

**STAR OF
BETHLEHEM**

PROBE RESOURCE



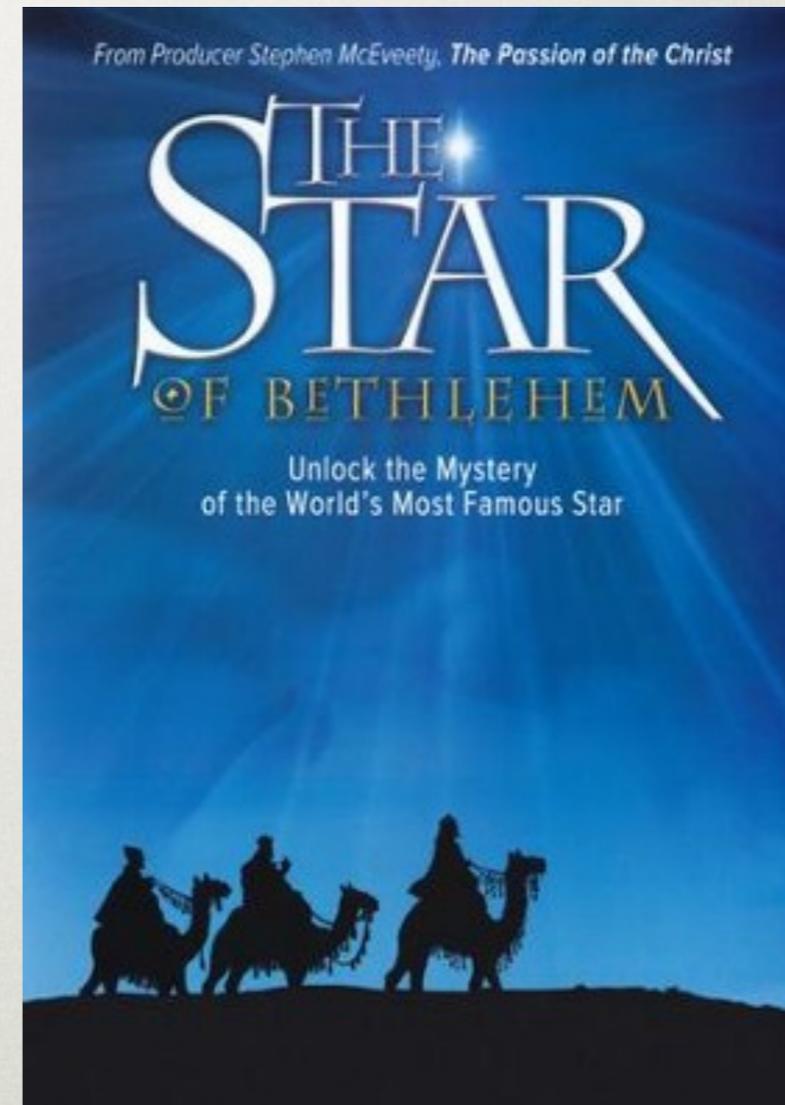
The Star of Bethlehem from a Christian View

Dr. Ray Bohlin looks at the familiar story of the star of Bethlehem and provides several possible ways that...

