

MATTHEW 2 vs 1

¹ **Now when Jesus was born** (...and that would have been sometime in September... or mid-October... at the very latest)

in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king (...Luke says, Herod the Idumean... the Edomite! Now, why is an Edomite sitting on the throne of David? Well... anyway, he's there)
(Matthew writes...)

behold (...pay attention),

there came wise men (...astrologers; the early astronomers... most likely from Persia. And there may have been 1,000 attendants for each of these astrologers; and traveling as ambassadors representing their government—however many there were)

there came wise men... from the east to Jerusalem (...the capital of the Jewish people. And this exotic mob came to Jerusalem with excitement)

² **Saying, Where is He who is born King of the Jews?** (Just imagine the stir they created. 3,000 coming to town for a party! And you know, if there were 3,000 arriving at my door with their camels and pack-animals and luggage; I don't know about you, but that would make a stir!)

(And they announce...)

for we have seen His 'star' in the East (...in Greek: *aster*... in the NT translated 13 times, stars; 11 times, star. Another NT synonym is: *astron*; translated: 3 times, stars; 1 time, star. In this verse, the Greek word: *aster*... is in focus. It could be, and often is translated: *stars*... or, *constellation*. In other words)

we have seen His stars...

we have seen His constellation in the East (...rising in the East; starting on the horizon and steadily moving upward till the constellation, or some bright star of that constellation... is almost overhead. So we want to know: Where is the party? for your newborn King?)

for we have seen His stars... and are come to worship Him.

(The archaeologist E. Raymond Capt wrote many interesting books; one, being an extensive study on The Zodiac called: *The Glory of the Stars*. And listen to what he wrote about the constellation Virgo:

In the September sky, the constellation Virgo consists of 110 stars (by the way, it still does... today); only one is of: the first magnitude. Virgo is pictured as a woman with a Branch in her right hand and some ears of corn in her left hand. The name of this sign in Hebrew is *Bethulah*... in Greek, *Parthenos*... in Arabic, *Adarah*—all meaning: the pure virgin. The woman in the sign is the holder and bringer of an illustrious Seed. This star of the first magnitude is called: **Spica**. The bright star in the ear of corn in her left hand in Arabic is called: *Al Zimach*, meaning: The Branch. This star is also known by the Chaldea word: *Vindermatrix*, which in Persian (or Chaldea) means: The Son... or Branch who comes.

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Capt writes: Although the woman appears again in the first of the three companion constellations, the name Coma... points to the Child as the great subject.

The first of the three supportive constellations in the great constellation Virgo is called: Coma, The Infant. The ancient Zodiac pictured this constellation as: a Woman with a Child in her arms; and called it: Coma, meaning: the Desired or Longed for. She is nourishing an infant Boy having the name: *Ihesu* (in Hebrew)... similar to the Greek name *Ieza*.

The second supporting constellation in Virgo is: Centaurus (...the Centaur has two natures in the one Person); the Greek name given to Centaurus was *Cheiron* which means: the pierced-One. In both the Hebrew and the Arabic... the meaning of this constellation is: The Despised... and, doesn't that sound like Isaiah's writing? *HE was despised and rejected of men*.

Capt writes: Centaurus is one of the lowest of the constellations. It is situated immediately over and surrounds the Southern Cross; and Centaurus extends north of it to the coils of the Hydra—the serpent. The brightest star in Centaurus is a star known to the ancients as Toliman, which means: the heretofore and hereafter... marking Him as the One which is, and which was, and which is to come—The Almighty.

(It's interesting, Capt writes: Toliman has been observed to be growing rapidly brighter.)

The story accompanying the Centaur was that He was fatally wounded... by a poisoned arrow from heaven... NOT intended for Him, while engaged in a good work. And though immortal Himself, He chose to die that another might live.

The third supporting constellation is called: Bootes, the Coming One. The figure is of a strong Man walking rapidly with a spear (...or rod) in His right hand, and a sickle in His left hand. The ancient Egyptians called Him... *Smat*, which means: One who rules, subdues and governs. The Greeks called this Man... *Arcturus*; the Watcher, the Guardian.

The Hebrew meaning of the name of this constellation is: The One coming... or, The great Judge and Harvester coming... to reap the harvest of the earth.

The earliest Zodiac of Denderah dating back to 2,000 B.C. shows the figure of a Woman and Child.

And just a footnote: Shakespeare indicated an awareness of the true symbolism found in that first supportive constellation, Coma. He spoke of the shooting of an arrow up to heaven... (quote) "to the good Boy in Virgo's lap"—that's found in *Titus Andronicus*, Act IV, Scene 3.

And a final comment from Capt: According to the Persian historian, Abulfaragius... Zoroaster of Zerdusht—the Persian... was a pupil of Daniel the prophet. Zoroaster was given the prophecy that a new star would appear... when He whom Daniel foretold should be born. In the ancient writing: Zend Avesta... this new star was to appear in the sign of the Virgin. By the way, astronomers will tell you, new stars appearing suddenly are not an unusual phenomenon.

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(Matthew writes...)

there came wise men (...astrologers) from the East to Jerusalem, saying,

Where is He born King of the Jews? (...and by the way, no one is born King. Ask Prince Charles; he will tell you!)

(They came saying...)

Where is He that is born King of the Jews?

we have seen *His stars*

we have seen *His constellation* rising in the East;

and are come to worship Him (...so where is the party?! You know, Psalm 19, verse 1 says: The heavens declare... the glory of God! Apparently!)

³ When Herod the king had heard these things,

he was troubled (...he was fearful, I bet he was!),

and all Jerusalem with him (...now, why was all Jerusalem with him? Luke reminds us: Herod was an Edomite; he was ruthless, a worthless... enemy of God)

Verse ⁴ And when he had gathered

all the chief priests and scribes of the people (...it sounds like he is acknowledging the Sanhedrin for about the first time. Under his reign, they had been a shadowy leadership. So Herod called them all)

together, he demanded of them (...he insisted they investigate, so he would find out from them)

where Christ should be born.

⁵ And they said unto him,

In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet (...the prophet Micah, in chapter 5, the prophecy reads),

⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, (...in *no-wise*, in no way are you)

least among the princes of Judah:

out of thee shall come a Governor,

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that shall shepherd (...in Greek: *poimaino*; literally)

that shall Pastor... My people Israel.

⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily (...when he had privately)

called the wise men (...these astrologers from the East),

Herod... enquired of them diligently what *space of time* the stars appeared (...and shined).

⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said,

Go and search diligently for the young Child;

and when ye have found, bring me word again,

that I may come... and worship Him also.

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed;

and, lo (...mark this),

the stars (...or, the constellation),

which they saw rising in the East,

went before them (...literally, it led the way. Now, how did it do that? And think about it: if they were traveling for the last five months; and now, it is springtime... they might have had cloud cover, because it snows in the winter in Jerusalem; and in the rainy and snowy weather, you can't see many stars in the day, or the night... right? And sooner or later, the skies started to clear up.

And suddenly, there's the constellation Virgo! And there is Spica, the bright shining star—almost directly overhead! When they had started out, Virgo was on the horizon; and now, look: it is overhead! There's Virgo... and there is Coma, the Infant Child; there is Centaur, the two-natured One. There is the Southern Cross; and there is Bootes, the strong Man coming... to judge and harvest the earth. And now this starry constellation was overhead in Bethlehem. And they had followed it for months)

till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the stars (...the starry constellation),

they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.