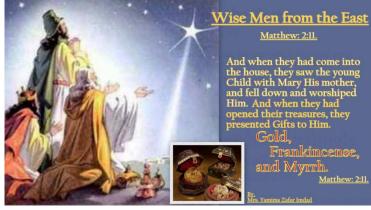
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American Minute with Bill Federer Jan. 6th Epiphany--Christ's Manifestation to the World!; Celestial Prophecies & the History of the 12 Days of Christmas

Read American Minute

"Epiphany" is a Greek word meaning "appearance" or "manifestation," celebrating Christ's "manifestation" to the world, as foretold in Isaiah 49:6:



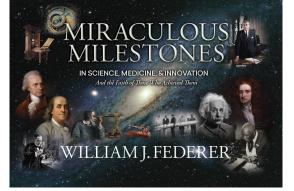
"I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."

Epiphany commemorates **the Wise Men**, who were **gentiles**, visiting the infant **Jesus**, resulting in some cultures calling it **Three Kings Day**.

"Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matthew, chapter 2 ... <u>continue reading</u>

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MIRACULOUS MILESTONES in Science, Medicine & Innovation - And the Faith of Those Who



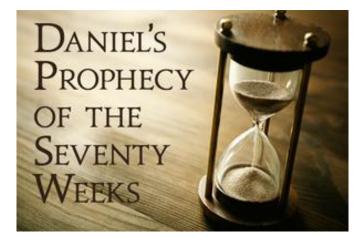
Achieved Them

Bible commentators describe the **wise men coming** from Persia/Babylonia, where centuries earlier Daniel had been a key leader, known for studying the fulfillment of prophecies, specifically when Jews would go back to rebuild Jerusalem:

"In the first year of **Darius** the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the **realm of the Chaldeans** ...

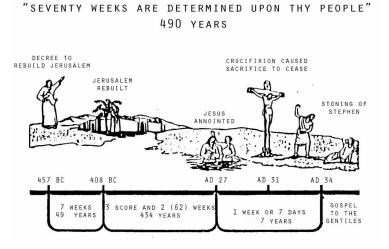
I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years."

In c.445 BC, **Daniel** also gave his detailed prophecy of "seventy weeks" or **seventy seven-year periods**, regarding the **coming of the Messiah**:



"Seventy weeks

are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.



Know therefore

and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself." (Daniel 9:24-27)

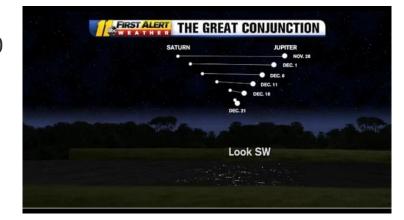
Epiphany also commemorates Jesus being revealed to the world as the anointed Messiah at his baptism in the Jordan River, as recorded in John 1:29-34:



"The next day John seeth **Jesus** coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world** ... that he should be **made manifest to Israel** ...

And John bare record, saying ... He that sent me ... said ... Upon whom thou shalt see the **Spirit descending**, **and remaining** on him, the same is **he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.** And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."

The timing of Epiphany in 2020 was near the Great Conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn.



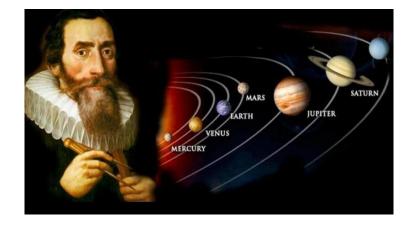
The Winter Solstice, December 21, 2020, with these two planets being the closest they had been in 800 years, created a



combined bright light that was unmistakably visible in the night sky.

This **unusual celestial event** stirred **anticipation** that the world may be entering **the prophesied end times** and the **final "week " of Daniel's prophecy.** (Daniel 9:20-27)

Astronomer Johannes Kepler, speculated that such a conjunction might possibly have been the Star of Bethlehem white



Bethlehem which the gentile Wise Men saw.

Kepler wrote in 1614:

"This **star** is not of the ordinary run of comets or new stars ...

The **Magi** were of **Chaldea**, where was born astrology, of which this is a dictum: *Great conjunctions of planets in cardinal points ... signify a universal change of affairs* ...