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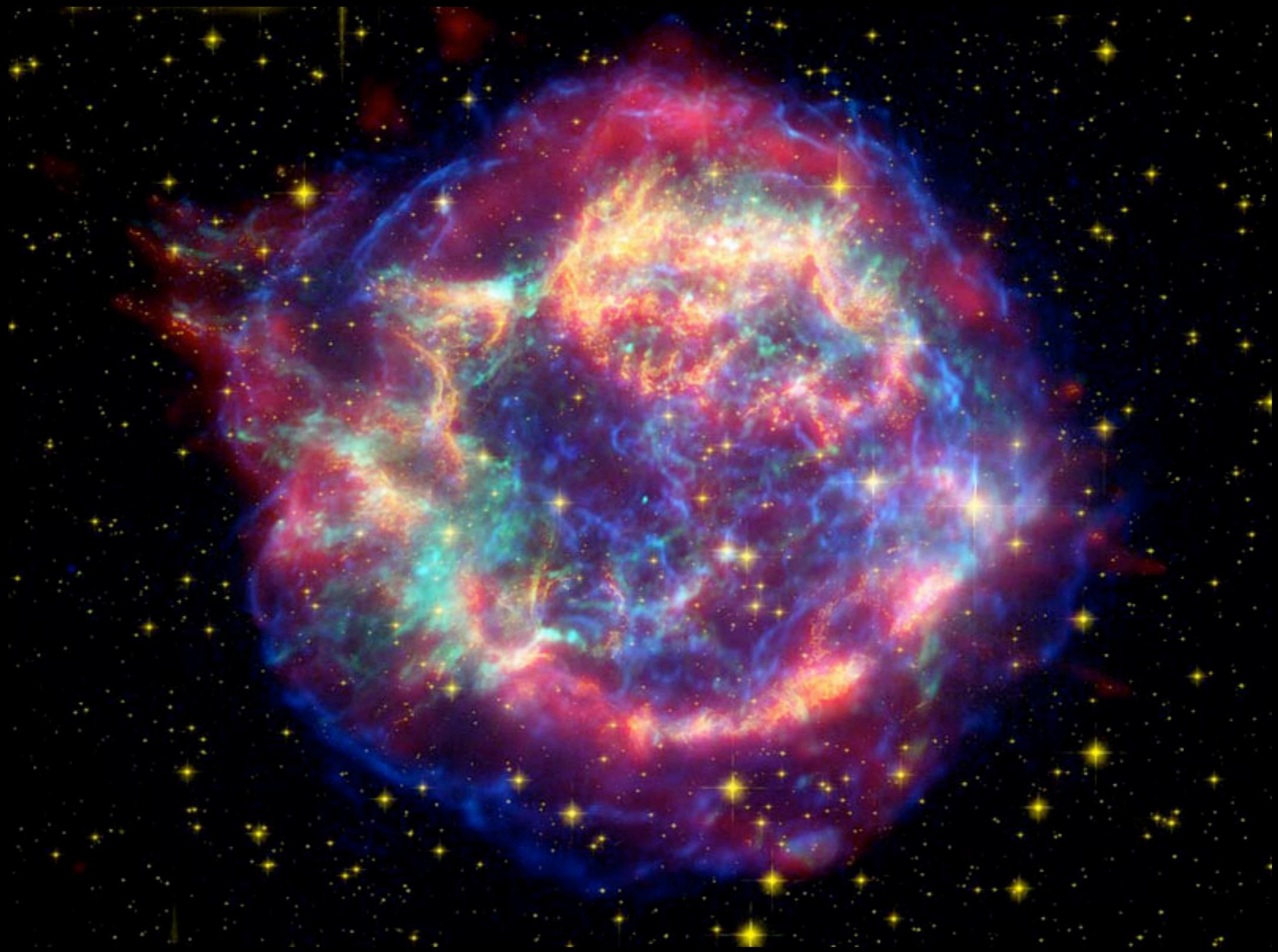
BETHLEHEMSTAR.COM

INTRODUCTION

- Matthew 2:1-2 provides a framework:
 - The events takes place after the birth of Jesus.
 - It was in the days of Herod.
 - The star led them on their journey to Jerusalem and then to Jesus.

