



The Great God of “Coincidences”

Superstars, Sheep, & Wise Guys – Where do you stand?

TWIN CITIES BAPTIST CHURCH

WED DECEMBER 29, 2022

“Coincidence” or Direction?

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine
own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him,
and he shall direct thy paths.

Real Life Example #1

Special Thanks to Cathryne

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What Do They ALL have in Common?

Real Life Example #2

Special Thanks to Bro. Gino LaPointe

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What is Biblical & What is Not?

- The Date?
- The Duration?
- The Angels?
- The Star?
- The Shepherds WITH The Wise Men?

Did The Shepherds & Wise Men Coincide @The Nativity?

The Bible puts them in the same vicinity @ the same time

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- **Luke 2:4-6** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, **while they were there**, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
- **Matthew 2:1-2** Now **when Jesus was born in Bethlehem** of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he **that is born** King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Did The Shepherds & Wise Men Coincide @The Nativity?

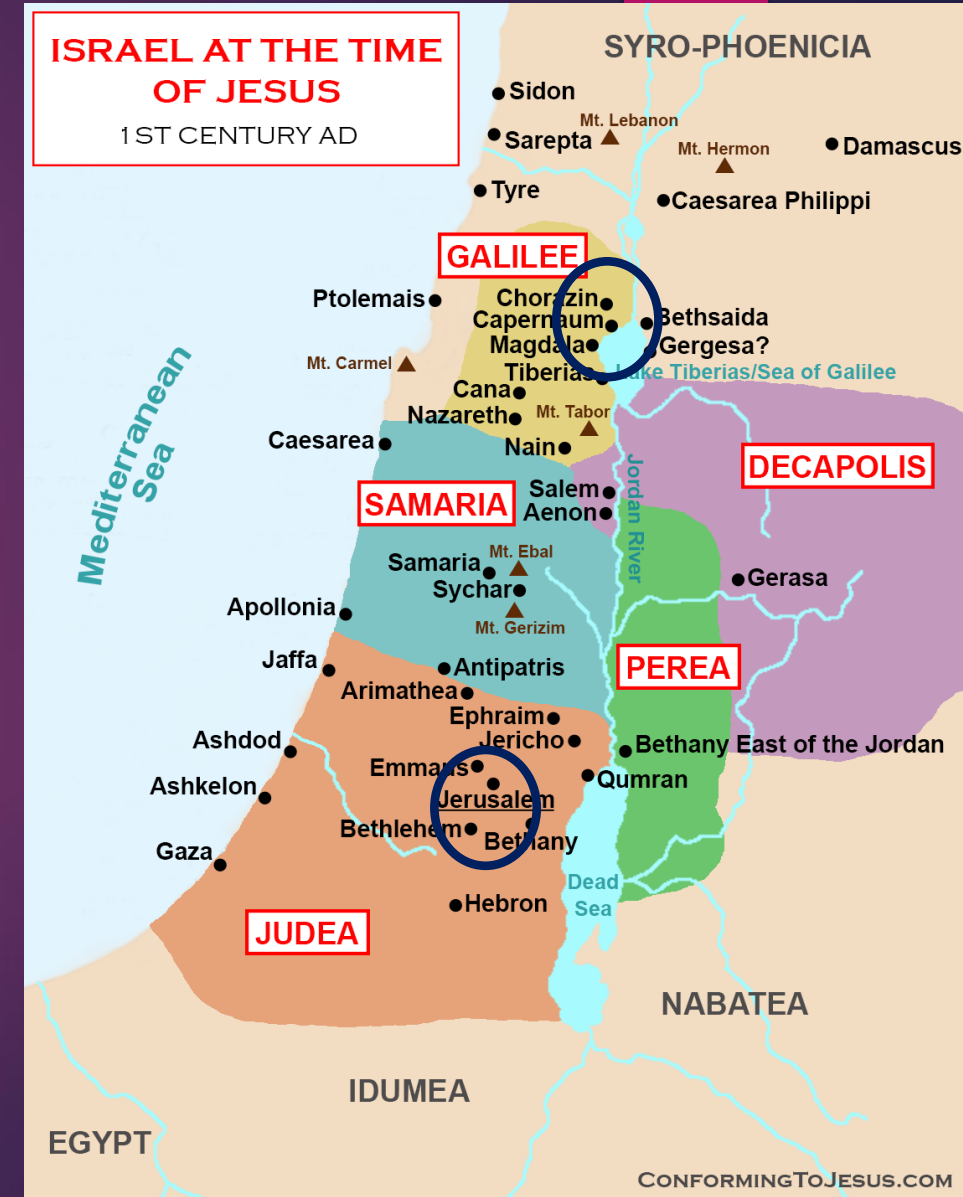
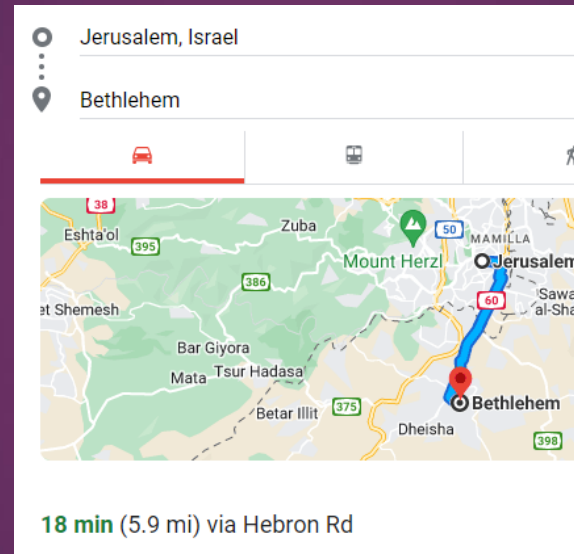
Jerusalem to Bethlehem

