes away

No other generation in history has the potential to fulfill Matthew 24:34 like the Baby Boomer generation. Appendix B lists significant events that happened during each of the three generation segments. Most significantly, and based on the Psalm 90 definition of the length or period of a generation, all the signs that Jesus predicted to be fulfilled before "this" generation passes away are appearing or have appeared as this is being written. Incredibly, by 2028, in just twelve years, it is clearly possible that all will be fulfilled. And, the date fits well with the 2014-16 Quartet prediction for a Second Coming between 2028 -2030.

2 - The Convergence of End Time Signs is Happening Now: In addition to Matthew 24:34, where Jesus reveals the generation that will see all these things, His message to the disciples included one sign to watch for that was probably the most important sign of all because it contains the admonition to "look up" because our redemption is drawing near. Our generation (Baby Boomers) is witness to that sign. So what is it? **Convergence!** It is not a single sign, but the convergence of all the signs Jesus said to look for. He said, "*When you see all these things occur, look up. For your salvation is near!*" (Luke 21:28). Jesus didn't say, "When you see one or two of these signs." He said, "When you see all these signs." So, the convergence of all the signs He spoke of are what we should be looking for. This convergence of so many specific and detailed events Jesus told us to look for, being fulfilled today, should give great hope to believers and it should command the attention of even the most hardened skeptics. Why? Because, for more than 1,800 years following the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple and throughout the Diaspora, there were no signs. They were noticeably absent. Today, we see them all around us. For the first time ever, the signs are all present at the same time. I don't believe this is a coincidence. What is significant for our heavenly sign timeline is that the appearance of the 2014-16 Quartet coincides nearly perfectly with the convergence of all the other signs. This should be expected if these truly are God's heavenly signs and they are pointing to the Messiah's soon return. Generationally, the convergence all seems to be taking place during the Post-Productive years (2008-2028) of the "Baby Boomer" generation. The Prophecy Update DVD titled **CONVERGENCE of the End Time Signs** and a Convergence article by Britt Gillette provide significant support for a convergence that points to the Messiah's soon return and it fits nearly perfectly into the timeframe defined for the heavenly signs in the 2014-16 conjunction Quartet. The link below is to the Britt Gillette article:
<http://raptureready.com/featured/gillette/bg71.html>.

3 - Blood Moon Tetrads, Israel and the 2014-16 Quartet: During the period of the Blood Moon Tetrad mania that swept the prophecy world in 2014 and 2015, there were lots of guesses and predictions about what these rare heavenly events, appearing on four sequential Jewish feast days over a two year period, really meant. But, none of the articles, sermons or DVD presentations I reviewed at the time appeared to accurately describe their meaning or significance in a way that made sense from a prophetic, end time perspective. In my 2015 paper titled: **The Significance of the 2014-15 Blood Moon Tetrad and Israel’s Relationship with God in this Season of the Lord’s Return** (posted on the Christmas Star website), I make the point, based on a similar set of Tetrad appearances during the 1000 year period between God’s call to Abraham and the building and dedication of the first temple, that Tetrads falling on Jewish feast dates normally followed and pointed to a “positive” event that happened during Israel’s rise from Egyptian captivity to a national state of relative “holiness” at the time of the first Temple dedication in 1004 BC. Furthermore, the signs seemed to reflect a positive relationship between God and Israel at the time of the event happening.

My Blood Moon research confirmed that the current pattern of Tetrads appeared during or shortly after critical events in Israel’s present upward march, from the Diaspora, to the attainment of a holy and righteous relationship with God that will ultimately happen when the Jews recognize Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior at the end of the Tribulation. The current history of Tetrads dates back to 1492 during the Jewish Diaspora and proceeds forward as follows:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Tetrad Appearance</u> |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1492 | Jews persecuted throughout Europe/Discovery of the New World | 1493-94 |
| 1948 | Rebirth of Israel as a nation | 1949-50 |
| 1967 | Six Day War - Israel regains historical capital - Jerusalem | 1967-68 |
| 2014 | U.S. abandons Israel/aligns with enemies – Israel’s spiritual “Wake up” call | 2014-15 |

In 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella kicked the Jews out of Spain as their last refuge in Europe when, at the same time, they funded the journey by Christopher Columbus to discover the New World. This discovery created a safe haven for Jews for the remainder of the Diaspora that would endure until after the nation of Israel was re-born in 1948. In 1967, Israel captured and re-occupied Jerusalem, their historic capital, for the first time since its destruction by the Romans in 70 AD. Each of these events: Discovery of a safe haven; Rebirth of the nation; and Reclamation of its ancient capital, was followed by a Blood Moon Tetrad. The three events and accompanying signs each represented and pointed to an aspect of Israel’s physical restoration to the land and the Holy City that was promised by God to the patriarchs and prophesied by Zechariah (Ze 12:1-9). But, Zechariah also prophesied that Israel would be spiritually restored to God in the remainder of chapters 12 and 13.