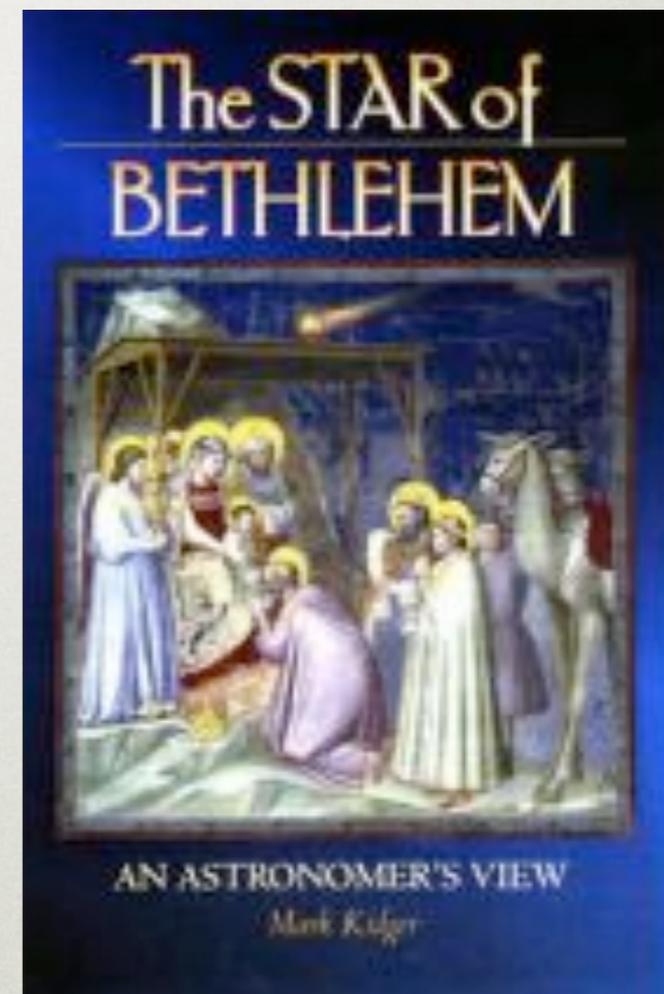
A NEW STAR

- Matthew quotes the Magi as telling Herod that they observed a new star rising in the East.
- This could be a new star (comet, nova, or supernova).
- A nova is a white dwarf star that explodes - much brighter.



A NEW STAR

- Mark Kidger argues that a bright nova that occurred during a triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn alerted the Magi.
- They were to “await news of the birth of a Messiah.” The nova announced his birth.



A NEW STAR

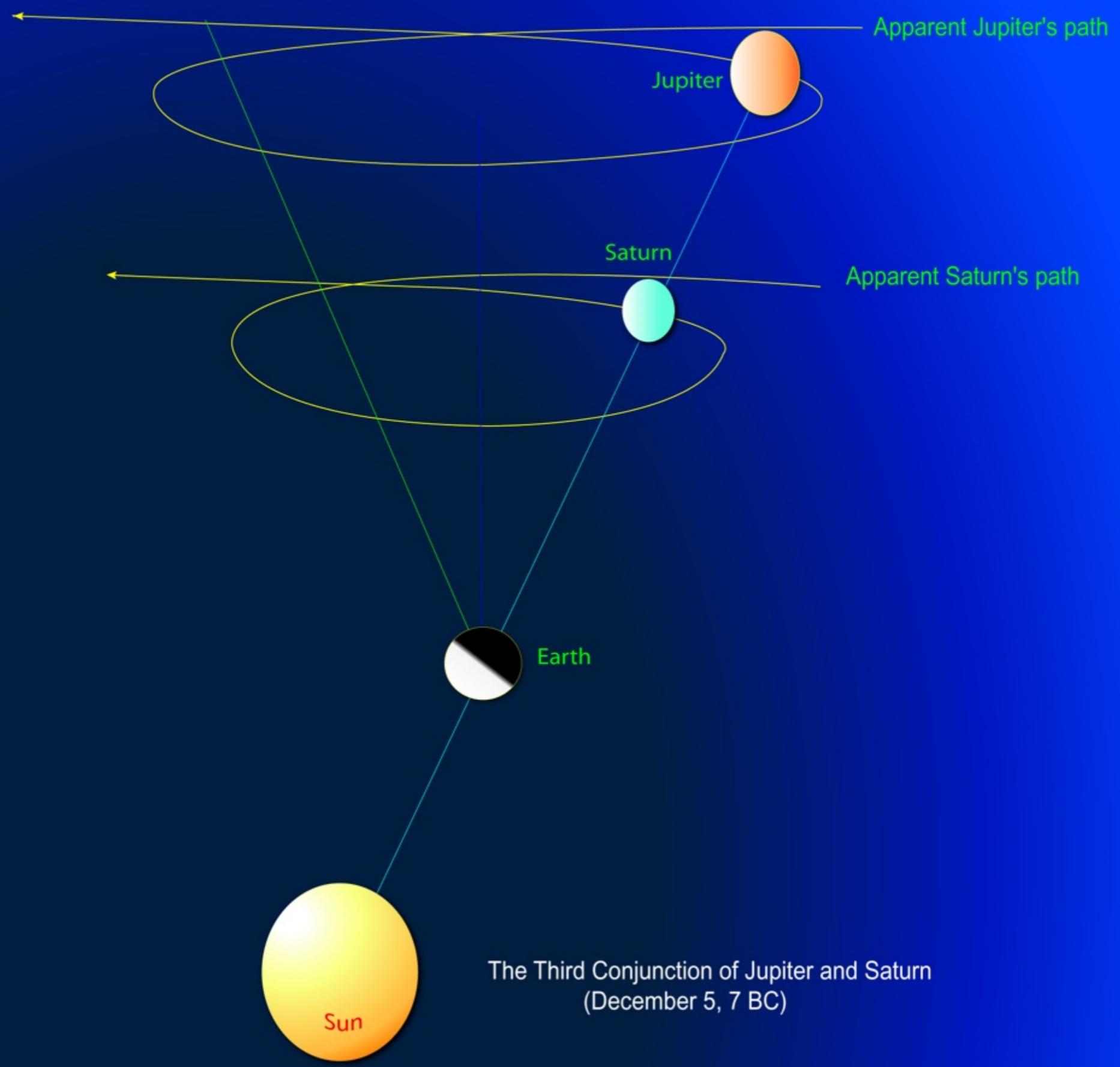
- There was a “new star” recorded by the Chinese in 5 B.C. that lasted 70 days.
 - There is nothing to connect this event with the birth of a King in Israel.
 - Novas and supernovas don't move.