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- How Far is it from Jerusalem to Bethlehem?
~5.9 miles
- Use Also Common Sense Comparisons

Consider Galilee to Jerusalem in light of Deut 16:16

- The Wise Men Could EASILY & Quickly be to the nativity site soon after talking to Herod.



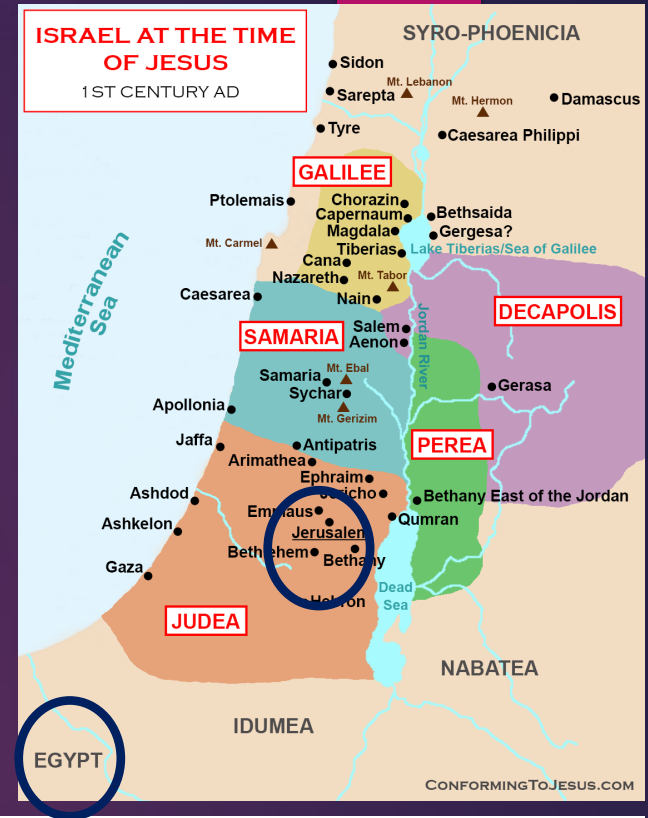
Did The Shepherds & Wise Men Coincide @The Nativity?

Bethlehem to Egypt

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- **Matthew 2:13-14** And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When **he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:**

- How far from Bethlehem to Egypt?
Can you somehow baseline it in scripture?
How far? How many Days?



Distance from Bethlehem to Cairo

Distance between Bethlehem and Cairo is **419 kilometers** (260 miles).
Driving distance from Bethlehem to Cairo is **747 kilometers** (464 miles).

