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Professor Says History's Best Known and Most Debated Star Proven

Researcher Uses the Bible alongside History and Science and Says He Has Verified Existence of the Christmas Phenomenon

ANS NEWS STORY

By Jeremy Reynolds
Correspondent for ASSIST News Service

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (ANS) -- For centuries, historians, scientists and scholars have debated the existence of the Star of Bethlehem in the Biblical telling of Christ's birth. Now Texas lawyer and professor Rick Larson says he has proven the existence of this celebrated, yet debated, star.

He sets forth his case in a documentary, "The Star of Bethlehem."

"Historically, people have taken two positions on the Star," said Larson in a news release. "Either they believe the Star is true or they think it was made up by the early Church. I took a different approach in my research and treated the Star as a mystery or puzzle, looking at the Bible and comparing the facts of Scripture with facts from science and history."

Larson's quest for answers began with this attempt to produce an accurate, visual portrayal of the Star in his yard for Christmas. He attempted to ask questions that many people ask each time the Christmas story is told. What did this Star look like? Where did it come from? How did it lead the wise men directly to "this" Child?

His investigation took him on a journey through historical documents, scientific findings and numerous theories to discover a celestial event pointing to the vastness of God's creativity.

"God began leading me on a journey and unveiling answers to me beyond my own understanding," Larson said in the news release. "That God would ask someone not trained in astronomy to do this still amazes me."

Using astronomer Johannes Kepler's map of the solar system, Josephus's calendaring system and Imaginova's Starry Night® software, Larson said he pinpointed the year of the Star's appearance. While most astronomers researching the Star only look to the sky, Larson said he took his findings a step further by utilizing a critical piece in the puzzle – the Scriptures from the Book of Matthew.

Larson's in-depth study of Matthew led him to nine distinguishing characteristics of the Star that helped explain its existence. According to the news release, these features of the Star indicated that it signified birth and kingship; had a connection with the Jewish nation; rose in the East and appeared at a precise time that was unknown to Herod. It also endured over time; was ahead of the Magi as they went south from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and stopped directly over the city of Bethlehem.

The Biblical characteristics pointed to the Star being a natural occurrence. Larson's study of wandering stars, or planets, and slow retrograde motion, created what he called a breaking point in his research. Larson said that in 3 and 2 B.C., Jupiter, known for ages as the "King Planet," held the nine characteristics of the Star.

Having made this discovery about Jupiter, Larson continued his study of the stars, only to find another significant link to the starry sky and April 3, 33 A.D., the day Larson believes Christ was crucified on the cross.

"After discovering all of this, I looked up at the sky and said, 'My God, what did you do?,' Larson said in the news release. "This was poetry of terrible beauty. What the Creator revealed to me was something about His vast plan. He wrote poetry in the sky to record both the coming and passing of Christ."

Larson has put together these findings on "The Star of Bethlehem" DVD.

For more information, visit www.StarOfBethlehemTheMovie.com.

Jeremy Reynolds is a freelance writer and the founder and director of Joy Junction, New Mexico's largest emergency homeless shelter, <http://www.joyjunction.org> or <http://www.christianity.com/joyjunction>. He has a master's degree in communication from the University of New Mexico, and a Ph.D. in intercultural education from Biola University in Los Angeles. His newest book is "Homeless in the City: A Call to Service." Additional details about "Homeless" are available at <http://www.HomelessBook.com> He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more information contact: Jeremy Reynolds at jeremyreynolds@comcast.net. Tel: (505) 877-6967 or (505) 400-7145. Note: A higher resolution JPEG picture of Jeremy Reynolds is available on request from Dan Wooding at danjuma1@aol.com.



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