Granted, then, that the **new star** of the **Magi** was first seen not only at the same time as **Saturn** and **Jupiter** were beheld each in the other's vicinity, namely June of BC 7, but also **in the same part of the sky as the planets** ...

What else could the **Chaldeans** conclude from their ... rules of their art, but that **some event of the greatest moment was imminent?** ...

Nor do I doubt but that **God** would have condescended to cater to the credulity of the **Chaldeans** (Kepleri opera omnia, IV p. 347.)

BethlehemStar.com explains that Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion made it possible to determine the position of planets and stars in the past.



In **September 3 B.C.**, at the time of the Jewish New Year, Rosh ha-Shanah, magi in the East would have observed **Jupiter**, **the Planet of Kings**, coming into conjunction with **Regulus**, **the Star of Kings**.

Observing the sky from the Earth's elliptical orbit around the Sun, Jupiter then reversed its course to go around Regulus in a retrograde motion.

This happened not once, not twice, but **three times** in the next



several months, all occurring within the constellation of **Leo - the Lion,** which is at the **feet** of the next rising constellation of **Virgo - the Virgin.**

Then, June 2 B.C., **Jupiter** came into conjunction with **Venus - the Mother Planet**, and **the combine light** would have appeared as **one star**, **brighter than anyone had ever seen before**.

By **December 2 B.C.,** the magi, looking south from Jerusalem, would have seen **Jupiter** hanging **over Bethlehem.**

Jupiter was considered the **King Planet** as its mass is **two and a half times greater** than all the other planets in the Solar System combined. Ancients associated it with the Supreme God.

Saturn has darker associations, leading some to speculate that the conjunction of Jupiter's orbit overtaking Saturn's orbit is symbolic of the kingdom of darkness being revealed, but then being defeated by the appearance of the Kingdom of God.

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th, which in Eastern Europe was considered the holiest day of the season.

Western Europe, though, celebrated December 25th, the birth of Christ, as **the holiest day** of the season.

As Eastern and Western Europe could not agree on which day was the holiest, it was decided at the Council of Tours in 567 AD, to make all 12 days from DECEMBER



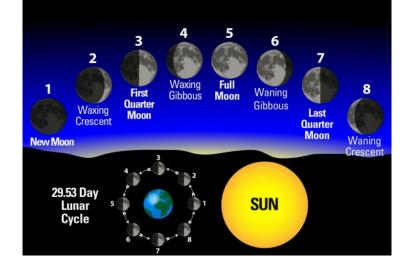
25 to JANUARY 6 "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

The days were called **"holy days,"** which later came to be pronounced **"holidays."**

The **Council of Tours** also returned the beginning of the year back to **the ancient date of March 1st.**

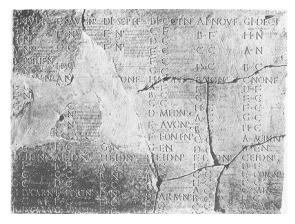


Prior to the invention of clocks, watches and digital devices, people all over the world looked to the position of the sun, moon and stars as a kind of clock in the sky.



Ancient peoples, for millennia, based their **calendars on the position moon**, whose **lunar cycles** incrementally shifted throughout the seasons, serving as an **enormous generational calendar**.

Remnants of March being the first month of the year can be seen in the old Roman Latin names of months: September, October, November, and December.



- "Sept" is Latin for seven;
- "Oct" is Latin for eight (ie. octagon=eight sided);
- "Nov" is Latin for nine; and
- "Dec" is Latin for ten (ie. decimal=divisible by ten).

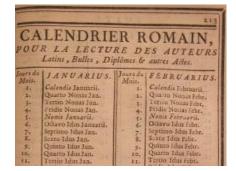
As the **Roman Empire** expanded and conquered more nations, these **lunar calendars** were difficult to reconcile with each other.

In 45 BC, Roman Emperor **Julius Caesar** became, in a sense, **the first globalist**.

He wanted **a unified calendar** for the **entire Roman Empire**.

Caesar made January 1st the beginning of the year, leading some Christian leaders to consider it a pagan date.