Israel’s spiritual restoration is not as easy to see. But, I believe the first and only sign that would mark the beginning of the spiritual restoration of Israel prior to the start of the Tribulation was the 2014-15 Blood Moon Tetrad. Since its rebirth as a nation in 1948, Israel has struggled, yet miraculously survived and even thrived against challenges from every quarter. Many believe this success was due in part to the strong, abiding support Israel depended on from America since becoming a nation, particularly as it related to America’s ability to veto anti Israel resolutions at the UN Security Council. This all changed in the summer of 2014. In July 2014, after the first Blood Moon in the Tetrad appeared, the President of the United States brought God’s curse (Ge 12:1-3) upon this nation when he abandoned Israel and stood with Israel’s enemies, even ordering Israel’s prime minister to withdraw the IDF from Gaza during

Operation Protective Edge. He further sanctioned God's chosen people in ways once thought to be inconceivable between so-called allies and then proceeded down the diabolical path to an Iranian nuclear deal that not only turned the world upside down, but it would guarantee the isolation of Israel from the rest of the world, a separation that will endure until the time of the end.

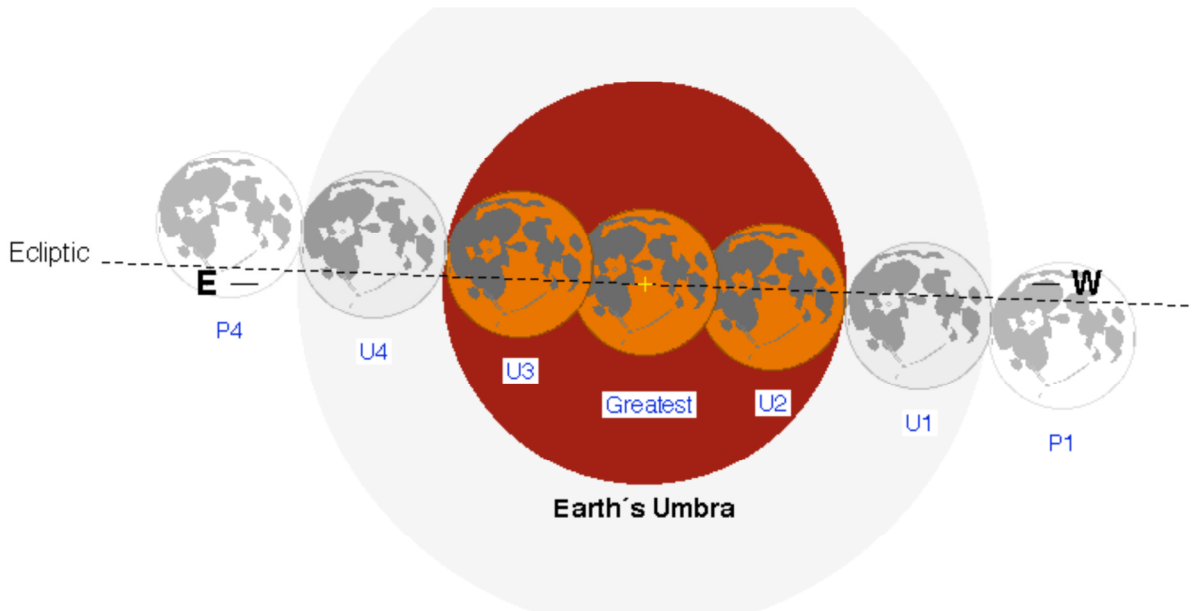
I believe God's purpose with the 2014-15 Tetrad was to wake Israel up to the fact that America had little (that wasn't part of His plan) to do with Israel's spectacular restoration (Dry Bones – Ezek 37) and to become the nation it is today. God's spiritual wake up call for Israel in 2014 served both as a reminder and a warning. It was a reminder to His people that it is He, not America or anyone else in the world, who re-gathered Israel from the four corners of the earth into the land and the eternal capital He promised they would one day possess. The warning from the heavenly sign was that no longer would Israel be able or required to depend on earthly allies like the U.S. because they will not be there in Israel's time of need. Now is the time for Israel to wake up, become sober and turn back to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the God who is about to refine them in the fire and bring a remnant to a state of submission and "holiness" never before attained by man as a nation.