TRIPLE CONJUNCTION

- In the early 17th century, Johannes Kepler calculated that a triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn occurred in 7 B.C.
- He did not believe it was the Star of Bethlehem, but thought it might have alerted the Magi to the coming star.

TRIPLE CONJUNCTION

- They may have left then and then saw a second triple conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars in 6 B.C.
- The first conjunction was seen in the constellation Pisces.
- Jupiter was associated with royalty, and Saturn was associated with Palestine.



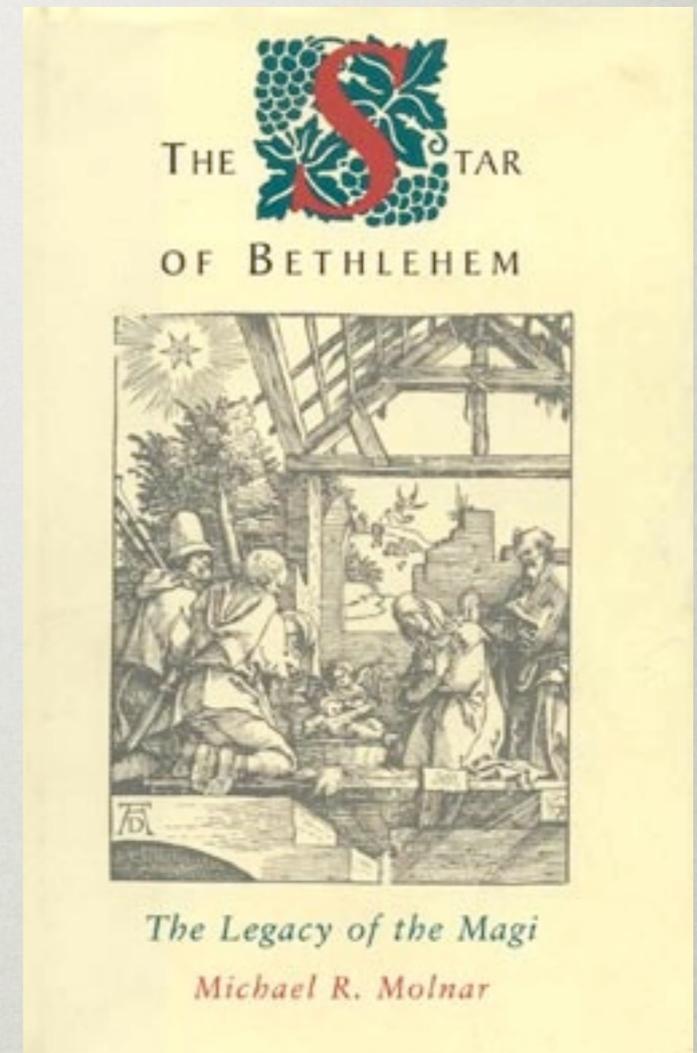
The Third Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn
(December 5, 7 BC)