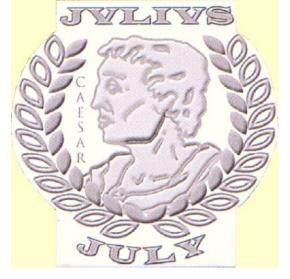
Julius Caesar introduced the solar-based "Julian Calendar," with 365 days, and an extra "leap day" at



the end of February every 4th year.

Rome's old fifth month, **Quintilis**, was renamed after **Julius Caesar**, being called **"July."**

As it only had 30 days, Caesar took a day from the old end of the year,



February, and added it to July, giving the month 31 days.

The next emperor, **Augustus Caesar**, renamed the old sixth month, **Sextilis**, after himself, calling it **"August."**

He also took a day from the old end of the year, **February**, was added to **August**, giving that month **31 days**, and leaving **February with only 28 days**.

Augustus Caesar also wanted a world-wide tracking system to monitor and tax everyone under his control -an empire-wide census.

Luke 21:1-3 "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from **Caesar Augustus**, that **all the world should be taxed**. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And **all went to be taxed**, every one into his own city."

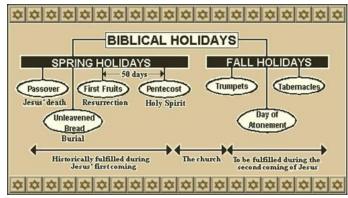
For the first three centuries of Christianity, followers of Christ were persecuted throughout the Roman Empire in ten major persecutions.

Finally, **Emperor Constantine** ended the persecutions in 313 AD, and effectively made Christianity the recognized religion of the Empire.

Just as Julius Caesar unified the Roman Empire with the Julian Calendar, **Constantine** proposed at the **Council of Nicaea** in 325 AD to use the calendar to help **unify the "Christian" Roman Empire.**



The most important events in the Christian calendar were Christ's Death, Burial and Resurrection.



Christ's crucifixion

as the **Passover Lamb** occurred on the **Jewish Feast** of **Passover**;

His being in the grave occurred on the Feast of Unleavened Bread; and

His **Resurrection** occurred on the **Feast of First Fruits**, or as it was later called, **Easter**.

The **Apostle Paul** wrote in First Corinthians 5:7-8

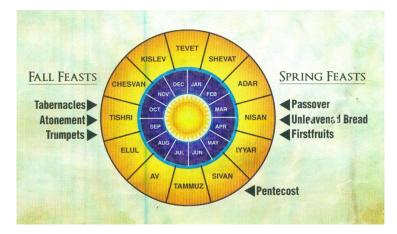
"For even **Christ our Passover** is sacrificed for us.



Therefore let us **keep** the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

First Corinthians 15:20 "But now is **Christ** risen from the dead, and become the **firstfruits** of them that slept."

Constantine wanted a common date to celebrate Easter, and insisted the date be on a Sunday in the Roman solar calendar.



This effectively ended the original method of determining the date, which was by asking **Jewish rabbis** each year when the **Passover Feast** was to be observed based on the **Hebrew lunar calendar** - traditionally beginning **the evening of 14th day of Nissan.**

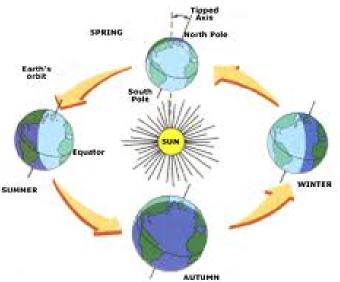
Constantine's act was a defining moment in the split between what had been a **predominately Jewish Christian Church** -- as Jesus and his disciples were Jewish -- and **the emerging Gentile Christian Church**.

The **new method** of determining **the date of Easter** was the **first Sunday after the first paschal full moon falling on or after the Spring Equinox.**

Tables werecompiled with thefuture dates ofEaster, but overtime a slightdiscrepancybecame evident.

"Equinox" is a solar calendar

term: "equi" = "equal" and "nox" = "night." Thus "equinox" is when the daytime and nighttime are of equal duration.