No more Blood Moon Tetrads will appear before the year 2060, so it seems clear that the 2014-15 Tetrad was Israel's spiritual wakeup call. The next spiritual event for Israel described in the Bible will be its spiritual restoration at the end of the Tribulation; the event that will usher in the Lord's return (Zech 13:9 – 14:4). From this, it should be clear that the remarkable appearance of the 2014-15 Tetrad, in conjunction with the 2014-16 conjunction Quartet, could not possibly be a coincidence. God's plan is coming together exactly as Scripture revealed it would from the very beginning. With the presentation of these heavenly signs, both those involving Israel and those that point to the Messiah's return appearing at precisely the same time, now is the time for Israel and the world to prepare... for the Day of the Lord is coming quickly...*as a thief in the night* (2 Pe 3:10).

4 - A Possible Heavenly Sign During the Tribulation?: During my research on Blood Moons, I learned a lot about lunar eclipses. Importantly, I learned that the appearance of one of the five or six defined reddish colors ranging from a bright copper gold to a dark brick red can occur during most lunar eclipses, including partial eclipses. This coloring occurs at the point(s) where the moon intersects the earth's shadow as it enters and exits the eclipse when the long wavelengths of red light passing through the earth's atmosphere make the point(s) of intersection appear to look like a sunrise, resulting in the moon having a reddish hue or color. The NASA Lunar Eclipse page discusses this issue but it does not define which of the specific reddish colors actually constitutes the color of blood. Significantly, this color issue is addressed in an upcoming book by Dr. Danny Faulkner that addresses the "color of blood" from a biblical perspective in a way that has not previously been considered. It is an important issue because the scriptures describe the moon's appearance in two ways during the Tribulation. The first reveals that the moon will "turn to blood" in Joel 2:31; Acts 2:20 and Rev 6:12. The second has the moon becoming totally dark in Joel 2:10, 3:15; Matt 24:29 and Luke 21:35. It is possible, but not common, for an eclipse to have both the color of blood and to be totally darkened in the same eclipse if the period of totality (time the moon is completely inside the earth's shadow) is long enough. Such an eclipse can occur when the moon perfectly bi-sects the ecliptic as it passes through the center of the earth's shadow. Such eclipses have a long period of totality (more than an hour). During an eclipse like this, when the moon and the earth's shadow are perfectly aligned at all points, the moon can be totally darkened, turned to blood or it can experience both conditions, depending on the centrality of the moon in the earth's shadow during the eclipse. Eclipses like these are extremely rare. In my search for lunar eclipses with

this potential in the twentieth and twenty first centuries, I found only two: The twentieth century eclipse was on July 26, 1953 and the only one that will occur in the twenty first century will be on **June 26, 2029**. This June 2029 eclipse will appear during the time defined by the signs in the 2014-16 Quartet as the period of the Tribulation. You can see in the figure below that at the midpoint of the eclipse, the moon is perfectly centered in the earth's shadow and it bi-sects the ecliptic. The total period of time the moon will be in contact with the earth's shadow is 3 hours 39 minutes. The period of totality, when the moon is completely inside the earth's shadow will be 1 hour 41 minutes. Based on these parameters, the June 2029 lunar eclipse has the potential to fulfill the scriptures that point to a darkened moon and to one that turns to blood. Dr. Faulkner's book amplifies this and it will be referenced on the Christmas Star website when it becomes available.

26 June 2029 Total Lunar Eclipse



Individually, the four issues presented above, do not necessarily confirm that the 2014-16 Quartet signs mark the dates for the critical end time events defined by the Quartet timeline on page 39. But, when combined, they clearly compliment and support the premise that the fulfillment of God's Plan for the Ages may be much closer to the 2030 timeframe than to the 2060 timeframe. My role in this effort has been to present what I believe to be the facts as the Scriptures, the Astronomy and the Holy Spirit revealed during this incredible journey. Now, it is up to you, the reader, like the Bereans in Acts 17:11, to search the scriptures, and your hearts, daily, to prove for yourselves whether these things be true.

