

Christ's Birth and the Heavens

Commentary for March 1, 2017 — **The End Is Known from the Beginning**

Dr. Martin's 2001 interview with radio personality Jeff Rense also discussed the "Star of Bethlehem" and the timing of the birth of Christ. Read the "[March 2017 Newsletter](#)" to introduce the article. This Commentary gives additional perspective on the subject.

Paul's epistle to the Philippians gives us a glimpse of the sequence of events of the past, present, and future of Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:6–11), and where we fit in His story:

A Time-Outline of Philippians 2:6–11

<p>"Let this mind be in you, which was also <u>in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:</u>" (Philippians 2:5–6).</p>	<p>Past Before Christ became flesh</p>
<p>"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made <u>in the likeness of men</u>" (Philippians 2:7).</p> <p>"And being found in fashion as a man, <u>he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross</u>" (Philippians 2:8).</p> <p>"Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9).</p>	<p>Past At His birth, the time of the Star of Bethlehem</p> <p>Past During His time in the flesh</p> <p>Past (to our Present) After His resurrection</p>
<p>"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10–11).</p>	<p>In Our Future After His return to earth</p>

Philippians 2:7 says that Jesus came "**in the likeness of men.**" Paul gives us additional information in Romans 8:3, that God sent "**his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh.**" This meant Jesus Christ had flesh like the children of Adam, but His was not "**sinful flesh.**" The apostle John agrees and insists that Jesus in fact came in the flesh (1 John 4:2–3). The exact time of Christ coming "**in the flesh,**" in "**the form of a servant,**" and "**in the likeness of men**" can be determined from a specific occurrence. God not only predicts the future, but He also controls events to determine the future He predicted.

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God [E], and there is none else; I am God [Elohim], and there is none like me,

[1] **Declaring the end from the beginning, and**

[2] [declaring] **from ancient times the things that are not yet done,**

[3] **saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I WILL DO ALL my pleasure.'**"

• **Isaiah 46:9–10**

The apostle Paul restates Isaiah 46:10 as follows: God **“works all things after the counsel of his own will”** (Ephesians 1:11).

When this information is applied to the birth of Christ and the Star of Bethlehem, it is clear that God set the mechanism of the stars and planets to come about precisely in time to announce the arrival of He who was **“made in the likeness of men”** (Philippians 2:7 above). After all, YHWH numbered and named each of the multiple billions of stars that He created (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 8:3, 147:4; and Isaiah 40:26). The Magi were able to confidently ask King Herod and his advisors: **“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”** (Matthew 2:2).

John the apostle wrote introduced in his gospel that Jesus is the Word of God:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ...

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

• John 1:1-4, 14

John the Baptist told the people where Jesus came from:

“He that comes from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaks of the earth: he that comes from heaven is above all.”

• John 3:31

After Jesus fed a large crowd of people, then He taught them Who He was:

“For the bread of God is he which comes down from heaven, and gives life unto the world.’ ... And Jesus said unto them, ‘I am the bread of life: he that comes to me shall never hunger; and he that believes on me shall never thirst. ... For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”

• John 6:32-33, 35, 38

The sequence of events in Philippians chapter 2 says Christ will cause all creatures to submit to His rule (verses 2:10-11). That begins when Christ returns to earth to the same place He left to ascend to heaven (Acts 1:11). Then begins a time of judgment (sometimes severe) upon nations and all humanity (1 Thessalonians 4:17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Romans 1:18). It will be 2000 years for the reconciliation of all to occur (Colossians 1:15-20). The Son of God became flesh and was born at a specific time as was proclaimed in the heavens:

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.”

• Revelation 12:1-2

This is a “time stamp.” How this designates a point in time for Jesus’ birth is explained in Dr. Martin’s book, [*The Star That Astonished the World: the Star of Bethlehem.*](#)

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