TRIPLE CONJUNCTION

- One star: Jupiter and Saturn were never close enough to be confused as a single object.
- Does not move: It is difficult to see how this triple conjunction could have led the Magi to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem.

JUPITER - THE ROYAL STAR

- Michael Molnar found the answer in a Roman coin.
- Jupiter underwent two occultations (eclipses) by the Moon in Aries in 6 BC.
- Jupiter was the Royal Star.



JUPITER - THE ROYAL STAR



THE SHEKINAH GLORY

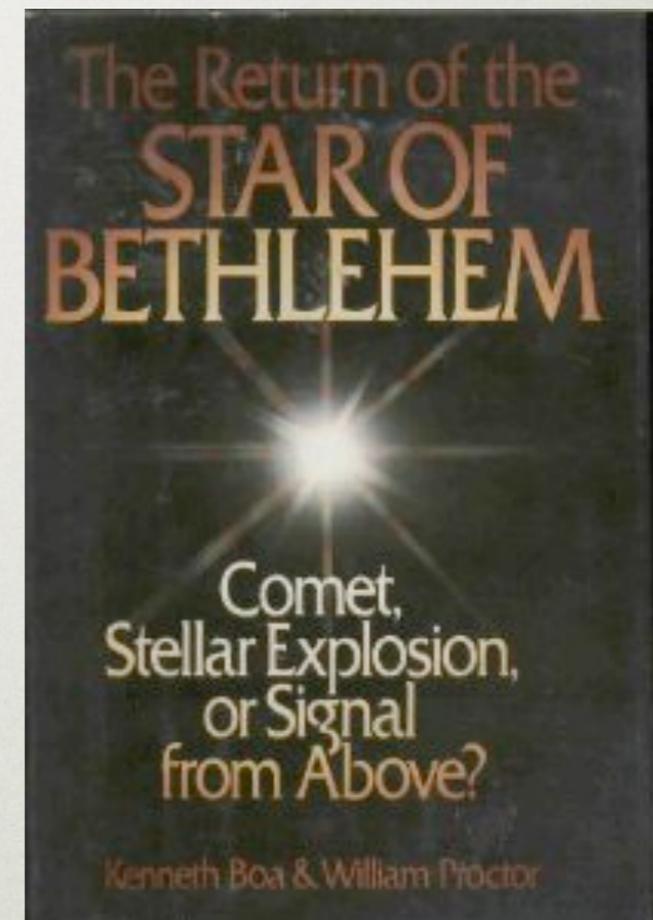
- How has God manifested His presence in the Bible?
 - Moses and the burning bush
 - Israelites - cloud and a pillar of fire
 - Mount of Transfiguration
 - Saul on the road to Damascus

THE SHEKINAH GLORY

- The Shekinah Glory denotes the visible presence of God.
- The Lord often announces His presence with a bright light (Saul blinded).
- What better way to announce His coming and through a moving star that guides the Magi.

THE SHEKINAH GLORY

- Ken Boa says we should interpret Matthew from a Jewish perspective.
- Even Kepler did not believe it was an astronomical event.



CONCLUSION

- Many of these explanations attempt to explain the Star of Bethlehem in terms of natural phenomena.
- God could have used planetary motions to signal the birth of Jesus.
- The Shekinah Glory certainly deserves to be considered (the best explanation).

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