Wise Men Still Seek Him – The Heavenly Signs for the Messiah’s Return

Conclusion

This has been a much longer paper and effort than I originally intended, primarily because it deals with an aspect of end time signs that has not been given much attention until recently, even though God tells us from the very beginning that heavenly signs are a part of His plan (Gen 1:14). Learning about and understanding the Christmas Star as God’s premiere first coming heavenly sign was what motivated and inspired this work. As I indicated in the Introduction, the background provided in Part 1 and in the Postscript of the Christmas Star DVD can be illuminating with respect to the heavenly signs for both the first and second comings, so I want to encourage those who still have doubts or questions to watch The Christmas Star DVD.

The most important point I can make in closing is this: Jesus is Coming again and it may be very soon! For those who believe and know in their hearts that Jesus will return one day to claim His bride, restore His creation and set up His millennial kingdom, this paper merely confirms what all the other signs converging around us today have already revealed. For those who don’t believe and don’t care (which sadly, is most of the world), what is revealed in this paper probably won’t matter. But, for those who think they believe or think they know what’s coming or even think of themselves as Christians (when its convenient), but have not repented of their sins or asked Jesus Christ into their hearts as their personal Lord and Savior, it is to you I want to address my closing comments. TODAY... NOW - is the time to make a commitment to Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior because, once you do, it won’t matter what time it is or what the signs are. There are no signs, nor has there ever been a sign that will give us a heads up for the day Christ returns to “snatch” His body of believers out of this world at the Rapture. The Rapture can happen before you finish reading this text. So, if you understand what’s coming after the Rapture, you will not want to be left behind. While this document may reveal that the Second Coming of the Messiah may happen sooner than you realized, the second coming will not occur until at least seven years after the Rapture. Those who miss the Rapture are destined to endure the Tribulation and its consequences.

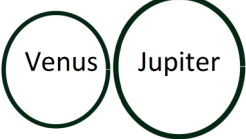
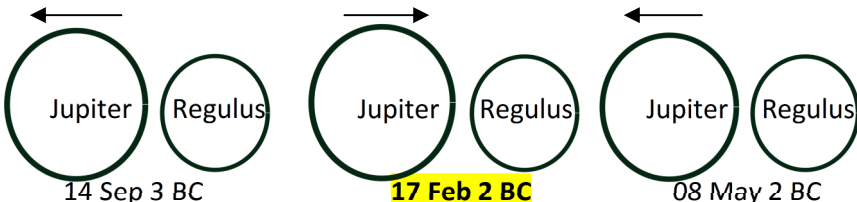
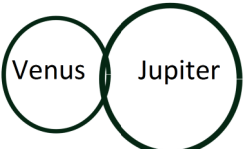
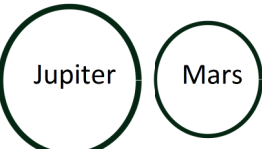
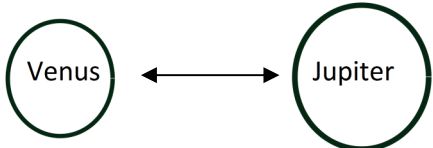
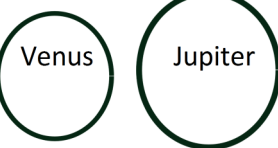
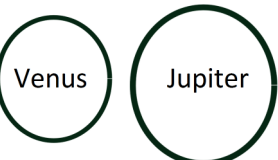
I will close with one of the most sobering passages in the Bible that addresses this issue and it comes from Jesus Christ Himself. After telling his disciples about all the signs to watch for; first, those involving Israel and the great tribulation (Ma 24: 4-31) and then the signs for those who will be taken in the rapture (Ma 24:32-44), He follows up with the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. The parable of the ten virgins (bridesmaids) is a rapture passage. All ten bridesmaids knew that the bridegroom was coming to claim his bride, but they didn’t know the hour of his coming so they had to be prepared. But, when the bridegroom unexpectedly arrived, five or half the virgins were not ready to meet him even though they knew he was coming. I want you to take the time to read this passage (Ma 25: 1-13), but when you do, replace the word “virgins” (or bridesmaids depending on the translation) with the word “church”, or better yet “believers”. When the virgins who missed the bridegroom’s appearance were finally prepared and arrived at the wedding banquet, the door was closed. Their plea to the bridegroom to let them in was responded to with these sobering words: *But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, “I do not know you.” Watch therefore, for ye neither know the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.* Jesus isn’t telling us in this passage that half the world, or even half of what we call the