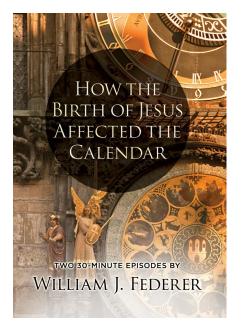
It occurs once in the **Spring** around March 20 and once in the **Autumn** around September 22.

In the year 325 AD, Easter was on March 21.

During the Middle Ages, France celebrated its **New Year Day** on **Easter**.

Other countries began their New Year on Christmas, December 25, and still others on Annunciation Day, March 25.

How the Birth of Jesus affected the Calendar (DVD)



By 1582, it became clear that the **Julian Calendar** was slightly inaccurate, by about **11 minutes per year,** resulting in **the compiled tables** having the date of **Easter ten days ahead of the Spring Equinox,**



and even further from its origins in the **Jewish Passover.**

In 1582, **Pope Gregory XIII** decided to **revise the calendar** by **eliminating ten days.**

He set a **leap** year every 4th year with a minor adjustment.

There is **NO leap** year in years divisible by 100, but not by 400.

Thus, there is **NO leap days** in 1700, 1800, 1900, 2100.



Yet there **ARE leap days** in the years 1600, 2000, 2400.

It sounds complicated, but it is so accurate that the **Gregorian Calendar** is the most **internationally used calendar** today.

Pope Gregory's "Gregorian

Calendar" also returned the beginning of the new year BACK to Julius Caesar's January 1st date.

As England was an Anglican Protestant country, it reluctantly postponed adopting the more accurate Catholic Gregorian Calendar.



Most of **Protestant Europe** did not adopt the **Gregorian Calendar** for nearly **two centuries**.

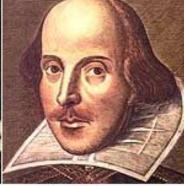
This gave rise to some interesting record keeping.

For example: **ships** would leave **Protestant England** on one date according to the **Julian Calendar**, called **"Old Style"** and arrive in **Catholic Europe** at an **earlier date**, as much of **Europe** was using the **Gregorian Calendar**, called **"New Style."**

Another example is that **England's William Shakespeare** and **Spain's Miguel de Cervantes**, author of *Don Quixote of La Mancha.*



Miguel de Cervantes Nacimiento: 29-09-1547 Lugar: Alcalá de Henares



William Shakespeare Nacimiento: 23-04-1564 Lugar: Stratford-on-Avon

They died on the same date, April 23, 1616, but when the differences between **England's Julian Calendar** and **Spain's Gregorian Calendar** are removed, **Cervantes** actually died **ten days before Shakespeare**.

In 1752, **England** and **its colonies** finally **adopted** the **Gregorian Calendar**, but by that time there was an **11 day discrepancy** between the **"Old Style"** (OS) and the

"New Style" (NS).

When America finally adjusted its calendar, the **day after September 2,** 1752 (Old Style), **became September 14,** 1752 (New Style).

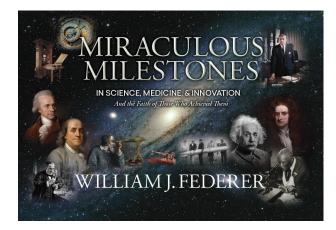
There were reportedly accounts of confusion and rioting.

As countries of Western Europe, particularly Portuguese, Spanish, French, Dutch and English, began to trade and



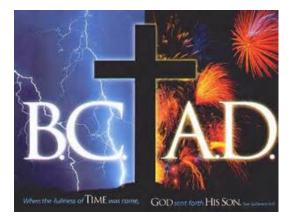
establish colonies around the world, the **Gregorian Calendar** came into **international** use around the globe.

MIRACULOUS MILESTONES in Science, Medicine & Innovation - And the Faith of Those Who Achieved Them



All dates in the world are either **BC "Before Christ"** or **AD "Anno Domini"** -meaning in the **Year of the Lord's Reign.**

In the late 19th century and early 20th centuries,



secularists in academia popularized the use of BCE -"Before Common Era" and CE "Common Era."

The futile nature of their effort is displayed with the

question: When did the recording of time change from **Before Common Era** to **Common Era?** The answer is, the birth of **Christ**.