✈️ **419 km**

🚗 **747 km**

✈️ **260 miles**

🚗 **464 miles**

Did The Shepherds & Wise Men Coincide @The Nativity?

His Circumcision

- **Luke 2:21** And when **eight days** were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. **Gen 17:12**
 - **Where did the Circumcision take place?**
 - Note: It did NOT have to be in Jerusalem nor the Temple
 - **Most likely it happened in Egypt or enroute to Egypt.**
 - Note: There is a **TIME GAP** between verse 21 & 22
- **Luke 2:22-24** And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, **they brought him to Jerusalem**, to present *him* to the Lord; (**As it is written** in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, **A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.**

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Her Purification & His Presentation

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- **Leviticus 12:1-4** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean **seven days**; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. And in **the eighth day** the flesh of his foreskin **shall be circumcised**. And **she shall then continue** in the blood of her purifying **three and thirty days**; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. **PS Leviticus 12:8** shows that they were not a wealthy family.
- The **TIME GAP** between **Luke 2:21 & 22** is precisely **33 days** (including the 8th day).
Math Geeks: $7+33 = 40$ days. Their trip to Egypt was most likely < 20 days
- Herod must have died within this TIME GAP. (~4BC) [God can kill ANY Herod Whenever he wills! **Acts 12:23**]
Matthew 2:19-21 But **when Herod was dead**, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.
*So now they go back for the presentation of Christ in **Luke 2:22***

Did The Shepherds & Wise Men Coincide @The Nativity?

Simple Summary Timeline Not to Scale

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40 Days of Purification for Mary **Lev 12**

Biases Aside,
Is it Believable
that God could
make the
timelines of the
Wise Men & The
Shepherds
Coincide at this
unique **1Tim 3:16**
Event???

Jesus' Birth
Herod &
Wise Men Converse
In **Jerusalem**

Wise Men go to
Bethlehem
& the Flight to Egypt
begins soon after
they leave.

Matt 2:13

Luke 2:8-16
The Shepherds
Made it to the
BD Party!

Circumcision
8 days into
Flight IF not
already in
Egypt

Herod Dies
Joseph is
Notified
via Dream
To Go back

Presentation
of Christ in
Temple at
Jerusalem
40 days
After Birth

Simeon
Anna

Luke 2:39
They finally get
to go back
home to
Nazareth in
Galilee

Matt 2:22-23
& God
DIRECTED
Joseph
to do this!

Yet many people want to
put the wise men +2 years
after the Birth of Christ!

We will address this next.
Scripture with scripture!

Did The Shepherds & Wise Men Coincide @The Nativity?

What Is the +2 Yrs for Wise Men Theory Based Upon?

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To put it nicely, a scorning, persecuting, secular ruler's private calculations!

Matthew 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. **Note: The star must have appeared earlier than the birthday to lead them from the East**

Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from **two years old and under**, according to the time which **he had diligently inquired** of the wise men.

We do not know exactly when the star first appeared to the wise men, nor what answer they gave to Herod.

Regardless, paranoid Herod used this data made his private calculations and then executed any child born up to 2 yrs.

2Pet 1:20 Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture** is of any **private** interpretation.

Did The Shepherds & Wise Men Coincide @The Nativity?

Update the Timeline to include Star's 1st Appearance

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40 Days of Purification for Mary **Lev 12**

Star

1st Appears
Num 24:17
Micah 5:2

Jesus' Birth

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Wise Men Converse
In **Jerusalem**

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The Star Stood Over... Matt 2:9

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- Since the star “stood over where the young child was,” could it have been an angel?
- **Revelation 1:20** The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. **The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:** and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.
- **Joshua 10:12-13** Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, **Sun, stand thou still** upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And **the sun stood still,** and **the moon stayed,** until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. *Is not this written in the book of Jasher?* So **the sun stood still** in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. **Biblically, celestial bodies can stand still**

Probably safer to just let the star be a star.

If it makes sense literally, let it be!

Did The Shepherds & Wise Men Coincide @The Nativity?

...where the young child was **Matt 2:9**

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It does not say “baby,” It says “young child!” He **MUST** have been 2 years old! Are you sure?