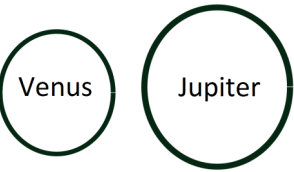
church today won't be ready when he returns at the Rapture, before the Tribulation begins. He's telling us that half of those who know He's coming back... half of those who think they believe, will not be raptured. They will be left behind. So, the question is this: Do you think or do you know that you have Jesus Christ in your heart, not just in your mind, at this very moment? If He comes today, will you be ready? If this paper does nothing more than to help you confirm in your heart that you are ready for the Messiah if He were to return at any moment, then its purpose will have been served. My sincere prayer is that you are ready today to meet our Blessed Hope when He returns in the air soon, to claim His bride. Come quickly Lord Jesus! Perhaps Today! Maranatha!

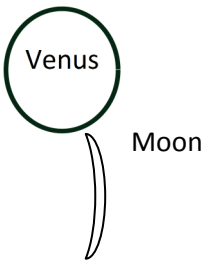
In Christ's indescribable love, Jim Dodge
The first day of May, in the year of our Lord, 2016

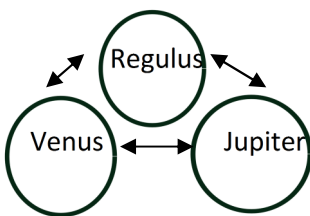
Appendix A

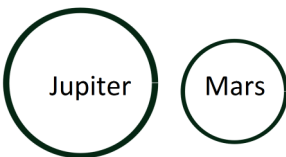
Symbology and Meanings for the Heavenly Signs of the Messiah's First and Second Comings

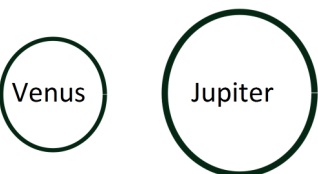
1.  12 August 3 BC - **Heads Up Sign**
The Star the wise men saw in the east (Matt 2:2)
 2.  14 Sep 3 BC **17 Feb 2 BC** 08 May 2 BC
The king of heaven protects the little king while in his mother's womb
Decision point sign for the wise men to depart for Judah
 3.  **17 June 2 BC** - **Christmas Star – the birth of Christ**
The sign marks the date of this incredible event
 4.  27 August 2 BC - **Herod kills the children in Bethlehem**
(Matt 2:16)
 5.  13 October 2 BC - **Christ's sacrifice on the cross**
(Ro 5:6,8) **His physical separation from the Godhead**
Sign points to the date: 3 April 33 AD
 6.  21 August 1 BC - **Christ's Ascension and Restoration to the Godhead** (Mk 16:19) Sign points to the date: 15 May 33 AD
- 2015 year gap in time (1 BC- 2014) between Messiah's conjunction Quartet appearances**
7.  18 August 2014 - **Heads Up Sign**
Links first and second coming signs together (1 Th 5:1-5)

8.  30 June 2015 - **Christ Returns in the Air to Rapture His Church**
1 Thess. 4:13-18

9.  18 July 2015 - **Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on a world being Judged** (Zech 13:9 & Rev 7:9)

10.  23 July 2015 - **Celestial Trinity – God is in Control**
Psalm 2:1-7

11.  17 October 2015 - **War in Heaven – Satan Cast to Earth**
Rev 12:7-9

12.  25 October 2015 - **Christ Returns – The Second Coming**
Zech 14:3-8 and Rev 19:11-16

13.  27 August 2016 - **The Millennial Kingdom**
The Godhead Reigns in Heaven and on Earth
Zech 14:9-21 and Rev 20:4-6

Appendix B

The Years of a Generation Born with Israel in 1948

Below is a history comparison, based on an 80 year generation consisting of three segments: 0-19 yrs (Pre- productive); 20-59 (Productive); 60- 80 yrs (Post productive) for a Baby Boomer born in 1948 that parallels the chronology for Israel, reborn as a nation in 1948:

