Others say the **‘star’** (bright light in the sky) that prompted the Magi from the East to make their journey to worship Jesus the newborn King of the Jews was a convergence of Jupiter, Saturn, Venus and Mars in the Spring time of 6 BC in the constellation on of Aries. This event only happens every 6000 years and pointed to Judea the land where Bethlehem (the city of David the King) is found.

Yet others have argued that when you connect the dots of:

1. Mary’s visit to Elizabeth in her (Elizabeth’s) 6th month of pregnancy,

2. Elizabeth’s husband Zacharias’ priestly duties were in the 4th month of the Jewish calendar (June/July) – when Elizabeth became pregnant making Mary’s visit soon after she (Mary) became pregnant in Dec/Jan.

3. So 9 months later Jesus was born in late Sept / early October, that is the Fall when it was till warm enough for the Shepherds to be outside with their sheep.

Because the Bible itself does not absolutely give the day does this debate over that exact date matter at all?

Perhaps God wants us to focus on worshipping Jesus rather that endlessly debating the date.

Tradition is only negative when we forget the ‘reason for the season’.

So this Christmas relax and enjoy what God has done for us in Christ.

****December 22nd. 2019**



**It’s beginning to look like Christmas – Part 3**

***“Jesus is King”***

Welcome

2019

**It’s beginning to look like**

**Christmas – Part 3:**

***“Jesus is King”***

**Prophet - Priest – King**

Jesus was, and is and always will be all of these and then some.

He embodies all that we have need of to live our lives to the full and to God’s glory.

Because He lives within every believer He imparts:

* **A prophetic sense of the** future based on God’s promises whereby hope is encouraged as we come to know that God is already in our future.
* **An assurance that our standing** with God the Father is secure as we place our trust in what **Jesus our High Priest** has already done for us in the sacrificial shedding of His blood on our behalf.
* **A new way at looking at life’s challenges** as we rise up and exercise the authority over adversity that **our King Jesus** has delegated to us in His name.

Christmas is part of God’s plan to restore us to full sonship in such a measure of grace that all there is left to do is to praise & worship Him.

**Oh, come let us adore Him.**

**Notes**

**When was Jesus the King of the Jews really born?**

Tradition has it that Dec 25th, the approx. time of the Winter Solstice (Mid – winter) was the time when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Some researchers have concluded that this date was an attempt By Emperor Constantine in the 300’s to co-opt pagan Solstice festivals into Christianity which was now declared to be the official Roman religion.

Others have argued that Jesus would not have been born in mid-winter for the following reasons:

* **Luke 2** states that the shepherds who received the angelic announcement of Jesus’ birth were **out** in the fields **at night** with **their sheep** - something that shepherds in that area even today do not do in mid-winter being too cold.
* The census ordered by the Roman Caesar Augustus recorded also in **Luke 2** was also highly unlikely to have been ordered for mid-winter when travel was difficult for most.
* **The Jewish prophetic calendar,** connected to events recorded in the Gospels, seems to point to a time other than the traditional mid-winter Christams of Dec 25th.

Some say Jesus was born in March/April (Jewish 1st month ‘Nisan’) when the lambs of sacrifice would be born in preparation for Passover. Jesus was the sacrificial “lamb of God” offered up @ the Passover feast. Note: Bethlehem was the place (3 miles from Jerusalem) where the lambs were kept ready for the Temple sacrifice.