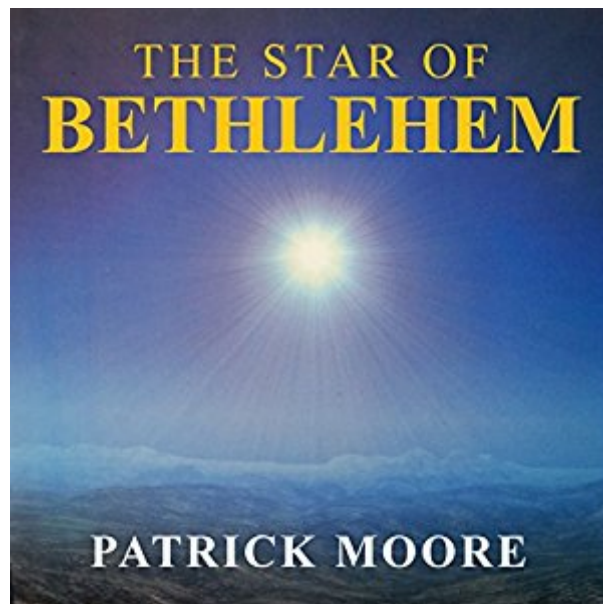


The book was found

The Star Of Bethlehem



Synopsis

Is the story about the Star in the East true? And, if so, what exactly was the "star"? While Sir Patrick cannot give a definitive answer, in *The Star of Bethlehem*, he looks at various astronomical theories and comes up with a possible answer of his own. Who has not heard of the Star in the East? It is one of the most famous stories in the Bible, and tells us how the Wise Men came to Bethlehem to seek out the infant Jesus; they were guided by a brilliant star, which "went before them" and stopped over the place where the child lay. Though all this happened 2000 years ago, the fascination of the Star of Bethlehem is as great as ever. This audiobook presents the astronomical candidates in detail. Was it a star, a planet or planets, a comet, a nova or a supernova, or a shooting star? Unique artwork shows precisely how the sky would have appeared from Jerusalem at that time, so listeners can assess for themselves which astronomical phenomena are likely solutions to the puzzle. Everyone who has wondered about this part of the nativity will enjoy Sir Patrick's honest and engaging account.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 2 hours and 37 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: A2i Transcription Services Ltd

Audible.com Release Date: October 1, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00O3QAZEI

Best Sellers Rank: #68 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Astronomy #353 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Star-Gazing #507 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Nature

Customer Reviews

I was looking for and recommended this book on the Star of Bethlehem. I love all things having to do with the Christmas story (the original one based on Hebrew and Greek scriptures). When I was sixteen my family moved from California to Pittsburgh, PA. while there for a couple of years, I got a chance to see their local planetarium, which was named the Buhl planetarium. We were taken by our school to see the show/demonstration they did in their auditorium of what the Star of Bethlehem might possibly have been. As a deaf student in a hearing school and no access to interpreters at that

point, I was unable to enjoy the show, though I got the gist of it. When I moved back to Pittsburgh after I got married and had children of my own, we took them to see this same show. It's a joy to see children looking at the night sky with their mouths open, and have them come out with questions you know you are going to need to research to answer those questions. A few years ago, the closed Buhl Planetarium to the public for whatever reason. I think they still use it for research but that is about it. The public cannot get in to see it now. So over the years I've been searching for something that would explain what was obviously being explained in Buhl during this show. This book fit the bill. I am not an astronomer, in fact, it is one of my weakest science areas, though I am working on it. But I found Moore's explanations sensible and plausible. Using not just the scriptures, but any other written material at the time period of portents in the heavens (which were highly regarded then) Moore spins a web of possibilities, which may or may not be weakened as more knowledge of the heavens comes to our understanding. Of course, this all happened over 2000 years ago, and even if people do not believe in the Christ story, something of great importance obviously occurred then through the writings of Josephus and others of that time period who were not of Jewish origin or persuasion. A fascinating read, and a book that will join my growing stack of Christmas books put out each year for my children and grandchildren to read...to remind them that Christmas is not just about receiving material gifts but of spiritual gifts and sacrifice. Karen Sadler

British astronomer Patrick Moore's "The Star of Bethlehem" (2005 reprint, 116-page hardback) is a brief survey of various Nativity Star theories. Although his study is not well sourced (only four bibliography entries and no footnotes) Sir Patrick presents interesting and informative scientific research (stellar black and white photos and star charts appear in each chapter). Moore recounts contemporary major Bethlehem Star theories from Mark Kidger, David Hughes, EW Maunder, and Michael Molnar. Candidates (planetary pairings, triple conjunctions, massing planets, planet and moon occultation, novas, supernovas, bright stars, dim stars, comets, clashing meteors, odd UFO theories, and even questionable conspiracy conjectures) for St. Matthew's Star (chapter 2:1-12, 16) are reviewed and evaluated. By the end Sir Patrick concludes, disappointingly, that there is "no definitive answer". Moore esteems the Hughes, Kidger, and Maunder theories. He is not impressed with Molnar's research (one wonders if Moore understands Molnar's most plausible hypothesis). (See my review "Is it April 17, 6 BC?" for details.) Early on Sir Patrick admits that he is "an astronomer, not a Biblical scholar" (page 1). His science is well presented and convincing. Some of his history is questionable. Evidence suggests Matthew was not written "close to the time of the Nativity" (page 4). Where in the Bible does it say, "that Herod died soon after the eclipse of the

moon" (page 17)? (Where, Sir Patrick, in the New Testament does the word "eclipse" occur?) What "land" did the Holy Family "own" in Nazareth (page 19)? And how does the Bible "grossly distort... the actual events" (page 7)? Sometimes, Moore is simply unclear. Do not expect here sourcing or protracted discussion. Moore introduces his point and then makes it. This small book is certainly worth a read for anyone interested in the Bethlehem Star.

Considering the author, I was expecting a little more than he delivered. Not at all on par with his usual work. I would not recommend it unless it is just to complete a collection.

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