First 20 Years from 1948-1967 (Baby Boomer Pre-Productive years 0-20)

- 1948 - Israel re-born (Jewish population – 650,000); Baby Boomer is born
- 1948 - Israel attacked by five Arab armies - War of Independence
- 1949-50 - **Blood Moon Tetrad** pointing to Israel's **Rebirth as a nation**
- 1962 - U.S. Supreme Court banned Prayer and Bible reading in public schools
- 1967 - Six Day War – Israel captures Golan, Gaza, Sinai, West Bank and **Jerusalem**
- 1967 - Jewish population – 2.4 million (fourfold increase in 20 years)

Next 40 Years from 1968- 2007 (Baby Boomer Productive years 20-59)

- 1967-68 - **Blood Moon Tetrad** points to Jews reclaiming of their ancient capital: **Jerusalem**
- 1968 – Baby Boomer protest of Vietnam War – Led to America's first loss in a war
- 1973 – Yom Kipper War – U.S. provides crucial military aid – Israel miraculously prevails
- 1973- U. S. Supreme Court approves abortion rights (Roe v Wade). 58 M innocents murdered by 2016
- 1979- Pres. Carter abandon's Shah of Iran; Event usher's in Radical Islam; Embassy hostages
- 1980 - Ronald Reagan elected President - America's king Josiah moment.
- 1991 - Pres. Bush (41) initiates Land for Peace –Two State Solution initiative at Madrid conference. – Immediately, the Perfect Storm strikes the President's home in Maine.
- 1993 - Pres. Clinton directs Oslo Peace Accords between PLO and Israel – Hurricane Andrew strikes U.S.
- 1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Rabin assassinated after opening up Gaza to PLO per the Oslo Accords
- 2001 - 911 World Trade Center, Pentagon Terrorist attacks – Age of terror around the world begins
- 2005 - Pres Bush (43) supports Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government efforts to remove all Jewish settlers from Gaza. Hurricane Katrina strikes U.S. Five months later, God strikes Prime Minister Sharon with a stroke and coma, from which he never recovers.
- 2007 – Beginning of U.S. Stock/housing market and world economic crash

Final 20 Years from 2008 – 2028 (Baby Boomer Post – Productive years 60-80)

- 2008 - Barack Obama elected President – the final transformation begins
- 2011 - Obama instigated Arab Spring initiates alignment of end time powers and alliances
- 2013 - *Jewish population in Israel reaches 6 million (1/3 of world Jews)*
- 2014 - Pres Obama turns on Israel during Operation Protective Shield – leaving Israel with no earthly allies that the nation can depend on.
- 2014-15 – **Blood Moon Tetrad** appears as Israel's spiritual wakeup call – It is God who will lead His people through what is to come, not the U.S. or anyone else.
- 2014-16 - **Quartet of Heavenly Signs** pointing to the coming world upheaval and the Messiah's Return
- 2016 – America elects a new president - What changes will be forthcoming in the next twelve years?

*It is interesting to note that by 2013, one third of the world Jewish population resided in Israel, one third in the United States and one third, everywhere else. Does this population alignment have anything to do with Zechariah 13:8?

Appendix C

Determining the Window of Time for Jesus' Birth based on the Date of His Death

The Christmas Star is not the sign that *marked* the First Coming of the Messiah. While it was the sign that marked the date for Jesus' incarnate birth, it only pointed to his pending appearance as the Messiah, an event that would not happen for another 33 years. Importantly, no heavenly sign was required for the Lord's first appearance as the Messiah because God revealed to Daniel when the Messiah would appear more than five hundred years earlier.

Daniel 9:25 says: *"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and threescore and two weeks..."* The decree for the Jews to return to Judah to rebuild the Temple following the Babylonian captivity was given by Cyrus in about 539 BC. But the Daniel 9:25 passage above points to a second decree that would be issued by the Persian king Artaxerxes, to rebuild the city of Jerusalem about 90 years after Cyrus issued the decree to rebuild the Temple. The seven weeks and threescore and two weeks refers to a period of 483 years. This second decree is described in Nehemiah 2:4-8 and it is believed by scholars to have been issued between 454 and 445 BC. A literal interpretation of Scripture indicates that these 483 years span the period of time between the issuance of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and the appearance of Jesus as the Messiah, the Prince or King of the Jews and not to Christ's birth.