In their attempt to ignore **Christ** they are, nonetheless, forced to acknowledge Him.

England's Henry VIII made the Anglican Church the country's established denomination in 1534.

As in other nations, the government proceeded to **impose state-approved beliefs**, demanding uniformity of doctrine and services, thus restricting the freedoms of conscience, speech, and expression.



During this time, Christian dissenters, nonconformists, separatists, such as Puritans, Presbyterians, Quakers, Anabaptists, and Catholics, **fled** from England to other European countries, or **to the colonies in America**.

Jews were expelled from England in 1290 by Edward I and not allowed back in till Oliver Cromwell in 1657.

Dissenters who remained in **England practiced their faith in secret**, sometimes suffering the intolerance judges in court, open government persecution, and even martyrdom.

In 1625, a type of Sunday school catechism song came into use to teach children Christian doctrine, titled "In Those Twelve Days," where a spiritual meaning was assigned to each day.



IN THOSE TWELVE DAYS (1625) Chorus: In those **twelve days**, and in those **twelve days**, let us be glad, For God of his power hath all things made.

1. What is that which is but **one?** What is that which is but **one? We have but one God alone In Heaven above sits on his throne.** Chorus



What are they which are but two?
 What are they which are but two?
 Two Testaments, as we are told,
 The one is New and the other Old. Chorus

3. What are they that are but three?
What are they that are but three?
Three persons in the Trinity,
The Father, Son, and Ghost Holy. Chorus

4. What are they that are but four?
What are they that are but four?
Four Gospels written true,
John, Luke, Mark, and Matthew. Chorus

5. What are they that are but five?

What are they that are but **five? Five senses we have to tell, God grant us grace to use them well.** Chorus

6. What are they that are but six?
What are they that are but six?
Six ages this world shall last,
Five of them are gone and past. Chorus

7. What are they that are but seven?
What are they that are but seven?
Seven days in the week have we,
Six to work and the seventh holy. Chorus

8. What are they that are but eight?
What are they that are but eight?
Eight beatitudes are given,
Use them well and go to Heaven. Chorus

9. What are they that are but nine?
What are they that are but nine?
Nine degrees of Angels high
Which praise God continually. Chorus

10. What are they that are but ten?
What are they that are but ten?
Ten Commandments God hath given,
Keep them right and go to Heaven. Chorus

11. What are they that are but eleven?What are they that are but eleven?Eleven thousand virgins did partakeAnd suffered death for Jesus' sake. Chorus

12. What are they that are but twelve?What are they that are but twelve?Twelve Apostles Christ did chuseTo preach the Gospel to the Jews. Chorus

Though it cannot be proven, the song, **"In Those Twelve Days,"** is thought by many to have been the precursor to the English folk song, **"The Twelve Days of Christmas,"** first printed in London



in 1780, in the children's book, Mirth without Mischief.

An explanation of the song's possible meanings are:

My True Love = God Himself

1. Partridge = **Jesus Christ** (A partridge will feign injury to decoy predators from helpless nestlings - "He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities." Isaiah 53:5)

Pear Tree = Cross

2. Turtle Doves = Old & New Testaments

- 3. French Hens = Faith, Hope & Love
- 4. Calling Birds = **Four Gospels**
- 5. Golden Rings = Pentateuch-First 5 Books of Bible
- 6. Geese A-Laying = **Six Days of Creation**
- 7. Swans a-Swimming = Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- 8, Maids A-Milking = **Eight Beatitudes**
- 9. Ladies Dancing = Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10. Lords A-Leaping = Ten Commandments
- 11. Pipers Piping = Eleven Faithful Apostles
- 12. Drummers = Twelve Points in Apostles Creed

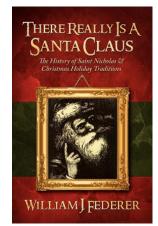
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William J. Federer video & audio <u>Rumble</u> <u>YouTube</u> Spotify

The 12 Days of Christmas is one of the topics in the book, There Really is a Santa Claus-History of Saint Nicholas & Christmas Holiday Traditions



Schedule Bill Federer for informative interviews & captivating PowerPoint presentations: 314-502-8924 wjfederer@gmail.com

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