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with **child** of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with **child**, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Isaiah 9:60 For unto us a **child** is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

What is younger, a “child” or a “young child?”

In the verses above, the “child” is unborn, & newborn. One cannot get much younger than that!

“Young child” is exactly **8** times in the Bible, ONLY in **Matt 2**, and it always refers to JESUS.

1st mention is **Matt 2:8** = Herod’s flawed assumption! Might it be that the LORD used “young child” as an “algebra variable” to denote JESUS as the exact target child Herod was after?

What did the wisemen do for 2 years after 1st Star Sighting?

Again, The 2 years comes from Herod's Questions & Actions

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We DO have an accurate Biblical Travel Baseline in this case!

Ezra 7:6 This Ezra went up **from Babylon**; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.

Ezra 7:8-9 And he came **to Jerusalem** in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. For upon the first day of the **first month** began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the **fifth month** came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

To go from the land of the Chaldees (where Babylon was) to Jerusalem, it took Ezra ~4 months, BUT:

- How long after appearance did they figure out what the star was and what it meant?
(Think about your personal Bible reading! This may have been the longest delay of all of them!)
- Trip Approval Process?
- Trip Preparation Time?
- Was the star only seen by night? What about cloudy nights or full moons?
- Unexpected stops?
- **Perhaps the LORD led them on a longer route that lasted 2 years because that was part of his plan for how Herod would fulfill Jer 31:15! Does God always lead you along the shortest path?**

Did The Shepherds & Wise Men Coincide @The Nativity?

Update the Timeline for Elapsed Time

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Wait! What about the “House?” It does not say “Stable”
And when they were come into the house... Matt 2:11

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Scripture with Scripture! You KNOW the drill!

Remember the Lev 12 & Luke 2 Turtledoves? Joseph was not wealthy...
Do you really think he bought or rented a second house for 2 years?!?
Not to mention, just up and left it in the middle of the night!

Genesis 24:32 And the man came into the house: and he ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that were with him.

1 Samuel 28:24 And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof:

Psalms 50:9 I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds.

Does the word “house” used in the scriptures exclude stables or barns?

If there were a 2 yr delay between Birth & Flee to Egypt: Would Herod have known it & taken earlier action?

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Luke 2:15-18 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

**Remember, Bethlehem is just 5.9 miles away from Jerusalem.
& The Shepherds are openly talking.**

If there were 2 years after the nativity before the wise men arrive, we have to believe that Herod was completely in the dark for 2 years, as this story was being broadcast to the point that people are wondering about it.

Finally, were they Just Wise Men, OR Were they “Three Kings of Orient?”

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They were from the Persian Empire, which had a multiple ruler hierarchy

Ezra 7:12 Artaxerxes, **king of kings**, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time.

Esther 1:13-14 Then the king said to **the wise men**, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment: And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, **the seven princes of Persia and Media**, which saw the king's face, **and which sat the first in the kingdom**;))

Jeremiah 51:28 Prepare against her the nations with **the kings** of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion.

Daniel 5:7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to **the wise men of Babylon**, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and **shall be the third ruler in the kingdom**.

Daniel 6:1-2 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty **princes**, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three **presidents**; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Did Daniel leave anything for longevity wrt Bible prophecy in Babylon? @minimum a copy of the Book of DANIEL?

Dan 9:2 Is concrete evidence that the book of Jeremiah made it to Babylon too!

1st OR 2nd Comings? BOTH are Required to Make The Incarnation of Christ Complete

20

Numbers 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a **Star** out of Jacob, and a **Sceptre** shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

Isaiah 60:1-3 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Isaiah 49:7 Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

Psalms 68:29 Because of thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto thee.

Psalms 72:11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

The End:

Is this “Coincidence” Or Divine Guidance?

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Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Scripture with Scripture shows us that the literal interpretation of the nativity story is possible. If it makes sense as is, why would anyone want to believe anything else, that only complicates the details of the narrative?

God wanted the Shepherds & the Kings to coincide at the Nativity of
THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Who will soon reveal himself as
THE KING OF KINGS!

If God guided back then, Do You think He Will Guide diligent seekers TODAY?

How is any of this
Practical?

How Can this Build My Faith?