Jesus appeared only once as the Messiah or King of the Jews during his earthly ministry. It happened on Palm Sunday, five days before he was crucified. Thus, the Daniel passage essentially points to a time at the end of Christ's incarnate life and earthly ministry (Luke 19:28-44), not the beginning. Importantly, this gives us a critical endpoint (the date of his death on the cross) from which to work backwards to determine the timeframe of his birth. If we take the average of the non-scriptural estimates between (454-445) for the date of the issuing of Artaxerxes decree, which is 450 BC, and add 483 years, we get the year 33 AD as the possible year for the Palm Sunday of the Messiah and the death of Christ.

From the scriptures, I believe it is possible, with some degree of accuracy, to determine the date of Jesus' death on the cross and, from this date, come up with the only day in history when Jesus appeared as the Messiah to fulfill the prophecy in Daniel 9:25. Items 1 and 2 below summarize my analysis from the "When was Jesus Born?" paper (posted on the Christmas Star website).

1. Jesus began his ministry at about the age of thirty following his baptism by John the Baptist: Luke 3:22-23: *"And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said. Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased. And Jesus himself **began to be about thirty years of age...**"* This passage defines the start of Jesus' earthly ministry when he was about 30 years of age following his baptism by John the Baptist. The scriptures in (2) below indicate that his ministry lasted for three years until His sacrifice on the cross on the fourth Passover after His baptism, making him about 33 years old when he died. So, the question becomes: When did Jesus die?

2. Scripture is clear that Jesus' ministry began when he was about thirty years of age. It lasted three years and involved four Passovers. In his Annals of the World, James Ussher develops the chronology as follows:
 - a. 6 April 30 AD - The First Passover (**Thursday**) and beginning of the ministry of Christ when he was about 30 years old (Luke 3:23, John 2:13)
 - b. 27 March 31 AD - The Second Passover (**Tuesday**) of the ministry of Christ when he was about 31 years old (John 4:3, 5:1, 5:35)
 - c. 14 April 32 AD – The Third Passover (**Monday**) of the ministry of Christ when he was about 32 years old (John 6:4)
 - d. 29 March 33 AD - **Palm Sunday** – Jesus enters Jerusalem descending the Mount of Olives on the colt of an ass... **as Messiah the king** (five days before the Passover), fulfilling Daniel 9:25, when he was about 33 years old (Luke 19:28-48).
 - e. 3 April 33 AD - The Fourth Passover (**Friday**) in which Christ, our Passover was sacrificed (1 Cor 5:7) and so put an end to all the legal sacrifices prefiguring this one.

The above chronology was taken from Annals of the World pp. 805-815. The dates for the Passover moons on each of these years are confirmed from the NASA Lunar Eclipse tables. Both the 14 April 32 and 3 April 33 Passover moons involved lunar eclipses. I inserted the specific day of the week in bold for each Passover based on an Annals editor's note explaining that Sir Robert Anderson in his book, **The Coming Prince**, calculated and published the Passover dates and day of the week for each Passover from 22-37 AD. The following are Anderson's Passover dates/days between the years 25 and 37 AD:

| <u>AD</u> | <u>DAY</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>AD</u> | <u>DAY</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| 25 | Sun | 1 Apr | 32 | Mon | 14 Apr |
| 26 | Thu | 21 Mar | 33 | Fri | 3 Apr |
| 27 | Wed | 9 Apr | 34 | Tue | 23 Mar |
| 28 | Mon | 29 Mar | 35 | Mon | 11 Apr |
| 29 | Sun | 17 Apr | 36 | Fri | 30 Mar |
| 30 | Thu | 6 Apr | 37 | Thu | 18 Apr |
| 31 | Tue | 27 Mar | | | |

From this table, it is clear that the only two Passover dates occurring on a Friday were in 33 and 36 AD. Had Ussher chosen the 36 AD date based on the December 5 BC birth date he determined for Jesus that was developed from secular sources, Jesus would have been more than 40 years old when he died. Ussher determined Christ's birth date based on Josephus' date for Herod's death in November 4 BC. If Jesus was 33 years old when he went to the cross, as the scriptures suggest, in 36 AD, he would have been born three years after the turn of the millennium in 3 AD... a date that doesn't fit with history. Despite Ussher's miscalculation for Jesus' birth, I believe his 3 April 33 AD date for Jesus' death based on the scriptural chronology, as confirmed by Anderson's Passover dates during Christ's ministry, is correct. It is clear from scripture (Luke 3:23) that Jesus was thirty years old when he began his ministry so he would have been about 33 years old when he was crucified at the end of his three year ministry. And, if he was about 33 when he was crucified on 3 April 33 AD as I believe scripture and the above confirms, then it should not be difficult to determine a specific one year window of time for Jesus' birth.

