



## *Why Was the Christmas Star Hidden?*

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."*

*Matthew 2:1-2*

*It's a mistake to think of biblical prophecy as merely the fulfillment of specific events on specific, pre-set dates and times. This may be true of some things, but it's really about patterns that repeat themselves ever stronger until their last, final fulfillment. Everything you need to know about Christ's Second Coming was revealed during His First Coming. If you want to know more about the Second, learn as much as you can about the First.*

I guess I should be glad that from time to time there have been scientists that have attempted to explain the unusual star that appeared at the birth of Christ, but I'm actually not. As often happens in Scripture, the specific details actually refute the assertions of God's work happening to coincide with a natural phenomena such as the passing of a comet or a star going super nova. God's Word is an exercise in faith rather than knowledge, so consider a couple of things about the "star in the east" that attracted the undivided attention of the magi.

At that time in history, the night sky was the earth's version of television: EVERYONE watched it. They didn't even know what a "star" actually was. The sky was literally considered part of "the heavens", the place where God lived and reigned. What happened in the sky was

["Learn about the Second Coming from the First", Page 1 of 5](#)

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considered to be an indication—even a type of communication—of what was going on in heaven. So everyone from the most learned to the most superstitious kept an eye on the sky, curious as to what God was doing up there and what He might be saying through the events of the night sky.

This is an important point, because in such an environment you have to ask, “If there was a comet or a giant supernova that created a never-before-seen big, shiny star, how come NO ONE noticed EXCEPT the Magi?” No one noticed because it was only visible to a very few.

*Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.*

*Matthew 2:7*

If there had been a big, shiny “Christmas star”, everyone would have noticed it. They may not have understood what it meant, but when the magi appeared and said, “*Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east*”, everyone would have slapped their forehead and at least said, “Oh! You mean that big shiny thing that appeared for the first time a couple of years back?” Not only did no one say that, but they had to ask the magi for the particulars.

***Contradiction #1: No one saw the star except the magi.***

It was most logical for them to stop and inquire at the one castle that the magi surely thought would be most in tune with the arrival of the birth of the Messiah—so well-predicted in advance that although they didn’t know it had happened yet, they knew WHERE it would happen.

*Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:*

*Matthew 2:4-5*

**“Learn about the Second Coming from the First”, Page 2 of 5**

But after leaving Jerusalem with that information, they didn't just go straight to Bethlehem based on the information given them. After all, if the "experts" in Herod's company hadn't seen the star and therefore did not know how to read the signs of the times, how could one be sure they knew how to properly interpret the Scripture they did have? No, the star REAPPEARED and led them to, coincidentally, to Bethlehem.

*After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*

*Matthew 2:9-10*

### ***Contradiction #2: The star changed direction.***

If you're coming to Jerusalem from the east and following the star, in order for the star to "lead" you to Bethlehem it must take a left-hand turn at Jerusalem and lead you southwest. In order to stand "over the place the Child was", it would have to be something in one's immediate vicinity, not a distant cosmological phenomena many light years distant that would have stood over the whole earth and completely indiscernible as guiding one a few earthly miles from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, and certainly couldn't stand over a specific house.

The star was most certainly a sign from God, an indication in the heavens that spiritual events were taking place, but it was not a natural phenomena that everyone saw. Only the spiritually prepared saw and interpreted the sign correctly. Everyone else was blind to both its presence and its proper context.

The most repeated End Times issue that has been brought up by every major figure of the Old and New Testaments—including Christ Himself—is that the Last Days are marked by great deception and even greater apostasy. It's those that hold fast to a faithful

["Learn about the Second Coming from the First", Page 3 of 5](#)

relationship with Christ to whom the true meaning of such things is revealed. It doesn't come about by "knowledge", but "faith".

- At the First Coming, the signs were only visible and understood by those that were faithful to Him. So it will be at His Second Coming.
- At the First Coming the established religious authorities had become so institutionalized and corrupt that although they possessed knowledge of God's Word, they did not know how to apply it or use it to recognize the signs of the times. So at the Second Coming the great apostasy will render such authorities completely ineffective, even working on the side of evil as they worked on Herod's behalf in his day.
- At the First Coming those that recognized the signs of the times first went to those most likely to be interested but were not only rejected but actually found to persecute the Son of the God they professed to serve. At the Second Coming, judgment begins with the church and the false prophets and false teachers entrenched in the earthly institution called the church will themselves persecute Christ's followers, even to the point of waging war with Him.
- At the First Coming a one-world system of government that embraced all religions as being part of a diluted whole ruled the earth under a single ruler in the form of the Roman Empire. So at the Second Coming the merging of religious institutions within a single organization under the world rule of the Antichrist will be in place.
- At the First Coming the world's ruler instituted a worldwide census to "mark" all its citizens. At the Second Coming the Antichrist will "mark" all of its citizens.

["Learn about the Second Coming from the First", Page 4 of 5](#)

- At the First Coming the followers of Christ will rejoice at His coming and respond by worshiping Him. At the Second Coming the Antichrist will lead a war against Christ and His followers and will do everything in his power to get everyone to worship him instead of Christ.
- At the First Coming the signs of the times provided Believers with the time frame and general context that assured them that Christ's appearance was imminent. So at the Second Coming we shall know not the exact date and time but the certainty and nearness of His arrival.

With more examples I suppose I could go on and on, but this is the sure point to take with you: If you want to know about the Second Coming, learn everything you can about His First Coming. And not according to the distilled holiday stories or even elaborate scientifically-based theories that have become so popular, but according to His Word, which was the very thing God gave to the earth that night.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

*John 1:1-5*

In His Love,

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