

21T20h Christmas OutTake- the Christmas Star

Hello my friends. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table for the Christmas Myth of the Inn.

I love the Christmas season with all the traditions and gatherings of family and friends. It is truly a beautiful time of year. I love to see all the lights and decorations. But often we forget there is a reason for the season. That reason is Jesus. The birth of Jesus to be exact. For Christians we have lots of traditions about Christmas; the Nativity, the Star, the Wisemen. But I'd like to have some fun and look at some parts of this story we don't normally talk about. I'm going to call these Christmas Story Out Takes.

So, What do you know about the Christmas star? I have been amazed at how much controversy there is about the Christmas star. There are only four verses in the Bible about the Christmas star. Matthew 2:2 and Matthew 2:7 and Matthew 2:9-10.

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen **His star** in the East and have come to worship Him."* (Matthew 2:1-2 NKJV)

*Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time **the star** appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."* (Matthew 2:7-8 NKJV)

*When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, **the star** which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw **the star**, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.* (Matthew 2:9-10 NKJV)

Now I've heard a lot of talk about the Christmas star. Why didn't the Jews see it, maybe it was just a sign in the nighttime sky, maybe planets or a comet. All of this is wild speculation. Every English translation I looked at used the word star. The word translated as star is from the Greek word (astēr) meaning star. Does not seem like a controversy here. But what kind of star moves the way the Bible describes it or comes to rest over where Jesus is. No matter how I looked at the translations or the Greek words, it always seemed like it's telling of a bright light that moved showing them the exact house to enter to find Jesus. This is obviously supernatural, and I can't find support for this being anything less than the Bible says it is. Truly amazing.

Another question that comes up a lot is how did the Magi know about the birth of Jesus. There are many theories, and I sure don't know for sure. But what is known is they were educated people in both the Babylonian and Persian empires who would have had knowledge of the Hebrew scriptures. Specifically, Micah 5:2, Numbers 24:17 and Daniel 9:25-26, along with others. It is possible that these educated men could have

been taught by Hebrews who remained in Persia and Babylon after the exiles returned to Judea. They could have known of teachings from Daniel, Mordecai and others. But reality is we don't know.

But the Bible refers to a star and there is extra biblical historical information to consider. People have talked about comets, planets, supernovas but this does not seem to fit the Bible story description. It is true that to ancient astrologers' stars, planets, comets and asteroids all seemed like stars. But the Christmas Star seems like a lot more than a fixed light in the sky. According to the Bible account, the star leads the magi to the exact house where Jesus is. I can't see how a fixed light in the sky, or a comet could do this.

So, whatever the Christmas Star was it was miraculous. It was so significant and amazing that these educated men saw it from a thousand miles away or more. It was so tremendous, they knew what it signified and set out to pay their respects to the child, the messiah, the son of God.

Why didn't the Jews see it or recognize it? I don't think anyone can say. Maybe they could not see it or maybe no one thought it was important, just a pretty light in the sky.

In the end, I think we should just read the Bible Christmas Story as it is written without worrying too much about these side issues. The Bible says star, so let's just accept it was a bright light in the sky like a star, which moved and lead the Magi to Jesus.

Let's Pray

Father God.

I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen

I hope you are enjoying these Christmas Out-Takes as we look at the greatest story ever told and the amazing truths and interesting details we don't always focus on.

As always if you liked the message click like, you can leave comments here or our website or email me. And please subscribe, if you want to be notified when we post new videos, click the notification bell.

See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. Merry Christmas.