My calculation for this window and a date for Jesus' birth was as follows: If Jesus was born exactly 33 years before he went to the cross on 3 April 33 AD, his birth date would have been 3 April, 1 BC. If Jesus was 33 years, 11 months and 29 days old on the day of his crucifixion, he would have been born on 2 April, 2 BC. So, based on a death date for Jesus on 3 April 33 AD at about 33 years of age, the date for Jesus' birth had to fall in the window of time between **2 April 2 BC and 3 April 1 BC**.

From the above window of possible dates for Jesus' birth, we can now look to the heavens for rare or unique heavenly signs appearing between April 2 and April 1 BC that reasonably support and fulfill the scriptures in the Matthew and Luke accounts for the nativity. We don't have to look very hard. It quickly becomes clear when evaluating the Solex data and spreadsheets (available on the Christmas Star website: www.thechristmasstar.org) for this period, that the only heavenly sign involving Venus that appears in the April 2-1 BC window as defined above, is the **17 June 2 BC Venus Jupiter conjunction**. This turns out to be the most spectacular single star conjunction in the 9400 years of available Venus Jupiter conjunction data.

From the above it should be clear that this significant heavenly sign involving Venus, The Christmas Star, marks the day of Jesus' birth on 17 June 2 BC. Since we know that Jesus died on the cross on 3 April 33 AD, the date for Palm Sunday and the only day Christ appeared as the Messiah during his incarnate life was Sunday, 29 March 33 AD. A check of the Solex conjunction data and the Starry Night Pro program for a heavenly sign or signs appearing on 29 March 33 AD yielded nothing noteworthy, so there was not a heavenly sign that marked the Messiah's only incarnate appearance.

The importance of this analysis is this: The Scriptures reveal when Jesus made his only appearance as the King of the Jews and the Messiah. The heavenly sign of the Christmas Star marks the date of Jesus' birth, but it only points to the Lord's appearance as the Messiah, more than 33 years later. This is important to understand as we consider the heavenly sign(s) for the Messiah's return. We should be looking for a sign or signs that point to, but do not necessarily mark the date of His return at the Second Coming.

References

Part 1

- 1 – The New Defender’s Study Bible (NKJV), Dr. Henry Morris, 1995
- 2 – The Christmas Star DVD, Jim Dodge, 2014 Revised -2016
- *3 - Statistical Analysis of 200 Years of Venus-Jupiter Conjunctions – 1900-2100, Jim Dodge, 2015
- *4 - Statistical Analysis of 9400 Years of Venus Jupiter Conjunctions, Jim Dodge, 2015
- 5 - Solex: Venus –Jupiter Conjunction Database - Developed by Aldo Vitagliano, and with support from Allan Johnson

Part 2

- 1 - The New Defender’s Study Bible (NKJV), Dr. Henry Morris, 1995
- 2 – The Truth Project – Tour Seven: “Nature of the Divine Godhead in God’s Social Order”, Dr. Del Tackett, 2006

Part 3

- 1 - The New Defender’s Study Bible (NKJV), Dr. Henry Morris, 1995
- 2 – The Newton Project: www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk
- 3 – Enoch’s 7,000 Year Plan, Ken Johnson, (Prophecy Watcher, Feb 2016)
- 4 – The Annals of the World, James Ussher (Revised & updated by L. & M Pierce – 2006)
- *5 - What is the Meaning of a Generation in the Bible? Jim Dodge, Nov 2014
- *6 - The Significance of the 2014-15 Blood Moon Tetrad and Israel’s relationship with God... in this Season of the Lord’s Return, Jim Dodge, 2015

Appendix C

- *1 – When was Jesus Born? Jim Dodge, 2012

* Documents marked with asterisk are posted on the Christmas Star website: www.thechristmasstar.org