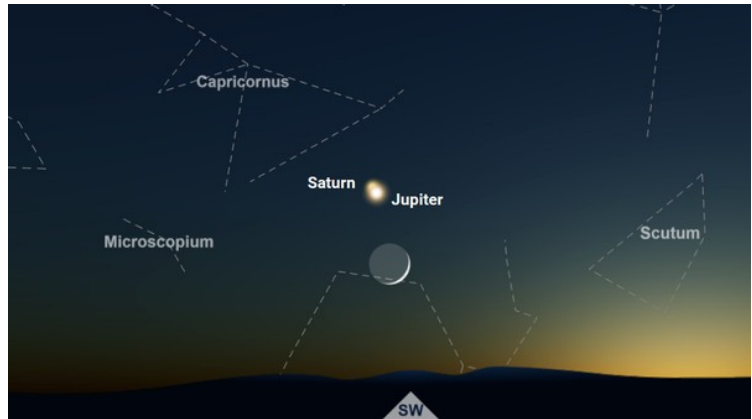


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A new star in the sky

This year, 2020, on 21st December is one of the very, very rare occasions in which you can see in the night sky a new star – It is actually Saturn and Jupiter in perfect alignment and the two planets then look like one new bright star in the west.

A map showing the two together appeared in newspapers. The map shown here was the one shown by timeanddate.com



The actual occurrence lasts for several days as the planets become closer and closer to their alignment.

This image below is from France and taken near sunset whilst still low in the sky.



For us in the UK most nights have been nights of cloud and rain and, even if a night was clear for you, then on 21st December the star is very low on the horizon. It got dark in the UK at typically 4pm but the star had gone below the horizon and out of sight by 5pm. Therefore on most nights it simply was not visible.

Several points become apparent to us having now seen the event.

For year after year the two planets are separate and there is no star to be seen. On this one occasion when they are together then it is actually bright and looks like a new bright shining star in the night sky.

If the star is in the West then the wise men in the Bible, who were approaching from the East, would indeed have seen it ahead of them in the West, and been able to follow it for several days.

This is not the first time that science, and facts, have simply proved that what the Bible records is true. I have written before how facts and evidence proved that John's gospel was never a 3rd century late addition to the gospels as many academics had said, but was always, and is, an eye-witness account as proved by multiple sources and not-least by carbon-dating of the earliest script.

Even small things like the fact that outside the Bible the only evidence for Pilate was a brief reference by Josephus, a Jewish writer with Roman sympathies. Yet recently archaeologists discovered the mooring post with the name of Pontius Pilate on it in the port of Caesarea, on the so-called "Pilate Stone" discovered in 1962. Then some medallions or coins have been found with the name of Pontius Pilate on them near Bethlehem.

The conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter did actually happen in history. Chinese scholars wrote about it as having happened between 5 BC and 4 BC. So perhaps there really was a bright star in the night sky that had not been seen before when Jesus Christ was born? Perhaps science will prove once again that what is in the Bible is true.

The last time this convergence of Saturn and Jupiter happened as a bright star was in 1623. There was a more recent event in 1981 but then it was hidden from us by the sun. Unusually the next event is less than a century away and is expected November 2040 and yet normally they are more than a century apart. If not several centuries.

December 2020